



“We should have held out for the Victory Center. That was a mistake, and now we are living that mistake.”
 — Vice Mayor Kerry Donley

25 CENTS

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DECEMBER 17, 2009

Hello Traffic Jam

Council approves two alternatives for offramps — a lose-lose decision.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
 GAZETTE PACKET

Rush hour is about to get a lot more hectic on the city’s West End, where more than 6,000 employees are expected to show up for their first day of work at the Washington Headquarter Service. If the Virginia Department of Transportation decides to adopt either of the two proposals that were approved by the Alexandria City Council last weekend, commuters on Interstate 395 could

find themselves in the midst of a colossal traffic jam every morning. “The problem with both of these alternatives is they access the garage, which is a gated garage for the Army and it can only accommodate 300 to 350 cars an hour,” said Bob Garbacz, transportation division chief. “That’s roughly 25 percent of the traffic going to the site in the morning.”

Council members were less concerned with gridlock than they were over public outrage. Ever

SEE A WINKLER, PAGE 5

Running Globally, Acting Locally

Marathoner Brooke Curran raises money for Alexandria charities.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
 GAZETTE PACKET

It all started with her life list. One of her goals was to run a marathon.

“Once I ran my first marathon, I thought, ‘I can do this again ... I can improve my time ... I can qualify for the Boston Marathon.’”

So Alexandria resident Brooke Sydnor Curran continued running — to improve time, which she did. And to qualify for the Boston Marathon, which she did.

She started to wonder how she could turn her passion for running



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Brooke Curran sports 18 medals including the JFK 50-mile marathon medal and two from the Easter Island marathon where she finished first.

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 22



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Civil War Santa

Clara is all giggles trying to decide whether to eat her cookie or talk to Santa at Fort Ward Museum on Saturday.

SEE “CHRISTMAS IN CAMP,” PAGE 13

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Three Christmas Ghosts

In his never-ending quest to persuade city officials to restore the running tracks at the city's two middle schools, running enthusiast **Gary Carr** presented a one-man act to City Council members Saturday morning. The performance, which he titled "A Trackness Carol," adopted the format of the **Charles Dickens** classic "A Christmas Carol."

But this tale did not end with "God bless us everyone."

The plot featured a Ghost of Trackness Past that took Carr to running tracks at Parker Gray High School, Hammond High School and George Washington High School. Then things went south when a jive-talking Ghost of Trackness Present in baggy pants showed Carr the state of the city's current running tracks: "Parker Gray track? Gone. Hammond track? Nada. The G.W. field? Forget about it."

Then it was time for the Ghost of Trackness Future. But here is where's Carr's cabaret veered from the Dickens template. Council members were presented with a choice. One scenario envisioned children getting fatter and fatter until the Turkey Trot is renamed the Butterball Trot. The alternative was to fix the fields at Hammond and George Washington middle schools.

"Get it done and they will run," Carr heard the ghost say as he jogged into the night.

Late Night Commission

Attention high school students: Forget about joining the Environmental Policy Commission. Your spot has been vaporized.

In a unanimous vote Saturday afternoon, the Alexandria City Council approved an ordinance to replace the commission's high school student with a member of the Alexandria business community. According to Councilman **Rob Krupicka**, the commission's late-night meetings posed a problem for high school students faced with homework assignments and busy schedules. Besides, Krupicka said, the city's environmental policies need buy-in from the business community.

"We'd rather have the business community working with us than being on the outside as an adversary to environmental policy," said Krupicka. "But we still want high school students to be involved, and we're looking at ways they can be a part of Earth Day."

Mulling Forgiveness

Last week, City Council members gave the Arlandria Chirilagua Housing Corporation a holiday gift — three months. The elected leaders decided to hold off making a decision about whether or not to forgive \$232,000 of a \$537,000 loan to housing cooperative for now. But according to a memorandum from City Manager **Jim Hartmann**, coop may still end up with a lump of coal.

"Based on issues that have arisen over the last few years, the question of whether or not the coop is operating successfully is an open question that needs to be thoroughly researched and answered in order to protect the long-term interests of preserving this affordable housing in the city," Hartmann wrote in a memorandum outlining the quandary.

According to city records, the coop's board of directors have not been able to provide evidence they have allowed members access to financial records or obtained the necessary insurance. In a Nov. 24 letter, attorney **David Mercer** wrote that members have not been notified of board meetings, maintenance has been spotty and a suspicious number of memberships have been terminated.

"The termination of 18 memberships appears high, and ACHC's procedure for termination of memberships should be reviewed further, particularly in light of the low-income status of a number of ACHC's members," wrote Mercer, who is working pro bono on behalf of the city.

The day after receiving Mercer's letter, the coop's board of directors replaced eight of its nine members. But the city is facing a \$43-million shortfall, so forgiving a \$232,000 loan is not something council members are likely to take lightly.

"A new board is not going to change the systemic issues to gain our confidence," said Councilman **Paul Smedberg**. "The money is just not going to be there like it was in the past."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



The T.C. Williams color guard practices before the wreath-laying ceremony begins.



Volunteers help lay wreaths on veterans' graves during Wreaths Across America Day at Alexandria National Cemetery on Dec. 12.

Wreaths Across America



Post Commander William M. Jones gives a speech to volunteers, veterans, and families who participated during the wreath-laying ceremony.



Volunteers help organize before the laying of wreaths.

The Bandleader Remembered

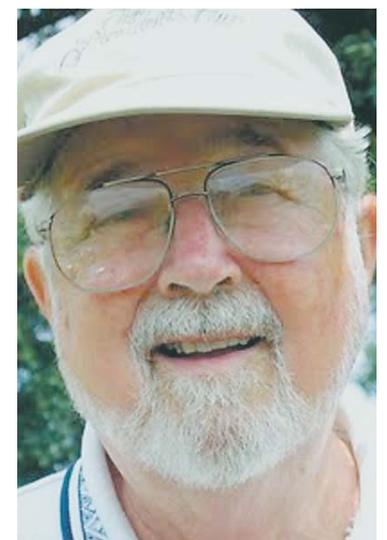
Real-estate agent turned musician was well known in the community.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Once Mort Langstaff started telling a story, listeners were taken in for the duration. This is a quality that helped his real-estate career and his comrades on the golf course. But more than anything, it was what drew people to Langstaff — a well-known musician player in Alexandria who was a regular performer at the Alexandria Bar Association

annual Gridiron show. On Dec. 7, Langstaff died from complications due to pneumonia. He was 80.

An accomplished piano player and consummate joke teller, Langstaff performed at the Marriott Hotel Washington for more than a decade, also appearing at venues such as Phillips Seafood, 219, the Serbian Crown and St. Elmo's Coffeehouse in Del Ray. He also played regular gigs at Goodwin House retirement com



SEE FRIENDS, PAGE 7 **Morton Langstaff**

People on the Avenue

Judy Heffner has created collection of Del Ray business profile portraits.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

process of researching the book?

She's never lived in Del Ray, but Judy Heffner has adopted the quirky enclave as her emotional home. A native of New York, Heffner has lived in Alexandria since 1971. She's worked as a clinical psychologist and as aide on Capitol Hill before launching a career as a freelance photographer. This month, she published "On the Avenue," a collection of portrait photographs featuring Del Ray businesses. The book is available at A Show of Hands in Del Ray.

A lot of very interesting historical tidbits. For example, we used to have a railway that ran down Commonwealth Avenue. So Del Ray became an unusual commuter-rail suburbs at the turn of the century because of that. The other thing that I learned that is that Del Ray used to be two pieces of property — two pieces of land bought up by a development company, which were St. Elmo and Del Ray. They were separated by a race track. But I'll tell you the most interesting thing I found in talking to people about Del Ray was that 10 or 15 years ago it was not the kind of neighborhood where you wanted to be wandering around alone at night. And now it has been totally transformed.

What else did you learn by talking to businesses owners in Del Ray?

I heard a lot of fascinating stories. One of the things I found out is that often the way they got into their business was just sort of serendipity. Most of the folks I talked to were looking for a new direction professionally. To a person, almost, they followed their passion. They figured out what those were and then went after them. They basically had a dream and followed it. And those stories are fascinating. I think that probably goes to my experience as a clini-



Judy Heffner

How did you get involved in this project?

I was involved with a project documenting the new Northern Virginia for Northern Virginia Community College. And as part of the project, I was documenting the new Northern Virginia by documenting the merchants in Del Ray. I did about a half dozen portraits for that project. And then Del Ray does a photography show that's a juried show, and I was juried into that show with my pictures of Del Ray merchants. And I decided at that point that it would be a nice idea to collect the photographs into a book to have ready for the show, which is what I did. So it went from maybe a half a dozen to almost 30.

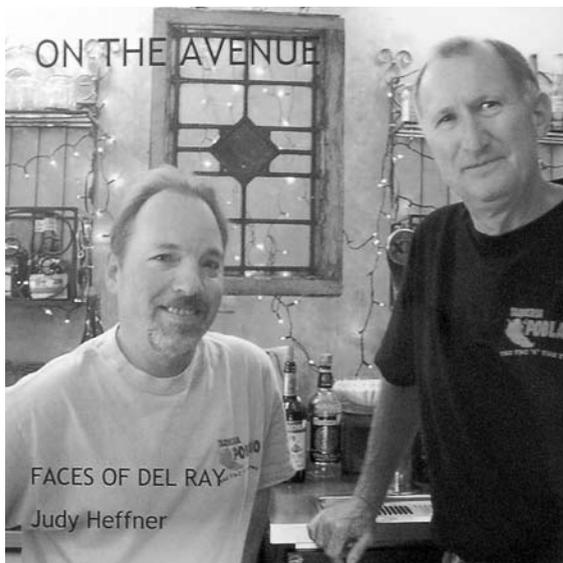
Why Del Ray?

That's an easy question. It's a very eclectic, interesting, vibrant, family-friendly neighborhood that just has a lot of history and a tremendous variety of small-business entrepreneurs.

What did you learn in the

SEE HEFFNER, PAGE 10

"On the Avenue" is available at A Show of Hands in Del Ray.



FACES OF DEL RAY
Judy Heffner



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

This photo shows what the intersection looks like currently.



COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA CITY GOVERNMENT

This photo composite shows how the Sacandaga Totem will look when it's installed at the three-way intersection of King, Fayette and Commerce streets.

Still Waiting for the Totem

City seeks new bids for installation of sculpture.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Two years have passed since the Alexandria City Council voted to accept a sculpture known as "Sacandaga Totem." But the artwork has yet to be installed. City officials say the installation has been delayed several times — first by the global economic crisis and then by several rounds of bidding for a contractor to install the 5,000-pound sculpture known as the Sacandaga Totem. The most recent round of bids is due later this month.

"We'll have a better idea at that time who the bidders are and what the price might be for installation," said James Spengler, director of the Department of Parks and Cultural Affairs. "By January, we should be able to make an announcement."

"I don't even think Job would have the patience for what I've gone through."

— H. Alan Young

Advocates of public art say they understand the delays, but they are eager to see the Sacandaga Totem become a part of the Old Town streetscape.

"I don't even think Job would have the patience for what I've gone through," said H. Alan Young, who negotiated the gift to the city as president of the Alexandria Sculpture Festival. "The original agreement said it was supposed to be done in three months."

The work of art was created by John Van Alstine,

a name that is well known in the world of American sculptors. He has exhibited at institutions such as the Hirshhorn Museum, the Phillips Collection and the National Building Museum. Van Alstine's work is known for using massive stone formations and cast-off industrial elements to create juxtapositions of the natural elements and metallic scrap. Created in 1997, "Sacandaga Totem" was inspired by the Washington Monument with a height of 113 inches.

"Ultimately, this is a work that's a cross between what's natural and what's man made," Van Alstine told the Alexandria Gazette Packet in February 2008.

"And that's what all my work is about."

When the City Council voted to accept the gift in January 2008, "Sacandaga Totem" was valued between \$60,000 and \$90,000. Since then, the city has already paid about \$15,000 for an architectural firm to design the lighting and landscaping. But City Manager Jim Hartmann indefinitely postponed the installation

in March, when city officials found themselves having to slash the current year's budget as a result of dwindling revenues tied to the economic crisis.

In August, Hartmann decided to move forward again — this time restricting bids to install the sculpture to \$45,000. Nobody responded to that request for proposals, so city officials sent out another bid without a cost restriction. Those bids are due Dec. 21.



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

Lighting of the Menorah

Families gather in celebration for the lighting of menorah ceremony at Crown Plaza Hotel on Dec. 13.

Rabbi Mordechai Newman of Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington joins in the celebration.

A Winkler and a Nod

FROM PAGE 1

since the Virginia Department of Transportation suggested two alternative scenarios including offramps through the nature preserve, Alexandria residents have been increasingly vocal about their opposition to any plan that would cut through the heavily wooded area. Councilwoman Del Pepper said she's already received hundreds of letters from residents concerned that the Department of Defense building will pave their slice of paradise.

"If you can measure it by the inch or weigh it by the pound, you need to pay attention," said Pepper. "They are leaving it to us to clean up their mess."

THE RELOCATION of thousands of Department of Defense employees was required under a reorganization effort known as BRAC-133. Although several sites were considered for the Washington Headquarter Service, the federal government chose a heavily wooded stretch along Interstate 395 next to the botanical preserve. Vice Mayor Kerry Donley said it was a mistake for the city to endorse the Mark Center site.

"We should have held out for the Victory Center," said Donley. "That was a mistake, and now we are living that mistake."

In the end, council members unanimously

supported two proposals known as "Alternative A1" and "Alternative A2." The former has an access ramp in the left lane of the Interstate 395 offramp toward Landmark Mall that goes up and over the highway. The latter has an access ramp that starts from the right lane of the Interstate directly into the parking garage. They also included a formal request — "do not harm the integrity of the Winkler Preserve."

"Call me a cynical New Yorker," said Diane Costello. "But that does not sound like the Winkler Preserve has been taken off the table."

FORMER VICE MAYOR Andrew Macdonald returned to City Hall to support the Winkler Preserve, a natural area he helped set aside when developer Mark Winkler was building offices and condominiums across the city's West End. Macdonald — making his first return appearance to the council chamber since his unexpected resignation in 2007 — said the current controversy has its roots in years of poor land-use decisions.

"This is the result of very bad planning," said Macdonald. "There should be no building here that needs a road, and the building should have been near a Metro. I don't know why BRAC or anyone else agreed with this."

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Friends, Family Recall Morton Langstaff

FROM PAGE 3

munities in Alexandria and Falls Church, as well as many area special events and parties.

“He was always a member of the band, someone who would play to accompany the other musicians,” said Bill Rowe, a drummer and longtime friend. “Until it was his time to solo. That’s when he became the star of the show because he was a master improviser.”

BORN ON Nov. 22, 1929 in Paducah, Ky., Morton attended Sewanee Military Academy, the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., and George Washington University in the District of Columbia. He moved to Virginia in 1949 and served on the Air Force drum and bugle corps at Bolling Air Force Base.

Langstaff started his professional career at the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative before taking a job working for U.S. Rep. Frank Stubblefield (D-Ky.). For most of his career, he was a real-estate agent — first with Macklin Hansen Real Estate and later with Kettler Brothers at Southwood in Mount Vernon. In 1975, he established his own firm: Langstaff Real Estate.

“He was very good at real estate because he was the most outgoing person I’ve ever met,” said Nancy Macklin, a former colleague and longtime friend. “Once you met Mort, you never forgot him.”

Although he was a successful Realtor, friends and relatives say his true vocation was music. In 1984, he helped to develop the West End Dinner Theater in Alexandria to present Broadway-style community productions. He also participated in many shows at the Little Theater of Alexandria, singing and acting along side his daughter Molly Langstaff.

“He was an excellent musician, someone who could

really play anything,” said Councilwoman Del Pepper, who hired the Mort Langstaff trio to play political events. “He was very generous with his time and energy — just an all-around good guy.”

LANGSTAFF AND his wife family lived in Arlington for eight years before settling in Alexandria in 1962. That’s when they moved to the Rosemont neighborhood, where they lived for 38 years. For the past decade, they have lived at Watergate at Landmark in Alexandria. Langstaff was a member of Columbia Pike Community Chorus, and the chancel choir at Trinity Episcopal Church in Arlington, where he also served in the vestry and taught Sunday school. He was a mem-

ber of the Alexandria Real Estate Assessment Board, served on the vocational education program board at T.C. Williams High School, taught real estate training courses at Northern Virginia Community College and volunteered for the Carpenter’s Shelter.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years Cathryn Langstaff, children Molly Langstaff of Alexandria; a son Bradshaw and daughter-in-law Kerry Langstaff of Saratoga, Calif.; a daughter Kathryn Langstaff and son-in-law Stuart Cowan of Portland; and two granddaughters Kelly Langstaff of New York City and Sophia Cowan of Portland. He was preceded in death by granddaughter, Kaitlyn Langstaff.

A celebration of his life will be held Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church at 2217 Columbia Pike, Arlington. For more information, call 703-920-7077. He will be interred at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Molly Langstaff Continuing Education Fund. Checks can be made out to Trinity Episcopal Church 2217 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204.

“Once you met Mort, you never forgot him.”

— Nancy Macklin

NEIGHBORHOODS

Taylor Run

HEY NONNY

With a hey nonny nonny and a hot cha cha, as Groucho Marx put it, that Alexandria institution, the Ladies Sherry Party, roared into life again at the Quaker Lane home of Lucy Thomson.

Sherry Brown, Harlene Clayton, Vola Lawson, Joann Miller, Marian Van Landingham, and Lois Walker were the other hostesses.

RAMP WORRIES

Linda Oliver, Anne Heanue, Audrey Alice Morgan, J Atwater, and Nina Tisara were among those discussing the possible harm to the Winkler Wildlife Preserve from the incursion of a traffic ramp.

Some expressed the opinion that the Pentagon should stay out of Alexandria.

“The preserve must be preserved,” declared Vice-mayor Del Pepper.

That very gracious Luann Bennett, wife of Jim Moran, was there helping a lame person (me) up a tricky stone path.

Nora Partlow, Kay Williams, Sandy Motell, Nancy Rowe, Marion Maclin, and Bette Little had a great time.

SALAHY SCANDAL

Vola Lawson explained to a circle, which included Kelly Wiessenborn, Sen. Patsy Ticer, Donna Kloch, Judge Becky Moore, Carol Siegal, and Lillian Patterson, the story of an earlier Salahi scandal, one concerning Bingo, not gate crashing, and the older generation.

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FOUR REPUBLICANS

Becky Davies, Fran Redmon, Sandy Calhoun, and Sharon Annear were present, showing that the sherry party is bipartisan.

There were scores more delightful people, among them Mary LaMois and daughter Ann Downs, Jean Niebauer and Karyn Moran.

Lucy Thomson, born in Cape Cod, is a sailboat racer, once the national women’s intercollegiate champion in 33-ft boats. From 1977 to 2000 she prosecuted criminal fraud with the Department of Justice. She now works with CSC, a global technology company, as consultant on homeland security.

She and husband Arthur Peabody have two daughters, both graduates of T.C. Williams. Liz was helping her mother at the party, but Tory is in Thailand doing her term abroad for Union College, N.Y.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Old Town

A GAME BREAKER! - This just in, ‘Townners. Stop the presses! Run this as a bulletin, chief, and play it above the fold:

The 2009 Historic Alexandria Foundation Antiques Show, the primary fund-raiser for HAF preservation projects in our town, brought in more money this year than ever before. Despite the sour economic conditions and a pullback in spending by many of HAF’s supporters and despite a drop in attend-

ees compared with a year ago, the show brought in a larger profit than any time in its 26-year history.

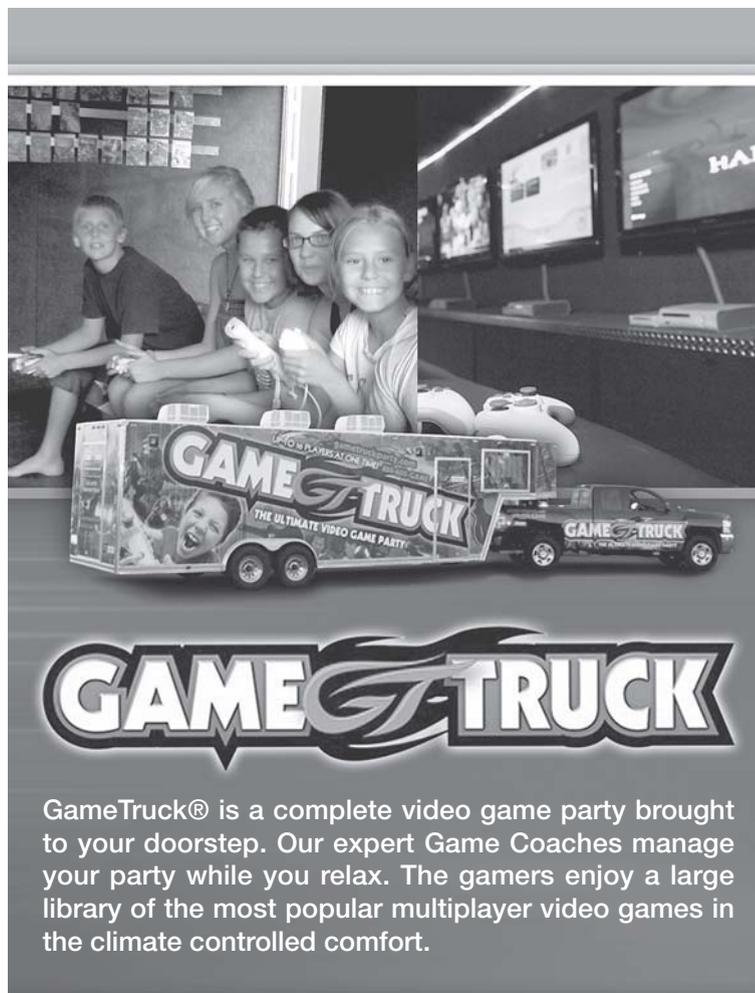
How much? Try \$50,000 in round figures. How do I know this? Because, if you must know, an inside source told me.

The profit included the stunning catalogue under Mary Heiden’s leadership, which brought in about \$25,000; sponsors of the show, who contribute \$500 each for their ticket, totaled 27. A hugely successful new feature, called “Toasting Our Town” and held at the Athenaeum, packed the place with more than 160 folks at 60 bucks a head. Those were the biggies this year, so let’s hear it for the dedicated worker-bees who made it happen.

Most of the big spenders who are responsible for the success attended the stunning preview party and included (this list is far from complete but my memory seems to lag more these days) the following: Mr. and Mrs. Fredric Bancroft, Jan and Bill Bassett, Rixey and David Canfield, Mrs. H. Bartholomew, Toby and Oscar Fitzgerald, Robert Floyd, Julia and Vance Hall, Carrie Heiden, Col. and Mrs. Freeman Jones, Gen. and Mrs. F.K. Kroesen, Anne Smith Paul, Susan and Robert Sennewald, Janet Von Sternberg, Marianne Weitz, Kirsten and Steve Brown, Lauren and Dennis Garcia, Adrienne and Dennis Hensley, Thomas Hulfish, Harry Mahon and Twig Murray, and Jean Oseth.

Happy holidays, ‘Townners.

— BOB FELDKAMP



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OPINION

Clearing the Air

New rules on smoking are flawed and fail to protect many workers, but still great step in right direction.

Non-smokers and families looking to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke got an early and unlikely Christmas present from Gov. Tim Kaine and Virginia General Assembly on Dec. 1, when substantial restrictions on smoking in restaurants and bars went into effect.

Restaurants and bars in the Commonwealth are required to go smoke free. But many establishments will still be able to offer a smoking area.

If the business has the space and the financial ability, it is allowed to construct a separate smoking area, if it is completely walled off and has its own ventilation system.

This exception is unfortunate for several reasons.

First it is unfair to the businesses that do not have the space or wherewithal to add smoking rooms.

Other jurisdictions, like the District or Montgomery County, Md. have passed true smoking bans, leaving a level playing field for businesses. And overall, in Montgomery County and many other places, receipts at restaurants increased after the smoking ban went into effect.

Second, such restrictions fail to protect workers from the serious detrimental health effects of second-hand smoke, one of the key objectives of smoking restrictions. Especially in the current job market, restaurant workers are more likely to feel compelled to continue to work in conditions that are hazardous to their

health. A full ban on smoking in restaurants and bars would protect more workers.

Third, even with a separate ventilation system, many smoking rooms will continue to leach smoke into non-smoking areas every time the door is opened and closed. Those who want a truly smoke-free dining environment will still have to do a little research.

But even with all its flaws, the successful implementation of smoking restrictions in Virginia remains a bit of a miracle, and a blessing.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

Vital Milestones Enhance Inova's Future

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL



This month Inova Alexandria Hospital achieved two notable milestones. We celebrated 137 years of delivering quality care to residents in and around the City of Alexandria and offered a preview of the first half of our \$84 million renovation and expansion plan.

The vision for Alexandria's only community hospital began in 1872 with one person, Julia Johns, a visionary who saw there was a need for medical care in the city. It was her impetus that spurred residents in the late 1800s to raise awareness and the funds needed to provide accessible healthcare for the city's residents. This deep concern for the health needs of the community continues today.

During our rich history, we have provided high-quality, state-of-the-art medical care and continuously enhanced our facility and services

to offer the latest treatments and best technologies, earning us recognitions for many milestones in patient care.

Phase I of Project 2010, our \$84 million reconfiguration and expansion project, is slated to open to the public in early 2010 and includes renovations to the Emergency Department, Same Day Surgery Center and the Laboratory.

The Emergency Department expansion includes eight additional beds that will help expedite patients more efficiently.

Our Surgery Center expansion includes renovated ambulatory surgery and recovery areas along with an expanded family-centered waiting area to help make visitors more comfortable.

Our laboratory has been relocated to brand new basement space that includes state-of-the-art computer automation that will enhance the function of this critical department.

Project 2010 has garnered more than \$16 million to date from private donations. A significant amount of these contributions have

come from grateful patients and supportive community members.

The landscape of the healthcare industry is changing, creating new challenges for healthcare providers. Although Inova Alexandria Hospital is not immune to these changes, the commitment we made in 1872 remains firm. Our physicians, nurses and other staff provide high-quality, top-notch care that ranks among the best in the region and the nation.

Inova Alexandria Hospital is now looking forward to completing Phase II of Project 2010. Phase II include expansions to our Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology Departments and the addition of a new Telemetry Unit. These renovations and upgrades are reminders that we are here to serve our community. You have made it possible for us to continue to not only touch lives, but also the hearts of those who enter through our doors.

We hope that you will continue to support Inova Alexandria Hospital through Phase II and well into the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Examine Jefferson-Houston

To the Editor:

It is disappointing to see that the Alexandria Gazette is unable to be critical when it is reporting about public education in Alexandria. Maybe it is an issue which does not garner a lot of attention from readers, or maybe it is just not worth truly pursuing. Case in point, recent articles regarding an Alexandria City Public Schools' program at Jefferson-Houston Elementary (Golden Opportunity for Students) and an ACPS administrator delegation to China (Slow Junket to China). The articles did not

seem to expand beyond the school system's party line.

In the article discussing the Hawn Foundation's MindUp Training at Jefferson Houston, the Gazette got it right when reporting that the elementary school has been under-performing for years and many programs (different every year) have been attempted at the school. What the article lacked was any mention of how the goals of this new program will be measured or what teachers at the school think of the program's effectiveness with their students. The statement at the end of the article, where school board member Sheryl Gorusch stated that it was "the principal and teachers at Jefferson-Houston" who expressed an interest in this program and

pushed for its implementation was almost laughable. Here you have a program run by a foundation, of which the school system's superintendent is on the board of directors, and Mrs. Gorusch wants people to believe that it was the principal and teachers who thought to bring in this program? It's a shame that the Gazette did not follow up on this absurd statement or the actual value of MindUp program to the students at Jefferson-Houston.

The article covering the ACPS delegation trip to China seemed to be nothing more than an advertisement for the College Board and Alexandria City Public School's Chinese Language program. Don't get me wrong, reporting on the College Board or on foreign lan-

guage is important and can be interesting, but there were parts of the story which should have been explored in depth. Again, one of the parts of the story demanding more intensive coverage involved Jefferson-Houston Elementary. The article mentioned that the school's principal, Kim Graves, was a member of the delegation to China. What was missing from the article was any questioning about whether or not this was a sound administrative decision on the part of the ACPS central office. Here you have a situation where ACPS is removing a principal from an under-performing school for an entire week during the school year. This was not a trip that was done

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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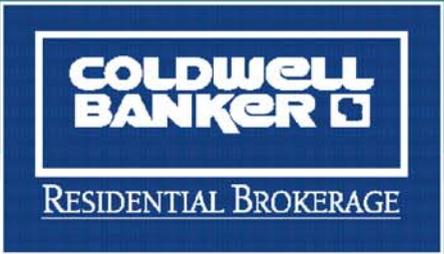
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FROM PAGE 4

cal social worker because I basically listen to people for a living.

So what has been the reaction to the book so far?

Tremendously positive. When the merchants look through the book, they see their friends and their acquaintances. They get very excited. Everybody said it was such a great idea to do a book about Del Ray because nobody has ever done one before. So this is the first, and people love reading about the neighborhood. I actually got a note from somebody who I sold the book to, and she said "Thanks for helping to keep memories of small-town America alive," which I thought went right to the purpose of the book.

What's next for you?

Several years ago, I met a young woman who is interested in becoming a boxer. And I've been thinking about that ever since. So I may pursue that avenue and see what that world is like and try to document it. Another possibility that a lot of people have mentioned to me is that I should try to profile other neighborhoods. So I've been thinking about that as well.

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Martinis and Mistletoe Holiday Party. 6-9 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 625 First Street, Alexandria. Register online www.alexchamber.com. The entrance fee is \$75 for members and \$90 for non-members.

Great Books Discussion Group. 7-8:30 p.m. At the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The discussion will be about "Major Barbara," a play by George Bernard Shaw. Call Bill at 703-931-3559.

Alexandria School Board Public Hearing on FY2011-2015 CIP and Meeting. 7:30 p.m. At the School Administration Offices, Winkler Building Board Room, 2000 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Contact Rosemary Webb at 703-824-6614.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

over the summer break, or a trip done over winter or spring vacation. Ms. Graves was taken out of the building just before the holiday break when all schools, especially troubled schools, are at their busiest and administrators are needed the most. Jefferson-Houston is in dire need of help, as teachers there have already quit or retired before Thanksgiving break. It is unbelievable that ACPS central office would decide to remove a core piece of the school's leadership for a full week, when Jefferson-Houston is in the middle of coping with changes in teacher positions and student class assignments as a result of their losses.

So why am I coming down on the Gazette for the way it reports seemingly unimportant events and programs? I feel that it is necessary because for far too long conditions at Jefferson-Houston have continued to remain well below what is expected of a district with the resources of ACPS. This travesty has occurred right under the noses of the Gazette and its reporters. Now maybe this has happened because no one has brought the plight of the students of Jefferson-Houston to the attention of the

Gazette. Or maybe it is a result of the community not spending more time in schools like Jefferson Houston to see what is really taking place. I mean, let's face it, Jefferson-Houston lacks strong parental support and a staff which is allowed to honestly discuss the needs of their school. Nothing will change at that school so long as it is voiceless and is therefore powerless. That is why I encourage the Gazette, and its readers to visit the schools, talk to the teachers, talk to parents who are removing their kids from the schools, and go beyond what is presented by the ACPS administrators. After all, ACPS still insists on calling this failing school "Jefferson-Houston School for Arts and Academics." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Tim Leary
Alexandria

Real Cost of Safe Haven

To the Editor:

CSB Chair Mary Ann Weber is correct that everyone needs a

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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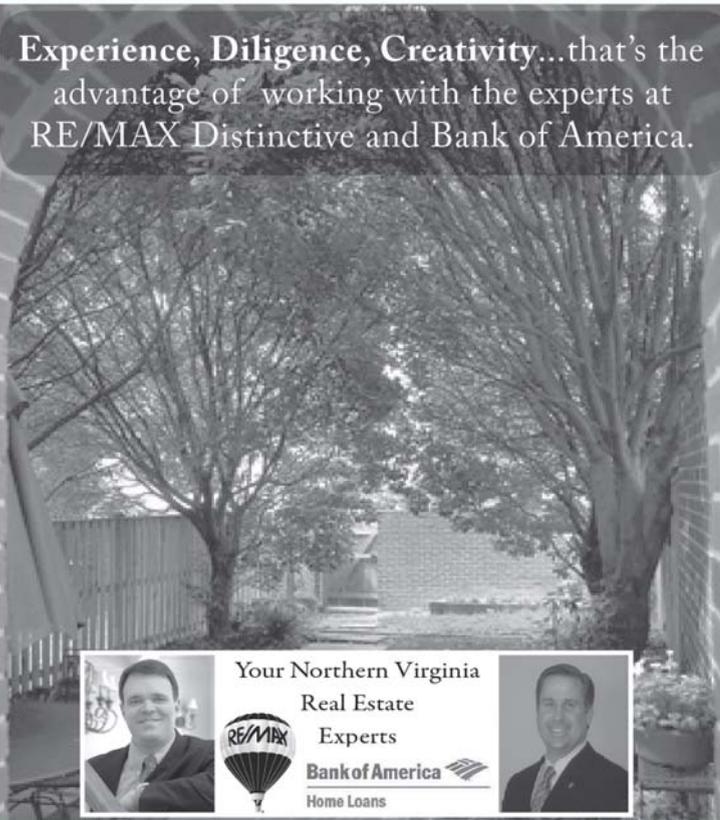
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PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/CAZETTE PACKET

Top row, left to right: Dr. Elton Vyfhuis, Barkley Square's Michelle D'Eltorre of Alexandria, Fido Journalism's Stephen Bobb of Maryland, Opportunity Barks' Leigh Siegfried of Herndon, Farzana Kennedy of Alexandria Medical Arts Pharmacy in Old Town. Middle row, left to right: Pure Prana's Jessica Silverman of Alexandria, Dr. Nia Perkins, Santa Paws Paul Garrard, Washington Human Society's Kelly Manion. Kneeling in Front: Anytime Canine's Tony Woods-Wilson, Washington, D.C.

Santa Paws Came to Town

Holiday fund-raiser was for the dogs — and cats.

Four-legged friends — and even those without any legs at all — barked, purred, bobbed and hissed their holiday wish lists to Santa last Saturday at Paws, Purrs and Exotics Animal Hospital on South Peyton Street in Old Town.

Alexandria's newest and only African American-owned veterinary facility hosted the event for the Washington Humane Society who brought dogs and cats from their shelter in need of adoption. For a \$15 donation, the Humane Society took photos of pets and their humans with Santa Paws.

Del Ray's Barkley Square Bakery and Boutique provided complimentary treats for four-legged attendees. The celebration also featured free information



Paws, Purrs and Exotics Animal Hospital's Dr. Elton Vyfhuis of Washington, D.C. (left) and Dr. Nia Perkins of Alexandria (right) with Washington Humane Society Volunteer Santa Paul Garrard of Arlington and his two friends Sylk the snake and RRRita the turtle.

and demonstrations from pet-related service providers that work closely with Paws, Purrs and Exotics.

— SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER

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The Mindful Hands Gallery at 211 King Street offers The Tibetan Singing Bowl in a variety of sizes and sounds. For more information and store hours contact Mindful Hands at 703-683-2074, or via its Web site at mindfulhands.com.

— MECHELLE SCHLOSS



Tibetan Singing Bowl resting on the desk of local Attorney David Dort who claims, "The tones are so rich and full of peace that it helps me to both start and end my workday with a positive mindset."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

A group of young "volunteers" march in formation with the camp officers.

'Christmas In Camp'

Fort Ward Museum held its annual Christmas in Camp on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 12. Civil War re-enactors set up camp on the green in front of the museum and led "volunteers" in camp drills, tours of the heavy artillery. Inside the museum, the Union Santa greeted the guests while music was performed by a guest ensemble. Upstairs in the library, visitors were invited to make cards and ornaments with materials set out by the museum staff. Cookies and fruit punch were also served.



Young Harrison looks for his mother as his visit with Santa comes to a close.



Upstairs in the library Cub Scouts from Pack 681 work on holiday cards.

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ DECEMBER 17-23, 2009 ♦ 13

Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



*Nancy
Dunning*

The Best Mom In The World

A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily.

We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.

A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.

If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.



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Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan



3102
Waterside Lane
\$798,500

Waterfront Value!
Updated and expanded home on gorgeous elevated grounds overlooks Little Hunting Creek! Private dock, custom glass walled family room, updated kitchen with granite, stainless & custom cabinets, hardwood floors, two car garage and much more! Unique opportunity - do not miss out!



3906
Rive Drive
\$998,500

Stunning Property!
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site.



4816
Stillwell Avenue
\$525,000
Renovated!

Unique opportunity! Exceptionally large 5/6 BR home is located in a gorgeous setting on a 1/2 acre lot bordering acres of county parkland. Renovated throughout, it features an updated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level, in-law suite and large deck. A recently remodeled home of this size in a premier setting creates a truly one of a kind value! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, R second Old Mill, R Buckner, R Stillwell.



9324
OLD MANSON RD
Alex - \$2,249,990

NEW 4,400 sqft HOME to be built by Keswick Homes on the banks of the Potomac River with captivating views! Call for details!

Dayna Blume!
Kerry Adams
703.597.2252
Chris & Peggy White
703.283.9028



7706
STONE WHEAT CT
Alex / Kingstowne
\$675,000

\$20,000 price reduction! Beautiful spacious home w/ideal floor plan. Best location, backs to trees. 2 car garage off big kitchen, serene family room, luxurious Master Suite & fully finished basement w/rec room, den, office &

Judy Pisciotta 703.405.4485



8706
EAGLEBROOK CT
Alex / Waynewood
\$849,000

POTOMAC RIVER! Professionally landscaped, renovated home sited on .38acre in one of Waynewood's most

prestigious cul-de-sacs. French country kitchen features 20" Brick wall w/FP, granite, island & large deck. Minutes from OT and DC. 6BR, 3BA.

Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809



9316
Allwood Drive
\$540,000
Stunning!

Home features bright, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings in the main living area. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more. Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mount Vernon.



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

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



4401
Jackson Place
\$475,000
Special Value!

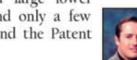
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!



COMMERCIAL
1428 DUKE STREET
Alexandria
\$950,000

Three level Old Town commercial townhouse recently built-out to include seven executive offices with a reception area and large lower finished level. 5 parking spaces and only a few blocks from the King St METRO and the Patent Trade office.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



8311 Mount Vernon Hwy - Alexandria / South PRICE SLASHED - STUNNING OPPORTUNITY!

LEADING BLDG's Model Loaded w/upgrades! Planned to sell \$1,000,000+! SLASHED for immediate sale.

Chris & Peggy White 703.283.9028



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.



1810
Hollindale Dr
\$625,000
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!



4413
Ferry Landing Road
\$559,900
Yacht Haven!

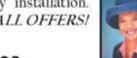
Recently installed top quality gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets & granite counters, hardwood floors, large deck & covered parking. Bright, open floor plan overlooks gorgeous half acre grounds in one of the area's leading waterfront communities! Less than 5 mins from Ft Belvoir, GW Pkwy, Mt Vernon Yacht Club & Mansion House Club. Home warranty!



2403
BEACON HILL RD
Alex - \$449,000

WELL MAINTAINED! 4BR, 2.5BA & a first floor BR/BA. Large lot with one car garage & 6 car driveway. Great lot with mature trees, fence & patio. Near mall, parkway, interstate & military installation. Nice home and community. **BRING ALL OFFERS!**

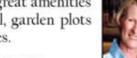
Janice Allen 703.509.0906



RIVER TOWERS
6621 Wakefield St
#317 - \$249,000

LIKE NEW CONDO updated, immaculate 2BR/1.5BA in popular condo community - newly refin wood flrs, freshly painted, updated kit, baths - appliances & convectors replaced - great amenities incl pool, tennis, clubrm, basketball, garden plots & picnic areas - condo fee incl utilities.

Frank Roberts 703.898.0840



B05 GAHANT RD
Alex / Tauxemont - \$699,000

Soaring ceilings, 25x35 ft rooms & large open spaces. Updated kit/lam room opens to tree lot w/deck & hot tub. Perfect for home office w/ sep entrance, sep apart. & plenty of prkg, oversized 2-car garage. 3BR/3FBA & 2 half BA. Must see!

Betty Quirk 703.851.3447
bettyquirk.com or liveinbellehaven.com



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!



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!



4821 Stillwell Avenue
\$499,000



3706 Riverwood Court
\$775,000



1906 BELLE HAVEN RD
Alexandria - \$2,250,000

Brick center hall colonial w/ 7BR, 5.5BA w/@5,500sf of living space. Top to bottom renovation includes new Anderson thermalpane windows, HVAC system, kit & baths. Attention to detail is evident throughout this beautiful home. Large lot backs to a lovely oasis full of mature plantings & trees. Garage parking.

Call Suzanne for information or an appointment
Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



1900 GLEN DRIVE
Alexandria - \$1,250,000

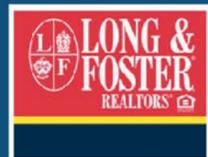
European style home is a Tuscan jewel w/large entertaining spaces. Constructed of concrete w/ mosaic tile inlay, James Early's design of 1932 still works for today's lifestyle. The home qualifies for designation in the National Register. Exceptional craftsmanship. 4BR, 4BA & 2 car garage parking.



118 HILTON STREET
Alexandria
King St Metro
\$ 560,000

PRICE REDUCED! Don't miss this one. Updates throughout, shows like a model. Granite, hardwood, large corner lot, near King St METRO. Detached home, fenced yard, West Old Town area. Call for appointment to preview.

Delaine Campbell 703.518.8740



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314

703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303

www.OldTownAlexandria.com



E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Martinis & Mistletoe Is Dec. 17

Martinis & Mistletoe will be held on Thursday Dec. 17, from 6-9 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites at 625 First Street, in Old Town Alexandria. More than 230 people attended last year as 14 bars went head to head in a battle for the title of 'Best Martini in Alexandria.'

To register for this event, visit www.alexchamber.bluekeyinc.com/view_events.php. The entrance fee is \$75 for members and \$90 for non-members. Any bar/restaurant interested in competing should contact Janelle Schmidt at jschmidt@alexchamber.com or 703-339-3808. The entrance fee this year is \$150 with prizes for the top three drinks totaling \$850. Sponsorships are still available for this event.

— GALE CURCIO



Joe and Charlie Collum award last year's grand prize to bartender Clinton Terry from Restaurant Eve.



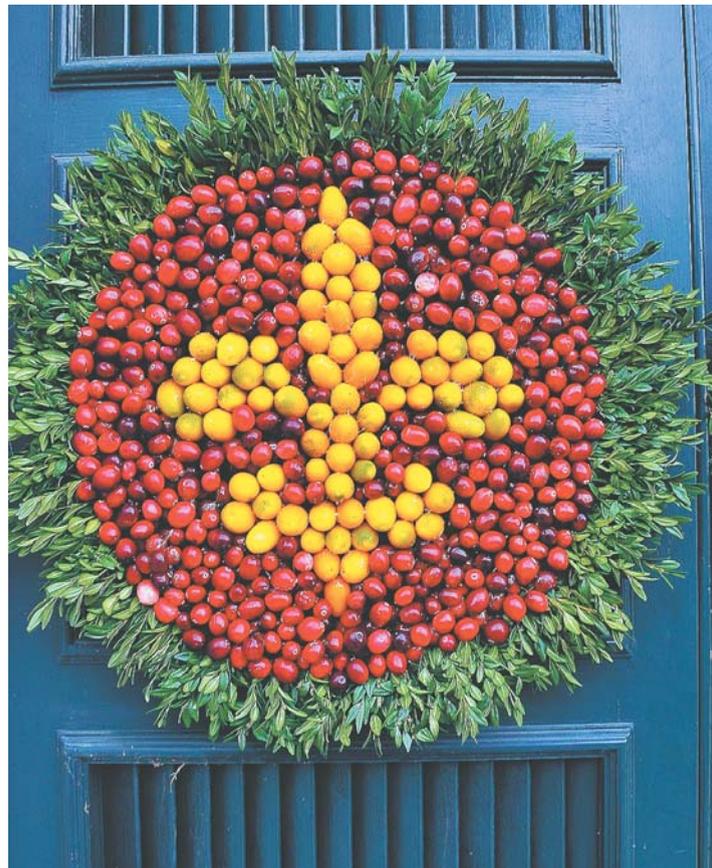
Elizabeth Moon and guests enjoy last year's Martinis & Mistletoe.

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

'Welcome,' Naturally

The Old Town Walled Garden Club hosts holiday awards.

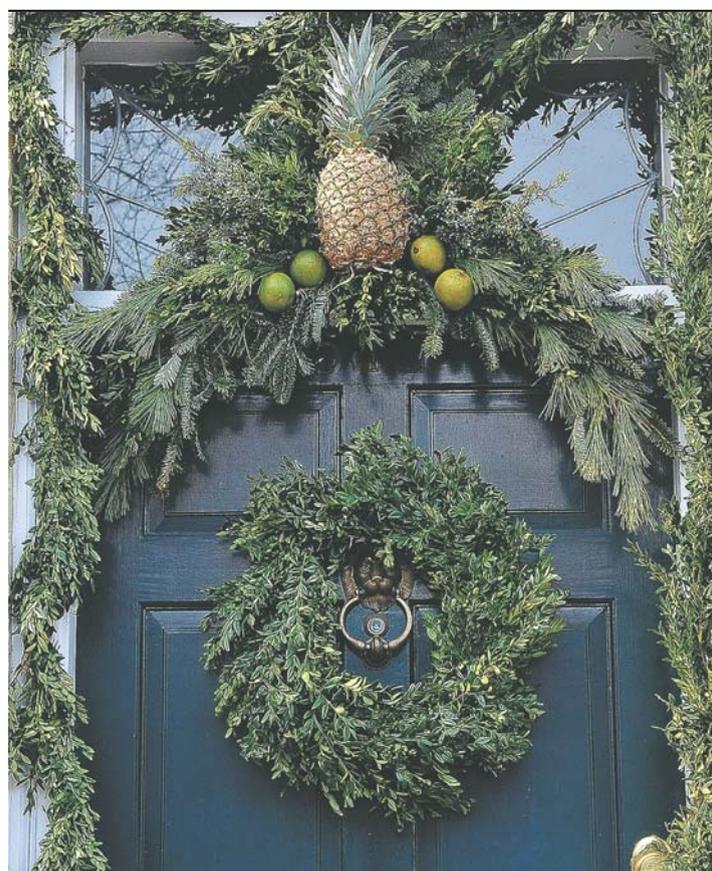
The judges in the Old Town Walled Garden Club walked the streets of Old Town last Friday and found a number of homes welcoming in the holidays. This year the first-, second- and third-place winners will be treated to gift certificates from Reunions Boutique, Buzz and Faccia Luna. The judging is based on the use of natural materials created by the homeowners that enhance the doorways of their homes in Old Town.



The first-place prize of a gift card from Reunions Boutique was awarded to the residents of 209 South Lee Street for the fleur-de-lis wreaths made of cranberries and kumquats on the outer doors.



The second-place winner was 310 South Saint Asaph Street with the square wreaths of bay leaves and berries surrounded by a garland of evergreens.



The third-place winner was 517 South Fairfax Street with the boxwood garlands and wreath with a pineapple in the transom and limes that carried on to the wreath.



The honorable mention went to 510 South Fairfax Street with the magnolia, boxwood and nadina wreath.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

CALENDAR

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

NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

Toys for Tots. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop off toys to these locations:
 * The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington Street, Alexandria.
 * Weichert, Realtors, 121 North Pitt Street, Alexandria.
 If you're unable to make it to either of these drop off locations, an agent from Weichert, Realtors will pick up the gift from your home. To arrange a pickup, contact Kim Sarina at (703) 549-8700 or Christine Garner at (703) 587-4855.

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

Tea Dances. 1-3:15 p.m. Group class from 1-1:30 p.m. Ballroom, Latin and Swing music. \$11/person. At the Dance Studio Lioudmila, 18 Roth Street, 2nd Floor (off Duke Street), Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868.

DEC. 17, 18, 19

A Tuna Christmas. By Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard featuring Katherine Bisulca and Erin Gallalee. Presented by Zemfira Stage. Dec. 17, 18, 19 at 8 p.m. Cost is \$15/adults; \$10 seniors, students. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

Front Pond Families Celebration. 5:30 p.m. A celebration of the Winter Solstice with music and food, lights and decorations made by the children. At Frog Pond Learning Center, Huntley Meadows Nature Park, 7204 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-7663.

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. Seasonal favorites will be performed by the Colonial Singers, Bella Voce, the Symphonic Mixed Chorus and the Symphonic Women's Chorus. At West Potomac High Schools Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Visit www.westpotomacchoirs.org, or call the choral office at 703-718-2687.

Port Tobacco Pickers. 7-9 p.m. Free. This seven-piece bluegrass band from southern Maryland will perform a musical medley of traditional bluegrass, Southern rock, train songs, and even an Irish whiskey tune. Part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight



THURSDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. New Year's Eve celebration with music, dance, performing arts for all ages with more than 100 performances in 25 indoor venues throughout Old Town. All ages are welcome and all venues are alcohol free. 6 p.m. to midnight. Fireworks at midnight. Entrance fee. Call 703-746-3301, www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com or www.FirstNightAlexandria.org.

series. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Music for String Quartet. 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

F.A.N.tastic Fridays. 7-8:30 p.m. A free drop-in recreation program for individuals ages 2-22 on the autism spectrum and their entire family. At Nannie Lee Rec Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria. Call Jennae Duarte at 703-324-5557, TTY 711.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon High School Girls Basketball team. Tickets are \$5. Contact Terry Henderson at 703-619-3146 or Terry.Henderson@fcps.edu.

Holiday Ice Show. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. At the Mt. Vernon RECenter. Features the RECenter's most experienced skaters, as well as beginners of all ages showing off their skills. At 2017 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria. Contact Ice Manager Carl

Kirtley, at 703-768-3224 or via e-mail at carl.kirtley@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Celebrations Around the Globe. 7 p.m. The production is a celebration of celebration. Sponsored by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. At Lee Center's Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson Street, Old Town. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-746-5533.

Caroling for Cats. The Vola Lawson Animal Shelter stays open from noon till midnight to offer people more time to find and adopt cats. Festivities will include caroling for the cats, refreshments, crafts activities and holiday movies. At 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Contact Carrie Drummond at 703-838-4774, ext. 245, or at cdrummond@alexandriainimals.org.

"Lion, Witch and Wardrobe." 9 a.m. Kaleidoscope Theatre presents "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," in Old Town Alexandria. At Medieval Madness at Renaissance Hall, 1121 King Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-912-4005 or email info@ktheatre.org to reserve seats. Free parking is available in the garage at 1101 King Street. Entry to the garage is on Cameron Street. Visit www.ktheatre.org.

Breakfast With Santa. 9 a.m. to noon. Kids can enjoy a pancake breakfast, make their own holiday craft and sit on Santa's lap to share their Christmas wishes and have their picture taken. Proceeds will benefit the MVHS Class of 2013. At Mount Vernon High School, Room G100. Cost is \$5.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

Winter Solstice Event. 2 p.m. Games, stories, crafts and entertainment. The event will feature a performance by "The Jazzy Juggler" and a baritone horn solo by park naturalist and musician extraordinaire, Rich Bailey. Park naturalists will also present "5 Simple Ways To Identify Animals and Plants in Northern Virginia." At Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington. Call 703-528-5406

Colonial Handbell Ringers. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Join the Colonial Handbell Ringers as they play more than 60 bronze bells. Musical selections include Christmas classics like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Feliz Navidad," and "Frosty the Snowman." Sing along with your favorite Christmas carols. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4994, www.AlexandriaHistory.org.

Candlelight Christmas Service. 5 p.m. Features performing artists from Convergence including, The 7 Sopranos, dancers from Mlyna Ballet, scripture readings from storytellers, Christmas hymns and carols, and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

OLD TOWN'S FAVORITE

COUNTRY FRENCH RESTAURANT

Le Refuge

Old Town's most authentic country French restaurant since 1983

Open Christmas Eve

3 Seatings: 4:30, 6:30, 8:30

New Year's Eve

3 Seatings: 5:30, 7:30, 9:45

Please make holiday reservations early

127 N. Washington St., Old Town • 703-548-4661

Smoke Free Restaurant

www.lerefugealexandria.com

The Royal Restaurant

(now smoke free)

"What's for Dinner?!"

You don't have to think too hard, let us solve this classic question.

In addition to our award winning menu, we have added some popular specials that add variety for everybody taste.

Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

<p>Monday - Kids Night Burger Night (Kids eat 1/2 price) Each child must be accompanied by adult having entree.</p>
<p>Tuesday - Greek Night Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!</p>
<p>Wednesday - All American Night Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham</p>
<p>Thursday - Italian Night Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari</p>
<p>Friday - Fish Night Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce</p>
<p>Saturday -Steak and Chop Night Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka</p>
<p>Sunday Brunch served 7am - 2pm</p>

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.

Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm

730 North Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1616

Ample Free Parking

Apply for an apartment at Creekside Village during our Open House and you could win a

FREE 32" flat screen TV

Open House

Saturday, December 19th

10 am - 2 pm

7979 Janna Lee Avenue, Alexandria VA 22306

Tours, refreshments & 1 month free rent on select 1 & 3 BR apartments for a limited time only!

www.CreeksideVillageApts.com

703-780-9001

TTY: 800-828-1128

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

more. At Sanctuary at Convergence, a Creative Community of Faith, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260 or visit www.convergenceccf.net.

MONDAY/DEC. 21

Light the Night. 5-6 p.m. Free. Welcome the return of Light with a Solstice Celebration at Art at the Center. Bundle up and bring your flashlights, light-up clothing, anything that glows in the dark. Meets in the parking lot at 5 p.m. for a community art event, drawing with light. At Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Irish Soprano Emma-Kate Tobia. 8 p.m. \$25 tickets. Sings "A Classic Irish Christmas." Also stars Irish-American singer Andy Cooney. At Pat Troy's Ireland's own Restaurant, 111 N. Pitt St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-4535 or go to <http://www.pattoyirishpub.com>.

DEC. 27, 28, 29

"The Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Presented by The Virginia Ballet Company and School. At Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater. Tickets are \$30/adults; \$20/children, students and seniors. Go to www.virginiaballetcompany.org or call 703-249-8227.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. New Year's Eve celebration with music, dance, performing arts for all ages with more than 100 performances in 25 indoor venues throughout Old Town. All ages

are welcome and all venues are alcohol free. 6 p.m. to midnight. Fireworks at midnight. Entrance fee. Call 703-746-3301, www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com or www.FirstNightAlexandria.org.

JAN. 1-4

MAGFest 8 — Music and Gaming Festival. Offers 24-hour console, arcade and PC game rooms, 10 live video game cover bands, a vendors area and guest speakers from the video game industry and fan scene. Live video game music cover bands and 24-hour gaming. In Alexandria. Go to <http://magfest.org>.

SUNDAY/JAN. 3

Bach Vespers at Westminster. 6 p.m. Organ works included: J.S. Bach, Prelude and Fugue in c-minor ("Big"). Chorale Preludes "Helft mir Gotts Güte preisen," "Das alte Jahre vergangen ist," "In dir ist Freude" and Fugue on "Magnificat." At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Go to www.wpc-alex.org.

Twelfth Night. 6 p.m. A celebration of the Epiphany and the Winter Solstice. Armonia Nova, a Medieval and Renaissance ensemble of historical instruments and voices. At Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Old Town, Alexandria. Call 571-482-9052 or www.armonianova.org.

JAN. 4-5

Auditions for "Urinetown." 7-10 p.m. Presented by the Metropolitan Performing Arts Theatre. Sing up to 32 bars, bring sheet music (accompanist provided). Callbacks are Jan. 7. The performance dates are March 19-27. At 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

Email danilo.stapula@gmail.com or visit www.metrotheater.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 9, 2010

Rockin' in a Winter Wonderland. 10-11 a.m. Featuring Rocknoceros and benefitting the St. Clement Episcopal Day School in Alexandria. Cost is \$10/advance; \$12/door. At Grace Episcopal Day School Auditorium, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. For tickets, go to <http://preschool.fufa.net>.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10, 2010

Hungry for Music Concert. 7 p.m. Four folk/Americana duos perform. Starring Siobhan Quinn and Michael Bowers; BumpKin Pie with Michael Dunkley and Suzanne Ives; Lisa Taylor and Dana Connor; and The Sweater Set. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. Contact Kay Coyte at kay@focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

All About Dogs. 7:30 p.m. Friends of Duncan Library are hosting Robin Bennett, author of All About Dog Daycare: A Blueprint for Success and Off-Leash Dog Play. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4566 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

TUESDAY/JAN. 19, 2010

Winter Concert. Works by Philip Glass with Dana Tae Soon Burgess Dance Co. Schönberg "Verklärte Nacht". At Episcopal High School, in Pendleton Hall in the Ainslie Arts Center, 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135.

La Strada
1905 ON THE AVENUE

New Year's Eve Prix Fixe Tasting Menu

Three Courses

Antipasti or Insalata; Primi or Secondi; and Dolce \$45.00 plus tax & gratuity per person
With wine pairings above (Tasting Glasses)
\$60.00 tax & gratuity per person

Five Course

\$65.00 plus tax & gratuity per person
With wine pairings above (Tasting Glasses)
\$85.00 tax & gratuity per person

BUON ANNO

Happy holidays from the Scott family and staff.

Please call 703-548-2542 or
www.lastrada-ontheave.com for menu or to make
reservations for 1 of 3 seatings; 6pm, 8pm or 10pm

La Strada

1905 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria (Del Ray)

703-548-2542

www.lastrada-ontheave.com

The Campagna Center



39th ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

Thank You

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livenation.com, 877.598.8497
or the Warner Theatre Box Office

Visit washingtonballet.org for more information.
Don't miss this DC holiday tradition!



Photo by Steve Vaccantello

FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH DEC. 20

Heavenly Dialogue: Photographs of Natural Occurrences. New Work by Lucy Herrman. A portion of the sales from this show will be donated to SHARE of McLean. At 2401 26th Road South, Arlington. Call 703-585-1705. Go to www.DualityContemporaryArt.com



NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

Gallery West Presents: The 30th Anniversary Celebration/Small Works Show

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



NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

Small Works/Holiday Show and Silent Auction at Gallery West. The Second Thursday Reception is Dec. 10 from 6-9 p.m. At 1213 King Street in Alexandria. Call 703-549-6006 or go to www.gallery-west.com.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

New Mythology/Tracey Clarke Tracey Clarke's otherworldly work pairs dramatic images with short narratives that both answer — and ask — questions. An artist's reception will be held Sunday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m. On display at the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

The Kiln Club Show. Runs Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. Scope Gallery is located at 101 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call the Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

Size Matters: Two Shows-Two Jurors. Juried by Peg Koetsch and Brett John Johnson. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except second Thursdays 2 to 9 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Street, #312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 4

Pamela H. Viola, "The One Less Traveled." Photographer Pamela Viola's solo artist exhibit at The Art League Gallery, "The One Less Traveled," features dreamlike, mysterious landscapes that challenge the viewer to see the world in a new and different way. Opening Reception: Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Gallery Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sundays, 12 noon – 6 p.m. Open Thursdays until 9 p.m. Exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. The Art League, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria.

TUESDAY/JAN. 5

"Morrison House Presents: From the Torpedo Factory to the Mount Vernon Trail." 6-8 p.m. Torpedo Factory artist Christopher Erney will discuss his creation of the George Washington Mural, the longest realistic mural in the United States. Part of a salon-style series celebrating culture through arts, literature and history discussion. At the Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or call 703-838-8000.

Happy Holidays & Warm Wishes from Burke & Herbert Bank!



Congratulations to Mark A. Seamon, age 10, of Herndon, VA, winner of our Kids' Holiday Art Contest! Mark wins a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Thank you to all the young artists who submitted over 150 wonderful and fun holiday drawings. Many of them are on display at our Main Office at 100 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Special thanks to The Art League for judging the entries!

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JAN. 1-FEB. 7

“**Stick Fly.**” Tickets are \$25 to \$66. A comedy at Arena Stage in Crystal City that explores the role of race and privilege in the African-American social aristocracy. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. At Arena Stage in Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Visit www.arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300.



Washington-born VaShawn McIlwain sings the famous “Ol’ Man River.”

NOW THROUGH JAN. 17

Signature Theatre Stages “Show Boat.” Show times are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Added performances are Monday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m.; and Monday, Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. There are no “Show Boat” performances on Thursday, Dec. 24 at 8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 25 at 8 p.m.; and Friday, Jan. 1 at 8 p.m.

Located at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

Ticket prices range from \$52 - \$76. Tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster at (703) 573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org.

Local Theater

Know of something missing from these local theater listings? Send it to *The Alexandria and Mount Vernon Gazettes* at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412.

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PEOPLE

Alexandria Woman Runs Globally, Acts Locally

FROM PAGE 1

into something for the greater good.

"It took time — a couple of years of planning," Curran explained.

"First trying to be different — to set a goal that was kind of cool, that would catch people's atten-

tion."

She decided to run a marathon on every continent plus all the major marathons. But apparently that wasn't challenging enough for Curran.

When someone suggested that she include running a marathon in each state, she was quick to oblige

and has committed to running a marathon a month to reach that goal.

Next she had to figure out how to turn this challenge into a fundraising opportunity.

"I always knew I wanted to help Alexandria charities," Curran said. "I started looking into creating a 501(c)3, but I'm not a paperwork person, so I ruled that out."

She thought it might make sense to be under someone else's non-profit umbrella. "I wanted to give my donors confidence that their dollars are going to something real, something good."

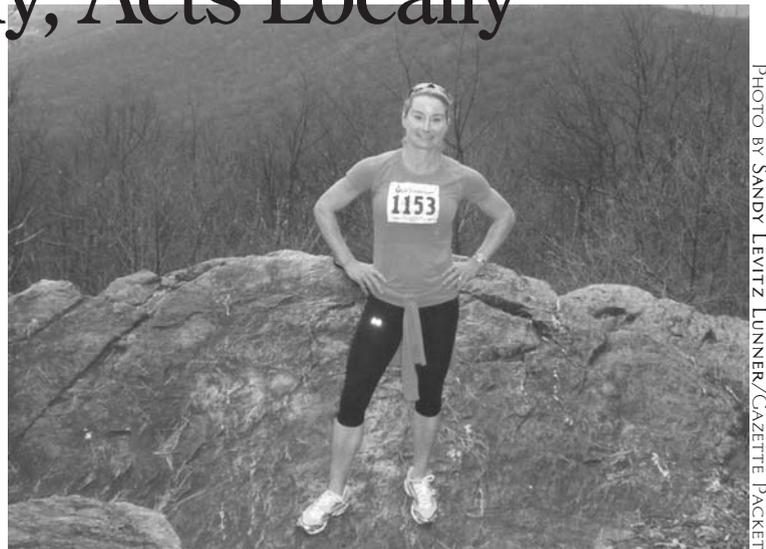


PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Brooke Curran stops for a photo on the Appalachian Trail during the JFK 50-mile marathon.

take so many pictures," she laughed. "But it was so beautiful."

Just last weekend, Curran traveled to Memphis for the Run for St. Jude's Hospital, her final marathon for 2009.

"All the money I'm raising goes directly to the city," Curran said. "I personally pay for my travel and entry fees to all the marathons."

So far this year, she's raised \$18,000 for ACT, just shy of the \$20,000 goal she set for herself. Naturally, the folks at ACT are rooting for her to reach that goal.

"I'm a runner, so I have a special affinity for what Brooke is doing," said John Porter, executive director of ACT. "It's a very creative way to help. She's fulfilling her personal goals and her philanthropic goals."

Curran would love to see greater support from the business community and other Alexandrians who want to help locally. Many employers offer matching grants so a donor could double the worth of his or her contribution. Curran says she's even open to some sort of sponsorship from local businesses.

"For example," she said, "I occasionally give small receptions to garner support from friends and colleagues, and I would welcome a donation from a local caterer." Or, as she says on her blog, "I'll wear it, eat it, drink it or use it ..."

Curran says that when someone makes a donation, it's usually by check, made out to The Alexandria Community Trust. She asks people to write "RunningBrooke" in the memo line so ACT knows how to credit the donation. And, if someone wants to support a specific Alexandria program, they can just add that to the memo line. Plus, donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

CURRAN ALREADY knows her schedule for next year. In January she'll be at Disney World for the

Goofy Challenge. She plans to register for and run a half marathon on Saturday and a full marathon on Sunday for which she'll earn three medals.

"I'm a little crazy for my medals," she said.

In February Curran runs in Sedona, Ariz. March is the Nevada Red Rock Canyon marathon. And in April, she's off to London to complete her goal of running in five major-category marathons.

"People are getting excited, and it's getting to be fun," Curran said. "Yes, some people kind of glaze over and can't get their hands around what I'm doing, but with others it's 'Oh my God, that's great!'"

Curran attended the Maury School Fall Festival this year to promote "runningbrooke."

"A small group of teen boys said, 'That's sick!' which I think means 'that's great,'" she said. "They kept coming back and couldn't believe that I had run a marathon in Easter Island or that I'm going to Antarctica in July. It was fun to see them be excited for what I'm doing."

With the holiday season in full swing, people are starting to remember the true meaning of Christmas, and ACT's Yee and Porter hope that the gift Curran is giving to the community will inspire others to join in.

"Everyone is well aware that with the economy where it is, more and more people are in need," Porter said. "It's important that people remember and do what they can to help others during this giving time of year."

"We know Alexandria is a giving community and will step up during our growing need to help those less fortunate."

For those who want to help, write "RunningBrooke" in the memo line on the check. If Curran can reach her goal of \$20,000 this year, imagine what she'll set out to do for Alexandria in 2010.

Legal Notices



Edgar Nile Cassady

August 9, 1930 – December 15, 2008

In loving memory of our dearest father.

Every day you are remembered and we love and miss you very much.

Your loving daughters, Lisa and Denise

NOTICE

JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

On or after January 18, 2010, judicial proceedings will be commenced by the City of Alexandria, Virginia under the authority of § 58.1-3965 et seq. of the Code of Virginia to sell the following parcels for payment of delinquent taxes, penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, and costs thereon:

* 105 Skyhill Road, Unit 6, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, Tax Map No. 062.01-0D-0105.006, Tax Account No. 50456650.

* 713 South Lee Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, Tax Map No. 081.03-01-09, Tax Account No. 12415000.

Laura B. Triggs
Director of Finance

OBITUARY

Barbara Baisley Kenny, 82, beloved wife of the late Attorney Kevin B. Kenny passed away Sunday, December 13, 2009, while visiting her family in Alexandria, VA. Barbara was born in Huntington NY on Oct. 16, 1927, daughter of the late Charles Desbrow Baisley and Ethel Lenny

Legal Notices

Baisley. She grew up in Wethersfield, after which was a long time resident of Hartford CT living on Fairfield Ave with her husband of forty five years.

Mrs. Kenny was very active in her community serving on the Board of Education for the City of Hartford from 1974 through 1979 serving one term as Vice President and one term as President of the Board. She was also active in the PTA holding offices at the Local, State and National levels and retired from the State of CT in 1992; where she served in executive management of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Barbara Kenny was a graduate of Saint Joseph College where she received a BS in Nursing from one of the first four year nursing programs in the country and worked as a floor supervisor at St. Francis Hospital Barbara moved to San Antonio, TX in 2000 after the death of her eldest son Kevin B. Kenny Jr; she is survived by her son J. William Kenny and grandchildren Reed Kenny and Patrick Kenny of Alexandria VA and grandchildren Michael Kenny and Amanda Kenny of San Antonio, TX. Barbara was also predeceased by her two brothers, Charles and Paul Baisley

Funeral services will be held Friday, December 18, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10am in St. Lawrence O'Toole Church 494 New Britain Ave., Hartford (everyone is asked to go directly to church). Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery. The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, Wethersfield, has been entrusted with arrangements. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Joseph College, 1678 Asylum Ave. West Hartford CT 06117.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Alexandria has applied for a permit from the Marine Resources Commission to install a 450 foot long multi-use concrete trail and associated riprap over Cameron Run that will connect to the existing Holmes Run Trail in the City of Alexandria.

Send comments /inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 2600 Washington Ave, 3rd floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607.

Legal Notices

VIRGINIA
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

ESTATE OF JAMES E CERVENAK FIDUCIARY NO. CW06001259

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

Upon Motion of the personal representative;
IT APPEARING to the Court that

1. A report of the accounts of the personal representative of the Estate has been filed in the Clerk's office;
2. The Commissioner's Report on the Debts and Demands against the Estate has been filed in the Clerk's office, and that
3. Six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification of the personal representative, it is therefore,

ORDERED that creditors and all other persons interested in the Estate show cause, if any they can, at 10:00am on the 23rd day of December, 2009, before this Court against the payment and delivery of the Estate of the decedent to the distributes without requiring refunding bonds and it is further

ORDERED that this Show Cause Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Alexandria Gazette, a newspaper published in the City of Alexandria, in accordance with provisions of Virginia Code 64.1-179

ENTERED this 24th day of Nov, 2009.
JUDGE

I ASK FOR THIS:

Jordan Nowak (VSB#74731)
William L. Babcock, Jr, PC
Counsel for Jason Cervenak and Lauren Cervenak
Personal Representatives of the Estate of James E. Cervenak
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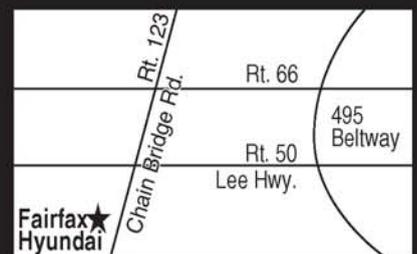
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T.C. Boys Rebound from Season-Opening Loss

Titans beat West Springfield, though head coach King not pleased.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Billy Rowland called Friday's 64-35 win over West Springfield at The Garden "perfect," saying the Titans needed a confidence boost

after their season-opening loss to Hayfield. Fellow senior Ryan Yates spoke highly of the Titans' defensive effort as they limited the Spartans to one first-quarter point. Head coach Julian King was pleased with the performance of his go-to players and the 19-1 lead they produced.

But that's where the happiness ended for King, who wanted to see more from his younger players



T.C. Williams head boys basketball coach Julian King was not happy with the effort of his second-team players after Friday's win over West Springfield.

coming off the bench. After opening an 18-point lead in the first quarter, the Titans were outscored in the second quarter and didn't pull away until midway through the third.

"Did we learn anything from [the win]? I'm not quite sure," King said. "It may seem as though things come a little too easy for us right now. The group that I have, being young and inexperienced, we need to really relish the moment and realize every night we have to work to get better if our goal is to try to contend for a district title. I was really pleased with my top seven, top eight players. But my second unit, I'm a little disappointed because they didn't maintain the intensity, they didn't maintain the focus. You could tell.

"Once we get a sizeable lead, I feel as though if you're a young guy coming off the bench, you should be going 110 miles per hour, especially on defense where you can stay in the game. I shouldn't have to insert my starters in periodically to keep the score out of reach."

A Yates 3-pointer gave T.C. Williams a 19-1 lead at the end of the first quarter. West Springfield responded by scoring nine of the first 11 points of the second quarter to cut the lead to 21-10. The Titans didn't score their second field goal of the quarter until the 3:44 mark, when a 3-pointer by Tayron Chambers gave T.C. Williams a 24-10 lead. The bucket sparked an 11-2 Titans run, including six points by Cortez Taylor, but West Springfield scored the final four points of the half.

A 10-0 run midway through the third quarter gave T.C. Williams a 44-19 advantage and the Titans led by at least 21 the rest of the game.

Rowland finished with a team-high 17 points and Yates added 13. No other Titan was in double figures. King would like to see more players get involved.

"I want us to take the next step as a team and say, 'Hey, you know what? We just have to come with our hard hats every night and be prepared to work. ... We're a blue-collar team. We don't have any spectacular individual players, but collectively we can be good and I'm trying to get everybody to buy into that. Some of the younger guys, I think they have a felling if we're struggling the older guys will pull us through. ... I'm trying to build a team not based around one or two players — Ryan Yates and Billy Rowland — I'm trying to build a team we can go nine or 10 deep."



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Billy Rowland scored a team-high 17 points in Friday's 64-35 win over West Springfield at The Garden.

Regardless, the Titans are in the win column after opening the season with a 57-49 at Hayfield on Dec. 8. T.C. Williams hasn't lost more than five games in each of the last four seasons, during which the Titans have not lost a Patriot District contest.

"I was hurt," Yates said of the loss.

"This is only my second year here," said Rowland, who transferred from Bishop Ireton, "and I felt just as bad as [Yates] did."

Taylor scored eight points against West Springfield and Rick Mathews added seven.

T.C. Williams hosts Annandale at 7:45 p.m. Friday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Three TC Wrestlers Place in Top Six

Omar Maknassi placed second in the 119-pound class for T.C. Williams on Saturday during the NOVA Classic at Fairfax High School. Adam Pierce placed sixth at 135 and Marvin Gomez finished third at 145. T.C. Williams wrestles at Edison on Wednesday and Stuart on Saturday.

TC Girls Lose

The T.C. Williams girls basketball team lost its Patriot District opener at West Springfield, 79-45, on Friday. The Titans

host Annandale at 7:45 p.m. Friday.

Winter Box Lacrosse Registration

The Beltway Box Lacrosse League is registering now for a boys high school and youth winter box lacrosse program beginning Dec. 19. Games will be played in Alexandria at the in-line hockey rink behind Francis C. Hammond Middle School. Divisions are boys high school varsity and JV and youth U-9/U-11, U-13, and U-15. A seven-game season is planned. US Lacrosse membership is required. Information is available at www.BeltwayBoxLacrosse.com.

Alexandria Avengers Win Opener

The Alexandria Avengers defeated the Newark Patrons, 122-104, in their EBA season opener Saturday at Mount Vernon High School.

Tyree Harris led the Avengers with 24 points. Ryan Hughes scored 19 points for Alexandria, Kelvin Coggins finished with 17 and Daryl Owens scored 10 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and dished out eight assists.

"I was very pleased with our win, but I know there's a lot more work to be done to be EBA champions," Avengers coach Dominic Manuel was quoted as saying on the team's Web site. "With the versatility

that our team has and size, we will be a matchup problem for any team."

Alexandria hosts the Hampton Roads Cardinals at 7 p.m. Saturday at Mount Vernon High School.

MVHS Dinner and Auction Approaching

Mount Vernon High School Girls Basketball 11th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Dec. 19. Tickets are \$5. See a student athlete from the girls basketball team or contact Terry Henderson at 703-619-3146 or Terry.Henderson@fcps.edu.

SPORTS

Berkman Brings Winning Mentality

First-year Bishop Ireton coach changing program.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

First-year Bishop Ireton boys basketball coach Neil Berkman stood in front of a reporter after a Dec. 9 game against St. Stephen's/St. Agnes and answered a question like a man on the wrong end of lopsided loss.

"I don't think we played well at all," he said.

Bishop Ireton won by 15 points. The Cardinals, playing on the road, scored a season-high 81 points, forced 21 turnovers and led the entire game.

It didn't matter.

Berkman has his sights set on turning around a Bishop Ireton program that won 14 games in the three seasons prior to his arrival. From a record standpoint, the coach appears on his way to doing just that as the team's 81-66 win over St. Stephen's/St. Agnes gave them a 3-1 start under its new coach. But how the Cardinals finished against the Saints had Berkman steaming and looking at the bigger picture.

A 10-0 run gave Bishop Ireton a 19-point lead midway through the third quarter. The Cardinals later expanded that lead to 22 early in the fourth. But instead of burying the Saints, Bishop Ireton allowed them to chip away at the lead with hustle and rebounding.

Berkman called a timeout to share his displeasure with the Cardinals' effort with 3:10 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"Are you guys serious?" the coach shouted rhetorically as his players gathered near the bench. "You guys can't go get the ball? This is a joke. This is really hard to watch."

The Cardinals pushed their lead back to 18 before settling for a 15-point final margin.

"To [St. Stephen's/St. Agnes] coach [Kevin] McLinton's credit, the kids played hard to the buzzer," Berkman said. "They played hard all 32 minutes and our guys did not, and that I'll take squarely on the chest. That's totally my fault. We relaxed on the court and [that is] partially due to a negative frame of reference. We have a frame of reference of losing. A lot of times we say, 'Here we go again,' if a team like St. Stephen's makes a run on us. ... It's one of those situations where we've got to start taking control of our own destiny and really controlling the game. We had a comfortable lead for awhile and we

just have to develop a killer mentality and a killer instinct, which we're still working on because we're very young right now."

BERKMAN DID NOT have a senior in his starting lineup against the Saints. What he did have was the dangerous 1-2 scoring punch of Patrick Hanafin and Antonio Rouse. The junior duo combined for 43 points, including 25 in the second half. The 6-foot-4 Hanafin scored a game-high 26, connected on 9 of 13 shot attempts and went 4-of-6 from 3-point range. The 6-foot-2 Rouse finished with 17 points on 3-of-9 shooting.

Rouse attacked the basket aggressively and was rewarded with numerous trips to the free-throw line. He finished 10-of-12 from the charity stripe.

"Antonio, I think, is going to come into his own," Berkman said. "He's one of our toughest kids on the team. ... We count on Antonio to do a lot of things. ... He's a great slasher; he can take the ball to the basket. One of my goals for Antonio is to lead [the Washington Catholic Athletic Association] in free throws attempted."

Hanafin can score from anywhere on the floor. He also grabbed eight rebounds.

"Patrick is an excellent offensive player," Berkman said. "We've got to get him more sound defensively. He's very versatile — he can guard the 2 through the 5. He's got a chance to be a very, very good player. He has to change ends a little bit better, get his motor going a little bit quicker and really develop a burst-of-energy mentality."

Midway through the third quarter, Hanafin blocked a shot on defense, came down to the other end of the floor and buried a 3-pointer. The bucket capped a 10-0 run,

gave Bishop Ireton a 49-30 lead and led to the Saints calling a timeout.

"I thought that was it," Hanafin said.

But it wasn't, which helps illustrate Berkman's point. The Cardinals had a chance to bury the Saints, but St. Stephen's fought its way back into the game.

"My definition of playing hard and their definition of playing hard is very different," Berkman said of his players. "We are going to address that tomorrow night in practice."

What do the Cardinals need to do? "We've just got to buckle down and go for rebounds," Hanafin said. "That's what [Berkman] was mainly mad about; because [the Saints] had like 20 offensive rebounds. He was furious — throwing water bottles and stuff."

Hanafin said Berkman and his methods have made a difference.

"If you don't do what he wants he'll take you out and make you run at practice until you do good in practice," Hanafin said. "We expect to win more — and [Berkman] does. We put in a lot of work. He changed a lot."

Sophomore Marcus Hayes scored 15 points for Bishop Ireton and Marvin Elliott added 12.

ST. STEPHEN'S/ST. AGNES dropped to 2-2 with the loss. McLinton was not happy with his team's effort.

"We didn't come ready to play at the beginning and that was the one disappointing thing is that we understood how important this game was on a lot of fronts," the coach said. "Ireton is a good team, they're in a good conference, they're very well coached. The last couple days of practice I thought we were ready to play, but for some reason we came out flat."



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

home in every economy. Indeed, it would be a sad day when Alexandria refuses to help our most vulnerable citizens. However, Ms. Weber may have unintentionally misled readers when she suggested that the costs for the Safe Haven project is "only" \$111,891 a year (plus more \$54,608 in Federal funds, with an undisclosed amount from the State, clients fees and Medicaid).

In response to my Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request, City staff has documented a total of \$1,755,637.05 in Safe Haven costs as of Dec. 8, 2009. Almost \$2 million in taxpayer dollars spent in a deep recession without providing a single night's shelter or meal to a single person.

This figure does not include the value of the building, which City Property Tax records indicate is \$1,162,634, bringing the costs of this gold-plated albatross to \$2,918,271.05 or an initial cost of \$243,189.25 per intended recipient — assuming full occupancy at 12 individuals.

Yes, Alexandria should, must and will be compassionate, but there are more effective uses of some \$3 million of taxpayer's money in these challenging times.

Bud Miller

Value of Dissent

To the Editor:

I wish to dispute the comments made by a letter writer in the Dec. 3 paper. Her comments flat out mischaracterizes the positions and situation surrounding votes by Council members Frank Fannon and Alicia Hughes — the two newest elected officials.

She highlights their dissent votes against allowing Police Chief Earl Cook to serve on the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority and an issue related to a budget matter. Her misrepresentations were couched with nice phraseology about the newest members (i.e., "change can be good in government - particularly with new ideas ... but (their) ideas are bad for Alexandria and its residents"), but the criticisms lack fact and are an attempt to invalidate them with cheap partisanship.

Irrespective of the two council members political leanings, the fact is that they were joined in their dissent of Police Chief Cook's appointment by incumbent Democrat Councilmember Paul Smedberg. Reasons: Police Chief Cook carries great responsibility — he's duty bound to manage a force of some 400 personnel. His time and focus are precious commodities. They chose to side with keeping the Chief from diminishing both. They determined that holding that added responsibility serving on the ARHA Board would distract him needlessly and not be the best use of his crucial obligations. Contrary to the assertion that the council members were "opposing efforts to improve public safety," I would say they thought long-term on behalf of our whole city. Now that the Police Chief won appointment by the City Council in a 4-3 vote, I only hope that he will be able to balance his time effectively.

Regarding the budget related criticism of Councilmember Fannon: The issue dealt with a funding request of a public/private housing partnership. The building project was grossly over budget and it was woefully behind schedule. Fannon expressed concern about allocating additional funds towards the project that failed to justify the cost over-runs. That entity sought a blank check — asking for an additional \$100,000. Rightly, Councilmember Fannon inquired about a cost breakdown before moving forward.

Previous to Fannon and Hughes, the City Council nearly doubled the city's budget by some \$242 million. In FY 2000, the budget stood at \$288 million. But in 10 years, the FY 2010 budget tops some \$530 million. I find it interesting that she pokes fun at these two newest members as having "ideas that are bad for Alexandria." Well, if checking twice and giving serious thought before doubling budgets are "bad," then I am a member of their club.

Councilmember Fannon demonstrates that he is a prudent steward of the City's funds. I applaud his courage to raise concern and offer a vote of dissent. From my observations, Council members Fannon and Hughes want to bring new ideas such as fiscal responsibility, reduced taxes and political courage to a City Council run these past six years by one party.

Chris Terrell
Alexandria

Moran's Right

To the Editor:

I appreciated reading that "Moran Opposes Afghanistan Surge" (Dec. 10). I don't always agree with Rep. Jim Moran — I wish he had held to his support last year, for a Single Payer method of financing health care. But his explanation for opposing the President's decision to send more troops to Afghanistan made good sense and reassures me that I have at least one representative in Washington. I hope that our senators will also oppose the surge.

Cedar Dvorin
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette 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:

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Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail:
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