



Andrew Adkins Homes, shown here, has 90 units of public housing near the Braddock Road Metro station.

Don't Come Around Here

Public housing residents say No Trespass List is its own problem.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Over a cup of coffee at her kitchen table in the Andrew Adkins public-housing complex, Bernice Scruggs says her family has been mistreated. Many of her relatives have been forbidden from setting foot into her apartment — in at least one case because of a mistaken identity. Although she admits that certain people should be barred to prevent crime in the neighborhood, she also says she's concerned about

the frequency people are told to stay away from property owned and operated by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

"I think if a person is caught on the property with a gun, yes, I can see barring that person," said Scruggs, a native of West Virginia who has lived at Andrew Adkins for the last decade. "But if a person is on the property and maybe has a disagreement with someone — even if a lick is exchanged — I don't think that is a reason to bar someone."

The housing authority maintains a database of names known as the No Trespass List. According to documents outlining ARHA's "limited access and barring policy," names stay on the list for an indefinite period of time. That means that Scruggs would be committing a class 3 misdemeanor each time she

SEE PUBLIC HOUSING, PAGE 7

March of the Nickels

Ebbin proposes legislation, again, to stem use of disposable bags.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Forgot to take your recyclable bag to Safeway? Didn't bring that cloth sack to CVS? Thought about walking out of the liquor store with your bourbon in a plain paper sack?

Think again, says Del Adam Ebbin (D-49).

When the General Assembly convened earlier this week, Ebbin introduced a bill that would slap

a five-cent fee on every disposable bag used at supermarkets, drug stores and state-owned liquor outlets. Most of the money will go to the Water Quality Improvement Fund. The effort will be joined across the frigid Potomac River in the Democratic-controlled Maryland House of Delegates, where Del. Alfred Carr (D-18) has prepared a mirror image of Ebbin's bill.

"This will reduce air pollution and help water quality," said Ebbin, the four-term legislator. "Consumers will have a choice — bring a bag or pay the fee."

Ebbin says he's not expecting the kind of chilly reception he received last year, when his anti-bag bill was killed in the House Finance Committee. Unlike last year's effort, Ebbin explained earlier this week, this year's bill includes incentives for merchants to participate. For each nickel charged at the register, the merchant will receive one penny. The other five

cents will go to a fund controlled by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality that assists local governments to reduce nutrient loads to the Chesapeake Bay. But industry groups say they're not ready to jump at the money just yet.

"The problem with adding a new tax is that it will be the retailers' responsibility for collecting and remitting the money," said Laurie Aldrich, president of the Virginia Retail Merchants Association.

"One penny per bag is not going to be enough to cover the costs of changing their systems."]

"Consumers will have a choice — bring a bag or pay the fee."

— Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49)

THE PUSH to bag the disposable bag has been building for years, with progressive environmental groups encouraging similar efforts throughout the country. Ebbin's legislation last year was originally inspired by Alexandria City Councilman Tim Lovain, and the measure had the support of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. And groups such as California's Earth Resource Foundation have been pressing for action on the issue for years.

"They are bad for the environment, and that's just all there is to it," said state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30), who is the chairwoman of the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. "Ireland banned them long ago, and I'd certainly like to see us minimize their use as much as we can."

SEE MARCH, PAGE 3

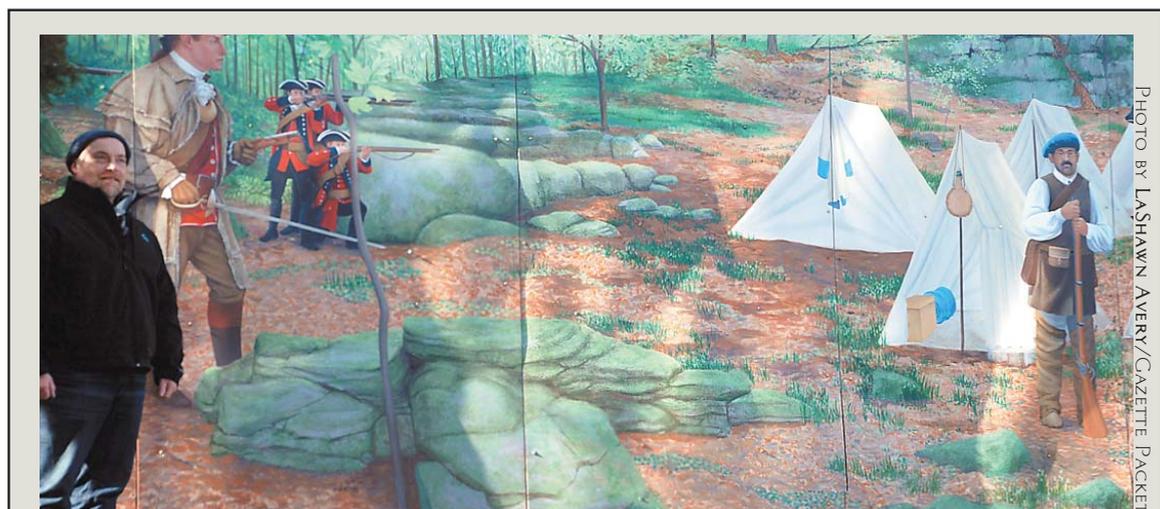


PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

1,200-Foot Mural

Artist Christopher Erney stands by the George Washington mural he co-created with artist Patrick Kirwin on a fence outside the power plant on Jan. 7.

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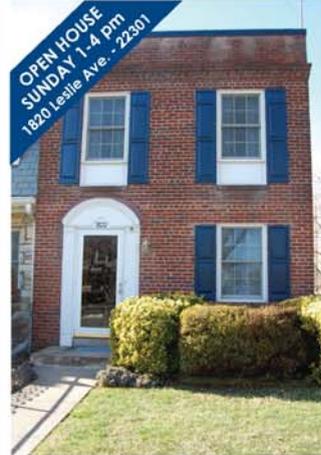
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Grading Snowpocalypse

City leaders say they had a great plan for eight inches of snow. But they admit to being unprepared for 20 inches of snow.

Several streets went completely unplowed for the duration of what some are calling “Snowpocalypse.” At one point early in the storm, snow plows were diverted from their routes to clear the scene of a homicide. The next day, an emergency responder needed to be rescued by a snow plow that needed to be rescued by another snow plow.

“I would give the city a B minus,” said an upbeat Mayor **Bill Euille** during a City Council meeting Tuesday night. “Certainly, we could have done better.”

Some city sidewalks were impassable, sending pedestrians into Duke Street to battle traffic. Neighbors of Polk Elementary School and Fort Ward Park fumed as they watched city parking lots get plowed even though their neighborhood streets were useless. The biggest mistake seems to be the residential designation of Cameron Station Boulevard, a blunder that delayed plowing a major thoroughfare for 5,000 residents of the West End community. Cameron Station Civic Association president **Mindy Lyle** accused the mayor of grade inflation.

“I give the City a D minus for snow removal,” said Lyle.

Saying No

Now that a Republican and a fiscally conservative independent have joined the City Council, requests for funding are receiving more scrutiny and less support. Just this week, Republican Councilman **Frank Fannon** and independent Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes** voted against releasing \$200,000 of contingent reserves to avoid cutting back DASH bus service. Riders can pay more in fees, they argued, before losing in a five-to-two party line vote.

Fannon also cast a dissenting vote against a request from a nonprofit organization known as ACT for Alexandria. Last month, the organization, formerly known as the Alexandria Community Trust, asked the city for \$50,000. Executive Director **John Porter** explained that the money would be an investment that would help create a new Web site known as the “ACTion Alexandria” network. The money was apparently unspent revenue from a fund to provide services to at-risk youth.

“It’s a good mission, but I’m concerned about the precedent this sets,” said Fannon, before casting a dissenting vote against the expenditure. “It might open the door for every other nonprofit to make the same kind of request.”

Youth Gone Wild

Gang members in Northern Virginia are getting younger, according to a recent report from the Northern Virginia Comprehensive Gang Assessment. Because law enforcement officials have targeted the leadership structure of organizations such as Mara Salvatrucha, the vacuum at the top has opened the way for a new generation of underworld bosses. This week, City Council members were presented with a series of findings from the assessment, which concluded that the Northern Virginia region has 5,000 gang members — the vast majority of whom are part of the criminal gang known as MS-13.

“Go back to the Jets and the Sharks — they were gangs,” said Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**. “It’s when they migrate into criminal activity that’s when it becomes more relevant.”

Yoshino Snacking

Cameron Station residents might notice that the cherry trees around the lake at Ben Brenman Park are a little less colorful this year. That’s because a pack of beavers has been munching on the trunks of Yoshino trees there. City arborists have removed about 40 Yoshino cherry trees in the last two months in the wake of the all-you-can-eat beaver buffet. City Arborist **John Noelle** broke the news to City Council members at a work session earlier this week. “These are some clever beavers,” said Councilwoman **Del Pepper**.

“Not knowing how much wood a woodchuck chucks, as it were,” responded Noelle. “I can imagine it would take a long time.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Under a legislative proposal suggested by Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49), customers at supermarkets would be charged a nickel for each disposable bag they use while grocery shopping.

March of the Nickels

FROM PAGE 1

Recent months have seen success for bag-taxing initiatives. The Washington, D.C. City Council approved a five-cent tax last summer, and Toronto also recently slapped a new five-cent tax on disposable bags. So the twin efforts in Maryland and Virginia have been designed to take advantage of the recent

interest in acting to reduce the prevalence of disposable bags at the checkout line.

“I think we have the momentum,” said Carr, whose district includes Chevy Chase. “I know the retailer associations will oppose regulation, but we have to consider the cost that not doing this will take on our environment and our own health.”

New Work for a New Year



PHOTOS BY
MECHELLE SCHLOSS
GAZETTE PACKET
Curator Kurt Peterson stands next to his oil painting, “Winter Afternoon Reflections,” at the Del Ray Artisans’ opening reception, Friday, Jan. 8.

Artist Ruth E. Kinsey delves into Greek mythology with the presentation of her acrylic painting Apollo-Daphne-Pennes. Kinsey also has works in collage on display at the gallery included in this new works show, now through Jan. 24.





The southwest corner of Cameron and Pitt streets, looking toward King Street. This former DMV office, shoe store and failed campaign headquarters will become the new location of Helen Olivia Flowers.

Lights, Camera, Campagna

Most nonprofit organizations don't advertise on television. But the Campagna Center is not just any nonprofit.

This week, viewers of CBS affiliate WUSA Channel 9 began seeing a new commercial featuring images of the Campagna Center programs on Monday. The 30-second spots are aimed at making sure all Alexandria children arrive at school ready to learn. Campagna president **Karen Hughes** says the nonprofit was already investigating the possibility of sinking \$10,000 to \$15,000 into a promotional video when she was approached by WUSA to participate in a series called "Leading the Way Around the Beltway."

For a bargain-basement price of \$2,400, the Campagna Center was able to snag spots throughout the week on the Tiffany Network.

Best of all, says Hughes, the nonprofit walks away from the week with a professionally produced video segment that can be used online to educate people about the mission of the Campagna Center.

"A lot of people have heard of us but don't really know what we do," said Hughes. "So this was a good deal for us because we get to broaden the scope of people who are familiar with our mission."

Location, Location, Location

Since its founding in 1995, the Old Town flower shop known as Helen Olivia has been quietly tucked away in a commercial strip bordering a residential area on the other side of Queen Street. According to owner **Craig Noah**, the business became successful because it became the neighborhood's go-to location for flower arrangements.

"This neighborhood has really embraced us and taken us under their wing," said Noah as he was preparing to move out of the Lee Street location. "I would say it's been a stroke of luck of a small business to be embraced the way this neighborhood has embraced us."

Starting next month, the business will move a little farther away from that neighborhood. But the trade-off is that the business will now be much closer to the main action along King Street. The Old Town flower peddler has signed a lease for the retail space at the intersection of Cameron and South Pitt streets. Previous inhabitants include a shoe store, an unsuccessful campaign for lieutenant governor and an office of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

"People used to say this was a place you would want to stay away from because the people getting their driver's license would practice parallel parking in front of the building," said Noah. "But now we are looking forward to moving closer to the heart of Old Town."

SEE BUSINESS MATTERS, PAGE 15

Exercise That New Year Resolution

Local woman's story might prompt procrastinators to get off couch.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

Need a little inspiration to get started on that goal to get fit and healthy in 2010?

Look for Jessica Bigby walking up, down and around the streets of Old Town. She should be easy to spot. She's the one with a Fitness Together trainer walking behind guiding and encouraging her the whole way. It's something she never dreamed was possible.

Jessica Bigby, 27, has a physical disability that requires her to walk with canes. Her doctors had recommended that she exercise on a daily basis, and even though her family has exercise equipment in their home, doing her exercises was always a struggle.

"It was never a pleasant experience, because not only do I hate exercise," she said, emphasizing the word hate, "but my dad and I are not knowledgeable enough to know what to do and how to do it properly."

When Bigby first went to Fitness Together (FT) she thought she would learn how to do her exercises properly but eventually work on her fitness routine at home on her own. That idea didn't last long.

"I've been at FT since April and have no plans of leaving anytime soon," she said.

Fitness Together at 300 North Washington St. in Old Town has been helping Alexandrians meet and exceed their fitness goals for



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER / GAZETTE PACKET

Matt McKinnis (left), opened Fitness Together five years ago in November, 2009. John Darnes of Herndon (right) is studio manager and has worked with McKinnis for close to three years.

Details

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<http://fitnesstogether.com/alexandria/page/home>

five years — since November of 2004. According to owner Matt McKinnis, all of his clients walk through the door with a goal — everyone's is different.

"We had one client whose goal was to be able to lift up her 5-year old grandson," McKinnis said. "When she came in and told us she did, that was such a great feeling. We've helped clients with weight goals, running their first 5K race, getting off their medications — even just feeling healthy again and getting back into a fitness routine."

McKinnis knows more than a little about motivation and results. In addition to the Old Town location, he owns two other Fitness

Together franchises, including one he opened in Georgetown this past November.

But he's not driven to achieve only his business goals.

McKinnis celebrated his 40th birthday this past Sept. 1 — at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

"We were the first ones up the mountain," McKinnis said about he and his climbing companion and best friend of 15 years, Chris Canning. They got into shape for the adventure working out with FT trainers for two months before they left for the climb.

After 11 years in the corporate world doing sales and marketing for a wireless and cellular company, McKinnis says he needed a career he could feel passionate about. While soul searching, he taught spinning classes part time and realized he wanted to do even more in the fitness arena. He became a certified personal trainer through the American Council on

SEE EXERCISE, PAGE 14



Kid's Holiday Art Contest Winner

Mark Seamon, 10, of Herndon is the winner of Burke & Herbert Bank's third annual Kids' Holiday Art Contest. With him are Burke & Hebert Bank President Scott McSween (left) and CEO, Hunt Burke. The winning artist's illustration is featured both on the bank's Web site (www.burkeandherbert.com).

More Seek Help from ALIVE!

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS
GAZETTE PACKET

In this economic recession, many people have turned to their local neighborhood organizations for support.

For over 40 years, ALIVE! has been there for needy families and individuals in Alexandria.

These programs include a Family Emergency Program (emergency food and financial assistance), ALIVE! Child Development Center (a nationally accredited pre-school for low income families), Last Saturday Food Distribution and the ALIVE! House Shelter for women and families located in Old Town.

"The ALIVE! House shelter is the longest continuing serving shelter in the Commonwealth of Virginia and we take up to four families at a time," said Ken Naser, executive director of ALIVE!.

The Last Saturday Food Distribution program provides emergency food assistance to people "referred to them usually by the Alexandria Department of Human Services."

In addition, they also have a furniture program and a house ware program where ALIVE! volunteers drive around picking up donated furniture, pots, pans and dishes.

Every Saturday, its volunteers drive to various neighborhood places picking up donated furniture.

"More than 90 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to our programs because we have mostly volunteers with a few staff members." Naser said.

In response to the challenges ALIVE! faces, Naser said, "We have food requests that are 30 per cent



Linda and Steve Scheid are regular Thursday deliverers of ALIVE!'s Family Emergency food program.

higher than they were last year. A lot more people requiring our services. We have to continually raise money to support those programs."

From the very beginning ALIVE! has stuck close to its Alexandria roots, this also pertains to their fundraising efforts.

"Frank Key, branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors at 1900 Duke St., organized volunteers from his office to work at two of our Last Saturday Food Distribution sites," Naser said.

In 1969, a handful of several Alexandria member congregations came together to form the volunteer organization ALIVE! Now, the 41-member congregations are helping provide food, shelter and financial aid to those in need. For more information on ALIVE! or their programs, visit www.alive-inc.org.

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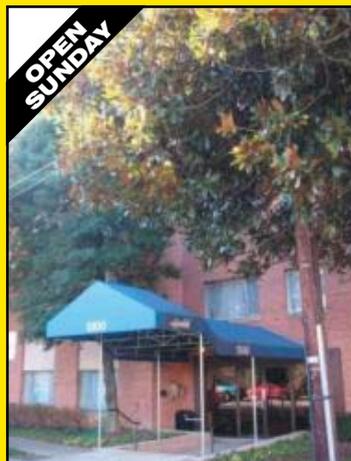
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Public Housing Residents Question No Trespass List

FROM PAGE 1

allows one of her banned sons or daughters into her living room. She could also be committing misdemeanors each time she unknowingly allows a banned person to her home.

"People get barred because they have engaged in the drug trade or domestic violence against a spouse or child," said Carlyle Ring, a member of the housing authority who helped create the policy in 2004. "No one gets on the list without factual information that they've been convicted or arrested."

BUT ACCORDING to the language of a bill introduced this week in the Virginia General Assembly by Del. David Englin (D-45), housing authority's policy lacks due process. Englin says it's far too easy for people to find themselves on the list, and that there's no way to challenge the process before the barment takes effect. Ultimately, Englin says, the current policy is flawed.

"I think the current policy treats people like chattel," said Englin. "It denies poor people the basic dignity and respect that any human being would demand from their fellow human beings."

On Monday, the three-term legislator who

represents the cluster of public-housing units near the Braddock Road Metro station introduced a measure he calls the Housing Authority Barment Due Process Act. He sees the legislation as a solution to what he calls the "untenable situation" of ARHA residents and the "hostile work environment" for law enforcement officers. The language of the bill would create a hearing before barment decisions go into effect in Virginia's public-housing units. It would also create periodic reviews of the No Trespass List and require policies to be communicated to residents and individuals cited for violations.

"Under the current policy, a police officer who doesn't like the cut of your jib can bar you from ARHA property essentially indefinitely," said Englin.

ALREADY, THE EFFORT has encountered opposition from various quarters in Alexandria. Residents of the Parker Gray neighborhood say they have been concerned about crime for years, with a series of high-profile murders that have taken place near public-housing units in the past few years. Since 2005, nine of 24 murders in Alexandria have taken place here. The latest happened last summer, when a 45-year-old man from Pennsylvania was found dead on North Payne Street. In the last month alone, the streets east of the Metro station have logged

seven assaults, according to police records. Some neighborhood residents say they are deeply concerned about delaying barment of dangerous individuals who might cause additional problems.

"I would be concerned this would place a huge administrative burden on an already-strapped agency," said Leslie Zupan, former president of the West Old Town Citizens Association. "The policy of barment is perceived in the neighborhood to be a tool to keep the peace."

In the hours before the General Assembly gavelled into session Wednesday, police union leader Michael Kochis met with Englin to express his opposition to central policy change in the legislation. Kochis says that police oppose efforts to delay implementation of the barment until a hearing has taken place. He added that the police support other parts of the bill, including a section adding instructions for appeal to the notification.

"We don't want to be judge, jury and executioner," said Kochis. "But the argument that we bar people for no reason is just flat out wrong."

Public housing residents and their advocates disagree.

"These tenants are so scared and intimidated by the police that some of them don't even like to come out of their house," said

Lenny Harris, a community organizer who is working with Englin on the bill. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that this is harassment and profiling at work here."

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE is Englin and his pending legislation. He says the

parts that increase transparency and better documentation have already reached a consensus. But the more controversial aspect of the bill — the heart of the policy change — is still being negotiated. When asked about the provision requiring a hearing before barment would take effect, Englin says that part is still a work in progress.

"That's an issue that's on the table," said Englin shortly after learning of his committee reassignments Wednesday afternoon. "We're working it through."

"I think the current policy treats people like chattel."

— Del. David Englin (D-



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Large Classes, Tough Choices

Opening the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

One reason for growth in the student population in public school systems in the area right now is the effect of the recession on family budgets. With more than 70,000 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, and thousands more underemployed, some families who did have children in private schools have switched to public school. Given the stellar reputations of the schools in question, it's a rational financial move.

But now growing enrollment and costs combined with stagnant budgets are forcing some local public school systems to rework their budget calculations as well, resulting in more than 30 students in many classes, more than 40 students in some classes.

This will no doubt send some parents back to the family budget drawing board, seeking a way to afford private school and smaller class sizes for their children.

EDITORIAL

Most parents don't care very much about the size of the average class, only the sizes of the classes in which their children are trying to learn.

Very large classes, especially classes with 30 or more students in them, are a detriment to learning. Students with any sort of challenges are particularly poorly served by large classes. Very large classes also make the

task of maintaining a civil school environment much more difficult.

Schools would do well to focus first on limiting very large classes, worrying a bit less about average class size.

It's also an excellent time to begin paving the way for charter schools in Virginia. What, in the middle of a financial crunch? If we start now to develop more encouraging guidelines for charter schools in the region, by the time the first schools are open, the economic climate will be vastly different.

Public schools cannot meet all the needs of all the students that come through the doors. Families deserve some well-constructed alternatives. Governor-elect Bob McDonnell, along with President Obama, is right to push to open the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improve Efficiencies

To the Editor:

I am not surprised Ms. Gibbs [Mary Catherine Gibbs, chair, Alexandria Commission for Women] wrote in defense of her corner of the Alexandria City bureaucracy. Indeed, it would be surprising if the chair of any agency didn't take a stand to preserve their powerbase. After all, bureaucracies are one of the most resilient life forms on Earth.

Ms. Gibbs wrote that her bureaucracy provides valuable services to the community. She is cor-

rect, however, a little bit of research suggests many, if not all, of these programs are either repetitive or could be more effectively managed by other arms of the City government. Ms. Gibbs cited the following services as justification for the survival of her bureaucracy:

24-hour domestic and sexual violence hotlines.

Only a miscreant would argue against such a service. However, victims should call 911 in case of emergencies. Indeed, under the threat of violence, wouldn't it be best to immediately protect the victim(s) and introduce the

perpetrator(s) to the justice system? In non emergency situations, victims can call the Alexandria Police Department, which has an entire unit dedicated to Domestic Violence at (703) 838-4444. As such, Ms. Gibbs's #1 Reason for bureaucratic existence is repetitive.

Running the Battered Women's Shelter in Alexandria.

Again, a worthy program for any city. However, wouldn't it be more appropriate for the Shelter to be run by the trained professionals of the Community Services Board (CSB)? After all, having spent almost \$3 million on the Safe Ha-

ven Program, the CSB is obviously rolling in money and is experienced in providing counseling to both our most vulnerable and dangerous citizens. As such, this service could be folded into the CSB's budget — maintaining the program while eliminating some of the bureaucratic costs.

Helping Victims through the medical and legal process. Providing individual and group counseling

All are worthy services that could easily be handled by the Police Department and the CSB. Once again, retaining the service while eliminating some overhead is sensible.

Ms. Gibbs then pointed to a number of programs intended to assist our youth.

Given the huge portion of our budget devoted to Alexandria Public Schools, there is surely enough money floating around to administer these programs. Additionally, reviewing and enhancing the education of our youth on sensitive issues, including the consequences of risky behavior, will help obtain the same goals without increasing overhead.

To conclude, there need be no long-term costs to the City by eliminating this repetitive, sexist and obsolete bureaucracy.

Bud Miller
Alexandria

Please Return That Banner

To the Editor:

On Dec. 31, First Night Alexandria threw a great New Year's Eve

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



Warming Up Alexandria

For her confirmation community service project at Blessed Sacrament Church, Laura Lee McHugh, 13, collected winter coats from her neighborhood to give to others in need. With her is Diane Chatelain of Presto Valet on Quaker Lane that cleaned the coats free of charge. More than 70 coats were collected in December and given to Lazarus Ministry — affiliated with Christ Church — and MacArthur School to distribute.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

party! And what about those fireworks? We've heard from many they were the best ever.

For nearly a month, we had a big banner on the chain link fence at the corner of Duke Street and Callahan Drive advertising the event. It was quite expensive and if you noticed, there was no year on it. We hoped to use it again. Unfortunately, someone decided to take the banner either the night of the 31st or the morning of Jan. 1. I'm sure the individual or individuals that have it will tire of it and we would appreciate having it back, no questions asked.

You can drop it any time on the porch at the Visitors Center at the corner of King and S. Fairfax Streets (221 King Street).

Ann M. Dorman, CMP

Executive Director, First Night Alexandria
Alexandria

Doing Less With Less

To the Editor:

In the new year Alexandria City Public Schools may be marching to the beat of Mr. Babatunde Olatunji but they are still singing the same song. I was disheartened by the two articles I read in this week's Packet. In the first, a column piece, Superintendent Mort Sherman really stretched to show some sort of positive results within the school system. Mr. Sherman pointed to increased numbers of students participating in Algebra I and AP courses as positive results within ACPS. That is like the police depart

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



Ephemeral Art

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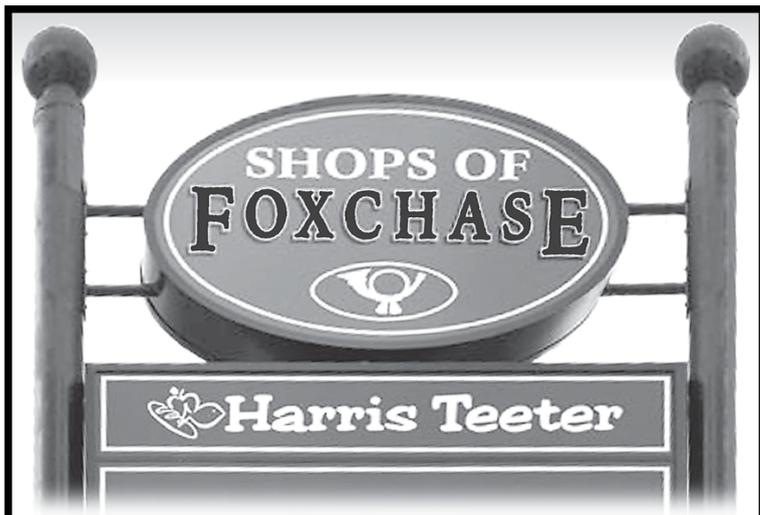
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

ment saying that the streets are safer because more applicants are taking the police entrance exam. Quantity does not demonstrate quality. I am not sure how signing more kids up for courses, regardless of how they may perform, demonstrates positive results. Mr. Sherman also highlighted the development of individual achievement plans for "at promise" students as another positive result.

Moving beyond the fact that the term "at promise" sounds ridiculous and conveys no meaning, these students have always had a vehicle like this in place, it was previously referred to as an "intervention plan." I guess that if you change the label you use to identify students who are failing and change the name of the form you use to address their needs, then you are getting positive results. Mr. Sherman touched upon changes in the drop-out rate in ACPS. While drop-out rate numbers in some demographics have improved, the district as a whole continues to fall behind state averages. The column left the impression of a school system trying desperately to justify its expenses.

In the article "Curriculum Revolution" I was appalled by what I read regarding the decrease in technology resource teachers in Alexandria. How can a school system, which purports to be preparing students to be participants in global communities, move in the opposite direction with regards to technology? More technology teachers, not less, would seem fitting in today's global economy. Mrs. Hoover seems more focused on Blackboard software and Smartboard hardware than she is on skilled technology teachers leading lessons in Alexandria's schools. While Mrs. Hoover and the school system may believe that the new organization is more col-

laborative, the fact of the matter is that the technology teachers who were removed, transferred to other schools, or split among various buildings had other important roles within their schools. Many operated the in-school television studios for the school news shows (never see those shows on channel 71 anymore), ran the computer labs (almost none continue to exist), and provided valuable classroom instruction to hundreds of students at their schools. Now these teachers are gone, replaced by laptop carts (which are limited) and part-time technology integration specialists (which may or may not be able to fit into the rigorous daily schedules). This change was a great loss to many, many schools. The technology teachers were also trouble shooters for teachers' technology needs, now I hear that the HelpDesk has taken over that task and is completely swamped. That doesn't really sound like doing more with less. That sounds like doing less with less, which is exactly what is happening to technology in Alexandria's classrooms and schools.

It is the new year, so I would hope to see some real progress within Alexandria City Public Schools. Yet, I feel as though the beat will just go on, and on, and on, and on.

Meg Ashburn
Alexandria

Turned Off

To the Editor:

This Saturday, I tried to contact Senator Webb's D.C. office to let him know how I feel about the health care issue being debated. Not much to my surprise, I

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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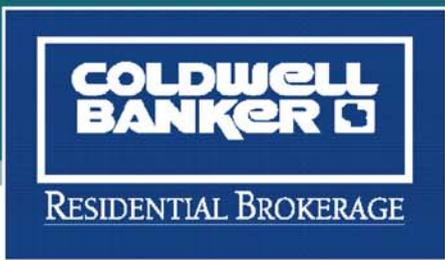
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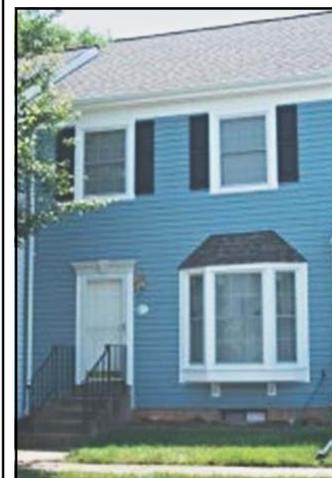
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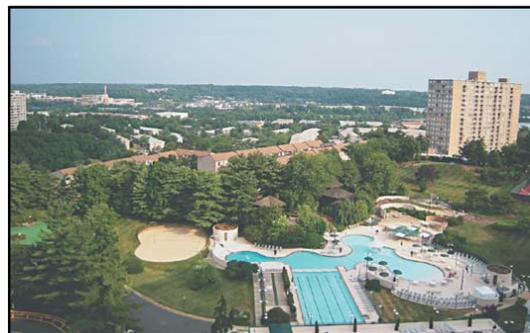


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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

found that the Senator had turned off his phones, ignoring constituents that wanted to be heard.

Anne Capitman
Alexandria

Broader View On Transportation

To the Editor:

The recent Gazette Packet article about the Council deliberations on transportation issues related to BRAC perpetuates the zero sum game mindset that leads to bad planning and bad outcomes. To present the transportation issues as gridlock versus the Winkler preserve demonstrates a lack of vision and also grossly misrepresents the Council's actions. Vision is exactly what we need to address west-end traffic challenges. Fortunately, our transportation master plan and the recently adopted Landmark plan give us a place to start.

I concur with the criticism that the City should have been explicit in supporting Eisenhower over Mark Center for Brac-133. But I don't support the idea contained in the Gazette Packet article that since BRAC is here, we need to harm the Winkler preserve or make additional bad planning choices to address it.

We have known for 15 years that the Mark Center was going to have a high-density commercial use. That was decided with zoning changes in 1995 and was detailed in the SUP decisions for the site in 2004. The original zoning also called for a new off-ramp from 395. In 2004 VDOT, because of funding limitations and a lack of federal support, told Alexandria that an access ramp into the Mark Center wasn't an option. So the city planned around it, and relied on what I believe was a flawed transportation analysis to try and make up for the access ramp. With

BRAC here, VDOT has brought the access ramp concept back because they believe that the federal government will pay for it.

Funds for an access ramp are on the table. DOD is better at requiring transit use for its employees than private property owners. And DOD has asked for less parking than was ever expected in the Mark Center. Given this, we have a chance to come out of this project with a commercial site similar in scale to what was zoned for in 1995, but that has greater reliance on transit, less parking and a better total transportation system than was every envisioned.

The Council's recent action reflects a focus on the entire transportation system. First, the Council asked to take transportation options that harm Winkler off the table. Second, we asked that two options that provide modest relief to Seminary Road be considered, but not in isolation. We also asked that VDOT work with city staff to develop additional options that would take further traffic pressure off of Seminary Road. We have to look at these things together. We can't expect silver bullet traffic solutions. We have to look at the entire system of traffic surrounding Mark Center.

The recently completed Landmark/Van Dorn Plan and the ongoing Beauregard Corridor Plan project provide an opportunity for us to focus on the entire area transportation system. We should start by looking closely at the Duke Street interchange. By making Duke Street an exit and entrance point for high occupancy vehicle and transit use on 395 we can support both the dedicated transit called for on Van Dorn in the city's recently adopted Landmark re-development plan and we can support the high-capacity transit system on Beauregard described in the city Transportation Plan. This approach would enable DOD to bring buses up I-95 and then over to Beauregard and up to Mark Center and then to the Commu-

nity College, over into Arlington and ultimately to the Pentagon. This is the transit vision we should be fighting for. Its good for DOD, Alexandria and our region.

For this to work, the transit route must be open to non-military personnel and should connect to Fairfax and ultimately to Arlington and the Pentagon. This approach takes additional pressure off of Seminary Road, makes transit center stage not just for the Mark Center for the entire corridor. And it builds on work already being done with Arlington and Fairfax to create a system of high capacity transit throughout our region. To accomplish this, the Defense Department needs to ensure that the transportation management plan that it is working on is thorough, detailed, viable, and effective.

In addition to studying Duke Street, the Council asked City staff to work with VDOT to look at other options to take traffic off of Seminary Road. Staff will gather community input on these concepts. As part of this review, Sanger Road is going to be evaluated to see if it could support a full or partial interchange without harming Winkler or neighborhoods. Other flyover options into the Mark Center will also be reviewed. Either way, my preference is for a system-wide mass transit approach that not only supports the Mark Center, but that also supports making transit more convenient throughout the West End.

There are a lot of reasons why it could be difficult for a broad approach to work. There are a number of moving parts to keep track of. That is why it is so attractive to find a silver bullet. But silver bullets won't create the positive outcomes the west-end of Alexandria deserves. By thinking broadly about the transportation needs of the entire Beauregard Corridor we can come out of this with something better than we would have ever expected. Let's bring some vision and creativity to this.

Rob Krupicka



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Exercise on Most New Year's Resolutions Lists

FROM PAGE 4

Exercise. Friends hired him to work at their Tysons Corner where, he said, they taught him all the practical aspects of being a personal trainer.

"I already had all the business training," he said. "But they taught me how to properly work with clients, everything I needed to know to make sure the client's doing everything correctly to get the results and avoid getting hurt."

Eighteen months later, McKinnis knew he wanted to own his own fitness business. He visited Fitness Together headquarters in Denver, met with their senior team who impressed him with their passion for the business. "That sold us on purchasing the franchise," McKinnis said. "I say us — it was me that started the Alexandria franchise."

But my dad is my partner in everything now. He's my coach, my mentor, my everything. So I always consult him."

McKinnis has six trainers at his Alexandria location which was just remodeled in November. There's a changing room with shower and all the amenities — soap, sham-

poo and towels.

Studio Manager John Darnes who hails from Herndon, has been with McKinnis for nearly three years. He's the one who does the initial consultation with prospective clients to go over their goals and start planning the program to meet those goals. Part of the consultation is a complimentary session with a trainer.

Darnes says FT's team of trainers can handle just about any goal, injury or circumstance a client might have — including special needs. This location works with people who have everything from rheumatoid arthritis to fibromyalgia — even cerebral palsy.

Jessica Bigby credits her trainers at FT for challenging her not only to learn how to do her exercises properly, but they pushed her to do something she never dreamed possible.

"I walk with canes," she said, "and within my first two months at FT, my trainers had worked on my physical strength and balance so much so that I am working on walking without my canes. I still use them most of the time, but I



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER / GAZETTE PACKET

Gabrielle Ballantine of Old Town works out with her trainer, Klaudia Raisinger of Alexandria. Ballantine says Raisinger has helped her stick to her goals and she's lost 20 pounds since going to Fitness Together — back to where she was when she graduated college in 1996. Raisinger used to work at a large facility but likes being at Fitness Together where she's able to focus more on her client because the atmosphere is more relaxed. "It's like a family here."

never dreamed I would be able to let them go."

Bigby also says she no longer hates working out. In fact, she

looks forward to going to FT — whether to work out with her trainer or to meet new friends she's made there for a shared cardio session.

"The trainers at FT can help you if you have physical challenges, if you wouldn't dream of putting exercise on your list of fun things to do. They are knowledgeable and explain the reason behind the exercises and why they will help you."

"If you are looking for someone to help you achieve your goals — those you've identified and those you never thought possible — in a friendly and knowledgeable environment, FT is the place to go," she added.

Owner Matt McKinnis has found his passion at last.

"I absolutely love this industry," McKinnis said.

"When I was in the telecom business, I did a lot of sales that were exciting but nothing as exciting as when a client comes in and tells me they have muscle on their leg again or the pain in their neck is gone. The first time that happened, I knew I had made it in the industry I wanted to be in."

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BUSINESS

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

The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association has welcomed **John Luna** into a newly created Administrator position to oversee the day to day business and operations of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. After the consideration of some 20 applicants to the position, the TFAA board selected Alexandria resident Luna to lead their managerial endeavors. Luna's background includes over 16 years experience in various managerial roles. His experiences include work in the construction industry, media, manufacturing and operations management, healthcare, education, and project management for government and military agencies.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced the Alexandria/Old Town office was recognized for industry success in December. The Alexandria/Old Town office managed by Kim Farina led the region for resale dollar volume. The region is comprised of offices located throughout Virginia.

The Alexandria Housing Development Corporation welcomes a new executive director, **James A. Pritchett**. He brings experience to the organization both as an administrator and as a housing advocate, having worked in the housing arena in Northern Virginia, Richmond, and North Carolina. Most recently, he has run his own company, EQV Consulting, providing real estate and other consulting services to non-profit and for-profit organizations. Prior to that, he was director of Real Estate Development at the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, vice-president of Housing Development at Community Housing Partners Corporation, executive director of The Affordable Housing Group of North Carolina, and director of housing at The Arc of North Carolina. He is also a certified property manager and serves as the Northern Virginia representative to the Board of Directors for the Virginia Housing Coalition. Pritchett was born and raised in North Carolina where he graduated from Guilford College.

The **Stone Realty Services** with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Alexandria has earned membership in the company's President's Club — a group of the top 13 percent of Coldwell Banker sales groups worldwide. The Stone Realty Services is led by the following sales associates Brenda Stone.

BUSINESS MATTERS

FROM PAGE 4

New Leadership at Chamber

As Alexandria Chamber President **Tina Leone** continues to reshape the city's leading business organization, a new face has entered the boardroom on North Fairfax Street. **Catherine Roper** is already well known to many in Alexandria as the campaign manager for the recent Republican campaigns of **Frank Fannon** for City Council and **Vicki Vasques** for the House of Delegates. Roper has experience planning events for nonprofit organizations, and is currently the owner of her own event-planning business.

"We want to expand the chamber," said Roper, who started her new role last week in a newly created executive position. "And we can do that by targeting our efforts to restaurants, retail and associations."

Roper says the city already has more than 420 associations, and that she is hopeful the chamber's outreach efforts could attract even more. In her new position as vice president for operations, Roper will oversee membership and events.

"This is an effort to streamline things for Tina," said Roper. "It's important for her to be the face of the chamber, so that will allow me to take on the day-to-day operations."

Clarification

Patrons at King Street's Vermilion can order a seasonal martini known as Silver Bells, a drink normally made with Stolichnaya vodka. But Stoli was nowhere in sight at the Martinis and Mistletoe holiday event last month, hosted by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Instead the vodka on hand was Grey Goose, one of the evening's sponsors.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



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1208
Tatum Drive
\$850,000
Villamay!

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



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.) Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Morningside Ln, R Park Terr Dr.



8311
Mount Vernon Hwy
\$779,000
Brand New Home!

Stunning opportunity! Leading builder's model home has been loaded with options and was planned to sell for over \$1,000,000! Fabulous special features include: bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, four levels, upgraded kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, custom trim detail, spacious screened porch and two car garage. Prime location convenient to everything!



2805 CAMERON
MILLS ROAD
\$619,000

Solidly built 4BR/2BA brick colonial in sought after Braddock Heights. This home has been well maintained and is ready for a new owner. Good size level lot offers expansion possibilities. Large first level Master BR could also be great room.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.597.2252



4862 EISENHOWER
AVE, #368
Alexandria
\$330,000

REGULAR SALE! Largest unit in this pet friendly community w/2 Master BRs, den. Upgraded kit w/ granite, black appliances, ceramic tile, cherry cabinets. Full size W/D, soaking tub. Community amenities incl METRO shuttle, gar., pool, sport ct, & 24 hr fitness + more.

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5902 MOUNT
EAGLE DR #1418
Alexandria - \$319,000

GREAT VIEWS! Totally remodeled 3BR, 2BA J model. New kit w/SSA, 2 drawer dishwasher, Advantium microwave, tile backsplash, granite counters & custom cabs. Hwds in foyer, LR/DR. Berber carpet in the BRs. Lovely paint colors throughout. Newer baths. New windows! And all the conveniences Montebello has to offer.

Brenda Jourdan 703.472.0406



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.



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.



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!



199 RACEY LANE
Strasburg, VA -
\$365,000

RETIREMENT OASIS! Breathtaking views from front & back of scenic mountains. Situated on 3+ acres - 3BR, 2.5BA over 2,800sqft - 2 car garage - craft/hobby room - office - upstairs open family room w/skylights - 1st flr MBR suite w/ sep shower, garden tub & enormous walk-in closets - close to Strasburg. Call for private showing...

Louise Devers 703.795.9944



6129 REDWOOD LA
Alexandria -
\$649,000

Classic colonial sited on a quiet cul-de-sac has perfect floor plan for entertaining incl. an updated kit, adjacent FamRm opening to a 4 season sunroom. Foyer leads to the LR & formal DR. Chef's will love granite, SSA, & a brkfst area. MasterBr w/updated BA.

Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914
Margaret Keagle 703.518.8726



29 S FRENCH ST
Alexandria
\$329,900

GREAT LOCATION! 3lv Brick duplex w/3BR, 2.5BA - many updates - off-street prkg - hardwood flrs main & upper lvls - great location - EZ commute - close to shopping schools & churches. Call for private appointment...

Louise Devers 703.795.9944



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!



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!



5205
Polk Avenue
\$999,000
Brand New Home!

Top quality luxury new 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 for maximum customization!



806 BEVERLEY DRIVE
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4105 FAITH COURT
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\$799,000

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

Gary Ansley 202.288.7946



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



3706 RIVERWOOD CT
\$482,111
SOLD!



4821 STILLWELL AVE
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SOLD!



1810 HOLLINDALE DR
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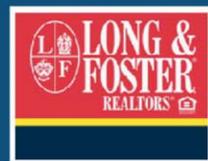
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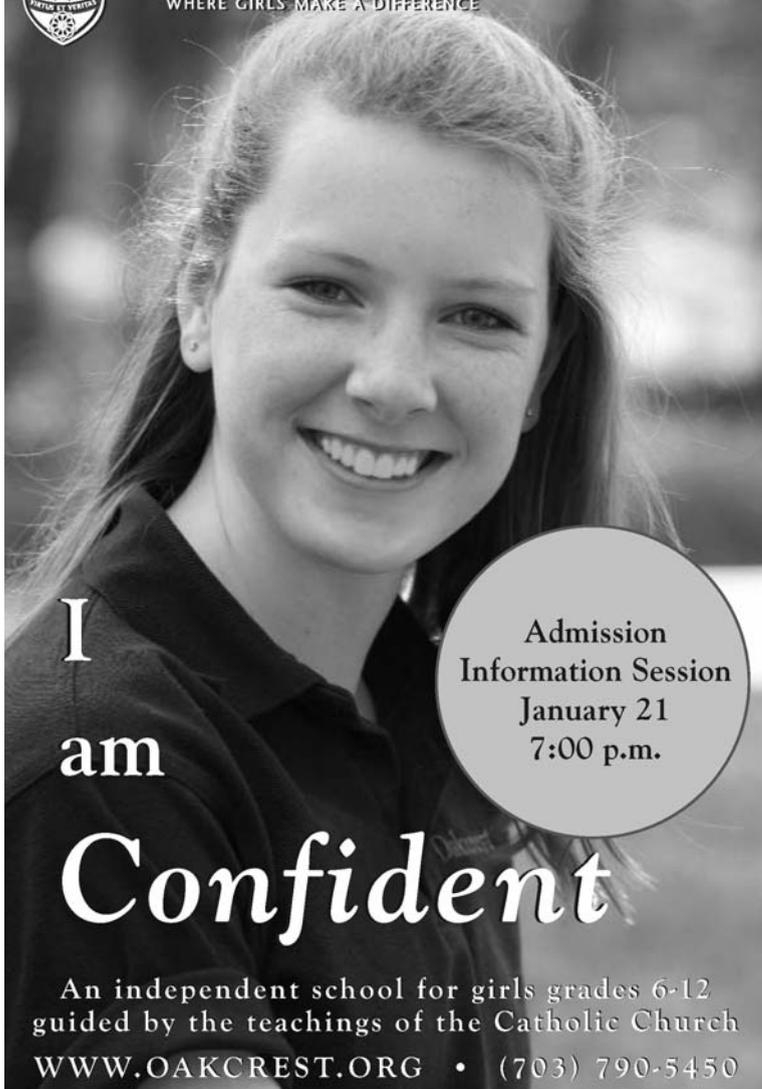
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SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

One-Act Play Festival

Brenda Nascimento, Dafna Bliss, Khadeja Taha, Antonio Sellers and Atiaya Hunt are in the play "Beyond the Door" during the one-act festival and competition at T.C. Williams High School on Jan. 9.



Jessica Muse, Zachary Frank, Andrew Flack, China Jones and Fatima Kazmi participate in the one-act play festival last weekend.



Giuliana Mortimer, Joseph Powers, Lily Carlisle-Reske and Ben Ribler are the cast of "Darling."



Judge Craig Lawrence, co-executive producer Hope E. Bachman, Judge Kim-Scott Miller, co-executive producer, Judge Danielle Young.



Maria Simpkins, Dylan Drury, Zachary Frank, Mary Carlton Murphy, Madeline Bryan are in the play "Ladying."

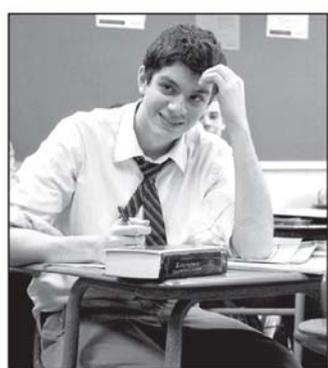


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SCHOOL NOTES

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

Seven Alexandria residents have recently been named to the dean's list at Boston University for the Fall semester. **Erin T. Coffey, Patrick Rhodeside, William J. Tortolano IV, and Alison M. Yates.**

In the search for The Country's Funniest College Student, RooftopComedy's 2nd Annual National College Comedy

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 29

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Lasso Your Partner . . .

It's time for the Wild Wild West End. Register for the Alexandria Chamber 2010 Gala.

BY GALE CURCIO
FOR THE GAZETTE

If it's January, it must be time for the Alexandria Chamber Gala. If it's time for the Gala, then it's time to be at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. And if it's time to be at the Hilton, then it's surely time for Vice-Mayor Kerry Donley to wield his auctioneer gavel.

The Live Auction will not disappoint. Once again, Charlie Banta, general manager of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, has donated a Dinner for 12 with wine pairings at Finn & Porter. The Curcios won this same package a couple of years ago and was well worth it.

Not to be outdone, Charlotte Hall has donated a night on the Potomac Riverboat. This is paired with catering by Mango Mike's so it is sure to be a popular item.

There will be other live auction items, and of course many great items for the silent auction. So far, 'Charlie's Favorite Table' includes golf lessons from Belle Haven Country Club; an autographed item from the Washington Capitals; and cigars.

There will also be an opportunity to win a three- to four-night vacation package in Cancun, courtesy of MacNair Travel; a \$500 gift certificate from King's Jewelry; and a three-night stay at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Phoenix Resort.



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO

A group enjoys dinner at the Finn & Porter Dinner purchased by Tom Curcio during the 2008 Gala.

This is not your mother's gala. Every year, the Alexandria Chamber does something new and exciting. This year's rodeo theme promises that at least a few of the more daring members will come attired with cowboy hats and spurs — maybe a lariat or two.

Anybody who is anybody in Alexandria will be there and Kaleidoscope will perform for your dancing pleasure. For those guests wishing to continue the party after the gala is over, the Hilton is offering a special room

rate of \$79.

Gala will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Tickets for the gala are \$125 — or you can buy a table of 10 for \$1,000. To register, visit https://alexchamber.bluekeyinc.com/view_events.php or call 703-549-1000.

Guests wishing to stay overnight can book a room for \$79 by calling 703-845-1010.

FINE ARTS

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Second Thursday Art Night: Snowy Winter Nights. 6-9 p.m. Free. Walk through an artistic wonderland of open studios and artist-made snowflakes at this free event. Enjoy fun activities for the whole family with opening receptions in Target Gallery and The Art League Gallery and a kids' scavenger hunt. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 31

Art Show and Reception. Reception is Jan. 10 from 2-4 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub in Del Ray. For Studio In-Sight, which is based in Bethesda and serves artists with severe chronic disabilities. Call 301-493-4200 ext. 160.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 31

Ceramic Artistry. With clay artists from Washington's Ceramic Guild showing their wares. At Scope Gallery, Studio 19, 101 North Union Street, Alexandria. Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 20

"White Ice." At the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Artists interpret in fiber the cool, clear, sparkly, sheer, and smooth nature of Ice. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. Located in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street in Old Town Alexandria. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free admission.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 1

"Timbuktu." Kathleen Stafford's Solo Artist Exhibit at The Art League Gallery. Stafford spent 18 years immersed in African culture. "Timbuktu," her solo

artist exhibit at The Art League Gallery, celebrates the compelling people she met and the brilliant textures and colors of West Africa through her unique artistic process. Opening Reception on Thursday, Jan. 14, 6:30 – 8 p.m.; Printmaking demo on Saturday, Jan. 23, 1 – 3 p.m. The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-1780, www.theartleague.org.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 24

New Work for a New Year. The Del Ray Artisans' (DRA) January show for 2010. This exhibit provides local artists a platform to show recent work that has not been previously exhibited. The show will open on with a reception on Friday, Jan. 8 from 7 – 9:30 p.m., and close Sunday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. Admission is free. At the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4827 or www.thedelrayartisans.org.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 28

Kazaan Viveiros at The Anthenaum. Kazaan Viveiros crafts large, richly complex paintings that evoke collage. Opening reception is Sunday, Jan. 17 from 4-6 p.m.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 5

East to West Landscapes. Works by Mary Anne Warner in the Tyler Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus. Opening Reception is Thursday, Jan. 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. Tyler Gallery is located at 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6239.

FEB. 1-28

Budding Zen. Handmade Homes for Far East Florals: Ikebana. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The 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.htm.

THEATRE

NOW THROUGH JAN. 24

"Nuts" by Tom Topor. Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. Jan. 8-9, Jan. 15-16, Jan. 22-23; Tue. at 8 p.m. Jan. 19; plus Sun. matinee at 2 p.m. Jan. 24. At Lee Center for the Performing Arts, 1108 Jefferson Street in Old Town, Alexandria. Tickets are \$16/general; \$14/seniors and 18 and under; \$12/groups of 10 or more. Call 703-838-2880 or visit www.portcityplayhouse.com.

JAN. 15-FEB. 6

"Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" 8 p.m. nightly; Saturday/Sunday matinees 2:30 p.m. (No matinee Jan. 16). Sponsored by the American Century Theater. At the Theater Two, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Tickets are \$26-\$32. Go to www.americancentury.org or call 703-998-4555.

JAN. 12-MARCH 7

"I am My Own Wife." Andrew Long plays all 33 characters, from Charlotte, her aunt and her father, SS commanders and Stasi officials, to international reporters and the playwright himself. Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Presented by Signature Theater in the ARK Theater. Tickets are \$47-\$71, and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT or visiting www.signature-theatre.org.

JAN. 15-30

"Reefer Madness." 8 p.m. Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Cost is \$15. Hosted by Dominion Stage. At Gunston Arts Center, Theatre One, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Go to www.dominionstage.org. Reservations can be made online or by calling 703-683-0502.



SATURDAY/FEB. 13

Birthright Banquet and Ball. 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. (Ball starts at 9 p.m.) Celebrate George Washington's Birthday with a banquet and ball. The evening includes a four-course 18th-century banquet by Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, English country dancing, toasts, a special 18th-century style dessert collation, and character re-enactors — including General and Mrs. Washington. Tickets are \$100 to \$200 per person, or \$50 for the ball only. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Call 703-838-4242. At 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria.



SUNDAY, FEB. 14

Burlesque-a-Pades. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$29.50. A Valentine's variety show with burlesque, comedy, acrobatics, singers and swinging live music! Starring Angie Pontani, Corn No, the Pontani Sisters, Little Brooklyn, Albert Cadabra, Helen Pontani, Lefty Lucy and Peekaboo Pointe with live music from the Breadbasket and the Chili Boys Orchestra. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. For tickets, go to www.ticketmaster.com or call 202-397-SEAT.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

The Del Ray Farmers Market is now open year round — located at the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Oxford Avenue in Del Ray. During the winter months the market will be open 9 am to noon each Saturday. The Del Ray Market farmers that will be there are Smith Meadows meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces; Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods, eggs and jams and jellies; winter vegetables; fancy nuts; pralines; and bakery goods. Any questions, contact Pat Miller at pmiller1806@comcast.net.

Ms. Senior Virginia America is searching for candidates statewide for this year's May Pageant, which will be held Thursday, May 6 at the Lee Center Kauffman Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. Showtime is 2-4 p.m. Admission is free with a donation of \$10. Call 703-978-3663 and directions at 703-838-4343. The current Ms. Senior Virginia America, Maureen Ribble, will end her reign in May. The Pageant showcases women age 60-plus who live in Virginia and are U.S. citizens.

Meditation Class. 10-11 a.m. every Sunday. Come enjoy a free group class on meditation instruction and practice. Class will be centered around calm abiding (shine/samatha). No experience is needed. All are welcome at the 3rd floor of Mindful Hands Gallery, 211 King Street. Visit <http://www.palyuldc.org/meditation.html>.



SATURDAY/JAN. 23

American Balalaika Symphony. 7:30 p.m. Presents "Bright Winter Moon: Songs and Dances from the Russian and Ukrainian Heartland." Under the direction of Peter Trofimenko. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beaugard St., Alexandria. Tickets \$20/advance, \$25/door. Visit www.ABSorchestra.org or call 703-351-1331.

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.

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

Storytelling Sessions. 2 p.m. Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon," at

Historic Mount Vernon in the Hands-On History Room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

Ladies Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$17. Sponsored by the Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection. At the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. For reservations, call 703-569-4670 or 703-590-6562.

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.

presented by Aldersgate Church Community Theater, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Tickets can be purchased at www.acconline.org. Seats are \$9/online and \$10/door.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Second Thursday Art Night: Snowy Winter Nights. 6-9 p.m. Free. Walk through an artistic wonderland of open studios and artist-made snowflakes at this free event. Enjoy fun activities for the whole family with opening receptions in Target Gallery and The Art League Gallery and a kids' scavenger hunt. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.

Civil War Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more. At the Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$12. visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-838-4242.

JAN. 14, 15, 16

Used Book Sale. At the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch. Hours are Thursday, 4-9 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555.

JAN. 15-24

"Disney's Mulan Jr." Performances at 3 p.m. on Jan. 17, 18, 23, 24, and at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 15, 16, 22 and 23. Travel back to the legendary, storytelling days of ancient China with this action-packed stage adaptation of Disney's Mulan. A youth production

JAN. 15-24

Alexandria Restaurant Week. More than 40 dining establishments participating in this second-annual event. Offering \$35 pre-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two, or \$3.50 sweet treats. Throughout the City of Alexandria. Menus, event details, and online reservations at: www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com. Call 703-746-3301

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

Evening of Brass Classics and Jazz. 7:30 p.m. Featuring Ottone Ensemble. Tickets: Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Students \$10, Children under 13: \$5. At St. Luke's Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Email tpyoder@yahoo.com or 703-765-4342.

Breakfast Reach Out Meeting. 9:15 a.m. \$3.25 donation. Sponsored by Arlington Aglow. Speaker Mike Bickle, founder of the International House of Prayer, via DVD. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3439 Payne street, Baileys Crossroads. For reservations, call Betty Rose Forsell at 703-671-9264.

Gyrotonic Exercise. Open house. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Offers massage, yoga, acupuncture, chiropractic care, Rolwing, Naturopathic medicine, biofeedback/psychology and meditation. Open house price for one hour private session is \$30. Call for appointment or come by to watch. At the Body in Balance Center, 1423 Powhatan St.,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

KICK UP YOUR BOOTS



With the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as we welcome our 2010 Chairman of the Board Charles Banta, General Manager of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center.

Black-tie Western Winter Gala
Saturday, January 30th
Saloon Doors open - 6 pm

The roundup for the evening events include a silent auction, raffle, dinner, live auction and kickin' up your heels to the sounds of Kaleidoscope for some great dancing.

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Pre-registration is required. Please visit www.alexchamber.com to register. Tickets are \$125 each. Sponsorships available for this event. For more information, please contact Janelle Schmidt, Director of Communication and Events at jschmidt@alexchamber.com.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

Unit 7, Alexandria.

SOUPer Saturday. 9 a.m. to noon. Potters from the Torpedo Factory have donated handmade bowls, and Chart House Restaurant will serve homemade soup for \$15. Proceeds go to United Community Ministries (UCM) in Alexandria. Contact Christine Fiske at 703-768-7106, x 328.

Behind the Counter Tours. 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Explore the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$25, which includes a light breakfast. Call 703-838-4242.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Robert E. Lee Birthday Open House. Noon to 3 p.m. Celebrate the 203rd birthday of Robert E. Lee at the R.E. Lee Camp Hall. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. Call 703-519-2123. At R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum, 806 Prince Street, Alexandria.

Martin Luther King Choir Fest. 7 p.m. A musical celebration in honor and memory of Martin Luther King. At Bethlehem Baptist Church of Alexandria, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-4170.

Messing Around with Creativity Workshop. 1-3 p.m. Fee: \$10/\$12. Explore how the creative process works so that you can apply it to traditional artistic pursuits and life in general. At the DRA Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Details, fees and pre-registration at www.thedelrayartisans.org. Contact Lynn Wyvill at 703-299-0848 or lwvill@comcast.net.

JAN. 17-18

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m. CDs and records as well. At Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

MONDAY/JAN. 18

Lee Birthday Celebration. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In honor of the birthdays of General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and his son, General Robert E. Lee, the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden will be offering free tours.

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

National Chamber Players. 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. concert. National Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Nurit Bar-Josef joins National Chamber Players artistic director James Lee and other members of the NSO in a performance of Philip Glass Quartet No. 2 and Arnold Schönberg's "Verklärte Nacht." At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

Square Dance Lessons. 7:30-9:30 p.m. With the Boomerangs Square Dance Teaching Council. At Lincolnia Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Contact Nancy at 703-573-8378.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. In Gadsby's Tavern ballroom. \$45/advance; \$50/door. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. In preparation for the Ball, dance classes will be offered at Gadsby's Tavern Museum from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 14, 21. Learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more. Cost is \$12/each of \$30 for the series. Call 703-838-4242. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Free Yoga Class. 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. In celebration of National Yoga Day USA. Guests are encouraged to donate



JAN. 14-17

Nancy Reinke Memorial Exhibition. Free. Reception on Jan. 14 from 6-9 p.m. Founding member Nancy McDonald Reinke died on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, after a battle against cancer with her beloved husband Roger and her children by her side. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

to Soles4Souls, the international shoe charity. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum in Alexandria. Visit www.soles4soulsfundraising.org/abellayoga.

JAN. 23-24

"Mint Condition." Jan. 23 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. Jane Franklin Dance and Washington Saxophone Quartet perform in a shared evening. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$28 - \$16 can be purchased by phone 703-933-1111 or at www.janefranklin.com

SUNDAY/JAN. 24

Classical Pianist Sara Leila Sherman. 4 p.m. Free. The recital will feature solo piano works from German, French and American composers. The program includes Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata in A-flat Major Op. 110, Gabriel Fauré's Nocturne for Piano No. 6 in-D flat major Op. 63, and Samuel Barber's Sonata for Piano Op. 26. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria.

JAN. 28, FEB. 4 AND 11

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North

Royal Street. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Call 703-838-4242.

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

Balalaika Quartet Nalimov. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance, \$25/door. At the Lyceum. Go to www.balalaika.org or call 703-549-0760.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Pruning Workshop. 2-4 p.m. Free. At the Alexandria Central Library, 5505 Duke Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us. Call 703-228-6423 or email to ex013mg@vt.edu

Combo Fun with Cards and ATCs. Noon to 4 p.m. Create handmade cards for Valentines. Materials supplied with suggested donations. Artist Trading Card-ers are invited to trade/swap and participate in DRA's New Year's theme of What is "In" and What is "Out" for 2010. Contact Karen at schmityk@yahoo.com or Theresa at tkulstad@verizon.net or www.theDelRayArtisans.org. Del Ray Artisans gallery is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria; call 703-838-4827.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 3

Sea Chanters Chorus. 7:30 p.m. Part of the U.S. Navy Concert Band. Plays at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 703-361-6599 or go to www.navyband.navy.mil.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6

Family Fun Flower Power: Blooming Branches for a Winter Bouquet. 2-3 p.m. Get a jump on the seasons by forcing flowers. Learn to cut branches of flowering trees and shrubs and coax them to bloom indoors for an early spring! \$18/project includes branches and containers. At Green Springs Gardens.

Alexandria Coin Show. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be 50 tables with U.S. coins and currency, world coins, banknotes, ancient coins, hobby books, gold, silver, medals, tokens and collectibles. Prizes and coins are given away. At the Hampton Inn & Suites on the corner of the I-495 beltway and Route 1, Alexandria. Visit the Alexandria Coin Club Web site at: www.members.cox.net/alexandriacoinclub.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

Jazz Leanings. 2 p.m. United States Marine Band performs. With Michael Mower and Michael Colgrass. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, Alexandria Campus.

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First Night Alexandria relies on the generosity of area businesses and individuals. The sale of admission badges covers less than one-half of the annual cost to produce the event. In addition to the many goods and services provided pro bono or far below retail, \$200,00 is needed to cover the expense of First Night Alexandria. These businesses and individuals make it all possible. We are grateful for their generosity and hope you will thank them too when you do business.

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Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours,
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Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

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THEATER

A Sanity Hearing On Stage

Port City Playhouse mounts “Nuts” at Lee Center.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

How do you prove you aren't “nuts” when the charge is paranoia? If you claim your accusers are “out to get you” aren't you just confirming their allegation?

That is the quandary facing the heroine of the 1979 play “Nuts,” which Port City Playhouse is staging with Karen Jadlos Shotts as the accused paranoid and a superbly smooth Jeff Murray as her cannily easygoing lawyer.

The play, which was made into a movie in 1987 starring Barbra Streisand and Richard Dreyfuss in the roles now played by Shotts and Murray, is a courtroom drama that plays out in what director Donald Neal refers to as “real time” with few cuts in the action. The two hours of the play are basically equal to the two hours of the sanity hearing with a 15-minute intermission when the judge rather artificially announces a 15-minute recess.

While it is a full-out legal battle, it is not a full-out legal trial. Shott's character is a prostitute who has been indicted for manslaughter for the killing of a customer but she's been shunted off to New York's Bellevue Hospital where the powers that be have determined she should not stand trial due to her paranoia. Instead, she should remain confined in the institution while they treat her. That confinement could well continue for as much as 17 years.

She prefers to have her day in court, taking her chances on the possibility of conviction (which might only get her six year's in jail as opposed to 17 years in the hos-

pital — and they say she's the crazy one?). First, however, she needs to have the court reject the diagnosis of incapacitating paranoia and permit her to stand trial.

Her attorney proceeds to dismantle the arguments of the witnesses called by the state: her parents who testify to her childhood, and the hospital's psychiatrist, played by Mario D. Font, in a marvelously meticulous performance.

THE LAYING OUT of the case with the mechanical questioning by the state's attorney, (Donnell Boykin who can't do very much with such a blandly written role) and the amiable but devastating cross examination of Murray as her attorney, takes up the bulk of the first act with the findings of the psychiatrist effectively challenged and some sordid revelations from her childhood forced from her step-father (David James in a well modulated progression from self assurance to quivering hulk).

As a result of the structure of the play, Shotts hasn't much to do in the first act and doesn't come across as having much depth at all. Ah, but after intermission (or “recess” as Paul Boymel terms it in his role of the judge,) Shotts makes a fine impression as soon as the curtain parts for the second act. As she takes the stand on her own behalf, both the strength of her character's character and the kernels of truth in the diagnosis come into play. Shotts resists the temptation to start off too strong. Instead, she uses humor and charm for the early parts of her big scene and then turns up the heat in carefully balanced measures. If the strength of the first act is

Where and When:

The Port City Playhouse production of “Nuts” plays through Jan. 24 at the Lee Center for the Performing Arts, 1108 Jefferson Street, Old Town Alexandria. Performances are Friday - Saturday and Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 8 p.m., and Sunday Jan. 24 at 2 p.m.

Murray's avuncular charm, Shott's progressive passion is the primary pleasure of the second.

Director Neal has staged the action on a fairly predictable courtroom layout with tables for the prosecution and defense, a platform for the judge and the witness stand, chairs and a few flags. In an awkward arrangement, he faces all this toward the audience. As a result, both Murray and Boykin are forced to pace the stage trying to put questions to the witnesses without turning their backs on the audience.

Neal's pacing and attention to detail, however, can't be faulted. Most notably, he deserves kudos for the fact that everyone on stage who doesn't have a line seems to be listening and reacting to the testimony that is being given. At one point, Shotts has a line about the psychiatrist's pencil and Font nervously pockets the pen he's been playing with. It is a nice moment of realism in a thoroughly realistic rendition of an interesting play.

◆◆◆

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway and writes about theater for a number of national magazines. He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

Open Life Drawing Sessions

Open life drawing continues at the Del Ray Artisans gallery. These sessions operate on a drop-in basis so there is no need to register in advance. Bring supplies and draw or paint the live models.

Gesture Sessions (two hours)

Come to the gesture sessions to loosen up and participate in a fun, fast-paced drawing experience. These two-hour sessions are composed primarily of series of dynamic 1-5 minute poses. One or two favorite poses may be revisited for 10-15 minutes at the end of each session.

Short/Long Pose Sessions (three hours)

The three-hour short/long pose ses-

sions start with some short 5 minute warm-up poses and progressively move into longer poses lasting 10-45 minutes. These sessions provide a great opportunity to hone your drawing skills.

Long Pose Sessions (two- or three-hour sessions)

For people wanting to spend an extended amount of time on a pose, come to the long pose sessions. Poses will be at least one hour long and may extend for the full length of the session.

The fee for each three-hour session is \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members. Two-hour sessions are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. Check the Del Ray Artisans calendar www.thedelrayartisans.org for upcoming dates and times. Contact Katherine

Rand at 703-836-1468 or katherine@katherinerand.com.

2010 Sessions:

- ◆ Jan 27: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. gesture 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
- ◆ Feb 10: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. gesture 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
- ◆ Feb 24: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. gesture 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
- ◆ March 10 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose
- ◆ March 24 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. short/long pose

Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301. Directions available at www.theDelRayArtisans.org.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Taste of Scotland

The Patron's Reception in the grand entrance hall of the Masonic Temple on Friday, Dec. 4.



Lee Ellert, Caren Camp and Debbie Funk.



CEO of Burke & Herbert Bank Charlie Collum and Ray and Susan Petnuinas.



David and Adrienne Luscombe, Dana and Chris Jones and Tamara and Matt Meynarczyk.



From left: Pat Darley Clift, Evelyn Darley and Evelyn Darley Brown.

Celebrating 100 Years

Evelyn Darley of Heritage Hall Nursing Home, King George, Va., celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 13, 2009 with her daughters Evelyn Darley Brown and Pat Darley Clift, her extended family and residents of Heritage Hall.

Evelyn Darley was born and resided in Alexandria, where she raised her family, later moving to Colonial Beach, Va. She is the widow of William F. Darley and mother of seven children, five are deceased: Elizabeth Darley, Billy Darley, Butch Darley, Carroll Darley and

Norma Poole Bright. Evelyn Darley has 11 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren and one great-great-great grandchild. Six generations were present to celebrate her birthday.

Evelyn Darley maintained her own home in Colonial Beach until her 90s living with her grandson, James Boaz. She attributes her longevity to lots of hard work.

Patricia McDowney of Heritage Hall coordinated cake, ice cream and punch for the occasion.

Local Photographer in Book

Mechelle Schloss of Alexandria will have one of her photographs included in digital artist and filmmaker Scott Allan Ligon's book, "Digital Art Revolution: Creating Fine Art with Photoshop." The book, to be published by Watson-Guptill, a subsidiary of Random House, on March 9, features work from other digital artists including Bradley Wester, Stephen John Phillips, Viktor Koen, Davida Kidd, Steven Vote, John Jost and Mark Mothersbaugh (who is also a film composer and singer for Devo). Visit www.digitalartrevolution.com for a complete list of artists.

The book familiarizes the reader with the fundamentals of visual communication and self-expression and then shows them how to apply these principals to digital art.



"Flutter" by Mechelle Schloss

MILITARY NOTES

Army National Guard Pfc. Mohamed Awad has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Ali Awad of Stevenson Ave., Alexandria. The private is a 2007 graduate of T.C. Williams High School.

Army National Guard Pvt.

Bryston Brauer has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Nancy O'Donnell of River Ridge Road, Frederick, Md., and John O'Donnell of N. Columbus St., Alexandria. Brauer is a 2008 graduate of Governor Thomas Johnson High School, Frederick.

PEOPLE

Johnson and Henry Are Wed

Beth Ann Henry, daughter of Drs. Nelson and Rosemarie Henry of Alexandria, was married to Eric Scott Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene R. Johnson Sr. of Upper Marlboro, Md., during a private outdoor ceremony Oct. 3 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Md.

The bride is a graduate of Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Flourtown. She has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Richmond and a master of public health degree from the University of Virginia. She is currently employed with AcademyHealth in Washington, D.C., as a research associate.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, where he earned a bachelor of arts de-



Eric Johnson and Beth Henry

gree. He is employed with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The couple currently resides in Odenton, Md.

Hollifield And Larkin Are Wed

Margaret Rose Larkin and Matthew Vernon Hollifield were wed on April 25, 2009 at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. Reverend Robert Curry and Pastor Thomas Hocutt officiated the double ring ceremony.

Margaret (Marnie) is the daughter of Sylvia and Michael Larkin of Alexandria, and Matthew is the son of Mary Lillie and Vernon



Matthew Hollifield and Margaret Larkin

Hollifield of Marion, N.C. The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father, and given away by her parents. She wore an ivory lace Ravini wedding gown with a chapel-length train and blusher. She carried a hand-tied bouquet of white roses, stephanotis, and blue delphiniums.

The bridesmaids were Kathleen Kelly, sister of the bride, of Woodbridge; Elizabeth Larkin, sister-in-law of the bride, of Springfield; Katherine Shield, friend of the bride, of Williamsburg; and Mary Ruschmeier, friend of the bride, of Heidelberg, Germany. The groomsmen were Vernon Hollifield, father of the groom, of Marion, N.C.; William Hollifield, brother of the groom, of Marion, N.C.; James Larkin, brother of the bride, of Springfield; and Patrick Kelly, brother-in-law of the bride, of Woodbridge.

The flower girls were Hannah Kelly, niece of the bride, of Woodbridge; Sydney Hocutt, friend of the bride, of Ashburn; and Emily Hocutt, friend of the bride, of Ashburn. The ring bearer was Nathaniel Larkin, nephew of the bride, of Springfield.

A seated dinner reception hosted by the bride's parents was held on the grounds of Woodlawn Plantation immediately following the ceremony. Georganne Ponce, Linda Harbin, and

Sally Nachman helped to plan the wedding ceremony and dinner reception. The Bella Voce women's choir group from West Potomac High School performed during the wedding ceremony and the West Potomac Colonial Singers performed at the dinner reception. The Marty Nau quartet also performed at the evening reception.

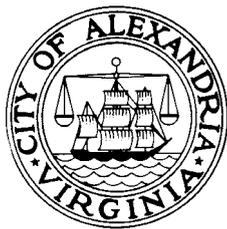
Matthew grew up in Marion, graduated from McDowell High School in 1984, and then earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Appalachian State University. He later earned an MBA from Duke University. Matthew is a certified public accountant and currently serves as senior vice president and chief accounting officer for Lowe's Company Inc. in Mooresville and resides in Hickory.

Marnie grew up in Alexandria, graduated from West Potomac High School in 1987, and then earned a bachelor of arts degree in English and education from the University of Richmond.

She later earned an MA in deaf education from Gallaudet University. Marnie worked for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Heidelberg, Germany as a first grade teacher before returning to the States and residing in Woodbridge, Va.

The couple honeymooned in Barbados and currently lives in Hickory, N.C.

Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Parker-Gray District

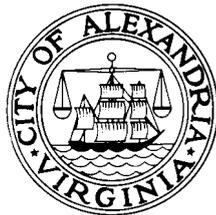
LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR 2009-0312
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 314 N Fayette St, zoned RB Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephen Kulinski, AIA for Alabama Ave, LC.

CASE BAR 2009-0313
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 314 N Fayette St, zoned RB Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephen Kulinski, AIA for Alabama Ave, LC.

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



NOTICE OF HEARING

CARLYLE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Carlyle Design Review Board will meet on THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room 2000, City Hall, at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The following items are on the agenda for this month's meeting:

- DRB # 2010-0001: Block O (Carlyle Square II) - Amendment to previous approval, 601 Holland Lane.
- Blocks 11 & 12 - Discussion of DRB Memorandum to Planning Commission

The public is invited to attend this meeting. Individuals with questions concerning the meeting should call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703-746-4666.

OBITUARY

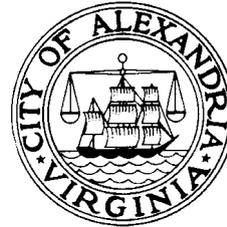
Doris E. Cremins
On January 4th, 2010 in Raleigh, NC. Born in Alexandria, VA, she was a life-long resident until her move to Raleigh in 2006. She was the daughter of the late Catherine Feagan Jacobs and the late David Edward Jacobs. She was the wife of the late James A. Cremins, Sr. and is survived by her four children: James Andrew Cremins, Jr. of Raleigh, Mary Ann Coffey Andrews and her husband Louis Andrews of Providence, RI, Patricia Kramer and her husband David of Raleigh, and Catherine Howard and her husband Blair of Warrenton, VA. She is also survived by her brothers David Edward Jacobs and his wife Alva of Springfield, VA and Robert L. Jacobs and his wife Else of Eire, Colorado. She also leaves five grandchildren, Sarah Coffey Elliot, Amanda Kramer, Charlotte Kramer Watson, T. Brooke Howard II and Caitlin Howard and one great-grandchild, Elijah Watson.

She was a graduate of George Washington High School, Alexandria, Class of 1943 and had a long career at the U.S Department of Agriculture. She was a lifelong parishner of St Mary's Church, Alexandria. Services were held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Memorial contributions may be made to St Mary's Sanctuary Restoration Fund.

Legal Notices

ABC LICENSE

Dahab Beyene trading as Cafe Aurora, Inc. 50 S. Pickett St, unit 24, Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed Beverage on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Dahab Beyene, owner.



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, January 23, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-321 (LICENSE REQUIRED; LICENSE TAX LEVIED AND BILLED) and Section 3-2-322 (EXEMPT VEHICLES TO OBTAIN LICENSE) of Article R (LICENSE TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAILERS AND SEMITRAILERS) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance would amend and reordain Section 3-2-321 and 3-2-322 of the Code to update the license tax exemptions available for members of the military and their spouse under federal law.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended by adding a new Article Y (PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION).

The proposed ordinance formally codifies the Parks and Recreation Commission.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), Title 3 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended by deleting and reserving Article Q (WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD TASK FORCE).

The proposed ordinance eliminates the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Neighborhood Task Force due to the completion of the bridge construction.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended by adding a new Article W (ALEXANDRIA GANG PREVENTION COMMUNITY TASK FORCE).

The proposed ordinance formally codifies the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended by adding a new Article X (ALEXANDRIA BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION).

The proposed ordinance formally codifies the Alexandria Beautification Commission.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the 1992 Master Plan (1998 ed.) of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, to move a portion of Carlyle Block P to the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by City Council as Master Plan Amendment No. 2009-0004.

The proposed ordinance implements Master Plan Amendment 2009-0004, as recommended by the planning commission on December 1, 2009 and approved by City Council on December 12, 2009.

PUBLIC HEARING and adoption of updated

Legal Notices

special events policies and procedures.

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



Caroline Rich Sydnor peacefully passed away on January 3, 2010 at The Glenview, a retirement community in Naples, FL, where she had been living since 2000. She was a noted Bridge player, teacher, author, speaker and columnist regarding the game of Bridge.

Caroline was born in Bandy, VA on October 16, 1913, the third of six children of John Robert and Anna Marie Gleaves Rich. She graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in journalism and went to work for The Raleigh Register in Beckley, WV. This job enabled her to help send her siblings to college during the Great Depression.

She met Charles William Sydnor, III, a recent graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary when she was assigned to cover a special event at the church where he worked in Beckley. They were married in 1937 and eventually had five children. They made their home in several locations during their marriage, including Petersburg, VA, Waco, TX, Stamford, CT and Alexandria, VA, finally retiring in Naples, FL in 1997.

Mrs. Sydnor started learning to play bridge at the age of six to provide a "ready fourth" player in a family of bridge players. She would grow to become a Life Master more than six times over. At age 50, she began teaching Bridge at the local "Y" in Alexandria, VA. By age 60, she was compiling her lesson notes into book form. She eventually produced a four-book series called "Bridge Made Easy," which sold over 200,000 internationally, with translations in French, German and Hebrew. A fifth book, "Teaching Bridge: How To Do It Better" was published in 1988. Her third book, "Bridge Made Easy, Book Three: How To Win More Tricks" won the American Bridge Teachers' Association Book of the Year Award in 1981. Mrs. Sydnor also designed a deck of "Caroline's Cards" to be used with each of the four books in the series. The cards were coded on the back to allow for specific distribution when dealt, so that designated hands could be used to play the lesson taught in each chapter. These "marked" cards proved to be one of the most popular features of the series.

Her career also included writing a bridge column for The Port Packet (now The Alexandria Gazette Packet) of Alexandria, VA and teaching Bridge classes at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA for 19 years. She also taught Bridge classes on cruise ships that traveled to such varied destinations as the Panama Canal, the Mediterranean Sea and the Far East.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Sydnor was involved in numerous volunteer projects, such as managing fund-raising events for Low-Heywood School in Stamford, CT and meeting wounded soldiers as they arrived at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, often in the middle of the night, during the Viet Nam conflict.

Caroline is preceded in death by her husband, The Rev. William Sydnor, III and by her daughter, Carrie Sydnor Coffman. Mrs. Sydnor is survived by her four children, Gleaves Rhodes, of New York, NY, Sarah Talbot of El Centro, CA, Jeannie Sydnor of Alexandria, VA and Charles William Sydnor, IV (Bucky) of Kathmandu, Nepal. She is also survived by her goddaughter, Holly Bassett Bigley of Atlantic Highlands, NJ, as well as by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that donations be made to International Ministries, p.o. box 851 Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851, marked "for Charles Sydnor in Nepal" (Mrs Sydnors son)

A memorial service and interment are planned to occur in Alexandria, VA. For online condolences, visit www.fullerfuneralhome.com.

Fuller Funeral Home
Naples, FL (239) 592-1611

NEIGHBORHOODS

Taylor Run

ONE CENTURY OLD

Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Russell Road is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"Virginia Theological Seminary, in 1908, sent two seminarians to Braddock Heights to begin a Sunday School.

Two years later, in 1910, Simpson Construction Company built our first church, now our chapel," says the Rev. Daniel Eckman, Jr., current rector.

"In 1911 the seminarians named the chapel 'Emmanuel,' which means 'God with us.' He still is, as we begin our second century of service and ministry," declared the Rev. Mr. Eckman at a festive dinner in the refectory of the seminary.

SIMPSON PRESENT

Don Simpson, whose father built the church, was at the dinner.

"I think it's wonderful that the church is going into its second century," said Mr. Simpson, a loyal parishioner.

Barbara Eckman, the rector's wife, welcomed all guests. Linda McGuire, church organist, and choir members sang hymns after dinner.

A FOUNDER'S DESCENDANT

Walt and Judy Carlton brought his mother, Amy Bohlayer Carlton, whose mother, Rosa Bohlayer, was a founding member of the church in 1910.

Seminary Valley

With the cold weather, you may not have wanted to venture outside to recycle your Christmas tree ... there is still time. The City will pick up your tree this Saturday, Jan. 16 if you put it on the curb. If you are feeling a little stir crazy, get out and enjoy Alexandria Restaurant Week, from Jan. 15 through the 24th. Local participating restaurants include Finn and Porter (in the Hilton) and Tempo ... two of our very favorite places to dine. Go to www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com for more information.

One of the West End's newer restaurants, Food Matters, is hosting some wine tasting events on Jan. 16 and 17. New to wine tasting? come on the 16th; if you are interested in Argentine wines, come on the 17th. Also, keep in mind that Food Matters sponsors a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) co-op, and openings are available for the coming season. The CSA's season starts at the end of February and runs for 38 weeks. For information on these activities, go to www.food

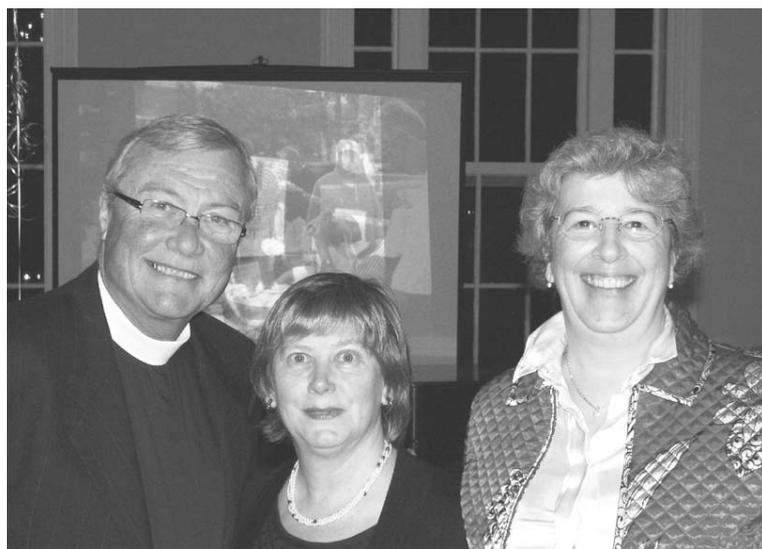


PHOTO BY FRANK BOLAND

Emmanuel's rector, the Rev. Dan Eckman, with Centennial Dinner organizers Kathy Clatanoff and Beth Boland.

Long-time pillar of the church Betty Coombs came with daughters Sally Coombs Masri and Susan Coombs Ruble.

GIBSON FAMILY

Churchill Gibson III, of the Gibson family long connected with the Episcopal church, came to the parish and the seminary, where he was chaplain, in 1962 and inspired the congregation with his rousing personality and sermons for many years.

Dottie Gibson, his wife, son Churchill Gibson IV, and daughter Dorothy from Seattle came to the dinner.

Old timers Bucky Mills, Fenton Goodwin, the Gene Langes, Jerry Boykin, George Tuttle, Barbara

Harslem, Joe McFall, Fred deLuca, Jim Bradley, Annette Sirmon, Pauline and Bob Hurd, and Meredith Wade were present.

ASSISTANT RECTOR

Amanda Eiman, assistant rector, came with Jody Burnett. Doug and Kathy Wheeler, Barbie and Paul Frank, Rance Willis, Moina Ratliff, Lee Larkin, Beth and Frank Boland, Carol Clark, Kathy and Bud Clatanoff, Dorothy Pitta, who joined the church about 1960, Gudrun Callahan, Christina and Stewart Bartley, Mary Ann and Geoff Frank, and Matthew Hanasian, deacon and seminarian, were among those present.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

mattersva.com.

If community participation is one of your New Year's resolutions, come out to the quarterly Civic Association meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 27. The meeting, to be held at the Beatley Library at 7 p.m., will feature James Spengler, the City's new director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Those present will also vote on the Association's 2010 budget and will hear from our local police liaison.

A little further in to the future, it's never too early to plan your child's summer. The Alexandria PTA Council's Summer Camp Fair is set for Feb. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Minnie Howard School. For more information, contact Donna Franklin, campfair2009@yahoo.com.

I took this column over from my good friend and neighbor, Bob Bates, on Peele Place. Bob thoughtfully left me copies of all of his columns, some dating from 1984. A quick perusal from January 1984's columns gives us an idea of what was happening in

Seminary Valley "back in the day": Elizabeth Twichell, Robin Peoples and Yun Lee participated in the Westinghouse Talent Search; Charlie and Alice Watson traveled to Egypt, Israel and Rome, Italy; Doug Brandon and Any Delgado traveled to Ecuador and Santo Domingo with the T.C. Williams and Bishop Ireton soccer teams; the City Planning Commission voted to demolish the Brookville swimming pool and put up 154 townhouses (located at Richenbacher and Van Dorn Streets); Polk School designated Jan. 19 as Redskins Day and added two Apple II computers and three TRS-80's to its computer lab; and The Plaza (on North Howard Street) opened as a condominium, with units priced from \$63,500 to \$120,000. Bob noted that the renovation was completed by GMS Associates, the same firm that renovated the Foxchase, and that the Plaza was formerly a "derelict" building formerly known as Battery Hill.

— MIA JONES
MAMAMIAJONES@GMAIL.COM



PHOTO BY BETH BOLAND

Emmanuel Choir members sing as part of the evening's program.



Santa Visits with Concert-goers

Despite the major blast from Mother Nature, St. Paul's Episcopal Church held a Celtic Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 20. Using multiple instruments, Elise Kress performed both Irish folk songs and carols and was accompanied by Douglas Beck on the keyboard — a last-minute replacement for her band that couldn't make it. A few adults attended, as did some children who visited with Santa, who read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to them. A cookie reception followed, with choices of more than 20 different kinds of cookies, all supplied by the parish. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is on South Pitt Street in Alexandria.

OBITUARIES

Janice Artemel

Janice Gwen Finch Artemel, historian and archaeologist, died at her home on Dec. 25, 2009.



Ms. Artemel was born on July 17, 1942 in San Mateo, Calif. She traveled extensively throughout the United States with her family as a child. Ms. Artemel received a B.A. in anthropology and Latin American studies from the University of Kansas, and an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Kansas, as well as completing graduate studies in anthropological field methods in Nexpanateno, Mexico from the University of Pittsburgh.

Ms. Artemel served as director and founder of the Cultural Resources Division of Parsons Corporation between 1977 - 1996. In this capacity, she worked with the engineering corporation and its subsidiary companies (DeLew Cather, Engineering Science, Ralph M. Parsons) in the identification, evaluation and treatment of historical and archaeological sites throughout the United States,

Europe, the Middle East and South America. Ms. Artemel's work during this period includes: work on the Northeast Corridor Improvement Project for the Federal Railroad Administration between Washington, D.C. and Boston, Massachusetts; training programs for the U.S. Department of Defense cultural resource regulatory compliance for Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard; recognized historical research including "Historic Utility Systems of Washington, D.C." report to the D.C. Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service.

Between 1996 - 2000, Ms. Artemel served as executive director of Heritage U.S. and the Georgetown Heritage Trust, the Potomac Heritage Partnership between 1998 - 2006, as well as historian and curator of Evermay Estate in Georgetown between 1996 - 2008. In these capacities, Ms. Artemel was active in many Washington, D.C. area initiatives including Anacostia Waterfront Redevelopment, Georgetown Waterfront Cultural Resource Evaluation, and the establishment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

Ms. Artemel served as president of Soroptimist International of Washington, DC between 1996 -

1998. She was historian for her club for many years. She held several positions on the South Atlantic Region Board including secretary and governor-elect. Janice was governor of the South Atlantic Region 2000 - 2002 and served as fundraising chair for the Region 2004 - 2006.

Ms. Artemel served on the Board of Directors for the Alexandria Lyceum Museum as well as on the Board of Directors for the Lyceum's annual antique show.

Ms. Artemel was passionate about the field of archaeology and cultural resources, but family was the most important aspect of her life. She is survived by her three daughters, Suzan Artemel, Deniz Artemel and Sibel Unsal, as well as her grandson Necati Unsal.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Ms. Artemel's name with the Alexandria Lyceum. Donations should be sent to the Janice Artemel Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 72, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Doris Cremins

Doris Elizabeth Cremins, 84, died Monday, Jan. 4, 2010 in Raleigh, N.C. Born in Alexandria, she was a life-long resident of the city

until her move to Raleigh in 2006. She was the wife of the late James A. Cremins Sr., and is survived by her four children: James Andrew Cremins Jr. of Raleigh, Mary Ann Coffey Andrews and her husband Louis Andrews of Providence, R.I., Patricia Kramer and her husband David Kramer of Raleigh, and Catherine Howard and her husband Blair Howard of Warrenton. Mrs. Cremins also leaves five grandchildren, Sarah Coffey Elliot, Amanda Kramer, Charlotte Kramer Watson, T. Brooke Howard II and Caitlin Howard, as well as one great-grandchild, Elijah Watson. She was a graduate of George Washington High School in Alexandria, class of 1943, and had a long career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Cremins was a life-long parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Alexandria.

Va. on Oct. 16, 1913, third of the six children of John Robert and Anna Marie Gleaves Rich. She graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in journalism and went to work for The Raleigh Register in Beckley, W.V. This job enabled her to help send her siblings to college during the Great Depression. She met Charles William Syndor III, a recent graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary when she was assigned to cover a special event at the church where he worked in Beckley. They were married in 1937 and eventually had five children. They made their home in several locations during their marriage, including Petersburg, Va., Waco, Texas, Stamford, Conn. and Alexandria, finally retiring in Naples, Fla. in 1997.



Caroline Syndor

Caroline Rich Syndor died peacefully on Jan. 3, 2010 at The Glenview, a retirement community in Naples, Fla., where she had been living since 2000. She was a noted bridge player, teacher, author, speaker and columnist regarding the game of Bridge.

Mrs. Syndor was born in Bandy,

Mrs. Syndor started learning to play bridge at the age of six to provide a "ready fourth" player in a family of bridge players. She would grow to become a Life Master more than six times over. At age 50, she began teaching bridge at the local YMCA in Alexandria. By age 60, she was compiling her lesson notes into book form. She eventually produced a four-book series called "Bridge Made Easy," which sold over 200,000 internationally, with translations into French, German and Hebrew. A fifth book, "Teaching Bridge: How To Do It Better" was published in 1988. Her third book, "Bridge Made Easy, Book Three: How To Win More Tricks" won the American Bridge Teachers Association Book of the Year Award in 1981.

Her career also included writing a bridge column for The Port Packet (now The Alexandria Gazette-Packet) of Alexandria, and teaching bridge classes at the Army-Navy country Club in Arlington for 19 years.

Mrs. Syndor was preceded in death by her husband, The Rev. William Syndor III, and by her daughter Carrie Syndor Coffman. She is survived by four children, Gleaves Rhodes of New York, N.Y., Sarah Talbot of El Centro, Calif., Jeannie Syndor of Alexandria and Charles William Syndor IV (Bucky) of Kathmandu, Nepal. Mrs. Syndor is also survived by her goddaughter Holly Bassett Bigley of Atlantic Highlands, N.J., as well as by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service and interment are planned to occur in Alexandria. For online condolences, visit www.fullerfuneralhome.com.



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703-953-2854

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8412 Richmond Ave, Alexandria, VA 22309
(just off Richmond Highway, near Fort Belvoir & Mount Vernon)
703-780-5019 • www.wesleyva.org

Good Shepherd Catholic Church



Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday

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

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion Service)
9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am
Mass (English)

Sign Language Interpreter

Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org
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CHURCH-ELCA...703-780-5077

BETHANY LUTHERAN...703-765-8255

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH...703-765-5003

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH-ELCA...703-548-8608

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD...703-549-0155

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, ELCA...703-765-5003

NATIVITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH, ELCA...703-768-1112

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Titans' Coach King Looking for Consistency

T.C. Williams has won seven straight, still looking to improve.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams boys basketball team has turned things around in the win column since dropping its season opener to Hayfield on Dec. 8. The Titans have won seven straight, including Monday's 59-57 victory over South County. T.C. Williams beat Woodson 48-43 on Saturday and Lake Braddock 51-36 on Thursday.

"We got the rude awakening that we deserved," senior point guard Cortez Taylor said. "We thought every team was going to lay down to us in the beginning because of who we are and what we do."

But while the win streak looks good on paper, head coach Julian King said he wants the Titans to play with more consistency. He pointed to the two-point win against South County and the team's double overtime win against Friendship Collegiate as the type of games T.C. Williams might not pull out if it doesn't play well more often.

"Sooner or later, if we don't pick up the intensity and try to play a little smart," he said, "yeah, it's going to bite us in the butt."

King said the Titans' reaction to their season-opening loss has been mixed.

"I think we lost the first one and some of the kids were chalking that up as first-game jitters [or] maybe Hayfield finally had our number," he said. "Even though we have a lot of juniors on our team, we're

inexperienced. We've come out the games since then and we've been real inconsistent. I have one of my star players playing great, one playing below average. One quarter we have great defensive stands, next quarter we can't guard our shadows. We're still trying to find our way."

King said 6-foot-6 senior post Billy Rowland, who teams with Ryan Yates for the Titans' 1-2 scoring punch, has struggled of late.

"He's such a nice kid, we have to change his mentality," King said. "[We have to get him] coming out being a little nasty, especially playing at that position. He's got a big bulls-eye on his back because he's one of the better players in the area and he's got to prove it every night. I think he's finding that lesson out the hard way that if you don't come and at least play hard every night, you're going to struggle."

T.C. Williams, the 2008 AAA state champions, travel to face Lee at 7:45 p.m. today. The Titans host Montrose Christian, considered one of the best teams in the country and the last team to beat T.C. Williams at home (Jan. 12, 2008), at 8 p.m. Saturday. King said along with winning he wants to see an all-out defensive effort from his team.

A strong defensive effort would help the Titans fulfill Yates' wish.

"I'd like to see us dominate an entire game from start to finish," Yates said, "starting inside with our horse, Billy [Rowland]."

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT
THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Ryan Yates, left, attacks the basket against a West Springfield.



Hagen Wants Titans To Improve Work Ethic, Attitude

T.C. Girls off to 3-8 start, 1-4 in Patriot District.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams girls basketball coach Cavanaugh Hagen wants to win. She understands, however, if this season's Titans take time to jell after the losing all five starters, including All-American Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, from last season.

What Hagen won't put up with is a lack of effort. The coach reminded her team of this Tuesday as a frustrated Hagen vented to the Titans at the end of practice.

"Something has to change," Hagen said of her message to the Titans. "The work ethic has to get better. The attitudes have to get better."

T.C. Williams is off to a 3-8 start, including a 1-4 mark in the Patriot District. The Titans have dropped

four of their last five games and seven of their last nine. T.C. Williams lost to South County 52-31 on Monday, to Woodson 52-46 on Saturday and beat Lake Braddock 42-38 on Friday.

The Titans went 24-6 last season — Hagen's first as head coach — and went to the state playoffs. This season, players have yet to develop cohesiveness on the floor.

"Our record doesn't speak for our capabilities," junior Rainie Summa said. "I think [Hagen is] just disappointed in us. She's yelling because she expects more out of us. We should be playing better. ... We're just kind of having a problem getting chemistry built but it's going to come. Sooner or later it just has to come. There will be a game [when it comes] and hopefully that will be [against] Lee."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams girls basketball coach Cavanaugh Hagen wants the Titans to show more pride on defense.

T.C. Williams hosts district opponent Lee at 7:45 p.m. today.

Hagen told the Titans they need to pick it up on the defense end.

"We just need to take pride in our defense," said junior Jasmine Norman, the team's top scorer and rebounder. "That's our biggest problem."

T.C. Williams travels to face Woodson on Friday and West Potomac on Tuesday. Hagen said the Titans need to make something happen if things are going to improve.

"The kids have to realize when we call them out it's not because we don't like them. It's nothing personal," the coach said. "It's because we want to see them get better. We see the potential in where they could be and they're not peaking at it. ... They say they're frustrated because they're losing. Well, you have to change something. You can't just keep going through the motions. If you have to ask yourself if you're giving 100 percent, then you're not."

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Three Teams Go 2-1 At City Wrestling Meet

Bishop Ireton, Episcopal and host St. Stephen's St. Agnes each went 2-1 during Friday's Alexandria City Wrestling Tournament. T.C. Williams finished 0-3.

St. Stephen's/St. Agnes defeated Episcopal (40-34) and T.C. Williams (60-22). Episcopal defeated Bishop Ireton (37-17) and T.C. Williams (40-21). Bishop Ireton defeated St. Stephen's/St. Agnes (35-22) and T.C. Williams (52-21).

On Saturday, St. Stephen's/St. Agnes went 3-0 at a quad meet, defeating West Springfield (51-22), Stuart (49-25) and Falls Church (69-3). Bishop Ireton went 2-0 at a dual meet, defeating Pope John Paul the Great (56-24) and St. Albans (45-25). Episcopal went 3-1 at a meet, beating Norfolk Academy (45-18), South Lakes (47-20) and Woodberry Forest (39-28), and losing to Paul VI (33-27).

Episcopal Boys Win Sixth Straight

The Episcopal boys basketball team improved to 7-1 with a 57-55 overtime win over Landon on Tuesday. The Maroon has won six straight games. Episcopal also beat Woodberry Forest 55-25 on Saturday.

The Maroon hosts Georgetown Prep at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Episcopal Girls Lose a Pair

The Episcopal girls basketball team lost to Georgetown Day 61-35 on Saturday and Bishop Ireton 72-42 on Thursday, dropping its record to 1-6. The Maroon travels to face Maret at 4:15 p.m. today.

SSSA Boys Win 2 of 3

The St. Stephen's/St. Agnes boys basketball team defeated Bullis 59-53 on Tuesday, St. Anne's Belfield 67-53 on Saturday and lost to Georgetown Prep 76-57 on Friday. The Saints are 6-5 and host Landon at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

SSSA Girls Lose 2 Games

The St. Stephen's/St. Agnes girls basketball team lost to Maret 56-38 on Tuesday and Holy Child 48-41 on Saturday, dropping the Saints' record to 1-9. St. Stephen's/St. Agnes hosts St. Andrews at 5:45 p.m. today.

Bishop Ireton Boys Drop 3 of 4

The Bishop Ireton boys basketball team fell to 5-8 with a 52-46 loss to Paul VI on Tuesday. The Cardinals beat Flint Hill 54-53 on Saturday, and lost to St. John's 75-56 on Friday and Bishop McNamara 65-56 on Wednesday. Bishop Ireton hosts Bishop O'Connell at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Bishop Ireton Loses 2, Beats Episcopal

The Bishop Ireton girls basketball team lost to Paul VI 77-53 on Tuesday and St. John's 73-25 on Friday. The Cardinals beat Episcopal 72-42 on Thursday. Bishop Ireton travels to face Bishop O'Connell at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Sportsman's Club Meet-

ing

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will host "Rugby Night" on Tuesday at the Old Dominion Boat Club. T.C. Williams rugby coach Jeff Murphy will speak at the event. Social hour begins at 7 p.m. with the meeting scheduled for 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and free food and refreshments will be served.

MVHS Dinner and Auction Approaching

Mount Vernon High School Girls Basketball 11th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Jan. 23. 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.

MV Baseball Camp Approaching

The 2010 Mount Vernon High School baseball camp for ages 7-18 will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Jan. 24, 31 and Feb. 7 at the Mount Vernon Field House. The cost is \$125 for three sessions.

For registration information, go to mountvernonssports.org or contact Luke Sable at lcsable@fcps.edu or by calling 703-405-5497.

Umpires Needed

Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association (NVBUA) is in need of officials for baseball and volleyball. Umpires are needed for colleges, men's leagues, high schools and youth recreational leagues. Experience is helpful but not required. Formal classroom and on-the-job training will be provided. Classes will begin in mid-February. Umpires are needed for all communities in the greater Washington D.C. Metro area. Support your local community's sports leagues by signing up. Call Ken Williams (703-400-3232) for more information or go to umpires.org to fill out a "New Ump" form.

Umpires Needed for Adult Slowpitch Softball

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), the largest softball organization in the area, is seeking umpires for our adult slowpitch softball leagues in Fairfax County. Umpires net pay starts at \$25 per one-hour game and are paid monthly. Experience is desired but ASA training is provided beginning early February. Flexible scheduling is based on availability. Contact FAS at 703-815-9007 or email to: office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

NoVA Flash Softball Looking for Players

The NoVA Flash, a 14U fast-pitch girls softball travel/tournament team, is looking to add a few committed players from the Northern Virginia area for the 2010 Spring-Summer season. The Flash uses practice fields in the McLean area. Players, 13 or 14 years old as of Dec. 31, 2009, who are interested in learning more about the NoVA Flash or arranging a tryout during Saturday afternoon winter batting practices should contact coach Mike Wheat at wheatsbaseball@aol.com, or by calling 703-966-3805.

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 18

Competition named T.C. Williams High School graduate **Chris Stephens** to Columbia College Chicago's Comedy Team.

Caroline "Callie" Denne of Alexandria, class of 2010, is studying with the Freiburg (language & area studies) program in Germany. Denne is majoring in history at Denison University.

Carmen Alston, who graduated from St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Alexandria, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Department of the Interior's Blacks-in-Government (BIG) chapter. She will study international business at the University of Maryland.

Two local students from the Class of 2013 at Hampden-Sydney College are Patrick Henry Scholars.

❖ **Frank Butner Clay IV** — Frank is a graduate of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School and is the son of Ann and Frank Clay of Alexandria.

❖ **Taylor A. O'Sullivan** — Taylor is a graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Sullivan of Alexandria.

Zachary Whitacre of Alexandria was named to the dean's list for the spring 2009 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Whitacre is a graduate of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, and is enrolled in the university's Olin Business School.

West Potomac High School students Margaret Berrigan and Andrew Staples were named semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for 2010. All semifinalists are eligible to compete for 8,200 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$36 million, to be awarded in spring 2010.

Tammy Angelia Markham, a resident of Alexandria has earned a Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College.

Paul Doucette of Alexandria was recently elected to the Drake University's National Alumni Association Board of Directors. Doucette graduated from Drake in 1997 with a degree in business.

Helen Medmim of Alexandria, a freshman majoring in finance in the Pamplin College of Business, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

Dahyeon Sow of Alexandria, a freshman majoring in art in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

Adina Bhatti of Alexandria, a freshman majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

Alan Gomez of Alexandria, a freshman majoring in general engineering at Virginia Tech, has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

Corey Latta, daughter of Pat and Ken Latta of Alexandria, was involved in the Sweet Briar College Theatre's fall production, "The Bacchae". Corey is a Junior Music Performance in French Horn and Voice at Sweet Briar. The show ran Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

Catherine D. Kahl of Alexandria enrolled at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, this fall. Before classes began she took part in an orientation that included an introduction to Colby's rigorous academics, rich cultural life, and community involvement opportunities as well as a three-day outdoor excursion. A graduate of Potomac School, Kahl is the daughter of James and Caroline Kahl of Alexandria.

Hunter Simmons of Alexandria, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was chosen to be a graduate hall director at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

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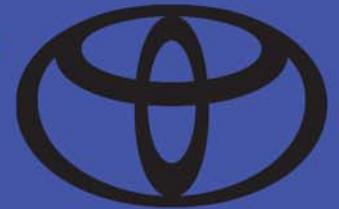
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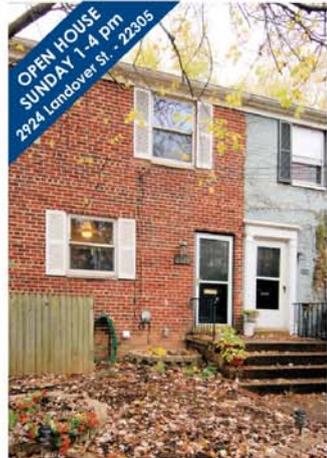
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ALEXANDRIA/WARWICK VILLAGE

\$445,000



The Village Awaits

This Warwick Village beauty invites you to enjoy the cozy spaces. Enjoy table space in the recently updated kitchen and a pass through to the living room. Walk out from the main level to your fenced in back yard. Completely remodeled lower level boasts a family room, all new full bathroom, storage space, and a separate laundry room with high-efficiency washer/dryer and sink.

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Yes You Can...

...have it all in the New Year! This charming Cape Cod features four-bedrooms, two and a half-baths, two fireplaces, finished lower level, wood floors, driveway, and a lovely fenced yard with patio. To top it off, it's an easy commute to DC, Reagan National & Pentagon. Only one block to sought-after George Mason Elementary and playground. Come visit this Sunday from 1- 4.

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\$435,000



Don't Miss This Opportunity

For the price of a rental, you can own this four-bedroom, three-bath, home in popular Riverside Estates. Living room with fireplace, cheery sun room, hardwood floors, master suite with bath, huge finished basement with walkout to the patio. Brand new roof! Situated on almost one-half acre private lot.

Pam Cornelio

571.236.4398

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ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

\$749,900



1925 Del Ray Bungalow

Built in 1925, this residence is the truest of bungalows. From the moment you walk up the walkway to the front porch, you know you are seeing a special home with the eight-foot wide front porch. The hanging baskets and swing all say, "Welcome and relax!" Three bedrooms and two baths.

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.286.1239

www.lizluke.com

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ALEXANDRIA/OLD TOWN

\$2,650,000



A Rare Opportunity

Outstanding opportunity to acquire this fabulous property located on one of Old Town's most desirable blocks! Built in 1870, this house has been utilized as a five unit apartment building for many years and is a perfect candidate for renovation back to a gracious single family home with high ceilings, random width floors and a large rear garden.

Kate Patterson

703.627.2166

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ALEXANDRIA/BEVERLY HILLS

\$687,500



Corner Lot

Wonderful Cape Cod on a corner level lot with an attached garage. Traditional Cape with quality updates including kitchen (2006). This home has great storage and built-ins, living room with fireplace, finished walkout basement and professionally landscaped grounds with lovely perennial gardens, large oaks, deck and fence.

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