

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 21, 2010



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Retired Colonel Ethel Underwood and Samuel D. Lang.



Joseph Lucus, a musician and teacher entertained the guests at the annual awards program.

## Rising Again

Confederate past emerges during holiday weekend.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Officials at state offices were not answering their telephones on Friday, celebrating the Virginia holiday dedicated to Confederate heroes Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Even as the rest of town was preparing for the upcoming Martin Luther King holiday on Monday, the weekend became a time when the memory of the Old South was resurrected.

This week, the South seemed to rise again.

The revival began at sunset the morning after Lee-Jackson Day, when a water-main under the Confederate memorial busted open and threatened the structural integrity of the 1889 memorial honoring the city's war dead. Shortly after crews saved the memorial, a private museum warehousing Confederate artifacts opened its doors to the public for a rare glimpse at its collection. By Monday, a portrait of General Lee was watching schoolchildren at City Hall who were competing in a poster contest to honor King. The following day, the Stars and Bars were flying over Washington Street at the Confederate memorial statue dedicated in 1889 and known simply as "Appomattox."

"It's part of our history," said Mayor Bill Euille, who once protested against the presence of the Confederate flag in the City Council chamber. "I know it bothers some people, but I like to think of Alexandria as a city that celebrates all of its history."

Nowhere in Alexandria is the city's Confederate past celebrated

SEE MEMORIES, PAGE 6



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

James Carlin Becker, a member of the R.E. Lee Camp, talks to visitors about the history of the Camp.



In 1885, Alexandria resident and civil war veteran Edgar Warfield proposed that a monument be erected to the Confederate dead of Alexandria. A model of the bronze figure created by sculpture M. Casper Buberl is on display in the museum room of the R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum.

## Sharing The Dream

Alexandria children celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King.

When Ana Humphrey set about to create a poster honoring Martin Luther King, one image seemed obvious. Her third-grade class at Maury Elementary School had recently listened to the famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and one phrase in the speech stood out. It was the part about little black girls joining hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. Ana's poster featured a black girl and a white girl holding hands as the sun shines brightly overhead.

"It makes me think of going outside and having fun," said Ana, whose poster won a first place award at the city's 20th annual Martin Luther King poster contest.

The annual celebration of King dates back to the mid-1980s, when President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating the federal holiday. For many years, King shared the spotlight with an uncomfortable combination that included Confederate heroes Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. The "Lee-Jackson-King Day," as it was



Retired Colonel Ethel Underwood presents Brenda Delcid Zelaya with the third place award for her artwork. Brenda is a second grader at Patrick Henry Elementary School.



Guest speaker Councilmember Alicia Hughes addresses the audience.

SEE POSTER, PAGE 5

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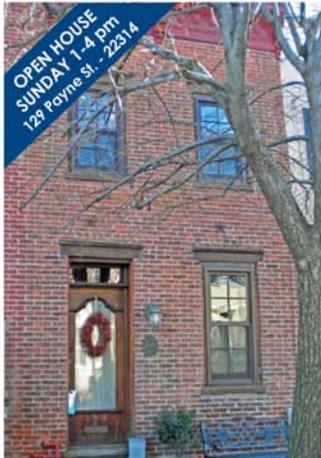
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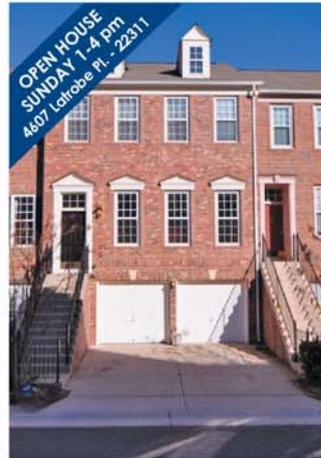
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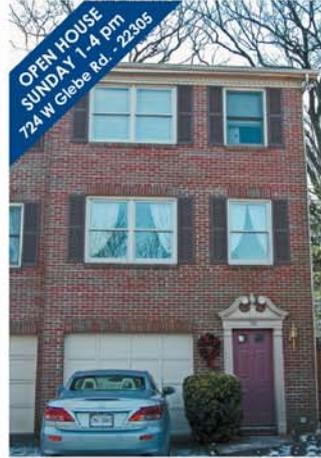
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Montebello	2 bedrooms/2 baths	\$1,525/mo.	MLS# FX7233951	Mckenzie Lewis Property	3 bedrooms/1 bath	\$1,850/mo.	MLS# AX7210989
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# Meet the New Chairman

## Clark Mercer takes helm at Alexandria Democratic Committee.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A** native of Alexandria, Clark Mercer graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 1998 before receiving a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Yale University and a master of public policy from George Washington University. Mercer, 30, served as campaign manager for Mayor Bill Euille in the last two election cycles. He's also worked on campaigns for U.S. Sen. Mark Warner and Alexandria City Councilman Paul Smedberg. He co-founded the Alexandria Young Democrats in 2003, and he is currently employed by the Commission on War-time Contracting. Mercer lives with his wife in the Parkfairfax neighborhood.

**mittee would you like to make during your term as chairman?**

The Alexandria Democratic Committee is one of the most active and successful political committees in Virginia. I would like to build on this by focusing on outreach, candidate recruitment and training, and developing precinct-specific plans that will help to make sure our membership is engaged with all of our neighborhoods throughout Alexandria.

**Do you think that Democrats will have an easier time campaigning for City Council seats in November, when attention is directed at national and state elections?**

Campaigning in November will be just like it is in May in the sense that voters in Alexandria will continue to make informed decisions as to who to vote for. It is up to our candidates and our committee to work hard to make our case as to why our Democratic candidates deserve to be elected. I expect that we will have a very strong group of candidates running in November 2012, and I look forward to making that case to the voters across Alexandria.

**What should Democrats do to regain the two seats lost**

**What changes to the com-**



Mercer

**last year?**

I congratulate all of the members of Council on their victories last year, though I believe that we will elect Democrats to those two seats in the next council election. While there are always a number of reasons why political races are won and lost, there are some takeaways from the last council election that our committee can learn from. I have mentioned outreach as a priority, and I think as a committee we can be more effective in reaching out to all parts of the city and listening to issues and concerns. Without a doubt, I believe that the Democratic values and policies that our candidates and committee embrace are shared with the majority of Alexandrians.

**When you were campaigning for the chairmanship, you said the party needs to put a greater emphasis on planning and recruiting candidates. What changes do you intend to make to accomplish this?**

The Alexandria Democratic Committee will have a dedicated process in place to educate and work with anyone in the community considering running as a Democrat for public office in Alexandria. Potential candidates will understand all aspects of serving at the local level, from the time commitment it takes to how to put together a campaign team. In addition, by focusing on outreach, we plan to talk to the larger Democratic community that exists in Alexandria and, in doing so, we will bring into the committee more talented Democrats who could potentially run for office.

**You also said you would**

SEE MERCER. PAGE 22

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



**Carpenters Shelter volunteer Joyce Douglas works with Governor-elect Bob McDonnell preparing grilled cheese sandwiches for the clients at David's Place last week on Thursday morning.**

## Finding Shelter

It's been a long, cold winter for the homeless. Frigid temperatures and continued economic turmoil have sent an increasing number of families into seeking a place to stay. Here in Alexandria, the Carpenter's Shelter has seen a dramatically rising number of homeless families. The private charity accepts some city and state money, although most of its funding comes from the private sector. And its success is so widely known in Virginia it was mentioned in the inaugural address delivered last weekend by Gov. **Bob McDonnell**.

"There's a tremendous amount that's being done benevolent and charitable organizations like this one," said McDonnell last week during a tour of the Henry Street facility. "I wanted to learn more about how we can be better public-private partners at the state level to help not only to care for people that are homeless but do some things to help eradicate the root causes."

McDonnell said he would like to see increased funding to address the problem, but acknowledged it would be "tough" in the current economic climate. Facing the largest budget shortfall in living memory, state and city leaders are cash-strapped and looking for ways to drastically reduce expenditures. When asked to commit to status quo levels of funding for the homeless in his upcoming budget, City Manager **Jim Hartmann** declined.

"I can't right now because we are still working through all the numbers," said the city manager while standing in the front hall of the Carpenter's Shelter. "We have a \$40 million gap between maintaining the current level of services and the funding, so we are working through those now."

## Trouble in Paradise

A panel of City Council members has taken action to formally oppose a bill introduced by Del. **David Englin** (D-45), who represents City Hall in Richmond.

The highly unusual rejection was prompted by a bill Englin introduced outlining new rules for how individuals are added to the No Trespass List at public-housing units throughout Virginia. The three-term legislator introduced the measure after hearing concerns from constituents who live in the city's public-housing units near the Braddock Road Metro Station.

"I think the current policy treats people like chattel," said Englin shortly before the General Assembly session began earlier this month. "It denies poor people the basic dignity and respect that any human being would demand from their fellow human beings."

The most controversial part of the bill was a measure that delayed implementation of the barment until a hearing could be held to create some due process. But Englin dropped that provision after receiving vigorous opposition from the police union and the local civic association. That left a revised draft of the bill that required the No Trespass Notice to include instructions on

SEE COUNCIL NOTEBOOK, PAGE 16



**Supporting the Library**

**The Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation (VBCF), a grassroots organization committed to fighting breast cancer through public education and advocacy, donated \$400 to Alexandria Library for purchasing new materials such as books and DVDs on the subject. From left: Rose T. Dawson with Andrea Sturken of VBCF.**

## Power Shifts West

The west has always had a certain significance in the American psyche. It's a sort of geography for human evolution with cowboy hats and leather chaps. Here in Alexandria, the coming year is certain to have the city's east end looking toward the west, as efforts culminate to create a Beauregard Small Area Plan in the West End. Cue the tumbleweeds at Landmark Mall.

This is Alexandria's Wild West, a crazy quilt of industrial sites and mixed-use development. It's the scene of a lingering legal battle over a railroad company's right to transport hazardous substances over city roads. It's also an area by the Democratic majority leader of the Virginia Senate. And starting next week, it will be the center of the city's business community when Hilton Alexandria Mark Center manager **Charlie Banta** assumes the chairmanship of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

"I've already ordered my bolo tie, and my cowboy hat is ready to go," said Banta, adding that wearing cowboy hats indoors at the Mark Hilton is not considered rude. "It's the Wild West, after all."

## Smoke Lingers

Don't despair, smokers. The much-heralded "smoking ban" for Virginia restaurants did not completely extinguish cigars and cigarettes in Alexandria. The city has a handful of places that still allow smoking, and more are on the way.

The law allows smoking in walled-off rooms with different ventilation systems, such as the upstairs lounge at Buggy's Pizza. It also allows for smoking at private members-only clubs, such as the one established by Landini Brothers. Just this week, the city gained another smoking establishment on the West End — the Montecristo Lounge, a private members-only cigar club located over the Cigar Palace on Eisenhower Avenue. "When we talked with our customers about the negative impact that the smoking ban would personally have on them, it set the wheels in motion for us to explore creating a cigar lounge," said Montecristo manager **Sawsan Mahdi** in a written statement. "Now, with the ban in place, we're delighted to be able to provide our customers with this exciting, new social outlet where they can interact with other members of the cigar-smoking community."

## Invasion of the Vandals

Viewers of a YouTube clip titled "Vandals, Alexandria Virginia" can hear the frustration in voice of Notting Hill Gardens owner **Geoff Stone**. The hand-held camera focuses on a planter with a festive holiday evergreen that's been knocked over and smashed to pieces. Stone suspects the destruction is the result of late-night vandalism that takes place after the bars close along King Street.

"This is not the first time we've had a problem with vandalism in this block," said Stone. "But we haven't been able to get any police presence here because the cops hang out at the base of King Street where it intersects with Union Street."

For Stone, the Christmas Eve vandalism is yet another symptom of a city that has become increasingly unfriendly to businesses. As an example, he produced a ticket issued to him by code-enforcement officials citing him for a violation regarding the sandwich-board sign at his business. Apparently, it's OK to have a sandwich-board sign off of King Street but not on the main thoroughfare.

"It seems like businesses in Alexandria are in a constant battle with the city over services that we're paying for but not getting," said Stone. "And don't get me started on snow plowing."

## Market Pops

Even though the national economy continues to muddle through a recession with elevated levels of unemployment and inflation, Alexandria's real-estate market is beginning to emerge from the abyss. According to the city's most recent financial report, residential real-estate sales more than doubled to 183 in November 2009 from 84 in November 2008 — the most homes sold in any November since 2005. "This reflects low mortgage interest rates and the incorrect perception that the limited term federal assistance for first-time homebuyers was going to expire," wrote City Manager **Jim Hartmann** in his monthly financial report.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS

# Freedom or Dominion?

## Ebbin takes aim at restrictions forcing schools to start after Labor Day.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**hould Virginia school systems be able to decide for themselves when to start classes in the fall? Or should they continue to be required to kick off the new school year after Labor Day? That question is at the heart of a legislative debate now unfolding in Richmond.

In one corner is Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) and the Alexandria School Board. They say that school systems throughout Virginia should have the authority to start whenever they want. That's why Ebbin introduced House Bill 1111, a bill endorsed by the School Board's legislative packet. It allows schools with high rates of poverty — known as Title 1 schools under the No Child Left Behind Act — to be exempted from the Labor Day restriction.

"These are students whose parents can't afford to take them to Williamsburg or King's Dominion," said Ebbin shortly before ducking into a Democratic caucus meeting this week. "They need the maximum instruction time in order to reach their potential, and this bill allows for that."

In the other corner is King's Dominion, the amusement park that helped create the restriction back in the 1980s. Marketing manager John Pagel says that King's Dominion will be opposing the bill when it comes before a House education panel. For the amusement park, the problem with Ebbin's legislation is that it undercuts tourism dollars during the critical summer months, when tourism money peaks.

"This bill hinders tourism," said Pagel. "We support the traditional calendar, which is a revenue generator for the state."

**HERE IN ALEXANDRIA**, the restriction created a

### BUSINESS NOTES

Send announcements to the Gazette Packet, by e-mail to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

**Michael and Son Services**, the Alexandria home repair and home remodeling business, donated a party site with food and skating privileges for the donors, families, friends and volunteers of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington, D.C.

The free skate night at Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Arlington was held Saturday, Dec. 19.

Basim Mansour, president of Michael and Son, said, "Originally, I secured the Kettler Capitals Iceplex for our own Christmas party among Michael and Son employees and their families. But various things got in the way of our doing that — not the least of which was a build-out and relocation to our new headquarters building — so we decided to take our party indoors here at our new M&S center of operations. That said, I knew immediately I wanted to make a charitable donation of our Iceplex reservation to a worthy cause

and Ronald McDonald House popped into my head."

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington D.C. creates and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children in the community. Since first opening almost 30 years ago, the Ronald McDonald Houses in Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia have given 18,000 families a haven of comfort and support in a home-like atmosphere.

**The DC Ad Club**, in collaboration with the American Advertising Federation (AAF), bestowed the Silver Medal Award to **Robert L. Whittle**, president and CEO of Williams Whittle in Alexandria. This award honors a person who has made outstanding contributions to advertising, and has been active in furthering the industry's standards, creative excellence and responsibilities in areas of social concern.

Whittle began his advertising and marketing career as a copywriter, after graduating from the University of Virginia.

problem when school officials made changes to the calendar to accommodate the opening of the new T.C. Williams High School a few years ago. Alexandria City Public Schools wanted to open early one year and late the following year to create a long summer vacation. That allowed the school system to demolish one building and move into the new one. But it was a calendar change that literally required an act of the General Assembly.

"We would very much like the opportunity for schools to be able to open earlier," said Amy Carlini, spokeswoman for the school system. "Any opportunity for us to increase classroom time is a benefit to students."

Previous efforts to do away with the King's Dominion Provision, as the restriction is known, have met with failure. That's why Ebbin narrowly targeted his bill to Title 1 schools, where Virginia's at-risk students are concentrated. Although he acknowledged that he would like to see the requirement ended for all schools, the effort to narrowly cast the focus of the bill was a strategic effort to move beyond previous opposition.

"I think we can make a really good case," said Ebbin. "I think this is a bill that has a good chance of passing."

**ALTHOUGH THE DATE** of the committee hearing has yet to be scheduled, Alexandria School Board member Mimi Carter says she plans on travelling to Richmond to support the bill. This comes on the heels of a vote by the board to support the change, an effort that's also received some measure of support from Arlington County.

"From a human capital standpoint, we would like to improve the labor force 10 to 20 years into the future. This is the future workforce of King's Dominion we're talking about," said Carter. "But everybody knows that the hospitality industry has a very strong lobby in Richmond."



Ebbin

**"We support the traditional calendar, which is a revenue generator for the state."**

— King's Dominion  
John Pagel

**MacNair Travel Management**/American Express added **Kim Peele** as director of the Personal Travel Division. A local Alexandrian, Peele has been active in the Alexandria business and volunteer community for many years. She has been involved in Rotary Club of Alexandria, is a former board member of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and is a current member of Washington Executive Women in Travel.

The law firm of **Rich Rosenthal Manitta Dzubin & Kroeger, LLP** of Alexandria has named **Nancy J. Appleby** "Of Counsel" to the firm. The firm, established in 2008 by Old Town attorneys Lonnie Rich and Edward Rosenthal, has grown from five to nine attorneys in 15 months. Appleby has more than 30 years experience in real estate and mortgage law, commercial financing, leasing, regulatory and agency matters, and workouts and foreclosures. Her clients include lenders, developers, property owners, energy companies, corporations, business owners and contractors.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**MacArthur Elementary School students separate the food stuffs into boxes of soups, peanut butter, cereals for delivery to Grace Episcopal.**

## A Day of Service

Students from Douglas MacArthur Elementary School volunteered to help with the collection and sorting of food at the 2nd annual food drive on Monday, Jan. 18. Co-chairs for the drive were MacArthur PTA past President Lisa Medley and Mary Catherine Gibbs. The donated food will be given to the Grace Episcopal Church Food Bank on Russell Road.

**Daniel Salmons calls for help as he carries a bag of food over to the staging area for sorting.**

## Poster Dreams

FROM PAGE 1

known, was discontinued in 2000. Now state workers get two holidays, Lee-Jackson day on Friday and King Day on Monday.

“Look how far we’ve come,” said former School Board Chairman Ferdinand Day, who oversaw the harsh days of integration in the city. “I think it’s wonderful we live in a city that can celebrate both Martin Luther King and Robert E. Lee.”

The poster contest was created two decades ago by the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage to honor King, an icon of the civil rights movement who was assassinated in 1968. This year, children, parents and dignitaries gathered in the City Council chambers at City Hall to listen to speeches and sing civil rights songs. The contest featured winners for each grade of elementary school.

“Every year, I wonder how this year’s posters could possibly outdo last year’s posters,” former City Manager Vola Lawson told the assembled schoolchildren. “But somehow you always manage to do that.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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# Memories of the Old South

FROM PAGE 1

more than a Greek Revival townhouse in the 800 block of Prince Street. The building is formally known as the Parson Johnson House, a reference to the Episcopal priest who built the house in 1852. More importantly, the massive townhouse is the home of the Robert E. Lee Camp Hall — a private museum of Confederate artifacts owned and operated by the United Confederate Veterans. To celebrate Lee-Jackson Day, the museum opened its doors to the public for a rare look inside the storied building.

“I call it the great brown money pit,” joked Debby Mullins, president of the Mary Custis Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. “Every time I open the door, I hear a giant sucking sound.”

**CONFEDERATE HALL**, as the building is sometimes called, was also the location of the city’s library for more than 30 years. Its size and social significance made it an obvious choice for the city’s collection of books when space ran out at the Lyceum in 1903. By



**A bronze statue of General R.E. Lee sits above the fireplace in the south end of the double parlor. The statue was given to the museum in memory of Mrs. John J. Baney by her husband.**

1937, the city was able to open a much larger branch over on Queen Street. Two years later, a group of young black men staged a civil-rights protest at the new library

and ushered in the modern-era of race relations — a sometimes awkward coexistence of clashing ideologies.

“I think it’s wrong that King is celebrated while Lee is denigrated,” said Ellen Tabb, former historian of the Elisha Dick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. “Political correctness shouldn’t stop me from celebrating what I think is important.”

The clash of the city’s Confederate past and its liberal-leaning present are set to collide in an even more dramatic way during the coming year. Next year will mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, a commemoration that is currently being planned by a commission formed by the General Assembly formed in 2006 and led by Speaker of the House William Howell.

“I wouldn’t go so far as to say that we should have a poster contest to celebrate Robert E. Lee,” said Councilwoman Alicia Hughes. “But that doesn’t mean he’s not an important part of the city’s history and American history that should be remembered.”



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

**Director the R.E. Lee Camp Hall and member of the Mary Custis Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter #7 United Daughters of the Confederacy Debby Mullins sits in the double parlor at the Camp Hall.**



**ST. RITA SCHOOL**  
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**St. Rita School celebrates Catholic Schools Week**

**Open House for grades K-8**

Sunday January 31, 2010 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm following the 11:15 Mass

12:30 pm: Light refreshments served in School Hall

12:45 pm: Presentation by school principal, Mrs. Schlickemaier.

1:15 pm: School tours given by Student Council and school ambassadors.

**Contact: Josephine Cunningham**  
703 548 1888 Ext. 32

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Volunteers hula hoop to raise money for charity. A penny was donated for each hula hoop.

## Family Day of Service at Burgundy

More than 250 volunteers worked at Burgundy Farm Country Day School yesterday, as Burgundy in partnership with Volunteer Alexandria hosted a Family Day of Service to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

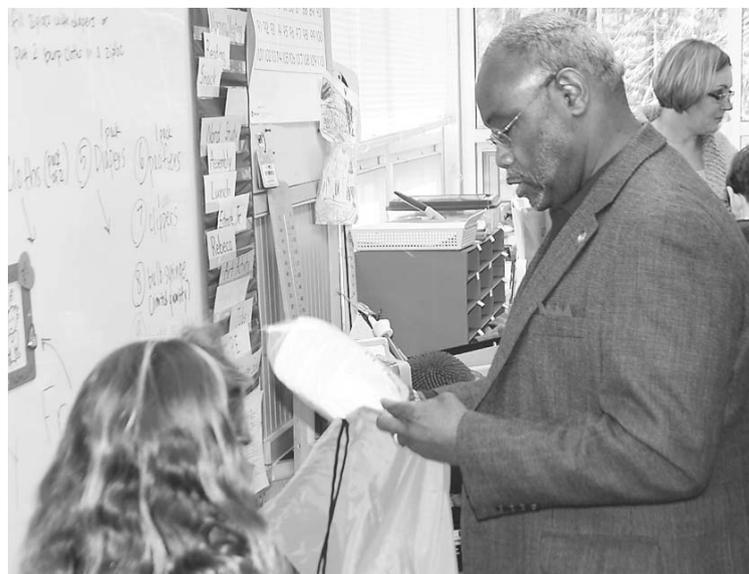
Mayor William Euille made a visit to the event as students and parents from Burgundy and students from George Washington Middle School and Jefferson Houston Elementary School came together to help local community organizations, including Carpenter's Shelter, Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, and Healthy Families Alexandria.

Burgundy's sixth grade students took the opportunity to collect donations for victims of Haiti's earthquake. They collected over \$2100 that will go directly to Doctors Without Borders' Haiti aid effort.

Among the projects completed

during the day of service were: books on CD for the literacy programs of the Campagna Center, filling bags with toiletries for residents of Carpenter's Shelter, as-

sembling baby welcome bags for Healthy Families Alexandria and preparing food for homeless people served by Meade Memorial Episcopal Church.



Mayor William Euille helps fill up bags of supplies for babies to benefit Healthy Families Alexandria.

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# OPINION

## Many Numbers Point to Needs

Challenging times as we commemorate vision of Martin Luther King Jr., inaugurate new governor.

Unemployed, uninsured, homeless, hungry. While on a percentage basis, Northern Virginia is better off than most of the rest of Virginia, in raw numbers, we have more people here who are unemployed, more people here who lack health insurance, more people who spend parts of most months without enough food on the table, more people who are homeless.

Some sobering numbers as we celebrate the day of hope and aspiration that is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Sobering statistics as we inaugurate a new governor who has many good ideas, but no plans for new revenue. Cuts in the state budget will affect everyone in Virginia, even those who are not needy.

In November, more than 68,000 unemployed people were looking for full time work here in Northern Virginia, according to the Virginia Employment Commission, up from just under 50,000 in November, 2008.

Later this month, officials and advocates will conduct the annual "point in time" census of homeless. Last January, there were 1,730 homeless people in Fairfax County at the "point

in time" count, more than 1,000 of those are members of families, most of the adults with jobs. In the City of Alexandria, there were 360 homeless people. In Arlington, 527 homeless, about 200 of those were people in families.

According to the latest U.S. Census numbers, from 2008, there were about 200,000 people (under 65) in Northern Virginia without health insurance. These are people who can't get preventative care, can't get routine care for minor illnesses.

### EDITORIAL

In Arlington County 38,018 or 21.1 percent of the population lacked health insurance. That number jumped to 62 percent of those living below 200 percent of poverty line.

In Fairfax County, 149,642 people or more than 16 percent of the population lacked health insurance. In the City of Alexandria, 22,399 people lack health insurance, or 18.2 percent of the population. In the City of Fairfax, 3,685 people lack health insurance, or 18.8 of the population.

Another measure of need, and a way of identifying concentrations of poverty, is to look at students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals in public schools.

In Alexandria more than 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced meals.

In Arlington, more than one-third of students are eligible for free or reduced meals.

More than 37,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools are eligible for free and reduced meals, that's 22 percent of the student body. And the needy students also tend to be concentrated in particular schools. For example, some schools, like Wolf Trap Elementary, had no students qualifying for free or reduced meals. Then consider Graham Road Elementary, with more than 78 percent of its students qualifying for free and reduced meals, Lynbrook Elementary with more than 76 percent of its students qualifying; Mount Vernon Woods, more than 75 percent; Mount Eagle more than 74 percent. The uneven distribution showed dozens of schools with very high rates of poor students lumped together; dozens with poverty rates in the single digits.

Food for thought. These numbers don't indicate a tiny population of needy people, they indicate a region with ongoing problems of "haves" and "have-nots." Those 15-30 percent of our populations in local jurisdictions who "have not" are about to have quite a bit less as the state and local budget processes move forward.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## First, Protect Residents

To the Editor:

The bill that is at the heart of last week's story "Don't Come Around Here" is detrimental to public safety in the Parker-Gray

neighborhood. HB 264, if passed, would prevent the Public Housing Authority (ARHA) from effectively protecting residents and neighbors from those individuals who have made conscious decisions to violate ARHA policies as well as state and city laws.

It is understandable that there

should be an appeal process for those who have been banned from ARHA properties. But that process should place the burden of proof directly on the barred individual, not on ARHA or the Police Department through a lengthy series of administrative hearings. It should not prohibit the immediate en-

forcement of no-trespass orders that serve to protect the public.

There is no codified or inherent right to enter into Public Housing, and ARHA is within its rights to prohibit the entry of individuals who have violated laws or ARHA regulations.

Todd R. Foust  
Alexandria

## Support Due Process Act

To the Editor:

A man who believes he has been unfairly and arbitrarily barred from visiting a child or a parent and who believes — however incorrectly — that he has no avenue to appeal feels powerless and humiliated. He may be barred for behavior that violates a law, or he may be barred because he has visited the complex "too often" or simply because he can't articulate an "acceptable" reason for being there when a law enforcement official or housing manager stops him. In far too many cases, he is barred without being given notice of how to challenge his barment. In many instances, he is barred for violating a "No Trespass" policy

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5



## For School in Haiti

At Friday night's basketball game against O'Connell, Bishop Ireton students set up tables to collect donations of shoes and money for its sister school Louverture Cleary in Haiti. The school was founded over 20 years ago as a Catholic mission known as the Haitian Project. It provides tuition-free, catholic secondary education with room and board for 350-plus disadvantaged Haitian children. This year there are 358 students attending the school. For more information on the Louverture Cleary School and the project visit [www.haitianproject.org](http://www.haitianproject.org)

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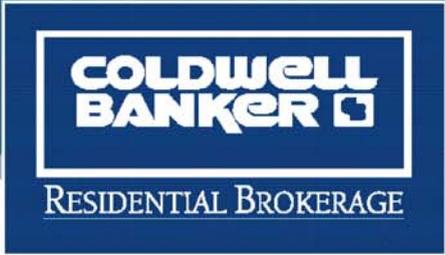
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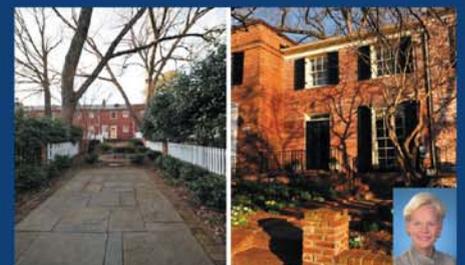
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## OPINION



**Light Painting** Using flashlights, visitors created light images at Art at the Center in Alexandria on Jan. 8. Family and friends visited the studio to view artwork and read statements by the artists. The light painting community art event took place following the exhibit. To see more pictures and learn how to do light painting at home, visit <http://artatthecenter.blogspot.com/>

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

that the family he is visiting has never seen. Sometimes, his name is placed on a list of barred individuals even though he has never received written notice that he is

barred.

Del. David Englin has proposed a reasonable fix that balances public safety with protecting the rights and dignity of the poor. His "Housing Authority Due Process Act,"

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

# Pentagon Row Ice Skating Gala

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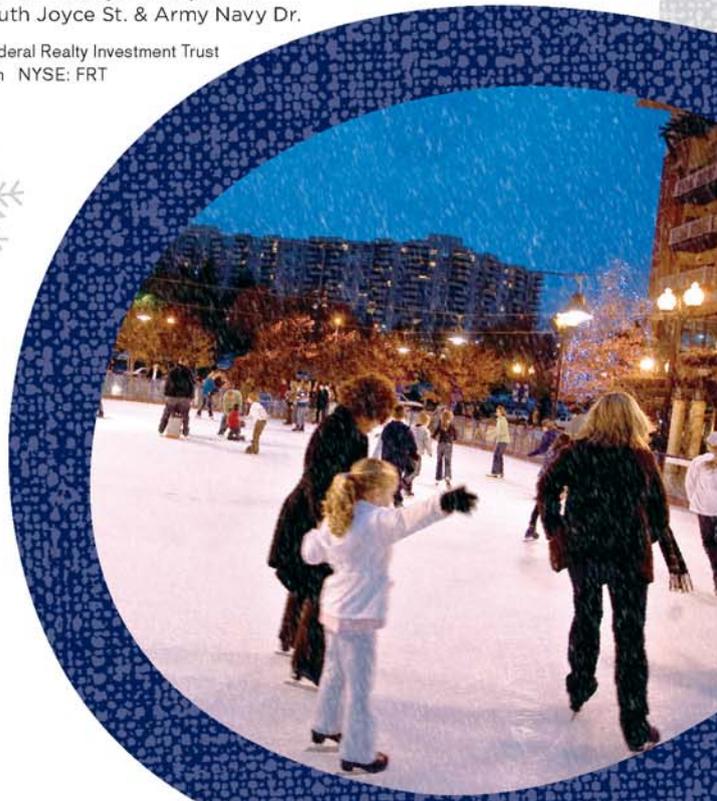
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# OPINION

## ACPS Makes Headlines

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



**A**lexandria Schools Continue to Advance Student Achievement During Economic Crisis! ACPS Cuts Costs, Not Quality! ACPS Continues to Do More with Less!

You've seen the alarming headlines about drastic cuts other school divisions are being forced to make due to our continuing economic challenges — cuts to the arts, cuts to sports, higher class sizes. It's a tough year! ACPS has been faced with challenges as well, but you won't see those things in our headlines. Ours will include words like conservative, responsible, proactive and creative.

The Proposed Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2011-2016 was presented to the School Board in November. While an independent facilities needs assessment recommended one course of action for maintaining and improving our buildings, we have chosen to put forward a more conservative Constrained Resources Budget that includes flexibility for unpredictable enrollment while solving issues of over-crowding in creative ways. By consolidating early childhood programs on the west end, using modular construction that can be relocated if needed, and exploring an innovative public-private partnership for the Jefferson-Houston site, we can use our limited resources effectively. The Proposed CIP is posted online at [www.acps.k12.va.us/budgets](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/budgets).

Our Proposed FY 2011 Combined Funds Budget (formerly known as the operating budget, but actually includes grants, the school nutrition fund, and the operating fund), which will be presented to the School Board for the first time tonight, has also been developed with creativity and a respect for our current economic challenges. Driven by the goals in our Strategic Plan and our seven guiding principles, we have once again, during a challenging year, created a budget that continues, without compromise, to champion higher student achievement.

The budget we are proposing:

- ❖ Keeps class sizes small.

- ❖ Continues to support programs such as AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), IB (International Baccalaureate), and AP (Advanced Placement).

- ❖ Establishes an early childhood office.

- ❖ Supports community schools and a family academy.

- ❖ Continues to offer competitive salaries by granting a step increase to employees half-way through the contract year.

How can we do this again, after last year's reductions, when health insurance and benefit costs continue to increase, enrollment is at a 30-year high, and revenue is decreasing? Like last year, we used research, data and strategic planning to coordinate the use of all resources, including grants, in our budget decision-making process. And like last year, there is a substantial amount of "sharing the impact." Some examples are:

- ❖ Decreased central office staff and central office budgets.

- ❖ Reduced contract days and daily work hours for some employees.

- ❖ Incentives for employees to choose less expensive HMO plans.

- ❖ More equitable cost distribution for dental benefits.

- ❖ Savings through process improvement and accountability, (i.e., substitute costs).

- ❖ Redesigned elementary summer school program and eliminated summer enrichment programs.

- ❖ Eliminated or reduced funding for activities not supported by evidence, such as tuition for master's degree programs and substitutes for professional development not aligned with division goals.

The bottom line is this: We will not trade high achievement. The proposed operating and CIP budgets embody a conservative and flexible approach to financial planning over the next two-to-four years while continuing to move us forward toward the goals in our Strategic Plan. ACPS has been a good steward of public funds — thoughtfully reallocating resources to advance academic gains rather than simply trimming around the edges. It has taken countless hours of very hard work, but these budgets continue our journey towards ensuring higher achievement for each and every student.

### VIEWPOINTS

PHOTOS BY  
MECHELLE SCHLOSS/GAZETTE



"Deviled eggs. I have a cookbook at home on how to make them a hundred different ways."

- **Dean DeGood**



"My favorite thing to eat when it's cold is cinnamon buns."

- **Stefan Schloss**



"An open face turkey sandwich with gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce ... all the fixins."

- **David Dort**

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The Community Coalition for Haiti, a faith-based nonprofit relief organization, has set up a restricted fund for the Haitian relief effort. 100% of every donation is used to help the thousands in need. Every dollar is a treasure to those in desperate need of food, water, medicine and help. Please donate today. Make a donation online at [www.cchaiti.org](http://www.cchaiti.org) or mail your check to Community Coalition for Haiti, P.O. Box 1222, Vienna, VA 22183.



[www.cchaiti.org](http://www.cchaiti.org)

Partners with CCH in the Haiti relief effort include: MedAssets; Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children; Missionary Flights International; and MTS Services.



"In addition to our prayers, the people of Haiti are in great need of our compassion and assistance."

- Charles Mann, Inova Health System Board Member



"Luciana and I have worked with the Community Coalition for Haiti and we ask you to join us in supporting the humanitarian efforts that are under way."

- Robert & Luciana Duvall



"We all need to take swift action to make sure that relief reaches the people of Haiti as quickly as it can."

- Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Fame

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## OPINION



PHOTOS FROM ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Hot Topic All Stars - Youth Level 1 team (ages 11 & under):** Makayla Ferrell, McKenzie Gibson, Porshia Gilmer, Makiya Hinton, Tionna McNeill, Tamyra Stephens, Reyonah Pulliam, Shakayla Farmer, Amiya Mobley, Nyjah Spruill, Monnik Williams, LaDaysha Lucas, Stacia Overton, Taseya McBride, Arshe Tensley and Me'lani Jackson. And coaches: Shenika Farmer, Brenda Holloway and Shatavia Lipscomb pose with members of the Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria.

## Firefighters Host Party for Children

This year the Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria's Toy Party provided gifts and prizes to more than 115 children who live in the City of Alexandria. The children are identified through neighborhood recreation centers. The three main centers that participated are Cora Kelly, Charles Houston, and Nannie J. Lee Center. This year, in addition to toys, each child was given a new winter coat.

This year's major sponsors were the Alexandria Mark Hilton, providing the venue and lunch, and Clyde's Restaurant Group, Simpson Development, Alexandria Toyota, and Mayor William Euille. Donations from members of the community and the Alexandria Fire Department were also received.

The volunteers included members of both the Alexandria Fire Department and Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria. Captain Will Bailey of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue as well as family members and friends of our fire department staff also volunteered their time.

Activities included a catered lunch, Bingo, clowns, presentation by Hot Topics Cheerleaders, visit from Santa who gave away toys, raffle of four bikes, and lots of dancing.



**Assistant Chief Andrew Snead and firefighter Tara Blunt congratulate one of the winners of the party raffle.**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

introduced in the General Assembly last week as House Bill 264, sets forth clear standards to help ensure that that no-one will be barred from public housing for violating a policy nobody knows exists and that those who are barred have the information they need to appeal.

House Bill 264 does three simple but essential things. First, it obligates all public housing authorities to provide their "No Trespass" policies to tenants in writing and to conspicuously post the written policies throughout the property. Second, it requires that any person barred from the premises re-

ceive written notice of his barment and the factual allegations that support it. And third, it mandates that housing authorities create a process through which barred individuals can appeal their barments and provide information about that process on every barment notice issued.

House Bill 264's requirements do not place undue burdens on housing authorities. In fact, many housing authorities, including the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, already have "No Trespass" policies that provide barred individuals with the right to appeal. However, that right to appeal is only meaningful — and only mitigates that sense of pow-

erlessness and humiliation — if a person knows it exists and knows how to exercise it. Delegate Englin's legislation will ensure that.

In addition to enhancing the rights of individuals who visit public housing, such as fathers coming to visit their children or sons checking up on aging parents, House Bill 264 can be a tool to increase safety in public housing throughout Virginia. By providing innocent visitors with the information they need to successfully challenge their barments, the bill will help housing authorities ensure the list of barred individuals is lim-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

# OPINION

## 2010 Assembly Session Convenes

By DAVID ENGLIN  
STATE DELEGATE (D-45)TH DISTRICT



The opening week of a new General Assembly always reminds me of the first week of a new school year, with delegates and senators from one end of Virginia to the other catching up with old friends, meeting new colleagues, and learning their way

### RICHMOND REPORT

around new offices. Add to that the transition from Gov. Tim Kaine to Gov. Bob McDonnell and the weight of the most challenging budget shortfall since the Great Depression, and it's no wonder that one of the local hospitals delivered antacid tablets in bulk to each legislator on the opening day.

Three days after the General Assembly convened, Governor McDonnell was sworn in. He deserves credit for setting a reasonably inclusive and pragmatic tone in the transition and his Inaugural remarks. However, his full-throated support of off-shore drilling, despite the uncertain actual return on investment and the Navy's objections on national security grounds, portends policy battles to come. While his calls for a "Commonwealth of Opportunity" and for personal volunteerism and charity strike appropriate chords, I fear that the open alignment of House Republicans and the new administration with the Tea Party movement's vehement anti-Federalism is a distracting throwback at a time when we need to look forward.

Nevertheless, I have been reaching out to Governor McDonnell's policy team hoping to can find bipartisan consensus on some of my budget reform initiatives, which will help us navigate the current shortfall responsibly while protecting core services and our most vulnerable citizens. For example, I am working with social justice advocates to create a Statewide TANF Funding Pool that will protect Federal safety-net block grant funds from being diverted to political earmarks, and I am working with the Commonwealth Institute to create a Tax Expenditure Report requirement so the General Assembly will give various costly tax exemptions and loopholes the appropriate scrutiny as we weigh difficult budget choices. With the Commonwealth facing at least a \$4 billion revenue shortfall, now more than ever we need to make struc-

tural changes to ensure the most effective and efficient use of safety-net dollars to help people struggling to make ends meet.

Beyond the budget, I am working to address key local concerns, like solving our transportation problem while protecting our neighborhoods from HOT Lanes, strengthening public schools by supporting high quality teachers, and reforming our regressive tax structure to help families and small

businesses while still protecting money for education and transportation. I am even working to update Virginia's alcoholic beverage consumption law to allow a Hotel Manager's Reception License so hotels like the Monaco in Old Town can offer wine and beer receptions for guests and their visitors and compete with luxury hotels in D.C. and Maryland. This is going to be an incredibly challenging year, but I am confident there will still be opportunities for progress.

One issue that has already received quite a bit of attention is my House Bill 264, the Housing Authority Due Process Act. Working with the Virginia Poverty Law Center and advocates of the poor across the Commonwealth, the goal of the bill is to ensure that people who have been barred from visiting public housing protects are afforded some basic due process to appeal. While the initial bill resulted in negative push back from law enforcement officials and homeowners neighboring public housing, I have worked closely with housing authority, legal aid, and law enforcement experts to revise the bill and successfully address those concerns. People who have worked with housing authority residents in our community and across Virginia can attest to the poor treatment of already marginalized citizens. Alexandria ought to be a leader when it comes to balancing public safety with protecting the rights of the poor, and the revised bill will do exactly that.

For more information on my complete list of legislation, please visit [www.davidenglin.org/legislation](http://www.davidenglin.org/legislation). Of course, I welcome your ideas and feedback, so I hope you will get in touch at 703-549-3203 (which forwards to my Richmond office during the session) or at [DelDEnglin@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelDEnglin@house.virginia.gov) and let me know if there is anything I can do to serve you better. It is an honor to represent you, and I am hopeful that over the next two months, my General Assembly colleagues and I will be able to make progress for all Virginians.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

ited to those people who have come on the property to engage in unlawful activity. With this list, law enforcement can more efficiently remove dangerous trespassers and make public housing complexes throughout Virginia safer for residents, people who visit them, and the surrounding neighborhoods.

**Christie Marra**  
Staff Attorney  
Virginia Poverty Law Center, Inc.

the article regarding the proposal to tax plastic bags at 5 cents each (in paragraph 4):

- 1 penny to the merchant
- 5 cents to a specific fund
- 6 cents

Where does one find nickel's worth 6 cents?

There is also no indication how the 5 cent tax will be treated—will it be added to the grocery/drug-store/liquor store total and taxed as merchandise? That would be sales tax on a tax—surely not what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

**Brenda Franklin**  
Alexandria

### New Beginnings

To The Editor:

I would like to take this time and

wish everyone a Happy New 2010 — a time for new beginnings in many areas of our lives. The first thing I would like to do is thank everyone who has supported and given me the encouragement in the past years of voicing my concern on issues that affect us all — from traffic, politic, safety, religion, to our homes and our rights as renters, etc.

Giving credit where credit is due: I want to credit Officer Ray Golden, the officer who responded to the call back in September 2009 of a child out of school. The wrong officer was named in the letter to the editor about the incident.

And in respect to the Alfred Street Baptist Church Christmas

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21

### 6 Cents to A Nickel?

To the Editor:

I noticed some unusual math in

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**8315**  
Mount Vernon Hwy  
\$745,900  
**3/4 Acre Estate Site!**  
Just listed—special pre-construction opportunity! Fabulous new Wakefield Home on 3/4 acre site. Spacious custom residence with bright, open floor plan loaded with special features. Prime location combining large lot privacy with the convenience of being in the center of everything! Pre-construction pricing! Model Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Rte 235 N/MtV Hwy to 8311.



**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 minutes from Ft Belvoir, GW Pkwy, Mt Vernon Yacht Club & Mansion House Club. Home warranty! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, I. Ferry Lndg Rd.



**3906**  
Rive Drive  
\$998,500  
**Stunning Property!**  
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, I. Old Mt Vernon Rd, I. Rive Dr.



**OPEN SUN 1-4**  
**523 NORTH PATRICK ST**  
Old Town - \$545,000  
BACK ON THE MARKET!  
• Gorgeous Hardwood floors throughout  
• 2 spacious BR, 1.5BA  
• Kitchen w/SS appl & granite ct  
• Open floor plan  
• Nice & deep bklyd  
• 1 off-street parking

Martine Imer 703.346.7283



**7029 BEDROCK RD**  
Alexandria  
\$589,000  
CLASSIC COLONIAL ON CORNER LOT! The 2-story foyer welcomes you into this 4BR, 2.5BA 2-lvl in convenient Woodstone; mins to METRO, OT & Ft Belvoir. Updated gourmet kit, updated baths, newer roof, paint & more! 2-car gar & 2-season screened porch on a no-thru-street, makes this a perfect home for family & entertaining!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



**207 WOLFE ST**  
Alexandria / Old Town  
\$729,999  
Mid 19th century clapboard townhouse in great location. Two bedrooms, den and two and a half baths. Family room opens out to brick patio. Two fireplaces.

Virginia Jacob 703.836.7210  
Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



**9316**  
Allwood Drive  
\$540,000  
**Stunning!**  
Home features bright, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings in the main living area. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more. Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mount Vernon.



**7501**  
Park Terrace Drive  
\$1,150,000  
**Stunning!**  
Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, high ceilings and expansive glass window walls capture the natural beauty of the grounds. Off GW Pkwy just 3 miles from Old Town. (Adjoining 1.18 acre available for \$975,000.)



**4401**  
Jackson Place  
\$475,000  
**Special Value!**  
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!



**RIVER TOWERS**  
6621 Wakefield Dr  
#317 - \$242,500  
LIKE NEW CONDO updated, immaculate 2BR/1.5BA - newly refin wood flrs, freshly painted, updated kit, baths - appliances & convectors replaced - great amenities incl pool, tennis, clubrm, basketball, garden plots & picnic areas - deli, convenience store - condo fee include utilities.

Franki Roberts 703.898.0840



**2711 MOSBY STREET**  
Alexandria City  
\$1,095,000  
GORGEOUS COLONIAL WITH LAND! This lovingly renovated 5BR, 2BA home has tons of space and an additional lot too!

Anne Hambley 703.946.7266



**1732 W ABINGDON DRIVE #202**  
Alexandria  
\$250,000  
POTOMAC CROSSING! Well-kept 1BR condo. Spacious open floor-plan. Lots of updates & custom built-ins. Stainless steel appliances, crown moulding. New flooring throughout. A must see!!!

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



**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.



**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!



**OPEN SUN 1-4**  
**2701 BELLFOREST CT #204**  
Vienna - \$349,900  
PRICE REDUCTION!  
WALK TO THE METRO! 2BR & 2BA. Plenty of built-ins, closets, 4x10 storage space and 2 indoor garage spaces. Open & spacious LR & chef's kitchen, separate DR, full-size W/D, gas fireplace, & balcony all complemented by large windows for a bright airy feel.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



**2805 CAMERON MILLS ROAD**  
Alexandria  
\$619,000  
Newly listed brick Colonial in Braddock Heights. Well maintained 4BR/2BA home with main level addition and large level lot. Prime location for expansion.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252



**WATERFRONT TOWNHOME**  
Alexandria / Old Town  
\$1,899,000  
Enjoy enchanting Potomac River views from your private patio at Fords Landing. This one has it all - 3/4 bedrooms on 4 levels, kitchen/family room with granite island, rec room with gas fireplace, 2 car garage. Great price for waterfront!

ReneeSellsAlexandria.com  
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330



**8108**  
East Boulevard Dr  
\$2,395,000  
**Premier Property!**  
Custom Boucher built classic on magnificent full acre lot just 3 miles to Old Town! Spacious residence with elegant Colonial detail, custom brick exterior, 3 finished levels, handcrafted cabinetry and brick work, gourmet kitchen, 4.5 luxurious baths, high ceilings, 4 frpls and 3 car garage. Magnificent private setting on professionally landscaped grounds, convenient to everything!



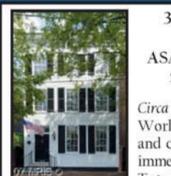
**CONTRACT!**  
**3102**  
Waterside Lane  
\$798,500  
**Waterfront Value!**  
Updated and expanded home on gorgeous elevated grounds overlooks Little Hunting Creek! Private dock, custom glass walled family room, updated kitchen with granite, stainless & custom cabinets, hardwood floors, two car garage and much more! Unique opportunity - do not miss out!



**SOLD!**  
**3706 Riverwood Ct**



**SOLD!**  
**4821 Stillwell Ave**



**302 SOUTH SAINT ASAPH STREET**  
\$1,495,000  
Circa 1790 - Old World charm, history and craftsmanship are immediately evident. Totally renovated home drenched in warm natural light w/ soaring ceilings, hardwoods, graceful arches, mouldings, & 4 fireplaces. Fenced rear yard with patio. 3lvls, 3BR, 3.5BA.



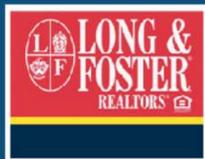
**1201 MADISON STREET**  
\$559,000  
Rarely available townhouse in Old Town just 1 block from the METRO. Lots of space w/top-of-line fixtures, 2 master suites, eat-in DR/LR, 2 fireplaces, kitchen, separate garage and large, private patio.

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244



**540 SECOND ST #403**  
Old Town - \$605,000  
LOOKING TO DOWNSIZE? Carefree living at upscale Liberty Row Condos a chic high end 2006 cond. 1,485 sq ft, 2BR, 2.5BA home boasts a large open Chef's kit, granite, SSA, double-sided gas frpl, hdwds, plantation shutters, closets galore & 2 gar spaces.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



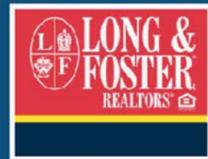
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## NEWS

## COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

FROM PAGE 3

how to appeal, as well as a provision calling for a periodic review of the list for currency and accuracy. This revised version of the bill is the one rejected by the City Council's legislative committee members **Kerry Donley** and **Paul Smedberg**.

"I think there has been some poor communication," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**, who declined to indicate how he would vote with the council takes up the issue next week. "One of the problems with this bill is that it never really had a formal review process."

## Branding The G.O.P.

Republican Councilman **Frank Fannon** never misses an opportunity to broaden the city's Grand Old Party. Take this week, when he was at City Hall to celebrate the birthday of **Martin Luther King** during the city school system's annual poster contest.

"King was a Republican," said Fannon after the awards were presented. "I bet a lot of people don't know that."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



## SOUPer Saturday

Jenn Young and Kati Pirner give out clam chowder catered by the Chart House for SOUPer Saturday at the Torpedo Factory on Jan. 16. Proceeds benefited United Community Ministries.



Elizabeth Collins and Avierill Shepps select their bowls.

PHOTOS BY  
LASHAWN AVERY/  
GAZETTE PACKET

# live learn lead

## Living and Learning at Madeira

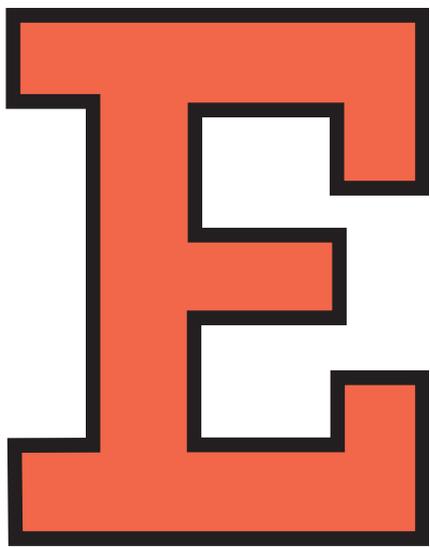
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## THEATER

# A Comedy and a Musical

Gunston Arts Center's two theaters are busy.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

The new year's theater season is in full swing with two new shows playing in Arlington County's Gunston Arts Center. The American Century Theater is reviving the 1950s stage comedy "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" in the smaller space, the flexible black box known as Theatre Two, while Dominion Stage mounts the quirky small musical take-off of 1930s anti-marijuana propaganda, "Reefer Madness" in the larger Theatre One.

"Success" is the kind of straight forward stage comedy that flourished on Broadway in the middle of the last century. It is author George Axelrod's attempt to capitalize on the success of his first Broadway comedy, "The Seven-Year Itch," by looking at the problems a playwright has trying to come up with a second hit play. In this case, he turned to the classic tale of Faust striking a deal with the devil in exchange for his soul. The twist was that the devil was a theatrical agent willing to guarantee success for 10 percent — not of the author's income but of his soul.

With plenty of opportunities to lampoon the culture of show business in the 1950s, Axelrod's script is both clever and funny. He populates the piece with characters that are caricatures of Hollywood and Broadway types including a buxom blond in the Jayne Mansfield mold (Mansfield actually originated the role both on stage and in the movie version which followed), a shifty and devilish agent, a milquetoast of a writer with no talent whatsoever (says the agent/devil: "We're not talking talent here, we're talking success!") and even an adonis-like athlete.

Donald Osborne is almost two dweebish as a writer of magazine articles who'd sell his soul for 1) money, 2) the love of the sexiest woman he knows and 3) success as a screenwriter. His twerp of a character lacks either a sense of naive decency or underlying charm that could justify the audience caring about him.

**HOWEVER**, Osborne is surrounded by cast members who tear into their characters with style. Kari Ginsburg is as funny as she is sexy as the blond bombshell of a starlet while Steven Lebens is smooth and slick with just a hint of shifty as the devil/agent quite reminiscent of "Damn Yankee's" similar character, "Mr. Applegate," who sells baseball success for the same type of deal. (It is interesting to note that both "Damn Yankees" and "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" opened in the same year, 1955.)

John Tweel does a particularly smooth job of building the character of the playwright who faces the same problem Axelrod was facing when he tried to top the success of his first hit, and Craig Miller's portrayal of a prototypically self-absorbed studio boss is very funny in the scene where the devil



COURTESY OF DOMINION STAGE

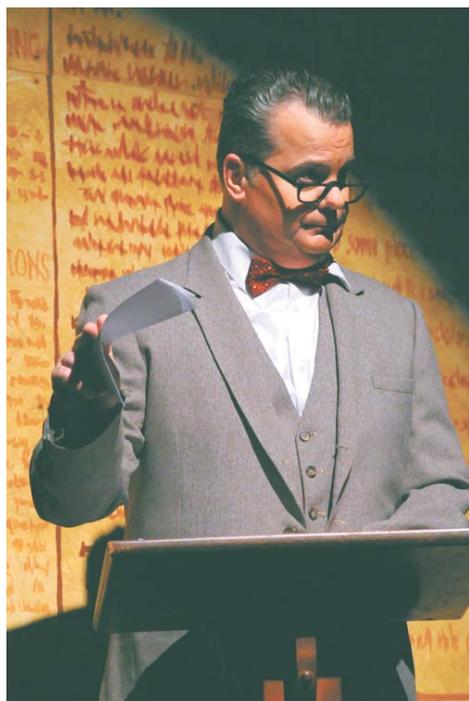
Tom Flat points to Joel Piper in Dominion Stage's production of "Reefer Madness."

seduces him with the prospect of receiving an Academy Award.

Just down the hall, in the 460-seat proscenium style Theatre One, Tom Flat leads the cast of "Reefer Madness" through its camp, single-gag romp of a musical take-off. Flat plays the 1930s high school teacher who, with the help of his school's drama club, stage the story of drug-induced degradation that befalls a clean cut, all-American couple when they give in to the temptation of the devil weed! In the process, Flat plays most of the adult roles as well, and he does so with a sense of panache that often sparks an otherwise rather lackluster evening.

With an on-stage band of six and enough wireless microphones for the lead performers but not for the chorus of supposedly drugged-out zombies, there is a mismatch in the sound that plagues the production. The featured players bring a variety of skills to the mix but musically the musical never really takes off. Choreographer Catherine Oh, on the other hand, comes up with a number of nifty moves that are within the capabilities of the chorus as well as the leads.

Joel Piper throws himself into the role of the clean-cut kid gone wrong whose love for Mary Lane (a pert Jaclyn Young) is overcome by his addiction to "Mary Jane." Michael Reed is at his best in the non-musical sequences as the pot dealer (he also doubles as Jesus in a brief hallucinatory number) and Amy Baska is his "mol." Sam Nystrom pulls a nifty series of comic bits as a stoned student fixated on a balero, the Latin American ball and cup toy.



COURTESY OF DOMINION STAGE

Tom Flat as the narrator in Dominion Stage's production of "Reefer Madness."



DENNIS DELORIA/THE GAZETTE

Donald Osborne toasts agent/devil Steven Lebens in the American Century Theater's production of "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?"

## Alexandria's Winter Boutique Shopping Event Set for Feb. 6

The Sixth Annual Boutique District Warehouse Sale, a one-day clearance spectacular featuring high-end boutique merchandise, will be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 6.

The most serious fashion fans line up in the early morning hours to get the first look at top label merchandise from renowned stores like Hysteria, Periwinkle, Mystique Jewelers, Treat, Gossypia, Apple Seed, Lawrence Miller and Company, Stanton Gallery, Bella, Red Barn Mercantile, the Christmas Attic, and local jewelry designer Queen Bee Designs. This year, Old Town's famous kitchen boutique La Cuisine joins the lineup, along with Diva, Mint Condition, and Pink and Brown. Diva and Mint Condition are both upscale consignment boutiques while Pink and Brown offers organic fiber children's clothing.

## Where and When

The American Century Theater's "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" plays Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday at 2:30 p.m. through Feb. 6. Tickets are \$26 - \$32 and can be ordered at 703 998-4555 or online at [www.americancentury.org](http://www.americancentury.org). Dominion Stage's "Reefer Madness" plays Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. through Jan. 30. Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered at 703 683-0502 or online at [www.dominionstage.org](http://www.dominionstage.org)

# CALENDAR

Old Town's most authentic country  
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## Le Refuge

### Winter Specials

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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.

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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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Alexandria, VA 22311

Pre-registration is required. Please visit [www.alexchamber.com](http://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](mailto:jschmidt@alexchamber.com).

### ONGOING

#### The Kingstowne Area Artists' Association (KAAA)

is looking for new members. The club meets once a month to network, socialize, learn from each other and participate in opportunities to show and sell its work. All visual artists, professional or hobbyists are welcome. Go to [www.kingstowneartists.com](http://www.kingstowneartists.com). The group meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Kingstowne Active Adult Center, 6488 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria. Contact Ginny Wywyj at [duchessducky@msn.com](mailto:duchessducky@msn.com) or Nancy Hannans at [nancyhannans@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyhannans@yahoo.com).

**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](mailto: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. A deadline for entries will be Feb. 8. 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.

### 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**Civil War Dance Class.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$12. Learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on Jan. 23. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or call 703-838-4242.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**Dare to Dream Fund-raiser.** 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Jaycees to help keep Camp Virginia Jaycee open. At the American Legion, 400 Cameron St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$10. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Camp, please write a check to "Camp Virginia Jaycee" and mail to Alexandria Jaycees, PO Box 1836, Alexandria, VA 22313.

**Civil War Ball.** 8-11 p.m. In Gadsby's Tavern ballroom. \$45/advance; \$50/door. Period attire, either civilian or



### 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. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets \$20/advance, \$25/door. Visit [www.ABSorchestra.org](http://www.ABSorchestra.org) or call 703-351-1331.

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](http://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 to Soles4Souls, the international shoe charity. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum in Alexandria. Visit [www.soles4soulsfundraising.org/abellayoga](http://www.soles4soulsfundraising.org/abellayoga).

**Yoga Workshops.** Free. Yoga for Rookies from 2-3:30 p.m.; Yoga Open Flow from 4-5:30 p.m. At Body in Balance Center, 1423 Powhatan St., Unit 7, Alexandria. Call 703-518-4434. Register at [www.bodyinbalancecenter.com](http://www.bodyinbalancecenter.com).

### 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](http://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.

### MONDAY/JAN. 25

**Haitian Benefit Dinner.** At Mango Mike's, The Island on Duke Street. Has agreed to donate 25 percent of dinner sales to Save the Children, which has worked with Haiti for 25 years.

**Tavern Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m. to noon. Open playtime for toddlers. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Cost is \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, or purchase a 5-week pass for \$30. Call 703-838-4242. [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org)

### TUESDAY, JAN. 26

**Alexandria Singers Auditions.** 7 p.m. At the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St., Alexandria. Email: [audition@alexandriasingers.com](mailto:audition@alexandriasingers.com) or

visit [www.alexandriasingers.com](http://www.alexandriasingers.com).

### JAN. 28, FEB. 4 AND 11

**18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.balalaika.org) or call 703-549-0760.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 30

**Musical Extravaganza.** 4 p.m. Free. Celebrating Alexandria's Sister City, Helsingborg, Sweden. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 31

**Winter Dance Showcase.** 1-6 p.m. At Dance Studio Lioudmila, a local dance studio specializing in competitive and social Ballroom Dancing. Features 20 different dances by amateurs and professionals. At 18 Roth St., Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868 or email: [dancestudiolioudmila@hotmail.com](mailto:dancestudiolioudmila@hotmail.com).

**Pruning Workshop.** 2-4 p.m. Free. At the Alexandria Central Library, 5505 Duke Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us). Call 703-228-6423 or email to [ex013mg@vt.edu](mailto:ex013mg@vt.edu).

**"Love in the Time of Tamiflu."** 3 p.m. Concert features Melissa Coombs, Bailey Whiteman, Terrance L. Johns, William Heim, Virginia Rice Sircy and Jon Kalbfleisch. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mill Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-5500 x103 or [www.trinityalexandria.org](http://www.trinityalexandria.org).

**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](mailto:schmityk@yahoo.com) or Theresa at [tkulstad@verizon.net](mailto:tkulstad@verizon.net) or [www.theDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.theDelRayArtisans.org). Del Ray Artisans gallery is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria; call 703-838-4827.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 2

**Braddock's March - A Pilgrimage of**

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

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

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Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

### Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

### Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

### Friday - Fish Night

Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

### Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

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Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

**Destiny.** 6 to 8 p.m. Author and Alexandria resident Thomas E. Crocker will speak about his new book Braddock's March. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria.

### 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](http://www.navyband.navy.mil).

### SATURDAY, FEB. 6

**Evening with the Chefs.** Featuring prominent chefs from local restaurants showcasing their finest cuisine. Hosted by the Dunbar Alexandria Olympic Boys and Girls Club. Proceeds will benefit the club's youth programs. At the Belle Haven Country Club, Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Contact Dave Woodbury at 703-867-5570 or e-mail [chefsddinner@cox.net](mailto:chefsddinner@cox.net).

### Boutique District Warehouse Sale.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A one-day clearance spectacular featuring high-end boutique merchandise from Old Town Alexandria's boutiques. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

### John Carlyle's Birthday Celebration.

Noon to 4 p.m. \$5 admission. Costumed interpreters will be dancing and performing 18th-century music throughout the house. At Carlyle House Historic Park. Go to [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org) or call 703-549-2997 or e-mail [carlyle@nvrpa.org](mailto:carlyle@nvrpa.org).

### 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



### JAN. 21 TO MARCH 14

**“Mahalia, a Gospel Musical.”** Starring Bernardine Mitchell as Mahalia Jackson will be in performance at MetroStage. A musical biography of the “Queen of Gospel Music” directed by Thomas W. Jones II. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. All tickets \$45-\$50. Call 800-494-8497, Groups/703-548-9044. At 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria.

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](http://www.members.cox.net/alexandriacoinclub).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 7

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.** 3 p.m. Free. Pre-concert lecture at 2:15 p.m. Ulysses S. James, Music Director. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria.

**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, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com)

### Managing Wildlife Conflict.

1:30-3 p.m. Having troubles with deer and rabbits feasting on your garden? Victoria Monroe, Wildlife Biologist for Fairfax County will discuss strategies for managing wildlife conflicts in your garden. \$10. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 9

### Books to Film Discussion Group.

7 p.m. Readers and movie buffs are invited to talk about the film, “The Accidental Tourist” (1988), based on the novel by Anne Tyler. All should read the work and view the movie before attending. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call Mark at 703-519-3498.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 11

### Siobhan Quinn and Michael Bowers.

7 p.m. Gracious and gritty songs brimming with seamless harmonies. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. Visit [dreamersloversandoutlaws.com](http://dreamersloversandoutlaws.com).

### FRIDAY, FEB. 12

### Singer/Songwriter Janna Audey.

7-9 p.m. At Spill the Beans, 1900 Elkin Street, Suite 4, Alexandria, [spillthebeansva.com](http://spillthebeansva.com)

### SATURDAY/FEB. 13

**Water Wise Landscaping.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Well designed, installed and maintained landscapes offer years of environmental benefits and beauty. Green Spring horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol discusses these concepts and provides practical information for you to implement in your garden. Instruction takes place inside and outdoors. Dress accordingly. \$16. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

## THEATER

### NOW THROUGH JAN. 24

**“Nuts” by Tom Topor.** Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m., Jan. 22-23; 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](http://www.portcityplayhouse.com).

### NOW THROUGH JAN. 30

**“Reefer Madness.”** 8 p.m. Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.. Cost is \$15. Inspired by the original 1936 film of the same name, this musical comedy takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the hysteria caused when clean-cut kids fall prey to marijuana. Hosted by Dominion Stage. At Gunston Arts Center, Theatre One, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Go to [www.dominionstage.org](http://www.dominionstage.org). Reservations can be made online or by calling 703-683-0502.

### JAN. 23 TO MARCH 14

**“Puss ‘n Boots.”** Adapted by Ramola D from the French fairy tale by Charles Perrault. Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30

p.m. Additional performances: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20; March 6 at 3:30 p.m. For ages 4 and up. Tickets are \$12/advance, \$15/door, \$10 for parties of 10 or more. Presented by Synetic Family Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington in Shirlington Village. Call 800-494-8497 or [www.classika.org](http://www.classika.org)

### FEB. 9 TO APRIL 4

**“Sweeney Todd.”** At Signature Theatre. Tickets are \$52 to \$76. Show times are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. There is no “Sweeney Todd” performance on Saturday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. Call Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT or go to [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

### NOW THROUGH FEB. 6

**“Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?”** 8 p.m. nightly; Saturday/Sunday matinees 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the American Century Theater. At the Theater Two, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Tickets are \$26-\$32. Tickets can be ordered online at [www.americancentury.org](http://www.americancentury.org) or by calling 703-998-4555.

### NOW THROUGH FEB. 7

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

### NOW THROUGH 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](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

# OPINION

## Healthcare Debate: Where Does Virginia Stand?

BY CHRISTINE  
CANDIO  
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA  
HOSPITAL



It appears that all eyes are on healthcare reform in Washington and on Virginia's budget-makers in Richmond, who are grappling with unprecedented revenue shortfalls and how to address them. This begs the question, what do Virginians stand to gain ... or lose?

Consider the following:

- ❖ More than 1 million Virginians are without health insurance. More than 700,000 of those without health insurance work full-time.
- ❖ Virginia is one of only 10 states with more uninsured children today than 15 years ago.
- ❖ Virginia ranks 48th nationally in per-capita Medicaid expenditures.

In our own community, Inova Alexandria Hospital provided \$17.2

million in charity care last year. We experienced nearly an 18 percent increase over the previous year and 57.8 percent increase from 2008. Inova Health System's overall "safety net" services provided to the uninsured and underinsured in Northern Virginia increased from \$145 million in 2007 to \$183 million in 2008. We expect that trend to continue for the foreseeable future.

When you combine these factors, it's clear why more than 60 organizations have come together to form "Healthcare for All Virginians." This coalition exists to educate and engage Virginians about the state of health insurance coverage in Virginia, and to keep all focused on the bottom line.

Healthcare for All Virginians believes the following priorities must be addressed as our leaders in Washington and Richmond make decisions about how millions of Virginians obtain the

healthcare they need:

**Cover all kids.** More than 100,000 children in Virginia are currently eligible for state coverage programs but are not enrolled. Congress recently enacted new federal legislation that allows Virginia to use a variety of new options to simplify and improve enrollment for these children. In our own backyard, the number of children seeking care at Inova's pediatric clinics for the uninsured and underinsured continues to increase, going from 20,600 in 2008 to 21,480 through November 2009.

**Improve coverage** for low-income working parents. Virginia's very low Medicaid eligibility level for working parents makes it impossible for 65,000 of them with incomes below the federal poverty line to qualify for health insurance. Right now, the parents in a family of three can only be insured under Medicaid if their countable earnings are less than \$6,000 a year. This is among the lowest Medicaid eligibility rates for parent eligibility, ranking Virginia 44th in the country. This is not a

program that can afford budget cuts; even minimal improvements in eligibility levels would help thousands of families.

**Pay healthcare providers** the cost of caring for Medicaid patients. Right now, doctors, hospitals and nursing homes are paid a fraction of what it costs to provide care for Medicaid patients. In addition, financing for projects that improve access to healthcare services has been reduced. This shifts costs to businesses and families with commercial coverage, and contributes to the fact that premiums for Virginia families who have insurance through their

employer have increased by 80 percent since 2000.

What does all of this mean? It means that more Virginia families face economic hardships when trying to balance the cost of healthcare with other necessities, and that all Virginians can gain from policy decisions at the state and federal levels that will lend stability in the healthcare arena.

Some may question whether we can afford to address these priorities in this tumultuous economy. Inova Alexandria Hospital, along with Inova Health System and Healthcare for All Virginians responds that we can't afford not to.

### LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

festival, I did not wish to mislead anyone in a letter about the festival which was scheduled for Dec. 19, but didn't take place because of the snowstorm. In the Dec. 21 letter, it should have said "to be followed by a Christmas festival" instead of sounding like it took place.

And for this year, as much as I love the snow, I hope we all will have a chance to attend both the musical holiday concert conducted by Kim Allen Kluge and the Alfred Street Baptist Church Christmas Festival held by the music, drama, and liturgical dance ministries.

**Geri Baldwin**  
Alexandria

### OBITUARY

## Blackwell Hawthorne

On the eve of his 88th birthday, Blackwell Hawthorne, for the better part of a decade the director of advertising sales for the Falls Church News-Press, died Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010 at his home in North Arlington after an 11-month struggle with a degenerative lung disorder. Hawthorne, born in 1922 and a native of southern Virginia who was a prisoner of war in the European theatre of World War II, came to the News-Press at the age of 79 and exhibited enormous energy and professionalism to build the News-Press advertiser base. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and four daughters.

## Inova Offering H1N1 Shots

Inova Health System is offering 2009 novel H1N1 vaccinations as well as seasonal influenza vaccinations to children and adults at its hospital-based clinics through the end of the month. The next H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations are being offered at Inova Alexandria Hospital, on Jan. 22, HEC Auditorium 3 - 6 p.m., 4320 Seminary Road.

The cost for the seasonal flu vaccine is \$25 per person (cash or check accepted). The cost for the H1N1 vaccine is \$10 per person (cash or check accepted). Medicare Part B is also accepted for influenza and H1N1 vaccinations.

For more information about immunizations and locations, call 703-750-8818 (or call 1-877-895-5BUG, toll-free) or visit inova.org/flu.

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[www.christthesaviouranglican.org](http://www.christthesaviouranglican.org)  
**703-953-2854**

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 9 am to noon Monday through Friday Pre-School  
**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
 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**

<p><b>Saturday Evening</b> 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)</p> <p><b>Sunday</b> 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)</p>	<p><b>Weekdays</b> (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary) <b>Children's Liturgy of the Word</b> Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English) <b>Sign Language Interpreter</b> Sunday at 9:00 am Mass</p>
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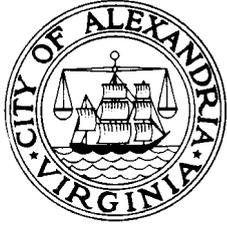
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Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2009-0035

Request for approval of a waiver of HVAC screening requirement at 202 Duke St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Lynn Rogerson Lewis

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

Alexandria City Public Schools

Saturday, February 6, 2010, 9 a.m. School Board FY2011 Budget Public Hearing and Budget Work Session, 2000 N. Beauregard Street

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 7:30 p.m. School Board FY 2011 Budget Public Hearing and Meeting, 2000 N. Beauregard Street

If you would like to address the Board, please contact Clerk of the Board Rosemary Webb at 703-824-6614 or rwebb@acps.k12.va.us

OBITUARY

Lucille Elaine Tubbs, age 44, passed away Saturday January 16, 2010 at Capital Hospice in Arlington, Virginia.

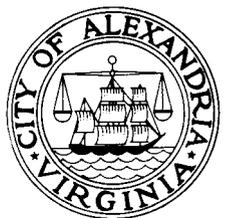
Ms. Tubbs was born March 12, 1965 in Washington D.C. and was the daughter of Diana (Thompson) Tubbs of Alexandria, Virginia and the late Morley Tubbs.

Other than her mother, survivors include her loving companion, Timothy Clark of Springfield, Virginia; one son, Josef Rodriguez of Manassas, Virginia; two daughters, Amanda Haas of Burke, Virginia and Devon Herring of Fredericksburg, Virginia; four sisters, Judy Bolton and her husband, William of Alexandria, Virginia, Kathleen Beach of West Columbia, South Carolina, Dianna Herring- Tubbs of Falls Church, Virginia and Lori Peavy of West Columbia, South Carolina. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Matthew Haas and Micah Madayag.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 AM Monday, January 25, 2010 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, 701 N. Columbus Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

The interment of her ashes will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia.

Arrangements by Cunningham Funeral Home in Alexandria, Virginia.



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
FEBRUARY - 2010

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the following dates. NOTICE: Some of the

Legal Notices

items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information call the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-746-4666.

PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010
7:30 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

TEXT AMENDMENT #2009-0009

AMENDMENTS TO ADOPTED RESIDENTIAL INFILL REGULATIONS

A) Initiation of a text amendment; B) Public hearing and consideration of a request for an amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance regarding infill development.

Staff: Department of Planning and Zoning

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0059

516 A EAST HOWELL AVENUE

SINGLE FAMILY HOME

Public hearing and consideration of a request for a parking reduction and site plan modifications for construction of a single family home; zoned RB/Residential.

Applicant: Douglas Drabkowski

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0064

3401 MOUNT VERNON AVENUE

RESTAURANT

Public hearing and consideration of a request to operate a restaurant and a request for a parking reduction; zoned CSL/Commercial Service Low.

Applicant: Jose M Cabero, Jose G Cabero and Marisol Gonzalez

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0077

10 EAST GLEBE ROAD

CHEZ ANDREE

Public hearing and consideration of a request to allow outdoor seating at a grandfathered restaurant; zoned CL/Commercial Low. Applicant: Chez Andree, Inc.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0079

654 SOUTH PICKETT STREET

PARKING REDUCTION

Public hearing and consideration of a request for a parking reduction for a restaurant; zoned I/Industrial. Applicant: Seleshi Getachen

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

SUBDIVISION #2009-0007

400 PRINCETON BOULEVARD

SUBDIVISION

Public hearing and consideration of a request to subdivide property into two lots; zoned R-20/Single-Family. Applicant: Daniel and Lillian York

DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN #2009-0015

3737 SEMINARY ROAD

VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Public hearing and consideration of a request for a development site plan to construct an addition to an existing maintenance building and a below grade heating and cooling pipeline system; zoned R-20/Residential. Applicant: The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary represented by Duncan Blair, attorney

DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN #2009-0008

731 AND 735 NORTH COLUMBUS STREET

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH PARKING LOT

Public hearing and consideration of a request for additional parking at a church; zoned

RB/Residential. Applicant: St. Joseph Parrish and Rev. Paul S. Loverde by Daniel Straub, agent

NEIGHBORHOOD

Old Town

THE PLOT THICKENS - The Old Town Civic Association has crafted a thoughtful and useful Waterfront Plan, 'Townners. Trouble is, it flies in the face of another waterfront plan apparently favored by many of our city fathers, developers and business interests.

Guess what? This is shaping a brawl between competing Alexandrians who mean well but are legions apart on their vision of what our town's waterfront will look like in both the near and distant future.

The gauntlet between the differing parties was thrown down fairly clearly in this comment in the January issue of the Old Town Crier, the monthly newsletter of OTCA: 'What Alexandria has in Old Town is what many cities have tried, and failed, to create. One object of the City's waterfront planing should be to polish that jewel further, not shatter it.'

Wow! Them's fightin' words, 'Townners.

OTCA strongly feels that the so-called City plan focuses too much about growth, centering on Old Town as a revenue raiser at the expense of its old and historic character. But the plans are radically different, as OTCA President Poul Hertel says, in their perspective, approach and consistency. 'By that, I mean one is narrowly focused on business and short-term revenues, while the other takes a more holistic approach that believes 'if we want to be here and shop here, so will tourists,' Hertel says. 'Because we are in a historic urban city, let us focus on the entire sandwich, not just the gravy.'

Somebody at OTCA must be listening to their leaders, because the group — more than 100 members — gathered at the Lyceum on Jan. 13 and voted unanimously to support the organization's waterfront plan, as opposed to the City's. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce who strongly support the City's version on waterfront planning were not happy.

OTCA believes that its plan is an evolution of the 1992 small area plan adopted by the City. It builds on the strengths of Old Town, while on a more scientific basis sets out to explain why there are issues that ought not to be skirted in favor of illusionary quick fixes. Says OTCA: Instead of catering to a group-think mini-National Harbor approach, it suggests a balanced process.

Your hard-working neighborhood columnist closely studied the OTCA plan and believes that it is on the mark with respect to the waterfront's future. I could also say the City's approach needs work, but I guess I just did.

— BOB FELDKAMP

Taylor Run

FAREWELL TO MORT

Mort Langstaff was the soul of the party innumerable times; it happened again at the memorial service at Trinity Episcopal Church in Arlington, which bulged at the seams with friends who had come from all over the USA to pay tribute.

The church resounded with laughter and music as family and friends recalled Mort and his jokes and the King Street

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Mercer Leads City's Democrats

FROM PAGE 3

like to expand outreach efforts. What plans do you have in this regard?

From giving our members Democratic business cards to pass out to anyone interested in joining our committee, to holding monthly meetings that will be issue-focused and will engage participants, we have a number ideas being discussed that will focus on outreach. Without a doubt, the core of our outreach activities will happen at the precinct level, and we plan on having more events spread across Alexandria meant to engage all of our neighborhoods and stakeholders in our community.

What's your favorite movie?

'It's A Wonderful Life.' Always a great movie to watch over the holidays and it reminds me of what is really important. I am lucky to have an incredible wife, live in a great city, and serve organizations like the Alexandria Democratic Committee.

What's your favorite book? Why?

'The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt' by Edmund Morris. The book reads like it is fiction because Teddy Roosevelt was such an exciting and adventurous person. Before he ever became president, it seemed like he had already lived numerous lives as he was a war hero, historian, naturalist, rancher, New York assemblyman, governor and assistant secretary of the Navy.

Raising Funds for Haiti

Several TC Williams' graduates are organizing a yard sale to raise funds for the Red Cross's work in Haiti. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 2413 Mt. Vernon Ave.

They need both items to sell and people to purchase. Items for sale can be dropped off at 2413 Mt. Vernon Ave. on Friday, Jan. 22, between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Strutters played Dixieland jazz.

GLORY HALLELUJAH

A special choral tribute was sung by the combined Trinity Church Adult choir and the Columbia Pike Community Chorus, two groups in which he had sung.

The entire congregations marched out singing 'When the Saints Go Marching In' and went to the parish hall for a reception and joyous music by Dave Robinson (cornet), Dallas Smith (upright bass), Frank Cocuzzi (drums), Larry Kopp (clarinet), Rick Rowe (guitar), Bob Hoyle (clarinet), Dave Littlefield (banjo), Gary Gregg (clarinet), John Jensen (trombone), Hollywood (tenor sax), and singer Jacqueline Groover.

Vice-mayor Del Pepper and husband F.J., Jane Hugh Campbell with sons Gary and Hugh, Drew Carroll, Bob Calhoun, Hazel and Ron Rigby, Mel Berghem, and Hank Huhn were among the many Alexandrians present.

Frances Pickering, who grew up just across the street from the Langstaffs on North View Terrace, came, as did the O'Flaherty family — Judge Daniel Fairfax, wife Resa, and daughter Lucelle.

Judge Steve Rideout, wife Bobbie, Judge Alfred Swersky and Michele Evans, John Porter, Cindy and Mac Page, Andy Pohl, Dick Taliaferro and wife, Tom Tyler, Fran Vaughn, Barbara Beach, Fran and Grant Redman, and Ernie Sult also came for a great party for a great guy.

What's your favorite Alexandria restaurant? What do you order?

Right now I am really enjoying a new restaurant that is walking distance from my house, Pizzaiolo Café on Fern, and I am partial to their chicken parmesan sub. That said, as a lifelong Alexandrian, while I love all the new restaurants that have opened in Del Ray, I would be remiss not to give Al's Steak and Cheese, open since 1956, a shout out.



Correction

Torpedo Factory artist Tatyana Schremko works on a snow sculpture on the dock behind the Art Center after December's snow storm. The wrong photo was published in last week's Gazette Packet.

# SPORTS

## Titans Win But Effort Earns 'D+' from Coach

**T.C. Williams pulls away from West Potomac in fourth quarter.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**C. Williams boys basketball coach Julian King stood outside the Titans locker room Saturday night and discussed the 21-point beating his team had just received courtesy of national-power Montrose Christian. While the final had long been displayed on the Garden scoreboards, King said the game's outcome, in terms of the Titans' season, would be determined three days later when T.C. Williams hosted West Potomac.

While the Titans' win-loss record is impressive — 8-2 after the Montrose defeat — the Titans struggled with consistency early in the season. The team lacked a sense of urgency, figuring everything would be OK by game's end. Hopefully, King thought, the lopsided loss would motivate his team during its following game.

On Tuesday, T.C. Williams defeated West Potomac 62-52. The Titans improved to 9-2, 7-0 in the Patriot District and still haven't lost a district game since the 2004-05 season. But it wasn't good enough for King. T.C. Williams got off to a slow start and led by only four in the closing minutes of the contest before eventually pulling away. Essentially, the Titans did exactly

what King did not want them to do.

A win is a win, right? Not this time.

King's grade for Tuesday's Titan performance: D+

"Just our lack of energy and motivation after a 21-point loss at home in front of a large crowd; it's just amazing to me that we didn't come out [and even if we were] making mistakes, [we were making them] going 100 mph," King said. "We're just lackadaisical with everything and assume we're always going to pull it out at the end. It's not going to work like that [all the time]."

**T.C. WILLIAMS LED** by one at halftime and trailed 30-29 when Keevyn Hankins scored for West Potomac early in the third quarter. The Titans outscored the Wolverines 18-8 during the period, including an 11-0 run, and appeared to gain control. But West Potomac battled back and twice pulled to within four on baskets by Martez Redfearn. Leading 53-49 with two minutes to play, the Titans scored nine of the game's final 12 points to secure the win.

T.C. Williams post Billy Rowland scored 10 of his team-high 19 points in the fourth quarter. He was 8-of-9 from the free-throw line in the period and threw down a two-handed dunk.

"It's not the win that we wanted," Rowland said. "... We didn't come out with the intensity that we should have had coming off a loss like [the one to Montrose] in our home building."

The Titans forced 21 turnovers, but also turned the ball over 21 times. Rowland scored 19 points and Ryan Yates had 12, but no other Titan finished in double figures — a problem King is hoping will be solved by the emergence of a consistent No. 3 scorer. Daquan Kerman scored eight points for the Titans and Tayron Chambers and Tyrell Sitton each finished with five.

"This T.C. team isn't more athletic than anybody else," King said. "At the end [of Tuesday's game] when we got a few of those turnovers, it was because we were in position. If we were just that good athletically, then I could sit down a lot. I wouldn't have to give out as much instruction. But we're just not overly talented. ... Guys that we have that are athletic, they're inexperienced. We're just a different type of team."

Redfearn led West Potomac with 19 points and sharpshooting point guard Daryl Copeland finished with 15, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Head coach David Houston III said the Wolverines wanted to put defensive pressure on Yates and Rowland while moving the ball around and finding quality shots on the offensive end. West Potomac played well enough to give itself a chance in the fourth



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT / GAZETTE PACKET

**T.C. Williams post Billy Rowland, right, is defended by Montrose Christian forward Paul Gombwer during Saturday's game at the Garden. Montrose won 67-46.**

quarter, but made too many mistakes to overcome.

"[Our players] followed the game plan ... we just turned the ball over too many times," Houston said. "[T.C. Williams] caused them. It's not like we just threw the ball out of bounds on our own. They're a good team, but I thought we played well enough, outside of those turnovers.

"... We wanted to win. There are no moral victories out of this. We came here to win, flat out. Last year, we came in here [and] we

played them, same guys, and we lost by [31 points]. A year later, we came in here and we had them on the ropes. ... The only thing I'll take out of it is we'll see them again."

**T.C. WILLIAMS ALSO** defeated Lee 69-59 on Jan. 14.

Next up for the Titans is a trip to Georgia for the Atlanta National Invitational Showcase. T.C. Williams will depart Thursday and

SEE TITANS, PAGE 24

### 5 Qs with T.C. Williams post Billy Rowland

**Q: What do you like to do when you're not playing basketball?**

**A:** When I'm not playing basketball I'm normally hanging around the neighborhood [or] hanging around with my family, doing things together.

**Q: What is the farthest you've traveled away from the Washington D.C.-metro area?**

**A:** [For AAU basketball] we took a trip out to Cincinnati once. ... We [the Titans] are taking a trip to Atlanta this weekend. It's going to be very fun.

**Q: You transferred from Bishop Ireton two years ago. What has the transition been like?**

**A:** Private school is a lot different from public school. [T.C. Williams] is a lot bigger, definitely, because it's the only public school in Alexandria. There are a lot

of kids here. Private school is more compact — it's not open to everybody else. ... [T.C. Williams] is a very upscale school. It definitely has the credentials to be a private school — I would call this a private school, myself, because they put in a lot of work for the students.

**Q: What is your favorite food?**

**A:** Any type of meat, really. Chicken, hamburgers. Spaghetti, I really like spaghetti — that's my favorite.

**Q: Do you have any college plans?**

**A:** I'm definitely looking to play ball in college. I really want to play [Division I] ball. ... That's my goal. I just want to go somewhere I would be accepted, everything would fit me right [and] I could get a scholarship.

— JON ROETMAN



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## SPORTS

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET SPORTS EDITOR JON ROETMAN  
 703-224-3015 OR JROETMAN@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### T.C. Williams Girls Beat West Potomac

The T.C. Williams girls basketball team traveled to West Potomac on Tuesday and beat the Wolverines 60-48, improving its record to 5-9, 3-5 in the Patriot District.

Charnelle Huggins scored a team-high 16 points for the Titans. Jasmine Norman scored 15 points and Sade Barber finished with 12 points, going 8-for-8 from the free-throw line. Head coach Cavanaugh Hagen in a text message said the team is "still working on consistency and controlling our transition game."

#### SPORTS BRIEFS

The Titans lost at Woodson 51-38 on Friday at beat Lee 69-22 on Thursday at home. The 69 points were a season high for T.C. Williams. The Titans host West Springfield at 7:45 p.m. Friday. T.C. Williams lost its earlier matchup with the Spartans 79-45 on Dec. 11.

### McCulloch Named POY

Connor McCulloch from the Alexandria youth football league was named the 75-pound National division Player of the Year by the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame. Episcopal's Hunter De Butts was named the private school Player of the Year.

### Saints Wrestling Wins JPG Invite

After winning their tri meet on Friday by defeating Landon 55-24 and Annapolis Area Christian School 48-27, the Saints wrestling team concluded a successful weekend by winning the John Paul the Great invitational on Saturday. The Saints entered 11 wrestlers and all 11 placed in the top three. Finishing third for the Saints were Brady Riles, Ben Luce and Tom Ed Becherer, finishing second were Jonathan Herrera, Erik Romanin, Matt Brinckerhoff and Doc Jacobsen, winning their weight classes were Shaw Whitley, Greg Voorhees, Tyler Haley and Kyle Swenson.

### Williams Scores 9 in Win

Aaron Williams of Alexandria scored nine points for the Thomas Jefferson boys basketball team, which beat Marshall 48-42 on Friday for its first Liberty District victory.

### Youth Sports Coaches Needed

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is currently seeking volunteers to coach youth baseball, girls fastpitch softball, track and field, summer basketball and swim team. Criminal history background checks are required. Interested persons should call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.

### Softball, Baseball Registration Underway

Registration has begun through March 15 for the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Youth Girls Fastpitch Softball for girls ages 5 - 16 years old and Youth Baseball Program for boys 5 - 8 years old. Anyone interested in registering should pick up a registration form from any of the neighborhood recreation centers or contact

the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or go on the department's Web site at [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation). Registration fee is \$25.00.

### MVHS Dinner and Auction

Mount Vernon High School Girls Basketball 11th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday. 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](mailto:Terry.Henderson@fcps.edu).

### MV Baseball Camp

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](http://mountvernonssports.org) or contact Luke Sable at [lsable@fcps.edu](mailto:lsable@fcps.edu) or by calling 703-405-5497.

### Youth Girls Volleyball League Championship

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Youth Girls Volleyball Program ended its season on Dec. 18 with the championship games. The semifinal games pitted Coach Ray's regular league champion team against Coach Hoffman's team with Hoffman's team winning in an upset, 2-1. In the other semifinal game, Coach Corbin's team defeated Coach Shomari's team 2-1.

In a spirited and tightly contested championship match, Corbin's team defeated Hoffman's team 2-1, winning their first league championship.

### 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 local community's sports leagues by signing up. Call Ken Williams (703-400-3232) for more information or go to [umpires.org](http://umpires.org) to fill out a "New Ump" form.

### Titans Win, But ...

FROM PAGE 23

play games Friday and Saturday. On Friday the Titans face Thomas Jefferson from New York (7:30 p.m.), and on Saturday they take on Centennial from Georgia (7 p.m.).

When asked if the Titans need a loss to an opponent less talented than a national power to get their attention, King pointed out that had already happened.

"We lost to Hayfield" in our season opener, King said. "It just so happened that they're not in our district this year. But they're a Northern Region team and a team we had beaten the last four years. ... That's not the way we wanted to open our season. If that didn't motivate you, what will?"

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



**Murutamanga Kabahita, Liam Bowman, Marcia Call, Sara Rich and Mattie Rich. Marcia Call, Sara's stepmother served as a Peace Corp volunteer in Zaire (present day Democratic Republic of the Congo) after completing college 20 years ago. Kabahita, a Congolese, worked with Marcia as her program guide. They met for the first time in 20 years at Sara's gathering on Jan. 5.**

## Building Partnerships in the Congo

**M**ore than 100 family and friends of Sara Rich gathered Tuesday, Jan. 5, at a storefront on Mount Vernon Avenue to hear about Rich's future volunteer plans in the Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo. After graduating from T.C. Williams in 2002, Rich received a BA in history at UVA and followed up with a master's in teaching. She has been working as a teacher and administrator for the past three years in The American School in Kinshasa, Congo.

Rich would like to return after completing this school year in Kinshasa and volunteer for a year working with teachers in the Magunda School in Goma. "Working with teachers for better access in best practices" is Rich's idea as to how to raise the level of education the students receive. She admits that her position at the international American School is most privileged in that she and her fellow staff have entered into the most recent advancements and skills through workshops and seminars. She adds that these resources are not available to most of the teachers in Goma.

To make her plan a reality in August of 2010, Rich needs to raise \$23,000 to meet her expenses of living in Goma for the year.

Serendipitously, Rich's step-mother Marcia Call became a Peace Corp volunteer after completing her undergraduate studies at Bates College. Call was in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) in 1980 and finished up in 1982. She was



**Friends of Sara Rich: Maddie and Henry Smith, Mattie Rich and Harper Jensen.**

posted in Kibututu, a small village 30 kilometers north of Goma where Rich will be. One of Marcia's program guides, Murutamanga Kabahita, now a teacher at the Potomac School, heard about Rich's volunteer plan's from a mutual friend and called Rich's dad, Lonnie. While talking with him on the phone, Kabahita realized the connection between Sara Rich and Call and was invited to join the reception in Del Ray last week. A native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kabahita still works with Projet Lycee Amani in Goma.

The program helps support high school girls to continue and complete their education. Kabahita promised Sara Rich that he would be in Goma when she arrives this summer.

For more information on Sara Rich's project visit <http://web.me.com/sara.elizabeth.rich/Goma>



**Executive director of Friends of the Congo Maurice Carney talks with Sara Rich after her presentation. With Carney is journalist and speaker Makeda Crane.**

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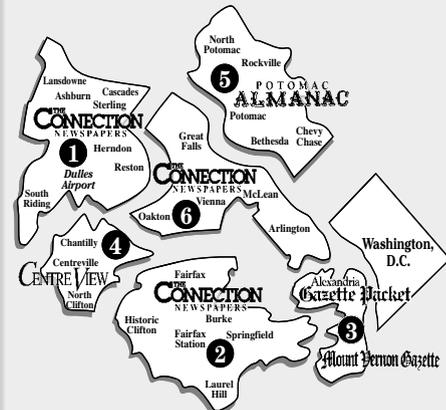
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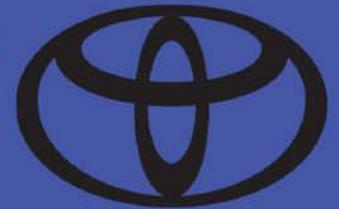
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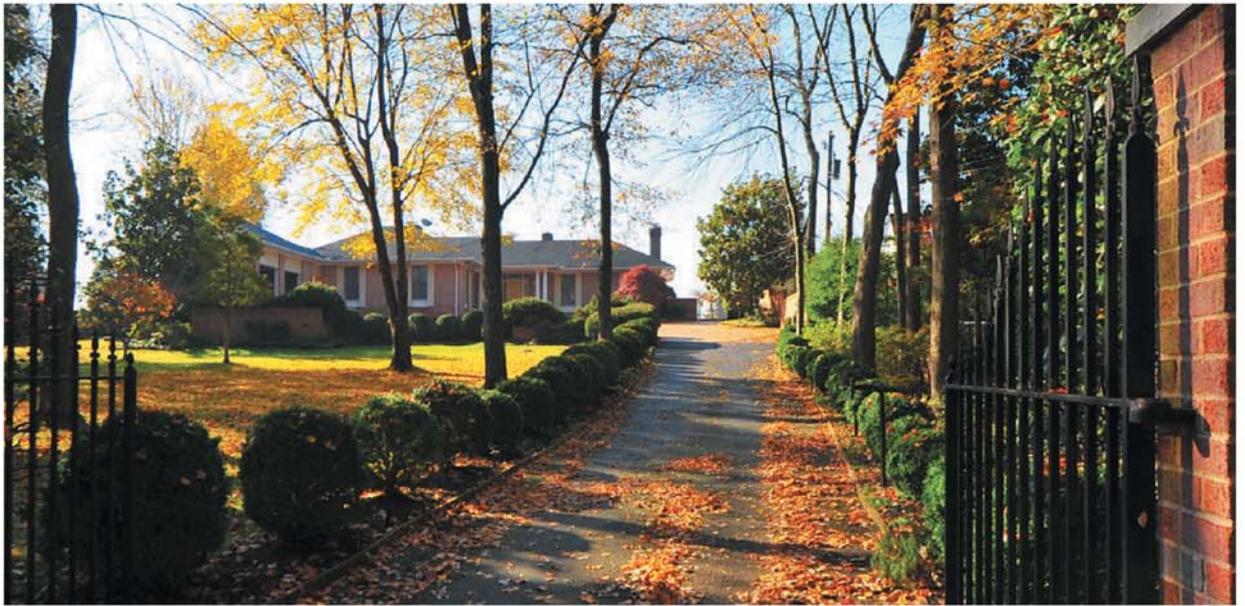
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