

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 28, 2010



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Dancemaster Corky Palmer leads an assembly of ladies to the top of the floor for the next dance.

1860's Civil War Ball

On Saturday evening, Gadsby's Tavern Museum hosted an 1860's Ball. The historic ballroom was led in dancing by dancemaster Corky Palmer.



Gadsby's Tavern Museum director Gretchen Bulova is joined by her husband, state Del. David Bulova for the ball last Saturday evening.



Audrey and Eduardo Prestonsoto

Moore Learning

Donning the black robe in General District Court can be a difficult proposition, requiring a broad knowledge of law and precedent. It also involves thousands of minute details, such as how the remote video system works and operational details of the commonwealth's breathalyzer machines. For attorneys who have been approved as substitute judges, it's a lot to take on all at once.

"There are so many details, thousands and thousands of details for them to know," said Moore one

Substitute Judges Institute convenes for inaugural session here.

recent morning before her docket began. "It's not an easy task but one that is just a great joy if you love and people."

That's why Moore created the first-ever Substitute Judge's institute, a one-day conference that met in

SEE SUBSTITUTE, PAGE 7

Missing the Mark

Superintendent's proposal exceeds budget guidance issued by council.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Unlike leaders of other school divisions in Virginia, Superintendent Morton Sherman is determined not to reduce class size. And he's willing to gamble that the City Council will fork over more than expected to make it happen.

"I believe this budget reflects fiscal restraint and responsibility," said Sherman. "We will not shirk our responsibility, either morally or legally."

In a budget proposal issued last week, Sherman announced a series of caps to class sizes, ranging from 20 in Kindergarten classes to 24 in fifth-grade. The superintendent's proposed budget would also create an early childhood center at John Adams Elementary Schools, establish a Teen Wellness Center and add an Advanced Placement coordinator at T.C. Williams High School. It would eliminate some summer enrichment programs and jettison two non-teaching programs at T.C.

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 3

Competitive Pricing?

Hundreds of public employees are paid more than \$100,000.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Some have been around for decades, taking advantage of annual salary increases. Others were recruited at top-dollar salaries to join the city government. Together, they form a rarified club of city employees who pull down more than \$100,000 each year — not including benefits and perks.

The list includes 163 of 2,600 city government employees and 83 of 2,000 school system employees.

At the top of the city's list is City Manager Jim Hartmann, who has a \$233,000 annual salary. Other top paid city employees include deputy city managers, departmen-

tal managers, assistant city attorneys, deputy sheriffs, police captains, fire battalion chiefs and civil engineers.

The highest paid public employee is Superintendent Morton Sherman, who makes \$240,000 a year. Other top salaried school employees include departmental directors, principals, counselors, curriculum specialists, athletic directors and one teacher.

"That may sound like a pretty good job," said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "But local governments have

SEE \$100,000, PAGE 24

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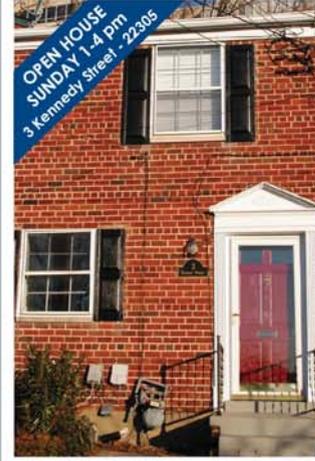
New Listing

Beginning with the roof, this home has been remodeled from top to bottom. The new kitchen is newly open to the dining room with new French doors open to new deck to yard with new landscaping. New bathrooms, huge closets, garage, new paint, refinished hardwood floors. Located in wonderful Westgrove along the GW Parkway.

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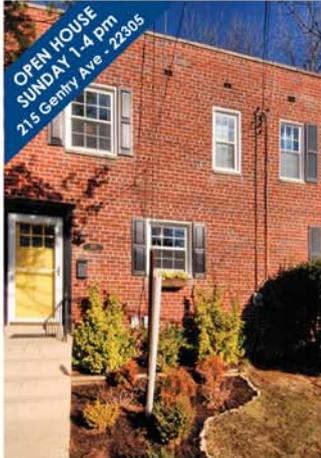
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ALEXANDRIA \$659,000



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This five-bedroom Colonial won't require expensive add-ons and offers spacious rooms, gleaming hardwoods and fresh paint throughout. Looking for a den, garage and huge basement, it's here! The master suite includes a full bath, separate vanity and a large sitting room perfect for an exercise studio, office, nursery, or the walk-in closet of your dreams.

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Bridging a Disconnect

What started out as legislative effort to drastically change to how individuals are barred from public housing property has been withdrawn, modified, withdrawn a second time and modified again. A third version of legislation introduced by Del. **David Englin** (D-45) will be considered by the City Council's legislative delegation later this week.

"It's possible that what we end up with might be so watered down it's not worth the effort," said Vice Mayor **Kerry Donely**, adding that the bill has occupied an "inordinate" amount of time. "We'll see when the legislative committee takes this up again."

Englin's original bill required a hearing before barment took effect. But that version outraged some residents and police officials, who said such a change would be a threat to public safety. A second version of the bill was formally rejected by the council's legislative committee, which concluded that changes could be made at the local level and that the bill was unnecessary. Now Englin is back with a third version he says has less prescriptive language that would give housing authorities more flexibility.

"There are some people who believe this doesn't go far enough in protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens visiting family members in public housing, and there are others who think this entire effort is unnecessary because they see no problem with the current system and refuse to believe that anyone is ever barred unfairly," said Englin in a written statement. "For me, this effort has laid bare the unfortunate disconnect between those in law enforcement who see themselves as infallible defenders of the peace and public housing residents, their families, and legal-aid attorneys who see injustice at every turn."

Pipe Dreams

Back in 1990, the dream of Carlyle seemed so alluring. Now, two decades later, the Alexandria City Council has officially given up on its vision of second-floor retail in the Carlyle neighborhood — a collection of red-brick structures near the Patent and Trademark Office. The move was prompted by a glut of empty buildings, visual proof that the council's original idea was little more than a pipe dream.

"We've probably made some mistakes," said Mayor **Bill Euille**, who was a member of the council that adopted the original zoning rules. "We had a lot of hopes and dreams, but things just didn't happen the way they should."

Retail space in two four-story buildings remains completely empty, devoid of tenants since they were completed last year. A nearby five-story building opened in 2007, yet it still has three vacant retail spaces on the first floor and another vacant retail space on the second floor. Desperate to attract tenants to the vacant buildings, City Council voted last weekend to abandon the 1990 vision and allow offices in the second-floor space.

"This is the direction I think Carlyle should have been going in a long time ago," said Councilwoman **Del Pepper**, who was also a part of the City Council that approved the original zoning designation. "This is an area that needs more life and activity."

Attaining Changes

Of all the ways to describe Alexandria, "non-attainment area" is probably not the most poetic. But it's an important distinction that's now at the heart of a significant piece of legislation making its way through the General Assembly. Essentially, it means that Alexandria's air-pollution levels exceed national air-quality standards.

It's a distinction now at the heart of a debate unfolding in Richmond that could have significant repercussions here in Alexandria. Senate Bill 128 strips the Air Pollution Control Board of the ability to require electric generating facilities purchase pollution credits if they are located in "non-attainment areas." The bill was introduced by Sen. **Ryan McDougle** (R-4) and lists several key senators as co-patrons. Yet Alexandria legislative director **Bernie Caton** thinks he might be able to influence some of the bill's co-sponsors that the existing language of the bill would be detrimental to Northern Virginia. "Some people will sign onto things without looking very carefully," Caton told City Council members Tuesday night. "I wouldn't say our changes are slim to none, but I don't want to raise your hopes too high."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

King and Union Streets, Monday, Jan. 25, 2:36 p.m.

Flooding in Old Town

Bottom of Prince Street, Monday, Jan. 25, 2:10 p.m.



Schools Seek More from Council

FROM PAGE 1

Williams High School.

"We did not cut the budget," said Jean Sina, the school system's budget director. "We realigned the budget."

TO BALANCE the books, Sherman is looking to City Hall for help — putting an increased strain on a city budget already facing a \$43-million shortfall. Although the City Council voted for a set of guidelines asking the superintendent to limit the increase in his city appropriation to 2 percent, Sherman presented a budget requesting a 2.4-percent spike.

"The thing that's important to remember about guidance is that it's only guidance," said Tracy Rickett, chairman of the city's budget advisory committee. "It's like a shot across the bow."

The coming budget battles are certain to include many volleys back and forth, with interest groups across the city eager to protect their interests. Sherman made the first move, presenting a budget that will be considered by the School Board. City Manager Jim Hartmann will issue his proposed budget next month, and the process will culminate in May when the City Council sets a tax rate. Last year, the all-Democratic members of the previous council increased the average property taxpayer's bill \$76, raising the average bill from \$4,227 to \$4,303.

"It's very important that we keep in mind all the taxpayers of the city," said Republican Councilman Frank Fannon, adding that he will oppose increased taxes. "Everybody is going through these challenging economic times, and it's going to be very impor-

tant to do all we can not to increase the real-estate tax rate."

SHERMAN'S PROPOSAL for fiscal year 2011 would eliminate about 11 positions, although school officials say they have no plans for layoffs this year. It grants a salary increase to employees halfway through the school year, although it also asks all Alexandria City Public Schools employees to share the burden of health-care costs through a system of "rationalization" designed to encourage less expensive plans. Teachers and paraprofessionals will be offered a reduced number of contract hours.

"Some employees will work fewer hours," said Sherman. "Most will pay more for their health benefits."

For school officials trying to balance next year's budget, the budget constraints created by dwindling resources are exacerbated by sharp increases in enrollment. Over a two-year period, student enrollment in Alexandria has increased almost 800 students — a 7-percent increase. And next year's projections show that trend continuing in the next three years, with the division adding 1,400 new students.

"Although this is equivalent to adding approximately three elementary schools, we have accommodated our additional ACPS students without opening any new elementary schools or building 'learning cottages,'" explained senior school officials in the executive summary of the document released last week. "What may have been viewed in previous years as 'random acts of improvement' will become synchronized acts of improvement that build the bridge to higher student achievement."

Berth of an Agreement

Alexandria may no longer be one of the busiest port cities on the Eastern Seaboard, but commercial dock space in the City Marina is still highly prized real estate. And it's currently at the center of negotiations between city officials and a prominent Alexandria business.

Potomac Riverboat Company is best known for operating pleasure cruise ships such as the Cherry Blossom and the Admiral Tilp. For many years, it's held a license agreement allowing it to berth several ships in the commercial dock space at the City Marina outside the Torpedo Factory. But that agreement expired on Dec. 31. City officials granted a temporary extension through this month, and now they're negotiating with Potomac Riverboat Company for terms of a new agreement.

But for how long?

In a letter to city officials, the Potomac Riverboat Company requested a five-year lease. But City Manager **Jim Hartmann** and his staff opposed that.

"The parties did not reach an agreement on this point," wrote Hartmann in a memorandum outlining the negotiation.

Hartmann eventually recommended a three-year lease, although the City Council declined to take action to allow the parties time for continued negotiation. Meanwhile, Potomac Riverboat Company Vice President **Charlotte Hall** says she intends to hold out for the five-year lease.

"The only reason we agreed to a three year lease before is that the city planned on having the Waterfront Plan done by then," said Hall. "Now they are trying to hang that out there as a reason for us to agree to another three-year lease."

Moving Parts

Nothing says stability like Burke and Herbert Bank, the oldest bank in Virginia. That's why bank leaders wanted to make sure they had a transition plan when former president and chief executive **Charlie Collum** stepped down.

"A lot of businesses don't even bother with transition plans," said Collum. "But it was very important for us to have a clear plan for how this would unfold."

Step one was to find a replacement for Collum, who served as chairman and chief executive officer. President and chief operating officer **Hunt Burke** was tapped as the new CEO. Meanwhile, Chevy Chase Bank Vice President **Scott McSween** was brought in to replace Burke as head of operations and assume the role of president. The leadership change will be complete in April, when Burke is expected to be elected chairman of the board.

"I'll still be involved," said Collum, now serving his last days as chairman of the board. "My wife and I have always been very involved in the community, and we have no intention of changing that."

Agenda or Gimmick?

Republican Gov. **Bob McDonnell** marked his second week in office by announcing a series of budget amendments and legislative efforts he says will create more jobs and promote economic development in Virginia — an effort he calls a "Jobs and Opportunity Agenda." The package includes measures that would provide tax credits for movie production, help veterans open small businesses, lower the threshold for Virginia's major business facility job tax credit and direct future royalties and revenue from offshore energy production to transportation and green energy development.

"This is a jobs administration," McDonnell said at a Tuesday press conference in Richmond. "I have made creating jobs and bringing more opportunity to every region of Virginia my top priority."

But some Alexandria leaders have criticized his the approach as piecemeal.

"I have a problem with how the governor is unveiling this," said City Councilman **Rob Krupicka**. "The parts he hasn't unveiled yet are going to be the parts that will cause the biggest hurt."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS

Banta To Lead Chamber

BY GALE CURCIO

Charlie Banta, incoming chair of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, will be honored at the chamber's 2010 Chairman's Winter Gala being held this Saturday at the Hilton Mark Center.

What brought you to Alexandria?

The opportunity to manage the Hilton Mark Center, and to raise our two children in this great community.

Family

Married to Venus Banta with two children — Eddie 7, and Lola 6.

Education

Bachelor's degree from Cornell University.

Current job/primary occupation

General Manager at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

Prior jobs

General Manager at Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

General Manager at Wyndham International

Participation in Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Incoming Chair of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

"The first person to welcome me was Ken Moore, who came to visit me the second day I was here. I have been a member of the Chamber ever since. What the Chamber has done for me is opened doors to business and so-

cial relationships that would never have been there. It has benefited the charities that I work with so much. I tap into Chamber relationships to benefit causes that are important to me. As chair of the Chamber, he wants to extend the reach to different parts of the community, including government contractors, minority businesses, hotel & restaurants and associations."

Participation in other civic groups

Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association, West Springfield Rotary Club, Autism Advocacy Coalition of Virginia, Cornell Hotel Society, Autism Speaks, Autism Researchers Link, Give Kids the World — Angels

Passion

Banta works with several autistic groups to raise money for research and development.

"My son is autistic and that is the cause of my life. I want to make sure that he has the best future. I see hope for my son — he is at the high end of the spectrum and the public schools are doing a good job."

New things on the horizon

Banta is excited about the new DoD/BRAC 133 project at Mark Center that is scheduled for completion in September, 2011. This new center is in the Hilton's back yard and the proximity to a first-class hotel was one of the reasons for DoD's site selection. The



Charlie Banta

complex will bring in 6,400 new jobs and new government travel and convention business for the Hilton, which will run shuttle service to Metro stations at King Street and Pentagon City.

Activities/interests/hobbies

Fishing and golf

What are some ideas you have on ways to improve your community?

On transportation, we need to create a network that links bus, metro, light rail and streetcars and addresses not only today's issues but looks forward as well. On education, we need to be planning now to deal with the enrollment explosion that we are experiencing today in area schools, embrace early education and improve our delivery of special education. As a state, we need to pass two bills: SB 464 and HB 303. That would provide insurance coverage for early intervention therapies and treatment of autism. Intensive, early intervention improves cognitive abilities and functioning which would save taxpayers money for special education and social service funding.

What community "hidden treasure" do you think more people should know about?

The Winkler Botanic Preserve — a beautiful, 44 acre wooded garden with vegetation that is mostly natural to the area. Includes hiking paths, ponds and streams.

Restaurant Night Benefits Foster Children

The Advisory Council for The Fund for Alexandria's Child reports that its first restaurant night fund-raiser at Los Tios Grill at 2615 Mount Vernon Ave. on Jan. 18, was a success. Thanks to the generosity of Los Tios owner, German Mejia, and the response of community friends, the organization raised \$650 to benefit children in foster care. Among local supporters who turned out in full force were 22 members of the Washington Area Parrot Head Club, led by its president Raymond (Rock) Kulisch, who is also chairperson of The Fund's Advisory Council.

The Fund for Alexandria's Child provides activities for vulnerable children, those in foster care or at risk of abuse and neglect, when there are no funds available from any other source. Monies raised by The Fund pay for such items and activities as scout uniforms, club dues, sports equipment, karate or art lessons, class field trips, prom dresses, graduation fees, community college books, camping, and among other items.



From left: Jane Hughes, Los Tios Grill owner German Mejia and Ellen Volz.

For more information about The Fund and other ways to support the children, email thefundforalexchild@alexandriava.gov. Or visit www.alexandriava.gov/thefundforalexchild.

Alexandria Jaycees 'Dare to Dream'

Alexandria Jaycees, past and present, gathered with family, friends, and other members of the community on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the "Dare to Dream" event, held at the American Legion building in Old Town. The event was a fundraiser for Camp Virginia Jaycee, a summer camp for children with special needs.

Camp Virginia Jaycee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization where children and adults with intellectual and developmental

disabilities can participate in games, partake in new experiences, learn to appreciate the outdoors, and have fun. The facility is located on 90 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Bedford, Va. For more information go to <http://www.campvajc.org/>.

Donations for the camp can be sent to: Alexandria Jaycees, PO Box 1836, Alexandria, VA 22313.

From left, Sharon Sobel, "Dare to Dream" Chairperson, Tom King, Chairman of the Board, Camp Virginia Jaycee, Amy Tenhouse, Board of Directors Chair, Alexandria Jaycees.

PHOTO BY ROMNEY J. HOGABOAM/ALEXANDRIA JAYCEES



— MECHELLE SCHLOSS

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Saturday, Feb. 6th • Thursday Feb. 11th • Wednesday Feb. 24th
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You'll learn about the latest kitchen and bath design trends; the three levels of remodeling (cosmetic, "pull and replace" and custom); setting a timeframe for project completion; how to live through a remodeling project; and setting a realistic budget for each room.

FREE GAINING SPACE IN YOUR HOME SEMINAR:

Saturday Feb. 27th, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

At Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery, 5650-D General Washington Drive, Alexandria, VA

Whether it's reconfiguring existing space or adding new, this seminar will address creative ways to make your home work better for you and your family. The experts will discuss basements, in-law suites, home offices, exercise rooms, play rooms, creative storage ideas and more.

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The canine welcoming committee in the large dog play area.

Mayor Visits New Dog Daycare Facility

Mayor Bill Euille along with Val Hawkins, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, toured the new canine daycare and boarding enterprise on Swann Avenue on Thursday, Jan. 21. A Dog's Day Out opened for business on Nov. 14, 2009.

It is the second canine daycare facility in Northern Virginia for the father and son, Charles and Chas Richardson. The first location is in Vienna, Va. Offering, doggie daycare, boarding and grooming the center provides well lit, play stations for small medium and large dogs that have gone through an introduction evaluation. Evaluations include: friendliness, sociability, up to date vaccines, dogs must be spayed or neutered by 7 months and if the dog is a puppy it needs to have received the first three rounds of booster vaccines.

All daycare play areas are staffed continually

throughout the day in the climate controlled environment. For more information on A Dog's Day Out visit www.adogsdayout.com or call 703-739-ADDO.



Mayor Euille is introduced to a few of the afternoon guests by owner Chas Richardson.



Charles and Chas Richardson welcome Mayor Bill Euille to their new Dog Care center on Swann Avenue.

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Raspberry White Chocolate

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————— ♥ —————

BUSINESS NOTE

Wyndham Vacation Ownership, the vacation ownership company, announced its grand opening of Wyndham Vacation Resorts at National Harbor. This 250-unit urban resort, which is more than 75 percent sold out, is the second Wyndham timeshare resort in the Washington D.C. market, joining Wyndham Old Town Alexandria.

"Wyndham Old Town Alexandria was wildly successful when it opened in 1999 and it remains one of our most popular resorts so it was a natural decision to double our presence in this market," said Franz Hanning, president and chief executive officer, Wyndham Vacation Ownership. "This property remained an absolute priority for us, which is a testament to the popularity of the Washington D.C. area."

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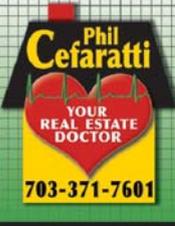
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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/CAZETTE PACKET

Substitute judges from across Northern Virginia were in Alexandria this week to be part of the first-ever Substitute Judges Institute, created by General District Court Chief Judge Becky Moore.

Substitute Judges

FROM PAGE 1

the city earlier this week. The event brought together a handful of judges from across Northern Virginia to learn about various aspects of the job. Although the Virginia Supreme Court already mandates once-a-year training, Moore said additional sessions are needed to substitute judges to be

up to speed.

"These days, lawyer tend to specialize," said defense attorney Jim Clark. "Judges don't have that luxury. They have to be versed in criminal procedure, civil procedure, substantive civil law, substantive criminal law and traffic law."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

3,000 Pairs of Shoes Donated

The Psi Nu Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity of Alexandria has succeeded in collecting more than 3,000 pairs of footwear that were donated to the Nashville-based Soles4Souls organization. The organization distributes footwear to people in over 125 countries, including Honduras, Uganda, Romania, and the United States.

Psi Nu collected 514 pairs of men's footwear, 614 pairs of kid's footwear, and an incredible 1911 pairs of women's footwear. Twenty-seven pairs of unusable footwear and seventy-eight single

footwear items were collected for recycling by the Soles4Souls organization. The footwear was sorted, pairs were banded, and the donations were packaged by chapter members in anticipation of delivery. The Psi Nu Organization amassed over 100 boxes of shoes weighing over a ton. Christopher Powell, Jr. of Configuration, Incorporated of Washington, D.C. donated the services of the corporation to provide the logistics to transport the footwear donations from the sorting location in Mitchellville, Md. to the Comfort One Warehouse in Manassas.

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Time for Civil Redistricting

Governor campaigned on non-partisan redistricting; now is time for proposals in General Assembly.

The U.S. Census is underway, an every-10-year process that attempts to count every single person in the United States at their home address. From the results of the count come a nearly infinite number of critical decisions. The way those decisions are carried out have consequences for every one of us.

One of those decisions is the redrawing of political lines for all political offices, including the General Assembly, U. S. Congress and local offices. In Virginia, the current process allows the political party in charge to draw the lines.

Proposals in the Virginia General Assembly could lead to a change in politics and democracy here. The measures would establish the Virginia Redistricting Commission to redraw Congressional and General Assembly district boundaries without the bitter partisan hatchet that has characterized Virginia's process under each party in the past.

Tradition in Virginia holds that the ruling

party decides how to redraw the lines around political districts after each census. The process in the past has involved the majority party using its power without any checks or balances to create districts that protect incumbents of the majority party and try to force out incumbents of the minority party.

EDITORIAL

The losers in the process are the citizens of Virginia, who first find themselves in political districts that make little sense geographically or in terms of communities of interest. They then find that even if they are unhappy with their elected officials, the gerrymandering has created districts that have killed any competition between parties, and that each party strongly discourages any primary challenges.

The result: most voters have far less choice in who represents them than they should.

There are probably hundreds of ways to set up a commission or non-partisan board that would take the politics out of the process.

House Bill 323, introduced by Del. Ken Plum

Summary of Redistricting Bill

"Bipartisan Redistricting Commission created. Establishes a seven-member temporary commission to prepare redistricting plans in 2011 and each tenth year thereafter for the House of Delegates, state Senate, and congressional districts. Appointments to the Commission shall be made one each by the four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman of the Commission. If they cannot agree, they shall submit the names of the two persons receiving the most votes to the Supreme Court for the Court to select the chairman. The Commission will prepare plans and submit them as bills to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then proceed to act on the bills in the usual manner. The bill provides for Commission comments on plans as they change in the legislative process. It also spells out the standards and process to be followed by the Commission in preparing plans, including limitations on the use of political data and opportunities for public comment on the plans."

SOURCE: <http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm>

(D) of Reston, and Senate Bill 626, introduced by Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel (R) pave the way for real reform and integrity in the political process.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Successful Relief Effort

To the Editor:

This past week, a notice was posted in the paper for a yard sale in which all proceeds would benefit the American Red Cross Haiti relief effort. To everyone who supported us, donated, shopped, baked, and volunteered: Thank you! We are now able to send approximately \$7,000 to Haitians, who desperately need the basics to survive in the earthquake's aftermath. We were also able to send 83 pairs of shoes to Haiti through a program called "Soles4Souls." The remaining donations will be given to charities throughout Alexandria and those in need.

Organizing this event was an incredibly empowering experience for us. Originally, we intended to have a small yard sale involving our immediate networks. However, the power of "the word of mouth" quickly spread to all in Alexandria. Leading up to and throughout the event, we were constantly surprised by the generosity of family, friends, acquaintances, neighbors, and even strangers! Throughout the weekend, we were reminded that every little bit makes a difference — that \$2 book purchases can add up to something meaningful for others.

If you were unable to participate in the yard sale, there are still many opportunities to give! The American Red Cross is gladly accepting donations. We encourage each of you to donate your resources and time. Thanks again!

Colleen Clark and
Stephanie Drachsler

Hospitality Lobby Hinders Education

To the Editor:

You know, this is beginning to remind me of an ugly chapter in Virginia history.

As you may know, Virginia was a little slow to get on board with civil rights. In 1954, Prince Edward County CLOSED its schools rather than integrate them after Brown v. Board of Education. Yes, closed. A public school for both blacks and whites did not open in the county until 1964.

Given this history, I shouldn't be surprised by yesterday's 5-4 vote against HB 1111, a bill that would improve educational outcomes for Virginia's most-needy students.

The bill, introduced by Del. Adam Ebbin, was straightforward. Allow any Title I elementary school in the state the option of opening its doors before Labor Day. Title I schools are those with a high percentage of needy children and that typically have difficulty meeting the state's educational achievement goals.

Why open before Labor Day? Research shows that many students without a rich summer experience lose ground on standardized tests over the summer. For example:

- ❖ Two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college (Alexander et al, 2007).
- ❖ Most students lose about two months of grade-level equivalency in mathematical com

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

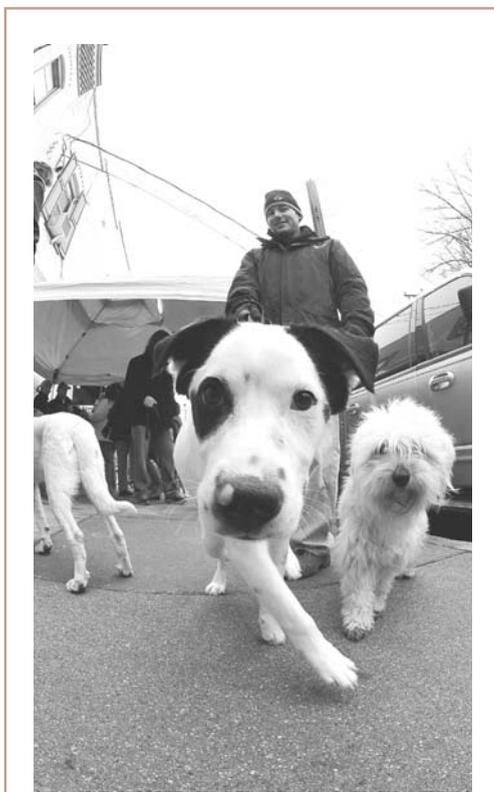


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Saving Dogs' Lives

K-9 Lifesavers hosted an adoption fair last Sunday, Jan. 24, outside the Old Town School for Dogs in Old Town. The organization rescues homeless and abandoned dogs and dogs in high-kill shelters. Volunteers provide temporary care for the dogs until they are ready for adoption. For more information visit www.k-9lifesavers.org

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OPINION

Governor Proposes New Spending

BY DAVID ENGLIN
DELEGATE (45TH DISTRICT)



Last week, Gov. Bob McDonnell addressed a joint session of the General Assembly and laid out his policy agenda for 2010. While there were a few strong points of disagreement, for the most part, he laid out a series of reasonable ideas to spur economic development and job growth in Virginia. For example, he noted the potential for a five-to-one return on investment if we increase state spending to attract the movie industry to Virginia. This was a good idea in 2008 when then-Delegate Brian Moran advocated it — and House Republicans mocked it — and it's a good idea today. An even better idea would be to expand early childhood education, which has a return on investment of at least seven-to-one (and many times higher than that, according to some research) but has little political support among Republicans in Richmond.

Governor McDonnell also proposed a \$500 per job tax credit for companies that create renewable energy jobs, which is nearly identical to the Renewable Energy Job Creation Tax Credit legislation that I developed and have proposed the past two years. Unfortunately, for all of the millions of dollars of new spending Governor McDonnell proposed, he also stated outright that he would veto any tax increases, and he has not yet identified what more he would cut from a budget that already guts core state services. As a newly appointed member of the House Finance Committee, I will be working not only to ensure efficient, effective use of our existing resources, but also to address the revenue side of the balance sheet, as sounds fiscal management demands. We cannot balance the budget merely by cutting, especially if those cuts threaten education and infrastructure, which are the keys to our future growth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

putation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, while their middle-class peers make slight gains (Cooper, 1996).

When this pattern continues throughout the elementary school years, lower income youth fall more than two and one-half years behind their more affluent peers by the end of fifth grade. Allowing these schools to open earlier, before Labor Day, would begin to address this achievement gap and help Virginia's most needy students get a better education.

But the bill was killed in committee, largely because of the opposition of the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association and King's Dominion. So once again, schools will be closed in Virginia, just like they were so many years ago.

Their reason for opposing the bill? "This bill hinders tourism," said King's Dominion

With those opening days of the General Assembly session behind us, we are settling in to the daily routine of committee and subcommittee meetings, constituent visits, and legislative work sessions. In addition to my new assignment to the House Finance Committee, I have been given a seat on the Natural Resources Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over regulations for clean air, clean water, and similar issues. This puts me in a strong position to help our community's ongoing efforts to control harmful emissions from the coal-fired power plant on the Old Town waterfront. Additionally, it will give me an opportunity to weigh in on Virginia's implementation of the Obama Administration's tougher clean air regulations.

While the Speaker removed me from the Privileges and Elections Committee (to stack it for next year's post-census legislative redistricting), I remain on the Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee. That has positioned me to work closely with various health care and equal rights advocates on House Bill 267, which will enable us to launch the Advanced Health Care Directives registry next month through a public-private partnership at no cost to users or taxpayers. This is the culmination of a two-year effort that began with my 2008 bill to establish the registry, so that health care providers and emergency responders will know exactly what your wishes are and who may make medical decisions for you, even if you are incapacitated far from home.

With nearly 2,000 bills in 60 days, plus the two-year budget, the General Assembly session moves very quickly. If you are interested in receiving weekly updates from me during the session, please sign up for my email list at www.davidenglin.org. As always, I welcome your ideas and your feedback at 703-549-3203 or DelDEnglin@house.virginia.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Marketing Manager John Pagel in an interview with the Alexandria Gazette. "We support the traditional calendar, which is a revenue generator for the state."

Come on Virginia, haven't we had enough of this? Look at the long-term implications, not the short-term results. Revenue for the state doesn't make a bit of difference if we don't spend it wisely now on educating our future workforce to support and build its economy for tomorrow.

Mimi Carter

Mimi Carter is a member of the Alexandria City School Board.

Schools on Wrong Course

To the Editor:

Here is a headline for ACPS: "Looking to Improve Student Achievement, Local School

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



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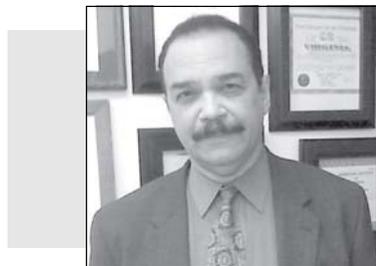
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LETTERS



PHOTO BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/CAZETTE PACKET

Providing Shoes for the Needy Melody Abella, founder of mobile yoga business abellaYoga, leads a packed house at Gadsby's Tavern Museum on Saturday, Jan. 23 in celebration of YogaDay USA, and the international shoe charity, Soles4Souls. Melody teaches vinyasa yoga to corporate and private clients in Mt. Vernon, Arlington, Alexandria, and Washington, D.C. For more information about abellaYoga and Soles4Souls visit www.abellaYoga.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

District Cuts 13 Reading and Math Specialists." That is right, the FY 2011 budget released last week by Mort Sherman and the big wigs at ACPS included a reduction of nine reading coaches and four math coaches from all elementary schools. Under the ironic budget category title "Champion Student Achievement and ensure an Effective Teacher for each and every Student" Sherman outlines how he intends to take reading and math teachers out of the schools and implement a "district wide" coaching model to meet the needs of students. So let me get this right, to meet the needs of every student and to champion student achievement, you are going to remove math and reading teachers from schools? Reading and math are two of this nation's and this district's most critical areas of need and this is how you intend to address deficiencies? If you honestly believe that taking teachers out of the classroom and away from working directly with students on a daily basis will improve student achievement, please put that in writing. Wait, you just did in this budget.

I spoke to a few teachers in the district who are blown away by this decision and they are telling me that an argument has been made by ACPS big wigs that research does not show that having literacy and math coaches within the classroom increases student test scores on the SOL. Excuse me but I thought this was an administration that was bent on not

making decisions based on SOLs or test scores? Regardless, this excuse for realigning math and reading teachers holds no weight. What ACPS is painting with their "research does not show" brush is the mere fact that little research has been done on the topic of literacy/math coaches in the classroom. A result of little research being compiled does not show that a method is ineffective. Quite the contrary in this case. Simply look at the research gathered by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Here is what the NCTM research shows regarding the effectiveness of math coaches and test scores: "Schools involved in the mathematics coaching project had an average increase of 9.2 percent on the mathematics section of the state achievement test compared with the state average of 6.4 percent." So why would ACPS move away from a method which is shown by research (albeit small amounts of research) to be effective for students?

ACPS wants principals, teachers, parents, and the community to believe that creating a district-wide reading and math model, where teachers are split between different schools, on different days, over different hours, with different responsibilities and different needs of different students is going to be more effective than leaving teachers within the schools. Hmmm. Here is what the NCTM research says about that: "programs that had mathematics coaches working in one subject area and in one school were more effective than the programs that

had coaches working in two or more subjects or schools." Since this current program is supported by evidence why is it being dismantled?

This school year ACPS moved their technology instruction to a district wide model and the children are seeing the disastrous effects of this poor and costly decision. The same result is sure to happen with math and reading instruction. There will be less teacher collaboration, less modeling of enriched math instruction, and less student achievement. Sherman and others at ACPS seem to forget or ignore the fact that, like the removed technology teachers, these math and reading teachers perform other vital duties within their schools. They provide intervention and enrichment classes to students, advise on the school support team, attend IEP meetings, run after-school clubs/programs, train tutors, host community event nights, and contribute in many other ways to the community of the school. Their loss will be the removal of yet another stone in the foundation of our schools. Principals, teachers, parents, and members of the community must speak out at upcoming School Board meetings and let the members of the Board know that this course of action is the wrong course and moves Alexandria backwards with respect to student achievement.

Meg Ashburn
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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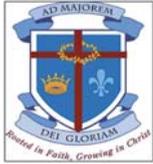
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NEWS



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

Welcome Guests were invited to the Lee-Fendall House Museum on Monday, Jan. 18, to honor the birthdays of General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and his son, General Robert E. Lee.



Tour Guide Tracy L. Sullivan answers questions as guests view the dining room.



A ceramic dish from the late 1800s.

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LETTERS

What Has Council Wrought?

To the Editor:

As a West End resident, it is interesting to read the ongoing discussion of "BRAC issues." That said, it is concerning to note that many in our City Government appear to want to characterize their having encouraged a major terrorist target to relocate in a residential neighborhood of Alexandria as nothing much more than a slight oversight. Perhaps they need to re-read our City's increasingly infamous Aug. 13, 2008 letter to the Army.

This is essentially the same City Government that had as its stated Goal 1, Objective 1 that "new development ... (is) ... compatible with the character and scale of Alexandria neighborhoods" The same people who talked about smart growth being around transportation corridors and metro stations. The same people who talked of increasing our commercial tax base by \$4-5 million a year from development of this site, then promoted its use to an entity which is exempt from paying real estate taxes. Who supported "open space" but now tell us that enclosed high-security courtyards and roof-top gardens count as such. Who have no apparent objection to a building footprint 77 percent larger than the Special Use Permit allowed.

This is essentially the same City Government which wrote the Army 17 months ago and invited them to choose either location (Eisenhower or Mark Center) as "both sites are quality locations which can well meet WHS requirements now and far into the future." Despite VDOT having advised the Army that the Mark Center site was "not viable" from a traffic perspective, our City's letter explicitly contradicted VDOT, stating that "while the Virginia Department of Transportation believes the additional traffic analyses of these two sites is warranted, the City is satisfied that the prior analyses which met the City's rigorous standards sufficiently considered the impact of a WHS-sized facility" and goes on to say the City was comfortable that "no additional transportation studies are warranted."

Our City Government concluded its letter to the Army, saying "the City believes that the overall EA (Environmental Assessment) report and conclusions are sound and the Finding of No Significant Impact ... is correct." Earlier, a far more extensive Environmental Impact Study was prepared for the originally intended relocation of these 6,400 people to Fort Belvoir's 8,600 acres: it reached the conclusion that such a move was the "Preferred Alternative." Fairfax County so vehemently asserted that there would be a dramatic "significant impact" that the Army agreed to pursue an alternative location for the 6,400 personnel. Yet when they chose to shoehorn this terrorist target into 16 acres in a residential area of Alexandria our City wrote the Army promoting what a "quality location" this would be, apparently unconcerned about the resultant impacts on local residents.

Some people are quick to suggest that this is all water under the bridge. However, many residents have yet to witness specific

actions which give us comfort that history will not repeat itself. What is being constructed at Mark Center can hardly be considered "compatible with the character and scale" of the neighborhood. It bears little resemblance to what our City told us was important when the Special Use Permit for this site was negotiated and agreed — yet the City's concerns now appear focused on how the roofline will be illuminated at night and what sort of art might adorn the side of the parking structure.

Just last week Rep. Moran publicly commented that "We are inheriting an insolvable mess." Now, 15 months after the selection of the site was announced, we are having community meetings to see if local citizens might somehow come up with solutions. And we are to do it with little information as to where the 6,400 people (existing DOD employees) will be coming from, what mode of transportation they anticipate using or would prefer to use and what routes they expect to take.

Although Rep. Moran has been a leader in recently securing roughly \$300 million for traffic mitigation at Fort Belvoir and the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Alexandria apparently missed out because the congressman "was unclear as to what infrastructure improvements (our) City Council was interested in ... they did not put in a request"

We are told that a key traffic mitigation measure would be to provide a dedicated ramp from I-395 directly into the Army's 1,854 space garage. It is difficult to imagine an interstate off-ramp built for the exclusive use of 1,854 vehicles entering and exiting five times a week.

The Army's concrete Colossus has precluded virtually every possible direct access from I-395 into the larger Mark Center site. The last remaining opportunity appeared to be where the Army now wishes to locate its remote inspection facility ("RIF"), to inspect large vehicles for explosives. Our City appears to have made no case to the National Capital Planning Commission other than to ask to have the RIF moved, stating no reasons whatsoever. We understand that two weeks ago the NCPC turned down the request, having been provided no reason to do otherwise.

Given the facts, it is hard to accept any suggestion that it was simply some minor oversight that leads to our finding BRAC-133 in our midst.

Donald N. Buch
Alexandria

Rebalance City Planning Process

To The Editor:

As if the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) office complex at Mark Center wasn't enough, the residents are being asked by the City to participate in a planning exercise that would bring even more growth and traffic to the Seminary-Beauregard area.

The City Planning staff held their second

In 40 seconds, his world changed.



This minute, you could change it again.

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 or mail your check to Community Coalition for Haiti, P.O. Box 1222, Vienna, VA 22183.

Our medical volunteers are in Haiti now. Please help.



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

Photo by © Cameron Davidson

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23

LIVING LEGENDS

Greene: Agent of Change

Working on civil rights in a segregated city.

BY SARAH BECKER

Senior Services of Alexandria describes 95-year-old Nelson Greene, Sr. as an Agent of Change. Born in Danville, Va., Greene migrated to Alexandria in 1953 to open a mortuary. "It's a hard job to analyze how things turned out," Greene said. "I was lucky."

Oprah Winfrey defines luck as the moment when preparedness meets opportunity.

"Luck has to do with getting in positions to make change," Greene smiled. Greene was the second black since Reconstruction to serve on Alexandria's City Council.

In 1953 Alexandria was a segregated, southern city dominated by Dixie-crats. "Not everything Harry Byrd did was wrong, I just can't remember what he did right," Greene said spryly. "It's the way he did it. I did the right thing getting Council to help." Greene served on City Council from 1979-1982.

In 1953 Alexandria blacks were the subject of racial discrimination. Virginia's eugenics law remained, schools were segregated, and a poll tax was required to vote.

Alexandria's schools did not desegregate until 1959, after Byrd's Southern Manifesto failed. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr. (D-VA) favored massive resistance as a counter to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 Brown decision.

"I can't even begin to describe massive resistance," Greene said quietly. "It was awful."

"With Jim Crow, blacks lived a

second-hand life," Greene continued. "You knew you couldn't do this or weren't allowed certain places. Whites seemed to be living better than we were and they didn't accept blacks as citizens of the United States. It was hard for whites to reposition after slavery and look on us as citizens, not slave people."

"In the 1950s — for political reasons — a group of us started the Secret Seven, to make things better for black people," Greene said. "I don't like politics but I wanted to make the community better."

"Segregation was very prevalent in Alexandria; we were told where we could live," Lionel Hope confirmed. "In the late-50s and 60s, when the city wanted to do anything in the black community they initially went to the Secret Seven. Once Nelson and I went on City Council, the Group sort of splintered." Hope, now a North Carolina resident, succeeded Greene on City Council and later became Alexandria's first black vice-mayor.

"Nelson is a quiet sort of person, very deep in thought and just the kind of person to tell us where Alexandria should be."

— Ferdinand Day

"Nelson is a quiet sort of person, very deep in thought and just the kind of person to tell us where Alexandria should be," said Ferdinand Day also a member of the Secret Seven. "Nelson has been a solid citizen from his entrance into the city and he has worked especially hard for the underclass."

Living Legends: The Project

Now beginning its third year, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photojournalistic project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria's Living Legends. The project was conceived by Nina Tisara to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

This is the first in a series of 12 profiles that will appear this year. For more information or to nominate a Legend for next year's program, visit www.tisaraphoto.com/legends.

"Nelson mentored all of us," Day continued, "in a quiet and direct manner. He is quiet, like Teddy Roosevelt was quiet. When others around him were upset, he kept his mind clear and the goals set. We relied on Nelson to keep us on target."

"I WAS APPOINTED to the Alexandria School Board in 1964 10 years after Brown," Day concluded. "The Secret Seven was responsible for my entry and I walked on Nelson's shoulders to get there."

"Nelson mentored me," Hope agreed. "I hold him in high esteem. Seldom do you find someone so down to earth who also has a good sense of leadership."

"If I could crow," Greene said hesitantly, "I fought for job opportunity. I was about integration, yes civil rights, and no blacks worked at City Hall except for janitors. I talked with stores and businesses, starting with the bus company and most ended up hiring blacks."

"Nelson Greene had a very suc-



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Nelson Greene, Sr.

cessful presence throughout the community," said 1970 NAACP President F.J. Pepper. "He was a positive point person for black stakeholders." The Seven secretly endorsed political candidates.

"Nelson was one of the people back in the day who paved the way for us to have a smoother existence," added past NAACP President Howard Woodson. "He took care of the major issues and we now have to insure the gains are maintained and all aspects of discrimination wiped away."

"Many people are brainier," Greene said. "I just wanted a better life for me and my family." Greene still lives with his wife Gloria above Greene Funeral Home at 814 Franklin St. Together they have two sons.

GREENE'S LIFE LESSON: "Whatever you see that you want to do, if it's the right thing for you to do, then use good common sense and make the effort to do it. Don't let others stop you! I wanted what the white boys had."

As a City Council member, Greene opposed the 1979 repair of the Washington Street Confederate Soldier's statue. "I opposed it because of what it represented," Greene said. "We need to get the whole Confederate background off the mind of people and take up today's problems, try to forget slavery and concentrate on a better situation for blacks."

Writer Sarah Becker was nominated as Living Legend of Alexandria in 2007.

PEOPLE NOTES

To have a People Note published in the Gazette-Packet, send an e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or call Steve Hibbard 703-778-9412. Pictures encouraged.

Kevin P. Reilly, president/owner, Alexandria Hyundai, Alexandria, will receive the Dealer Education Award from Northwood University for his efforts to improve education at all levels.

Since 1972, Northwood has recognized individuals in the automotive marketing field who have made noteworthy contributions to public or private education inside or outside of the industry. The ceremony is held in conjunction with the National



Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) convention to be held this year in Orlando, Fla.

Reilly is owner and president of Alexandria Hyundai, currently ranked in the top 5 percent of Hyundai dealers nationwide in sales volume.

His support expands to his community where his dealership is a community partner with the Mount Vernon Elementary School PTA, a supporter of St. Rita's School and T.C. Williams High School. Additionally, he has been a supporter of the Del Ray Artisan's summer art camp as a tuition sponsor.

Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Bass (center) is all smiles as Gen. Ann

E. Dunwoody, Army Materiel Command commanding general, places his new rank on his Army Combat Uniform as his wife, Kim, watches.

Bass, an Alexandria native, is commander of the Expeditionary Contracting Command, headquartered at Fort Belvoir.

Bass entered the Army in 1983 as a Distinguished Military Graduate through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Longwood University in Farmville, Va., and was commissioned in the Quartermaster Corps.

Bass has a Master of Arts Degree in Management from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri, and a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.



He is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Senior Acquisition Course, the Advanced Program Managers Course, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Training with Industry Program.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense and Army

Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service and Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal and many other awards achieved throughout his military career.

The KPMG Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to Alexandria resident **Genese Rogers** as it marks the 15th anniversary of its Minority Accounting Doctoral Scholarship program.

The Foundation established the scholarship program in 1994 as part of its ongoing efforts to increase the number of minority students and professors in business schools — and has since awarded \$8.7 million to minorities pursuing doctorate degrees.

Rogers is among 39 minority doctoral students each receiving a \$10,000 scholarship, renewable annually for a total of five years.

OBITUARY

Robert Louis Murphy, Sr.

In memory of Robert Louis Murphy, Sr., April 23, 1926 – Dec. 16, 2009:



Bob Murphy

The family of Robert L. Murphy, Sr. offers sincere gratitude to the colleagues, neighbors, family and friends in the Alexandria community in laying to rest their dearest husband, father, grand-father and great-grandfather on Dec. 23, 2009.

A native resident of Alexandria, raised in Del Ray, he had great pride in that community. Growing up he enjoyed pea-shooting, flying kites, and doing yo-yo tricks on the corner of Oxford and Mount Vernon Avenue with his friends. He is pre-deceased by his beloved mother and father, Elizabeth and Edward Murphy, brother Edward

SEE OBITUARY, PAGE 29

 **The United States AIR FORCE BAND**
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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

jcunningham@strita-school.org

3801 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305

Just in Time to Rescue Your New Year's Resolution!



The Fairfax County Park Authority's

Healthy Heart Pass Sale

offering the year's best prices on RECenter membership.

Now through February 14, save up to 17 percent

RECenter membership gives you what you need to maintain commitment to America's most popular resolutions –

Lose Weight and Get Fit!

♥ **Exercise that you enjoy** -- Choose from over 200 drop-in fitness classes offered weekly with no additional registration fee, state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment plus free weights, and indoor pools with dedicated lap lanes

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♥ **Support** – RECenter Fitness Directors offer guidance on realistic goals and an exercise regimen that's safe and effective for you.

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Testimonials

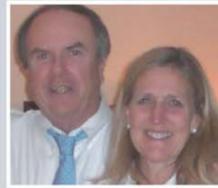
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—Dr. Joseph Arzadon

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CHRIS WHITE

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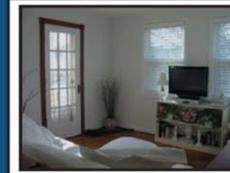
Just listed—special pre-construction opportunity! Fabulous new Wakefield Home on 3/4 acre site. Spacious custom residence with bright, open floor plan loaded with special features. Prime location combining large lot privacy with the convenience of being in the center of everything! Pre-construction pricing!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



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. Open Sun 1-4. Pkwy S past Estate, L Ferry Landing, L Allwood to 9316



3906 Rive Drive \$998,500
Stunning Property!
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvs including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site.



6616 E Wakefield Dr, #B-2 Alexandria \$260,000
BEAUTIFUL TWO BR PORCH UNIT! This 2nd floor end unit w/a porch has the best light & location in Belle View. Commuting is easy by bus, METRO, car or bike & walking to Old Town, shopping center, marina, bike trail & rec center is a way of life. Call for showing...



1820 37TH ST, NW Washington - \$949,000
FABULOUS listing in Georgetown/Burleith! Stunning top-of-the-line renovations! Formal LR w/fp, gourmet kit, 4BR, 3.5BA, den & sep DR. New basement renovation w/in-law suite w/full bath. Master Bedroom w/custom built-ins & en-suite marble bath.



1359 NORTH VAN DORN ST Alex / \$319,000
JUST LISTED! SUPERB OPPORTUNITY! Fabulous 2BR, 2 1/2 in Parkside. Features incl new, gorgeous Wide Plank Hdwd flrs thru-out this open plan. New baths, huge windows, kit island. Large BRs, storage, private patio. Low condo fees. Qualifies for Tax Credit, FHA approved. Virtual tour at www.soldbyanya.com www.soldbyanya.com Anya Macklin 703.518.8720



7501 Park Terrace Drive \$1,150,000
Stunning!
Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 113 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!



6909 BAYLOR DR Alexandria \$675,000
NEW LISTING IN WESTGROVE! 4 levels beautifully remodeled home just mins from OT, METRO & 2 streets from river. Hdwd's, glassed-in garden rm, new patio, kit w/SSA & quarry tile, den, 3BR, sep DR & huge unfin basement are just the beginnings of this great house. Previous owners were avid gardeners - the result is superb!



1691 HUNTING CREEK DR Alexandria / OT \$824,900
NEW LISTING! Spectacular price on this elegant townhome. Move-in ready with granite, hardwoods, premium berber carpet, beautiful slate patio and garden, deck off kitchen, attached garage. Simply stunning 4 bedroom /3.5 bath home w/open floor plan and 4th level guest room.



3436 FAWN WOOD LANE Oak Hill Estates/FFX \$1,350,000
NEW LISTING! Stunning 5BR/5.5BA Blackstone built Colonial. Home offers more than 6,000sqft on a one acre lot and features HW floors, 10' ceilings, gourmet kitchen, gas fp, 3-car attached garage and more!



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!



8706 EAGLEBROOK CT Alex /Wayne \$849,000
POTOMAC RIVER! Professionally landscaped, renovated home sited on .38acre in one of Wayne wood's most prestigious cul-de-sacs. French country kitchen features 20' Brick wall w/FP, granite, island & large deck. Minutes from OT and DC. 6BR, 3BA.



RIVER TOWERS 6621 Wakefield Dr #317 - \$242,500
LIKE NEW CONDO updated, immaculate 2BR/1.5BA - newly refinished 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.



7029 BEDROCK RD Alexandria \$589,000
LUXURIOUS & CLOSE BY Brick front Center Hall Colonial that shows like a model home and is ready to move in! 4BR, 2.5 BA plus private library, sunroom addition, 2-car garage and updated gourmet kitchen make this 3,000+ sqft home a winner! Quiet corner .23 acre lot close to METRO, Ft Belvoir, OT and more.



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!



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



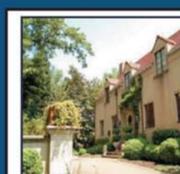
3706 Riverwood Ct
1810 Hollindale Dr



4821 Stillwell Ave
8311 Mt Vernon Hwy



555 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET Old Town / Alex \$1,775,000 - #101 & \$1,975,000 - #102
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828 SLATERS LA #104 Alexandria \$699,000
SPECTACULAR city views from rooftop! Best of city living, with access to METRO, restaurants & shops. One stop light to DC! 1,763 sqft! 3BR, 2.5BA, 2 Master suites, gour. kit, 9' ceilings, Gas frpl, HWs thru-out, handicap accessible + 2 inside prkg.



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319 UNION ST S	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,415,000	Townhouse	0.05		WATERFORD
1250 WASHINGTON ST S#705	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,150,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			PORTO VECCHIO
437 COLUMBUS ST N	6	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$975,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.05		OLD TOWN
1858 CARPENTER RD	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$941,700	Townhouse	0.00		POTOMAC GREENS
202 WALNUT ST W	5	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$940,000	Detached	0.21		ROSEMONT
402 SAINT ASAPH ST N	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$905,000	Townhouse	0.05		OLD TOWN
738 FONTAINE ST	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$895,000	Detached	0.21		TIMBER BRANCH
516 FORT WILLIAMS PKWY	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$894,000	Detached	0.28		SEMINARY RIDGE
314 DEL RAY AVE E	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$880,000	Detached	0.13		DEL RAY
111 QUAY ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$850,000	Townhouse	0.03		OLD TOWN
525 QUEEN ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$838,000	Townhouse	0.03		OLD TOWN
1023 ROYAL ST N #309	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$835,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			OLD TOWN
705 HAWKINS WAY	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$825,000	Townhouse	0.04		OLD TOWN GREENS
828 SLATERS LN #401	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$800,000	Penthouse			OLD TOWN CRESCENT
429 CAMERON ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$783,000	Townhouse			PITT MEWS
330 LEE ST S	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$770,000	Townhouse	0.02		OLD TOWN
25 WILKES ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$760,000	Townhouse			HARBORSIDE
2413 CAMERON MILLS RD	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$752,000	Detached	0.13		JEFFERSON PARK
209 PITT ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$749,900	Townhouse	0.02		PITT MEWS
707 TIMBER BRANCH PKWY E	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$735,000	Detached	0.22		BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
117 NELSON AVE W	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$727,000	Detached	0.15		DEL RAY
2803 RIDGE ROAD DR	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$710,000	Detached	0.15		BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
808 BRADDOCK RD W	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$709,000	Detached	0.18		TIMBER BRANCH PARK
422 ROYAL ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$700,000	Townhouse	0.02		CHATHAM SQUARE
504 E HOWELL AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$695,000	Detached	0.13		DEL RAY
801 TIMBER BRANCH PKWY E	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$685,000	Detached	0.20		TIMBER BRANCH PARK
1760 POTOMAC GREENS DR	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$675,000	Townhouse	0.02		POTOMAC GREENS
208 RAYMOND AVE E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$650,000	Detached	0.14		DEL RAY
311 OXFORD AVE E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$624,900	Detached	0.12		DEL RAY
415 UNDERHILL PL	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$624,900	Detached	0.18		MONTICELLO PARK
2504 CENTRAL AVE	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$605,000	Detached	0.13		BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
2507 HUNTON PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$589,500	Townhouse	0.03		STONEGATE
16 GROVES AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$580,000	Detached	0.12		GROVES
536 TRIADAPHIA WAY	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$566,736	Townhouse			BEAUREGARD STATION
2718 HICKORY ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$561,500	Detached	0.09		DEL RAY
109 KING HENRY CT #1	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$555,000	Townhouse			KING HENRY COURT
808 DEVON PL	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$554,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.04		OLD TOWN/DEMPSEY
702 ROYAL ST S	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$554,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03		YATES GARDENS
202 MARTIN LN	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$548,000	Townhouse	0.03		CAMERON STATION
1339 ARGALL PL	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$546,000	Townhouse	0.03		POWHATAN PLACE
1115 CAMERON ST #310	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$530,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE PRESCOTT
2704 HICKORY ST	6	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$520,000	Detached	0.12		GROVES
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1304	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$515,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			OLD TOWN
313 E OAK ST	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$502,000	Semi-Detached	0.06		ROSEMONT PARK
210 MARTIN LN	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$490,000	Townhouse	0.02		CAMERON STATION
334 WEST ST S	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$487,000	Townhouse			OLD TOWN VILLAGE
206 BELLEFONTE AVE E	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$482,000	Townhouse	0.07		DEL RAY
19 REED AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$477,000	Duplex	0.07		BEAUMONT
547 SAINT ASAPH ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$476,500	Attach/Row Hse	0.02		TANNERY YARD
220 PITT ST	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$475,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.01		OLD TOWN
327A ASHBY ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$471,000	Duplex	0.06		DEL RAY
400 MADISON ST #303	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$470,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ALEXANDRIA HOUSE
212 GENTRY AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$455,301	Townhouse	0.09		WARWICK VILLAGE
2181 JAMIESON AVE #2102	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$450,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			CARLYLE TOWERS
5120 DONOVAN DR #406	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$440,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CAMERON STATION
314 SAINT ASAPH ST N	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$435,000	Townhouse			BROCKETTS CROSSING
2940 BRYAN ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$429,000	Detached	0.24		ALBERT V BRYAN/CLOVER
5204 DOVER PL	4	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.06		HAMPTON ROW
3061/2 DEL RAY AVE E	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$416,000	Duplex	0.07		DEL RAY
5425 FILLMORE AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$415,000	Detached	0.23		SHIRLEY FOREST
19 WINDSOR AVE E #A	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$413,000	Semi-Detached	0.07		DEL RAY
1430 WOODBINE ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$390,000	Townhouse	0.04		KENWOOD TOWERS
327 LAVERNE AVE	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$382,500	Duplex	0.07		DEL RAY
1021 QUAKER LN N	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$370,000	Detached	0.18		WOODS
5120 DONOVAN DR #401	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$370,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CAMERON STATION
400 MADISON ST #1506	1	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$370,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ALEXANDRIA HOUSE
5540 GARY AVE	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$360,000	Detached	0.21		SHIRLEY FOREST
607 BASHFORD LN #607-1	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$360,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			HARBOR TERRACE
3540 MARTHA CUSTIS DR#311-35	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$359,900	Other			PARKFAIRFAX
3738 GUNSTON RD #910-37	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$355,000	Townhouse			PARKFAIRFAX
501 SLATERS LN #621	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$345,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			MARINA TOWERS
3607 PAUL ST	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$337,000	Double Wide	0.17		SUNSET
281 PICKETT ST S #202	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$330,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			HILLWOOD
200 PICKETT ST N #1109	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$325,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			HALLMARK
5116 DONOVAN DR #405	1	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$318,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CARLTON PLACE
1623 RYAN PL #835-16	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$316,000	Townhouse			PARKFAIRFAX
309 HOLLAND LN #138	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$308,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE ROYALTON@KING ST METRO
1250 WASHINGTON ST S#408	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$300,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			PORTO VECCHIO
3924 VERMONT AVE	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$299,900	Duplex	0.07		CAMERON
3256 GUNSTON RD #724-32	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$297,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
208 JENKINS ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$295,000	Duplex	0.13		TARLETON
3521 VALLEY DR #709-35	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$289,999	Townhouse			PARKFAIRFAX
34 UNDERWOOD PL	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$288,000	Semi-Detached	0.08		WAKEFIELD
3701 EDISON ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$274,900	Townhouse	0.02		HUME SPRINGS
6101 EDSALL RD #1411	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$260,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ALEXANDRIA KNOLLS
6101 EDSALL RD #303	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$250,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ALEXANDRIA KNOLLS
4860 EISENHOWER AVE #283	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
734 FAYETTE ST S #22	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FAYETTE COURT CONDOS
205 YOAKUM PKWY #305	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$232,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
3336 VALLEY DR #808-33	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$230,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
4507 HOLMES RUN PKWY	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$230,000	Duplex	0.08		TARLETON
11 CANTERBURY SQ #301	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$204,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CANTERBURY SQUARE
5340 HOLMES RUN PKWY#914	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$200,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			PAVILION ON THE PARK
6300 STEVENSON AVE #604	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$200,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			SENTINEL OF LANDMARK
4854 EISENHOWER AVE #253	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$190,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
250 REYNOLDS ST S #1009	1	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$190,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			TEMPLETON OF ALEXANDRIA
301 BEAUREGARD ST N #805	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$180,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			THE FOUNTAINS
715 WASHINGTON S #A-34	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$180,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			OLD TOWN GARDENS
250 REYNOLDS ST S #405	1	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$177,700	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			TEMPLETON OF ALEXANDRIA
6300 STEVENSON AVE #318	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$175,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			SENTINEL OF LANDMARK
4852 EISENHOWER AVE#236	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$170,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
620 NOTABENE DR	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$165,000	Townhouse	0.07		BEVERLY PARK
3232 28TH ST S #401	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$156,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			BOLLING BROOK

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Winter 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.

Local Theaters Earn Recognition

Nominations for Helen Hayes and WATCH Awards are announced.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Area professional theaters learned of their works' nominations for the coveted Helen Hayes Award for outstanding work on professional stages throughout the region on Monday night while the community theaters learned of the nominations for the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) Awards last week. Put together, work at 10 companies from Arlington and Alexandria received nominations.

With professional companies performing at many different venues, it is not always easy to tabulate how the work in one area fared. For example, while Arena Stage which performs both in Crystal City and in Washington, drew 10 nominations, only three of them were for work in Crystal City. However, they were in big categories: their production of the drama "The Quality of

Life" was nominated for Outstanding Play, Outstanding Direction and outstanding Ensemble in a Play.

Similarly, Arlington-based Keegan Theatre received five nominations but they were all for a show performed in Washington. "Rent" was nominated for the Outstanding Musical and its directors Mark A. Rhea and Susan Marie Rhea, its musical director Aaron Broderick and actor Parker Drown who played "Angel" were also nominated.

Another company performing on both sides of the Potomac is Synetic Theatre, and again this year, they scored a host of nominations including three for choreographer Irina Tsikurishvili who continues her domination of that category having been nominated every year for the past dozen years, winning the award seven times. Her director/husband Paata Tsikurishvili, was nominated again this year as well. Resident designer Anastasia Ryurikov Simes also had

multiple nominations in the costume design category. All together, the company drew 13 nominations including Outstanding Play for their wordless but charming "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

No such confusion is involved when it comes to the work at MetroStage in Alexandria which received seven nominations, six of which were for the musical "Cool Papa's Party" including one for Thomas W. Jones II who directed it and one for Maurice Hines who handled choreography. "Heroes," a touching three-character drama with Ralph Cosham, John Dow and Michael Tolaydo, was nominated for Outstanding Ensemble in a play.

Arlington's Signature Theatre which won last year's Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre had fewer nominations for the Helen Hayes award this year than it has in some years past. Among their eight nominations were nods in the direction of a num

SEE THEATERS. PAGE 22

1 Actor - 35 Parts - 1 Incredible Story

Andrew Long tackles "I Am My Own Wife" at Signature.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Even people who say they don't particularly care for solo performance shows because, after all, watching just one actor all evening long can often be something of a bore — find that the one-actor but 35-character play, which won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, thoroughly engrossing and satisfying.

At least they do if the one performer is worth his salt and, in Andrew Long, Arlington's Signature Theatre found an actor who can hold the stage — and everyone's attention — for the full evening without seeming to resort to cheap tricks. His secret is that he trusts in the richness of the characters that author Doug Wright crafted in an effort to tell a most extraordinary story.

"I Am My Own Wife" is the story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf who was born male in 1928 in what became East Germany, but chose to live life as a woman. Her passion was furniture, but her challenge was survival. First the Nazis and then the Communists cracked down on unorthodox life styles. In 1991, after half a century of surviving such repressions, she



Helen Hayes Award-Winner Andrew Long stars in "I Am My Own Wife" at Signature Theatre.

moved to Sweden to live out her final days. Ah, but what compromises did she really have to make to have survived the Third Reich and the Cold War?

Just covering such a multi-faceted story in one evening might be quite a challenge. But Wright found additional dramatic material in his own struggle to understand Mahlsdorf, so he wrote a play about his own efforts to research a play about Mahlsdorf. He structured it in such a way that one actor can play both the playwright

and his subject as well as many people through whose memories the tale unfolds.

When the play was first produced in New York it earned a Tony Award for its one actor, Jefferson Mays. When it closed on Broadway, Mays took the show on the road, performing it in Washington at the National Theatre in 2005. Since then, local theater companies have found in it a property that can challenge an actor, a director and a design team and also can satisfy an audience

while avoiding the expense of a large cast or multiple sets. In fact, the attraction to theater companies of such a potentially inexpensive show able to sell a good number of tickets has been so strong that a recent tabulation showed it to be one of the 10 most produced non-classic plays in the past 10 years.

Signature's production doesn't skimp in terms of talent. Andrew Long appeared at Signature in its somewhat strange production of "My Fair Lady" and its premiere of

Where and When

"I Am My Own Wife" continues through March 7 in The ARK at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Avenue in Shirlington. Performances are Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$47-\$71. Call 703-573-7328 or log on to www.signature-theatre.org.

the musical "Saving Aimee." He is a classically trained actor who is well known to local theater lovers for many performances at the Shakespeare Theatre Company as well as notable roles at other local companies including Studio Theatre where he earned the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actor in the searing drama "Frozen."

His is an almost subtle treatment of a very flamboyant script. It isn't that he shies away from the peculiarities of the multiple characters he has to bring to life, but rather he puts the emphasis on those characters and not on his transitions from one to the other. That way he avoids drawing undue attention to himself as an actor, and instead, concentrates the audience's focus on the story. And with a story this interesting and intricate, covering decades of challenges and deceptions, this concentration is a good thing.

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

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

The 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. 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 or Nancy Hannans at 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.

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, 2nd Floor (off Duke Street), Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868.

JAN. 28, FEB. 4 AND 11

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Call 703-838-4242.

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

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

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

Comedy Night. 8 p.m. To say thanks for supporting Haiti with \$7,000 last weekend at the charity yard sale in Del Ray. Some of the area's most promising comedic talent will be performing. Donations accepted. At 2413 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Meghan Shapiro at 703-915-9594, shapiro.meghan@gmail.com.

Musical Extravaganza. 4 p.m. Free. Celebrating Alexandria's Sister City of Helsingborg in Sweden. The program features the "The Seven Sopranos", "Lucia Girls," a Helsingborg-based teen choir, the Alexandria Choral Society, "The Swedish Jazz Duo" and "The Groomsmen," Alexandria Harmonizers.



SUNDAY/FEB. 14

Valentine's Day Concert. 7 p.m. With blues singer/guitarist and historian Scott Ainslie and David LaFleur. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at FocusMusic.org. Part of the Focus Music Series. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., in Alexandria. Contact: Kay Coyte at kay@focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061.

Helsingborg's Mayor, Carin Wredström, will be in attendance. Helsingborg has been a Sister City of Alexandria since 1966. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5588 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts.

Book Signing.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Photographer Judy Heffner will be at A Show of Hands to sign her new book, "On the Avenue, Faces of Del Ray," which features Del Ray business owners. At A Show of Hands, 2301 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-683-2905 or visit www.ashowofhands.biz.

Seed Exchange.

12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Hosted by Washington Gardener Magazine. Includes two lectures, a seed swap and more. Everyone will leave with a bag full of seeds. Cost is \$15/person. Call 703-641-5173. Held at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Mysteries of Orchid Pollination.

1:30 to 3 p.m. Come hear Tom Miranda, Smithsonian horticulturalist, demystify orchid pollination. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

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.

Pruning Workshop.

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

"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.

Combo Fun with Cards and ATCs.

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

Capitol Steps Benefit Show.

5 p.m. At the Knights of Columbus Hall. Hosted by the Friends of UCM. General seating is \$40; and \$70 with food and beverages. At Friends of UCM, 2009 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

TUESDAY/FEB. 2

Braddock's March - A Pilgrimage of 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.

FEB. 5 TO FEB. 21

Artioms. Artists are being challenged to express their favorite (or not so favorite) idioms, clichés, word phrases or play on words in their artwork.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

Wine Tasting Series at Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

Join the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden for a series of four wine tastings, focusing on wines from Virginia, Argentina, California, and France. Tastings will be held on Feb. 11 (Virginia), Feb. 25 (Argentina), March 10 (California), and March 24 (France). All tastings will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and will be led by Wilkinson Wine Cellar. The fee is \$25 per person, per session. Participants can also sign up for all four sessions at a discounted rate of \$75 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 703-548-1789. Visit the Web site at www.leefendallhouse.org.

MUSEUMS



The museum is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more, visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

E.G. SCHEMPF/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A variety of African and American baskets from the exhibition **Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art** Opening Feb. 4 at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

Celebrate Black History Month

Lectures, film and new exhibit at Black History Museum.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is offering several special events throughout February in recognition of Black History Month. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 703-838-4356 or after Feb. 1, 703-746-4356.

The following events will be held at the museum, 902 Wythe Street in Alexandria:

FEB. 4 TO MARCH 13 "Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art" Exhibition

Explore the history of coiled basketry in Africa and America with this traveling exhibition from the Museum for African Art. "Grass Roots" traces the evolution of an ancient art while examining rice-growing societies which, through the trans-Atlantic slave trade, exported their cultures to America. The exhibition features baskets from the Lowcountry of South Carolina and Georgia as well as from diverse regions of Africa, and artifacts, such as basket-making tools. Suggested admission is \$2. Free opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M. "Their Voices Can Be Heard, Part V: Locating Descendants of Deceased Ancestors" Lecture

During Black History Month, discover your own family history with expert techniques for tracing African-American ancestors. Join genealogist Char McCargo Bah at a lecture and workshop where she explores the use of cemetery, church and death records in family history research. The featured cases are from Char's research of descendants of people buried at historic Freedmen's Cemetery in Alexandria. Free!

SATURDAY, FEB. 13, BEGINS AT 4:30 P.M. "The Language You Cry In" Film Screening

This film tells an amazing scholarly detective story that searches for meaningful links between African Americans and their ancestral past, bridging hundreds of years and thousands of miles from the Gullah people of present-day Georgia back to 18th-century Sierra Leone. It recounts the even more remarkable saga of how African Americans have retained links with their African past despite the horrors of the middle passage, slavery and segregation. Film is 53 minutes with discussion to follow. Free!

THURSDAY, FEB. 18, 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. Lillian Lincoln Lambert Book Signing

Author and businesswoman Lillian Lincoln Lambert will discuss and sign her new book, *The Road to Somewhere Better: From the Segregated South to Harvard Business School and Beyond*, which follows Lambert's journey from her rural roots in Powhatan County, Va., to her historic achievement as the first black woman to earn an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1969. After Harvard, Lillian continued to break barriers by founding and transforming her company, Centennial One, into a \$20 million operation before she sold it in 2001. Her book interweaves hard-won lessons and life-affirming principles that will inspire people to dream big, act bold and never be afraid to find their own path. Free!

SATURDAY, FEB. 27, 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M. "Feeding Our Founding Fathers" Lecture by Michael Twitty

Culinary historian Michael Twitty, a leading expert on African-American foodways, explores the role and work of enslaved African Americans in providing

food to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe. In his illustrated lecture, Twitty examines who the enslaved cooks were, how they were trained, and how they prepared and served food to our nation's first leaders. Free!

The following two events will be held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street in Alexandria, across from the Alexandria Black History Museum:

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 6 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. An Inspirational Evening for Youth in Alexandria

Alexandria's middle and high-schoolers and their parents are invited to an Inspirational Evening for Youth, sponsored by the Human Rights Commission and the Alexandria Black History Museum. A panel of prominent African Americans from Alexandria, including Mayor William D. Euille and Police Chief Earl Cook, will share personal stories with an audience of young people to show how they overcame challenges and found professional success. The audience will be permitted to ask questions, and following the formal program, the students and panelists will be able to mingle and share a pizza dinner donated by local restaurants. Free!

SUNDAY, FEB. 28, 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. Annual Black History Month Lecture & Soul Food Tasting

Join the Alexandria Black History Museum and members of the NAACP for the annual Black History Month lecture and soul food tasting. The featured guest speaker, Ron Waters, will discuss the 2010 Black History Month Theme "The History of Black Economic Empowerment." Following the lecture, guests will sample a variety of African-American traditional foods. Free!



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Thursday - Italian Night

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Friday - Fish Night

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

Reception Feb. 5 from 7-10 p.m. A prose reading by the Tuesdays at Two Writers Group is on Friday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or 703-838-4827.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6

Historical Gala. 6:30-11:30 p.m. At the Holiday Inn Old Town, 625 First Street, Alexandria. Dance the night away for a good cause! Enjoy cocktails, dinner and dancing while supporting the City's historic sites. Tickets are \$150 per ticket or \$300 sponsor level.

Benefit for Haitian Relief. Ten Thousand Villages Alexandria is donating 15 percent of the day's sales to the Mennonite Central Committee, earmarked for Haiti.

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.

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, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Go to www.nvrpa.org or call 703-549-2997 or e-mail 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 collectibles. Prizes and coins are given

away. At the Hampton Inn & Suites on the corner of the I-495 beltway and Route 1, Alexandria. Visit the Alexandria Coin Club Web site at: www.members.cox.net/alexandriacoinclub.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

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.

Super Bowl Party. Mayor Euille's 13th annual Super Bowl Party. At Joe Theismann's Restaurant, 1800 Diagonal Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$35/free agent; \$60/Top Draft Pick; \$100 Hogette's Rate (family of four). Call 703-751-7970 or contact www.euilleformayor.com.

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

Managing Wildlife Conflict. 1:30-3 p.m. Are you having troubles with deer

and rabbits feasting on your garden? This is the lecture for you. 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

Ars Choralis. Recruiting singers in all sections for a concert featuring Ars Choralis. The concert is entitled "Spirituals and All That Jazz." Rehearsals from Tuesday, Feb. 9 through Sunday, April 18. The concert will be performed twice: Saturday, April 17, 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 18, 7 p.m. Rehearsals are 7:45-9:45 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312 or email douglas@stpaulsalexandria.com.

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.

FINE ARTS

JAN. 30 THROUGH MARCH 1

"Winter Thaw." Oils by Nikolai Antyuchin (Moscow). At the von Brahler Ltd./Gallery, 1437 Powhatan Street, North Old Town, Alexandria. Opening weekend Saturday and Sunday, Jan 30, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Bob Murray at 703-798-8686.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 31

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

NOW THROUGH FEB. 1

"Timbuktu." Kathleen Stafford's Solo Artist Exhibit at The Art League Gallery. Stafford spent 18 years immersed in African culture. "Timbuktu," her solo artist exhibit at The Art League Gallery, celebrates the compelling people she met and the brilliant textures and colors of West Africa through her unique artistic process. The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-1780, www.theartleague.org.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 5

East to West Landscapes. Works by Mary Anne Warner in the Tyler Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus. Tyler Gallery is located at 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6239.

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Theaters Earn Recognition

FROM PAGE 19

ber of performers including four for "Show Boat," Harry A. Winter, Will Gartshore, Kimberly Schraf and Delores King Williams, as well as a nomination for the entire ensemble. Both John Dosset and Ashley Robinson were nominated for "Giant" and Holly Twyford drew three nominations at three different theaters including one for her work in Signature's "The Little Dog Laughed."

We have a robust community theater scene as well. The Washington Area Theatre Community Honors organization presents its WATCH Awards each year for exceptional work in as many as 30 theater companies — five of which are in Arlington and Alexandria. All five of them received at least one nomination for work in 2009.

Drawing the most nominations among the five was the Little The-

atre of Alexandria where work on seven different shows was nominated. Top of the list was the Little Theatre of Alexandria with 27 nominations for work on seven different shows. The play about Oscar Wilde's prosecution for "Gross Indecency" had nine nominations including Outstanding Play and a nomination for the director, Frank D. Shutts II. "It Runs in the Family" was also nominated for Outstanding Play and its director Roland Branford Gomez received one as well. In all, it drew six nominations. Three of LTA's productions had three nominations each, "The Foreigner," "Leading Ladies" and "Art of Murder" while "Gypsy" had two and "Greater Tuna" had one.

The Arlington Players productions garnered 18 nominations with by far the majority going to their production of "Follies" which

will compete for awards as the Outstanding Musical as well as Outstanding Direction of a Musical (Christopher Dykton). Their other musical, "Bye Bye Birdie," captured five nominations while "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" drew one.

DOMINION STAGE'S production of "Glorious!" had two nominations and "Jeffrey" one while two Port City Playhouse production each had one and the Aldersgate Church Community Theatre's "Inherit the Wind" resulted in a nomination for James Day for Outstanding Cameo in a Play.

The WATCH Awards will be given out at the annual gala ceremony at the Birchmere on March 14. The Helen Hayes Award ceremony will be April 5 at the Warner Theatre in Washington followed by a party at the JW Marriott Hotel half a block away.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

public meeting regarding the Beauregard Small Area Plan on Jan. 20. Although billed as part of a strategy to improve transportation to the new BRAC at Mark Center, it is being rushed to spur even more development. The City's decision is in response to real estate developers interested in projects for redevelopment of the area. A final draft of the plan is scheduled for consideration by the planning commission and City Council this fall.

A large number of concerned residents packed the room at William Ramsey School. Groups were organized and asked to create a street network that would improve "connectivity" in the community and accommodate local and "regional" traffic. Participants were encouraged to "think broadly," be futuristic and not be constrained by the way things are today.

Using different colored magic markers, groups eliminated existing apartment buildings, drew in "traffic circles," bus stops, the location of bike trails, and new streets. To alleviate traffic congestion at the I-395-Seminary Road Interchange a new interchange was added at Sanger Avenue and Van Dorn. If that didn't work, a frontage road could be built along I-395, through the Winkler Preserve providing direct access to Mark Center and the nearby BRAC office complex. It was as if we had a clean slate to totally redevelop several hundred acres of what use to be the Hamlet Apartment complex.

Residents were also reminded that Sanger Avenue and Beauregard have already been identified in the City Transportation Master Plan as a high capacity transit and transportation corridor. To some this was a surprise. Similar high density transit corridors are envisioned on Duke Street, east of I-395 and Route 1 from the Potomac Yards to downtown Alexandria.

Converting Beauregard from Sanger Avenue to Seminary Road would result in major trade-offs. There would be more traffic on Sanger Avenue and Beauregard Street. The tree-lined boulevard would likely be removed to accommodate transit vehicles, intersections near the William Ramsey and John Adams schools would be more congested, street crossings made more difficult and sidewalks would need to be widened. A high capacity transit corridor would increase pressure for more intensive commercial and residential development increasing demands on the availability of affordable housing, local schools, parks and

recreational facilities.

Totally overlooked by the organizers of the public meeting were the nearby communities and people who live in the area now. There was no effort at the meeting to address local concerns as part of the planning process.

It is generally acknowledged that the City's approval of the zoning for what is now the BRAC office complex was a mistake. City officials and planners did not give adequate consideration to the limited capacity of the existing road system to handle the additional traffic. They also failed to listen to citizen concerns at public meeting prior to making their decision.

The assumptions made by City officials in conducting the meeting did not offer any reassurance that this would change.

Hopefully the City will step back from their ambitious schedule for the Beauregard-Seminary Small Area Plan. There is no immediate rush since little can be done through the planning process to alleviate traffic in the near term. Also major road improvements will require funding and construction is not likely within the next 5-10 years. Instead of the planning staff taking the lead, let the developers prepare their own plans and work directly with the community to resolve issues like transportation, affordable housing, and open space. A better use of time is for the City or developers to present a proposal for rezoning and allow city agencies, community groups and citizens to comment.

This is not a time for more large-scale hasty decisions. A more deliberate approach is necessary. This would provide an opportunity for City officials and staff to work more closely with the community to restore confidence in the planning process.

Dave Cavanaugh
Alexandria

Campaign Funding Misstep

To the Editor:

Re: the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission.

This Supreme Court decision represents a monumental step backwards for American democracy and will allow corporations to drown out the voices of average Americans. The Supreme Court's decision to overturn precedent and allow corporations to spend unrestricted resources on political activities will undermine people's confidence that the government is acting in their best interest on issues such as the

economy, health care and energy policy.

Under current campaign finance law, corporations have the ability to influence the political process through regulated political action committees (PACs). Now, these PACs will be able to funnel all of their resources into direct donations to individual candidates, letting the corporation itself fund advertising out of general funds. The boundary between commerce and corporate advocacy has been decimated and consumers will be funding the political agenda of corporations — whether they like it or not.

We must find ways to limit special interest money in our political process. That's why I support the Fair Elections Now Act, which will provide matching federal funds for candidates that only accept donations of less than \$100, allowing them to compete on a level footing with special interest-funded candidates. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to pass measures to mitigate the impact of this decision and restore the people's confidence in the American system.

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran

Another Way To Help Haiti

To The Editor:

My heart pours out to the families who have lost love ones in the disaster by earthquake in Haiti.

That country may seem to have no hope, but I believe there's hope in faith as many of us are reaching out through organizations to help in this time of need.

I would like to have my art work / drawing of the hunger printed on T-shirts and post cards to help raise funds for the country of Haiti and other areas that's in need of food, medical treatment and homes to be rebuilt.

If anyone would like to help me to establish this for a good cause "Keep Haiti Alive," please contact me by email at geribaldwin@ymail.com.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue.
Send to:

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

School Salaries over \$100,000

Assignment Title	Annual Salary
Superintendent	\$240,000.00
Deputy Superintendent	\$166,556.77
Executive Director	\$159,842.06
Deputy Superintendent	\$154,495.01
Secondary Principal	\$149,821.68
Executive Director	\$145,723.06
Middle School Principal	\$142,510.37
Executive Director	\$136,281.36
Executive Director	\$136,281.36
Executive Director	\$136,281.36
Executive Director	\$134,932.05
Chief Financial Officer	\$134,932.05
Executive Director	\$134,354.40
Director	\$133,036.57
Supervisor	\$131,719.37
Executive Associate Principal	\$128,549.67
Elementary Principal	\$127,955.64
Elementary Principal	\$127,955.64
Elementary Principal	\$126,701.16
Director	\$126,035.39
Director	\$126,035.39
Principal on Assignment	\$126,035.36
Coordinator of Federal and State Programs	\$125,446.68
Elementary Principal	\$123,917.23
Comptroller	\$123,564.22
Director	\$123,563.84
Secondary Principal	\$122,969.32
Executive Director	\$122,353.26
Middle School Principal	\$121,187.92
Middle School Principal	\$121,187.92
Executive Associate Principal	\$121,187.92
Elementary Principal	\$120,033.45
Executive Associate Principal	\$119,742.83
Special Education Administrative Coordinator	\$118,668.23
Speech Pathologist 12	\$117,093.60
Director	\$116,628.84
Director	\$116,526.92
Director	\$116,526.81
Elementary Principal	\$115,417.62
Elementary Principal	\$115,417.16
School Counselor	\$113,976.28
Network Services Supervisor	\$113,851.94

Assignment Title	Annual Salary
Executive Director	\$113,122.46
Middle School Principal	\$112,047.52
Middle School Principal	\$112,044.53
Academy Principal	\$111,961.75
School Counselor 12	\$111,471.40
Associate Principal	\$111,430.71
Elementary Principal	\$110,978.17
Coordinator of Federal and State Programs	\$110,977.94
Executive Assistant	\$110,977.82
Acting Director	\$109,430.79
Assistant Principal/PYP Coordinator	\$108,953.04
Director	\$108,801.97
Director	\$107,736.05
Elementary Principal	\$106,709.03
Elementary Principal	\$106,709.03
IEP Online Specialist	\$106,100.58
Academy Principal	\$105,807.44
Elementary Principal	\$105,516.54
Curriculum/Staff Development Specialist 11	\$105,395.26
Curriculum/Staff Development Specialist 11	\$105,395.26
Curriculum/Staff Development Specialist 11	\$105,395.26
Systems Director	\$104,495.29
Director of Employment Services	\$104,342.01
Special Ed Coordinator 11	\$104,272.83
Career and Transition Specialist	\$103,749.23
School Counselor 12	\$103,288.31
Curriculum/Staff Development Special 11	\$102,855.03
Curriculum/Staff Development	\$102,855.03
Coordinator: Instructional Technology	\$102,744.74
Supervisor-Construction and Design	\$102,605.43
Elementary Principal	\$102,605.38
Elementary Principal	\$102,605.38
Asst. Athletic Director	\$102,503.23
Curriculum/Staff Development Specialist 11	\$102,338.64
Transition Coordinator	\$101,609.03
Career and Transition Specialist	\$101,536.89
Assistant Principal	\$101,536.88
Adult/Basic Teacher 11	\$101,092.63
Director	\$100,593.54
Early Childhood Coordinator	\$100,593.21
Curriculum/Staff Development Special 11	\$100,376.76

\$100,000

FROM PAGE 1

a hard time attracting quality workers, and this is a very expensive place to live.”

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Alexandria ranks as the 12th highest per capita income in the United States at \$71,000. The city’s median household income is higher than Prince George’s County and the District but lower than Arlington County or Fairfax County. City officials say that puts Alexandria in a struggle with neighboring jurisdictions to attract and maintain public sector employees. Others say the money could be put to better use.

“Looks like an appropriate area to cut,” said Bud Miller, president of Alexandria Taxpayers United. “Frankly, having 246 employees making more than \$100,000 in such challenging economic times is more than a little discomfoting.”

PAY RAISES have been suspended for the last several years, with city employees forgoing market-rate adjustments orayscale increases for the last few years. Last year, the Alexandria School Board approved a plan to give its employees a step increase halfway through the school year. The plan was intended to give school employees a raise for part of the year, without taking the revenue hit of increasing the salary for the entire length of the contract.

“It was essentially a compromise,” said school spokeswoman Amy Carlini, adding that the superintendent’s proposed budget for next year includes the same salary increases. “The thinking was that it would be better than a bonus because the employees will be moving up the ladder.”

But city employees have not received step increases for years, and Sherman’s proposal to give his employees a step increase halfway through the year created some tension within the city government. Hartmann’s employees did not receive any step increases, so the school system’s employees fared better last year when the current budget was approved by the City Council in April 2009.

“This was one of the most contentious issues of the budget cycle last year,” said Tracy Rickett, chairman of the city’s budget-advisory committee. “Some people were questioning why some employees got the step increases while others did not. But the flip side of that was that the schools were able to

SEE TOP SALARIES, PAGE 25

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Sunday
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2:00 pm (en Español)
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SCHOOL NOTES

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

To help those affected by the Haiti earthquake at their sister school, Louverture Cleary School (LCS) in Haiti, Bishop Ireton students plan to work to save/earn money for the annual Winter Ball fund-raiser on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. in Godley Gym. Many students forgo a new dress

or suit, restaurant parties, and hair and nail plans so as to save what they would have spent in order to make a generous donation at the entrance of The Winter Ball. Some are getting odd jobs or saving on coffee drinks to support the collection efforts.

Brandon Lamma of Alexandria, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was chosen to be a graduate advisor for the Oak Lane Community at Virginia Tech for the 2009-10 academic year.

Legal Notices

OBITUARY



Sylvia Elizabeth Wilkinson Harris passed away on January 21, 2010 in Smithfield, Virginia where she lived for three years. She was 89 years old. Prior to moving to Smithfield, Sylvia lived in Fairfax, Virginia for 49 years.

Sylvia was born in Arlington, Virginia to Robert Leslie Wilkinson and Mary Abigail Wilson Wilkinson. She graduated from Washington-Lee High School and attended George Washington University.

Sylvia married Charles "Woody" Woodman Harris Jr., of Arlington in 1942 and moved to Fairfax in 1957, when Woody was appointed Fairfax City Postmaster. They were active members of the community enjoying neighborhood bridge clubs, little league, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Fairfax Rotary Club, and many other activities involved in raising their eight children who all graduated from Fairfax High School. Sylvia and Woody were married for 49 years.

Sylvia was an avid reader, history buff and fan of the arts. Sylvia was also a beloved teacher at the Talent House Private School in Fairfax for many years where she touched the lives of all of her students.

Sylvia is preceded in the death by her husband Woody, her parents, her sister Betty Gayle Wilkinson Kilbourne, her brother Robert Leslie Wilkinson, Jr. and her grandson James Morton Townsend IV.

Sylvia is survived by eight children: Barbara Stafford (David) of Smithfield, VA; Sharon Schallow (Sonny) of Smithfield, VA; Charles W. Harris III (Fawn) of Ventura, CA; Bill Harris (Mary) of Smithfield, VA; Frances Harris Townsend of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Beth Young (Steve) of Hume, VA; Roberta Gillette (Peck) of Littleton, NC; and Mary Harris of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Sylvia is also survived by 11 grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one great great grandson.

A memorial service will be held at Everly's Funeral Home in Fairfax City at noon on Saturday January 30, 2010 with interment immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Fairfax City Regional Library or Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind.

Arrangements are in the care of Colonial Funeral Home, Smithfield.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY

There will be a Public Hearing on the ATC 2011 Transit Development Program and Budget in the Council Workroom (Room 2410) of City Hall, at 5:30 P.M., on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

Changes in service and fare structure are contemplated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, and include:

- Increase in the base fare from \$1.25 to \$1.50.
- Increase in the price of the monthly DASH PASS from \$30 to \$35.
- Restructuring of the AT7 weekday service.
- Elimination of the AT4 midday, evening, and weekend service between Slaters

Legal Notices

Lane and City Hall.

The program and budget are available for public inspection during business hours at the ATC Office,

3000 Business Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

Paul Abramson, Chairman

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.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: To whom it may concern, take notice that the Annual Report of the BLACKBURN FOUNDATION, INC. FYE 10/31/09 is available for inspection at 201 North Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, during regular business hours by request within 180 days after publication of this notice. Request to inspect said Annual Report should be made to J.W. Blackburn, Prin. Mgr. 703/519-3703."

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

Purpose of notice: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality for an air pollution source in Alexandria, Virginia.

Public comment period: February 5, 2010 to March 8, 2010

Permit name: Minor New Source Review Permit to Modify and Operate issued by DEQ, under the authority of the Air Pollution Control Board

applicant Name and registration number: Covanta Energy, Inc.; 71895

Facility name and address: Covanta Alexandria/Arlington Inc.; 5301 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia.

This facility is an Extraordinary Environmental Enterprise participant in Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program.

Project description: Covanta Energy, Inc. has applied for a permit allowing a modification to the Covanta Alexandria/Arlington facility. The facility is an energy-from-waste plant. It is classified as a major source of air pollution. The proposed permit would allow a steam throughput increase. The maximum annual emissions of air pollutants from the facility under the proposed permit have also been decreased to: 530 tons per year of Nitrogen Oxides (as NO₂); 35.6 tons per year of Particulate Matter (PM and PM₁₀), 159 tons per year of Sulfur Dioxide, 146 tons per year of Hydrogen Chloride, 305 tons per year of Municipal Waste Combustor Acid Gases (measured as the sum of SO₂ and HCl), 8.1 x 10⁻⁵ tons per year of Municipal Waste Combustor Organics (total Dioxins and Furans), and 4.62 tons per year of Sulfuric Acid Mist.

How to comment: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may request a public hearing. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named below. The draft permit is also available on the DEQ website at www.deq.virginia.gov.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information:

Elizabeth Aiken; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193; Phone: 703-583-3890; E-mail: Elizabeth.Aiken@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: 703-583-3821.



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

First Place Maria Simpkins, Dylan Drury, Zachary Frank, Mary Carlton Murphy, Madeline Bryan won 1st place the T.C. Williams High School Winter One-Act Play Festival Competition on Saturday, Jan. 9 for the play "Laying" They will be performing at the Patriot District One-Act Play Festival on Friday, Jan. 29. The wrong and incomplete captions appeared in the Jan. 14 Gazette Packet.



T.C. Williams High School drama teacher Leslie A. Jones

NEIGHBORHOODS Seminary Valley

Our neighborhood, like many in Alexandria, has a sizeable population of people at home during the day. You can assist your city and neighborhood by being vigilant for attempts at fraud and identity theft. Two events that come to mind are the Haiti earthquake relief efforts and the 2010 U.S. Census.

U.S. Census workers will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. They are knocking on doors only to verify address information and the number of persons living in your home. They will not ask you for income, credit card, social security or other personal information. Also, the Census Bureau is no longer working with the group known as ACORN, and it is not contacting residents through email.

It is also possible that you might get a knock on your door from someone purporting to raise funds for the Haitian earthquake victims. The Alexandria police want you to remember a few key points before you contribute: be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as relatives of victims or officials asking for donations via email, do not give any personal or financial information to any organization, and give only to known organizations rather than relying on others to donate on your behalf.

ACCOLADES ARE DUE to our Hammond and Polk students, who have been recognized for their contributions to the PTA Reflections program. At Hammond, winners include Sydney Schaedel, for Outstanding Interpretation in Vi-

sual Arts and Film Production (continues on to District competition), Margaret Chamberlain (Award of Excellence in Photography) and Jenna Velasquez (Award of Excellence in Literature). Polk's winners include Visual Arts: Agustin Hansen-Vik, Participant, Marcela Estrada, Award of Excellence, in Photography: Kathryn Atkinson, Outstanding Interpretation (moves forward to District), Shannon Foster, Award of Merit; Literature: Caroline Schie and Aira Matini, Participant; in Musical Composition: Jacob Foster, Award of Excellence and in Film Production: Jacob Foster, Outstanding Interpretation (moves forward to District). Good luck to our students in the upcoming District competition!

NEIGHBOR AND former PTA President Elizabeth Atkinson is leading a discussion group for the PTA Council's latest "Turn The Page Alexandria" effort. The 2010 featured book is "Nurtureshock: New Thinking About Children." Elizabeth's group is meeting on Fridays at 11 at the Beatley Library starting Feb. 5. For other group locations, go to www.acps.k12.va.us/ptac/read or search Alexandria Turn The Page on Facebook.

If you are feeling a little stir crazy, the Dora Kelly Nature Center can offer some relief. The Center, adjacent to Ramsey Elementary School, is a short walk or bike ride away from Seminary Valley. Upcoming events include: a Saturday, Feb. 6 Winter Tree ID Hike, in which Virginia Plant Ecologist Rod Simmons will discuss the natural history of our local forests. After exploring some of the park's

50 acres, hot tea and cocoa will be provided. The event will go from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Also, Mr. Simmons will lead hikers on a Spring Plant Hike on Saturday, March 27 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Hikers will identify wildflowers and other early signs of spring. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy picnicking on the Nature Center deck. Tea and juice will be provided. These two classes are free. Advance reservations are required. Please call the Nature Center at 703 746-5559.

— MIA JONES

MAMAMIAJONES@GMAIL.COM

Taylor Run

FAREWELL TO DAN

"I wanted everyone to leave smiling," said Nancy Macklin when complimented on the delightful reception she put on after the memorial service for husband Daniel Keenan Macklin.

"He would have loved it," said daughter Sally.

Nancy had particularly liked picking out the hymns.

The church was so full that the ushers were almost shoe-horning people into the pews at Grace Episcopal Church, of which Dan was a staunch supporter.

Bev Beidler, Mel Bergheim, Judy Miller, Mickey Campagna, Sandy Calhoun, and Tricia and Charlies White were there.

Vola Lawson, Betty Little, Mike Cassidy, Nancy Underwood, and Ginger Barbash came.

The O'Flahertys — Judge Daniel Fairfax, wife Resa and daughter Lecelle — were also present, as were Stephanie and Mike Reed.

SEE TAYLOR RUN, PAGE 29

Confidence, Leadership Keys to Playing Point Guard

T.C. Williams coach Hagen played position, now teaches.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Cavanaugh Hagen's basketball clothing line is more about coaching attire these days than shorts and sneakers. But with her Titans struggling, the second-year head coach busted out a black T.C. Williams T-shirt with red print, a black pair of shorts and some white Nikes.

Hagen was a four-year starter at point guard for T.C. Williams through 2001 and went on to play at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. On Jan. 20, she practiced with the Titans for the first time this season, hoping to help players better understand their assignments. While she coaches every player on the team, she has a special place in her heart for point guards.

"I like my point guards to be more vocal, to be more demanding of what they want," she said. "To find mismatches and go right to it. ... The things that I see right away I'm hoping they pick up on. I call them out in practice so hopefully they do it and they see it. If they don't, then I just keep reiterating to them. ... That's why I think they liked playing with me

today because I was telling them exactly what I wanted, where I want the ball, where the ball should be, what we're not doing."

Hagen grew up in Alexandria and started playing point guard when she started playing basketball at the age of 6. She said the position came naturally to her because of her size and physical skills.

"I felt better giving an assist than I did scoring," she said. "To have that feeling of setting someone else to succeed is far better than yourself scoring or doing some highlight of a play. ... I liked having the ball in my hands, I liked pushing the ball up the court. I was smaller and quicker."

Stability from the point guard position is often key to a team's success and Hagen has plenty of experience to pass on to the Titans' floor generals — Sadé Barber and Sofie Schedler.

Hagen said leadership and confidence are two important factors in succeeding as appoint guard.

"It's also seeing your teammates become better at the game," she said. "It's obviously wanting to win. The ball's in your hands the majority of the time. ... If you feel that you're confident enough to

take care of the ball then you usually are a very good point guard. ... You have to be a confident point guard because if not then you'll get rattled easily — your team will get rattled.

"I think if you're the one that's leading that you need to be the one that has control over situations on the court. ... If you don't demand the ball in your hands your team won't know what to do because you're the one that's supposed to make them better, or set them up for success."

Dealing with Pressure

Few know more about dealing with pressure than Bishop O'Connell point guard Kendall Marshall. As a sixth-grader, the Dumfries, Va., native garnered media attention when an editor of an online publication ranked Marshall the nation's No. 1 recruit for that age group. As a high school sophomore, Marshall committed to the University of North Carolina. As a senior, Marshall is the nation's No. 22 overall recruit in the class of 2010 and the No. 6 point guard, according to ESPN.com.

While Marshall plays a position which attracts the focus of others, the 6-foot-4 left-hander has faced scrutiny longer than many could imagine.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT / GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams girls basketball coach Cavanaugh Hagen was a four-year starter at point guard for the Titans until 2001. She played collegiately at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

"It's tough. That's probably one of the hardest things for me as I've grown up — since I was 12 years old. I've always been in the spotlight," Marshall said. "You just

have to keep working hard and be able to get through that because

SEE KEYS, PAGE 28

SPORTS BRIEFS

T.C. Williams Boys Beat Annandale, Split in Atlanta

The T.C. Williams boys basketball team defeated Annandale 67-37 at home on Tuesday. During a weekend invitational in Atlanta, the Titans beat Centennial (Georgia) 61-53 and lost to Jefferson (New York) 55-52. T.C. Williams is 11-3 overall, 8-0 in the Patriot District.

The Titans host Woodson at 7:45 p.m. Friday and Kecoughton, led by former T.C. Williams head coach Ivan Thomas, at 6 p.m. Monday.

T.C. Williams Girls Lose to Annandale

The T.C. Williams girls basketball team lost to Annandale 55-48 on Tuesday. The Titans also lost to West Springfield 61-

49 on Friday.

T.C. Williams (5-11 overall, 3-7 Patriot District) travel to face Woodson at 7:45 p.m. Friday and host Lake Braddock at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Youth 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

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. Registration fee is \$25.00.

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 to fill out a "New Ump" form.

Umpires Needed For Adult Slowpitch Softball

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

SPORTS

Keys to Playing Point Guard

FROM PAGE 27

at the end of the day, people are going to criticize you. The more you're in the spotlight, the more they're going to be nitpicky, the more they're going to notice all the [bad] things instead of the positive things you do, so you just have to be able to stay positive and work hard."

Marshall said he felt more pressure once he committed to North Carolina. "I had that target on my back now," he said. "All eyes are on me every time I step on the court. People whisper behind your back, they're talking about you: 'That's the kid right there.' So I just have to go out and perform every night."

Marshall has the ability to score, but makes his biggest impacts distributing the ball, playing defense and being a leader.

"I approach every game, first of all, thinking I'm going to win," he said. "You have to go into the game with that mentality. ... Second of all, I have to put my team on my back. Not scoring-wise, but to put them all on the same page. ... It takes a lot of confidence. ... [There is] a fine line between being cocky and confident. You have to be able to yell at a player and realize off the court you all are still going to be cool, but he can hate you ... on the court. He will follow you if you tell him the right thing."

Dr. Keith Kaufman, a Washington, D.C. therapist specializing in sports psychology, said the best way for a point guard to deal with pressure and be a successful leader is to maintain balance in his or her approach.

A point guard should "be decisive and confident but at the same time be balanced and incorporate as many facets as possible," Kaufman said. "... Basketball players like to get really fired up but they need to make sure they're not too fired up so they're making good decisions and thinking clearly. ... [A point guard should] express confidence and decisiveness but at the same time survey the opinions of teammates. ... If you have a point guard who isn't buying into what the rest of the team is doing that can create a lot of problems."

Leadership Can Be Tested

Jalinda Venable figured to be an integral part of the Mount Vernon girls basketball team's quest to repeat as National District champions in 2010.

The senior point guard had talent: "She sees plays two and three seconds before they actually happen," Mount Vernon head coach Terry Henderson said before the season in the Dec. 3 edition of the Gazette. "Sometimes she's actually putting the ball in places girls should be and just haven't made it there yet."

She had credentials: Venable garnered first team All-National District honors her junior season.

But she didn't have desire.

Venable practiced with the Majors in late November but decided she no longer wanted to play around one week before the team's Dec. 4 season opener at West Potomac.

"I felt like this wasn't what I was meant to do," Venable said Tuesday. "My heart wasn't in it."

Venable missed Mount Vernon's first three games — the Majors went 2-1 — before being convinced she belonged on the hardwood. It wasn't so much a rush of desire that returned Venable to the Majors, but rather a realization that working hard in an area

of ability would better her tomorrow. Venable has a goal of going to college.

"After awhile people talked to me about it and I realized it's not so much what I want to do now but it will help me in the future, so I decided to keep on playing," Venable said. "... A lot of people stayed on top of me [saying], 'If you're so good, why don't you want to play? Why would you waste talent?'"

Venable joined the Majors for their trip to California for a holiday tournament Dec. 26 and 28-30 at Oaks Christian School in Westlake Village. As one of Mount Vernon's best players and its point guard, Venable is in a leadership position. After missing three games, however, Venable felt like a hypocrite upon her return.

"I felt like at one point I let them down," she said. "Who am I to be like, 'You need to work hard.' But they respected me so I just kept leading."

Venable said the close-knit nature of the Majors helped ease her transition.

"It was awkward to a certain extent, but at the same time all my teammates had talked to me and really wanted me to be back on the team," she said. "We're like a family so it was easier for [me] to come back. We're real close to each other so it wasn't that hard."

Henderson said the team responded well to Venable's return.

"I think the girls accepted her back," he said Tuesday. "Jalinda is the type of person — I'd like her to be more of a leader in practice [rather than just during games] — she does look out for other girls' feelings. Just coming back, she probably didn't feel she demanded that respect. But she's Jalinda Venable. It was an awkward situation that we went through but every team goes through a little adversity. We weathered the storm and we're ready to roll."

Mount Vernon has won eight of 12 games since Venable came back. The Majors are 10-5, 7-2 in the National District.

On Tuesday, Mount Vernon hosted its biggest threat to the district crown: Edison, which won five straight titles before last season. Edison was led by National District MVP Myisha Goodwin, the one point guard in the Northern Region Henderson said he considers superior to Venable. The Eagles prevailed, 62-59, and Goodwin outscored Venable, 23-13. The two rarely defended one another. Regardless, Venable's talent's were on display as she knocked down a pair of 3-pointers, scored on several drives to the basket and her quickness made her a defensive presence. She isn't knocking down as many perimeter shots as Henderson would like, but the coach is confident her shots will start to fall.

"She's a point guard that can score," Henderson said. "One of her best attributes is she sees the floor extremely well. ... She can flat out score. We'll take those wide-open 3s. They haven't been falling. That's good and bad. Right now, they're not falling, but the more she keeps shooting them and [keeping] that confidence going, they're going to fall when we need them to."

Venable said she didn't get caught up in the pressure of facing Edison or Goodwin.

"[Last season I did], but then I just took it as another game," Venable said. "I have to do what I have to do regardless of who we're playing or if the other team has a good point guard. My team needs me. I'm not going to change how I play just because I'm playing against another good point guard."

"... you're the one that's supposed to make them better, or set them up for success."

— T.C. Williams girls basketball coach Cavanaugh Hagen on point guards

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OBITUARY

Murphy

FROM PAGE 15

Murphy, Jr., and sister Evelyn Murphy Brasted, all of Alexandria and remained a devoted member of the Del Ray Baptist Church on Russell Road. He attended George Washington High School; afterwards, serving as Army Sergeant during World War II in Germany. After the war, he received his Degree of Law from American University in Washington, D.C.

Robert took great pride in the Rosemont-North View Terrace home the family lived in for 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Betty Murphy and children Marcia Martino of Alexandria, Mary Beth Pagnella of Fort Washington, Md., Robert Murphy, Jr. of Richmond, Christopher Martino of Madison, Va., and Melinda C. Whiteman of Lookout Mountain, Ga. and their families. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Mrs. Edward Murphy of Alexandria.

Robert dedicated himself to the service of God, of family, of community and of law in Alexandria during his reputable career, most notably in the Law Firm of Murphy, Hart and O'Neil, established some 40 years ago on North Washington Street, in Old Town. He also served as assistant city attorney of Alexandria, eventually retiring from the City he loved so much after 50 years of practicing law. Robert was also a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club of Alexandria, the Salvation Army, and served on the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Hospital for many years. He also loved fishing, golfing, driving and taking the family on wonderful vacations every year of our childhood.

Most of all, he was devoted to his family, and there was not a day that went by that he was not only that wonderful husband and father, but was the friend and advisor that could be approached at any time with whatever issue or need. His family could always count on him to provide thoughtful, caring concern and exceptional advice, along with a keen dose of humor. These visits and conversations are greatly missed but not forgotten, for the love and advice he offered them was unconditional and timeless in its love and astuteness.

The Murphy family extends their appreciation to the Everly-Wheatly Funeral Home, the Del-Ray Baptist Church, the Saint Mary's Church, and St. Mary's Cemetery, all of Alexandria, for their kindness and professionalism during their difficult time of grieving; for all who celebrated his life enabled his family to honor their husband and father in a most special way during the holiday season.

Taylor Run

FROM PAGE 26

Eleanor Reed, and Sara and Lucy Wascowicz were part of the large crowd, as were Pam and Kerry St. Clair, Yvonne Duval, Suzanne and Levin Cates, Maxine Miller, Mark Allen, Scott Humphrey, Bobbie and Steve Rideout, Betty Mallon, and Susan Anthony.

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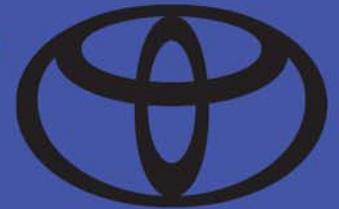
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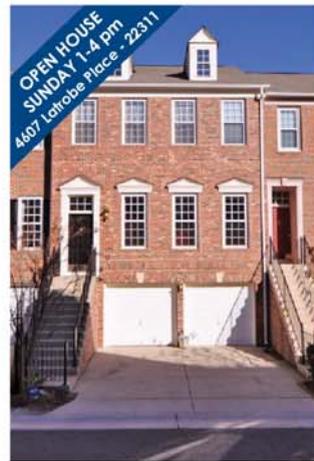
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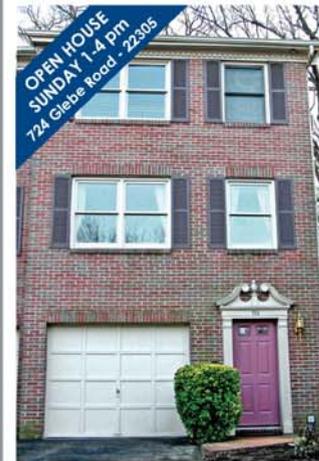
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