

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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FEBRUARY 11, 2010

'Snowmageddon' Grips Alexandria

Historic snowfall brings city to a standstill, canceling major events.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Record amounts of snow were dumped on the region this week in two massive snow storms, a historic weather event President Barack Obama dubbed "Snowmageddon." The storms left thousands without power as trees

sagged under the accumulated weight that downed power lines left live wires dangling all over town. The City of Alexandria has been in a continuous state of emergency since last week, with the Emergency Operations Center in round-the-clock operation since 7 a.m. on Feb. 5. Meanwhile, public-school students and non-essential city employees were told to stay home as the city government went into a state of hibernation. The rollout of City Manager Jim Hartmann's proposed op



PHOTOS BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/GAZETTE PACKET

The statue at the intersection of Prince and S. Washington St., Saturday, Feb. 8.

SEE HISTORIC SNOW, PAGE 3



Many people were out and about Saturday, Feb. 8, at the intersection of St. Asaph and King Street during the blizzard of 2010.

One for the Record Books

Date	2010 snowfall	record snowfall
Feb. 1	0.0 inches	8.0 inches in 1934
Feb. 2	2.1 inches	5.3 inches in 1996
Feb. 3	1.2 inches	9.2 inches in 1886
Feb. 4	0.0 inches	2.0 inches in 1998
Feb. 5	8.7 inches	8.7 inches in 2010
Feb. 6	9.1 inches	9.1 inches in 2010
Feb. 7	0.0 inches	14.4 inches in 1936
Feb. 8	0.0 inches	6.4 inches in 1961
Feb. 9	3.7 inches	5.4 inches in 1906
Feb. 10	6.8 inches	9.3 inches in 1926

source: Weather Underground

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PHOTO BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/GAZETTE PACKET

Cross country skiing, walking the dogs, and strolling, but not much driving down King Street this past Saturday.



PHOTO BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/GAZETTE PACKET

Ben and Niki Saul digging out to head for a hotel, Saturday Feb. 8, during the blizzard. They lost power Friday night during the storm.



PHOTO BY PHYLLIS SCIACCA

Old Town during the blizzard. Photographer Phyllis Sciacca reports, "We got cabin fever and went for a walk. Apparently a lot of other people felt the same way. Hard Times and Murphy's both had long lines to get in."



PHOTO BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/GAZETTE PACKET

Some large, beautiful trees were felled by the blizzard. This tree, on S. Pitt Street in old town, has two cars beneath its limbs.

Historic Snowfall

FROM PAGE 1

erating budget has been postponed until next week, and the George Washington Birthday parade was cancelled.

"There would have been so much snow piled up on the side of the road that having a parade just wouldn't have been realistic," said Tony Castrilli, spokesman for the city government. "In addition to that, our police officers and firefighters are completely exhausted from working night and day over the last week."

The first snowfall began Friday and continued into Saturday, dumping 18 inches of snow on Alexandria. City residents and government officials were still digging out from that snowstorm when a second snowstorm hit the city on Tuesday and Wednesday, adding 11 more inches. Late in the week, the city was trying to recover from the double-whammy, with massive piles of snow along the city streets doubling in size as work crews struggled with the worst snowstorms in recent memory.

"I think we are all tired," Councilman Rob Krupicka posted on his Facebook page, adding

"... I'm very pleased that we've been able to learn from our mistakes."

— Mayor Bill Euille

that he was "starting to wonder whether our economic development plans should include building a ski lift somewhere."

AT ONE POINT over the weekend, more than 4,000 Alexandria households were without power, forcing city officials to open "warming centers" at the William Ramsey Recreation Center on the West End and the Charles Houston Recreation Center in the Parker Gray neighborhood. Monday's blizzard was so intense that plowing was suspended for several hours because visibility was near zero. Many West End residents said they were pleased that Cameron Station Boulevard received more attention this week than in December, when the road was unusable for days.

"It is a little better this time," said Mindy Lyle, president of the Cameron Station Civic Association president. "But our private contractor has done a much better job than the city."

This week, city officials launched a new interactive feature on the Alexandria Web site called "SnowReport." Residents can check to see if specific streets have been designated as "secondary" or "primary" routes. They can also report primary roads that are in need of service. City officials said they hoped the lessons of the December snow event have created a more responsive emergency response capacity.

"Not everyone is going to be satisfied," said Mayor Bill Euille. "But we have increased the communication and planning a great deal since the last heavy snowfall, and I'm very pleased that we've been able to learn from our mistakes."

A City of Romance

Let's face it, Alexandria is romantic.

Just look at the sales data from Amazon.com. On a per capita basis, Alexandria leads the nation in sales of romance novels, sex and relationship books, romantic comedy DVDs, sexual wellness products and **Barry White** CDs. That makes Alexandria the most romantic city in America, according to a list released this week by Amazon.com.

"It's really not all that surprising because Alexandria is a place where people work hard and play hard," said **Tina Leone**, president of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. "Why do you think Le Tache and Lotus Blossom are doing so well?"

Other top-ranking cities for romance included Miami, Fla., Cambridge, Mass., and Ann Arbor, Mich. Least romantic cities were identified as El Monte, Calif., Paterson, N.J., and Miami Gardens, Fla.

Washington D.C. ranked as the 11th most romantic city.

"This city is full of Renaissance people," said Leone. "We want to be stimulated intellectually, creatively and emotionally. So I can totally understand why Amazon sales data would show these products sell extremely well here."

A Giant Sip Forward

Virginia has always had a strained relationship with alcohol. It's a tension that probably dates back to the first mint julep ever mixed in the commonwealth. The love-hate-relationship with demon alcohol is particularly thorny for business owners in fierce competition with rivals in D.C. and Maryland.

But times, they are a changin'.

Back in 2008, the General Assembly legalized the sale of sangria — a cocktail that had been illegal for restaurants to sell because it mixed wine and spirits, which was forbidden under rules set in place after the repeal of prohibition. Now Virginia has taken another step forward by allowing hotels to offer their guests free wine at receptions hosted by managers.

"It's an opportunity for us to check in with our guests and find out how their stay is going," said **Nick Gregory**, regional manager for Kimpton Hotels. "It's a much longer conversation than we could have then when people check in or out, and we love the emotional connection this allows us to make with our customers."

Of all the 48 hotels in the Kimpton chain, only three did not offer afternoon wine receptions. All three were located in Alexandria, which is subject to Virginia's Alcohol Control Board. So Gregory worked with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and Del. **David Englin** (D-45) to overturn the ban on events officially known as "hotel manager's receptions." Last week, Englin announced that he had withdrawn a bill to accomplish this because the Alcohol Control Board decided to change the rules prohibiting the receptions.

"An administrative fix was far preferable, since the hotels can now be offering this service immediately," said Englin in a written statement. "I appreciate ABC being responsive to our concerns so hotels like Monaco, Lorient and Morrison House in Alexandria can compete on a stronger footing with hotels across the Potomac."

Alexandria Cheesesteak

Al's Steakhouse has one of the most popular Philly Cheesesteak sandwiches in town, especially with city crews working overtime to clear the snow off of Alexandria's streets.

"I cut 'em a deal, let's put it that way," said **Johnny Severson**, owner of the Del Ray restaurant. "They've been good to me, so this is the least I can do."

The Mount Vernon Avenue chop shop began feeding city crews last week, preparing 80 sandwiches for hungry city employees. They were so popular that Severson was called into action again on Saturday, when he oversaw preparation of 125 sandwiches.

"What can I say?" asked Severson. "They like my sandwiches."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Cocktails anyone? The Hour owner Victoria Vergason (left) demonstrates how mixed cocktails were served in the '40s, '50s and '60s. Assisting are sales associates Amanda Buchholz of Alexandria (center) and Toni Mitman of Falls Church.

Cocktail Parties with Retro Twist

Alexandria boutique has ingredients for perfect soiree.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

When it comes to retro chic, television has *Mad Men* and *Old Town* has *The Hour Cocktail Collection*.

Specializing in vintage cocktail ware from the '40s, '50s and '60s, the store evokes a time when entertaining at home was stylish and classy and, says owner Victoria Vergason, there was an art to being the perfect hostess.

"When I was growing up, my folks would throw a cocktail party and invite the neighbors over," she recalled. "As kids, we helped clean the house and get everything ready. We dressed up and greeted the guests."

Opening up *The Hour* has been Vergason's way of bringing back social etiquettes that she says may have been lost but not forgotten.

"That's what's fun about this store," she said. "People will come in and say, 'Oh my gosh, I remember growing up with these glasses.' And it sparks those wonderful memories."

But it's not just nostalgia that attracts customers. According to Vergason, folks in their 20's and 30's walk in and admire the wares as being "cool."

Vergason lives in Alexandria with husband Michael, owner of a landscape architect company housed right across the street from her store. Their "soon to be seven-year-old triplets" Olivia, William and Christian attend Lyles Crouch Traditional Academy. Her son Matthew Westin is a freshman at St. Stevens.

Before settling in Alexandria more than a decade ago, she worked in international project finance in New York. Since moving, she's served on area non-profit boards and done charity work while raising her children.

It was after the triplets entered school that she

decided it was time to put her MBA hat back on.

"I bought this Victorian-era building on King Street a week before the market crashed," she said, "but I was dedicated to doing something with it."

She spent the next eight months renovating, getting licenses and doing market research and learned that while the wine industry has enjoyed growth since the late 1990s, cocktails are just beginning to have a rebirth.

"It seemed like a good time to start pulling glassware out of my collection and adding to it," Vergason explained. "By going to estate sales and auctions I've slowly amassed this incredible collection of items that are barely — if ever used. It's almost like a museum just walking in here, but you can buy things."

The Hour opened its doors last June, specializing in one-of-a-kind vintage chic barware, glassware and trays from designers such as Dorothy Thorpe, Georges Briard, Fred Press, Culver and Couroc.

Vergason blends new products with her vintage treasures — items such as shakers, pitchers, jiggers, muddlers and stirrers, napkins, bar carts and other furniture. She even offers new and vintage cocktail jewelry to enhance the host and hostess.

SEE BOUTIQUE, PAGE 15

The Hour Cocktail Collection

1015 King Street
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Sunday: Noon - 5 p.m.

BUSINESS



Del Ray resident Joe DiSalvo, a market regular, chats with Nancy Pritchard of Smith Meadows Meats in Berryville, Va.

PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER GAZETTE PACKET

Farmers in the Snow

It may have been a winter wonderland in Alexandria, but the faithful still found their way to The Del Ray Farmers Market. Vendors traveled from as far as Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania and Berryville, Virginia to sell fresh foods to their Del Ray regulars. The Del Ray Farmer's Market is

located at the corner of Mt. Vernon and Oxford Avenues and used to be open only from April through November. It's now open year round and offers an array home grown and home made fare. Winter hours are 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday.



Aimee Steel of The Dressed Up Nut, heirloom recipe nuts, lives in Shirlington.

T.C. Williams rowers Kate Arnold and Abby Bolton had just finished their ERG Sprints class at the high school and were on their way to St. Elmo's for some hot chocolate to warm up. Julie Arnold (right) stopped at the market to get something special for later.

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Half of the first floor in the Torpedo Factory could be converted to a gallery that would be open until 9 p.m. each night, displacing the artists currently renting space there and reducing the space available for events such as weddings and receptions.

Rethinking the Torpedo Factory

Consultants recommend changes to improve profitability at city's premiere waterfront destination.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Drastic changes could be on the horizon for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the city's premiere tourist attraction on the waterfront. According to a set of recommendations issued by a consulting firm earlier this month, the art center should find ways to become more profitable. Suggestions range from lengthening the hours of operation on the first floor to transforming half the central hall into an art gallery to creating a new logo and prohibiting art supplies from being viewed from the windows.

"The Torpedo Factory must improve its sales focus," wrote Vienna-based Management Analysis Incorporated which was paid \$99,231 to complete the study. "It seems apparent that there is a mounting expectation that the art center and its tenants should be self-sustaining and contribute more to the economy of the city."

But art and money can be uneasy companions, and many of the artists at the Torpedo Factory are concerned that making drastic changes to the art center might erode its mission. One of those artists is Lisa Schumaier, who has been an artist in residence since 2004. She says that one of the things that attracts people to the Torpedo Factory is the interaction visi-

tors have with working artists, a phenomenon she says might be harmed to converting half of the first floor to a gallery.

"I'm concerned that if we make half the first floor a gallery, people will come and walk through the gallery and leave without having that interaction," said Schumaier. "I want to make sure this is a place where you can wander around and discover artists making art. Right now, a lot of that happens on the first floor."

OPINIONS ARE divided about what should happen at the Torpedo Factory. Some say the existing art center is working, and that making too many changes could dilute the central mission. Others say radical changes are in order to shake up the status quo and create a fresh sense of purpose. Many have mixed emotions, acknowledging that the operation could be improved yet concerned that

"Any time you have as many people in here, particularly artists as we have, you are not going to have agreement probably on anything," said Susan Sanders, an artist who is a member of the steering committee considering proposed changes. "We are doing our best to balance the needs of the city with the wants and desires of the people in here."

Balancing those needs will be at the center of the debate about to unfold at the Torpedo Factory, which attracts 400,000 visitors annually and provides more than \$16.2 million in direct revenues to the city. The study estimates the prime building space occupied by the center represents an annual "opportunity cost" of \$1.7 million. Yet according to former Del. Marian Van Landingham (D-45), one of the founders of the art center in the 1970s, some of the Torpedo Factory's value is difficult to quantify.

"The art center is a major source of revenue for the city, and we provide a great deal more to Alexandria than any so-called opportunity cost," said Van Landingham. "This is a place where art is created, not a shopping mall."

Recommendations

- ❖ Creating five-year term limits for artists
- ❖ Instituting a system of performance standards for longtime artists
- ❖ Closing off about half of main hall to create a new central gallery
- ❖ Adding a restaurant to the first floor common area
- ❖ Extending first-floor hours to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday
- ❖ Prohibiting art supplies from being seen from the windows
- ❖ Moving the city's Archeology Museum
- ❖ Creating new signage to attract more visitors
- ❖ Installing sculpture along the waterfront side of the building
- ❖ Creating a new logo that would replace the 1970s-era emblem

Her Reason To Run

Michelle Rowley will run 12 half-marathons in 2010 to fight multiple sclerosis.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria resident Michelle Rowley has committed to running 12 half-marathons in 2010 to raise \$10,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She'll be blogging about her one-year adventure at myreason2run.wordpress.com. A native of Leola, S.D., Rowley has lived in Alexandria since 2002.

How did you get involved in this?

My mom had MS, and I actually have an aunt who has MS. So it's a cause that's very close to me. My mom passed away 12 years ago this summer, so that's how I came up with the 12 half-marathons for 12 years.

What goes into preparing for something like this?

A lot of hours training. I've done six other ones before. So I kind of have a decent base of running.

But I've been training since October for the first one, which was in January.

I'm lucky to have an incredibly patient husband who doesn't mind me going to bed early on a Friday night so I can do my long runs on Saturday morning.

I also have a great job and co-workers that are always willing to trade a shift with me when I need to go for a long run and cover for me when I am at races.

How did you come up with the goal of raising \$10,000?

I just kind of made it up. I was trying to think of a significant amount of money that would make a difference. I thought about \$5,000. But then I thought why not just go for \$10,000.

How will the fundraising work?

I've talked to some local businesses, and I've got my blog that I update several times a day. I'm on Facebook.

At this point, I'm just trying to get the word out and get followers. Hopefully, they'll think



Michelle Rowley celebrates after finishing her first half-marathon last month.

the cause is important enough to make a donation. People can donate through Web site or just write a check to the Multiple Sclerosis Society and reference "My Reason 2 Run" in the memo line.

This is all spelled out on my blog, so people can go there figure out how to donate. All the money will go to the Multiple Sclerosis Society because all the travel expenses and race fee are coming out of my pocket.

Twelve half-marathons in a year is a lot of running, isn't it?

Yes. The races alone end up being 156 miles or something like that. My goal for the year is to run 1,050 miles. So we'll see if that happens. Last year, I ran about 900. So it shouldn't be a problem — hopefully.

So you've already done one of these half-marathons, but you've still got 11 to go. What goes through your mind when you think about running 11 half-marathons this year?

Well I did two back-to-back last year, and it wasn't so bad. But then again, after the first one I was thinking to myself that I still have 11 more of these to go.

It does seem a little daunting. But we have a lot of fun travel built into the year, so there's a lot of fun stuff to look forward to. That'll keep me going.

OPINION

Surviving the Blizzard as a Community

Connected neighbors save the day; time to check contingency plans, emergency supplies.

More than 48 hours after more than two feet of snow stopped accumulating, after two nights of single digit temperatures in many areas, there are still tens of thousands of households without power.

During this blizzard, random and not-so-random acts of kindness have made all the difference for stranded families in the cold and dark. A little preparation to “shelter in place” also helped.

In neighborhoods around the region, families with power offered help to those without. Consider a few examples of list-serve messages, all sent with addresses and phone contact information, and instructions to spread the word:

“If any neighborhood residents still need a place to stay, you are welcome to come over. You can hang out for just a while to watch the game or stay overnight. We have lots of room and can accommodate a family with kids and pets — we have a large dog who would love to have a playmate for a while.”

“We have hot coffee, food and beds to sleep in. We also have a 4-wheel drive and if my husband can help with driving please let us know. Happy to help!”

“We have a warm house and food and beds. Anyone in need is most welcome. We are unplowed, so we can’t drive out ourselves.”

EDITORIAL

Consider one family’s experience: an elderly mother who lives alone in the suburbs while her children live in other states. Stranded by two-feet of snow, and out of power for the second day, her children lost phone contact with her. While friends tried to get to her by 4-wheel drive, an appeal via list-serve brought multiple offers from “strangers” to hike through the snow to check on her, and offers to provide a place to stay. The friend of the family was able to reach her, and found indoor temperatures of 31 degrees before getting her to a warm, safe place. But another 24 hours in that house could have been disastrous.

It’s hard to fathom the combination of no

power, bitter temperatures and no way to get out of the house or the neighborhood.

By the time you read this, written on Monday in the respite between the blizzard and Tuesday’s predicted storm, we may already be dealing with the next round of snow in this record-breaking winter.

It’s a great time to think about emergency contingencies. Do you know who on your block might need some extra thread in the safety net? Elderly, or lives alone, or any other special circumstance? Do you have a way to reach your family members during a power outage? Do you have food and water for a few days without power?

Here are two links to Ready.gov, explaining the basics of an emergency kit and the required elements of an emergency plan.

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>

<http://www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/index.html>

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— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Students Become Teachers

To the Editor:

The news of the T.C. Williams basketball program forfeiting all the games played prior to Feb. 2 has left all of us in a state of shock.

Some will seize this opportunity to find fault with the school atop the hill on King Street. These sad people will look to find an individual or group to blame, label the school “disturbing,” find scapegoats and parade them for public ridicule.

A school and team’s mettle can only be tested by evaluation under stress. It is clear to see that this

particular team is truly inspiring. We can all learn a great deal from this group of young men and their coach. The class and dignity displayed by each provides a great lesson and model that we can only hope to emulate.

One week ago the Titans were ranked 12th in the metropolitan area and riding an unparalleled district unbeaten streak of 80 con-

secutive victories. They were the toast of the city. With one phone call from an opponent to be played the very next evening, the team’s season could have been blown up. Through an oversight in the system it was learned that two players that had transferred into the school had previously exhausted their eligibility.

Washington is a town that feeds on scandal and cover-up. Apparently we can’t get enough of it. Whether it is a sitting president or great golfers, the usual response to embarrassing predicaments is to hunker down hoping the storm will just blow over. It never does. The tradition usually continues with the jettisoning of one or two scapegoats into oblivion only after labeling them as “the problem” and then spinning it as if all will be fine now.

This team is different. Their actions define the model behavior of a well principled team insistent on holding themselves to the highest of standards.

They immediately met as a team so all could understand the ramifications of what had happened. Of course they had to be distraught realizing the record of their efforts had just been erased. Unlike many adults simply viewing the record, these young men appear much wiser than their years as they understand the sea

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY KRISTI THOMAS

Christ Church framed by snow-laden branches on Sunday, Feb. 7.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

son is actually a journey. Speaking for all the players Ryan Yates stated, "I was more hurt that my teammates, my brothers, couldn't finish [the season]... Even if they're not on the team I'll be playing for both of them because they'll still be part of us." The team leader went on to add, "We knew they didn't do this on purpose. They had no idea. ... We've got their back 100 percent." Ryan and his teammates' actions demonstrate incredible compassion and an absolute loyalty for their teammates rarely found in Washington.

The young men's cool under pressure and exemplary response was, not unsurprisingly, matched by their leader and his staff. Coach King immediately alerted the media to the situation by personally calling everyone from the Washington Post to the local papers. He made certain media outlets were aware of the situation and heard it from a knowledgeable source in a timely manner. There was no need to wait for idle scuttlebutt and innuendo to build an unwarranted nasty stench around the program and school. There was never ever any intent to subvert the rules. The coach's conscience was clear. A mistake had been made and it would be corrected immediately. King understands that a mutual trust has to be maintained, sharing the good news with the bad, to ensure the proper portrayal of T.C. Williams going forward. His ever-present honest and straightforward nature has been rewarded with a fair treatment by the press.

Coach King has not wasted time or effort worrying about what could have been. Rather, he has channeled all of his efforts into making certain his team remained together as one team. That is his job as a coach and he is great at what he does. The two young men in question are to remain a part of the team in whatever capacity is allowable according to VHSL rules. The coach has spoken with each member of his team and taken the initiative to call the parents of his players. Although Coach King is selflessly willing to shoulder the blame for everything "since it happened on his watch," it is readily evident to all his actions were never at fault throughout the process. His stand is noble, rare and incorrect. This is certainly not his fault.

Willing acceptance of full responsibility for this terrible situation has not only been accepted by Coach King but by the school's athletic director Bob McKeag and Principal Bill Clendaniel. It should be noted the issue began before either the principal or AD were even hired. We are fortunate to have so many good people within T.C. Williams willing to shoulder the blame for an act of omission they felt had occurred on "their watch."

While the Central office of ACPS separates itself from the problem and initiates a witch hunt by conducting an "investigation into personnel and process involved," we should be aware of the lessons being taught to us by the young men on the basketball team

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



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—Terri, Vienna, VA

Snow Drives Home Need for Transportation Funding

BY DAVID ENGLIN
DELEGATE (D-45)

Many thanks to all of the state and local government employees, plow crews, public safety workers, and utilities crews for their Herculean efforts in response to the overwhelming snow emergency. Our area has already received more than four times our usual annual snowfall, with more snow on the way. In addition to the personal challenges this has created for us all, this is putting tremendous strain on already scarce resources, and it should serve as a reminder to the General Assembly that we need a sustained, dedicated funding mechanism for transportation sooner rather than later. While Governor McDonnell appears for now to be punting on any serious transportation funding ideas, transportation issues — from transit resources to HOT Lanes — have continued to occupy my time, and I continue pushing for progressive tax reform to help the middle class and small businesses while protecting money for education and infrastructure.

My new position on the House Finance Committee has given me the opportunity to support and advocate for responsible transportation funding solutions and other revenue and tax reform proposals. For ex-

ample, last week, I was one of a small handful of votes in favor of a bipartisan, comprehensive, sustainable transportation funding package. The proposal had the strong support of virtually the entire Northern Virginia business community — including businesses whose taxes would increase — because they understand that investing in our transportation infrastructure is necessary for job creation and economic growth.

Additionally, at the request of the City of Alexandria, I carried forward legislation to double the Northern Virginia sales tax on motor fuels to 4.2 percent, which would have eventually put more than \$80 million a year of additional funds into public transit in our region. This too was defeated by a subcommittee majority of “No Tax Pledge” Republicans. However, on a positive note, the same subcommittee approved House Bill 355, my legislation to create more transparency when the General Assembly scrutinizes whether various tax advantages are effective public policy.

As predicted, the corporate interests who stand to make hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 75 years from the I-95/395 HOT Lanes project pulled out all of the stops last week to defeat my efforts to protect our neighborhoods from this problematic proposal. Current law allows the Sec-



retary of Transportation to enter into agreements that give away public highways and other infrastructure — property owned by you, me, and every taxpayer — to for-profit corporations with little oversight. In the case of the I-95/

395 HOT Lanes project, this has resulted in an inadequate environmental analysis that leaves the VDOT-Fluor-Transurban project team unable to produce data to support its claim that the proposal will avoid harm to neighborhoods like Parkfairfax, Fairlington, and Shirlington. In response, I sponsored a package of legislation designed to require a complete environmental analysis and other transparency and oversight reforms. Unfortunately, on party-line votes, the House Transportation Committee last week tabled all of these measures. In addition to bowing to pressure from an army of corporate lobbyists, many of the very legislators who keep blocking new revenue for transportation openly admitted that the General Assembly’s ongoing failure to pass such a solution makes giving away public assets

to private corporations the only viable option.

The tax reform I am most passionate about — my Middle Class and Small Business Tax Relief Act — finally received a fair hearing last week, which is a modicum of progress given that it was pocket vetoed last year. This legislation, which I have been working on for about 18 months, would eliminate the state sales tax on food, lower income taxes for 42 percent of Virginia taxpayers, eliminate the corporate income tax for 22,000 struggling businesses, and protect funds for education and transportation with a 1.25 percent income tax rate increase on the wealthiest four hundredths of a percent of Virginians. While the bill was “gently tabled” (which is a euphemistic way to acknowledge its merit without moving it forward) it fostered a productive discussion, and Finance Subcommittee One suggested that the full Finance Committee use it as a springboard for future hearings about tax reform. Given the transformational scope of my proposal, moving the committee toward an open conversation about progressive tax reform is certainly a step forward.

For updates on these and other reform efforts, 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.

RICHMOND REPORT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

and backed up by their mentors within the walls of T.C. Williams:

- 1) Stand up and remain loyal to your friends through thick and thin.
- 2) Problems need to be solved, not scapegoats ousted.
- 3) Be honest and up front about every-

thing immediately.

4) Mistakes will be forgiven if rectified with integrity and honesty

5) A team is comprised of far more than its record.

If the ethics of today’s youth are represented by the reactions to adversity of these young men and their coach, we can look

forward to a very bright future. Let’s hope each of us is capable of summoning the same courage of conviction this team and school has so clearly demonstrated when tested by adversity.

Jerry C. Whitmire
Alexandria

around \$415 million. That would be a budget on par with pre-bubble spending while still accommodating the actual growth in the city’s population plus the actual rate of inflation since 2000.

Some will, of course, argue that such an approach is unrealistic, that too many cuts in existing city services would have to be made to reach such a budget, and that residents would suffer as a result. Nonsense. I don’t recall anyone arguing back in 2000 that city spending was woefully inadequate.

People can always find ways or conjure up supposed needs to justify more spending. However responsible spending should be linked to responsible revenues. Setting the overall budget target at \$415 million would finally impose on the City Council the badly needed discipline to make meaningful decisions and prioritize spending to meet essential needs.

Most importantly, it would spare Alexandria property owners of yet another round of still higher taxes — and in the current economic environment, do we deserve no less?

Brent Bahler
Alexandria

Responsible Spending

To the Editor:

Politicians always want us to believe that meeting any given challenge is more complicated than it really is. It is their way of making themselves appear more indispensable. Such is the case again as the Alexandria City Council confronts yet another budget conundrum.

Of course, the solution is really quite simple. During the 2000s, like kids in a candy store, city spenders gleefully thrived on the revenues generated by the real estate bubble. Now that it has burst, city spending should revert to pre-bubble levels.

In 2000, the city budget was \$288 million. In 2009, it was a whopping \$530 million — an 84-percent increase in spending even though the city population grew only 12 percent. In other words, city spending rose seven times faster than the city’s population.

If the City Council would face their new budget world with honesty, they would cap spending in the next budget at somewhere



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

Along Eisenhower

Bonnie Pannhoff walks her dog Brinkely during the snow storm Saturday morning, Feb. 6, on Eisenhower Avenue.



David, Dylan and Kyle Graham play in the snow on Eisenhower Avenue as the snow storm continues on Saturday evening, Feb. 6.

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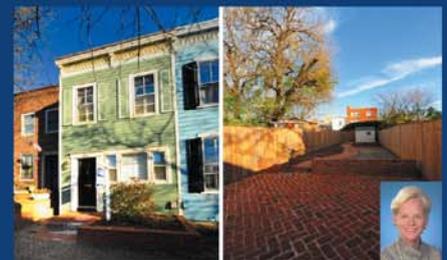
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'We're Not Eating What We Should Eat'

BY AGNES BLUM
GAZETTE PACKET



Paula Bass

Eat fat, be healthy. It's not nutritional advice that one hears every day, but it was the message at the Northern Virginia Whole Food Nutrition Meetup on Saturday Jan. 30. About 40 people braved the impending snowstorm and met at the restaurant Food Matters in Cameron Station to discuss how food can affect mood and health.

Paula Bass, Ph.D., a licensed clinical psychologist, spoke to the crowd as they ate a breakfast of local foods. Bass, who has been practicing in Northern Virginia for 30 years, fuses a traditional psychotherapeutic approach with nutritional wisdom.

Drawing on experiences with her patients and her own battles with health problems, she told the audience how a change in diet could dramatically alter health. One theme emerged over and over: we need saturated fat, the kind you get from animals.

"When you take the fat out, you're taking out all the good nutrients," Bass said, explaining how saturated fat helps keep the brain chemically balanced. "Without it, symptoms can mimic a psychiatric illness and then you do have a psychiatric illness, because that's the way you're feeling every day."

One little girl, for example, had always excelled in school but had begun having breakdowns and lashing out at friends and family. It turned out this second-grader had, up until recently, been eating a whole-foods breakfast with plenty of fat — pancakes, eggs, bacon — and was now eating sugar-cereal and skim milk because of the morning rush at home. Bass recommended to her parents that they ensure she eat a breakfast full of protein and animal fats. They did, and her problems disappeared.

"Food can directly influence a child's brain," Bass said. Many people who suffer from mood disorders today — everything from depression to ADD — can trace their problems to a diet lacking in nutrients and fats, she said.

"The only vegetable I saw growing up was canned string beans," Bass joked. She traced her own turnaround in health to when she began to follow the principles of the Weston A. Price Foundation, which uses education, research and activism to promote healthy living. Their guidelines are: eat pastured meat, probiotics such as yogurt, organic fruits and vegetables and strictly avoid sugar, vegetable oils, white flour, soy and additives such as MSG. "We're not eating what we should eat," Bass said. "And what we are eating damages the manufacture of healthy cells."

City's Chocolate Star

BY CAROLINA OLIVIERI
GAZETTE PACKET



Rebecca Underly

Historic Alexandria has another treasure to add to its long list of jewels: pastry chef Rebecca Underly.

Underly loves chocolate. This pastry chef specializes in flavored truffles, such as chocolate salt, cardamom, egg nog, and more. She also bakes cakes, cookies and cupcakes. But chocolate is her main focus. While attending pastry school, she found she really loved working with chocolate — the tempering, rolling, dipping, aromas, and of course, the tasting. Underly tries to have chocolate present in everything she makes.

All of this started one month into pastry school when she was

SEE CHOCOLATE, PAGE 28

OPINION

\$2 Billion Needs To Be Cut

BY PATRICIA S. TICER
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



The week of Feb. 1 brought lots of snow, but not much is known about the shape of the budget. What we do know is that an additional \$2 billion a year needs to be cut from the budget which Governor Kaine submitted. Already a number of actions have been taken to save on Medicaid expenditures which are going to show an overall increase since, in this recession, more families will be eligible for and will use assistance.

Remembering the tragedy at Virginia Tech, I am particularly sad to report that all facilities operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services will be cut by 19 percent. In addition, nine HIV anonymous testing sites including four in Northern Virginia will be eliminated along with a 30 percent reduction in the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

I have always believed that education should be a top priority of the Commonwealth and will continue to do whatever is feasible to see that an educational program of high quality is maintained and that teacher retirement is protected. Education cuts came after cuts in many other areas; but as the economy has not rebounded as hoped for, we eventually had to reduce our funding for K-12 education, as well as higher education.

As chairman of Agriculture, Conservation, and

WEEKLY UPDATE

Natural Resources, I am chief patron of the Stream Saver Bill, Senate Bill 564, to end the practice of filling Virginia headwater streams with coal mining waste from mountain top removal. We will be having a rally for this bill here at the Capitol on this Thursday, Feb. 11, at 3 p.m. for this bill followed by a public hearing at 4. All are welcomed. Like Obama

and Vice President Joe Biden, I am concerned about clean energy and its sources as great many of most of our power plants throughout the state are fueled by coal.

I am also pleased to tell you about the 13,350 acres conservation easement on the Dragon Run in Middlesex County, considered one of the most ecologically important areas in the Chesapeake Bay region. This is the same size as Manhattan. Conservation easements will continue to be a priority in this administration as Governor McDonnell has set a goal for conservation easements totaling 400,000 acres during his term as Governor.

As a member of Transportation Committee, I have the opportunity to learn more in depth than when I listen to the debate in the Senate. Two laws which would increase our safety on the road have passed the Senate. The first would require all passengers to wear seat belts regardless of age and where the passenger is seated. (Current law only requires front seat

SEE UPDATE, PAGE 30

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

meals to over 95 elderly residents on Tuesday, Feb. 9, in spite of the weather. Normally meals are not provided when schools are closed, but with the predicted snowstorm, Senior Services of Alexandria arranged for meal delivery with the help of these caring individuals; school-age and up. We thank Tim Gleason, Tony Davis, Wendy Webb, Act for Alexandria, John Porter, Lori Morris, Dillon Morris, Abby Sater, Christopher Campagna, Bea Campagna, Mickey Campagna, Liza Banks Campagna, Dianna Campagna, Greg Murphy, Ken Barnett, Connie Hart, and Bud Hart. In addition to providing the meals, the volunteers ensured that the seniors were warm, and chatted with them for awhile.

Alexandrians have a special way of collaborating in times of need. I know our senior clients are grateful for the meals, so on their behalf, thanks, again.

Janet Barnett

Executive Director
Senior Services of Alexandria

Can't Blame The Past

To the Editor:

It is very troubling when the ACPS Superintendent places

blame for the T.C. basketball fiasco on "longstanding practices" within T.C. Williams High School. Blaming "longstanding practices" attempts to remove responsibility from current administrators at T.C. It is not only a weak excuse, it is also unfounded, divisive, and completely void of addressing the utter lack of administrative leadership within the high school. This damaging and avoidable incident provides a preview of how Mort Sherman will address future failures within the school system.

Failures affecting students will be blamed on practices of old which had been in place "long before" Mr. Sherman set foot in Alexandria. That would be a convenient excuse for Mr. Sherman if that were always the case. Here is the only problem with that argument and this incident, changes were made this school year, as a result of Mr. Sherman's policies, which surely had a role in allowing this debacle to unfold as it did. First, Dr. Laura Newton, director of guidance at T.C., was removed from the high school and placed at G.W. Middle School. This took her out of the building, away from daily contact with students and staff, which would have enabled her to address any guidance/athletic office concerns involving student transcripts. Second, Cheryl

Knutsen (yet another retiree from the Fairfax school system hurriedly thrown into T.C.) was brought in in December as the "substitute guidance director" at T.C. Williams. This transition of guidance directors in the middle of the school year, under the direction of the Superintendent, allowed improper transcripts and ineligible students to be overlooked. Third, the school system installed a new attendance/grading/registration computer program which six months into the school year is still not fully operational. The new system has created more problems than solutions and is to blame for the athletic and guidance departments being unable to issue any (that is 0, zilch, none, zip) athletic referrals to students. This prevents communication between teachers, athletes, coaches, parents, guidance departments, and the athletic department concerning the attendance, discipline, and academic eligibility of athletes. These practices and changes have not been in place for any longstanding period of time, they were initiated this school year, directly under the watchful eyes and approving nod of Mort Sherman.

Tim Leary

Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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What Gets Measured Gets Done

By MARK R. WARNER
U.S. SENATOR



Is anyone evaluating whether these programs really get the job done? Is anyone looking across the separate agency silos to identify waste or duplication? Has there been any effort to share best practices among different

the Office of Management and Budget deputy director whom President Obama has designated as his "Chief Performance Officer." I have known Jeff, a Northern Virginia resident and business leader, for many years, and I have faith in his considerable talents and abilities.

In many ways, this task force builds on much of my previous work as Virginia's governor.

When I took office in Richmond in 2002, the Commonwealth faced a \$6 billion revenue shortfall on a \$34 billion base budget.

To address the deficit, we made deep budget cuts across state government. But we also viewed Virginia's fiscal crisis as an excellent opportunity to re-evaluate the way state government delivered services.

We worked in a responsible and bipartisan way with Virginia's legislature to implement smart, business-like reforms that continue to produce significant taxpayer savings for Virginians today:

We took a hard look across state government, and eliminated or consolidated almost 100 outdated or duplicative state agencies, oversight boards and government commissions, saving considerable taxpayer money while also reducing state regulation and paperwork requirements.

We continue to achieve significant savings by implementing a "portfolio" approach to the way we manage the state's real estate, vehicle fleet and other property, combining agency

SEE WHAT GETS MEASURED, PAGE 28

The federal government has 44 separate job training and employment programs, spread across nine different agencies and departments, spending a combined \$12 billion a year serving about 30 million Americans.

Similarly, the federal government has established a patchwork system of at least 22 separate programs focused on the important consumer health issue of food safety.

At least 17 stand-alone programs have been established over time to support the federal role in higher education.

What is frustrating to me, and I would imagine to most taxpayers, is the lack of any sustained effort to analyze and compare these similar but scattered federal programs.

We do not do a good enough job evaluating outcomes and gauging overall effectiveness. And I believe that is unacceptable in a time of heightened — and appropriate — concern over federal spending and budget deficits.

While several recent presidents and a series of Congresses have required federal agencies to collect a lot of data and submit all kinds of annual reports, we have never taken the next logical step: making smart, responsible use of the information.

programs with similar functions? Doesn't it make sense that consolidating and streamlining repetitive programs and functions could lead to considerable cost savings for the taxpayers?

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad of North Dakota has asked me to lead a bipartisan Task Force on Government Performance to try to find the answers to these questions, and I was both honored by his request and eager to get to work.

Our task force is looking at the performance and accountability metrics already being used by the federal government, and considering whether these existing reporting requirements are themselves duplicative, time-consuming or counter-productive. And we certainly plan to survey a broad array of newer tools being used effectively by many state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to measure outcomes and effectiveness.

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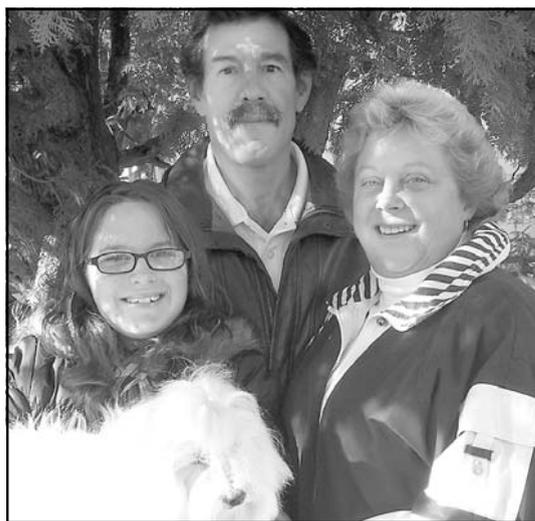
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Please Leave Masons Alone

To the Editor:

Re: Andrew MacDonald's letter to the editor.

I believe that the Masonic Temple is and has been a good neighbor, hosting concerts and events including Easter sunrise services and the annual First Night fireworks. I'm no architect but the Temple itself, on its tiered hill, is a striking, unique feature of our city. The open space around the Temple is a blessing.

In many ways we're the ones who are the bad neighbors, presuming a right to sled down a hill, skateboard over steps, or use the grounds as a dogwalk. It is private property that its generous owners have permitted us to enjoy. Yes, the explanation for the new trees on the traditional sledding hill sounds a bit contrived, but it's the Masons' land. They don't need to justify their landscaping to me or Mr. MacDonald.

Mr. MacDonald has a history of coveting private property and then asserting that he or the public possess some often extra legal "right" over it. Does a tax exemption somehow convey a right for the members of the public to use the Masons' or another tax exempt entity's property as they see fit? No. Are the Masons engaging in some activity that nullifies their designation as tax exempt beyond Mr. McDonald's attempt to appro-

appropriate their property as a park? I think not.

Mr. MacDonald, please mind your own business and leave the Masons alone.

Richard Vanderhoeven

Save Metro By Privatizing

To the Editor:

Gov. Bob McDonnell, in a recent interview with Reason.tv about his proposal to privatize the Virginia ABC stores, says:

"We can't just do things the same old way ... Certainly there's nothing I gleaned from the [Virginia] constitution that would have me think it's better or required to have the government controlling distilled spirits."

This same type of attitude should apply when it comes to Washington, D.C.'s Metro system.

Recently, the Metro Board of Directors, none of whom take Metro regularly, heard from passengers on various proposals as the Metro board tries to plug a \$16 million shortfall for the current fiscal year. These proposals ranged from fare increases to reductions in service. The board voted last Thursday morning to impose a \$.10 fare increase.

In July, the same Metro board will have to deal with a projected \$175 million shortfall in next year's budget. This is why the Washington Metro system is a prime example of the failure of our socialized transit model, and why transit systems should be privatized.

So how did we get here?

Up until about 1964, transit systems in general were profitable until the last time Democrats in Congress had a super majority in Congress. Why? Because they were privately owned and not subsidized. Then, in 1964, Congress passed the Urban Mass Transit Act in order to assist low-income folks from impending closings of train service in various cities around the country that were closing lines because of low ridership. Where in the Constitution does it permit Congress to subsidize and regulate transit systems? Answer, it's not in there.

So what happened? Washington, D.C. for example, behind billions of dollars in new subsidies from the Federal Government, built our current Metro system. The system is currently funded yearly by the surrounding localities as well as the Federal Government. Alexandria's Vice Mayor Kerry Donley has proposed to double the gas tax in Virginia in order to maintain Alexandria, VA's commitment to Metro stating: "Travelers and visitors to the region should pay more of the burden as they are the direct beneficiaries of the reduced congestion brought to us by the Metro system."

This is bad idea by Vice Mayor Donley because residents (also travelers and visitors) in Northern Virginia already pay between \$.30 to \$.50 higher prices for gas than the rest of the Commonwealth. Raising taxes to cover Alexandria's share for Metro, especially in a recession that is expected to get worse, will not solve the problem. Governments are not good at running businesses (e.g. the U.S. Post Office,

Amtrak, VA ABC Stores).

So, how much do the subsidies cost you the taxpayer?

Transit subsidies are vastly out of proportion to other modes of transportation and have made transit the most expensive way to travel. That's right. In terms of subsidies, it costs about \$.15 per passenger mile when you fly, \$.24 per passenger mile to drive and on average \$.80 per passenger mile to take rail transit. Using that figure, my commute each way between Alexandria and D.C. costs Metro \$7.20 for a \$2.65 fare. See the problem?

John Stossel writes about "The Rail Scam" on his blog: "The average subsidy per ride on all LA rails is \$10.53, according to data from transportation consultant Tom Rubin. For someone who uses the rail to go back and forth to work every day, that adds up to a subsidy of \$5,369 per year — enough to lease that person a Toyota Prius for the year."

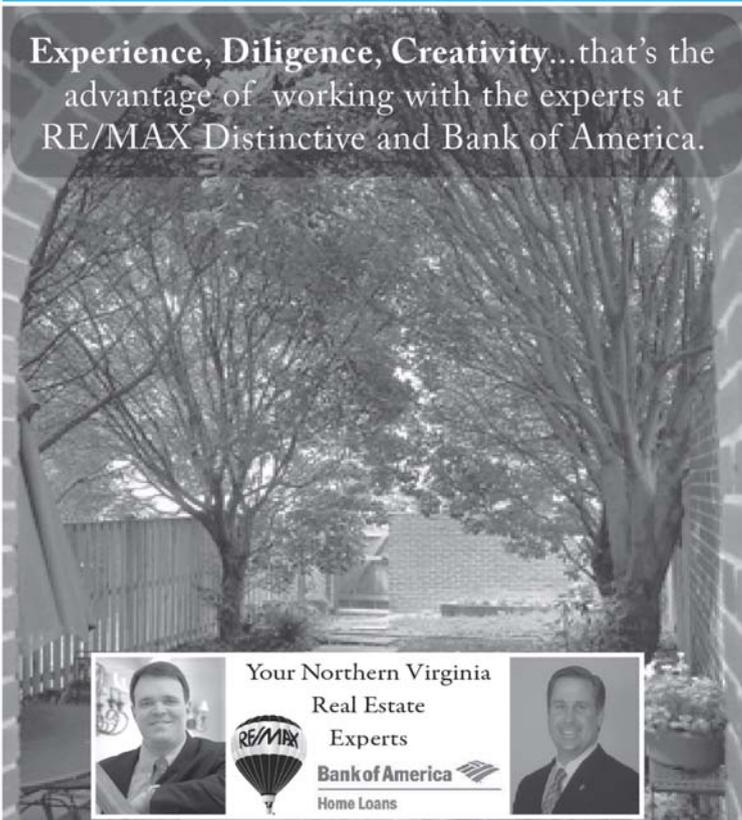
Metro, which is vastly underfunded, needs cash which the local Governments just don't have without majorly raising your taxes. What the WMATA Metro board, in conjunction with the local Governments, should do is privatize the system. Privatizing will allow transit companies to compete to provide innovative transit options that we all can enjoy. We riders will get better service, and our communities will benefit as well.

After all, haven't local governments thrown enough money down the MetroRail/MetroBus well?

Lee Hernly
Alexandria

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Boutique Has Ingredients for Classic Soiree

FROM PAGE 4

cocktail wardrobes. "I think that with the economy where it is," Vergason said, "more people are entertaining at home, not going out as often. Cocktail parties are a much less ex-

pensive way of having folks over without a formal sit-down dinner."

Over the next several weeks, The Hour will begin carrying specialty treats like gourmet nuts, olives and cocktail mixers — everything but the alcohol. Vergason's goal is to make her store more of a one-stop shop.

"Come and get some glassware and cocktail items and pick up appetizers. Then, all you need to do is stop at the ABC store and you're done."

Vergason offers quarterly tastings at the store to demonstrate for the kinds of drinks to serve in her unique glassware.

She's teaming with local restaurants to round out the events.

"Happy hour was called happy for a reason," said Vergason. "It's a great time of day that puts a smile on everyone's face. The music, the entertaining — that's just what it's all about."

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FREE KITCHEN & BATH SEMINARS:

Thursday Feb. 11th and Wednesday Feb. 24th, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

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

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.

Join us for these 2 hour seminars. Plus, lunch will be served. But spaces are limited, so reserve yours today. Oh, we'll also give you a free pen.

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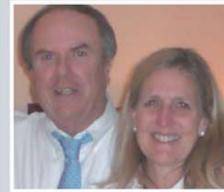


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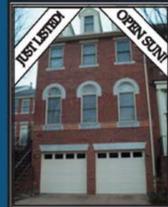


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3807 Courtland Cir
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Stunning Value!
Bank owned luxurious end unit townhome in prestigious Sunnyside. This home boasts bright open floor plan with 3 finished levels, 2 car garage, walk out lower level to spacious patio and fenced yard, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, high ceilings and updated features throughout. Priced thousands below comparable townhomes in the City of Alex. Move quickly! This will not last! **Open Sun 1-4. King St Metro: Russell Rd; L W. Glebe; R Charles Ave; R Courtland to 3807**



9324 Old Mansion Rd
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Breathtaking River Views!
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3906 Rive Drive
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Stunning Property!
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site.



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



3356 WILTON CREST CT
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\$599,900
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8116 SQUIRREL RUN RD
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GORGEOUS BRICK front end-unit TH, backing to priv parklands & peaceful stream! 4 lvls of sunny & spacious living w/updates galore. 3BR, 2full/2half BA & special loft above Master for exercise, home office or craft room! Fin w/out LL + over sized deck & newer fencing. Move in - it's all been done for you!



1032 ROYAL ST #1032
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1616 BOYLE ST - Parker Gray
Historic District / \$499,900
• 1,600+ sq ft of living space
• Main & LL addition
• 3 BR, 2 BA - Kit w/SS & granite
• Deck, deep yard, METRO



2114 N EARLY STREET
Alexandria / \$539,000
• BRAND NEW Basement & more!
• 4BR, 3FBA
• Renovated Kit
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1208 Tatum Drive
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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
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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!



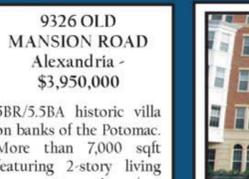
5137 BEAUREGARD ST
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\$385,000
I'M SO FRESH! And ready to go! New carpet, fresh paint & refinished HW's spill up this lovely garage townhome. A cozy fireplace is perfect now & a deck/patio w/hot tub for your spring/summer enjoyment. 3 levels of loveliness, backs to common area of green space - inside Beltway & close to I-395



9326 OLD MANSION ROAD
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7211 STOVER COURT
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400 CAMERON STA BLVD - Unit # 427
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\$369,990
JUST LISTED! Excellent 2BR/2BA condo features a gourmet kit w/SSA, granite & lg brkfst bar. Upgraded, luxurious & large baths. W/D in unit. Carpet thru-out plus tile. Courtyard views from balcony. 2 garage spaces. Shuttle to Van Dorn METRO, EZ drive to OT/DC.



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



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.



3102 Waterside Ln
1810 Hollindale Dr



4821 Stillwell Ave
8311 Mt Vernon Hwy



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.



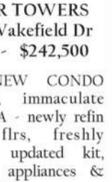
1820 37TH ST, NW
Washington - \$949,000
FABULOUS listing in Georgetown/Burleith! Stunning top-of-the-line renovations! Formal LR w/frp, gourmet kit, 4BR, 3.5BA, den & sep DR. New basement renovation w/in-law suite w/full bath. Master Bedroom w/custom built-ins & en-suite marble bath.



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Dance Studio Presents Winter Showcase

Foxtrot, Tango, Waltz, Salsa, Rumba ... many dance styles and enthusiastic dancers and spectators were on hand at the Dance Studio Lioudmila's Annual

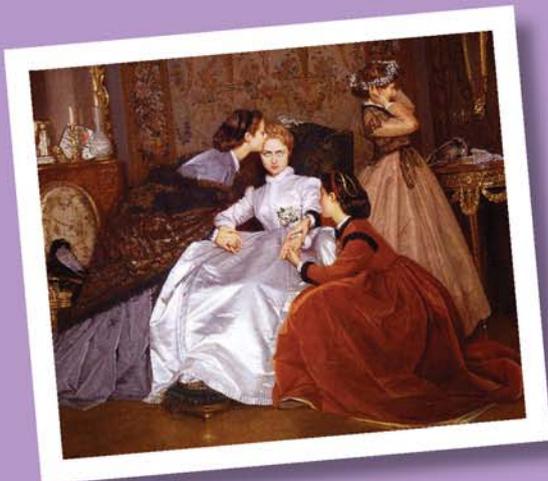
Winter Showcase on Saturday, Jan. 30.

Dancers of all ages, from beginner to professional level gathered, to present an uplifting and athletic display of moves.



Dorothy Dodson dances the Paso Doble with instructor Dimitar Petrov.

PHOTOS BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/GAZETTE PACKET
The S & N Girls Showdance troupe dance the Cha-Cha/Rumba at Dance Studio Lioudmila's Annual Winter Showcase.



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• Louisa May Alcott

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MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

Doll's trunk. England. Leather, wood, paper, copper alloy, fire gilding, iron, ca. 1797-1799. An inscription inside this toy trunk states that George Washington gave it to Eliza Law's daughter who was born in 1797.

Bringing Them Home

Beginning Feb. 13, Historic Mount Vernon hosts a special new exhibition, Bringing Them Home: 150 Years of Restoring the Washington Collection. Organized in honor of the sesquicentennial of the opening of Mount Vernon to the public in 1860, Bringing Them Home celebrates the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association's 150-year pursuit of original Washington artifacts. Widely dispersed after George and Martha Washington's deaths, these items — which include examples of fine and decorative arts, books, and manuscripts — enrich our understanding of the Washingtons and their daily life at Mount Vernon. Nearly 150 objects will be on view, most are being publicly exhibited for the first time and many have not been at Mount Vernon since the Washingtons lived here. Bringing Them Home tells the tale of how objects have returned to Mount Vernon. The exhibit is in the F.M. Kirby Gallery in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum.

SEE HOME, PAGE 23

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A Storm of Laughs Resumes

Molière's "The Miser" lifts snowed in spirits at Clark Street.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Only a snow storm of historic proportions could keep the holders of tickets to last weekend's performances at the Clark Street Playhouse from having a great time. That is where the Washington Shakespeare Company is presenting David Ball's marvelous reduction of Molière's five-act "The Miser" into a manic single act. It offers more laughs per minute than any other show now playing on local stages.

Of course, as we all know, that historic storm did arrive and the performances didn't happen. But the show runs for the rest of the month, so there's plenty of time to enjoy this delight. If you need motivation to dig out from the frozen stuff, this should be sufficient reward for some serious shoveling.

Molière's play dates to 1668, late in the brief but eventful life of that playwright/producer/performer who scandalized Paris but who got away with it because he had the protection of the King. Of course, it helped that the king happened to be "The Sun King" Louis XIV. The play involves a miserly widower so attached to his money that he has his fortune buried in his back yard. None of his wealth is frittered away in such frivolous pursuits as supporting his children, or even repairing the broken windows in his dilapidated "estate."

Three hundred years ago, that miser was played by none other than Molière himself, taking full advantage of his chronic cough, shortness of breath and stooped posture. Today it is Ian Armstrong as the titular miser and he substitutes furtive glances, grimaces and cringes as infirmities of character for Molière's infirmities of body. His miser is a very funny caricature of self-inflicted misery.

Armstrong's miser is father to two children of marriageable age — but how to avoid the dreaded "dowry" issue? His son happens to be in love with a young woman who, it turns out, he is to wed himself. Rex Daugherty boosts the production's energy level as the sun while Katie Atkinson is the miser's daughter who is in love with a household servant who has a secret of his own. Mix everything up under the influence of a matchmaker with a hidden agenda of her own, and you have enough plot twists and turns to keep things jumping for just under two hours.

As if any additional spice were needed, two very funny performances as household ser-



C. STANLEY/THE GAZETTE

Ian Armstrong as "The Miser" in Molière's comedy.

vants are provided. (This is, after all, Parisian society where even misers have staff.) One is the household cook in the person of Frank Britton. The other is the coachman, also played by Britton because the miser only hires one person for both jobs. In an inspired piece of tomfoolery, Britton calls the manic events to a screeching halt when the miser finishes issuing instructions to the cook and begins instructing the coachman. "Hold everything! The coachman will be right in," he says and heads off stage to change costumes while everyone onstage waits.

Adaptor David Ball's script is full of crudities. Apparently, in the supposedly sophisticated upper reaches of Parisian society everything tends toward the scatological. Tobias Harding has provided a junk-littered set for the piece with a giant skylight with un-repaired broken glass and Jessi Cole Jackson's costumes place the piece in a modern world where worn sneakers seem perfectly appropriate.

Where and When

The Washington Shakespeare Company's production of "The Miser" plays through Feb. 28 at the Clark Street Playhouse just north of Crystal City. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 - \$35 except on Saturday afternoons when admission is on a pay-what-you-can basis. Call 1-800-494-8497 or log on to www.BoxOfficeTickets.com/WSC.

♦♦♦

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.

George Washington Birthday Celebration Events Are Cancelled

Due to the snow storms, the City of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee has announced the cancellation of all major outdoor events scheduled for Feb. 13-15. This cancellation includes:

- ♦ George Washington Birthday Parade;
- ♦ George Washington Classic 10-K Race;
- ♦ Revolutionary War Battle Re-Enactment

and Encampment at Fort Ward Park;

- ♦ Friendship Breakfast at the Holiday Inn & Suites Hotel;
- ♦ Tomb Ceremony for the Unknown Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House;
- ♦ Walking With Washington Tour.

♦♦♦

The Birthnight Banquet and Ball is still scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 13, at Gadsby's

Tavern Museum. The Committee will also announce the winners of the "Cherry Challenge" on Monday, Feb. 15. For more information, visit www.WashingtonBirthday.org.

♦♦♦

At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, events may be scaled back and performance times may vary. For more information, go to www.Visit.MountVernon.org

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ALL-BEETHOVEN
Valentine's Weekend

SAT. EVENING FEB. 13 8:00 PM
 SAT. MATINEE FEB. 14 3:00 PM



Yuliya Gorenman, piano

Beethoven *Prometheus Overture*
 Beethoven *Symphony No. 6 "Pastorale"*
 Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 4*
 with Yuliya Gorenman, piano

Guest Artist Sponsors: Linda & Elliott Bunce, Dr. & Mrs. William P. O'Grady

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CALENDAR



SUNDAY/FEB. 14

Wine Tastings. 1-4 p.m. With local wine consultant Stephen Potter. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Cost is \$5. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

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.

Gallery, 211 King Street. Visit <http://www.palyuldc.org/meditation.html>.

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.

ONGOING

The Alexandria Commission for Women seeks nominations for its 2010 Salute to Women Awards recognizing women leaders who have made outstanding contributions to women and girls living in Alexandria. The deadline to submit nominations is Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. To make nominations, visit www.alexwomen.com.

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.

Meditation Class. 10-11 a.m. every Sunday. Come enjoy a free group class on meditation instruction and practice. Class will be centered around calm abiding (shine/samatha). No experience is needed. All are welcome at the 3rd floor of Mindful Hands

THURSDAY/FEB. 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.

Siobhan Quinn and Michael Bowers Postponed. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. Visit dreamersloversandoutlaws.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 12

Music for Tuba and Euphonium. 8 p.m. Free. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Prose and Poetry Reading. 7 p.m. With Tuesdays at Two Writers Group. Free and open to all to enjoy this fun, spoken "art" event. Email: tlwideas@comcast.net; or visit www.theDelRayArtisans.org. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Tracy Wilkerson at 703-501-1736 or tlwideas@comcast.net.

Singer/Songwriter Janna Audey. 7-9 p.m. At Spill the Beans, 1900 Elkin Street, Suite 4, Alexandria, spillthebeansva.com.

Ballroom Dancing for Couples. 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. 2nd Friday of each month. Enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor in Mount Vernon area; Cost is \$15/person. Private club; reservations required www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com

SATURDAY/FEB. 13

Winter Boutique District Warehouse Sale. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rescheduled. 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.

Water Wise Landscaping. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Well designed, installed and maintained landscapes offer years

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

of environmental benefits and beauty. Green Spring horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol discusses these concepts and provides practical information for you to implement in your garden. Instruction takes place inside and outdoors. Dress accordingly. \$16. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

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

Valentine Workshop. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Use traditional Victorian materials to make a modern and lovely Valentine. Suitable for children over age 4. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. Cost is \$1 per Valentine. Visit the Web site at www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Tamburitzans Perform. 7 p.m. Duquesne University Tamburitzans perform. Tickets are \$22, \$25 and \$30. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 1-877-826-6437.

Stroll Through Park. 1-3 p.m. Stroll with a naturalist through forest and meadow then warm up with a hot beverage and pastry. Cost is \$10 and refreshments are included. Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard in Alexandria. Meet at the Harrison Lane entrance. Call 703-768-2525.

"The Language You Cry In." 4:30 p.m. film screening. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

FEB. 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

"The Canterville Ghost." Showtimes are Feb. 13, 19, and 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 14 and 21 at 3 p.m. Presented by the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater. At Heritage Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$8/ students and seniors, \$10/adults. Call 703-360-0686 or www.MVCCT.org.

FEB. 13-14

All-Beethoven Concert. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Kim Allen Kluge and pianist Yuliya Gorenman. Symphony No. 6, Piano Concerto No. 4. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$20-\$80, youth is \$5. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

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.

Burlesque-a-Pades. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$29.50. A Valentine's variety show with burlesque, comedy, acrobatics, singers and swinging live music! Starring Angie Pontani, Corn No, the Pontani Sisters, Little Brooklyn, Albert Cadabra, Helen Pontani, Lefty Lucy and Peekaboo Pointe with live music from the Breadbasket and the Chili Boys Orchestra. At the Birchmere,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 21

3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. For tickets, go to www.ticketmaster.com or call 202-397-SEAT.

Revolutionary War Reenactment. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. (Skirmish at 2 p.m.) Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria.

Africans and Native Americans in Virginia: Culinary Connections and Historic Foodways. 1:30-3 p.m. Michael Twitty, culinary historian and interpretive educator, takes us on a journey as he discusses the culinary connections and historic foodways of Africans and Native Americans in Virginia. \$10. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

Valentine's Day Tea: Love Stories. 1-3 p.m. Love a good story? Bring your sweetheart to explore some of the many roads to "happily ever after" with storyteller Margaret Chatham. Then raise your teacups in honor of the lovers' holiday! \$27. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-941-7987.

Vesper Organ Concert. 6 p.m. Free. With Douglas Beck, organist-choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980 or email music.director@gracealex.org.

Marty Nau Jazz Quartet. 11 a.m. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit www.heritagechurchva.org for directions. Phone: 703-360-9546. E-mail: Welcome@heritagechurchva.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 15

Free Concert. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312.

Meet President Woodrow Wilson.

11 a.m. Free. Actor Brian Hilton will bring him back to life. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-838-4994.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

Swing Dancing. 9-11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band JP McDermott and Western Bop. At Nick's Nightclub, 641 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18

Heart Art. 6-9 p.m. Rescheduled. Free. Flowers and Candy, Printmaking Demonstration, Target Gallery Reception from 6-8 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

FRIDAY/FEB. 19

Music for Brass. 8 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FEB. 19-20

"Cinderella." Friday, Feb. 19 and Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5. At Carl Sandburg Middle School. Call 703-799-6204.



WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

The Rite of Calligraphy. 7 p.m. Lecture and demonstration with noted author and calligrapher Cecil H. Ueyehara, who has lectured, demonstrated and exhibited his works at premier art galleries around the United States. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Gift of Giving Benefit. 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Choral Society. Tickets are \$125/person or \$1,000 per 8-person table. All net proceeds from the 1st Annual Gift of Giving benefit will be donated to The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University in Durham, NC, and designated for children's brain cancer research. At Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria. Email ACS President Donna Kamm at dmbk99@gmail.com.

Multicultural Showcase to Celebrate Black History Month. 5-9 p.m. Free. Special guests and performers: Mayor William Euille, D.C. Step Team, Unique Praise Dance, gospel singers, rappers, and other artists. At the Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria.

Tapas Tasting. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. You may never serve cheese and crackers again! These delicious and varied little dishes are a centuries-old tradition in Spain and gaining in popularity here. \$22. At Green Springs Gardens. Call 703-941-7987 to register.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. Re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay and a display and discussion of 18th-century weapons. Swordsmen tours are scheduled every half hour between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., with each tour lasting one hour. Admission is \$6/person. Call 703-746-4242. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org

SUNDAY, FEB. 21

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3 p.m. General admission is \$25, seniors \$20, students \$5. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria. Call 703-635-2770.

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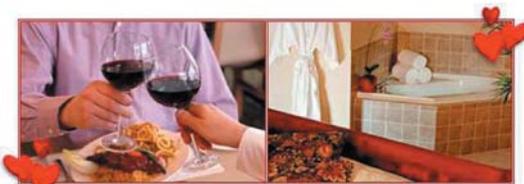
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FINE ARTS

FEB. 12 THRU MARCH 1

Red Thread Group Art Exhibition. Reception is Friday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. followed by open mic poetry and readings at 10 p.m. At Blueberry Art Gallery, 116 E. Del Ray Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-894-8854 or info@blueberryartgallery.com

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

Springfield Art Guild Art Show. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Works include oil, watercolor, photography, and mixed medium. At the Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Contact: Reggie Garrett, FGC Show Chair at reggiedrew@aol.com. Call 703-971-6262.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18

Heart Art. 6-9 p.m. Rescheduled. Free. Flowers and Candy, Printmaking Demonstration, Target Gallery Reception from 6-8 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 20

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



"Paynes Island," by Jill Garity.

FEB. 13 TO MARCH 1

From Meadow to Marsh. New works by landscape painters Jill Garity and Mollie Vardell. Reception held Saturday, Feb. 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. At VanderZee Gallery, 105 South Lee Street, Old Town Alexandria. Hours are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 703-683-1814.

NOW THROUGH 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. 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.

printmaking exhibition. Thirty-seven artists from across the country are a part of this exhibition united by one common theme and that is the printmaking process. Eight of the artists in the exhibition are from the DC Metro area. Opening reception is Thursday, Feb. 18 from 6-8 p.m. (rescheduled) Jane Haslem will speak at 7 p.m. followed by a printmaking demonstration by the Printmakers' Inc. At The Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Open daily from 10-6 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Thursdays.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 21

"Imprint" — A contemporary

Bringing Them Home

FROM PAGE 19

"I can't think of a better way to observe this anniversary than to celebrate Mount Vernon's incredible collections," said Mount Vernon's assistant curator, Laura Simo.

Highlights of the show include several recently discovered objects long thought to have been lost or whose very existence was not known. A silver bottle roller possibly designed by Washington himself while president was previously known only from a 19th-century engraving. Descendants of Robert E. Lee found it in 2007 while cleaning out old trunks filled with family possessions. It is believed to be the only one of its kind in existence today. A French porcelain sugar bowl grabbed curators' attention after its last private owners, who are related by marriage to the General's step-granddaughter, Nelly Custis Lewis, emailed them an image of the object. Mount Vernon staff immediately recognized its decoration and marks as being from a service made expressly for the Washingtons and presented to Martha Washington at Mount Vernon in 1782. The matching cream pitcher, which Mrs. Washington had given to Dolley Madison, was purchased by the Association in 1941.

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NEIGHBORHOODS



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Beginning Round of Snow

Station Manager Dario Diaztranados arrives to work at the King Street Metro Station during earlier snow storm on Jan. 31.

Yellow Ribbons

Yellow ribbons adorn over 20 trees on Colonel Ellis Avenue in the Seminary Ridge community. They are in honor of 21-year old Brendan O'Toole, son of Joan and Denis, who is helping the people who survived the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Brendan's mother said, "He loves helping people in disparate situations." Brendan now has the chance of a lifetime to achieve his passion.

LCPL O'Toole is a telecommunications specialist who is also taking college courses while on duty. He received his Marine training at the Paris Island boot camp and was stationed at Cherry Point, N.C. Before his assignment on the USS Nassau, Brendan was able to visit his parents for a few days. He was thrilled when he saw the yellow ribbons, and grateful for his community's support.

Brendan is now serving on the USS Nassau 24th Marine Expedition Unit (MEU) along with 2,000 other Marines and sailors. On Jan. 18, they were leaving Hampton Roads for the Mediterranean, but were redeployed to Haiti. The Marines are armed with goodwill, and are greeted by hundreds of smiling Haitians.

"It's very satisfying to finally be



LCPL Brendan O'Toole is serving on the USS Nassau 24th Marine Expedition Unit, recently deployed to Haiti.

able to help some folks, do some good, help some patients and assess the damage occurred here from the earthquake," said Lt. Col. Scott D. Sutton, commanding officer, Combat Logistics Battalion-24, 24th MEU.

Thundering helicopters operating from the deck of the USS Nassau have made over 100 flights transporting more than 55,100 lbs. of food, 14,600 liters of water, medical supplies, and 1,000 civilians, Marines and soldiers.

Brendan called his Dad on Sunday, Jan. 31, to wish him happy birthday. His mother said Brendan

sounded very tired, but his morale is high. He feels their efforts are helping the Haitians, but there's still a long way to go.

Brendan has certainly earned those yellow ribbons along with all the other soldiers and civilians worldwide who are tirelessly helping people in disparate situations.

— SUSAN KNIGHTON
CAVANAUGH

Taylor Run

MANAGER RETURNS

Beverly C. Steele, former deputy city manager of Alexandria, reminisced over dinner about this city's achievements.

"Alexandria is a wonderfully diverse and progressive city — it has focused on making the life of its residents better regardless of social or economic status," she said.

Beverly started to work for the city in September 1977 with the community development block grant office which eventually became the office of housing. As aide to council member Beverly Beidler she went to Philadelphia to learn what the program was; they returned here and put it into action.

It seemed particularly interesting that we were partaking of the excellent cuisine at La Strada restaurant on Mt. Vernon Ave. Beverly was coordinator for the commercial redevelopment of Mt. Vernon Ave. The city's actions in encouraging business on a human scale and spending lots of money on infrastructure have resulted in that vibrant avenue which now makes Del Ray such fun.

A MOUNTAINTOP HOME

Since her retirement, Beverly has built a Japanese-style dream house on top of a mountain in Burlington, W.Va., where she can see the Allegheny Mountains 50 miles away.

She spends her time building a courtyard Japanese garden, wood-working, taking pictures of sunrises and sunsets, and reading.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT



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Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon

2:00 pm (en Español)

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Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH...703-548-1808

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ST. MARK EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-765-3949

'SNOWMAGEDDON'



PHOTO BY JOHN MCCASLIN

Feb. 6, 4:25 p.m.: Looking north on Columbus Street at the intersection of Cameron.



PHOTO BY JOHN MCCASLIN

Feb. 6, 1:20 p.m.: A resident struggles to clear drifting snow from roof and dormer in the 100 block of S. Fairfax St.



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

The Masonic temple at 6:30 a.m., Wednesday morning, Feb. 3, after a snow fall the night before.



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

Metro staff work to clear snow at the Eisenhower Metro Station on Sunday, Feb. 7.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Parkfairfax residents Anna Ferrara and Kristi King return from Safeway on Monday afternoon, Feb. 8, stocked up for the next arrival of snow.

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OBITUARY

Carolyn Snow Newman Kait

A lover of the arts and world cultures, Carolyn Snow Newman Kait of State College, Pa., and formerly of Alexandria and Lakewood, N.J., died peacefully on Feb.

6, 2010 at The Fairways at Brookline nursing home in State College, Pa.

Born on Dec. 26, 1914 in Lakewood, N.J., Carolyn was the

daughter of the late Judge and Freeholder Harry Ellsworth Newman and Fannie May Mickle of Lakewood and West Point Island, N.J. She was a direct descendant Richard Snow, who immigrated to Woburn, Mass. from Barnstable, England in the early 1640s. She was the granddaughter of John S. Mickle and Carrie Adelia Snow of Point Pleasant, N.J.

Carolyn attended Douglass College, which today is part of Rutgers University. N.J. In the summer of 1938, she sailed across the Atlantic Ocean aboard the ship HMS Aquitania to participate in a college student three-month bicycle excursion throughout pre-war Europe. Carolyn recorded her keen observations in a daily diary, now a historically significant observation of the period. This adventure ignited a love of world travel and cultures that she enjoyed her entire life.

In 1940 Carolyn wed Harry Carl Kait, an attorney from Red Bank, N.J., to whom she remained married until his death in 1998. While she was pregnant with their first child in 1943, her husband was sent to Europe to join the World War II as an Army JAG Corps officer; they were not reunited until after his return from Europe three years later.

During their wartime separation, Carolyn worked as an editor and journalist for her family's paper, The Lakewood Daily Times and Journal, where she was among the first to receive the teletype announcement that the atom bomb had been dropped in Japan. At the time, no one knew what an atom bomb was, and she recalled the staff musing about its meaning.

For the next 20 years, the military family lived in Japan, Washington D.C., and Germany and traveled extensively throughout Asia, North Africa and Europe. After retiring in Alexandria, Carolyn was active in her church and community. In 2000 Carolyn moved with her daughter to State College, Pa., where at the age of 88 she began painting in watercolor. She displayed a one-woman show at Brookline to enthusiastic audiences charmed by her strong sense of color and composition.

She is survived by two sons, one daughter, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: son Geoffrey C. Kait of Falls Church, Va.; son Richard E. Kait of Cincinnati, Ohio and his daughter, Chelsea Snow of Fairfax, Va.; and daughter Joyce Snow Waterman, of State College, Pa. and her children, Brent and Carrie Snow of

Philadelphia, Pa.; and David, his wife Nicole Tepper, and their children, Gabryelle Snow and Calen of Wynnewood, Pa.

She is survived by her sister, Marion Newman Cowan, of Gulf Breeze, Fla. She was preceded in death by two sisters and three brothers: Joyce Newman Carey, Jean Newman Jones, Harry Ellsworth Newman, Jr., John Mickle Newman, and Woodrow Wilson Newman.

Carolyn will be remembered for her unwavering love, beautiful smile and lovely spirit. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the State College Home Nursing Agency Hospice, 450 Windmere Dr., Suite 100, State College PA 16801 or to a local hospice. At the convenience of the family, a funeral service will be held at the interment site of her late husband, Harry Carl Kait (Colonel, US Army - Ret), Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington.

Benjamin Selin Jones Sr.

Benjamin S. Jones, Sr., 90, a resident of McGaheysville, Va., died at 10:55 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010 at Rockingham Memorial Hospital.

A son of the late Enoch Roscoe and Isidra Ponce De Leon Jones, he was born on May 28, 1919 in San Francisco, Calif. and graduated from UC Berkley. He was chief mechanical engineer for Bechtel Corp. that constructed the Washington D.C. Metro Stations. Mr. Jones served in the Navy during World War II and was a member and past president of the Sons of the American Revolution; and a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. He was a member of St. Margaret's Anglican Episcopal Church in Alexandria.

In 1952 he married the former Annette Chance, who survives him.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Isabella Jones of McGaheysville; and Annette Jones Wilson of Baltimore, Md.; and two sons, Benjamin Selin Jones, Jr. of Portland, Oregon and William P. Jones of San Jose, Calif. and four grandchildren, James Wilson, Benjamin Roth, Corinne Wilson and Adin Brubaker.

He will be cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date in Alexandria.

Online condolences may be sent to the Jones family at www.lindseyfuneralhomes.com.

The Lindsey Harrisonburg Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

Elvira Fary Saunders

Elvira Fary Saunders (Vi) died peacefully on Jan. 24, 2010, in Alexandria. Mrs. Saunders began her nursing career after graduating from the Johnston Wills School of Nursing in Richmond in 1953. She would continue to use those skills throughout her life, both in her career and also to volunteer and help those in need.

In 1954 she married Julian Lee Saunders, Jr., at New Hope Methodist Church in West Point, Va. In 1963 she moved to Alexandria and began her 35-year nursing career at Alexandria Hospital, where she served in many leadership positions. She became patient care director of the Coronary Care Unit in 1970 and worked at the hospital in various departments until returning to her first love, the bedside care of patients, until her retirement in 1998.

In 1990 she was voted Nurse of the Year, an award she would cherish for many years. In her retirement she worked tirelessly to help and inspire people by volunteering with the Board of Lady Managers at INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the American Red Cross during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, the American Cancer Society, and many other organizations.

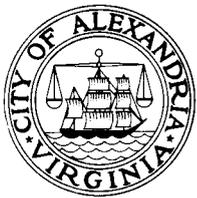
She was a member of the Springfield Quilters Unlimited and numerous other groups at church and in the community. She was known for her delicious baked goods, endless stories about her family, and the quiet click of her knitting needles. She has donated not only countless handmade items but also countless hours to the community and people she loved so much.

A memorial service for Mrs. Saunders will be held at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m. Friends and members of the congregation are invited to join the family at a reception afterward in the Immanuel Parish Hall, down the street and on the right, at 3606 Seminary Road.

Mrs. Saunders is survived by her husband of 55 years, Julian L. Saunders, Jr., two sons, Douglas and Scott; Doug's wife Elaine; two granddaughters, Jamie Krogh and Cynthia Saunders; a great-grandson, Rilee Saunders; and three brothers, Walter, Melvin, and Joseph Fary.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the INOVA Alexandria Hospital Board of Lady Managers.

Legal Notices



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following request(s) have been received for administrative review and approval.

The Director of Planning and Zoning may approve the permits unless a request that the application be forwarded to City Council is received by March 4, 2010.

For information about this application or to comment, visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov or call (703) 746-4666.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2010-0004

ADDRESS: 1909 MOUNT VERNON AVENUE
REQUEST: TO OPERATE A FULL SERVICE RESTAURANT SERVING BEER AND WINE
APPLICANT: STEPHEN SCOTT

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 3810 Burlingame Place, #C, Alexandria, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Mervat A. Hatab, dated August 20, 2008, and recorded August 26, 2008, in Deed Book 20083 at page 1365 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Residence 36-C, Phase I, Sequoyah, a Condominium in accordance with the declaration recorded in Deed Book 3698 at page 414 as amended in Deed Book 3841 at page 327, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 3810 Burlingame Place, #C, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$18,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.875 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

Legal Notices

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON

VACATION TO VACATE A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 15.2-2006 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the undersigned on behalf of UDR Developers, Inc., gives notice that the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, will hold a Public Hearing on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on its application requesting the City of Alexandria, Virginia, to vacate a portion of the Mount Vernon Avenue public right-of-way located on the west side of Mount Vernon Avenue adjacent to 3110 Mount Vernon Avenue. The area to be vacated contains approximately 3,562 square feet of land.

Duncan W. Blair

Attorney for Applicant

ABC LICENSE

KKSA, 2010, Inc, trading as Chicken House, 7849, E Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer off Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kyung Seob Kim, President

OBITUARY

Mary Hancock Marquardt, age 88, died on a Tuesday evening, February 2nd, at 5:30pm at her home at Envoy of Alexandria. Mary worked for 19 years as an executive secretary for the US Navy, including assignments at the Bureau of Ordnance and the Alexandria Torpedo Factory. She graduated from the Mississippi Delta Community College with an Associate's Degree in History. She was an accomplished gardener and musician. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Frank Marquardt and her daughter Marilyn Marquardt. Services will be held at the Envoy of Alexandria, at 900 Virginia Ave, Alexandria, VA 22302 on Monday, February 8th at 1pm. In lieu of flowers, please send your kind donations to the American Heart Association. Arrangements by Everly-Wheatley www.everly-funeralhomes.com

Storms End Regular Season for TC Boys, Girls

TC boys, girls enter district tourney after snow-induced layoff.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

After it was discovered the T.C. Williams boys basketball team would forfeit 12 wins and lose two players due to eligibility issues, head coach Julian King said it would be important for the Titans to gain experience and improve during the regular season's final five games.

King and the Titans will have to settle for one game prior to the postseason as snow storms led to the cancellation of remaining regular season games for boys and girls basketball teams in the Patriot District. T.C.

“Everybody’s being crippled by not having a chance to practice or play.”

— T.C. Williams head boys basketball coach Julian King

Williams is scheduled to host the district tournament, starting Tuesday or Wednesday.

While the canceling of games affects all teams, the T.C. boys are in arguably the toughest spot, having had only one game to prepare without Darrius Porter and leading scorer Billy Rowland, who were found to be ineligible on Feb. 1.

“I’m a little disappointed because I would have liked to have had that time to get the kids into a rhythm without the other guys,” King said. Those games were going to be for us to “gauge where we are and what we



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET



Sofie Schedler and the T.C. Williams girls basketball team were told by Coach Cavanaugh Hagen to be active, but safe, during snow days.

Cortez Taylor and the T.C. Williams boys basketball team enter the Patriot District tournament having played one game after losing two ineligible players.

also said she would have preferred to play the regular season games.

“I would love the four games, to be honest,” she said, “to give our kids more time to build their confidence going into the tournament.”

Staying in shape is also a concern for teams during snow days. Conditions limit the amount of physical activities available to athletes. Senior Tayron Chambers said he has been doing push-ups, sit-ups, calf

raises and looked to eat healthy. Hagen suggested her players take advantage of the elements.

“No. 1 is to be safe,” she said, “but right after that is to get out and either run in the snow, or go sledding or run up hills or do cardio at home if you have a treadmill or an elliptical. Be active as possible.”

Junior guard Rainie Summa said there’s another snow activity that helps with fitness.

“For starters, shoveling snow helps for some cardio,” she said, adding she also has weights and an Orbitrek at home. My body is “wondering why I’m not playing. This is really different for me not playing this long.”

While there are negatives that come with inclement weather, Summa said taking a break when she suffered an injury during her freshman year energized her for a return to the court. Chambers said the Titans will be prepared.

“We’ll be ready for the district tournament,” he said. “It’s going to be a challenge for us.”

SPORTS BRIEFS

TC Swimmer Cox Headed to States

T.C. Williams sophomore Abby Cox on Feb. 4 qualified for the state swim meet with her performance in the 200-meter individual medley during the regional swim meet at the Oak Mar RECenter in Oakton. An athlete can qualify for states by finishing in the top six or by meeting a time standard. Cox's time of 2 minutes, 12.2 seconds took care of both as she placed sixth. Cox is the only Titan headed to states.

“I was really nervous at the [before my race] but I saw my team at the other end and I saw my coaches so I was getting pumped up,” Cox said. “I thought I swam pretty well. ... I just flipped out I was so excited [when I found out my time]. ... All

my hard work finally paid off.”

The state swim meet is Feb. 20 in Virginia Beach. Cox, a member of the Arlington Aquatic Club, said she swims 20 hours a week.

Swift To Be Inducted Into Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame

Alexandria native Harley “Skeeter” Swift will be inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame on Feb. 19 at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville.

Swift was a standout basketball player at George Washington High School from 1961 to 1965 and went on to play collegiately at East Tennessee State. He played profession-

ally for the New Orleans Bucs and Memphis Pros of the ABA and the San Antonio Spurs of the NBA.

Swift is one of two Alexandria natives to play in the NBA, the other being former Parker-Gray star Earl Lloyd, the league’s first black player.

Sportsman’s Club Meeting

The Alexandria Sportsman’s Club will host a meeting Tuesday with local sportscaster Phil Wood as guest speaker at the Old Dominion Boat Club. S

ocial hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and free food and beverages will be served.

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.

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SPORTS

5Qs Five questions with T.C. Williams guard Rainie Summa:

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Italian food, because those are my people.

Q: What location is the farthest you've traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

A: I went to the U.S. Virgin Islands almost every summer since I was 10. My cousin lives down there. I spend time on the beach and relax.

Q: Have you had any fun in the recent snow?

A: I attempted to go outside in the middle of the blizzard but that didn't work out so well.

Q: Have a favorite basketball team?

A: In the NBA, the Celtics for sure. In college it bounces around. [Right now it's the University of New Mexico] because I was born in [the Albuquerque area].

Q: What are you doing when you're not playing basketball?

A: Reading books, hanging out with my friends. When I'm not playing basketball, I'm thinking about basketball.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. girls basketball player Rainie Summa

COMMENTARY

What Gets Measured Gets Done

FROM PAGE 13

field offices into shared office space and adopting modern fleet management tools.

We saved significant money by shifting most state purchasing online, leveraging the size and scale of government to broaden competitive bids and saving Virginia taxpayers an estimated \$30 million each year through lower prices for goods and services.

We set clear performance goals for each agency, empowered our state work force to think creatively about ways to achieve those goals, and then held agency managers accountable for their results.

As a result of our clear focus on reform, accountability and transparency, we saved our coveted Triple-A bond rating, eventually turned our budget deficits into a surplus, and today the Commonwealth continues to earn accolades as the nation's "Best

Managed State" and the "Best State for Business."

I have always believed in this simple business school concept: What gets measured gets done.

So the Budget Committee's Task Force on Government Performance will make every effort to seek out the best minds and evaluate the smartest practices.

We will ask the right questions: How can we encourage better performance and greater efficiency within the federal government? Are there ways to streamline existing reporting requirements and increase accountability and transparency? Can't we do more to minimize duplication?

At the very least, our efforts should result in a bipartisan roadmap to achieve meaningful savings for taxpayers.

Senator Warner, a Democrat, serves on the Budget, Banking, Commerce and Rules committees. He served as governor of Virginia from 2002-2006.

From Schoolteacher to Pastry Chef

FROM PAGE 12

offered a part time job at The Blair House, The President's Guest House. Four days into her job, the pastry chef quit and Underly stepped in. Today, she juggles her time between caring for her two young boys, recipe development, food writing and running her own business, Culinary Endeavors. Her business has grown largely by word of mouth in the community. Ultimately, she would like to produce chocolate gift boxes and specialty items on a full time basis for personal clients, specialty shops and internet sales in and out of the Washington, D.C. area.

Underly skill at multi-tasking must come from having been an elementary school teacher and mentor to incoming teachers. She has a master's degree in education, but after eight years of teaching reached a point where she needed a change. Attending culinary school was a "way to take a year off and plan what to do next." Her family thought it

comical that she was going to culinary school since she did not know how to cook. Underly wanted to go straight to pastry school but her husband suggested she go to culinary school and learn to cook before going to pastry school.

Culinary school turned out to be incredibly exciting for her because "it was an unknown world." She graduated from L'Academie de Cuisine culinary program with highest honors. Two years later she graduated with honors from the pastry program. She adds with a smile, that her mother recently attended culinary school in Boston, and now it's the "clash of the titans" in the kitchen at family gatherings.

Underly says she enjoys "cooking because it is a creative process and one where I can work with my hands."

She is working on a Web site but she can be found on Facebook @Culinary Endeavors, or write to her at reunderly@comcast.net.

FREE H1N1 FLU VACCINATIONS

The Alexandria Health Department is providing free H1N1 flu vaccinations at:

CASEY HEALTH CENTER
(adjacent to Inova Alexandria Hospital)
1200 N. Howard Street

FEBRUARY CLINIC HOURS

Monday & Friday	Tuesday – Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The vaccine is for everyone of all ages. These are walk in clinics. No appointment is needed.

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If you have questions, call 703.838.4400, ext. 297.





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Special Requirements: Requires standing/walking for long periods of time, entering dark, dusty and close spaces, using solvents, lubricants, adhesives and other hazardous materials, and exposure to all weather conditions; Weekend and holiday work and rotating 24 hour duty shift required; Classified as essential and requires participation in all emergencies, ice and snow removal and special events.

Qualifications: 7+ yrs. experience in electrical, emergency power systems, energy management, general repairs and fire safety; good understanding of MEP and architectural drawings; Good written & verbal communication skills and proficiency w./MS office suite; Knowledge of life safety codes preferred; valid driver's license required; Employment contingent upon successful drug test and criminal/background check.

Send application materials:

Via email- HRMail@MountVernon.org, or fax- 703.780.8320. Applications may be downloaded and printed from the website (under employment) at www.MountVernon.org

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Update

FROM PAGE 12

passengers to wear seat belts.) We also increased the penalty from a secondary offense to a primary offense for teenagers using a cell phone while driving under a provisional license. In addition, high-speed rail improvements are on the horizon beginning with an 11-mile stretch of tracks to be built with federal stimulus money. When completed, riders to Washington from Fredericksburg will get there 35 minutes faster.

I have also voted for a bill which would raise the mandatory age for Virginia judges from 70 to 73, thereby saving the Commonwealth some money by delaying beginning payment of their pensions.

We cannot forget our veterans, so I have voted for a constitutional amendment which, if a referendum is approved next November, will provide a real property tax exemption for the principal residence of a veteran, or his or her surviving spouse, if the veteran has a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. I understand that this is the number 1 priority of many veteran groups and the Commonwealth's Department of Veteran Affairs.

I am also concerned that our new Governor, Bob McDonnell, has not issued an executive order barring discrimination in the state workforce, breaking a 36-year practice of both parties of making a formal statement on the issue one of their first acts in office. I am happy to tell you that the Senate has approved Senate Bill 66 for nondiscrimination in state employment.

As always, I welcome your ideas and opinions. If you are ever in Richmond, please come and visit. I am in Room 329 in the General Assembly Building at 910 East Broad Street. I can also be reached by email at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

'Alexandrians Have Heart' Food Drive

The second annual "Alexandrians Have Heart" Valentine's Day Canned Food Drive, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot behind SunTrust Mortgage located at the intersection of 1101 Duke and South Henry Streets. The event is hosted by "Friends of Fannon," an advocacy group for Frank Fannon IV, businessman and civic leader, and city councilman.

The group is specifically collecting the following needed items, but will accept other nonperishable food items: Canned soup, canned chicken and ham, canned tuna and salmon, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, hot and cold cereals, pasta and rice.

All canned donations will go to A.L.I.V.E. and Christ House in Alexandria.

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OBITUARY

Mary Hancock Marquardt, age 88, died on a Tuesday evening, February 2nd, at 5:30pm at her home at Envoy of Alexandria. Mary worked for 19 years as an executive secretary for the US Navy, including assignments at the Bureau of Ordinance and the Alexandria Torpedo Factory. She graduated from the Mississippi Delta Community College with an Associate's Degree in History. She was an accomplished gardener and musician. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Frank Marquardt and her daughter Marilyn Marquardt. Services will be held at the Envoy of Alexandria, at 900 Virginia Ave, Alexandria, VA 22302 on Monday, February 8th at 1pm. In lieu of Flowers, please send your kind donations to the American Heart Association. Arrangements by Everly-Wheatley www.everlyfuneralhomes.com

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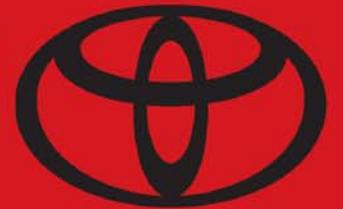
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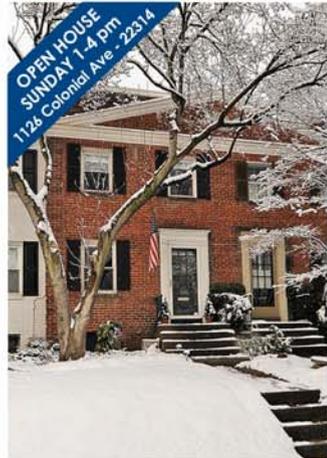
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