

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



Talk of  
the Town  
inside

25 CENTS

Vol. CCXXVI, No. 30

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JULY 29, 2010



**Roman and Dewey  
dance around the dog  
exercise area at  
Founder's Park. A  
summer for the dogs  
and cats and parrots  
and lizards and more.  
See inside.**

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

PET GAZETTE

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ALEXANDRIA/ROSEMONT \$1,295,000



### West Coast Chic!

This Rosemont home is the epitome of urban elegance! A fabulous two-story addition boasts exquisite kitchen and baths, oversized windows, spacious family & dining rooms that walk out to the fenced-in yard. The incredible master suite enjoys a stunning bath & a balcony overlooking yard and flagstone patio. Driveway and walk to two Metros.

**Sue Goodhart**  
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ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY \$699,000



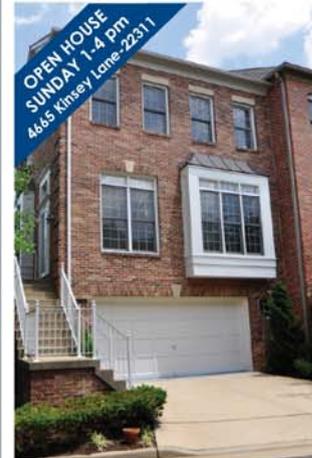
### They Don't Build Them Like They Used To!

Authentic 1900's Sears three-bedroom farmhouse updated for today featuring fabulous new kitchen with maple cabinetry, top of the line stainless appliances and granite counters. Spacious open floor plan loaded with architectural details situated on a large corner lot with welcoming wrap-around porch and garage storage. Steps to "The Avenue."

**Jennifer Walker**  
703.675.1556  
www.jenwalker.com



WEST ALEXANDRIA \$610,000



### Stonegate

Beautiful end unit townhouse situated on a street with mature and lovely landscaping. Kitchen/family room with fireplace opens to a large deck, dining room, living room, two-master bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, hardwood floors on main level, granite counters in kitchen, walkout rec room with heated tile floor and a two-car garage. New roof in 2009. Close to Pentagon, Old Town and just a zip to DC.

**Jo Erkiletian**  
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ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN \$966,500



### Dazzling Price!

This 1938 charmer has four-bedrooms, two-and-a-half updated bathrooms with a Subzero/Bosch kitchen. Three finished levels, a one car garage and one half acre lot. This is special! Belle Haven is a charming community located one mile South of Old Town and close to Route 495.

**Gordon Wood & Janet Price**  
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ALEXANDRIA SOUTH \$429,000



### Simply Magnificent Inside!

Exquisite handcrafted archways, columns, rosettes, crown molding, and much more. This exceptional home has four generous-sized bedrooms and two baths. Chef's kitchen includes designer cherry cabinets, Corian counters, wine and plate holders, recessed lighting, and Pergo floors. Master bath includes custom cabinet, mirror, Jacuzzi, stone and tile flooring.

**Julie Pearson**  
703.862.4543  
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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$999,000



### The Best of All Worlds

Nicely appointed and spacious living quarters are the hallmark of this Madison model home with proximity to the Old Town Village community pool and fitness center. Hardwood floors on two levels and carpeted rooms on the others lend a comfort to this pristine home with renovated kitchen including stainless appliances and granite counters, renovated master bath and expanded walk-in closet, refreshed additional baths, two fireplaces and extensive built-ins.

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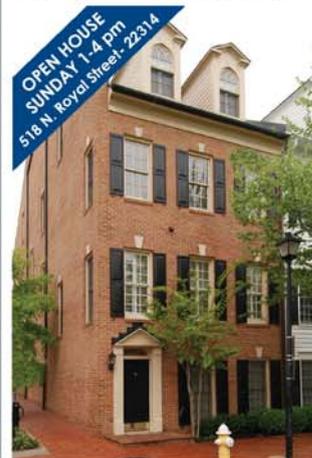
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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$658,000



### Sellers Say Sell!

Right in the heart of Old Town, 518 North Royal offers sunny, modern ambiance a few blocks from King Street and the River. This great space features hardwood floors crown molding, plantation shutters, gas fireplace and cooking. Open floor plan on the living level provides great space for entertaining. Master bedroom suite with luxury bath. Great storage, quality finishes, undemanding environment and garage parking!

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## Dog Lovers Em-'Bark' Admiral Tilp

Canine companions cruise free of charge.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
GAZETTE PACKET

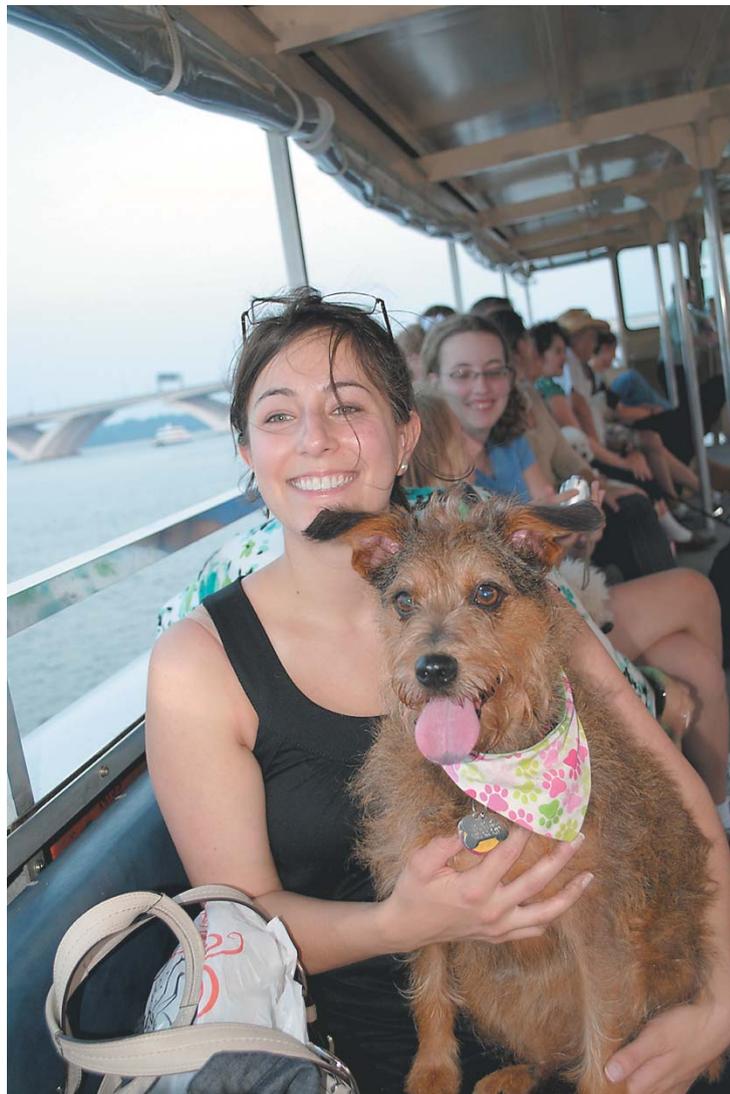
**O**n a recent hot Thursday evening, dogs of all shapes, sizes, breeds and mixes boarded The Admiral Tilp with their humans, everyone hoping for a cool breeze through the open top deck while enjoying a little sightseeing and socializing along the Potomac River.

The captain entertained with his knowledge of sites, architecture and little historic tidbits along the way. But the VIPs — Very Important Pups — were clearly much more interested in sticking their heads out the windows and catching the wind in their fur.

One of the VIPs was Summer, a 1-1/2 year old Japanese Chin who was cruising with her mother, Shannon Meade of Old Town.

"She absolutely loved it," Meade said. "I had always wanted to take her on the dog cruise and can't wait to take her again."

Apparently, Summer is quite the socialite here in Old Town. Meade says everyone knows



Traci Smith with Bailey aboard The Admiral Tilp.

Summer by name.

"They never remember my name but they sure remember hers," she said.

"When we got on the boat it felt like we were on Noah's Ark with

all the canine varieties on board. So relaxing and so much fun.

"The dogs in Old Town really are treated like first class citi

SEE DOG LOVERS, PAGE 24

PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE

## Snakes and Turtles And Rats – Oh, My!

Lessons on caring for rare and exotic pets.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
GAZETTE PACKET

**O**ver the years, Dr. Elton Vyfhuis acquired a menagerie of furry, feathery and cold-blooded pets. From childhood to now, his animal friends have included a mischievous kitty, unpredictable dog, hamster, a type of bird known as budgerigar, five chickens, two rabbits, two more cats, nine more dogs and several snakes.

The early years helped set him on his career path. While studying veterinary medicine in the mid-1990s at Tuskegee University in Alabama, hands-on clinical experience with a variety of animal species helped define his philosophy of veterinary care.

"Dogs, cats, birds, snakes — yes there are slight differences," he explained. "But, an animal is an animal, and if I can help one, I can help them all."

"Dr. V." as he's known by his staff and many of his clients, was perched on a tall stool in one of the colorful exam rooms at Paws, Purrs and Exotics, a veterinary clinic and hospital he opened in Old Town a year ago with fellow Tuskegee grad Nia Perkins, DVM. He shared that growing up, ani-



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE

**Dr. Elton Vyfhuis holds the clinic's turtles, The 3 Stooges: Paul, Pearl and Exotica. They were rescues from the Humane Society of D.C. and had been acquired through an eviction where the people left them behind. Vyfhuis says turtles are tricky as there is a legal size for selling and adopting. Most turtles he sees in his clinic are baby red ear sliders — the kind children win at carnivals and fairs. They are about an inch in size and technically illegal to sell or own.**

imals were respected, but they weren't really considered part of the family.

"My parents are from Guyana where they were accustomed to

SEE SNAKES, PAGE 8

## Reducing Feral Cat Population One Cat at a Time

Northern Virginia benefits from D.C. Humane Society program.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
GAZETTE PACKET

**O**n the second Sunday of every month, a group of dedicated animal lovers sets out traps throughout the Greater Metropolitan area, including Alexandria, Arlington, Mount Vernon, Manassas and Fairfax County.

Although it doesn't sound like something an animal lover would do, it truly is an act of love according to Alyson Burgess of the Humane Society of Washington, D.C. Burgess is the director of the Cat Neighborhood Partnership Program or CatNiPP.

"We're trying to help neighborhoods and property owners face the problems with

feral cats," Burgess said, "all while treating the cats in a humane and ethical manner."

The program is for strays and feral cats only. A feral cat is one that was born in the wild and is usually a generation away from being a domestic, Burgess said.

The Humane Society of Washington, D.C. developed the program in 2006 based on similar programs in other areas known as Trap, Neuter, Release or TNR. But there are two striking differences between TNR and the version developed by CatNiPP.

"First," Burgess said, "we trap, neuter and return the cats to their neighborhood colony rather than release them in the wild. And, we've added an 'M' to the end for 'Management.'"

"So, we're actually a 'TNRM' program. We make sure the cats continue to be fed and cared for."

And, it works, according to Burgess, because it addresses the root of the problem — the breeding.

"Through CatNiPP," she said, "the cats are humanely trapped and brought to our clinic where they are neutered, vaccinated and generally examined."

**DURING SURGERY**, the cats are also eartipped, a procedure that clips just the tip of one ear. That's a signal to animal control officers and future trappers that the cats have been treated by a veterinarian and are part of a planned colony.

One of the volunteer veterinarians is Dr. Elton Vyfhuis who, together with Dr. Nia Perkins, owns and operates Paws, Purrs and

Exotics Animal Hospital in Old Town, Alexandria. In addition to helping with surgeries and treating for parasites and other diseases, Vyfhuis helps set traps as well.

**"The cats are humanely trapped and brought to our clinic where they are neutered, vaccinated and generally examined."**

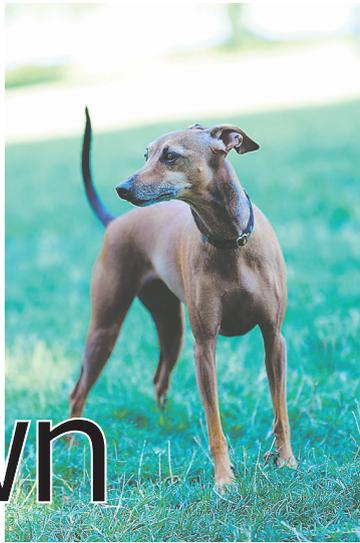
— Alyson Burgess

"We caught 90 cats just this month — mostly in Fairfax and Manassas. One of my technicians came with us and it was a good learning experi

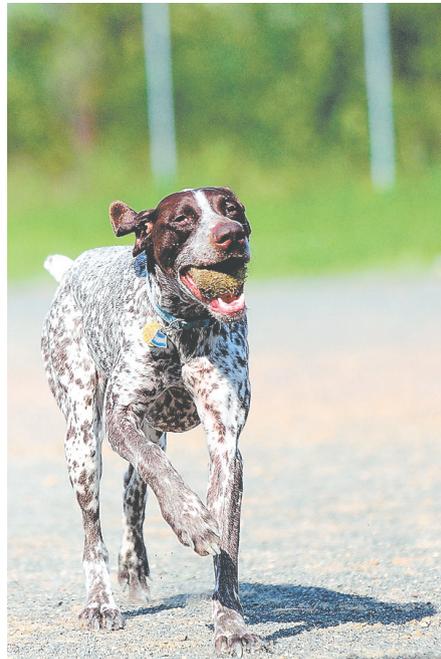
SEE REDUCING, PAGE 24

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ JULY 29 - AUGUST 4, 2010 ♦ 3

**PET GAZETTE**  
Dog Parks  
**Talk of the Town**



**Maddie, an Italian Greyhound waits for friends to arrive at Founder's Park.**



**Elsie, a German Shorthair Pointer runs with her tennis ball at the Simpson Field Dog Park.**

**DOG PARK / EXERCISE AREA RULES**

- All dogs must be under the owner's/handler's control.
- Only three dogs per person (owner/handler) are allowed.
- All dog handlers must have a leash in hand at all times.
- No female dogs in heat are allowed.
- Only dogs 4 months and older are allowed.
- Dogs must be legally licensed, vaccinated and wearing both current tags.
- Dog owners/handlers must keep their dog(s) in view at all times.
- Any bite of a person or other dog must be immediately reported to Alexandria Animal Control and parties involved must wait for an officer to respond, except in the case where immediate medical care is needed.
- Dogs must not be allowed to bark incessantly or to the annoyance of the neighborhood.
- Dog owners/handlers must immediately pick up and dispose of, in trash receptacles, all dog feces.
- Aggressive dogs are not allowed at any time. An aggressive dog is defined as a dog(s) posing a threat to human beings or other dogs. Owners(handlers) are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injury caused by them. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting.

In addition to the above rules, the following applies at Fenced Dog Parks:

- Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult when inside a Fenced Dog Park.
- Food is not allowed inside the Fenced Dog Park, nonalcoholic beverages are allowed.
- If people are not abiding by these regulations, please contact Alexandria Animal Control at 703.838.4775.

Photos by Louise Krafft/Gazette Packet



**Christian DeHaven with his mother Angelee greet 11-month-old Olivander and his owner Ashley Foreman at Fort Ward Park.**

**FENCED DOG PARKS:**

- A SIMPSON STADIUM PARK** at Monroe Avenue
- B** 5000 block of Duke Street east of the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Library
- C MONTGOMERY PARK** at the corner of Fairfax and 1st Streets
- D BEN BRENNAN PARK** by Backlick Creek
- E DOG RUN PARK** at Carlyle, 450 Andrew's Ln.

**UNFENCED SITES / DOG EXERCISE AREAS:**

- F FOUNDERS PARK** at Oronoco Street and Union Street\*
- G WINDMILL HILL PARK** Gibbon and Union Streets
- H** Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth
- I HOOFF'S RUN** east of Commonwealth between Oak and Chapman Streets
- J** Area between Ft. Williams and New Ft. Williams Parkway\*
- K** Along Old Mill Run west of Gordon St. (**TARLETON PARK**)\*
- L** Along Chambliss Street south of tennis courts\*
- M NORTH FORT WARD PARK** East of Park Road\*
- N** Median at E. Timberbranch Parkway and Timberbranch Drive\*
- R CHINQUAPIN PARK** east of loop
- O** Area east of entrance to **MONTICELLO PARK**\*
- P** Edison Street cul-de-sac\*
- Q** W&OD Railroad at Raymond Avenue\*

\* Unfenced sites are marked with bollards



**The Dog Park at Chinquapin Park.**



**Ellie takes a stroll over to Ben Brennan Park.**



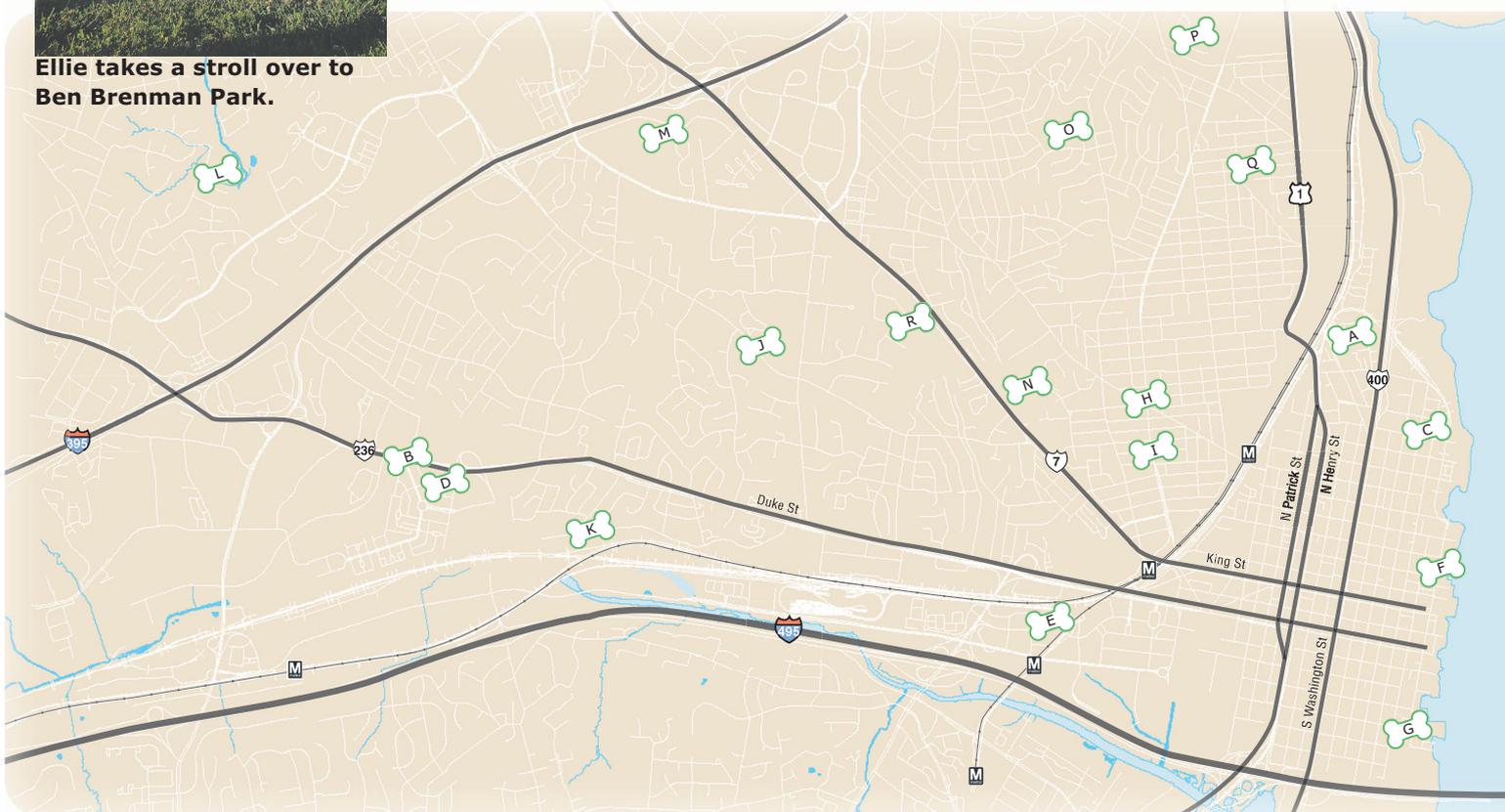
**Olive, a Beagle pup, relaxes while the big dogs play at the Simpson Field Dog Park.**



**Scarlett O'Hairy relaxes after a workout in the dog park in Montgomery Park.**



Photo by LaShawn Avery/Gazette Packet  
**Hudson plays in the water at Windmill Hill Park.**



# Story of Sophie and Wally

**A marriage born at the Arlington Animal Welfare League.**

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK  
AND DIANE HENRY  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**e had no idea what a cockatiel was until one day in 2007 Diane Henry met one walking (not flying) along Lee Street in Old Town Alexandria. He was small bird, a little bigger than a parakeet, gray and white and he looked a little scruffy. When she bent down, he didn't fly away. She offered him a hand, which he jumped on and rode home on her shoulder. He was clearly accustomed to humans and to living in a house. We tried to find his owners to no avail. We named him Gitale. He was a delight. He roamed the house, sat on our shoulders when we worked, joined us for meals, walking around the table and taking tiny bites from bread or toast. He tolerated our Labrador, Laura, and when alone, spent time talking to himself in a mirror.

But one day he left, as abruptly as he had come, ducking out a half-opened door and heading for the wild blue yonder. We were thunderstruck. We contacted pet rescue agencies all around the area, but no one had reported him.

Maybe six weeks later, we got a call from the Arlington County Animal Welfare League. They had a Cockatiel that sort of fit Gitale's description. We rushed over. Alas, it wasn't Gitale; similar, white and gray with a yellow cockade, but a much bigger bird.

"Perhaps," the lady said, "you'd like to adopt Wally. He's a happy little fellow and sings all the time." We thought for a while. Well sure. We've got a cage, all the toys and bags of food — why not?

As we were paying our bill (there is a \$60 charge for adopting a cockatiel), another woman came running out a side office with a gray cockatiel on her arm. "Wait! Wait," she cried. "This is Sophie," she said. "Sophie had a bad time with a fan and somebody brought her in. She's looking for a home."

No, we said, one is enough.

Meanwhile Sophie jumped on my arm and began walking to my shoulder.

"You know," the woman said, "Cockatiels love company. Why not adopt Sophie too. They can live in



**Cockatiels Sophie and Wally, adopted from the Arlington Animal Rescue League, went on to lay eggs and hatch and raise a chick to adulthood.**

the same cage."

"What's their gender," we asked. "They're both females. We named Wally before our vet said she was a female." Oh.

That was in 2007. They were compatible and Sophie's cockade grew back. Wally sang quite a lot and they did live in one cage. They weren't at all affectionate with us like Gitale. It turns out that if you have two Cockatiels, they focus on each other, but they were pleasant little creatures and we liked them.

Then in the spring of 2008, we noticed that they seemed to wrestle with each other every other day or so. You couldn't tell who was on top. We guessed it might be carnal; but who could be sure?

Then on May 5, 2008, there appeared in the cage a white egg. It looked like a chicken egg, but was quite tiny. We hurriedly read the Cockatiel Book. Sure enough, this was mating season.

A couple of days later we noticed Sophie laying

SEE SOPHIE AND WALLY. PAGE 14

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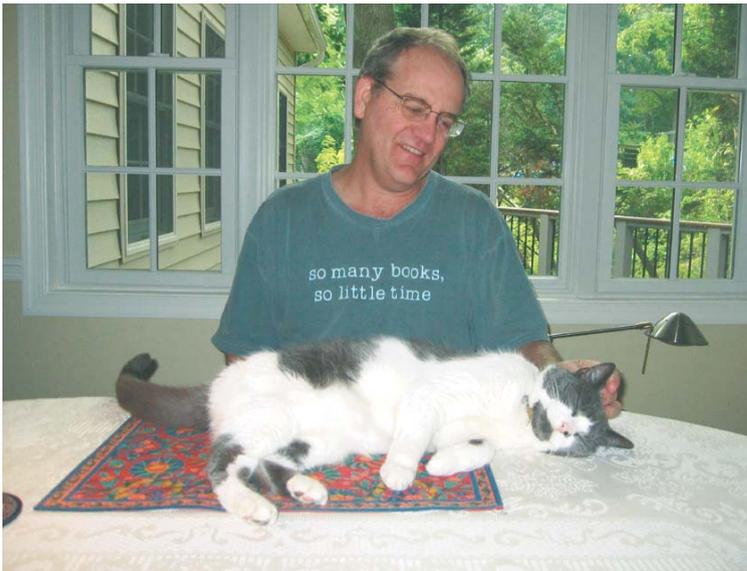
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Jay Roberts and Roberta Chew, of Alexandria, live with their beloved cat Lydia. Lydia, a domestic shorthaired, 12 years young, came into our lives 11 years ago. After our adoption papers were approved, we picked her up on a chilly, rainy night. But ever since, she's provided us with much sunshine. As you can see, Lydia is allowed on our table. Of course, she is a princess!



Max, a 20-year old Umbrella Cockatoo, lives in the West End of Alexandria (Mayflower Square Condos). Max and I have been Alexandria City residents for about 15 years. Max is a parrot who loves people and we travel all over together. He loves to sing and dance and he talks too! He meows at my cats and barks at dogs. He brings smiles to everyone he meets. This is his Christmas photo with Santa. He loved Santa!

— KATHY QUELLEN



PHOTO BY KATE WILLIAMS

Rob Williams and dog, Pepper. Pepper is a 10-month-old Blue Tick Coon Hound, who was rescued from the Rappahannock Animal Welfare League in April 2010. Pepper and her adoptive parents live in Rosemont, where she enjoys reading the Gazette, going to the dog park at Simpson Field, and eating puppy pops at the Dairy Godmother!

"Rex" was adopted from the Arlington Animal Shelter in April 2010. His records indicated that he was purchased from a breeder as a Maltese. The shelter disagreed and identified him as a Bichon mix. Our vet was certain that he was a Poodle. So I swabbed his little cheek and mailed it to the doggie DNA lab. Our Rexie is 100 percent Bichon Frise! He is also 100 percent "wild child." Rex is 20 months old and resides in the west end of Alexandria but spends many enjoyable hours hanging out with his Marina Towers buddies at the other end of town.



— YONIE DOW



At the Annual Vauxclease Halloween Parade, Spike was not particularly excited about wearing the Mickey ears.

— JANET HAWKINS AND DAVE WORMSER



Bean is a seven-year-old Boston Terrier. He was attacked by another dog a year ago and lost his eye. Since then he has made a great recovery and has really taught us how to get over adversity and obstacles in life. He didn't let this incident devastate him instead he continues to be a happy, loving dog that enjoys going for walks, playing with his pug friends, and chasing squirrels. Even though he is only 12 pounds, he completely fills up our lives we wouldn't know what to do without him.

— KRISTEN AND COLIN RENICK

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria brought a group of rescued dogs up from Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. My dog Nora was one of them. She was about four years old and had a litter of puppies with her when they found her after the storm. I adopted Nora the following January (2006) and she has been a total delight. She loves her "aunties" in our Taylor Run neighborhood — Judy, Michelle, Lynda, Carol, Gail and Janet; her "uncles" Dennis and Kirby; and her "foster mom" from the shelter, Aunt Dolores. A lump on Nora's nose was diagnosed as cancer in May, but she had surgery to remove it, and will begin radiation therapy soon that will hopefully result in her full recovery. This is my wish as I love her very much. The photo of both of us is from last Thanksgiving, and, at right, Nora last week showing the post-surgery staples on her nose.



— GEORGANN MEADOWS



Our dog is a chocolate lab named Calli, 4 years old, named for the state my wife is from (grew up in San Diego). My son, Tripp Hilderbrand, age 3, loves his "best friend Calli" and does everything with her, whether it be relaxing on top of her or getting licks which makes him laugh hysterically. Calli loves attention and Tripp has endless energy to give her that attention.

## Growing Family

Four years ago my wife, Kate, and I went to the Old Town Farmers Market looking for vegetables, and ended up buying a dog. Yes, Calli was eight weeks old right at the steps of the Town Square with her breeder looking for a loving family. Imagine that. Eight months later ... Tripp was added to the family as well.

— DOUGLAS HILDERBRAND

## PET GAZETTE



### My Name Is Higgins

They call me Higgins. I am a Welsh Terrier and proud of it. My full AKC name is Duke of Alexandria Higgins Baby.

My new family met me at Starbucks on Ballenger Avenue when I was 9 months old. I was not getting along with my brother and litter mate, Harpo, and one of us had to go. My new family had just lost their wonderful dog Quigley after 11 years and I came along at the right time.

I have gotten to spend my summer in the Thousand Islands, Ontario, Canada and I have thoroughly enjoyed myself. I came here at 11 months old after living in Alexandria, Virginia, where there is a lot to see, but it is mostly made of concrete and you always have to be on a leash, use fire hydrants and wait for your owners to pick up after you — which I still don't understand.

Here I have been able to run on grass, ride in a boat and protect the island where we live from waves as they come ashore. Most waves are scared off by my bark and roll back out onto the river very quickly after hitting the rocks, others I have to be more forceful with and in some cases, unfortunately, must resort to biting the wave. It is difficult work, because the island has a large shore that must be protected and the waves often try to come in all at once. So I really need to scramble. It can last all day until about the time the boats stop going by.

On my first boat ride I learned an important lesson; I cannot walk on water. The water looked solid to me so as we approached my first dock, so I thought I would get a head start on the family and just jump off the back of the boat and hop up, but even at a mere 20 pounds the river could not support my weight and I sank in. It was cold.

That was the day I learned to swim. I didn't have to swim far. My owner grabbed me by the collar, pulled me back on board and then showed me the proper way to disembark. Only after the boat has been put on a leash and he says, "OK."

I don't like docks because they appear to be moving and I am afraid of falling through the slots. I have learned to not walk on the slots, but only on the boards and never look down no matter what smells may be coming from underneath.

Hunting is another pastime I have



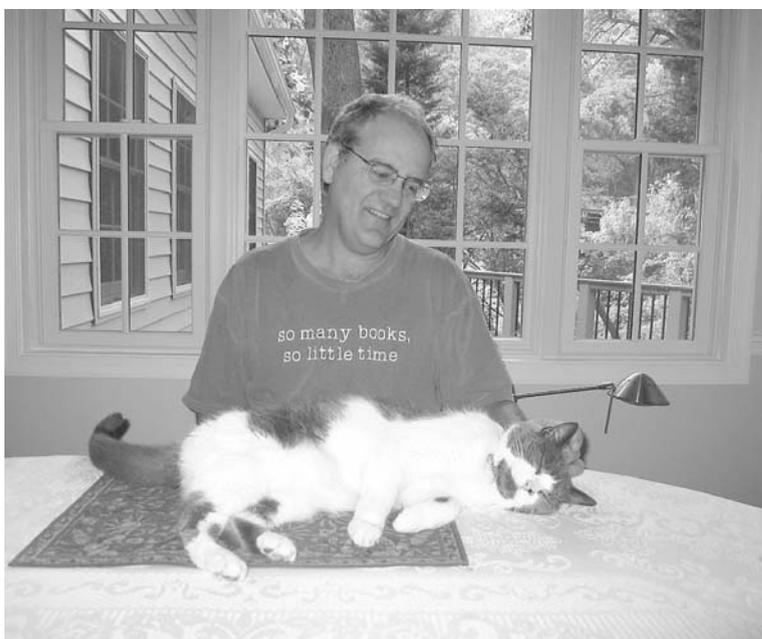
#### Higgins

come to enjoy. I begin by finding a dead fish to roll on so my prey cannot smell me approaching. Or if they do smell something they say, "Oh, it's just a dead fish" and they walk right into my trap. I have gotten very close to many prey including; ants, bees, spiders, toads and geese, but all have managed to slip away before my opportunity to deliver the final pounce. To my surprise, the bees are actually willing to bite back. And the geese stick together no matter what. They have a funny bark and hearing them honk as they scamper away is half the fun.

After every hunting expedition my owners give me a shower or a bath which is not only humiliating, but completely ruins the effect of rolling in dead fish, so I eventually have to do it again. They just don't get it. They use a soap on me that smells like an orange and I can't rub it off no matter what I do. The only thing that seems to work on it is, you guessed it, dead fish. When will they learn?

I dread when fall comes because that's when we are going back to Alexandria (though I'm secretly excited to go back to the Dog Run Park at Carlyle and see all my friends). My family keeps saying it is right around the corner, but every time I go to the corner of the island to check, I do not see fall coming. Maybe they're wrong.

— KATE & DEAN  
KIERNAN-PAGANI



Let us out! We'll get the tomato thief! The cats are Emily Lou and Desmond. They belong to Ann Malloy of Alexandria.



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# Snakes and Turtles and Rats – Oh, My!

FROM PAGE 3

animals walking the street and you just fed them and gave them water,” he said.

**THAT VIEW CHANGED** after his aunt asked him to take care of her beloved Chow mix while she was on vacation.

“House dogs were a new thing to my parents,” Vyfhuis said. “Now, my parents think of animals as part of the family.

“So over the years we had parakeets, rabbits, hamsters, chickens, snakes — and all of that supported my desire to learn how to treat these types of animals”

He also thinks it may be in his genes.

“My grandfather used to import exotic birds and now I take care of them,” he added, flashing a warm smile.

One of the doctor’s bird clients is Alexandria resident John Ampela, proud papa of a parrot. His love of birds goes back to growing up with a variety of feathered pets, starting with a parakeet.

“I was smitten from the beginning,” he said.

Next was a cockatiel, and finally a larger Blue Fronted Amazon, considered a mid-sized parrot. Ampela loved each one of the birds he grew up with, but went for many years without. He missed having one around. That is until Duster arrived on the scene.

“Duster — nickname “Bubba” — is a Senegal parrot, a smaller variety,” Ampela said, “but not small in spirit.”

Ampela noted that parrots are very social creatures, used to being part of a flock, and from those characteristics stem some of the joys of having a Duster as a pet.

“We eat together, watch TV together, and



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER

**Dr. Elton Vyfhuis holds Petrie, a Leopard Gecko whose original habitat was the desert region of Afghanistan. He requires dry bedding — but not sand — and minimal decorations because he’s not a climber.**

he screams in protest when I leave the house,” he said. “Duster always wants to be around because that’s how he’s wired.

“We’ve gone on nine-hour car rides to visit friends and family. He’s a real trooper.”

According to Ampela, Duster enjoys individualized attention and often sits on Ampela’s stomach, “so I can pet him. He’s sort of like a ‘lap bird.’ He even likes to take showers.”

Despite the delights of living with Duster, Ampela admits there are some challenges to having a bird as a pet.

“Cleaning the cage is a constant battle,” he said. “Then there are the days I come home and he’s gotten into something and chewed it to smithereens! Cost me 100 bucks once for a laptop cable, but I was just glad he was OK.

“And there’s the unsolicited bite every now and then,” Ampela added. “Duster is, after all, a wild animal brought into captivity but still driven by instinct.”

Birds can also be demanding pets due to their need for social interaction and attention, according to Ampela. He cautions potential parrot owners not to underestimate the responsibility and social demands that birds require.

“Going on vacation means you either bring them along or have a trusted friend or boarding facility take proper care of them.”

Another consideration for would-be parrot parents, according to Vyfhuis, is that birds can be among the most challenging pets to treat.

“They’re very sensitive and nervous. I keep a mirror next to the examination table because it can help calm a bird down — it’s like seeing another bird,” he said; it works as long as the bird does not feel the need to dominate.

Still, he says, some treatment is usually better than none at all.

“Someone brought a bird in with a hole in its chest — probably from a second aggressive bird the owner had. It couldn’t breathe,” Vyfhuis said.

“There really wasn’t much I could do but recommend minimal treatment with mostly over-the-counter medications. Amazingly the bird is doing OK.”

**VYFHUIS ENCOURAGES** people to do a lot of research before they buy a pet so they have a realistic picture of what they’re getting into and what will be required of them

SEE SNAKES, PAGE 25

## Rats As Pets Nothing to fear, lots to love.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

**T**here are many sensations on YouTube. But have you seen the one with the soccer-playing rats?

Why, you might wonder, would anyone even have a rat — or, in the case of the video — enough rats for a soccer team?

“They’re very trainable,” said Del Ray resident Melissa Gouffray.

And she should know. She and her siblings had pet rats growing up on their farm in Missouri.

And now, she is continuing the tradition with her own family and Amelia, a Dumbo rat, so-named because the ears are bigger than other types of pet rats.

Amelia is in a class known as fancy rats. Gouffray says it’s a special breed that a rat fancier might show — kind of like a show breed.

“I think that kids learn a fear of, or attraction to animals from their parents,” she said.

“Growing up on a farm, I was exposed to everything from rats to tarantulas to



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE

**Julian Gouffray with pet rat, Amelia.**

snakes,” she said. “My mother got us snakes because they’re more intelligent and friend-

lier than hamsters or gerbils.”

One of the reasons Gouffray likes rats as pets is their life-span.

“It’s a two-year commitment,” she said matter-of-factly. “Rats don’t last much longer than that. It’s a good way to introduce children to the cycle of life.

“When you have a small animal and it dies, they learn about the life process. Life and death. And they learn it’s OK to be sad when you lose something you love,” she said.

Amelia shares the Gouffray home with Peaches the parrotlet — a miniature version of a parrot with the same level of intelligence, according to Gouffray.

While she and her family truly love their pets, Gouffray does offer a word of caution to those considering adding a rat or bird to their household.

“If you let rats or birds roam, you do have to worry about them chewing through power cords,” she said. “Peaches chewed all the way through my microwave cord.”

ne wonders if Amelia destined to play soccer? Maybe.

She is already litter box trained. Mostly.

### SOME ADVICE

Dr. Elton Vyfhuis comments on multi-species households.

**Are there any special considerations multi-species households need to keep in mind in terms of behavior?**

Vyfhuis: Be careful with the various species. Some dogs attack cats. Some cats don’t get along with dogs. Some cats will eat birds. Also, many parasites can go from one species to another, and not all pets show symptoms when infected with some parasites — or other conditions for that matter.

Usually, there are species that don’t get together, such as cats and birds. However, I do have several clients that may beg to differ. One owner in particular has over 20 birds and one cat who she swears co-habits with the birds even to the point of going in their cages.

Training has a lot to do with things as well. Animals can be trained to live together.

**How about healthwise? Can they give each other diseases?**

Vyfhuis: There are many health factors to consider with inter-species co-habitation. Parasites — both internal and external. Infectious, respiratory ailments can be passed across species. Then there are the zoonotic conditions, meaning they can be spread to one of the most developed animals on the planet — human beings. Examples of such conditions include rabies, and lyme disease, even though it is the tick that actually spreads it.

**Are there any species that shouldn’t live together?**

Vyfhuis: Greyhounds and cats notoriously don’t do well in the same living quarters. Predator and prey *usually* can’t live together, such as snakes and rodents.

Then there is the whole vaccination issue to consider to prevent conditions from traveling from one pet to the other. For example, a dog can carry and succumb to Distemper. Likewise, a ferret can carry and succumb to Distemper. Vaccinations to both can prevent both from getting the condition and possibly passing to the other species.

**Are there any additional considerations to bringing additional species of pets into the household?**

Vyfhuis: People often like to keep animals that they rescue from the wild as pets. I had a client that rescued two pigeons which are really kind of like rats with wings. We did a stool sample, found a number of parasites. This client didn’t have other animals in his house, but there would have been health issues if he had. And he could have contracted some diseases himself. Now he’s learned how to take care of them and he brings them in for check-ups from time to time.

But it’s really best not to bring animals in from the wild.

**Why?**

Vyfhuis: First of all, the animal may not be legal to have in your state. Before someone makes a wild animal their pet, they really should make sure it’s legal. If not and you’ve made that animal your pet, it’s too tame to release and illegal to have. Now look what you’ve done. It will not be a good outcome for you or the pet.

**If someone is determined to keep a found animal, what should they do?**

Vyfhuis: If it’s a pet and it’s legal in their state and it can fit through the front door, I will examine and treat them.

Elton G. Vyfhuis, DVM earned his degree in veterinary medicine from Tuskegee University in Alabama in 1998. He is co-owner with fellow Tuskegee graduate Dr. Nia Perkins of Paws, Purrs and Exotics Animal Hospital at 133 South Peyton St. in Old Town. For more information, visit the website at: [www.pawspurrsandexotics.com](http://www.pawspurrsandexotics.com).

— Sandy Levitz Lunner



# PET GAZETTE

## The Boss

I'd like you to meet the boss of our household ... a wire fox terrier named "Bob."

When it comes to her breed, she is the real deal! We can even trace her family tree back to her great, great grandparents! For more than 600 years the terriers were bred to help farmers by killing vermin (i.e. rats, etc.). So she was bred to have certain characteristics like being able to stay focused and not get distracted.

She also has thick and double layered fur for protection. And she is very very fast and incredibly agile.

She was just a little pup, nine weeks old, when we brought her home. But, as soon as I set her down on the tiles in the foyer, I knew she was like no other dog I'd ever had!

Well, for example, she likes getting in trouble. She will do something naughty and look at me knowingly. She gets in a certain mood and goes about our home actually looking for something she knows she shouldn't do. It is funny to see the expression on her face.

Another of her many moods is being very ladylike. She won't do things like eat a biscuit or even join me on the couch unless



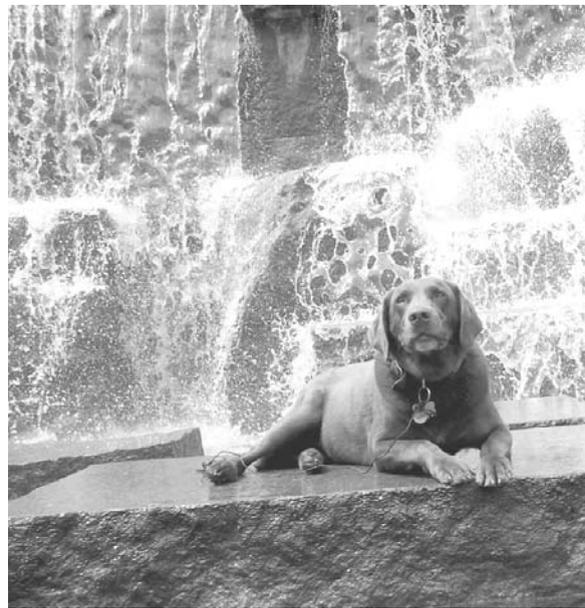
**Bobbi with Philippe Darcy**

she is invited. Invited! Anyone entering our home gets a warm social greeting and often a doggie kiss.

We live in a large high rise condominium in the west end of Alexandria. Bobbi is well known among the elevator set and quite popular. She loves to say hello to neighbors and is loving with kids. At times she plays as an ambassador to families from countries that don't usually have domesticated dogs. I let them, especially the children, pet her and learn about her with hopes of alleviating any fear for dogs. She could be considered the mascot of our building.

But, when all is said and done, her job is to take care of us. And that is something she does to the very best of her ability.

— TERRY DARCY



**Murphy Duran: March 1998 to February 2009.** Adopted him and his sister from a couple who were divorcing and neither could keep the dogs. He was the most obedient dog on the planet, not a single day of training, could walk him anywhere on or off leash and he would not run off. He once wore a Lawhorne for Sheriff t-shirt and a fireman's plastic kid hat during Art on the Avenue as well as numerous balloons, outfits, and costumes. He loved to swim and retrieve, I miss him so much.



**Whit LaValle with Peanut the Hamster.**

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## Welcome to the Pet Gazette

It would be easy, based on some measures, to say that some areas love their dogs more than others, although we are quite confident that most families love their dogs and other pets in a way that defies quantification.

Nevertheless, we will point out that the City of Alexandria, with a population of more than 150,000 and more than 70,000 households, is also home to 17 different dog parks, including both fenced and unfenced areas for dogs to run free of their leashes and play with other dogs. (Nationally, 39 percent of households average 1.7 dogs, so even assuming a normal level of dog ownership in Alexandria (we suspect it exceeds national numbers), there are likely more than 46,000 dogs. That's one dog park for every 2,700.

In Fairfax County, with a population of about 1,038,000 people and more than 393,000 households, statistics would predict at least 260,000 dogs, but only eight dog parks. That's one dog park for every 32,000 dogs or so ...

In Arlington, 217,000 people live in about 103,000 households, and a statistically likely 68,000 dogs also has eight dog parks, or one dog park for about every 8,500 dogs.

In Montgomery County, Md., about 970,000 people live in about 364,000 households, and so probably about 240,000 dogs, and just five dog parks, so more than 48,000 dogs per dog park.

Fortunately, we found no evidence of overcrowded dog parks in any of our areas, just happy dogs and owners enjoying one of the amenities of this area. And lots of dog parks mean less likelihood of dog owners running their dogs off their leashes in other less appropriate parks. In fact, the growing numbers of dog parks are just one more indicator of how important pets and animals are to us.

A third of local households are likely homes to cats, with the average household with cats having 2.4 cats, but there are not cat parks ... Most "cat people" agree that cats are safer indoors, although we all know exceptions.

Of all these animals, 19 percent of dogs and 22 percent of cats are adopted from animal shelters. Most pets (75 percent of dogs, 87 percent of cats) are spayed or neutered. There are so many pets that need homes, it's a local and national crisis. If you are considering adding a pet to your family, please consider the humane society, the shelter or a rescue organization.

In the pages of our Pet Gazette this week, you'll find stories of many families and their pets, plus information on how and where to adopt dogs, cats, birds, small animals and even horses that desperately need homes.

For much more information, look online at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), and click on Pet Connection.

If you'd like to share information about other pet resources, or about your pet, we still look forward to hearing from you.

Statistics from U.S. Census and the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2009-2010 National Pet Owners Survey.

### EDITORIAL

## Moran Tries To Protect Animals through Legislation

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) bought two Portuguese water dogs three years ago. He kept one, naming her Lulu, and gave the other, Lulu's sister, to his daughter.

"I like these dogs because they are incredibly smart but they are also a handful. ... Lulu will go jump in the pond and dig some holes in the garden. Then, she will come inside and dry off on the white carpet," said Moran.

Moran is not the only Democrat to own a Portuguese water dog. The late U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) brought his three Portuguese water dogs to work with him on Capitol Hill most days. U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) also has a dog of that breed.

Perhaps the most famous Portuguese water dog is Bo Obama, the pup acquired by the nation's first family following the president's 2008 campaign.

**BUT MORAN'S** care for animals

extends beyond his own pet. He is co-chair of the congressional animal protection caucus.

"I hear from constituents about animal protection. But I would do this if I had no constituents contacting me about it. It is important to me," he said.

Moran sponsored a bill currently moving its way through Congress that would require all clothing with fur to have a label with the name of the species, the manufacturer, the country where the fur originated and other pertinent information listed.

Currently, clothing that is valued at under \$150 is exempt from such labeling, including coats or shirts with fur collars.

Moran said The Humane Society approached him about sponsoring the legislation. The animal protection organization had recently concluded an investigation that found there was inaccurate or false labeling on many clothing items with small amounts of fur.



**U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) has owned Lulu, his Portuguese water dog, for three years.**

duce faux fur," said Moran.

**MORAN** also backed legislation banning the sale of videos that include animal cruelty, dog-fights or sex fetish videos of scantily clad women crushing or burning animals. That legislation overwhelmingly passed in the House of Representatives.

The congressman is also working on legislation to protect wild horses in the western United States and to ban "puppy mills," large commercial breeders who avoid licensing and registration of dogs by selling puppies over the internet, he said.

Of the fur trim jackets tested by the Humane Society, 96 percent were found to contain dog, wolf or raccoon dog fur but not to be labeled as such, according to Moran's office.

"It is easier to import fur from Russia or China than it is to pro-

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE



**Ralston**

## Celebrating Ralston's Graduation

Patricia Hale and Paul Bishop formerly of Alexandria, volunteer puppy raisers for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, are celebrating their puppy's graduation as a full-fledged guide dog. Ralston, a yellow Labrador, became a member of their family at eight weeks of age and is now fully trained to be part of a Guiding Eyes team.

Primary raiser of Ralston, Patricia Hale wrote, "Raising a

puppy for Guiding Eyes was something that I had always wanted to do.

We have raised five pups for the program. Now that we have moved to the West Coast, Guiding Eyes puppy raising is no longer an option and we will miss the program involvement and, of course, the pups."

The Guiding Eyes Puppy Raising Program is comprised of more than 400 puppy raisers from

Maine to North Carolina.

It costs approximately \$45,000 to breed, raise and train a Guiding Eyes dog. Funded solely by contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations, Guiding Eyes is able to cover all costs. For more information on raising a Guiding Eyes puppy, contact Guiding Eyes for the Blind at -866-GEB-LABS or visit its website at [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org).

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 PET GAZETTE



Lucy and Libby in the open space on Eisenhower Avenue.



Lola at the African American Heritage Park.



Dash, Grady and Sera at the Alexandria National Cemetery.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

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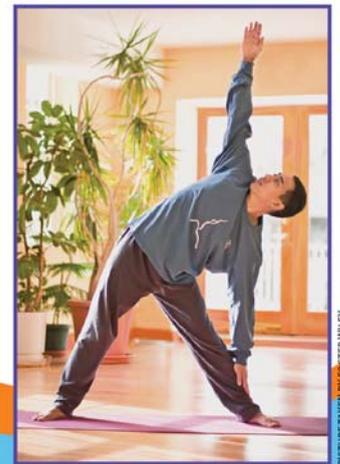


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**Karen Paris and her Blue and Gold Macaw Xander (short for Alexandra).**

## Part of the Flock

Xander is 4 years old but will live to be 80 or more. She definitely rules the roost she eats with the family, or should I say "The Flock." Xander uses a spoon and loves mashed potato she also loves toast. She calls me "momma" and My husband Cliff "poppie." She plays peekboo.

Birds take baths daily. We have a spray bottle and we spray while she flaps her wings and wags her

tail. It is very funny to watch. Macaws are very attached to their owners and require much attention. We have perches set up in key areas around the house so we can take her with us. She likes music and dancing.

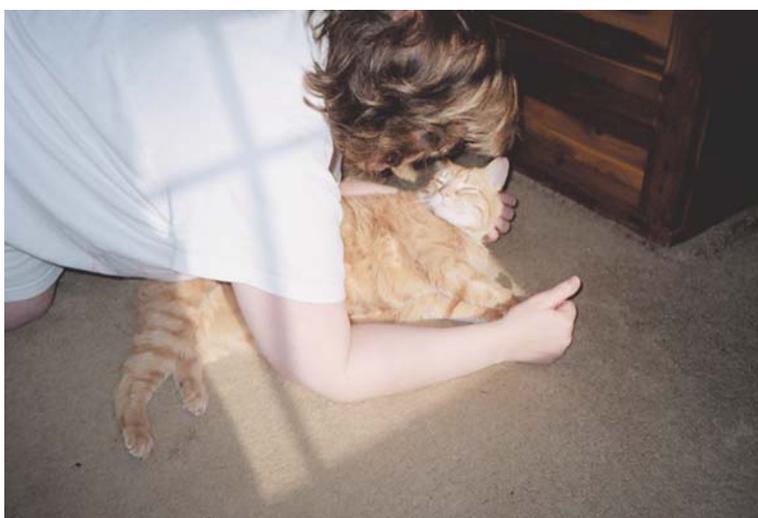
When the phone rings she will say "hello" and clients hear her in the background on occasion singing or talking.

— KAREN S. PARIS



The picture shows three of our four angels with fur that we call family. Tatum Amato is 9 years old, resident of Alexandria and a proud rising 4th grader at Douglas MacArthur. As for the angels with fur: The Tourtie named "Harlie" and Black cat named "Red" are sister and brother adopted mutts from the NOVA SPCA. We started with fostering them in this January when they were 10 weeks and they quickly became part of the family. The Orange Classic Tabby named "The Lucky Monkey" is a partially blind, deaf, 3.5 legged cat that was abandoned at 6 weeks old in Ithaca N.Y. He was found feeding in a compost pile. We fell in love with him in seconds and had some wonderful family member bring him to us. The three are in love like I've never seen before. Our family is lucky to have these angels.

— BONNIE AMATO



**Cathy Messina with her cat Fox, who loves to lie in sunbeams.**



**Peekaboo, age 14, domestic longhair, lives in Braddock Heights. Rescued and loved. 7 pounds of cat; 700 pound of ego.**

— HELEN CAREY



This is Collin Marquis, 8, at the moment he first met the eight-week-old lab mix puppy, Guinness, that would become our family dog. A relative of the puppy was a yellow lab named Molsen, named after the beer. Being a black lab we decided to stick with the theme and name the puppy after a dark beer. Guinness is full grown now and she has become a loving member of our family.

— BRIAN MARQUIS



Pastel drawing by Will Phelps, 12, of KC, our Siberian Cat. KC stands for Kitty Cat. It's not very original but it made it easy for him to learn his name as a kitten. We wanted a Siberian Cat because their saliva is missing a protein that a lot of people (including us) are allergic to. Out of all the kittens we looked at, KC chose me. KC is 6 years old and likes to eat, sleep and chase our other Siberian Cat, Noelle (not pictured here).

— CATHLEEN PHELPS



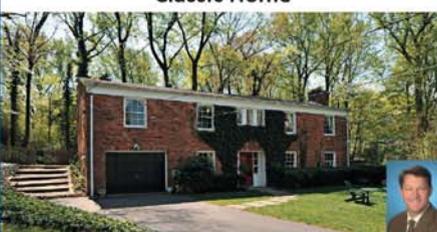
**Willy (the dog, 1.5 years old) and Brendan Griffith (11-year-old boy). Willy is a miniature poodle. They live in Rosemont.**

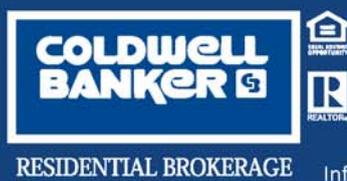


Bill Clontz and Elizabeth at Alexandria Park. Elizabeth is our 3 year old lab who came to us as a guide dog in training (Guiding Eyes for the Blind - [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org)) ; we were to work with her for about a year before she went on to "graduate level training," but due to a medical condition (since resolved), she was released from the program and became a permanent member of our family. Liz has never met another dog or a person who was not her instant best friend. She does her community service as a volunteer blood donor. Not many people know about this program, run by the Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank, but it's very important, and the dogs love it — they get constant attention and snacks during the brief donation period. We could never understand what all the fuss was about Labs — we had always had Yorkies — until we got one. Now it's impossible to imagine a home without this member of the family.

— BILL AND MEG CLONTZ

# COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

<p><b>Just Listed! Open Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!</b></p>  <p><b>134 NORTH PAYNE STREET</b> \$615,000   Old Town Alexandria</p> <p>Fantastic Historic end-unit row hse with lofs of character! LR built-ins, sep DR, granite &amp; stainless kitchen. Plantation shutters &amp; wide plank flrs throughout. Private patio w/ porch, balcony off master bedroom.</p> <p><b>Eloise Brantley   703.408.4887</b></p>	<p><b>Open House Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!</b></p>  <p><b>7602 RIDGCREST DRIVE</b> \$990,000   South Alexandria</p> <p>REDUCED! PARADISE!! Versatile open floor plan w/ 2 MBR's. Striking renovation overlooking private lush lawn with in-ground pool. Chefs kitchen w/ breakfast bar and sunny breakfast rm opens to stunning 2 story great rm and library.</p> <p><b>www.PhyllisPatterson.com   703.518.6158</b></p>	<p><b>Classic Elegance and Charm!</b></p>  <p><b>3114 RUSSELL ROAD</b> \$759,000   Echowood</p> <p>Renovated colonial with spacious eat in kitch with new heated floors, granite, GE SS 5 burner gas double oven and refrig. Large dining room and living room with gas fp, paneled fam rm. 2 large upper level BR's w/ 2 closets, hardwood floors.</p> <p><b>www.PhyllisPatterson.com   703.518.6158</b></p>	<p><b>Just Listed</b></p>  <p><b>1318 PRINCE STREET</b> \$545,000   Old Town Alexandria</p> <p>Located just three blocks to the King Street Metro, this delightful 2 bedroom plus 1 1/2 bath brick townhome is an outstanding Old Town value at \$545,000.</p> <p><b>Donnan C. Wintermute   703.518.6156</b></p>
<p><b>Just Listed! Open Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!</b></p>  <p><b>7012 POLINS COURT</b> \$499,000   Alexandria</p> <p>3 level updated colonial with eat-in kitch, sitting room w/ bay window, walk-out to deck with built-in seating. Large dining room w/ bay, chair &amp; crown molding. Formal living room w/ fp and built-ins. Large fin lower level and tons of storage.</p> <p><b>www.PhyllisPatterson.com   703.518.6158</b></p>	<p><b>Just Listed! Open Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!</b></p>  <p><b>8723 BLUEDALE STREET</b> \$587,500   Stratford Landing (22308)</p> <p>Close to community pool. This 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath property has new paint and refinished hardwood floors. Great opportunity to come in and make it your own. Large back yard and close to G.W. Parkway, bike path and so much more.</p> <p><b>Bob Kuletz   703.615.2626</b></p>	<p><b>Waterfront! Open Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!</b></p>  <p><b>501 SLATERS LANE (UNIT 909)</b> \$379,900   Marina Towers / Old Town Alexandria</p> <p>Rare Waterfront 1br/1ba with stunning Potomac River, Capitol and Monument Views! Nice updates! Resort lifestyle in luxury building on bike path with pool, fitness center, convenience store with valet and 24-hour desk.</p> <p><b>Eloise Brantley   703.408.4887</b></p>	<p><b>So Much For A Competitive Price!</b></p>  <p><b>671 SOUTH COLUMBUS STREET</b> \$442,000   Arch Hall / Old Town Alexandria</p> <p>Don't miss this charming 2 BR, 1 bath unit convenient to everything Old Town has to offer. Great space with lots of updates and terrific storage. Wood burning fireplace and hardwoods throughout. Lovely outside patio, off street parking.</p> <p><b>Linda Wolf   703.856.2133</b></p>
<p><b>Classic Home</b></p>  <p><b>7816 ENGLISH WAY</b> \$799,000   Bethesda</p> <p>Classic home sited on near-half-acre lot. Secluded woodland feel with ample space for outdoor entertaining. Bright and inviting, well proportioned rooms, with the large family room with fireplace on it's own level. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths.</p> <p><b>Mark Souder   703.518.2800</b></p>	<p><b>Major Expansion In Waynewood</b></p>  <p><b>901 DALEBROOK DRIVE</b> \$1,150,000   Waynewood</p> <p>This six bedroom, four and one half bath Waynewood home features a handsome two-story addition. This charming home has been renovated from top to bottom!</p> <p><b>Lyssa Seward   703.298.0562</b> <b>Jane Cole   703.598.6198</b></p>	<p><b>Open House Sunday, 1:00 - 3:30!</b></p>  <p><b>2121 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 1704-1705</b> Carlyle Towers / Old Town Alexandria</p> <p>3 bedroom, 2 bath DOUBLE UNIT condominium home with heated / CAC sunroom with 27 feet of great city views! Eat-in kitchen, separate dining room, two garage spaces. <a href="http://www.CarlyleTowers1-1704.com">www.CarlyleTowers1-1704.com</a>. <a href="mailto:MarieMeyer@Live.com">MarieMeyer@Live.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Marie Louise Meyer   703.836.2080</b></p>	<p><b>Just Listed!</b></p>  <p><b>6045 TERRAPIN PLACE UNIT 301</b> \$323,900   Sycamores at Van Dorn / 22310</p> <p>Great location, close to metro, 395, 495, 95. Freshly painted and upgrades. Lots of light and open living space.</p> <p><b>Nora Partlow   703.867.8872</b></p>
<p><b>Just Listed - By Appointment Only</b></p>  <p><b>7608 SOUTHDOWN ROAD</b> \$2,750,000   Alexandria (22308)</p> <p>French Country Villa on hillside of Potomac River backs to trees and park land. View your terraced garden and a wide view of the Potomac from a 64'x14' flagstone terrace with FP. Bright and open with great features and entertaining space.</p> <p><b>Bob Kuletz   703.615.2626</b></p>	<p><b>Extraordinary!</b></p>  <p><b>3752 MARY EVELYN WAY</b> \$431,900   Alexandria/Vernon Heights</p> <p>Extraordinary end townhouse, 3412 fin sq ft of living area, 5 bedrooms, sitting room, 4.5 bathrooms, 2-car garage, courtyard/patio, family room off kitchen, breakfast room and dining room. Foreclosure.</p> <p><b>Sherry York   703.625.3377</b></p>	<p><b>New Price! Open Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00!</b></p>  <p><b>275 PICKETT STREET SOUTH, UNIT 201</b> \$349,700   Hillwood</p> <p>Bright and open, 2 bedrooms / 2 baths, 2 level end unit condo, hardwood floors, FP, renovated baths, tons of space &amp; 2 parking spaces.</p> <p><b>Denise Davis   571.332.8531</b></p>	<p><b>Excellent Opportunity!</b></p>  <p><b>205 YOAKUM PARKWAY #310</b> \$152,749   Alexandria / Watergate at Landmark</p> <p>Large 1 BR, 1.5 BA w/DEN. Neat &amp; clean, recently painted with neutral colors, recent carpet &amp; some bathroom upgrades. Living rm opens to balcony. Good condition. Foreclosure.</p> <p><b>Sherry York   703.625.3377</b></p>



For All Of Your Real Estate Needs Visit: [www.CBMove.com](http://www.CBMove.com)

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Information is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Equal housing opportunity. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is owned and operated by NRT, LLC.

**OPEN  
SUN. 1-4**



**Alexandria**

**\$825,000**

**Just Listed in Clover**

Tucked at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, this expanded, updated colonial is in pristine move-in condition. The home offers a 2003 addition with a chef-worthy kitchen featuring warm wood cabinets, granite tops and stainless appliances and a breakfast room opening to a deck and the large, level rear yard. A "must-have" mudroom adjoins the garage. Upstairs, the new master suite has a reading area and an appealing bathroom with separate soaking tub and shower. Two more large bedrooms and two bathrooms are upstairs along with exceptional closet space. Desirable details include the living room with fireplace, built-ins and doors to the deck, main level powder room, formal dining room with walk-in bay window and a fully finished lower level with rec room and den plus terrific storage. With a fourth bathroom on this level, the den doubles as private space for a guest.

Walk to MacArthur and Bishop Ireton schools, shops, parks, restaurants and DASH bus to Metro. From King St. Metro: west King, left Janney's Lane, left Cloverway, left Dartmouth right Vassar Place to 201 on left.

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**Glenn Lewis 703-623-1119**



**PET GAZETTE**

**Story of Sophie and Wally**

FROM PAGE 5

another egg. We built a little nest for her as the book advised, and eggs began to appear regularly. No chicks, just eggs. This went on for several weeks and we realized the eggs were empty so we began throwing them out when Sophie wasn't looking. More eggs, maybe a dozen. We dutifully threw them out after checking that they were empty. But Sophie kept the eggs coming.

Then one morning in the first week of July, we heard a little clicking noise coming from the cage. We looked in and, sure enough, there was a little tiny beak poking through the side of one of the eggs. The little bird struggled out and sort of lay on the floor. He was incredibly ugly; no feathers and covered with a sort of egg yoke. Sophie stopped laying eggs.

The Cockatiel book had fearsome tales about how the fledgling would die without food and the intricate ways humans would have to feed it. Wrong. Sophie and Wally knew just what to do. They chewed up their food and shared it with the little bird. We bought

stuff the book advised, but the thing Sophie and Wally really liked was canned corn and we fed them with it three times a day and they passed it onto baby.

The little bird tried to stay under Sophie most of the time unless she or Wally was feeding. Wally sat on him when Sophie was out in the cage. At two weeks he was on his feet and beginning to show feathers; and at four weeks his wings could lift him to a perch. He was the spitting image of his father, Wally.

Now he is fully-grown, bigger than his father and mother and sings all the time. We got a bigger cage, but are hoping that this is the extent of our cockatiel flock.

Meanwhile we've learned a lot about cockatiels. They aren't little parrots. They are part of the cockatoo family, native to Australia. Their life span is 15 to 20 years and some have lived as long as 30 years. They like to have their cage put outdoors in decent weather and to fly around the house. But be sure to clip their wings, or like Gitale, they will strike out on their own.



Esther Grimes-Mulligan of Alexandria writes: My dog companion "Abbie" is 9 years old. I have had her for eight years — she was given to me by a woman who was moving into a retirement home and couldn't take her with her. "Abbie" is my shadow. Following me everywhere — never letting me out of her sight. "Abbie" weighs nine pounds and is groomed at Old Town School for Dogs. We celebrated her birthday on the fourth of this month. "Abbie's" playmate is our big tomcat "Frankie" who, along with "Abbie," follows me all over the house.

*The Potomack Company*  
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**SUMMER HOUSE & GARDEN DESIGN AUCTION**  
MONDAY, JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> ~ SUNDAY, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>



French Style Painted Metal Bin  
Provenance: J. Brown & Co.



Garden Urn on Plinth  
Provenance: J. Brown & Co.



Pair of Neoclassical Garden Benches



Maitland Smith Zebra Painted Parson's Table  
Provenance: J. Brown & Co.



Maitland Smith Louis XVI  
Chinoiserie Cabinet  
Provenance: J. Brown & Co.

526 N. FAYETTE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314  
703-684-4550 VA#0704

www.potomackcompany.com

View our Summer House and Garden Absentee bid auction in our gallery now. Inventory includes unreserved items from J. Brown & Co., well known King Street designer and merchant, and from the Collection of Judge Arthur W. Sinclair of Haymarket, Virginia.

**Preview Hours:**  
Thursday-Saturday,  
July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 10am ~ 5pm  
Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1pm ~ 4pm  
Absentee and Online bidding closes at  
4pm on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>



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# WEEK IN ALEXANDRIA

## A Healthy Debate

Since his election last November, Virginia Attorney General **Ken Cuccinelli** has been a polarizing figure.

First there was the letter to colleges and universities saying there was no legal basis for including sexual orientation as a protected class. Then there was his lapel pin that altered the state seal to conceal an exposed female breast. That was followed by a subpoena for academic documents from the University of Virginia related to climate change. Now Cuccinelli is suing the federal government in an effort to challenge the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

"I don't agree with the federal government forcing people to purchase a product," said **Patrick Murray**, a Republican congressional candidate who will be on the ballot in November. "This lawsuit is a debate we should be having."

Cuccinelli was in Rosemont this week to headline a fundraiser for Murray, who is running against 10-term incumbent U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8). The Republican candidate said about 175 people attended the event, and his campaign raised about \$15,000 to \$20,000. Murray said he disagreed with some of Cuccinelli's actions, although he wouldn't say which ones. But he does agree with the lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of health-care reform — an issue that's a clear point of distinction between Murray and Moran.

"This lawsuit is political grandstanding to appeal to an anti-government radical base," said Moran. "It's a time-worn argument used by reactionary forces since the beginning of the republic."

## Clearing the Air

When Del. **Charniele Herring** (D-46) met with residents of Goodwin House a weeks ago, the message she got from 100 or so in attendance was one of anxiety. When 6,000 people are trying to get to work at the new Washington Headquarters Service using Seminary Road and Beauregard Street, will ambulances be caught in traffic by the gridlock? That concern was amplified last week when Mayor **Bill**

**Euille** informed federal and state officials that the building currently lacks any provision for fire-fighting vehicles.

"When I looked into their eyes, I saw a real sense of urgency," said Herring, whose district includes the new Department of Defense installation. "But I didn't know what to tell them."

She later heard from residents of Bailey's Crossroads who were confused about the massive new building now being constructed as the result of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. That's when she decided to form the Northern Virginia BRAC working group. Herring describes the new group, which will conduct its inaugural meeting later this week, as a place for citizens to come together, air grievances and get information. Because much of the transportation plan remains undetermined, Herring hopes the group will be a community forum to help shape the project.

"I would imagine that we'll meet about every month or so," she said. "I don't want to meet just to have a meeting, but I feel once a month seems appropriate considering the scale if this thing."

## A Hot Mess

How hot is it? So hot the roads are buckling. No, it's not a joke. According to a press release issued by the American Automobile Association this week, a section of pavement on Shirley Memorial Highway recently buckled near the Seminary Road exit. It's a red-hot epidemic, according to transportation officials from across the county. When hot moisture builds up under weakened roadway joints, the asphalt heats up and expands.

"During extreme heat, you suddenly have the right conditions to cause a roadway to crumble," said AAA Mid-Atlantic manager of public affairs **John Townsend** in a written statement. "Other factors, such as the lack of routine maintenance in the wake of budget cuts, changes in temperatures, aging and even the lack of rain can cause this to happen too."

Aside from Alexandria, road buckling has also been reported in Texas, Georgia, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## Fund-raiser Set for Alexandria United Way

Austin Grill will donate a portion of its proceeds on Monday, Aug. 2, from 5-9 p.m. to Alexandria's United Way.

Austin Grill is located at 801 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. See [www.austingrill.com/alexandria.html](http://www.austingrill.com/alexandria.html).

Alexandria United Way provides fund-raising and other services to many nonprofit and charitable organizations in Alexandria.

[www.ExteriorMedics.com](http://www.ExteriorMedics.com) | 703-365-2511



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**OPEN SUN**



**7106 Colgate Dr**  
\$575,000  
*Hollin Glen-Super Value!*  
Owner's relocation provides unique opportunity in prestigious "close-in" Hollin Glen. Spacious well maintained home just minutes from Old Town. Many fabulous features include: 4 BRs, 3 BAs, updated gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors and 2 fireplaces. Custom two tiered deck. Check the comps! Nothing like it in close-in Fort Hunt are for under \$600,000! **OPEN SUN 8/1, 1-4, GW Pkwy S, R-Belle Haven, L-Fort Hunt, R-Rollins, L-Colgate.**

**OPEN SUN**



**8418 Alyce Pl**  
\$698,900  
*Classic Colonial - Just off Parkway!*  
This is the one you've been waiting for! Rare 4 bedroom, 3 level colonial in Prime Collingwood-Waywood location. Spacious home features updated eat-in kitchen w/SS appl. and granite, 3 finished levels, 2.5 updated baths, 2 fireplaces and large garage. Elegant dining and living rooms. Gorgeous fenced yard w/privacy fence and patio on quite cul-de-sac in Waywood School area. **OPEN SUN 8/1, 1-4, GW Pkwy S, R-Collingwood, L-W Boulevard, R-Alyce Pl.**

**OPEN SUN**



**8614 Vernon Ave**  
\$425,000  
*This Is Not A Typo!*  
Real Priced Unbelievable opportunity! Totally updated 3 lvl colonial near Mt. Vernon Estate (at give away price)! Total renovation: gourmet kit w/granite, SS, 42' cherry cabs new paint, new roof, 2.5BAs, 4BRs and finished lower level. You will not find a home in this location & condition even those priced \$100,000 higher! **OPEN SUN 8/1, 1-4, GW Pkwy S, at Mansion R on 235, L-Maryland, L-Vernon Ave.**



**314 QUEEN STREET**  
Alex / Old Town  
\$2,200,000  
Fabulous loft in Old Town with great history and now a beautifully appointed residence with all of the luxury details perfect for today's professional. 2BRS/3.5BAs and 3 fireplaces w/over 4,700 SF of living space and flooded with light. Located 2 blocks to King St & 3 blocks from the Potomac River makes this an urban oasis.

**Norma Stratton 703.966.0756**

**OPEN SUN 1 - 4pm!**



**1665 KENWOOD AVE #A**  
Alexandria / \$385,000  
3BR/2.5BA brick townhouse in Beverly Hills in news setting. Beautifully renovated kitchen and baths, designer colors, FP, just minutes to I-395 and the shops and restaurants of upper King St and Bradlee shopping center.

**Jennifer Collier 703.966.1810**  
**Ginger Webre 703.927.8398**



**1344 CHETWORTH COURT**  
Alexandria / Old Town  
\$539,000  
Renovated 3-lvl TH in popular Bashford Ln, mins. to DC, Old Town, Pentagon, shops. 3BR unit converted to 2 lrg BRs, 2.5BAs, fin. bsmt w/ofc. & FR + roughed-in full FBA. Main lvl: Kit w/ table space, DR, LR w/ FP, patio, assigned prkg.

**www.WaywoodRealtors.com**  
**Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633**



**703 Kahn Pl**  
\$1,349,000  
*Fords Landing!*  
Rarely found Henry Model with water views from your living room! Elegant master suite with sitting area and luxurious bath. Cooks kitchen with granite, Jenn-Air stainless steel and abundant cabinet space. 3 Bedrooms plus office, 3.5 Baths, 2 car garage, balcony off dining room and walk out lower level to patio. Absolutely beautiful! Shows like a model!



**6515 Princeton Dr**  
\$815,000  
*Classic Colonial - Near Old Town!*  
Spacious home in Belle Haven area. Center hall colonial with up to date floor plan. Features include open kitchen with SS and granite, 3 finished levels, 4 large BRs and oversized 2 car garage. Formal living and dining rooms, family room off breakfast area. Prime "close-in" location. Two tiered deck and seasonal river views. Lower level hosts large rec room, full bath, huge storage area and direct outside access.



**1002 N. Royal St**  
\$568,000  
*Old Town Living!*  
Fabulous 3 bedroom unit in Watergate of Alexandria. Many features include: hardwood floors, bright updated kitchen, separate dining area, sunken living room with fireplace and built-in bookshelves, master bedroom with private bath and gorgeous fenced rear patio. 2 Parking Spaces! Prime location to airport, D.C. and all of Old Town Alexandria.



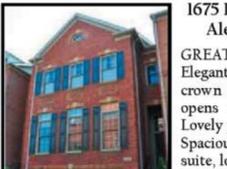
**4632 KEMP COURT**  
Stonegate/Alexandria  
\$549,999  
BEST DEAL IN STONEGATE! This 3-level, 3BR/2.5BA TH is move-in condition. Updated Kit w/granite, hdwds, fresh paint, make this home stand out. Spacious MBR with vaulted ceiling & walk-in closet & master bath. Rec Rm w/ Frplc, 2-car garage, patio. Close to commuting routes & shopping.

**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619**



**6616 THE PARKWAY**  
Alexandria  
\$409,000  
Extremely well cared for raised rambler has 4BRs/3BAs with huge backyard and separate garden area. Enclosed Florida room to enjoy year round with fireplace, hardwood floors as well as carport and driveway parking.

**Michael Manuel 703.615.6317**



**1675 HUNTING CREEK DR**  
Alexandria / \$825,000  
GREAT SPACE - GREAT PRICE! Elegant open floor plan, beautiful crown molding, large cooks kit opens to family room & deck. Lovely patio is an oasis in the city. Spacious rooms w/large master suite, loft w/private bath is perfect for guests, good sized rec room on LL. 1 mile to METRO, 2 lights to DC.

**Laura Blederman 202.309.1350**

**UNDER CONTRACT!**



**805 N. Howard St**



**4710 Richmarr Pl**



**1139 Cedar Dale Ln**



**4319 Ferry Landing Rd**



**9316 Heather Glen Dr**  
\$675,000  
*Major Price Reduction - Super Value!*  
Don't miss out on this unique opportunity-Price Slashed on fabulous colonial. Expanded with the most dramatic family room addition you'll ever find! All glass window walls overlooks magnificent custom pool! Other features include: screen porch, 3 lvl, 4BR and 2 car garage.



**8714 Bluedale St**  
\$629,000  
*Stratford Landing - Colonial!*  
Classic four bedroom center hall colonial on gorgeous level lot in prime Stratford Landing location. Home has been exceptionally well maintained and has had major updates such as thermal windows, new HVAC unit and foyer extension. Large deck overlooks landscaped private yard. Priced to sell!



**511 BASHFORD LANE #2**  
Harbor Terrace / \$379,900  
Completely renovated 2 level, 2BR condo feels like a townhouse with no maintenance. Must see state-of-the-art eat-in gourmet Kit/FR with granite, new appl., new 42' cabinets, new wood flrs, new half & MBR baths, new paint, 2 walk-in closets, rear entrance to parking, new windows. This has it all! Only 5 mins. to airport, 10 mins. to DC.

**ReneeSellsAlexandria.com**  
**Renee Reymond 703.507.5330**



**105 MARTIN LANE**  
Alex / Cameron Sta  
\$510,000  
**PRICE REDUCED!** Not your standard builder grade home! Very special custom 3BR, 2.5BA Gatsby model now available in popular Cameron Station community. Numerous custom appointments and upgrades thru-out. METRO shuttle and 1 block to bus.

**Virtual Tour www.susanmovesyou.com**  
**Susan Haughton 703.470.4545**



**6000 EDGEWOOD LN**  
Alexandria  
\$1,149,000  
Must see to appreciate! Elegant & spacious home on lrg corner lot in quiet neighborhood. Stunning foyer w/dual staircases. 2 lrg MBR w/tray ceilings, sitting areas & gas FP, 9' ceilings throughout. "Endurastone" columns on portico, lrg eat-in kit w/granite & commercial grade SS appls. Custom touches throughout!

**Jim Crowe 703.856.8244**



**9316 Allwood Dr**  
\$519,500  
*Absolutely Impeccable!*  
New Priced! Stunning home features bright open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings on main level. 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 Mt. Vernon.



**Field of Dreams!**  
Lofty Oaks \$755,900  
Build your Wakefield dream home on fabulous 3/4 acre estate site in the heart of Mt. Vernon. New low priced Pre-Construction opportunity allows for maximum customization. Call for details.



**506 CAMERON STREET**  
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\$2,720,000  
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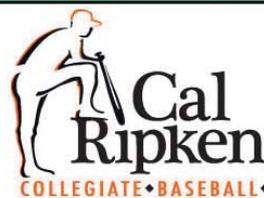
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The Alexandria Aces would like to sincerely thank the following individuals and sponsors for being a part of our 2010 season! We'll see you in 2011!

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**YMCA Alexandria**

-----  
 The Aces would also like to thank all of our host families who graciously housed our team, along with Park Manager Kevin Williams, Charles Brown and Will Douglas for their hard work and assistance at Frank Mann Field this summer, as well as Roger Blakeley, William Chesley, Mac Slover, and all of the hard working individuals of the City of Alexandria's Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities Department.

-----  
 Please call John Herrity to join the Aces Club today! Contact John at 703-930-9930 or email him at [John@AlexandriaAces.org](mailto:John@AlexandriaAces.org) on how you can join the Aces booster club!



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



## PET GAZETTE

### All Creatures Great and Small

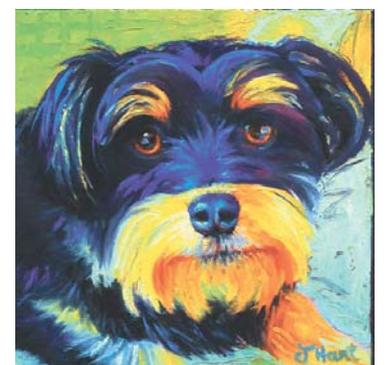
A sampling of work from artists at the Torpedo Factory from Thursday, July 22.



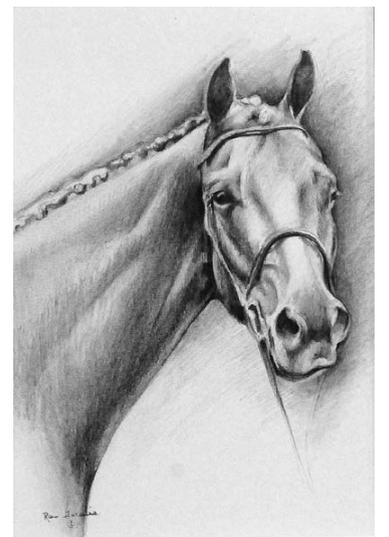
SUSAN MAKARA



ANNE LANDRY



JULIE HART



RANA GERALIS

# Where to Pamper Your Animals Locally



## The Dog Park

Located along King Street, this cat and dog boutique carries a wide variety of home-made animal treats, all-natural food, and pet accessories. Owner/manager Anna Fitzgerald serves as the store's only employee, having opened only two and a half months ago. Some of the more popular selling items include made-for dog ice cream, and more resistant dog chew toys, better known as "tougher toys."



## Wild Bird Center

PHOTOS BY ANDREW VENNERGRUND

Located along Duke Street in Alexandria, the Wild Bird Center carries a large selection of accessories to make any backyard a great home for area birds. The store features an impressive variety of bird feeds, houses, baths, seed, and other accessories, as well as educational materials about local area birds and wildlife.



## Barkley Square Dog Bakery

Established six years ago in Del Ray, Alexandria, this small animal boutique specializes in homemade gourmet treats, custom-made dog clothing, and high-quality pet accessories. Owned by Kristina Robertson, this pink shop is known for its popular dog biscuits, high-end animal spa products, and even carries a nonalcoholic dog-friendly beer.

**Becky's Pet Care, Inc.**  
877-DoggyWalk or 877-KittySit  
www.beckyspetcare.com  
service@beckyspetcare.com

Established in 1998 in Becky O'Neil's Arlington basement, Becky's Pet Care has expanded to become one of the largest dog walking/pet sitting businesses in Northern Virginia. It serves 3,500 clients and employs 60 pet care professionals. Becky's Pet Care offers midday dog walks, cat sitting, and small animal care. "Our company strives for professionalism. We try to treat the dogs as if they were our own," said Johna Gagnon, executive assistant to Becky O'Neil.

**Poochie Playhouse**  
6118 Rose Hill Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
703-922-7773

Poochie Playhouse offers doggie daycare — from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, grooming, cage-free overnight boarding, and a self serve dog wash. "Most of the daycares around are more commercialized. We're smaller, more private, and we're on a personal level with the customers. We know all the dogs by name," said Poochie Playhouse owner Juan Albusu.



## The Olde Town School for Dogs

Located in the center of historic Alexandria, the Olde Town School for Dogs was established in 1975 by owners Carlos and Sandy Mejias. Since then, this corner pet store has become a well-known location for dog training and pet accessories. With a staff of 20 employees, the School for Dogs serves as a full-line pet shop, complete with dog grooming services and a respected dog training program.

**Reserved Barking**  
6404 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
703-417-9755, www.reservedbarking.com  
info@reservedbarking.com

Opened this past April, Reserved Barking offers dog daycare, boarding, and full service grooming. To promote a playful, non-aggressive atmosphere, Reserved Barking plays classical music, which studies have shown to calm dogs. "I come from a breeding background and have extensive experience in pet behavior and pack mentality and due to that we offer a very calm environment," said owner Bilal Malik.

**Struttin' Mutts**  
703-717-0700  
www.struttinmutts.com  
info@struttinmutts.com

Founded in 2004, Struttin' Mutts offers midday dog walks, pet sitting for dogs, cats and other small animals, a pet taxi — transportation for a pet within a 10-mile radius of the animal's home, and house sitting. "We're family owned and operated. We take pride in maintaining a small service area which enables us to provide consistent care for our clients," said co-owner Victoria Burnett-Miller.

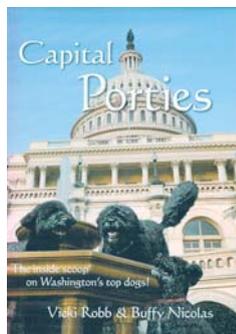


Talk of  
the Town

**DONE**

## 'Capital Porties' Features Local Portugese Water Dogs

"Capital Porties," a book with stories and color photographs of 80 of Washington's finest Portuguese Water Dogs, including Bo Obama's brother Solo, is now available on Amazon.com. Alexandria resident Vicki Robb is the author along with Reston resident Buffy Nicolas. Capital Porties provides a glimpse of what life is like as a Portie, and with a Portie. It came to be when Porties Reece Robb and Willy Nicolas decided a book was needed once Bo Obama moved to The White House. All proceeds from the book go to support the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Rep. Jim Moran's Portie Lulu is featured in the book.



Lulu Moran

### FINE ARTS

#### NOW THROUGH AUG. 1

**Interlacements.** In this show, artists explore the geometry of fiber art. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. At the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory art Center, 105 North Union Street, Old Town. Gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Thursdays, when it is open 1-9 p.m.



#### NOW THROUGH AUG. 1

**Chasing the Tempest.** Gallery West's July show features the extraordinary color and infrared photography of Jefferson Evans, who follows the great storms of the Midwest. Located at 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. Call 703-549-6006.

Taylor. Reception is Sunday, Aug. 8 from 2-4 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

#### AUG. 4 THROUGH SEPT. 6

**"Scapes: The Annual Landscape Exhibit."** Artwork inspired by all environments may be a part of this exhibit - urban and rural, industrialized and primitive, coastal and arid, and works portraying the beauty and destruction created by Mother Nature. At the Art League Gallery. Opening reception: Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m.

#### AUG. 4 TO SEPT. 3

**Artist Genevieve Lynn.** "In Misty China" captures moments in landscape, people and culture. Opening reception is Saturday, Aug.

7 from 6-9 p.m. A Chinese brush painting demo and workshop will be held on Sunday, Aug. 8 from 3-5 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King street, Alexandria. Visit [www.jadriverstudio.com](http://www.jadriverstudio.com).

#### AUG. 6-22

**Gathering of the Legends.** Meet Alexandria's Living Legends of 2009-2010 Photo exhibition, many of whom will be in attendance. Twelve individuals or teams were selected from among the nominees as the 2009-10 Living Legends of Alexandria - Chet Avery, Rosalind Bovey, V. Rodger Digilio, Nelson A. Greene, Sr., Alice Merrill and Linda Odell, T. Michael Miller, John Porter, Joan and John Renner, David G. Speck, Pat Troy, Lois Walker, and Betty R. Wright. Opening reception is Aug. 6 from 7-10 p.m. Artist's Talk/Q&A: The Art of Photojournalism, Aug. 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-625-2330 or visit [alexandrialegends@earthlink.net](mailto:alexandrialegends@earthlink.net) or [www.AlexandriaLegends.com](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com).

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 12

**Artists' Talk.** 7-8:30 p.m. "The Art of Photo-Journalism," Del Ray Artisans Gallery. Free. RSVP: 703-625-2330.

#### NOW THROUGH AUG. 15

**Marsha Staiger and Alison Sigethy - Art in Balance: Rhythm and Repetition.** These two artists present an exhibit that investigates the paradox of balance, the nature of rhythm, and the beauty and order created by repetition. At 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565, x4 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

#### NOW THROUGH AUG. 2

**Megan Coyle's Solo Exhibit, Stories in Paper.** Her images are not paintings, but collages carefully crafted from small pieces of magazine photos. Gallery hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday, Noon-6 p.m. At the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

#### AUG. 3 TO OCT. 3

**Photography Exhibition.** "You Are Who You Are," photographs by Louise Noakes; and "Shadow and Substance," photographs by Grace

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or [washingtonballet.org](http://washingtonballet.org)

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

---

**Tuesday - Greek Night**  
Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

---

**Wednesday - All American Night**  
Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken, Va. Ham

---

**Thursday - Italian Night**  
Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

---

**Friday - Fish Night**  
Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

---

**Saturday - Steak and Chop Night**  
Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

---

**Sunday**  
Brunch served 7am - 2pm

---

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## CALENDAR

### ONGOING

**Children enter a world of fantasy** and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon," held every Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Storytelling sessions will take place in the Hands-On History Room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center. "Washington Builds a Barn" is the theme for August's storytelling sessions. During the 20-minute session, children learn Aesop's fables and listen to stories about George Washington's life! The storytelling program is recommended for children ages three to eight. Parental supervision is required. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free.

**Alexandria Library's SummerQuest reading program** has begun, but it is not too late to sign up! Children ages 6-12 can sign up for SummerQuest (and children under 5 years old can sign up for SummerQuest Junior) at the children's desk at any of the four Alexandria Library branches. Specials event schedules are available at any branch or online at [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

### FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

**Tea Dances.** 1 to 3:15 p.m. Group class from 1 to 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.

### NOW THROUGH AUG. 21

**Summer Dance and Fine Art Program.** Saturdays. Cost is \$350 for 10, two-hour classes. Students study dance for one hour followed by a one-hour fine arts class. For children ages 3 to 9 divided into three age groups. Contact Virginia Britton, Director, The Alexandria Ballet, at 703-379-8997 or 703-568-4425 or visit [www.thealexandriaballet.com](http://www.thealexandriaballet.com)

### THURSDAY/JULY 29

**Music at Twilight Concerts.** 7 p.m. Featuring Folk by Association (Eclectic Acoustic). At the Fort Ward Park Amphitheater, 4301 West Braddock Road. Call 703-746-5592.

**18th Century Dance Class.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen's time — danced by Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Singles or couples are welcome. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242.

**The Full Cup Girl's Night Out Women's Health Event.** 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Featuring Dr. Marla Gebaide from Centreville Chiropractic Center who will a discussion on women's health that tie into wearing the proper fitting bra. At 218 N. Lee Street, Suite 206, Old Town Alexandria. RSVP to [lindsey@thefullcup.com](mailto:lindsey@thefullcup.com). Space is limited. Visit [www.thefullcup.com](http://www.thefullcup.com).

### FRIDAY/JULY 30

**Alexandria Citizens Band Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Listen to the City's oldest performing arts organization. In Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5592.

**The Reunion Music Society Jazz Orchestra.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Led by NOVA's Professor of Jazz Studies Herb Smith, this orchestra will be performing selections from jazz notables such as Duke Ellington, Charlie Bird and Miles Davis along with songs from Broadway shows. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469). Visit



### THURSDAY/JULY 29

**Reverie Jazz Trio.** 7-9 p.m. Free. The Reverie Jazz Trio will perform early jazz standards and forgotten favorites in a style reminiscent of a bygone era while bringing back the great melodies and emotion exemplified by the great jazz and blues music of the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances).

### SATURDAY/JULY 31

**How to Use Herbs.** 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Fee is \$5/per workshop; advance registration required. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. Visit [www.leeendallhouse.org](http://www.leeendallhouse.org).

**National Dance Day.** 5 p.m. Wear Red, White, and Blue to honor our nation, with hopes of bringing awareness to the community of how important fitness and dance can be. At Market Square in Old Town Alexandria.

### SUNDAY, AUG. 1

**Rambling Garden Party.** 4-6 p.m. Fund-raiser for the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association. Musical performances by Dulcie Taylor and Sol. Admission is \$100/person. At The Athenaeum and its two adjoining historic properties, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Harmony Heritage Singers.** 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Women's four-part harmony show chorus performs in Ft. Hunt Park, six miles south of Old Town Alexandria on the GW Parkway, 703-289-2550 or [www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp) and go to "News and Fun Things to do."

**Summer Chamber Music Series.** 3 p.m. Free. Master class for young musicians 18 years old and under with violinist Elisabeth Adkins and pianist Edward Newman. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria.

**Potomac Harmony Chorus.** 7 to 8 p.m. Free. A concert in Ft. Hunt Park, six miles south of Old Town Alexandria on the GW Parkway, 703-289-2550 or [www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp) and go to "News and Fun Things to do."

### AUG. 2-6

**Vacation Bible School.** 9 a.m. to noon for half-day; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for full-day. VBS will be centered around the theme, "Champions for God." At Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 North Alfred Street, Alexandria. To register, visit [www.meadememorialchurch.net](http://www.meadememorialchurch.net). Call 703-549-1334.

### TUESDAY/AUG. 3

**National Night Out** — America's Night Out Against Crime. 6 to 8 p.m. Crime Prevention Program. Live Music. Light refreshments. Model apartments will be available to tour. At the Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-797-3815 to reserve a seat.

**Sunrise Silent Film.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 is presenting its "Silent Summer" film series. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 4

### Mt. Vernon Kiwanis Club Speaker.

Drinks at 6 p.m.; Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; Talk at 7:20 p.m. followed by Q&A's. Amb. Thomas Pickering, former Under Secretary for Political Affairs, and Ambassador to Russia, Israel and three other countries. Will give his perspectives on major global issues. Cost is \$27/person for dinner (cash bar). At the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club. If you are interested in attending, contact MVKC President Bruce Malkin at [brucemalkin1@gmail.com](mailto:brucemalkin1@gmail.com).

### Historic Gadsby's Tavern Courtyard Barbeque/Smoker.

7 to 10 p.m. Held the first Wednesday of each month, the smoker is sponsored by the American Legion Post 24 to commemorate national, veteran, and Legion historical events. Bring your meat or entrée, be your own chef. Post 24 provides sides, beverages and an occasional free surprise. The \$10 admission goes 100 percent to Post 24 Legion youth, veteran and other programs. At American Legion Post 24, 400 Cameron St. (courtyard or enter door at base of flagpole). Contact [clubroom24@gmail.com](mailto:clubroom24@gmail.com) or 703-683-5564. <http://www.valegionpost24.org/>

### Desserts at Dusk-an Evening of Edibles.

6:30-8 p.m. \$16. Learn how to grow and cook with edible plants that make delicious desserts from kitchen gardener, Cindy Brown. Sample delectable garden treats and then take home the featured plant to grow in your own garden. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 to register. Visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org).

### THURSDAY/AUG. 5

**The Ash Lovelies.** 7-9 p.m. Free. The Ash Lovelies create "Chamber Folk Tangle Pop." What else do you call a band that features a viola, oboe, guitar synthesizer, bass, keyboard, cajone, synthesizer modules, electronic noise, and assorted guest players/singers? At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**18th Century Dance Class.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen's time — danced by Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Singles or couples are welcome. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242.

### FRIDAY/AUG. 6

**Musical Art of the Andes.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Yarawi, playing South American, Latin American and world music using traditional Bolivian instruments. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469). Visit

## Who would you call a Living Legend of Alexandria?

Who do you know whose vision and energy has improved life in Alexandria? Living Legends of Alexandria is seeking nominations in order to recognize Alexandria's Living Legends throughout 2011.

### Nomination Categories:

(1) Those who have contributed at least one tangible improvement to the quality of the city's life that would likely be missing without this person's vision and energy.

(2) Those demonstrating exemplary service to the city over an extended time (ten years or more) especially service on Boards, Commissions, Committees or Service Organizations that improve the quality of life in Alexandria.

Nominees must live or work in Alexandria. Those currently running for or holding political office are not eligible for consideration. The contributions of City employees should be beyond the responsibilities of their jobs.

See [www.AlexandriaLegends.com](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com) or call 703-625-2330 for a nomination form to explain why you consider this person a Living Legend. Send your nominations no later than November 15 to Living Legends, P.O. Box 10485, Alexandria, VA 22310.

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469). Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 7

**Cocker Spaniel Adoption Day.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Oldies But Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue. At the Alex-Hybla Valley Petsmart, 7690 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Visit [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com)

**Living History Celebration.** Noon to 4 p.m. Free. Features living history interpreters portraying the Carlyle family. At the Carlyle House, 121 North Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Visit [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org).

**Alexandria Art Market.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A variety of original artwork from over 20 artists will be displayed for sale including painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, and glasswork. At the Nicholas A. Colasanto Park, adjoining the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria (corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Mount Vernon Avenue). Contact Kimberley Bush at 703-627-7656 or email [DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com).

**Summer Concert Series.** 7 p.m. Free. Featuring the Jazz Ambassadors, a 19-member big band. Part of the U.S. Army Field Band. At Centennial Park, off of English Ave., Fort Meade.

**Friendship Firehouse Festival.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Celebrate the 236th birthday of the Friendship Fire Company in the 100 block of South Alfred Street. Kids of all ages will enjoy displays of historic and modern firefighting apparatus, free birthday cake, craft books, food vendors and more! Go on tours of the historic firehouse, first built in 1855. Children will receive free Friendship Fire

helmets! Visit [www.friendshipfirehouse.net](http://www.friendshipfirehouse.net) or on weekends, call 703-746-3891.

**Tavern Day at Gadsby's Tavern.** 1-5 p.m. Free open house will feature continuous tours of the site by costumed guides, the opportunity to dance like George and Martha Washington, and more. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street in Old Town. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## SUNDAY/AUG. 8

**Summer Chamber Music Series.** 3 p.m. Free. French hornist Jay Chadwick and pianist Sarah Strauss Himmelfarb performing Bach Violin Sonatas arranged for horn and piano. Violinist Joel Ang, violist Cesse Ip, cellist Paul Marshall and pianist Stephen Bertino performing Faure's Piano Quartet in C minor. Susan Brockman and pianist Stephen Bertino performing Faure's Fantasie, for Flute and Piano, and Thomas F. Dunhill's Valse Fantasie. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria.

**Virginia Ballet Co. Performance.** 4:30 p.m. "Precedence" combines contemporary dance styles with classical ballet techniques. All seats are reserved, and all tickets are \$15. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.virginiaballetcompany.org](http://www.virginiaballetcompany.org). Call 703 249-8227. At the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

**Mystic Warriors.** 7 to 8 p.m. Free. A concert in Ft. Hunt Park, six miles south of Old Town Alexandria on the GW Parkway, 703-289-2550 or [www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp) and go to "News and Fun Things to do."

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 11

**Luncheon at Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection.** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Topic: "I'd Love to Own a Gift Shop (What you need to know)" with guest Shelly Jennings, owner of three Collectible Treasures stores. At the Springfield Golf & Country Club. Cost is \$17/person. For reservations, call 703-590-6562 or email to [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 12

**Jean Bayou Performs.** 7 p.m. Jean Bayou has maneuvered her way through motherhood, womanhood, the neighborhood (and other hoods too numerous to mention) to write songs of love, loss, redemption and bad family vacations. Performs at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035. **18<sup>th</sup> Century Dance Class.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen's time — danced by Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Singles or couples are welcome. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 13

**Film Screening.** 7 p.m. "Renewal: Stories from America's Religious-Environmental Movement," a film about how Americans of different faiths, motivated by their spiritual and religious convictions, become better stewards of the environment. At the chapel of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Refreshments provided. Donations accepted. 703-721-0595 or [gpcourchot@yahoo.com](mailto:gpcourchot@yahoo.com).

**Alexandria Harmonizers Perform.** 7:30 p.m. At Market Square in Alexandria.

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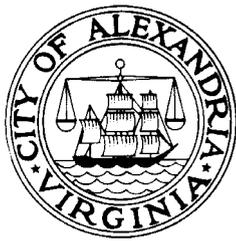
## Legal Notices

### ABC LICENSE

Paradise OT, LLC trading as Pizzeria Paradiso, 124 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer on and off premises/mixed beverage restaurant (101-150) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ruth L. Gresser, Manager, Paradise OT LLC

### ABC LICENSE

Riva Enterprises, Inc trading as Euro-Bistro, 6027 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises/ Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Suad Mijlkovic/President



### ALEXANDRIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following requests 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 August 19, 2010.

For information about this application or to comment, visit the City's website at [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov) or call (703) 838-4666.

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2010-0046**  
ADDRESS: 818 N. Saint Asaph Street (Parcel Address: 600 Montgomery Street)  
Request for outdoor dining  
Applicant: Bolital, LLC

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2010-0047**  
ADDRESS: 320 Montgomery Street  
Request for outdoor dining  
Applicant: Philip McCombie

### OBITUARY

ALEXANDRIA, VA- **Rose Esther Lungren**, 90, went home to be with her Lord on July 20, 2010. She was born in Bermuda, on May 27, 1920, to the late Antonio and Edith Elizabeth Santos.

An avid golfer until her last few years, Rose loved her extended family, her special friends, and her dogs. She was a loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend who will be dearly missed.

Survivors include her son; Raymond "Tracy" Benevides of Alexandria, VA; daughters: Margaret Grant and husband Don of Gastonia, NC; Suzanne "Sue" Sousa and husband Joe of Bermuda; step-daughter Margaret "Marti" Macys and husband David of Oak Harbor, WA; sister; Ruth Sousa of Bermuda; grandchildren: Don Grant, Jr. and wife Donna, Michael Grant, and Tim Grant, all of Gastonia, NC; Gina Cook, Scott Sousa and wife Marina, David Benevides, Jeffrey Benevides and wife Melinda, Dennis Benevides, all of Bermuda; thirteen great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and special friends; Betty Yeary, Marilyn Alls and Edie Hedlin.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 36 years, Charles Donald Lungren and her son, David Benevides; great-granddaughter Helena Rose Sousa; and her stepson Donald Allen Lungren and wife Catherine, and stepgrandson Christopher Dean Lungren.

The family extends a special thanks to the staff and residents of Sunrise of Alexandria. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, August 15, 2010 and a memorial service will be held at 12:00 pm August 18, 2010 at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, Alexandria, VA. Burial will follow at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 4101 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304.

## PET GAZETTE

# Dog Lovers Em-Bark'

FROM PAGE 1

zens." Charlotte Hall is owner of Potomac River Cruises, operator of the Canine Cruises that have been sailing from the Old Town waterfront for four summers. She got the idea from a friend and colleague who runs canine cruises with lunch, dinner and special treats for the dogs from Chicago's waterfront.

Hall looks on it as another drawing card to get people to the Alexandria waterfront.

"Even if they themselves don't have a dog or an interest in the canine cruise," she said, "it might whet their appetites for another kind of boat trip from Alexandria — maybe to Mount Vernon."

**THE CYBULSKI FAMILY** of the Alexandria section of Fairfax County found their way to the waterfront when they won four Canine Cruise tickets in a silent auction at West Potomac High School where eldest daughter Devon was a senior. Her little sister Lauren made her guard the bidding sheet to make sure they got the final winning bid.

Dad Dave Cybulski said the family had been looking forward to taking the cruise with their VIP Casey, and they wanted to make sure they used the tickets before Devon heads off to Hood College later this summer. Lauren was enthusiastic when she stated they

## Reducing Feral Cat Population One Cat at a Time

FROM PAGE 1

ence," Vyfhuis said. "It's my give-back to society." Sometimes the traps have a surprise occupant, according to Vyfhuis.

"We get wild animals in the traps — including snakes. That's how I got my current pet snake," he said. "It's a lavender snake we found in a trap that was placed at 21<sup>st</sup> and Connecticut Streets in the District."

Vyfhuis had some theories about how a snake ended up taking a stroll on Connecticut Avenue in the District. Although he agreed that the snake might have escaped from a cage, he said it was more likely that someone let it go after realizing they weren't up to caring for it.

"Maybe when it came time to



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE

### Having a blast on the Admiral Tilp Canine Cruise.

would definitely take the cruise again.

"It's awesome. Casey really likes the breeze," she added.

The occasional person and pup ducked into the air-conditioned lower deck to cool off but not to stay.

Eileen Kurtz of Dale City was accompanying 11-year old Willow, her schnauzer and "who-knows-what-ugly-dog" mix.

"I read about the Canine Cruise at the end of last summer in the paper, clipped it out and decided to save the story," Kurtz said. "I knew I wanted to try the cruise with Willow but didn't make it last year.

"I haven't seen much of the cruise," she laughed, "but that's OK."

Canine Cruises are on Thursdays through the end of the summer. There are two different boats and

two cruises — one at 7 p.m. and one at 8 p.m. The boats used are The Admiral Tilp and the Christian, which is the smaller of the two. "Some prefer the intimacy of The Christian," Hall said, "but it's not very practical for those with large dogs because the only way to get up to and down from the top deck is on a spiral staircase."

**ACCORDING TO HALL**, some of the local breed specific dog rescue societies make a party of the cruise. They might rent it for an extra hour for a fund-raising event. She mentioned the gray hound and cocker spaniel rescue organizations as having held fund-raisers.

"The Portuguese Water Dog group has a special fund-raiser every year," Hall said. "They invite Carlos and Sandy from the Old Town School for Dogs who are like

rock stars to this group when they walk onto the dock."

One special breed onboard this cruise was hearing dog Chance who was cruising with owner Nan Sanders of Vienna. The boat ride was a first for Chance.

"He would rather be herding sheep. He's smarter than me," she joked.

Hall says she's learned a lot over her four years of reaching out to dogs and their humans.

"Just like dogs that are walked in Old Town have learned to stop at the Enchanted Florist mailbox so their human can grab them a canine cookie," she said, "we have dogs that have been known to pull their walkers across the plaza behind The Torpedo Factory to our ticket booth where dogs are given a special treat.

"We're having a good time with it."



**Cat with its ear tipped. That's a signal to animal control officers and future trappers that the cats have been treated by a veterinarian and are part of a planned colony.**

feed their new pet," he offered, "they realized feeding a live mouse to a snake wasn't something they could actually do — even though that's what the snake needs.

"Some snakes are herbivores, but others need live meat, and if you don't feed it right, it will end up having health problems."

Burgess said she's also heard tales of surprise guests in the CatNiPP traps, although she wasn't familiar with the doctor's snake.

"Sometimes a neighbor's pet cat wanders in. Sometimes a raccoon, opossum or even a stray dog gets in the trap and, of course, the volunteer has to let them go," Burgess said. "Sometimes, depending on what kind of animal they get, they might have to have animal control release it.

"That's why," added Burgess, "you can't just set the trap and

then go out to dinner and a movie. The process has to be managed."

According to Burgess, the whole process works best if the volunteers who set the traps are able to work with the person in the neighborhood who is feeding the cats since that's what draws them to an area in the first place. For the trapping to work, the feeder has to start feeding once a day at the same time every day for several days. The night or day before the scheduled trapping, the feeder must withhold the food. If the person feeds the cats the day the trappings are scheduled to happen, the mission will be unsuccessful.

"Food is what gets the cats in the traps," Burgess said. "If they're not hungry, it won't work."

Next trapping is in early August. To volunteer, contact: [aburgess@washhumane.org](mailto:aburgess@washhumane.org)

# Snakes and Turtles and Rats – Oh, My!

FROM PAGE 8

to keep that animal happy and healthy.

He's also on a personal mission to clear up the misconception that snakes are slimy. They are not.

"We have relationships with a couple of the schools around here — Jefferson Houston Elementary and T.C. Williams High," the doctor said. "I like to bring snakes to the kids so they can touch them and see what they're really like. And I teach them they have to wash their hands after touching reptiles because of things like salmonella."

Some things with exotics are similar to traditional pets, but there are also differences. According to Vyfhuis, they have some of the same organs, but the organs don't necessarily work the same way.

"A snake's liver is different from other animals, and I can't give it antibiotics for an infection," he said as an example. "But, a snake won't have a limpy leg that I have to try to diagnose with cats or dogs. They have no ears, so we don't have to worry about ear infections. They have limited eye issues. Birds don't have teeth so there are no dental issues. So, there's just a minimal amount I have to treat to get exotic pets to optimal shape."

Exams for exotics can be a little more



**Duster vs. The Leather Coaster. Duster, still the champ. Duster, also known as "Bubba," is a Senegal parrot.**

expensive than those for more traditional pets. That's because it takes more time to do the exam, but Vyfhuis also spends time educating his clients about their new pets.

"A lot of potential problems can be nipped in the bud when they learn about proper care and signs than can show something is wrong."

And, he encourages clients to e-mail him with symptoms their pets seem to be experiencing. He is often able to suggest treatments in a return e-mail or ask them follow-up questions to help determine if the pet needs to be seen.

"It's not really about the money," he added, "but, I hope they will still bring the

animal back annually for an exam. As long as the pet is healthy, that's what matters most. It makes for a happy household."

He also likes to make sure that the pet you have doesn't carry other pets, meaning parasites.

"People need to know they can get sick from some animal fecal or intestinal parasites and bacteria," he said. "An annual stool sample can identify problems, and once treated, those pesky parasites can be eliminated."

He says it's a good idea to take a new pet to a veterinarian for a wellness check because pet stores often don't fully examine an animal before they hand it over to its new owner.

"You think you're getting a healthy animal, and then something doesn't seem quite right," Vyfhuis said. "Soon you notice your new rabbit isn't chewing or passing stools or urine. Now you may have a serious problem. A trip to the vet first might have picked up the problem before it became serious."

This summer, Paws, Purrs and Exotics is boarding Petrie, a gecko that belongs to one of their clients, Leslie Marcus, a science teacher at F.C. Hammond Middle School in Alexandria. She purchased the gecko for her classroom, in part because they are low

maintenance. Marcus, who is traveling during her summer break, talked during a telephone interview about Petrie's contribution to her classroom.

"The students love him," she said. "Sometimes they come in the classroom and rush to the back instead of going to their seats. They are fascinated by him."

Marcus feels having Petrie in her classroom is a way to teach students about the importance of animal care. She notes that many students don't have pets at home, so this at least gives them some exposure. She's able to use Petrie as a live example of animal adaptations and habits. And, she even sometimes lets students help feed Petrie his live mealworms and crickets.

Although Petrie was purchased with education in mind, Marcus admits to having developed affection for him over the past three years. "I would say I'm attached to him," she admitted with a laugh. "The kids are, too. Some are a bit squeamish. But one girl remarked he looked like a sleeping baby curled up with his eyes closed."

Vyfhuis says he thinks that animals find their human caretaker rather than the other way around. "Sometimes they pick you, and that ends up being the best situation for both."

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## BUSINESS MATTERS

### Neighbors Unite

For a developer, the slice of land northeast of the King Street Metro Station is a gold mine. There's no beating the location, which is within sight of the blue and yellow lines. And recent years have seen the Upper King Street neighborhood blossom into one of the city's most vibrant areas. So the prospect of kicking in a few million dollars to build a school could even be a cost-effective strategy, especially if the developer was viewed as savior to a long-troubled school.

But don't start drawing the blueprints yet.

After a work session on the proposal last month, Alexandria City Council members stopped short of endorsing the plan. And they sent school officials back to the drawing board for a clearer picture of how the finances would work. Meanwhile, neighborhood opposition to the idea of a public-private partnership at Jefferson-Houston grows with each passing week.

"It's a terrible idea," said 15-year resident **Bea Porter**. "Our neighborhood can't support the density that a developer would want to put here."

Along with a handful of her neighbors near the school, Porter has launched a petition drive to persuade elected officials that the plan should be scuttled. She said she's already collected 100 signatures, and she's looking for more in advance of the next time City Council docket the item for discussion. Porter said that the school facility should not be abandoned, and that its 1970 modular design should be preserved and enhanced.

"The problem is that the administration hasn't been maintaining the building," she said. "There's no sense in getting rid of a perfectly good school and getting increased density in return."

### Holiday from Taxes

August is almost here, and that means one thing. No, it's not time to get out of town and enjoy a week at the Hamptons. Instead, it's time for a different kind of vacation — a tax holiday. Next weekend, Virginians will be able to take advantage of the fifth annual tax-free back-to-school shopping spree.

Who needs a tea party when you can get a slide rule without paying **Uncle Sam**? The list of items exempt from the 5 percent state and local retail sales tax includes notebooks, pencils, calculators, dictionaries, backpacks and lunchboxes priced at \$20 or less. The tax is also waived on clothing items including jeans, shorts, dresses, raincoats, hats, sandals and sneakers retailing for \$100 or less. So don't expect to knock the taxes off your **Manolo Blahnik** shoes. Other than that the price threshold, there's no limit to how much stuff shoppers can get tax-free, and you don't even need to be going back to school to enjoy the discount.

"This is the most popular Virginia sales tax holiday and the one that everyone can take advantage of," said Virginia Tax Commissioner **Craig Burns** in a written statement. "The recession has made Virginia's citizens more frugal, and we are encouraging those who know that every little bit counts to go shopping and save money while helping local retailers and Virginia's economy."

### The Modular Boom

Every dark cloud contains a silver lining. Take the recent upsurge in the city's public school system. There's the obvious downside of cramped classrooms and crowded decisions. But there's also the potential for profit, especially for those in the modular building industry.

Earlier this year, School Board members approved a budget that included \$5.4 million for two modular buildings at John Adams Elementary School. The appropriation comes after a recent spike in enrollment, with hundreds of new students in the last few years — especially for West End schools such as Adams. Fabricated by Pennsylvania-based NRB, the two new buildings were shipped to Alexandria this week and assembled by HITT Contracting.

"If this was a traditional construction site, it would be full of concrete and steel and masons for months," said **Joe Zanone** of HITT Contracting. "This took a matter of days."

School officials say the trend isn't about to wane any time soon, especially with newer modular buildings meeting silver LEED standards. As student enrollment grows, they say, so will reliance on modular buildings.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS

# Who's Watching Your Home?

## Breaking-and-entering burglaries rattle Old Town residents.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**or Caren Camp, last Monday was just another unremarkable weekday evening. She was playing bridge with some Old Town neighbors until about 9:30 p.m., when she took her two Labradors out for their evening walk. As she does every night, she let the two dogs out into the courtyard before grabbing the leash and opening the gate. But this Monday night was not like the other nights, and when she walked outside her gate was already opened and the dogs were waiting on the sidewalk.

"I thought that rather curious," said Camp, who lives on South St. Asaph Street. "But I was not suspicious."

Not yet, anyway. The next morning, she realized that she could not find her purse or leather-bound day-planner. Thinking she might have left these things at work, she went on about her normal business and attended a morning exercise class. When she returned home and fired up her computer, she received a notification from Bank of America alerting her to illegal activity.

"At that point, I knew my purse had been stolen," she said. "I now realize he opened the gate and let the dogs out, and he was probably waiting in the courtyard."

**CAMP SUSPECTS** that the criminal or criminals who stole her purse and day planner were probably watching her activity for some time, tracking her activities and waiting for the right moment to strike. After she called the police and alerted her neighbors in Old Town, people began to wonder if they were being watched. In an e-mail to a group of neighbors, Capt. Tammy Hooper said police were investigating the possibility that three of the breaking-and-entering cases were related.

"In response to these offenses, we have deployed additional officers to the area," wrote Hooper. "They have been instructed to stop and identify any suspicious individuals, and we hope that the presence of the uniformed officers will also have a deterrent effect."

Hooper described the suspect as a black man in his early 30s, with a height of approximately 6 feet tall with a medium build and medium complexion. She said he's clean-shaven with what she described as a "baby face." He was last seen wearing a French-style cap and a long-sleeve gray shirt. Hooper en-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Crime victim Caren Camp believes the criminal who stole her purse was keeping track of her activity before entering her house while she was walking her dogs.**

couraged people who see anyone fitting this description to contact the police. Meanwhile, she said, people should lock their doors when they are not at home.

"It is very easy to walk into an open door and take something nearby, such as a purse, and then walk out within just a few seconds without anyone seeing," said Hooper. "Of course, leave your lights on as well."

**THIS YEAR'S** series of breaking-and-entering crimes follows a series of crimes last summer in which an individual was entering people's homes when they were on vacation and stealing televisions, bicycles, alcohol, jewelry, clocks, computers and clothing. In that case, Alexandria detectives reached out to area pawn shops and eventually matched the serial number of a stolen television to identify the suspect. In late September, the Police Department issued a press release announcing the arrest of Ralph Fowler, a 61-year-old homeless man.

"This is a career criminal," said police spokesman Jody Donaldson at the time. "He's someone who's been at this for some time."

Police officials say people should take measures to make sure they are not taken advantage of while they are out of town. First, people who are on vacation should make sure they have their mail or newspaper delivery held every day that they are away. A series of newspapers piled up on a front stoop is an invitation to would-be criminals. Also, vacationing homeowners should ask their neighbors to keep watch of their property while they are away to handle fliers or other indications that the house is unoccupied.

"Leave your outside lights on and put inside lights on timers," said Hooper. "We have not had any issues this season with homes being broken into while folks are away, but it's good to always be safe."

## Breaking and Entering

### ❖ June 5 at 10:38 p.m. in the 1300 block of Queen Street:

Victim reported that unknown suspect or suspects entered his residence through an unlocked screen door and stole a laptop computer while he was asleep upstairs.

### ❖ June 26 at 1:24 p.m. in the 400 block of North Patrick Street:

Unknown suspect or suspects entered victim's unlocked shed and stole various hand tools, power tools, lanterns and four electronic control cars.

### ❖ July 5 at 8:03 a.m. in the 900 block of North Patrick Street:

Victim reported that when she returned home she noticed someone entered her apartment without consent and stole \$400 from her purse, which was in an upstairs room.

### ❖ July 15 at 10:30 a.m. in the 500 block of North West Street:

No details available from the Alexandria Police Department.

### ❖ July 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the 500 block of South Lee Street:

Unknown suspect entered victim's residence through an unlocked front

door and stole two purses left unattended. A houseguest confronted the suspect before he fled.

### ❖ July 20 at 12:14 a.m. in the 200 block of South St. Asaph:

Unknown suspect entered victim's unlocked residence and stole a purse and credit cards while she walked her dogs.

### ❖ July 21 at 7:30 a.m. in the 900 block of North Pitt Street:

Unknown suspect or suspects entered a secure building by unknown means and stole two laptop computers and a messenger bag.

SOURCE: Alexandria Police Department

# Rec Sports Provide Competition, Fitness, Friendship

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Sweat has saturated Jack Lohrer's gray cotton T-shirt and is threatening to take over his blue cotton shorts. The 46-year-old Alexandria resident looks the part of a man who is at the tail end of a hard day's work. But with the second half winding down in his recreational summer league basketball game at George Washington Middle School, it would require more than a little fatigue and a whole lot of moisture to get Lohrer to stop hustling.

With his team — the Troglodytes — trailing, Lohrer does the little things. On offense, he finds open spots on the floor and positions himself for a quality shot. On defense, he tries to take charges — a tactic not commonly seen outside of highly competitive leagues. Early in the game, Lohrer fell to the ground after absorbing contact from an opponent and was rewarded by the official with an offensive foul call. But when Lohrer tried the move again, he instead was whistled for a block. The Troglodytes, much the same, came up short against the GT Ballers.

There are several reasons behind people participating in recreational sports. Some approach events looking to have fun, while others see activities as a means to staying in shape. In Lohrer's case, it's mixing the two with competition.

"It's really fun," the Long Island native said of playing rec basketball. "You don't get any dumber. You just get smarter and smarter. You learn something new every time you play."

Lohrer played Division III basketball at Amherst College in Massachusetts. While hustling is accepted in basketball, Lohrer said

taking charges is frowned upon by today's youth. But with no Troglodyte younger than 40, those are the types of plays that help the team compete.

"Hustling is one thing, taking charges is really kind of disfavored," Lohrer said. "When I grew up playing, it was a very heady thing to do, an appreciated thing. Now it's almost like taking a dive in soccer. It's a generational thing. This generation, it's almost controversial."

"The refs are old, too, so they remember back in the day. They gave me one [charge] and they didn't give me the other."

**ANOTHER ELEMENT** of Lohrer's "old school" mentality is to defend the opposing team's best player. In this case it was 30-year-old Laurel, Md., resident Curtis McNeil, who grew up in Alexandria and played basketball at GW and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes. McNeil, who also played at Gettysburg College, said while he can still shoot, he's had to change his game as he's gotten older.

"I've always been a shooter, so I can still shoot," McNeil said. "As long as I'm not tired, then I can pretty much get my shot off. But as far as the speed, definitely the speed isn't still there."

"I don't waste energy. I'm very conservative with my energy. Just being older and smarter, you pick and choose your spots."

The City of Alexandria also offers a competitive summer basketball league. Co-ed sports like soccer and volleyball are also offered at different times of the year.

Scott Troxell, a 46-year-old Alexandria resident, organized the Troglodytes and has been playing in the city league for five years. He said he loves the game and the league provides an opportunity to stay in shape and spend time with

friends.

"All the wives have their book clubs and that stuff," Troxell said, "we've got our basketball."

## Competitive Fire

Tom Tudor stands in the batter's box at Braddock Park's field No. 5 in Clifton on a warm Monday evening. The game is slow pitch softball. Tudor and the 64-year-old Fairfax resident isn't interested in anything other than delivering a hit.

Facing a two-strike count, Tudor lets the pitcher's offering fall to the ground: it's not to his liking. But the home plate umpire has a different view, and rings Tudor up with a called third strike.

Tudor doesn't think the pitch was legal, stating the pitcher was too far behind the rubber upon delivery. He argues his case with the umpire, but to no avail. Moments later, Tudor reminds the umpire of his frustration from the dugout.

After the game, won handily by Tudor's Solid Gold squad, the second baseman is all smiles as he shares stories. But when he and his teammates are on the field, it's all business. Tudor said Solid Gold has been one of the best teams in the Fairfax Adult Softball league for the last 10 years and they intend to keep it that way.

"Some of the teams don't even want to play you because it is just total recreation for them," Tudor said. "I always play on something to better myself. [It feels like I'm] trying out every time. Your reputation is on the line. [If] you have a bad night: I struck out watching the ball tonight and I'll hear about that for two months now. You now it's coming."

Tudor started playing rec softball in 1969 after returning from his second tour of duty in Vietnam.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

**The Alexandria adult recreational basketball league provides participants a chance to compete while staying in shape and having fun.**

He had played basketball and baseball at James Madison High School in Vienna, and received a partial scholarship for basketball at Old Dominion University, but nothing became of it. After returning from Vietnam, rec sports gave him an outlet for his competitiveness and athletic talents.

"It really got into my blood," he said.

Tudor plays with several teams, and has competed for top-flight national teams from Florida and California. His Solid Gold squad, which includes W.T. Woodson head softball coach Bob Coleman, competes in Division I of the FAS senior (50 and over) league. Solid Gold is listed on the FAS Web site

SEE IN SHAPE, PAGE 28

## VIEWPOINTS What do you like about rec sports?

— JON ROETMAN



"It's just a nice way to get everybody together once a week, and I miss playing sports."  
— **Katie Flynn, 27, Reston, softball**



"[It feels like] you're trying out [for a softball team] every time. Your reputation is on the line."  
— **Tom Tudor, 64, Fairfax, softball**



"All the wives have their book clubs and that stuff, we've got our basketball."  
— **Scott Troxell, 46, Alexandria, basketball**



"The skill level varies, because it's a casual league. But as far as effort, everybody gives a real good effort."  
— **Curtis McNeil, 30, Laurel, Md., basketball**



"I like the sportsmanship. I love a little bit of competition. Competition is good."  
— **Mary Alexandre, 42, Alexandria, indoor soccer**



"[Basketball is] really fun. You don't get any dumber. You just get smarter and smarter. You learn something new every time you play."  
— **Jack Lohrer, 46, Alexandria, basketball**

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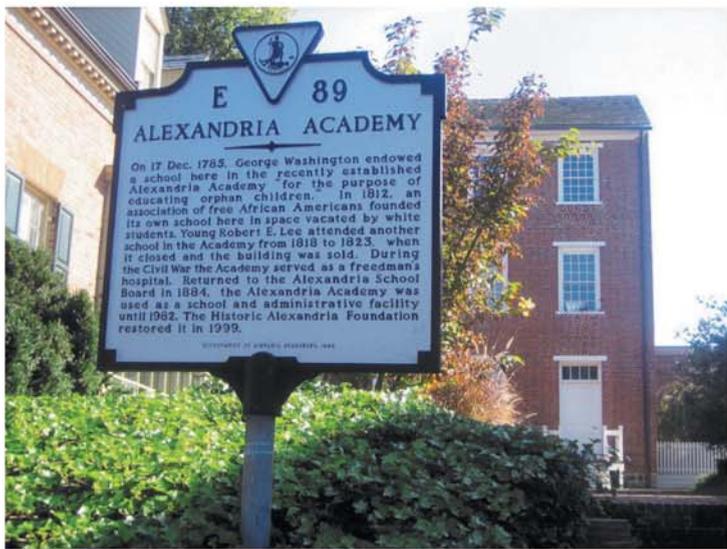
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## SPORTS

# Staying in Shape with Friends

FROM PAGE 27

with a 7-0 record through July 27, having outscored its opponents 136-65.

"We built this team on chemistry and ability," Tudor said. "Chemistry is No. 1, to tell you the truth. There's a lot of guys that wanted to play on this team and we've been the No. 1 team for 10 years.

"You'll see in the late innings every once in awhile [when] we're down and we haven't been playing well, somebody will come in and say, 'Hey, let's take it up a notch. Let's go.'" Everybody just comes together and they do the job."

While Tudor and his teammates are focused when it comes to softball, there's also room for fun. On Sunday mornings, members of Solid Gold get together for batting practice — something Tudor said he enjoys.

"I look forward to that more than anything else," he said. "You play a doubleheader out here, you might get eight swings, unless you take some batting practice. Out there, we'll hit 100 balls on Sunday. We really do like the sport and try to be good at it."

FAS also offers men's and co-ed divisions, among others.

### Staying in Shape — With a Bonus

Mary Alexandre tries to make it to the gym a minimum of three times per week. Fitness is important to the 42-year-old married mother of two.

But on a recent Friday night in Springfield, Alexandre opted for another workout venue. Despite air so hot one struggled to stay dry while stationary, the Alexandria native booted soccer balls through the stuffiness inside the Fairfax Sportsplex to the tune of three goals. During her school days, Alexandre played soccer for Groveton High and took part in intramural soccer at Old Dominion. These days, Alexandre plays indoor soccer at the Sportsplex, which not only helps keep her in shape, but also adds an athletic element she craves.

"I love a little competition — competition is good," Alexandre said. "The challenge is great."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### New Gunston Boys Soccer Team Forming

A new SFL U16 team will play in the competitive Suburban Friendship League and will be coached by veteran Gunston coach Bill Boger. Tryouts will be held Aug. 5 at Grist Mill Field No. 4 starting at 6 p.m. Experienced players born between Aug. 1, 1994, and July 31, 1996, are encouraged to contact Coach Boger as soon as possible at: [wboger@aba.com](mailto:wboger@aba.com)

### Riverside Gardens Sets New Relay Record

The Riverside Gardens Tsunami swim team finished the season with a 3-2 record in Division 7 of the Northern Virginia Swim League. In the team's final meet, Tsunami swimmers turned in a strong win over Ravensworth with a score of 227-175 on July 24.

Riverside posted 21 first-place finishes.

Alexandre plays for the team "Lazy Fox" in a lower-division 6-on-6 co-ed league. The Sportsplex also offers 5-on-5 leagues, men's leagues, women's leagues and youth travel teams. On a muggy Friday night, Alexandre finished with a hat trick in a losing effort, scoring a pair of left-footed goals while adding a third on a right-footed flick. Despite the loss, the team was in good spirits after the contest, hanging around and drinking beer. While the desire to win is present, there isn't a post-loss tension that can come with an uber-competitive bunch.

"It's a great way to stay in shape and still have some competitive fun," said Joe Alexandre, Mary's husband and teammate. "Even between the men, during rec soccer, you just don't go as far physically. You're a little more careful on your tackles and your steals and your pushing with everyone. It's more of a light-hearted soccer."

Joe Alexandre, 42, said he feels no awkwardness in terms of competing against women. Mary Alexandre, on the other hand, sees competing against men as a challenge.

"When you add guys into the mix, it adds another element," she said. "It changes the game only because you can play aggressive [with] body contact [against] another woman, but when you've got a guy on you that's another 50 [to] 70 pounds [heavier] than you, it makes it a little more challenging."

What is she thinking when chasing down a ball in the corner against a male opponent?

"I'm expecting to get bumped," she said. "So you know what? You just tighten your core and you stand your ground and that's the best thing you can do. If you go in there a little lackluster, you can expect to get nailed."

Rules for co-ed 6-on-6 state two women must be on the field at all times.

Mary Alexandre also said she enjoys the structured environment of a rec league.

"Pick-up soccer, you can end up with 20-on-20 or 25-on-25 and it is just madness trying to pass and play together," she said. "My son has a big group of friends and our parents and their parents play together. It's pure chaos. This is way more organized, way more structured. You've got enough playing time [and] there's enough space to create some strategy and some passes to create a play."

Freestyle first-place finishers: Jack Garland, Alec Dubois, Paul Dubois, Sean Sullivan, Morgan Long, Carolyn Murphy, and Megan McCormick.

Backstroke first-place finishers: Jack Garland, Jonathan Letai, Patrick Murphy, Morgan Long, Camryn Scott, Madison Zdebski, Karley Zdebski.

Breaststroke first-place finishers: Michael Ryan Clark, Cecilia Fenton.

Butterfly first-place finishers: Alec Dubois, Paul Dubois, Sean Sullivan, Emma Klein, Megan McCormick

Riverside swimmers also won nine out of 12 relay races.

In addition to the winning season, Riverside Gardens celebrated a new team record in the 200-meter relay, boys 15-18. At the NVSL All-Star Relay meet, the Riverside boys team — Kevin Grant, Sean Sullivan, Michael Ryan Clark, Patrick Murphy — swam their race with a time of 1 minute, 43:29 seconds to set a new record. They were seeded 12th in the all-star competition and they finished eighth.

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