Crushing

By Michael Lee Pope

Nine houses condemned after violent bursts of wind last week.

It was almost a hurricane, with winds of up to 70 miles an hour. Certainly the damage caused by the Aug. 5 wind burst was just shy of hurricane-force damage.

Trees blocked major roads. Intersections were inoperable. Much of the city's street grid was unusable. By 3:30 p.m., the clouds had passed and the city became enveloped in a haunting orange glow. That's when the damage became apparent — power lines dangled over smashed cars in neighborhoods filled with impaled roofs and uprooted plants. At press time, nine houses remain condemned. Mayor Bill Euille estimated damage to city property to be about $5.2 million.

"The city looked like a war zone," said the mayor. "I have never seen a storm create so much damage."

Between 3:30 p.m. and midnight on Aug. 5, the Alexandria Police Department logged 277 calls for service. That's more than five times as many calls as the previous Thursday, an indication of the volume of damage.

See Wind Batters City. Page 6

Woodland Terrace was closed to traffic as a corner tree toppled over at the cross walk.

City work crews collect debris from the curbs in Northridge on Sunday afternoon.

A van is crushed by a fallen limb on Taylor Street at the entrance of the George Mason Elementary School teacher's parking lot.

An uprooted, 60-foot oak tree leans over the roof top of Sarah deVenuta's home in Northridge.
ALEXANDRIA/ROSEMONT

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Rosemont Cape Cod
This expanded Cape Cod features two master suites complete with walk in closets and window seats. Spacious fenced in backyard and screened porch perfect for entertaining on summer nights. Sunny family room off the kitchen is the perfect gathering spot for lazy breakfasts and lingering over the Sunday paper. Close to Braddock Metro, Del Ray and Old Town.

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Smiling at the River
and Lee Street park is this sophisticated, early nineteenth century brick residence which has been thoughtfully expanded, maintained and perfected. Two fireplaces and many built-ins add to the treasures found within including an up-to-date kitchen with stainless appliances and three baths. Master suite with dressing room and an additional bedroom as well as breakfast room and library complete this special gem complemented by a master gardener’s garden.

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Organizing Differently

When thousands of Arlandria residents were threatened with displacement by the forces of gentrification 25 years ago, a courier by the name of John Liss sprung into action. First he helped organize renters into a cooperative that now owns hundreds of units in the neighborhood. Then he created a nonprofit organization originally known as the Tenants and Workers Support Committee. Now he’s moving on, taking the helm at the political advocacy group he helped create in 2007 known as Virginia New Majority.

“Every time we've had to negotiate, our goal is to create a process for a court hearing in which a judge could make a determination on the availability of documents instead of forcing police agencies to release them,” said Liss, who was fired from Falls Church taxi service after trying to organize the drivers. “But it’s time for new leadership and new energy.”

Now known as Tenants and Workers United, the organization has two offices, 10 employees and an expanded portfolio of issues ranging from immigration to public health.

“Considering the kind of things that have been coming out of the attorney general’s office and the governor’s office, it’s important to have a state legislative focus,” said Liss, who will assume a full time directorship of New Virginia Majority in January.

A Transparent Past

Virginia’s secretive police agencies might become a little more transparent if state Sen. John Edwards (D-21) has anything to say about it. Prompted by a constituent who wanted access to police documents as part of a court case, Edwards introduced legislation earlier this year that would open up access to cases that are closed.

“Once a case is over, absent a compelling reason to keep it secret, it ought to generally be released,” said Edwards, who represents Roanoke.

Next week, Edwards will take his case to the Virginia Freedom of Information Council’s Criminal Investigative Records Subcommittee, chaired by Alexandrian Craig Fifer. Edwards said one compromise he’s willing to offer at the meeting would be to create a process for a court hearing in which a judge could make a determination on the availability of documents instead of forcing police agencies to release them.

“We are always very open to discussing ways in which we can better accommodate the interests and the needs of the public,” said Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Dana Schrad. “As long as we don’t compromise criminal investigations or the safety of individuals.”

Beefy Applications

School doesn’t start for weeks, but some students are already thinking about getting into the right college. That’s why a handful have been gathering each week to hone their essay writing skills, trying to get an edge over competition for slots in favored colleges and universities.

“They will be more and more competitive because of this economy because not as many people can afford to go out of state,” said rising senior Marian Wolz.

Enter Karen Schwarz. She started coaching students privately on the college admissions process last year. Now she’s at T.C. Williams High School giving free advice — promote yourself without bragging, focus on verbs instead of adjectives, don’t rely on spell check to catch all your mistakes and craft what she calls “beefy sentences.”

“Instead of saying, ‘I love going to the park,’ you might say, ‘Going to the park is my escape from the chaos of a big, public high school.’”

Correction

Last week’s “Week in Alexandria” reported that the long awaited installation of sculptor John Van Alstine’s “Sacandaga Totem” will take place later this month. While the wait will soon be over, it won’t be that soon. City officials have scheduled the installation of the sculpture at King and Fayette streets for Sept. 21 with a dedication ceremony slated for Sept. 22.

— Michael Lee Pope

News

Short of Breath

Report documents full extent of city’s dirty air.

By Michael Lee Pope

S evere Voght can feel the dirty air in his lungs. For the last five years, he’s lived in a condominium next to a coal-fired power plant owned by Atlanta-based energy company Mirant known as the Potomac River Generating Station. Since that time, he has regularly biked to George Washington’s estate and back using the Mount Vernon Trail, a strenuous activity involving deep breathing. Perched on his bicycle near the coal-fired power plant, the 33-year-old Voght said the air near George Washington’s estate was noticeably cleaner.

“When you get near the plant, it’s just obviously that the air is not as clean here,” he said.

Now the obvious has been documented by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to a report released last month, the air in Alexandria was so bad when they took samples that breathing it over the span of “many years … could harm people’s health.” The study found that the problem was even worse for sensitive people such as Joyce Stojan. She’s lived in Harbor Terrace for 28 years, and she now has to see a specialist because of damage she blames on Mirant.

“I don’t like it at all,” said Stojan as the plant hummed in the distance behind a privacy fence.

“It’s not only an inconvenience but it’s also expensive to have this specialist work with me.”

AIR SAMPLING was conducted by the agency.

See Documenting, Page 9

A Tale of Two Alexandrias

Fannon: Ten more to go.

By Jeanne Thelmann

C ity Councilman Frank Fannon spent an afternoon with the mayor of Alexandria recently, only this time he traveled 1,053 miles to do it.

“I have a goal to visit every city in the country named Alexandria,” Fannon said of his trip to Alexandria, Minnesota. “I was nearby for a family event and decided to check it out.”

Fannon met with Mayor Dan Ness, who has served the Minnesota city for 10 years as part of a five-member City Council.

Located in the central part of the state, Alexandria, Minn., has a population of approximately 12,000 spread out over 23 square miles compared to Alexandria, Va., with a population of 150,000 over 15 square miles.

See Traveling, Page 9
**BUSINESS MATTERS**

**Targeting Target**

The lunchtime crowd on upper King Street included an unusual addition Tuesday, when a group of 20 or so protesters held placards and generally trash talked corporate America. One woman held a sign that read “Aim to end corporate corruption of our election process.”

Oddly enough, the protest was prompted by the Minnesota governor’s race. After big-box giant Target CEO Gregg Steinhafel spent $150,000 on Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer, the liberal action committee MoveOn.org sent an e-mail alert calling for action. Hundreds of separate protests took place across the county, and the Northern Virginia chapter of the organization chose the public park near the King Street Metro known locally as “the hat” because it’s in the shape of a tricorn.

“I think there’s a division between corporate good and public good,” said Annandale resident Nancy Van Scoyoc as people walked through the park on the way to lunch. “Many times the what’s in the best interest of the corporation is not in the best interest of the public.”

Participants were upset about a range of issues. Target was the chief target, mainly because of the contribution to the Republican candidate in Minnesota. But that was only the beginning. Other issues of concern ranged from bailouts and the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to pharmaceutical companies releasing unsafe drugs and agriculture pushing mom-and-pop stores out of business.

“All of these issues are related to environmental degradation,” said Alexandria resident Kimberly Logan. “Also-friggin-lutely,” added MoveOn regional coordinator Thomas Cannady.

**Plastic Parking Spaces**

It’s the most common complaint among Old Town business leaders — parking. Customers can’t spend money if they can’t find a parking space. And the threat of not being able to find one sends many to Pentagon Row or Tysons Corner.

That’s one of the reasons that Councilman Rob Krupicka is asking his colleagues on the City Council to reconsider a budget decision made earlier this year. During budget deliberations, Krupicka pushed for installing credit-card reading parking meters throughout Old Town. That proposal failed, although council members approved a plan to install credit-card machines on the first block of King Street. Now that the revenue projections have improved, Krupicka is asking for a do-over.

“I’d like to ask my colleagues to support me in asking staff to bring council a proposal to install said meters throughout Old Town for council consideration in September,” he wrote in an Aug. 10 memorandum. “Our retail base as well as our prospects for returning visitors would be enhanced with the installation of the credit-card readers.”

**Virginia is for Deal-makers**

Virginia is the most pro-business state in America, according to rankings released this week by an Illinois-based corporate real-estate brokerage firm. The commonwealth is no stranger to the top slot in the Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States sweepstakes, snagging the gold medal in 2003, 2007 and 2009.

“Thus far, we have done a terrible job of integrating ourselves into the 21st-century marketplace,” said economist Ronald Pollina in a written statement accompanying the rankings.

Pollina’s methodology involved ranking states based on 31 factors controlled by state government, including taxes, human resources, education, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts. Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell praised the decision as recognition of an economic development package passed during this year’s General Assembly session.

“In addition, we will continue to take an all-of-the-above approach to our energy future to work towards Virginia becoming the energy capital of the East Coast,” McDonnell said in a written statement soon after the rankings were announced Aug. 5. “This too will create the high-skill, high paying jobs that Virginians need.”

— Michael Lee Pope

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**NEWS**

**Historic Find Finds Home**

Thomas Jefferson letter donated to Gadsby’s Tavern.

By Jeanne Theismann

A rare letter written by Thomas Jefferson, discovered earlier this year by members of American Legion Post 24 in Old Town, was officially donated to the City of Alexandria Aug. 4 at a reception at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum where it will now be on permanent display.

“There was never any question that this is where it belongs,” said Michael Connor, commander of Post 24. “We certainly weren’t going to put it back in a filing cabinet. We wanted it where the public could enjoy it.”

The letter, dated July 25, 1808 and estimated to be worth $10,000, was a personal note written to fellow diplomat Joel Barlow and contained three separate Jefferson signatures.

“Jefferson used the franking system on his correspondence,” said Gretchen Bulova, executive director of Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. “Instead of postage, he merely wrote ‘Free, TH Jefferson, Pr. U.S.’.”

More than 100 people attended the unveiling of the letter, including Mayor Bill Euille, who thanked Connor and Post 24 for the historic donation.

“The connection between the American Legion and Gadsby’s Tavern goes back to a said Euille, noting that it was Post 24 that donated the building to the city in 1972. This is a very generous donation and I thank them for their continued support not only of Gadsby’s Tavern but of the City of Alexandria.”

Written in the last year of Jefferson’s presidency, Connor said there is still one last mystery surrounding the letter: “No one has any idea to this day how it got here.”

**BUSINESS NOTES**

Send announcements to the Gazette Packet, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week’s paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call Steve Hubbard at 703-779-9412 with questions.

The Hilton Alexandria Old Town has been officially announced as hotel partner for this season of “Top Chef DC.” It is celebrating its partnership with the TV show with a Culinary Travel Sweepstakes, Hilton’s TV programming, collector key cards and a special website. Hilton Alexandria Old Town has been part of much of the taping for this season.

The hotel debuted an Overnight Package also known as the “Culinary Delight” package in July. The package includes a “Key to the City” book that retails for $22. The key to the City book includes admission to nine historic attractions and over 60 special offers from shops, restaurants and attractions throughout Old Town Alexandria.

**American Legion Post 24 Commander Michael Connor, right, and Gadsby’s Tavern Museum Director Gretchen Bulova examine the letter from Thomas Jefferson that was donated by Post 24 to the city Aug. 4.**
Athenaeum’s Garden Party

Music filtered through the gallery of the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, as the Athenaeum hosted a rambling garden party on Sunday, Aug. 1. Neighbors Patricia and Latane Montague joined in the festivities by opening up their home and gardens to guests. Musicians performed throughout the afternoon in the gallery and from the balcony overlooking the Montague’s garden. For more information on activities visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0456.

Photo by Louise Krafft/Gazette

Patricia Montague and her mother Linda Mattingly listen while U.S. Rep. Jim Moran makes a few brief remarks at the party.

Bob Gramann performs from the balcony above the Montague’s garden.

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The Montague’s boxwood garden.

Photos by Louise Krafft/Gazette

Athenaeum board member Sean Denniston talks with Wammie award-winner Dulcie Taylor.
Wind Batters City

The storm left 29 houses substantially damaged and 87 houses with minor or moderate damage. At one point, almost 30,000 people were without power and 11 houses were condemned. By the time city officials called a press conference at the new Potomac Yard firehouse, power outages were down to 11,500. Crews weren’t able to restore power throughout the city until late Sunday night.

“Every possible unit was on call,” said Jody Donaldson. “This is the busiest time we’ve had in a number of years.”

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Despite the widespread damage, no one in Alexandria was seriously injured.

“We’ve slowly getting back to normal,” said Euille.

The wreckage caused by the storm forced three of the city’s recreation centers to shut down the day after the storm. The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum was forced to close on Friday, as was the city’s Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse center. All summer school classes were cancelled, and Mount Vernon Community School was forced to shut its doors for the day during the second week of classes.

RESPONDING TO the storm, city officials have relaxed some rules for permitting and inspections for storm-related repairs. Code inspectors will allow roof structure framing repairs to move forward with roof covering before the framing inspection occurs. Those who live in historic districts will not need administrative review to restore damaged material to return to pre-storm condition. Although drawings are normally required as part of building permit applications, plan requirements have been waived for all storm-related damage. “We want to assist by making the restoration process as easy as possible,” said Building and Fire Code Administration director John Catlett in a written statement. “Please note on your permit application that the work is for Aug. 5 storm repair.”

City officials have also temporarily relaxed requirements for removal of tree debris on private property.

Homeowners have been asked to cut down limbs and trees into pieces, which can be left at the curb for city crews to take away.

Professional contractors, on the other hand, have been asked to remove all debris rather than leave it for city workers. State officials also warned homeowners that scam artists may approach residents and request fees for removing trees and branches.

“After severe weather, homeowners trying to make repairs can be vulnerable to con artists,” said Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation spokeswoman Mary Broz-Vaughan in a written statement. “Consumers can protect themselves by checking for a valid contractor’s license and insisting on a detailed written contract.”

Dylan Yep also contributed to this story.
Joseph P. Cavallo, D.D.S., FAGD
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People

A National Night Out

Photos by Louise Krafft/Gazette Packet

Emily and Paola chase bubbles through the field at the Mount Vernon Community Center.

Will River takes another twirl with a hula hoop.

Alexandria Volunteer Firefighter Michael Monaghan and Anthony Flamini work the grill at the Community Center.

The Irish Breakfast Band performs as neighbors gather for the annual National Night Out party on Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Alexandria Volunteer Firefighter Michael Monaghan and Anthony Flamini work the grill at the Community Center.

The Irish Breakfast Band performs as neighbors gather for the annual National Night Out party on Tuesday, Aug. 3.

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The Rhythm Bones Society held the 14th annual Bonefest in Old Town Alexandria last month. Members gathered all day at the Lyceum for workshops, demonstrations and an evening concert. Bones playing has been mentioned in ancient history in Egypt where women would play bones to pay tribute to the god of the harvest and fertility. For more information visit www.rhythmbones.com

Bonefest XIV

On Sunday morning, July 25, society members joined Kenny Wolin and Teresa Davies at their wedding ceremony at Canal Plaza on the Waterfront. Wolin proposed to Davies onstage at the Bonefest in Chattanooga.

Mr. Bones, Joe Birl, plays a tune with executive director Steve Wixson.

Photos by Louise Krafft/Gazette Packet

People

Members of the Rhythm Bones Society pose for a group photo in the main hall of the Lyceum on Saturday afternoon.

Spike Bones warms up for an afternoon demonstration.

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Frontpage: The Rhythm Bones Society held the 14th annual Bonefest in Old Town Alexandria last month. Members gathered all day at the Lyceum for workshops, demonstrations and an evening concert. Bones playing has been mentioned in ancient history in Egypt where women would play bones to pay tribute to the god of the harvest and fertility. For more information visit www.rhythmbones.com

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Photos by Louise Krafft/Gazette Packet

People

Members of the Rhythm Bones Society pose for a group photo in the main hall of the Lyceum on Saturday afternoon.

Spike Bones warms up for an afternoon demonstration.
Documenting City’s Dirty Air

FROM PAGE 3

which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, during the summer of 2007. Although Mirant and city officials have worked together to make some changes that will hopefully improve the air quality since then, no data exists to indicate the air is any cleaner today than when the samples were taken. That’s troubling to elected leaders who have vowed to clean up air quality for years.

“I’m not pleased,” said Councilwoman Mel Pepper.

“But let’s just say that we are continuing to work. And I think things will hopefully be improving.”

In 2006, Mirant began adding a mineral known as trona into the exhaust gas stream in an effort to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. Then in 2008 and 2009, the corporation spent $35 million to merge two of its smokestacks in a way that pushed the pollution higher into the air — an effort to distribute the particulate matter over a wider area. Within the next few years, the plant will be adding $35 million more improvements, thanks to a 2008 settlement reached with members of the Alexandria City Council. That will buy a $2 million windscreen to block fugitive dust and $32 million to replace the filtration system from static electricity to vacuum bags.

“I guess you get a trade-off in terms of higher energy bills down the road,” said Mike Sedgley while walking his dog next to the plant. “And that’s something we’ve got to deal with.”

THE STUDY was originally requested by former Alexandria Health Director Charles Konigsberg in 2007. That’s when the dispute between Alexandria city officials and Mirant was at a fever pitch, and neighborhood groups were mobilizing to shut down the plant. But the City Council’s 2008 settlement agreement put an end to that goal, essentially cutting a deal that will force Mirant to spend millions more to improve the air quality in the short term. Because the settlement has happened since Konigsberg’s request to the Agency on Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, many feel that the report is somewhat of a moot point.

The report shows no health concern for the majority of Alexandria residents, said Mirant spokeswoman Misty Allen in a written statement following the release of the report. When a reporter pointed out that page 42 of the report indicated that “ASTDR concludes that breathing for many years in Alexandria, VA air contaminated with PM 2.5 [a measurement of particulate matter in the air] could harm people’s health,” Allen was quick to point out Mirant was only one source of pollution.

“A more accurate statement is that long-term exposure of PM 2.5 could impact health,” she wrote in a follow-up e-mail. “However, the report did not conclude that PRGs contributed disproportionately to PM 2.5 emissions, one of many sources in the region.”

Allen said that the company feels it addressed the sulfur dioxide problem pointed out in the report, although no scientific data has been collected to show that’s the case. And Allen also said that the stack merge should address some of the concerns about particulate matter, although that also has yet to be demonstrated. Ultimately, the report was a shocking but expected document indicating the fears many people already had about the city’s air.

“This is a problem in the whole region,” said Councilwoman Pepper. “And some of the problem we have is the dirty air that blows in from other states.”

Traveling to Alexandria, Minnesota

FROM PAGE 3

“The two cities are very similar,” Fannon said, “in that a large portion of their economy also depends on recreation and tourism.”

Ness oversaw a budget of $9.1 million compared to the local budget of $53.1 million, and the median household income is $26,851 compared to $80,806. The sister city is home to two sports teams: the Alexandria Beetles collegiate baseball team and the Alexandria Blizzard Junior A ice hockey team in the North American Hockey League’s central division.

Notable natives include PGA golfer Tom Lehman and the average price of a haircut is $6.50.

“I believe there is 11 other cities in the country with the name Alexandria,” Fannon said. “One down and 10 to go.”
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What do you love about your community?

What advice would you give new residents to your town would you share with a friend? Places to go, things to do, can’t-miss events, ideas on what it means to live here.

What would you give you someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret, places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

What tips do you have for someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret, places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

We invite you to share the expertise you’ve gained in living in your hometown with your neighbors and with people new to the area. We invite calendar listings for major events for the upcoming year, information on how to get involved in nonprofits and charities, details about your club or other organization.

When are the major festivals, celebrations and other events at your church or temple or mosque?

We also invite readers to contribute directly to the newcomers and community guides. Send us a short letter: what do you love about your community? Tell us about one special place you’ve discovered. Do you family have different favorites in different seasons? How did you get involved in your town? Share your favorite park. Tell us about your favorite annual event.

Send your comments and submissions to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or mail to Insiders Guide, Alexandria Gazette Packet, 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

What “insider’s tip” about your town?

Letters to the Editor

Be of Service To Neighbors

To the Editor: Amazingly, the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program is really not about meals or wheels. One is the end and the other is the means. MOW is actually the lady in Parkfairfax who puts on makeup and fixes up her hair two times a week to greet the deliverer, or the elderly gentleman in a bed with no company but a TV set that is always on, or the 80-year-old Marine who never learned to cook (“Louise cooked up a storm for 47 years,”), or the lady with arthritic hands. Each MOW has a story that needs to be heard, respected, listened to, nodded at, or just waved to through the door.

We’re never going to eradicate hunger. It is a worthy goal but unrealistic. Good people strive for progress not perfection. Happiness in life is the result of learning to live with unresolved problems. People get old, people make mistakes in its tree selection, planting, for example. Some people will undoubtedly think that the loss of trees is a good thing. After all, the fewer the trees, the fewer the chances one will crash through my roof or knock out my power line. Those trees, the fewer the chances one will crash through my roof or knock out my power line.

But for those who understand the health and environmental benefits of trees, especially large shade trees, the continued decline of the city’s canopy is disturbing. Among other things, trees filter pollutants from the air and soak up water during heavy rains. On streets and properties with many trees, the temperature on sweltering summer days can be 10 to 15 degrees cooler than in areas with few trees.

There are ways of reducing the damage from future storms. But doing so will require both the city and private homeowners to do more proactive tree care. First, we need to plant the right trees in the right places. In the past, the city made some mistakes in its tree selection, planting, for example, Bradford Pears, which have proved very brittle. Trees, especially larger shade trees, need to be of service to our neighbors.

One silver lining to my experience is the glimpse I get into the lives of individuals who are touched by the Meals on Wheels program. Recently, I bonked her on the head and she shrieked. I laughed much lately. We chatted a few minutes, still laughing and we shared the story with her. That is a day for a 12-year-old to think about and remember. To think about somebody other than the Jonas Brothers, to muse on the idea and remember. To think about somebody other than the Jonas Brothers, to muse on the idea. To think about somebody other than the Jonas Brothers, to muse on the idea and remember. To think about somebody other than the Jonas Brothers, to muse on the idea and remember.
Opinion

Burke & Herbert’s 158th Birthday

By E. Hunt Burke
Chairman & CEO
Burke & Herbert Bank

On Aug. 14, 1852, my great-great grandfa-
ther, John Woolfolk Burke (who was only
27) and his partner, Arthur Herbert (a mere
23 years old) opened the doors of this Bank. They
advertised the establishment of Burke & Herbert Bank
in a small notice in The Alexandria Gazette promis-
ing “prompt attention to all business entrusted to
them.” I am proud to say that promise has been kept
for 158 years.

When I think about the incredible events that our
Bank has endured over the years including the Civil
War, The Great Depression, and World Wars, and the
host of changes that have occurred in our industry
including astounding advances in technology, the
growth of mega banks, and the recent financial melt-
down, it makes me ponder what has made us suc-
cceed, grow, and stay strong.

I know the answer and I found it in a brilliant quote
by Albert Schweitzer. While Schweitzer said it, I think
that four generations of my predecessors, including
my father, Taylor Burke, Jr., would have advised me
(and everyone at our Bank) in the same fashion. It is
this: “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but
one thing I know: the only ones among you who will
be truly happy are those who will have sought and
found how to serve.”

And therein lies the “happy” in the celebration of
our 158th birthday. We have sought and found a way
to be of service to our cus-
tomers and our commu-
nity and it gives us tremen-
dous satisfaction. It is that
simple. When I look back
over our history, I see one
common denominator in
this dedication to service:
making our customers the
focal point of our work
and putting their needs
first.

We show this in big ways
and small ones. For example, we make sure
that people are available to help you when you call. We
show it in how we get to know a customer in person,
not just on paper, when making a decision about lend-
ing them money. And we show it by investing in ways
to make banking easy, convenient and rewarding for
our customers.

We now have 22 convenient locations to better
serve you with two new branches scheduled to open
later this year.

Another good example of putting our customers
first is our new Convenient Checking Account that
gives customers free access to any ATM in America
—and we pick up the tab. Now that is worth cel-
brating 365 days a year!

Many things have changed since we opened for
business in 1852. One thing that has not changed is
our commitment to your satisfaction. When we say
“At Your Service” we mean it. Happily.
COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Three Homes Open Sunday 1-4!

Just Listed – Stunning Colonial!
Updated Colonial w/ eat in kitchen featuring hardwood floors, sunny sitting room w/ bay window, walk-out to deck. Lg dining rm w/ chair & crown molding. Formal living rm w/ fireplace & built ins. Upp 1 1/2 lg master bedroom w/ private bath & walk-in closet, lg bedroom w/ built in shelves updated bath. Lwr level rec room w/ office, full bath, cedar closet & tons of storage. ~$999,000 more info at www.PhyllisPatterson.com or 703.518.6158
7012 Polins Court Alexandria, 22306

Beverly Hills Area - Open Sunday 1-4!
From King Street Metro: North on Russell Rd, Center of Russell and Beverly Drive.
Charming renovated Nau- tucket Colonial with 3 BRs, 2.5 baths, cooks kitchen w/ heated floors, gas cooking, breakfast bar and eat-in area. 15’’ high ceilings in main and upper, formal living room w/ fireplace and dining room, paneled family rm. Finished lower level rec room and wine closet. Large lush private fenced yard and patio. ~$899,000 more info at www.PhyllisPatterson.com or 703.518.6158
3114 Russell Road Alexandria, 22305

Colonial in Belle Haven!
ELEGANT COLONIAL in Belle Haven overlooking the golf course. Gracious foyer, 9’ ceilings, lovely moldings and architectural detail, gourmet chef’s kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 and one half baths, 2 fireplaces, spacious RR, 2 car tandem garage ~$879,000 more info at www.JeanneWarner.net or 703.682.5458
6034 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22307

Open Sunday 1-4 in Wellington!
Directions: GW Parkway South right on Springdale Lane, left on Ridgecrest Drive, house on right.
www.PhyllisPatterson.com Direct: 703.518.6158
7602 Ridgecrest Dr Alexandria, VA 22308

Alexandria House – Stunning!
STUNNING RENOVATION! Panoramic views of the Potomac River, Washington Old Town and National Harbor from this beautiful 2BR, 2.5BA unit. Hardwood floors, recessed lighting, fabulous kitchen w/ a view featuring granite counters and new appliances, luxurious baths with granite countertops and travertine tile. 2 garage spaces, pool, sauna and party room ~$809,000 more info at www.JeanneWarner.net or 703.682.5458
400 Madison Street # 909 Alexandria, VA 22314

Just Listed – Open Sunday 1-4!
Absolutely charming 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath cape on quite cul-de-sac offering Potomac River views for most of the year! Elegant living room w/ a fireplace, gracious dining room, lovely moldings and chair rail, first floor family room and lower level recreation room ~$850,000 more info at www.JeanneWarner.net or 703.682.5458
6202 Hillvale Place Alexandria, VA 22307

Coming Soon in Mt. Vernon!
Get ahead of the Fall Rush with this amazing opportunity! Available September 1, this 4 BR, 2.5 bath end-unit townhouse is in sought-after Pineywood Lake! Hardwood parquet floors, FP and new carpet. Remodeled bathrooms & upgrades throughout. This charming townhouse is a perfect investment or home. Price TBD (upper $900K)’s. Close to Ft. Belvoir, the beltway, the parkway, Mt. Vernon and more! Call for information or a preview today!
Rachel Carter rcarter@cbsmve.com Direct: 703.855.4207 www.cbsmve.com/Rachel.Carter
4500 Squiredale Square Alexandria, VA 22309

Carlyle Towers in Greater Old Town!
Open, youthful floor plan w/ 3 bedrooms – fabulous master bedroom suite w/ bay window, 2 walk-in closets, large MRA and privacy. 2 zone heat & air. Large 27’ cut-in kitchen with separate DR, 27’ heat & air Sunroom just off the LR plus 2 more bedrooms w/ walk-in closets and another entry to Sunroom. 2 car spaces, 2 storage, Dash bus passes, Ike and King St metros! Whole Foods, Publix, AAA, Post Office all within 2 blocks! Go to www.callyle.towers1704.com for complete photos & floor plan – ~$725,000
2121 Jamieson Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314

Just Listed – 1.26 Acres of Waterfront!
Bring Your Boat! Spectacular 1+ acre lot on highest point in neighborhood w/ gorgeous views of Potomac River. Fabulous street with large custom built homes. Rare opportunity! ~$1,299,000
5101/5103 Burke Drive Alexandria, VA 22309

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Phone: (703) 518- 8300
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Town Charm!</td>
<td>134 NORTH PAYNE STREET</td>
<td>$615,000</td>
<td>Historic charm, end-terrace row home, 3 beds, 2.5 baths, breakfast area, deck, 2-car garage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Paradise with Pool!</td>
<td>7620 RIDGECREST DRIVE</td>
<td>$790,000</td>
<td>Luxury, pool, sun room, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances. 4 beds, 3 baths.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classic Elegance and Charm!</td>
<td>3114 RUSSELL ROAD</td>
<td>$525,000</td>
<td>Gorgeous colonial, 4 beds, 3.5 baths, almost 3,000 sq ft. 2-car garage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circa 1810</td>
<td>425-427 NORTH SAINT ASAPH STREET</td>
<td>$1,295,000</td>
<td>Beautifully updated, 4 beds, 3.5 baths, 3-car garage, office, screened porch.</td>
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<td>Just Listed!</td>
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<td>Waterfront!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pokomac River Property</td>
<td>7012 POLINS COURT</td>
<td>$489,000</td>
<td>3 beds, 2 baths, BR, LR, FLR, FLR, updates, all elements of this home. 2-car garage.</td>
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<td>Storybook Cape Cod</td>
<td>3800 ELMAWOOD TOWNE WAY</td>
<td>$560,000</td>
<td>Luxury, 2-car garage, 3 beds, 2 baths, walk to ok. 2-car garage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Unit in Carlyle Towers!</td>
<td>501 SALTERS LANE</td>
<td>$499,000</td>
<td>2-car garage, 3 beds, 2 baths, red oak floors. 2-car garage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True Virginia Charm!</td>
<td>617 NORTH WEST STREET</td>
<td>$509,000</td>
<td>3 beds, 2.5 baths, 3-car garage, walk to ok. 2-car garage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Updated Home</td>
<td>7808 SOUTHDOWN ROAD</td>
<td>$2,999,000</td>
<td>Magnificent 5+ bed, 5 bath, 5-car garage. 2-car garage.</td>
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<td>Just Listed!</td>
<td>2701 RUSSELL ROAD</td>
<td>$599,000</td>
<td>Storybook Cape Cod, 3 beds, 2 baths, 2-car garage. 2-car garage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Office For Sale</td>
<td>2121 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 1704-1705</td>
<td>$510,000</td>
<td>2-bed, 2-bath, 2-car garage, 2-car garage. 2-car garage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style and Open Space!</td>
<td>6309 OLDE TOWNE COURT</td>
<td>$625,000</td>
<td>This beautiful home features 2-car garage, 2-car garage, 2-car garage. 2-car garage.</td>
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<td>1601 BELLE HAVEN ROAD</td>
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<td>1116 POWHATAN STREET</td>
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<td>6136 ROLLING ROAD, UNIT 101</td>
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<td>3957 EARLSTON COURT</td>
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<td>For All Of Your Real Estate Needs Visit: <a href="http://www.CBMove.com">www.CBMove.com</a></td>
<td>310 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314</td>
<td>703.518.8300 Main Office</td>
<td>703.518.8300 Main Office</td>
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Chamber Music Recital Well-Received at Lyceum

By Susan Knighton Cavanaugh
For the Gazette

The audience sang their praises to award-winning clarinetist Wonkak Kim’s and to his accompanying pianist Eun-Hye Grace Choi’s exquisite performance: “So beautiful and elegant”; “Very engaging concert”; “musical maturity and understanding of the [score]”; technically flawless and awe-inspiring; and “so much virtuosity”. The recital was held July 18 at The Lyceum in Alexandria and sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association’s 20th Summer Chamber Music Series.

Wonkak Kim has also won high praises from numerous publications: hailed by the Washington Post for “excellent breath control and fine command of his instrument”; The New York Concert Review “suited, styled melodies ... impressive range”; The Classical Voice of North Carolina “tour de force”; and the Journal de Morges, Suisse, “virtuosic and stirring.” Ellen Taaffe Zwilich composer and winner of the Pulitzer Price in Music (1982) exclaimed that 25-year-old Wonkak Kim is “a stunning mix of vibrant and youthful enthusiasm and thoughtful artistic ideas.” This was evident when he and Eun-Hye Grace Choi performed the following pieces at the recital:

- Robert Schumann’s “Fasziestücke”, op. 73 (1849). Highly romantic in its nature, the three pieces accelerate from its slow beginning into a triumphant finale.
- Alban Berg’s “Vier Stücke für Klarinette und Klavier”, op.5 (1913). This four piece collection contains drama, passion, virtuosity, and intense musical phrases and harmonies.
- Amilcare Ponchielli’s “II Convoglio”, op. 76 for Two Clarinets and Piano. The clarinets sing beautiful melodies in this highly opera-like duo.
- Paul Reade’s “Introduction et Rondé”, op 72 (1898). The piece is full of grand gestures with sweeping runs and magnificent chords on the piano.

The young performers received wows from the audience before the last piece was even finished, and they were rewarded with a well-deserved standing ovation. Rosa Fulerton, a member of the Symphony Orches- triangle at 19, at which he won first prize in the concerto competition, and the Mary Graham Lasley Scholarship Competition held on March 21, at which he won first prize. The latter competition is sponsored by the Symphony Orchestra League of Al- exandria. Eun-Hye Grace Choi has also won several competitions and performed extensively as a collaborative pianist.

Wonkak has also performed as featured soloist with dozens of orchestras at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Constitution Hall and the New York Philharmonic. His performances have been broadcast by NPR stations across the country; and several of his world-premiere recordings will be released soon. Eun-Hye Grace Choi has performed at the Hot Springs Music Festival, HI Seoul Festival, and many other venues. Some of her performances have also been broadcast by NPR’s Performance Today. Eun-Hye Grace Choi is currently pursuing a doctor of musical art from the University of Minnesosta and will no doubt become an even more famed pianist.

Wonkak Kim’s musical talent and engaging personality will indisputably ensure that Wonkak Kim will continue to perform at prestigious venues where he will receive standing ovations and rave reviews and wow.

Letters to the Editor

Much Needed at Jefferson Houston

To the Editor:

Mr. Roberts (Letters, “Teachers, Not Build- ings”) may wish to venture into Jefferson Houston and have a look for himself. He will quickly realize that his “Four Walls a School Does Not Make” refrain is quite accurate, yet his statements are misguided. Almost none of the classrooms in Jefferson Houston Elementary have four solid walls. Most are open classrooms, a nod to the late 1960s and early 1970s thought of teaching students in one communal area. This design flaw is one of the many issues that still plague Alexandria’s most under-performing school. Lack of parental involvement, lack of student diversity, rampant discipline and behavior issues, over-representation of special education programs, lack of vision and goals, inconsistent curriculum and constant changing of administrators, programs, plans, and teachers (at times due to Reconst ruition under Federal Law) have left this school riddled with problems. The least of these problems is the teachers. Many won- derful teachers, some possessing PhDs, have taught at Jefferson Houston. Some have been there long enough to see the slew of “new ideas” trickle down from the ACPS central office or whichever principal is running the school that year; some have been driven from the school mid-year because they simply can not take the deplorable learning environment. Almost all worked hard to make a difference in the lives of the students.

A public-private venture may be part of addressing the needs of this school. The community must become more involved with this school. And blaming teachers is not the kind of community involvement I am referring to. If the student population is to remain as it is at Jefferson Houston, tutors, mentors, big brothers, and big sisters have to have a vested interest in helping these students succeed. Close attention has to be paid to as what plans ACPS is putting in place for Jefferson Houston. Add- ing or dropping the word “academy” into the school’s name is not a valid plan. Neither are gimmicks and unproven fads, some of which are being pushed by celebrities with personal ties to school officials. A clear vision is needed which encompasses the requirements and needs of the community, students, teachers, and parents.

Before retail or office space is sold in a public school building, more focus needs to be placed on parental involvement at Jefferson Houston. Expectations to parents and students need to be clear and if those expectations are not followed, then students may have to leave the school. Until that occurs, good luck with whatever else ACPS may want to put into place. That is the reality of this school.

Simply hiring one new teacher after another (which has happened frequently at Jefferson Houston) will not help the school or the community. Let’s move away from pointing fingers at hard working teachers as a way to fix our education system and actually go into the schools and make a differ- ence.

Tim F. Leary
Alexandria

New Chapter

To the Editor:

I am writing to praise Jeanne Theismann’s tremendous article on Chief David Baker on Aug. 5. Chief Baker has been a mentor and huge influence on me during the last two years. Ms. Theismann wrote about a great life lesson. The Chief had it all, lost it all, paid for his mistake, and now he can move on. He has made great strides. My family was absolutely heart broken about what happened, but we are proud of the way he handled himself following the incident. He “manned up” by taking his punishment ask- ing for no perks or special treatment. David Baker is a solid citizen who served our community as our police chief and now continues to serve in other important ways. Thank you Ms. Theismann for closing a dark chap-

See Letters. Page 15
**Letters**

From Page 14

For a good man, and opening a bright new one.

Louis Barnett

Paying for Citizenship?

To The Editor:

I recently was stopped by a resident of Alexandria and, as we talked, I came to learn she needed advice on immigration. What does one do when you hear about a marriage to an illegal immigrant for one’s own personal gain? Who does one call to report such allegation?

In the Gazette there was a statement printed: “Crime is crime. The law does not distinguish between criminal violations of any other criminal law” made by the Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

Any attempt to encourage a resident to break the law by offering to pay money to a resident to marry a friend of his or hers in order for a person to stay in the country is criminal. It makes it hard for those trying to do the right thing as they seek to become United States citizens.

Geri Baldwin

Alexandria

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**Neighborhood**

**Taylor Run**

**Jackson Travels**

Saint Jackson escaped some of this heat, taking a splendid trip through upper New York State and Canada with a group of friends from college days. They went to Lake Chatauqua and to the Shakespeare Summer Festival at Stratford, where they saw Christopher Plummer in The Tempest, and enjoyed the musical Kiss Me Kate. They also saw two Shaw favorites, The Doctor’s Dilemma and John Bull’s Other Island.

**Storm Losses**

The power outage caused by last week’s storm forced our neighbor Gary Dolez to close his Birchmere for two nights. He was able to reschedule one of the artists, but not the other.

Peter and Marian Lawson were surprised to see their utility pole outside their house burn to the ground, igniting everything around it. They retired to a hotel.

Mickey and Dianna Campagna, depressed by the darkness of Old Town, were glad to find the Lemon Grass Thai open. David Fromm of Del Ray has set up a Google Map to track tree loss in Del Ray and Beverly Hills. To access the map, Google “Lost Trees of Del Ray,” you can add your own downed trees if you have a Google account, which is pretty easy to set up.

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Alexandria Restaurant Week Is Set for Aug. 20-29

The first-ever summer Alexandria Restaurant Week will delight dining enthusiasts from Aug. 20-29. Some 60 restaurants throughout the city will feature a $35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or $35 dinner for two; a $3.50 sweet treat can be selected from participating sweet shops. A one-stop shop for reservations are available now on VisitAlexandriaVA.com. A complete Alexandria Restaurant Week menu and online reservations are available now on VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

The August event is the first time Alexandria Restaurant Week has been offered in the summer. The success of two winter restaurant weeks, held in 2009 and 2010, brought about a summer event by popular demand from both diners and restaurateurs. The Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association coordinates and markets the event which is free for participating restaurants. In addition to serving as an economic driver for Alexandria restaurants, Alexandria Restaurant Week builds the Alexandria brand as it helps the City to become known as a culinary destination. For details, go to VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

Civil War Living History with the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry at Fort Ward

Learn about the army life of the Civil War soldier with reenactors from the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Co. D, on Saturday, Sept. 11, at Fort Ward Museum. This free program will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activities will begin at 10 a.m. with a roll call and inspection of troops. Special features of the day’s schedule include firing demonstrations at 11 a.m. and at 3 p.m., a noon meal in camp where army rations will be discussed, a knapsack inspection, and a discussion of the soldier’s uniform.

The 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was the first state unit to be formed in response to President Abraham Lincoln’s call for 75,000 troops in April 1861. The regiment participated in many major engagements during the Civil War. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.
The Breakfast Bunch  During the "dog days", The Wanderer likes to keep his activities non-aerobic, as he prefers linen to spandex. A shady morning breakfast is such a civilized way to start the day. Follow him as he flip-flops through town celebrating Restaurant Month. And stay tuned for further adventures with a fork.

A  THE ROYAL RESTAURANT
Voted the best breakfast in town, this neighborhood favorite has been a meeting place for over 100 years. Weekend breakfast buffet served Saturday and Sunday.
Breakfast hours:
Mon-Sat, 6:30-11am, Sun 7am-2pm. 734 N. St Asaph Street, 703-836-1616. www.theroyalrestaurant.com.

B  TABLE TALK
Serving breakfast since 1976 when the Kapetanakis family opened the doors. A great place to be a regular — and if you leave hungry it’s not their fault.
Breakfast served:
Mon-Fri 6:30-11am, Sat 6:30-3pm, Sun 7:30-2:30. 1623 Duke Street, 703-548-3989.

C  YVES BISTRO
A traditional French bistro offering Eggs Benedict and Eggs Norwegian. Delicieux!
Breakfast served:
Weekdays, 7-11am, Weekends 8:30-4pm. 225 Swamp Fox Road, 703-329-1010. www.yvesbistrova.com.

D  LA MADELEINE
A fast, convenient breakfast any time of day served in a charming French country atmosphere.
Wonderful pastries.
Mon-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m., 6:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m., 7 a.m.-10 p.m. 500 King Street, 703-739-2854 www.lamadeleine.com.

E  BRABO RESTAURANT/ L’ORIEN HOTEL
Chef Robert Wiedmaier suggests his pork belly, poached eggs, cheddar potato cakes finished with a sabayon sauce, but the eggs and hash are one of our favs.
Breakfast served 7-10:30 daily. 1600 King Street, 703 894-3440. www.braborestaurant.com

F  THE GRILLE/ MORRISON HOUSE HOTEL
For over 20 years, Chef Abel has served scrumptious beignets and eggs benedict to guests and locals who love the elegant atmosphere of a manor house tucked away from the bustle of Old Town. 116 South Alfred Street, 703 838-8000. www.morrisonhouse.com.

G  THE UPTOWNER CAFÉ
101 Harvard Street, 703 836-3162.

H  ATLANTIS PIZZERIA & FAMILY RESTAURANT
A full breakfast menu specializing in fluffy 3-egg omlets and eggs of all choices. 3648 King Street (in Bradlee Shopping Center), 703 671-0250. www.alexandriaitalianfood.com.

J  THE ALEXANDRIA PASTRY SHOP
Besides their well-known pastries, try the homemade Belgian waffles and made-to-order omelets. 3690 King Street (in the Bradlee Shopping Center), 703-578-4144. www.alexandriapastry.com.

MANCINI’S CAFÉ AND BAKERY
New York style breakfast. Fabulous buttermilk pancakes and French toast.
Serving 7-11 a.m. daily. 1508 Mount Vernon Avenue, 703 838-3663. www.cateringbymancinis.com.
Gathering of the Legends.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

THURSDAY/AUG. 12

Second Thursday Art Night.

THURSDAY/AUG. 12

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 6

Highlights” Video Premiered.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

Rainy Day in NYC by Jill Banks, Best in Show, oil on canvas.

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 6

Scapes: The Annual Landscape Exhibit.” Opening reception is Thursday, Aug. 12 from 6-9 p.m. 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. ‘Scapes was juried by artist Joey Manlapaz, instructor at the Corcoran College of Art and Design. At the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org.

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 2009-2010 Living Legends of Alexandria – Clint Avery, Rosalind Bovey, V. Rodger Diglio, Nelson A. Greene, Jr., Alice Merrill and Linda Odllel, T. Michael Miller, John Porter, Joan and John Renner, David G. Speck, Pat Troy, Lois Merrill and Linda Odell, T. Michael Miller, John Porter, Joan and John Renner, David G. Speck, Pat Troy, Lois

Artist’s reception. Mary “Mimi” Frank, is an exhibit that investigates the paradox of balance, the nature of rhythm, and repetition. The Torpedo Factory Art Center’s Target Gallery hosts the annual Artist of the Year exhibition, which is sponsored by the Friends of the TFAC. At 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565, x4 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

NOW THROUGH AUG. 21

Art Scouts: Six artists with strong presence in the D.C. metro region explain how and why they make their art — by presenting other artists who use the same materials or methods. These six artists all work in different (but related, sometimes overlapping) disciplines: Zoe Charlton (drawing). Mary Early (sculpture), J.J. McCracken (performance and installation), Maggie Michael (painting), Beth Rosen Pinder (video), and Kerry Skaerbakka (photography). Located in the Mary Scull School building, the aac mounts five exhibitions of contemporary art per year, rents studio spaces, and conducts educational programs for students of all ages. Normal public hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 703-248-6800 or visit www.marysscullcenter.org.

NOW THROUGH AUG. 22

Klin Club Show. Klin Club members go the distance to show the versatility of clay surfaces. Hours are Monday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays until 9 p.m. At Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Ground Floor, Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.klinclubwdc.com.

NOW THROUGH AUG. 29

McLean Art Society’s Summer Show. Juried by Gwen Bragg, teacher and award-winning artist. At River Farm, home of the American Horticultural Society, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Old Town. The themes are flower painting and still life as well as landscapes. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

NOW THROUGH AUG. 29


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**FRIDAY/AUG. 20**

**Disie Melody Boys.** 7:30 p.m. At The Mt. Calvary Community Church. Call 703-797-1645 or visit www.mtcavalrycc.com.

**ALEXANDRIA**

**Children enter a world of fantasy and tales when consumed 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. 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 at Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, $15; youth (ages 6-17) and children under 5 are admitted free.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOONS**

Tea Dansess. 1 to 3:15 p.m. Group class from 11:30 a.m. Ballroom, Latin and Swing music. $11/person. At the Dance Studio Loudoun, 18 Richfield Road, 2nd Floor (off Duke Street), Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868.

**THURSDAY/AUG. 12**

Bagspipes, Pipes and Drums Concert. 7 p.m. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Concert is presented by the NOVA Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society, and the Alexandria Pipes and Drums. Free. Call 703-882-4866.

Jean Bayou Performs. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10. 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. Perform at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035.

**18th Century Dance Class.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Learn the dances of Jane Austen’s time!— danced by Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy. Cost is $50/series or $12/class. Singles or couples are welcome. At Gadby's Tavern, Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242.

**AUG. 12-14**

"Cinderella." Presented by the homeschool group, Morningstar Productions. Performances are 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 12; Friday, Aug. 13; Saturday, Aug. 14; and Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Admission is $8/regular; $5/children and seniors. At Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 9600 Plymouth Road, Alexandria. Visit www.Cinderella2010.com.

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THURSDAY/AUG. 19
Shop to Fight Childhood Obesity. Shop the Alexandria Whole Foods Market, 1700 Duke street, and support Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services Inc. and the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria’s ACHIEVE Planning Team. Five percent of the proceeds will go towards supporting the ACHIEVE Planning Team’s fight against early childhood obesity. Visit www.healthieralexandria.org/36130.

FRIDAY/AUG. 20
Dixie Melody Boys. 7:30 p.m. At the Mt. Calvary Community Church. Call 703-971-0165 or visit www.mtcalvarycom.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 21
Singer-songwriter Anne Hills performs. 7 p.m. Sponsored by Focus Music, a nonprofit supporter and presenter of folk and acoustic music that holds concerts in west Alexandria on Sundays. Tickets are 14 adult, $15 in advance at FocusMusic.org. Contact Gilliam at 703-275-8027 or mark@nsoyystms.com. St. Aidan’s is at 8533 Riverside Rd., Alexandria, between Fort Hunt Road and Route 1.

1950. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call the Town Center, 1204 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Enjoy lively jazz music as you peruse a variety of handcrafted items. Refreshments will be available. The rain date for the craft show is Aug. 28.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES. 7 p.m. Free. Featuring the Concert Band and the Soldiers’ Chorus. At Centennial Park, off of English Ave., Fort Meade. Unusual Fruits Tasting. 1-3 p.m. Free. Ugh fruit, cherimoya, kumquat, star fruit… Many unfamiliar fruits are readily available in supermarkets, but are often ignored. Try some! Delight your taste buds as we serve up a selection of interesting fruits and tell their stories. At Green Spring Gardens, 4605 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 to register. Visit www.greenspring.org.

Breakfast Reach Out Meeting. 9-11 a.m. Sponsored by Arlington Aglow with speaker Marilyn Henretty. Call 703-746-4343.

AUG. 20-29
Alexandria Restaurant Week. 60 restaurants offer a $35 prix-fixe three-course dinner, $35 dinner for two, or $3.50 sweet treat. Participants include Morrison House, Del Merei Grille, A La Carte, and Tempo, Cheesetique, Fontaine Bleau, Squeeze Bayou Cajun Band, Based in the D.C. area, plays traditional Cajun and zydeco dance music from Southwestern Louisiana, specializing in two steps and waltzes. Their music reflects a blend of many styles including country music, blues and Creole. At Grat Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

SUNDAY/AUG. 22
Summer Chamber Music Series. 3 p.m. Free. The Eastmont Trio performing string trios by Mozart and Dohnanyi. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Old Town. Call 703-548-4661.

Althea Kentenchen. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. A German Festmusik band concert in Ft. Hunt Park, six miles south of Old Town Alexandria on the GW Parkway, 703-289-2550 or www.zps.gov/gwmp and go to “News and Fun Things to Do.” At Ben Brenman Park. The West End Farmers’ Market will be closed in preparation for the Annual Cambodian Community Day Festival. At Ben Brenman Park. The West End Farmers’ Market will reopen Aug. 29 and continue Sundays through Nov. 21. Call 703-746-4343.

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TC’s JROTC Students Tackle Mountain Camp

By Rick Haverinen
Fort Eustis Public Affairs Office

Perhaps the first step in beating the summer heat, or any other of life’s pressures, is to confront it.

Nearly 270 high school students from Junior ROTC programs up and down the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware coasts faced up to steamy temperatures and some of their phobias July 16-21 during the Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge 2010 at Fort Eustis, Va.

“I think it’s awesome,” said Leidy Gonzalez, a cadet in the Junior ROTC program at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria. “I’m enjoying being here. I came here to learn. This is my first year, and this is the best thing I have ever done.”

Some of the high school cadets may have worn out their physical training muscles and blistered their marching and drilling feet from plenty of physical activity at the camp, but they also exercised their minds in classroom work and even relaxed during a boat cruise.

The fuse factor for the teenagers at the six-day camp could have come from climbing the high cargo net obstacle at the Fort Eustis Confinement Course, sliding while suspended beneath a single rope “bridge” six feet from the ground, or just from being tossed into a random platoon and mixture of new youths selected from 24 far-flung high schools.

“I feel like a stranger, and they feel like strangers,” said Cadet Sibghat Saeed, also from the T.C. Williams High School ROTC program. Saeed said he was initially nervous about the mix of strangers from 24 far-flung high schools, “but once I started talking to them, they seemed nice, because they’re probably as scared as I was. And then we got to know each other and now we’re best friends.”

“They seem to grow in so many areas from the Junior ROTC program,” said Col. (Retired) Reginaid Geary, senior Army instructor for the T.C. Williams High Junior ROTC program, “and you do get a sense of inspiration in the kids when they get out and serve the community. They do competitive events, including the drill team, and they participate in the Raiders program. You see the end result, especially at the end of the year when they walk across the stage at school, how they have matured, how they have excelled in various ways, including leadership and self-confidence.”

“I think [JROTC] is the best thing, because some guys get into trouble in school and everything,” Gonzalez said. “If you get into trouble, then you can get to thinking in other ways. You get to think about the future, and the best you can do. So it’s a great opportunity they give us.”

Gonzalez didn’t say what she had planned for a career, but she wants to make JROTC part of each high school year. Saeed said he would be interested in a military stint after school if he could not immediately progress to become a mechanical engineer.

“It feels great when somebody is encouraging you for doing something well,” Gonzalez said, “and you’re like, ‘OK, so if I’m doing it well, then I need to keep going, and keep going, until I get hired.’”

“Some of the cadets leave the program after the ninth grade because they want to experiment,” Geary said. “They were excited about being in the uniform, and it’s just like a kid with a new toy. After they have had an opportunity to play with that new toy, then they’re ready to move on to something else. And of course, you have those that want to stay with the program throughout their high school years, and it’s just like the military. The military is not for everyone, and we don’t try to push military service. Our motto is to motivate young people to be better American citizens. It’s more about being involved in community service events, as well as instilling leadership into the cadets.”

Another thing Geary said he enjoys is the person-to-person kudos he sometimes receives.

“It’s very rewarding when a parent expresses their appreciation to you for working with their son or daughter,” Geary said.

Cadet Leidy Gonzalez
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On the Waterfront
The City of Alexandria hosted the Seventh Annual Comcast Outdoor Film Festival on July 16-17. Proceeds from the festival benefited the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club. Volunteers Kenterice Hall, Yalamba Kamara, Brenner Ruffin and Khadra Monamed manage the food and beverage stand.

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SPORTS

HM Swimmers Complete 2010 Season at NVSL All Stars

Paul O’Hara two-time NVSL Champion.

The Hollin Meadows Barracudas had six swimmers qualify for the 2010 NVSL Individual All Star Championship held on Aug. 7 at the Broyhill Crest pool in Annandale. Paul O’Hara was the league champion in both the boys 13-14 50M freestyle (25.53 seconds) and the 100M individual medley (1:03.16 seconds). O’Hara’s time in the 50M freestyle also set a new HM team record bettering his own mark of 25.70 seconds set a week earlier at the Division 9 Individual Championships.

Mark Mattis finished sixth in the boys 15-18 100M IM with a time of 1:03.30. Olivia Petretich was 10th in the girls 8U 25M freestyle swimming the distance in 17.95 seconds. Andrew Hohman qualified in both the Boys 13-14 50M Backstroke and the 100M IM finishing 14th in both events turning in a time of 32.64 seconds in the Backstroke and 1:11.17 seconds in the IM. Also finishing 14th overall was Cole Peverall in the Boys 8U 25M breast with at time of 24.79 seconds. The other HM swimmer qualifying for All Stars was Lexie Kroeger who swam the girls 9-10 50M breast in a time of 32.64 seconds. Among those records the two that stand out were the 50M breast where the previous mark was set in 1993 by Bob Bowman (30.15 seconds). The other HM record of 1:00.73 seconds set in 1985. At the Division 9 Relay Carnival and the All Star Relay Carnival a total of five records were broken including the Boys 13-14 200M medley relay and 200M free relay, the boys 15-18 200M free relay, the girls 8U 100M modified medley relay and the girls 15-18 200M free relay.

Hollin Meadows finished tied for fifth place in Division 9 of the Northern Virginia Swimming League with a record of 1-4. Three of the losses were by 15 points or fewer. At the Division 9 Relay Carnival, HM finished second overall and also had the second highest point total of all teams in Division 9 when considering both the dual meet scores and Relay Carnival scores. At the Mount Vernon area FM Invitational, HM finished first in the Minuteman Division. At the Division 9 Individual Championships, HM had seven division champions with O’Hara (boys 13-14 50M free and 100M IM) and Mattis (boys 15-18 50M back and 100M IM) both winning two events.

Other division champions included Olivia Petretich (girls 8U 25M free), Cole Peverall (boys 8U 25M back) and Lexie Kroeger (girls 9-10 50M breast).

Sports Briefs

Mount Vernon Park Swimmers At-All-Stars

Mount Vernon Park’s Cassidy Bayer won the girls 9-10 50 back and 25 fly on Aug. 7 at the NVSL all star meet at Broyhill Crest pool in Annandale. MVP swimmer and West Potomac rising senior Julia Bolger won her heat and placed seventh overall in the 15-18 girls 50 backstroke during the NVSL all-star meet on Aug. 7 in Annandale.

Belle Haven Hosts Junior Golf Championship

One-hundred-forty young golfers recently dis- placed the members at Belle Haven Country Club for two days. They competed in the 88th Bob Riley Junior Open, a tournament for boys that started in 1922. Young gentlemen toting stand bags with double straps clogged every fairness on Aug. 2-3, and the quality of golf was top drawer.

In the Boys 16-18 division, Alex Taylor of Woodbine, Md., won the title on the first hole of a sudden death playoff against Vienna’s Tommy Curley, a senior at Madison High School. Both closed with 5.

Five questions with Mount Vernon Park swimmer Julia Bolger

Q: What location is the farthest from the Washington D.C. metro area that you have traveled?
A: Turkey, last summer for a family vacation.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?
A: Coldplay.

Q: What is your favorite movie?
A: “Slumdog Millionaire.” It started off as a Sundance film and was able to hit it big in the US. The story was really powerful.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?
A: I like to read and write and draw.

Q: How do you force yourself to get up at 4 a.m. for swimming practice?
A: There are definitely days that I don’t want to get up. But I’m part of a carpool that swims. If I don’t show up for the carpool it throws every one off. If HM don’t show up for the carpool they’ll be late for swim practice and they’ll get yelled at so I feel like there’s a bit of pressure on me to show up.

— Jon Roetman
Students ‘Have a Ball’

Second graders at MacArthur Elementary School substitute traditional chairs for fitness balls.

By Grace Powell
Gazette Packet

Second grade MacArthur Elementary School teacher Janice Olmstead taught her students a little rock and roll last year. “People naturally want to move, especially kids,” she said.

With a master of science in health/fitness and 20 years experience using fitness balls for teaching and training, Olmstead decided to conduct an experiment. She asked students how they felt about trading their blue plastic chairs for round bouncy fitness balls. They were of course, thrilled.

“I thought it was great because we could bounce around,” former second grader Jackson Krakowski said.

Kimberly Krakowski said her son, Jackson, has always been a wiggle worm. When she received Olmstead’s parent letter explaining the fitness ball plan, she asked what she could do to help.

“It was then my job to find someone to help us purchase the balls,” Krakowski said. She contacted the administrator for Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, David Goldberg, about donating fitness balls. “It was a no brainer,” Goldberg said who quickly wrote the grant.

“There was a visionary teacher who wanted to do something different.”

Soon Olmstead’s second graders were bouncing, rocking and rolling their way through a normal school day.

As with any elementary classroom, there were three golden rules: Feet on the floor, bottom on the ball and backs straight. Students could always switch the balls for a chair if they wanted to.

Olmstead said the students easily adjusted to their new chairs. “After about four or five days I would say ‘posture check’ and they would sit straight up,” she said.

She also educated the students on the healthiness of the fitness ball. “It really strengthens your core muscle and you’re getting exercise,” Jackson said.

The movement from the fitness balls increases blood flow. “You’re better able to think and stay more alert,” Olmstead said. The fitness balls also help prevent bad posture.

“I know what it’s like to have poor back issues,” Goldberg said who suffered spinal injuries in the late 1970s. He saw the fitness balls as a way to help prevent children from experiencing similar ordeals. “We can at least educate,” he said.

At the end of the school year, the students wrote thank you letters to Goldberg and Krakowski. They also wrote letters to Michelle Obama asking her to visit MacArthur Elementary School in conjunction with her “Let’s Move” campaign, a program to increase youth exercise.

Many students and teachers said they want to include the fitness balls in their classrooms this upcoming school year.

Deborah Thompson, principal of Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, is excited about the prospects.

“Despite all that rocking and rolling, Olmstead only got a little dizzy once during a math lesson. She smiled remembering the experience. “I asked them, have any of you ever had motion sickness?”

Other than that, the movement does not distract class time. “They can move, all without being disruptive,” she said. “I only wish I’d done it sooner.”
SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 26

over 149 in the two-round tournament. Taylor and Curley both missed the green on the first extra hole, the par-3 10th. But Curley’s tee shot hit a greenside tree and ricocheted onto an adjacent fairway. Unable to reach the green on his second shot, Curley watched Taylor get up and down for the championship.

David Long of Catonsville, Md., won the Boys 14-15 with a 73-77—150, while Kyle Berkshire from Crofton, Md., won the Boys 13 & Under with a 79-73—152.

Formerly the DC Junior, the Riley tournament is one of the oldest junior championships in the country. In 2004, the event was renamed in honor of Belle Haven member Bob Riley, the executive director of the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association 1983-2003.

— Michael K. Bohn

USA Women’s Flag Football

Two Alexandria natives were named to Team USA’s women’s flag football team. Adrienne Smith and Vickie Lucas will play for Team USA at the International Federation of American Football Flag Football World Championship on Aug. 12-16 in Ottawa, Ontario. Smith and Lucas both play in the Independent Women’s Football League. Smith plays for the New York Sharks and Lucas plays for the DC Divas.

Area Agencies Sponsor Senior Olympics

Since 1982, Northern Virginia Departments of Parks and Recreation and Area Agencies on Aging have been sponsoring the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Since that time, participation has increased to more than 600 senior athletes competing in more than 25 indoor and outdoor events ranging from sports to card games to line dancing to board games. Seniors are eligible to compete if they are 30 years of age by Dec. 1 and live in the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church or the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Faquier, Loudoun or Prince William.

The 2010 NVSO competition will take place Sept. 18-29 at more than 10 venues throughout Northern Virginia. Events include track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, pickleball, racquetball, golf, miniature golf, bowling, Wii bowling, eight-ball pool, men’s basketball, men’s and women’s basketball free throw, frisbee throw, shuffleboard, bunco, chess, scrabble, cribbage, duplicate bridge, softball hit and throw, team line dancing and yo-yo tricks. New in 2010 are bocce and fencing.

Registration forms are available at senior centers, community centers and senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Information can also be downloaded at www.nvso.us. Registration deadline is Sept. 1. Registration fee is $10, which includes one event; additional events are $1 each.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Alexandria Gazette Packet, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week’s paper.


The T.C. Williams classes of 1970 through 1979 are organizing an alumni reunion picnic/cookout, “Mighty Titans of the 70s.” It will be held Saturday, Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. at Castle Park in Fort Belvoir. Respond on the link http://www.facebook.com/ + t c w i l l i a m s 1970 + event.php?eid=126497370694934.

The 1960 class of George Washington High School (now a middle school) is having its 50th Reunion in Alexandria, Oct. 8-10. Contact persons are Carolyn Weaver Whitaker, 386-4471; Alice Thomp-son – 703-823-1772; and Carol Shockey – 542-1528. E-mail: althom专业从事于通信科学与工程，拥有20年的行业经验，在职业生涯中取得了显著的成就。

Six Alexandria residents graduated from Radford University at the end of the fall semester. Earning bachelor of science degrees were Katherine Eliza-beth Hicks and Carleta Nelia Feenon, communication science and disorders; Lorley Agustin Abdon, nursing; John Paul Still, geology; Marcia Evelyn Stone, criminal jus-tice; and Rediet Melesse, math.

Running Club on Sundays

The Mount Vernon Millers running club meets at 8 a.m. on Sundays. The group usually meets along the Potomac River, but the exact location is listed in an e-mail sent every Wednesday for the coming week. Distances vary but runners can expect between four and eight miles.

To join the Mount Vernon Millers, send Britton an e-mail at ibrittton7@yahoo.com to be put on the e-mail list.

Indoor Baseball Training

The StrikeZone Academy, an indoor baseball training facility located in Alexandria, is offering week-long summer baseball camps for the weeks of Aug. 16 and 30. Camps run from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. The target age group is from 7-11 years old. Extended hours from 1-4 p.m. are available as well. Cost is $160 per week for the morning session and $160 per week for extended hours. All camps are held indoors in a climate-controlled facility, so parents have no need to worry about security, excessive heat, bugs, or lack of cold water and restroom facilities. Interested parents can register online at www.chestrikezoneacademy.com/clinics, via telephone at 703-823-0061, or stop by in person at 826 South Pickett Street, near the intersections of South Pickett and South Van Dorn Streets.

Alexandria Titans Youth Tackle Football

The Alexander Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Centers, Playgrounds and Youth Sports Division is now accepting registrations for the Alexandria Titans Youth Tackle Football program. Teams are formed in the following weight divisions and participate in the Fairfax County Youth Football League: Anklebiters, 75 lbs, 85 lbs, 95 lbs, 110 lbs, 125 lbs, and 150 lbs. Participants will be weighed and assigned to teams according to their weight and age. This program is for participants ages 7-16. Registration fee is $25. All participants must have a Division of Motor Vehicles Identification Card upon registration. For more information, call the sports office at 703-746-5402 or go on the youth sports Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation. The registration deadline is Aug. 6.

Youth Coaches Needed

The Alexander Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is currently seeking volunteers to coach youth track and field, tackle and flag football, basketball, and volleyball. Criminal history background checks are required. Interested persons should call the youth sports office at 703-746-5402 extension 4345 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.
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Notice of Availability
Draft Finding of No Significant Impact
Community Support Center Development
U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, 
Directorate of Public Works

Name of Action: Construction of a New Commissary, Exchange, and Future Mixed Use Development

Description of Proposed Action and Need: As Fort Belvoir continues to support the National Capital Area, enhanced and expanded shopping and dining services on the Installation will be necessary to provide high quality, reliable services and amenities to all eligible patrons including military retirees. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (A&FES) and the Defense Commissary Agency propose to construct and operate a new 132,000 square foot Commissary and 270,000 square foot Post Exchange at Fort Belvoir, Virginia as part of the Community Support Center Area. This area will also include future mixed use development, as part of the Community Support Center Area.

The proposed action involves constructing new facilities and associated sidewalk, parking areas, access roads and necessary utilities, site preparation of the area to be developed, and necessary construction necessary to support the operation of the buildings. The proposed action would be located on the Upper North Point in an area bounded by John J. Kingman, Gunston, Gargant and Woodland Roads designated as the Community Support Center Area. The site for the new Exchange building is paired on a total area of approximately 33 acres, and the future, adjacent Commissary building on an area of approximately 32-35 acres.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluated the proposed action alternative. During early phases of planning, other sites on Fort Belvoir were reviewed for the new Commissary and Exchange buildings, including none of construction, including including inclusion-area access, the timing for availability of the site, and potential environmental impacts. Construction was given to the relocation of existing facilities, however, the potential to re-use existing access roads, and the costs based on the facility condition assessments for the existing buildings resulted in rejection of the alternative to remove. A No Action (No Build) alternative was considered but would not meet the needs of consumers of the National Capital Area. The proposed action alternative provides two site options for the layout of the new facilities within the Community Support Center Area.

Environmental Consequences: The Environmental Assessment, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact, examined the potential effects of the proposed action and no action alternative on amenities of land, air quality, water, geology and soils, resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, transportation, utilities and hazardous and toxic materials.

Best management practices (BMPs) and adherence to applicable policies/regulations that would be implemented for resource protection purposes in each of the respective resource areas in the areas that would mitigate the effects on air quality, topography, or utilities would be required. Air pollution from the proposed action would not be significant and would not result in any de minimis levels for general conformity. Mitigation measures identified in the environmental assessment for site effects included:

Transportation and Traffic: During the design phase, access point and intersection improvements to include turning lanes for the Post Exchange building, and signal sequence of the existing signal would be incorporated as appropriate to offset the long term minor adverse impacts to traffic which may occur in the vicinity of the Community Support Center. Construction traffic is not anticipated to have a significant impact.

Natural Resources: It is the intent of DCA and A&FES to construct their projects with no impacts to streams or Resource Protection Areas. The proposed action would not result in negative impacts to existing natural resources and LEED Gold Silver standards would be incorporated in the site-specific development of stormwater management. Stable outfall would be used to route the open banks, and stream channels, to be designed to accommodate an increase in the existing natural vegetation from riparian areas and adjoining upland areas. Streamlining clear earth-moving activities for site preparations outside of the nesting season for Partners in Flight recognized birds would also benefit species using vegetation communities within limits of disturbance.

Potential habitat for the small whorled pogonia (Isotria medeolides) occurs within the Community Support Center Area. Small whorled pogonia has not been found in previous surveys of the area. Further surveys will be conducted to determine the presence of small whorled pogonia would be conducted as necessary prior to ground disturbance activity for new facilities and associated infrastructure. The proposed action is located within the nesting season for Partners in Flight recognized birds would also benefit species using vegetation communities within limits of disturbance.

Cultural Resources: The proposed action is not expected to have an adverse impact on cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Fencing and a 50-100 foot surrounding Lacey Cemetery would provide protection from the proposed action. The buffer four activity-related activities in the proposal would also provide a vegetative screen from the development of the cemetery. Monitoring would occur to prevent inadvertent impacts.

Land Use: Offsets would include planting of native or naturalized plants with consideration of LEED concepts; thermal shading of interior parking areas with large islands of vegetation; and the creation of neighborhood outdoor space.

Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste: Three Petroleum Storage Areas, one active and two inactive, have been identified within the proposed project site. Remediation of the area was integrated into the construction phase of the project in concert with the site preparation and earthwork features for minimal impact. Asbestos and lead based paint surveys would be required prior to the development of the Commissary and Exchange.

Frida’s Wash: Solid waste management would include tracking of on site materials for recycling municipal solid waste and the incorporation of recycling requirements for construction demolition debris into all contracts for outside construction contracts.


Utilities: Construction would be designed to meet ED-14245 total operational reduction goals for energy and water conservation. Construction systems would also be incorporated during the design phase for use in irrigation of landscaping.

Noise: Noise levels would be minimized by limiting construction to weekday business hours, and by using mufflers on construction equipment.

Summary of Environmental Impacts: No impacts are expected to foodprint, wetlands, cultural resources, socioeconomics, or land use/conversion. Minimal impacts to air quality, noise, soil, surface water, water quality, vegetation, migratory bird species including Partner in Flight species, hazardous materials, solid waste, utilities, Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Areas, or any impacts of policy, regulations, requirements, or other mitigation the effects of the proposed action. No significant cumulative impacts or indirect impacts are anticipated. No significant impacts on human health or the environment would result from the proposed action.

Notice of Availability: The public may review the Environmental Assessment at the Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the John Marshall Public Library; Kingstowne Public Library; Lorton Public Library; Shenandoah Regional Library; City of Fairfax Regional Library, Lorton Library, or on the Installation website at: http://www.belvoir.army.mil

Interested parties may submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of newspaper announcement. For more information, contact Mr. Patrick McCauley, Chief, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, at 703-805-4003.
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