

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 6, 2011



PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Happy New Year

Residents cheer as fireworks explode at midnight at the Masonic Temple Jan.1 2011.

## Raising The Roof

Dispute between city officials and homeowner prompts new rules for historic districts.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

When the house at 211 North Patrick Street was built more than 120 years ago, it was undoubtedly the grand dame of the neighborhood. Yet today, the Queen Anne style house is barely visible — hidden by overgrown landscaping. That's why many preservationists were thrilled that Craig Miller purchased the property and began rehabbing the Victorian home. Yet what happened next plunged the city into an extended debate about the meaning of historic preservation and the value of the rules that govern the Board of Architectural

Review.

"They don't want to be the Board of Arbitrary Review," said Al Cox, historic preservation manager in the Department of Planning and Zoning

Miller and his attorney tried to argue that the guidelines mandating the use of "historically appropriate materials" allowed for a broad range of possibilities, including a standing seam metal roof or synthetic slate. The Parker Gray Board of Architectural Review denied their request. Miller later appealed the decision to the City Council, which remanded it back to the Board of Architectural Review, which once again denied their request.

SEE THE ROOF, PAGE 4

## Thousands Celebrate At First Night Alexandria

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Thousands of revelers enjoyed balmy temperatures as they ushered in 2011 during Alexandria's 16th annual First Night celebration.

"It was a pretty amazing night," said First Night Executive Director Ann Dorman. "We are still tabulating the numbers but just based on income, this was our best year since 2007 when we had the warmest New Year's Eve in re

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JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Newlyweds Suzanne Runyon and David Weschler ring in the New Year at Landini's restaurant.**

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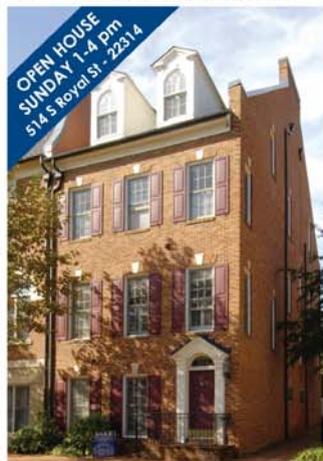


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## A LOOK AHEAD

Here are some of the issues that will be part of the discussion in 2011:

❖ **West End Gridlock:** In September, the Washington Headquarters Service will open its doors at the massive new building near the intersection of Seminary Road and the Shirley Memorial Highway. More than 6,000 people will eventually work in the building, although they will be moving into the building in shifts. Currently, all the traffic will go onto Seminary and turn left at Beauregard Street, creating the potential for massive gridlock. No solution currently exists.

❖ **Waterfront Plan:** In January, city planning officials will unveil the draft of the Waterfront Small Area Plan, a document that could shape the next generation of land-use decisions along the Potomac River. Yet an ongoing legal dispute between the U.S. Justice Department and the Old Dominion Boat Club could destroy the heart of the plan, which includes a new 200-foot pier at the foot of King Street.

❖ **Special-Services District:** City Council members are considering creating a special-tax district for Potomac Greens, a neighborhood near the site of a proposed new Metro station. Budget officials say the new revenue could contribute toward the cost of the station, but neighborhood residents are opposed to the idea. Council members have already created a special-services district for commercial and residential property in Potomac Yard for buildings that have yet to be constructed.

❖ **War Approaches:** This year marks the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, which local and state leaders are planning to commemorate with a series of events. The anniversary is certain to open old wounds between North and South, a phenomenon that became painfully evident last year when Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell declared April Confederate History Month without mentioning slavery.

❖ **Stimulus Trolleys:** Say goodbye to the Maryland license plates that have become an infamous presence on the King Street Trolley. In 2011, the city will receive four new hybrid trolleys. The rubber-tire vehicles come courtesy of a \$2.4 million grant that was part of President Barack Obama's stimulus package.

❖ **Political Redistricting:** The 2010 Census has created the backdrop for that once-in-a-decade fight among political insiders known as redistricting. Essentially, the maps are redrawn for the House of Delegates, Virginia state Senate and House of Representatives. That means the summertime primaries for these seats will be postponed, with the voting probably taking place in September.

❖ **Special Election:** Because state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30) is expected to announce that she will not seek another term, several candidates have already emerged as potential candidates in the Democratic primary to replace her — all of whom are currently elected officials. That could mean a potential special election for a City Council seat to replace Councilman Rob Krupicka or in the House of Delegates to replace Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49).

❖ **9/11 Anniversary:** It's been 10 years since that dark day on Sept. 11, 2001, when the Pentagon was one of the targets in a terrorist plot against the United States of America. The 10-year anniversary is certain to become a grim milestone in the coming year.

❖ **Unearthing Graves:** The first phase of archeology at Fort Ward Park is set to conclude in early 2011, identifying graves of African-Americans buried there in the decades following the Civil War. So far 11, previously unknown burials have been discovered, and other areas in the park will be investigated after the first phase has concluded.

❖ **Consultant Spending:** When City Councilwoman Alicia Hughes asked for an account of how much money the city is spending on contractors, budget officials spent seven months preparing a response. When City Manager Jim Hartmann presents his budget in February, Hughes is expecting to see a detailed list of spending on consultants.

❖ **Tax and Spending:** Councilman Frank Fannon voted against the budget last year because it raised taxes and increased spending. This year, however, he may have been able to strike a deal with his Democratic colleagues. Fannon has indicated that he would be willing to vote for an increase of commercial property taxes to pay for transportation items if the tax rate is not raised for residential properties and spending remains constant with the previous year.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS



Cynetra Bristol, Amy Bertsch, Travis Breen, Suzanne Bethel and Lisa Schumaier receive the 2010 ACVA Superstar Awards Dec. 10 at the Athenaeum.

## Star Quality

### ACVA presents 2010 Superstar Awards.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The historic Athenaeum was the site of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association's annual Holiday Social Tourism Marketing Forum, where Mayor Bill Euille joined in presenting the 2010 Superstar Awards Dec. 10 to members who went the extra mile to collaborate with ACVA in promoting Alexandria.

"People all over the world know Alexandria because of the wonderful work ACVA has been doing for so many years," Euille said. "They have been a successful marketing tool to help grow the city's revenue base."

The five 2010 award winners, representing the historic sector, visual arts, hotel group sales and visitor services, were Amy Bertsch from the Office of Historic Alexandria, Suzanne Bethel of The Art League, Lisa Schumaier of the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association, Travis Breen of Kimpton Hotels and Cynetra Bristol of Morris Visitor Publications.

Following the award presentation, Euille was presented with a portrait by Art League artist Steve A. Prince, created as a result of the mayor's participa-



Art League Executive Director Linda Hafer presents Mayor Bill Euille with a portrait at the ACVA Superstar Awards.

tion in the new Alexandria Art Experience at the Alexandria Festival of the Arts.

"I thank you for this and as a city we say thank you every day for what the ACVA does for us," Euille said. "You continue to inspire us and inspire tourism."



Eric Nelson gets in the holiday spirit watching the ACVA Superstar Awards presentation.



Suzanne Bethel of The Art League and Lisa Schumaier of the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association toast their Superstar Awards as ACVA's Claire Mouldoux looks on.

# Raising the Roof

FROM PAGE 1

Now city officials are trying to create a better sense of certainty for owners of property in historically protected districts. Late last month, Planning Director Faroll Hamer sent a memorandum to City Council members outlining a new set of rules — ones designed to prevent the kind of challenge presented at 211 North Patrick Street. She outlined a new set of policies for the city's two historically protected districts, Old Town and Parker Gray.

"The essence of the policies provides that where original historic fabric is identified by staff in the field, it must be preserved whenever possible," wrote Hamer in the Dec. 27 memo. "The appropriateness of a replacement material is tied to both the age of the structure and when the proposed material became commercially available."

**ESSENTIALLY, THE NEW** rules work this way: Modern materials can be used if the building post-dates when the material became available. So no synthetic slate will be allowed on buildings that were constructed before the 1980s, when synthetic slate became available. Cox acknowledged that the standing metal roof the Miller wanted to use at one point would have been available when 211 North Patrick Street was constructed, but replacing a slate roof with a metal roof would not fly.

"The fact that the building had a slate roof indicates something about the aspirations of the original owner," said Cox. "Replacing a slate roof with a standing seam metal roof would run counter to those aspirations."

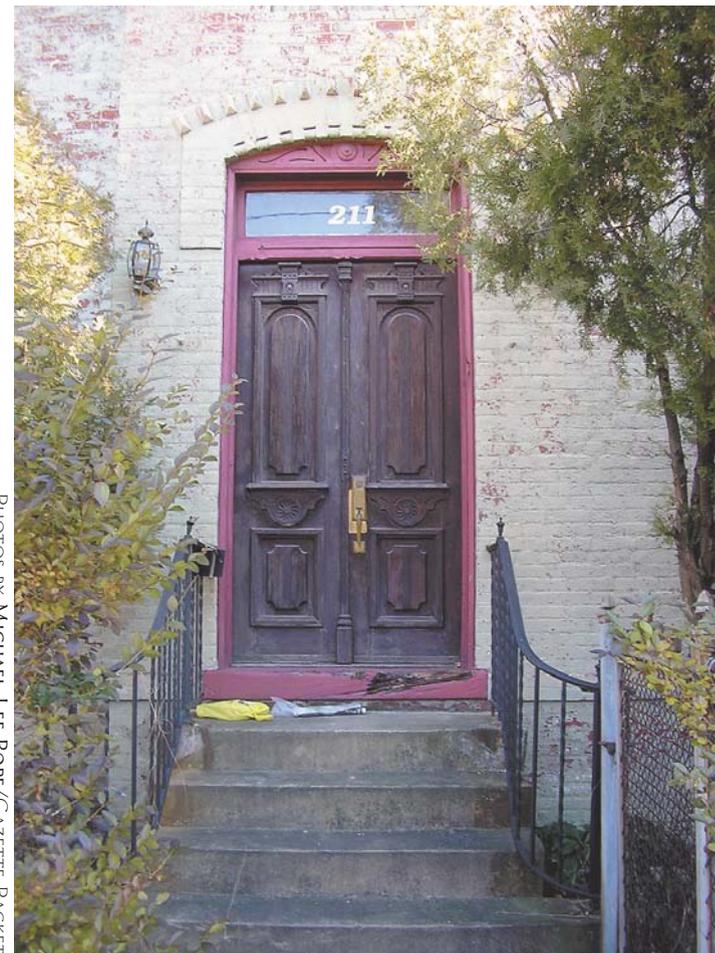
The debate over 211 North Patrick Street began in January 2010, when Miller went before the Parker Gray Board of Architectural Review with a request to replace the existing slate roof with a new standing seam metal roof in prefinished black aluminum. When the appeal was denied, Miller and his attorney, Duncan Blair, appealed the decision to the Alexandria City Council. During a March 13 public hearing, Blair suggested that George Washington used a faux-stone façade at Mount Vernon.

"He didn't live in Alexandria," responded Councilwoman Del Pepper. "We would have never allowed him to do that."

**THE TENSION BETWEEN** historic preservationists and property owners has been the source of intense debates about when and how to preserve the past. Perhaps the most notable controversy happened in 2009, when a sex shop known as Le Tache



**A debate over materials to be used in the renovation of this Queen Anne style house at 211 North Patrick Street prompted a new set of policies for the city's two historically protected districts.**



**The woodworking on the house is elaborate, including the original front door facing North Patrick Street.**

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

opened its doors on King Street after a dispute between former Trophy Room owner Michael Zarlenga and city officials. Zarlenga wanted to demolish part of a historic building, and the city said no. So he leased the building to a store selling vibrators. Sex shop workers say they didn't feel the back part of the building was historic enough to save.

"The only people I ever see back there

are drunks," said sales associate Catherine Miller in a 2009 interview. "So I don't really see what the big deal is."

Others see maintaining the fabric of the city's historic streets as a very big deal, especially since Alexandria was one of the first cities in America to create a historic district and institute rules about what could or couldn't happen there. In the case of the building at 211 North Patrick Street, which was built between 1877 and 1891, the ma-

terials that were originally used included materials made readily available by the railroads in the late 19th century industrial economy. It sits on four lots in a block of buildings that are modest in comparison, an indication of the status and importance of the original owners.

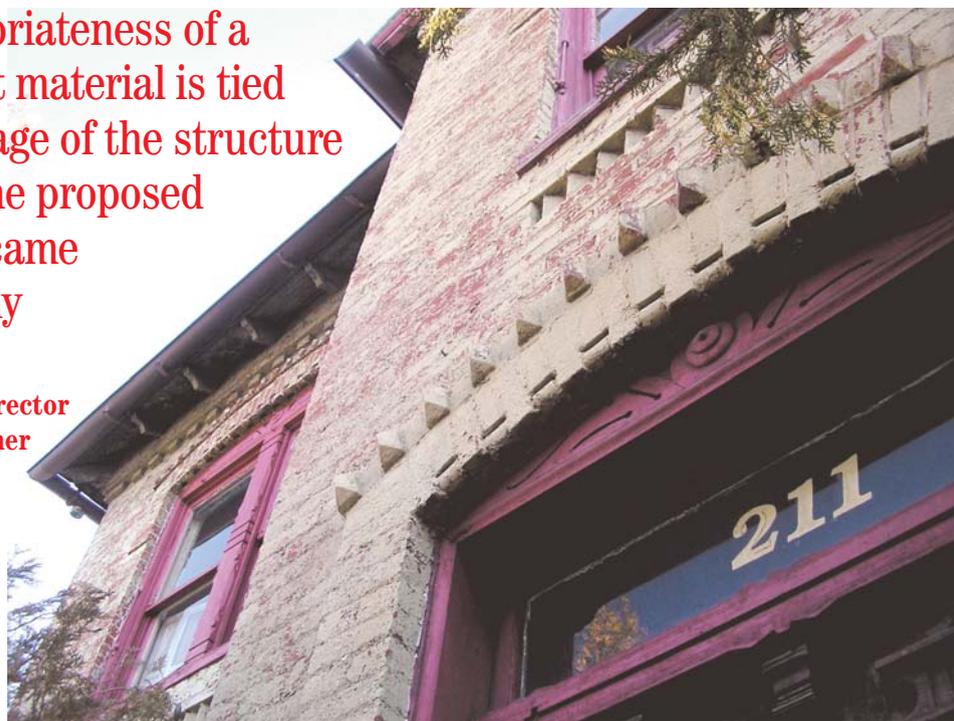
"As a freestanding building in the Queen Anne style, this building has one of the more complex hip and gable roof forms found in the historic district," according to the staff report produced for the City Council appeal. "The color, texture and scale of individual slate shingles complement the detail and complexity of the roof design."

**THE NEW POLICIES** on historic preservation also include some new measures to encourage environmental sustainability in areas that are hidden from view. For example, part of the new rules say roof materials for flat roofs or low slope roofs not visible from a public way should be light in color to reduce air conditioning loads on the building and to minimize what city planners call "the urban heat island effect." And solar collectors can be used where they are "minimally visible," and photovoltaic collectors can be used if they are transparent or match the color of the historically appropriate roof material.

"Historic preservation is inherently an act of sustainability," said Councilman Rob Krupicka, who praised the new rules for allowing environmentally sustainable materials that would have been outlawed under the previous rules. "This also has the added benefit of creating a greater sense of predictability for homeowners."

**"The appropriateness of a replacement material is tied to both the age of the structure and when the proposed material became commercially available."**

**— Planning Director Faroll Hamer**



**211 North Patrick Street is not present on the 1877 Hopkins City Atlas of Alexandria, but it is shown on the 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.**

## OBITUARIES

# From Old Town to the Moon

**Bob Richardson kept his head in the clouds and his feet planted in Alexandria.**

**B**rigadier General Robert "Bob" C. Richardson, a high-ranking Air Force officer who restored 212 South St. Asaph Street, died in his sleep Jan. 2. He was 92.

Posted to the Pentagon in 1958, Richardson was part of a group of historic preservationists who chose to rescue old houses in Alexandria. Family members say he decided to buy 212 South St. Asaph Street over a less expensive house on Fox Hall Road in the District even though his wife Anne hadn't seen the property. It was in need of extensive renovations, but Richardson had a reputation as a talented handyman.

Between duty assignments, he was an active member of the Old Town community. Among his many exploits, Richardson attended meetings of the Alexandria Businessmen's Club, helping build scenery for the Little Theatre, and served as chairman of what was then known as "Traffic Board" in the late 1960s and early 1970's. In his later years he was a well-known figure at the Saturday morning market at Market Square.

Robert Charlwood Richardson was born on Jan. 5, 1918. He graduated from West Point in 1939 and immediately began flying with the United States Army Air Corps. In April 1943 he successfully deliv-



**Robert "Bob" C. Richardson in a 1945 P-47 cockpit.**

ered 52 of 53 aircraft to Morocco via the South Atlantic to reinforce U.S. air forces supporting Operation "TORCHE," considered a feat of airmanship at the time. A leader in the early days of the United States Air Force, Richardson was an expert in tactical nuclear warfare, NATO and military long range planning.

Toward the end of his career he was assigned to Headquarters Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force base, as the deputy chief of staff for science and technology. A command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours, he was known as one of the Air Force's "boy generals," retiring from the United States Air Force in 1967.

SEE OBITUARIES, PAGE 7



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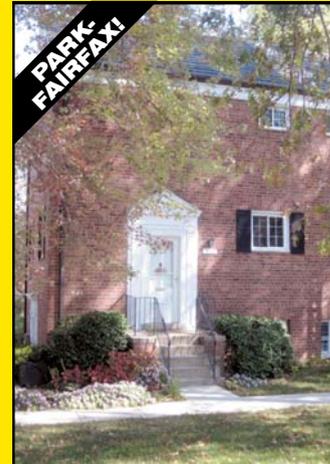
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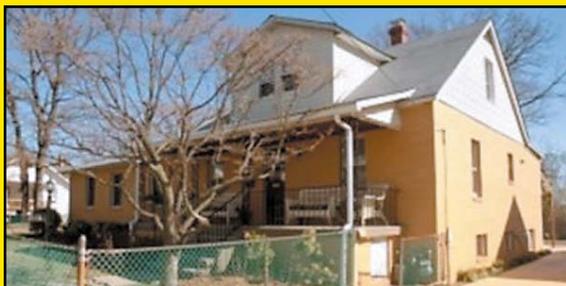
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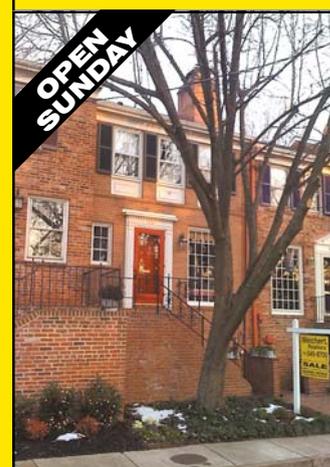
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*Diann Hicks 703-628-2440*

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# OBITUARIES

FROM PAGE 5

He began a second career as an author, lecturer, and policy advocate for conservative viewpoints regarding defense and national security public policy issues. As a recognized authority on tactical nuclear warfare and defense technology acquisition, he also served as consultant to Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1971 to 1979, American and European aerospace industries and the Stanford Research Institution. He was also a guest lecturer for the Science Fiction Writers' Association.

In 1981, Richardson teamed up with retired Lt. General Daniel Graham on a project called "High Frontier: a New National Strategy," which became the foundation for President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative — popularly known as "Star

Wars."

Richardson also established the Space Transportation Association and advocated the single stage to orbit vehicle as a follow on to the space shuttle. More recently, he helped develop a long-term strategy to colonize the moon. Shortly before his death, he advocating for travel to Mars.

He was a recipient of the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star. He is survived by his daughter, Newbold Richardson Smith of Alexandria, a son, Robert C. Richardson IV, of Annapolis, Md., a daughter Lydia Cardin of Andover, Maine, and six grand children.

The family request that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Salvation Army.

## Susan Lowell Butler

**S**usan Lowell Butler, age 66, a resident of Alexandria since 1988, died Dec. 18 at her home in Alexandria from complications related to ovarian cancer. She had been active in Alexandria community affairs for many years, as well as in communities of interest in cancer care, women's issues and hospice and palliative care. Butler served as chair of the Alexandria Commission for Women for multiple terms and served on the 250th Anniversary Commission in 1999. She also created the Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women, a private sector non-profit dedicated to raising money for programs assisting women and children, including the yearly Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk, and assistance to abused women using the City's domestic violence shelter. Known for her "no-nonsense" attitude, but also her warmth and humor, Butler researched and wrote a women's history walking tour of Old Town, which is available from the City. For several years, she coordinated Women's Art Party events to raise funds for women's programs.

For more than a decade Butler dedicated time and effort to organizing groups to help cancer patients and increase funding for cancer care and research, especially for women with ovarian cancer. She was one of the founders of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, based in D.C. with chapters across the country, including Rhonda's Club, a metro D.C. regional ovarian cancer group including Northern Virginia. She had considerable involvement with the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and the NIH Clinical Center, all in Bethesda, serving on several patient advisory panels, speaking to fellows in training, writing a chapter of a book for the patient perspective in training clinicians at NIH. In 2007, while speaking at its dedication, she coined



**Susan Lowell Butler**

the term the "House of Hope," a term now used frequently to describe the Hatfield Clinical Center, the main research hospital at NIH. She also acted as patient escort for President Obama on his first visit to the NIH campus in 2009. Butler also individually counseled hundreds of women from across the nation on how to cope with the onset of ovarian cancer and how to cope with treatment.

At the time of her death, Butler was serving as the executive director of the D.C. Cancer Coalition, which is composed of 67 D.C.-area community and health-related organizations and the four academic cancer centers in D.C. She was working to implement outreach and patient centered reforms to help cancer patients receive needed care as early as possible to increase opportunity for survival. In 2006-07 the Coalition received funding of several million dollars in five years from the D.C. City Council to implement plans for assisting cancer patients with cancer screening, education, transportation and direct assistance to receive needed care. Currently the DCCC has 25 grants in operation to achieve these goals.

Earlier in her career Butler served as the chief executive of Women in Communication, a national professional organization of women in journalism, and corporate and non-profit organizational communications.

She also was head of the National Women's Hall of Fame, in Seneca Falls, N.Y., for four years. Prior to these positions, Butler was the director of communications for the National Education Association, having been selected to the position at the age of 29. She wrote three publications for N.E.A. on its history, and the role of women in the organization, as well as a history of its involvement in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and '70s.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28. She is survived by her husband, Jim Butler, who is active in Alexandria community affairs, by two stepsons and their families in California and by several cousins residing in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

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**Gently used coats** are needed for Coat Drive which will run through Jan. 10. Coats can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Long & Foster Realtors, 400 King St. Alexandria, 22314. Visit <http://onewarmcoat.org/> or call Marcy

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The **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria** believes this is a great time of year to add a feline to the family. Help offer a cat or kitten "It's a Wonderful (2nd) Life" opportunity and take advantage of special adoption incentives. Felines from 1-3 years of age now have their adoption fees reduced by 50 percent and those 3 years of age or older will be free. All standard application/adoption processes, rules and procedures apply. Visit [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org) or call 703-746-4774.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 6

**Alexandria Community Services Board Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. At 720 North St. Asaph St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. Contact Will Thompson at 703-746-3565.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12

**Old Town Civic Association Meets.** 7 p.m. social time; 7:30 p.m. meeting. On the agenda is a presentation by City Planning Staff on the "Draft Plan Refinements" of the Waterfront Plan. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria.

## BUSINESS MATTERS

### Clearing the Air

Del Ray attorney **Ed Ablard** feels he was denied his day in court by Circuit Court Judge **Lisa Kemler** last year, and now he's taking the fight to the Virginia Supreme Court. At issue is whether or not a new restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue violates Ablard's civil rights by degrading the quality of air in his neighborhood with a barbecue smoker.

"You have to fight injustice," said Ablard, who lives near the restaurant. "Somebody's got to do it."

The smoldering controversy began last spring, when Alexandria restaurateur "Mango" Mike Anderson applied for a special-use permit for a new barbecue restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue near St. Elmo's Coffee Pub and the Dairy Godmother. Ablard spoke against the restaurant during a public hearing as a potential source of air pollution, but City Council disagreed with that assessment and approved the permit. So Ablard took his case to court, suing the city for violating his civil rights.

Kemler dismissed the case. But Ablard does not want to let the issue go. So he's hoping the Virginia Supreme Court will agree to take up the case late this year.

"This is about eco-justice," said Ablard. "I'm entitled to my day in court."

### Café Salsa Closes

Brown paper now obscures the windows of Café Salsa, the popular restaurant featuring Latin-inspired food in the 800 block of King Street. "No trespassing" signs have been posted.

"This is a volatile time for the restaurant business," said Alexandria Restaurant Commission founder **Jay Palermino**. "Restaurants are often the last to recover in a downturn."

Health-inspection reports show financial woes were not the only problems at Café Salsa. State inspectors logged 52 separate violations during 12 inspections in 2010, with a number of follow-up inspections prompted by complaints. Throughout the year, live and dead cockroaches were discovered in the kitchen and flies were found in the upstairs bar. By October, inspectors were finding mice droppings "under booths and on table." By the time the year was over, Café Salsa had been charged \$450 for health-code violations.

By late December, the restaurant was closed for good.

### Preserved, For Now

Hold off the wrecking ball, at least for now.

According to terms of a settlement agreement struck last month, the old American Legion Post 129 on Fayette Street has been given a second chance. For two years, the building will be on the market for \$675,000. If nobody steps forward to purchase the building at that time, developer **Bill Cromley** can move forward with his plan to demolish the building and construct high-end condominiums.

"This is a huge victory," said **Boyd Walker**, chairman of the Greater Alexandria Preservation Alliance.

Advocates for saving the old building say it's part of the historic fabric of the Parker Gray neighborhood, one that shouldn't be removed from the landscape like many other buildings with African-American history. It was originally constructed as a nursery during a time when black mothers entered the workforce during World War II. After the war, the little yellow building became a center of the black community, serving as a gathering place for black men returning from the war. After Walker and several others filed the civil-rights suit, Cromley was initially dismissive. "There's only one word for these allegations, and it's a word I don't use lightly. It's preposterous," said Cromley. "As far as I'm concerned this is all about stalling."

But the developer eventually changed his tune, finalizing the settlement agreement in December. Now Walker and others are working to find a buyer or group of investors to save the building.

"I think one thing to come out of all this is that people have realized how important this building is to a lot of people in this community," said Walker. "I think there's a good chance we could save this building."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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## HOPES & WISHES

### What Are Your Resolutions for the New Year?

My first resolution is to run, at least, 13 marathons in as many states (plus one in London — 5th and final major) towards my goal of competing in each of the continents, in all of the states and marathon majors, for the at-risk kids and families in Alexandria.



My second resolution is to slow down, listen more, and enjoy the moment!

— **Brooke S Curran**, RunningBrooke

My resolutions are a bit different ... they're about honoring and learning from our pets.

1. Assess your pets' diets along with yours. Incorporate better eating habits for them too — less processed foods, more fresh foods, healthier snacks, combined in a wide variety.

2. When planning exercise include your pet — dog walks without rushing or stretching workouts at home with your cat. You'll enjoy it more and maybe stick with it longer!

3. Mental stimulation is just as important for our pets as it is for humans — create environmental enrichment, teach fun tricks, and add interactive games.

— **Terri Grow**, PetSage, [www.petsage.com](http://www.petsage.com)

To remember be thankful for everything and not take anything or anyone for granted.

— **Shari Bolouri**



My New Year's resolution is to continue to be thankful for the rich and fulfilling life I have been fortunate to live. And to continue learning new things, venturing into new adventures and embracing friends, old and new.

— **John Arnold**



Buy Alexandria First: The more I travel around Alexandria I'm amazed at the number of creative merchants in the city. Like the unique shops in the boutique district, and the artisans in Del Ray even the new Best Buy in the West End. Sorry Arlington, I'll be spending the Mango bucks in town.

Invest in your Health: One of the best investments you can make is your body. With a couple of new restaurants opening this year, a new position with the Chamber, the Bay Swim and teenage daughters, I'll be spending a lot more time over at Chinquapin in the pool trying to make that investment pay off.

— **'Mango' Mike Anderson**



ACT for Alexandria looks to 2011 as a year of endless possibilities for Alexandria. We invite you to join our efforts to strengthen our human service organizations and to help those who are less fortunate in our community. Together we will make a difference.

— **John Porter**



Alexandria Economic Development Partnership offers three resolutions for our residents, public officials, business community and others to seriously consider for 2011:

Look for, share and celebrate the positive in our special city.

Work in a positive, constructive and collaborative manner with civility and respect to seek solutions to issues, challenges and opportunities that confront our community.

Support our local merchants with a conscious attempt to Shop Local because these businesses keep more of our money here and contribute to our community.

Happy New Year!

— **Alexandria Economic Development Partnership**

To write everyday, stay involved and remember anger can be righteous.

— **Mary Anne Weber**



To work harder in 2011 to help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, substance addictions, and intellectual disabilities.

— **Michael Gilmore**, executive director  
Alexandria Community Services Board

My resolution for MetroStage this coming year is to make sure that everyone in Alexandria knows what a little jewel they have in their own backyard. Save a trip to New York to see the latest Off-Broadway play and come to MetroStage to see great talent and adventurous, unpredictable, exceptional theatre in an intimate theatre setting. My personal resolution is to continue scouting for the best, most interesting plays, musicals, and artists for my stage and continue to be a guiding force in the lives of my children and grandchildren (from DC, GA, and CT to South Africa), and if there is any time left, get my life and my house organized.

— **Carolyn Griffin**,

Producing Artistic Director, MetroStage



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

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# NEWS



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/CAZETTE PACKET

**Gayle Spurr, left, and Donna Wilson volunteer as bell ringers at the corner of King and St. Asaph streets Dec. 18 as part of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign for 2010.**

## Despite Losses, Local Groups Help Lift Salvation Army

In the wake of a controversial decision by the Giant grocery store chain to limit bell ringing by the Salvation Army just weeks before the holidays, the non-profit reported a regional total of \$1,191,594 from this year's Red Kettle Campaign, falling short of its goal of \$1.6 million.

"The total in Alexandria was \$139,604, which is 20.3 percent down from last year," said Capt. Kenneth Argot of the Alexandria Citadel on Mount Vernon Avenue. "Though not all figures have been calculated, it appears that the average per kettle location is higher than last year, with a lot more volunteers than previous years."

Topping the list is the Rotary Club of Alexandria, which raised \$16,288, American Legion Post 24 (\$2,558), Kiwanis Club of Alexandria (\$2,359), Old

Dominion Boat Club (\$1,842), Grace Episcopal School Kindergarten Class (\$1,567), and The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary (\$1,486).

Regionally, The Salvation Army received \$270,000 in Red Kettle donations standing in front of area Giant Food Stores, down nearly 60 percent from the \$667,000 brought in from the bell ringing effort last year.

Despite the drop in revenue, Argot is thankful for the continued support of the community.

"We could not do this without our partners who allow us to ring bells outside their establishments," Argot said. "We are grateful to Safeway, Walmart, Starbucks, Macy's, Giant and Walgreens."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

### RESOLUTIONS

My New Year's resolution is to spend more time with family and good friends.

— **Ann M. Dorman**, CMP, Meetings & Events of Distinction



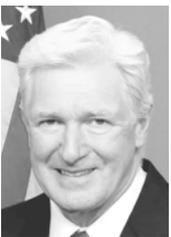
I totally resolve to learn and put into practice, Tweeter, facebook and other social media for my business.

— **Nancy Van Gulick**, CEO, Seniors Living Well, LLC, [www.seniorslivingwell.net](http://www.seniorslivingwell.net)



I was grateful to receive 61 percent of the vote in November and in 2011 will be working hard to earn that level of support.

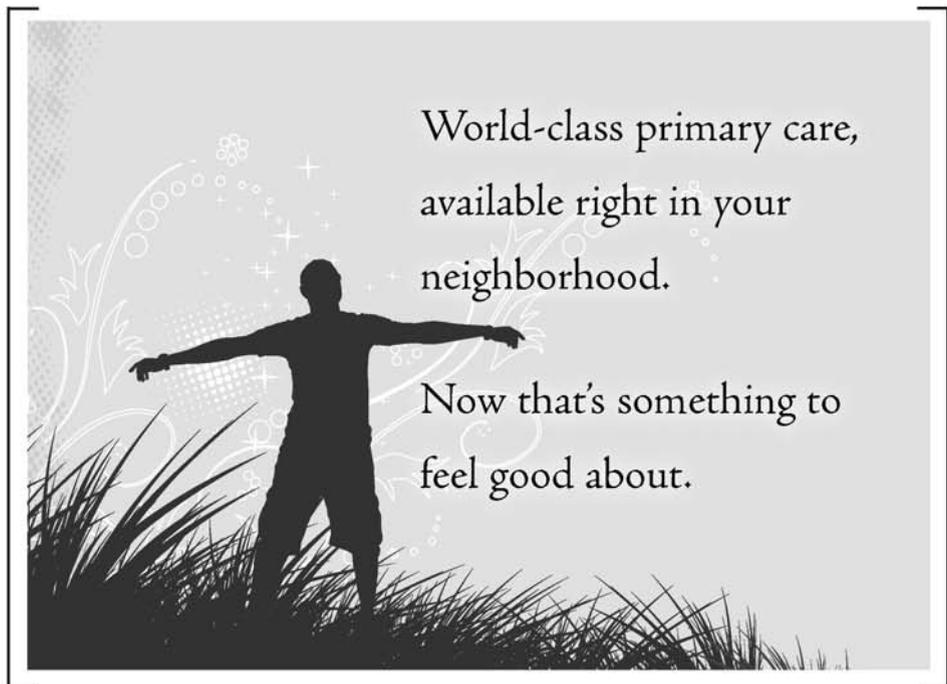
— **U.S. Rep. James P. Moran** (D-8<sup>th</sup>)



Friends **Daniel Walsh** and **Charlie Wixson**, 5th graders at Mt. Vernon Community School, say: "Our New Year's Resolution is to help keep Alexandria clean and green!"

1) see more shows at the Birchmere.  
2) write more postcards to my 5 year old niece.  
3) continue to hold Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli accountable for his actions.

— **Del. Adam Ebbin**



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# OPINION

## Resolved: Pick One Way To Get Involved

### How about helping others in the New Year?

New Year's resolutions? Go ahead, let's pledge to lose weight, exercise regularly, spend less, recycle, save and read more. The turn of the calendar really does provide an impetus to make small and large changes in the way we live.

One item to add to the list of resolutions is to get involved locally. Volunteer one time for one day, or give a few hours a week to something that interests you. Pick one place where you can make a difference. The experience will enrich you (and your family) as well, connecting you to the community in new ways. Making time for even a single volunteer effort communicates an invaluable message about your values to your children in a powerful way that words cannot match.

Most local nonprofits and church groups that provide emergency food and services for families in need are overwhelmed right now by the dramatic increase in demand for food, emergency help with rent to prevent homelessness and much more. See sidebar for some suggestions.

Volunteer Fairfax connects volunteers of all kinds to organizations in need of help, providing flexible weekend and evening opportunities including packing emergency food kits for

families in crisis, tutoring adults in alternative learning programs, reading to elementary school children after school, socializing with seniors or planting trees to prevent erosion. Volunteer Fairfax will hold its annual Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day on Monday, Jan. 17, 2011 at George Mason University, an opportunity to work on service projects with your family. See [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

The Arlington County Volunteer Office promotes civic engagement and active volunteer participation, coordinating volunteer opportunities from hundreds of non-profit and government agencies. Visit [www.co.arlington.va.us](http://www.co.arlington.va.us) and type "volunteer" into the search box.

The Alexandria Volunteer Bureau recruits and coordinates volunteers and matches their interests, skills and availability with the needs of service-providing nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Visit [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org).

The Literacy Council Northern Virginia is in need of volunteers who will devote several hours a week to helping adults master reading and writing skills; visit [www.lcnv.org](http://www.lcnv.org).

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. CASA volunteers help children who will have their home placement determined in juvenile court. See [www.casafairfax.org](http://www.casafairfax.org).

The Alexandria/Arlington Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has helped

EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remembering McConchie

To the Editor:

I enjoyed your obituary of Winfield

McConchie (1933-2010). I fortunately got to know him in the last two months. He was a great man who didn't get the recognition that he deserved. And he was all right with that.

May his memory live on in the city he loved so much.



PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

### Feeding the Homeless

Christ House volunteers prepare Christmas dinner for the homeless on Christmas day.

### Places To Volunteer

- ❖ The Campagna Center in Alexandria 703-549-0111
- ❖ ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890

hundreds of children have a voice within the court system. See <http://www.scanva.org/casa.htm>

Some other suggestions:

Get involved in state and local political campaigns. Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board and many other state and local offices are about to enter campaign mode, with some races hotly contested. Volunteer with a candidate, with the League of Women Voters or with your local electoral board.

The public school or library closest to your house is also in need of volunteers. Homeowners associations need activists to learn about a variety of local issues and coordinate neighborhood response. Your church or house of worship could use a hand. Animal shelters and animal rescue groups are also over extended with families giving up pets due to the economy, in addition to their usual work. Environmental groups like Audubon Naturalist Society and the Nature Conservancy offer many kinds of volunteer opportunities, as do local parks.

— MARY KIMM,  
[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

I first met Win in the Uptowner Coffee Shop on King Street in October.

I felt as if I had known him for years. We did both go to Charles Barrett Elementary. He was unprepossessing, yet captivating with his stories of Alexandria past. He was a member of the Alexandria City Council during the 1970s when many projects were launched, such as Metro and urban renewal. His approach was one of moderation, always trying to find common ground, which wasn't as difficult then. Having been a resident for over 60 years, he had seen countless vicissitudes yet his love for this city and its people always shone through. Despite his many accomplishments as a lawyer, veteran, businessman and politician, he conveyed a true humility and sense of gratitude.

One of his abiding causes was mental health, and he helped set up a charity, Alexandria Mental Services Chest. Its goal is to provide supplemental services for mentally ill residents beyond what school and government provide. I plan to volunteer to help fulfill his vision of compassion.

I will remember Win for his sharp mind, his ready, self-deprecating wit and his hope for future generations of Alexandrians and Americans, that they would treasure their history and strive to make their world a better place, materially and spiritually.

Richard MacKinnon

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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# Worth Viewing: 2010 Best Ten

**V**ola Lawson was Alexandria's City Manager from 1985 to 2000. She was selected as the Outstanding City Manager in Virginia and as one of the 5 Best in America by the American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration. She is in the Virginia Women's Hall of Fame in the State Capitol.

**LAWSON & WELSH** Patrick Welsh has taught English T.C. Williams High School since 1970. His essays on education and the youth culture have appeared in the Washington Post, USA Today and the New York Times.

Vola Lawson's husband David did not share her taste for what he called "arty" movies with subtitles. Patrick Welsh's wife Angela abhorred the violent movies he wanted to see. The result was that Vola and Patrick became movie buddies who over the last 25 years have seen many movies together — from the arty to the violent and everything in between. Here is the 2010 Best Ten list of these inveterate movie goers:

1.

## The King's Speech

Our favorite movie of the year. (And Angela's too.) In one sense, the strangest of buddy movies. In one sense, the strangest of buddy movies in which an English King in the making with a debilitating stutter and the lowly, self-taught Australian speech therapist who helps him overcome his handicap bond to be friends for life. Colin Firth as the Duke of York who becomes King George VI and Geoffrey Rush as the therapist are our heads on favorites for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor.

2.

## The Fighter

Full disclosure: Our Irish American heritage may be influencing our decision to put this portrait of an Irish boxer and his wild family as #2. But you don't have to be Irish to love this struggle for the soul of the boxer (Mark Wahlberg), a struggle with shades of the Marlon Brando character in *On the Waterfront*. Uniformly great performances by Wahlberg, Christian Bale and Amy Adams.

3.

## The Social Network

Not the most engrossing title or subject matter, but Aaron Sorkin's screenplay grabs you in the very first scene and never lets go. Who would think that the story of the origins of a computer network and the lawsuits brought against it could have all the intrigue and suspense of a high octane thriller.

4.

## Io Sono Amore (I am Love)

Some might say it's too "arty," but we think it is one of the most beautiful, sensuous movies of the year. Tilda Swinton carries this story of a woman who follows her heart and in doing so destroys her family.

The English Swinton plays a Russian émigré who lost her identity after moving to Milan to marry a very wealthy Italian industrialist, but finds herself through a torrid affair with her son's friend, a man half her age.

Multo bene.

5.

## The Kids Are Alright

An at times hilarious, at times poignant portrayal of an American family, with Annette Bening and Julianne Moore as the couple, with two teenage children conceived via the same sperm donor.

When the children, a 15-year-old boy and an 18-year-old girl about to leave for college, track down the donor (Mark Ruffalo) things get complicated. Bening who is becoming a favorite to win the Academy Award for best actress, has said that the story "is not ... about being gay. That's incidental." That's the way the movie struck us, but some religious groups have attacked the film for glorifying homosexuality, while some women's groups have found the wild affair between Moore and Ruffalo unrealistic.

6.

## True Grit

Fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) hires the aging, alcoholic U.S. Marshall Rooster Cogburn (Jeff Bridges) to go into Indian country to track down the man who robbed and killed her father. Matt Damon, as Texas Ranger LeBoeuf decides to accompany them on their mission as the man they are pursuing is also wanted for murder in Texas. Josh Brolin plays the outlaw the trio is hunting. Outstanding performances and a script both witty and realistic make this one of the best movies of the year.

7.

## Ghost Writer

Roman Polanski's film about a retired British Prime Minister, Adam Lang, a thinly disguised Tony Blair, played by Pierce Brosnan.

The nameless ghost writer, played by Ewan McGregor, has been hired to finish the PM's memoirs not knowing that the first ghost writer has been murdered. Full of government lies and secrets, the film has a dark, mysterious tone throughout and leads to a shocking ending.

8.

## Black Swan

At times almost too painful to watch. Who would think that the gorgeous ballerina Nina (Natalie Portman) would be a "cutter" — scrapping skin off her back, ripping off her cuticles and drawing blood with broken glass. Mark Wahlberg being punched in the face dozens of times in *The Fighter* was nothing compared to Nina's self mutilation. This was certainly not the movie we expected, but the portrait of the young woman obsessed with being perfect stayed with us long after the credits ended.

9.

## Winter Bone

Jennifer Lawrence gives a memorable performance as the fearless 17-year-old Ree Dolly who sets out through the dangerous Ozark Mountains to find out whether her drug-dealing, meth addict father is dead or alive. If she cannot find him she will lose the home where she cares for her mentally damaged mother and two younger siblings.

10.

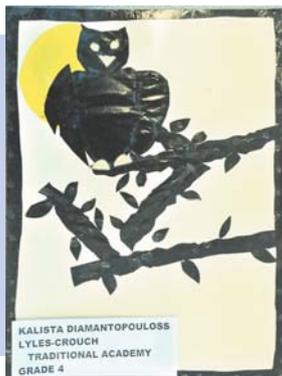
## Toy Story 3

An allegorical children's story that works on many levels with quite a few different themes. As Peter Lawson said, "How often can a three year old and her father watch a movie and both be so satisfied." One caveat: Mothers of children about to leave for college bring your hankies.

## Corrections

❖ The artist's name whose work was published on the cover of last week's Gazette Packet's Children Issues was omitted; credit should have listed Kalista Diamantopoulos, a 4th Grade student at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

❖ In the Dec. 16 edition of the Gazette Packet on page 10, the names of the youngsters with Union Santa should have been spelled Leilani and Kamalani.



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# Transportation Improvements Depend on Add On Tax

BY KERRY DONLEY  
VICE MAYOR

**T**ransportation and mobility are major challenges in every jurisdiction within the Washington region, and Alexandria is not unique. It is vital that we improve our transportation systems, not only for accommodating those who travel through our city each day, but also for our residents who seek to travel to other parts of Alexandria and the region. Moreover, as an urban area, we must promote the movement of people, not vehicles, focusing on regional connectivity and primary transit corridors of travel. Alexandria cannot road-build its way to better transportation.

Jurisdictions throughout our region are making substantial investments in their transportation infrastructure and Alexandria must act now in order to keep pace and remain competitive. Arlington is working on the Columbia Pike Streetcar Project and Crystal City - Potomac Yard transit; Fairfax County has rail to Dulles and express bus service along its Route 1 Corridor; the District has an extensive streetcar project underway; and Maryland has the

Inter-County Connector and the Purple Line either under construction or in development.

All of these jurisdictions are not just making these investments to improve mobility; they all envision a substantial return of investment over time. Alexandria must not lose ground. Our investment today will help ensure our competitiveness, leading to improved property values for the very properties that would pay the add on tax. Further, the City must consider some form of tax relief to the businesses that will shoulder increased real estate taxes.

With declining state revenues for both maintenance and new construction, Alexandria must now consider a commercial add-on tax to bring in desired revenues for new transportation projects. Enacted by Fairfax County and Arlington, the commercial add on tax has brought in precious resources to finance these new projects, and they have done so in order to leverage funds either through bonding or to become eligible for federal funds, using the new revenues as the required local match. Consequently, they are getting more bang for the buck and financing significant transportation projects.

Alexandria will be considering a similar add-on tax on commercial real estate. Au-

thorized by the state legislature, this option is really the only tool left in our toolbox — solving transportation matters by local initiative and bringing in needed revenues to fund new projects. But to fully consider this revenue option, the City must be clear on the projects that will receive attention. And these projects must be bold, and in line with our strategic priorities.

Funds must be directed at transit projects which are strategic in terms of desired growth, regional connectivity and pedestrian safety. I believe these funds must go toward high capacity transit in the Mark Center area, which sorely needs solutions given the adverse impacts associated with BRAC-133 (Base Realignment and Closure). Funds need to be directed at transit options at Potomac Yard, connecting with Arlington and leading to the Braddock Road Metro station, a project that has been under planning/design for more than 10 years. Imagine an expansion of the Old Town Trolley to Del Ray, connecting two vital small business areas of Alexandria and promoting intra-city travel.

These are just some examples of projects that could be funded with needed resources, and they are all projects that fit our criteria of improved mobility, regional connections and improved pedestrian safety.

Alexandria is at a crossroads. We must act now in order to bring the needed resources to the table that will benefit the City for decades to come. The City Council is elected to make these kinds of decisions with a vision toward the future. I believe these transportation investments have to be made now. These are investments we cannot afford not to make if we want to remain competitive and are serious about improved transportation in our urban environment. The transportation improvements we make today will truly serve the city for decades to come.

**Funds must be directed at transit projects which are strategic in terms of desired growth, regional connectivity and pedestrian safety.**



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**Things To Do Today**

- 1. Breakfast w/ Mary & Bob — 8:30
- 2. Tai chi group at 10
- 3. Birthday Luncheon — Noon
- 4. Pottery class — 1:00
- 5. Canasta club at 3:00

**Notes:**  
*Italian Night in the dining room!*

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**Be Part of The Pet Connection in February**

Send Your Photos & Stories Now to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is January 20.





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Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900



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\$925,000

314 Commerce Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Over 2,2800 square foot, four level townhome ideal for home or office. Two off-street parking spaces and only 3 blocks to Metro!



Donnan C. Wintermute  
703-518-6156



**Old Town**  
\$586,900

921 South Columbus St,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

This all brick, end townhome offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gleaming hardwoods, large family room, new kitchen and a deep fenced rear yard. All this and just a short stroll to the heart of Old Town!



Donnan C. Wintermute  
703-518-6156



**The Bearings South** \$198,500  
922 S. Washington St #108, Alexandria, VA 22314

Charming Renovation! Conveniently located and renovated efficiency with decorator colors, cherry hardwoods, granite counters & crown molding. Large walk-in closet with organizers and Murphy bed in living area.



Carol Hooks 703-509-4199



**Highgate of Rosslyn** \$875,000  
1503-D North Colonial Terrace, Rosslyn, VA 22209

Fabulous & Over the Top! Rare Kent model townhouse, completely renovated! Eat-in kitchen, 2 car garage, private garden, DR & LR with fireplace. Library, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths & courtyard setting! Visit [www.1503DHighgate.com](http://www.1503DHighgate.com).



Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



**Old Town**  
\$885,500

722 Carpenter Road,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Just Like New! Just listed! Dramatic townhouse with bright southern view! 4 bedrooms, guest suite, garage, large kitchen with breakfast area. Bay windows, high ceilings & gas fireplace. For more info visit [www.722Carpenter.com](http://www.722Carpenter.com)



Marie Louise Meyer  
703-836-2080



**Old Town** \$1,499,000  
513 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Perfect Fusion of Historic and Contemporary! Filled with character and sunlight, this historic home is filled with surprises. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a garden oasis and two off-street parking spots!



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



**Braddock Heights** \$699,900  
2503 Farm Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

Open Sunday 12pm - 3pm. Ready for your personal touch! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors and a flagstone patio. Updates include new windows, updated kitchen with granite & spa-like bath upstairs.



Mary Cay Harris 703-981-9976



**Waynewood** \$507,999  
8511 Cyrus Place, Alexandria, VA 22308

Open Sunday 1-4 pm. Waynewood charmer! 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Large fenced yard. Walk to schools, pool & Mount Vernon bike path. Great value!



Bob Woods 703-224-8726



**Jefferson Manor** \$359,000  
2601 Farmington Drive, Alexandria, VA 22303

Price Reduced! Commuters dream- located 2 minutes to metro! 1900+ square foot home with large addition! Includes large kitchen, DR, LR, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 2 decks. Go to [JeffersonManor.org](http://JeffersonManor.org) for more info. Call today!



Tom Rickert 703-447-7901



**Del Ray**  
\$439,000

516 East Alexandria Ave,  
Alexandria VA 22301

Price Reduced! Classic Del Ray townhouse with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Finished basement, large patio with storage shed and off-street parking. Short distance to Braddock Road Metro.



Michael Bergin  
703-927-4554



**Old Town**  
\$684,500

627 South Saint Asaph St,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Classic Old Town property on a double lot. Features small pool and 2,020 sq ft of living space. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family room, 3 fireplaces, beautiful pine floors and lovely appointments throughout.



Sherry York  
703-409-3377

703-518-8300 • 310 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314



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# Paper of Record

**Alexandria Gazette chronicles life in a city at the edge of war.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**s 1860 turned into 1861, Alexandria Gazette editor Edgar Snowden became increasingly grim about the future. He could hear the drums of war beating on the horizon, and he repeatedly urged his readers to do everything in their power to maintain the peace. Yet it seems clear he knew it was a lost cause.

“The year 1860 is about to pass away forever! It ends in gloom and sadness,” Snowden wrote. “No one, at its commencement, anticipated its mournful termination. We had once, as a united Nation, a bright future. Now clouds and darkness settle upon the horizon, and are gradually gathering over the whole land.”



**Snowden**

Snowden’s words at the end of 1860 are part of a new exhibition at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. Titled “Union or Secession: Virginians Decide,” the exhibit runs through October and examines the difficult days following Abraham Lincoln’s election to the presidency. Using diaries, letters and speeches from the era, the exhibit provides a window into the difficult dilemma facing Virginia in this winter of discontent: Union or Secession?

“Then as today newspapers were vital to citizens’ understanding of the issues,” wrote Janice Hatchcock, public relations and policy coordinator for the library in a written statement about the exhibit. “Newspapers played a key role in informing Virginians of the events and issues and in reporting what Virginians were saying and discussing about the sectional crisis.”

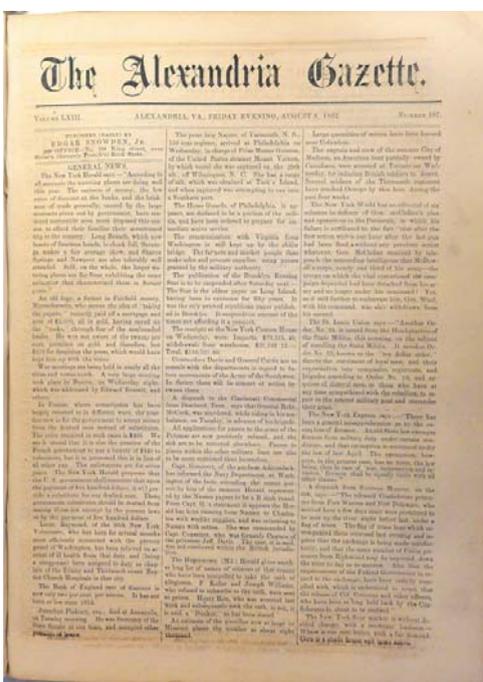


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**A Civil War ball will be held Saturday, Jan. 29, at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum.**

**IT’S NO SURPRISE** that the Alexandria Gazette clips would be featured prominently in an exhibit about the Civil War. That’s because this newspaper has been the paper of record in Alexandria since 1784 — a legacy that was almost eight decades in the making by the time the Civil War erupted in April 1861. That puts the Gazette at the center of life in a city torn by

**“As this crisis draws rapidly to a head, we can do little more than record (events) as they occur with the expectation that each day will bring something new and startling.”**

— Edgar Snowden,  
Jan. 7, 1861

the same sectional strife that was ripping the fabric of democracy apart after the election of a former Illinois congressman by the name of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency.

“As this crisis draws rapidly to a head,” Snowden wrote on Jan. 7, 1861, “we can do little more than record (events) as they occur with the expectation that each day will bring something new and startling.”

In the coming year, the Alexandria Gazette Packet will engage in a monthly feature detailing events commemorated in the 150th commemoration of the Civil War. Unlike other media outlets, the Gazette has access to its own rich archive of contemporaneous thought and analysis — month after month as the sesquicentennial moves forward. Take, for example, Snowden’s response to news that South Carolina had seceded from the Union in December 1860.

“The whole course and policy of Virginia differ essentially at the present crisis from that of South Carolina,” he wrote on Jan. 31, 1861. “Virginia wants, if possible, to

re-construct the Union: South Carolina wishes to effect its speedy and perpetual dissolution.”

**MODERN READERS** will know that Virginia does, eventually, decide to secede. Yet perusing the pages of the old Gazette is like walking through history with its participants — subject to all the unrelenting tragedy of living in Alexandria as the nation was slowly falling apart state by state. During January 1861, Snowden castigates what he calls “Southern extremists and Northern fanatics” for “exasperating the public mind” and “urging men to passionate excitement and desperate proceedings.”

“Friends of the Union in the North must exert themselves irrespective of party affiliation and without reference to the men they have place in power,” Snowden concluded at the end of January. “Let not false pride or prejudice or opposition to the stand taken by South Carolina and some other states deter them from doing their duty in the present emergency.”

## CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

**JAN. 13, 20 AND 27**

Civil War dance classes at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum.

**JAN. 15-16**

R.E. Lee Camp Hall Open in honor of Lee’s 204th birthday.

**JAN. 29**

Civil War ball at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum.

**MARCH 1-31**

The Civil War at Carlyle House, “Mansion House Hospital” Exhibit.

**APRIL 6**

“Alexandria in the Civil War” lecture by James Barber, at the Lyceum.

**APRIL 30**

Did Grandpa Wear Grey or Blue? Civil War Records at the National Archives at the Carlyle House.

**MAY 21**

Life in the Civil War Alexandria, a Living History Event at Market Square.

**MAY 21**

Family Festival: Spies and Scouts of the Civil War, at Carlyle House Historic Park.

**JUNE 4**

Civil War Heritage Bike Ride.

**JUNE 28**

Hands on History Tent: The Civil War, at Carlyle House Historic Park.

**JUNE 27-JULY 1**

Civil War Kid’s Camp, at Fort Ward.

**SEPT. 10**

Civil War Fashion Show, at Carlyle House Historic Park.

**SEPT. 24**

Civil War Nurses Program, at Carlyle House.

**OCT. 5**

Civil War Alexandria in 3-D photo lecture by Wally Owen, at the Lyceum.

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

## Ministry Of Truth?

To the Editor:

Kudos to the Gazette reader who quickly read through the spin submitted in the form of a personal letter to the editor from Alan Hilburg. While caution should be given to the effectiveness of charter schools over traditional public schools, Mr. [Dino] Drudi ["Threaten with Charter Schools," letter, Dec. 16-22, 2010] is correct that ideas contrary to the beliefs of the superintendent and the school board should be examined by all members of the community. Yet this true collaboration of ideas is going to be almost impossible seeing how everyone at the Alexandria schools central office appears to be speaking exactly the same language. ... [A]n email sent out by the superintendent on Dec. 4, almost a week prior to Mr. Hilburg's letter to the editor (a letter questionably lacking any mention of Mr. Hilburg's position as a hired PR consultant for the Alexandria schools) ... reads and flows as did Mr. Hilburg's "concerned citizen" style letter almost verbatim. The same run-on sentences, grammatical errors, and rambling diatribe permeate throughout both pieces. It is very troubling that the Alexandria school system would use its resources to pay Mr. Hilburg (what has been reported to be a \$12,000 a month consultation fee) to submit a letter which appears

to be an Alexandria citizen's defense of the superintendent's ideas, using the superintendent's own words. When did ACPS central office turn into the Ministry of Truth? Mr. Dodi, Mr. Van Fleet, Ms. Eyraud and others may now have a better idea of the operation of the Orwellian school system that they seek to criticize.

**Tim Leary**  
Alexandria

## Questions about Proposed Hotels

To the Editor:

One of the waterfront plan's centerpieces, as presented at the Dec. 13 meeting, is a pair of hotels, one each at Robinson Terminals North and South. The meeting made clear that most people are either totally in the dark or thoroughly confused about what is at stake or what our options really are with regard to this idea.

Widely divergent opinions were expressed by those attending the meeting as to how much room for maneuver the city has with regard to the hotels. Many people believe that the city sold the rights to high density development on both sites, including hotels, to Robinson Terminal's owner, the Washington Post, back in the 1980s. Some think that any such development would nonetheless still be subject to a public review process. Others point out that if

the waterfront plan endorses the hotels, it will effectively override (or heavily influence) additional public review. Still others think that the city still has the right to buy the two sites — it just doesn't have the money.

There is no question that my neighborhood around lower Wolfe Street would be severely impacted by the plan as presented. It would clearly shift traffic and demand for parking southward away from King Street and toward the southernmost of the hotels (between Wolfe and Duke) and the adjacent new marina. Traffic and congestion were barely mentioned by the presenters, yet they are even bigger threats to the residential character of the neighborhood than parking overload, as we have already seen in the case of lower King Street.

It is unacceptable that the city did not come clean on the status of the hotel development at or before the meeting. But it is not too late, and I submit that this would be a fine subject for in-depth analysis by the Gazette Packet. The questions are: what is the truth about the alleged sale of hotel rights to the Washington Post decades ago? Was the sale publicized at the time — and if not, why not? What ability does the city now have to propose alternative uses, or even hotel size and design? If the rights have been sold, why is re-purchase not being considered as a planning option?

**Robert Pringle**  
Alexandria

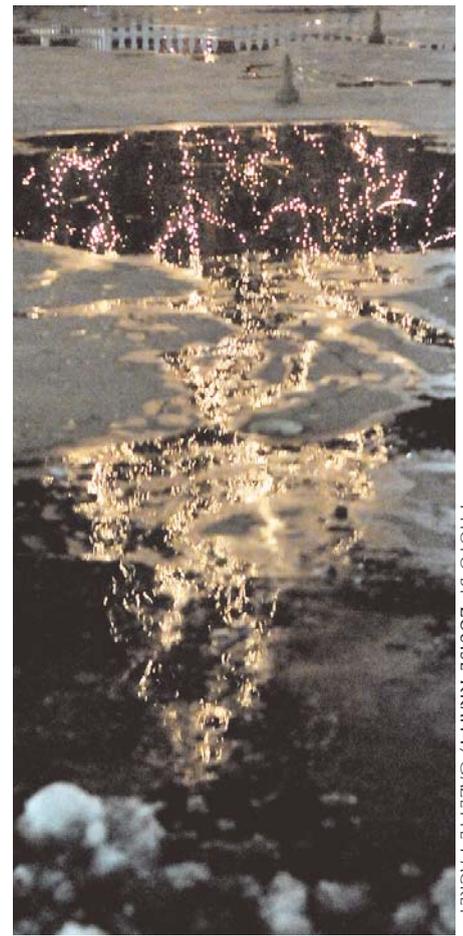


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Snapshot

**The fountain at Market Square, Dec. 31, 2010, 10:44 p.m.**



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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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202-862-9622

**YMCA Arlington**  
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Arlington, VA 22201  
703-525-5420

**YMCA Reston**  
12196 Sunset Hills Road  
Reston, VA 20190  
703-742-8800

**YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase**  
9401 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-530-3725

**YMCA Potomac Overlook**  
10709 Indian Head Highway  
Ft. Washington, MD 20744  
301-203-2302

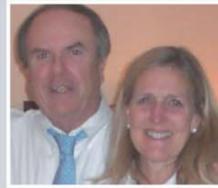
**YMCA Silver Spring**  
9800 Hastings Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
301-585-2120

**YMCA Alexandria**  
420 East Monroe Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
703-838-8085

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**Just Completed!**  
8826 Camden St \$879,900

Unique opportunity-Brand new custom home by Wakefield on stunning large tract spanning both sides of creek in prestigious Stratford Landing. Fabulous floor plan loaded with upgrades! OPEN SUN 1/9, 1-4PM. GW Pky S, R-Stratford; L-Camden.

**NEW PRICE!**



7106 Colgate Dr \$499,500  
**Hollin Glen-Super Value!**  
WOW!!! MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! OWNER WANTS IMMEDIATE SALE. Owners have priced to sell immediately! Spacious home in prime location just minutes from Old Town. Many special features include: updated kitchen, 4 large BRs, 3BAs, hardwood floors, fin LL, 2 fireplaces, fenced in rear yard with two level deck. Move fast nothing like it at this price in prime 'close-in' market!



6309 Barrister Pl \$649,900  
**Elegant Townhome**  
**Olde Belle Haven Towne**  
Prestigious Belle Haven on the Green's large model. Prime location across from the grounds of Belle Haven C.C. Stately townhome abounds w/old world charm and modern efficiency. Special features include 3 finished levels and spacious walled garden, gourmet kit and more. Exceptionally attractive price for this gorgeous community. Just minutes to Old Town.

**ALEXANDRIA HOUSE 400 Madison Street 2 UNITS are OPEN SUNDAY 1-4pm!**



**NEW PRICE!**  
#909 \$599,900

RIVER VIEWS from this stunningly renovated 2BR/2BA corner condo! 1,298 sq ft of one-level living. Kitchen w/granite, glass tile & cherry cabs. Brazilian cherry balcony w/access



#804 \$535,000  
GREAT CORNER UNIT. 80 ft balcony has both western & northern exposure w/river views. 2 large BR/2BA and lots of closet space. 1,298 sq ft of one-level living. Updated kitchen has light wood cabinets. Beautiful hardwoods thru-out. 1 garage space with storage.

Mike Lekas 703.927.9895  
Ann Kavalljian 703.626.9171

**OPEN SUN. 1-4pm!**



2808 S IVES ST  
Arlington \$699,000

LOCATION, LOCATION! Minutes to the Pentagon, DC & Old Town! Freshly painted & updated 4BR home w/2 car garage on a private cul-de-sac. Includes a gorgeous family room w/ fireplace, 2.5BA, a rec room, lots of windows, & deck. Seeing is believing!

Catherine Foltz@longandfoster.com  
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



8531 Mount Vernon Hwy \$475,000  
**Huge House-Little Price!**

Spacious 5 bedroom home in pristine condition! Many new features include large room sizes, recently remodeled baths, kitchen w/cherry cabs and corian counters, fresh paint, new carpet, new windows and siding, 2 car garage, patio and more! Deck overlooking beautiful backyard.

**NEW PRICE!**



9316 Allwood Dr \$489,500

**Absolutely Impeccable! New Price!** 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.



4408 Tarpon Ln \$625,000  
**Yacht Haven-Near River!**

Spacious four level home has been meticulously maintained. Absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Both home and grounds are in exceptional condition. Significant upgrades include luxurious baths, hardwood floors and much updating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.



5904 MT EAGLE DR #910 Montebello \$355,000

Beautiful river view, popular "E" floor plan. 2BR/2BA condo w/brand new carpet, extra large enclosed balcony, new kitchen appliances, newer HVAC.

Amenities: indoor/outdoor pools, tennis, bowling, cafe & bar, local shuttle to METRO & shopping.

Susan Haughton / Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

**BOTH OPEN SUN. 1-4pm**

**NEW YEAR in NETHERGATE**

\$565,000 1209 Portner Rd Roomy 2BR, new kit & carpeting, 3FPs, rec room, wood flrs, patio, parking, quick settlement.

\$625,000 1111 Michigan Ct Affordable end unit TH w/sleek new kit, Mstr suite w/FP, guest suite w/BA, family rm/guest suite w/FP & BA, 3FPs, patio, & updates.

NethergateHomes.com  
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330

**OPEN SUN. 1-4pm**



6423 15th ST  
New Alexandria \$629,900

NEW PRICE for this beautifully updated colonial on large private lot. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, wine refrigerator, huge family room with built-in bookcases, 2 fireplaces, patio, hardwood floors and custom trim & moldings throughout. Appointment only!

Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460



4504 Neptune Dr \$479,900  
**Prestigious Yacht Haven Estates**

Great Potential! Large brick rambler on gorgeous 1/2 acre lot near river in Yacht Haven Est.

Many features include: maintenance free exterior. 4BRs on main level, including master with private bath, large room sizes, 2 FPs, hardwood floors, huge lower level family room w/fireplace plus storage area! Exceptional price provides opportunity to create your own masterpiece!



9316 Heather Glen Dr \$650,000  
**Price Slashed-Large Colonial!**

The most house for the money in area! 3 level, 4BR, 2 car garage colonial with the most spectacular family room addition you will ever find! Curved all glass walls and screen porch overlook fabulous custom pool. Originally priced in the \$800's. Owner wants immediate sale and has slashed the price accordingly!



3800 Great Neck Ct \$549,000  
**Meticulously Maintained!**

Five bedroom home has been lovingly cared for and is ready for you to move into! Spacious gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets and center island, fabulous sunroom added with vaulted ceiling overlooks landscaped grounds. Features include: luxurious master bath, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, patio, tons of storage plus garage parking. Gorgeous park-like grounds.



4161 LEGATO RD Fairfax / \$639,000

Sophisticated 3BR/3.5BA townhome in Centerpointe. With 4 finished levels, this home features an open gourmet kit, master suite, two gas fireplaces, finished loft w/full bath, rooftop terrace, two-car garage and more!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841



6101 EDSALL ROAD #501 / Alex \$240,000

ALEXANDRIA KNOLLS WEST 2BR/2BA, 1,408sf of spaciousness in a popular hi-rise end unit. Enormous LR; sep. DR w/wet bar; huge MBR w/WIC; LR & BRs open to 40ft balcony; W/D in unit. 1 parking space. Nice amenities. EZ to Van Dorn Metro, I-395, the Beltway and Old Town.

Wendy Shelley 703.919.6045



5904 MT EAGLE DR #906 Montebello \$375,000

Dramatic views from every window in this 2BR, 2BA condo! Highlights: hardwoods, renovated baths, updated kitchen, enclosed glass balcony, great building amenities & more! 1 garage space conveys.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

**CONTRACT!**



6515 Princeton Dr \$749,900  
**Classic Colonial-Near Old Town!**

PRICE REDUCTION! Move in ready! Spacious home in Belle Haven area. Center hall colonial with up to date floor plan featuring kit with SS & granite, family room, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, fin LL & oversized 2 car gar. 'Close In' location with 2 tiered deck & seasonal river views.



4117 Robertson Blvd \$719,000  
**Upgraded Throughout! Move In Ready!**

Owner just spent thousands on upgrades. All the work has been done for you. Move right in and enjoy! Classic colonial with 2 car side load garage. Elegant foyer, formal dining room with built-ins, family room off kitchen leading to deck. Table space kitchen features silestone counters. Lower level boasts rec. room, den, full bath & storage. Two fireplaces, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Huge lot with mature trees and gardens. Stunning!



9110 Congressional Ct \$725,000  
**Mt. Vernon's Finest!**

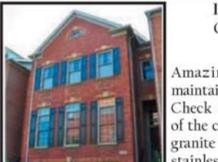
One of Mt. Vernon area's most imposing homes. Stately columned front and exceptionally large lot with custom pool creates true 'estate' feel to this special property. Features include: large room sizes, 3 finished levels, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 3.5 baths, masonry fireplace and large garage. Gorgeous setting on fenced lot in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac just off parkway.



6465 BRICK HEARTH CT Alexandria \$349,900

STORYBOOK PERFECT INSIDE AND OUT. Enchanting Garden! 2 Master Suites, one with a balcony and one with a sitting room. Lower level has sep entrance & full bath for use as another bedroom. LR has fireplace, DR has big bay window. Big laundry rm with storage area. Close to Metro, on busline, walk to many shops.

June Sherwood 703.346.3029



1675 HUNTING CR Old Town Alexandria \$825,000

Amazing Value, immaculately maintained 4BR/4.5BA townhouse. Check out our fantastic renovation of the cook's kitchen - with elegant granite countertops and GE Profile stainless steel appliances. Bring us an offer and make this gorgeous home yours in the new year.

Laura Blederman 202.309.1350



506 CAMERON ST Old Town / Alex \$2,650,000

This unique residence circa 1815 offers great flexibility as either a grand in-town estate or a part income producing property including apartments with separate entries. Many original features remain. 5 parking spaces. Walk to everything!

Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433  
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# FIRST NIGHT

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



**Soloist Michele Mellben leads the Alfred Street Baptist Church choir during a special musical service New Year's Eve.**



**Families enjoyed face painting prior to the finale.**

PHOTOS BY 'MANGO' MIKE ANDERSON



**The year 2011 is illuminated on the Masonic Memorial as the clock strikes midnight New Year's Eve.**



**A multi-media show looks back on events of the year.**

## Thousands Celebrate New Year

FROM PAGE 1

corded history.”

A variety of entertainment was staged at 17 venues throughout the city, highlighted this year by a multimedia presentation that preceded the signature fireworks display illuminating the skies above the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

“This is really a weather driven event,” Dorman said. “We estimate

that we had between 7,000 and 8,000 people this year although in 2007 we had as many as 12,000.”

Partygoers filled the streets of Old Town long after the clock struck midnight as the crowds enjoyed the weather and the citywide festive atmosphere.

“There was such an exciting energy there this year,” Dorman said. “With everything that’s happened with the economy, people really were ready to celebrate.”



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Shirley and Jim Carmalt celebrate the New Year at Landini's restaurant in Old Town.**



**Jazz saxophonist and T.C. Williams music teacher Vaughn Ambrose performed with his trio to standing room only crowds at the Athenaeum during the First Night celebration.**



**Kathy Seifert and John Kreutzer toast the New Year in Old Town.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Jeff and Garrett Bliss dance away the evening at the Torpedo Factory with Maria Knoll.**

# FIRST NIGHT



Bill Kirchen and Word to the Wise are joined by The Grandsons on stage at the Torpedo Factory.

## First Night Alexandria



Tony Denikos and Gantt Kushner perform in the Vola Lawson Lobby at City Hall.



Grandsons Chris Watling on the saxophone and Alan MacEwen on the trumpet.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Trumpeter Alan MacEwen leads the American roots rock band through the crowd to the second stage where Bill Kirchen and Word to the Wise have started to perform.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Vice Mayor Kerry Donley introduces Professor Art Safari, First Night board member Karyn Moran and her children, along with board members Monica Bell, Denny Auld and First Night Executive Director Ann Dorman.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Fun Hunt

First Night Alexandria hosted the 2nd annual Fun Hunt on the afternoon of New Year's Eve. The Fun Hunt clue sheets were released at 1 p.m. at the Durant Center. Participants had until 5 p.m. to fill in the answers on the clue sheet. Prizes were awarded in a drawing. The year's Fun Hunt sponsor was McLaughlin Ryder Investments. Prize sponsors included: Fitness Together, Hard Times Café, Hotel Monaco, King Street Blues, Lorien Hotel & Spa, Mango Mike's, Morrison House, Potomac Riverboat Company, ThinkFun and Whole Foods.

### Clue # 1

"On a busy street  
Resides a "chapel of ease"  
In its surrounding grounds, its resters appeared,  
Founded in 1750, our first President has a silver plate there  
Showing where his body would fit  
The weeks after "the day of infamy"  
President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill came to sit  
As has been all US Presidents at some time



President of the First Night board Charlotte Hall prompts Lexie Colton to reveal the name of the Fun Hunt prize winners.

during their term  
Visiting the historic place, their reverence to submit.  
Enter the grounds to find a plaque  
"Have a drink  
Stop and rest  
Pause to think  
How blest you are."  
Around the corner  
Upon the wall  
A tablet tell us where the blest are recorded  
In the \_\_\_\_\_."



McClain Moran selects the first place prize winner from the box of completed clue sheet coupons. With Moran is Mayor Bill Euille, First Night President Charlotte Hall and Del. Adam Ebbin.

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# Local Theaters Have Big Plans for 2011

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

**W**hile most theaters have only announced their plans for the first half of the calendar year because seasons usually run from fall to spring, there are already many productions on tap that should be highly anticipated.

In Alexandria, the premiere professional theatre is MetroStage on North Royal Street, where the year kicks off with another of their bio-musicals of major performers. In the past they have given audiences a chance to get a hint of what it was like to attend a performance by Pearl Bailey, Alberta Hunter, Nat King Cole, Duke Ellington and Mahalia Jackson in solo shows. The new show is "His Eye On The Sparrow" with Bernardine Mitchell as Ethel Waters. Then, in April, MetroStage reunites Ralph Cosham, John Dow and Michael Tolaydo who together won last year's Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble. They join Catherine Flye in Tom Stoppard's clever "The Real Inspector Hound."

Community theaters in Alexandria also have some intriguing productions on their slates. The Little Theatre of Alexandria gets things going for the year with Roland Branford Gomez's production of the musical "Oliver." It runs through Feb. 5. Later that month, the theater offers a mystery set in Wales at the turn of the last century with "Widdershins" and then things lighten up with the four-person musical comedy about young people writing a musical about young people writing a musical, "[Title of Show]". It will be followed by two comedies, "The Little Dog Laughed" and "Move Over, Mrs. Markham" before a musical whose title hasn't been announced opens for the summer. In the fall, look for the very satisfying drama "Proof," which is known for its success at making intellectually gifted people seem entirely human while getting the exhilaration of the pursuit of knowledge just right. As winter arrives so will "Is He Dead?" which David Ives adapted from Mark Twain's comedy of an artist who pretends his own death in order to increase the value of his paintings.



**The new Artisphere in Rosslyn hosts the Washington Shakespeare Theatre's "Juno and the Paycock." Pictured is author Sean O'Casey.**

Port City Playhouse takes advantage of their new venue, the Lab at Convergence on North Quaker Lane, to present two more plays that should benefit from the more intimate surroundings of the lab, John Redwood's provocatively titled "No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs" and, later, the thriller "Mindgame." The Aldersgate Church Community Theatre enters its third decade with a children's musical and a mystery. This month the all-youth cast will be performing Paul Williams and Alan Parker's spoof of gangster musicals, the squirt-gun gang musical "Bugsy Malone, Jr." In March they open the murder mystery "Design for Murder."

In Arlington, things are already looking good for the year. At Signature Theatre in Shirlington, where a thrilling production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Sunset Boulevard" is running through Feb. 13, there are quite a few thrills to be expected throughout the year. In March Signature's artistic director, Eric Schaeffer, will direct the world premiere of a musical funded through the Shen Family Foundation's American Musical Voices project. It will be "Wheatley's Folly," which is to tell the story of the creation of the first American musical, 1866's "The Black Crook." Then, this Spring, Matthew



**"Beyond the Horizon" will be performed at Theatre Two in the Gunston Arts Center. Pictured is author Eugene O'Neill.**

Gardiner will take on the directing chores for a revue built on the songs of Stephen Sondheim, "Side by Side by Sondheim" while Schaeffer crosses the Potomac to mount Stephen Sondheim's classic "Follies" at The Kennedy Center with a cast featuring Bernadette Peters, Elaine Paige and Florence Lacey.

While the 2011-2012 season hasn't yet been announced, there are a few clues that make that season look quite promising. Schaeffer recently told an interviewer that the season will include Signature's first musical by Jerry Herman. He wouldn't reveal which one, however. Will it be "Hello, Dolly!," "Mame," "La Cage aux Folles" or "Mack and Mabel"? In the same interview he said that they will also be doing a new musical by John Dempsey and Dana P. Rowe whose "The Fix" and "The Witches of Eastwick" are both well remembered by Signature audiences. Whether that new musical will be in the 2011-2012 season, however, hasn't been revealed.

Also in Arlington we are privileged to have one of the few professional theater companies in the nation devoted to reviving classic American plays, The American Century Theater, which performs at Theatre

Two in the Gunston Arts Center. Starting on Jan. 14 Kathleen Akerley will be directing Eugene O'Neill's first Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Beyond the Horizon." In April comes George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber's tale of would-be Broadway stars, "Stage Door," and then during the summer it will be Gore Vidal's satirical look at what Earth would seem like to an invader from outer space, "Visit to a Small Planet."

The unique movement-based Synetic Theatre is now in residence in Crystal City. Later this month they revive their production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which garnered seven Helen Hayes Award nominations when it played the Lansburgh Theatre downtown. It will only play Jan. 25 - 30, but there will be other opportunities to see their works as they mount a new adaptation of "Don Quixote" in June. If you can't wait that long, however, you can catch their "King Lear" in March and April at the Lansburgh. Their children's company, Classika Theatre in Shirlington is presenting "The Magic Paintbrush" from Feb. 19 to April 3.

The new Artisphere in Rosslyn hosts the Washington Shakespeare Theatre, recently displaced from Clark Street. The first half of the year brings Sean O'Casey's Irish tragedy "Juno and the Paycock" set in Dublin, Tom Stoppard's Civil War drama set in the fictional African nation of Kambawa, "Night and Day," and then a pair of one-act plays by Tennessee Williams. For the Spanish speaking theatergoers, or those interested in sampling Spanish programming with English surtitles, Teatro de la Luna will be presenting the U.S. premiere of a Uruguayan comedy, "Cómo Evitar Enamorarse del Hombre Equivocado," or "How to Avoid Falling in Love with the Wrong Man."

Arlington community theatre companies have announced promising programs as well. Blakeman Brophy will be directing The Arlington Players' production of Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" starting at the end of this month and then in April the team of director John Monnett and music director John-Michael d'Haviland will field a huge cast for the musical "42nd Street." Dominion Stage will add both musicals and less classifiable shows to the mix. This month they mount "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" for three weekends and then in June comes a hodge-podge titled "Psycho Beach Party," which, in the hands of playwright Charles Busch, turned out to be perhaps Off-Broadway's first successful horror comedy by combining elements of the Annette Funicello/Frankie Avalon beach movies with a Hitchcockian plot twist involving split personalities.

With so many interesting projects already announced, local theaters should make 2011 a year to remember.

*Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway and writes about theater for a number of national magazines. He welcomes feedback from those he writes about and those he writes for. He can be reached at [brad.hathaway@verizon.net](mailto:brad.hathaway@verizon.net).*

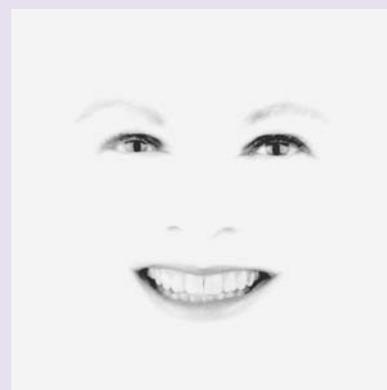
## Artist Leaves Torpedo Factory

**A**fter 22 years, Felicia Belair-Rigdon is leaving the Torpedo Factory Art Center effective Dec. 31. She is an honorary member of the 'factory' and has served two terms as advertising and promotions chair, as well as organizing the Holiday Open House in the past. She is currently assisting in Studio 12.

Her other-worldly collage paintings have received the attention of many jurors and collectors here and abroad. Warren Buffet has one of her Center Pieces in his collection. Dubbed an artists' artist, Felicia

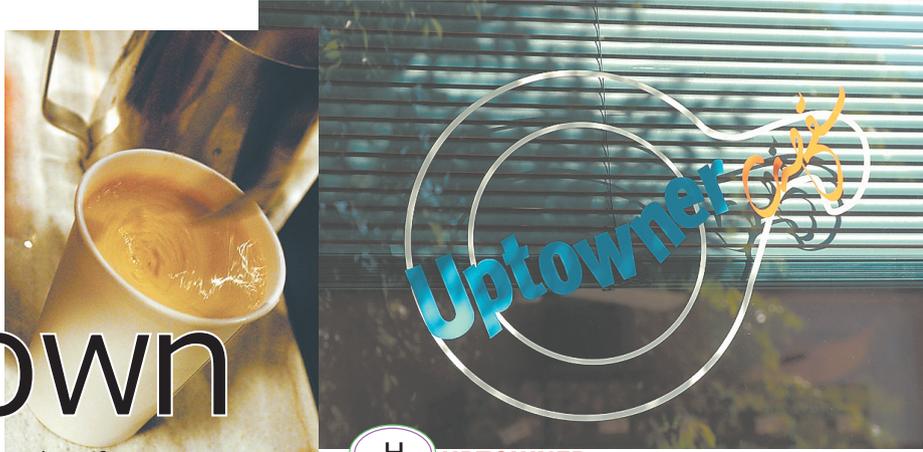
is a winner of the Open Studio Press mid-Atlantic region of the New American Paintings competition selected by Linda Norden, curator of contemporary art at Harvard University's Fogg Museum. Ann Cohen DiPietro of the Heschler Museum awarded a solo showing at The Graphic Eye Gallery in Port Washington, NY. Her work has been shown at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Virginia Museum of Fine Art, The Baltimore Museum, and the Chrysler Museum, Newport News.

Felicia and her husband, Tom Rigdon, a gardener at the Mt. Vernon Estate, will relocate to Rehoboth Beach, DE.



**Felicia Belair-Rigdon**

# Talk of the Town



## B PERK UP COFFEESHOP

Stop by the Bru Bar and enjoy one of the freshest cups of coffee you can get, brewed right in front of you using an assortment of exotic beans. Be a part of a coffee culture that incorporates the highest quality, great service, and a mission to be contributing and loyal members to the community. 829 South Washington Street, 703.838.2812

## H UPTOWNER

A tiny, cozy spot with a good coffee and tea selection. Rustic tables and an array of newspapers will make you linger and return. 101 Harvard Street, 703 836-3162.

## C GRAPE + BEAN

features a selection of different coffees daily. Ask for the coffee menu — they will grind and brew them fresh to order in the Clover Coffee machine. These single-origin coffees from around the world are never more than days from the original roast date. 118 South Royal St #1, 703.664.0214, [grapeandbean.com](http://grapeandbean.com)

## D FIREHOOK E

Alexandria locals think of this coffee shop and bakery as their home away from home. Each morning you will find with the city's movers and shakers meeting over pastry and a good cup of joe. In the afternoons, the seats are filled with the after school crowd, sipping hot cocoa and finishing up homework. 105 S. Union Street, 703.519.8021 & 430 South Washington Street, 703.549.0128, [firehook.com](http://firehook.com)

**Java Jolts** Decorations to dismantle, gifts to return, resolutions to contemplate ... in the face of these activities, *The Wanderer* feels an overwhelming desire to hibernate. He needs to refuel. Caffeine is the only answer. So, he's off to investigate the cozy coffeehouses in town and tackle the tasks at hand.



## F ST ELMO'S

A vital member of the Del Ray community with a fabulous array of drip coffees from a local roaster. Dog friendly, live music on select nites. This is a neighborhood destination where owner Nora Paltrow is the central character. 2300 Mt Vernon Avenue, 703 739-9268. [stelmoscoffeepub.com](http://stelmoscoffeepub.com)

## I BUZZ

Aptly named, this place is all the rage for fabulous coffee and tea drinks as well as a pastry shop to die for. 901 Slaters Lane, 703 600-2899. [buzzonslaters.com](http://buzzonslaters.com)



## A MISHA'S

The distinctive aroma of beans roasting fills the air for blocks... everyone knows it is misha's. The finest coffee roasted by the most masterful and discriminating roasters on-site at the hippest coffee-house in town. 102 S Patrick Street, 703.548.4089, [mishascoffee.com](http://mishascoffee.com)



## G PERKS

A laid-back spot that has expanded to 64 seats is a great choice for coffee or tea in the northeast quadrant of town. 822 N Fairfax Street, 703 706-5886. [extraperkscoffeeandcafe.com](http://extraperkscoffeeandcafe.com)



© Google Map data

# FINE ARTS

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 30

**Gallery West Presents WOW!** Works in wax, oil, and wire by new member artists Susan Stayer, Caty Forden, Margret Lindsey, and Sue Lindsey. Meet the artists at their reception on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be included. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street, in Alexandria's Boutique District. Visit [www.gallery-west.com](http://www.gallery-west.com) or call 703-549-6006.

## NOW THROUGH FEB. 6

**Photographer Bruce Dale.** MemberShow. Bruce Dale has had more than 2,000 photographs published by National Geographic. In 1989 he was named White House Photographer of the Year. At the Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria.

## JAN. 6 TO FEB. 7

**Understory.** Alison Sigethy's Solo Artist Exhibit. Opening reception with a performance by Karen Reedy Dance on Thursday, Jan. 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Environmental artist Alison Sigethy draws inspiration from the natural world surrounding her. At the Art League Gallery.

## JAN. 7 THROUGH JAN. 30

**Baby, It's Cold Outside & Sock It To Winter:** Celebrating all things good and bad about winter. Meet the artists reception Friday, Jan. 7, from 7-10 p.m. The all-member show runs through Sunday, Jan. 30. Check out the best works and "sock it to winter" by donating a pair of new socks to benefit the Carpenter's Shelter. Join the Sock Hop Saturday, Jan. 15 from 7-10 p.m., admission: donated pair of new socks. [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) or [cspringer43@gmail.com](mailto:cspringer43@gmail.com).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 8

**Calligraphy Workshop.** 1 to 4 p.m. Learn basic calligraphy strokes and lettering with a calligraphy marker (yours to keep). \$20 members, \$25 non-members. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Register at [http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/WebCalendar/view\\_entry.php?id=801&date=20110108](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/WebCalendar/view_entry.php?id=801&date=20110108).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 9

**Gesture Drawing Exercises.** 10 a.m. to noon. Learn how to capture the figure quickly and take advantage of dynamic short poses. The session is free and open to members and non-members, but RSVP by Saturday, Jan. 8 to Katherine Rand at [DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com) or 703-836-1468. Space is limited. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon



**Handpainted dogwood soup/luncheon set by Suan Ying of Vienna.**

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 30

**Hot Pottery.** Clay artists create toasty treats with their kilns for the Kiln Club's "Snuggling Up: Pots for Comfort Food" show. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 101 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm)

Ave., Alexandria.

## JAN. 10 THROUGH FEB. 13

**"Hot Tropics."** Free. Artists are inspired by warmth in winter's freeze. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces are some items that will be exhibited. At the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 18, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria.

## JAN. 10 THROUGH FEB. 2

**Living Legends Portraits Exhibit.** Opening reception is Thursday, Jan. 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This will be the first time that photographs from all three Living Legends of Alexandria project years are exhibited together. At the Tyler Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College, Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Paid parking in the Beauregard Street garage. For more information about the project, go to at <http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com> or contact Tisara at [AlexandriaLivingLegends@ninatisara.com](mailto:AlexandriaLivingLegends@ninatisara.com).

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**SOUTHSIDE 815**  
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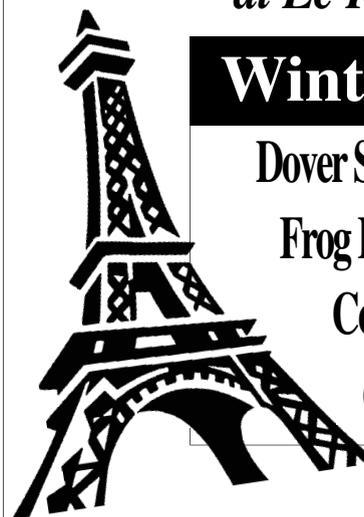
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 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. "Working Together" is the theme for January'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 3 to 8. 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.

## EVERY FRIDAY

### Grown & Sexy Happy Hour and Comedy Show

7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Hosted by comedian Ed Blaze. Ladies free until 9 p.m. Men \$10/\$15. At Weyone Lounge, 5801 Duke St. # E100, Alexandria, located in the back of Landmark Mall. Call 202-321-0867.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 7

**"Out in the Silence" Film (2009).** 7 p.m. A film about the upheaval in a small Pennsylvania town when a town native (who is also the filmmaker) places an announcement of his wedding to another man in the local paper. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1609 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-721-0595 or gpourshot@yahoo.com.

**MPAT Auditions.** 7 p.m. Open call for auditions for "Little Shop of Horrors." At 6450 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Performances are March 24-27. Email resume and photo to mpat.show@gmail.com for early appointment. Prepare one upbeat show song and be ready to read from script. Visit www.metrotheater.org or email mpat.show@gmail.com

## SATURDAY/JAN. 8

**Stage Play Audition Workshop (8 to 12 years**

**old).** 10 a.m. to noon. Monologue/song coaching and/or selection, cold reading techniques using scripts from Annie, small class size (12 max). At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. To register or for more information, email bardsplay@aol.com.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 9

**"Twelfth Night: Noel, Nouvellet!"** 6 p.m. Armonia Nova, an ensemble of historical instruments and voices returns for its ninth year at Christ Church to celebrate the joyous traditions of Twelfth Night and the mid-winter solstice, with French music from the 12th-17th C. At Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Also Saturday, Jan. 8, 5 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran, 825 S. Taylor St., Arlington. Donations welcomed. www.armonianova.org or 571-482-9052.

## SUNDAYS, JAN. 9, 16

**Bach Vespers.** 6 p.m. These Vesper services are based on the principles of "ancient-future" worship, which incorporates the rites and elements that go back centuries if not thousands of years – candles, incense, sung Scripture, cantor-lead singing and recitation, and ancient hymns. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit www.wpc-alex.org

## MONDAY/JAN. 10

**Tavern Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m. to noon. A special program for toddlers (walkers through 36 months) and their caregivers at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gadsby's historic ballroom Mondays, excluding Federal holidays, through April 25 between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Cost is \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, or \$30 for purchase of a five-week pass. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.



## SATURDAY/JAN. 8, 15, 22

**Pinewood Derby Workshop.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Old Town Hardware will be holding its third-annual Pinewood Derby Workshop. Cub Scouts are invited to bring their Pinewood Derby cars to the store to have craftsman Jesse Cathell rough cut their designs. Scouts are required to have the car design traced on their cars. There will be sanders and hand tools available for the Scouts to perform additional work on their cars.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 11

**"Concepts Investors Should Understand."** 10 a.m. Presentation by Herman Bluestone on The Efficient Market Hypothesis; The Real Rate of Return; Investment Costs; Investment Risk; and Strategies for Reducing Taxes. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

**The NOVA Community Chorus** invites all singers to join for its Spring 2011 season. Rehearsals will start on Jan. 11. This spring the chorus will sing Verdi's "Requiem," joining with three other choral groups and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra on March 12 and 13, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, to be performed with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic on April 10 and 17. No audition is required. Join by registering for this one-credit class at Northern Virginia Community

College, Alexandria campus. Rehearsals are 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the NVCC Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beauregard, Alexandria, with some optional extra Saturday rehearsals. The college waives tuition for seniors. Contact Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, at 703-845-6097 or e-mail: mwhitmire@nvcc.edu

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12

**DJ Dance Party.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. With DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

## JAN. 12 TO MARCH 16

**Shakespeare Shenanigans!** Wednesdays 11:30-1 p.m. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria in Old Town. Geared for the older adult, participants will discuss, read, and perform scenes from Shakespeare. Non actors welcome. Email Heather Sanderson at bardsplay@aol.com or call the Little Theatre at 703-683-5778, ext. 2.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 13

**Wintry Mix.** 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Cool candy buffet, artist-made snowflakes and an art-inspired modern dance performance by Karen Reedy Dance. Juror's talk by Amy Cavanaugh Royce and Briony Evans Hynson from Honfleur Gallery at 7 p.m. At the Second Thursday Art Night, Torpedo Factory art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; call 703-838-4565

## FRIDAY/JAN. 14

**Union 206 Film Night: "Brazil."** 8 to 11 p.m. Free. Union 206 Studio presents a free showing of the film, "Brazil." At 206 S. Union St., Alexandria. Visit http://www.union206.com "Oliver." 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25/person. Hosted by the Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club. Proceeds will be donated to Fisher House Foundation. At the Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 15

**American Balalaika Symphony in Concert.** 8 SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 25

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### Friday - Fish Night

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#### Mass Schedule

#### Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

#### Sunday

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

2:00 pm (en Español)

6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)

#### Weekdays

(Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 24

p.m. Peter Trofimenko and The American Balalaika Symphony present Midwinter Music of Love, a musical exploration of love in all its many variations, as presented by great composers from around the world, including Arensky, Brahms, De Senneville, Kabalevsky, von Weber, Hanley, Tabachnikov, Petrov, Zubkov and more. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door; \$15/seniors and students. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NOVA Community College, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit [www.ABSorchestra.org](http://www.ABSorchestra.org).

**Alexandria Coin Show.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Alexandria Coin Club is sponsoring a Coin Show featuring 50 tables with a wide variety of coins, currency and numismatic collectables. Prizes will be given to the first 500 people who show up at the show. An instruction period is included for those new to collecting. Additionally, there is a raffle for Gold & Silver coins. At the Hampton Inn on the corner of the Beltway and Rt. 1 (5821 Richmond Hwy.). Visit [www.members.cox.net/alexandriacoinclub](http://www.members.cox.net/alexandriacoinclub).

**Art League's Patrons' Show Tickets Go on Sale.** 10 a.m. This is the Art League's biggest fundraising event of the year. Tickets are \$175 each and the event features between 500-600 works of original art donated by artists, and the number of tickets sold matches the number of works donated. On the evening of the Patrons' Show drawing, tickets are randomly drawn and when the name of each ticket-holder is announced, they may select a work of art that they wish to add to their collection. Tickets can be purchased at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 16

**Singer/songwriter Peter Mayer.** 7 p.m. With special guest Sterling Trio. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at FocusMusic.org. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

**PTA Council Reflections Arts Festival.** 4 to 6 p.m. Free. To showcase and recognize the artistic talent of ACPS students and to congratulate the city-wide winners of the 2010-2011 PTA Reflections Art Program. At T.C. Williams High School cafeteria, 3300 King Street, Alexandria.

## MONDAY/JAN. 17

**Free Tours.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In honor of the birthdays of Gen. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and his son, Gen. Robert E. Lee, the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden will be offering free tours.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 18

**Mount Vernon Genealogical Society.** 1 p.m. The meeting



## FRIDAY/JAN. 7

**Musician Jonathan Parker.** 9 p.m. Returning from a two-year stay in Shanghai, Jonathan and his group will be playing at the Hard Times Café in Alexandria. \$5 cover charge. Visit <http://www.jonathan-parker.com/links.html>

will feature a presentation entitled "The 'www' of German Genealogy." The program will be presented by John T. Humphrey, CG. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Visit <http://www.MVGenealogy.org/>.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 19

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Atomic Swing Club. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

**Square Dance Lessons.** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. From the Boomerangs Square Dance Teaching Council. At Lincolnia Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Call Nancy at 703-573-8378.

**Most Loved Antique Toys.** 9:30 a.m. Mount Vernon Antique Arts Association will host "Most Loved Antique Toys" by Marvel Luykx. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Reservations required. Call 703-765-4573.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 20

**"Measure for Measure."** 7:30 p.m. Free. Performed by the American Shakespeare Center. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org) or call 703-933-4135.

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**The Chairman's Tiki Ball and Auction**

presented by  
**The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce**  
February 5th 2011

at the Hilton Mark Center  
in Alexandria VA  
from 6:00pm to 11:00pm

Early Bird Ticket Price:  
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For more information  
please call 703-549-1000  
or visit:  
[www.alexchamber.com/TikiBall](http://www.alexchamber.com/TikiBall)

**ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



## First Inova Baby of 2011

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, at 1:57 a.m., an Alexandria couple, Doralize Lopez Aguilar and Sridhar Mudhagouni, welcomed their first child and the first baby born at an Inova hospital in 2011. Sharini, a 7-pound 5-ounce baby girl, was delivered at Inova Alexandria Hospital.



Lamman Rucker with youth at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center.

# Local Celebrities Help Teach Youth

BY MCKENYA DILWORTH-ABDALLA  
ACTING CENTER DIRECTOR  
NANNIE J. LEE MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER



Lamman Rucker and AHRA Executive Director Roy Priest.



McKenya Dilworth-Abdalla, CPP, acting center director of Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center with Chef Rock Harper and Marvel M. Robertson, acting assistant executive director for Policy and Programs at ARHA.

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is a hot bed of activities ranging from aquatics and sports programming to classes and camps for both youth and adults. The arts are an area where the department does well also. The department from time to time plays host to people who were former regulars at the neighborhood recreation centers in Alexandria and the District.

In October, Chef Rock Harper was visiting Nannie J. Lee at the request of Rodney Bates, assistant director of the center. Chef Rock made sure to create a tasty yet practical snack for all in attendance (well over a hundred youth and children). He authored a book entitled "44 Things Parents Should Know about Health Cooking for Kids," a book that details life's lessons along with smart culinary genius. I intend on purchasing a copy for each one of the youth at the center.

In December 2010, Nannie J. Lee had yet another celebrity visit from the multi-talented actor/activist/educator, Lamman Rucker of "Why Did I Get Married?" and the sitcom "Meet The Browns." He spent time engaging the youth in a question and answer session that lasted well over an hour. He listened to each one's comments, answered questions (no matter how bizarre) and patiently signed pictures with a personalized message to each.

He then made a surprise appearance at Charles

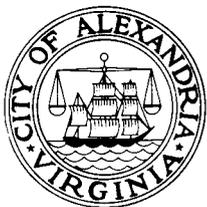
Houston's Winter Wonderland Celebration, sponsored by Roy Priest, executive director of ARHA (Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority) and where Sheila Whiting is the regional program director.

I was the company manager of the off-Broadway production of WEBEIME, co-sponsored by the Negro Ensemble Company in New York City. The theatre company that he co-founded with Layon Gray, The Black Gents of Hollywood, is an all male African-American ensemble that present productions that cast positive images of black men into mainstream theatre and American consciousness.

Rucker has promised to drop in on the youth from time to time, since a great deal of his family still lives in the area.

Great things are still happening in the department and you can be apart of the excitement. Just give us a call to volunteer some of your time and resources at 703-746-4343. Tell them Ms. Dilworth-Abdalla sent you!

### Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review  
Old & Historic Alexandria District

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

#### CASE BAR2010-0325

Request for signage at 1 Cameron St, zoned CD Commercial.  
APPLICANT: CHLN, Inc. (Chart House Restaurant)

#### CASE BAR2010-0293

Request for signage at 500 S. Washington St, zoned CD Commercial.  
APPLICANT: Capital One Bank

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666

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

#### OBITUARY

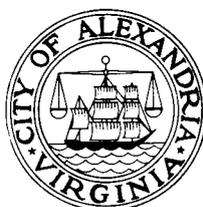
**Mayra Lacayo O'Flaherty, 67**, died at her home in Alexandria on December 22 after a long illness. She was born in Managua, Nicaragua and was a graduate of Finch College in New York. She and her husband, Daniel O'Flaherty, moved to Alexandria in 1987 where she worked in aid of immigrants from Latin America, first for the City of Alexandria and then for the Falls Church Immigration Clinic. She is also survived by her daughters, Nicole Schlacter of Alexandria and Kristen DeMarco of Luray, Virginia. A funeral mass will be said at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on West Braddock Road in Alexandria at 10:00 on Friday, January 7.

### Legal Notices



In Memoriam:

Although we are separated physically, faith and love have bound us all eternally. We miss and love you more than words can express. Happy birthday Farah.



#### 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 January 27, 2011.

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

#### SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2010-0085

ADDRESS: 5416 EISENHOWER AVENUE

REQUEST TO OPERATE A MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENT.

APPLICANT: JAMES AMBROGI

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 2003 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Unit at (703) 838-4709.



## New Year Blues

B.B. King performs  
New Year's Day at  
The Birchmere.

PHOTO BY  
LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/  
GAZETTE PACKET

# TC's First Night Football Game Highlights 2010

**SSSAS boys soccer team snaps Episcopal's 63-game winning streak.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams football program has a rich tradition, including three state championships and a Disney movie telling the tale of the Titans overcoming race-driven adversity. But home night games — an afterthought for most programs — were never part of the Titan tradition.

Until Oct. 29.

Portable lights costing \$24,000 were driven from Iowa to illuminate TC's home field for the Titans' Friday night showdown against South County. The Alexandria community and those with Titan ties — including 1971 state championship head coach Herman Boone and Mayor Bill Euille — turned out on a bitter cold evening to watch what likely seemed like a longshot many years ago.

"The environment is absolutely incredible," said 2004 TC graduate and former Titan football player Dean Muhtadi, who spent the last two NFL training camps with the Green Bay Packers and Arizona Cardinals, respectively. "It's almost like the whole city shut down for this game. It's probably like how ball used to be back in the day. You've got all the '71 Titans here. ... I think it's just a real big step for the city and the program as a whole, being able to not only find the funding to pull off an event like this, but having everyone that lives around here kind of give it the OK to get this whole thing going. It's almost like the whole city came together for this one."



The T.C. Williams football team hosted the first night game in school history on Oct. 29, defeating South County 28-7.

TC won the game 28-7, scoring four touchdowns in the final quarter. The Titans finally got to experience the environment of a night game at home, played in front of crowd overflowing from the bleachers and down onto the track.

"It exceeded my expectations," senior receiver Will Rossi said. "It was crazier than I thought it could ever be. I thought it would only be people in the stands, but they were all around the sideline. It was just hectic and awesome. People were definitely nervous, but once we got on the field everybody was ready to play."

## SSSAS BOYS SOCCER SHOCKS EPISCOPAL

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys soccer team crowded the defensive end of the field during each of its regular season meetings against nationally-ranked Episcopal

and each time the Saints came up short. Facing the Maroon for a third time, this time in the playoffs on Nov. 8, SSSAS head coach Bo Amato convinced his players to buy into the strategy and fight the urge to attack.

"It was a very negative way for us to play football," Amato said, "but if we tried to play any other way, I don't think we would have been successful."

This time, it worked. SSSAS forced a scoreless tie through two overtime periods and won the match in penalty kicks, ending Episcopal's 63-game winning streak. Alex Rossello, Parker Patterson and Taylor Jackson made their respective penalty kicks for SSSAS and each time an Episcopal player followed with a miss.

Amato said he appreciates respects the ability of the Episcopal players and coaches, even saying he felt bad for the outcome. But he praised the Saints for their hard work

during a victory he compared to the "Miracle on Ice."

"You make your own luck from working hard," he said. "Every time they had a shot at a goal a red shirt wasn't far away, challenging. ... Those boys sacrificed their bodies on every header. Whether they could get the ball or not, they went up."

Amato praised goalkeeper Ryon Huddleston, saying he played an outstanding game.

"I think he's the best goalkeeper, by a mile, in the state," Amato said. "He needs a big center back to help him on crosses, but he claims balls at their highest point. ... You can write a comic strip about his goalkeeping heroics."

## SSSAS PITCHER WARREN HANDLES MISHAP WITH CLASS

It has been said a person's character is revealed during times of adversity. During the 2010 season opener against Bishop Ireton on March 18, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes pitcher Joe Warren was set to accomplish something few pitchers ever experience: throw a no-hitter. After retiring the first two Cardinal batters of the seventh inning, Warren induced a shallow pop-up from what should have been the game's final batter. The ball, however, was dropped by a SSSAS infielder, allowing the BI batter to reach base, and the game to continue. The following batter broke-up the no-hitter with a double right. Warren allowed one more hit before being pulled from the mound and finishing the game in right field. The Saints won the game 9-2.

Rather than complain or throw his teammate under the bus, Warren, then a sophomore, handled the moment with maturity.

"I wish he would have caught it," Warren said of his teammate, "but he's been playing [well] for us for awhile and he had a couple key hits so I can't really get too angry."

Warren finished with 13 strikeouts.

# Aggressiveness Keeps TC Basketball Undefeated

**Titans continue attacking despite Chantilly's size.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Even with 7-foot center John Manning injured and in street clothes on the Chantilly bench, the Chargers still had a pair of 6-foot-9 posts in senior Jake Wiegand and junior Aaron Rodenas to patrol the paint Tuesday against T.C. Williams.

It didn't matter.

Despite a size disadvantage, the Titans continued to attack the basket, using their speed to get to the rim. TC's aggressiveness paid off in the form of a 59-51 victory at

Chantilly High School. The Titans improved to 8-0 after beating one of last season's state playoff qualifiers.

"Quickness and going in aggressively and the will to just get to the basket" is what it takes, TC head coach Julian King said. "Those guys, often they would go in earlier this year and just fling the ball up. Tonight, guys would jump stop, took their time and got a couple fouls."

Jamal Pullen scored a game-high 21 points for TC. The senior forward set the tone early with 10 first-quarter points, including a pair of dunks.

"I try to use my quickness," Pullen said. "We knew we the mismatch because they're a lot bigger than us."

T.J. Huggins scored 14 points for the Titans. With TC clinging to a 48-47 lead with less than 3 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, Huggins twice beat Wiegand off the

dribble for buckets, the first of which resulted in a three-point play. The points sparked a 9-0 Titans run to seal the victory.

"I try to bring him out and try to use [my] speed to get around him," Huggins said. "I was trying to draw fouls and get to the line."

Wiegand was a menace inside, scoring 20 points and throwing down a pair of dunks. Brady Caslavka knocked down a trio of 3-pointers and scored 11 points, but Chantilly fell to 9-3.

Tyrell Sitton scored 10 points for TC and Tyler Driver added nine.

Chantilly on three occasions cut the TC lead to one during the fourth quarter, but each time the Titans responded. A Wiegand dunk trimmed TC's lead to 42-41 with 6 minutes remaining, but Driver scored and was fouled moments later, converting a three-point play to extend the margin to four.

Caslavka buried a 3-pointer moments

later, making the score 45-44, but Pullen knocked down a free throw and scored inside to put the Titans back up by four. Caslavka hit another 3-pointer at the 2:47 mark, trimming the Titan lead to 48-47, but the Chargers failed to score for the next 1 minute, 52 seconds.

Despite the undefeated start, King said the Titans are still flying under the radar.

"As always, beginning of the season, no one respects us," the coach said. "I keep saying this over and over: nobody gives us any credit for the history. Two losses in five years at home — to Montrose, of all people. Overall, maybe 14, 15 losses over five years. Our out-of-district schedule is always a killer. Every year we always start pretty low and work our way up. It's business as usual."

TC will travel to face Patriot District opponent Lake Braddock at 7:45 p.m. on Jan. 7.



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204 SAINT ASAPH ST S	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,789,000	Townhouse	0.06			OLD TOWN
3908 SEMINARY RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.46			MOSS ESTATE
620 KINGS CLOISTER CIR	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,470,000	Detached	0.17			KING'S CLOISTER
2804 FARM RD	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,040,000	Detached	0.18			BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
3934 FORT WORTH AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$950,000	Detached	0.28			SEMINARY RIDGE
4128 FORT WORTH PL	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$894,000	Detached	0.28			SEMINARY RIDGE
1712 MAPLE HILL PL	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$875,000	Detached	0.12			MAPLE HILL
209 COLUMBUS ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$875,000	Townhouse	0.04			OLD TOWN
900 JUNIOR ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$839,000	Detached	0.15			ROSEMONT
417 SAINT ASAPH ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$822,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN
1206 ROUNDHOUSE LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$805,000	Townhouse	0.02			OLD TOWN VILLAGE
5 CHAPMAN ST E	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$760,000	Detached	0.21			ROSEMONT
1863 BALLENGER AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Townhouse	0.02			CARLYLE CITY RESIDENCES
3319 ALABAMA AVE	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$739,000	Detached	0.20			BEVERLY HILLS
404 JOHN CARLYLE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$725,000	Townhouse	0.02			CHATHAM SQUARE
16 WALNUT ST E	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$722,500	Detached	0.09			ROSEMONT PARK
510 CRESTWOOD DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$720,000	Detached	0.19			MONTICELLO PARK
424 JOHN CARLYLE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$720,000	Townhouse	0.02			CARLYLE CITY RESIDENCES
433 COLUMBUS ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$715,000	Townhouse	0.04			CARRIAGE WORKS
1609 CRESTWOOD DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$705,000	Detached	0.14			DYES OAKCREST
110 NELSON AVE E	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$700,000	Detached	0.12			DEL RAY
3114 RUSSELL RD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$700,000	Detached	0.21			BEVERLY HILLS
517 ORONOCO ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$690,000	Townhouse	0.04			OLD TOWN
202 NELSON AVE E	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$687,500	Detached	0.12			DEL RAY
3613 ORLANDO PL	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$684,900	Detached	0.22			BEVERLY FOREST
1204 HILLSIDE TER	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$675,000	Detached	0.18			BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
2503 CENTRAL AVE	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$670,000	Detached	0.25			BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1216	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$670,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				THE JAMIESON
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1216	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$670,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				OLD TOWN
1109 RUSSELL RD	3	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$665,000	Detached	0.16			ROSEMONT
2121 JAMIESON AVE #1503	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$660,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				CARLYLE TOWERS
4603 LATROBE PL	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Atth/Row Hse	0.05			STONEGATE
2900 CAMERON MILLS RD	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$645,000	Detached	0.12			BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
427 WEST ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$637,500	Townhouse	0.09			PARKER GRAY
115N LEE ST N #BH-402	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$635,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				TORPEDO FACTORY
2501 GADSBY PL	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$630,000	Townhouse	0.04			STONEGATE
504 ALLISON ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Detached	0.15			MONTICELLO PARK
1023 ROYAL ST N #116	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				ABINGDON ROW
212 NELSON AVE	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$612,000	Detached	0.12			DEL RAY
2701 RUSSELL RD	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,000	Detached	0.11			GROVES
405 LURAY E. AVE E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$597,550	Detached	0.11			BRENTON
1600 STONEBRIDGE RD	4	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$597,000	Detached	0.19			NONE
819 CHETWORTH PL	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$595,000	Townhouse	0.05			OLD TOWN/DEMPSEY
900 JANNEYS LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$590,000	Detached	0.20			CLOVER
529 TRIADDELPHIA WAY	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$588,000	Townhouse				BEAUREGARD STATION
2305 COMMONWEALTH AVE	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.03			COMMONWEALTH AVE CLUSTERS
511 CRESTWOOD DR	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$579,900	Detached	0.18			MONTICELLO PARK
108 BRADDOCK RD	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$572,000	Detached	0.12			ROSEMONT PARK
144 HILTON ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$564,000	Detached	0.12			GLENMORE
4672 KELL LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$556,000	Townhouse	0.04			STONEGATE
1002 ROYAL ST #1002	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Townhouse				WATERGATE OF ALEXANDRIA
103 LAKE COOK DR	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$545,000	Townhouse	0.04			TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE
2203 LA GRANDE AVE	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Detached	0.17			DEL RAY
3917 CHARLES AVE	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$536,500	Townhouse	0.04			LENOX PLACE AT SUNNYSIDE
112 LINDEN ST E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Detached	0.11			ROSEMONT
169 BARRETT PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Townhouse	0.03			CAMERON STATION
33 BELLEFONTE AVE	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Townhouse	0.06			DEL RAY
1104 TUCKAHOE LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$519,900	Detached	0.18			OVERLOOK TERRACE
601 WILKES ST #203	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$517,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				TANNERY HOUSE
413 MASON AVE E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$514,000	Duplex	0.08			BRADDOCK
3306 MOUNT VERNON AVE	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$512,000	Townhouse	0.07			MOUNT VERNON COURT
802 DEVON PL	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$512,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN
100 KING HENRY CT	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse				KING HENRY COURT
500 LURAY AVE E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$499,900	Atth/Row Hse	0.07			BRENTON
1109 CROSS DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$490,000	Detached	0.11			OVERLOOK TERRACE
280 GREYNA GREEN CT #46	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$486,000	Townhouse				BRIGADDOON
112A GLEBE RD E	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Atth/Row Hse	0.07			DEL RAY
11 EAST MASON AVE	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$473,000	Duplex	0.08			DEL RAY
121 CAMERON PARKE PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$472,000	Townhouse	0.03			TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE
904 FRANKLIN ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$470,000	Townhouse	0.03			CHELSEA WALK
3834 BRIGHTON CT	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$463,500	Townhouse	0.02			BRIGHTON SQUARE
800 ST ASAPH ST S #218	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$448,500	Garden 1-4 Floors				ST ASAPH SQUARE
4663 KIRKLAND PL	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$448,000	Townhouse	0.03			STONEGATE
315 FAYETTE ST N	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$445,000	Semi-Detached	0.04			PARKER GRAY
1116 POWHATAN ST	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.03			WESTOVER
3817 WHITE POST CT	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.04			EARLY ST VILLAGE
509 OWEN ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$429,500	Detached	0.18			SEMINARY VALLEY
5052 DONOVAN DR #417	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$420,000	Townhouse				CAMERON STATION
1136 PORTNER RD	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$417,000	Townhouse	0.03			VIRGINIA VILLAGE
385 PICKETT ST S #55	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Townhouse				TOWNES OF HILLWOOD
431 EARL ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04			ALEXANDRIA
1417 MARTHA CUSTIS DR #402-14	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$395,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				PARKFAIRFAX
3828 KING ST #299	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$384,000	Townhouse				FAIRLINGTON TOWNE
49 KENNEDY ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.08			WARWICK VILLAGE
911 BASHFORD LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.03			WESTOVER
727 S ALFRED ST	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$363,000	Semi-Detached	0.04			PATRICK HENRY
731 BERNARD ST	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$355,000	Townhouse	0.09			GORHAM TRACT
1200 BRADDOCK PL #202	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors				BRADDOCK PLACE
1610 DOGWOOD DR	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$349,900	Townhouse	0.04			KENWOOD TOWERS
171 SOMERVELLE ST #305	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$349,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				CAMERON STATION
2970 COLUMBUS ST S #C2	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$347,500	Garden 1-4 Floors				FAIRLINGTON VILLAGE
501 SLATERS LN #1215	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MARINA TOWERS
1023 ROYAL ST N #111	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$329,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				ABINGDON ROW
3800 KING ST #290	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$317,500	Townhouse				FAIRLINGTON TOWNE
520 JOHN CARLYLE ST #234	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				CARLYLE SQUARE CONDOS
132 CAMBRIDGE RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.07			CAMERON HEIGHTS
41 FRENCH ST S	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$311,000	Townhouse	0.12			DUKE GARDENS
5388 TANEY AVE	3	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Townhouse	0.09			BROOKVILLE
30 GARDEN DR	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Duplex	0.07			DUKE GARDENS
5524 FILLMORE AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$307,500	Detached	0.19			SHIRLEY FOREST
520 JOHN CARLYLE ST #323	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				CONDOS AT CARLYLE SQUARE
1067 CHAMBLISS ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$303,975	Detached	0.33			LINCOLNIA HILLS

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
 In Re: Adoption of Baby Girl Tort, a minor, No A076 of 2010 in the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. To: "Dave" The Unknown Natural Father of Baby Girl Tort, who was born on May 29, 2010, in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. A Petition has been filed asking the Court to put an end to all rights you have to the child, Baby Girl Tort. That hearing will be held in Orphans' Court, 1700 Frick Building, 437 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15219 on **Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at 1:30pm.** You are warned that even if you fail to appear at the scheduled hearing, the hearing will go on without you and your rights to the child may be ended by the Court without your being present. You have the right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford a lawyer, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help. If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, please advise the office of that when you telephone or visit.  
**LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE.** The Allegheny County Bar Association, 11th floor, Koppers Building, 436 7th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412-261-5555  
**DEBORAH L. LESKO, Esquire,** attorney for Petitioner, 373 Vanadium Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243. 412-276-4200

## PEOPLE



### Recruits Graduate

Six Alexandria Police Officer recruits graduated from the 123rd session of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy's Basic Law Enforcement School. The recruits graduated on Dec. 20 and will be state-certified in basic law enforcement after completing a four-month field training program. The recruits are Walter Boyd, John Leonard, Ruben Lino, Lauren Purcell, I. Antonio Villatoro and Douglass Serven II.

### Vos To Be Honored

The Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club recognized local attorney and longtime Rotarian, Col. Calvin M. Vos, USAF Ret., for his Rotary service on Dec. 15. He lives at The Fountains at Washington House in Alexandria.

Vos, 99, has been a member of the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads since Jun 1, 1987. During his 23 years of Rotary service he has served the club and his community in many different ways, from ringing the bell for the Salvation Army kettle at Christmas time, to delivering food baskets and clothing to families in need, according to Ben Hester, a past president of the club.

Vos will be recognized at a special club luncheon hosted by The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Filmore Avenue, Alexandria, where Vos resides. The luncheon will be attended by many club members, Vos' wife Jean and a dozen family members and friends.



Col. Calvin M. Vos



PHOTO BY LEXTON PITZER

Deputy Sheriff Bryant Vaughn of the Alexandria Sheriff's Department receives the Sons of the American Revolution Heroism Medal from Col. Robert F. Carr, president of the George Washington Chapter, SAR, while his son, Reuben, looks on.

### Deputy Sheriff Praised for Heroism

An Alexandria deputy sheriff received the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Medal for Heroism at the meeting of the George Washington Chapter Dec. 11, at Belle Haven Country Club.

Deputy Sheriff Bryant Vaughn was recognized for placing his life in danger Dec. 27, 2009, when he investigated suspicious activity at a neighbor's home. Vaughn was off-duty and preparing to leave for church, when he learned of suspicious activity at an unoccupied house in his neighborhood.

He called 911 and then went to the rear of the home to investigate. He interrupted three individuals in the process of burglarizing the house. One of the suspects fired a handgun at Vaughn from a distance of 10 feet. Without hesitating, Vaughn returned fire and took cover. The suspects fled the scene with-

out completing the attempted burglary. Although untouched by the gunfire, Vaughn sustained a hand injury when taking cover.

Also recognized by the SAR was Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. He received the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal for his leadership and distinguished service to law enforcement in the City of Alexandria during his 27 years with the Alexandria Police Department and his two terms as Sheriff of the city.

The president of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Bob Bowen, inducted the 2011 slate of officers of the George Washington Chapter. The officers are as follows: COL Robert F. Carr, president; COL Paul Briggs, vice president; CAPT Donald W. Kellerman, secretary; Michael Elston, treasurer, and Dr. Don Reynolds, chaplain.

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### Seminary Valley

Holiday greens and trees are starting to show up on our local streets, and the city will pick them up on Saturday, Jan. 8 and Saturday, Jan. 15. And, though it was great to miss the worst of the last snow storm, remember that the City requires us to shovel our sidewalks within 72 hours, depending on the storm's severity. Pedestrians trying to get to their bus stops and students trying to get to school really appreciate it. For more information, go to [www.alexandria.gov](http://www.alexandria.gov) and don't forget, there is a snow emergency hotline if you need it: 703-746-4488.

Need to beat cabin fever? There are some neighborhood events you won't want to miss: First, the Holmes Run Park

Committee's Jan. 6 meeting will feature Del. Charnielle Herring. This is your opportunity to hear about the upcoming legislative session, which starts on Jan. 10. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the Beatley Library. Second, the Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association is hosting its first-ever Book Swap and Neighborhood Social on Jan. 31 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., again at the Beatley Library.

The Civic Association's annual Holiday Party went off without a hitch last month. Neighbors young and old gathered at Polk Elementary School, where they made holiday crafts, ate cookies, and let their holiday wishes be known to S. Claus. The Association collected a bounty of blankets and towels, which were delivered shortly thereafter to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.

For up-to-the-minute information on local events, you can visit the Civic Association's web site at [www.bscva.net](http://www.bscva.net) or you can connect to the Association through Facebook.

Congratulations to 4th grade teacher Katie Sodaro, of Polk Elementary School. One of five ACPS teachers to be certified this year, Ms. Sodaro recently completed the arduous task of receiving certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, NBCT's have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Ms. Sodaro is joined by Victoria Walchak, Patrick Henry's art in-

structor as one of 47 ACPS instructors who are NBCT's.

Cris and Ken Naser, longtime Seminary Valley residents who now live just across Duke Street in Cameron Station, asked me to pass along that a former friend and neighbor, Lee Minin, passed away in late November. Lee and his wife, April, and their children John, Kenneth, Ronald and Jennifer lived in Seminary Valley for many years, and Lee and April retired to Solomons Island, Md. I met Lee and April when Patrick and I moved to the Valley 16 years ago; she was a longtime member of the Babysitting Cop and I know they were truly missed when they left Alexandria.

— MIA JONES

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