

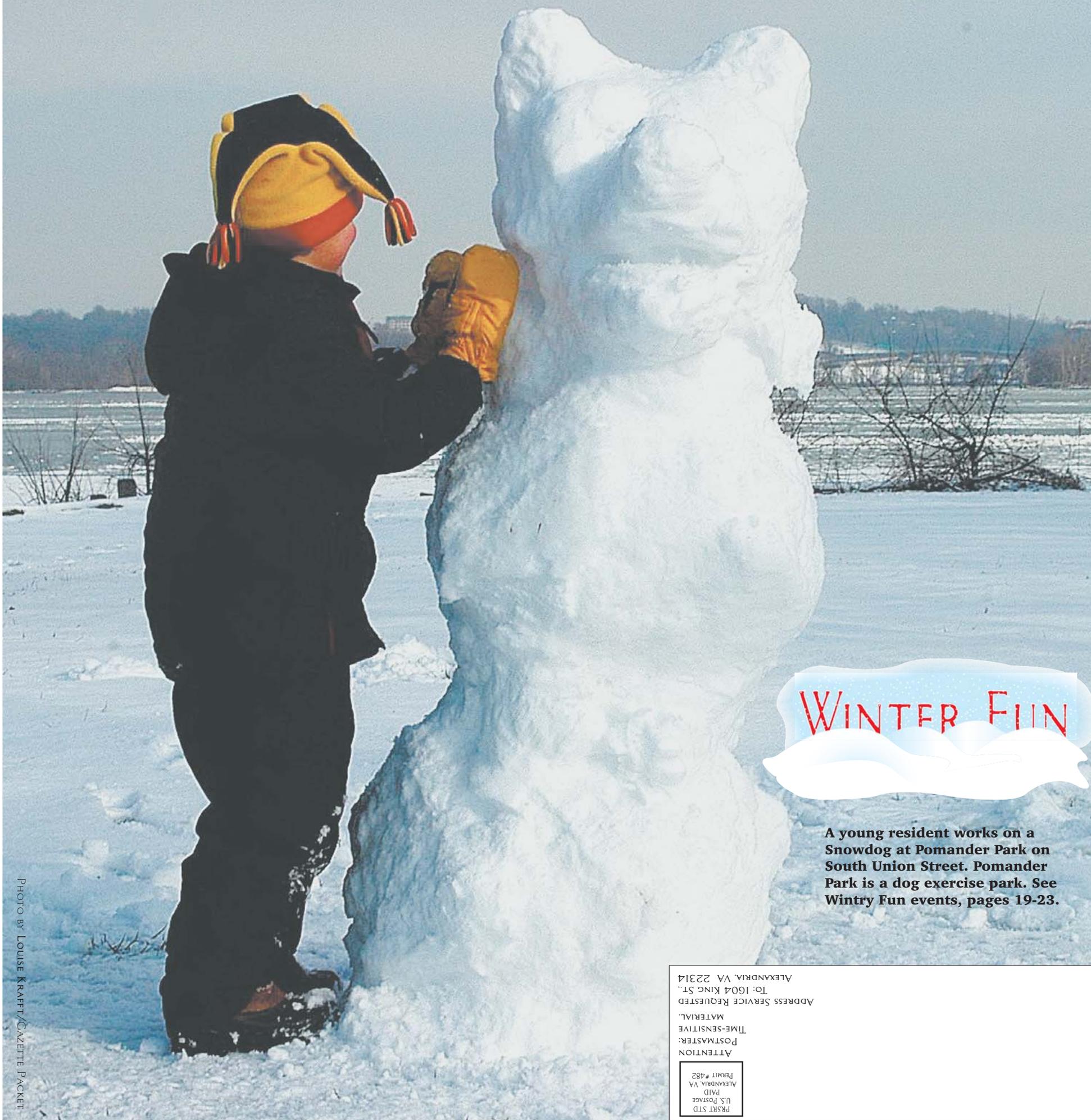
Alexandria Gazette Packet



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JANUARY 27, 2011



WINTER FUN

A young resident works on a Snowdog at Pomander Park on South Union Street. Pomander Park is a dog exercise park. See Wintry Fun events, pages 19-23.

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Councilwoman Twinkle

The first day of February could be the night that the lights went out in Alexandria. But not if Councilwoman **Del Pepper** has anything to say about it.

The holiday lights that festoon the trees up and down King Street have been a *cause celeb* for the councilwoman for years, and every budget cycle Pepper fights keep them lit year-round instead of limiting the twinkling lights to the holiday season. Last year, she was unsuccessful. Now the plug is about to be pulled — unless council members have a change of heart.

Tuesday night, Pepper was able to add the item to the docket for the next City Council meeting, when elected leaders will consider appropriating \$4,500 a month to keep the lights on for the rest of the year.

“As you all know, I have a lot of warm feelings about those lights because I think they bring a lot of energy to the whole district,” said Pepper. “It’s a statement that this is our main street, and that we’re open for business.”

“Lights are nice,” responded Councilman **Paul Smedberg**. “But there are lot more fundamental things in terms of beautification, fixing our tree wells, signage and things like that that \$54,000 could go for other than lights all year round.”

Rest of the Story

When asked about why the racial demographics of the public school system don’t match the racial demographics of the Alexandria last week during a **Martin Luther King Jr.** tribute at City Hall last week, Mayor **Bill Euille** had this to say: “Some parents are just not ready to have their kids in an integrated environment,” he was quoted in last week’s Gazette Packet. “Even today.” But that’s not all of what he had to say. During Tuesday night’s City Council meeting, the mayor took a few moments to share the rest of his comments, which were not printed as part of a story about how racial gaps persist in Alexandria.

“Parents are concerned about the lack of quality education at certain schools, so they choose to opt out of the school in their neighborhood — not to mention the fact that we’re fortunate to have choices, and you have a choice to put you child in a public school or a private school or a religious institution,” he said. “Our schools have made and continue to make progress, and we’ll begin to see improved demographics in the near future.”

Decent Exposure

Is a breastfeeding mother guilty of indecent exposure? Many people would probably assume that she is, but two Alexandria City Council members are concerned about the possible ambiguities in the law. Last week, Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** and Councilman **Rob Krupicka** circulated a memorandum asking that the city’s indecent exposure ordinance be amended to make sure breastfeeding is OK. “While we are not sure that breastfeeding has been cited in the city,” the two elected leaders wrote in the Jan. 21 memo, “we believe this amendment will not only remove any ambiguity in the ordinance, but it will more firmly establish breastfeeding as a positive practice for both mother and child here in Alexandria.”

Reagan Day

Councilman **Frank Fannon** can still recall that day in the spring 1988 when President **Ronald Reagan** came to town.

“It was on spring break,” said Fannon, who was then a student at Elon College in North Carolina. “And it was very exciting for me to be able to meet the President of the United States of America.”

Now Fannon is returning the favor by organizing a celebration of Reagan’s birth in the council chambers at noon on Feb. 4. Speakers will former Virginia Sen. **George Allen** and veteran campaign advisor **Charles Black Jr.**, who worked as an aide on the 1980 and 1984 presidential campaigns.

“Reagan was President during my formative years,” said Fannon. “And I always felt like when he was President, you knew who was in charge.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Businessman With a Heart

John Ariail was a prominent attorney, businessman, developer and philanthropist.

John Ariail, a prominent Northern Virginia attorney, businessman, real-estate developer, philanthropist and outdoorsman, died Jan. 20 following complications related to heart surgery. He was 68.

“He was a very successful businessman and a dedicated philanthropist,” said Mayor Bill Euille. “I think he’ll be remembered not only for his business acumen but also for a kind heart and a big smile.”

An active participant in the Episcopal Church of Virginia, Ariail was a member at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and Christ Church as well as serving on the vestry as senior warden of Pohick Church in Lorton. His involvement with the church brought him to Uganda, where he served as co-chair of the Diocese of Virginia’s Fifth Century Fund.

“John was a model parishioner,” said the Rev. Oran Warder, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. “He was deeply committed to St. Paul’s, fully supportive of its mission and extremely faithful in attendance and participation in the life of the congregation. He will be sorely missed.”

During the 1970s, he served on the Virginia State Water Control Board, including a two-year stint as chairman. He was a founding board member of the Menokin Foundation in Richmond County, Va., and of the Lorton Arts Foundation, where he recently completed eight years as chairman. Ariail served several times as chairman of the Goodwin House retirement communities in Virginia. Most recently, he helped establish Alexandria in Bloom, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the beautification of Old Town Alexandria.

John Harvey Ariail Jr. was born on Oct. 29, 1942 to John Harvey Ariail and Virginia Simpson Ariail of Greenville, S.C. He received a bachelor’s degree from Davidson College then began attending classes at the Law School of the University of Virginia, where he graduated in 1967. Later that year, he married Leslie Ann Smith, who was then a graduate of St. Agnes

School for Girls and Queens College.

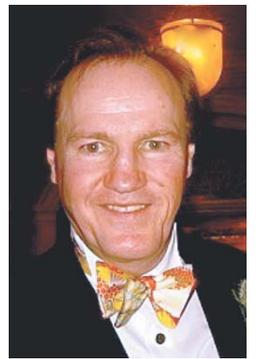
Ariail served as a captain in the United States Army before being stationed with the CIA in Salzburg, Austria. Upon his return from Europe, he served as an assistant commonwealth’s attorney in Arlington County. He later joined the law firm of Smith, Harrison & Ramsey, which later became Mays & Valentine, and served as the president of the Arlington County Bar Association.

Along with law partner W. Forbes Ramsay, he created the Sport and Health Clubs group in 1973, establishing the Arlington Y Tennis and Squash Club as the first of 24 health facilities in the Washington metropolitan area. Ariail developed many family real-estate ventures with B.M. Smith & Associates, including the ongoing development at Penrose Square complex on Columbia Pike in Arlington. Ariail was also a co-owner of Restaurant Eve in Alexandria.

Ariail was a former member of the boards at St. Stephen’s School in Alexandria, St. George’s School in Newport, R.I., Davidson College and was a founding board member of Flinto Hill School in Oakton, Va. He was also a member of the Metropolitan Club of Washington, the Angler’s Club of New York, the Island Farm Duck Club in Warsaw, Va., and the Old Dominion Boat Club in Alexandria.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Leslie Smith Ariail of Alexandria; daughter Allison Erdle and son-in-law Garrett W. Erdle of Alexandria; son John H. Ariail III and daughter-in-law Kimberly Ariail of Alexandria; son, J.E. Shreve Ariail and daughter-in-law Anna Carrington Alvarez of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and three grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Robert M. Ariail of Greenville, S.C., and William Ariail of York, Pa.

A memorial service celebrating his life and friendships will be held on Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Private internment of his ashes will take place on Jan. 26 at Pohick Church Memorial Gardens in Lorton. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Act for Alexandria or Alexandria in Bloom.



John Ariail

Doug Thurman: A Quiet Force

He worked behind the scenes in city politics and historic preservation.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Doug Thurman, a tireless advocate for Republican politics in Alexandria and historic preservation in Old Town, died of lung cancer earlier this month. He was 60.

“It’s a great loss to the city,” said Republican Councilman Frank Fannon. “Doug didn’t have a family, so he was able to devote himself to making this city a better place for everyone.”

Never one to seek the spotlight,

Thurman preferred to work behind the scenes and let others take credit. This was true whether he was running Irish restaurateur Pat Troy’s political campaigns or working to name an alley after a slain police officer. Friends and associates say he had a relentless political drive and indefatigable love of Alexandria’s history, but rarely shared personal information about himself — even with people who knew him well for many years.

“He was the most secretive person I’ve ever known,” said Sammye Collins, who dated



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT

Doug Thurman participates in a wreath-laying ceremony to name Hummer Alley in honor of Alexandria Police Sgt. Elton Hummer.

Thurman from April 2007 to February 2009. “But he was also the

Family, Friends Mourn Oliver Ashby Reardon Jr.

Oliver Ashby Reardon Jr. was larger than life, known for his gregarious personality and love of a good — and preferably bawdy — joke. One of a dwindling handful of Alexandria native sons with roots tracing back to Colonial times, Reardon was a fixture for decades at local watering holes, Shuman's Bakery and Belle Haven Country Club. He died Jan. 15, 2011 at his winter home in Naples, Fla., at the age of 82.

"Pop really was a character," said Julie Lee Reardon, one of Reardon's four children. "Everybody loved him although he may have been a little over the top in his younger days."

Born Aug. 29, 1928, Reardon was a 1946 graduate of George Washington High School and attended the University of Virginia for a year before entering the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1951. He served his country for nine years, including tours in the South Pacific, Pentagon and Mediterranean, before returning to Alexandria to work in the family business.

"Pop liked to joke that a Reardon and a Hammond Snyder got together in the early 1800s because one had a mule and the other had a wagon and they started selling ice," said his daughter about the founding of the Mutual Ice Company.

When refrigerated railroad cars replaced manually-iced cars in the early 1960s, MICO diversified into hardware and cabinet sales.

"Pop left MICO for a brief time to work as a stockbroker at the Alexandria offices of Johnston & Lemon, eventually managing the office," Julie said. "After the death of his father, he rejoined MICO and led it through a difficult reorganization. He still held the position of president when he died."

Reardon was predeceased by his parents, Oliver Ashby Reardon Sr., and Jessica Crump Reardon, both also of Alexandria. Survivors include a sister, Phyllis Morrison of Balboa Island, Calif., and four children: Cary Nunnally of Newport News, Va., Julia Lee Reardon, of Orlean, Va., Jennifer Ashby MacGill of Woodbridge, Va. and Brian Ashby Reardon of Baltimore. His marriages to Jan



Oliver Ashby Reardon

Martinson Mewhinney and Vivian Huhs Carrington ended in divorce.

"Pop didn't want either of his marriages to end in divorce," said Reardon's daughter Cary. "But he put humor into everything and tried to be positive so instead he referred to having been 'fired' by two wives."

An avid sailor, Reardon twice raced his Hinckley 38 to completion in the Newport to Bermuda race and he taught sailing in An-

napolis for several years.

napolis for several years. He also enjoyed flying and his pride and joy was a restored Stearman biplane which he kept at the municipal airport in Fauquier County. In Naples, he volunteered for many years on the Naples Civil Air Patrol.

napolis for several years. He also enjoyed flying and his pride and joy was a restored Stearman biplane which he kept at the municipal airport in Fauquier County. In Naples, he volunteered for many years on the Naples Civil Air Patrol. "He loved that open cockpit biplane but none of us would ever go up in it with him," laughed Julie Reardon. "We barely wanted to get in a car with him." In his later years, Reardon became involved with Alcoholics Anonymous, passionately devoting his efforts to helping others through the organization. "A fellow member of the Alexandria Businessman's Club told me once that they didn't see Pop enough at their meetings now that he was going to 'those other meetings,'" Cary Nunnally chuckled. "But Pop still loved to hit the bars long after he quit drinking. I thought, 'This will be great! Pop won't be so loud and obnoxious anymore!' But he still commanded center stage even when he was sober." Funeral services for Reardon will be held Friday, Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, with private interment in the family plot at Ivy Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Naples Civil Air Patrol or to the 24 Hour Club, 1509 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples, Fla. 34109.

"I don't think anyone truly appreciates their parents until they reach this point," Julie Reardon said. "Even as his health deteriorated, Pop never let his weakening body keep him from living life to the fullest. He will really be missed."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



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Mary Moore, Caterer, Dies

Mary Burrell Moore, whose local catering company served Washington's elite, from Capitol Hill to the Supreme Court, died Jan. 18, 2011 following a short illness. Moore was 62.

For three decades, Moore thrived in the high-pressure hospitality industry where she brought simple elegance and perfection to every occasion and made it look easy.

"She was one-of-a-kind," said restaurateur Franco Landini. "We were friends for 25 years and she was always so full of life."

Moore's unflappable nature, sharp sense of humor and personal touch made her a natural success in a locale renowned for its demanding clientele. "You can't let the crap get you down," Moore once said with a hearty laugh, referring to the inherent perils of her business.

Raised in Alexandria, Moore often began her long days with a stroll through Old Town with her new German short-hair pointer Emma, who Moore dubbed her "executive secretary." The two were then off to work, honking and waving to friends, with Emma riding shotgun in Moore's silver Mercedes station wagon.

Moore earned a master of fine arts degree from Brighton College in England, where she cultivated her culinary skills in cramped living quarters on a single-burner electric stove. The training was the foundation for what later became "Much Moore Quality Catering," a commercial kitchen that re-



Mary Burrell Moore

flected her artistic flair and turned out feasts for every occasion.

"She always loved sharing her excitement with me whenever she took on a new customer or event," Landini said. "She had a great joy for life and for what she did."

No event was too big or too small for Moore, who ensured that the food, the flowers and the atmosphere at countless parties, receptions, lunches and dinners were all just right, whether the venue was inside the marbled columns

of the U.S. Supreme Court, a stately Old Town row home or a pampered pet's backyard party.

Moore's own President's Day Parade party was a can't-miss event. Politicians and other participants would step off the parade route and into Moore's Queen Street home, where her neighbors and friends enjoyed hot toddies or chilled wine along with her famous beef tenderloin and colorful salads.

On the day of her passing, clusters of neighbors spontaneously gathered in her neighborhood and at Landini Brothers Restaurant, where the crowd grew larger as word of her death spread.

"She was always so happy to be alive," Landini said. "She truly was a great friend."

Survivors include brothers Fred Burrell, Ben Burrell and Bob Burrell; sisters Kate Dollinger, Ann McCarty and Jane Beckwith. Moore was preceded in death by her sister Sally.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 26 at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Old Town.

Burke/Cherry Run

\$549,900

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You will love this large colonial with eat-in space in kitchen, spacious living room and dining room. Beautiful hardwood floors in kitchen and family room, butler's pantry with granite and lots of storage space. This wonderful home has updated baths with radiant heated floors in master bath. Entertain on a double deck backing

to common area and is just minutes to Elem. School, shopping, 7100, park & ride, South Run Park and 15 minutes to metro. *Directions: From Old Keene Mill Rd. W: Left on Lee Chapel to a right on Ironmaster Dr. to 9638 or from Springfield take 7100 toward Burke, Right on Lee Chapel to Left on Ironmaster Dr. to 9638 on right.*



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Dir: S on GW Pkwy from Old Town, R at Alexandria Ave, exit just after stone bridge, bear R onto West Blvd, L on Alexandria Ave, R on Lee Ave to home.

New Price \$1,100,000



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7207 Park Terrace Drive

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Dir: S on GW Pkwy from Old Town, R on Tulane. Immediate L on Park Terrace to 7207 on left

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Dir: From Old Town, S on GW Parkway, R on Belle View Blvd, R on Potomac St., R on "I" Street to 1111-B on R.

Offered at \$799,000



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

NEW LISTING

6309 Barrister Place

- Terrific location near GW Parkway and Old Town • The only townhome available in Olde Belhaven Towne • All Brick, Full Masonry—4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, 2 Fireplaces
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• Large Bright Remodeled Eat-in Kitchen w/ Stainless Appliances, Silestone Counters, New Flooring & Lighting • Walkout Lower Level w/Bedroom, Shower Bath and Large Family Room—great for Guest or Au Pair Suite • Enormous Brick-walled Georgetown Patio at Rear

Dir: S on GW Parkway from Old Town, R on Bellehaven Road, L on Barrister to 6309 on Left.

Offered at \$639,000



6704 Oak Drive

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Dir: From 395 Duke Street East, R on Pickett Street South, R into Hillwood, Building 271, Unit #302.

Offered at \$305,000



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

6803 Derrell Court

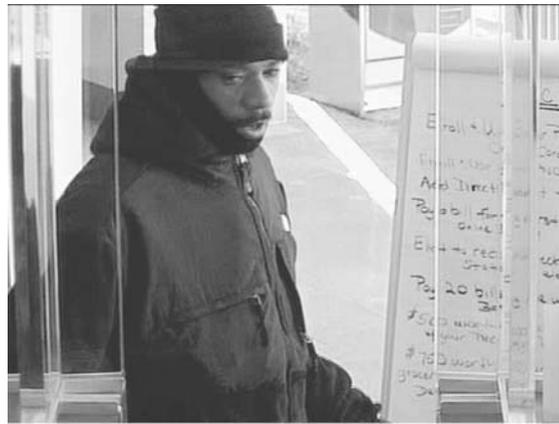
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Dir: GW Pkwy S, R on Belle View which becomes Beacon Hill, L on Derrell Court to house on L.

Offered at \$475,000



Bank of America on North Washington Street was robbed on Jan. 21 at 10:41 a.m.



PNC Bank robbery on Diagonal Road was robbed on Dec. 27 at 2:10 p.m.



Capitol One Bank on South Washington Street was robbed on Oct. 20 at 9:45 a.m.



Virginia Commerce Bank on Price Street was robbed on Oct. 8 at 5:45 p.m.

Getting Away With It

Fewer than half of Alexandria's bank robberies in the last five years have been solved.

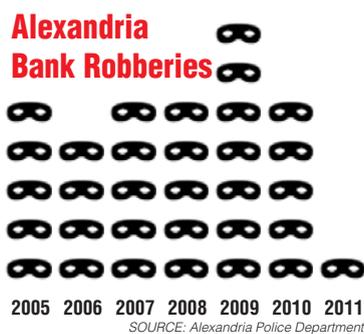
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Sometimes bank robbers who strike in Alexandria are caught here in the city. Other times, they are caught in neighboring jurisdictions. But half the time, according to statistics from the Alexandria Police Department, nobody is ever arrested. Through a spokeswoman, the department declined to make anyone available to answer: Why are so many Alexandria bank robbers walking away with thousands of dollars in cash?

For now, the department is choosing to remain silent on that issue.

Since 2005 the city has logged 32 bank robberies, five of which have taken place in the last four months. Of those 32 cases, eight suspects were arrested here in Alexandria. Sixteen others were taken into custody by the feds or another jurisdiction. That leaves 16 bank robberies unsolved, with tens of thousands of dollars successfully heisted by criminals. The city's relatively low closure rate stands in stark contrast to national statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which show that three out of four bank robbers are caught within 18 months of their crime.

"Like any other case, it depends on what kind of evidence we're working with," said Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel. "Obviously cases are more difficult when you don't have DNA evidence or fingerprints, and the suspect isn't looking directly into the camera."



Bank of America on North Washington Street was robbed on Dec. 20 at 2:49 p.m.

United States happen without any violence, shooting or injury. Only 4 percent of the cases involve someone getting hurt. And most happen without a gun, according to FBI statistics, which show that 41 percent of the cases involve a

weapon being threatened and 25 percent of bank robbers use an actual firearm. Nevertheless, bankers say, caution is at the core of the training given to tellers.

"We tell people to just hand over the money," said Margot Mohsberg Johnson, spokeswoman for the American Bankers Association. "Don't be a hero. It's not worth it."

Bank robbers typically walk away with "a couple of thousand dollars," Johnson said, although banks and police officials make a habit of declining to release how much money is taken in a specific heist. Sometimes the teller will slip a GPS tracking device into the loot, and other times the serial numbers on a stash bills bankers call "bait money" that's specifically set aside for such a purpose. Many times, tellers will slip a "dye pack" in with the bills, which will later explode on the bank robber and the cash.

"Several years ago, a couple of agents for the Alcohol Control Board looked out the window and saw a man walking across the street with a lunchbox that was spewing red smoke," said Sengel. "It was pretty obvious what was going on, and they were able to

THE VAST MAJORITY of bank robberies in the

SEE GETTING AWAY, PAGE 15

Several Burglaries Hit Del Ray Homes

The Alexandria Police Department has seen an increase in residential burglaries and larcenies from autos over the last month, especially in the Del Ray section of the City. The residential burglaries have occurred during the daytime hours, usually between noon and 7 p.m. The suspect(s) have been using force to gain entry into rear or side doors. Laptops, jewelry, televisions and cash are the items mostly targeted.

All but one of the homes was unoccupied at the time of the burglaries. In that case, a resident in the 200 block of W. Windsor Avenue was in an upstairs office when she heard a banging on a door downstairs. When she went to investigate the noise, she came face to face with the suspect who then ran out a rear door. The victim was not injured and nothing was taken from the residence.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately five feet six inches tall, weighing 150 pounds. He was wearing a puffy jacket with a hooded sweatshirt and dark jeans.

Between Jan. 9 and Jan. 11, there were also six larcenies from autos in the Del Ray area of the City. All of the vehicles were left unlocked and most were parked in the victim's driveway. The suspect(s) took loose coins from the interior of the vehicles.

Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity or suspicious persons by calling the Police Department at 703-838-4444.

Mineral Oil Spill at Pepco Substation

At approximately 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 24, units from the Alexandria Fire Department were notified of a possible oil spill at the Pepco substation located at 1400 N. Royal St. Units arrived to find that a release of mineral oil from a transformer occurred and overflowed a containment basin. An oil sheen was seen in the Potomac River and fire department units set up containment booms to prevent any additional product from making its way into the river.

EPA, the Coast Guard, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management were all notified. The incident remains under investigation.

Police Investigate Fatal Hit and Run

Police are investigating a fatal hit and run pedestrian crash that occurred around 12:10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 21. A 26-year-old man was crossing King Street at the intersection with Park Center Drive when he was struck by a vehicle that fled the scene. A witness to the crash described the striking vehicle as a four-door black sedan, similar to a Lincoln Town car. The victim, Melbourne Clyde Leach, Jr. of Alexandria was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital where he died from his injuries.

Members of the Crash Reconstruction Team are conducting the investigation.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Alexandria Police Department at 703-838-4444.

Shoe Collection for the Needy

Alexandria residents are invited to recycle their new or "gently worn" shoes for people in need.

Soles4Souls and Tomorrows Black Men, Inc. are collecting gently worn footwear through Jan. 31 to help provide assistance to persons in need, whether they are victims of a natural disaster or subject to living in extreme poverty.

Individuals and companies interested in donating money to help defray shipping costs can contact Laverne Short at 571-338-7520 or visit the organization's website at www.giveshoes.org

Shoe drop locations include:

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 15

PEOPLE

Kristina Robertson displays some of her home-made pet confections at Barkley Square, which will be closing its doors Jan. 30.



Barkley Square Takes Final Bow

Specialty pet boutique in Del Ray to close Jan. 30.

When Barkley Square moved from Old Town to Del Ray, its loyal four-legged customers followed.

"It's the one place Pomeroy can always find the minute he jumps out of the car," said Shari Bolouri of her 4-year-old Pomeranian. "We could be two blocks away and he'd still find his way to Kristina's counter of treats."

The gourmet dog bakery and boutique, forced to leave Old Town in 2007 when its building on Wales Alley was sold, will close its doors on Mount Vernon Avenue Jan. 30 due to an impending sale of the parcel of land that also includes Evening Star restaurant in Del Ray.

"We wanted to buy our own building but the lot can't be broken up," said Barkley Square owner Kristina Robertson. "So for now I'm going to concentrate on building my e-commerce business and then start looking for a new space toward the end of

the year."

Robertson, who said her web business "went gangbusters" over the holidays, has plans to reopen another Barkley Square location sometime in 2012. Karing by Kristina, her in-home pet sitting and dog walking company, will operate without interruption.

"I never baked so much as I did over the holidays," said Robertson, who buys all her ingredients locally to support other small businesses. "I'll really work the website to help get through this transition before I start looking for new space." Barkley Square's last day for business is Jan. 30, and Robertson said that "everything is for sale." "Even our patio furniture and display pieces are for sale," she added.

Robertson's homemade gourmet confections will still be available locally at the newly opened Artfully Gifts and Chocolate on John Carlyle Street as well as online at www.barkleysquarebakery.com.

"I love what I do," said Robertson as she marked down inventory for her last few days in business. "It's been a lot of fun but even though I'm trying to be positive, it really is breaking my heart to leave here."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

OBITUARY

Keith Kishbauch

Keith Kishbauch, 86, died on Jan. 22, 2011, of osteosarcoma bone cancer. Doctors knew it was an unusual diagnosis for a man of his age; they told him in January of 2010 that he could no longer play golf, and to make the best of the six months he had left. He more than doubled his odds.

He had a full life. Early years were spent in Pennsylvania with his brother and sisters, Dave, Margaret, and Shirley. During World War II, Keith served in the Pacific with the 153rd Engineer Combat Battalion. He returned to graduate from the University of Maryland and to start a family with Jane. They had two beautiful girls, Kathy and Jan.

He became a high school teacher and coach of basketball, gymnastics and baseball at Jefferson Junior High and Francis C. Hammond High School, and was the first athletic director at T.C. Williams High

School in Alexandria. The family also had many wonderful years at his camps, Winwah and Buckhorn in Winchester, Va.

Circumstances brought him to a new beginning in St. Mary's County, Md., close to the Chesapeake Bay with Ginny and two more wonderful girls, Lisa and Stacey. He continued to coach football at Great Mills and Chopticon High School.

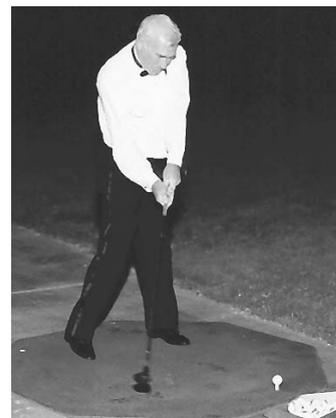
One winter when the temperature hit 0 degrees, Keith and Ginny decided that the back country of California's east San Diego County would provide the family year-round comfort. He raised hunting dogs and pheasants, and taught boys at the juvenile honor camps and county court schools in Warner Springs. Keith coached again — football and girls' basketball and softball — at Borrego Springs High School.

When he retired, he hit the links and focused on Charger football. For the next 20 years he developed great friendships at Sun

City's Cherry Hills Golf Course. San Diego Charger home games were the highlight of the fall/winter season.

Though Keith could not play golf and was not able to attend Charger games in 2010, he concentrated on a new game — make every day count. He focused on family, staying active, finding purpose in every minute, and considering what it would take to reach each goal, including attending a family reunion in South

Carolina with every one of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was back to coaching with an enormous cheering section from all over the country, extending his "season" an additional six



Keith Kishbauch

months.

Keith leaves his family, three siblings, four daughters, seven grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and his hundreds of players all of whom became his biggest fans and cheering section during this last game in life. The support and encouragement gave him many "overtimes."

A celebration of his life will be held on Feb. 19 in Wildomar, Calif., where he lived with his wife Ginny of 42 years, and in Murrells Inlet, S.C., on April 3, where he spent most of his summers. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be sent in his name to Hospice of the Valleys in Murrieta, California (www.hospiceofthevalleys.org).



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

James Woods, left, and Ben Cherington are congratulated by longtime Little Theater of Alexandria performer Ernie Sult after the opening night performance of "Oliver!" at LTA. Woods plays the title role and Cherington is The Artful Dodger.

Curtain Up!

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The evening was every thing an opening night should be: A sold-out crowd, electricity in the air and a resounding standing ovation for the cast and crew of "Oliver!," which opened Jan. 15 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

"I've been beaming all night," said Anna Maria Machosky, mother of 7-year-old Joseph, who is the youngest member of the Oliver! cast. "This is his first acting experience but I was more nervous than he was."

The young Machosky is one of 14 children taking the stage SEE YOUNG ACTORS . PAGE 18



Joseph Machosky, 7, and Ben Cherington. Machosky is the youngest member of the cast of "Oliver!"

Doug Thurman: A Quiet Force Behind the Scenes

FROM PAGE 3

kind of person who really went overboard to help other people.”

Thurman served as president of the Alexandria Historical Society, and he served on the boards of Old Town Civic Association, the League of Women Voters, Friends of the Carlyle House and the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission. He was also an original member of the board of directors for Living Legends, a nonprofit organization that honors Alexandrians who have made significant contributions to the city — an honor he declined last year.

“He was erudite and hard working, but also very unassuming,” said Mary Anne Weber, who served with him on the Living Legends board. “So it doesn’t surprise me that he would have rejected the attention.”

DOUGLAS LEE THURMAN was born in Richmond on March 22, 1950. As a newborn baby, he was adopted by Nebraska natives Dale and Helen Thurman, who moved to Arlington during World War II to become government workers. After graduating from Roanoke College in the early 1970s, Thurman got a job at the National Archives — thanks to the help of an uncle who worked in the General Services Administration.

Fresh out of college, Thurman began his

career at the National Archives preserving audiovisual materials. Before long, he worked his way into the office that oversees presidential records, where he stayed for the rest of his career. Thurman was married briefly in the 1970s, but the union ended in divorce after two years. Thurman lived most of his life as a bachelor and never had any children, which left his schedule free to advocate for causes he believed in and political candidates he supported.

“He was a very hard worker, always out knocking on doors,” said Troy, whose two campaigns for Alexandria City Council were managed by Thurman. “He was the kind of guy who seemed to be everywhere and know everything.”

Many times, the work that he did went unrecognized — usually because Thurman worked behind the scenes to make sure he avoided the spotlight. A good example of this is the naming of Hummer Alley in honor of slain Alexandria police Sgt. Elton Hummer in 2008, a campaign that Thurman began and worked quietly behind the scenes to make happen. By the time the signs went up officially designating the alley, which was near his home on Duke Street, Thurman tried to shift the focus away from him and toward the slain police officer — the only Alexandria cop who died in the line of duty whose murder has never been solved.

“I was stunned because the Hummer family lived next door to where I lived,” said Thurman in a 2008 interview. “This is the type of thing people should remember because these guys are risking their lives every day of the year.”

THOSE WHO KNEW him say that he would often quietly donate money to favored causes and volunteer when help was needed. He would also use his connections in Washington to help people find jobs, following in the tradition of his uncle who helped him back in the 1970s. Friends say Thurman was fiercely loyal to Alexandria, making a habit of shopping and dining almost exclusively in the city. And when he got involved with an organization, he was always trying to think of ways to improve it.

“He made sure we always had pipes and drums at all of our events thanks to Doug’s generosity,” said Sarah Coster, assistant historic site administrator at the Carlyle House Historic Park. “And he was always so gracious and humble about it.”

Thurman was among those who tried to shut down the coal-fired power plant owned by Mirant on the waterfront, and he also was part of a group that unsuccessfully tried to save a building on Upper King Street that was later demolished to make room for the

new Lorien Hotel. When St. Paul’s Episcopal Church tried to encapsulate a historic exterior wall to build a handicapped accessible ramp and protect several stained glass windows, Thurman was among those who spoke out against the proposal during a June 2006 public hearing at City Hall.

“Looking back on it, clearly the hand of God was at work,” said the Rev. Oran Warder during Thurman’s funeral homily. “For our conversation, which began on that day, only broadened and deepened, and they continued, and they never stopped. As a result, Doug became passionately involved in the life and ministry of this parish.”

A former Methodist, Thurman was confirmed as an Episcopalian in 2008 at St. Paul’s, where he started attending regular services on Sundays and Wednesdays. Warder said Thurman became so enthusiastic about the church hosting a Head Start program that he quietly subsidized the startup cost to make the transition easy. For those who knew him, that anecdote — shared during his funeral — is just one more example of Thurman’s quiet determination.

“He was always doing whatever he could to make the city a better place without taking credit for it,” said former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald. “He preferred to stay in the background, but in many ways that made him more effective.”

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Invest in Waterfront

To the Editor

Alexandria's waterfront isn't a particularly exciting or compelling place to visit today, but that would change dramatically if the city implements an extraordinary proposal made by a committee of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

LETTERS

The Alexandria Waterfront Public Art Proposal would create a 1.5-mile Art Walk along the waterfront. The overarching goal is to make the waterfront an arts destination and cultural anchor.

The Art Walk proposal skillfully and imaginatively integrates the visual and performing arts. It is illustrated with many color photos of inspired public art from around the world. A copy of the plan can be found on the waterfront section of the city Department of Planning and Zoning's web site.

The proposal is intended to be an integral part of the city's developing waterfront plan. But some of its key features could be implemented even without a plan, particularly in the area north of King Street.

The Art Walk proposal has many creative ideas. I like four of them in particular.

1) Establish Oronoco Bay Park as a performing arts center. The proposal includes a permanent outdoor amphitheater set into the landscape as land art and a small theater created from a railroad box car. Alexandria lacks a good outdoor space for the performing arts. Currently, the city's July birthday celebration is shoehorned awkwardly into Oronoco Bay Park. The City Council should fund a design study. A stunning design could help the city find a private benefactor to fund the project.

2) Reinforce the Torpedo Factory Art Center roof with a structural deck and install a rooftop sculpture garden and café. This would obviously feature stunning views of the Potomac River and would probably become extremely popular to visit. The cost of shoring up the roof would be expensive, but the cost could be recouped through leases. The City Council should immediately set up a committee to explore this idea.

3) Create a public art piece at Port Lumley that represents the masts, sails, and riggings of George Washington's cargo-carrying brig Farmer, which was docked near this location. Children would be invited to "learn the ropes" on



Snapshot 2:19 p.m., Jan. 21: Demolition continues in the 600 block of N. Fayette St.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET

the mast and rigging. This is the kind of creative, interactive public art that would attract families to the waterfront.

4) Install an artist-designed "innovative" playground at Windmill Hill Park. In recent decades, it appears that most places in the United States, including Alexandria, have put safety and liability concerns well above play when purchasing playground equipment. But in recent years, there has been a new push for creative play, illustrated by David Rockwell's Imagination Playground in New York City. The City Council should appoint a committee to look at the possibilities and consider making the installation of a creative playground a priority in the capital budget for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities.

Although the Art Walk proposal is outstanding, there are two areas where more thinking is needed: the use of iconic architecture as public art and arts programming. An example of iconic architecture is Zaha Hadid's stunning wine-tasting pavilion for the Tondonia Winery in Spain. To bring life to the waterfront, the city will need to invest considerably more money and imagination in arts programming. Alexandria may be able to learn something from the arts programming experiments being tried on Governors Island in New York.

Bill Hendrickson
Alexandria

Integrated Private Schools

To the Editor:

The Jan. 20 edition of the Gazette Packet contained an article entitled "A Dream Deferred," related to perceived racial disparities in Alexandria public schools; and in that article there is the following quote: "Some parents are just not ready to have their kids in an integrated environment," said Mayor Bill Euille. "Even today."

Unless the Mayor's comment was taken completely out of context and we are missing his clarifying remarks, he appears to be saying that Alexandria parents who choose to send their children to private school are racists.

There is a fundamental flaw in the Mayor's logic — he is assuming that private schools are not integrated environments. I would challenge the Mayor to visit any of our city's private schools and find out for himself. At the school my daughter attends, Immanuel Lutheran School, there are children from multiple ethnic backgrounds. I would venture to say that many private elementary schools in Alexandria are more diverse than some individual ACPS elementary schools.

Parents do not choose private schools in order to avoid integration. If the mayor and ACPS were to look at what truly drove parents to choose private schools, perhaps they might find some ideas for improving the public

schools. But that takes determined effort. It is much easier to describe us private school parents as against integration, and to make us out to be the problem, than to examine the city's policies and practices that have led to the current state of public education in Alexandria.

Todd R. Foust
Alexandria

Anti-Business 'Robust Tax'

To the Editor:

I read Tim Lovain's editorial endorsing the Donley Piggyback Tax with great interest, but with little surprise. It is not exactly shocking that Lovain, a "transportation professional" and failed politician who raised our taxes at every opportunity while on City Council, maintains an anti-business stance and wants to take even more of your money to fund his pet projects.

Indeed, not only does Lovain advocate creating the new tax, he notes that it must be a "robust tax." This ominous phrase suggests that even if a lower tax than is currently being proposed is implemented that it will only be a matter of time before Lovain and his ilk lobby to increase it. But that is no surprise to the astute readers of this publication, is it?

What I don't understand is why the top leaders of Lovain's self-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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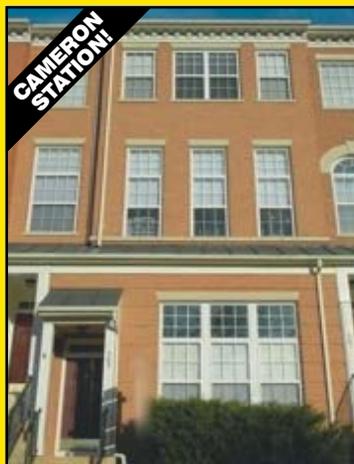
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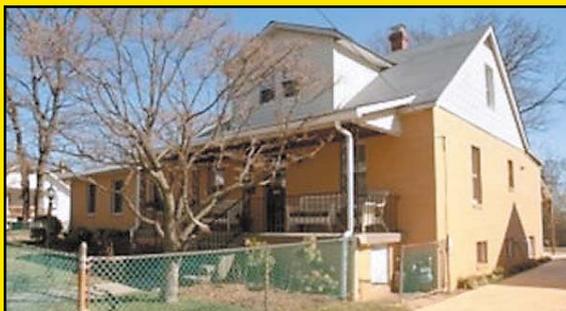
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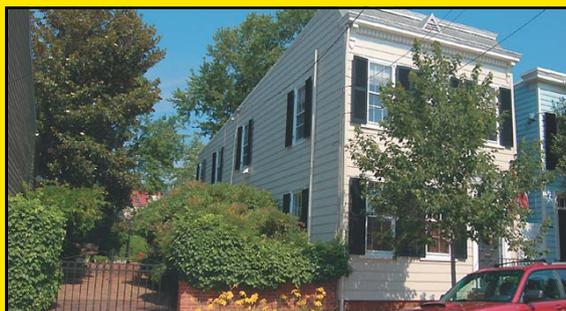
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Bob Bazzle
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Courageous Conversations: It's about Time

BY MORTON SHERMAN,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

COMMENTARY

The use and the amount of time students spend in school and on school work has been a national conversation for many years. Now a courageous conversation is occurring right here in our diverse and exciting city.

School divisions in neighboring jurisdictions have indicated that they want to explore expanding the time students spend in the classroom. Fairfax County is looking at calendar options for the 2012-13 school year. School divisions are experimenting with expanded day programs like the Massachusetts 2020 program which has yielded promising results and helped close the achievement gap for many students.

Initiatives to extend learning time in school districts with highly diverse populations, increasing poverty rates, and high percentages of minority students are growing in momentum. President Obama and the U.S. Department of Education have argued that more time in class is essential to helping the United States compete with countries that have higher international test scores.

But it is not just about test scores. Nor is the conversation just about our most challenged students. It is about raising the floor

and blowing away the ceiling for all. It is about transforming, redesigning, and reforming our schools to serve the whole child. We do need more time to explore how we learn and what we love about learning. Our teachers need more time to provide individualized instruction to an increasingly diverse student population with diverse needs.

I am pleased that our community and communities across the nation are having courageous conversations, which occur when we enter into a dialogue with a willingness to emerge with a changed mindset; and when we deeply honor the values of trust, openness, respect and real curiosity. This kind of dialogue fuels the spirit and energy needed to move forward toward common goals.

We all want what is best for our children, and it is urgent that we have conversations about the direction we take to prepare them for a promising future ... theirs and ours.

Alexandria City Public Schools recently hosted a screening of the Race to Nowhere documentary. Nearly 300 people attended along with co-sponsors, the Alexandria PTA Council and ASCD. The film reveals an issue that has widespread effect on our children's health, growth, and learning: In

some communities, we have reached a saturation point in the amount of work, study, and practice our students can do and the amount of content knowledge they can understand.

I recently proposed to the ACPS School Board that we extend the school day and calendar year next school year. This expanded time for students and teachers is important in addressing the diverse needs of the whole child. We do not want students to be laden with increased worksheets and empty seat time; rather, they will have broader opportunities, more individual time with teachers, new ways of learning; and teachers will have more flexibility in how they instruct students. If approved, the expanded calendar will stretch the school year to include more professional learning days and reduce the amount of time teachers spend out of class.

I welcome dialogue with the students, parents, staff and the community about how to structure expanded time in school. Time is only one variable to achieving increasing success in our schools; I believe it will make a significant difference in conjunction with the other strategies we have implemented. As we work together to put the needs of our children first, we have an opportunity now to even better connect the pieces of our transformation as we go from good to great.

FROM PAGE 10

appointed "coalition," who are generally both talented and successful people, have been unable to answer some of the most obvious questions associated with their desire to bring streetcars to Alexandria. Here are a few questions I placed on their Facebook page some time ago. link: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Virginia-Streetcar-Coalition/168730621071?v=app_2373072738

In November 2009, I asked a simple and obvious question: How is this project going to be paid for?

In February 2010, I asked another basic question, the answer which will potentially impact (hopefully not) mass transit riders and individuals drivers alike: Can we expect our local "transit leaders" to set up and implement a reasonable safety program for a new streetcar system when they can't handle the systems already in place?

In October 2010, I asked a simple question about public support by those whose homes and businesses will be most affected by the potential project: Has the Coalition asked the residents and businesses who live and work on the streets identified by Coalition as "Designated Streetcar Corridors" whether or not they wish to have streetcars in their neighborhoods?

I would encourage readers to review the Coalition's answers (or lack thereof) and to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



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Reston, VA 20190
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YMCA Arlington
3422 North 13th Street
Arlington, VA 22201
703-525-5420

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 Alexandria
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Alexandria, VA 22301
703-838-8085

YMCA National Capital
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Chris Upham 203-359-1308



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Donnan C.
Wintermute
703-518-6156



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Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



The Bearings South **\$198,500**
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Queen Anne Gem. Charming, 700 square feet end unit. Queen Anne historic townhome blocks to King Street and 2 Metros. Gorgeous bricked backyard with pergola and off-street parking.



Eileen
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Linda Wolf 703-518-6165



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Jolee Rubin 703-548-0697



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Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Porto Vecchio **\$668,000**

1250 S. Washington St #824, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sunday, January 30, 1-4pm. Porto Vecchio condo with river view from every window. This 1582 sq ft, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo features balcony, in-unit washer/dryer, fireplace, walk-in closet, extra storage and garage parking.



Denise Davis 571-332-8531



Derin Glen **\$665,000**
6257 Sibel Place, Alexandria, VA 22310

You'll be amazed at the size of this gorgeous, 3,954 sq ft colonial. Great kitchen with granite, island, breakfast room, 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 car garage, beautiful hardwood floors & tons of windows. Super location.



Yvonne Croft 703-973-1540

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For Economic Success, Invest in People, Infrastructure

By DEL. DAVID ENGLIN
STATE DELEGATE (D-45)
VICE CHAIRMAN, HOUSE DEMOCRATIC
CAUCUS

With the first full week of this year's General Assembly session behind us, spurring job creation and strengthening Virginia's economy continue to be bipartisan priorities. Fortunately, Virginia has a tried and true model for economic success that positioned the Commonwealth to weather the Great Recession far better than most: Invest in people and infrastructure. Unfortunately, the General Assembly's failure to take a balanced approach to state finances is causing that proven model to unravel. On the infrastructure front, much has been written and reported about the General Assembly's ongoing failure to come up with the \$1 billion per year for the next 25 years necessary for transportation to protect and improve quality of life and business. However, there has been less discussion about the threats to public schools and our colleges and universities, which are our

RICHMOND REPORT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

pose their own legitimate questions. Please be civil and engage in thoughtful discussion.

Finally, I would note that a good number of the leaders of this "Coalition" (Inta Malis, vice chair (Arlington); Dan Maller, secretary-treasurer (Falls Church) represent areas outside of Alexandria. Exactly how many members of the "Coalition" live and work in our town? It would be wise for our City Council to heed the advice and counsel of Alexandria businesses and residents, rather than the professional lobbying efforts of outside parties.

Bud Miller
Alexandria

Author's note: The above comments do not represent the position of any organization with which I have worked or am currently working for.

Improving Metro Security

To the Editor:

Metro adopted a random bag search policy and some riders are questioning the constitutionality and the effectiveness of this policy. The transit police, on the other hand, support the policy of conducting random bag searches for explosives.

"No one refused them and so far the feedback has been positive," said Metro's Transit Police Deputy Chief Ron Pavlik at a public comment meeting held at Metro headquarters on Jan. 3.

When the program started in December, Braddock Station was among the stations

primary investments in people.

While Virginia's "cuts only" approach to balancing the budget has largely — although not entirely — spared massive cuts to public schools, Virginia's higher education system has borne disproportionate cuts, forcing schools to hike tuition and enroll fewer in-state students. This threatens the pipeline of highly educated employees needed to grow our economy. In response, the Virginia Business Higher Education Council announced its "Grow by Degrees" campaign to improve access to higher education and ensure Virginians can earn 100,000 additional high-quality degrees over the next 15 years. This has near unanimous bipartisan support in the General Assembly and Congress, and Governor McDonnell's budget this year includes a \$50 million down payment to help restore a small piece of past cuts to higher education.

However, at the same time he is taking a small step in the right direction on higher education, Governor McDonnell has proposed major steps backward that would undermine Virginia's public schools. First he proposed taking \$150 million from the general fund — money that currently goes to education, public safety, and human ser-

randomly selected for the bag search. Tables were setup and the officers randomly selected bags to test for explosive materials. Officers tested the bags with a gauze type wand moving it across the outside of the bag. If hazardous materials are detected, bomb sniffing dogs are then brought in. Riders who refuse the search are not arrested, but are required to leave the station.

Johnny Barnes of the ACLU of the National Capital Area said: "When you weigh this illusion of safety and security against the potential invasion of privacy and the intrusion into our lives it doesn't seem to stand up."

But it stood up in New York when some riders took the program to court in 2006. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals held that the program served the special need doctrine of preventing terrorist attack on the subway. Judge Chester J. Straub's considerations included plots to bomb the NYC's subway and bombings of public transportation systems that already occurred in Madrid, Moscow and London.

So, Does a show of force or a random now and then bag search table setup staffed with transit police make the system safer? Commonsense informs me that a comprehensive safety policy which assigns transit and jurisdiction police (plain cloths and/or uniform officers) and marshals throughout the system on a daily basis would be more effective than a from-time-to-time show of force policy. Establishing everyday checkpoints inside and outside stations and in parking lots would be more effective than a now and then show of force.

Lillian J. White
Alexandria

Everyday Metro Rider

vices — for a plan that includes a taxpayer-funded bailout of private corporations that failed to secure Wall Street financing for the I-95/395 HOT Lanes project. Then he proposed diverting a portion of sales tax revenue from public education to paving roads. Now he is compounding these attacks on public education with a plan to give tax breaks for businesses that invest in private schools. To be clear, I have nothing against the private and religious schools that provide a great education to many in our community. However, this proposal would directly divert tax dollars from public schools to private schools, undermining Virginia's primary investment in our people.

Despite the evidence that our economy and our entire society benefits when we have a world-class education system, the cold reality is that die-hard anti-taxers who control the Republican majority in the House of Delegates make strengthening our public investment in education very difficult. However, my proposal to expand access to college through a Commonwealth Scholars Program and Investment Fund is gaining some traction, even among staunch conservative Republicans. Under this innovative plan, money from private investors

would create a fund to offer full-tuition college scholarships. Scholarship recipients would agree to pay back into the fund a small, fixed percentage of their annual income, however high or low that income may be, for a fixed number of years after graduation. The strong and predictable average income growth that results from a college degree would produce growth in the fund, some of which would be returned to the investors, and some of which would expand the number of scholarships over time. Unless the General Assembly is willing to make massive, sustained investments in higher education, it will be next to impossible to achieve 100,000 additional high-quality college degrees over the next 15 years without this kind of innovative approach.

As the General Assembly session progresses, I will continue working to protect our existing investments in people and infrastructure, and I will continue working on innovative ways to strengthen those investments for the future. If you have any feedback on these ideas, or any other legislation before the General Assembly, please contact me at DelDEnglin@house.virginia.gov or 703-549-3203. Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Need Transit Not Traffic

To the Editor:

The McDonnell/Cuccinelli Administration is out of touch with Virginia values when it comes to our roads. Virginia values real solutions that improve our commutes not more of the same failed policies. All the governor has talked about is roads. Well I invite the governor to try and commute in Northern Virginia on the roads during rush hour. In short, it sucks. As a state we need to move off this theory that building more roads will fix the problem. We have tried that for 50 years and it has failed. We need the governor to take action and build more public transit. Not only will people have the ability to move around the region without having to drive but also those who must drive have fewer people on the road. Everyone wins. Well almost everyone, the road building companies that poured millions into the campaigns of McDonnell and Cuccinelli will lose out.

Vasily Kisunko

Conservation Campaign Coordinator
Sierra Cub- Virginia Chapter
Alexandria

Underscores Value Of School Vouchers

To the Editor:

Mayor Euille is always good for a memorable bon mot, even if a non sequitur, such as his "Some parents are just not ready to have their kids in an integrated environment even today" to explain whites' under-

representation and minorities over-representation in Alexandria's under-performing schools because white families are likelier to send their children to private schools. Meanwhile Alexandria's school board is considering lengthening the school day and year as if children in Alexandria take longer to learn any given concept than their counterparts in Fairfax County or Alexandria's teachers take longer to teach the same concept than Fairfax's teachers. It must be that Alexandria's teachers talk slower than their Fairfax County counterparts. Or maybe Alexandria's teachers prefer teaching via time-consuming avant garde methods like Lego-blocks instead of the 3 Rs. Instead of Superintendent Sherman's fancy consultants, why not study and replicate our Fairfax and Arlington County neighbors' best practices. Or do Fairfax and Arlington schools have a covert conspiracy to bolster their minority achievement scores by shuffling their under-performing minority students off to Alexandria? Whites are over-represented in private schools because whites usually have higher income and are better able to afford to send their children to private schools. Were Alexandria to offer all parents school vouchers, many more minorities would opt for private schools. The largest group of private schools is affiliated with the Catholic church. In a country where only 5 percent of blacks are Catholic, but 20 percent of whites are, no one should be surprised at that numerically larger block of whites opting for private schools where their children learn Catholic morality rather than how to put condoms on cucumbers as they teach in some public schools. Were Alexandria's schools to do Prince William

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

Getting Away With It

FROM PAGE 7

catch him fleeing the scene.”

LIKE ANY OTHER group of criminals, bank robbers come from a variety of backgrounds. One notorious suspect sported a gray fedora, a sharp trenchcoat and designer shoes during a 2007 robbery of the Virginia Commerce Bank on King Street. In another case, a bank robber later admitted that he needed the money to pay a lawyer because he had been accused of stealing a car. In the vast majority of cases, federal statistics show, the crime is as simple as slipping a note to the teller demanding money.

“Don’t believe what you see on television,” said Randy Benarick, director of security at Burke and Herbert Bank. “Most of the time, you won’t even know a bank robbery is going on.”

During their training exercises, tellers are instructed to avoid discussing details about what happened with each other until investigators arrive. This prevents memories from being tainted by the perceptions of others. Benarick said he tells the tellers to make eye contact with the criminal, a subtle bit of

psychology that gives the impression that the bank is in control of the situation. Sometimes, robbers are stopped by what bankers call a “man trap” in which a series of double doors at the entrance lock the criminal inside until the police arrive. Johnson acknowledged bankers have a couple other tricks that she declined to share.

“They’re industry secrets,” she said. “Most of time our efforts are directed at getting the bank robber out the door without anyone getting hurt.”

THOSE WHO ARE caught could face federal or state prosecution, depending on the facts in the case. In some cases, making the determination between which prosecutors will take a case could come down to which detectives caught the suspect. In other cases, a suspect’s criminal history could come into play. Sengel said his negotiation with the feds often boils down to which scenario would result in the longest potential prison sentence.

“Who gets the biggest bang for the buck?” he asked. “From our point of view in terms of presenting evidence in court, it isn’t much different than any other kind of robbery except for the forensic evidence involved.”

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 7

- ❖ Alexandria City Hall 301 King St.
- ❖ Charles Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
- ❖ Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.
- ❖ William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Ave.
- ❖ Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave.
- ❖ Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W Reed Ave
- ❖ Charles Barrett Recreation Center, 1115 Martha Custis Drive
- ❖ Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4643 Taney Ave.
- ❖ Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, 3210 King St.
- ❖ Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center 1108 Jefferson St.

If a box is full or for bulk collection of 50 or more pairs of shoes, contact Laverne Short at 703-746-5503 or 571-338-7520.

Meeting on Jones Point Park

The first meeting of the Community Liaison Information Group on Jones Point Park Construction will be held Thursday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The purpose of the meeting is to allow for liaison members and the general public to ask questions and to be briefed on ongoing Jones Point Park construction activities. The meeting is open to the public and will include representatives from the project’s managing parties — VDOT and the National Park Service — as well as staff from the City of Alexandria.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Taylor Run

MONEY FOR CHILDREN’S Despite the sub-freezing temperature, Shooters Hill Ecumenical Carolers turned out happily on St. Stephen’s Day, singing and collection donations for Children’s Hospital, as they have done for 45 years. The total collected was \$1,149.

Rachel Gibson Hunt, one of the original small singers all those years ago, led the group this year, which included her sons Wyatt and Gabriel Qualiana.

The Swindell children — Amy, Holden, and Nathaniel — followed the lead of their father Richard as they sang.

Nathaniel Hunt, one of the original young carolers, turned up this year with daughter Dakota Kelso Hunt and her friend Abigail Adams.

Richard Bussey sang loyally although we all missed his daughter Rachel. After caroling all returned to 310 Park Road to eat a really filling potluck dinner.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

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Boston Bibb Salad with Creamy Italian Dressing

Red Pepper Soup

Caesar Salad

CHOOSE A DELICIOUS ENTRÉE FROM THE FOLLOWING

Beef Tenderloin with Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli, and topped with Onion Rings and a Pepper Sauce

Chicken Breast Stuffed with Sun-dried Tomato, Basil, Mozzarella Cheese and Roasted Asparagus

Grilled Salmon and Shrimp with Grilled Asparagus and Fingerling Potatoes with a Lemon Garlic Sauce

CHOOSE TWO HEART-SHAPED PASTRIES

Raspberry Marquis

Petit Four (Lemon Poppy Seed)

Chocolate Ganache (Truffle with Raspberry Glaze)

Raspberry White Chocolate

Dinner for Two

(Just \$49.99 Per Couple)

All orders must be placed by 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 12. Orders can be picked up on Monday, February 14, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We also have: Heart-shaped cookies and cakes, petits fours, truffles, triple-dipped strawberries, gift baskets and XOXO cookies.

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4117
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\$719,000
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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 din rm w/built-ins, fam rm off kit leading to deck. Table space kit features silestone counters. Lower level boasts rec. room, den, full bath & storage. Two FPs, 4BR, 3.5BA. Huge lot with mature trees and gardens. OPEN SUN 1/30, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Robertson.

OPEN SUN! **JUST LISTED!**

Waterfront Perfection!
2335 Creek Dr \$989,900
Gorgeous waterfront grounds-165 foot custom dock. Sweeping water views! Three levels of luxury featuring: updated kitchen and baths, expanded MBR w/water view, garage. OPEN SUN 1/30, 1-4. GW Pky S; R-Stratford Ln; L-Camden; L-Creek Dr.

OPEN SUN!

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 1/30, 1-4. GW Pky S; R-Stratford Ln; L-Camden.

8011 JACKSON RD
Alexandria
\$399,900
EVERYTHING NEW in this NEW LISTING with work to be done by mid-March 2011: windows, exterior & interior doors, insulation, drywall, electric, lighting, plumbing, HVAC, water heater, hdwd flrs, bath & kitchen ALL NEW. 1 level, 1 wood-burning, fireplace & 3BR/1BA. Waynewood ES pyramid.

Adele dePolo 703.298.5987

800 ST S ASAPH ST #206
Alexandria
\$392,000
NEW LISTING of this stunning, completely renovated condo. Pool side end unit w/every imaginable upgrade: custom cabs, granite, SS, hdwd thru-out. Custom spa BA w/travertine & glass encl. shower. W/B frpl w/built-ins. Ella closet sys. French doors to patio. 1BR/1BA.

THE CAREY TEAM
Sean Satkus 703.731.8086

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
6108 REDWOOD LN
Wilton Woods
Alexandria
\$629,000
NEW LISTING - rarely available 4BR/2.5BA colonial w/2 car garage. Beautifully renovated kitchen & baths, brick & new siding, updated windows. Lovely family room w/fireplace & finished lower level.

Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

OPEN SUN! **JUST LISTED!**

9212
Cherrytree Dr
\$675,000
Expanded and Updated!
Fabulous large home with bright, open floor plan with many major updates including: gourmet kit, updated baths, thermal replacement windows. Stunning main level family room with large windows, recessed lighting and FP. Glass doors lead to multi-tiered deck overlooking beautifully landscaped grounds. Expanded driveway and oversized 2 car garage. This property offers size, location and condition! OPEN SUN 1/30, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate; L-Cherrytree Dr.

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.

510 S COLUMBUS ST
Old Town / Alex
\$549,900
BEAUTIFUL 3BR, 2.5BA brick end unit TH! Features include: Open floor plan, fireplace, eat-in kit, pantry, W/D on UL & lots of attic storage. Large, fenced backyard with lovely fountain, trees and green space. 1 off-street parking space and near Metro.

(Owner/agent)
Deserie Hirsch 571.217.5939

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
6206 WILLIAM
EDGAR DR 22310
Alexandria
\$509,900
Beautiful end unit TH w/2-car gar in Autumn Chase. 3 levels. 3BR w/fabulous Master suite. 3.5BA. Hardwoods, gourmet Kitchen, Deck & brick Patio. Close to everything including Metro, Kingstowne & more.

Visit www.soldbyanya.com for more information!
Anya Macklin 703.518.8720

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
1603 S ARLINGTON
RIDGE RD
Arlington
STATELY COLONIAL w/garage on "Top of the Ridge". 3 level home w/over 4,300 sq ft of living space, including: chef's kit, wood floors, sky-lit sunroom, formal living/dining rooms, updated Master has w-in closet & jetted tub. Outdoor decks/balcony w/skyline views & enchanting garden.

Ginger Webre 703.927.8399

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!

JUST LISTED!

3805
Riverwood Rd
\$599,900
Super Value!
Remarkable Riverwood value! Rock bottom price on large home in premiere waterfront neighborhood where properties sell for significantly higher prices. Spacious home features 3 finished levels, large room sizes, 4BRs, 2 car side load garage, 3 masonry fireplaces, large exterior deck and more! Price reflects need for some updating. Unique opportunity to enter prestigious community at bargain price!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
1822 CLACHAN CT
Vienna
\$725,000
WONDERFUL HOME in Waverly. 5BR/3.5BA. Kitchen/family room addition w/gas fp, granite & SS appliances & vaulted ceiling. Hardwood flrs. Main lvl den w/wood-burning fireplace & LL finished rec room. Sited in quiet cul-de-sac, mins to Tysons, Barns @Wolftrap, Dulles - Wolftrap ES.

Teddy Marchant 703.402.0501

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
426 ALFRED ST
Old Town
Gorgeous renovation of historic detached home. 2,300+ sqft, 9 ft ceilings, 3BR/3.5BA. Gourmet kit overlooking family rm w/gas frpl. Spectacular masterBR w/luxury spaBA & private balcony. HW flrs thru-out. Deep blyd w/2-car off-st prkg. Walk to 2 Metros & shops.

Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

921 CAMERON ST
Old Town / Alex
\$1,090,000
Multifamily. Completely renovated 2BR/2BA unit on upper level with gourmet kitchen & master bedroom. Lower level w/3 office spaces, 2 half baths & workroom. Rental apartment w/sep entrance included. RM zone.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

CONTRACT!

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!

SOLD!

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.

SOLD!

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.

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PEOPLE

'Together We Can'

PTA Reflections work celebrated.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The artistic creations of more than 600 Alexandria City Public School students were on display at T.C. Williams High School Jan. 16 for the 2011 PTA Reflections Arts Festival and awards ceremony.

With a theme of "Together We Can," preschool through 12th grade students submitted works of art in six areas: Dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography and the visual arts, which included drawing, painting, print making and collage.

"These kids have a lot to say," said Alexandria PTA Reflections chair Nancy Jairrels. "This gives them an opportunity to say it."

The works of 22 students were recognized for "Outstanding Interpretation of Theme" and have moved on to District Level competition against students from Fairfax and Arlington counties. Those winners will be announced at the end of the month.

ACPS students Marcela Estrada and Leslie Carr performed their winning entries for the crowd, which included City Council members Del Pepper and Rob Krupicka.

"'Together We Can' inspired some very creative work from the students" Jairrels said. "We're very proud of all of the entries and are already looking forward to next year's theme of 'Diversity.'"

Arts Festival Winners

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Film Production

Primary - **Kyra Murphy**, 1st grade, MacArthur Elementary School

Intermediate - **Declan Murphy**, 3rd grade, MacArthur Elementary School

Middle - **Natalie Presley**, 8th grade, Hammond Middle School

Literature

Primary - **Anna Hill**, 2nd grade, Maury Elementary School

Intermediate - **Isabelle Brocato**, 5th grade, Lyles Crouch Elementary School

Middle - **Nina Marshall**, 7th grade, Hammond Middle School

Music Composition

Primary - **Monique Grant-Olsson**, 1st grade, Mt. Vernon Community School

Intermediate - **Leslie Carr**, 4th grade, Mt. Vernon Community School

Photography

Primary - **Christopher Alers**, 1st grade, Mt. Vernon Community School (tie)

Primary - **McKenzie Hibshman**, kindergarten, MacArthur Elementary School (tie)

Intermediate - **Ethan Reynolds**, 3rd grade, MacArthur Elementary School

Intermediate - **Ana Humphrey**, 4th grade, Maury Elementary School

Middle - **Margaret Chamberlain**, 7th grade, Hammond Middle School

Visual Arts

Primary - **Angie Murillo**, 1st grade, Polk Elementary School (tie)

Primary - **Mia Humphrey**, 2nd grade, Maury Elementary School (tie)

Intermediate - **Sophie Lubold**, 3rd grade, Mt. Vernon Community School

Middle - **Ambriel Hurst**, 7th grade, Jefferson Houston School

AWARDS OF MERIT

Literature

Primary - **Keziah Buford**, 2nd grade, Polk Elementary School (tie)

Primary - **Rachel Simmons**, 2nd grade, George Mason Elementary School (tie)

Intermediate - **Catherine Daly**, 5th grade, Maury Elementary School

Photography

Primary - **Catherine Quidas**, 2nd grade, Polk Elementary School

Intermediate - **Toby Berman**, 5th grade, Barrett Elementary School

Visual Arts

Primary - **Riley Bucholz**, 2nd grade, MacArthur Elementary School

Intermediate - **Ian Hansenvik**, 3rd grade, Polk Elementary School

Middle - **Sibgha Sibgha**, 5th grade, Hammond Middle School

HONORABLE MENTION

Literature

Primary - **Selena Alvarenga**, 1st grade, Mt. Vernon Community School

Intermediate - **Caroline Schie**, 3rd grade, Polk Elementary School

Intermediate - **Caroline Simmons**, 4th grade, George Mason Elementary School



Flavia Tommasi and her granddaughter Catherine Quidas, a second-grade student at Polk Elementary, in front of Quidas' photography work that earned an Award of Merit in the intermediate division.



Six-year-old Angie Murillo, a first grader at Polk Elementary, receives the Outstanding Interpretation of Theme award in the visual arts primary division.



Mount Vernon Community School fourth-grader Leslie Carr performs her music composition that earned an Award of Excellence in the intermediate division.



Elizabeth Rakis, a second-grade student at Lyles-Crouch, with her photograph that won Outstanding Interpretation of Theme in the primary division.



Marcela Estrada, a fourth-grade student at James K. Polk Elementary, performs her dance routine that earned Outstanding Interpretation of Theme honors in choreography.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

FROM PAGE 8

as part of the latest LTA musical production.

"This was a big commitment," said Joseph's father Dwayne. "There was a lot of homework getting done in the car during the drive to rehearsals every night."

More than 100 young thespians from throughout the region auditioned for the show last September, with 12-year-old Alexandria resident James Woods landing the title role of Oliver Twist.

"I felt really great about the show tonight," said the sixth-grader at Stratford Landing Elementary School. "This was a really fun cast to work with and after all the rehearsals, I was really more nervous than scared."

Ben Cherington, a seventh-grader at Lake

Braddock Secondary School, plays The Artful Dodger.

"I felt really confident tonight," Cherington said. "It was a great cast and I really liked working with the other kids."

The production is a family affair for Nicky McDonnell, who returns to the LTA stage with her son Joe, and Michael Schlesinger, who performs with his 11-year-old daughter Hannah.

"I've never had an acting experience like here at LTA," the elder Schlesinger said. "Hannah said, 'Dad, I really want to do this!' so we found a way to make it happen. It was a huge commitment and sacrifice but has been the most incredible father-daughter experience."

Both parents and young cast members alike had nothing but praise for the LTA cast

and crew, with particular mention being made of Mike Baker, a seven-time Emmy-award winning TV host and producer who plays Fagin in the show.

"Mike is so gentle with the kids," Schlesinger said. "He is a great teacher and mentor and everyone loved working with him."

Machosky agreed.

"'Mr. Mike' was Joseph's favorite," Machosky said. "He really watched after all the kids. I am so glad Joseph had such a great role model to follow, especially for his first acting experience."

No opening night would be complete without LTA legend Ernie Sult in his customary tux congratulating the cast after the show.

"What an incredible performance," said

Sult, who first joined LTA in 1942 and has not missed an opening night — either as a performer or member of the audience — for 69 years. "These kids were truly amazing."

Woods, who is appearing in his fourth production at LTA, was pleased with the opening night performance.

"It went really good," Woods said. "Nobody messed up and the audience was awesome. They laughed at every joke and clapped a lot and made everyone on stage feel great."

As the opening night festivities wound down, the young Machosky was still in awe at the magical atmosphere of the evening.

"I can't describe what this has meant to him," said his mother. "It has been the experience of a lifetime for Joseph and for all of us."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WINTER FIIN

Miss Mona's Ladies Take Gunston Stage

Moretti directs "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE CONNECTION

There has always been a big difference between the gaiety of the first act and the somberness of the second (or at least the second half of the second act) of the musical "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" which Dominion Stage is presenting at the Gunston Arts Center through Jan. 29. Director David M. Moretti's approach to the musical even emphasizes that difference. His treatment of the darker, more sentimental parts at the end bring the piece to life for the first time with emotional performances by Amy Basha as Miss Mona,

THEATER

the madam who doesn't like being called a madam, and Chris Gillespie as the sheriff forced by political pressures to put her and her "ladies" out of business.

Things start out chipper enough with rousing chorus numbers like "A Li'l Ole Bitty Pissant Country Place," "Texas Has a Whorehouse In It!" and "The Aggie Song" as well as the soul number "Twenty Four Hours of Lovin'" that Rikki Howie belts out. Basha's early number "Girl You're A Woman" is the first touch of sentimentality as Miss Mona gives some advice to help a young recruit to the business make the transition to her new life. Script writers Larry L. King and Peter Masterson avoided letting the audience ponder this song that tells a young girl that her entry into prostitution is "her lucky day" by quick cutting to the farcical, over-the-top storyline of a television exposé program hosted by a scandal-mongering self-promoter played with a touch of manic energy by Michael Hasmir.

The second act opens with another farcical subplot in the form of a single high-energy comic song, "The Sidestep." The number is a mock press conference in which the Governor of Texas, played for high comedy by Peter Halverson, manages to not answer a single question from the press corp attempting to get him to take a position on the scandalous situation of the presence of a whorehouse in the lone star state. With claims that the high rate of unemployment is caused by people being out of work, and the answer to the problems in the middle east is for the Arabs and the Jews to settle their difference like good Christians, the Governor sidesteps the issue of Miss Mona's "Chicken Ranch."



Amy Basha as Miss Mona and her "ladies" in Dominion Stage's "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

Up until this point, the production proceeds song-by-song with some nice choreography by Ivan Davilla sending the spirited cast bouncing about Moretti's colorful set to the beat of J. Michael D'Haviland's solid if slightly restrained orchestra. Each element seems fine on its own, but it doesn't catch fire. Then, once all the high-energy, big chorus numbers have been performed, the team of Basha and Gillespie take the production over and ignite some fire in the angst their characters are experiencing as Gillespie's duty as the sheriff brings to an end the relationship both of their characters obviously treasure.

It begins when Basha is joined by Howie and "the girls" for the soul-searching "No Lies." Almost as touching is Gillespie's "Good Old Girl." Then the troupe of "Miss Mona's Ladies" dig into "Hard Candy Christmas" as each faces unemployment for the holidays.

Basha tops it all off with a solo spot number, "Bus from Amarillo" as reality closes in on the venerable whorehouse that has operated since the days of Teddy Roosevelt and the Spanish American War and earned the nickname "Chicken Ranch" during the great depression when the customers couldn't pay cash but could bring a chicken in payment.

Through these final four songs, the characters transform from musical comedy stick figures to flesh-and-blood people who struggled to

make a living and formed emotional connections. Moretti lets the emotional content of the material resonate.

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.

Where and When

The Dominion Stage production of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" plays in Theatre One of the Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street, through Jan. 29. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 571-377-4697 or log on to www.dominionstage.org

And All That Jazz

LTA earns WATCH award nods.

The razzle-dazzle production of "Chicago" propelled the Little Theatre of Alexandria to 15 nominations as the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors announced the nominees for the 2010 WATCH Awards Jan. 16 at the Birchmere Music Hall.

Last year's production of the Kander and Ebb musical garnered 10 nominations, including Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical for both Bethany Blakey and Jordan Hougham for their performances as Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart.

"We had an incredible cast and crew for

that production," said Eddie Page, one of the producers for the show. "It's exciting to see so many nominations both for "Chicago" and for LTA."

Andy Izquierdo was nominated as Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical for his role as Billy Flynn while Jon Keeling got the nod in the Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical category for his performance as Amos Hart.

LTA's production of the Noel Coward play "Nude With Violin" received four nominations while Oscar Wilde's "Lady Windermere's Fan" received three.

Adding to the LTA tally was the award-winning team of Ken and Patti Crowley, who were

nominated for Outstanding Light Design in a Musical for "Chicago" and Outstanding Light Design in a Play for "Play It Again, Sam."

LTA Nominations

"Chicago"

- ❖ Outstanding Choreography, Amy Carson
- ❖ Outstanding Direction of a Musical, Susan Devine
- ❖ Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical, Jon Keeling as "Amos Hart"
- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical, Andy Izquierdo as "Billy Flynn"
- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical, Bethany Blakey as "Velma Kelly"
- ❖ Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical, Jordan Hougham as "Roxie Hart"

- ❖ Outstanding Light Design in a Musical, Ken & Patti Crowley
- ❖ Outstanding Music Direction, Paul Nasto

Outstanding Musical

- ❖ Outstanding Properties in a Musical, Betty Dolan & Leslie Reed

"Lady Windermere's Fan"

- ❖ Outstanding Costume Design in a Play, Kathy Dodson & Chris Macey

Outstanding Hair Design in a Play, Paul Morton

"Nude With Violin"

- ❖ Outstanding Properties in a Play, Phillip Campbell & Patty Greksouk

- ❖ Outstanding Set Decoration in a Play, Russell Wyland

- ❖ Outstanding Set Painting in a Play, Buffy Mechling

"Play It Again, Sam"

- ❖ Outstanding Light Design in a Play, Ken & Patti Crowley

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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More Fun than a Fortune Cookie

The Wanderer knows that San Fran has the biggest celebration of Chinese New Year outside Asia. But, he is hoping to rouse the competitive spirit in his hometown. He has high expectations for The Year of The Rabbit and cannot wait to see you soon with chopsticks in hand! This could be your lucky year.

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Talk of the Town

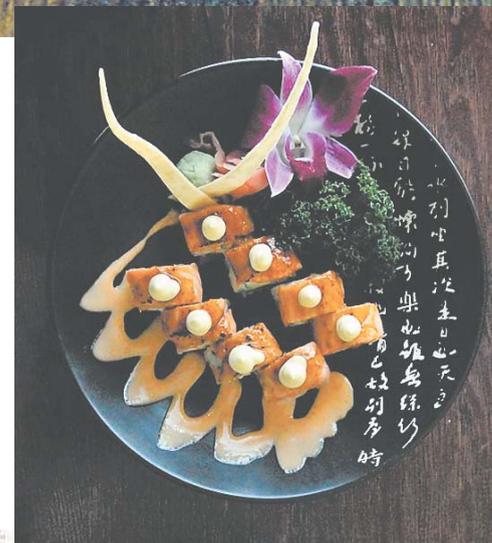
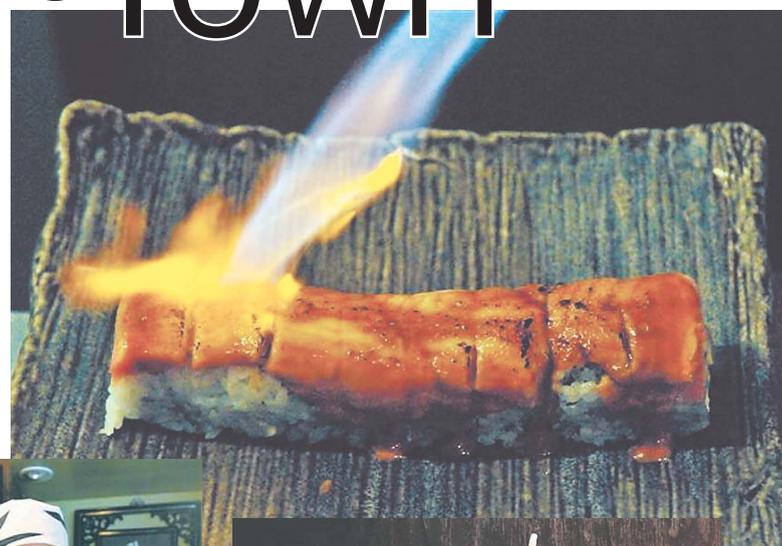


恭賀新禧

Happy New Year



Photos by Louise Krafft



D SOUTH CHINA RESTAURANT

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1302 Mount Vernon Ave, 703.549.5099, southchinatogo.com

E GOLDEN DRAGON

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3616 King Street, 703.575.8079

F SHANGHAI PEKING

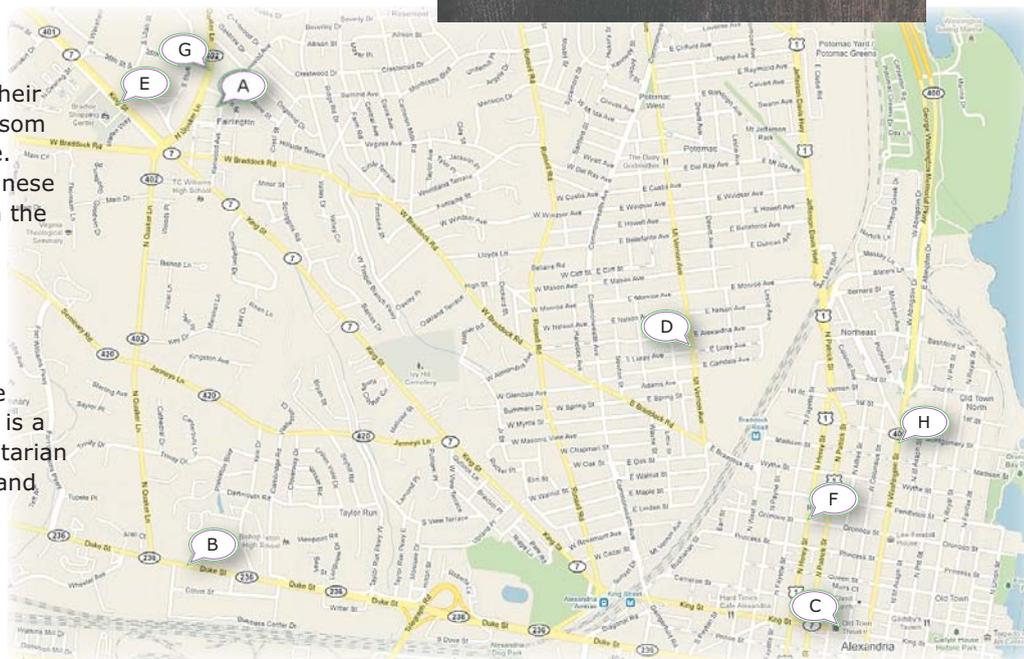
The new kids on the block, but already getting rave reviews. A Chinese restaurant with delivery, specializing in Peking, Hunan and Szechuan cuisine that uses 100% vegetable oil, no MSG and feature vegan and healthy diet options.
506 North Henry Street, 703.739.2211, shanghaipeking.com

G MAY ISLAND

If you are longing for springtime their website with fluttering cherry blossom petals will certainly take you there. If you are hungry choose from Chinese and Japanese specialties served in the restaurant or carry-out.
1669 North Quaker Lane, 703.575.4455, mayisland1.com

H ASIAN WOK CAFE

This familiar little building with the green roof and the bright red sign is a great spot for traditional and vegetarian Chinese food. They offer delivery and have an outdoor seating area.
828 North Washington Street, 703.837.8811



© Google Map data

WINTER FIIN

Notes from the Producer

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
METROSTAGE

It has become a tradition at MetroStage. Every January we open a show featuring an amazing cast, telling an amazing story, featuring and celebrating African American artists from our collective history. And did I mention the incredible music and gifted musicians on our stage? This season is no exception. Miss Ethel Waters, one of the most acclaimed blues, jazz and gospel singers, is being featured in the play entitled "His Eye is on the Sparrow," her favorite gospel song and the title of her autobiography.



Bernardine Mitchell returns to the stage as Ethel Waters.

WATERS LED an extraordinary life, born at the turn of the century to a 13-year-old mother, living under impoverished conditions, and traveling the vaudeville circuit, performing at the Cotton Club in Harlem and, at one point, becoming the highest paid performer on Broadway. She was one of the most influential jazz and blues singers of her time and an actor earning great acclaim on Broadway, film and television. She was nominated for an Emmy, an Academy Award, received a Drama Critics Award, and introduced some of the most famous songs of the era: "Stormy Weather" by Harold Arlen and "Supper Time" by Irving Berlin.

MetroStage favorite Bernardine Mitchell returns to our stage as Ethel Waters. Our patrons know Miss Mitchell from her Award-winning portrayal in "Mahalia" and also her role in "Three Sistahs." She lives in Atlanta but considers Alexandria and MetroStage her second home. William Knowles will accompany her on the piano. Knowles is also well known to MetroStage audiences, most recently, as composer and conductor for "Cool Papa's Party," for which he won a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Music Direction.

In addition, we will be introducing to our stage Mary Millben, an Alexandria actor who will be playing Ethel Waters in select performances. Miss Millben

has an impressive resume, having appeared at Arena Stage in "Crowns" and "Sophisticated Ladies" with Maurice Hines (another favorite here at MetroStage), and has also performed at the White House, the 2008 Kennedy Center Honors, the XLIII Super Bowl, the Congressional Black Caucus, and Obama's Lincoln Memorial inaugural concert. She is another exceptional talent we are pleased to introduce to our audiences.

The stories and history of the African American artist in the first half of the 20th century are part of our mission here at MetroStage. In past seasons we have featured Alberta Hunter, Bricktop, Mabel Mercer, Pearl Bailey, Nat King Cole and Duke Ellington, to name a few. First and foremost, the music and their journeys are important for future generations to understand and appreciate, and the entertainment value from the stage is unsurpassed. We believe it is important to share this work, entertain our audiences, and honor the ground-breaking artists whose stories we are telling and whose music we are singing.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 20

"His Eye is on the Sparrow." A portrait of the trailblazing jazz singer Ethel Waters. Performances are Jan. 26-March 20, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45-50 (students \$25). TKTS 800-494-8497/www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. At MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria. Fully accessible, free parking. Also Pay What You Can performance is Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. Box office opens one hour before the show. \$10 minimum requested.

OFTENTIMES

WE will have three generations in our audience: a grandmother who grew up with these artists and their music, a daughter who had always heard the stories and a grandchild

to be introduced to the era and the music. In fact, my 9-year-old granddaughter, Annalise, still sings "Baby Its Cold Outside" from our "Pearl Bailey ... By Request," and had an opportunity to interview Miss Mitchell when she was here playing "Mahalia" for a school report. Theatre is to entertain, enlighten and enrich. These stories, these artists, and the actors on our stage accomplish all of the above, and we are proud to present this work on our stage during our celebration of Black History Month and beyond.



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NOW THROUGH 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. 27

World Short Story Discussion

Group. 7 p.m. Free. Discussing the last three short stories from Art of the Short Story, Gioia ed. (808.31 Art). Call Mark Schwartz, at 703-746-1770, for the selections and more info on the group. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, 22304, 703-746-1704.

Winter Woody Plant ID Lecture.

7:30 p.m. Elizabeth Rives presents a lecture on how to identify trees and shrubs by studying the barebones of plants' branching structure, bark, buds and leaf scars. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

"9500 Liberty" Film. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Showing of the documentary film about illegal immigration with special guest, film producer Eric Byler, who will host a discussion after the film. AT VCU's Northern Virginia School of Social Work, 6295 Edsall Road, Suite 210, Alexandria.

Nutrition Talk. 6 to 8 p.m. With

health expert Trish Fortune, the founder and president of Extraordinary You. At The Full Cup, 218 N. Lee St. #206, Alexandria. Space is limited. RSVP to lindsey@thefullcup.com.

Pope-Leighey House Lecture Series. 7 to 9 p.m.

"William Thornton and the Creation of the American Architecture." This talk will examine the designs of Dr. William Thornton (1759-1828) and some of the themes in his architecture, along with a comparison to the work of



MONDAY/FEB. 14

Burlesque-a-Pades, February

Frolic. 7:30 p.m. For 18 and over. Valentine's Day-inspired production from purveyors of sexy stockings and classy lingerie Secrets in Lace as well as The World Famous Pontani Sisters. Tickets are \$29.50 plus standard booking fees. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave, Alexandria. Visit www.ticketmaster.com and www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Frank Lloyd Wright and the Pope-Leighey House. Admission is \$25. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Respond to 703-780-4000 extension 26321 or woodlawnRSVP@nthp.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 29

Civil War Ball. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Cost is \$45/advance; \$50/door. Period attire either in civilian or military. In preparation for the ball, Civil War-era dance classes will be offered at Gadsby's Tavern Museum from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 13, 20, and 27. Dance instruction will include the waltz, polka, Virginia reel, and more! Classes are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

Preparing for a Ball. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Practice the tasks involved in preparing for a ball, take an 18th century dance lesson and make a craft to take home! At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Reservations are required, so call 703-746-4739 to save your spot. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

January Jubilee. 1 p.m. Free. Come hear local young author Kristin Levine talk about her book, *The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*. Then hear The Browne Academy students perform a Handbell Concert at 3 p.m. Refreshments served. Free and open to the public. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1704.

SUNDAY/JAN. 30

Presidential Salon with James Madison. 3 to 4:30 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Reservations are recommended and admission is \$15 per person and \$10 per high school/college student. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

SEE WINTER FUN, PAGE 23

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WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 22

Capitol Steps Perform. 5 p.m. Benefit show for United Community Ministries. Reserved seating is \$70; unreserved seating is \$40. For tickets, call 703-765-8702 or www.ucmcapitolsteps.eventbrite.com. At the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

TUESDAY/FEB. 1

National Chamber Players. 7:30 p.m. Free. With guest artist Rohan de Silva. At Pendleton Hall, Ainslie Arts Center, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.episcopalhighschool.org or call 703-933-4135.

"The Enduring Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance." 1 p.m. Free. Art, poetry, music and key figures from this period. Hosted by the Hollin Hall Senior Center. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact Lee Maguire at 703-765-4573.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

Baseball Talk. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Friends of Duncan Library will host a talk by Michael Green and Roger Launius to introduce their book Charlie Finley: The Outrageous Story of Baseball's Super Showman. As sports fans, they run a website (charliefinleybook.com) and have written a book about Charlie Finley, the colorful figure who bought the Kansas City Athletics 50 years ago and as owner-manager helped transform major-league baseball. At The Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. DJ Dance Party with DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's

Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

FEB. 3, 10, 17

Eighteenth-Century Dance Classes. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

FEB. 3 TO MARCH 31

StagePlay Stories. Thursdays 4:15-5:30 p.m. Ages 6-9. Traditional children's stories come to life in this class where youngsters team up to enter into the world of make believe. Theatre games, improvisations, the unique StagePlay costume collection and an atmosphere of kindness, add to the merriment. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. Cost: \$120. Email bardsplay@aol.com or call 703-963-9430.

FRIDAY/FEB. 4

"Crude Justice" Film. 7 p.m. Documentary on the damage done by the BP oil spill to the lives and livelihoods of the people who depend on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Call 703-721-0595 or gpourchot@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 5

Country Western Dance. 7:30 p.m. line dancing; 8:30-11 p.m. dancing. Scotty and Lynne Inman will teach an advanced beginner West Coast Swing lesson at 8 p.m. Includes Two Step, Waltz, line, Swing, Cha Cha, and specialty dances. Sponsored by the



FEB. 4, 5, 11, 12

"The Elixir of Love." 8 p.m. Opera presented by the Repertory Opera Theater of Washington. Conducted by Christopher J. Redden-Liotta; directed by Jennifer Randall; sung in Italian, with English supertitles. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 571-403-0814 or www.repertoryoperadco.org.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallow Road, Falls Church. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call the hot line 703-860-4941.

SUNDAY/FEB. 6

Marine Chamber Orchestra. 2 p.m. New Horizons. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

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

Alexandria.

Chilean Wine Tasting. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronco St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-1789. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

FEB. 12-20

"A Midsummer Night's Dream." Performances are Feb. 12, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.; and Feb. 13 and 20 at 3 p.m. Presented by Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Countertenor Thomas Fallon. 8 p.m. Mozart/Rossini arias and Dvorak. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra welcomes Thomas Fallon for evening of vocal selections. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. For tickets, visit www.alexsym.org. Call 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/FEB. 13

"Paul Robeson" Play and Dinner. 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$50, depending on dinner choice. In honor of Black History Month, experience the life of the dynamic activist, acclaimed actor and brilliant scholar Paul Robeson in a special performance of "Paul Robeson," a play by Philip Hayes Dean. At Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Snow date is Tuesday, February 15. 703.746.4356. www.alexblackhistory.org.

Seeds of Independence Program. 2 p.m. Oral History Film Premiere: Segregation & Civil Rights: Mason Neck, Black & White, 1950-1970. Talk by Juan Williams, Civil Rights scholar and author, journalist and commentator for FOX News. Suggested donation: \$9/adults; \$8/seniors. At Gunston Hall Visitors' Center, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Call 703-550-9220.

Valentine Tea. 1 p.m. Cost is \$30/person. Tea and tour of Woodlawn. Tea, finger sandwiches, breads, and desserts with harp music played by Chris Van Dyke. Call 703-780-4000, ext. 26333. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org.

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OPINION

It's Time To Take Bullying Seriously in Schools

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE DELEGATE (D-49)

Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover was just 11 when his mother found him hanging by an extension cord in their home in Massachusetts in 2009. The sixth grader was taunted and threatened by classmates for weeks before he killed himself. They reportedly called him gay on a daily basis, made fun of his clothes, and threaten to cause him physical harm.

RICHMOND REPORT

Fifteen-year-old Phoebe Prince from Boston took her own life in January last year after being bullied relentlessly for three months via texts, Facebook messages, and in person by a group of students at school. One of them even wrote "accomplished" on Prince's Facebook page the day of her suicide.

And here in Virginia, York County high school student Christian Taylor, 16, hung himself after enduring months of bullying

at school. Taylor's mother said she reported the bullying to school administrators but that nothing was done to stop it. On one occasion the bully said to Taylor, "You need to just go commit suicide and get it over with." Taylor's mother recently told me that the same bullies are now harassing his brother, and now they're moving to a different school in a different state.

These tragic stories are just a few examples of students being driven to suicide by cruel and relentless bullying. It's a storyline we've unfortunately been hearing again and again over the past year. While we adults have a tendency to dismiss bullying as a harmless rite of childhood, its time we recognize that these days it's more than simple teasing on the playground — sometimes it's serious and even life-threatening abuse.

That's why I'm sponsoring HB 1576, a bill that will make egregious cases of bullying — resulting in bodily harm or death — a crime in the state of Virginia for the first time. This legislation, which is co-sponsored by my colleague David Englin, will also allow victims

to sue bullies who have been found guilty and provide for expulsions from school.

Some have argued that bullying is best addressed at the school level, while others suggest that existing laws are sufficient. However, the rash of suicides across the country prompted by severe bullying — and the fact that, time and again, parents of victims had complained to school officials who did nothing to stop it — shows just how inadequate and inconsistent school policies are in dealing with the problem.

And police themselves have acknowledged the shortcomings of existing law. Following the suicide in York County, a sheriff's spokesperson said, "There is no bullying statute in the state of Virginia, so we are not investigating a crime." This is outrageous and has to be changed.

My legislation will make it much more likely that law enforcement will investigate and prosecute in extreme cases by removing the current legal ambiguity surrounding bullying and explicitly criminalizing it, as we have hazing.

Just as important, elevating bullying to the status of a criminal act will send a clear message that bullying is a serious matter, make it more likely that schools and law enforcement will take complaints seriously and intervene before it gets to that point where students are harmed or consider taking their own lives.

Harsher penalties are just once piece of the puzzle, however — we also need to address the bullying epidemic with proactive measures on the front end. That's why I'm the primary co-sponsor of a bill from my colleague David Englin that will strengthen school policies against bullying, ensure that teachers are trained in preventing bullying and intervening when it happens, require that schools have policies in place to separate bullies from their victims, and require that incidents are reported to school superintendents.

No student in Virginia should be afraid to attend school. If these two pieces of legislation are on the books, hopefully soon they won't have to be.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 14

County-style due diligence as to whether parents are legally present, Catholic schools would have no choice but to accept — and subsidize — more lower-income Latino students from Catholic households. While even now it is all too easy for politicians to wave the bloody shirt of groundless accusations of racism, rather than fix Alexandria's under-performing schools, school vouchers and school system participation in immigration enforcement would help make private school parents ready to have their kids in an integrated environment.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Misdirected Attention

To the Editor:

Much of the waterfront plan which the Alexandria Planning and Zoning Department has been working on for almost two years involves changes near the water using land controlled by the Old Dominion Boat Club. The plan was put together with the work of consultants. Their efforts have cost at least \$500,000. If the water mitigation study expense is added, the cost is over \$1 million.

The changes to the waterfront in the plan involve turning the Old Dominion Boat Club parking lot at the end of King Street into a public square and building a very long pier into the Potomac River from that square. This was supposed to be the focal point of the waterfront.

Another very controversial element of the plan was an entirely new multi-story building sited horizontal to the river and sitting astride Waterfront Park. It would block any view of the river from the park and create a

very undesirable street canyon with the existing multi-story building sitting exactly opposite. The plan envisioned that Old Dominion Boat Club members could be compensated for the lost of their present parking by having parking spaces on the ground level of the multi-story building along with other inducements.

Then very recently the long running suit between the Federal government and the boat club was settled. A Federal judge has ruled that the boat club does in fact own its parking lot. The Federal government may appeal this decision to the United States Supreme Court. Whatever the outcome of that, no one in Alexandria will know it for a long time.

The Planning Department presented the plan again at the last meeting of the Old Town Citizens Association, after the court decision had been announced. I went to the meeting expecting to learn how the plan would be amended to replace the elements that now appear impossible to implement. I was dumbfounded to have planning and zoning staff go through the same plan with the same elements.

Those elements have always elicited controversy and hostile comments, at meeting after meeting. Yet meeting after meeting, they are still there. In addition to that, Farroll Hamer, the director of planning and zoning, said she intended to take the plan as presented to the Planning Commission and City Council in April.

It wasn't until after some reflection, that I realized what the truly most important aim of the plan is. It is the rezoning of the two Robinson Terminal buildings on either end of the waterfront. That is in the plan along with all the large changes, estimated by Planning and Zoning to cost at a minimum \$32 million.

Ms. Hamer mentioned at the Old Town meeting that those locations already have by-right zoning (plans that could go forward

today). She didn't mention that the by-right zoning could only be townhouses. No doubt these townhouses would resemble those near the two terminal sites today. They would differ somewhat because a court decision in 1983 requires all new waterfront development to provide the public with access to the river. That would be true of any structures.

Planners say rezoning for hotels would make the areas "livelier." No doubt. Much money, planning department staff time and citizens' time have been spent in almost two years of meetings. And in the end it's only about intensifying the use on the only two sites on the waterfront available for redevelopment. The citizens of Alexandria deserve better than this from their local government.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

System Failure

To the Editor:

My comments are in regards to the article in the Jan. 20 issue of the Gazette with the front page article entitled "A Dream Deferred." For those who didn't read the article written by Michael Pope it seems that the article places significant blame for low achievement on test scores to the lack of white students, relative to our city's population, enrolled in our public schools.

In this article Mayor Bill Eullie was quoted as saying "some parents are just not ready to have their kids in an integrated environment — even today." Let's not beat around the bush here Mr. Mayor. The implication that white Alexandria parents are not ready to have their children integrated with black students is offensive and racially divisive. Not the sort of statement that should be

uttered by this city's highest elected official. Instead of taking at least partial responsibility for your administration's failure in providing an adequate public educational system you choose instead to blame white parents who are simply trying to make the best educational decisions for their children?

Have you ever considered the financial hardship that families who choose private school over public even though as citizens they are providing significant funding to the public school system while simultaneously footing the bill for their child's private education? You should be apologizing to these families that you and your administration have failed miserably as opposed to labeling them as racists and blaming them for your school system's poor performance.

I wonder what black parents in Alexandria who choose private over public education are considered to be in your eyes? After all it can't be that they don't want their children around other black students. Maybe just maybe it has more to do with the socioeconomic situation of the typical Alexandria public school student. Perhaps these black parents feel as if their children have more in common with Alexandria's typical private school student than public school student? And perhaps the white private school parents share that very same feeling? Or is it just easier to blame racism for your school system's failures? Weak Mr. Mayor, very weak.

I would like to suggest that our school/city officials pay close attention to school board member Blanche Maness' statement to find the real problem with far too many of this city's public school students. She said: "You see a lot more white parents showing up to town halls and public hearings than black parents." She hit the nail on the head in that a good student starts

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25

OPINION

From Transportation To Environmental Issues

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

As we finish our first full week of the General Assembly session, I am keenly aware that the budget, transportation, redistricting and environment are important issues for this year.

Given the current economic status, our budget restraints continue and many programs that we all believe in will not be funded to the level we desire.

WEEKLY UPDATE I serve on the Senate Transportation Committee and am able to share first hand knowledge of our needs in Northern Virginia. Educating the public about the critical shortfall in transportation is still important.

I am in agreement with a recent Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission Report which concluded that metropolitan planning organizations, such as our Northern Virginia Regional Commission are in a better position than the Virginia Department of Transportation to understand local needs and priorities. As the Governor has said, "Every year we wait to begin needed transportation projects in the Commonwealth compounds this issue, and cost our residents more time and money." However, I believe that money to be spent on transportation should be raised from transportation sources and that bonding authority should be used only for major new projects, not maintenance or operations.

This is the year that the General Assembly is to redistrict for its members as well as our 11 congressional districts. The Constitution of Virginia, as well as the United States Constitution, requires that districts

provide representation in proportion to population in accordance with our most recent census. Many have given their input, but ultimately this is our job and much time will be spent on it.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources, I continue to support environmental progress. There are many bills banning phosphorus fertilizer that will lead to cleaner streams and water for all citizens. Eventually, these bills will be consolidated. We are also working on conservation of energy and promotion of renewable forms of energy. For example, we are hoping to encourage energy conservation through an improved pricing mechanism and to allow farmers to harness wind and solar power on their properties through a policy called aggregated net meeting.

Some attempts are being made to remove the Commonwealth's authority to effectively manage large-scale impacts to non-tidal wetlands, which help protect our streams and rivers from storm water runoff, defend private properties from flooding, sustain hunting and fishing, and ultimately maintain our quality of water. I will oppose these efforts as well as any efforts to abolish or consolidate Virginia's Citizen Environmental Boards which oversee air, water and waste. I will also stand firm against any legislation which empowers our Attorney General to sue the federal government in order to lower air pollution emissions standards.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 24

with a good home and parents that place an emphasis on and are involved in their child's education. Is it fair to assume that you as the Mayor also blame this city's white parents who choose private schools for this shortcoming as well?

Mr. Mayor, I contend that your racially divisive comments make you unfit to lead this diversified city and I call for your immediate resignation.

I doubt that resignation will be tendered but I certainly hope your political opponents will remind all of the citizens of this great city of your shameful accusatory statement in our next City Council election.

Your comments were disgraceful, inexcusable, and a weak attempt at deflecting your administration's and the Alexandria School Board's failures.

Neil Wolfe
Alexandria

The Goose Village Of Alexandria

To the Editor:

Many years ago on the banks of the Potomac a small goose village was formed and was named Alexandria. It was a small village with only one goose, named Oldie, but she was a lovely and thoughtful goose. Sadly, she was not very productive although she tried very hard. Her interests were more toward the arts, culture and history of her special village.

Oddly enough in this village area there was a very tall pinnacle of land reaching far above the clouds. At the very top of this pinnacle lived the squire council of the village. The squire council loved the rarified air above the clouds and they felt good; nevertheless, their view and understanding of the day-to-day workings of Alexandria were obscured by the clouds below. However, they were keenly aware that Oldie was not productive enough to maintain their life

Home Sweet Home

BY KATHARINE MEDINA, CAPS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nearly 50 years ago, Carrie knew exactly which home she wanted: The trim brick house on the street corner at the end of the row, with easy access and lots of light. "We were already living in an end house, and I knew I wanted another end house," she recalls. "And that's what I got."

Since then, Carrie's home – and her Old Town neighborhood – has seen its share of changes. The \$89-a-month mortgage she and her husband once paid seems as nostalgic as payphones and penny candy. Her three children are grown and gone, with children of their own. The once all-African American neighborhood has become predominantly Caucasian. And, not long ago, Carrie, now 85, lost a leg to diabetes-related complications. But "I'm able to stay here, in my own house," she says proudly.

And thanks to some help from volunteers with Rebuilding Together Alexandria, a nonprofit that works to preserve affordable home ownership, Carrie's two-story rowhouse has gotten some improvements that have made it easier for her to navigate. Some clever carpentry, for instance, has helped "put things right where I can reach them when I need them," she says. There is also an interior chair lift to help Carrie get from the first to the second floor, and no-plush carpet that makes it easier to manipulate her wheelchair. As a result, "I'm able to manage, the way I want to do it," Carrie says.

World War II had just begun, and Carrie was just 15, when she moved to the area from Florida to help care for the child of a military family. She ultimately married and had children of her own.

Her husband James was working as a driver for Alexandria's mayor when what is now her home came up for auction, along with several adjacent properties. "He told me to go look and pick out the one I liked," she recalls. With help from the mayor, they submitted a winning bid.

Over the decades, neighbors have come and gone, and home prices have steadily climbed. She's declined offers to sell, however, telling one would-be buyer: "I'm going to stay right here!" Today, the house carries a plaque on its walls, informing passers-by of its historic status.

Through it all, Carrie worked, first in a school cafeteria, and then helping out in the homes of others. "I worked until I was 81," she says with a note of pride. These days, the schedule is a bit more relaxed. Some mornings, she rises late and watches eager contestants compete for game show prizes on TV. All from the warmth and comfort of a house that, so long ago, Carrie knew would make a great home.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is an award winning, non-profit organization dedicated to repairing and revitalizing homes for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans and families. Over the last 23 years, RTA has received support and donations from thousands of volunteers and groups to provide the free home repairs. To date, in-kind donations of labor and materials have resulted in \$5.257 million worth of value on nearly 1,300 properties. If you'd like to volunteer or donate, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

** It is RTA's policy to not disclose full names.*

style. They decided to add other geese to their village.

Because Oldie had not been productive in her part of town, they decided to move the new geese to other parts of the village. There was W-end, D-ray and later P-yard sections of Alexandria and they had their own goose managers and farmers. Sure enough over time, the geese were productive and Alexandria grew and grew. The squire council and each new part of the village were pleased with the success of their geese. Sadly Oldie and her managers and farmers, fell far behind the production desires of the squire council living far above the clouds.

One day, the squire council peering through a break in the clouds spotted something amazing in Oldie's nest! They looked and looked and determined it was the fabled Golden Egg — after all of these years their tired, old Oldie laid a golden egg! There was much rejoicing by the squire council on the pinnacle far above the clouds.

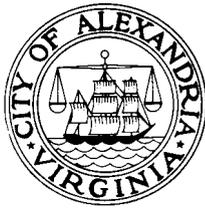
If Oldie could lay one golden egg, they

were sure she could lay more and all the economic worries of Alexandria would be solved. They summoned Oldie's famers and managers and said although they wanted Oldie cared for and nourished, they were certain she could produce more golden eggs and they had a plan to help.

Oldie's managers and farmers were puzzled! They knew Oldie had recently laid an egg but a Golden egg — they did not think so? Since they knew the squire council was very serious about the golden egg, they looked at Oldie's nest. Without question, there was an egg in her nest. However, on closer inspection, it was certain that the egg, although beautiful, was not gold. Oldie had been trying so hard to increase production that her system was nearly depleted. The egg she laid had an exceptionally thin shell and the golden hue was caused by the egg's yoke shining through. No doubt that from far above the clouds, the egg appeared to be made of gold!

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

Legal Notices



BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011 - 7:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

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

BZA CASE #2010-0017
2302 RANDOLPH AVENUE
R-2-5, RESIDENTIAL
Lauren Mizerek and Karen Steer, owners, by Richard Flather, architect: Variance to construct a detached one car garage 1.00 feet from the north side property line and 1.00 feet from the front property line facing La Grande Avenue and a storage shed 16.00 feet from the front property line facing La Grande Avenue and abutting the new garage.

BZA CASE #2010-0032
1303 WEST BRADDOCK ROAD
R-8, RESIDENTIAL
Kathleen Stradar, owner: Special exception to construct a two-story addition 4.90 feet from the east side property line. If the special exception is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special exception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

BZA CASE #2010-0028
5247 SEMINARY ROAD
R-12, RESIDENTIAL
Orlando Perez, owner: Special exception to

Legal Notices

construct a two story addition 36.10 feet from the front property line facing Seminary Road. If the special exception is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special exception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

BZA CASE #2011-0001
2305 A BURKE AVENUE
R-2-5, RESIDENTIAL
Elizabeth Hill and Mark Turner, owners, by Crystal Construction Services, contractor: Special exception to construct a two-story addition 8.60 feet from the north side property line. If the special exception is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special exception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Case No JJ011737-01-05
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
DOMINIQUE ROBINSON
The object of this suit is to:
Determine custody/visitation of subject child
It is ordered that the defendant Jeffrey Lassiter, appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 3/3/3011 at 9:00am

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

Legal Notices

NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

ROWAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

FILE NO 09 JT 192, 09 JT 169-172

IN RE:

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS

Isabella Moro Leonard, BY PUBLICATION

Alexandra Moro,

Christian Moro,

Puelai Moro,

Aniya Moro.

Minor Children.

TO RESPONDENT: Adabra Ruth Marie Moro, mother,

Miguel Angel Gutierrez Vaca,

Jose Catalina Guerra, aka: Jose Portillo,

Vidal Antonio Martinez Medrano,

Angel Arthur Ceferino, aka: Victor Hugo Apolo,

Unknown Fathers.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed by the Rowan County Department of Social Services (petitioner) for the purpose of terminating your parental rights with respect to Isabella Leigh Diane Mie Moro Leonard, born on or about July 8, 2009 in Davidson County, North Carolina; Alexandra Leigh Tina Mary Moro, born on or about February 14, 2007 in Rowan County, North Carolina; Christian Duane Richard Lee Moro, born on or about February 14, 2007 in Rowan County, North Carolina; Puelai Leigh Christina Marie Moro, born on or about April 6, 2006 in Rowan County, North Carolina, and Aniya Leigh Ruth Marie Moro, born on or about March 15, 2005 in Cabarrus County, North Carolina so that they can be placed for adoption. The biological mother of the juveniles named above is Adabra Ruth Marie Moro. You are notified to appear and answer the petition by serving the original of your written answer upon the Clerk of Superior Court, Juvenile Court Division, Rowan County Courthouse, 210 N. Main Street, Salisbury, NC 28144, within forty (40) days from the date of the first publication of this notice. You also must serve a copy of the answer on the petitioner's attorney (address below). You will be notified of the time, date and place to appear for a hearing upon the filing of your answer. The purpose of the hearing is to seek termination of your parental rights as they pertain to Isabella Leigh Diane Mie Moro Leonard, Alexandra Leigh Tina Mary Moro, Christian Duane Richard Lee Moro, Puelai Leigh Christina Marie Moro, and Aniya Leigh Ruth Marie Moro. You are entitled to appear at the hearing. If you cannot afford an attorney, you are entitled to an appointed attorney to assist you provided you request one before the time set for the hearing. If you fail to request counsel, you may waive your right to appointed counsel. You may request an attorney by contacting the Clerk of Superior Court, Juvenile Court Division, 210 N. Main St. Salisbury, NC 28144 (704) 797-3054. This is a new case and any attorney appointed previously to represent may not represent you in this termination of parental rights proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the court. If you fail to file an answer within the time specified the Petitioner will apply to the court for termination of your parental rights. Your parental rights may be terminated if you do not respond within the time required.

This the 19th day of January 2011.

Cynthia Dry, Attorney for Petitioner

Rowan County Dept. of Social Services
1813 East Innes Street
Salisbury NC 28146

(704) 216-8442

Please publish on the following dates: January 27, February 3, & February 10, 2011.

Legal Notices

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 25

Oldie was very proud of her egg of golden hue. The managers and farmers further inspected the egg and to their amazement, there was an inscription on the egg — Culture, Art and History! After all of these years, Oldie wanted to ensure all understood the “Gold” in Oldie’s town was in its heritage and history and not in its ability to produce eggs. Oldie’s town people understood and were pleased. Sadly, word of a golden egg spread and people wanted to come to Oldie’s town to see for themselves. Bus after bus came to see the egg and although disappointed to not find a gold egg, they were pleased to see and enjoy the culture, art and history of Oldie’s town.

It did not seem to matter to the squire council living far above the clouds that there was not a real golden egg because the economic potential of all these people gave them much joy. Soon they returned to Oldie’s town with a new plan to bring in many more outsiders to this part of Alexandria. The people of Oldie’s town questioned the wisdom of this new plan. The Squire council far above the clouds were unhappy and thought the Oldie town people were saying “Not In My Back Yard” to the plan. The Squire council dubbed the Oldie town people NIMBYs and harrumphed off.

The so-called NIMBY’s were worried that Oldie’s town core would be damaged with this new throng. The squire council would not hear of it — the golden egg of Oldie’s town was in the large number of visitors pure and simple.

During all of this, Oldie continued to nurture her egg of golden hue and her focus on culture, art and history. The NIMBY’s tried to protect her and her nest but it became increasingly difficult — buses everywhere and water taxi’s unloading many people every day. The Squire council far above the clouds could be heard chanting more, more, more!

Now a new plan was in development by the squire council to

address a growing concern — they were worried that the culture, art and history were too passive. The Squire council was certain the people would become bored and stop coming. The NIMBY’s became alarmed and worried about the impact on their quality of life and the shift of focus from history toward “fun, vibrant and entertaining.” Oldie’s town was about to change dramatically!

Although we do not yet know the story’s end nor the impact of this coming change. What is clear is that few people living outside of Oldie’s Town understand what that wise old goose so deeply believes — the heart and soul of Oldie’s town is its culture, its art and its history. Not understanding this fundamental truth will surely kill Oldie goose and her golden-hued egg and forever harm her special village that is Old Town Alexandria.

R Alan McCurry
Oldie’s Town

Re-visit Program Of Studies

To the Editor:

Alexandrians have heard plenty about the process underway to transform T. C. Williams High School, the city’s only public high school, into a “world class high school.” The May 2010 Transformation Plan lists “equipping every learner with 21st century skills through a fundamental shift in how we think about student learning and how we work” as one of the goals.

I fully support the work and goals of all those involved in this almost Herculean process. I also believe the transformation and high school educational experience would be significantly enhanced by eliminating the Fundamentals for Human Growth and Development course as a requirement for graduation from Alexandria City Public Schools. This would free up resources for other areas of instruction and provide students with the opportunity to take courses they are truly inter-

ested in when developing their individual achievement plans.

It is my understanding that ACPS is the only school system in the Commonwealth of Virginia that has this course as a graduation requirement. If this is such a valuable course, one would think other school districts (e.g. Fairfax, Arlington and Loudon counties) would require it. These districts appear to be meeting the Commonwealth’s statutory requirements for instruction in Family Life Education in a more efficient, student friendly and 21st century way.

Granted, any student can opt out of this requirement by paying close attention to the guidance given in the Program of Studies Planning Guide, but why does ACPS insist on making students and parents/guardians jump through these administrative hoops in the first place? As former Alexandria City School Board member Mark Eaton noted when he was deliberating on this same issue as a board member in 2004, “... staff is accepting a substantial challenge in communicating the paradox of a graduation ‘requirement’ subject to an opt out for any reason or no reason to successive classes of secondary students and their families.” Six years later we continue this paradox to the detriment of those the schools are meant to serve.

I do not object to ACPS offering this class as an option for students if there is a legitimate market driven demand for it. My discussions with ACPS staff over the past several years tell me that while they acknowledge Human Growth and Development is in fact an elective, they prefer to continue portraying it as a requirement, and place the burden of opting out of the course on the student/parent/guardian.

As a school board member during the development of the 2008 ACPS budget, I asked staff for the estimated fiscal impact of discontinuing the offering of Human

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

Legal Notices

OBITUARY



Kishbauch, Keith K.
of Mauch Chunk, PA, 1/9/1925 - 1/22/2011
Services in So. Carolina 4/3/2011
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TC Coach King Not Happy with Titans' Effort

Titans suffer first losses of season shortly after sub-par effort against West Potomac.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

When the final buzzer sounded at West Potomac High School on Jan. 19, the T.C. Williams boys basketball team was a 75-62 winner against the defending Patriot District champion Wolverines. The Titans improved to 12-0, with eight of their victories coming by more than 10 points.

But as TC head coach Julian King walked off the floor after the game, he saw through the 13-point win and undefeated record. He saw a team that didn't play hard until it mattered, waiting until crunch time to pull out the win. He saw a team that was vulnerable.

"We played terrible," King said. "If we could play any worse, I'd retire. I don't understand what it's going to take to be motivated night in and night out. Maybe it's a situation where they've won so many games before and it's a sense of arrogance, I really don't understand. Here we are, we're playing the defending Patriot District champions, we're playing an all-district player [Daryl Copeland] and they're not motivated and ready to play."

TC had its lead trimmed to one point in the third quarter before T.J. Huggins buried a 3-pointer in the closing seconds of the period, sparking an 11-3 run. The Titans outscored the Wolverines 26-14 during the final 8 minutes, 15 seconds.

"Did they respond? Yes, they always seem to respond," King said. "But there's going to be nights when we're going to run across somebody who's having a good shooting night or a team that's just ready to play four quarters and we're not going to be able to come back."

Two days later, TC improved to 13-0 with a lopsided 77-29 win over struggling West Springfield. On Jan. 22, the Titans' win streak came to an end with a 48-41 loss to Phoebus. On Jan. 25, TC lost to Annandale 72-64.



T.C. Williams head coach Julian King instructs the Titans during a Jan. 4 game at Chantilly.

King wasn't the only person who saw potential struggles ahead after beating West Potomac.

"We've got to stop starting off slow," junior point guard Daquan Kerman. "It's going to catch up with us in the long run."

Said senior Tyrell Sitton: "The competition isn't as intense as it should be. We always play down to our competition instead of playing real high."

After the West Potomac game, King said the Titans would benefit from a leadership adjustment, voicing his desire for Sitton and Kerman to become more vocal.

"One of our biggest problems is we have leaders by example but we don't have leaders by voice," King said. "That's probably the biggest obstacle we have to face. There's going to be situations where you can't hear my voice and hear my commands during the game. Someone is going to have to take

"Maybe it's a situation where they've won so many games before and it's a sense of arrogance, I really don't understand."

— TC head boys basketball coach Julian King

charge vocally, offensively and defensively, to lead the team and right now we don't have it.

Both players said they could assume the role of vocal leader.

"I've been vocal in the game, but I haven't yelled at anybody," Kerman said. "I might have to start because there's a lot of [goofing] around and we have to stop that — get serious. ... I've been here long enough;

I feel I have the right to say something."

Jamal Pullen led TC with 21 points and Huggins scored 18. Sitton also reached double figures with 11.

TC will travel to face Woodson on Jan. 28 and Riverdale Baptist on Jan. 29. The Titans are in a stretch where they play five of seven games on the road, meaning it won't be easy for them to turn things around.



T.C. Williams head coach Julian King said he wants Tyrell Sitton to become more of a vocal leader.

SPORTS BRIEFS

TC Girls Beat Annandale

The T.C. Williams girls basketball team improved to 10-7 with a 54-48 win over Annandale on Jan. 25. The Titans will host Woodson at 7:45 p.m. on Jan. 28.

SSSAS Swim Team Beats Bullis

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes swim and dive teams had another strong meet on Jan. 25 with the boys and girls team each adding another win to their record.

The final score for the girls team was 105-57. First-place individual finishers

included senior captain Rachel Movius in the 200 IM and 500 freestyle; senior captain Caroline Blair in the 50 freestyle; freshman Alison Lindsay in the 100 freestyle; sophomore Marian Shaw in the 100 backstroke; and freshman Natalie Hellmann in the 100 breaststroke. Blair, Movius, Hellmann and Lindsay also scored first-place finishes in the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays. The girls start their championship season this Friday with ISLs at Madeira.

The boys added another win to their undefeated record. The final score was 121-33 and they took first-place finishes in every event. Individual first place finishers were: freshman Ian Shackley in the 200 and 500 freestyle; senior captain Conor MacNair

in the 200 IM; senior Ryan Gillooly in the 50 freestyle; senior captain Sam Teague in the 100 butterfly; junior Joe Lindsay in the 100 freestyle; junior Ferrel Atkins in the 100 backstroke; and sophomore Evan Draim in the 100 breaststroke. The 200 medley relay of Atkins, Perrot, Gillooly and MacNair placed first. The first place 200 free relay was made up of freshman Kyle Draim, Teague, Lindsay and Gillooly. The winning 400 free relay was K. Draim, Lindsay, Atkins and MacNair.

TJ Finishes Fifth at Robinson Meet

The Thomas Jefferson gymnastics team

finished fifth at a meet at Robinson Secondary School on Jan. 20. The Colonels scored 113.2 points, finishing ahead of Lee and Annandale.

Caroline Kerr finished with a 30.825 in the all-around. Katya Davydova finished with a 29.6 and Hailey Johnson posted a 27.15. Kerr posted an 8.25 on the vault, a 7.175 on the bars, a 7.35 on the beam and 8.25 on the floor. Marissa Kataoka scored 7.95 on the beam and Davydova posted an 8.3 on the floor.

Robinson won the team competition with 130.825 points. Lake Braddock finished second with 127.3, followed by West Potomac (119.625), Edison (118.45), TJ, Lee (103.525) and Annandale (77.875).

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NEWS

To Honor Robert E. Lee

To the Editor:

First, let's address revisionist slurs against this true American hero. Lee was not a traitor who fought to preserve slavery. He was a citizen of Virginia, an independent state voluntarily associated with other states to achieve the goals of the Declaration of Independence under the Constitution. Lee opposed secession; his father had heroically helped create and preserve the United States, and Lee's only job had been in service to the USA. He also opposed slavery. Having grown up in a home which had no servants, as a young school boy, he did the family's grocery shopping and cared for his invalid mother and younger siblings. He married into a family that opposed slavery. In 1861, at age 54, he honorably resigned from the US Army and its obligations and hoped to leave military service. He expected to find another profession to support his invalid wife, four daughters and youngest son, but donned another uniform when necessary to defend against the invasion of his homeland.

A man caught between powerful competing loyalties to his nation and state, Lee made a difficult choice and followed his duty as he saw it to the end, despite its anticipated terrible cost. At all times, he did his best. His life exemplified his credo: Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should not wish to do less.

Lee personified the noblest Christian virtues in his personal life, caring tenderly for his wife and children despite long absences necessitated by his career as an army officer.

When his father-in-law, George Washington Parke Custis, died and left a badly mismanaged estate, he straightened out the difficulties. Following the terms of the will, he freed the Custis slaves on schedule despite his other heavy responsibilities during the War Between the States. It is notable that when Mrs. Lee was obliged to leave Arlington House, she entrusted the keys and safekeeping of the house and property to her servant (as they were called) to Selina Gray, who was faithful to her charge. Another telling event related to Lee's relationship to the black population happened after the War at St. Paul's Church in Richmond.

When a black man went to the communion rail before the whites had completed communion, others gasped and did not go up to the rail as expected because they

would have to drink from the cup after him. Lee, not waiting for an usher's direction, directly went to the rail and knelt next to him. Others then followed his example.

Lee's reputation as an army officer was so outstanding that he was offered a top command by both sides during the same war. In recorded Western history, I believe only one other has that distinction. He immediately agreed with Gen. Winfield Scott that turning down the general's offer to command the Union's troops was probably the greatest mistake of his life. He gave up the expected chance as a victorious general to rival the reputations of Washington and Napoleon. Despite their hardships, Lee's men loved him so much that when the general rode to the front during battle, men grabbed Traveller's reins and shouted "Lee to the rear!" to protect him. The Army of Northern Virginia thought itself invincible under his leadership.

Lee was not bitter toward his opponents. When a colleague asked him if he didn't wish all the enemy soldiers dead, he replied, "No. I wish they were all back home where they belong." Unlike the Union Army under Lincoln's orders, Lee did not wreak total war on the civilian population when he invaded enemy territory. He showed respect to all. I am always struck by the fact that when Gen. Grant received Gen.

Lee at the Appamattox surrender, the Union officer wore a private's uniform (a sign of homage to a better man?). Lee did Grant the honor of appearing at his best, his general's uniform pressed and a fine sword at his side, rather than a second-class one although he expected to surrender his sword to his opponent. Gen. Grant, who knew Lee from their days at West Point, offered generous terms, knowing Lee's word that his men would make no further resistance was good. (Lee had earlier quickly refused a staff officer's suggestion of a prolonged guerilla resistance.)

Lee was an outstanding educator. As superintendent at West Point, he modernized the curriculum. After the War, as a civilian, he also did so at Washington College (today called "Washington and Lee University" in his honor). He believed the development of a sound character was as important as academic excellence and mentored many a young man. Those who could not meet the expected standards were asked to leave and he sorrowed for them.

After the War, Northerners admired him so much that they sent their sons to study at his college. The New York Life Insurance Com-

pany asked him to serve on its Board of Directors and promised him \$10,000, a very large sum, especially for a poor man at a struggling school who had to support five dependents. When told he would have no duties, the firm just wanted his name (integrity personified), he replied that if his name were so valuable, he'd keep it. He declined the offer and money.

Amid all his selflessness and intellectual brilliance, he loved jokes and gentle teasing, match-making for the young folks, animals (horses, pet squirrels, birds, etc.) and children. The "marble man" had a loving heart, cheerful spirit, quick wit and even outstanding good looks; he was admired and loved by all who knew him as well as many who did not know him personally.

To follow his principles, Lee sacrificed what a man holds dear, a comfortable life at home with his beloved family, for prolonged separations to serve his country. He achieved "impossible" feats such as changing the course of the Mississippi River to save St. Louis' harbor (no other army engineer had solved this problem), brilliant scouting during the Mexican War, etc.

Lee took up arms to defend his state against invasion by the army to which he had devoted his career although he knew that army would most likely prevail and his home and other properties would be lost.

He had no personal enemies despite taking an active role in one of our country's most divisive conflicts and, after it was over, consistently worked to heal its divisions and strengthen it through inculcating strong religious principles to promote the sound character and education of its youth and thus ensure a successful future for our country.

We still struggle with the appropriate balance of power between the states and federal government. His wish for a peaceful resolution of our difficulties is as appropriate now as then.

In the end, it is his essential nobility of character in all aspects of his life - added to his great intelligence used with purposefulness and lively appreciation for everyone and everything in God's creation - that makes him one of our greatest American heroes. He set the highest standards for himself and inspired others to do more than they thought possible to achieve and the best they could imagine. Modern "political correctness" cannot mar that legacy.

Ellen Tabb
Alexandria

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 26

Growth and Development as a standalone course and incorporating the subject matter in Health/PE and Psychology courses. The response was "eliminating the high school Human Growth and Development course would result in a net savings of approximately \$385,000 and elimination of 6.0 FTEs."

Staff noted "the amount of state-mandated content in the Health, Driver Education and Physical Education courses for grades 9 and 10 leaves room for very little of the Human Growth and Development content to be added to these courses. Additionally, since this course is a graduation requirement approved by the Virginia Board of Education, ACPS would have to petition the state Board to change the school division's graduation requirements." Given the current academic status of T. C. Williams, this petition would likely receive favorable consideration.

Near the end of its Jan. 13 meeting, the School Board considered the 2011-2012 Program of Studies and received a briefing from staff on proposed changes. While several courses were proposed for addition, no changes were proposed for Human Growth and Development.

Unfortunately this fast tracking of decisions with minimal time for public consideration or comment is becoming a hallmark of the current School Board and administration. I suggest the Board set aside a final decision and encourage public comment on the proposed program of studies. This would demonstrate a commitment to the following statement in the Transformation Plan: "Our belief is that partnerships with parents and the community are an important and essential part of students' success."

Scott Newsham

Former Member, School Board

What's Best?

To the Editor

Citizens of the City of Alexandria are at a crossroads in deciding how to fund future transit and transportation needs.

The population of the City of Alexandria has grown from 103,217 in 1980 to 155,433 in 2010. Growth has been unending, placing greater demands on Government services. The surrounding growth of Fairfax County and Arlington Counties has been similar if not greater.

In the nearly 40 years that I have lived here, Alexandria has changed from a small town with '60s and '70s suburban development to a more urban area. Friends remember when Shirley Highway was first built and taking Sunday drives through parts of what is now the West End of Alexandria. Van Dorn Street stopped at Holmes Run before being extended to a new Landmark Mall. Much of the area near the Seminary was an area where you could still ride horses.

By in large, growth has been beneficial, but it also can bring additional costs. The quality of life living in Alexandria has changed. Government must also change to meet increased demands; but also continue to provide services that protect property

values and ensure Alexandria is an attractive and affordable place to live.

Bordered by Arlington and Fairfax Counties, growth does not stop at the City boundaries. Both counties have enacted a commercial add-on tax to fund major transportation and transit projects. They are making investments and embarking on projects fostering economic development that includes small and large businesses. This is part of a long-term strategy to increase retail sales, job growth and slow the increase in property tax rates.

Alexandria has had less success competing for office and retail development. Recognizing its unique location and character, Alexandria needs to continually reevaluate its own strategy for planned growth and redevelopment near metro, transit centers and along commercial corridors.

The City of Alexandria has lacked a strategy to fund growth in transportation. The City has used a "tin-cup" approach relying on state funds, federal grants, Congressional earmarks and pleas for developer concessions to help finance infrastructure improvements.

State revenues have declined dramatically leaving the funding of transportation and transit projects to local government. It is only now the City is considering adopting an additional source of revenue to offset the reduced funding. The lack of adequate funding has delayed road and transit improvements near the new BRAC office complex at Mark Center. It has also hampered City efforts to work with adjacent jurisdictions to plan, prioritize, and fund joint transportation and transit projects benefiting Alexandria residents.

Kerry Donley in a recent article and at various meetings makes a compelling argument for considering an add-on tax on commercial real estate. He recognizes the potential impacts on businesses and hopefully the City will provide some relief for businesses that may be adversely impacted. Mr. Donley has taken the lead and courageously raised the issue for discussion.

I don't want to see tax rates raised unnecessarily. However, a failure to plan and invest in the future will only lead to less choice, complaining, increased traffic congestion and more expensive alternatives in the future.

The City should focus on making public transit a more attractive alternative. Funding should be targeted for road improvement and transit projects that will facilitate balanced economic growth, multiple use development and connections to transit services in nearby local jurisdictions. Too often planning has emphasized making it easier for commuters to drive through Alexandria, at the expense of our citizens living, shopping and working in Alexandria.

Increased local funding for street improvements and transit will require public support. It should be part of an overall strategy for Alexandria; to foster environmentally safe, sustainable development that encourages greater use of modern public transit. Change happens. We need to have the discussion and address it in a positive way to ensure that Alexandria continues to be a desirable place to live and work.

Dave Cavanaugh

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