



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

At the Top

This townhouse in the 400 block of Prince Street in Old Town was the most expensive townhouse to sell in the D.C. suburbs in 2010, according to MRIS. The home sold for \$2.85 million. See page 20 for more \$2 million townhouses.

A Capital Debate

City, schools disagree about enrollment forecasts, facility needs.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Over the last four years, enrollment in the city's public schools has unexpectedly spiked. But will that trend continue? And does the city need four new elementary schools to meet that demand?

Those questions are at the heart of a budget debate now taking place in Alexandria, and hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake. On one side of the debate is Superintendent Morton Sherman, who is requesting \$372.6 million for a capital-improvement plan based on en-

rollment projections that continue to increase at the current rate for the next decade. On the other side of the discussion is City Manager Jim Hartmann, who set aside \$158.1 million for the school's capital-improvement plan — less than half of what the superintendent asked for in what Sherman referred to as a “resource-constrained request.”

“We are busting at the seams.”

— School Board Chairwoman Yvonne Folkerts

“If we don't start adding schools, parents will start seeing modular units all over this city,” said Sherman. “We are out of space now, and my projections are based on the kids that are already here.”

SEE CITY, SCHOOLS, PAGE 14

Bones: Alexandria

Human skeletal remains found south of Ford's Landing.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

It was just another Sunday morning for one resident of South Old Town, who was taking a leisurely stroll with his dog along the footpath south of Ford's Landing when something unexpected happened. His dog had been romping around off the leash through a heavily wooded swampy area shortly after 8 a.m., when he came back with a surprising find — a human skull.

Within a matter of minutes, crime scene investigators from the Alexandria Police Department were on the scene to investigate.

But finding the rest of the skeleton proved to be a challenge through all the muck. So they called officials in Fairfax County to gain access to a cadaver dog, which located the skeletal remains of an unidentified individual. The remains were taken to the state medical examiner's office in Fairfax County, where a forensic anthropologist is working to determine the age, race and sex of the remains.

“There are no obvious signs of foul play,” said Captain Tammy Hooper in an e-mail to neighborhood residents, “but we have to wait to see what the medical ex-

SEE SKELETAL, PAGE 14

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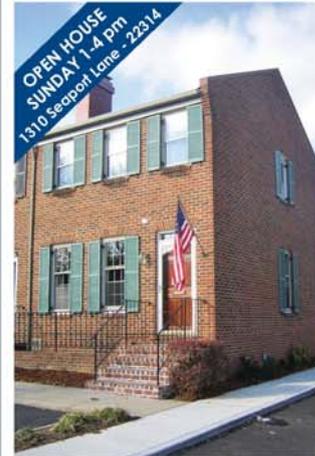
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Seminary Gridlock

This ramp is brought to you by the letter F, as in “fear” of traffic gridlock or “frustrated” drivers or perhaps “foreboding” regional transportation problems. Speaking about the Virginia Department of Transportation’s decision to connect the massive new Washington Headquarters Service to the High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, West End resident **Carol James** had her own idea.

“F represents failure,” she told City Council members during Saturday’s public hearing. “We still have a failed intersection.”

An audible gasp filled the chamber when VDOT representative **Tom Fahrney** explained that a line of trees east of the intersection with Seminary Road would be removed to make room for the ramp. And nobody seemed to be particularly happy about the solution to the thorny problem of what to do about adding tens of thousands of new employees to streets that are already clogged. “The problems will never go away,” Fahrney admitted. “But we can minimize them.”

Although the plan to minimize the problem has been moved to the fast track, construction won’t begin until next year. And the ramp won’t be completed until late 2014. That leaves three long years when tens of thousands of daily commuters will turn left from Seminary to Beauregard and make another left into the complex that is technically part of Fort Belvoir. According to the configuration approved by City Council last weekend, the ramp will send drivers from the HOV lane to Seminary Road into a left turn lane into Mark Center Drive. “That interchange cannot handle the amount of traffic it has today,” said **Nancy Jennings**, who lives in Seminary Hill. “Adding another lane of traffic will not improve the gridlock on Seminary Road.”

Waterfront Questions

Planning Director **Faroll Hamer** expects the City Council to approve the waterfront small-area plan in nine weeks, although the document has yet to be released to the public. It’s been pushed back a number of times as opposition has been building across Old Town. Perhaps the most significant point of contention is the proposal to construct a new building at the western edge of Waterfront Park to accommodate parking in exchange for a surface owned by the Old Dominion Boat Club. But the club has no intention of giving up its parking lot, and building on open space in a public park strikes many as counterproductive.

“People hate the building on the Waterfront Park,” said Old Towner **Poul Hertel**. “I have yet to speak to anybody who thinks it’s a good idea.”

Even if the federal government agreed to amend a 1980s consent agreement to allow construction in Waterfront Park — an assumption that has raised a fair amount of skepticism — questions are growing about the finances. The 15-year plan could cost the city as much as \$42 million, and planners expect new taxes and fees to create \$45 million in new revenue. Yet skeptics say the revenue expectations are grossly exaggerated, and that they leave out spending for utilities, maintenance and repairs.

“The numbers you have been given so far are grossly incomplete,” said Old Towner **Bert Ely** told City Council members Saturday. “Don’t act until you have all the numbers.”

Promotional Ordinance

When members of the Alexandria City Council passed an ordinance outlining its policy on illegal immigration a few years ago, opponents dubbed Alexandria a “sanctuary city.” The city code didn’t necessarily need to change, although council members felt it was important to publicly state their position.

That’s also true for the council’s recent action amending the city code to specifically exempt breastfeeding. Nobody at City Hall could think of an example when a woman had ever been charged with indecent exposure, but that really wasn’t the point. As the ordinance headed for a unanimous vote Saturday, council members explained the vote was really more of a promotional tool than anything else.

“Press reports notwithstanding, it’s not about a plain and simple change in the indecent exposure ordinance,” said Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**. “It really is about promotion of healthy lifestyles.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

The George Washington Middle School Orchestra strings, led by orchestra teacher Jonathan Jones, play as people arrived at the remembrance.

Celebrating Life of Michael Vitez

George Washington Middle School community remembers math teacher.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the George Washington Middle School String Orchestra played as people filled the school’s auditorium on a Sunday afternoon late last month for one last celebration of their teacher, coach, colleague, and friend — Dr. Michael A. Vitez who died suddenly on Dec. 5, 2010.

George Washington Middle School Orchestra teacher Jonathan Jones welcomed the gathering. He acknowledged the many different groups associated with Vitez that would be represented in the program. He noted there would probably be a theme repeated throughout the celebration — recognizing the passion and excellence in everything Vitez did.

Jones was the first of many to mention Vitez’s favorite football team — the Pittsburgh Steelers.

“And of course he had nickname for my favorite team,” Jones remembered with a laugh. “The Deadskins.”

Michael Gaines recalled first meeting Vitez 13 years ago when he was working on the HVAC system at the school and said they became great friends over the years.

“He stayed late in the evening because he wanted the best for his kids,” Gaines said.

“He always looked out for me. And, what a sense of humor,” Gaines said. “I’m gonna miss him so much.”

Fellow teacher Ben Hammond spoke of the friendship and mentorship Vitez provided. He joked about his nickname for Vitez which was Dad and how he was unrelenting in using it, much to his mentor’s dismay. He noted that he still finds himself asking, “What would Mike do?”

“What Mike thought was almost always the right thing,” he said.

“The respect that he gave those 8th grade students was something all we parents could see.”

— Sheryl Gorsuch



George Washington Middle School mom Sheryl Gorsuch is at the microphone with “Pizza mom” Elizabeth Agnew right behind.

George Washington Middle School mom Sheryl Gorsuch shared that all three of her children had Vitez for geometry. She talked about the impact the

teacher had on her son who told her Vitez is one of those teachers one never forgets.

“The respect that he gave those 8th grade students was something all we parents could see,” Gorsuch said. “It was truly my

honor to know Mike Vitez.”

Elizabeth Agnew introduced herself as one of the pizza moms. “Every other week or so Mike would

SEE MICHAEL VITEZ, PAGE 9

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ FEBRUARY 17-23, 2011 ♦ 3

BUSINESS MATTERS

Teetering Zoning

North Old Town is already home to a Giant and a Trader Joe's, but the competition for grocery dollars could become a little more fierce.

North Carolina grocery behemoth Harris Teeter recently signed a lease agreement with Maryland-based developer Buchanan Partners to open a new store at the southeast corner of Madison Street and North St. Asaph Street. The developer wants to put residential units above the grocery store, although the density needed to finance the deal would exceed the current zoning.

"Right now, we are talking to the community to see if they are comfortable with that," said urban planner **Colleen Willger**. "It's still in the concept stage at this point, and there's been no formal application."

Several properties on the block were recently assembled by a limited liability corporation known as Alexandria North Old Town, which was registered with the Virginia State Corporation Commission in November. The block is currently zoned for 2.5 floor-area ratio, although Buchanan Partners is seeking a 3.0 floor-area ratio in early discussions with city planners. If the rezoning is approved, the development would transform a stretch of Old Town that's been dominated by abandoned buildings for years.

"We are very excited about the possibility of opening a store in Alexandria," said Harris Teeter spokeswoman **Jennifer Thompson**.

Retail Rollback

Mixed-use retail is all the rage among city planners. But how much ground-level retail can the market bear? And how much is too much?

City officials were burned in the Carlyle neighborhood, where massive amounts of retail space were approved only to sit vacant for years before council members decided to allow offices there instead. Now City Council members have moved to scale back the amount of retail space on the ground floor of a new project in Parker Gray known as the Madison after the developer requested the reduction. Instead of 24,000 square feet of retail space, which was approved in late 2008, the Madison will now have only 10,000.

"What we are seeing is more small pods of more neighborhood retail as opposed to destination retail," said development division chief **Gwen Wright**. "I think that's more realistic."

The Waiting Game

You can't fight City Hall. When would you? Business owners in Alexandria are required to submit a host of applications for this and that, plus submit to a barrage of inspections and public hearings. Then there are the taxes. At the end of it all is that fateful day when City Council members vote on a special-use permit.

"It's pretty stressful," said **Rob Shelton**, co-owner of a new gelato and coffee shop after his special-use permit was approved Saturday. "There's a fair amount of risk involved."

Shelton and his business partner, who own a popular gelato shop in Clarendon known as Boccato, had to sign a lease before they could submit an application. That meant they had to front six months of rent, then wait three months to get a public hearing on their permit. And there was no guarantee their application would be approved by the elected officials.

"It's an archaic system," he said. "Why can't business owners get a public hearing the month after the application is filed?"

Outlawed Businesses

Attention pawn shop owners, check cashing businesses and payday lenders: You are no longer welcome in Arlandria.

That's the conclusion of City Council members, who unanimously passed a text amendment to the zoning ordinance without discussion Saturday banning these businesses as inconsistent with the character and vision of Arlandria. The text amendment was initially prompted by a 2010 law passed by the Virginia General Assembly regulating title loan companies, although city planners took the opportunity to make a series of changes to clarify what was expected in Arlandria.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



ACVA President and CEO Stephanie Pace Brown leads Mayor Bill Euille and NTHP Southern Field Office Director Robert Nieweg onto Market Square for the award presentation. With Brown are members of the 1st Virginia Fife and Drums and George Washington Middle School student Ted Davis.

City Receives 'Distinctive' Honor

National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) has honored the City of Alexandria as a 2011 Distinctive Destination. Twelve cities have been recognized by the NTHP this year including Chapel Hill, N.C.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Dandridge, Tenn.; Eureka Calif.; Muskogee, Okla.; New Bedford, Mass.; Paducah, Ky.; St. Paul, Minn.; San Angelo, Texas; Sheridan, N.Y., and Sonoma, Calif.

The award was presented to Mayor Bill Euille and Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association (ACVA) President & CEO Stephanie Pace Brown by NTHP Southern Field Office Director Robert

Nieweg: "The title of Distinctive Destination is presented to cities and towns that offer an authentic visitor experience by combining dynamic downtowns, cultural diversity, attractive architecture, cultural landscapes and a strong commitment to historic preservation, sustainability and revitalization. In each community, residents have taken forceful action to protect their town's character and sense of place."

Voting is now on to choose the 2011 Fan Favorite Destination. The voting starts Feb. 15 and concludes on March 15. Fans may vote once a day on the homepage of www.visitalexandriava.com



Jack Taylor, left, is joined by Capt. Ken Argot, Ken Forsythe and John Taylor as he donates a 2010 Toyota Sienna to the Alexandria Salvation Army.

PHOTO BY
JEANNE THEISMANN/
GAZETTE PACKET

A 'Miracle' for Salvation Army

Jack Taylor donates van in memory of his mother.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When Capt. Ken Argot stood before his congregation at the Salvation Army Citadel in Alexandria last September, he got right to the point.

"I told them, 'I don't know how we're going to make it,'" said Argot as he recalled facing significant shortfalls during the upcoming holiday season. "Without Jack Taylor's van during the holidays, we would have had to shut down operations since we had no money

in our budget to buy a new one of our own."

For four years, Taylor has provided a van for six weeks to the Salvation Army to use for the local Red Kettle Campaign and Angel Tree holiday toy drive. On Feb. 3, Taylor made that donation permanent in memory of his mother Pauline, who died in 2009.

"My mother was a big supporter of the Salvation Army," Taylor said. "It meant a lot to her that they give a big portion of what they collect back to the community."

Taylor, joined by his son John Taylor III, donated a 2010 Toyota Sienna to Argot and Ken Forsythe of the National Capital Area Command.

"After the holidays, I contacted Jack and asked if he would consider making the van a donation," Argot said. "He said 'Let's do it.' This is truly a Christmas miracle for us."

BUSINESS



'Heart of Del Ray'

Del Ray Business Association Special Events Co-chair Gayle Reuter (left) and last year's "Heart of Del Ray" award winner Jen Walker (right) of McEneaney Associates congratulate this year's winner Bobi Bomar, Homes of Alexandria, Weichert, Realtors. The "Heart of Del Ray" award is presented by the Del Ray Business Association during the Valentine's Day holiday to the business that serves as the heart and soul of Del Ray.



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- 3. Birthday Luncheon—Noon
- 4. Pottery class—1:00
- 5. Canasta club at 3:00

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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY ANGIE SWINDLE

Happy 99th Roberta McCain, seated at right, celebrates her 99th birthday Feb. 7 at Nam Viet restaurant in Clarendon with daughter-in-law Cindy McCain and sons Joe and John McCain. Hosting the celebration was Alexandria resident and decorated Vietnam veteran Orson Swindle and his wife Angie. Roberta McCain's twin sister, Rowena Fay, marked the day with celebrations in Los Angeles. "Plans are already underway for the sisters to celebrate the grand 100th together next year," said Joe McCain.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Opening Night William Knowles, Jennifer Griffin, Carolyn Griffin and Bernadine Mitchell enjoy the opening night reception for "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" Jan. 26 at MetroStage. Knowles and Mitchell, both Helen Hayes Award winners, star in the musical based on the life of renowned African American singer Ethel Waters. The show runs through March 20. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044.

Lloyd, Cooke Engaged

Mack and Sharon Lloyd of Alexandria proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Lynn Lloyd, to Simon Paul Cooke. Simon is the son of Christian Cooke of Williamsburg, Va. and Kimberly and Steven Shepa of Newport News, Va.

Rebecca is a graduate of T.C Williams High School. She also is a graduate of Christopher Newport University with a B.A. in communications studies and is currently pursuing a master's degree in special education from Old Dominion University. She works as a special education teacher in Newport News.

Simon is a graduate of Old Dominion University with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and Master's degree in the same. He is a mechanical engineer for the Department of Defense.



Rebecca Lynn Lloyd and Simon Paul Cooke

The couple is planning a July 2011 wedding in Providence Forge, Va. Wedding details may be obtained at <http://www.theknot.com/ourwedding/SimonCooke&RebeccaLloyd>

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SCHOOLS

EHS's Walker Wins Service Award

Episcopal High School senior Nancy Walker was honored by the Rotary Club of Alexandria as the Student Community Service Award winner Feb. 8 at Belle Haven Country Club.

A resident of Alexandria, Walker has traveled for service to the Dominican Republic to teach English in Dominican schools, to West Virginia to learn about and install green energy solutions for the rural poor, and to the United Nations to advocate for women and girls as a credentialed delegate to the United Nations 54 meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Walker, who was joined at the luncheon by her father John Walker and EHS roommate Shantelle Bingham, is a four-year varsity athlete and starting pitcher for the EHS softball team. She has committed to attend and



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/CAZETTE PACKET

John Walker, Rotary president Gayle Spur, Nancy Walker, Joan Holden and Shantelle Bingham celebrate Nancy Walker's Student Community Service Award Feb. 8.

play for Bowdoin College, where her mother played on the school's inaugural softball team.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/CAZETTE PACKET

Participants in the 2011 Alexandria PTA Reflections Arts Festival celebrate at the exhibit and awards reception at T.C. Williams High School Jan. 16.

Correction

The Jan. 27 issue of *The Alexandria Gazette Packet* omitted the Outstanding Interpretation of Theme winners for the 2010-2011 PTA Reflections Art competition. Those students, whose work will represent Alexandria in the Northern Virginia "Together We Can" regional competition, are listed below:

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION OF THEME

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Intermediate - **Marcela Estrada**, 4th Grade, Polk Elementary School
Middle - **Iye Massaquoi**, 8th Grade, George Washington Middle School

FILM PRODUCTION

Primary - **Nate Wong**, 2nd Grade, Polk Elementary
Intermediate - **Jacob Foster**, 5th Grade, Polk Elementary

Middle - **Kyra McClary**, 8th Grade, George Washington Middle School
Senior - **Stephanie Slaven**, 9th Grade, T.C. Williams High School

LITERATURE

Primary - **Oscar Lloyd**, 2nd Grade, MacArthur Elementary School
Intermediate - **Victoria Peace**, 5th Grade, Charles Barrett Elementary
Middle - **Eliza Malakoff**, 8th Grade, George Washington Middle School
Senior - **Charlotte Clinger**, 10th Grade, T.C. Williams High School

MUSIC COMPOSITION

Primary - **Oscar Lloyd**, 2nd Grade, MacArthur Elementary School
Intermediate - **Ben DeVine**, 5th Grade, Lyles Crouch Elementary School
Middle - **John Gossart**, 8th Grade, George Washington Middle School

Senior - **Emily Flanigan**, 11th Grade, T.C. Williams High School

PHOTOGRAPHY

Primary - **Elizabeth Rakis**, 2nd Grade, Lyles Crouch Elementary School
Intermediate - **Ben DeVine**, 5th Grade, Lyles Crouch Elementary School
Middle - **John Hogan**, 8th Grade, George Washington Middle School
Senior - **Michael Hailu Kebede**, 12th Grade, T.C. Williams High School

VISUAL ARTS

Primary - **Ana Duss**, 1st Grade, Mt. Vernon Community School
Intermediate - **Alex Conkey**, 3rd Grade, Maury Elementary School
Middle - **Taylor Johnson**, 7th Grade, George Washington Middle School
Senior - **Catherine Beall**, 10th Grade, T.C. Williams High School

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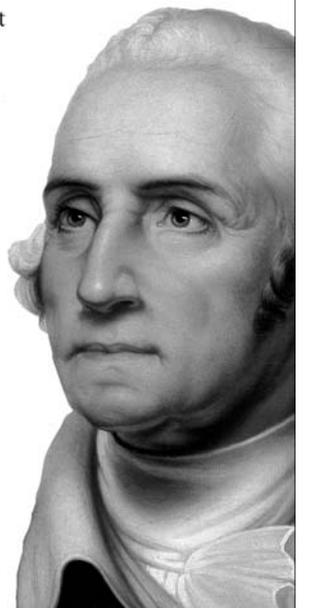
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Transferring his enterprising skills from business to nonprofit.

BY SARAH BECKER

“Joe Viar is an inspirational leader,” said fellow Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board member T.J. Fannon.

“I don’t know what that means,” Viar grinned. “What I do know is how to rally people, make them believe in themselves.”

“There are three things Joe loves: the hospital foundation board, his alma mater, and fishing,” Fannon continued. Viar joined the Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board in 1984.

“Fly fishing is my passion,” Viar laughed, “but I’d rank the hospital and Hampden-Sydney College pretty close. And, yes, there are analogies between fishing and fund-raising.” Viar smiles easily.

“He’s the kind of person you want to rally behind. His style is warm, sincere, and he never pounds the table.”

— Shawn McLaughlin, member, Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board

A champion fisherman, Viar returned to fly fishing 20 years ago. Now he fishes worldwide, mostly as part of the Redbone Celebrity Tournament Series. Redbone fishermen stalk redfish and bonefish. The series, which originated in the Florida Keys, raises money for cystic fibrosis.

“I got hooked on the tournaments and I’m the only guy to win all three Superfly tournaments in a year,” Viar said. “My partner of 18 years, Bonnie Christ and I ‘catch for the cure.’” Redbone.org donates approximately \$1 million annually to The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

VIAR RETIRED from the computer business in 1995. Fund-raising is his business now. Not satisfied to do-good, he is dedicated to doing good well. Twenty-five years ago Viar and Fannon teamed to successfully raise money for Alexandria Hospital’s Cancer Care Center. Today Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Director Mary M. Myers calls Viar “Alexandria’s \$40 million man.” He readily shares the fund-raising credit with Myers and members of the hospital foundation board.

“You don’t do anything alone,” Viar said.

Born in Philadelphia in 1941, Joseph Viar Jr. was raised in Lynchburg, Va. Then his passion was football. A college football player, Viar was named to the All Mason Dixon and All-Virginia State College football teams. With football, as with high school, a later business network formed.

Viar depended on scholarships to in part pay for college. He followed the money; physics gave way to mathematics, and in 1963 Viar graduated on the dean’s list from Hampden-Sydney. Prior to graduation he had read a Time magazine article about computers; saw his first computer on a General Electric interview and loved it. The rest is business history.

COMPUTERS FASCINATED Viar. Whether technically involved or involved in contract sales, he was motivated to succeed. Viar held various jobs: designing electrical circuitry, simulating war games, and writing computing models. Within a few years he “knew as much as anybody about computing.”

“I could analyze problems, recommend fixes and eventually realized computer consulting was where I belonged,” Viar continued. “I was self-confident, cocky, and enjoyed both technology and selling. I’ve always been a salesman; in Lynchburg I sold clothes at an Ivy League men’s store.”

Viar arrived in Alexandria in 1971 and five years later he established his computer company Viar & Co., Inc. in the city.

“If you’re going to start your own company, name it after yourself,” Viar advised. “I worked 60-80 hours a week and in 1983-1985 Inc. magazine listed Viar & Co. as among the country’s fastest 500 growing private companies. We specialized in federal and Virginia contracts.” He sold Viar & Co., Inc. to Dyn Corp in 1991.

“Most small business owners can’t cash out well,” Viar said. “I did well.”

“Viar & Co. was my greatest accomplishment,” Viar concluded. “You couldn’t hire people away from me. My real legacy was creating an environment in which people wanted to work.”

“Now I raise funds,” Viar added. “I have the same drive I had then. I lead by example and success is meeting or exceeding the fund-raising goal.”

“Joe does lead by example,” Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board member Shawn McLaughlin agreed. “He’s the kind of person you want to rally behind. His style is warm, sincere, and he never pounds the table.”

Fannon describes him more simply: Viar has “energy, energy, energy.”

VIAR BECAME chairman of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board in 1999. “Since then, we’ve jumped the fence,” he said. “In 1989 the entire Cancer Center,



Joseph Viar

including build-out, cost \$3.5 million. But expenses have changed. To replace one piece of Center equipment now costs \$5 million. It takes real money to turn a community hospital into a first class hospital center.”

The Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board is in the process of raising \$25 million, its contribution to the hospital’s 2010 Project. The Foundation, under Viar’s leadership, has raised \$23 million to date. Most of the money has been secured from individual Alexandria donors.

“Alexandria is a prideful community,” Viar said. “Basically we don’t have corporations in the city. It is individuals who donate, who help to improve access to health care.” The 2010 Project includes 68,000 square feet in renovations and improvements, especially the emergency, surgical, cardiovascular and interventional radiology departments.

What is Viar’s life lesson? “A lot of life is a leap of faith. Life is a series of choices every day. Am I going to take a gamble or not? I cannot say often enough how important

employees are to business, any business, nonprofits included. It’s my knowledge of people that has translated so well to fund-raising. I am not a theory man, I’m an action man.”

Viar has received many awards over the years. In 2007 The Alexandria Times named Joe Citizen of the Year. A year later Del. Brian Moran, and others, introduced House Joint Resolution No. 260 commending Viar on his many accomplishments. He is not sure why either was done.

“Joe is the type of person who puts community above self,” said Vic Dymowski the Foundation Director who recruited Viar to the Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board. “He exhibits an extraordinary knowledge of human nature and his personal commitment to cause is inspirational to others. They say I can do that, too.”

“Every community needs a Joe Viar,” McLaughlin concluded. “He is the very definition of a Living Legend.”

Writer Sarah Becker was nominated as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2007.

Living Legends: The Project

Now beginning its fourth year, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria’s Living Legends. The project was conceived by Nina Tisara to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold Sponsors this year are Club Managers Association of America, Erkiletian Real Estate Development, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Renner & Co., Rotary Club of Alexandria and Doug Thurman.

This is one of a series of 12 profiles that will appear this year. For more information or to nominate a Legend for 2012, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com.

PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Celebrating Life of Michael Vitez

FROM PAGE 3

call and ask me to pick up pizzas for one of his well known pizza parties," she said. "He always made sure to tell Dominos to cut the pizzas into 10 slices each instead of eight. He knew exactly how many pieces he needed so that each student could have two slices."

Tripp Spurio spoke on behalf of a number of former students of Vitez in attendance.

"He was a great teacher and even greater man," said Spurio. "He taught me many of the ideals I still hold today."

Tracy Rickett, one of the tennis boosters, called Vitez a loyal friend and fierce competitor. He described his friend as generous to a fault.

"I'll miss his unabashed enthusiasm for life," Rickett said.

Hank Harris introduced himself a parent whose children have been touched by Vitez.

"He was always looking out for the kids, probably his greatest passion," said Harris.

Three current eighth graders participated in the celebration program.

The first young student to speak was Ben Patterson,



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Nancy Howard and Diana Darwin are retired from George Washington Middle School but had worked with Vitez and wanted to celebrate him in their well-known style. They wrote and read an ode to Vitez titled "Prince Among Men."

honoring his teacher's memory by wearing a Pittsburgh Steelers shirt. "I only had him for geometry for a few months," said Patterson. "He let us talk about sports and when we talked about sports, he turned it into math."

He was an amazing teacher and very special to us."

Eighth grade student Anthony Edwards talked about how Dr. Vitez loved to tell "Yo' momma jokes."

"He was so funny," Edwards said. "A very funny teacher. We all love and will miss him."

A teary Lima Blum noted that she would always felt lucky that she had him as her teacher.

John Vitez was there to offer reflections from the Vitez family. He acknowledged that it had been a difficult month and a half for he and his family. He thanked the George Washington Middle School community for putting together the celebration and sharing so many wonderful stories about his

cousin.

The program, which included a pictorial remembrance edited by Adam Alderton, was followed by a reception in the school's media room.

OBITUARY

Robert John Taylor, Jr.

Robert (Bob) Taylor, Jr., 66, of Alexandria, died Feb. 14 of natural causes at home.

Taylor was born Feb. 20, 1944 to Robert and Mary (Wood) Taylor Sr. in Fort Sumter, S.C., who preceded him in death. He attended Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, and was a 1961 graduate of Gonzaga College High School.

He attended Xavier University and received a BS in accounting from Strayer University. He held a JD from George Mason School of Law, Arlington, Va. and was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

He married Denise Maupin on Aug. 30, 1962 in Halifax County, N.C. Despite ending in divorce, they remained lifelong friends.

For many years, Bob worked for the Farm Credit Administration. He had recently retired to spend more time with his friends and family. Bob was a member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alex-

andria. He was an avid Redskins fan and also enjoyed hiking the Billy Goat Trail in his spare time. Besides his family, Bob's passion was tennis. He won the Army-Navy Country Club 18 -under Championship three consecutive years. He instilled his passion for the sport in his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his beloved daughters and sons-in-law; Stephanie Taylor Lane and Mark McKenna of Chapel Hill, N.C., Melanie Taylor, Esquire and Ted Hooban of Ashburn, Va., grandchildren, Tucker Lane, Austin Lane, Sam Lane of Chapel Hill and Jax Taylor of Ashburn, Va., sister, Pam Taylor Ziegler and husband Terry Ziegler of Milford, Pa., nephews, Josh Ziegler of Milford, Pa. and Zach Ziegler of Los Angeles, Calif. and a host of friends.

A memorial service will be held in the near future.

Contact Stephanie Taylor Lane at stephanie@stephanielane.com for more information.

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Important Step for Autism

Governor should sign bill that would require limited insurance coverage for needed therapy.

Thanks to Delegates Tim Hugo and Tom Rust, along with state Sen. Janet Howell and a majority of members of the Virginia General Assembly, for passing a bill that would require some insurance companies to provide limited but critically important coverage for therapy for children with autism.

Now, Gov. Bob McDonnell should sign the bill into law.

"With these treatments, you can prevent some of these children from being impacted for life. You can make sure they do not become wards of the state," said Hugo. ... "If we don't do something, we risk leaving these kids in the darkness."

Behavior therapy at an early age can make the difference between a child who speaks and interacts and a child who is non-verbal. But the therapy, often not covered at all by insurance, can cost \$20,000 a year or more per child.

Consider the heartbreak of one family who was able to afford therapy for one of their children with autism. Unfortunately, the family has two children with autism.

As they become adults, children with autism will cost Virginia more if they don't receive early intervention services.

And this is a growing problem.

EDITORIALS

For example, in Fairfax County Public Schools, one in 83 students has been diagnosed with some form of autism, an 846 percent increase since 1997. Last year, the county's human services department announced that local government's fiscal health would be greatly impacted by providing services to the rapidly growing percentage of young adults with autism diagnoses.

Missing the Point

As the U.S. Department of Justice presses Virginia to provide services for people with intellectual disabilities and more options to live in the community, it's important to remember that it's not just a question of moving some current residents out of training centers.

Families across Northern Virginia and the state are stretching budgets, going into debt and hanging on by their fingernails as they care for family members with intellectual disabilities who should have "waivers" providing for services in the community.

Right now, more than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for community-based services, according to the Arc of Virginia. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are in urgent

need because they live with an aging caregiver, are at risk of abuse or neglect, or are aging out of foster care.

See www.arcofva.org.

Cheap and Effective Traffic Fix: Telework

While National Telework Week officially began Monday, Feb. 14, last month's commuting-home debacle probably did more to push individuals, governments and companies to contemplate real teleworking measures than any other advocacy.

Increasing the number of people who regularly work from home at least one day a week is the only possible cure for the current traffic nightmare in the region. On most days, rush hour in Northern Virginia is a pain. But it only takes one hiccup (a man threatening to jump of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge or an inch of badly timed snow) to bring the region to a standstill and worse.

Telecommuting can also be good for the environment, good for employee morale, good for families, good for productivity. And anything that decreases the chances of a 10-hour commute or being stranded overnight on the George Washington Parkway is a step in the right direction.

The technology exists to make this work.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Parade

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Ballyshanners, I invite Alexandria visitors and residents to our St. Patrick's Day Parade fundraiser this Sunday, Feb. 20, at Pat Troy's Ireland's Own (111 N. Pitt St.). Kicking off at 3 p.m., our fundraiser helps to cover the over \$20,000 in expenses that we pay to the City of Alexandria for police officers, and Parks and Recreation Services. This event is crucial to our being able to fund the parade.

We Ballyshanners are thrilled to be hosting Alexandria's 30th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 5. The fundraiser is a great day for families and friends. Come show your Irish-American spirit and to support a great Old Town tradition.

In addition to music, food, drink and fun, the fundraiser will include a live and silent auction offering items that are large and small enough for all budgets. To date, we have received generous donations that include: restaurant certificates from Chadwick's, McCormick & Schmick's and Joe Theismann's; Potomack River Boat Company cruises; a stay at the

Hotel Monaco; handmade blankets and quilts; clothing and jewelry from The Irish Walk; golf bags and a host of other fantastic merchandise. Should other businesses want to donate to our event, please email me at Ballyshanners_marshall@yahoo.com.

Join us on Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. for this "warm-up" to Alexandria's 30th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and mark your calendars for Parade Day, Saturday, March 5.

Kim Moore

Ballyshanner Auction Chair,
Parade Marshal and DelRay
Resident

Cautiously Optimistic

To the Editor:

On Feb. 2, Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton announced two major transportation projects that have significant implications for Alexandria.

First, as a result of strong civic activism and in response to a lawsuit filed by Arlington County, Secretary Connaughton stated the Commonwealth was abandoning efforts to construct High Occu-

pancy Toll (HOT) lanes along the I-395 Corridor. Second, and separate from the HOT lanes decision, he announced that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) was moving forward with a proposed direct access ramp from the HOV lanes of I-395 to Seminary Road in order to help reduce vehicle congestion associated with the location of the BRAC-133 at the Mark Center.

For those Alexandrians engaged in efforts to mitigate the effects of BRAC-133, the announcement has produced a sense of cautious optimism. A direct access ramp would help reduce vehicle congestion on Alexandria's West End roads resulting from BRAC traffic and begins to address the current lack of critical mass transit infrastructure at the Mark Center, something that should have been thought through long before BRAC-133 was ever considered at this location. While many questions remain about the specifics of this project, including funding availability, environmental impacts, construction timelines and impact on the surrounding neighborhoods, this appears to be an overall positive development in addressing the coming BRAC ve-

hicle congestion.

We must also be realistic about the impact a direct access ramp will have on addressing larger West End transportation challenges. Although a ramp may greatly assist in reducing BRAC-related congestion, constructing a ramp from the I-395 HOV lanes should not be viewed as the panacea for all vehicle congestion in the West End. A direct access ramp will likely help reduce some, but not all, of the traffic congestion associated with the BRAC-133 site by providing more direct access to Seminary Road. It does not, however, address the broader and more complex issues of existing vehicle congestion seen on our neighborhood streets, specifically Seminary Road and in the Beaugard corridor.

A direct access ramp is but one piece of a larger transportation puzzle that must include both road and significant transit improvements. Concurrent with our community's evaluation of the direct access ramp, we must continue our transit planning and evaluation efforts for the West End and elsewhere in Alexandria. In

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

order to seriously begin addressing vehicle congestion, we need multi-modal transportation options that link new and existing destination centers in Alexandria and throughout the region, including locations such as Shirlington, Pentagon City and Skyline. As we see multi-modal options taking shape along the Route 1 corridor, we must apply the same transit planning and evaluation principles in the West End.

In the coming months, our community will assess the direct access ramp proposed by VDOT. It is important for our community to thoroughly study this ramp and its impact on our neighborhoods. Ultimately, I believe our community should support this project.

In addition, we must continue to evaluate all robust transit options for the rest of the West End and throughout Alexandria, including lower-cost options like bus cue jumping and better traffic signal coordination as well as higher-cost systems like Bus Rapid Transit and streetcars. Just as the ongoing Route 1 transit planning will give residents and commuters multi-modal options in moving in and through that corridor, we must also do the same multi-modal planning and implementation in the West End to give residents and commuters the transportation options they deserve.

Dak Hardwick

Member, High Capacity Transit Corridor Working Group
Alexandria

Support Caregivers

To the Editor:

Nearly one in five of the people reading this newspaper is a family caregiver — someone who provides un-paid financial, physical, or emotional support — to a family member or friend over the age of 50. Studies have shown that family caregivers spend an average of 20.4 hours per week providing care to loved ones, and that this unpaid work represents over 80 percent of all long-term care services in the U.S. The estimated market value of the care we provide is over \$375 billion — more than the current Medicaid budget. Providing care takes a toll on our families in lost earning potential and psychological stress.

Though the burden on family members providing care to seniors has been identified, and many recognize us as the “backbone” of the

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FROM RICHMOND

City Gets Its Share in State Transportation

BY CHARNIELE HERRING
STATE DELEGATE (D-46)



Transportation is an issue that faces us every day when we travel to work, school, and to any number of activities. Recently, the Governor introduced a transportation plan in the House and Senate. The Governor's Transportation Plan identified 900 projects to be funded. However, the Plan did not identify any road improvements or projects, like a ramp, for the BRAC 133 facility at Mark Center which will open in just seven months.

I did not vote for the first version of the

Plan because I could not justify sending millions of dollars to other parts of the state for road improvements while my constituents in Alexandria City go without any appropriation. I told the same to the Commissioner of Transportation – Gregory A. Whirley. I could not justify voting for a plan that ignores my district's urgent transportation

needs. In addition to limiting future money for transportation projects, the House version of the bill takes over \$150 million from the General Fund which is used for education, public safety and health programs.

I am pleased to report that we finally have assurances that this plan will now include

money to pay for the HOV/transit ramp that will give drivers direct access to the BRAC facility at Mark Center.

On Saturday, Feb. 12, I attended the Virginia Department of Transportation briefing at the Alexandria City Council meeting. For the first time, VDOT gave a public assurance that the proposed direct access ramp for the BRAC 133 facility at Mark Center will be funded through the Governor's Transportation Plan. This new version is a plan that I can get behind because it will benefit our community in the 46th District as well as surrounding areas. I have always been open to finding solutions in place of playing political games, and transportation is no exception.

While I have concerns about accelerating

such huge amounts of debt, the \$3 billion newest version of the Governor's Transportation Plan (SB 1446) will create jobs and spur economic growth, and it will do so without doing harm to education and public safety health. I look forward to having the opportunity to voting on a solid transportation plan for Virginia.

Del. Charniele Herring represents the 46th District which includes the West End of Alexandria and parts of Falls Church. She serves on the Science and Technology Committee and the Courts of Justice Committee where she holds a position as the Democratic Committee Whip. For more information visit www.charnieleherring.com.

House Budget Fails To Reflect Alexandria's Values

BY DAVID ENGLIN
STATE DELEGATE (D-45)



Budgets are moral documents; they express our values as a society, deciding whom we lift up and whom we leave out. I worked to keep that in mind last week as I cast my votes on the House versions of budget and transportation packages that will affect the lives of every Virginian. For example, transportation is important, but I believe — and I think most in our community would agree — that it is wrong to take from education, public safety, and our already meager services for the poor, the sick, the elderly, and the disabled to build roads. That is why I voted against the House versions of the state budget and Governor McDonnell's transportation debt proposal.

The House version of the budget does include some positive items, such as a variation on my proposal to repeal the gimmick that artificially inflates state revenue by forcing small businesses to pay sales taxes they have yet to collect from customers. However, it also cuts \$100 million from public education, \$146 million from health care services to the poor, local police funds, services for sexually abused children, life-saving medications for Virginians living with HIV/AIDS, and many other critical needs. Instead, the House budget takes \$150 million of money traditionally used for these services and puts it toward building roads.

A few days before debating the budget, we debated and voted on the House version of Governor McDonnell's transporta-

tion package. While I remain concerned about the short-term, debt-focused nature of Governor McDonnell's transportation package, I am keeping an open mind on that front, especially since a slice of that debt could address the impending traffic crisis from the Department of Defense's new building at the Mark Center. Unfortunately, his plan is tied closely to the House budget, as it relies on that \$150 million diversion from core services. Therefore, I joined a number of colleagues in voting against it with the hope that registering our objections will give us an opportunity to improve the plan as it now heads to the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The good news is that these are merely first votes in the sausage making that is the legislative process. The Democratic majority controlling the Virginia Senate passed far preferable budget and trans-

portation packages. For example, the Senate version of the budget blocks that \$150 million diversion from core services and instead restores \$100 million to public education, \$17 million to health care for the poor, and invests in a number of other core state services that have been starved of resources. Now that both the House and the Senate have passed competing versions of these critical packages, the negotiations begin. I am hopeful that we will ultimately produce budget and transportation packages that invest in education, public safety, and transportation while also meeting our basic moral obligations to the poor, the sick, the elderly, and the disabled. While we are nearing the end of the legislative session, there is still time for budget and transportation plans to emerge that reflect our community's values and can win my support.

Beyond the Numbers: Budgets Are About People

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE DELEGATE (D-49)



When talking about budgets, it's easy to get bogged down in the minute details, procedures, and arcane terminology that characterize the process. It's important to remember, however, that the dollar figures aren't just numbers on a balance sheet — they represent people, including many of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

With that in mind, it's hard to miss the stark difference in priorities between the budget produced by the Republican-controlled House, which I voted against last week, and its Democratic counterpart from the Senate. Nowhere is that contrast more clear than in how the budgets deal with funding for public education.

We've already asked schools to make pain-

ful sacrifices in recent years in order to keep the state out of the red. School districts have eliminated teaching positions, increased class sizes, delayed necessary maintenance, frozen salaries, and cut back on electives offered to students. Now that the economy is improving and money has started to flow into the state again, it's only right to use new revenue to restore some of the harsh cuts to public education made during the recession. This is exactly what the Senate has proposed.

Yet even in a time of surplus, Republicans in the House are actually proposing further cuts that would reduce K-12 funding by \$93 million. It's part of a scheme to redirect \$150 million to Governor McDonnell's transportation bank by taking funds which the state currently uses to pay for health, public safety, schools, and other core ser-

vices.

Public education is hardly the only item that the House budget will cut in order to finance transportation:

- ❖ \$1 million from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which provides life-saving medications to low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS, but has been forced to narrow eligibility to make up for a shortfall in funding.

- ❖ \$1.9 million from public television stations, which provide critical resources for teachers in our already cash-strapped public schools and help to make history, science, and the arts come alive for our students.

- ❖ \$2.9 million from drug courts, highly successful programs that mandate substance abuse treatment for nonviolent criminals fueled by addiction and produce lower re-arrest rates than incarceration.

- ❖ \$21.6 million from health services for children with mental illness, dumping tens of thousands of children from Medicaid into

local programs that are already overwhelmed and ill-equipped to provide the care they need while providing little funding to cover the added cost.

I'm not arguing that the state's transportation needs aren't dire — they are — and if these cuts were the only way to finance long-overdue road projects, my friends on the other side of the aisle would at least have a more compelling argument to make for their budget. But the fact is that the General Assembly has already approved a plan to finance \$3 billion worth of construction.

That's why taking an additional \$150 million from core services like health, education, and public safety which have already been stripped to the bone is simply indefensible.

Del. Adam Ebbin is a 22-year resident of Alexandria. For more updates from Richmond, visit www.AdamEbbin.com



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City, Schools Disagree about Enrollment Forecasts

FROM PAGE 1

Not so fast, say city budget officials. They haven't seen a good explanation for why the numbers went up in the first place. As a result, they're not sure if the trend will continue because nobody knows what was driving them in the first place. Until that happens, city budget officials say, they would rather not spend almost \$200 million for four new elementary schools that could go unused because enrollment projections were flawed.

"The question we need to be asking ourselves is if we think the enrollment trends we've seen over the last few years will continue for the next 10 years," said Alexandria Budget Director Bruce Johnson. "I'm not convinced that's true."

COMING UP WITH convincing reasons for the recent spike in enrollment isn't easy. One popular explanation is that the slumping economy caused parents who would have otherwise sent their children to private school to think again, a trend that might be reversed by an improving economy. Another potential reason is that illegal immigrants are moving away from communities where they feel unwelcome to places like Alexandria, which has a reputation of being a "sanctuary city." But there's no reason to believe that that may have run its course because all the movement that would have taken place has already happened.

That leaves good old-fashioned demographics. But even with all the modern tools of population forecasting, the future is uncertain for the city's school system. Census figures show the city's population has increased from 128,000 to 140,000 over the last decade, but that kind of growth doesn't justify the school system's enrollment projections. School officials say their enrollment projections are based on population birth rates and the percentage of students who stay in Alexandria City Public Schools rather than moving to another jurisdiction or enrolling at a private school.

"We have to plan for growth," said Deputy

Superintendent Margaret Byess. "It would be irresponsible of us if we weren't planning for growth, even with conservative enrollment projections."

From 2001 to 2007, enrollment declined by about 1,000 students. But then something happened, and more students started coming to Alexandria. School officials expect the school system to grow about 16 percent in the next five years, adding 1,800 new students to a system that is already struggling to handle the current load. Within the next decade, school officials anticipate growth of 31 percent, averaging about 2.7 percent growth each year.

"We are busting at the seams," said School Board Chairwoman Yvonne Folkerts. "If we want to keep class sizes small, we are going to have to add capacity."

PREDICTING THE FUTURE is a dangerous game, especially when money is in-

Sherman's Capital Requests

❖ **\$46 million** for a new elementary school to be built on a site yet to be determined.

To maximize capacity needs, the superintendent plans to construct this school to handle Kindergarten through the eighth grade. The projected opening date would be fall 2020.

❖ **\$43.4 million** for a new school on the site of Cora Kelly Elementary School, which the superintendent wants to demolish and replace with a new facility that would handle Kindergarten through the eighth grade. The projected opening date would be fall 2018.

❖ **\$39.3 million** for a new school on the site of Jefferson-Houston Elementary School, which the superintendent wants to demolish and re-

place with a new facility that would handle Kindergarten through the eighth grade. The projected opening date would be fall 2014.

❖ **\$35.3 million** for a new school on the site of Patrick Henry Elementary School, which the superintendent wants to demolish and replace with a new facility that would handle Kindergarten through the eighth grade. The projected opening date would be fall 2015.

❖ **\$26 million** for a 56-classroom addition at Minnie Howard Eighth Grade Center to accommodate projected growth in the secondary student population.

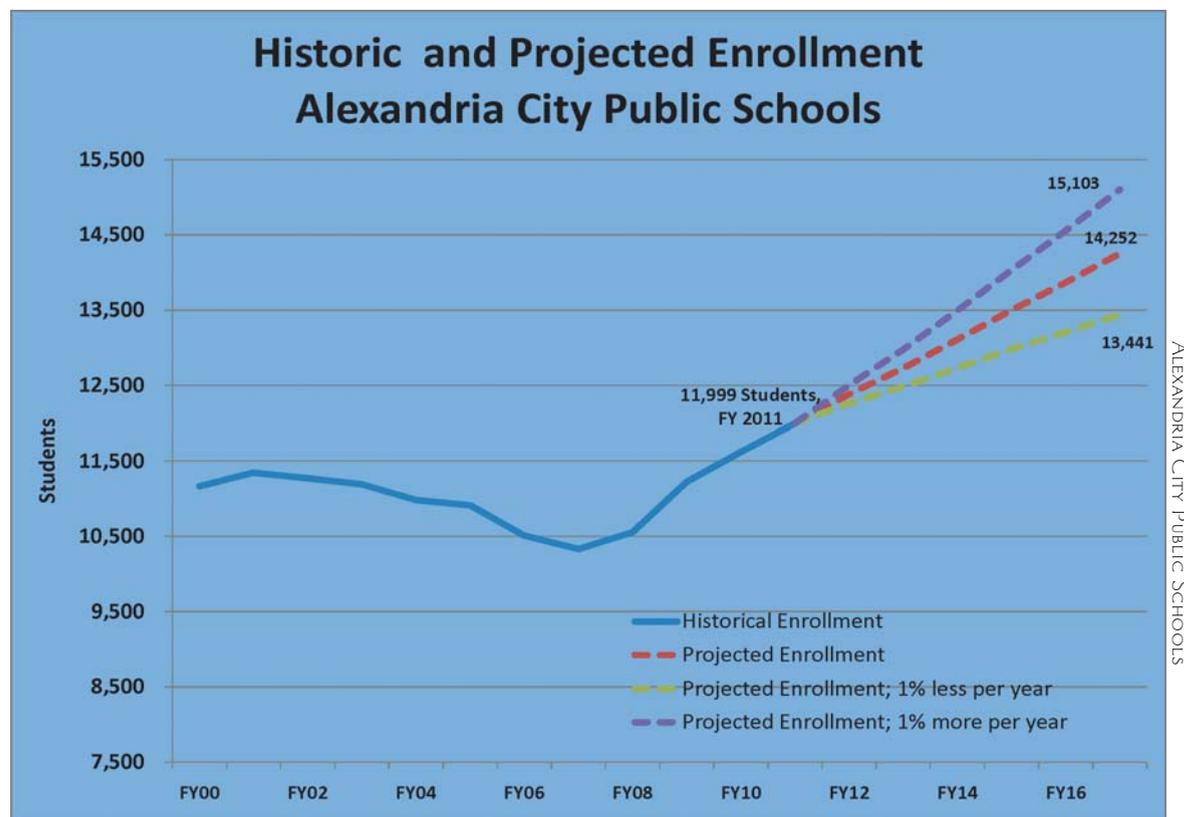
Planned opening would be scheduled for fall 2016.

those enrollments didn't pan out, and now he sees that experience as a cautionary tale.

"We need to know what's going to happen before we start building schools to take care of something that's uncertain," he said. "We need to be cautious about this."

School Board members are scheduled to vote on a capital improvement budget on March 3, followed by a joint work session with City Council members on March 14. City Council members will have the final say on the matter when they vote on a final budget in May. But even if the enrollment numbers are accurate, City Council members will be hard pressed to meet the \$373 million request from the superintendent.

"I think the schools are raising fair expectations about what the enrollment trends are likely to be in the future," said Councilman Rob Krupica, who is also a member of the Virginia School Board. "But we can't afford what they are proposing."



ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Human Skeletal Remains Found South of Ford's Landing

FROM PAGE 1

aminer and the forensic folks can determine before we rule anything out."

The footpath south of Ford's Landing once connected the waterfront townhouses with Jones Point Park, although ongoing construction of the bridge and the park has now severed that connection. Homeless men have been known to frequent the area and fish in the Potomac River. Police officials say it's too early to make any determination about whether or not the skeletal remains are of a homeless individual, but that's a possibility that's being explored

by investigators.

"That's always a potential when you come across a situation like this," said Jody Donaldson, a spokesman for the Alexandria Police Department. "I think it's going to be a couple of months before the medical examiner's office is able to get back to us on this one."

The body had decomposed so much that police were unable to determine much from an initial investigation. So the medical examiner's office and a forensic anthropologist are working trying to use dental records, surgical implants or DNA to make a determination, if those are available. Fail-

ing that, a forensic artist might be able to construct a clay sculpture based on the skull. But even then, people would have to have some familiarity with the individual to make the connection. "The area we are talking about is heavily forested and swampy, so there's no telling how long the body might have been there," said Alan McCurry, who has lived in Ford's Landing for six years. "The people I've talked to about this think it's rather macabre."

The area surrounding where the body was found was once known as Broomilawn Point, a pleasure garden in the early 19th century. During the Civil War, the Union

Army constructed Battery Rogers here to protect the occupation forces. After the war, when a smallpox outbreak threatened the health of the city, Broomilawn Point became a quarantine area. The area was later the scene of a brickyard, a shipbuilding factory and a Ford motorcar plant. Today, much of the area is closed to the public because of a construction project to renovate Jones Point Park.

"At this point, we haven't been able to determine the cause or manner of death yet," said Nancy Bull, a spokeswoman for the state Medical Examiner's Office.

February: Be Aware of Heart Health

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL



Several months ago, a 42-year-old woman sought help at our hospital after being brought to our Emergency Department in cardiac arrest. After being quickly assessed, our cardiologists along with our cardiovascular and interventional radiologists determined that

the best treatment option for the patient would be implanting a cardiac defibrillator or an ICD because this woman was at high risk of additional cardiac arrest events. After receiving the ICD in Inova Alexandria Hospital's Electrophysiology Lab, the woman now has peace of mind by knowing that she's protected from her heart condition because of the care received by our staff.

Cardiovascular disease kills nearly 20,000 people in Virginia annually. Each year, February is designated as American Heart Month to raise awareness about these diseases as well as promote research and education.

Cardiologists at Inova Alexandria Hospital suggest that anyone who believes they may be experiencing a heart attack or stroke to call 911 immediately.

Some symptoms we all need to be aware

of include intense chest and upper body discomfort, shortness of breath, a cold sweat, nausea and light headedness. Other symptoms that are less common are jaw pain or a feeling of indigestion or even confusion. If you suffer from diabetes, more caution is needed because it is possible to have no symptoms other than weakness.

It is important to be aware of your health and take advantage of every opportunity to educate yourself about your well-being.

For more information about and education about heart and vascular programs, visit www.inova.org/heart.

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9316
Heather Glen Dr
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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! OPEN SUN 2/20, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Robertson; L-Heather Glen Dr.



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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. OPEN SUN 2/20, 1-4. GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; L-Allwood Dr.



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\$598,000
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Overlooking parkland, this brick colonial has been totally renovated w/'05 addition.
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Suzanne Backus (owner/agent) 703.338.3594



OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4!
212 GREEN ST
Yates Gardens / Alex
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Virtual Tour www.susanmovesyou.com
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545



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9212
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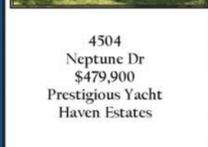
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Waterfront Perfection!



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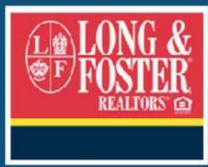
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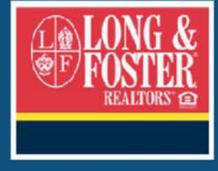
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Home Life Style

Security, Convenience and Green Innovation

Northern Virginia companies debut home technology trends in Las Vegas.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Getting a lot of attention at this year's Consumer Electronics Show were several Northern Virginia companies who were among the more than 2,700 exhibitors displaying some of the world's most cutting edge home technology trends.

This year was all about the "apps" as more than 150,000 people from around the world descended on the Las Vegas Convention Center last month for the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show.

Homeowners can have more control over their homes using many newly developed smartphone applications, getting real time information from home security systems even when not at home, controlling room temperatures, raising and lowering window shades or even starting dinner or the laundry from anywhere with an internet connection.

Surveillance Systems, Archerfish

For homeowners looking for a home surveillance system, Reston's Cernium Corporation has developed the Archerfish Solo, an IP-based wireless camera that emails video clip to your smart phone or computer whenever it senses unusual activity.

"There's been a lot of interest in the Solo," said Debbie Shuey of Archerfish, a CES exhibitor for the last three years. "We've had far more people stopping by this year than the last two."

Homeowners can use Archerfish to view live video via computer, smart phone or tablet devices, as Shuey demonstrated by monitoring the cameras at Reston Skate Quest cameras from the show floor in Las Vegas.

Debuting at CES this year was the Archerfish Solo Flood Light Adapter, which allows the camera to be installed by screwing it into an existing flood light socket.

"We're continuously developing products to help consumers keep an eye on the places that matter to them," said Cernium president Craig Chambers.

WWW.MYARCHERFISH.COM

Tablet Times Two, Entourage

McLean-based Entourage Systems used this year's CES to launch the Pocket Edge, a portable version of its bestselling Entou-



Herndon-based Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo, right, demonstrates the new lockset to Oracle's Joel Storm at the Consumer Electronics Show.

rage Edge.

"We just launched last year and are doing very well, especially internationally," said Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson. "As a consumer device, we are just getting started and are excited to be here." The mission is to provide an all-inclusive personal technology device that combines the functions of several products into one solution.

Both the Entourage and Pocket Edge are dual screen e-reader, Android-based tablet computer, notepad and audio/video recorder and player. Connected to the internet, it can manage any connected home security system or smart appliances. Prices start at \$349.

WWW.ENTOURAGEEDGE.COM

MAXSA, Going Green

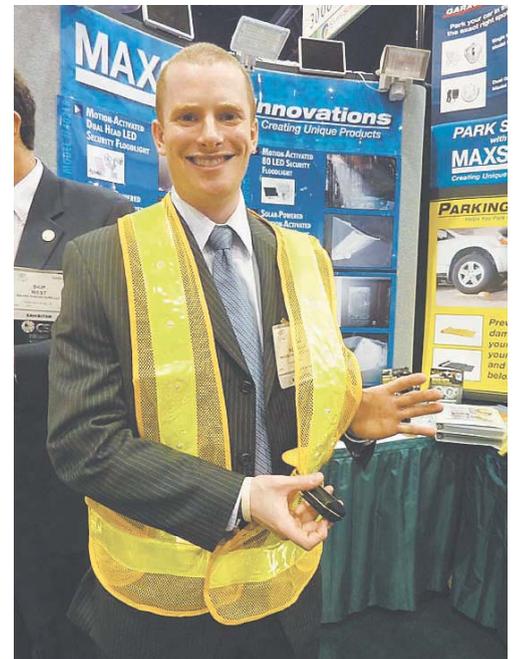
Skip West is no stranger to the crowds of the Consumer Electronics Show.

"This is my eighth year here and it just keeps getting better," said West, founder and president of the Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations. "I love inventing new products and this is the place to introduce them to consumers."

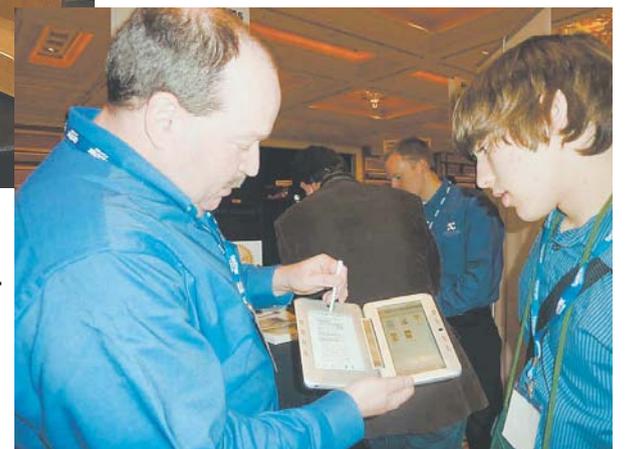
West debuted a dozen new items at this year's show, most focusing on "green" technology.

SEE HOME, PAGE 21

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION



Jon Kelman demonstrates a light-up security vest by Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations.



Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson, left, demonstrates the new Pocket Edge to David Goldhagen of San Antonio.



Skip West, founder of Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations, displays his latest home technology solutions at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month. West teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University.

Northern Virginia REAL ESTATE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

2 207 Fairfax Street South, Alexandria — \$2,840,000



1 415 Prince Street, Alexandria — \$2,850,000

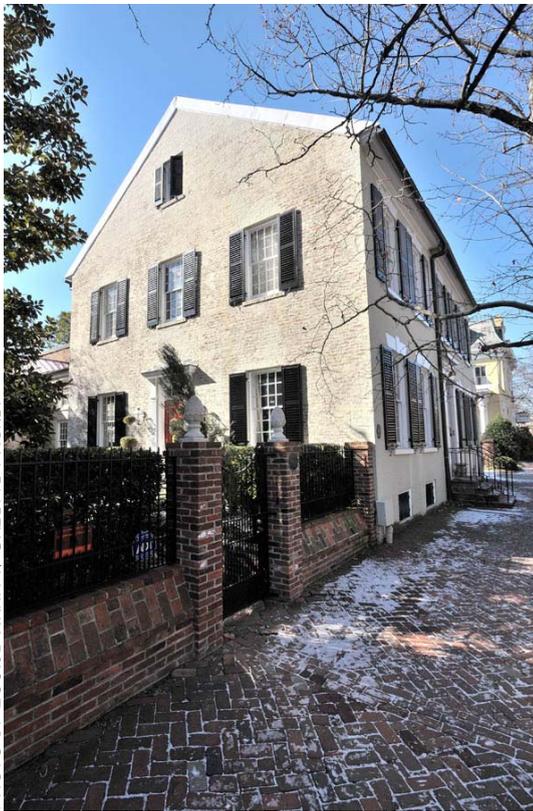


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

4 606 Cameron Street, Alexandria — \$2,100,000



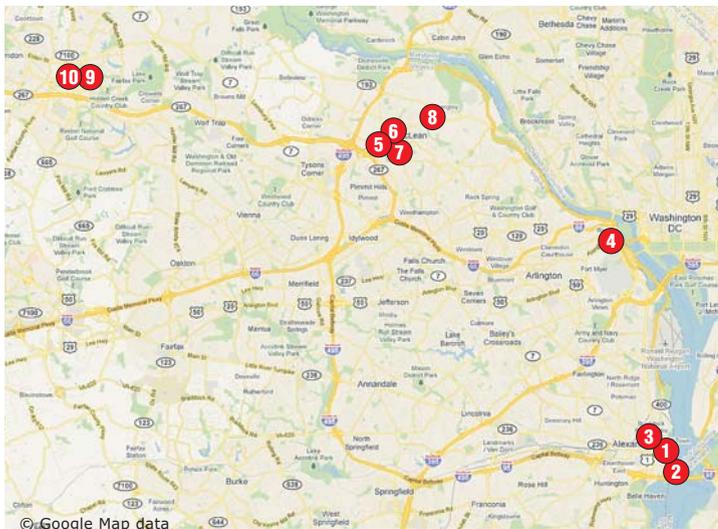
PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

10 11990 Market Street, Reston — \$1,000,000



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

3 1401 Nash Street, Arlington — \$2,150,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 415 PRINCE ST	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,850,000	Townhouse	0.17	OLD TOWN	08/23/10
2 207 FAIRFAX ST S	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,840,000	Townhouse	0.13	OLD TOWN	07/09/10
3 1401 NASH ST	4	4	2	ARLINGTON	\$2,150,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	BROMPTONS@MONUMENT PL	09/30/10
4 606 CAMERON ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,100,000	Townhouse	0.11	OLD TOWN	06/07/10
5 7218A FARM MEADOW CT	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,685,000	Townhouse	0.06	EVANS FARM	06/30/10
6 1423 HARVEST CROSSING DR	3	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,630,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	06/21/10
7 1496 TEAGUE DR	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,487,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	07/16/10
8 1227 STUART ROBESON DR	3	4	2	MCLEAN	\$1,360,000	Townhouse	0.10	MERRYHILL	04/30/10
9 11776 STRAIFORD HSE PL#11043	3	0	0	RESTON	\$1,060,000	Penthouse		STRAIFORD	01/29/10
10 11990 MARKET ST #1813	2	3	0	RESTON	\$1,000,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	10/05/10

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM.

Home Life Style New Local Technology

FROM PAGE 19

"We now have solar powered motion activated flood lights, along with our solar walkway lights for decks, stairs and driveways," West said. "We've been taking lots of orders and getting a great response."

MAXSA also offers laser garage parking systems and personal devices such as a reflective safety vest with 16 LED lights, devices to avoid automobile/deer collisions and special flashlights.

"I sold my last company but didn't like being retired," said West, who teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University. "I love helping students develop their ideas into successful companies." West, one of the first to produce battery powered votive candles, donates part of his salary from GMU to a student business competition.

MAXSAINNOVATIONS.COM

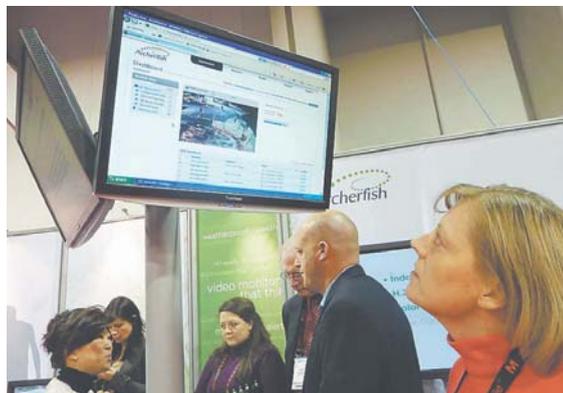
First Impressions, Simplikey

If the employees of Herndon-based start-up Simplikey all look young, it's because they are.

"We hired 11 people, all between the ages of 21 and 35," said Carl Guerreri, president of parent company Electronic Warfare Associates, a government defense contractor. "I told them to wander the world for a year to come up with an idea that best utilized our technology."

The result is the Simplikey lock, a remote con-

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION



Debbie Shuey monitors security at the Reston Skate Park as part of the Archerfish demonstration at the Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas last month.

trol electronic deadbolt.

"We wanted to make something worthy of a front door," said D'Veil Garrison, vice president of sales and marketing. "The lock is all metal with a carbon core center deadbolt, concealed light-up keypad and remote key fob that works from up to 50 feet away. ... It's great seeing all the first adapters' eyes light up when they see the lock."

"I started early this morning and haven't stopped talking since," said Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo. "But people love the product and it's been a great show."

WWW.SIMPLICIKEY.COM

Capital Home & Garden Show, Feb. 25-27

The Capital Home & Garden Show will feature hundreds of displays and exhibits this year, with a special emphasis on "Going Green." Exhibitors include all aspects of home design and improvement, gardening, kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring, roofing, doors, windows, fencing, pools, interior and exterior lighting, home entertainment, interior designs and much more. Get ideas, investigate new products, gather information and meet the professionals who can help. **Dulles Expo Center, Feb. 25 - 27, www.capitalhomeshow.com.**

10 Green Tips from the Home Show

1. Energy Efficient Appliances: The refrigerator is one of the home's highest consumers of energy. Use the water and energy-saving settings on your refrigerator and dishwasher.

2. Lighting: Use **compact fluorescents (CFLs)**. Designing a home with good **natural lighting** cuts down on the need to use electricity.

3. Biodegradable Cleaning Products, and use common supplies like baking soda and vinegar.

4. Indoor air quality: Look for products that don't have **synthetic formaldehyde resins**. **Proper ventilation** will help maintain superior indoor air quality.

5. Green Cabinetry: Many are made from renewable and salvaged materials.

6. Skip the bottled water.

7. Green Flooring: Consider **cork, bamboo** or concrete flooring.

8. Countertops and backsplashes made of recycled glass or concrete.

9. Buy Local and Organic: Buying local keeps fuel usage at a minimum, supports local economy and encourages local farming.

10. Solar Water Heating can save your household up to 35 percent of its energy use and prevent tons of carbon dioxide entering our environment over the life of the system.

Celebrate Today At The Jefferson

Discover *The Jefferson*, a Sunrise Senior Living condominium community right in the heart of Arlington. Our accent on independence and options lets you enjoy life your way. At The Jefferson you'll find a choice of apartment floor plans, restaurant-style dining, housekeeping services, exercise and wellness programs, and much more. Be as independent as you like, secure in the knowledge that expert assistance is close by should you need it.

Services & Care Options:

- Independent Living
- Assisted Living
- Nursing/Rehabilitation
- Alzheimer's Care
- Home Care Services



Join us on **Sunday, February 27th at 2pm** for a unique take on Mardi Gras and find out why we say that, at The Jefferson, fun is a way of life. Sample a cornucopia of culinary indulgences, from beignets to jambalaya and pralines – with a pinch of New Orleans jazz – and enjoy an afternoon sure to please.

RSVP by **February 24th**, 703-741-7553 or thejefferson.dcr@sunriseseniorliving.com
www.thejeffersonatballston.com

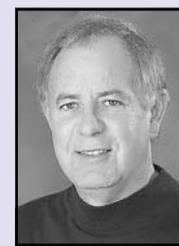


The Jefferson
900 North Taylor Street
Arlington, Virginia, 22203



Mardi Gras at The Jefferson – Sunday, February 27, 2 – 4 pm

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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Alexandria City Colcroft \$589,900
545 Braddock Road E.
Penthouse 701

Stunning 2 bedroom, 2 bath Penthouse (1,599 sq ft) w/panoramic views of the city landscape in great location (across the street from Braddock Metro – Blue & Yellow lines). Easy access to Old Town, Crystal City & D.C. Two large bedroom suites w/vaulted ceilings, each w/their own bathroom. Gorgeous living room has high ceiling, gleaming hwd floors, cozy fireplace & built-in bookcases. Large walk-out balcony off of living room affords spectacular views & has two spacious storage closets on either side. 2 covered garage spaces. Well-appointed complex has private courtyard & exercise room. Walk to restaurants, shops & nightlife. This is city living at its best – it's a 10!



Westgate \$659,900
9010 Volunteer Drive

Beautiful traditional Colonial w/2-car side garage in fabulous Mount Vernon location. It is classy! Over .5 acre landscaped corner lot.

Stunning sunroom addition. Hardwood floors main & upper levels. Family rm w/gas FP off kitchen. Wood FP in living room. Lovely kitchen w/Corian counters & large picture window facing scenic backyard. Sweet front porch. Large unfin bsmt: ample storage.

For more information:
www.RexReiley.com

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Talk of the Town

Splendid Nuptial Sites

The Wanderer senses that there may be some Alexandrians among us who are looking with green eyes on the impending royal wedding of William and Kate. Okay, so they have Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace. Pretty impressive. But The Wanderer would like to present our own charming venues where proud traditions can rule the day. And the price tag is NOT \$20 million!

Photos by Louise Krafft



An unidentified couple near Founder's Park in 2009.

LEE FENDALL HOUSE

614 Oronoco Street, 703.548.1789, leefendallhouse.org

A GADSBY'S TAVERN MUSEUM

134 North Royal Street, 703.746.4242, alexandriava.gov/historic/gadsbys

B CARLYLE HOUSE

121 North Fairfax Street, (703) 549-2997, nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park

TORPEDO FACTORY

105 North Union Street, 703.838.4199, torpedofactory.org

C POTOMAC PARTY CRUISES

00 Prince St, 703.683.6076, dandydinnerboat.com

THE ATHENAEUM

201 Prince Street, 703.548.0035, nvfaa.org

LYCEUM

201 South Washington Street, 703.746.4994, alexandriava.gov/Lyceum

D RIVER FARM

7931 East Boulevard Drive, 703.768.5700, ahs.org/river_farm

COLLINGWOOD LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

8301 East Boulevard Drive, 703.765.1652, collingwoodlibrary.com

CEDAR KNOLL INN ON THE POTOMAC

9030 Lucia Lane, 703.799.1501, cedarknollinn.com

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON ESTATE & GARDENS/ MOUNT VERNON INN

5514 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, 703.780.3383, mountvernon.org

E WOODLAWN PLANTATION

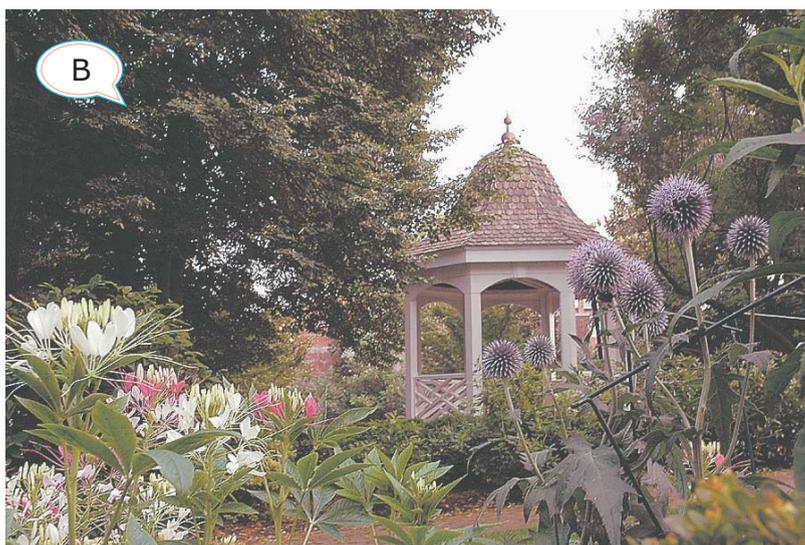
9000 Richmond Highway, 703.780.4000, woodlawn1805.org

STONE MANSION

3900 Stonybrooke Drive, 703-827-0269, fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hprs/stonemansion.htm



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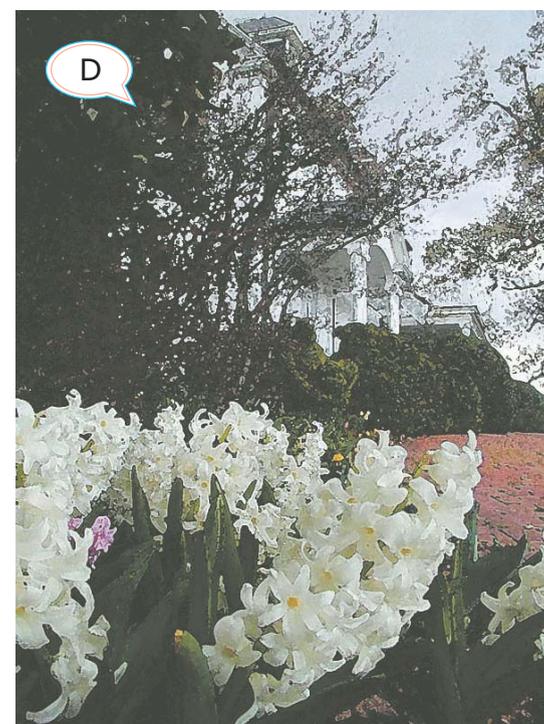
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The Klimchalk's 2004 wedding at Woodlawn Plantation.



A

Jane Pease and her partner at the Gadsby's Tavern and Museum's Grand Ball.



D



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Parade Day Open Houses

On Monday, Feb. 21, the day of the George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria, several Historic Alexandria sites will be hosting special open houses with free admission.

♦ Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, will both be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 South Alfred Street, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street, will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors may tour these historic sites for free on this day.

♦ Also open from noon to 5 p.m. is the Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store, 101 North Union Street, where you can stop in and get dressed for the parade in 18th-century style! Make a tricorne hat to take with you, get your picture taken with the George and Martha Washington cut-out, and try on 18th-century clothing.

Did you know that Thomas Jefferson celebrated his inauguration in 1801 in the Gadsby's Tavern ballroom? What was a popular tavern beverage of the time? What was considered luxurious for overnight accommodations in the 18th century? Visitors to Gadsby's Tavern Museum will find out at the place George Washington dined and danced.

At the Apothecary, which opened in 1792, visitors will see its unique collection of herbs and botanicals, while discovering the important role the Apothecary played in early Alexandria. Among featured display items will be documents from Martha Washington, our country's first First Lady, one of several famous customers who relied on the Apothecary.

♦ At the Friendship Firehouse, first built in 1855 and remodeled in 1871, see hand-drawn fire engines, leather water buckets, axes, sections of early rubber hose and other historic firefighting equipment. The Friendship Fire Company, established in 1774, was Alexandria's first volunteer fire company, and the restoration of Friendship's distinctive cupola was just completed last year.

♦ At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, stop in for the special program "Meet the President" before the parade. At 11 a.m., Brian Hilton will portray President Woodrow Wilson and discuss events of the time of his presidency, 1913 to 1921, before taking questions from the audience. And before or after the parade, guests can explore The Lyceum's exhibitions.

For more information about these events, please visit www.historicalexandria.org.



LTA crew members Jim Hutzler, Marg Soroos, Charles Dragonette and Margaret Snow perform a parody of "Oliver!" at the LTA wrap party Feb. 5.

It's A Wrap for 'Oliver!'



Cast member Joseph Machosky, 7, with director Roland Branford Gomez.

More than a few tears were shed as The Little Theatre of Alexandria continued its long tradition of hosting a closing-night wrap party after the final performance of the musical "Oliver!"

"We all lost it when James started crying during the final curtain call," said Anna Maria Machosky of James Woods, who played the title character in the show and was a cast mate of her son Joseph. "The kids have been like a family for five months so it's very sad for all of them to be saying goodbye tonight."

Highlighted by a parody of the show by the normally behind-the-scenes producers and crew, the Feb. 5 party recognized the year-long efforts of the all-volunteer LTA production team and cast.

"You have been an amazing group to work with," said co-producer Eddie Page to the 15 children that were part of the cast. "I hope that 50 years from now you'll remember the special times you had here at LTA."



Director Roland Branford Gomez and producer Rachel Alberts.



Choreographer Heidi Zufall shows off her certificate of appreciation for her work in "Oliver!"



Cast members Michael Schlesinger and Mike Baker present director Roland Branford Gomez with an autographed cast photo at the LTA wrap party for "Oliver!" Feb. 5.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

George Washington Parade on Feb. 21st

George Washington, the nation's first president, will be honored on the 279th anniversary of his birth with a parade in his hometown of Alexandria, on Monday, Feb. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Old Town.

The George Washington Birthday Parade, the largest and oldest in the country celebrating this Founding Father, will wind its way through the historic streets of Old Town where Washington lived, worshiped and conducted business. Annually the parade includes thousands of participants including historical, community and youth groups, bands, horses and canines. Spectators line the brick sidewalks along the one-mile parade route.

Events throughout the weekend in Alexandria will celebrate Washington's legacy with an historic reenactment at Fort Ward Park, the Birthnight Banquet & Ball at Gadsby's Tavern, a 10-K race, the first ever one-mile race just before the parade, plus



Fife Band marching in last year's George Washington Birthday Parade.

free admission to historic sites on parade day. Historic Mount Vernon presents a surprise Birthday Party for General Washington daily through the weekend.

ENTERTAINMENT



La Bella Sinfonia

An Evening in
Italy

March 5th
Westin Hotel, Alexandria.
6:00 Reception
Silent & Live Auctions,
Dinner & Dancing

Honorary Guest, Alberto Manai,
Director, Italian Cultural Institute

The Symphony Orchestra League
of Alexandria presents
The 24th Annual Symphony Ball
to benefit
The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

Reservations: Margherita Woods
703-960-7994
mjwwoods@aol.com



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.

FEB. 18-20

"A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Feb. 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. Performed by MVCCT and directed by Tiffany Ford. Tickets are \$10/adult; \$8/seniors and students. For tickets, call 703-360-0686. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit www.MVCCT.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

Great Books Discussion Group Meeting.

7 p.m. At the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. There will be a discussion of the three "ode" poems by John Keats. Call Bill Scouton at 703-931-3559.

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.

SATURDAY/FEB. 19

Broadway Night.

8 p.m. The Hayfield Choir Boosters present Broadway Night 2011. Complimentary Dessert Reception at 7 p.m. and entertainment by the Hayfield High School Jazz Band. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$7/students and seniors. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn Auditorium, Hayfield Secondary School.

Steven Gellman in Concert.

8 to 10 p.m. At St Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-739-9268.

Genealogist Char Bah.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. During Black History Month, discover your own family history with expert techniques for tracing African-American ancestors. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

George Washington's Birthnight Supper and Ball.

Cocktails, a unique silent auction, raffle, seated dinner and live music. Hosted by the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$175. To attend, call 703-799-8647 for reservations. At Historic Mount Vernon.

FEB. 19-21

George Washington Birthday Celebration Weekend.

A city-wide celebration including the country's largest parade celebrating George Washington, a 10k race, the Birthnight Banquet and Ball, historic sites offering free admission, and more. Throughout Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-991-4474 or visit www.Washingtonbirthday.Net/events.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Dream Wedding Event.

3 p.m. Bridal fashion show, wedding vendors, complimentary appetizers, photo booth, auction of bridal services. At the St. George Gallery, 115 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Proceeds benefit VITAL VOICES Global Partnership, an international, non-profit organization that works with women and human rights. Visit www.VitalVoices.org.

Barbershop Concert.

3 p.m. The 40-



PHOTO BY JUDITH BEERMANN

Navy Secretary Benjamin Stoddert (John Curd) and First Lady Abigail Adams (Bonnie Fairbanks) at Halcyon House, Stoddert's Federal residence on Prospect Street overlooking the Potomac River

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Abigail Adams Historical Re-Enactment. 4 p.m. Free. The Colonial past meets the present when Abigail Adams and Benjamin Stoddert, the first U.S. Secretary of the Navy, discuss matters of their lives and concerns through an hour-long historical re-enactment at the Lyceum on the eve of President's Day. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria.

member Harmony Heritage Singers present patriotic music in honor of President's Day. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit UCM. Contact Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779, brandtron@verizon.net.

"Ready for Spring" Event. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Find products like Airbonne, doTerra, lia sophia, Miche Bags, Thirty One and Willow House. Purchases will benefit the Lee Fendall House Museum and Garden. Contact Jeri Hesson at 703-350-2385 or jeri.hesson@cox.net.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.

3 p.m. Free. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Pre-concert lecture at 2:15 p.m.

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

MONDAY/FEB. 21

Surprise Birthday.

Free admission. Celebrate the 279th birthday for George Washington. Daily from Feb. 19 through Feb. 21, the party features "General Washington" receiving birthday cheers, 18th-century music and birthday gifts presented from his 18th-century friends. On Saturday, Feb. 19, and Sunday, Feb. 20, have a taste of Washington's favorite breakfast — hoecakes swimming in butter and honey with "the General" himself! The weekend leads up to a grand holiday party for the first president on Monday, Feb. 21, with free admission, military demonstrations, the new "Surprise Birthday Party" celebration, and a wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's tomb. Visit www.MountVernon.org. At Mount Vernon.

Parade Day Breakfast. 9 a.m. The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association invites the public to join in their breakfast on the day of the George Washington Birthday Parade. Tickets are \$30/person. Funds raised will benefit the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association. At the

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria. Contact Bill Kehoe at 703-751-6416.

Meet Woodrow Wilson. 11 a.m. Free. President Wilson will be brought to life by actor Brian Hilton, who will discuss his views on events of the time of his presidency, 1913 to 1921. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History museum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town, Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

TUESDAY/FEB. 22

Mount Vernon at Home. 2 p.m. Information Session. At Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Room, 1st Floor. Membership and volunteer information and presentation. Call 703-303-4060 or email info@mountvernonathome.org.

Quilting Lecture.

12:30 p.m. Free. Pictorial Art Quilter Laura Wasilowski presents "I Quilt, Therefore I Am" to Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited. MVQU meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact: MVQUPresident@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 23

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

Abakadoodle Innovative Art Class. 1:30 p.m. At the Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-797-3800.

THURSDAY/FEB. 24

"Oscar Night" Gala Benefit. 7 to 10 p.m. An evening of Hollywood glitz and glamour, featuring an Oscar Raffle, Silent Auction and Cocktail Buffet, the event promises to be a sellout! The event will raise funds for the Center for Alexandria's Children (CAC), a public-private partnership dedicated to the elimination of child abuse. Ticket start at \$125 each. Tickets are available at www.oscarnight.eventbrite.com or 703-746-6008. At Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Alexandria must be part of a regional transportation system to alleviate traffic congestion, to introduce new modes of eco-friendly transit and to foster future growth to and along commercial corridors. Once again, the business community is being threatened with shouldering the lion's share of a transportation bill in the form of a real estate commercial add-on tax.

This tax is not right for Alexandria.

Unlike our neighboring jurisdictions, Alexandria's business tax base is comprised of small, locally owned and operated businesses thriving on narrow profit margins. Over 90% of the City's 9,000+ businesses have fewer than 20 employees. To expect small business owners to bear tax burdens in a manner similar to the way our neighbors tax their businesses is unrealistic.

This tax is inequitable.

Residents and businesses alike will benefit from transportation improvements, and thus, the funding of such improvements should result from a uniform tax rate. Instead of killing the small businesses that make up our commercial tax base, the City needs to focus on expanding our tax base through thoughtful development and diversity of business uses so there is an adequate complement of larger businesses to help pay a proportionate, larger share of taxes. Imposing a commercial add-on tax now will merely hurt existing businesses and discourage new businesses from relocating to Alexandria.

This tax is not the only tool in the toolbox.

The Chamber recognizes the need to generate revenue to solve its transportation conundrum. Transportation improvements should be funded through general fund revenue as when the city established a precedent for dedicated funds raised through the general real estate tax base in its creation of an open space fund. Funds can be raised through localized tax districts that raise funds for transportation improvements in connection with new developments. For example the funding options implemented in conjunction with the North Potomac Yard Plan, in which special tax districts create an additional dedicated revenue stream.

Contact Alexandria City Council:
<http://alexandriava.gov/Council>

Post your opposition on the City's website:
<http://Alexandriava.gov/TransportationAdOnTax>
Contact the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce:
(703)549-1000 or info@alexchamber.com

HERE
WE
GO
AGAIN

It's the City's
budget season
and its crunch
time to figure out
how to fund our
critical
transportation
needs.

We, the business
community, need
to be loud and
clear in our
opposition to this
inequitable,
burdensome tax.
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www.ipetitions.com/petition/alexchambercatpet.com

FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH FEB. 20

inMOTION by Artist Sandi Parker.

Parker's collection of oil paintings presents a vibrant celebration of Arlington high school teen athletics, with almost every high school sport represented. At Cassatt's Café and Gallery, 4536 Lee Highway, Arlington.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 27

John M. Adams — Finding Zero.

John M. Adams' work activates the perceptual connection between artist, object (or environment), and viewer. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. 703-548-0035. Visit nvfaa.org.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 27

Mixing Bowl. Examines Immigration and Diversity in America. 16 artists were invited to submit work for consideration addressing their personal views on immigration and diversity in America today. At The Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 27

Love Letters Exhibit. A collection of love-inspired artworks paired with artist's love letter. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

NOW THROUGH MARCH 6

"Malaysia Journeys." A Photo Exhibition by Blake Stenning. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 6

Centerpieces for Valentine's Day. The Ceramic Guild Show at the



Water Marks: Barry D. Lindley's Solo Exhibit of Water-color Paintings

MARCH 10 - APRIL 4, 2011

Water Marks. Watercolorist Barry D. Lindley creates striking paintings portraying the effect water has on natural and man-made objects. Opening reception and Meet the Artist is Thursday, March 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Artist's Talk is Saturday, March 26 at 1 p.m. On Display in the Art League Gallery.

Scope Gallery at The Torpedo Factory. Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. At 105 North Union Street, Ground Floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 703-549-6006. Visit www.gallery-west.com.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 27

Objects & Apparitions by Renee Lachman. The Objects and Apparitions exhibition is an eloquent tribute to its namesake; a poem written by Octavio Paz for Joseph Cornell. At the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

MARCH 3 TO APRIL 10

"Bare Bones/Ruth Trevarrow."

Show contains a collection of powerful shapes and lines that dare us to see a lush beauty in bare bones. Artist's Reception is Sunday, March 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

MARCH 4 TO 27

Beyond Form: Expressing Art Exhibit.

Artist's reception is Friday, March 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. All-media show exploring the color, energy and simplicity inherent in abstract artwork. Details at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or bplummer11@verizon.net.

NOW THROUGH MAY 1

Exhibition of Commemorative Wares.

Features ceramic wares that reflect the Alexandria community's keen interest in current and historic events. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 admission. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

NOW THROUGH MAY 7

Artist Horace Day.

"Style and Identity: Black Alexandria in the 1970s, Portraits by Horace Day." The exhibition of more than 30 paintings by Horace Day (1909-1984) features Alexandria street scenes and portraits of African American Alexandrians from the early 1970s. At The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street in the heart of Alexandria's historic Parker-Gray District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

MUSIC



SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Folk Singer Pierce Pettis. 7 p.m. With special guest Rj Cowdery. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at FocusMusic.org.

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Old Town

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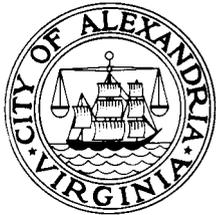
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Alexandria, Virginia 22305
Chezandree.com
703.836.1404

NEIGHBORHOOD

Legal Notices

ABC LICENSE

Glam A Unisex Mini Day Spa, LLC trading as Glam Day Spa, 6929 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Day Spa, Wine & Beer on premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Trong D Le, Owner



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review Old & Historic Alexandria District LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2011-0032

Request for new awning at 1555 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: 1555 King St Court LLC

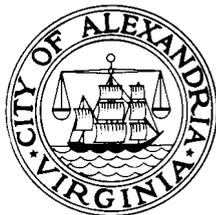
CASE BAR2011-0035

Request for storm door at 1300 C Duke St, zoned OC Commercial.
APPLICANT: Alex Falcon

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

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 3/3/2011 at 9:00am



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION - MARCH - 2011

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the following dates. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information, call the Department of Planning and Zoning on 746-4666.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011
7:30 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011
7:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2011-0003

898 NORTH ALFRED STREET
JAMES BLAND (OLD TOWN COMMONS)
Public hearing and consideration of a request for an amendment to DSUP #2008-0013 to construct three multi-family buildings instead of two multi-family buildings as previously approved; zoned CDD-16/Coordinated Development District #16. Applicant: Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority and GPB Associates represented by Kenneth Wire, attorney

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011
7:30 PM, CITY HALL

Legal Notices

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2010-0087

4740 EISENHOWER AVENUE
DOG DAYS OF OLD TOWN
Public hearing and consideration of a request to operate a dog day care facility with overnight boarding and a request for a parking reduction; zoned OCM-100/Office Commercial Medium(100). Applicant: Kathryn Rollins

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2010-0088

101 NORTH UNION STREET #101
RESTAURANT
Public hearing and consideration of a request to operate a restaurant; zoned KR/King Street Retail. Applicant: Blue Zen VA, Inc represented by Hanh Tran

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2010-0089

444 SWANN AVENUE (Parcel Address:
420 Swann Avenue)
AUTOMOBILE REPAIR FACILITY

Public hearing and consideration of a request to operate a general automobile repair facility; zoned I/Industrial. Applicant: Mehrah Noorzadeh

TEXT AMENDMENT #2011-0004

FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS
A) Initiation of a text amendment; B) Consideration of an amendment to Section 6-300 the zoning ordinance regarding floodplain regulations.
Staff: Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL USE PERMIT

#2010-0004
3100 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
MARINOS PIZZA RESTAURANT ADDITION
Public hearing and consideration of a request for a development special use permit, with site plan and modifications, for an addition to an existing building for a new restaurant; zoned CSL/Commercial Service Low. Applicant: Ather Subzwari

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
1010 Emerald Drive, Alexandria, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Logan D. Leathers, Ursula F. Leathers, Enrique L. Kotoriy and Dely A. Kotoriy, dated June 8, 2007, and recorded June 13, 2007, in Deed Book 19391 at page 623 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on
Friday, February 18, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Lot 22, Block 22, Subdivision of Waynewood, Section Eight, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 1788 at page 168, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia; together with an easement for turn around purposes as set forth in Deed Book 2433 at page 142 among the aforesaid land records.

Commonly known as 1010 Emerald Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22308.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$35,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 11.375 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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

Old Town

FRANKLY, IT'S A MESS! 'Townners, we've got a real can of worms on our hands, and we really deserve much better.

I'm talking about our gorgeous waterfront — what it has been, what it is today and what it is becoming — a future source of civic ineptitude

In case you haven't been paying attention, many of us have been blathering for the last few years trying to figure out how and why we can't make our transcendent waterfront a nice place to spend an enchanted evening, an afternoon away from the office, a sparkling morning stroll along the shore or a lifetime doing all of the above. I vote for any or all, but it won't happen — at least in my lifetime.

We just can't seem to get it right. We can't settle back and appreciate the reality of the jewel we have down there at the foot of Old Town. As someone said the other night, "People come to Alexandria because it's there. Why change it?"

Change it they will, if the city visionaries don't get their act together before it's too late to harness the potential of the Alexandria waterfront. This isn't your usual monthly lecture on public affairs from your friendly neighborhood correspondent. This is more a call to arms to your brothers and sisters who run this town either as elected officials or folks like the Old Town Civic Association, the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Alexandria Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission, among others. We're at flash point as our city movers and shakers prepare to go forward in April with a "new" waterfront plan — which apparently is little changed in other such plans over the years.

The Old Town Civic Association has been among those leading the enormous effort to push the city into a plan that preserves what we have, along with our vision of the future that we can afford realistically. That's the rub. As Poul Hertel of OTCA offers in a glimpse of the problems, he wrote recently that

the plan the city is preparing to release soon, offers some desirable features — unfortunately tempered by little solid planning. Hertel, a former president of the watchdog OTCA, notes that so many of the desirable features are tempered by reality.

For example, the plan proposes moving the Old Dominion Boat Club parking lot onto Waterfront Park and building a five-story on top, effectively wiping out the park.

This amazing move would be converted to open space. As Hertel notes, there are two problems: The City does not own the boat club and the club apparently has no interest in approving the swap. and the Waterfront deed was part of the 1981 settlement with the Federal Government and it specifically does not allow a building nor parking on Waterfront Park. Small problem? Are you kidding!

The plan also includes construction of 625 hotel rooms within the plan area, a 62 percent increase in the number of hotel rooms east of Washington Street. Hertel and OTCA's Bert Ely note that City staff estimate another 109,941 square feet of new restaurant space in the area — an area equivalent to 14 restaurants the size of one being built at 106 S. Union St. Congestion? City staff estimates the new restaurants would require an additional 800 parking spaces.

The above only offers a tiny glimpse of the path ahead if the plan goes forward, which it won't. OTCA's Ely, along with Hertel and others summarize the situation this way: "In my almost 47 years of working on financial matters of all types," Ely says, "I have seen a lot of bad and incompetent financial planning and forecasting. What (city planners) have put on the table so far is among the worst that I have seen. This so-called waterfront plan is a fiasco, as is becoming increasingly evident to all concerned ..."

Tough words, 'Townners. But these are tough times. Be happy we've got some folks unafraid to step up. Stay tuned.

— BOB FELDKAMP

Deena Disarely To Receive Mentoring Award

Deena Disarely, a volunteer with the Campagna Center's Building Better Futures Program, has been selected as one of the two individual recipients of the Ninth Annual Virginia Mentoring Award.

The Virginia Mentoring Awards, a program of the Virginia Mentoring Partnership, honors individuals and programs committed to mentoring youth.



Disarely along with Ben Thompson of Richmond, the Armstrong Leadership Program of Richmond, and Team Up Mentoring of Norfolk will be honored at an award luncheon on Feb. 24 at The Jefferson Hotel, in Richmond.

As a mentor and volunteer, Disarely has helped to grow the center's Building Better Futures

program which provides at-risk Latino and non-Latino ESL high school students in Alexandria with the support and services needed to succeed in school and beyond. Disarely logged close to 250 mentor hours during the 2009-2010 school year and through her recruiting efforts the number of mentors and tutors grew 1000 percent over the past five years to a current group of 200 from less than 20 in 2005.

Legal Notices

This sale is being made subject to a superior trust.

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

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

Legal Notices

shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

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

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

PRENSKY DAVID N.
Substitute Trustee

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

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Titans Still Searching for Consistency

TC advances to regionals with win over Lee.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams boys basketball coach Julian King wasn't pleased with the Titans' play during the first half of Tuesday's Patriot District Tournament opener against Lee and he let them hear about it at halftime.

TC entered the locker room with a 24-6 lead, forced 15 first-half turnovers and limited Lee to two field goals.

So, what's the problem?

Lee entered the game with a 0-19 record. TC is the district's top seed and a team that has battled consistency issues. While the score was lopsided, the Titans' play was uninspired.

"It shouldn't take for me to have to go in at halftime," King said, "and remind you with a few examples and a few choice words how focused you should be."

King got through to his players, who opened the second half with an 18-0 run and cruised to a 60-24 victory at T.C. Williams High School.

"Second half, coach got on us," senior Tyrell Sitton said. "He really motivated us to play harder."

What did he say?

"A lot of words," Sitton said with a smile. "I'm not going to say."

Sitton scored nine consecutive points during the Titans' 18-0 run, including back-to-back 3-pointers. He finished with a game-high 15.

The win put the Titans back into the regional tournament after missing out last year. TC's 2009-10 season was marred by eligibility issues, forfeits and a loss to Annandale in the first round of the district tournament.

"Just another step in the right direction," King said of Tuesday's win. "We want to be back in the district championship game and looking forward to the region tournament — somewhere that we've been the past four or five years."

"We want to be back in the district championship game and looking forward to the region tournament — somewhere that we've been the past four or five years."

— Coach Julian King

The biggest question TC has moving forward is whether the team will show up to play to its full potential every game.

"You have a great game against [national power] Montrose [Christian on Feb. 5], you lose at the buzzer, and then you come in tonight and you have a lull in your play. That's just the sign of an inconsistent team. We have a lot to work on and most of it's mental."

Jamal Pullen scored nine points for TC, including the first eight of the contest. TJ Huggins, Tyler Driver and Rick Mathews each scored seven points and Mert Ozkaynak and Donte Adams each added six.

The Titans will face No. 4 Woodson at 6 p.m. on Feb. 17 in the district semifinals.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Tyrell Sitton led T.C. Williams with 15 points during Tuesday's win over Lee.

In-Your-Face Defense Propels TC to Regionals

Titans outscore Lake Braddock 30-5 in second quarter.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams girls basketball coach Kesha Walton attributed Tuesday's poor start to "tournament jitters." Junior guard Sofie Schedler said the Titans "weren't really into" the defense they were playing.

Whatever the reason, TC's effort against Lake Braddock in the opening quarter of the first round of the Patriot District Tournament couldn't have been much worse. The Titans turned the ball over eight times, were held without a field goal and fell behind 7-2 against a team they had already beaten twice by an average of 18 points.

While the first quarter was ugly, it turned out all that was needed was a simple defensive adjustment.

"Coach is like, 'Go Red,' which is full-court man," Schedler said. "I'm like, 'Yes! Let's go!'"

No. 3 TC turned up the pressure in the second quarter and took over the game. The Titans opened the period with a 17-0 run



T.C. Williams girls basketball coach Kesha Walton instructs the Titans during Tuesday's Patriot District Tournament win against Lake Braddock.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

and outscored the No. 6 Bruins 30-5 en route to a 69-39 victory at T.C. Williams High School. The Titans clinched a berth in the Northern Region Tournament and advance to the district semifinals against No. 2 South County.

TC overwhelmed Lake Braddock with its full-court pressure, forcing 11 second-quarter turnovers.

"They turned up the aggression," Lake Braddock head coach Leigh Kampman said. "They came after us, they were going hard after the ball and we kind of went back in our shells a little bit. We didn't come out as strong and [they] forced a lot of turnovers. [Walton has] a really good group of kids

and they're very intense. When they play with that intense pressure, it flusters kids. We got flustered."

Jasmine Norman started TC's second-quarter run with a 3-pointer in the opening minute. From there, the Titans poured in a flurry of 3-pointers and transition buckets on their way to a lopsided lead.

"That's our game," Walton said. "That's what we do. We strive off of defense; that's our No. 1 goal. We try to get a lot of turnovers because for us, turnovers equal easy baskets for us."

Norman led TC with 18 points. Sadé Barber scored 14 points for the Titans, Schedler finished with 11 and Rainie Summa and Gabby Moss each added seven.

TC returns to the regional tournament after falling short last season.

"It's good to know we sealed the deal," Norman said.

"When they play with that intense pressure, it flusters kids. We got flustered."

— Lake Braddock girls basketball coach Leigh Kampman

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SPORTS

Maknassi Finishes Region Runner-Up

Titans finish 14th with
 three regional placers.

By JON ROETMAN
 GAZETTE PACKET

On Saturday, T.C. Williams senior Omar Maknassi finished better than all but one 135-pound wrestler in the Northern Region. But after the Titan grappler stepped down from the second-place medal stand at Fairfax High School, the positives of his accomplishment were not at the forefront of Maknassi's thoughts.

"Disappointment," is what Maknassi said he felt. "It doesn't go away."

The one wrestler who finished better than the TC senior was Robinson's Brooks Martino,

**"Disappointment. ...
 It doesn't go away."**

— T.C. Williams 135-pounder
 Omar Maknassi

who defeated Maknassi in the championship match for the second consecutive year at the Northern Region Tournament. On Saturday, Martino won by a 6-0 decision.

"[If I] just wrestle my match, I should be able to win against anybody," Maknassi said. "I stopped thinking and started wrestling [Martino's] match. I knew how he wrestles and I let him do what he does best instead of what I do best. ... He gets in good position and he doesn't stop attacking."

Maknassi's effort helped T.C. Williams finish 14th as a team with 50 points. Titan 130-

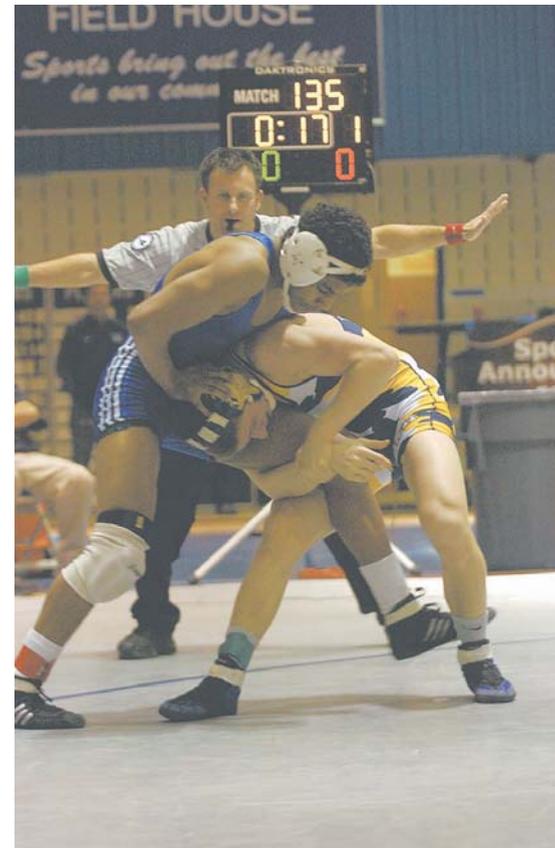


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams 135-pounder Omar Maknassi, left, finished Northern Region runner-up to Robinson's Brooks Martino for the second consecutive season.

pounder Decker Beasley finished fifth and 160-pounder Marvin Gomez finished fourth.

Robinson won the Northern Region team title with 260.5 points, followed by Westfield (208) and Patriot District champion South County (118).

Washington Capitals assistant general manager Don Fishman, third from left in back, joined the Alexandria Sportsman's Club in presenting the Student Athletes of the Month Awards Feb. 15 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Club Honors Student Athletes

Players from Alexandria high school hockey and basketball teams were honored Feb. 15 as Student Athletes of the Month by the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

Recognized for both academic and athletic achievement were Jasmine Norman, T.C. Williams Basketball, Brandi Smith, Hayfield Secondary School Basketball, Evan Boden, St. Stephens & St. Agnes Hockey and Robert Chastain, Bishop Ireton Hockey.

Also honored were members of the Recreation Department's MacArthur 12 and under boys basketball team. Coached by Brian Corcoran and Ron Webne, team players include Ahmed Abdalla, Keshon Carter, Jackson Hipp, Robert McPherson, Jackson Moser, Joseph Mutscheller, Riley Peterson, Garrett Roach and Jacob Souza. Don Fishman, assistant general manager for the Washington Capitals, was guest speaker for the evening.

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Email resume and 3 references to jobs@plymouthhaven.org or call 703-360-4370.

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systems of care for the aging, our perspectives and needs are still unheard and unmet. Our state and local budgets allow insufficient funding for outreach and information sources for caregivers, public programs cannot accommodate all those who need them, and privately-paid support services are unaffordable to most. Demonstrating the lack of understanding for family caregiver needs, a Virginia House bill to make a registry of respite care providers available to our families was recently defeated for the second year in a row.

All members of our community should want to support family caregivers. Studies have shown that when family caregivers receive adequate support through effective information outreach and accessible and affordable community-based programs, we are able to keep loved-ones out of publicly-funded long-term care facilities and in their homes. Support for family caregivers is crucial to us all, as we know that Medicare and Medicaid systems can barely support our current population, and the need is only growing.

In Virginia, by 2030, the number of people over 65 will have doubled; meaning one in five residents will be over this age. This will be a doubling of those who will need access to services such as Alzheimer's day centers and senior centers, safe transportation alternatives to driving, support with meals, home health care, and financial management and legal support. The doubling of our senior citizen population also means that if you are not providing care to someone now, chances are that you will be soon. Without attention to these needs by our communities, families will increasingly bear the burden of caring for seniors — meaning more financial and psychological hardship, and faster placements in facilities.

I urge family caregivers in Alexandria to attend upcoming public Town Hall meetings to provide your input to the planning process that will develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for Aging in Alexandria. Tell those developing this plan what caregivers need to be able to help our seniors remain at home, to ensure their health and safety, and to keep them engaged in fulfilling activities and relationships in our community. If you are a caregiver now — or will be soon — you need to make your heard!

Town Hall forums will be held on Feb. 23 at the Minnie Howard Campus of T.C. Williams High School from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and on March 3 at the First Baptist Church from noon – 2 p.m. For more information Please visit www.alexandriava.gov/aging.

Laura Burns Macone
Alexandria

Family caregiver, member of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, and the representative of family caregivers on the Advisory Group developing the City's strategic plan for Aging

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