



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Public employees packed City Council chambers last week during a work session to oppose a plan that would reduce their paychecks.

## Ready for Development

Opposition arises against Old Town WMATA garage's new location.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority's plans to close a 65-year-old garage in Old Town Alexandria and move it to a site on Cinder Bed Road in Fairfax County met massive citizen opposition at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting last week.

The final vote on the controversial project was postponed until March 8, to give the applicant time to fully brief residents in a Mt. Vernon district subdivision.

WMATA officials have said that "an unsolicited proposal was received in August 2008 offering to provide the real estate necessary to house a new garage to replace the Royal Street Bus Garage."

WMATA said the proposal also

offered "design and construction services and proposed a private financing plan to cover the project's costs."

WMATA said that "following a procurement request for alternatives, of which there were none, authorization was given to proceed with the developer, Iskalo."

Iskalo CBR, LLC, the developer, was apparently created for this project by Iskalo Development Corporation, a real estate development firm in Williamsville, New York, outside of Buffalo. The 23-year-old firm has worked primarily in western New York.

The old bus terminal at Royal and Pendleton streets in Alexandria, built in 1945, is now surrounded by \$700,000 homes and apartments. When it moves it will open up to development one of the

SEE OLD TOWN, PAGE 8

## Taking a Financial Hit

Public employees could see reduced paychecks under manager's proposal.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Half of the city's workforce could see the amount of money in their paychecks go down if City Manager Jim Hartmann's proposed operating budget is approved, a phenomenon driven by increased contributions to health-care and pensions. For half of the city's 2,500 employees, that means the amount of their weekly paychecks will go down before the merit-based increase kicks in on the employee's anniversary date. Dozens of public employees packed council chambers last week during a work session to protest the proposal.

"We're not Wisconsin," said Michael Kochis, president of the Alexandria Police Association. "We're not here yelling and screaming but we do want to be treated fairly."

Public employees say they have taken hits before, but they didn't speak out before because they knew citizens were also having a tough time. Things are different now. Last year, Budget Director Bruce

Johnson announced the city had an unexpected \$3 million surplus. This year, Hartmann announced that this year's budget was the first time since 2008 when the city was not facing a budget shortfall. But that doesn't mean that creating a balanced budget was easy.

"The city had more than \$11 million in increased personnel costs for fiscal year 2012," Hartmann said in an e-mail. "The proposed increase in employee cost sharing for retirement and health care costs is one of many decisions of what to include or what not to include in the budget to meet City Council's guidelines."

### FACED WITH GUIDELINES

asking him to avoid raising the tax rate, Hartmann and his budget team crafted a series of

increased contributions to balance the books for fiscal year 2012. To accomplish that, Hartmann suggested raising the employee share in health insurance premiums from 13 percent to 16 percent — creating an additional \$600,000 in revenue. Johnson said it's part of a long-range plan to raise the cost-

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 3

**"We've been doing this since fiscal year 2007 — gradually increasing the employees' share of the health care premiums."**

— Budget Director Bruce Johnson

## Outreach and Incidence

Alexandria has highest rate of HIV/AIDS in Northern Virginia.

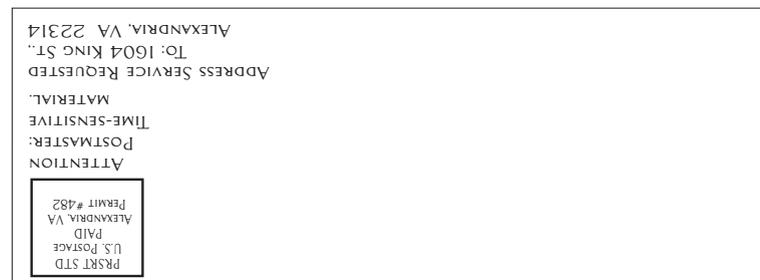
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a heartbreaking statistic, one that appears in bold print in the annual report of the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS — Alexandria has the highest rate of incidence in Northern Virginia — 3.4 times the rate across Virginia. Despite the advent of powerful drugs developed to

control the disease in the 1990s, infection rates for the immune deficiency syndrome remain stubbornly high in Alexandria.

"One of the things we're emphasizing is to love responsibly," said Alexandria Health Director Stephen Haering. "That means taking protection. It means staying in a monogamous relationship, and it means getting tested and

SEE HIV/AIDS, PAGE 8





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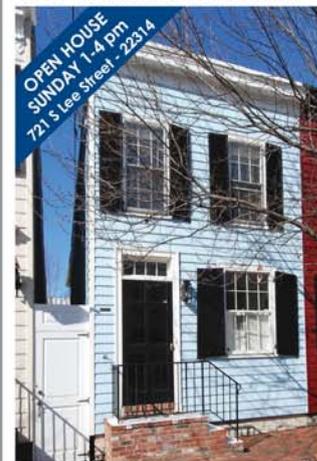
Craftsman style bungalow featuring welcoming front porch, three spacious bedrooms including fabulous master suite, three full baths, gracious living room with gas fireplace, open kitchen offering breakfast bar plus main-level guest suite or home office. Charming covered back porch, flagstone patio and fenced back yard just steps to all the fun on "The Avenue."

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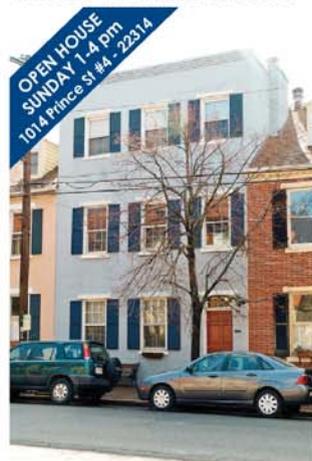
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## Waterfront Reading

At long last, the wait is over. Planning officials have finally released the long-awaited draft Waterfront Small Area Plan, which could guide redevelopment along the Potomac River for the next 15 years. The 141-page document is the result of months of discussions, public hearings and work sessions. In April, the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the plan. The City Council could docket its public hearing as early as May.

"Some interest in some development has surfaced," said Planning Director **Farrol Hamer**. "I think that's because of the plan."

Each of the five chapters has a set of recommendations, ranging from building hotels on the Robinson Terminal sites to constructing a 200-foot pier at the foot of King Street. Responding to concerns about building piers in waters owned by the District of Columbia, the draft presents an alternative scenario that would stop redevelopment efforts at the city limits. Overall, the plan would cost taxpayers as much as \$41 million, although planning officials estimate it would generate \$45 million in revenue.

"The plan will pay for itself," said Hamer.

In the coming weeks, Hamer plans to release more information about the small-area plan. That includes a detailed revenue estimate, which will explain how the plan would be financed and implemented. She'll also release alternative scenarios that will respond to some of the criticism that has been leveled at the plan, showing the revenue implications for scaling back on the size of the potential hotels or constructing public parks there instead.

"There is a market for 700 to 1,000 rooms on the waterfront," she said.

## Moving Expenses

Moving is always a pain. Just ask the Alexandria Police Department, which is planning to move from a temporary leased facility into a sparkling new \$90 million facility in September. As City Council members prepare to budget for the move, they want to make sure the \$350,000 cost of moving doesn't unexpectedly rise, as was the case when the school system moved into the \$100 million new T.C. Williams High School.

"It was kind of a surprise to us," said Councilwoman **Del Pepper**, recounting the last minute cost of furniture for the school.

"I'm the cause of that," responded Mayor **Bill Euille**.

"They said, 'We're just going to move furniture from the old building into the new building.' And I said, 'You're not going to do that. You're not going to build a \$100 million building and then put old furniture in it.'"

Don't worry, said General Services Director **Jeremy McPike**, the furniture for the new police facility is already in the capital-improvement budget.

## Paper Trail

When voters head to the polls in November 2012, they will see some major changes. For starters, they will see the City Council and School Board candidates on the ballot for the first time since the city began voting for city offices. But they'll also see new voting machines. As the result of recent action in the Virginia General Assembly, Alexandria is required to return to optical-scan voting technology — the same method that was used before the current technology in 2004.

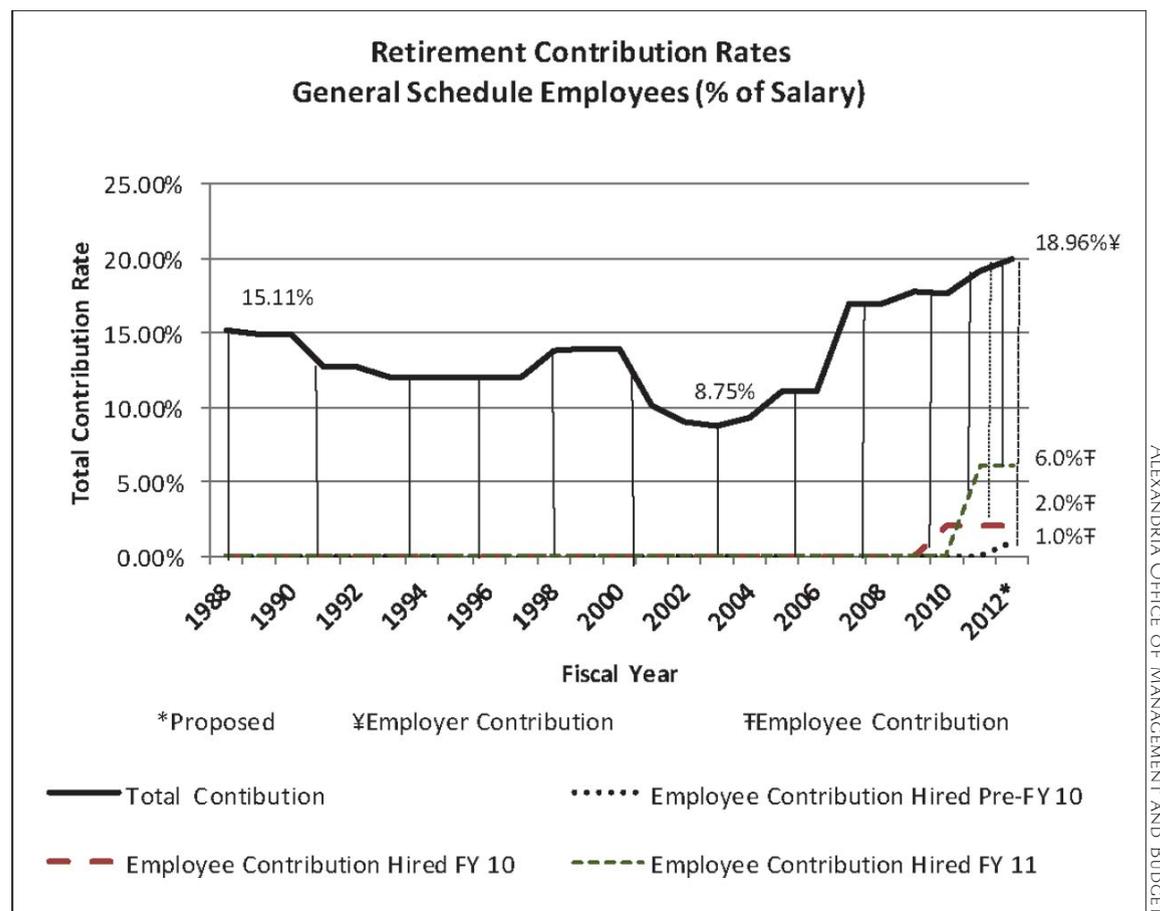
Moving back to the old way of voting will cost taxpayers \$270,000 to purchase new machines for each precinct. Each precinct would have at least one of the rotary dial machines currently in use, which allow voters with disabilities to cast a ballot without assistance.

"So we're going to go back to what we had before?" asked Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** during a budget work session last week.

"That's the legal requirement," said Budget Director **Bruce Johnson**.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS



## Budget Targets Public Employees

FROM PAGE 1

sharing to 20 percent by fiscal year 2013.

"We've been doing this since fiscal year 2007," said Johnson, "gradually increasing the employees' share of the health care premiums."

Hartmann's proposal would also increase the contributions for retirement, creating an additional \$1.6 million in revenue. That includes a 1-percent minimum in the employee share of the cost of the city supplemental retirement plan, which would target employees who currently don't contribute anything to their retirement. But it would also increase employee contributions for sworn police officer and firefighter pensions from 8 percent to 9 percent. When Councilman Rob Krupicka asked about the health of the pension plan, Johnson explained that it didn't need any more money to function properly.

"There's no crisis," the budget director said. "They are operating well."

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES** in Alexandria say they are heartened by the public demonstrations of unions in Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana. But unlike those states, where the progressive movement was strong, Virginia was dominated by the conservative Byrd machine when other states were creating collective bargaining rights. That means Alexandria public employees don't have any power over the process other than to participate in public hearings such as

the one scheduled for Monday at City Hall.

"There are a lot of people who work for the city who would have a hard time looking at a paycheck that was reduced by \$50 each week," said Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel. "That's especially true if they're not making much to begin with."

The vast majority of employees in Alexandria get merit-based increases to their pay each year, although they have not received cost-of-year increases in several years. But the higher pay doesn't kick in until the so-called "anniversary date," which is based on when employees began working in their current positions. Budget officials estimate that about half of the city's workforce has anniversary dates that would increase merit pay weeks or months after the beginning of the fiscal year this summer.

"The concern is that there's that split," said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley. "I think what we all want to do is create some kind of equity."

In the coming weeks, City Council members will have the final say on whether or not they will approve a plan that would reduce the paychecks of half of the city workforce. Budget officials have been asked to create a series of options that would reduce or eliminate the number of employees who would see lower paychecks as a result of the increased contributions.

"There have been some concerns," said Mayor Bill Euille, "and folks are upset."

## Abduction Case Goes Forward in Court

The case against an Alexandria man accused of an abduction in the City of Fairfax is moving forward in the legal system. He is Charles Robert Barbour, 47, of Wolfe Street.

On June 16, 2010, around 7:15 a.m., police responded to the parking lot of the 7-Eleven store at 10911 Main St. for a report of a man attempting to abduct a child. The mother of a 7-year-old boy told officers that Barbour allegedly approached her son while he was standing beside the family's vehicle, grabbed the child's hand and tried to take him away.

But the mother held onto him, while calling out for help, and a woman nearby who witnessed what was happening came to her aid. Together, say police, they were able to wrest control of the boy from the suspect and get him back into the vehicle.

Responding officers saw Barbour in the parking lot and immediately took him into custody, charging him with abduction. Last Thursday, Feb. 24, he appeared in Fairfax County's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and, at that time, his case was certified to the grand jury for possible indictment.

## Convenient Arguments

Neighbors on Harvard Street are preparing for a fight with Dallas-based convenience giant 7-Eleven, which recently filed an application for a special-use permit to open a new store in the Navy Reserve Association. Concerns range from traffic and parking to noise and litter. Some are worried that the convenience store will become a destination for the rowdy bar crowd as the stumble to the Metro after closing time.

"I guarantee you we'll have trash all over the place," said Harvard Street resident **Scott Brown**. "People will drink and smoke in the back alleys."

This is not the first time 7-Eleven has created controversy in Alexandria. Back in 2009, residents in the Carlyle neighborhood opposed a new store at the intersection of John Carlyle Street and Ballenger Avenue. During a public hearing in that case, one Carlyle resident said he would file an application for a concealed weapons permit if City Council approved the special-use permit in that case.

"I just don't buy the hyperbolic argument of you feeling the need to arm yourself because a 7-Eleven is coming in there," responded Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** in an October 2009 public hearing. "I think that line of reason isn't helping your argument one bit."

This time around, many of the classic arguments against 7-Eleven are being resurrected once again — late night hours, noisy trash removal, traffic congestion and alcohol sales contributing to a general sense of moral turpitude. But this time, the coming debate over 7-Eleven will come with a twist: The Upper King Street location is a highly visible spot in the city's prized commercial corridor.

"Do we want people to see a 7-Eleven when they get off the Metro?" asked Brown.

## Rainmaking Prosecutors

Federal prosecutors in Alexandria do more than put criminals behind bars. They also contribute to the bottom line.

United States Attorney **Neil MacBride** announced this week that his office contributed a cool \$272 million in criminal and civil actions in fiscal year 2010. That's \$17 million in criminal actions and \$255 million in civil actions.

"This money helps protect the public and recovers funds for crime victims and the federal treasury," MacBride said in a written statement. "During a time of economic recovery, these collections are more important than ever."

One local case involved Houston-based Motiva Enterprises, which operates a terminal on Pickett Road in Fairfax. When 100,000 gallons of oil were discharged into the Crook Branch Creek, which flows into the Potomac River through Accotink Creek, the United States Coast Guard was called in to clean up the mess and remove the oil. As the result of a consent order, Motiva has agreed to pay the United States \$650,000 to reimburse the cost of the cleanup effort.

"We will continue to hold accountable those who seek to profit from their illegal activities," MacBride said. "Additional resources have been committed district-wide to pursue every dollar lost through fraud or overpayment."

## Buy Local, Think Global

Mark your calendars. This Sunday is International Women's Day, which began as a socialist holiday in 1911. This year, the celebration will be marked by a special sale at Ten Thousand Villages in Old Town.

The store will donate 15 percent of the day's sales from noon to 6 p.m. to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program. An additional 10 percent of the sales will be donated for items made in Egypt and Afghanistan.

"Our artisans in Egypt need to get back to work after the recent strikes and unrest," said store manager **Kate McMahon**. "I wish we carried more items from Afghanistan, but what we do carry is made by women, who continue to suffer oppression."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

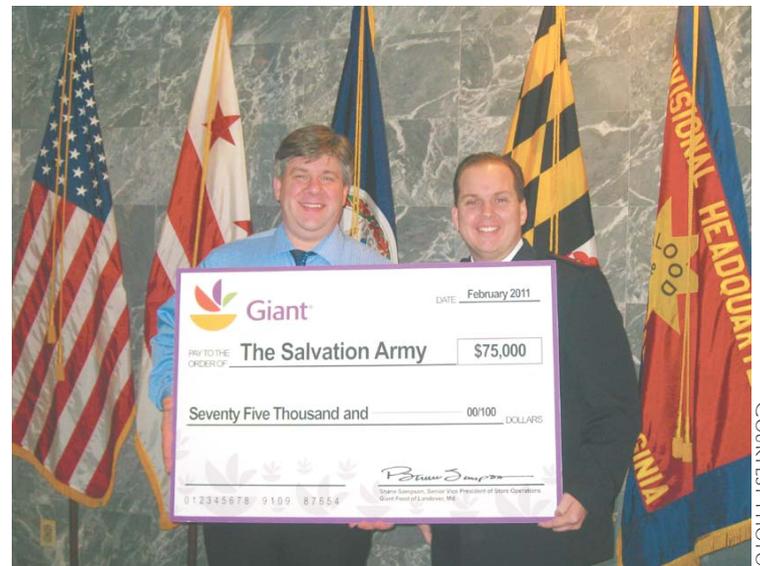
## BUSINESS

# Giant Food Marks 75 Years

**Food chain makes \$75,000 donation to Salvation Army.**

**G**iant Food kicked off a year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary Feb. 16 by presenting a check for \$75,000 to the Salvation Army at the National Capital Area Command headquarters.

"We are very thankful for our partnership with Giant," said Capt. Ken Argot of the Alexandria Citadel on Mount Vernon Avenue. "I think the controversy surrounding last year's Red Kettle Campaign was a wake-up call for both of us. The community reacted and showed us how much we needed each other." Started in 1936 by N.M. Cohen and Samuel Lehrman, the chain has grown to more than 180 stores in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District. The donation will help support the work and programs of the Salva-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Brian Beatty (left), director of marketing for Giant Food of Landover, Md., presents a check for \$75,000 to Captain Vance Murphy of The Salvation Army in honor of Giant's 75th anniversary.**

tion Army throughout the region.

"Giant Food supports The Salvation Army's efforts to help our neighbors in need and is pleased to make this gift as we begin our 75th anniversary celebration," said Jamie Miller, manager of public and community relations for Gi-

ant Food.

Giant will continue to support The Salvation Army and hundreds of additional community partners throughout the anniversary year and in the years ahead.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## Dealing With Aging

**L**ast year, nutritionist Kelly Dorfman, M.S. came to speak to a group of women at the Campagna Center to talk about women's health. The audience was impressed with her knowledge about everything from vitamins to cell growth to hormones to diet. She did all this with humor and easy to understand descriptions of some complicated topics.

Last month, she returned to the Campagna Center to talk about "A General Supplement Program for Age Management." When she finished an hour and a half later, the women were much more knowledgeable about human genes, epigenetics, biological differences between men and women, factors of longevity, and essential fats and



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO

**Kelly Dorfman talks to a group of Supporting Friends at the Campagna Center about aging.**

supplements.

Co-chairs Bridget Weaver and Erika Baum facilitated the talk for supporting friends and guests. After the talk, a healthy lunch of soup, salmon and grains and chocolate rice pudding was served by Beth Hamed with a Thyme and

Place Catering.

Dorfman's office is located in Maryland and her website is [www.kellydorfman.com](http://www.kellydorfman.com).

She will return to this area in June for a signing of her book, "What's Eating Your Child?"

— GALE CURCIO

## BUSINESS NOTES

**Burke & Herbert Bank** announced that at its meeting on Feb. 3, its Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$17 per share payable on March 1, 2011 to stockholders of record at the close of business on Feb. 18.

"We are delighted with the continued, industry-leading performance of our Bank, even as we invest in our systems, products, delivery channels, and people to set the stage to ensure our ongoing success," said E. Hunt Burke, Chairman and CEO. "Continuing to provide our shareholders with a solid return is indicative of the high level

of confidence the Board and executive leaders have in the direction in which Burke & Herbert Bank is headed."

**DreamDog Foundation in Alexandria** received a \$500 grant for "Kids Empowering Kids 2 B Healthy!" program. Children will have the opportunity to write, create, sing, move, dance and produce healthy eating videos made by kids for kids. The grant is part of the United Health HEROES program, a service-learning, health literacy initiative.

# PEOPLE

## Former APD Officer Joins Peace Corps

New role takes him to South America as security officer.

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS  
GAZETTE PACKET

**B**urke Brownfeld spent six years fighting crime as an officer with the Alexandria Police Department. But the Alexandria native wanted to put his law enforcement skills to use on an international level and has found the perfect fit in his new role as the U.S. Peace Corps regional security officer for South America and the Caribbean.

"This job, in some respects, is a perfect job," Brownfeld said. "It combines my interest in community service with my interest in law enforcement and security."

As the regional security officer, Brownfeld is responsible for "advising the Peace Corps staff members and volunteers about crime and security issues" and acknowledges that his time with the APD provided him with a strong foundation for his new position with the Peace Corps.

Brownfeld's passion for public service began in adolescence. At the early age of 15, he would spend his free time volunteering and doing ride-alongs with police officers from the evening shift and midnight shift, an experience he says helped him find his niche in public service.

Dave Miller, Brownfeld's former supervisor in the APD's Property and Evidence department, recognized his leadership potential.

"He told me of his aspirations to become an Alexandria police officer," Miller said. "I knew that a person with his intellect and thirst for social justice was going to do much more."

When he entered William and Mary College, Brownfeld wanted to major in something that would help him become a better police officer and better understand the people he was serving, so he chose psychology.

During his senior year, he had one job in mind: becoming an Alexandria police officer.

"I also felt that the position of police officer would offer me the chance to protect the city where I had grown up," Brownfeld said. "I wanted in some way to pay back the city and the people here for providing such a wonderful childhood and environment."

Two weeks after graduation, he joined the APD and enrolled in the police academy during the summer of 2004.

While working foot patrols, Brownfeld learned "how to stay calm under pressure,

how to solve a crime and how to better understand different life situations and the human struggle."

Perhaps his greatest lesson was learning compassion for others, even criminals.

Although he has arrested individuals for everything from theft to murder, in each case Brownfeld tried to find a common bond between himself and the person instead of dehumanizing them.

"One time, I asked a man, 'I don't understand. I just arrested you. What are you thanking me for?'" Brownfeld recalled. "His response was, 'Thank you for treating me like a man.' That was one of the most meaningful parts of the job."

Brownfeld's coworkers also recognized his compassion and dedication.

"Burke really cared for the less fortunate people on the street," said Detective Sean Casey. "He would provide them food when they did not have any, which was really going above and beyond what he had to do."

SEE PEACE CORPS, PAGE 7



COURTESY PHOTO

Burke Brownfeld, left, with local security officer Simeon Gurrick, inspects the safety and security of homes in a neighborhood in Georgetown, Guyana.

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

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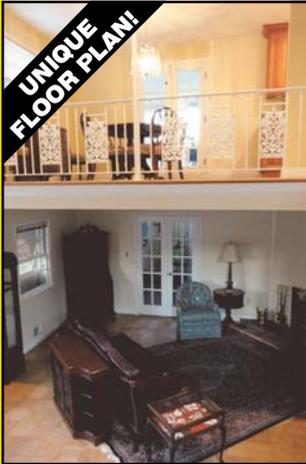
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**Alexandria \$550,000**  
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**Alex./Del Ray \$639,500**  
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# PEOPLE

## From APD to Peace Corps

FROM PAGE 5

In November 2007, Brownfeld received the Police Officer of the Year Award from the Sunrise Optimist Club. The following year, he was awarded the Charles Hill Police Officer of the Year award from the Alexandria Jaycees. In addition, he twice received the medal of valor, most recently in May of 2010.

"It felt very meaningful to me," Brownfeld said. "I take crime personally in Alexandria. When I would hear a call go out on the radio and a person was just robbed at gun point, in some ways it felt personal."

In May 2010, he accepted the position of regional security officer for South America and the Caribbean.

"If a volunteer is attacked or victimized in some way, I am expected to reach out to our local staff and advise them about what needs to be done," Brownfeld said. "Many of my decisions are based on experiences that I had as a police officer."

Brownfeld said that he often feels like a protector to the volunteers.

"As a former policeman, Brownfeld is an excellent



COURTESY PHOTO

**Burke Brownfeld, left, shown with former partner Brad Cecchetti, when they served together on the special response unit together.**

resource on police relations, report writing, crisis management and other specialized topics," said Peace Corps staff member Joseph Burton.

When he's not working, Brownfeld enjoys running, traveling, learning about new cultures and languages and relaxing in coffee houses. In his quest to expand his horizons beyond Alexandria, Brownfeld has been volunteering at an orphanage in Guyana since 2002. Although he will miss the APD family bond and the thrill of solving

a criminal investigation, Brownfeld believes working with the Peace Corps will help him better understand his own city and culture.

"I visit a different country every month," Brownfeld said. "I see how the criminal justice systems work in different parts of the world and it allows me to appreciate Alexandria even more."

For more information on getting involved in the Peace Corps, visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).

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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](mailto: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. **SIGN OUR PETITION**  
[www.ipetitions.com/petition/alexchambercatpet.com](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/alexchambercatpet.com)



WMATA Metro bus lot on Pendleton Street between N. Pitt and N. Royal streets.



The view from Pendleton Street at N. Royal Street.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE PACKET

## Old Town WMATA Garage Relocation Meets Resistance

FROM PAGE 1

largest sites on the Potomac River side of Washington Street.

Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille said he has “worked for eight years” trying to get the garage out of Old Town. Developments could include more town houses, high-rise apartments or a mixed use office residential complex. He also sits on WMATA’s board.

Iskalo is proposing to build a new Metro bus garage on a 17.4 acre site on Cinder Bed Road, near the intersection of Newington Road, east of I-95 in Fairfax County. This is an old industrial road and the previous occupant was a concrete plant.

During land and planning hearings in 2009 and 2010, WMATA accepted certain agreements to get a “special exception” to build on the site. The site will accommodate 160 buses, a natural gas refueling station and parking for some 300 employees.

WMATA agreed that the buses would not use Newington Road and a nearby underpass and the developers would build a traffic light at Newington and Cinder Bed Road.

The result of this agreement is that all the buses will enter and leave the site each day by roads and streets in the Lorton section of Mount Vernon district. The residents of that area have steadfastly opposed the garage.

Seventeen witnesses testified at the Feb. 22 hearing, 15 as individuals and two, Cynthia Smith, president of the Newington Civic Association and Michael Miller of the Newbery State Home Owners Association. All of the witnesses opposed the bus garage.

They claim that WMATA is the third bus facility to be located there — a Connection Bus Terminal and a school bus garage share the area — and that the some 160 buses entering and leaving each day will create enormous traffic delays trying to go north

on the parkway, Route 395 or Telegraph Road. They are also concerned about the environmental dangers of the natural gas fueling at the site and the noise and fumes of diesel bus engines. They argue that the buses now primarily serve Alexandria and Arlington and driving north each day will clog roads soon to be taxed by an enormous influx of traffic some the military Base Closings and Realignment (BRAC) traffic.

Smith said in an interview after the hearing that it appears that WMATA is just moving an unwanted garage out of Old Town, where it does not fit in with the real estate values to Fairfax where it will result in loss of housing values to the nearby residents. “I think this is a disservice to Fairfax County residents.”

Two members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors serve on the WMATA board, which is made up of public officials from Washington, Maryland and Virginia.

Catherine Hudgins, who represents the Hunter Mill District, is chairman of the WMATA board and voted for the Cinder Bed Road project in 2009. Jeffrey McKay, the supervisor for the Lee District is an alternate director of the WMATA.

McKay strongly advocated for the plan. He said that Cinder Bed Road has been the scene of illegal trash, zoning violations and other difficulties for years. He said he preferred WMATA because it had agreed to standards to maintain and improve the area. “We need to clean up and regulate Cinder Bed Road,” he said. McKay said buses don’t “fly in and fly out of a bus terminal” so they must use the roads and that every effort has been made to make their passage traffic congestion free. In an almost heated manner, he pledged to vote for the plan, but delayed his motion for approval until March 8 after the applicant has met with an association that said it had no had a briefing.

## City Has Highest Rate of HIV/AIDS in Northern Virginia

FROM PAGE 1

acting on the results of those tests.”

Health officials say part of the reason Alexandria stands out in the region is outreach. The city is the only jurisdiction in Virginia to have a commission dedicated to combating the epidemic.

And the city offers several free clinics where anyone can get free testing. Another potential explanation for why Alexandria stands out in the region is staffing.

“The ratio of personal time to population is higher in Alexandria than in Arlington or Fairfax,” said Deborah Dimon, a public health nurse supervisor for the Alexandria Health Department. “So we have a higher number of people following up on the infections.”

**SINCE THE DISEASE** was first identified in 1981, AIDS has been diagnosed in more than a million Americans. Of these, more than 580,000 have died. Alexandria currently has about 1,300 people living with HIV and AIDS — most of whom are African-American men.

A statistical profile of Alexandria residents who have been infected shows that 57 percent are black and 77 percent are male. The dominant risk factor remains men having sex with men.

“Some young gay men view this as the issue of another generation, so they don’t view themselves as particularly vulnerable,” said Thomas Suydam, chairman of the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS. “We need to reinvigorate support within the gay community.”

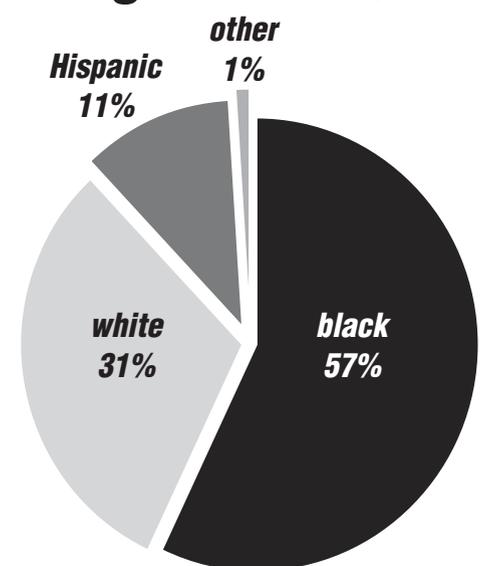
A recent study published by the Washington AIDS Partnership shows that HIV and AIDS is not just a problem for Washington, D.C. The disease is also a major public health problem in the suburban jurisdictions surrounding the District. The study, titled “The Profiles Project,” identifies Alexandria as a leader in the region.

The city has one of the two regional hospitals that conducts routine HIV testing in their emergency departments, and its government is one of four that has a history of grantmaking to community-based HIV and AIDS service providers.

The authors of the study also identified Alexandria as one of four jurisdictions that “appear to view HIV/AIDS as part of a broader local responsibility to protect public health.”

“One way to bring visibility to the problem of HIV/AIDS and perhaps encourage planning and coordination is to maintain a city or county commission or advisory body responsible for advising the council and senior officials about HIV/AIDS,” the report noted. “Of the seven jurisdictions, only Alexandria has a HIV/AIDS commission.”

### Persons in Alexandria Living with HIV/AIDS



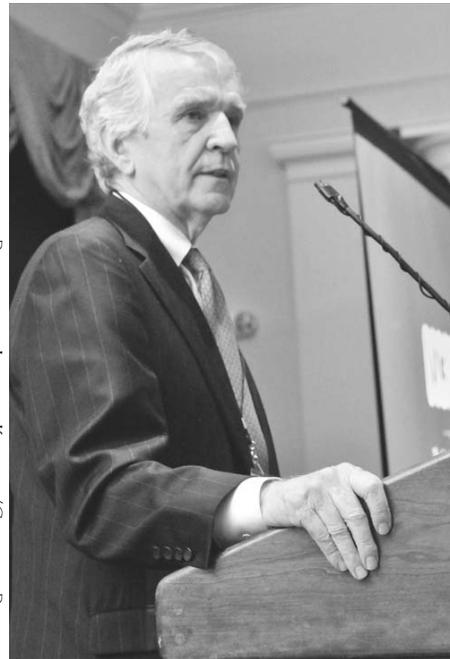
SOURCE: Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS

LAURENCE FOON/C/CAZETTE PACKET

## PEOPLE



Honorary co-chairs Mike Knuble, captain of the Washington Capitals, and his wife Megan are joined onstage with emcee Julie Carey and CAC executive director Gisille Pelaez. CAC Board Chair Nigel Norris is at left.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

CAC Champion for Children's Award winner David Cleary, founder of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN).



Alexandria Police Sergeant Bartholomew Bailey, the CAC 2011 award winner for Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children.

# And the Winner Is ... Cleary, Bailey honored at Oscar Night.

The Center for Alexandria's Children rolled out the Red Carpet for its second annual Oscar Night Feb. 24, honoring two of Alexandria's outstanding advocates for abused and neglected children.

Recognized for their exceptional dedication and service were Dave Cleary, founder of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN), and Alexandria Police Sergeant Bartholomew "Bart" Bailey, supervisor of the Criminal Investigations Youth and Domestic Violence Units.

"Alexandria should be proud of the people

who contribute their time and resources for children," said Cleary in accepting the 2011 CAC Champion for Children Award. "Thank you for all of your support to this cause over the years."

Bailey, who was escorted by his 16-year-old daughter Sierra, was presented with the 2011 CAC Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children's Award for his work with the Center and efforts to support and safeguard Alexandria's children and families.

"I feel extremely lucky to be here tonight," Bailey said. "It's very special to be recog-

nized for helping the children of the community. I'm not usually cool enough for my daughter to want to hang out with me, but I think maybe tonight she thinks her dad is cool."

Held at Belle Haven Country Club, more than 250 people attend the event, including U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), Mayor Bill Euille, Chief of Police Earl Cook, Councilwoman Del Pepper, Councilmen Frank Fannon and Rob Krupicka, and City Manager Jim Hartmann.

Adding superstar quality to the evening were Washington Capitals forward Mike

Knuble and his wife Megan, who served as honorary co-chairs of the event. Together they debuted three new public service announcements featuring Knuble and fellow teammates Nicklas Backstrom and Jason Chimera.

"It's an honor to be a part of this event," Mike Knuble told the crowd. "We live in Alexandria and love this city. We want to do whatever we can to help the community."

For more information about the CAC, visit [www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org](http://www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org).

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## Ms. Virginia Senior America Seeks Candidates

Pageant spotlights women 60 years of age or better.

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS  
GAZETTE PACKET

"Senior ladies rock," Ms. Virginia Senior America 2010 Linda Huntley said.

Huntley's philosophy of life sums up what the Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant is all about: encouraging women in the 60 or better age bracket.

All candidates must be 60 years of age or older, be a citizen of the United States and have lived in Virginia for three months. The entry deadline is April 1. Entry forms are available via the website <http://www.msvirginiasenior.com>.

According to the Ms. Virginia Senior Pageant State Director Annmarie Pittman, the pageant is a chance to "pay homage to women who've reached the age of elegance (60 or better)."

"In 2009, we had someone from Virginia to win the national Ms. Senior America. These are fascinating women. We've had doctors, PhDs and one of the girls here worked in the State Department. It's an interesting group and it becomes a sisterhood," she added.

The contest includes an interview (5 minutes), talent (2 minutes and 45 seconds), philosophy of life (35 seconds) and evening gown sections.

Similar to other beauty pageants, the talent portion is always full of surprises. Past contestants have done everything from a hula hoop presentation to photography displays. They even had one contestant roller skate on stage.

"This year our second runner up Kathy Fanelli did a tribute to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' — sequined glove and all. She has been invited to encore this act at several different venues," Pittman said.

She acknowledged that she had to overcome her own self-doubts when she entered the pageant.



State Director Annmarie Pittman and 2nd runner up of Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant 2010 Diane Tuel Roberts welcome guests to the Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant 2011 luncheon inside Washington House on Feb. 17.

PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

"It was more enjoyable than I thought. I just thought it would be a lot of people in competition with each other ... but we've become like sisters," Fanelli said.

However, once she competed and got a chance to show off her dancing skills with her rendition of Jackson's "Thriller" she was hooked.

The Cameo Jewels, the performing arm of the Cameo Club, was the second reason

Fanelli entered the pageant.

"I wanted to join the Cameo Club so that I could go out and dance with them and gain some sisters since I only had brothers growing up," she said.

The Cameo Jewels, a dancing troupe, performs at community events, retirement communities, senior centers, and veterans'

SEE SEEKING, PAGE 25

## Time for Adult Discussion on Deficits

BY MARK R. WARNER  
U.S. SENATOR

**W**ith all of the current discussion about short-term federal spending resolutions and potential gridlock in Congress, you might think we have lost the opportunity for serious action on our longer-range deficits and debt.

I remain convinced that our country is at a critically important moment: We simply must seize this opportunity to get our fiscal house in order for the long term, and since last summer this has been one of my top priorities.

Partnering with my Republican colleague Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, we are working to try to turn the recommendations of the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform into legislation.

Our current national debt stands at more than \$14 trillion. If adopted in full, the commission's recommendations would gradually reduce that debt by \$4 trillion over the next 10 years.

Unfortunately, the current debate is centered on deep cuts in short-term, discretionary and nonmilitary spending, which only makes-up about 12 percent of the overall federal budget.

The spending proposal recently adopted by the House of Representatives slashes funding for workforce training programs that are so important to many people across southwest and southside.

It targeted federal support for the multi-state, multi-year Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort, and the House budget makes deep cuts in federal



**U.S. Senators Saxby Chambliss of Georgia and Mark Warner of Virginia.**

funding to Northern Virginia's Metro mass transit system.

The simple fact is, drastic and even painful cuts to these individual programs alone will not fix our larger structural budget problems.

That's why Senator Chambliss and I have been working with a growing number of our Senate colleagues to address these fiscal challenges in a more comprehensive and responsible way. We must work together to control government spending, simplify our tax code, and begin to gradually eliminate our deficits. That is the only way we will fix our nation's balance sheet over the long term.

The deficit commission's recommendations, while far from perfect, represent a courageous first step in tackling our national debt in ways that will make our nation competitive for the 21st century:

- ❖ The commission laid out a plan to accelerate healthcare savings in Medicare and Medicaid, and it provides a responsible roadmap to strengthen Social Security for the next 75 years. The commission's plan protects Social Security, and does not use Social Security funds

to balance the budget.

- ❖ It dramatically simplifies a tax system in serious need of an overhaul. It proposes closing loopholes and phasing out some deductions while lowering overall tax rates for individuals and corporations.

- ❖ It puts everything on the table, including entitlement programs and defense spending. We believe that this has to be part of the discussion, too.

As you might imagine, various political opponents and special interests already are mobilizing to short-circuit our work on this legislation, which demonstrates why this is such a difficult challenge. It also shows why Washington's typical political response has always been to kick this can down the road, and push the tough choices to another day:

- ❖ These choices do not get any easier simply by delaying action. Every day that we put off these difficult decisions, an average \$4 billion is added to the national debt.

- ❖ Every dollar that we spend simply paying the interest on our nation's staggering debt is disappearing into a fiscal sinkhole. These are resources that cannot be targeted toward creating jobs, expanding the U.S. economy or addressing any of our other shared priorities.

While there are plenty of recommendations in the commission's plan that I would not have chosen, this much is crystal clear to me and the other members of our bipartisan coalition: We simply cannot postpone this difficult discussion any longer.

*Warner, a co-founder of Nextel and former Virginia governor, is a member of the Senate's Banking, Budget, Commerce and Intelligence committees. He can be reached at [www.warner.senate.gov](http://www.warner.senate.gov).*

### COMMENTARY

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Choice Of Words?

To the Editor:

Regarding Michael Pope's Feb. 28 article about the City Council debate on a \$20 million grant application, one thought comes to mind:

Vice Mayor Donley and GOP Councilman Fannon each describe the projects they hope to fund through the grant as "superfluous" — in other words, unnecessary. Were I the grant officer deciding which city should receive my generosity, it would not be the one in which elected officials of both political stripes described their wish list this way.

**Amy Bayer**  
Alexandria

#### Detrimental Add-On Tax

To the Editor:

The Alexandria City Council

held a budget work session recently to discuss the potential implementation of an additional real estate tax for the 2,700 commercial properties in Alexandria to fund local transportation projects.

The proposal would result in the average commercial property paying an additional \$6,000 a year in taxes if the maximum additional tax of 12.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value was levied. The maximum tax increase would cost businesses over \$12 million in the next year.

The question facing the City Council is should the tax be implemented and what projects need to be funded at this time.

After the budget hearing, it became very clear to me that there are not any urgent projects at present that need to be funded with local money (Note: West End BRAC projects will be funded with Federal and State money). One of the lead projects on the list is to spend \$21 million over the next two years for an entrance on the north side of the Eisenhower Avenue metro station, currently the

entrance is only on the southside. This is a far cry from an urgent project.

Last month the council learned of an unused \$11.5 million available from state urban funds — monies that could be used immediately for local transportation projects. This is roughly equal to the amount the new tax would generate this year.

In this most challenging economy of our lifetime, where we have seen the worst job losses in 70 years, now is not the time to increase the tax burden, on anyone. The financial tsunami of the past few years has touched the lives of every American.

The commercial vacancy rate is improving in Alexandria but is still over 10 percent. An additional tax on commercial properties will result in higher vacancies due to the fact that many leases have the taxes and insurance passed on to many cash-strapped tenants. Job losses will result when business are faced with the mandate of higher taxes or the option of keeping an employee.

Alexandria's business community is unique and is comprised of many small businesses. Eighty percent of the businesses have less than 20 employees. Our city needs to promote an environment where businesses can flourish. It is up to the Council to put the correct policies in place that will promote entrepreneurship and make Alexandria a desirable locality for business to locate. Other jurisdictions in our region have implemented this onerous Add-On tax, but rather than copying them, we should use this instead as a recruitment advantage.

A positive budget proposal on the table is to reduce the business taxes for companies that gross less than \$750,000. This would generate savings of \$1.6 million for over two thousand of our businesses and free up capital that owners can reinvest in their enterprises.

Profitable businesses contribute to the health and vibrancy of our community and help take the fi

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

financial burden off of homeowners.

The budget public hearing is on March 7 at 4 p.m. at City Hall. This is an opportunity for the City Council to hear your thoughts on all budget-related matters.

As for the Add-on tax, I think reasonable minds can appreciate that folks can continue to cross Eisenhower Avenue to ride the metro as opposed to our business community being additionally taxed to fund this project and others like it.

**Frank H. Fannon, IV**  
Alexandria City Council

## Surprising Display

To the Editor:

When I first moved to Alexandria in 1996, I was just in time to catch one of the town's great traditions, the President's Day Parade honoring hometown hero George Washington. I was smitten by this impressive, inclusive, yet small-town feeling parade. This year I moved back to Alexandria after a decade living elsewhere in North-

## Snapshot



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**3:22 p.m., Feb. 26: On becoming 87 years old, Alice Krafft gets a little help blowing out the candles on her cake from her great granddaughter Sarah.**

ern Virginia, and made certain not to miss the parade.

Among the other marchers, I was surprised by several groups, in a row, honoring the Southern side of the Civil War. Yes I realize that I am in Virginia, which was a secessionist state, but still the image of people walking down the street proudly hoisting the Confederate Battle Flag was unnerving. Historical reenactors are one thing, and sons and daughters (or

at this point great-great-great grandchildren) of Southern soldiers are another, but this parade also featured a man in a pickup truck with a slogan that read, "CSA: Protecting Homeland Security since 1861." Well, protecting that along with the right of some people to own other people, if history is to be recalled. A woman standing near me had two African

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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## HISTORY

# March Toward War

**A month before the first battle, Alexandria is still optimistic for peace.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Inaugural fever always sweeps through Alexandria, regardless of party or circumstance. Yet no inauguration ever held more drama than the one in March 1861. Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln won a plurality of states when a deeply divided Democratic Party split in half. Alexandria cast its lot with former House Speaker John Bell, a member of the Constitutional Union Party who promised peace at any price. After his election, seven states seceded and formed the Confederate States of America. Now it was time to transfer power from the moribund administration of Democrat James Buchanan.

"The inaugural address of Mr. Lincoln is looked for with much interest, even in the states which are now out of the Union," wrote Alexandria Gazette editor Edgar Snowden. "He has it in his power, if anything like true patriotism warms his heart, to aid materially in adjusting the unhappy difficulties, which, brought on by the course of conduct of the Republican party in the North, and their leaders, have culminated in the dissolution of the Union."

The editor may have been fearing for the future, but the city's business class was gearing up for a busy month. A quick scan of issues from early March 1861 shows a wide selection of merchandise was available. There was a variety of ales at the Alexandria brewery on the corner of King and Fayette. Dr. R. H. Stabler's apothecary has port wine, "superior" brandy, Holland gin and cigars. And a fellow by the name of James W. Jackson says his establishment, known as the Marshall House, will "en-



**The inauguration of Abraham Lincoln took place on March 4, 1861.**



**Abraham Lincoln**

ertain in true Virginia fashion," including a bar with "the best of liquors ... served in the best manner." "Having had considerable experience in the business and with competent assistants," Jackson explains in his advertisement, "I can make the sojourn of all who favor the house, as pleasant as at any Hotel in the State."

**FEAR OF VIOLENCE** prompted Lincoln to sneak into town under the cover of darkness by a secret route. Jefferson Davis has already been inaugurated as president of the confederacy two weeks earlier, and the national upheaval of secession was a grim reality that demanded attention in his address. Brushing aside concerns for his safety, Lincoln rode in an open carriage with President Buchanan to the Capitol, where Chief Justice Roger Taney administered the oath of office.

"I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution the Union of these states is perpetual," Lincoln said in the inaugural speech, implying secession was unconstitutional. "It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination."

In the speech, Lincoln said he was in favor of carrying out the Fugitive Slave Law and promised not to interfere with the institution of slavery — a vow that was met with

extreme skepticism from those who viewed him as an abolitionist. He also said that the nation could avoid bloodshed "unless it be forced upon the national authority." Snowden editorialized that Lincoln "disappointed public expectation."

"The duty — above all other duties — of the President, at this time, should be to recommend, urge and devote himself to realizing fully the imminence of the peril," Snowden wrote the day after inauguration. "And this might be effected by giving just and honorable guarantees for future peace and security."

**DESPITE THE NATIONAL** upheaval, Alexandria moved on with business as usual. That included a municipal election in which 34 candidates were elected to office. This was a time when elected positions included everything from the mayor and City Council members to the superintendent of police and chief engineer of the Fire Department. Voters were even able to select the clerk of the market and measurer of wood and bark. The new government was inaugurated on Friday March 10.

"The Mayor elect, W.B. Price, took the oath of office in the presence of the members of the Board of Aldermen and the Common Council,



## 2011 CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

### MARCH

**March 1-31:** The Civil War at Carlyle House "Mansion House Hospital" Exhibit. 703-549-2997 or [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org)

**March 12:** Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor Lecture — Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. \$10 per person, 1-2 p.m. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org)

### APRIL

**April 2-Oct. 31:** Experience Civil War history at George Washington's home through a new walking tour, Mount Vernon in the Civil War. The one-hour tour takes place on Saturdays and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. through Oct. 30. \$5 in addition to regular admission. [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org)

**April 6:** "Alexandria in the Civil War" lecture by James Barber - The Lyceum. \$10 per person, 7:30-8:30 p.m. 703-746-4994 or [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org)

**April 30:** Did Grandpa Wear Grey or Blue? Civil War Records at the Carlyle House. \$12-\$15, 10-11:30 a.m. 703-549-2997 or [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org)

### MAY

**May 21:** Life in the Civil War Alexandria, a Living History Event - Market Square. Free, 2-5 p.m. 703-746-4848 or [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org)

**May 21:** Family Festival: Spies and Scouts of the Civil War — Carlyle House Historic Park. 2-5 p.m. 703-549-2997 or [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org)

### JUNE

**June 4:** Civil War Heritage Bike Ride. 703-746-4399 or [www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology](http://www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology)

**June 8-12:** Alexandria Archaeology Institute — Join Alexandria archaeologists in excavating Shuter's Hill, the site of two Union forts in the Defenses of Washington during the Civil War. Registration required, \$475 per person. 703-746-4399 or [www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology](http://www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology)

**June 28:** Hands on History Tent: The Civil War - Carlyle House Historic Park. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 703-549-2997 or [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org)

**June 27-July 1:** Civil War Kid's Camp - Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. Registration required, \$200 per person. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org)

### JULY

**July 31:** Hear stories of Civil War spycraft and the men and women who served as agents for the Blue and the Gray. Learn about two important Civil War spies with close connections to Green Spring whose undercover exploits changed the course of the war. 1-3 p.m. 703-642-5173 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/)

### SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 10:** Civil War Fashion Show — Carlyle House Historic Park. 2-4 p.m. 703-549-2997 or [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org)

**Sept. 24:** Civil War Nurses Program — Carlyle House Historic Park. 703-549-2997 or [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org)

### OCTOBER

**Oct. 5:** Civil War Alexandria in 3-D photo lecture by Wally Owen at the Lyceum. Admission TBD, reservations required. 7:30-8:30 p.m. 703-746-4994 or [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org)

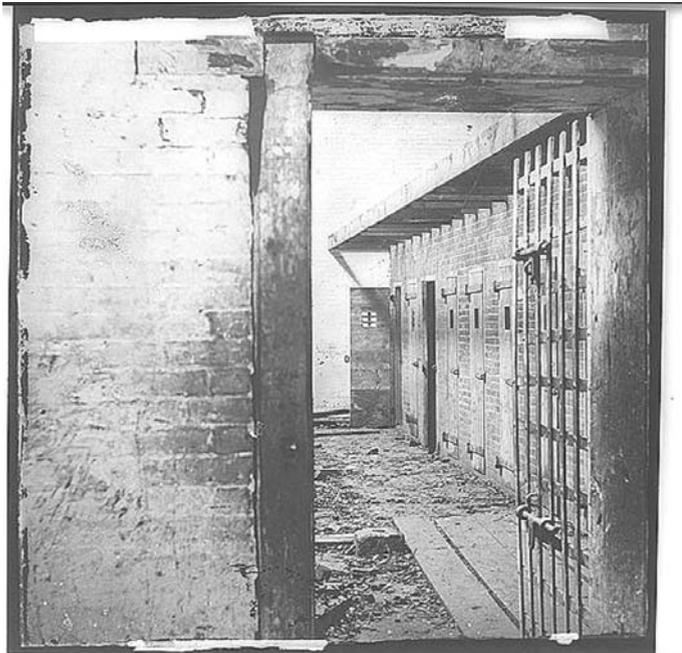
### DECEMBER

**Dec. 10:** Christmas in Camp — Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org)



**Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper featured a series of gowns worn at the inaugural ball.**

PHOTOS FROM LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



**Interior view of an Alexandria slave pen.**

SEE OPTIMISTIC, PAGE 15

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

American children with her, around ages 8 and 10. I didn't envy her if these children asked what those marchers with such a fondness for the Confederate States of America were about. Earlier in the parade an Abraham Lincoln impersonator had walked past, waving to the crowd; did the parade observers understand the contempt Confederates had for our 16th President? Would we have calmly tolerated a John Wilkes Booth impersonator stalking Lincoln along the parade route?

I know that the groups represented were not the Ku Klux Klan, and I appreciate freedom of speech ... I just wish that these people would think of the fear and malice that the flag they celebrate represents to so many people, even 150 years after the first shots started this nation's tragic Civil War.

For next year's parade, perhaps I can recruit some likeminded Alexandrians to march with me behind the banner of "Sons and Daughters of People Who Find the Public Display and Adoration of the Confederate Battle Flag to be Racist, Offensive, Revisionist and Wrong."

**Brewster Thackeray**  
Alexandria

## Waterfront Alternative

To the Editor:

I just recently read that Bill Euille, our esteemed Mayor, was going to be given a prestigious award for the most important historic-preservation organization in the country. Is this a joke? We are going to accept this award while Planner Director Farrell Hamer is engaged in turning our historic city into Coney Island. In case you haven't noticed, the City Planners and Council are about to destroy the historic ambiance of this great community.

The currently proposed Waterfront Plan is a perfect example of planning ineptitude at its greatest. Three hotels on Union Street just defy any rational development strategy. The reasoning the planners give is that hotels will create less traffic congestion. In other words they say that there will be less vehicular traffic during the peak traffic hours than if the development were residential. Maybe so, but what about all the delivery trucks tying up traffic on Union Street in the early morning, throughout the day and into the night as they service the three hotels? It will be a devastating blow to any rational traffic flow. The Planning Director and five members of the Planning Commission don't live in Old Town and are totally clueless as to the current traffic woes we the citizens already experience on a daily basis.

These three hotels will increase the total hotel capacity east of Washington Street some 62 percent. In addition, the restaurants accompanying these hotels and other eateries planned for the waterfront will be equivalent to 14 restaurants each being the size of the new operation, the Virtue Restaurant (7,800 square feet), now being built at the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

## Budget Skirmish At Fort Ward

To the Editor:

An unattractive ticket booth, bales of hay, un-mowed weeds, recent digging by archaeologist and an abandoned maintenance yard provide a backdrop to the historic Civil War fort. Over the last 3-4 years the attractiveness of the park has steadily declined. Azaleas and flower beds that once welcomed walkers and picnickers are in poor condition and stumps are visible reminders of where trees once stood. City neglect and bureaucratic wrangling between departments has led to piecemeal, arbitrary decisions that have increased costs to correct and repair damage, slowing investment in the future of the park. The City should not delay any longer funding needed improvements Fort Ward Museum and Park.

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) and the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) share responsibility for the park. RPCA maintains the park, cutting the grass, trimming trees, collecting and disposing of litter and trash, and managing a reservation system for large groups. OHA is responsible for the museum and protecting the earthen fort and exhibits and has embarked on a multi-year archaeology program estimated to cost as much as \$350,000.

The practical challenge is how to maintain an attractive park for public use, balancing the variety of recreational demands and at the same time protecting the public history and character of the park.

The Fort Ward Park and Museum Stakeholder Advisory Group completed a report in January 2011 making recommendations to improve management of the park. The report discussed two important ideas, to create a citizens advisory group and to prepare a master plan for the park.

This is an important step and hopefully will be supported by the City Council and staff. To improve the condition of the park it is essential a new advisory committee be appointed by the City Manager to monitor and oversee departmental funding and ensure joint management of the park. In addition there is need for a resource management plan that would establish a framework for setting priorities, allocating resources and maintaining the taxpayers' investment in the park. Public involvement in developing a management plan is essential.

Not mentioned in the Stakeholder's report is the commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. This has renewed interest in the African American struggle for freedom. To capitalize on the interest and potentially increase visitation to the park, the City should immediately fund, design, produce and implement a more diverse interpretation pro-



**The speed bumps make access for walkers, seniors and people with disabilities more difficult.**

gram at Fort Ward Park. The role of African Americans before, during and after the Civil War has been overlooked and now is the time to place a sharper focus on their struggle and contribution as American citizens.

Until then, preparing the park for the upcoming season will be a challenge. It would be a mistake to continue to be hamstrung by indecision. Funding should be provided in the proposed FY 2012 budget to remove the fence surrounding the old maintenance yard, restore the soils and grass areas, and returning unrestricted portions of the cleared area to the park for public use. Fallen or damaged trees should be replaced and native trees, shrubs and flowers planted to attract birds and butterflies. The mowing plan should ensure the park looks maintained and weeds are controlled. The ticket booth should be removed and the speed bumps on the circular road modified to aid walkers, seniors and people with disabilities. Resource studies, e.g., soils, water, historical, cultural including archaeology studies, should be funded to the extent they aid in setting priorities, allocating resources and improve park management.

Adopting a more comprehensive, coordi-



**Park tollbooth.**



**Hay bales.**

nated approach will eliminate departmental conflicts. More importantly, improved management will save money, reduce unexpected costs, and provide a more attractive historic park for Alexandria residents.

**Dave Cavanaugh**

# HISTORY

## Optimistic For Peace

FROM PAGE 12

and a number of spectators, in the chamber of the Common Council," the newspaper reported. "W.A. Harper, a Justice of the Peace, administered the oath."

Column inches are filled with everything from the mundane to the sublime. A slave tried to kill his master by mixing ground glass into his food. An immense flight of wild fowl was observed flying down the Potomac River. A flag known as the Stars and Bars was adopted by the Confederate Congress in Montgomery. A German sailor aboard a sloop docked off Holland Point walked overboard in his sleep "and was lost." A Texas preacher appeared in town and delivered a rousing speech in favor of secession. In Richmond, members of a special convention are debating the future of the commonwealth.

"It is a painful reflection that in the throes of dissolution; in the very era of our national suicide, we read the story of our greatness, our numbers and our wealth," Alexandria delegate George Brent told his convention colleagues. "For, sir, the era of national dismemberment is the era of the eighth census of the United States. And in its pages posterity will read the story of our greatness and our folly."

**LITTLE DID BRENT** know that the pages of posterity were about to record some of the most momentous events in the city's history. April would bring war, secession and ultimately occupation. Virginia would leave the Union. The Marshall House would become the scene of bloodshed, and the city would be occupied by Union forces. Everything was about to change forever. Yet as March was drawing to a close, Snowden was urging his readers to resist the growing sense of hysteria in the air.

"The strange propensity to make the worst of everything — to foment trouble by exaggeration — to stir up excitement to irritate and annoy the public mind has been fully exemplified in this county during the last few months," he wrote in late March. "If all the falsehoods, misrepresentations and misstatements relative to our public affairs — designed for mischief — sent by telegraph and published in newspapers, within a short time past, were collected, they would fill a large volume."

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done for you. Move right in and  
enjoy! Classic colonial with 2 car  
side load garage. Elegant foyer, formal dining room with built-  
ins, family room off kitchen leading to deck. Table space kitchen  
features silestone counters. LL boasts rec. room, den, full bath &  
storage. Two fireplaces, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Huge lot with  
mature trees and gardens.

**CONTRACT!**

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

**CONTRACT!**

9316  
Heather Glen Dr  
\$650,000  
**Price Slashed-  
Large Colonial!**  
The most house for the money  
in area! 3 level, 4BR, 2 car  
garage colonial with the most spectacular family room addition  
you will ever find! Curved all glass walls and screen porch  
overlook fabulous custom pool. Originally priced in the \$800's.  
Owner wants immediate sale and has slashed the price  
accordingly!

**NEW PRICE!**

4712 NEPTUNE DR  
Yacht Haven  
\$1,250,000  
Beautifully updated and  
stunning waterfront  
property w/dock on Doge  
Creek Lagoon. Elevator  
and 2-car gar, in-ground  
pool on 1/2 acre lot. 5,501 sf of living  
space w/great views. Main level wood  
flrs, 2 wood burning frpl. 6BR, 4.5 BA.

**Betty Quirk** 703.851.3447  
**Suzanne Backus** 703.338.3594

555 SOUTH  
WASHINGTON ST  
Old Town  
\$1,750,000 - #102  
WOW a Circa 1790  
residence steeped in  
history, craftsmanship &  
luxury. 3 finished levels -  
4,123sqft - 3BR/3.5BA -  
3 fireplaces - wood floors - 9' ceilings - gracious  
outdoor space - 2-car detached garage - quick  
commutes & NO maintenance. General Washington  
Club Condos. Call for an appointment with...

**Michael Manuel** 703.615.6317

**NEW PRICE!**

6104 EDGEWOOD  
TERRACE / Alex  
\$ 1,089,900  
Overlooking parkland,  
this brick colonial has  
been totally renovated  
w/0.5 addition.  
4BR/4BA, kit open to FR & screened porch.  
Master suite w/lg spa bath, 2 closets plus  
walk-in & deck. Walk-out LL w/teen BR &  
BA, FR w/FP leads to covered loggia.

**Suzanne Backus (owner/agent)** 703.338.3594

**SOLD!**

7106  
Colgate Dr  
\$499,500  
Hollin Glen -  
Super Value!

**JUST LISTED!**

2335 Creek Dr \$989,900  
Waterfront Perfection!

**CONTRACT!**

8714  
Bluedale St  
\$629,000  
Stratford  
Landing!

**CONTRACT!**

7406  
Rippon Rd  
\$759,900  
Mason Hill  
Stunner!

**SOLD!**

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

**CONTRACT!**

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

3171 WOODLAND  
LN / Mt Vernon  
\$ 865,000  
Secluded & Spacious  
Waterfront Contemporary  
on large wooded lot  
sited on Little Hunting  
Creek. Walls of glass w/  
water & wildlife views  
from almost every room. Multiple decks lead to a  
private dock, be on the Potomac River in just  
minutes.

**www.marylousage.com**  
**Mary Lou Sage** 703.851.5441

1685 HUNTING CREEK DR  
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Immaculate & lovely 4BR/4.5BA  
end unit in OT Greens. Gorgeous  
open floor plan, wonderful built-  
ins, upgraded kit w/granite, lots of  
storage & 2-car garage. Roof deck,  
deck off kit & rear fenced patio.  
Amenities: pool, tennis,  
tot lot & 1 mile to  
Braddock Metro-shops  
& restaurants + more!

**Laura Biederman** 202.309.1350

4161 LEGATO RD  
Fairfax / \$ 624,900  
Sophisticated 3BR/3.5BA town-  
home in Centerpointe. With 4  
finished levels, this home features  
an open gourmet kit, master suite,  
two gas fireplaces, finished loft  
w/full bath, rooftop terrace, 2-car  
garage and more!

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams**  
703.587.7841



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www.OldTownAlexandria.com



# Swami Maheshwarananda To Visit Alexandria

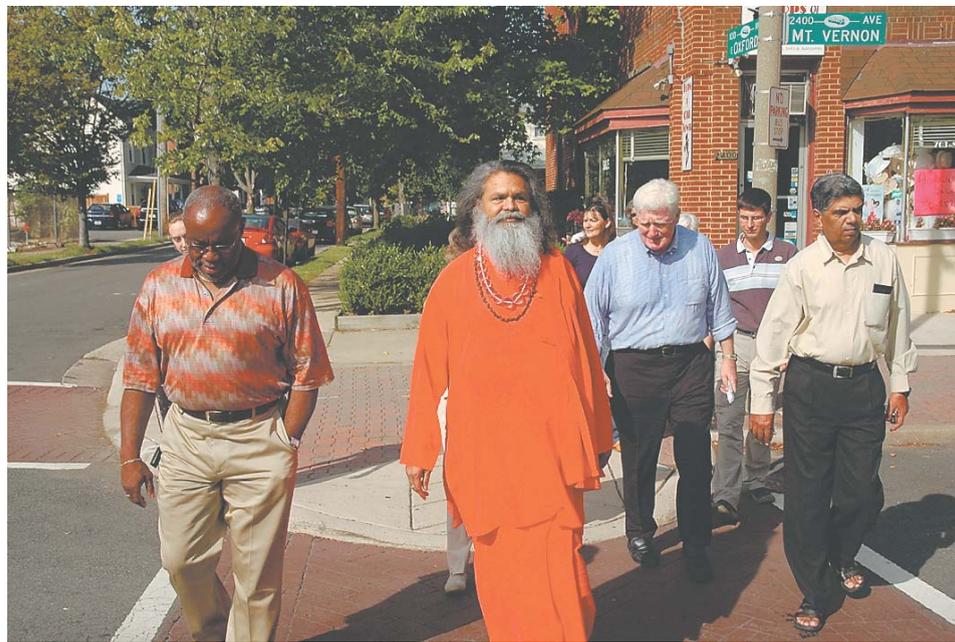
Music and ecology presentation also offered.

BY DIANE HENRY

An inspiring program forging music, words of inspiration, and photographs, all focused on preserving nature and the environment, will be held Saturday night, March 12, in Del Ray at the Yoga in Daily Life center on Mt. Vernon Avenue.

The occasion celebrates a visit to Alexandria by a world-renowned spiritual leader, Swami Maheshwarananda, and will feature a trio of classical musicians, the EcoVoce Ensemble, as well as a presentation by the founders of an environmental preservation group devoted to saving Virginia's plant species.

The non-profit environmental group, known as Earth Sangha, is a grass-roots organization attracting more than 500 volunteers a year to help with restoration projects to save forests and meadows. The group works with local and federal authorities to control invasive species and reestablish native plants at about 30 sites, all of which are public lands. The group also



Swami Maheshwarananda during his 2008 visit to Alexandria. Accompanying him are Mayor Bill Euille and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran.

started a native plant nursery at Franconia Park in Fairfax County to grow local wild species such as native Oak and Hickory trees, hollies and viburnum. With the help of volunteers, they grow about 220 different species.

Earth Sangha founder, Chris Bright, explained that the group is an expression of

the Buddhist way of living, but it does not proselytize. His co-founder, Lisa Bright, said that she was looking forward to the event to learn more about Swami Maheshwarananda's rain water harvesting project in Rajasthan, one of the driest states in India.

Swami Maheshwarananda is the founder

## Details

**Date:** March 12  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Place:** Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria  
**Web site:** yogaindailylifeus.org  
**Phone:** 703-299-8946  
**Price:** \$20

of Yoga In Daily Life, which has centers in 26 countries, and the March 12 program is part of a three-day series of public programs at the Alexandria center on Mt. Vernon Avenue. Yoga in Daily Life is a non-profit community service organization dedicated to bringing the benefits of yoga and meditation to all.

Swami Maheshwarananda will speak at the Saturday night event, themed "Stewards of the Earth," stressing the need for people to be "the protectors not the destroyers" of the earth and of all life.

Members of EcoVoce will add their passion for music and nature to the evening. Founded by soprano, Denise Freeland, the trio also includes Narciso Solero, pianist, and Susan Hayes, flutist. All have performed nationally and internationally. Freeland, said that over the last dozen years, EcoVoce has perfected a blend of music "featuring mostly living composers, mostly American composers, which has become a wonderful niche."

PHOTO BY DAVID A. KOSAR



Hugh Staples stars as Paul Robeson in a play by Philip Hayes Dean.



Longtime Alexandria resident Mabel Lyles is joined by dozens of friends at the Sunday evening performance.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE



Kiara and Kaiya Burnett and Tatiana Wells arrive for the special performance of Paul Robeson with their aunt on Sunday evening.

## Starring as Paul Robeson

The Alexandria Black History Museum presented "Paul Robeson" by Philip Hayes Dean at the Carlyle Club on Feb. 13.

The play was directed by Cody Jones

and starred Hugh Staples as Paul Robeson. Staples was accompanied on the piano by Michael Hill. The two-act play chronicled family life, school day and law school of Robeson, an enter-

tainer, diplomat and activist.

Staples has performed locally at Signature Theatre, Arena Stage, Metropolitan Ebony Theatre, Washington Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare's Sistahs' Theatre

Company, Theatre Lab and the Washington Opera Company. He also works part-time as an instructor in the special education program at the Pulley Center on the West Potomac High School campus.

## THEATER

# Little Theatre Mounts a Mystery Play

Detective and audience struggle to solve family disappearance.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

“Widdershins,” a fascinatingly enigmatic play is given a highly atmospheric production on the stage of the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

The curtain is already up when the audience enters the theater. The dramatic set, which was designed by the director, C. Evans Kirk, is dimly lit by Ken and Patti Crowley to reveal the main room of a rural Welsh house, and dimly visible specters of people outside the confines of the three-dimensional world of the home.

It gives the audience a welcome hint of what is to come, for few would know from the play’s title what to expect. “Widdershins?” What exactly would that mean? In its least dramatic sense, the word simply means counter-clockwise. However, its deeper meaning refers to ancient legend of children who circle a church in the opposite direction than that of the sun and then disappear into a dangerous otherworld of demons.

The play is by Don Nigro, a tremendously prolific playwright who counts over 200 titles to his credit. Half a dozen of these featured a troubled detective who is called back in this play to solve a confounding mystery despite, or perhaps because of his personal troubles. We learn that it has been six months since the death of his wife and in



Emily Woods (Constance), Lars Klores (Mr. English), Elizabeth A. Keith (Mrs. English), and Elise Kolle (Felicity) star in “Widdershins” at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

that time grief and drink have adversely impacted his work. Actor J. Andrew Simmons gives the role a sense of professional excellence as well as a hint of newfound self doubt as the character clings to a glass he frequently refills from the victim’s liquor cabinet.

His colleague, played by Mike Baker Jr. with a light touch, is called upon to explain some of the more important plot points. His opening line could well be what the audience is saying to itself for most of the first, and perhaps part of the second act. “I can make no sense of it whatever,” he says.

Baker proceeds to explain the mystery, ostensibly for the benefit of the inspector, but really for the audience: “They simply vanished. A man, his wife, and two daughters.

Supper on the table. A fire in the fireplace. A chess game half played. No sign of violence or struggle.”

The detectives begin to probe. The only clue apparent in the home is a one-word note on the missing head of the household’s desk. The word is “widdershins.”

They interview the family servant, Rebecca Fischler in a satisfyingly reticent performance that reveals clues slowly and responds to developments in a very believable way. They quiz a ward of the family who returns from college when she hears of the family’s disappearance, the feisty Kat Sanchez. They follow leads to a neighbor, an odd reclusive hermit of an old woman played with an audience-pleasing sharp tongue and haughty self righteousness by Gayle Nichols-Grimes.

The play takes on its special feel not from these mere mortals, all costumed by Annie Vroom in stark shades of grey and black, but from the four missing persons who emerge in flashbacks as the investigation proceeds. Their appearance on stage is always emphasized by the Crowley’s lighting scheme, making the distinction between physical reality and metaphysical episodes clear, and by Vroom’s costumes for them which are in brighter colors.

Elizabeth A. Keith is the at-times dismissive missing wife, while Elise Kolle and Emily Woods create two very believable and distinctly different sisters. It is the missing father, however, who is the central figure in the mystery. He is a strange, mercurial character who is straight-

laced, formal and demanding as a writer at his desk, but who becomes softer, more approachable and personable when he takes off his glasses and, he says, sees the world as impressionist artists do. Then he’s a painter more interested in the world around him than in the small matters on his desk.

Lars Klores gives the strange dichotomy of the character a clarity that helps keep the audience wondering just what is happening throughout the evening. At one point he’s imploring Fischler’s servant girl to reveal secrets of the house, which may have been haunted in the past. (“My work is foolish tales” he tells her.) At another, he is all but seductive in his effort as an artist to have her reveal herself by posing in the nude for him. Hints of a background of Druidic cult activity begin to emerge.

The play offers plenty of puzzles and mysteries for the audience to contemplate but plays of this nature always rise or fall on the satisfaction of the final resolution of the mystery. “Widdershins” leaves a few too many unresolved questions or hanging plot points at the end to provide that evening-capping sense of resolution, that feeling of “Ahhh!” that is the mark of a truly well constructed mystery. But all evening long, Kirk’s cast and design crew provide a stylish effort to reach that final moment. The fun is in the journey, not necessarily in the destination.

### Where & When:

“Widdershins” runs through March 19 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. Performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$17 - \$20. Call 703-683-0496 or log on to [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

## Local Theater Companies Draw Helen Hayes Award Noms

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

The Helen Hayes Awards, which recognize outstanding work in professional theater in the Washington region, announced the nominations for this year’s awards for work in 2010. Two Arlington companies, Synetic Theater and Signature Theatre, were well represented with a total of 27 nominations, while work in Alexandria drew one more. Washington-based Arena Stage’s production of “The Light in the Piazza,” which was

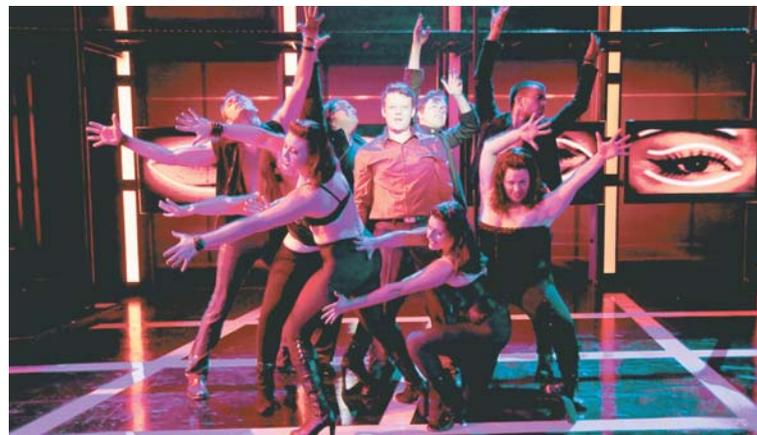
performed at its temporary space in Crystal City, garnered four nominations while MetroStage’s Lauren ‘Coco’ Cohn earned an outstanding supporting actress nomination for her work in “Glimpses of the Moon.”

Synetic Theater’s Irina Tsikurishvili continued her unprecedented record of being nominated for outstanding choreography every year since 1999. Again this year she has pulled in multiple nominations, one for her incredible dance-and-splash work for Synetic’s “King Arthur” which was performed on a watery stage in the

company’s new home venue in Crystal City and again for dryer but no less impressive choreography for the company’s “Othello.” Her husband, Synetic’s Artistic Director Paata Tsikurishvili, was also nominated twice this year for his direction of “Othello” and “The Master and Margarita.”

Both of those productions were nominated for the principal award for non musical plays, the Outstanding Resident Play award, and two of the cast members of “Othello” were nominated for the Robert Prosky Award for Out

SEE HELEN HAYES, PAGE 23



“Chess” was nominated for outstanding direction (Eric Schaeffer) as well as outstanding supporting actor in a musical (Jeremy Kushnier).

# Talk of the Town

## Smiling Irish Eyes

Though The Wanderer is not completely Irish, he feels a jig coming on in anticipation of the happy day when leprechauns and shamrocks show us the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the Old Town rainbow. He will find his fortune at various watering holes while he tips a pint, spins a yarn, and revels in his luck at finding the best Irish fun in town.

Talk of the Town is a new Alexandria Gazette Packet feature. Questions, comments, or suggestions can be e-mailed to [thewanderer@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:thewanderer@connectionnewspapers.com).

### G BRITISH PANTRY

Stop in and pick up a few Irish items to take home for the big day. Authentic Tommy Moloney's Irish bacon and sausages made with pork loins direct from the Emerald Isle, Ireland's favourite crips, Taytos, (made from Irish potatoes), Barry's Irish breakfast tea, Boland's and Fox's biscuits, and Erin soups. 110 S. Columbus Street, 703.548.1173, [thebritishpantry.us](http://thebritishpantry.us)



Photos by Louise Krafft



Photo by Meschelle Armstrong

Eamonn and his dad Cathell Armstrong.

### D EAMONN'S A DUBLIN CHIPPER

Eamonn's is the real deal... crispy cod and salty chips, the "food of the people". Enjoy it with a selection of imported Irish sodas, Guinness Draft or Smithwick's Irish Ale. Head upstairs to the PX Lounge for Irish influenced beer cocktails, "Hoptails." The Paddy's Float features Guinness, amaretto and malted barley ice cream, served with a candied malt on top. Shandy's Bitter End is light and refreshing highlighting Harp, lemon juice, lemon bitters and topped with harp foam and fresh lemon zest.

728 King St, 703.299.8384, [eamonnsdublinchipper.com](http://eamonnsdublinchipper.com)

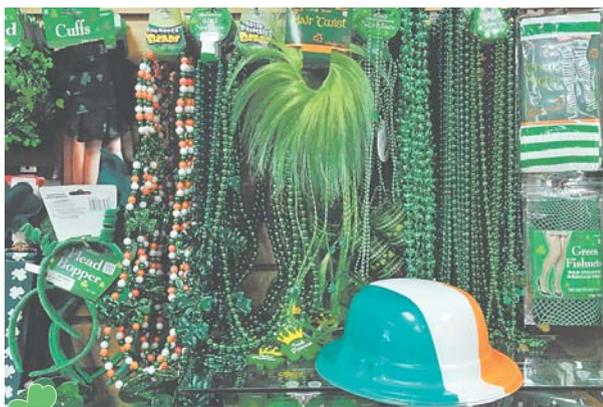


### C MURPHY'S

Truly "a grand Irish pub" serving traditional Irish favorites like Irish stew, meat & potato pie, corned beef & cabbage and battered fish & chips. A family friendly pub with entertainment every evening. On St. Patrick's Day, the bottom floor is cleared to make room for plenty of revelry. 713 King Street, 703.548.1717, [murphyspub.com](http://murphyspub.com)

### B DANIEL O'CONNELL'S

Settle down amidst the Irish antiquities to the bold and exciting tastes of Ireland. Named for a hero of the Irish people, O'Connell's will be celebrating all day long in the heart of the historic district. 112 King Street, 703.739.1124, [danieloconnells.com](http://danieloconnells.com)

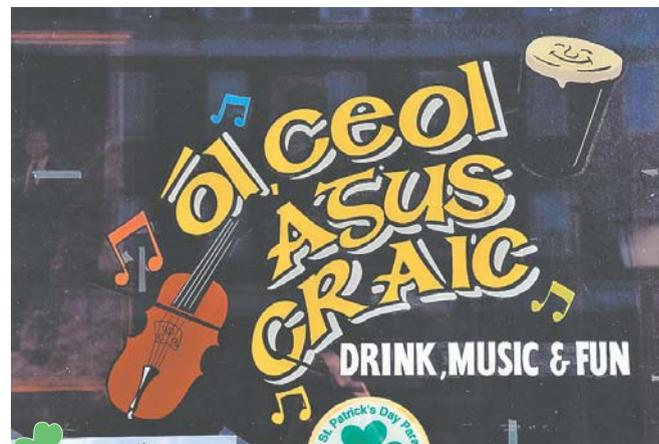


### E THE IRISH WALK

Cead Mile Failte! Since taking over The Irish Walk almost two years ago, Patty Theobald has completed a renovation to update the store and filled it with beautiful gifts and collectibles from Ireland. Every inch of the store holds treasures of Belleeke china, lovely sweaters, capes and scarves, intricate Celtic and Claddah jewelry and charming homewares. 415 King Street, 703.548.0118, [irishwalk.com](http://irishwalk.com)

### F O'SHAUGHNESSY'S PUB

The Lasses will be pleased as St. Patrick's Day will also be Ladies Night. Serving all the traditional dishes: corned beef and cabbage, Shepard's pie and fish and chips. Pull up a chair to hear Freq Drive, an all request cover band playing your favorite rock and pop tunes from the 50's through the present. 1324 King St, 703.836.7885



### A PAT TROY'S IRELAND'S OWN

March at Ireland's Own is Irish-American Heritage Month. Start the morning of our St. Patrick's Day Parade - the first in the nation - with breakfast served at 9am on March 5th. A Forever Irish Concert is planned for March 8th at 7pm featuring Celtic folk artist Kate Purcell and comedian George Casey. Tickets are \$25. St. Patrick's Day will start with breakfast at 9am followed by food and entertainment all day inside and outside in their heated tent. Owner Irishman Pat Troy may present The Unicorn Song in his own hilarious way. 111 North Pitt Street, 703.549.4535, [patroysirishpub.com](http://patroysirishpub.com)

# ENTERTAINMENT

## FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAYS

**Line and Hand Dance Party.** 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$5/class. At the Weyone Sports Lounge, Landmark Mall E-100, 5801 Duke Street, Ground Level, Alexandria.

## NOW THROUGH MARCH 31

**Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition.** America's oldest and largest display of historic and contemporary needlework will be showcased at the 48th Annual Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition. Hundreds of needle workers from around the world, both professional and amateur, enter their creations each year. Demonstrations throughout the month will highlight a variety of techniques for the visitor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday - Monday during March. Admission prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students through 12th grade. At Woodlawn Plantation, 9000 Richmond Highway, three miles west of Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-4000 or visit [www.woodlawn1805.org](http://www.woodlawn1805.org).

## MARCH 4-12

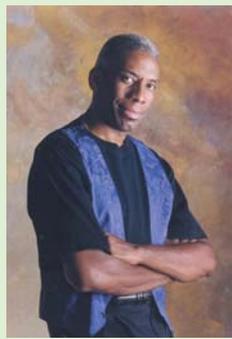
**"Bye Bye Birdie."** March 4, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Matinee on March 5 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts)

## FRIDAY/MARCH 4

**Louisiana Dance Party.** 8 p.m. Popular dance instructors Ben Pagac and Debbie Shaw will be on hand to provide free lessons in the art of swing, cajun and zydeco stepping. There will be King Cake and Mardi Gras beads for all, and drinks will be plentiful at the cash bar, along with light snacks. Tickets are \$15/advance; \$20/door. With the bands Junkyard Saints and Squeeze Bayou. Tickets at [www.hungryformusic.org](http://www.hungryformusic.org). At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. on the Potomac River in Old Town Alexandria.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 5

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Parade.** Free. Old Town is Irish for a day with the Fun Dog Show at 10:30 a.m. in Market Square, classic car



**Reggie Harris**



**Greg Greenway**

## SATURDAY/MARCH 5

**Greg Greenway and Reggie Harris.** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance at [FocusMusic.org](http://FocusMusic.org). At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria.

competition at 10:30 a.m. along King Street and the parade at 12:30 p.m. The parade will start at the corner of King Street and Alfred Street, and proceed East down King Street to the corner of King Street and Lee Street. Co-Grand Marshals are Tom and Nancy VanCoverden. Throughout Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-237-2199 or visit [www.Ballyshanners.org](http://www.Ballyshanners.org).

**Fun Dog Show.** 11 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by Barkley Square and the Ballyshanners, held in conjunction with the St. Patrick's Day Parade. At Market Square (on the corner of N. Fairfax and King Street).

**Apothecary Open Free.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Old Town Alexandria and tour the Apothecary Museum for free. At Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-3852. [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org).

**Ninja Warrior Night.** 7 p.m. 100 contestants must run through four increasingly difficult obstacle courses that test endurance, strength, and agility. Cost is \$20. At Urban Evolution, 5402 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria. For more information or to participate, visit [www.urbanevo.com](http://www.urbanevo.com), or call 571-215-8218.

## Digging for Buried Treasure.

1 to 3 p.m. How a Treasure Trove of Civil War and Alexandria History was Uncovered and Became The Book, "Letters to Virginia" .... At the Alexandria Library, 717 Queen street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1706.

## Greg Greenway and Reggie Harris.

7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance at [FocusMusic.org](http://FocusMusic.org). At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria.

## Mardi Gras Celebration.

7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Cost is \$40/person. Hosted by the

Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee. Del. Scott Surovell is a confirmed speaker. Congressmen Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Jim Moran (D-8), Supervisor Gerry Hyland, and other local Democratic leaders from Mount Vernon District are invited to speak. At Don Beyer Volvo, 7416 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Visit [www.mvdemocrats.com](http://www.mvdemocrats.com).

## La Bella Sinfonia — An Evening in Italy.

6 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$200; \$150 first timers. Part is tax deductible. The Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria (SOLA) is honoring Italy and Alberto Manai, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute at its 24th annual fundraising ball "An Evening in Italy." Proceeds go to the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At the Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Call 703-960-7994; [mtpwoods@aol.com](mailto:mtpwoods@aol.com).

**"Unmasked Auction."** 7 p.m. Food, fun and bidding; many unique items to bid on during a silent and live auction. Proceeds benefit Blessed Sacrament Grade School and Early Childhood Center. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$50/door. At Blessed Sacrament School, 1417 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Contact Rosy Lowenkron, 703-407-7207 or [rosyjeff@verizon.net](mailto:rosyjeff@verizon.net).

## MARCH 5 AND 6

**Jazz and Tap Festival.** Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 4 p.m. Presented by the Dancin' Unlimited Jazz Dance Company. Tickets are \$18/advance; \$20/door. At Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus Theatre. The NVCC Annandale Campus is at 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. For tickets and information, visit [www.dance-festival.org](http://www.dance-festival.org).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 6

**National Concert Band of America.** 3 p.m. Led by Music Director Melvin Kessler, Lt. Commander, USN (Ret.). Special rates for students \$2, Mil/Vets \$7, Srs. \$10 and Adults \$15. At the Kaufman Auditorium at the Lee Center, Alexandria.

**Eclipse Chamber Orchestra.** 3 p.m. Conducted by music director Sylvia Alimena, the concert will feature Bruch's Violin Concerto No.1 in G Minor, to be performed by violinist Elisabeth Adkins. Tickets are \$25/\$20. Call 703-635-2770. Performs at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit [www.eclipseco.org](http://www.eclipseco.org).

**International Women's Day.** Ten Thousand Villages will donate 15 percent of its sales on March 6 to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program. At 915 King Street, Old Town Alexandria.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

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

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

**"Race to Nowhere" Screening.** 7 to 9 p.m. Documentary film examines the culture of education and achievement in America. Tickets are \$15/door; \$10 online at <http://www.racetonowhere.com/epostcard/4135>. At Mt. Vernon High School Little Theatre, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria.

**Pat Victor.** 7 p.m. Part of the Second Thursday Music at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10. Call 703-548-0035 or [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 22



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**ENTERTAINMENT**

FROM PAGE 21

**MARCH 10-13**

**"Cultivating Nonviolent Speech."** His holiness Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda (known as Swamiji), a spiritual leader and Mahamandaleswar, humanitarian, environmental advocate, author, and founder of Yoga in Daily Life, brings his teachings to a three-day program held at Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The schedule and fees for the March 10-13 conclave are:

- Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m., Welcome Satsang, \$15 suggested donation.
- Friday, March 11, 7 p.m., Public Lecture – Cultivating Nonviolent Speech; \$15.
- Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Yoga Workshop including asanas, talk by Swamiji, yoga nidra (deep relaxation), pranayama (breathing techniques), and meditation. Lunch included; \$45.
- Saturday, March 12, 7 p.m., Stewards of the Earth – an evening of music and inspiration featuring Eco Voce and the Earth Sangha; \$20.
- Sunday, March 13, 7 p.m., Farewell Satsang.

Suggested donation, \$15. A discounted rate of \$100 is available for all events, though participants may sign up for individual events/programs. All programs are open to the public and reservations are requested. All programs are held at Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. On-line reservations may be made and further information may be found at: [www.yogaindailyifeus.org](http://www.yogaindailyifeus.org) or by calling 703-299-8946.

**FRIDAY/MARCH 11**

**"Celtic Aire."** 8 p.m. Free. An evening of Celtic music performed by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**MARCH 11, 12, 18, 19**

**A Night of Broadway.** 8 p.m. Featuring Lisa Anne Bailey and Andy Izquierdo, accompanied by Charlie Manship. Presented by Zemfira Stage. Tickets are \$15/general; \$10/students/seniors. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626.

**SATURDAY/MARCH 12**

**Tauxemont Silent Auction.** 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door. Come celebrate Tauxemont Treasures and help raise money for Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool. At Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria.

**"Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors."** 1 p.m. Cost is \$10. Presented by experts from the National Archives and Records Administration. Archives specialists Constance Potter and Katherine Vollen will review some of the many Union and Confederate records and resources for researching Civil War ancestors. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Reservations suggested at 703-746-4848 or visit [www.forward.org](http://www.forward.org).

**Movies with a Mission.** 4:30 p.m. Free. "Good Fortune." This film explores how massive international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa may be undermining the very communities they aim to benefit. Screening will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact 703-746-4356.

**Scout Day.** 1 to 3 p.m. Fee is \$10/Scout. Scouts will learn how to explore their own family histories through oral history, story-telling, and games. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. Call 703-548-1789 or visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**Swordsmen's Rendezvous.** 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Swordsmen tours last one hour and include re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay and a display and discussion of 18th-century weapons. Admission is \$5, ages 5 and up. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242.



**SATURDAY/MARCH 5**

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Parade.** Free. Old Town is Irish for a day with the Fun Dog Show at 10:30 a.m. in Market Square, classic car competition at 10:30 a.m. along North Pitt Street and the parade at 12:30 p.m. The parade will start at the corner of King Street and Alfred Street, and proceed East down King Street to the corner of King Street and Lee Street. Co-Grand Marshals are Tom and Nancy VanCoverden. Throughout Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-237-2199 or visit

Alexandria. Visit <http://www.MVGenealogy.org> or contact Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or [haroldm@erols.com](mailto:haroldm@erols.com).

**WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16**

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Hot Buttered Nuggets. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

**"Race to Nowhere" Screening.** 7 to 9 p.m. Documentary film examines the culture of education and achievement in America. Tickets are \$15/door; \$10 online at [www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org). At Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria.

**Cookbook Talk.** 9:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Jane Mengenhauser, the food editor for The Journal for 10 years with her column, "Kitchen Sampler," will speak on "Cookbooks - Old and New". Public is invited and you may bring one or two cookbooks with your prized recipes for Show and Tell. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria.

**THURSDAY/MARCH 17**

**"Meet the Legends" Reception.** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Silent auction and live auction, special guests the Hon. William D. Euille, mayor of Alexandria and Gen. George Washington, portrayed by Don DeHaven. Tickets are \$35/advance; \$45/door. At the Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria. Send payments to Living Legends P.O. Box 10485, Alexandria VA 22310. Visit [AlexandriaLegends@ninatisara.com](mailto:AlexandriaLegends@ninatisara.com).

**St. Patrick's Day Cruise.** Boarding at 5:30 p.m.; cruise from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a Spirit of Washington cruise along the Potomac while enjoying Irish-themed music and traditional Irish dishes like mashed potato/sausage combination Bangers & Mash, Drunken Swine (tender pork loin marinated in Guinness) and Corned Beef & Cabbage. Cost is \$45.90, includes one beer ticket. For reservations, call 866-302-2469.

**MARCH 18 THROUGH APRIL 3**

**"Design for Murder."** A whodun' it murder mystery by George Batson, produced by Bailey R. Center and directed by Liz Owens. Presented by Aldersgate Church Community Theater. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$12/youth/seniors. March 18-April 3 Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; March 20, 27, April 3 Sunday Matinees, 2 p.m.; and March 31 Special Thursday, Dinner Show, 7 p.m. Dinner show tickets are available only online and must be purchased by Monday, March 28 before 5 p.m. Dinner show ticket prices are \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth. Discount tickets at [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org). At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Alexandria. Call 703-660-2611.

**MARCH 12-13**

**Verdi's Requiem.** Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Presented by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Kim Allen Kluge. In addition to welcoming soloists Jan Cornelius, Stacey Rishoi, Scott Six, and Gustav Andreassen, the ASO is collaborating with several local choruses: The Alexandria Choral Society, the Metropolitan Chorus, the Heritage Signature Chorale, and the NOVA Community Chorus. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. Call 703-548-0885 for tickets or visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

**SUNDAY/MARCH 13**

**Bach Vespers at Westminster** Sundays, March 13, 20, 27; April 3 and 10, all at 6 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.wpc-alex.org](http://www.wpc-alex.org)

**TUESDAY/MARCH 15**

**Mount Vernon Genealogical Society.** 1 p.m. Free. Meeting features a presentation entitled "Genealogical Gems in the U.S. Serial Set," by Claire Bettag. Meets at Hollin Hall senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road,

# THEATER

## Local Theater Companies Draw Helen Hayes Award Noms

FROM PAGE 19

standing Lead Actor in a Resident Play: Philip Fletcher and Alex Mills. What is more, the entire ensemble of Synetic's "Othello" was nominated for the outstanding ensemble in a play award.

Other nominations for work at Synetic Theater included Colin K. Bills' two nominations for outstanding lighting design for "Antony and Cleopatra" and "The Master and Margarita," Konstantine Lortkipandze's nomination for outstanding musical direction for "Othello" and Lortkipandze's nomination shared with Irakli Kavsadze for outstanding sound design for "Othello."

Signature Theatre drew 10 nominations for work on four of its shows, all musicals this year. Their third production of Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd" was nominated for the outstanding resident musical award, which continues another remarkable run. The first two times the company staged that musical it also drew nominations in that category and the 1992 version won.

Signature's Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer was nominated for his direction of "Chess." Other nominations for work on that production included Jill Paice for outstanding lead actress in a musical and Jeremy Kushnier for outstanding supporting actor in a musical. Signature's "Sunset Boulevard"

drew nominations for Jon Kalbfleisch for musical direction and Ed Dixon as outstanding supporting actor in a musical.

The Signature Theatre musical with the most nominations was Ricky Ian Gordon's "Sycamore Trees," which Signature commissioned and gave its world premiere. It was nominated for the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play or Musical, its star Marc Kudisch was nominated for outstanding lead actor and Fred Lassen earned a nod for outstanding musical direction. The entire cast was nominated for outstanding ensemble in a musical.

Arena Stage's lovely staging of Adam Guettel's "The Light in the Piazza" in Crystal City was nominated for the Outstanding Resident Musical award and Arena's Artistic Director, Molly Smith, will be competing with herself, among others, for she was nominated for outstanding direction of a musical for both this show and for "Oklahoma!" which played at their regular venue in D.C. "The Light in the Piazza" also drew a nomination for lead actress Hollis Resnik and its musical director Paul Sportelli.

The winners will be announced on April 25 at an awards ceremony at the Warner Theatre in Washington, followed by a gala reception at the JW Marriott Hotel, which is billed as the biggest cast party of the year.

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## Legal Notices

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

### OBITUARY

**Dorothy Mae Butler-Horton** passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at Prince Georges Hospital in Cheverly, MD. She was born in Birmingham, Alabama on January 4, 1929. She was a practical nurse for over 20 years with the DC Government in the Department of Human Resources Children's Center, at Forest Haven prior to her retirement. Throughout her life, Dorothy was known for her strong faith, the love of her family and friends. She leaves to celebrate her life two sons: Dr. Jerome M. Butler (Patricia) and Keith H. Butler. She also leaves three grandchildren: Dr. Jerome Butler-Nelson, Dr. Jerome Butler, Jr. and Keisha Beatty Williams. She is survived by five great-grandchildren: Noelle Nelson, Natalia Nelson, Jerome Butler, III, Savannah Butler and Bellamy Williams. She is also survived by one sister, Bernice Duggins, and two brothers, Bobby Harris and Percy Harris and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Memorial services will be held at Ft. Lincoln Funeral Home at 3401 Bladensburg Road, Brentwood, MD. Viewing is Sat 3/5 begins at 12:30 PM. [www.fortlincoln.com](http://www.fortlincoln.com)

### OBITUARY

Eugene "Smitty" Smith Col. USA (Ret.)

On Wednesday, February 23, 2011 of Alexandria, VA. Beloved husband of Ruth Smith. Father of one son and two daughters. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of three. Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellaan Dr. Alexandria, VA 22315 Friday 2-4 & 7-9pm. Funeral service 12pm Saturday at Del Ray Baptist Church, 2405 Russell Rd. Alexandria, VA 22301. Interment Mt. Comfort Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to: The Army Historical Foundation National Museum of the US Army, 2425 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201; Del Ray Baptist Church or charity of your choice.

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

old Olson's bookstore site at 106 South Union Street. Can you imagine 14 additional restaurants that size on the waterfront? That according to the analysis of the superb "numbers cruncher," Bert Ely, will bring some 3,000 additional diners to Old Town each and every day.

Ms. Hamer stated at a recent Old Town Civic Association meeting that even though the Federal Court has finally awarded the Old Dominion Boat Club its entire waterfront properties, it was immaterial to her planning process. I don't think so! Taking the Old Dominion Boat Club's parking lot and putting it in Waterfront Park with a restaurant on top of it is a non starter. The 700 members of the Boat Club have to agree to this trade and I think the odds are that they will turn it down.

The odds are very good that the Park Service will turn down any attempt to put a building in Waterfront Park.

The Corps of Engineers is also likely to turn down any request to extend two of our city piers 300 feet into the Potomac. Besides encroaching upon D.C. waters those piers will undoubtedly cause navigation problems for large vessels coming up and down the river. Ms. Hamer claims to have had discussions with the Corps and the DC government regarding these piers. However, to date no approvals have been rendered and in my opinion no approvals will ever be rendered. Ironically, at the City Council work session Vice Mayor Donley got the planners to admit that they did not need to extend the piers in order to attain their overall planning objectives.

When the Planning Commission conducted its work session on the Waterfront Plan not one of them asked any questions. The chairman said he loved the plan and the remainder of the commission just rolled over. Several days later, I confronted two members of the Planning Commission and asked that they consider deferring the plan until a reasonable plan could be put together. The response I got was "all you people in Old Town just say no to everything." That quip reminded me of the Windmill Hill planning exercise we went through 10 years ago. An ad-hoc committee put together a plan for the park; however, the world renowned planner Alan Voorhees, and a resident of Old Town, put together a superlative alternative plan that would have been paid for by himself and the Nature Conservancy. The plan was presented formally to the entire Council and they turned it down. Ten years

later nothing of substance has been done in Windmill Hill Park and the funds to implement the plan are budgeted in the CIP for 2017, and keep moving to the right each budget year. Additionally, the Old Dominion Boat Club has attempted on a couple of occasions to dress up their parking lot. However, the Planning Department refused to approve their plans using the excuse that they didn't own the property. Well that's no longer true, so let's allow them to proceed with their original plans.

So much for saying no; however since you asked me, planners, here is a quick plan that's a vast improvement over what Ms Hamer has put together. The two Robinson terminals have already become the northern and southern anchors for the waterfront plan. Lets take those two terminals and convert one into a maritime museum and the other into a archeological museum. The city wants to establish a third hotel at the Cummings/Turner buildings on Union Street between Prince and Duke Streets. Why not adaptive reuse those buildings and turn them over to the Art League and/or build a number of small shops just like the Cannery or Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco. Take the Beachcomber building and either adaptive reuse it for a restaurant or an office building. Since Chadwicks parking lot is still owned by two citizens it is more than likely that property will not be available for anything other than the current parking lot. The Dandy and Chadwicks depend on that lot as it provides about 100 parking spaces.

Before any work on the Waterfront Plan is started the city need to take care of its decaying infrastructure. The flooding issue is the most important, followed by fixing the sewers, undergrounding the overhead wires and reworking the bulkheads in the Potomac. We need a new waterfront plan that starts with the right assumptions. One that doesn't degrade our historic preservation principles and devalues our property values. That's why I would recommend that we defer the current waterfront plan until a new plan can be developed, by hopefully a new planning director.

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## Lost Savings At Metro

To the Editor:

Oh Metro! Look up. Lights are

on at outdoor stations during the day skyrocketing electricity bills.

Riders are familiar with Metro's Mantra at budget time: Raise fares or cut services. What about savings? Turn off the lights during the day at outdoor stations.

The Superintendent of Station Operations did answer my email on this question on Aug. 5, 2010. In his email, he explained that these lights are operated by photocells which turn the lights on at dusk and off at dawn.

"We will replace photocells we find that no longer work," he said. He also wrote that he will forward the message to the office responsible for station lighting.

Well six months have gone by and the lights are still on at outdoor stations at King Street, Braddock, National Airport and in Maryland at Tacoma Park to name a few of the many outdoor stations.

My guess is that the office responsible for station lighting is deep down in the bureaucracy and has not focused much light on this problem and budget savings.

**Lillian J. White**  
Alexandria  
Everyday Rider

## Reform, Not Repeal

To the Editor:

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is already at work improving the lives of millions of Americans. Those of us on the side of affordable, accessible healthcare for the majority of our families, friends, neighbors and colleagues are proud of the accomplishments of this legislation. Highlights include:

- ❖ prohibits denial of coverage to children with pre-existing conditions (we look forward to 2014 when no American can be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions)

- ❖ creates a new, regulated marketplace where consumers can purchase affordable healthcare (yes, you may keep your existing coverage if you're happy with it!)

- ❖ clamps down on insurance company abuses, such as terminating coverage if you become ill

- ❖ holds insurance companies responsible for how our healthcare premium dollars are spent

- ❖ allows young adults coverage on their parent's plan until age 26

- ❖ limits out of pocket costs for security and peace of mind

- ❖ extends much needed relief to small businesses

- ❖ will decrease the national

deficit by \$143 billion in the first 10 years of operation (source: CBO)

These are just a few of the reasons why we cannot go back. This legislation is a start; let's work together to improve this important work, not tear it down! Let's not expose millions of Americans to the whims of the insurance industry and spend millions of taxpayer's hard earned money trying to go back to a place that is untenable (not to mention unaffordable) for most Americans.

For us, it's not about a political scoreboard. It's about doing the right thing for millions of Americans who need access to quality, affordable healthcare. For us, people come first!

Reform is the right thing to do — repeal is not.

**Becky Arnold**

Vice Chair, Communications  
Alexandria Democratic Committee

## Water Rate Mystery

To the Editor:

I have just received in the mail an advice from Virginia-American Water Company informing me (us) that the company was seeking an increase in water rates to the tune of an extra \$2,017,023 for the City of Alexandria.

This letter does not say what kind of a percentage increase they are seeking nor any history of water rates in Alexandria, but they suggest going to the State Corporation Commission web site ([www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case) then Docket search portal) for information. The dockets show the list of meetings held and the participants to these meetings. The Hopewell District and the Prince William District which will also be affected by this increase have regularly been represented during the process; not so the City of Alexandria.

Does this mean that our council members have already blithely agreed to an increase which affects us all without bothering to object or negotiate on our behalf? An amount of \$2.0M is no small change and should be justified, something the letter does not do.

Our Council members have asked us to vote for them; they were going to represent us. An extra \$2.0 M imposed on us residents of Alexandria does not seem like a lot of representation.

**Francois Duret**  
Alexandria

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# PEOPLE

## Seeking Ms. Virginia Senior Candidates

FROM PAGE 9

hospitals across the state of Virginia and the Washington Metropolitan area. In 2000, they performed at the White House.

Since both the queen and the first runner up have busy schedules, she has occasionally done speaking engagements to recruit candidates. She tells women to ignore the little voice in their heads that say I could never do this.

"So many women have this idea that there are certain things you aren't able to do just because you reach a certain age. Your hopes and dreams and goals don't have expiration dates," she said.

Fanelli and her husband run a DJ business. Her husband is providing the music for this year's pageant.

As part of her philosophy of life for this year's pageant, she hopes to demonstrate how she uses her skills as a DJ to connect with the younger generation.

In addition, Fanelli believes the pageant helps to showcase the beauty and value of women who have reached "the age of elegance" to the local community.

She remembers "a young man who was helping with the ushering at the pageant said to me that he had no idea women of

this age could be so beautiful."

Huntley, who is the reigning queen, also wants to spread the message that women in the "age of elegance" are a "viable part of our society" and that it is important for them to stay busy and active.

"It just goes to show that senior ladies are very much a productive part of society, and this organization provides us with the opportunity to show that we are still going strong. "No stopping us now," she said.

Huntley practices what she preaches. She has performed the same tap dance routine to "Puttin on the Ritz" she did for the pageant at various speaking engagements across the state.

Although Huntley has worked in the pageant industry for 40 years (directing, choreographing, judging or coaching), she still enjoyed the talent and evening gown sections.

"I love to dress up and model. It just makes you feel so elegant. So the evening gown competition was fantastic."

This year's Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant will be held at the Lee Center located at 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria on May 19.

The Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant began in 1984.

## National Recognition For Milano

If the Alexandria Detention Center was classed a prison, Captain Frank R. Milano would be the Warden.

As it is, Milano oversees the overall confinement and operations of the Alexandria Adult Detention Center.

On Jan. 28, after persevering 10 months of studies, which included three weeks onsite in Aurora, Colo. and continuous studies online, Milano, the only participant from the Northern Virginia region, graduated from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Executive Excellence Program.

The National Institute of Corrections is an agency within the U. S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons that is spearheaded by a director and 16-member policy advisory board appointed by the Attorney General. This program is equivalent to the FBI National Academy in Quantico.

The Executive Excellence Program is developed for upper level correctional managers on the career path towards chief executive officer positions and equips the participants with the knowledge and skills required to lead correctional facilities.

"Captain Milano's graduation from this executive program is a credit to the Al-



**Captain Frank Milano**

exandria Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. "The study, determination and graduation are important to the professionalism and administration of our jail."

Milano is a New Jersey native and earned his bachelor of arts degree at Salem College, Salem, West Virginia and master's degree at George Washington University, Washington D. C., both in criminal justice.

He joined the Alexandria Sheriff's Office on Jan. 3, 1983, was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1989, lieutenant in 2002 and became captain of the Security Division in 2008.

While his activities outside of his professional duties include spending time with his wife and three boys, sports, traveling, and the performing arts, he is known for his passion for baking, where he often provides banana cream pie for colleagues on special occasions.

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# Spring is in the Air

REBUILDING  
TOGETHER  
ALEXANDRIA

BY DOROTHY SHEPARD  
AMERICORPS MEMBER

As the weather begins a rollercoaster ride between hot and cold, you can smell spring in the air. While the season promises birds chirping and flowers blooming, it also forebodes things like taxes and spring cleaning. Since going through AmeriCorps training and starting to work for Rebuilding Together Alexandria, I've learned what the most important home inspections and repairs are and that now is the time to work on home maintenance for warmer weather.

One of the main priorities Rebuilding Together focuses on for our clients is safety. To address fire safety, we make sure all smoke detectors and CO2 alarms are functioning. It is important to check the expiration date and gauges on fire extinguishers to make sure they are charged. Also, clean the clothes dryer exhaust duct and space under the dryer as lint can build up and cause fire.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria often receives emergency calls from clients who have a broken furnace or hot water heater. Inspecting and servicing major appliances is a 'must do' for any home. Replace the filter in your furnace to make sure it is running the most efficiently. Test all air conditioning units to make sure they are working before that first day of summer arrives. Be sure to check for rust and leakage on the hot water heater. All HVAC systems

(heating, ventilation and air conditioning) should be professionally inspected and serviced twice a year, and a hot water heater should be serviced at least once a year.

Other issues RTA looks for while inspecting our clients' homes are air and water leaks. We check the water and sewer pipes for leaks and look at walls, ceilings, and floors for large air gaps that a volunteer could seal. While on house visits, we also inspect doors and windows for air leaks that volunteers can caulk and weather seal. This is an easy DIY fix that will keep cold air in and hot air out!

We find that the outside of a home can often use a lot of attention in preparation for spring. One of the tasks our volunteers perform is to replace any torn or damaged screens in windows and doors to keep out bugs and other pests. Some volunteers clean out and repair damaged gutters to prevent leaks and overflow during rainstorms.

As an AmeriCorps member visiting client homes with the RTA staff, I've learned that the list of things that can go wrong in a home is long. But with regular inspections and preparations for the changes in season, you may be able to prevent emergency situations, lower energy costs, and maintain a safer, healthier environment at home.

*Rebuilding Together Alexandria is an award-winning, non-profit organization dedicated to repairing and revitalizing homes for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans and families. If you'd like to volunteer or donate, or if you know a homeowner in need, visit [www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org) or call 703-836-1021.*

## NEIGHBORHOOD Seminary Valley

Well, it is official, the Polk Elementary School Gym is open. Local Boy Scout Pack 614 presented the colors at the ceremony, just as it did in 1965 when the school was dedicated. After being congratulated by Mayor William D. Euille, Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Morton Sherman, Alexandria City School Board Chairman Yvonne Folkerts and PTA President Beth Wong, students and staff celebrated the new space with a student Step Team performance and a teacher-led dance celebration. A special presentation honored Charlotte Ross, who has been the crossing guard at Polk since the school opened. She thanked the students for the privilege of working with them each day. Rachel Gutter of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Certification program encouraged the students to be proud of their green school; she highlighted the gym's natural lighting, LED lights that dim when natural light is available, mechanical systems that pump in fresh cool air and much more.

If you are a fan of Groupon or Living Social, those websites that offer discounts for local merchants and restaurants, time to check out Alexandria's "Try It Local", an online group discount program offering deep discounts of 40-90 percent off Chamber member retailers, restaurants, service providers and more. Anyone in the community can purchase the weekly deal but only Alexandria Chamber members can feature their business on Try It Local. Go to

[www.tryitlocal.com/Alexandria](http://www.tryitlocal.com/Alexandria) to find a deal or sign up your local business.

— MIA JONES

## Taylor Run

Barb Winters, formerly an Alexandria librarian, bravely volunteered some years ago to sort through and organize six boxes full of letters, which had been slowly accumulating for 125 years.

The overwhelming amount of information she found therein led to her writing a book "Letters to Virginia;" she will share it in a free lecture to be given Saturday, March 5 at 1 p.m. in the Alexandria Library at 717 Queen St.

Three Alexandria families, the Fendalls, the Eacles, and the Tacketts, wrote the letters as they lived through the historical tumult from 1817 to 1940.

Winters will also display some of the surprising memorabilia found in the boxes. I find it fascinating that the thoughts and requests of 19th century writers are still with us in physical form, whereas so much of ours vanish forever into cyberspace.

## HAPPY ENDING

Other Alexandrians who were evacuated from the Kaiser building in Springfield, as was this writer, on Monday, will be glad to know that the leak has been fixed. I'm sure we were all grateful to the staff at the Hilton Hotel who took us in and gave us tea.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT



Youngsters perform during the annual Black History program at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center.

## Taking a Stand While Seated

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

The youth at the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center presented their annual Black History Program (Black History is American History). Their Rosa Parks Skit was directed by Iesha Ressurreccion, recreation leader of the group of budding actors. The set and props were made by James Franklin and sound was by Rodney Bates. I was the resident theatre critic on hand and my review is as follows: The acting on the part of the ensemble was simply superb! The natural approach of the actors was a

### RECREATION

breath of fresh air, really, especially since overacting has become a norm among Oscar contenders. The minimalist scenery was also a tribute to the greats of that style with the bus being constructed of what appeared to be recycled cardboard. Not only are the professionals at Nannie J. Lee artistically gifted, but they are also seemingly committed environmentalists. Good Job to staff at the center.

The program had surprise delights from Hot Topic participants led by tumbling instructor extraordinaire, Brenda Holloway. It is amazing what the participants were able to demonstrate, not to mention, a real crowd pleaser.

Now for the moment that you all have been waiting for the names of the cast of Rosa Parks Skit are: Jada Gillison (as Rosa Parks), Daron Love (Passenger), Ramiya Pegues (Passenger), Benjamin Arango-Navar (Passenger), Kwame Bolden (Passenger), Prince Wallace (Passenger), Jamal Williams (Bus Driver), Illiana Moses (Passenger), Ruth Belay (Narrator), Josiah Golden (Passenger), Tijone Stokes (Police Officer), Ian Fensand (Passenger), Azuri Terry (Passenger), Kejuan Ferguson (passenger), Amoni Chase (Passenger), Daniel Chase (Passenger), Mike Ennis (Passenger), Rand Baechler, Jr. (Police Officer) and DaJohn Wright (Passenger).

Clearly, the ensemble deserves this recognition in the paper along with the favorite cuisine of participants ranging in ages from 7 to 12 ... you guessed it ... pizza. I suggest that a pizza party be planned immediately for the accomplishments of a such a promising cast of characters.

And for other news ...

The MUSE (Music Unites Students Everywhere) starts this March due in large part to the generous donation of Hungry for Music (Jeff Campbell, CEO/founder) and the U.S. Army Band. The organization has also committed to donating a number of instruments. We have Dr. Eddie Johnson to thank for that. If you have something positive to give to any of the neighborhood centers please call us at 703-746-5533.



PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

## First Degree

Kevin Bacon and the Bacon Brothers band rock the stage at the Birchmere Feb. 19 and Feb. 20.

# TC Boys Win Fourth Region Title in Five Years

**Titans bounce back from 2009-10 season of controversy.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**s the celebration unfolded, members of the T.C. Williams boys basketball team posed for pictures, holding their hands in a diamond shape symbolizing "dynasty."

The Titans are back on top of the Northern Region.

Last season, TC failed to qualify for the region tournament. A season marred by eligibility issues, forfeits and controversy snapped a streak of three consecutive region titles. On Monday, the Titans climbed back to a familiar place, defeating Annandale 59-54 in the region championship game at Robinson Secondary School.

"These kids put that in perspective and used that as motivation the entire year," T.C. Williams head coach Julian King said. "They fought hard and knew what their goals were and they worked hard to achieve them."

Against an Annandale team they had already faced three times during the season, the Titans were locked in a fast-paced, yet sometimes sloppy, battle. TC trailed 21-17 at halftime, but took the lead for good after an 11-0 third-quarter run.

Annandale pulled to within three during the final minute of the game when TC senior Tyler Driver stepped to the free-throw

line with 37.7 seconds remaining. Driver missed both attempts, but darted over to grab his own rebound. Driver was fouled, returned to the free-throw line and buried both attempts to give the Titans a 56-51 advantage. TC led by at least three the rest of the way.

"When it left my hands it didn't feel like it was going in," Driver said. "I was like, 'If I track this ball down I have an opportunity to go back to the line and finish the game.'"

TC's Rick Mathews earned tournament MVP honors.

The senior post led the Titans with 17 points, including eight in the third quarter. With TC trailing 26-24, Mathews scored seven straight points, including a three-point play to put the Titans ahead 29-24.

"I worked hard all season," Mathews said, "and the hard work is paying off."

Jamal Pullen scored 13 points for TC. Driver finished with nine points, Tyrell Sitton scored eight and Daquan Kerman added six.

TC will face Phoebus, the Eastern Region runner-up, on at 8:45 p.m. on March 4 during the first round of the state tournament at Robinson Secondary School. The Titans lost to Phoebus 48-41 on Jan. 22 in Virginia Beach.

"It feels great," Mathews said, "bringing the region title back home to TC."

**"... these kids put that [last year's controversy] in perspective and used that as motivation the entire year."**

**— T.C. Williams boys basketball coach Julian King**



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

**T.C. Williams senior Rick Mathews earned Northern Region tournament MVP honors.**

## TC Girls Finish Northern Region Runner-Up

**Titans lose to West Springfield for fourth time.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he T.C. Williams girls basketball team forced 10 turnovers and limited West Springfield to 19 points during the first half of the Northern Region championship game — but the Titans couldn't buy a bucket at the other end.

TC held a lead late in the third quarter — but the Spartans closed the period on an 8-2 run.

The Titans forced six turnovers in the fourth quarter and pulled to within three points on four occasions — but West Springfield standout April Robinson

made plays down the stretch.

After losing to West Springfield three times during the season by an average of 16 points, TC put forth its most competitive effort against the Spartans on the biggest of stages. The Titans forced 19 turnovers and held West Springfield to its third-lowest offensive output of the season. But no matter how well the Titans played, the Spartans had an answer.

West Springfield defeated TC 46-41 on Monday in the region championship game at Robinson Secondary School. After losing to West Springfield twice during the regular season and again in the Patriot District championship game, the Titans (19-10) gave everything they had in an attempt to

knock off the mighty Spartans (27-1). In the end, TC was left with the consolation prize of region runner-up and a state play-off berth.

"To play the same team four times and lose, it just really hurts," TC senior Sade Barber said. "... It feels good to keep on playing, but it also hurts to lose to the same team twice in the championship back to back."

TC had leads of 25-24, 26-24 and 27-26 in the third quarter but failed to hold on. The Titans trailed 42-39 with less than two minutes remaining in the final period but Robinson buried a floater and Logan Battle knocked down a pair of free throws to put the game away. Robinson, a junior point

guard, finished with 19 points and Battle, a junior post, scored 11 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

TC played well defensively in the opening quarter, forcing seven turnovers while holding West Springfield scoreless for two separate three-minute stretches. On the offensive end, the Titans got decent looks at the basket but couldn't knock them down. TC held a 7-4 lead late in the first quarter, but the advantage could have been much greater.

"We shot horribly from the field," TC head coach Kesha Walton said. "The fact that we only lost by five is still like, 'Wow.' At halftime, I believe we were 4-for-19."

SEE TITANS LOSE, PAGE 28

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**SPORTS**

**Titans Lose to West Springfield**

FROM PAGE 27

That's key, too. We've got to be able to knock down shots. ...

"With that first-half struggle, us not being able to hit anything, and playing great D, I think that took a toll on us. We were working our butts off on defense but nothing would fall for us offensively."

TC senior Jasmine Norman led all scorers with 21 points, including 17 in the second half.

"Nothing could fall for me in the first half," she said. "I was struggling a bit. I was taking it to the basket, I just could not finish. The refs weren't on our side as much, but in the second half we started picking it up. I started getting some calls and finishing my shots."

TC will travel to face Princess Anne, the Eastern Region champion, at 3:45 p.m. on March 5 for the opening round of the state tournament at William & Mary.

"We came in underestimated, not even talked about, not even ranked," Walton said, "and here we are, the No. 2 team in the region. I told them to keep their heads up high. It shows right here. Your hard work is why we're No. 2. We've got to continue to build from it and hopefully next year we can be No. 1."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

**Sophomore Christian Roberts and the T.C. Williams basketball team finished second in the Northern Region.**

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Tournament Win**

The Episcopal boys basketball team defeated Middleburg 55-47 on Feb. 26 to win the Sleepy Thompson Tournament at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Instructor Susan Herbert, left, joins Linda Evianiak, Jennifer Evianiak, Ashley Nguyen, Niko Patrick, Myra Osborne and Meredith Preston at the ceremony for students graduating from the Red Cross Nursing Assistant program.**

# Red Cross Graduates Nursing Assistants

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

One by one they breathed a sigh of relief as they finished their final exams, congratulating each other as they celebrated the last day of the Nurse Assistant Training program offered by the National Capital Area Red Cross in Alexandria.

"I was more prepared than I thought I would be," said Jennifer Evianiak, who took the course with her sister Linda. "In a good way, the course was more intense than I expected and that helped."

The Red Cross has been offering the Nurse Assistant Training Program in Alexandria for a year now, and those graduating Jan. 31 had a variety of reasons for taking the course.

"I'd like to work on global health issues," said Meredith Preston, who is working on a degree at George Mason University and hopes to get into health care administration. "I'd like to work on humanitarian projects with Doctors Without Borders."

Niko Patrick had her own reasons for enrolling.

"I have a lot of elderly people in my family that are in nursing homes," Patrick said. "I'm going to open up an assisted care facility to try and get them into a better environment."

The 120-hour course, regulated by the state, has students come from around the region.

"Virginia has reciprocal arrangements with D.C., Maryland and most other states," said Joan Moser, who administers the program in Alexandria. "That allows our graduates to look for work in other parts of the country. The District and Maryland don't offer that."

Instructors for the course are Registered Nurses and 40 hours of hands-on clinical work is done in partnership with Goodwin House.

"Goodwin House has been an amazing partner for us," said Susan Herbert, one of the instructors. "Students work with Certified Nursing Assistants and get experience with patients that other programs don't offer."

**THE RED CROSS** offers two programs in Alexandria: A four-week daytime course and six-week evening and weekend course. Both cost \$1,200 and financial aid is available through the state.

"Half of our students already have undergrad degrees," Moser said. "But they want to get into the health care field where the jobs are now."

The classroom facility, complete with clinical lab, hospital beds and medical equipment, is located at the intersection of King and Washington Streets in Old Town. Upon graduation, students are eligible to take the state Certified Nursing Assistant exam.

"The need for home health care will continue to increase significantly as the population ages," Moser said. "Our emphasis is on the art of caregiving and respecting the dignity of the individual you are caring for."

An orientation for the program is offered four times a month and an interview process is required for enrollment. Those interested can contact Moser directly at 703-299-2506.

"The focus on bedside manner is what really sets the Red Cross apart from other CNA programs," said Linda Evianiak as she celebrated with the rest of her class. "This has been such an amazing and rewarding experience for all of us."

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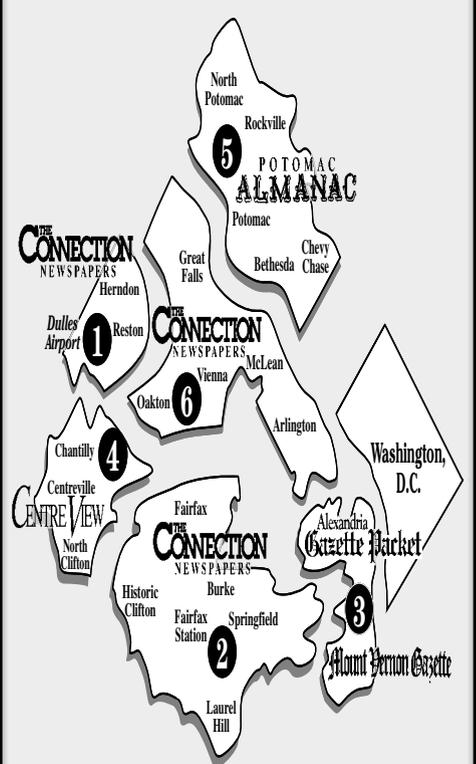
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