



Sue Sullivan, Nancy and Melissa Hunt and Jeanne Plitt open a discussion with a troop of Brownies about their personal experiences in scouting.



Chris Lloyd leads a discussion on the life of Girl Scout founder Juliet Gordon Low.

Her Story At Lyceum

The assembly room at the Lyceum was filled with Girl Scout Brownies on Saturday afternoon. Chris Lloyd of the Lyceum, Sarah Watson and Kim Hurley of the Alexandria Office on Women and a panel of present and past Girl Scouts led the girls in discussions and projects fulfilling the requirements for the Her Story "Try It" badge.



A completed "Peace Tree" from Brownie Troop 4291.

Grave Injustice

City Council members move toward making amends for desecrating African-American burial sites.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In life, just as in death, timing is everything. That's why the irony was striking at City Hall Tuesday night when City Council members directed budget officials to add \$75,000 to the budget to finish a baseline archeological study of African-American graves that have long been desecrated by city vehicles driving and parking over them.

The reason city officials put a maintenance yard over the neglected black graves was to construct Fort Ward Park in time for the centennial. Now that the sesquicentennial is upon us, the pendulum is swinging in the other di-

rection. And city officials are trying to right the wrong that was done many years ago when the African-American community was condemned and taken by the city to construct a park featuring the Union artillery fort protecting the Alexandria turnpike.

"This is what the Civil War was all about — giving freedom to people," said Kathleen Pepper, chairwoman of the Alexandria Archeology Commission. "So it's ironic that these people were displaced by the centennial."

Since the long-forgotten graveyards first hit the news in 2009, archeologists have used ground-penetrating radar and elbow

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 4

Waiting for a Culture Shift in Schools

Officials will be in Alexandria next week to audit city's special education services.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Three years ago, the state of the city's services to students with disabilities was dismal. And that wasn't just an opinion offered by parents of students whose individualized

achievement plans were being ignored. It was also the conclusion of the Virginia Department of Education, which issued a scathing report pointing out six areas where the public-school system failed to meet federal standards. It was also

SEE OFFICIALS, PAGE 7

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Accountability or Attack?

Who is to blame for the massive traffic jam that's about to choke the city's West End when more than 6,000 employees descend on the Washington Headquarters Service? U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8) likes to blame former Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld**, a convenient target considering he's out of power. The Center for Naval Analysis filed a \$30 million lawsuit against Duke Realty, who sold the land to the Army and is now developing the property.

But there's plenty of blame to go around, especially for candidates in the competitive Democratic primary for the state Senate seat vacated by state Sen. **Patsy Ticer** (D-30).

Last week, Arlington County School Board Chairwoman **Libby Garvey** issued a scathing press release blaming Councilman **Rob Krupicka** for the mess at Seminary Road and the Shirley Memorial Highway. Quoting a 2008 letter from Deputy City Attorney **Mark Jinks**, Garvey said Krupicka made a "terrible decision by giving the DOD a green light to locate the BRAC building at the Mark Center site."

"I believe strongly that we should judge public officials by the decisions they make," Garvey said. "His candidacy for the Virginia Senate, like that of all of us running for that important position, should be evaluated according to the quality of our decisions."

Krupicka immediately went on the attack, calling Garvey's remarks "nasty" and asking for supporters for money in increments of \$50, \$100 or \$250. In a written statement he said she had distorted his record, although in an interview he later acknowledged that the city's strategy of endorsing the Mark Center site was "a flawed strategy."

"She's trying to Monday-morning quarterback this three years later," said Krupicka, who is viewed by many Democrats as the front-runner. "My focus is on how to move forward."

Gateway Eyesore

For almost three decades, the city has been at a loss for what to do with a property it owns at the corner of Mount Vernon Avenue and Braddock Road. Because the property is so close to the Metro, an endless parade of proposals have been entertained — everything from townhouses and condominiums to affordable-housing units and open space.

Now, finally, some action might be taking place on the long-abandoned property that's been decried as an eyesore at the gateway to Del Ray. This week, City Council members voted to declare the property surplus after receiving an unsolicited offer to purchase the property. The offer comes from the owner of an adjacent property who is looking to consolidate the parcels in advance of submitting a development special-use permit.

But that doesn't mean there's agreement about what to do with the property. Some would like to see it preserved as open space. Others would like to have seen affordable housing, although the Alexandria Development Housing Corporation tried and failed to make that happen. Then there's the lure of cold, hard cash. Because of the proximity to the Metro, the city could hold out for top dollar and maximize the profits rolling in to the city coffers by developing every square inch.

"There are competing goals here," said Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**. "Just because we declare it surplus doesn't mean we have to sell, though. If we don't like the price, we don't sell."

Franchise Fracas

For 15 years, Comcast had a franchise agreement with Alexandria. That expired in 2009. Since that time, negotiations have been delayed several times. City officials say part of the delay was prompted when telephone calls to Comcast went unanswered.

Now, City Council members have kicked the can down the road once more. On Tuesday, they voted for another extension of the expired franchise. Yet the level of frustration is clearly rising, and some are talking about opening up the franchise up for competitive bids. The problem is arranging that deal or any other deal with Comcast holding out the threat of turning off all cable television service in the city.

"We are at our wit's end," said Mayor **Bill Euille** before voting to temporarily extend the franchise once more.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



The Target Gallery exhibit features 200 10-inch by 10-inch squares created by the Torpedo Factory artists.

An Artful March Madness

It's March Madness at the Target Gallery. The Target Gallery and the March of Dimes have combined efforts to raise money for both organizations.

Through March 27, Torpedo Factory Artists have donated 200 10-inch squares of artwork for an exhibit and sale in the Target Gallery. Each square may be purchased for \$100.

On Saturday morning, March 19, tables were set up on the first floor and artists and volunteers invited visitors to paint a square for a special quilt — "What Family Means to U" — to be given to the March of Dimes.

A March Madness Art Party is planned for March 25 from 7-11 p.m. in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory. Music will be from DJ Style. Bring small bills and change to play games. Food and drink include a wing-off, pizza and Old Dominion Beer and more. Tickets may be purchased online now for \$15 advance or \$20 at the door. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/marchmadness



T.C. Williams High seniors Ian Zuidema and Caroline Kee help with painting squares for the March of Dimes quilt.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Augusta Jay watches from her mother Janney's arms as her painting in clipped up on a line for drying.



Dozens of painted squares fill the rope lines strung in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory.



Mackenzie Snook shows her completed painting.

Council Approves \$75,000 To Finish Study on Graves

FROM PAGE 1

grease to discover 22 unmarked burials at Fort Ward Park. But the money ran out before the archeologists were even able to determine the boundaries of the four separate burial yards where they were working. That means that many more unmarked graves are waiting to be discovered in the known burial yards. But then there are the unknown unknowns. City archeologist Pam Cressey says that unmarked graves are probably all over Fort Ward Park.

"Quite frankly, I don't think it's possible to discover every grave," said Cressey. "It would be a major undertaking."

The first phase would come to an end if City Council members decide to add \$75,000 to the budget for fiscal year 2011. But that's only the beginning of uncovering the hidden history of Fort Ward Park. Office of Historic Alexandria Director Lance Mallamo estimates completing archeology at the park will take anywhere from \$230,000 to \$270,000. Even then, the extent of African-American burials in a freedman's community once known as "the Fort" may never be known.

"Technology is improving in this area all the time," said Mallamo. "So it's possible that in the near future, we'll see the ability to detect burials make improvements that will help us have a better understanding of what we're looking at."

THE STORY OF HOW a city park ended up over unmarked graves dates back to a time when Robert E. Lee's cousin owned a slave plantation nearby known as Menokin. When the Civil War erupted, the Union army seized land adjacent to the plantation owned by the Hooff family and began building an earthen fort to serve as a supply base south of the Potomac River. After the war, the Union Army deserted the property and recently freed slaves began squatting on the land. By the time the city was trying to assemble lands to create Fort Ward Park in



So far, four burial areas have been identified although the boundaries remain a mystery. City Archeologist Pam Cressey says many other burial sites could be located throughout Fort Ward Park.

the 1960s, determining the titleholders to houses with no plumbing or sewer service created a problem.

"There may have been people who didn't want to sell but realized that their community was changing," said Wally Owen, curator at Fort Ward Park. "What's frustrating about this is that we don't have the full record of what went on back then."

But memories run long in Alexandria, especially in the African-American community. Elizabeth Douglas remembers attending a one-room schoolhouse that was located on what is now the eastern edge of the park, and she has fond memories of visiting the family burial yard where 10 to 15

people were buried — including a woman she called "Aunt Clara." On the occasions she has been able to visit the grave, she has become overwhelmed with anger at the city of Alexandria for how it treated the black families that were pushed aside to create Fort Ward in the 1960s.

"I just think they were racial," said Douglas in a 2009 interview. "Those people were prejudiced, and that's all there is to it."

NOW THE DEBATE has shifted, and city officials are eager to find some way to undo the damage that was done during the Civil War centennial. But questions linger. During a work session Tuesday afternoon, City

Council members seemed willing to add \$75,000 to this year's budget to finish the baseline study. But will they be willing to throw down a quarter of a million to finish the job? The answer to that question will probably have to wait until next year.

"I'm not one to advocate spending more money," said Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, adding that she would be willing to commit as much as \$300,000. "But if there was ever a reason to spend money, this is it."

There are also turf wars. The Parks and Recreation Commission supports oversight of the project by existing boards and commissions. But members of the stakeholders advisory group believe a group should be specially convened to oversee the rest of the archeology and historical study that's still needed. And some have criticized the Office of Historic Alexandria and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs for failing to communicate with each other — a phenomenon that Historic Alexandria Resources Commission compared to internal divisions that plagued the Austria-Hungarian Empire.

"It's not a happy precedent," said Ziegler. "I think we can do better."

FOR NOW, council members seem clearly willing to fund the \$75,000 needed for the baseline study. That will determine the boundaries of the four known burial yards and complete a historical study. Meanwhile, Fort Ward is preparing an exhibit about the African-American community that thrived at the site in the wake of the war. And council members signaled a willingness to use revenue from a new stormwater management tax to address persistent nuisance flooding in the park.

"What I heard here was honor and compassion," said Francis Terrell, whose descendants are buried at Fort Ward. "Respecting and honoring my ancestors really means a lot."

"Your ancestors are our ancestors," responded Mayor Bill Euille.

Mac Attack

One Alexandria man is not lovin' it at McDonalds, where Alexandria police say he slashed the manager in the parking lot. It all started on March 9 when two men became disorderly in the McDonald's on North Henry Street. The manager kicked them out, and the two men took it into the parking lot. Later in the evening, the manager was taking out some trash when he was assaulted by one of the men.

"He took out a pocket knife and took a swing," said Jody Donaldson, spokesman for the

Frequent McDonald's customer slashes manager, then is arrested when he returns.

Alexandria Police Department. "The manager was cut on the cheek."

By the time the police arrived, the suspect was long gone. But the manager told the officers he suspected the man would return because he was a frequent customer. Sure enough, the man the manager suspected of slashing his cheek was back at the Golden Arches within the week, and police were called to the scene once again, where they arrested 45-year-old Johnnie Lanier and charged him with felonious assault.



The McDonalds on North Henry Street was the scene of a stabbing on March 9.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

New Hotel To Open

Marriott International, Inc. is scheduled to open the 155-suite SpringHill Suites by Marriott in Alexandria on Monday, March 28. Located at 2950 Eisenhower Ave., the SpringHill Suites Alexandria Tech Center is owned by Apple REIT and managed by Marriott International.

Free Wi-Fi in the hotel's lobby and high-speed Internet access in every suite allow guests to remain connected at all times.

The hotel offers 500 square feet of meeting space, business services, same-day dry cleaning, guest laundry facilities, a state-of-the-art fitness center and express check-out. The Market offers 24/7 access to food and beverages and a daily complimentary hot breakfast.

For more information or reservations, call the SpringHill Suites Alexandria Tech Center hotel directly at 703-317-0013 or visit the web site at www.springhillsuites.com.

NEWS



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Above, dancers from the Boyle School of Irish Dance perform on St. Patrick's Day inside Murphy's Grand Irish Pub on King Street.

PHOTOS BY
LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/
GAZETTE PACKET

Local residents celebrate St. Patrick's Day as they cheer along with singer Pat Carroll.



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Books-A-Zero

Say goodbye to the Books-A-Million on King Street. Next month, the Alexandria Planning Commission will consider a special-use permit from Michigan-based Velmeir Companies to move the King Street CVS drug store there. It's not a done deal yet. But whatever happens with the CVS application, the days of Books-A-Million are clearly coming to an end.

"We've seen this trend with a lot of mega-bookstores," said **Christina Mindrup** with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. "They're being crushed by Amazon."

For many Alexandria book lovers still mourning the loss of Olsson's bookstore in 2008, the loss of Books-A-Million represents a sea change for the city's retail scene. It's true that King Street has a handful of specialty independent bookstores, although their selection is limited to children's books, religious books, comic books or used books. And the Barnes and Noble at Potomac Yard remains a popular destination. But the loss of a major book retailer on King Street represents the end of an era.

"It's really a sad day for the city," said former City Manager and noted bookworm **Vola Lawson**. "If there are fewer places to buy books, there will be less incentive to browse."

Officials at the Economic Development Partnership say they've heard from two individuals who are interested in opening a small-scale bookstore with a coffeeshop — the kind that were popular before giant retailers like Borders and Barnes and Noble began dominating the scene. Perhaps they'll be able to make something work at the current CVS site, an old bank building that was constructed to replace a structure demolished in the era of urban renewal.

"It's kind of like the bookstore of yesteryear," said Mindrup.

Waterfront Hotels

The central front in the battle for Alexandria's waterfront may soon become a debate about how many hotel rooms can fit on the Potomac River. Hotel developers are looking for more density while Old Town residents are trying to reduce the size and scale of what's allowed under the new small-area plan. Meanwhile, negotiations to develop three parcels of land on the waterfront could hinge on the outcome.

"We strongly support the hotels," said **Andrew Palmieri**, legislative director for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. "The hotels are critical to providing revenue to pay for all the amenities in the plan."

The draft small area plan, which was released in February, abandons a longstanding ban that prevents hotels from being constructed along the waterfront. It also increases the square footage that would be allowed, opening the door for 625 rooms at three potential locations.

"We are concerned this plan will have too many hotel rooms," said Old Town Civic Association President John Gosling. "If the plan calls for full-service hotels, they could be off-peak traffic generators."

Signs of Life

Spring has sprung in Alexandria, and that means more than a few green shoots here and there. According to the city's most recent financial report, Alexandria's unemployment rate has dropped to 4.4 percent. That's the lowest since the global economic crisis gripped the city in 2008. Local sales tax revenue and meals tax revenue has improved over last year. Although hotel room occupancy declined slightly, room rates are increasing. Even residential construction is showing signs of improvement.

"The number of residential construction projects in Alexandria has returned to FY 2009 levels, but the value of commercial construction continues to trail prior years," wrote City Manager **Jim Hartmann** in a memorandum to City Council members outlining the economic forecast. "By the end of 2011, based on projects in the pipeline, it is expected that the value of new multi-family construction will exceed 2010 levels."

It's not all roses, though. At least not yet. Hotel room occupancy has been decreasing, and the number of business license applications is the lowest it's been in years.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Keeper of the Flame

Maureen Dunn continues McEnearney tradition of giving back.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Pearl S. Buck once said that the test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its helpless members. For Maureen McEnearney Dunn, helping Senior Services of Alexandria care for some of the city's most vulnerable citizens is part of her family's decades-long commitment to giving back.

"Senior Services does a lot of vital work in the community," said Dunn, who along with McEnearney Associates Realtors is the presenting sponsor for the March 26 Generation to Generation gala benefiting Senior Services of Alexandria. "I saw what my mother went through in her later years and know just how much we need to keep an eye out for our older citizens."

Dunn's mother Ginny McEnearney died on Mother's Day 2009 but not before instilling a strong sense of community commitment in her daughter.

"My mother was very much into volunteering in the community," Dunn said. "School, church, political campaigns — I don't think there was much she wasn't involved in. Dad was always very giving in the financial sense so I guess you could say I get it from both sides."

Dunn's father, John McEnearney, credits his own father Charles, a successful car dealership owner in Trinidad and Barbados, for his own sense of responsibility to the community.

"I got this from my father," McEnearney said. "He was a very successful businessman and felt strongly about the need to pass some of that success on to the neighborhood and support worthy projects."

McEnearney, a Naval Academy graduate who served in the Navy for 31 years, founded the real estate company that bears his name in 1980. What began as a single office in Old Town has grown to six offices and a commercial division that serves all



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Maureen Dunn and her father John McEnearney reminisce over the first photo taken of the firm's agents in 1980.

of Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland.

"We do business in a lot of communities but there really is something special about Alexandria," said Dunn, who is now the president of the company. "Alexandria is truly a unique community. It's amazing to see so many people working hard to give back and make it a better place."

The McEnearney family legacy of giving back was recognized by Senior Services when Dunn and her father were honored at the Generation to Generation gala in 2009. This year the honorees are Sandy Calhoun and her son Andrew Calhoun, Cathy David and her niece Cathy Puskar, Carlton Funn and his daughter Tracye Funn and Lillian Patterson and her daughter Marilyn Patterson.

"When I free up more time in my life, I would like to follow in my mother's footsteps and do more volunteering," Dunn said. "For now, I'm glad the company is in a position to help with the financial needs of an organization like Senior Services."

The McEnearney legacy of giving back, which started in 1919 with Charles McEnearney's first dealership, is preserved through Dunn and her father.

"Dad has always been big on giving and we try to give back in all of our communities," Dunn said. "When you have a profitable business that gets its business from the community, you need to give something back."



Chili Cook-off

Hard Times Café co-founder Fred Parker helped lead a panel of five judges in sampling and rating over 25 chili entries posted by the families of Immanuel Lutheran School's students at its annual Chili Cook-off. Prizes were awarded for hottest chili, best vegetarian chili, as well as the "people's choice" award. Parker personally awarded Chelsie Delecki of Alexandria the top prize of the evening, presenting her with an authentic Hard Times Café apron for her "Gulden Free Glutton" chili entry. From left are Pastor Christopher Esget, Senior Pastor at Immanuel, Fred Parker and Chelsie Delecki.

Officials To Audit Schools' Special Education Services

FROM PAGE 1

the conclusion of an audit conducted by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, which called for a culture shift.

"I think the culture has shifted since then," said Superintendent Morton Sherman, who took charge of the school system in 2008. "We're now at a tipping point."

On Monday and Tuesday, six officials with the Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be in Alexandria's classroom and administrative offices to conduct a follow-up audit. When they arrive, they'll find a school division that has made many changes since the last time they were here. Principals are now evaluated, in part, on the performance of special education students and behavior modification pro-

"We're now at a tipping point."

— Superintendent
Morton Sherman

grams designed to reduce the disproportionate number of disciplinary actions against them. But they'll also see many of the same patterns that have plagued the system for years, including failing test scores and low graduations rates.

"It's very, very hard to see where progress has been made," said Paul Wilson, a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee. "There

Students with Disabilities

ENGLISH PASS RATES

	2008	2009	2010
Alexandria	44	67	69
Virginia	67	73	73

MATH PASS RATES

	2008	2009	2010
Alexandria	42	58	64
Virginia	65	71	73

SOURCE: Virginia Department of Education

are still a lot of warning signs."

ONE AREA where school administrators have had success is compliance. According to the Virginia Department of Education, Alexandria is now in full compliance of the federal requirements it failed to meet in 2008. That's when officials with the Virginia Department of Education found six areas where the city was found to be out of compliance with federal regulations under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Alexandria school officials responded by submitting a corrective-action plan to address a number of deficiencies, which led to an audit from the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.

"That was an issue of minimal compliance," said Sherman. "The least we should be doing is following the law."

Another area that has changed is behavioral. When the last audit was conducted, a special education student in Alexandria was three times as likely to be suspended than a student without a disability. When auditors arrive in Alexandria next week, they will find two new programs in place that Sherman says have been successful in reducing the number of discipline referrals

Monday Public Meeting

Alexandria City Public Schools and the Virginia Association of School Superintendents are hosting a public meeting for parents of students with disabilities at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 28 in the media center at Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center. The purpose of the meeting is to gather information about services provided to students with disabilities and allow parents to comment. The meeting will begin with open-microphone comments and conclude with a focus group to find common themes.

for special-education students. One is called Positive Behavioral Intervention Support and the other is called Response to Intervention.

"This week we heard about a case where an ADHA student was spinning a chair around and almost got suspended," said Wilson. "There's got to be a little bit of tolerance with these kids."

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES have the lowest pass rates of any other group of students in Alexandria. The most recent test data, which was released by the Virginia Department of Education last month, show that 69 percent of these students passed the English test and 64 percent passed the math test. Those numbers are well below the federal benchmarks outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act and lower than the state-wide averages. Closing this achievement gap is one of the major concerns members of the advisory committee outlined in their annual report.

"For ACPS students with disabilities there is a persistent, multi-year achievement gap for SOL passing rates, reading and math scores, in comparison to the state scores and other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia," wrote committee co-chairs Vickie Cattaneo and Sandra Strachan-Vieira in the

organization's annual report. "Since it took over a year to hire the first literacy coach, SEAC hopes the central office will put urgency into finding the second literacy coach."

One policy shift that has taken place since that time involves "individual action plans" known as IEPs. The VASS report suggested that principals should be held accountable for how these documents are implemented. To accomplish a greater sense of accountability, the report suggested, implementation of these plans should be part of performance evaluations for principals in Alexandria. School Board member Mimi Carter raised this issue during her 2009 campaign, and now administrators say they have changed the evaluation process to make sure principals are held accountable during their performance evaluations.

"Principals need to have a real comprehension of what the requirements of the IEPs mean," said Carter in a 2009 interview. "In order for that to happen, our principals need more training in terms of how these plans should be implemented."

NOW THE SYSTEM will once again be under the microscope as auditors from the Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be in Alexandria. When they interview administrators, they'll hear about how the performance evaluation system has changed. When they talk to teachers, they'll hear about behavioral intervention programs. Yet when they talk to parents, they'll probably hear many of the same complaints. Overall, Sherman says, the audit will reveal a complex situation without easy answers.

"We're not where we need to be," Sherman acknowledged. "For a long time, this city accepted large gaps in achievement. And it's going to take some time to turn that around."

Hopkins House Presents Heart of the Community Awards

Holly Sloan honored for advocacy, efforts on behalf of children.

More than 135 people turned out Feb. 11 for the 18th annual Hopkins House Heart of the Community Awards luncheon, raising more than \$51,000 for the organization's Children's Scholarship Fund.

"These funds go directly to the Children's Scholarship Fund," said Hopkins House president Glenn Hopkins. "This fund allows the children of low-income families to afford the tuition to attend Hopkins House and have access to the quality early childhood education offered at our two preschools."

Honored at the luncheon was Holly Sloan, who was presented

with the 2011 Helen Miller Community Heart Award for her advocacy, leadership and efforts on behalf of children and families in the community. BAE Systems was the recipient of the 2011 Heart of the Community Award.

Held at the Carlyle Club, the event featured entertainment by the Boys and Girls Choir of Harlem Alumni Ensemble.

"In total, we raised over \$71,000 thanks to the generosity of our supporters," Hopkins said. "They are truly the heart of our community and our commitment at Hopkins House."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Hopkins House president Glenn Hopkins addresses the crowd at the Heart of the Community Awards Feb. 11 at the Carlyle Club.



Holly Sloan, center, is presented with the 2011 Helen Miller Community Heart Award by WJLA anchor Cynee Simpson and Hopkins House Board of Trustees chair James McNeil.

OPINION

Her Story

BY LIZ JOHNSON
CHAIR, ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION
FOR WOMEN

When the City of Alexandria organized its 250th Anniversary to be held in 1999, many celebrations were planned: a Birthday Ball in the summer, an anniversary cake baking contest and a cookbook featuring local chefs. Plans were also made to begin a book on the history of our esteemed city.

However, one woman in the city realized that half of the voices of Alexandria's past were missing in the events planned for the landmark year. Those voices belonged to the women in Alexandria's history. And the woman who could hear through their silence was Susan Lowell Butler.

Susan had long established herself as a national advocate for women, serving as the first female Director of Communications for the National Education Association and the Chief Executive of Women in Communication. In addition, she served as head of the National Women's Hall of Fame for four years.

In the late 1990s, Susan turned much of her attention to the local community and the Alexandria Commission for Women. The Commission had long advocated for services and legislation that impacted the wellbeing of women in Alexandria. Examples of programs brought about through the influence of the Commission include the Domestic Violence Program and Sexual Assault Response and Awareness program.

Two years into Susan's term on the Commission, she noticed the gap in the city's planned celebrations and became determined to advocate for women's history as a member of the Anniversary Commission. Along with other members of the Commission, Susan sifted through descriptions of notable and ordinary women that were preserved, but hidden, in library books.

They pulled from those texts the stories of women like Jane Crouch and Sara Gray, two remarkable women who co-founded the St. Rose Institute to educate African American children. They also

SEE HER STORY, PAGE 10



Snapshot 12:44 p.m., March 19, 100 block of N. Union Street.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Here's a YIMBY

To the Editor:

I bristle at the assumption that, as an Old Town resident, I am a NIMBY. Like the many residents who have written to voice their concerns that development of the waterfront plan will pose new challenges to life in Old Town, I am actively engaged in learning about the plan and understanding the compromises being sought among the competing visions for the waterfront's future. But, unlike most of the writers printed in this space, when it comes to the waterfront plan, I will proudly designate myself a YIMBY – YES in my backyard.

When my husband and I moved to Old Town in 2002, we chose it precisely because it offered a vibrant nightlife, shopping and restaurant scene, tempered with the sense of small town community, historic ambiance, and environmental stewardship. As the owner of historic home, I am the first to rally in support of historic preservation and protection of our precious historic resources. But as a 21st century resident, I am equally eager to support reasonable development and growth. Why? Because allowing progress to pass you by in a misguided effort to protect what you have at all costs eventually leads to isolation, irrelevance and devaluation, which eventually ends in neglect (as people flee) or irresponsible development (in the form of desperate attempts to rectify blight). When

I read some of my neighbors' letters railing against the revitalization of the waterfront, I can't help but wonder: do these people enjoy the restaurants on King Street? Do they appreciate the benefits of high property values, open spaces and clean streets? Have they stopped to think, would I choose to live here if there were no retail shops within walking distance, no place to get coffee and chat with my neighbors? A city is a living thing that must grow and adapt while at the same time preserving its history and nurturing its community. These are not mutually exclusive goals.

People are attracted to places with a balance of amenities. If we all valued only open spaces, we would all choose to live in Fauquier County. Likewise, if we all valued only dense development, we would live in Penn Quarter. If we rejected tourism, we certainly would not choose to live in a place that attracts over 3 million tourists (and nearly \$20 million in tax revenue) each year. Not everyone's exact goals or aspirations can possibly be met by a single plan, but the city's proposal is a thoughtful and reasoned effort to maintain the city's historic integrity in the context of real life — real commerce, real open spaces, and real amenities to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Currently the Alexandria waterfront is a hodgepodge of lovely but disjointed open spaces, unattractive parking lots, and blighted buildings, bookended by underutilized and incongruous warehouses. The waterfront plan

proposes to integrate the entire 2-mile stretch of the Potomac riverfront into a usable, accessible and attractive mixed use destination that includes a net gain of open space and museums, and concentrates development into dense pockets with limited traffic impact. This proposal, unlike the proposals voiced by the opposition, would be at worst revenue-neutral and, at best, would pay for itself and then some. Residents should ask themselves what the real pay-off will be for them in 15 years — with this plan, Alexandrians can look forward to hundreds of new jobs and ongoing tax revenue to support the services and amenities residents rely on, plus the benefits of a waterfront uninterrupted by chain link fences and parking lots; without it, Alexandria will be a museum piece, gathering dust.

Davina Sashkin

Reform, Not Scapegoating

To The Editor:

Dino Drudi's recent letter to the editor criticizing my support for comprehensive immigration reform cites figures from one national anti-immigrant advocacy group to blame undocumented workers and their families for driving up taxes. America's immigration system is broken, and Congress should do its job and fix it. But the facts do not support the

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com

Steve Hibbard
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412
shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com

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Photography:
Louise Krafft

Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
John Heinly, John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Publisher/Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales, 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

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OPINION

Award Honorees

K-9 Deputy Sheriff John O'Hara (second from left) and Alexandria Police K-9 Officer Carlos Rolon were honored at the annual awards dinner of the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) March 5 at its annual awards dinner at Bolling Air Force Base. Deputy O'Hara and his dog, Sherman, finished first in the Explosives Ordinance Detection Trials held last June. Officer Rolon and his dog Ajax placed third in the Narcotics Detection Trials and for being Triple Crown certified in Narcotics Detection Patrol and Tracking. At left is Sheriff's Chief Deputy Tim Gleeson and at right is Captain Al Tierney.



PHOTO BY JANICE PARKER/SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

conclusion that undocumented workers and their families harm our economy. In fact, the opposite appears to be true:

According to the bipartisan Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, undocumented immigrants typically pay federal and state income taxes through payroll deductions, but they do not seek tax refunds and the tax revenues remain with the state and federal governments. The Urban Institute reports that, nationally, undocumented immigrants contribute around \$7 billion into Social Security through payroll taxes that they will never recover, since they do not receive Social Security benefits. While official Virginia figures do not exist, Texas commissioned a comprehensive economic analysis which concluded that undocumented immigrants contributed \$933 million more in taxes there than they took out in services. This contribution was separate from and in addition to the added economic value of Texas' undocumented immigrant workforce, which the Texas Comptroller estimated increased the state's gross domestic product by \$17.7 billion.

Drudi was right about one thing: My opposition to scapegoating undocumented workers and their families probably does not win me any votes. However, when so many cold, hard facts debunk the myth that undocumented workers harm our economy, it's even easier to govern with compassion for people who feel the same drive as past generations seeking better lives for their families.

David Englin
Delegate (D-45)
Vice Chairman, House
Democratic Caucus

Why Discourage Businesses?

To the Editor:

I've been walking around Old Town for the past two years that I've lived here. I moved here just as the economy slumped in 2008.

We are very lucky in this area because we have a stable employer which will never go out of business: the U.S. Government and its attendant contractors, lobbyists and suppliers. We have been largely shielded from the effects of the economic downturn.

Nonetheless, in my walks around the city, I have noticed empty storefronts and restaurants that have gone out of business in the two years I've been here.

Businesses in Alexandria need to be encouraged, not discouraged by the additional 7 percent tax on commercial entities. Otherwise, I may be seeing a lot more empty storefronts and "going out of business" signs on my daily walks downtown.

Carolyn Ostrom
Alexandria

Dim Lights Without Regret

To the Editor:

With a fantastic spring on hand and the budget magic falling into place I personally wanted to extend my gratitude to Mayor Bill Euille and the City Council for handling things the way they do. I think they are doing a magnificent job, but in the face of confronting the Alexandria services with never ending cuts I am extending my feelings to let the lights on the trees go dim for a few months. To sacrifice those Christmas tree

lights in exchange for funds to keep the police force and the teachers better paid is a just common sense to me. I know the lights will be turned off at the end of March and I think it has been and is very appropriate to keep them on till then.

I do ask that we businesses, in turn, take care of our own lights and I mean the businesses should ante up and go all out to light their store fronts to make up for the loss of the lights in the trees. Wouldn't it be just as spectacular to have all the businesses make up the difference and light the sidewalk way from within?

There is really no way to beat the tree lighting but if the businesses react by doing their store fronts up with more than enough lights no one will even notice and the businesses will keep rolling into every dark night and keep the taxable income coming in to help pay for everything else as well as their own no add on taxed rent.

For a better lit Alexandria and my best wishes for a stronger economy in 2011

Thanks again Jim Hartman, we will miss you.

David M. Martin
Alexandria

Out of Control City Spending

To the Editor:

The City of Alexandria cannot afford to keep the current City Council in office. The fact that they have reneged on their earlier promise not to raise taxes by posting a notice in the paper proposing a \$1 per mil tax rate confirms that they have no intention of

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[title of show] **April 23
May 14
2011**

a unique and quirky musical

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street - 703-683-0496
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Show contains strong language.

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The Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria
Chef Shannon Overmiller of Majestic and Todd Thrasher of PX Lounge Tues, March 29 7-9pm

Although this event is SOLD OUT, we have added two segments to our Spring Line Up featuring King Street Blues and Union Street Pub!!
Reservations will be accepted starting March 25th.

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spiceandtea.com
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FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS, QUEEN STREET CLINIC'S COST SAVINGS FOR THE TAXPAYER WAS OVER \$165 MILLION DOLLARS. 22,000 CLINIC PATIENTS WERE RESPONSIBLE AND WILLING TO PAY OUT OF POCKET FOR MEDICAL CARE RATHER THAN GO TO THE ER.

FOR ME:
THE 22,000 PATIENTS, WHO HAVE BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR HEALTH CARE COSTS, THEY ARE THE REAL HEROES!

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Parental Involvement Is Crucial in Middle School

BY MORTON SHERMAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The purpose of public education in the United States is to create literate, productive, and participating citizens in our democracy. Achieving that goal is not an easy path for many of our students.



The middle school years are a critical time. These are times when we see some students struggling to keep up with the demands of the content and when they work hard to find their places as young adults. Many of our middle school students begin to emerge as scholars, athletes, artists, and good citizens. We celebrate these students' successes as we honor the needs of students who show promise. To prepare middle school learners for our global society, we must provide an education that is developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering, and equitable. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) understands the impor-

COMMENTARY

tance of these essential attributes and has taken measures to enhance our students' educational experience.

In 2009, ACPS reconfigured our two large middle school campuses, George Washington and Francis C. Hammond, into five independent smaller schools to provide our students with a more personalized educational experience. We established a K-8 school at the Jefferson-Houston campus to offer an option of a continuum of educational services from kindergarten through eighth grade at one school location.

Progress is being made. Although not the only important school success indicator, SOLs increased in all categories at the school division level last year. More students are taking Algebra I in eighth grade than ever before. Writing scores improved dramatically last year. Yet, all is not perfect at the middle schools. We know and accept that there remains much to be done, which

overdue that we have a new group with new ideas and a strong sense of fiscal restraint/responsibility. They have been in office for too long and it is time for a change.

Micheline Eyraud
Alexandria

Bad Projections

To the Editor:

Deborah A. Vitale's sleepy statistics ["Unnecessary Expenditure," letter, Gazette Packet, March 17] tells us why a new Metro station at Potomac Yard shouldn't be paid for, as Andrew McDonald's column reminds us, by diverting a generation's worth of the revenue — 30 years' — from the developers to whom the city has given massive concessions. The only "reason" a Metro station might be "necessary" is to accommodate future population which would only materialize in Alexandria — already the fifth fastest-growing city — if we "plan" for it now. If we don't plan for it now, it will go elsewhere and leave Alexandria as the low-density city most of us want it to stay.

"Build it and they will come!" is what gets new lanes of roadway, built to alleviate congestion, to beyond capacity soon after opening. The scary statistic, then, is the same city hall crowd that "welcomed" Mark Center only a few years ago based on bad projections that seem a lot like the bad projections about Potomac Yard trying to tie up a generation's worth of tax revenue to build a white elephant Metro station.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Counting City's Communities

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of the City of Alex-

andria for over 20 years and a resident of the Olde Towne West community from day one. As a resident I have seen several new owners throughout the years and the community's name has always remained the same — Olde Towne West which consisted of three sites but different owners.

My understanding is that the Olde Towne West community has been established for over 30-some years. Some residents remember when there were trailer houses used until the building was finished. My question for the City Mayor, City Manager and or the Planning and Zoning: How does the city count it communities? Would it be correct to say that the city has one extra community due to the fact that the community of Olde Towne West was sold sometime late of 2009 and, because of this, each section is now under different owners, and the name of the garden apartments and the mid-rise apartments are "The Heritage At Old Town" (having lost the "e" in Old and Town).

Wouldn't this change of name and different owners for each property convert our community into two different communities and, if so, wouldn't it be right to add to the total count for our city's communities? I would like very much for someone from the City to respond to this question.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

Field of Three Democrats

To the Editor:

This week, as spring arrives, the next political contest is heating up, and more people are paying attention to next fall's State Senate race. The 30th District has

is why we welcome our new Director of Middle Schools, Dr. Gregory Hutchings (TC Class of '95).

Parents play a vital part in the success of our students. Many parents who are actively involved in the education of their children at the elementary school level become less involved when their children reach middle school. However, parent involvement in a child's education during the middle school years (ages 10 to 14) is just as important in a child's success at school as it is in earlier grades. The results of recent research and of using common sense are very clear: when parents are actively involved in their children's education, students do better in school. I know that working together as partners and modeling collaborative behavior ACPS and parents can improve learning for all our students.

We recently invited parents and members of the community to talk with us in Courageous Conversations about the ACPS Middle Schools. More than 120 participants rose to the challenge and joined ACPS senior leadership for a Saturday breakfast discussion. This is just one step of many we will continue to take in the weeks ahead as we work on a continual improvement model.

There are many successes, but room in this article for only a few: Congratulations to our middle school students reaching new heights like Francis Hammond 1 seventh-grader Andrew Reese who has qualified to compete in the state-level National Geographic Bee in April and our 21 middle school students who made us proud at Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair by claiming several first, second, and third place honors.

And thank you, middle school staff members and parents, whose dedication to our students holds great promise to meet our goal of high achievement for each and every student.

Her Story

FROM PAGE 8

worked to help escaping slaves learn to read and write.

They shed light on the story of Margaret Brent, the first woman in America to petition for the right to vote, in 1648, and the country's first female lawyer.

Susan and her team uncovered the story of Ann McCarthy Ramsay. Mother to eight children, she was chosen as treasurer of Alexandria and Fairfax County during the American Revolution. She led a massive fundraising effort to help her cousin, George Washington, feed, clothe and arm his soldiers.

The Commissioners also highlighted the achievements of women in more recent history — Annie B. Rose, Beverly Beidler, Vola Lawson and Marian Van Landingham among them.

This historical research, led by Susan, became known as the Women's History Project and continues in the work of the Commission today.

Sadly, we lost Susan Lowell Butler on Dec. 18, 2010. Her loss will be felt on the Commission for Women and throughout the Alexandria community for many years. As evidenced in the Women's History Project, the legacy of her work and passion lives on.

Thank you, Susan, for introducing to all of us the women of Alexandria's past and for the powerful and wise voice you brought to the Alexandria of today.

The Commission for Women will be honoring Susan Lowell Butler and other women leaders at the 31st Annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet on March 28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town. To register for the event, please go to: www.alexwomen.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

keeping spending in Alexandria under control. Over the course of the past 10 years or so the Council has been selling the notion that if we spend lots of money developing everything in sight then taxes will go down. We certainly have not seen any savings to date and we won't because taxes will need to keep going up to service our ever-increasing debt load. And what do we have to show for it? A lot of empty buildings and enough debt that we are now at the point where we could lose our AAA bond rating.

Regardless, they still want more now (waterfront improvements, new metro station, transportation funding to encourage more people to drive our already congested streets, money to ensure that the School Superintendent has enough to pay for his breakfast, lunch and dinner tab at every four-star restaurant in town, etc.). Why the rush to ram through "improvements" to the waterfront that no one other than the Planning Director wants? Don't we already have enough empty buildings in this city? Do we need more? And after they get these things, what else will they go after? I talked with someone at the Alexandria Democratic Committee and he said that everyone in Alexandria is rich and they can afford to pay whatever it takes so I guess that the sky is the limit. Do we really want to entrust the running of our government to people like this? We need people who are fiscally responsible, not people who want everything in sight without even taking the time to consider whether or not people even want it or what the long-term ramifications are of taking on ever-increasing amounts of debt.

The only way to take care of this is through the ballot box. We need to start working now to put together a strong slate of candidates so that we can vote these clowns out of office next year. It is way

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24



Kings Cloister \$1,550,000
624 Kings Cloister Circle, Alexandria, VA 22302

Stunning home and garden. Pristine condition & backs to trees! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, lower level rec room, tiered deck with landscaping & lighting. Kitchen with island, breakfast area, gas cooktop & butlers pantry. Ideal garage for any car lover.



Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



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\$449,000

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Classy Clarendon. Open Sunday 1-4pm. Handsome two bedroom, two bath townhouse with attention to details and many extras. Updates throughout and a fabulous lower level renovation! Call for more information!



Jane Cole
703-598-6198



Old Town
\$615,000

543 South Saint Asaph St, Alexandria, VA 22314

Absolutely charming 3 bedroom and 2.5 bath brick townhome on quiet courtyard setting. Many special features including hardwood floors, fireplace, built-ins plus off-street parking! This townhome is a gem!



Donnan C. Wintermute
703-518-6156



Old Town Greens
\$664,900

705 Norfolk Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314

Elegantly appointed 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhouse. Gourmet eat-in kitchen with sitting area, fireplace, master suite with soaking tub and dual vanities. Loft for office/sitting area and 4th bedroom on entry level with full bath.



Cathy D'Antuono
703-819-3077



The Eclipse \$438,500

3650 Glebe Road South #240, Arlington, VA 22202

Sophisticated and luxurious! Perfectly maintained and shows like a model! 2 bedroom and 2 bath condo. Fabulous Crystal City location with many updates. Close to metro, highway and bus. Don't miss out on this one!



Linda Wolf 703-518-6165



Mount Vernon Hills \$480,000

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"Let's make a deal"! Well maintained and lovingly cared for 5 bedroom & 3.5 bath home. Oversized LR and FR with 2 wood burning fireplaces. Updated windows, large kitchen with granite, recessed lighting and fenced in backyard.



Fatima Needham 703-981-8090



Clermont \$939,000

4717 Poplar Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310

Just Listed! New construction with 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 1 half bath. Stunning arts & crafts style home. Ready for delivery by June! Get in now to choose options. Built by local, quality custom builder.



Rachel Carter 703-851-4207



Old Town
\$585,000

134 North Payne Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sunday 1-4pm. Charming and historic end unit row house. LR built-ins, separate DR, granite & stainless kitchen with porch. Plantation shutters, wide plank flrs and MBR with balcony. Professionally landscaped with patio, shed, cellar and off street parking. 2BR & 1.5BA



Eloise Brantley
703-408-4887



Carlyle Towers \$676,000

2121 Jamieson Ave #1704-05, Alexandria, VA 22314

Coveted Carlyle Towers! Bright & sunny east view! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, higher ceilings and enclosed glass balcony for year round use. Master bedroom with curved bay windows. 2 car garage. Visit www.CarlyleTowers-1704.com



Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Stratford on the Potomac \$629,000

1917 Sword, Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

\$20,000 Price Reduction. Owner Wants Offer! Freshly painted 4 bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath center hall colonial. 3 levels, family room with gas fireplace, HW floors, new carpet, granite counters, updated baths & deck.



Ed Pagett 571-237-4753



Maple Grove Estates \$517,275

6112 Scotch Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310

Just Listed! Updated colonial on huge, fenced corner lot. Newer kitchen/baths, main level den & FR with FP. Deck, finished basement, master with sitting room & FP. 1 car garage & freshly painted throughout. Shows great!



Sherry York 703-409-3377



Alex/Braddock Heights \$625,000

2503 Farm Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

Price Reduced! Charming 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath house with updated kitchen, fireplace, hardwoods, and lovely backyard. Also features many major updates. Located close to major access highways.



Mary Cay Harris 703-981-9976

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HOME SALES

In February 2011, 143 Alexandria homes sold between \$2,500,000-\$64,900. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$2,263,500-\$405,950 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
227 FAIRFAX ST	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,500,000	Townhouse	0.07			OLD TOWN
1503 RUSSELL RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,195,000	Detached	0.26			ROSEMONT
910 CAMERON ST	5	5	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,040,000	Townhouse	0.06			OLD TOWN
4 GLENDALE AVE W	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$950,000	Detached	0.17			ROSEMONT
1816 CARPENTER RD	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$925,000	Townhouse	0.04			POTOMAC GREENS
606 LEE ST S	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$890,000	Townhouse	0.04			POMMANDER
104 DUKE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$848,000	Townhouse	0.02			WATERFORD
1115 SAINT STEPHENS RD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Detached	0.46			FOREST KNOLL
218 ORONOCO ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN
802 GRANDVIEW DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$820,000	Detached	0.16			BEVERLY HILLS
505 SAINT ASAPH ST S	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Townhouse	0.02			TANNERY YARD
808 FAIRFAX ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$749,500	Townhouse	0.04			OLD TOWN
813 ORONOCO ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$740,000	Townhouse	0.04			OLD TOWN
600 SECOND ST #302	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$730,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				LIBERTY ROW
302 WEST ST S	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$729,900	Townhouse				THE DUKE AT OLD TOWN
202 MONROE AVE E	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$708,000	Detached	0.15			DEL RAY
1132 DUKE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$699,000	Townhouse	0.02			OLD TOWN VILLAGE
233 SOMERVELLE ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$687,500	Townhouse	0.03			CAMERON STATION
429 PATRICK ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$679,900	Townhouse	0.05			PARKER GRAY
100 MAPLE ST E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$679,000	Detached	0.13			ROSEMONT PARK
1312 DUKE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$678,990	Townhouse				THE DUKE @ OLD TOWN
4702 NEWCOMB PL	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$675,000	Detached	0.45			BELLE WOOD
330 ALFRED ST S	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$675,000	Townhouse	0.03			BURGES SQUARE
412 WILKES ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$667,595	Townhouse	0.02			OLD TOWN
1026 QUEEN ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$655,000	Townhouse	0.04			PARKER GRAY
2709 CENTRAL AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$643,000	Detached	0.13			BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
207 FORT WILLIAMS PKWY	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$641,000	Detached	0.28			FORT WILLIAMS PARK
118 HARVARD ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$640,000	Townhouse	0.04			OLD TOWN
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1116	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$635,788	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				THE JAMIESON
233 MEDLOCK LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Townhouse	0.03			CAMERON STATION
310 CROWN VIEW DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Detached	0.23			CLOVER
514 ROYAL ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Townhouse	0.02			CHATHAM SQUARE
1109 QUAKER HILL CT	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$592,000	Townhouse	0.04			QUAKER HILL
2122 EARLY ST N	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Detached	0.18			BRAD LEE HOMES
163 SOMERVELLE ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.03			CAMERON STATION
208 CLIFFORD AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$576,000	Detached	0.10			DEL RAY
1401 PRINCESS ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Townhouse	0.05			OLD TOWN
206 NELSON AVE	4	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$545,000	Detached	0.12			DEL RAY
113 SHOOTERS CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$545,000	Townhouse	0.03			SHUTERS HILL
910 POWHATAN ST #301S	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$539,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				900 N WASHINGTON ST CONDOS
900 WASHINGTON ST N #402E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$535,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				900 N WASHINGTON ST CONDOS
814 COLUMBUS ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Townhouse	0.07			OLD TOWN ALEXANDRAI
702 COLUMBUS ST N	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN
11 CLIFF ST	3	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Townhouse	0.03			DEL RAY
1317 PRINCESS ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN PARKER GRAY
1115 CAMERON ST #316	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$516,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				THE PRESCOTT
306 SAINT ASAPH ST N #3	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$512,500	Townhouse				OLD TOWN/BROCKETTS CROSSING
719 ALFRED ST S	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$512,000	Arth/Row Hse	0.04			PATRICK HENRY
1344 CHETWORTH CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$498,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN/BASHFORD LN CLUSTER
911 BASHFORD LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,900	Townhouse	0.03			WESTOVER
100 BRADDOCK RD #B	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$488,888	Semi-Detached	0.06			ROSEMONT
3919 CHARLES AVE W	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$470,500	Townhouse	0.03			SUNNYSIDE
3829 WATKINS MILL DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$455,000	Townhouse	0.03			TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE
1219 PORTNER RD	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$455,000	Townhouse	0.02			NETHERGATE
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1402	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$448,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				THE JAMIESON
2310 RANDOLPH AVE #A	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Duplex	0.07			DEL RAY
1501 ANDERSON CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$436,200	Detached	0.36			LINCOLNIA HILLS
1005 TERRILL ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.06			KMS TOWNHOUSES
2933 HICKORY ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$434,900	Townhouse	0.04			WARWICK VILLAGE
516 ALEXANDRIA AVE E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.05			DEL RAY
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1106	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$429,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				THE JAMIESON
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1006	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$429,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				THE JAMIESON
2050 JAMIESON AVE #1010	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				THE JAMIESON
3742 KELLER AVE #128	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$422,000	Townhouse				FAIRLINGTON TOWNE
927 HARRISON CIR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.03			SUMMERS GROVE
527 DUNCAN AVE	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$417,000	Arth/Row Hse	0.05			DEL RAY
2459 SHELLEY ST N	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$415,000	Detached	0.22			SHIRLEY FOREST
75 KENNEDY ST	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$406,000	Townhouse	0.06			WARWICK VILLAGE
70 KENNEDY ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$405,950	Townhouse	0.08			WARWICK VILLAGE

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REAL ESTATE NOTES

Harper McDaniel, associate broker for **Century 21 New Millennium** recently earned the Century 21 System's Centurion Producer, President's and Quality Service Pinnacle Awards this year following her 2010 sales success. Harper McDaniel has more than 10 years of experience in the real estate industry. Century 21 New Millennium is among the top five Century 21 firms nationwide. It is also the top ranked Century 21 firm in the Mid-Atlantic region and is consistently included in Realtor Magazine's Top 100 Companies List.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of **Weichert, Realtors**, announced the 2010 Weichert's President's Club Winners from the region. This award recognizes the top 1 percent of Weichert's sales associates. The region consists of offices throughout Virginia. The following sales associates were named to the President's Club:

- ◆ **Dawn Gurganus**- Alexandria/Old Town office;
- ◆ **Julie Hall**- Alexandria/Old Town office;



Harper McDaniel with English Bulldog Babette

- ◆ **Diann Hicks**- Alexandria/Old Town office;
- ◆ **Richard Lane**- Alexandria/Old Town office;

◆ **Mary Smith**- Alexandria/Old Town office.

Jim Weichert, founder and president of **Weichert, Realtors**, has been selected for the Inman News list of the '100 Most Influential Real Estate Leaders' for 2010. This year's selection is the fourth consecutive year that Weichert was honored with this celebrated distinction.

Jim Weichert was recognized in the 'Brokerage' category, which is reserved for company leaders who command the attention of real estate professionals through their words and actions. During his more than 40 years of sales experience, Weichert has led the development of Weichert, Realtors, from a single office in 1969 to one of the largest privately held real estate companies in the nation.

Alexandria resident **Gary Lange** has joined **Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage** in Fairfax as its branch vice-president. In this role, Lange will lead the full-service team of approximately 35 sales associates and manage the office's day-to-day operations.

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PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE GAZETTE

Students help take care of goats at Burgundy Farm Country Day School.

Schools Supply Fresh, Local Food

Some local schools incorporate gardens into their curricula.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

Locally, a handful of private schools and at least one public school are trying to promote health by teaching children about gardening and promoting locally produced food.

Hollin Meadows Elementary School, a public school in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County, maintains a 14,000 square-foot garden space that wraps around the school building as part of its science curriculum. In the fall, children work in the garden and families are allowed to take home the school-grown produce.

Burgundy Farm Country Day School, just outside the Interstate-495 in the Alexandria area, has a gardening program open to children, faculty and staff in the fall and spring. Located on the site of an old dairy farm, this private school also has an operating barn where students take care of goats and hens and a rooster on a regular basis.

Burgundy families get to take home farm fresh eggs from the school hens on a regular basis, according to Erin Futrowsky, Burgundy's communications director. Faculty members also get access to the eggs approximately once every six weeks, she added.

"Sometimes the program takes a little explaining. At first, some people are confused about what we do here. They think we are teaching the kids to farm," said Futrowsky.

EDUCATORS are turning their attention toward teaching better eating habits as the United States continues to struggle with escalating rates of obesity, particularly among younger children.

A 2007 survey sponsored by Inova Health Systems showed that 40 percent of children in the City of

Alexandria and 25 percent of children in Arlington and Fairfax counties were either overweight or at risk of being overweight.

Experts at the Center for Disease Control attribute the rise in childhood obesity nationwide to a lack of exercise and poor diet among young people. Locally, the Inova survey found that 70 percent of students in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax do not eat enough fruits and vegetables every day.

There are several efforts to curb childhood obesity through public policy measures. First Lady Michelle Obama has made childhood obesity her top legislative priority. In Virginia, the General Assembly recently passed a bill that would increase the amount of physical education students are required to receive in school each week.

STILL SUZANNE BADOUX, who runs the dining services at Episcopal High School, said she has seen a trend toward students and institutions making healthier food choices.

"We have had a really dramatic increase in the volume of fruit being consumed. The students are eating a lot more whole fruit. Our fruit consumption is probably up 10 to 15 percent, if not more, from last year," said Badoux, who works for FLIX International, a catering company that emphasizes using fresh ingredients and cooking from scratch.

"You are never going to see potatoes coming out of a box from us," said Badoux of her company.

In addition to Episcopal, a boarding school in Alexandria, Badoux has also worked in kitchens at Bishop O'Connell, a Catholic high school in Arlington, and Washington International School, a private school in Washington D.C. In general, students seem to be paying more attention to what they put in their bodies than they were a few years ago, she said.

"We have a lot of eager takers on the salad bar and we have a growing vegetarian community. There are more and more students who are not eating red meat these days," said Badoux.

In its dining room, Episcopal posts all the nutritional information of the dishes served. The chef said

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Schools Supply Fresh, Local Food

FROM PAGE 13

it can be a difficult for schools to move from a traditional catering service to her company, with its emphasis on fresh produce and healthier food.

"There are lots of kids that would be happy to have a burger and fries every day. I think a lot of schools have made the transition away from that food even at the risk of the students not always being so happy," she said.

It can also be a challenge to incorporate everyone's preferences, particularly at a boarding school. Episcopal serves breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days per week. There are approximately 600 people including faculty, staff and their families who live on campus that sit down at each meal.

"As a rough break down, I would say freshman boys and senior girls like very different things to eat. ... But we have things we try to throw into the mix that give them exposure to different kinds of foods and different kinds of cuisine," said Badoux.

Even if a school is striving for a healthier menu, it is important to keep some of that well-known, "fun" food — like pizza and chicken tenders — in the line up so the students don't revolt entirely.

"The top 10 foods will always be things like chicken tenders, burgers and pizza. We have interesting whole grains we serve but we also make mac and cheese from scratch," said Badoux.

In general, Episcopal's move toward healthier cooking had paid off and Badoux appears to be striking a balance, according to Christina Holt, a school spokesperson.

"A recent survey of students and faculty showed that 89 percent of people really enjoy the food. Most either thought it was really good or excellent," said Holt.

WHEN CADYN Harrington brought home cilantro from the Bullis School garden a few weeks ago, her mother used the herb to tint Cadyn's smoothies and eggs green for Saint Patrick's Day.

"I like to eat [vegetables from the garden] a little bit more. Gardens are kind of convenient. You don't have to go to the store and buy the vegetables if you have a garden," said Cadyn, a third-grader at Bullis, a private school in Potomac, Md.

"[The vegetables] are fresher. They are straight out of the garden and all you have to do is clean them," said Ethan Isaacson, another third-grader in Cadyn's class.

Third-grade teacher Carolyn Cohen incorporates the vegetable garden into many of her science lessons, teaching the students about sustainable farming along the way.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE GAZETTE

Burgundy Farm Country Day School has several plots where students and faculty grow vegetables.

A few weeks ago, Cadyn, Ethan and other third-graders planted sugar snap peas, picked cilantro and learned how to compost. In April, Cohen plans to teach her students how to plant potatoes and peanuts.

"We put the seeds about an inch apart using a tape measure," said Cohen.

Students get to take home some of the produce they personally grow but many of the garden plots at Bullis are used to supply vegetables to the school's cafeteria, particularly the salad bar, said Susie Zimmermann, a Bullis spokesperson.

"We have plots for faculty and staff use too but quite a few of our plots are just for the dining hall," said Zimmermann.

Bullis labels the food at the salad bar that comes from the school garden and the program — started by alumni a couple of years ago — is extremely popular. Bullis is in the in process of building a second set of elevated garden beds, which will nearly double the amount of growing space available at the school, said Zimmermann.

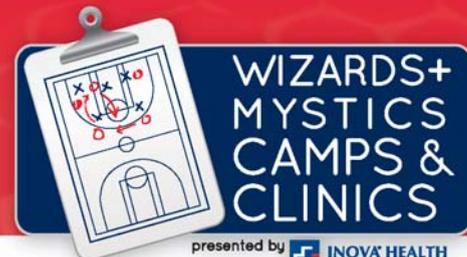
In 2006, approximately 26 percent of Maryland teenagers surveyed between ages 13-18 were considered obese or overweight, a rate nearly three times as high it was in 1970, according to information on the Maryland government website.

Like most other parts of the country, very young Maryland children tend to even heavier than teenagers. In 2006, approximately 30 percent of children between 2 and 5 years old tracked through Maryland Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance were considered obese or overweight.

Summer Web Internships Available

Educational internships available for enthusiastic college students to join our new website launch team. This is an exciting opportunity to help develop content and sections for our new website, due to launch in late spring. Throughout the summer, we'll be adding specifics to our entertainment and events sections, creating special projects and content, and exploring new media. Internships are unpaid, but offer an unusual chance to work with award-winning editors while developing first-rate online presence. Internships require a commitment of at least six weeks, 16-40 hours a week. Please e-mail a statement of interest and a resume to internship@connectionnewspapers.com.

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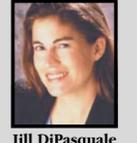
Chairman's Club \$5-10 Million

 Laura Biederman #7 Indiv. Volume	 Julia Martin #8 Indiv. Volume	 Mary Lou Sage #9 Indiv. Volume	 Anita Vida-D'Antonio #10 Indiv. Volume	 Elfie Biankini #11 Indiv. Volume	 Suzanne Backus #12 Indiv. Volume	 Georgia McLaughlin & Patricia Landaeta	 Betsy Gorman & Bette Gorman The Gorman Team	 Norma Stratton #13 Indiv. Volume	 Sheryl Lambson #14 Indiv. Volume	 Mary Bourke & Shane Canny	
 Ruth Guirard #15 Indiv. Volume	 Michael Manuel #16 Indiv. Volume	 Bob Skinner #17 Indiv. Volume	 Elke Kohler #18 Indiv. Volume	 Sharon Edwards #19 Indiv. Volume	 Mindy Brubaker #20 Indiv. Volume	 John Randolph #21 Indiv. Volume	 Jim Crowe #22 Indiv. Volume	 Brandy Buzinski #23 Indiv. Volume	 Gary Ansley #24 Indiv. Volume	 George Myers #25 Indiv. Volume	 Anya Macklin #26 Indiv. Volume

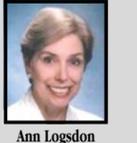
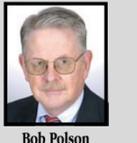
President's Club \$3-5 Million

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Director's Club \$2-3 Million

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 Leah Chapla	 Mary Taylor	 Steven Hollowell	 Chuck Harris	 Suzanne Briar & Bob Wood	 Margaret Miller
 Ginger Webre	 Sheila Kolb	 Katherine Ward	 Martha Deal	 Ellen Young	 Jason Sanders

Executive's Club \$1-2 Million

 Katalin Melamed	 Connie McKeen	 Candace Johnson	 Brenda Jourdan	 Lucille DeJulis	 Ann Logsdon	 Bonnie Apple	 George Charuhas
 Bonnie Clark	 Cathy Snyles	 Rich Webber	 Deborah Alea	 Janice Allen	 Bob Polson	 Steve Kindrick	 Marty Mullen
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Prime Location!*

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Location!*

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THEATER

Aldersgate Introduces Area to Whodunit

“Design for Murder” at Aldersgate.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

In “Design for Murder” the Aldersgate Church Community Theater has found a script for a mystery which has one thing going for it: no one in the audience is likely to know who the guilty party is because no one will have seen it before at any other local theater.

AS FAR as the company can determine, this is the area premiere of the play by George Batson. He was a prolific crafter of mysteries and comedies for stage and television in the 1940s and 50s, some combining mystery and comedy. This one is more a straight forward mystery of the British school that most people think of when the name Agatha Christie is mentioned. At least as directed by Liz Owens, the concentration is clearly on the question “Who done it?”

Gail Seavey plays a widow maintaining a mansion long after the passing of her husband. It is too big a house for her and her one grown son, but she’s loath to part with it. To do so would be to let go of her connection to her late husband’s world.

The events begin on the night of a party she’s thrown to celebrate the engagement of her son, played with just a hint of high-society haughtiness by Peter Johnson. The son, it seems, hasn’t quite finished sowing his wild oats and isn’t really ready to settle down.

Their sexy maid, played by Vanessa Stolzoff, seems to have shaken up the household a bit as she is supposed to meet the son

after the party for a late night get together while the chauffeur also expects to have her late night attentions. When she turns up dead the next morning, a police inspector played by Elliott Bales is on the case. It turns out that the inspector has a few connections to the household beyond his official duties.

Complications are added to the mix as the chauffeur, played by Richard Isaacs with a strong streak of self confidence, gives every impression of being so full of himself that the audience believes he could be the murderer — that is, until he is removed from suspicion in a surprise that ends the first half of the show.

Two neighbors are played with flare by Paula Vickers and Liz Isbell, although things get a bit confusing when Isbell also doubles as the senior member of the household staff. It is not clear why these two roles could not be performed by two different actresses in order to avoid having the audience wonder if the plot might revolve around some connection between the two characters.

Rounding out the cast are Lynley Peoples as a mysterious replacement for the deceased maid and one additional policeman, played by Kevin Harr.

The well-paced performance delivers all the clues the audience might need to try to guess “whodunit” before the final curtain but doesn’t give them much reason to care. It is a case of, if you’re going to go to a mystery play you might as well play along and try to solve the puzzle.

Aldersgate’s multi-purpose room can be a difficult space to mount a production. The director and her



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALDERSGATE CHURCH COMMUNITY THEATER

From left: Peter Johnson, Vanessa Stolzoff, Liz Isbell, Paula Vickers, Richard Isaacs and Gail Seavey in the Aldersgate Church Community Theater production of “Design for Murder.”

set designer and producer, Bailey R. Center, take advantage of the fact that the play takes place entirely in one location to build a single well detailed set of the main room of the home on the Hudson River where family, visitors and staff all interact as the mysteries multiply.

Adding to the atmosphere of the piece is a lighting technique that works well for this particular play with its multiple scenes within each act. Owens has her lighting designer dim all but one light at the end of each scene, holding one final spot for a few

more seconds to put a finishing touch on the final moment. It works well, although the cooperation between lighting designer and director might not be too surprising. The lighting designer is director Liz Owens’ mother, Nancy.

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

Where & When

The Aldersgate Church Community Theater production of “Design for Murder” plays at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road through April 3. Performances are Friday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. with a special Thursday dinner show at 7 p.m. on March 31. Tickets are \$11 to \$15 (\$25 to \$30 for the dinner show). Log on to www.acctonline.org.

FINE ARTS

MARCH 26 THROUGH APRIL 16

Perception: Value and Form. The Art of Lisa Tureson. Artist’s reception is Saturday, March 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. At Broadway Gallery, 5641 B General Washington Drive, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 27

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

NOW THROUGH MARCH 27

Beyond Form: Expressing Art Exhibit. All-media show exploring the color, energy and simplicity inherent in abstract artwork. Details at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or bplummer11@verizon.net.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 24

Artistic Duo II. Noon to 4:30 p.m. daily. Featuring a joint display of landscape and floral watercolors by Carolyn Grossé Gawarecki and photographic subjects by

Stephen J. Gawarecki. Meet the artist’s reception is Sunday, March 27 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens Horticultural Center, 4601 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

APRIL 4 TO MAY 1

“Flowers & Garden: Outdoors and In.” This potting season, come to the Torpedo Factory Art Center’s Scope Gallery to see some ceramic groundbreaking odes to fleglings and flora, focused on home and garden clay accents. At Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

APRIL 5 TO JUNE 5

Two Visitors Exhibit. Photography by Laurie Sand and Colleen Spencer Henderson. Opening reception is April 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, Studio 312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

3 North Carolina Poets. 8-10 p.m. Washington, D.C.’s Ruthless Grip Poetry Series visits Del Ray

Artisans for National Poetry Month. Acclaimed North Carolina writers Lee Ann Brown, Chris Vitiello, and Dianne Timblin will read from their works. Email Bryan Koen (bwkoen@gmail.com) or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

APRIL 1 TO MAY 1

It’s Only Rock ‘n’ Roll, But I Like It! Del Ray Artisans’ April show, pays homage to all things Rock ‘n’ Roll. All-media show, juried by Fierce Sonia and Jen Chappell. Meet the artists at the opening reception, Friday April 1, from 7-10 p.m. A day of rock-themed movies is planned for Sunday, April 10 noon-9 p.m. An open mic lyric slam is planned for Sunday May 1, 2-4 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or Fiercesonia@aol.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

From Social Work to Sculpture. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Featuring Carol Gellner Levin, Torpedo Factory Artist. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or call 703-838-8000.



Water Marks: Barry D. Lindley’s Solo Exhibit of Watercolor Paintings

NOW THROUGH APRIL 4

Water Marks. Watercolorist Barry D. Lindley creates striking paintings portraying the effect water has on natural and man-made objects. Artist’s Talk is Saturday, March 26 at 1 p.m. On Display in the Art League Gallery.

Talk of the Town



Photos by Louise Krafft



A CARLYLE CLUB

A perfect venue for almost any special event. Available for small gatherings, weddings, parties or corporate events up to 250. This Art Deco style club offers live entertainment most nights. Check out their calendar to see the national headliners, from Doc Scantlin to Beatlemania Magic, who choose to perform here.

1 John Carlyle Street, 703.548.5953, thecarlyleclub.com

Carlyle Calling

The Wanderer loves wandering off the beaten path. Just when he thinks he knows every alley way and cobblestone in town... presto!... he is smack dab in the middle of a chic new venue. Carlyle began with the swanky residential towers but it has grown to so much more. Let's just see what we can find.



B FRIZZLES

This upscale salon welcomes clients with a casual team approach. Alex Khalaf and Sami Marina chose this location for their 12 chair salon because of its new, fresh and friendly environment without the congestion of Old Town. Frizzles loves being part of the Carlyle community and making their clients happy. Keep an eye out for fashion shows coming this spring.
534 John Carlyle Street Alexandria, 703.299.0999, frizzlessalon.com



E PIZZERIA VENTI

The home of the Bocce Ball! Enjoy one of these scrumptious meatballs wrapped in golden pizza crust that PV's regulars love, 20 varieties of pizza or Timpanini, a stuffed pizza pie. Valerie Ligondé chose to open this Sliceria in Carlyle because it is so convenient to the heart of Old Town.
301 John Carlyle Street, 703.299.9820, pizzeriaventi.com



D ARTFULLY GIFTS & CHOCOLATE

A great addition to the Carlyle area, owners Edward Hart and Eric Nelson offer up Alexandria's well known ACKC's delectable hand-dipped chocolates. Sip on one of their famous Diva hot chocolates and browse their delightful array of gifts, cards and party supplies.
506 John Carlyle Street, 703.575.8686, artfullygifts.com

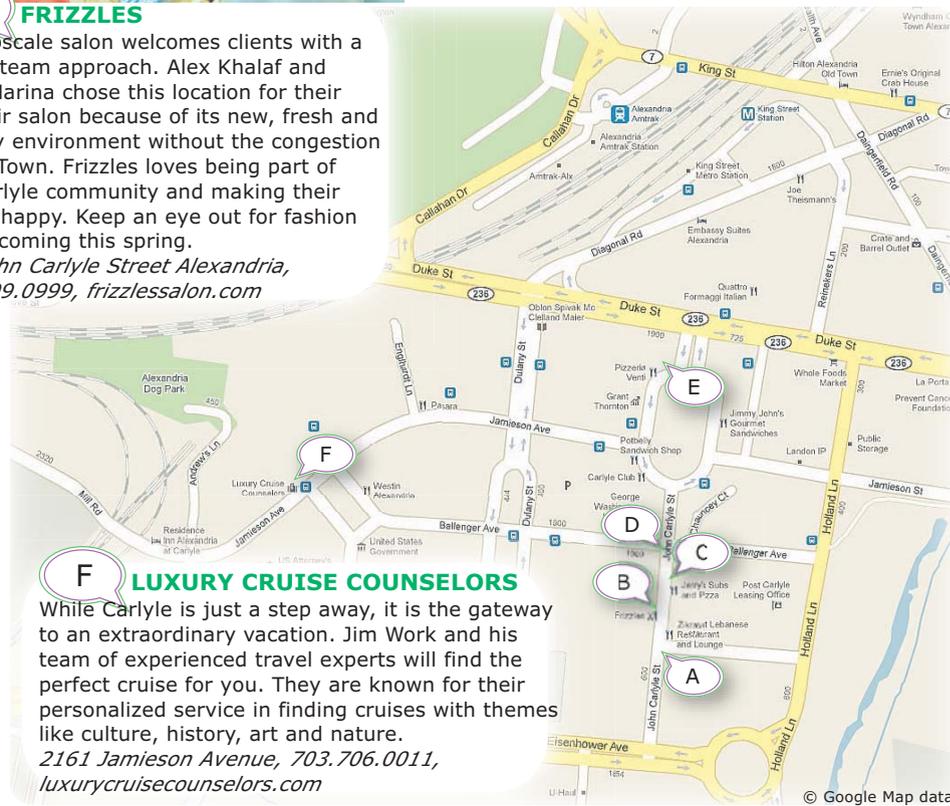


C ZIKRAYAT LEBANESE RESTAURANT

Stop in for an authentic Lebanese experience for lunch, dinner and happy hour complete with hookah. Don't forget to make reservations for Fridays and Saturday nights when the DJ spins Arabic, dance and international music. Yasmina will charm you with belly dancing.
540 John Carlyle Street, 703.838.2008, zikrayet.com

F LUXURY CRUISE COUNSELORS

While Carlyle is just a step away, it is the gateway to an extraordinary vacation. Jim Work and his team of experienced travel experts will find the perfect cruise for you. They are known for their personalized service in finding cruises with themes like culture, history, art and nature.
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ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY THURSDAY

Environmental Activists Needed. 6 to 9 p.m. Clean up your community, your country, your planet — meet with the Sierra Club at its new NOVA Hub in Del Ray, 2312 Mount Vernon Ave., Suite 206, Alexandria. RSVP to Phillip Ellis, Sierra Club Field Organizer at 571-970-0275 or phillip.ellis@sierraclub.org.

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.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 27

March Madness Fundraiser. The Target Gallery and the March of Dimes are teaming up to raise money in an exhibition fundraiser called March Madness. This is an exhibition of 200, 10x10-inch works of art.
* Friday, March 25, 7-11 p.m. March Madness Art Party: At the Main hall of Torpedo Factory Art Center, outside of the Target Gallery.

NOW THROUGH 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 online and must be purchased by Monday, March 28 before 5 p.m. Dinner show ticket prices are \$30 for adults and



SATURDAY/MARCH 26

"Young at Heart." 7 p.m. Spring modern dance performance. Sponsored by the Choreographers Collaboration Project, a modern dance company based in Alexandria. Admission: \$10/adults; \$5/kids 12-17. At Minnie Howard Middle School, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2070, or ccpdance@gmail.com or www.ccpdance.org.

\$25 for youth. Discount tickets at www.acctonline.org. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Alexandria. Call 703-660-2611.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Toast to Fashion. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Hosted by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center. Fashion show, marketplace, raffle, gift bags, food, drinks and awards ceremony. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$60/door. At Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria. Visit www.campagnacenter.org or call 703-549-0111.

MARCH 24-26

Annual Book Sale. Mount Vernon Unitarian Church annual book sale has been a fixture in the Mount Vernon/Alexandria community for years. Hours are Thursday, March 24 from 1 to 5 p.m.; Friday, March 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Special \$5/bag of books. At 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-5950.

FRIDAY/MARCH 25

Very Hungry Caterpillar Storytime. 10:30 to 11 a.m. The Very Hungry Caterpillar will help celebrate Very Hungry Caterpillar Day. Don't miss this special storytime, the only D.C. area appearance of this fun costume character! At 1555 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092. www.hooray4books.com.

NOVA Idol Finale. 7 p.m. Cost is \$10/general admission. Nine of NOVA's top singing sensations will battle for the title of NOVA Idol. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Contact Brenda Lewis-Holmes, 703-845-6162, blewisholme@nvcc.edu.

Mount Vernon Choral Pyramid Concert. 7 p.m. Free. All the schools that feed into MVHS are having a USO-themed concert. At Mount Vernon's Field House. Includes music from Ella Fitzgerald, the Andrews Sisters, as well as patriotic songs.

Evening of Music. 8 p.m. Free. Presented 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.

St. Petersburg Trio. 7:30 p.m. Presented by the Washington Balalaika Society. The Trio, all members of the Washington Balalaika Society orchestra, met while studying at the prestigious Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St Petersburg, Russia. Tickets are \$25/door; \$20/advance. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. See www.balalaika.org or call 703-549-0760.

MARCH 25 THROUGH APRIL 2

"Little Shop of Horrors." At the Theatre at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Friday, March 25 - 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 26

- 2 p.m.; Saturday, March 26 - 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 1 - 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 - 2 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 - 7:30 p.m. Visit www.metrotheater.org for tickets.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 26

Green in the Spring Show. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by and meet both business owners — Gold Works and Truly-Life — and discover the combined collection of custom jewelry and eco-friendly gifts. At Gold Works, 1400 King Street, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

National Craft Month. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open house with fiber/children and baby items. At A Show of Hands, 2301 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria.

Dance for a Cure for Cystic Fibrosis. Noon to midnight. A dance marathon to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington.

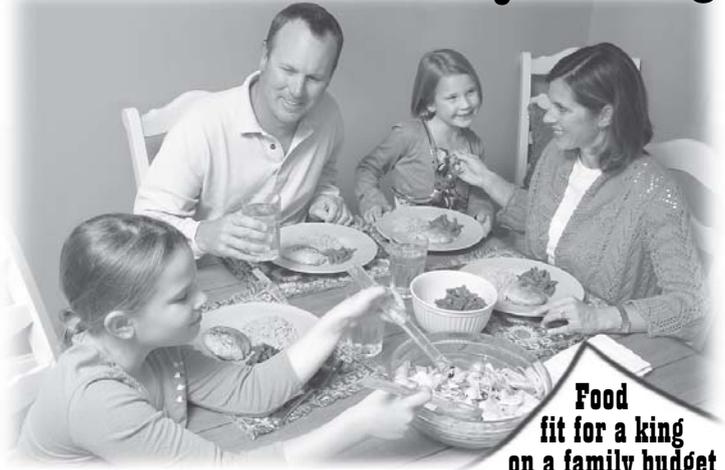
Concert. 7:30 p.m. Ron Erler, oboe, and Neil Weston, organ, in recital. Music of Telemann, Vivaldi, Reicha, Solak, Parry and Bitsch. Cost is \$20/adults; \$15/seniors; \$10/students; \$5/children under 10. At St. Luke's Episcopal, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4342.

Fort Hunt Preschool Rummage Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. Features high-quality used infants', children's and maternity gear, including clothing, toys, games, books and furniture. There will also be some great household bargains on linens, kitchenware and decorative/seasonal items, etc. At Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com or call 703-768-7584.

Great Rum Punch Challenge. 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local distilleries, restaurants and caterers and vote for your favorite, as Bacardi defends its title. The winner will be announced at the end of the evening. Tickets, which include admission (food and drink all evening), are \$50 per person, or \$100, which include admission and a special VIP pre-event tasting of Bacardi's special rums. At Gadsby's Tavern, 134 North Royal Street, Old

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 22

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Wonders of Science Demos. 1 to 3 p.m. Discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used. Tours will be held every 30 minutes. Admission is \$6. At the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-3852 or visit www.apothecarymuseum.org.

Annual Concert for Epilepsy. 7 p.m. With artists Little Big Town, Josh Turner, and The Wil Gravatt Band. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased at <http://www.concertforepilepsy.com>. Proceeds go to the Epilepsy Foundation of America. At the Gaylord National Convention Center, National Harbor, Md. Visit www.concertforepilepsy.com or contact: chad@concertforepilepsy.com or call 202-309-2440.

Rae Pica In Person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Will be speaking on "The Whole Child: Thinking, Feeling, Moving." Sponsored by Children Together at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria. Visit www.children-together.com or www.movingandlearning.com.

Black Opal: Celebrating a New Generation of Leaders. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$65. A fundraising event to support scholarship and other community empowerment programs. Sponsored by Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Tickets available for purchase at www.nvulypn.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Longaberger Basket Bingo. 2 p.m. Admission is \$15/advance; \$20/door. At West Potomac High School, cafeteria, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Preorder ticket information available on www.wolverineband.com. Sponsored by the West Potomac Band Patrons Organization.

Free Concert. 4 p.m. Free. Pianist Sara Leila Sherman and soprano Aleksandra Dubov. The performance will feature a wide variety of styles from Baroque music of 17th Century Europe to 20th century American music. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria.



MARCH 25, 26, 27, APRIL 2, 3

"Annie." Presented by MVCCT. Show times are 7:30 p.m. nightly with an April 3 matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$8/students; \$10/seniors and are available for purchase online at www.mvcct.org. Organized groups receive a discount and can order group tickets by calling 703-360-0686. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

Celebrating a Century. 2 p.m. Presented by the U.S. Marine Band. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com.

Concert with a Cause. 4 p.m. Betsy and Annie Trimmer, mother and daughter flute duo with flute choir and organ. Accompanied by Sherry Graveson, organist of the First Baptist Church on King Street and Flute choir. At the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 S. Fairfax St.,



Hilary Hahn



Valentina Lisitsa

FRIDAY/MARCH 25

Japan Relief Concert. 7:30 p.m. Virtuoso violinist Hilary Hahn and Virtuoso Pianist Valentina Lisitsa will present a Benefit Concert. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.

Alexandria.

Community Lodgings Spring Event. 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Community Lodgings' 6th Annual Spring Event, "Spring Forward to Union Street," to raise awareness and funding for Alexandria's homeless. To purchase tickets, call 703-549-4407. At Union Street Public House, 121 South Union Street, Old Town, Alexandria. Visit www.communitylodgings.org.

Scrapbooking Workshop. 1 to 3 p.m. Join scrapbooking expert Claudia Lopez-Viñas for this hands-on scrapbooking workshop. Materials will be provided. Cost is \$7/person. RSVP to 703-548-1789. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

Fearless Ladies Breakfast. 8 a.m. Suggested donation: \$20. Sponsored by the Full Cup. Two keynote speakers will share their stories about living through domestic violence. Proceeds benefit Becky's Fund (www.beckysfund.org). RSVP to lindsey@thefullcup.com by March 25.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

"Straightlaced — How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up." 7 p.m. Free film screening. How pressures around gender and sexuality are shaping the lives of American teens. At the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. RSVP to Erika.Kleiner@alexandriava.gov.

MARCH 31 THROUGH 2012

"Nurses, Spies and Soldiers: The Civil War at Carlyle House." Free admission. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays noon to 4 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or e-mail: Carlyle@nvrpa.org.

APRIL 1 AND APRIL 2

"Hansel and Gretel." 7 p.m. Presented by the Rose Hill ES Players. Tickets are \$3/children; \$5/adults. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-313-4200.

APRIL 2 THROUGH OCT. 30

Civil War Walking Tour. Saturdays and Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Covers the changing role of African Americans on the estate, views on George Washington from the perspective of Union and Confederate supporters, and the Washington-Robert E. Lee connection. At Historic Mount Vernon. Cost \$5 in addition to Estate admission: \$15 adults; \$7 children (6-11); free for children 5 & under. Visit www.MountVernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

April in Paris Gala. 6 p.m. cocktails; 7:15 dinner; 8:30 live auction; 9 p.m. dancing. Tickets are \$135/person. Sponsored by the Friends of UCM. At the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Contact Diane Tollefson at 703-980-2757 or dtollefson@cox.net.

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Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)	Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)
Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)	Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English) Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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Office: 703-780-3081 • www.StJamesMV.org

Sundays: 8 am - Holy Eucharist, All Education programs - 9:00am
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist - music
Wednesdays 12:00 noon: Bible Study

You're invited! Please join us for:
March 13 - April 10, 6:00pm Lenten Evening Study: Embracing an Adult Faith by Marcus J. Borg (soup and salad supper provided)
Who is God? Who was Jesus? What is salvation?
How do we practice our faith? How do we live in community?

April 14th, SPECIAL EVENT, 6:30: An Evening with Dr. Diana Butler Bass
Contemporary Religious Trends: The End of Religion, or a New Beginning?
(hors d'oeuvres, book signing, & dessert - please register)

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Lawyer Turns Author

For Arin Greenwood, living in Saipan leads to novel.

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS
GAZETTE PACKET

Many writing experts advise: Write what you know. Alexandria freelancer writer Arin Greenwood took this advice to heart when she used her experience working as a lawyer on a small Pacific Island as the inspiration for her debut novel “Tropical Depression.”

Greenwood said the hardest part of writing her first novel was “trying to come up with a story that’s not just a series of vignettes.”

“I had a really good agent. She helped me figure out how to turn a travel story into a novel,” she said.

Her goal was to create a mix between a travel story and a coming of age story. “I tried to take the craziest events or things that happened to me over there and make them a little bit wilder and crazier,” she said.

IN ADDITION, she enjoyed the freedom to make stuff up — something she couldn’t do in her non-fiction work for Slate and Washington CityPaper.

She also acknowledges that writing fiction based on real life can be difficult because you have to relive some painful events over and over again.

In “Tropical Depression,” Nina Barker takes a law clerk position on the fictional Pacific Island of Miramar for a year in an attempt to escape “the painful world she knows.”

However instead of finding a tropical paradise where she can forget all her troubles, she encounters “corrupt politicians, quirky and frequently intoxicated expats, ghosts, strippers and a guy who may or may not be working for the CIA.”

Although she enjoyed creating and developing all the characters in the book, one of her favorite characters was the Micronesian boat captain called Capt. Joe who spends part of the year sailing ships for wealthy boat owners and the other half of the year looking for rare starfish.

“My favorite characters in the book, I guess, like my favorite people in life tend to be the people who are off doing their own thing and they don’t really care if it’s fashionable or popular,” she said.

During the five years she lived on the island, Greenwood learned to not only em-



Arin Greenwood

brace Saipan culture but also the craziness around her.

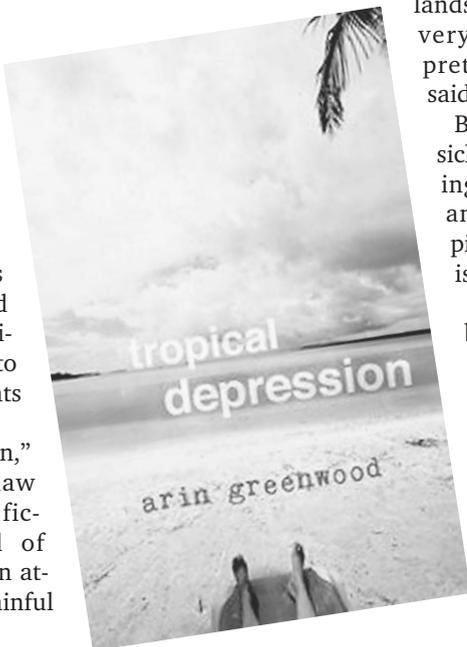
On the island, she became a certified rescue diver. Greenwood explained that she’s never been an athletic person so to “develop a sort of confidence in something that might be thought of as a sport was really unexpected.”

She also enjoyed becoming “very familiar with that part of the world — the Pacific.”

“It’s this huge part of the world that’s populated with a lot of small islands. I felt very lucky getting to know the complicated worlds on each of those islands because they’re all very different. It was pretty wonderful,” she said.

But she did feel homesick and she missed having fresh fruit, cheese and especially Ethiopian food while on the island.

Despite dreaming of becoming an astronaut when she was very young, Greenwood always had a passion for writing. However, her journey to becoming one started with a series of life-altering changes.



BEFORE SHE became a novelist, she worked for a New York law firm; she also wrote for Washington CityPaper, Slate, the American Bar Association Journal and a handful of in-flight magazines.

Currently, she is working as freelance writer for a free market thinktank in D.C. In addition, she is working on her second novel about a woman in her mid-30’s who decides to go back in time to correct all the bad decisions she made in the last 10 years.

The Rhode Island native moved to Old Town after living in Saipan.

In her spare time, Greenwood enjoys walking her dog, going to the movies with her fiancé and going to Momo Sushi & Café in Old Town.

She has a BA in philosophy from Oberlin College and a law degree from Columbia University.



PHOTO BY MIKE LANE

Councilman Frank Fannon, former U.S. Sen. George Allen, former Reagan aide Charles Black and Mayor Bill Euille at the City Hall ceremony celebrating the 100th birthday of Ronald Reagan.

City Remembers Ronald Reagan

State and local dignitaries gathered at City Hall Feb. 4 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ronald Reagan.

“President Reagan was the man who motivated me to get involved in politics,” said former Senator and Reagan Ranch Presidential Scholar George Allen, who keyed the event. “I was one of the fortunate ones to meet the man who inspired so many others.”

Joining Allen in addressing the capacity crowd in City Council chambers were Mayor Bill Euille, Councilman Frank Fannon and Alexandria resident Charles Black, who ran Reagan’s presidential campaigns in 1976, 1980 and 1984.

“Ronald Reagan was a man of good humor and a man of good will,” Black said.

“He believed in the goodness of all people, even Mikhail Gorbachev, which was the foundation for the changes that took place in the world during the Cold War.”

Also in attendance were City Manager Jim Hartmann, City Attorney James Banks, former vice-Mayor Bill Cleveland and Pat Troy, who met Reagan on several occasions and entertained him at Ireland’s Own following the city’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 1988.

“He was an incredible man,” Troy said of Reagan, who died in 2004. “He was truly one of the greatest Americans who ever lived.”

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY SIDOUX MITCHELL/ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION.

Pia Trigiani, 2011 president of the Virginia Bar Association, and her partner, David Mercer conduct a class on the “Rule of Law” for Helena Payne’s 8th grade civics class at Francis Hammond Middle School. The two Alexandria attorneys taught the class on Feb. 7 using real life situations to illustrate the “Rule of Law” theme. The Rule of Law illustrates how all citizens should be able to enjoy a peaceful existence with others — and that no one is above the law — and no one is below the law.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

been well served by democrat Sen. Patsy Ticer since 1996, and since she has retired three candidates have stepped forward for her seat. The Democratic party has fielded a strong group of candidates, all of who are well qualified to serve in Richmond. It is important that this seat remain Democratic, so that we can continue to bring progressive values to Richmond. In fact, the real contest will probably play out in the primary, on Aug. 23, so don't wait till November to start paying attention. Rob Krupicka is currently a City Council member from Alexandria. First elected in 2003, Rob has been responsible for creating community pathways, Eco-City Alexandria, and a green building policy in the city. His website says "Rob Krupicka has focused his public service on making Northern Virginia a great place to live, work, and raise a family. A champion of public education, the environment, smart energy and transportation solutions, and equal opportunity for everyone, Rob is a tireless advocate for our community." To read more, you can go to: www.Krupicka.com.

Adam Ebbin was elected also in 2003, as state delegate to the 49th district. Adam, a co-founder of Virginia Partisans, has been fighting for equality and recently passed legislation to create a fund for solar energy, and to provide support for victims of human trafficking. His website says: "As a leader in the General Assembly, Adam has fought to advance progressive priorities, including incentives for cleaner energy, funding for mass transit improvements, an end to discrimination in state employment, and justice for exploited workers and victims of human trafficking." You can learn more about Adam at www.ebbinforvirginia.com/

Libby Garvey may be the least known to Alexandrians, but she is well known to Arlingtonians as chair of the Arlington County School Board, where she has been serving since 1996. She became familiar to many Alexandrians when she ran for the state delegate seat that the Hon. Marian Van Landingham had occupied for five terms. She was not successful, but she has continued to be active in both Alexandria and Arlington. She describes herself this way on her website: "As a social progressive and fiscal moderate who is a strong believer in the democratic process and good government, I am not wedded to a political agenda but apply my values to each policy issue and opportunity to serve. Dedication to the welfare and benefit of my family, my community, my country, and public service in the interest of others, has been a hallmark of my public and private careers." You can learn more about Libby at www.libbyforsenate.com.

If you are interested in issues in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax, and the problems we will have to work on jointly as a region, you can learn a lot about each candidate's approach, positions and experience on their websites. Democrats have a long history of finding regional solutions and working together across the three jurisdictions, and it is important that we send a Democrat to Richmond to join the mostly

Democratic delegation from Northern Virginia, so they can work together for a better Virginia. You can learn about each candidates endorsements and events as well as more information on the 30th senate district. Remember the primary is on Aug. 23, not far when the summer starts rolling by. You can also learn more, and get links to all the candidates, by going to www.alexdeems.org.

Boyd Walker

Alexandria Democratic Committee

Unconvinced Over Waterfront Plan

To the Editor:

I have been following the waterfront plan since March 2010, when I read about it in one of the local newspapers immediately after opening my semiannual tax bill, which included another of its continuing increases in excess of the current inflation rate. I had grave concerns with the plan with respect to its benefits and costs to ordinary Alexandrians and expressed these to Mayor Euille and Rob Krupicka, in writing and at meetings they were kind enough to have with me.

I have reviewed the portion of the Waterfront Small Area Plan that has been recently released, and many, if not most, of my concerns expressed in the past remain. The purported benefits are very weak and marginal at best and do not justify a plan of this magnitude and potential cost, and the negatives are virtually ignored. Some of my major concerns that are still unresolved are as follows:

1. No overarching need for the plan has been clearly expressed. Why does this have to be done, and why the high priority, particularly given the continuing financial problems facing the City and the continuing tax increases that we are facing? Given budget reductions at our schools, libraries, and with other public services, it is questionable whether even the money spent developing this plan was warranted.

2. A clear set of prioritized requirements have not been developed; instead a set of vague and in many cases low priority or unnecessary "goals" have been presented.

3. No justification for the plan is presented through coherent and rigorous cost-benefit analyses. What alternatives were considered; what process was used to evaluate them; and why this particular plan? Bill Euille and Faroll Hamer promised this would be done when I met with them last year, and it is still not forthcoming. Such an effort is a fundamental part of early stage concept development, not something to be done later as part of implementation.

4. No costs are presented beyond the same general numbers seen at recent presentations. It is stated that the cost estimate is under review and will be released soon; however, this plan is incomplete without it and should have not been released. Also, the preliminary costs presented prior to this point appear unrealistically optimistic.

5. No effective risk assessment evaluating technical and business/cost risks has been done. An example is that work along a shoreline is fraught with unknowns, and

Freemasonry Banquet



BG John W. Nicholson, (U.S. Army Ret.) was the keynote speaker at the annual awards banquet at the Alexandria Scottish Rite of Freemasonry recently. In addition to recognizing a number of its members, the Alexandria Scottish Rite presented Community Service Award Certificates to two distinguished public servants. The first went to Del Pepper, who for the past 24 years has served the people of Alexandria as a member of the Council and also previously as vice mayor of the City of Alexandria. The second went to John D. Jenkins who is the longest serving member of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. He also is a 33rd degree Mason and an active member and supporter of the Alexandria Scottish Rite and its charities. The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple is located at 1430 West Braddock Road.

even this plan obliquely recognizes this through the use of vague wording and qualifiers. From a cost perspective we certainly do not want a repeat of the boathouse, where construction costs well exceeded the early publicized estimates. There are also a number of legal issues and unknowns associated with prior agreements that present significant risks with respect to costs and basic feasibility.

6. It is little more than a sales document primarily filled with pretty pictures. Why does it have over 70 pages dedicated to an appendix on public art containing a great deal of hyperbole and irrelevant material; e. g., photos of New York and Tokyo, and little to nothing on value, justification and cost?

I really do not see this as a plan but as a shopping list or Chinese menu. I cannot envision how a realistic and supportable cost estimate can be developed based on the open issues and lack of clear definition in this document. It is filled with vague words, such as "... could increase substantially...", "... future City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) decision making...", "... may be eligible...", "... for some the availability is unknown...", etc. These indicate a great deal of uncertainty, which would result in an open checkbook for the City after approval and during implementation.

Fundamental flaws also still exist in some of the logic presented. For example, one of the goals is to increase citizen access to the waterfront, but the additional development being relied upon to pay for the plan will obviously further hamper access to the waterfront area. More linear footage may be open at the water's edge; however, it will be measurably harder to get there. The section on parking implicitly recognizes this in that it attempts to rationalize an already difficult situation.

I am also curious about the attention given to the development of The Beachcomber. I understand that the City bought this property and intends to reach an agree-

ment with a developer to reopen it as a restaurant. This is fraught with the potential for conflicts of interest and deserves special scrutiny as do other elements of the plan for similar reasons.

The part of the plan that I thought reasonable was the section on implementation. It recognizes the possibility and advantages of deferring public investment until revenues from private development begin to come it at a substantive rate. I do not believe that the City should be putting up-front money into creating a stage set for subsequent private development. Let the developers build in accordance with zoning policies that protect the openness of the waterfront and respect the quality of life of the people who live in downtown Alexandria, while the City bides its time and its citizens' money.

A major question is when does the public comment period on this plan end? Since the cost estimate is still under review, the clock cannot start until it is released. I hope someone isn't delaying it until only a minimal period is available for its review.

In conclusion, I urge you to do the following:

a. Delay any vote on this plan until it is complete with costs, and we all have the time to review it in its entirety and provide meaningful comments. Any vote by the Council before this and before some other major questions can be answered is irresponsible. I recognize that some proponents would probably like to get this underway with a minimum of public exposure and hard review, but that is inconsistent with the public trust placed with the Council by us ordinary citizens.

b. If a vote is held, reject this plan and task the Planning and Zoning Department to rework it into something that is less costly and risky and is limited to the most basic essentials. Voting yes on this plan is not something I would like to have as baggage if I were running for political office.

William Rogalski, Jr.
Alexandria

Reading Connection Expands to Ruby Tucker

The Reading Connection (TRC) inaugurated the opening of its 12th Read-Aloud site at the Ruby Tucker Family Center with an open house reception Feb. 23 at the Ladrey House community room.

"This is a very exciting program to be a part of," said marathon runner Brooke Curran, who presented a check for \$2,500 to TRC through her Running Brooke Fund. "The volunteers of The Reading Connection are making a huge impact on the lives of the children in our community."

More than 34 volunteers were on hand to kick off the new weekly program, which will work in partnership with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to help promote and educate the children on healthy eating and lifestyles.

"It's great seeing the children so excited about reading and learning," said Curran as she helped TRC give away dozens of books to the children and families of the Ruby Tucker Center. "Reading will open doors for these children that will truly change their lives."



Volunteer Ellen Abramson, left, helps 6-year-old Kevin Hawkins-Sims read a new book at the kick-off of the new Reading Connection program at Ruby Tucker.

For more information, visit www.thereadingconnection.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Shamyah Johnson, 8, shows off her new book to volunteer Brooke Curran at the opening of the new Reading Connection program for the Ruby Tucker Center.

Change of Command at Old Dominion Boat Club

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Old Dominion Boat Club formally installed its 2011 Board of Governors at the traditional Change of Command ceremony and reception held Jan. 22 in Old Town.

"We are thankful for the service of all our board members, officers and committee chairmen," said ODBC president Miles Holtzman, who presided over the black tie ceremony. "We are looking forward to another great year of being an active part of the Alexandria community."

The oldest rowing boat club in the United States, ODBC has been located along the waterfront in Alexandria since its founding in 1880. The club's community outreach includes the funding of high school rowing scholarships, a 44-year-long sponsorship of the Salvation Army Red Kettle Holiday bell ringing campaign, and support for the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Alexandria Chapter of the American Liver Foundation, the Lombardi Cancer Center, the March of Dimes, the Make a Wish Foundation and the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

John Keegan, president of Dehart and Deming property appraisers, ran unopposed for the lone vacancy on the ODBC board. He joins Holtzman, Paul Whitestone, Dee Phillips, Jim Lavery, Dave Beck, Eric DeSoto, Dee Beresford, Dan Bradley, Ernie Dauray, Art Fox and Rudi Noori on the Board of Governors roster.

"I am looking forward to serving such a historic organization," Keegan said. "It's going to be an exciting year."

PHOTOS BY
JEANNE THEISMANN/
GAZETTE PACKET



Art Fox, Laurel Schultz and John and Blake Keegan enjoy the Change of Command reception. John Keegan is the newest member of the ODBC Board of Governors.



Old Dominion Boat Club president Miles Holtzman, right, congratulates ODBC Commodore Dave Beck at the annual Change of Command ceremony.

PEOPLE

DiPilato Selected As New Beatley Central Library Manager

Renee DiPilato has been selected as the new Central Library Manager of Alexandria Library's Beatley Central Library (5005 Duke Street) located in Alexandria's West End. DiPilato has two master's degrees, one in library and information science from Catholic University and the other in public administration from George Mason University. Currently, DiPilato is working on a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from Simmons College.



DiPilato has worked as a Librarian at Alexandria since 2005, both as the adult services manager at Barrett and Branch Manager of Duncan. DiPilato was key in establishing "All Alexandria Reads," the library's citywide community reading program focusing on one book and dozens of events related to the themes of the one book. In May 2011, All Alexandria Reads will be in its fourth year as the library's most successful "one book" systemwide programming.

As an active member of both the American Library Association and the Public Library Association, DiPilato has chaired committees and was selected as a candidate for the Certified Public Library Administrator Program. She is also a published author, contributing "Four Futures for Children's Programming, Anytown Public Library" to *Shaping the Future: Advancing the Understanding of Leadership*.

PEOPLE NOTES

To have a People Note published in the Gazette Packet, send an e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or call Steve Hibbard 703-778-9412. Pictures encouraged.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria declared the latest additions to its Board of Directors and staff. **Charles K. Colium, Jr.**, past chairman, Burke & Herbert Bank, joins 14 other members of the Board of Directors in furthering the mission of Rebuilding Together. **Dorothy Shepard** joins the organization as its third AmeriCorps member. Shepard will coordinate outreach efforts to clients and volunteers to create a more structured year round program to repair and renovate Alexandria non-profit facilities and homes belonging to low-income residents, including the elderly, disabled, military veterans, and families. To learn more, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021

NEIGHBORHOODS

Old Town

LIKE TEA? TRY LEE

Gen. Lee, meet Dr. Brown. You two should really get along because you both were very active in Old Town. Doesn't matter you lived about 100 years apart. This is my column and I can say with great confidence, you two would have been great friends

Why do I say this? I don't have the slightest idea — although I know you both liked Old Town, particularly in the spring. Gen. Lee, on occasion, was known to carry a sword. Dr. Brown, particularly when he was at work, often wielded a scalpel.

OK 'Towners. Enough already. What I'm backing my way into is an alert that Mesrrs. Lee and Brown will be together (sort of) at a gala affair on Thursday, March 31. The venue from 6:30 to 8:30 is the iconic home of Mrs. Frank L. Wright at 212 S. Fairfax St. This gracious home for years was owned and lived in starting in 1786 by Dr. William Brown, one of George Washington's primary physicians and a good friend of our first president. The house, of course has been known during all the years since as the "Dr. Brown House."

The Alexandria Committee of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association is delighted to invite it members for an evening celebration in support of Stratford Hall, the Westmoreland County home of the Lees of Virginia and the birthplace of Robert E. Lee.

The Alexandria Friends of Stratford each year weigh in with a fundraiser for the preservation of Stratford Hall — known by most Old Towners simply as the "Lee Tea."

The Alexandria Friends of Stratford originated in 1965 with, as they describe it, "an interest group of women who sought to increase awareness of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association and its research into the Lee family." Tea, of course, is a major staple of the affair, but so, too, is munificent food and drink and lots of goodies made by Al-

exandria Committee members. You can become a member of the Committee by making a donation — which you can do at the door on March 31. Acceptances only are required by March 26 and questions should be directed to Katherine Cooper-Hoffman at 301-897-4787 or Katherine@howardhoffman.com.

Current Alexandria Committee members include Mrs. Maxmillian Angerholzer, Mrs. John H. Ariail, Mrs. Clark R. Bavin, Jr., Mrs. Michael T. Bradshaw, Mrs. Thomas C. Brown, Jr., Mrs. Gerald H. Campbell, Mrs. Sharon Dewey Cassidy, Mrs. H. Bartholomew, Mrs. William J. deButts III, Mrs. Eleanor Radford Denegre, Mrs. Andrew M. Duke, Mrs. R.G. Hobson, Mrs. Katherine Cooper Hoffman, Mrs. Charles R. Hooff, Jr., Mrs. Ross Hunt III, Mrs. James H.L. Jacob, Mrs. Otis H. Johnson, Jr., Mrs. Joseph J. Johnston, Jr., Mrs. Arthur M. Keleher, Ms. Kimberly Keleher, Mrs. Margaret Thomas Konkel, Mrs. Gregory E. May, Mrs. Sean C.E. McDonough, Mrs. Robert L. Montague, IV, Mrs. James E. Morgan, Mrs. Smith Paul, Mrs. Robert W. Robinson, Jr., Mrs. Louis B. Rodenberg, Jr., Mrs. Hartley Hobson Wensing, Mrs. Frank L. Wright.

See you there, 'Towners.

— BOB FELDKAMP

Seminary Valley

The Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association SVCA is accepting Community Grant applications from community organizations that provide programs or services that benefit our area. The Community Grant application can be obtained and completed on-line at <http://www.bsvca.net/communitygrant.shtml>, and the deadline for applications is Friday, March 25. This year, the Association has up to \$1,300 to give away to schools and other organizations serving the West End of Alexandria

for projects, supplies, or other needs outside of their regular budgets. For more information about Community Grant applications, contact Armi Mack at armi.mack@bsvca.net.

Francis C. Hammond 1 Middle School Seventh-Grader Andrew Reese has qualified to compete in the state-level National Geographic Bee program, to be held on Friday, April 1, at Shenandoah University in Winchester. Andrew won the Hammond 1 School Geography Bee in January. In his fourth year as an Alexandria school champion, Andrew is keeping a streak alive that began when he was a student at Charles Barrett Elementary School. This is his third year to qualify for the state geography bee. He will compete with other school champions around Virginia for a spot in the nationally televised National Geographic Bee. Andrew also won first place in the 2011 Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair held last weekend. Well done!

Over 130 people attended the March meeting of the BRAC-133 Advisory Committee. If you would like to get involved in this pending project, you can attend a March 28 Parking and Traffic Board meeting at 7 p.m. in City Council chambers, an April 13 Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting, same time and place, and/or an April 13 BRAC Advisory Group meeting at 7 p.m. at the Beatley Library. If you need to catch up on the latest events, there are a multitude of presentations (written and audio) available online at www.alexandria.gov/BRAC.

A quick look at the ACPS Superintendent's proposed Capital Improvement Budget for 2010 calls for big changes to our neighbor school, Patrick Henry Elementary. The budget calls for a two-story, 10-classroom building to be built on school property. The school would become a new K-8 campus. The City's Recreation Center would continue to operate on the site, with a larger

gym to accommodate the larger population. Anticipated opening date is Fall 2015.

A big shout-out to our friend and neighbor, Nick Brown. Nick, a freshman at T.C. Williams and a standout cross-country athlete, has been sidelined due to an appendectomy. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Nick!

— MIA JONES

Taylor Run

On Saturday, March 12, our neighbor Moina Ratliff worried frantically for hours until she finally managed to get a phone call through to Kyoto, Japan. Moina's daughter Ramona, a medical editor, has lived in Japan for years where she translates scientific documents from Japanese to English and vice versa.

"I was terrified at the news until Ramona reassured me that the epicenter was 200 miles away," says Moina. "She said that she actually had felt the earth move which caused her to call her husband on the cellphone and urge him to avoid the vicinity of the nearby large lake."

PANCAKE SUPPER

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held at Emmanuel Church on Russell Road. Youth who cooked included Kelly Dervaries, Thomas and Perry Connor, Isabelle and Sylvie Harris, and James and Olivia Bambara.

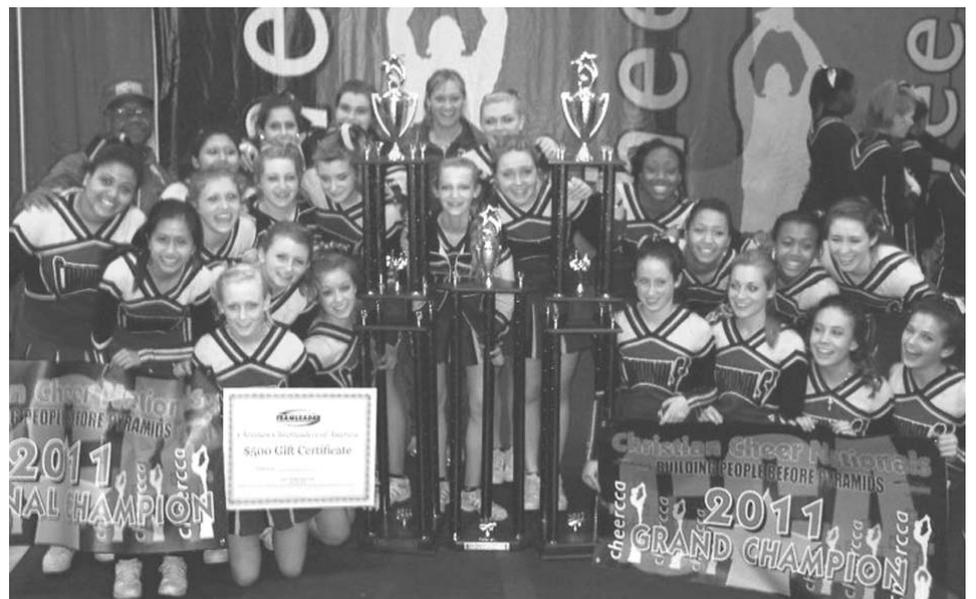
Some of the adults participating included Jeanne and Chuck McMillian, Marianne Bambara, Joe and Kim Scott, the Rev. Dan Eckman, Rance Willis, Barbara Helsing, Sarah Orndorf, Andrea McBarnette, Bryan Moore, Bailey Moore and Amanda Wallingford.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT



Police Chief as Titan

Alexandria Chief of Police Earl Cook was the man of the hour at the Brent Place high rise recently when he visited a children's group to discuss his experience as a T.C. Williams Titan. In recognition of Black History Month, ChildThrive!, a collaborative project between the City of Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services and AmeriCorps, hosted an evening with the chief. Above, Cook with a group of children at Brent Place high-rise. On right is Debbie Hardy, leader of the after-school program with Americorps member Semhar Abed.



To Nationals

The Bishop Ireton Varsity Cheerleaders won first place at Regionals and Classics and they received a bid to compete in the Christian Cheerleading Association's National championships in Charlotte, N.C. They have qualified all three years — since Coach Angela Hope-Eskew has been leading the team — finishing fifth in 2009, fourth in 2010, and they won everything this year. The team captured the first place title in the Large Varsity Division I. In addition, they won the Grand Champion title topping all the Varsity Divisions I, II, and III.

Blair Brings College Coaching Experience to TC

Titans enter district play with 1-1 record.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Jim Blair knows baseball. The 34-year-old has been around the game for most of his life, including eight seasons worth of college coaching experience at the Division II and Division III levels.

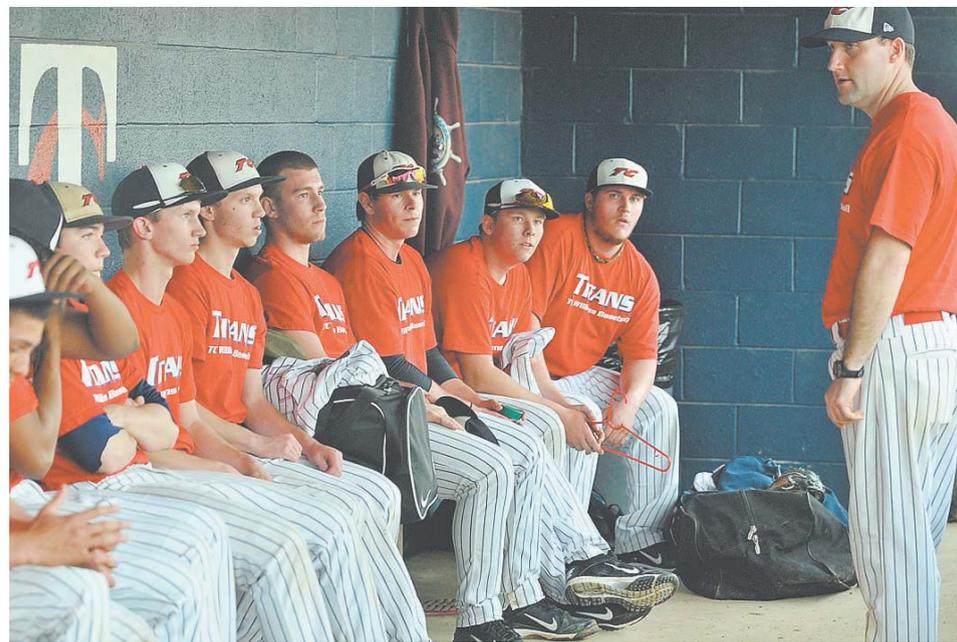
Baseball instruction has become somewhat of a routine for Blair. However, teaching the game at the high school level in an unfamiliar area presents a challenge.

In college, coaches recruit, gain familiarity with athletes and have more time to work with them prior to and during the season. At TC, Blair has players with certain skill sets not guaranteed to be in line with his philosophy. With a few weeks to prepare for a shorter, 20-plus-game season, the coach has less time to get across what he knows.

"This is a whole new adjustment for me," said Blair, who coached at Richard Stockton College (New Jersey) for two years, Hampden-Sydney College (Virginia) for three years and St. Andrews Presbyterian College (North Carolina) for three years prior to coming to Alexandria. On a recruiting trip, Blair said, he visited his friend in Alexandria and liked the area, so he applied for the TC head coaching position.

So far, everything seems to be working reasonably well for Blair, whose Titans opened the season 1-1. TC lost to Battlefield, 8-4, on March 4 and defeated Wakefield, 15-3, on March 18.

"I like coach Blair a lot and the guys he brought in," senior catcher Travis Clark said. "Any time you can get a guy with college



First-year T.C. Williams head baseball coach Jim Blair, right, addresses the Titans after a recent practice.

experience at the high school level, it can't hurt. You listen to whatever he says because he's been through this, to where we all want to go. He obviously knows what he's talking about."

Blair said having coached in college helps the Titan players trust him.

"So far, so good," Blair said. "I haven't encountered too much resistance. ... With the way things have been here, not that they've been bad, but I think that the boys want more. I think they value the way we do things — it's very methodical. It's, 'This is why we're doing it, this is what we're hoping to gain out of it' versus saying, 'OK, let's just come out and take ground balls and take some swings.'"

On the mound, senior right-hander Steve Weidman will be the Titans' ace after recovering from a broken foot that sidelined

Convention Center.

"Our girls received a lot of rave reviews from cheerleaders, parents and coaches from other programs," Holloway said. "They truly let their talent shine on the mat this weekend and all their hard work paid off."

For more information on the Hot Topic All Stars program or to donate to the non-profit, contact director Brenda Holloway at Brenda.holloway@hottopicallstars.com or visit www.hottopicallstars.com. Donations will assist families in need of financial assistance and help provide college scholarships, and will also help purchase new gymnastic equipment and a spring competition floor.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Youth Coaches Needed

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is currently seeking volunteers to coach youth

"You listen to whatever he says because he's been through this, to where we all want to go. He obviously knows what he's talking about."

— T.C. Williams catcher Travis Clark on head coach Jim Blair

him most of last season.

"We're hoping he can come out and, [if] anything, just to have that senior leadership on the mound," Blair said. It puts the team in a different mindset right from the

baseball, softball, field hockey, swimming, track and field, Rugby, summer basketball and football. Criminal history background checks are required. Interested persons should call the sports office at 703-746-5402 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov or Tamika.coleman@alexandriava.gov.

Wahoos Swim Team Registration

The Wahoos swim program offers youth ages 6-18 of all abilities the opportunity to develop their own unique potential. The program will promote individual achievement and team camaraderie in an atmosphere of friendly competition. Developing and experienced swimmers alike can refine their freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly, turns and starts with an experienced coaching staff. Swim meets are scheduled every Saturday morning from mid-June through early August. There will be a

start — first pitch — and it's a confidence builder for the team."

Sophomore right-hander Alec Grosser, the Titans' No. 2 starter, has the physical talent to be a standout pitcher, but needs to improve, Blair said.

"Alec has good stuff, he's just young still," Blair said. "He has to learn how to develop a little bit more mentally as a pitcher, understand his strengths and weaknesses on the mound and learn how to pitch. He's an exceptional thrower, but he needs to learn how to pitch. That's going to be his biggest thing to do this season as far as an area to improve. ... He has the stuff where he could be an exceptional high school pitcher and possibly move on to the college ranks when it's all said and done."

Junior left-hander Nate Ribyat will likely be the No. 3 starter.

In the field, junior Jack Delaney is the Titans' first baseman, senior Doug Murphy and sophomore Cameron Sullivan are competing for time at second base, sophomore Connor Cousins is at shortstop and junior Aaron Tovsky will be the team's third baseman.

Senior Desmond Coursey is in left field, senior Nick Severini is in center and Weidman or Grosser will be in right.

Seniors Tim Trout and Devin Trout should see time in the designated hitter role.

Blair said Weidman and Clark are team leaders.

"I've been impressed with them so far and the way they handle the team," Blair said, "and the way they work with me to handle the team."

Weidman said he feels good after missing most of last season. "It feels good," he said, "to be back on the mound again."

TC will open Patriot District play against Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on March 25. The Titans next home game is on March 29 against Lee.

parents meeting and the first team practice on May 31 at the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center. Swimmers must be able to swim 25 meters continuously. Registration will take place through May 27. For more information, call the Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or go on the Recreation Department's Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Hershey's Track and Field Youth Program

The Hershey's Track and Field Program is a city-wide track meet where winners can advance through district, regional, state and national competitions. Participants can register at any City Recreation Center. The local meet will be held at 9:30 a.m. on May 21 at T.C. Williams High School. Youth can compete in the 50-, 100-, 200-, and 400-meter dash; 800- and 1600-meter run,

SEE SPORTS, PAGE 28

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 27

4x100 relay, softball throw and standing long jump. Note: 7-8-year-olds will not advance beyond the city-wide event. Registration period is from March 15-May 1. The Hershey's Track and Field Program is open for City of Alexandria residents only. Participants can participate in the following events depending on their age group (age as of Dec. 31, 2011).

Boys and girls ages 7-8 can participate in the 50-meter dash, standing long jump and the softball throw only. This age group will not advance to the district or state meet.

Boys and girls ages 9-12 can participate in one field event and two running events and the relay; or two field events and one running event and the relay for a total of four events. Since ages 9-12 (4x100 relay) will not advance to the North American Final, those age groups will be allowed to participate in a relay as an extra event at the local, district and or state meet. First and second place winners in this age group will advance to the district track meet to be held in June in Fauquier County.

Boys and girls ages 13-14 can participate in one field event and two running events; or two field events and one running event. Relays are considered running events for this age group. First and second place winners in this age group will advance to the district track meet that will be held on June 5 in Fauquier County.

For more information, call the Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or go on the Recreation Department's web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Youth Rugby Program Registration

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural; Recreation Services Division is now accepting registration for non-contact and tackle rugby through May 31. This program is designed to incorporate the basic rugby skills of running, passing, team support and decision making in a physically safe and non-threatening environment. Boys and girls ages 6-14 are eligible to participate and the registra-



The Hot Topic Shooting and Rising Stars, pictured above with coaches Nikki Marshall and Chantelle Dunston, left, and Shenika Farmer and Brenda Holloway, right, took first place in their respective divisions at the Battle of the Capital cheerleading competition held March 11-13 at the Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor.

tion fee is \$30. For more information, call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or go on the Recreation Department's Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Alexandria Titans Youth Tackle Football

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Centers, Playgrounds and Youth Sports Division is now accepting registrations for the Alexandria Titans youth tackle football program. Teams are formed in the following weight divisions and participate in the Fairfax County Youth Football League: Anklebiters, 75 lbs, 85 lbs, 95 lbs, 110 lbs, 125 lbs, and 150 lbs. Participants will be weighed and assigned to teams according to their weight and age. This program is for participants ages 7-16. Registration fee is \$30. All participants must have a Division of Motor Ve-

hicles (DMV) Identification Card upon registration. The Sportsmanship and Equipment Days will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on July 23 (Anklebiters and 75 lbs.), July 30 (85 lbs. and 95 lbs.) and Aug. 6 (110 lbs., 125 lbs and 150 lbs.). The Alexandria Titans Football Camp (free for Titan players only) will be held Aug. 1-4 from 6-8 p.m. at George Washington Middle School. The Alexandria Titans Youth Football Booster Club is looking for sponsorships for the 2011 season. For more information, call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or go on the Recreation Department's Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Girls Field Hockey Registration

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Sports Office is accepting registrations for the new Girls Summer Field Hockey Program League

for girls ages 9-14. The program will begin on June 6 and will run through the end of July at the Minnie Howard Field, 3801 West Braddock Road. The cost is \$50 per participant. The deadline for registration is May 31. All girls must provide their own field hockey sticks, shin guards and mouthpieces. The girls are asked to wear athletic wear and tennis or rubber sole turf cleats.

The league will run a clinic at the beginning of the program that will cover the basic fundamental techniques and skills of field hockey, including dribbling, passing, receiving, footwork, body positioning, goal scoring and goal keeping.

Teams will then be formed with 8-on-8 games being played.

For more information, call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or go on the Youth Sports web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Alexandria Gazette Packet, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

The Washington Post recognizes 21 teachers and 19 school principals for their creative and quality instruction and contribution to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area. The Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards were established to spotlight principals who create exceptional educational environments for their students. The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards acknowledge teachers who work hard to ensure children receive a high-quality education.

The local winner of The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards is **Sandra Slaven** of Jefferson-Houston Elementary School.

The local winner of the Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards is **Keisha Boggan** of Francis C. Hammond Middle School.

Samantha Evanko graduated from Elizabethtown College in August with a master's of science degree in occupational therapy.

Paul Marinelli, majoring in international studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Officials of **National Merit Scholarship Corporation** announced the names of more than 1,600 Black American high school seniors who have been designated Semifinalists in the 47th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program. These young men and women now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 800 Achievement Scholarship Awards, worth more than \$2.5 million, to be offered next spring. Congratulations to these students: **Mallory N. Bell** of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, and **Calvin C. Austin** of T.C. Williams High School.

Sarah Luzietti of Alexandria has earned placement on the dean's list at Berklee College of Music for the summer semester of the 2010 academic year.

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,491 students in September 2010. Receiving degrees were **Hads O. Holmgren**, master's of

criminal justice; **Jeremy E. Bard**, bachelor of arts in economics; **Robert P. Reichelt**, master's of science in banking and financial services management; **Todd Chappell**, master's of business administration in business administration and management, and **Sarah E. Smith**, master's of science in health communication.

Griffin McDermott of Alexandria, a senior at Gonzaga College High School was recently accepted to the Class of 2015 of "Ole Miss," The University of Mississippi.

Jackie Desrosiers, a junior from Alexandria majoring in music in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech.

Jeffrey Coen, a resident of Alexandria, has earned a bachelor of science degree from Excelsior College.

Jennifer Huling of Alexandria, who earned a master's of Arts degree in Graphic Design, and **Matthew Finn** of Alexandria, who earned a master's of fine arts degree in Graphic Design, re-

cently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Negar Ghassemieh from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Ghassemieh is pursuing a master's of architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Laura M. Toole from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Toole is majoring in industrial and systems engineering and pursuing a master's of science in the College of Engineering.

Myhoa T. Baird from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Baird is majoring in Architecture and pursuing a master's of Architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Zhaoyang Kong from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Kong is pursuing a master's of architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 30

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 28

Barbara P. Hirsch from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Hirsch is majoring in human development and pursuing a master's of science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Lesley L. Conroy from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech and will attempt a master's of landscape architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Stephen A. Gonski from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech, and is pursuing a master's of landscape architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Alanna D. Mckeeman from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Mckeeman is pursuing a master's of urban and regional planning in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Kristie L. Brooks from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Brooks is majoring in agricultural and life sciences and pursuing a master's of science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Brendan J. Mulhare from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Mulhare is majoring in systems engineering and pursuing a master's of science in the College of Engineering.

Eric J. Reading from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Reading is majoring in planning, governance, and globalization and pursuing a doctor of philosophy in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Ningning Shang from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Shang is pursuing a master's of architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Leslie J. Thompson from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Thompson is pursuing a master's of architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Tedros B. Abay from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Abay is majoring in civil engineering and pursuing a master's of science in the College of Engineering.

Richard K. Krewson from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Krewson is pursuing a master's of public and international affairs in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Nydia Roman-Albertorio from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Roman-Albertorio is pursuing a master's of business administration in the The R.B. Pamplin College of Business.

David L. Dawson from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Dawson is pursuing a master's of business administration in the The R.B. Pamplin College of Business.

Adam J. Yurkanin from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Yurkanin is pursuing a master's of information technology in the interdisciplinary.

Rhianna Mccarter from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Mccarter is pursuing a master's of urban and regional planning in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Basim A. Saah from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Saah is pursuing a master's of Landscape Architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Janna L. Eastvold from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Eastvold is majoring in educational leadership and policy studies and pursuing a master's of arts in education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

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\$1,995 DUE AT SIGNING PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$379 PROCESSING FEE,
 ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. EXPIRES 4/4/2011.

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SEDAN, AUTO TRANS, MODEL #2532

\$4 PER DAY

OR, \$129 PER MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS



\$1,995 DUE AT SIGNING PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$379 PROCESSING FEE,
 ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. EXPIRES 4/4/2011.

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RAV4

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\$6 PER DAY

OR, \$179 PER MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS

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(1)BASED ON BLACK BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS CONDITION, MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE. (2)WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE. COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE. PLAN IS FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A DELIVERY OR TAXI VEHICLE. SEE PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS. (3)WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THRU TFS. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER ADVERTISED OFFER. OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION DUE TO MANUFACTURER CHANGE IN INCENTIVES. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE CAMPAIGN DETAILS. 0% APR FOR A LIMITED TERM ON APPROVED TIER1 + CREDIT THRU TFS. DEALER RETAINS ALL FACTORY REBATES AND INCENTIVES. (4)PRICE EXCLUDES \$379 DEALER DOC FEES. EXPIRES 4/4/11.



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ALEXANDRIA

\$545,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
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Gas Prices??

Not to worry in this elegant townhome just a few miles from DC and walking distance to restaurants and shopping. Three bedrooms, three and a half baths. Sun-filled end unit. Sunken living room with fireplace. Large eat in kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite. Gorgeous master suite with high ceilings and spa bathroom. Family room with another fireplace that opens up to a beautiful flagstone patio. One-car garage. Comfortable living in a great location!

Pam Cornelio
571.236.4398
www.pamcornelio.com
MLD ID# AX7557625



ALEXANDRIA

\$762,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
2806 Holland Ct - 22306

Location and Amenities!

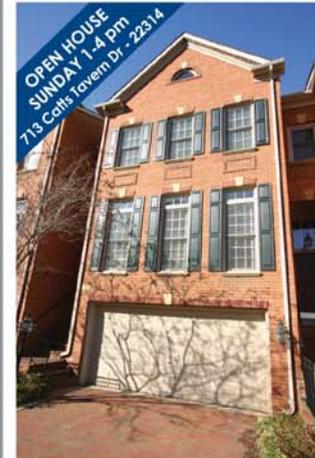
Four-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath features an inviting master suite with soaking tub, two walk-in closets, tray ceilings and sitting room. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, cooktop island, breakfast area. Family room with brick fireplace and French doors overlooking the patio and in ground pool. Attached two-car garage and fully finished basement.

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.lizuke.com
MLS ID# AX7552904



ALEXANDRIA NORTH/OLD TOWN

\$799,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
713 Colts Tavern Dr - 22314

Beautifully Appointed

Wonderfully maintained and updated, four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath home with gourmet kitchen. Great eat-in/sitting area with fireplace off kitchen. Beautiful wood floors on two levels. In-law suite and family room on lower level. Large master suite with tray ceiling, walk-in closet and spacious bath. Two-car garage. Walk to restaurants and shopping. Community offers swimming pool, tennis courts and tot lot. Minutes to DC, Pentagon, and PTO.

Chris Hayes
703.944.7737
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ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

\$779,900



Yesterday's Charm Enhanced with Modern Amenities

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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703.675.1566
www.jenwalker.com
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ALEXANDRIA

\$399,900



Convenient Oasis

Two-bedroom plus den, two-bath, 1,525-square-foot condo with spacious rooms, enclosed sunroom, eat-in kitchen, separate dining room, garage parking. Near Old Town and 495, amenities include: food market, café, indoor/outdoor pools, tennis, gyms, and free Metro shuttle.

Chris Fischer
703.930.6349
www.FischerMcMasterHomes.com
MLS ID# FX7532805



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$1,199,000



Cosmopolitan Living

Live in this riverfront community with your very own 30-foot boat slip in the Harborside marina. Two bedrooms, two full and two half baths, living room with fireplace, gracious dining room, kitchen-family room combination. Deep moldings and many custom built-ins are found in the library and family room. Lovely master suite with marble bath, Jacuzzi and two walk-in closets. Two-car garage plus interior elevator. This special house is within walking distance of fine restaurants and shops.

Babs Beckwith
703.836.1297
www.Babsbeckwith.com
MLS ID# AX7538741



ALEXANDRIA CITY

\$199,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4 pm
3309 Wyndham Ct #1180

Perfect Starter Home!

OPEN HOUSE 3/27 - End unit condo with spacious rooms, freshly painted, updated appliances including washer and dryer. Reserved garage space. Pet friendly community with pool, 24/7 fitness center, and FREE weekday Metro shuttle. Approved FHA/VA financing. \$4,000 closing cost credit. 3309 Wyndham Ct, #1180 at 395/King Street W.

Dee Hester
703.599.9680
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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$984,900



Captain's Row Beauty

Unique opportunity to own a historic property on Alexandria's famed Captain's Row. Gracious three-bedroom townhome with elegant living and dining rooms, beautifully updated kitchen and baths, oversized windows, three fireplaces, period details, private patio, and plenty of storage. This home was updated to preserve its historic details while providing for modern living. Steps to the River, shops, and restaurants. Old Town at its finest!

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