



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Garden Guardian Max, the cat, relaxes in the garden at 210 Wilkes St. which is part of this year's Alexandria Historic Garden Tour.

SEE PAGE 3

Spring Fever

A guide to enjoying Alexandria in the spring.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

April showers and May flowers signal the arrival of spring, a time of year that especially comes alive in Alexandria. From cultural to musical to just plain fun, the city offers an answer for every form of Spring Fever.

Major highlights are the upcoming Virginia Historic Garden Week tour April 16-23 and the city's signature event on May 21 in Market Square to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

But there's no need to wait for a special event to enjoy the city's many attractions and diversions;



Eclipse Chamber Orchestra performs April 17 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

rising temperatures mean no more excuses for not getting outside and discovering what makes Alexandria so unique.

SEE A GUIDE, PAGE 7



The Potomac Riverboat Company offers several ways to enjoy Alexandria by water.

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History Speaks

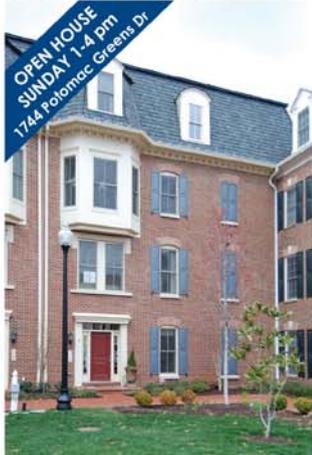
Historic and plaqued, this wonderful renovated house offers original floors, moldings, fireplaces mantels and stairs. A new kitchen, complete with tile flooring, custom cabinets including a wine storage cabinet is outstanding. A master suite with dressing room, many closets and marble bath is also a recent renovation. The large garden features a fountain and many flowers.

Babs Beckwith
703.836.1297
www.Babsbeckwith.com
MLS ID# AX7567981



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$949,000



Four Expansive Levels of Pristine Perfection

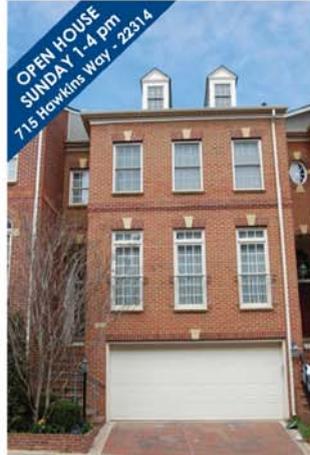
Located in a courtyard setting at Potomac Greens, this handsome, unusually expansive townhome offers size and space rarely seen in Old Town. This better than new townhome has over 3800 SF of luxurious open spaces characterized by high ceilings, rich crown moldings, and gleaming hardwood floors. Just a short walk to trendy shops and cafes, this amazing home is but a short commute away to Reagan Airport and DC bridges. This grand residence is not to be missed!

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www.masonbavin.com



ALEXANDRIA

\$699,900



Just Listed

This HUGE rambler has a gracious living room with fireplace, entertainment-sized dining room, newer kitchen, and all four bedrooms and two of the baths are located on the main level. The lower level has a family room with fireplace, office/guest space, full bath, workroom, laundry/utility room and two-car garage.

Betty Mallon
703.989.8548
www.bettymallon.com
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NEW PRICE - Elegant and immaculate two-level brick townhouse at Harborside - Old Town's luxury riverfront community just four blocks from King Street. Two bedrooms, one-and-a-half baths, hardwood floors throughout, two fireplaces, top-of-the-line kitchen and appliances, luxury marble bathroom. Two garage spaces. A perfect pied-à-terre.

Annette Hinaman
571.216.4411
www.annettehinaman.com
MLS ID# AX7430532



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Beautifully updated Del Ray home with three bedrooms and two and a half baths is just a short walk to the restaurants and shops on The Avenue. Large eat-in gourmet kitchen has been recently remodeled. Half bath and a spacious office/sunroom on the main level. Lovely hardwoods on two levels. The finished lower level offers a large family room and full bath.

Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Elizabeth Lucchesi 703.868.5616
www.homesbyhayes.com
MLS ID# AX7566160



ARLINGTON/Oakcrest/Aurora Hills

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Room to Expand!

Grab this rarely available two-bedroom Colonial in convenient Oakcrest/Aurora Hills neighborhood which is freshly painted and move-in ready! Original hardwood floors, gas fireplace, sunroom and spacious master bedroom. Partially finished lower level. Large, private and lush rear yard with two-level deck and potter's cottage. One-car garage and long driveway.

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Surprises in Bloom

Historic Garden Tour blooms in Old Town Alexandria.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

From Egyptian Revival architecture to the a cherry tree once owned by George Washington, this year's Alexandria Historic Garden Tour is full of surprises. Some are whimsical, like the chandelier featuring reindeer heads copied from a Bavarian castle. Others are flights of fancy, like the trompe l'oeil stair railing. Then there's the tea house used as a tool shed.

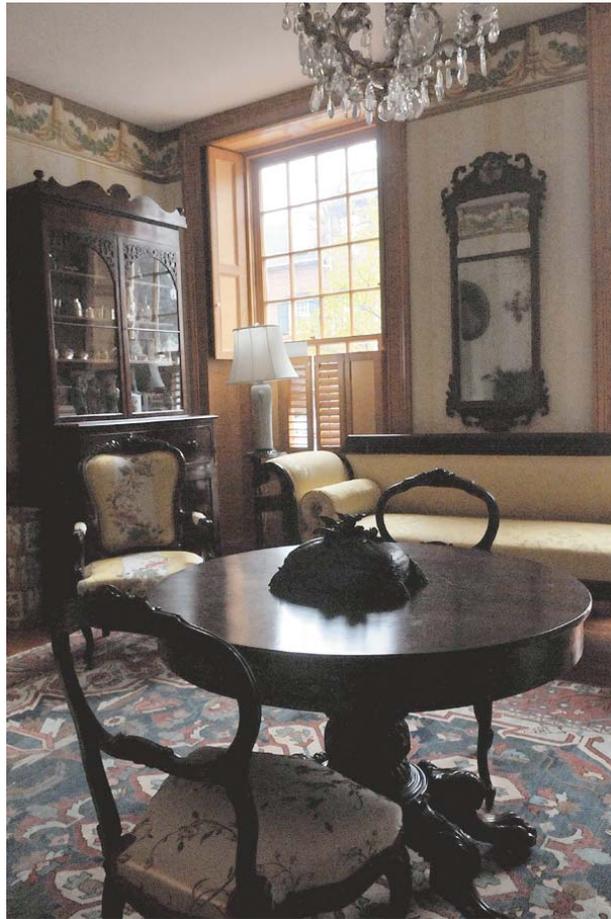
"This tour is full of surprises," said Twig Murray, co-chairwoman of the Alexandria Historic Garden Tour. "That's what made it so much fun to put together."

MORE Additional details in "Garden Events Sprout" on page 21. The \$40 tickets include six private houses and gardens, rarely seen glimpses

into some of Old Town's most historic residences. Ticketholders can also stop by another historic building, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, for refreshments and admire the architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe. The price of admission includes entrance to a number of regional historic homes, including Mount Vernon Estate, Gunston Hall, Woodlawn, the Carlyle House and the Lee-Fendall House.

"Dollar for dollar, this is a huge value," said Murray. "And the money goes to help restore historic gardens."

ONE OF THE TOUR'S unforgettable highlights is the Vowell-Snowden Home at 417 South Lee Street, which was the longtime residence of Alexandria Gazette editor



The afternoon light quietly enters the front drawing room of the Chapman home.

Edgar Snowden. Before walking in, pause a moment and admire the sand-casted brass finials. When Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black lived in the house, according to his daughter, the butler polished the finials every day. Step inside and take notice of the Boston Fire Bucket, a family heirloom of modern-day owners Andrew and Tamara

Saltonstall. Step into the parlor and find a William and Mary secretary that the husband bought the wife when they were dating.

"He bought it for me to keep me organized," said Tamara Saltonstall, opening up

the desk and peeking into the cubbyholes one recent afternoon. "We call it William."

Walk through the dining room, pause for a moment and marvel at all the people who Edgar Snowden and Hugo Black must have invited to dinner during their years in the house. Admire the concord grape arbor on the way to the circular rose garden, which features more than 70 different kinds of roses. Then take a moment and marvel at the sheer amount of space in the backyard, which features a swimming pool and a tennis court. Yes, in Old Town.

"In his memoir, Hugo Black says this was a bordello," said Andrew Saltonstall with a wink. "Who knows if it's true or not."

THE TOUR FEATURES a never-ending parade of priceless works of art and one-of-a-kind design features. Take, for example, the rare Egyptian Revival architecture at 217 North Royal Street. The house was originally constructed in 1796 by James McGuire, a house joiner who would later become superintendent of the Market House. Apparently, he was somewhat of a hothead because he was involved in an infamous duel sparked by a disagreement at nearby Gadsby's Tavern. In the 1850s, the



An early American gilded eagle weathervane in front of a portrait of the owner's grandmother.



An antique birdbath is filled with flowers and greens at 219 N. Royal St. in the walled garden.



American Greek revival urns at the entryway of a terraced green room at the Chapman Home at 219 North Royal St.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET



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OPEN HOUSE
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5903 Woodfield Estates Dr

So Easy to Love...

Traditional brick exterior, serene, wooded setting, beautifully-appointed interior space! Gorgeous "Pottery Barn" décor, three bedrooms, eat-in kitchen with granite countertops and stainless appliances, summertime deck, exquisitely renovated baths, walk-out family room with gas fireplace, updates galore near Kingstowne restaurants and shopping, major commuter routes, and a short walk to Van Dorn Metro.

Deborah Manarin
703.517.5005
www.McEneaney.com



ALEXANDRIA CITY

\$1,295,000



OPEN HOUSE
SUN 4/10, 1-4 pm
1600 Russell Road - 22801

An Alexandria Landmark

Character and grace abound in this 1920s home nestled on a landscaped lot with garage and driveway. High ceilings, tall windows, gleaming wood floors, and period details are combined with many recent updates. Fireplaces in each of the double parlors, a woodburning fireplace in the dining room, airy sunrooms on both the main and upper level, large kitchen with direct access to patio and driveway. Upstairs there are three large bedrooms, stylish master bathroom, and a renovated hall bathroom. The top floor features high ceilings, dormered windows, a fourth bedroom, and a renovated bathroom and office. Large, open, airy basement with high ceilings and space for laundry, storage, hobbies and workshop. Please see www.betsytwigg.com for photos of 1600 Russell Road.

Betsy Twigg
703.967.4391
www.BetsyTwigg.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$435,000



View from the Terrace!

Parkland views from wrap-around terrace, floor-to-ceiling windows at Carlyle Square, boutique building in vibrant Old Town near restaurants, clubs, shopping, Whole Foods, King Street Metro. Loft-style, 10' ceilings, exposed ductwork, hardwoods; open kitchen with maple cabinets, stainless and granite; garage parking, on-site pool and fitness center available.

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703.517.5005
www.McEneaney.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA/Colecroft

\$530,000



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A mere block to Braddock Metro stop, this three-bedroom, two-bath, four-level, all-brick townhome features a living room with hardwoods and fireplace and an updated kitchen on the main level, new plush cream carpeting on upper first and second levels, inviting warm neutral colors throughout, crown moldings; unfinished lower level of approximately 600-SF, ideal for storage or another full level of living space; rear patio perfect for grilling, assigned parking, and low HOA fee.

Carol Cox
703.403.3406
www.McEneaney.com
MLS ID# AX7560593



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$1,299,000



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A timeless, appealing blend of Federal and Georgian architecture, this 3,300+ SF luxury residence lives like a single family home...with rooms scaled for elegant entertaining...with insightful design and craftsmanship to match. Gracious formal living and dining rooms, designer kitchen...an asset to nearby family room...master suite with sitting area, fireplace, and sumptuous bath...home office/exercise room, and the custom closet of your dreams!

Deborah Manarin
703.517.5005
www.McEneaney.com



ALEXANDRIA/CLOVER

\$825,000



PRICE REDUCED

Clover Neighborhood

Exceptionally large rooms, three renovated bathrooms, kitchen with light cherry cabinets and granite counters opens to breakfast room and door to covered patio and large level, fenced rear yard. With three/four bedrooms, main-level family room and a big lower level rec room, this gracious home provides space for everyone.

Betsy Twigg
703.967.4391
www.BetsyTwigg.com
MLS ID# AX7534093



N. ARLINGTON

\$1,399,900 - \$1,449,900



New Green Homes in Cherrydale Crest

Enclave of three (two left), Arlington-rated "Green Homes Choice Program" custom homes on a quiet street. Five-bedroom, five-plus-bath homes capturing the feel of historic close-in Cherrydale. Walk to Metro, parks and market. Meet the builder and choose finishing touches.

Kathleen Gibbons
703.941.2875
www.CherrydaleCrest.com



ALEXANDRIA CITY

\$595,000



UNDER CONTRACT

Country Quiet... ...City Close

A sylvan retreat at Quaker Hill...Quiet streets, treed avenues, open space...nestled around a small lake home to dogs...and ducks! Located just outside historic Old Town, this classic brick townhome has formal living and dining rooms, eat-in kitchen with summertime deck, lower-level family room with gas fireplace, serene landscaped garden, hardwood floors, and plantation shutters. Walk to MacArthur Elementary...and an easy commute to everywhere!

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MLS ID# AX7553988



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SPRING FUN

Galas Bloom in Springtime

Local organizations use spring events to raise money.

BY GALE CURCIO
GAZETTE PACKET

If it is springtime, then it must be time for spring galas. Used by many local organizations as one of their annual fundraising events, several galas have already been held.

United Community Ministries (UCM) held their Spring Gala: April in Paris last weekend. The evening featured food, entertainment and fun and benefited the programs and services of United Community Ministries.

Guests enjoyed bidding on raffles for baskets filled with treasures. They also enjoyed a gourmet formal dinner, danced to some lively dance music and then bid on live auction items.

There are still many more events scheduled for April and May, so there is plenty of time to get reservations, purchase that special outfit and bid on some prizes.

A NIGHT ON THE TOWN GALA

Join Good Shepherd Housing and Family

Services on Saturday, April 9 at the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria for the A Night on the Town Gala featuring cocktails, dinner, and auction and dancing to the tunes of Reverie Jazz.

Cocktails and a silent auction will be followed by dinner, a live auction and dancing.

This year's auction items include an African Safari for two, spa and restaurant gift certificates, a chocolate gift basket, jewelry, vacation homes, catered dinners, artwork and more.

Tickets are \$175. For more information, contact Karen Jupiter at 703-768-9404 or visit <http://www.goodhousing.org/help/annual-gala.html>.

GALA DE MAYO

New Hope Housing's annual spring night of fun will be held on Saturday, May 7 at the Waterford in Springfield. Join them for dancing, dining and auctions —this year with a Latin flair.

One of their live auction items is a walk-on role on the TV series Raising Hope. Executive producer Greg Garcia is donating the item.

An Arlington native who graduated from Yorktown High School, Garcia is creator and executive producer of the Fox television se

SEE LOCAL GROUPS, PAGE 17



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CHERRY BLOSSOM CELEBRATION

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 9 & 10

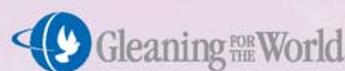
Saturday, April 9th
Chris Polk Band on the Plaza Stage
6pm to 8pm
"The Karate Kid, Part II" on the Plaza's Big Screen
8pm to 10pm

Sunday, April 10th
Sakura Sunday - 11am to 4pm
Entertainment on the Plaza Stage
UZUHI, Samurai Sword Soul, Reni and many more musicians and dancers to dazzle the audience
Japanese Market on American Way
Artisans, crafters and food vendors with one-of-a-kind items to purchase
Other activities include Sumo Wrestling Contest courtesy of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, Kite Making for Kids by the National Children's Museum, and Face Painting, Video Game Demonstrations, and Cosplay Fashion Show by the DC Anime Club

National Harbor Springtime Festival & Fireworks - 4pm to 8pm
Enjoy live entertainment on the Plaza Stage and a spectacular fireworks show over the Potomac.

Visit NationalHarbor.com
or call 1-877-NATLHBR

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\$1 for every car parked at National Harbor will be donated to Gleaning For The World Japan Relief Fund. To learn more, visit www.GFTW.org

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Alexandria \$279,000
Beautiful 2BR, 1BA Garden Lvl Condo in Quaker Hills. Renovated bath With Jacuzzi Tub. Hardwood Floors. Open Floor Plan. Shows Great! Close to 495, Old Town and Metro
111 Quaker Lane
Kerrie Price 703-901-2778



Alexandria Old Town \$639,000
Lovely detached Victorian w/spacious rooms, High ceilings, large windows pocket doors & Original hardwoods, Large kitchen, w/beamed ceiling, granite, island & breakfast nook deck, deep yard w/arbor covered patio
418 Patrick St.
Christine Garner 703-587-4588



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Philip Matyas 571-332-0963



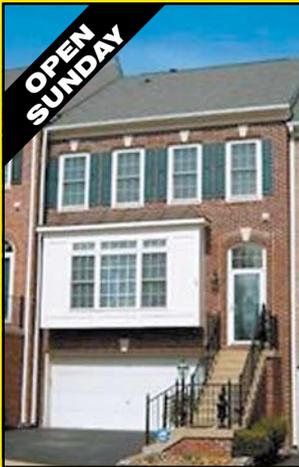
Alex/Old Town \$750,000
Extra-deep TH in heart of Old Town--truly spacious/ finished on all 3 lvs Wood floors, 3 fireplcs, skylights, kitchen/ family room open onto brick walled patio garden via double French doors. Large owner's suite w/walk-in cedar closet. Master bath w/cathedral ceiling & skylight. Off st parking for 2. No HOA fee. Steps to transportation, cafes, shops & restaurants.
720 GIBBON St.
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria Fairlington Towne 349,900
What a value! This fantastic 2 BR, 1.5 bath, 2 level is perfect. Great back patio that opens to community green space. Loads of upgrades include gleaming wood floors, new doors, updated baths and tons of storage. LOW CONDO FEE!
3742 Jason Ave.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria \$565,000
Huge 3BR/3.55BA TH inside Beltway. Main lvl, hardwood floors, walk out to deck with panoramic views of trees & common area. Expanded kit with extra storage. 2 gas fpls, lower level rec rm with extra storage & walk out to secluded fenced back yard. Two MBRs on 2nd lvl w/walk in closets & hwd flrs. Top lvl has large BR & full BA + office.
5204 Cottingham Pl.
Nancie Williams 703-608-6959



Alexandria \$599,000
Alexandria
Beautifully updated home in Governor's Hill. Hardwood floors on main and upper levels Up to date kitchen with granite & Newer Appliances. Unique rear yard w/synthetic turf & concrete. Stamped Patio One owner home.
Bobbazzle54@gmail.com
3372 Wilton Crest Court
Bob Bazzle 703-559-8964



Alexandria/ Rosemont \$774,900
Fabulous Rosemont Colonial with spacious family room, 2 sun rooms, breakfast room. Open floor plan, gleaming wood floors, high ceilings and wide baseboard trim. Off-street parking for two vehicles, but you can leave your car at home, just a short stroll from both King Street and Braddock Road Metro.
118 Walnut
Bob Bomar 703-927-2213
Homesofalexandria.com



Alexandria \$1,300,000
This understated home, in a location that provides maximum privacy, has craft features throughout the main & guest house. Hand painted tiles, artist painted cabinets & ceiling, designer doors & knobs. Add these features to the new paint, refin. hardwoods, new baths w/substantial finishes, the result, a sophisticated, cottage-like feel. 3/4 acre w mature perennial gardens & 9' deep pool.
3601 Tupelo Place
Christine Garner 703-587-4588



Alexandria \$269,900
Wonderful UL 2BR, 1.5 BA, 1 Lvl Condo overlooks courtyard and has an abundance of natural light! Pristine w/ Gleaming Parquet wood flrs. New Heating & Cooling. Fabulous renovated bath. Terrific Old Town Location right off of GW Parkway and only one light to DC. Steps to bike path, river & Shops.
1710 Abingdon Dr.
Lisa McCaskill 703-6156036



MCLEAN, VA \$2,195,000
Want ALL the options-we've got it! Turn-key high-end 4 lvl Colonial in close-in Gated community. 10' ceilings, crown moldings, bow windows & elevator show distinguishing style. Dramatic curved stairwell, custom inlaid marble flrs at entry. Rich Gourmet kit. LL full wet bar! Sound system. Master suite w/3 sided FP, sitting rm, Private Deck, 2 walk-in closets, huge bath. Long d/w +2 car gar
7207 Farm Meadow Ct.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria/Cameron Station \$399,000
Will entertain any offer*
*Opportunity to buy way below market! Inviting open flr plan w/lots of light. Wood flrs, stainless steel appls and gas FP on main lvl. Wood blinds, upgraded light fixtures & neutral paint decor. Master BR has full BA w/sep shower, custom built walk-in closet & extended patio. W/D on BR lvl. 1 car gar + assigned spot. Shuttle to metro. Pool, fitness cntr & so much more! 1 year warranty.
503 Cameron Station Blvd.
Erka Carroll 703-568-7376

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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

A Guide To Enjoying Alexandria in the Spring

FROM PAGE 1

OUTDOORS

Enjoy the last few days of the Cherry Blossom Festival with a Blossoms by Bike Tour from Bike and Roll (703-548-7655) or see the blooms by water with the Potomac Riverboat Company (703-548-9000).

Once the blossoms are gone, check out the tours to Mount Vernon by both companies or rent a bike for the day to tour historic Alexandria at one's leisure.

The Potomac Riverboat Company is now in its second full season of offering water taxi service to Washington Nationals games, and Pirates Cruises begin May 28 and Canine Cruises on June 16. The Skipjack Minnie V is a 90-minute hands-on sailing experience that departs from National Harbor (703-548-9000).

Walking is the best way to see the city and Alexandria Colonial Tours offers several tours in addition to the popular Ghost Tour. Check out the History of Alexandria Tour, the African American History Tour or the Faith and Heritage Tour (703-519-1749).

On one's own, walk across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, through Dyke Marsh or check out the progress on the BRAC project with a visit to the Winkler Botanical Preserve on the city's West End.

The Mount Vernon Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour takes place May 13-15 (www.mountvernon.org).

Volunteer to be an "Angel in the Outfield" buddy or coach for the city's new Miracle League team for disabled children. For more information, contact the Sports Office (703-746-5402) or the Therapeutic Recreation Office (703-746-5422).

THEATRE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria performs



MetroStage, The Little Theatre of Alexandria (above) and Port City Playhouse provide quality theater to Alexandria.

"[title of show]" April 23-May 14 and "Move Over Mrs. Markham" from June 4-25 (703-683-0496).

MetroStage opens "The Real Inspector Hound" April 20, which runs through May 29 (703-548-9044) and Port City Playhouse stages "Mindgame" from May 6-27 (703-838-2880).

MUSIC

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra closes out its regular season May 14-15 and the Children's Festival is June 12 (www.alexsym.org).

The Eclipse Chamber Orchestra performs

April 17 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial (www.eclipseco.org) and the Athenaeum presents its Second Thursday Music Concerts with Flo Anito with Poetry by Cliff Bernier on April 14 (703-548-0035).

And the 500-seat Birchmere is legendary for its variety of musical artists (www.birchmere.com).

FARMERS MARKETS

Alexandria offers several Farmers Markets in Old Town, Del Ray, Upper King Street, Four Mile Run and the West End (<http://alexandriava.gov/FarmersMarket>).

FESTIVALS

Civil War Sesquicentennial events abound, including the signature event on May 21 in Market Square. (For other events see the Civil War calendar page 8.)

Del Ray's popular First Thursday's kick off May 5 with a Health and Wellness theme and The Taste of Del Ray is slated for June 5 (www.visitdelray.com).

The Torpedo Factory Second Thursday art nights take place year round and feature a variety of arts and entertainment (www.torpedofactory.org).



Antiques in Alexandria runs from May 20-22.

HOME & GARDEN

In addition to Virginia Historic Garden Week (www.VAGardenWeek.org), the Spring Garden Market at River Farm is April 14-16 (703-768-5700) and the Carlyle House Annual Garden Day and Craft sale will be held April 16 (703-549-2997).

Antiques in Alexandria, benefiting the Twig, The Lyceum and the Alexandria Association, will be held May 20-22 at the Hilton Mark Center (www.antiquesinalexandria.com) and the city's own Arts and Crafts Festival runs June 18-19 in Market Square.



The Mount Vernon Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour is May 13-15.



The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's Children's Music festival is June 12.



HISTORY

'The War Begun.'

Alexandria is gripped by wartime fever as Fort Sumpter surrenders and Virginia secedes.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

April 1861 began with showers as the dark clouds of war rumbled across the sky. Heavy rains and gusty winds damped the spirits of the city just as folks were looking forward to spring after an unseasonably cold and somber winter. One downpour swelled the Potomac River so much the river lurched forward and swallowed Union Street, the worst flood the city had experienced in 15 years. Driftwood and debris littered the area as standing water stood at three feet at King and Union.

The city's weather seemed a perfect parallel for the nation's political climate. By the middle of April, news of the attack on Fort Sumpter transformed Alexandria from a bastion of Unionists to a hotbed of secession. The Alexandria Artillery fired a seven-gun salute in honor of South Carolina. Yet Alexandria Gazette editor Edgar Snowden was obviously holding out for peace even if was "our painful duty" to report: "The War Begun."

"The only hope we have ever had since the commencement of Secession was founded upon the sober sense of the people in withdrawing States," Snowden wrote on April 17. "We are pleading for peace because war inflicts unutterable injuries upon all, and brings good to no none."

That same day in Richmond, members of a special statewide convention voted to secede from the Union. As news of the secession spread to Alexandria that day, a crowd gathered at the Marshall House Hotel at the southeast corner of King and Pitt to watch

proprietor James W. Jackson hoist a giant Confederate flag at his establishment. To guard what he called the "sacred cloth," he readied a four-pound cannon and positioned it to cover the front of the property. Several Alexandrians responded by displaying American flags at their homes.

By the end of the day, Alexandria was in its own Civil War.

AROUND NOON the next day, Snowden reported the dramatic news that Virginia had passed the ordinance of secession. Almost immediately, crowds began to gather at the newspaper's Prince Street headquarters for extra editions and wartime updates. Some read the news over the shoulder of those in possession of a newspaper. Others read the headlines aloud to those who had gathered to learn the latest.

A state of panic emerged. Mayor William Price urged Alexandria citizens to refrain from saying or doing anything that might provoke violent controversies, and he asked the community to cooperate with all civil authorities. Meanwhile, the mayor asked City Council members to hire eight additional policemen to help maintain order. He also asked parents and guardians to closely observe their children's behavior and keep them off the streets at night.

"For the most part, Mayor Price proved successful," wrote historian James Barber, "even though 'some thoughtless boys' stripped a secession flagpole of its proud banner."

In the pages of the Gazette, Snowden became increasingly militarized. He began lashing out at what he called the "madmen" in Washington who "have been secretly



The Alexandria Gazette's war coverage began on April 13, 1861.

working to effect a permanent dissolution of the government." He decried the "illegal and unconstitutional exercise of power by the authorities at Washington." Many in Alexandria doubtlessly shared his view that the Republicans and Northern sectionalists had struck "a fatal blow" to peace and union. Now that the convention in Richmond had approved the ordinance of secession, Snowden and many others in Alexandria were ready for Virginia to say goodbye to the United States of America.

"Her sons will rally to her defense without distinction of party," he wrote on April 19. "In the wreck of all their hopes for restoration of a National Union, they still have a Commonwealth which they love, and a State to which they owe and gladly yield allegiance."

BY LATE APRIL, the city's business community experienced a lag. Merchants who

SEE CITY IS GRIPPED, PAGE 9

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

APRIL

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

April 30: Did Grandpa Wear Grey or Blue? Civil War Records at the National Archives at the Carlyle House. \$12-\$15, 10-11:30 a.m. 703-549-2997 or www.carlylehouse.org

April 30: Civil War Spotlight Tour - Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. Meet "Henry," Fort Ward's resident artilleryman, through ongoing 30-minute presentations given between 10 a.m. and noon, and then 2 and 4 p.m. Free. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

MAY

May 21: Life in the Civil War Alexandria, a Living History Event -

Market Square. Free, 2-5 p.m. 703-746-4848 or www.historicalexandria.org

May 7: Join the Friends of Fort Ward on "Grapes of Wrath 2," the spring bus tour of Civil War history and a Virginia winery. The theme of Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign will be combined with an afternoon visit to the Philip Carter vineyard in Hume, Virginia. Cost is \$130 prior to April 22, \$140 after that date. Advance reservations required. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

May 21: Family Festival: Spies and Scouts of the Civil War - Carlyle House Historic Park. 2-5 p.m. 703-549-2997 or www.carlylehouse.org

May 25: Alexandria Historical Society presents the free lecture "Alexandria at War: Star of the South and the North" at The Lyceum. Military historian Kim Holien will discuss how the Civil War transformed Alexandria. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. 703-746-4994 or www.alexandriahistorical.org

JUNE

June 4: Civil War Heritage Bike Ride. 703-746-4399 or www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology

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

June 25: Brady's Michigan Sharpshooters - Explore Civil War weapons and tactics with Brady's Michigan Sharpshooters at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. Reenactors from this Union regiment will interpret the unit's specialized weaponry and skills with drill and firing demonstrations. Free. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

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

June 27-July 1: Civil War Kid's Camp -

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. Registration required, \$200 per person. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

JULY

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

AUGUST

Aug. 13: Civil War Camp Day - Fort Ward's largest living history program of the year will feature Union and Confederate camp life with units from the 5th New York "Duryee" Zouaves, the 1st U.S. Artillery, Co. D, and the 17th Virginia Infantry (Fairfax Rifles). Admission is \$5 each for adults and \$10 for families with

children. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 10: Civil War Fashion Show - Carlyle House Historic Park. 2-4 p.m. 703-549-2997 or www.carlylehouse.org

Sept. 24: Civil War Nurses Program - Carlyle House Historic Park. 703-549-2997 or www.carlylehouse.org

OCTOBER

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

DECEMBER

Dec. 10: Christmas in Camp - Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

HISTORY

City Is Gripped by Wartime Fever as Virginia Secedes

FROM PAGE 8

were used to seeing a busy workweek sat idle as food prices skyrocketed. President Lincoln announced a blockade of Southern states — including Virginia — and the establishment of a Potomac flotilla put an end to commerce. Fort Washington greeted visitors with guns and inspections. Federal authorities seized mail boats and communication between Alexandria and Washington ceased. Adams Express Company no longer carried goods across the Potomac River.

Living conditions deteriorated as the nation raced toward war. Business struggled to stay open with fewer customers and insufficient goods. People from the countryside who would have normally come to the market in Alexandria avoided the city for fear that the army would confiscate their horses and carts. Restricted mail service prevented easy communication.

“Honest laboring men are, everywhere, thrown out of employment,” Snowden wrote on April 27. “Even without a battle, incalculable evils are inflicted upon the people.”

Schools across the city closed their doors as boys organized military companies and drilled with stick rifles sporting peg hammers. Even though schoolmaster Caleb

Hallowell maintained a full load of attendees, he wanted to give out-of-town students a chance to return home safely before hostilities made travel impossible. As the nation hurled itself toward war, Hallowell said he found it “almost impossible to direct the minds of pupils to profitable study.”

“A dissolution of the present Union, complete and total, is now inevitable,” Snowden concludes on April 29. “The only real question is, shall it be done peaceably or shall it be accompanied by a most awful civil war?”

Within the next month, Snowden would have an answer to that question.

“A dissolution of the present Union, complete and total, is now inevitable. The only real question is, shall it be done peaceably or shall it be accompanied by a most awful civil war?”

— Alexandria Gazette editor
Edgar Snowden on April 29, 1861



The day after Virginia secedes from the Union, a crowd gathered at the Marshall House Hotel to watch a Confederate flag hoisted above the building.

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OPINION

Simply Disappointing

Sad to report that proposed General Assembly districts are not an April Fool's joke.

By the time the Gazette Packet is delivered to homes and businesses this week, there is a good chance that how you vote and who you can vote for will have changed. No one will have consulted you about this.

Virginia's every-10-year, hyper-partisan process of drawing political districts is in rare form this year. It's all the more disappointing since two years ago, there appeared to be developing consensus that this process should be approached in the best interests of voters.

Instead, the Democrats in control of the Virginia Senate and the Republicans in control of the Virginia House of Delegates have created a nearly obscene mess without even lip service to providing effective representation.

Proposed changes in districts split communities, localities, counties and even precincts and homeowners associations. The City of Alexandria will likely now have three state senators. Arlington, which could be represented by a single state senator in a compact and highly effective district, could instead have as many as three Senate districts within its boundaries. Arlington's primary senate seat, District 31, will now snake along the Potomac River through McLean and Great Falls and actually encompassing part of Sterling, covering three counties in a densely populated area that begs for compact districts.

This means residents of McLean and Great

EDITORIAL

Falls will likely be represented in the Virginia Senate by someone from Arlington, who will try to understand the complexities of three very different counties. The change shifts Janet Howell's district 32 to the west, leaving thousands of residents to get to know new candidates who will likely be focused on other areas first.

Mount Vernon, a highly diverse community, will also have its senate representation split, likely resulting over time in half being represented by someone from the City of Alexandria and half represented by someone from Prince William County, neither with the grasp of community needs that a Mount Vernon centered district would allow.

George Barker's district 39 scoops up parts of Prince William, the least densely populated parts of Fairfax County in Clifton and Fairfax Station, then takes a turn through densely populated Lorton, Newington and Franconia before poking its head into the City of Alexandria. This certainly does not comprise a "community of interest."

If Democratic voters were wealth, this would be the plan to spread the wealth around. Whether that will actually be effective for the Democrats in retaining seats is dubious. We've seen numerous examples of seats specifically drawn to benefit particular candidates or party that fail to hold up.

There are almost as many examples as there are senate seats in Northern Virginia.

There are similar problems with the Republican drawn delegate seats, but the smaller districts make for more compact districts, with the problems a bit harder to cherry pick.

Every seat in the General Assembly will be up for reelection in a few months, with August primaries and caucuses and November general election, which is one reason this process is happening with so little citizen scrutiny. Proposed boundaries will have been public for only a few days, and will be voted on and approved by the end of the week. Homeowners Association presidents who might object to having their neighborhood split won't have time to react, for example.

Is there hope to circumvent the madness for 10 years from now?

It really is time to give control of the redistricting process to an authority that will not consider voting patterns or incumbency, but instead will focus on what will create more effective representation.

Keeping communities of interest together is key. That means not splitting jurisdictions, creating compact shapes, minimizing the distance from one end to the other of populous districts.

But it's unlikely that the winners of the coming elections will be that interested in the project. After all, they will be the beneficiaries of the current flawed process.

It's time for a constitutional amendment that would save us from districts shaped like boa constrictors and clawed dragons a decade from now.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,

ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Increasing Tax Bills

To the Editor:

While the city indicated that average residential real estate assessments have increased only 1 percent this year and initially the City

Council talked of keeping tax rates steady, many Alexandria home owners are going to find a significant increase in their property tax bills this summer. In our neighborhood, assessments rose by 4-6 percent and, if the council goes through with the rate increase which was

proposed at the last minute, we will see our average tax bills go up by \$420. (Even without the rate increase we would be facing a higher tax of almost \$275.)

This is in a city where we now find owns buildings which have been left vacant for 30 years? This in a city where our top-heavy school system and its freewheeling superintendent are proposing a 7 percent increase in its operating budget? (Better to do away with our separate school system and contract the service from Fairfax.) This in a city which is considering spending up to a quarter of a million dollars on archeological research at Fort Ward park? Or millions of dollars on a new waterfront development? Frankly, I have a better use for that \$420 - like putting it in my IRA because I don't have an employer that provides a guaranteed pension like our city employees who are complaining about the prospect of having to shoulder a sliver of their health and retirement benefits.

I urge Alexandria voters to look at their real estate assessments and figure out how large their new taxes are going to be if we don't stop the city council from their dreaming up new ways to spend our money.

Tom Slayton
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot 3:07 p.m., April 3, 200 block of King Street.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

Newspaper of Alexandria

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street
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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
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Photography:
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Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
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Production Manager:
Jean Card

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

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

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
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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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The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-917-6480 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

LETTERS

Income Vs. Expense

To the Editor:

The March 3, 2011 article "Taking a Financial Hit" was disturbing on several counts.

1. Basic financial analysis: The article states employee health insurance contributions will increase from 13 percent to 16 percent, stating "creating an additional \$600,000 in revenue." What is wrong, is this change does not create revenue, it reduces expense. It is hard to have any faith in Mr. Hartmann or his financial staff if they treat the \$600,000 as revenue instead of what really is, an expense reduction. The same is true on pension contributions. Revenue comes strictly from various taxes, fees, licenses and passive sources such as interest on city funds. This is basic financial analysis and is fundamental to clearly understanding the nature of the projected surplus.

2. Withholding: Given the questionable view of income versus expense, is the city in a position to determine if it is exempt from the 3 percent withholding requirements on contract and vendor payments of Section 522 of the Tax Increase Prevention & Reconciliation Act of 2006. Does the city know, or can it even determine, if it spends more or less than \$100,000,000 annually of goods and services.

3. City employees versus the surplus: The article gives the very disturbing impression of city employees thinking they are some how entitled to the surplus. The \$3,000,000 is under 1 percent of the projected budget. That is a very thin margin, which could easily disap-

pear. If gas prices continue to rise, the city's expense will rise in lock step to cover increased fuel costs. Also the city's tourist-based revenue is also at risk as people travel less and have less disposable income.

I hope the new city manager has a better staff and understands the difference between income and expense.

William Blumberg, MBA
Alexandria

Take Long View On Waterfront

To the Editor:

Almost 40 years have passed since Bob Montague and the late Ellen Pickering spearheaded efforts to prevent developers from turning the historic Alexandria waterfront into another Watergate on the Potomac. With the support of residents, toxic industrial sites were turned into attractive public spaces, and an old torpedo factory was transformed into a unique art center and archeology museum (thank you, Marian Van Landingham!), which attracts more than half a million visitors annually.

Now, we are at another tipping point, as city planners and elected officials prepare to conduct public hearings on a new waterfront plan. To many residents, though, the entire two-year planning process has been mostly an attempt to highlight opportunities to exploit the waterfront's commercial value, as if it were a modern office building that we want to lease

at market rates. But, this is not a good model to use if the goal to expand public access to the Potomac River — the real jewel here — so that we all can enjoy it.

For starters, the Council decided to wrest control of the Torpedo Factory Arts Center from the artists, citing its lack of vibrancy and the lost opportunity to generate more revenue and attract more tourists. Economic studies, now a few years old, paint a more flattering portrait though of the center. Not surprisingly, the artistic community, which has helped bring life and tourists to Old Town, feels under siege and under-appreciated.

But the real opportunity — and the biggest threat too — is figuring how to reuse a collection of old buildings and piers, including the two large Robinson Terminal warehouses owned by the Washington Post Corporation. Venues that showcase the town's seaport history are what will attract both residents and tourists to the town and its many small businesses along and off the waterfront. Boutique hotels and town homes clearly do not belong here, nor do shoreline parking lots, even one that is the private property of a historic boat club. But a maritime museum, more parkland, a place to launch and store kayaks, and more art-based activity, do and I think would be economically sustainable too.

Elected officials, however, have so far shown a preference for restaurants and hotels, even if the residential community does not agree.

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



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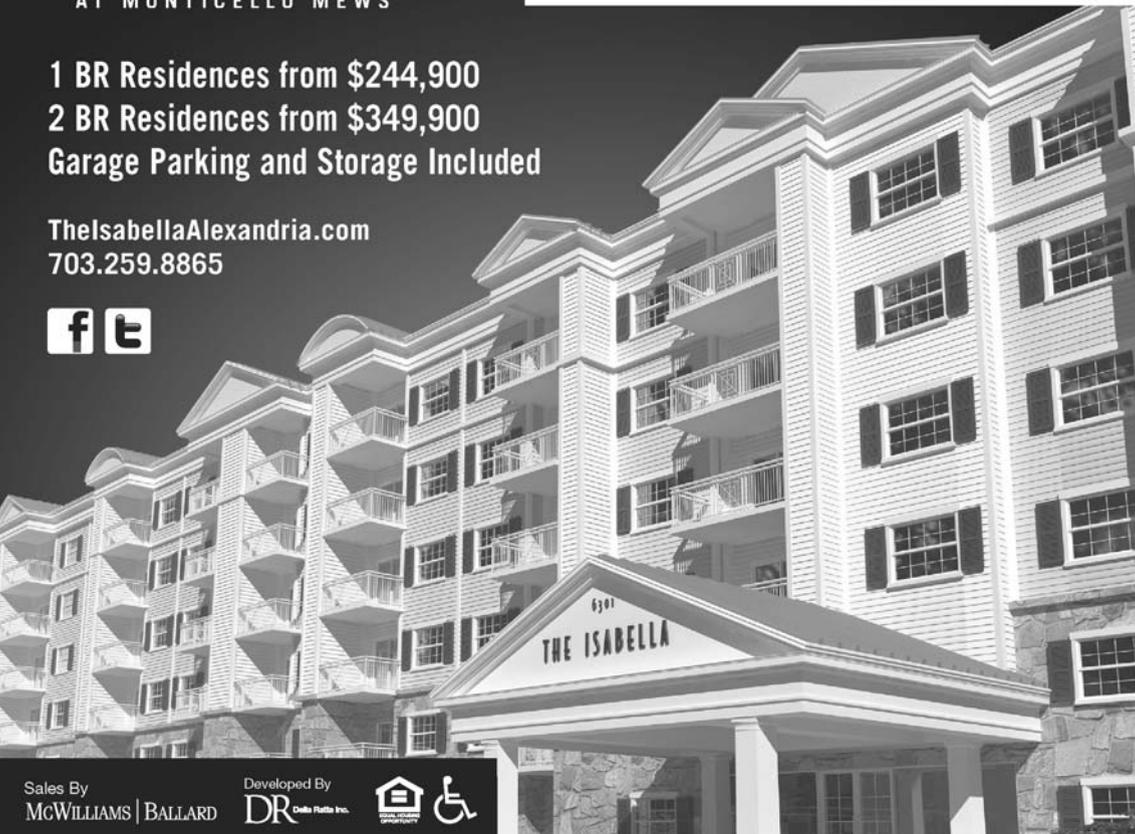
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Healthcare Decisions: Donating Life to Others

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA
HOSPITAL



Kennan Garvey was very active. He rode his bike to work, played various sports, helped the community as a public servant and enjoyed life as a husband and father. He and Libby Garvey, his wife, discussed end-of-life care and the desire to donate their organs to help others who might die without the gift of a second chance at life.

When Kennan died suddenly, Libby admitted it was the most difficult time she has ever been through but what made it a little easier was knowing her husband's wish to be an organ and tissue donor.

Kennan made his healthcare choices in

advance. His decision to be an organ donor brought comfort to the Garvey family because they knew that his last wish was followed. These decisions also brought comfort and life to others who received Kennan's organs and tissues.

Kennan's story highlights the importance of making advance medical directives and choosing

to be an organ donor.

April is National Donate Life Month, a time for families to recognize the importance of organ and tissue donation and make decisions about donating life to others.

With April 16 being National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) it's fitting that we encourage our community to prepare advance medical directives whether they

choose to be an organ donor or not.

An advance medical directive is a legally binding document that allows you to convey your wishes about end-of-life care ahead of time. It provides a way for you to communicate your decisions to your family, friends and healthcare professionals to avoid confusion when difficult health choices need to be made. Advance directives also give you the ability to document the types of treatment you will and will not accept, as well as name a healthcare "agent" to speak for you if you are unable to communicate your wishes. Directives can be filled out without the help of a lawyer and are free.

As a participant of NHDD, Inova Alexandria Hospital will provide much needed information to the public in recognition of NHDD on April 16. The hospital will have informational tables set up in our cafeteria

from April 11-18. Volunteers will also be available to discuss advance directives on April 13.

End-of-life care for a loved one is a difficult decision to make and it becomes even more difficult when these decisions have not been discussed in advance. NHDD at our hospital will allow a greater number of people in the Alexandria community to have open conversations about their healthcare decisions and complete the necessary directives. If just one family doesn't have to grapple with making a difficult end-of-life decision without the guidance of their loved one, we have succeeded.

For more information about NHDD at Inova Alexandria Hospital please contact Anthony Paduano, Patient Relations at 703-504-3128. To learn more about organ donation visit beadonor.org/register.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

Perhaps it is because they cannot take their eyes off glitzy National Harbor across the Potomac, which is a retail theme park with a dock, not a historic waterfront town on the banks of the Nation's River. Whatever the reasons, you get the feeling that they hope developers will do all the real planning and investing. There has been little, if any, room in the planning process for serious debate about alternative concepts as a result. It was a monologue conducted by planners and an expensive consultant.

Of course, there are good ideas in the current plan too. But not enough to justify turning — what the City seems eager to do quickly over the next few months — a weak concept into a comprehensive master plan that we can all get behind. We need to take a step back and consider carefully how we want this waterfront to look in 10 years. Let's preserve the waterfront for things that can be done nowhere else and help sustain its very special public character.

Andrew H. Macdonald

Former Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria

Muddled Thinking Permeates Plan

To the Editor:

Bill Hendrickson's March 31 letter about public access on the waterfront is as unclear and contradictory as the waterfront plan he praises. He is right to observe that the plan is about whether the waterfront will become a much more public place, or a more private one, but the conclusions he draws in his letter leave this reader wondering whether he has looked at the plan at all.

Hendrickson's description of the plan as "very much a public — not a private — development plan" is totally off base. He presents a Faustian bargain between the past, when the city allowed townhomes to be

built on the waterfront, and the present, when the city says that hotels are now better. How about we want neither? The "open space" we gain from this are the promenades of the past, not public parks for the future — we want more parks like Founder's Park, parks where families can bring their kids to play, and people can walk their dogs, and launch kayaks. There are restaurants on the waterfront already. There are hotels on King Street. We should not pave this waterfront over.

Let's put to bed once and for all the notion that the plan is about making the waterfront a much more public resource. The plan is stuck in the development-crazy 1980s, when the city was still relying on the Federal government to save narrow promenades along the waterfront. This form of privatization has been replaced with a new model of privatization called "pay for dinner and you get to see the river."

How can we attract a diverse public to the waterfront with time-share condos and a wine-tasting pavilion? Is this why people come to live in Alexandria? No. The waterfront needs family-friendly activities, for example a museum that offers hands-on exhibits about the history of this town. We don't need inauthentic, "boutique" hotels and restaurants in kitschy buildings designed to "look" like historic Alexandria warehouses.

One of the problems with maintaining a public waterfront is raising revenue. However, I can guarantee that there will be many fewer visitors to Old Town's waterfront if hotels and time-shares appear on the river. Class-conscious development is already causing areas of Old Town to be bulldozed to make way for generic condos. The development along the waterfront is absolutely no different. Hotels and restaurants that offer food at Old Town prices are as bad as townhomes. They are places for the "well-to-do," not for the general public.

Anne Peterson

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 13



Steve O'Briant and Bill Kehoe replace a patio door's framing, which had rotted, preventing the homeowner from using it.

Through the Eyes of a Volunteer

BY VINCE CRISLER
RTA VOLUNTEER

There are few things in life that make you feel better about the future of the human race than observing a group of volunteers in action. I have had the opportunity to witness such a blessing first hand. As co-captain for a Rebuilding Together Alexandria home repair project, I worked with Eric W.* to plan for a work day in a home belonging to a low-income, 58-year-old mother. She definitely needed an "extra boost" on her house to keep her going.

As Eric and I developed plans for what we were going to try to tackle with our team of volunteers we had to work through quite a few variables. When the work day finally came, rain was in the forecast and we still didn't know how many volunteers would show. Within 30 minutes, the small house was beehive of activity. We had over 34 volunteers and still more were showing up. Better yet, it looked like the rain would skip us almost completely, providing the opportunity to get all of the outside work completed. The team in the back-

yard cleaned out piles of brush, years of old toys and rusted lawn furniture, and another adventurous pairing took on complex trim carpentry to fix a poor interior door installation. It was truly an amazing sight to see so many people happily serving someone they had never met!

By the end of the day, our entire "To-Do" list had been completed and the house looked much better than Eric or I expected. When the volunteers finally went home to contemplate their own to-do lists, the homeowner was almost in tears of joy. She was so grateful for all of the work that had been done on her house and was amazed at the joyful spirit displayed by everyone that day. I too was humbled by the amazing power of service that our group of volunteers put on display and will never forget the smile on the face of the homeowner while we walked through her house at the end of the day to show her what had been accomplished. I am already looking forward to our house project this year on April 30.

If you'd like to nominate someone in need, volunteer or donate, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

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

LETTERS

History Should Come First

To the Editor:

I have been circulating a petition against the "Rezoning of the Waterfront" and asking people to sign a form requesting a plan based on arts, history and culture. I think the most important aspect of Alexandria's waterfront is its history, and I would like to make the case, as I believe the "Alexandria Waterfront History Plan" does, that our waterfront is not just the story of Alexandria's history but of America's history. If we change the zoning to allow more density and hotels to be built we are eliminating any option of buying the Robinson Terminal site, or a portion of it for a future museum, and we would not be good stewards of our country's cultural heritage.

Robinson Terminal North, or West Point, is unequivocally the most historic location in Alexandria and so it is the best place to tell the story of Alexandria, George Washington and the formation of the Nation. This is where a Maritime Museum (or history center, as it is called in the plan) should be located. The Virginia Tobacco

Inspection Act of 1730 and the establishment of a tobacco taxing station at West Point and make it the starting point of Alexandria. As the History Plan says "The Waterfront should not appear to be an appendage to the city, rather it should reflect that the city grew from it." That is surely why the history plan suggests making Robinson Terminal North a cultural hub, "as it was from this settlement, at the foot of a rolling road, that Alexandria emerged."

When I am in Founders Park it can be sparsely populated even on a sunny day, and the concentration of visitors is usually to the south end. Now, imagine that this is a grand plaza that connects the Torpedo Factory, our arts center, to the history center, and people are stopped along the way to learn about our founders on a history walk. At the far end, is a museum that unlike many museums, can tell visitors about history on the site where it happened. There are three other reasons why this site is the best for a museum. One is that it comes with one acre of deep water docks that are already built, where tall ships can dock, as opposed to the commercial docks

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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Goodbye, Mary Moore

BY DIANE DIPPOLD
MACINTOSH, PH.D.

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

Spring is here and Mary isn't. There are some people who, after they die, Old Town doesn't seem the same without them. Mary was one of them.

Mary Moore was a force of nature, as was the terrible, swift disease, leukemia, which took her life in January. The problem with Mary's death was that it was so sudden, nobody had a chance to say goodbye. Diagnosed and in the hospital on Friday, she died the next Tuesday.

As news of her death broke, neighbors spontaneously gathered at one another's homes in disbelief. I was the neighbor a few doors down on Queen Street who was supposed to have gone to the movies with her Sunday after the Friday she entered Inova Alexandria.

Mary was friendly to everyone and everyone's friend. Last year she had patronized my Vietnamese hairdresser at Van's on Washington Street once only when her regular stylist was away. Yet Mai

remembered her. Ever the entrepreneur, Mary had scolded Mai for charging so little for such a good cut. When I left Van's the day before Mary's funeral, Mai said, "Tell Mary goodbye for me." Grabbing my arm, she repeated, "No, I mean it. Tell her goodbye for me."

This same entrepreneurial spirit was responsible for Mary's success as a caterer. But she was much more than a caterer; professionally, she was really an event planner. When my husband died on Valentine's Day last year after the back-to-back snowstorms, I was a basket case. Mary stepped in and juggled everything: Demaine's, flowers, St. Joseph's (St. Mary's was being renovated), parking in snow, priests, and the bagpiper in addition to her culinary specialties.

True to form, she made it all seem effortless. When the Post sent a reporter to Gail and Chris Camalier's elegant reception following the funeral, the reporter wanted a picture of Mary working. None could be found. They ultimately ran a shot of her simply smiling, having a good time.

Good times were in her blood.

One of eight children from an Irish Catholic family, Mary told me the eight of them would often break into song at the dinner table, belting out Broadway show tunes. She recounted how at Halloween, when her parents opened the door to find an adult, they'd ask, "Trick or drink?" Timidly, I asked Mary before my husband's reception, "Will we be able to serve wine even though we're on church property?" "Of course, we're going to have booze," she roared. "We're Irish Catholic!" End of story. She knew you had to have fun in life to make it bearable.

While on the outside Mary was fun-loving, sharp-witted, and wise cracking ("Naples is the dowager capital of the United States"), deep down she was loving and kind. She had me to dinner several times soon after my husband died; I know it was out of compassion.

As a social payback and because she had recently lost "Dutch," her aging second German short hair pointer, I took Mary and another neighbor to dinner. We toasted Dutch, Mary noting quite seriously, "He never missed a day of work." (Her "executive secretary," Dutch always rode with Mary in the front seat of her car — tongue out, ears flapping — on the way to and from her commercial kitchen.) She had already gotten another pointer, "Emma," her "first girl," who brought her much joy, but she was not ready to let Dutch go.

I will let Mary's heart of gold speak for itself in her thank-you note to me:

I'm sorry this note is so long coming. I'm blaming all my bad behavior and lapses in good manners on the fact that I've become a new mother at 60. Have you ever tried to write anything with a puppy chasing the end of your pen? It's a colossal joke to Emma.

Thank you for a lovely evening. It was fun spending time with you and Karen. The Bosnian restaurant was really good, and the company couldn't have been better.

Thank you for remembering my dear Dutch. I will always love him.

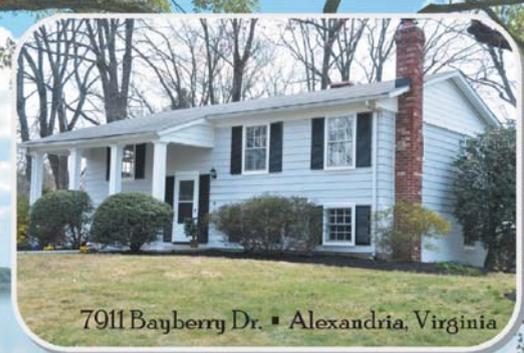
Sincerely,
Mary

As her casket was wheeled down the aisle after Mass, several people reached out and patted it affectionately. I had never seen that before. I guess that was their way of saying goodbye. And maybe this is mine. So goodbye, Mary Moore, from me and ... ah yes, goodbye from Mai.



Mary Moore

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OPEN SUN. 2-4



Alexandria
2509 Clay Street

Beautiful Jefferson Park! Summer's coming soon. Join us on Sunday to see this beautiful house with tennis courts and a park right next door, and its very own in ground pool. Newly resided with Hardiboard. Large MBR / BA suite, 2 additional bedrooms, bathroom on upper level. Finished lower level with den, recreation room and full bath. Formal dining room, separate living room, family room and 1/2 bath on main level. Location and Beauty!

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1500 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

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Liz Bucuvalas 703-626-8400



Heritage Hill
\$399,000

5793 Heritage Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310
Commuter's Dream. 3 bedrooms, 3 level, 2 full and 2 half bath townhouse. Nestled in trees close to Huntington Metro. New double paned windows and freshly painted.



Gayl Warman
703-309-8792



Old Town \$3,900,000
414 Franklin Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Seller Wants to Sell! Willing to offer owner-held financing for the entire first trust at only 2.5% for 7 years! This is a fabulous financing opportunity for one of Old Town's finest landmark homes.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Mt. Vernon Forest \$619,000
4105 Tidewater Court, Alexandria, VA 22309

Open Sunday 1-4pm. Renovated inside and out! This 4 bedroom, 3 bath and 2 car garage home sits on a landscaped half-acre lot in a quiet cul-de-sac. Features new kitchen, baths, patio, windows, roof & siding.



Cindie Fish 703-201-4451



Pettits Landing \$885,000
8355 Justin Court, Alexandria, VA 22309

Big, bright and beautiful on a cul-de-sac! Large kitchen with island, Trex deck with spectacular backyard and 4 large spacious bedrooms with huge closets. 3.5 baths, luxury owners suite & walk out lower level.



Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Townes at Cameron Parke \$449,900
3818 Dominion Mill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22304

Just Listed! Gorgeous, light-filled 3 level townhome with 3 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Offers HW flrs, spacious eat-in kitchen with granite, 9+ ft ceilings, crown molding, 2 car garage & more! Centrally located. Just minutes to Old Town, metro, parks & PTO.



Joy Deevy 703-930-5198



Fort Hunt \$684,000
8311 Crown Court Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

Great Value! This spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has 2 car garage, sunroom, new hardwoods, deck, and fenced-in rear yard. Move in ready & located on cul-de-sac around the corner from Stratford Elementary. Feels like Mayberry!



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



Collingwood Estates \$599,900
1121 Anesbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

Just Listed. Open Sunday 1-4pm. Very large four bedroom, three bath, two level rambler in Wayneswood School District. New roof, newer windows and HVAC. Upgraded insulation, hardwoods, den, deck & gazebo.



Ed Pagett 708-518-6161



Belle Haven \$559,000
2328 Windsor Road, Alexandria, VA, 22307

Exceptional Value! Open Sunday 1-4pm. Delightful 4 bedroom, 3 bath split level in Belle Haven! Freshly painted interior, updated kitchen, lovely screened porch, private patio & professional landscaping.



Jeanne Warner 708-980-9106



The Plaza \$285,000
803 North Howard Street, #262, Alexandria, VA

Pristine 2 bedroom and 2 bath condo. Separate dining room, updated kitchen and appliances. Fresh paint, neutral carpet & some hardwoods. Washer/dryer, extra storage, garage parking & easy metro access.



Fran E. Orr 703-328-7041



South Kings Station \$345,000
6501 Brick Hearth Court, Alexandria, VA 22306

Delightful end townhome in popular South Kings Station. Completely updated and move in ready! Spacious 3 levels with large patio & den that converts into bedroom. Great location, convenient to everything.



Karen Leonard 703-328-7041



Lynhaven
\$459,000
232 Lynhaven Drive, Alexandria, VA 22305

Just Listed. Close-in Del Ray location. Unique end unit townhome with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, fresh paint & HW on main level. Granite kitchen, deck off family room, rec room & walk-out to 2 car parking in rear. No HOA fees!



Sherry York
703-409-3377

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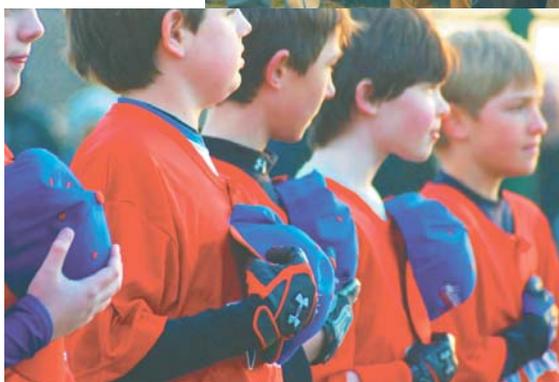
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SPRING FUN



Play Ball

Guest speaker Steve Colantuoni addresses the crowd at the ceremony marking the field upgrade project at the Ben Brenman Sporting Complex. The Alexandria Little League's inaugural game under the lights was Friday, April 1 with A.A. Beiro Construction vs. Virginia Concrete.

PHOTOS BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

The Virginia Concrete team members hold their hats to their chests during the National Anthem.

Mathew Rhodes is first batter up from the Virginia Concrete team.



BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

EVERY THURSDAY

Environmental Activists Needed. 6 to 9 p.m. Clean up the community, the country, the 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 571-970-0257 or phillip.ellis@sierraclub.org.

ONGOING

Job opportunities for the summer 2011 are available at the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Positions offer flexible schedules, competitive wages, and range from camp leaders to lifeguards, and cashiers to pool managers.

To see what the Department offers, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation. Positions are open until filled. Call Wendy Irving, Human Resources Technician, at 703-746-5513.

Registration for spring and summer classes and activities opened on March 30 for City residents, and on April 1 for

nonresidents. This spring and summer, youth through senior adults can choose from more than 100 classes, and youth can enroll in more than 40 camps and out of school time programs. For more information, browse the class offering and to register, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Free tax preparation assistance is available to low-income residents through April 13 at the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Low-income City residents can get help filing federal and state income tax returns and applying for all applicable credits and deductions on Saturday mornings beginning at 9 a.m. and Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking preparers will be available. To request a reasonable disability accommodation or to receive materials in an alternative format, contact Suzanne Kratzok, Coordinator of Community Resources, at 703-746-5663 (703.836.1493 TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the session one wishes to attend.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Lupus Support Group. 7 p.m. Meets at Beatley Library the third Tuesday of the month. The topic session: "Managing Transitions." At 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 202-349-1176 or 1-888-349-1167 or e-mail info@lupusdmv.org.

Spring Volunteer Clean Up Day. 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers needed to help with beautifying Sherwood Regional Library. Contact Barbara Sullivan 703-303-4060, or info@mountvernonathome.org

SUNDAYS THROUGH APRIL 10

Lenten Vespers. 6 p.m. Vesper services are based on the principles of ancient-future worship which incorporates the rites and elements that go back centuries, if not thousands, of years — candles, incense, sung Scripture, cantor-lead singing and recitation, and ancient hymns. Contact the church at www.wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Local Groups Use Spring Events To Raise Money

FROM PAGE 5

ries "Raising Hope." Garcia has maintained ties to his home community. Along with the walk-on spot, clothes from the show's child actors are being donated as well.

Garcia said, "I'm happy to provide this support; I know New Hope Housing does important work, and I'm pleased to be able to help them and to help people in the community where I grew up. I wish them great success with this year's gala."

Garcia has been a friend of New Hope Housing for several years. His earlier network shows included the Emmy Award-winning "My Name Is Earl" and "Camden County." In 2008 a team of cast members from the "My Name Is Earl" show competed on Celebrity Family Feud and won \$25,000 that Garcia donated to New Hope Housing.

"All of us at New Hope Housing really appreciate Greg's support and his interest in helping us," said Pamela Mitchell, New Hope Housing's executive director. "He is a talented and generous friend. I've known Greg's mom, Natalie, a local Realtor, for several years, and we look forward to having her and her friends with us for the Gala as well."

Proceeds will benefit New Hope Housing's programs bringing hope and hospitality to hundreds of homeless families and individu-



Guests gather for last year's Fiesta Cinco de Mayo at Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota.

als each year.

For information on this year's Gala, including the Raising Hope walk-on auction opportunity, visit www.newhopehousing.org, or call 703-799-2293.

FIESTA CINCO DE MAYO

This annual event benefits Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc., an organization that manages the Arlandria Health Center to provide accessible, coordinated, community-based primary health care, including behavioral health and oral health, to people in Alexandria and sur-

rounding communities.

The event will be held on Thursday, May 12, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota, 3750 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria. Join them for food, wine and beer, music, and a silent auction.

Once again, a one-week vacation at a two-bedroom private villa in Santorini, Greece overlooking the Aegean Sea will be the featured item in this year's auction. There are also other opportunities to bid on places to go that are closer to home.

Cost is \$65 per person. If interested in sponsoring and/or donating to this event, e-mail cincodemayoalex@aol.com or call 703-360-438.

CATCH THEM YOUNG, INC.

On Saturday, May 14, Catch Them Young, Inc. will hold a fundraiser at 6 p.m. at The Westin Washington National Harbor, 171 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Md. Come out and enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing to DJ, guest speakers and fun.

This event will benefit the organization that is committed to making a difference in the lives of youth. Catch Them Young, Inc. trains youth to overcome the challenges that they must meet to live productive lives.

Donation of \$55 is required. For more information, visit <http://www.catchtheyoung.org> or call 240-988-8625.

PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO / THE GAZETTE

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2947 HICKORY STREET
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NEW PRICE! OPEN SUN!

2205 Basset St \$698,500
Total Renovation! Prime Location! SELLER MOVING-REDUCED PRICE MAKES THIS FAB 3LVL COLONIAL BEST VALUE IN AREA! Totally renovated and updated from top to bottom. Custom features include: brick exterior, bright, open floor plan, hardwood floors, 3.5 updated baths, 4 bedrooms w/luxurious master suite, 2FPs and fin LL. Prime cul-de-sac location. Fenced level lot. Move In Ready! OPEN SUN 4/10, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Stratford; L-Basset.

JUST LISTED! OPEN SUN!

8705 Yardley Dr \$555,950
Redecorated Inside and Out! One of Stratford Area's Best Values! The wallpaper is gone-the interior is freshly painted. No distractions to fully appreciating this fabulous home! Numerous special features include: great room with exceptionally large window wall, eat-in kitchen with gas cooking, large master suite with private deck, finished lower level family room with fireplace, covered parking, magnificent grounds with private backyard. OPEN SUN 4/10, 1-4. GW Pky S; R-Stratford; L-Camden; R-Wittington; L-Yardley.

OPEN SUN!

1907 Rampart Dr \$675,000
Expanded and Updated! One of the most truly spectacular properties in Ft. Hunt area! Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Back of home was expanded resulting in breathtaking, glass walled, open kitchen/family room and main level master suite. Fabulous features include: updated gourmet kitchen w/granite and custom cabs. Expansive deck! Great location! OPEN SUN 4/10, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate; R-Old Mill; L-Union Farm.

JUST LISTED! CONTRACT!

8900 Camden St \$698,500
Spectacular Property-Super Value! Stately, columned Mt. Vernon colonial on gorgeous, elevated corner lot in premier Stratford location. Numerous special features include: bright, open floor plan, stunning family/sun room, 6 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen, 2 car garage. Ultimate privacy for deck and backyard. Unique opportunity!

JUST LISTED!

3932 Ft Worth Ave \$959,000
Updated Colonial - Seminary Ridge
Exciting new listing! Spacious 3LVL colonial in prime Seminary Ridge location. Home is in pristine condition with many fabulous features including: 4 large BRs, updated white kitchen, newly finished hardwood floors, luxurious master suite and oversized 2 car gar. Deck overlooks private grounds. Walk to St. Stephens/St. Agnes School.

JUST LISTED!

4214 Dandridge Ter \$545,900
Stately Colonial - Great Price!
Unique opportunity-three level colonial with huge potential priced to make it one of the area's best values! Features include exceptionally large room sizes, hardwood floors on 2 levels, first floor family room with FP, 4BRs including master with private bath. Walk-out LL, walk-in attic and 2 car garage. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in fabulous Southwood.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2704 DARTMOUTH RD #3 / Alex. City \$272,000
Quiet courtyard view from new balcony of this charming 2BR. Updates include new carpet, newer appl & HVAC, fresh neutral paint & updated bath. W/D in unit. EZ access to Old Town, BRAC facility@Mark Ctr, Metro. Priced to sell.
Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282

128 N UNION ST #TH-128 Torpedo Factory / Alex \$649,900
THE BEST OF OLD TOWN Located one block from River & King St - maintenance free living & 3 lvs at the top of Torpedo Factory incl: open floor plan, frpl, hardwoods, top floor loft w/cathedral ceilings & full bath. Plus there are 2BRs w/priv. full BAs, priv. brick patio & garage parking.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1109 N PITT ST #1B Canal Place / Alex \$324,900
If you like to cook, you'll love this kitchen! Custom granite/cherry/stainless, double oven, wine rack, built-in micro, cooktop. 1 BR condo. Custom built bkcases/wardrobe. Just refinish wood floors. \$100,000+ in remodel & upgrades. Assigned prkg, X-storage, 2 lites to DC, 2 blks to River, 1 blk to jog/bike path. EZ Metro.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

6004 LINCOLNIA RD Alexandria City \$459,900
Elegantly designed w/unique mouldings, arched windows & wood flrs. This 2 garage Brick home shows like brand new w/the recently installed carpet, SSA, fixtures & fresh paint. The mstr suite w/dual vanity, Jacuzzi & sep shower incl. loft. Outdoor space incl. deck or patio.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

Unit #611 \$399,000
Beautiful 2 BR / 1.5 BA corner unit. Nice open floor plan w/1,000 sqft of living space opening to lg balcony. Marble foyer, updated kit w/SSA, granite & full size stacked W/D. Spacious MstrBR w/ample closet space. Amenities incl: pool, hot tub, sauna, party & exercised rooms. 2 prkg spaces. 1 blk to Braddock Metro.

BOTH UNITS at 1200 BRADDOCK PL Alexandria

Unit #606 \$300,000
Sunny 1BR unit just 1 blk from Metro. HW flr in living rm, updated painted kit w/silestone/quartz counters, SS undermount sink, New GE appl. incl. bottom freezer/frig w/icemaker, breakfast bar. Full size W/D. All new light fixtures thru-out + under cabinet lighting. BA w/jack&jill doors, Jacuzzi, new paint. All 4 closets w/custom elfa shelving. Private balcony - grilling allowed - prkg.

SOLD!

8714 Bluedale St
7406 Rippon Rd
7106 Colgate Dr
2335 Creek Dr

SOLD!

4117 Robertson Blvd
8826 Camden Rd
8310 Riverside Rd
8949 Fort Hunt Rd

SOLD!

9316 Heather Glen Dr
9212 Cherrytree Dr
6515 Princeton Dr
4504 Neptune Dr

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

237 WESMOND DR Alexandria \$349,900
Beautifully updated 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Hardwood family room. Off street parking.

7325 REBECCA DR Hollin Hills \$899,000
One of only 5 cust. homes by Charles Goodman. Upscale & modern 3BR/2BA; 3,000 sqft incl. mstr suite w/frpl & BA w/heated flrs; slate, wood & flagstone flrs; open living/dining; eat-in kit; deck; & more!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

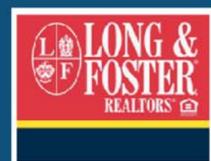
2519 AVON LN Falls Church \$834,900
Elegant custom colonial, built in 2008 by Stanley Martin, shows like a model home! Features 5BR/4.5BA, wonderful open flr plan, gourmet kit, & lots of natural light. 4th level loft w/sitting rm, BR & priv BA is perfect au-pair/in-law suite. Just minutes to Tysons, I-495, I-66 & the Toll Road.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

6108 REDWOOD LN Alexandria \$599,000
• Wilton Woods
• Close to Metro
• 4 bedrooms/2.5 baths
• 3 levels
• Lots of Upgrades + New Kit, Roof & Siding
• 2 Car Garage
• ALL UNDER \$600,000.
Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

921 CAMERON ST Old Town / Alex \$999,900
Multifamily. Completely renovated 2BR/2BA unit on upper level with gourmet kitchen & master bedroom. Lower level w/3 office spaces, 2 half baths & workroom. Rental apartment w/sep entrance included. RM zone.

6101 EDSALL ROAD #607 / Alex \$265,000
Spacious unit in popular West End bldg features new appls incl W/D, Corian, renovated baths, new lighting fixtures, full-size wet bar, gleaming Hdwd floors in Dining & Living rooms, 40' balcony off living room & bedrooms, 2 parking spaces, fitness center, pool, 1 mi - Van Dorn Metro, rush-hr buses, near B'way, 395, Pentagon & Old Town



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314
703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303
www.OldTownAlexandria.com



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

that are proposed near Robinson Terminal South that may or may not get permission from the National Park Service to be built. These docks are here and already promised as part of the current 1983 settlement agreement.

Second is that there is already a transportation link to the site in the railroad track that will no longer be needed to bring in paper once the warehouse is con-

verted. It was even suggested in the history plan that these tracks could be used to bring in historic railroad cars to a museum site. Alexandria's waterfront was once a major hub of railroads, and famous as the location where Lincoln's Funeral car was built, so it might be a maritime and railroad museum. Eventually the track could also be converted to provide a modern transportation link to the Braddock Metro which would not be far from their cur-

rent configuration, meaning a visitor could get off at King Street, walk or ride the trolley, cross Founders Park to the Museum, and then take a street car back to the Metro. I do not believe that any parking would be needed for a museum, so this would eliminate any fear of additional car trips.

The third reason to locate this museum at this site is that it could begin by using the existing warehouses. Like the Torpedo Factory was created in an old munitions

plant that had been turned into the Federal Records Center, a Maritime Museum could begin life in an underused warehouse. Although I predict that like the Torpedo Factory, it would not take long for its success and positive impact on businesses to attract interest in improvements. Unlike a hotel that must be built quickly in order to recoup its investment, a museum can be built gradually and with community support and involvement. In the supplementary materials released recently the Planning Department rejects any suggestion of a museum by saying it would cost \$50 million to build, and visitors would arrive by motorcoach. This is of course not backed up by any study, as this option was never considered as part of the plan, and seems intended to scare supporters of a museum. If the city does not change the zoning, perhaps the Washington Post (who owns the property) could be convinced to lease it at low cost to a museum.

The head of the Alexandria Bicentennial Commission, James W. Goldsmith, wrote in 1975 in his introduction to the book "Old Alexandria, Where America's Past is Present" that "What frustrates those of us who live and work here is that for too many of our visitors walk unseeingly or unknowingly past dozens of America's historical and cultural gems ... when here we stand at the real heart of the American experience." Therefore, as the history plan suggests "The city should explore a special Art, History and Cultural areas to administer the waterfront and to develop financial opportunities for it." I believe it should do this before turning the tide toward commercial development by adding density and adding hotels.

"George Washington saw Alexandria and eventually the new Federal district, as poised for rapid growth into a major city of international importance," it says in the history plan. Washington included it in his plan for the Federal City, so we might say that Washington, D.C., is located where it is because George saw it as an extension of his hometown. We should abide by the principle stated in the history plan "to first do no harm." By changing existing agreements we invite development and unintended consequences, whereas if we leave the current zoning we will have a fighting chance of exploring all options for important sites like West Point. It is not far from the anniversary April 16, 1789, when George Washington waved from the dock at West Point on his way to New York to become the first President of the United States, which should give us pause

when we consider the best use for this site.

Boyd Walker

Stop Child Abuse Now

To the Editor:

More than 8,700 children were reported as neglected or abused last year in Northern Virginia. On any given day, over 800 local children are in foster care, and one-third of all children in Northern Virginia qualify for free or reduced price school lunches.

We live at an incredibly fast pace here in Northern Virginia, struggling to balance work and parenting and the countless challenges of daily life. But no matter how fast the world might be moving around us, it is critical that we take time every day to focus on children.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and here in our Northern Virginia community that means that a local group — SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia — is working especially hard to get messages of prevention and support to families across our region. SCAN's Pause for a Child campaign is a fantastic reminder to all of us that it only takes a pause to make a difference.

A simple pause can be critical for a parent when responding to a child's tantrum, or life-changing when reacting to a sign of child abuse. It is one of the most basic things we can each do to help prevent child abuse and neglect before it ever occurs.

This April, we invite you to take a pause for the children in your own life, and be a part of SCAN's exciting campaign. Look for the blue pinwheel - the new nationwide symbol for the support of child abuse prevention - in your own community. You can even download a worksheet to create a pinwheel with a child you know on SCAN's campaign site, www.pauseforachild.com

Through SCAN's work, we have seen the transformative power of a pause lead to more positive parenting and stronger families. Please make April the month when you start supporting a true leader in local child abuse prevention. Learn more at www.pauseforachild.org.

Rep. Jim Moran (D-8)
Rep. Frank D. Wolf (R-10)
SCAN Honorary Board of Directors

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 29

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

INVITATION TO Open House-Open Hearts

April 10, 2011

Open House-
Open Hearts
2011

The pantry is bare and we need your help!

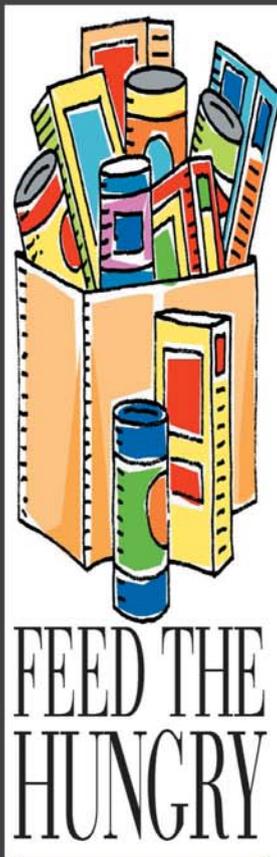
Please join us at the Open House-Open Hearts Charity Event to help fill the Food Pantry at UCM. United Community Ministries is a wonderful local organization that works hard to fulfill many roles in the community, including helping to feed those that cannot afford to feed themselves.

We have arranged for live music, wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and a great silent auction featuring services and products from local businesses. You can find a list of our sponsors and a partial list of the auction items at the event website.

Come spend some time with us on Sunday the 10th from 2 until 5 pm working to fill the food pantry. Please bring a bag of non-perishable food items like soup, cereal, tomato sauce, macaroni & cheese, or other items on UCM's list to get into the event.

See you on Sunday the 10th!

Daniel Sanders, Elizabeth Lucchesi and the UCM Organization



How Do I Attend?

Send us and email with your name and number by clicking the email button to the right, or call 703-447-4575.



When and Where?

Date: April 10, 2011
Time: 2pm—5pm
Location: 3205 Circle Hill Road
Alexandria, VA 22305

What is Open House-Open Hearts? This event combines the best elements of a real estate open house, a charity auction and the opportunity for everyone to participate in making our community better.

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Dual Premieres To Launch Next Signature Season

Two new musicals open in August.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Signature Theatre in Arlington has long been known for introducing brand new musicals. But even this company, which won the Tony Award as the outstanding regional theatre in America two years ago, is doing something different by premiering two new musicals simultaneously to kick off its 2011-2012 season.

Each will be directed by recipients of multiple Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Direction of a Musical, and will play rotating schedules in Signature's larger space in Shirlington, The MAX, beginning this August.

Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, six-time winner of the award, will be directing "The Hollow," a musical based on Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Frequent Signature guest director Joe Calarco, who won the award four times for work at Signature, will mount a musical version of Joe Meno's novel "The Boy Detective Fails."

"The Hollow," based on Irving's story of Ichabod Crane and the headless horseman, will have a script by Hunter Foster and a score by Matt Conner, both of whom are known to Signature regulars.

Foster starred in Signature's 2008 production of "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and most recently starred on Broadway in "Million Dollar Quartet," which was directed by Schaeffer. "The Hollow" won't be the first musical for which he's written the script. He also wrote the musical "Summer of '42."

Conner is even better known to Signature regulars, and not just because he's frequently found playing the piano in the lobby before shows there. He's often featured in the ensemble of musicals and he's the composer of the musical "Nevermore" for which he set the poems of Edgar Allan Poe to music.

These aren't the only new musicals in Signature's season. Those who enjoyed "The Fix" when Signature presented it in their old space back in 1998, and "The Witches of Eastwick" in the new space in Shirlington in 2007, will be de-

lighted to know that the new musical by their composer Dana Rowe and lyricist John Dempsey will premiere here in February, 2012. It is titled "Brother Russia" and presents the life story of Grigori Rasputin as told by a Russian theater troupe set to rock-infused songs. Schaeffer will direct this premiere as well.

Schaeffer will also direct a new production of a well known major musical, "Hairspray" with songs by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. "Hairspray" played over six years on Broadway, making it the 20th longest running show in Broadway history. It won seven Tony Awards including those for best musical, best book and best score in 2003. Signature's production is slated to open this November.

Signature's resident director Matthew Gardiner will be at the helm in April of 2012 for the area premiere of the surprise Broadway hit of 2007 based on a failed disco movie "Xanadu." Gardiner will also direct the world premiere of a non-musical, a piece titled "Really Really" which is described as telling of "when the party of the year results in the regret of a lifetime."

Another non-musical set for the season is the Tony Award winning Best Play of 2009, Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage." Reza's earlier hit, "Art" is one of the final shows of the current season, now in previews before an official opening next weekend. Like "Art," "God of Carnage" has been translated from Reza's native French by Christopher Hampton. It will open in Signature's smaller space, the ARK, next April.

The one surprise in the company's mainstage schedule for the season is the absence of a musical by Stephen Sondheim. This will be only the third season since Signature's first musical was produced in 1991 that won't have a full production of a Sondheim musical. However, the company will be presenting a concert version of Sondheim's 1953 musical "Saturday Night" for four performances in October. It is a musical which was to be his first production on Broadway, but the death of its producer resulted in the termination of the project before it reached the stage. It wasn't produced until 40 years later.

Garden Events Sprout

April 16 festivities highlight the spring season.

Visitors will revel in the splendor of spring with a colorful variety of garden events throughout Alexandria. The season's cornerstone garden event is the annual Historic Alexandria House and Garden Tour which invites the public to saunter through Old Town's walled gardens, intimate courtyards, and stately historic homes. Elsewhere in town, green thumbs and plant lovers will stock up on greenery, flowers, and other garden goods at special sales at Carlyle House, River Farm, and Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens. Visitors are invited to tour these properties and talk to gardening experts. Hands-on activities for kids at Carlyle House and educational tours at Mount Vernon will get the whole family into the fun.

Find these garden events and more springtime fun at www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

Historic Alexandria House and Garden Tour

When: Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Refreshments 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Old Town Alexandria

Admission: Self-guided tour of six homes and refreshments \$35 in advance, \$40 day of tour. Single house or garden admission \$20

Information: VAGardenWeek.org; 703-746-3301

Six of Old Town Alexandria's finest historic homes and gardens are open to the public in this highlight of Alexandria's glorious spring season. The tour is part of the 78th Annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia, the oldest and largest house and garden tour in the nation.

The six houses represent some of the finest and earliest structures in the Old Town district, with the houses built between 1796 and 1856. A fine example of a Georgian home built in 1800 and later occupied by Hugo Black, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, has expansive grounds, including a 19th-century guesthouse and boxwood-rimmed rose garden. The interior of the home built in 1796 has been restored to that period and features carved wooden fireplace mantels and faux wood painting by a fifth-generation artisan who restored the wood graining at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Tickets may be purchased on the tour day at any of the houses on the tour and at the Alexandria Visitor's Center. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.VAGardenweek.org and at the following locations in Old Town Alexandria: The Alexandria Visitor's Center (221 King Street), The Athenaeum (201 Prince Street), Market Square Shop (202 King Street), and The Enchanted Florist (139 S. Fairfax Street). Ticket price is \$35 in advance and \$40 the day of the tour. Single house or garden admission, \$20.

Friends of Carlyle House Herb Sale

Plus hands-on activities for kids

When: Saturday, April 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria



Admission: No admission required to shop plant sale or to take part in kids' activities. Admission charged for house tour: Ages 13 and over, \$5; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 4 and under, free. (Admission for house tour is included in \$40 ticket for Historic Alexandria House and Garden Tour)

Information: CarlyleHouse.org; 703-549-2997

Herbs and perennials from the gardens and greenhouses of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate are on sale as well as a variety of local jewelry, home goods, and crafts for sale by local artisans and merchants. Sales of herbs and plants raise money to support the preservation of Carlyle House. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer horticultural questions. While at the sale, be sure to check out the hands-on activities for kids and take a tour of Alexandria's oldest home, the Carlyle House.

Spring Garden Market at River Farm

When: Friday, April 15, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Where: River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria

Admission: Free admission; \$3 public parking
Information: AHS.org; 703-768-5700

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) presents the Spring Garden Market at its River Farm headquarters. More than 20 vendors from throughout the mid-Atlantic region are on hand

SEE GARDEN, PAGE 23



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

A KITCHEN GUILD

This is one-stop shopping at it's best. The Kitchen Guild has almost 60 years of experience making kitchens and baths beautiful. From award winning designers and knowledgeable carpenters to an extensive selection of products and accessories - they have it all.
1011 King Street, 703.518.5006, kitchenguild.com

B FINISH CARPENTRY AND TRIM WORKS

Phillip Norris grew up in Alexanria and has been a carpenter in town for 28 years. His meticulous nature steered him towards specializing in Finish Carpentry and he enjoys adding the custom touches that make a project unique.
703.684.5215, finishcarpentry1@verizon.net

B R. BRATTI ASSOCIATES

R. Bratti Associates is a fourth generation Alexandria business. Their huge selection of stone products are suited for kitchen and bath counter tops, full stone slab showers or any custom stone work your project requires.
401 East Glebe Road, 703.549.1135, rbratti.com

C ALEXANDRIA KITCHEN & BATH STUDIO

Georges Delaume has been overseeing kitchen installations for over 30 years. He and his team of designers and tradesmen are known for being efficient, fast, careful and experienced. They offer some of the finest quality cabinetry on the market: Wood-Mode, Brookhaven, Quality Custom Cabinetry to name a few.
1502 King Street, 703.549.1415

E STONE STYLE

If your dream kitchen includes stone, then Stone Style is the place for you. Brikan Ustaavci and his team offer an extensive line of granites, marble, travertine, limestone and slate from around the world. Put it together with tiles, custom cabinetry and kitchen plumbing fixtures and they will design your vision.
604 South Washington Street, 703.299.0617, stonestyledesign.com



D SOUTHERN KITCHENS, INC

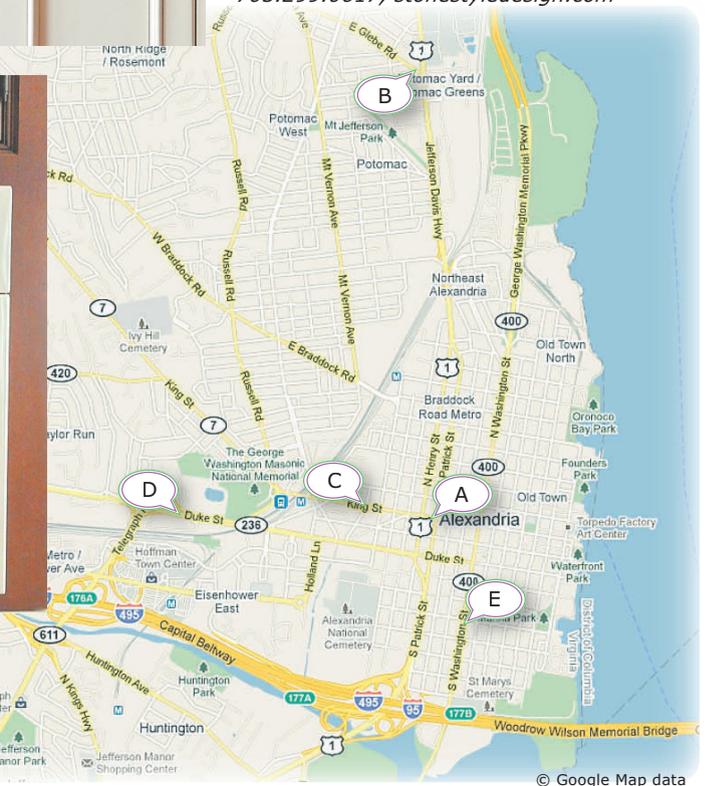
Bob and Bill Rymiszewski come well recommended by architects and contractors. Among many words of advice: instead of multiple dishwashers, splurge on an Aga. Use the sink or range as a focal point like a piece of furniture. Splurge on hardware as an inexpensive way to make a statement. Most importantly, bring clippings as ideas into your consultation.
2350 Duke St # A, 703.548.4459, southernkitchens.net

Photos by Louise Krafft

Talk of the Town

Kitchen Talk

Everyone knows by now that The Wanderer loves to eat. As much as he loves dining out, he often enjoys showing off his culinary talents at home. But his kitchen needs a facelift worse than he does. He needs professional advice to bring his well worn kitchen into this century. After all, the hearth is where the home is.



© Google Map data

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Garden Events Sprout

FROM PAGE 21

selling a wide variety of plants, including natives, perennials, shrubs, herbs, vegetables, annuals and roses, as well as garden supplies and unique garden art. Master Gardeners have a booth onsite to answer gardening questions.

Spring Plant Sale at Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens

When: Saturday, April 9, to Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Where: Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon

Admission: No admission required to shop plant sale. (Admission to Estate included in \$40 ticket for Alexandria House and Garden Tour)

Information: MountVernon.org; 703-780-2000

This once-a-year sale features a collection of gardening tools, gadgets, books, seeds, plants, pots, hats, gloves, and more. Also included in this sale are plants and herbs grown at George



Carlyle House

Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

Garden and Landscape Tours at Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens

When: April 1-Oct. 31, 11 a.m. daily

Where: Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon

Admission: Included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; children ages 6-11, \$7; children under 5 are admitted free. (Admission included in \$40 ticket for Alexandria House and Garden Tour)

Information: MountVernon.org; 703-780-2000

This 30-minute guided walking tour examines George Washington's brilliant design for the grounds around his Mount Vernon estate. Visit the gardens he created, see some of the original trees, and learn how he merged areas for work and leisure to create a master plan for his beloved home.

FINE ARTS

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.

NOW THROUGH MAY 1

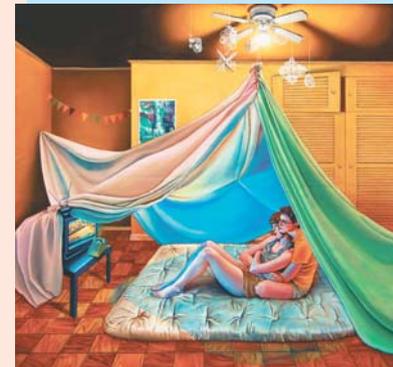
It's Only Rock 'n' Roll, But I Like It! Del Ray Artisans' April show, pays homage to all things Rock 'n' Roll. All-media show, juried by Fierce Sonia and Jen Chappell. A day of rock-themed movies is planned for Sunday, April 10, noon-9 p.m. An open mic lyric slam is planned for Sunday, May 1, 2-4 p.m.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

APRIL 26 TO JUNE 26

Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. Opening reception is Sunday, May 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

NOW THROUGH MAY 15

The Nest Project. What does home mean to you? This project



THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Spring Awakening. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Celebrate the season of renewal with gallery receptions and special activities featuring Target Gallery's The Nest Project. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.

is a four-part endeavor that enlists the help of a dozen local D.C. area art groups, Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, and the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Outdoor nest installations are created by local DC arts groups. Reception is April 14, 6-9 p.m., with Gallery Talk at 7 p.m., Target Gallery. Torpedo Factory Artists' In-Studio Nests - April 2-May 15. Indoor Community Nest sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia - April 2-May 15.

Take a walk on the SOUTHSIDE

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HEALTHY BACK
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NEXT DAY BLINDS
703-548-5051

OLD TOWN HARDWARE
703-879-0475

SLEEPY'S
703-549-3193

CANDEY'S OF ALEXANDRIA
703-822-7237

FACCIA LUNA TRATTORIA
703-841-0464

WILLIAMS-SONOMA
703-836-1904

SOUTHSIDE 815
703-836-6222

MCMILLAN & MURFREE, DDS
703-549-3300

M & T BANK
703-579-6350

PERK UP COFFEE
703-838-2812

The Shops at 801 South Washington Street • Alexandria



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20% off
Spring Apparel

Up to 75% off
in our Kiskadee Corner!

Enter our raffle to win a beautiful sterling silver necklace from Dogeared!
No Purchase necessary!

Hurry In - Friday April 8 - Friday April 15

kiskadee

2205 Mount Vernon Avenue - in the Heart of Del Ray
703.549-0813 - www.kiskadeeshop.com
Mon - Sat 10-5 pm • Thurs nights until 7 • Sunday 12-5 pm

ENTERTAINMENT

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

a unique and quirky musical




Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street - 703-683-0496
www.thelittletheatre.com

Show contains strong language.



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Everything you love is close to home — Alexandria's thriving art scene, critically acclaimed restaurants, and chic boutiques nestled in distinctive neighborhoods. For events and restaurant reservations, go to VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

- Apr. 15-16: **Spring Garden Market at River Farm**
- Apr. 16: **78th Annual Historic Garden Tour**
- Apr. 16: **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Concert**
- May 8: **Mother's Day Tea and Tour at Woodlawn**
- May 13-15: **Mount Vernon Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour**
- May 21: **Family Festival: Spies and Scouts of the Civil War**
- May 21: **Life in Civil War Alexandria, a Living History Event**
- May 27-29: **Sunset Celebration at Mount Vernon**
- May 30: **34th Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival**

Virginia
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VISITALEXANDRIAVA.COM 
703.746.3301



Visit us online for a complete calendar of events and sign up for our free Access Alexandria e-newsletter.  OpenTable®
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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 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. These tours are limited in capacity and 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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Story Time. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Designed for young children and caregivers, this event will feature story time and a small craft. Fee is \$3 per child. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, Alexandria.

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242.

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Spring Luncheon/Fashion Show. Vendors open at 10 a.m.; lunch at 11:15 a.m.; fashion show starts at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20/person. Vendors will be selling jewelry, scarves, and other merchandise. Presented by The Women's Group at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Proceeds will benefit UCM and Rising Hope. Call 703-765-7555.

A Night on the Town Gala. 6 p.m. cocktails/silent auction; 7:30 p.m. dinner; 8:30 p.m. live auction; 9:15 p.m. dancing to Reverie Jazz. Tickets are \$175. Sponsored by Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. At the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria.

The "Grandest Congress." Noon to 4 p.m. Visit the Carlyle House Historic Park for costumed re-enactors representing Gen. Braddock and the five Colonial governors as well as John and Sarah Carlyle. Visitors can inspect the troops as they drill on the front lawn of the house. Peek in on the meeting inside and enjoy the sights and smells of 18th-century style food being prepared for a grand dinner for Braddock and the governors. Contact Carlyle House at 703-549-2997 or e-mail: carlyle@nvrpa.org

Spring Mulch Sale. Mount Vernon High School Class of 2011 is conducting its spring mulch sale. Pick up in MVHS parking lot. Orders must be made by Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Limited delivery area for orders of 10 or more bags. The cost is \$5 per bag and the proceeds benefit the Class of 2011. Call Robin Gordon at 703-799-1330, or email: MVhSmulchsale@gmail.com.

Movies with a Mission. 4:30 p.m. Free. "Promised Land." Though apartheid ended in South Africa in 1994, economic injustices between blacks and whites remain unresolved. As revealed in this award-winning film, the most potentially explosive issue is land. Screening will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact 703-746-4356.

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.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

YoKid Challenge. 2 to 4 p.m. YoKid will challenge adults,



Colin Hay

APRIL 7 AND 8

Musician Colin Hay. Formerly with Men @ Work. Performs at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000.

kids and families to see how many sun salutations they can do, and provide delicious treats for participants to enjoy, along with tips on healthy eating, in support of YoKid's mission to provide low- and no-cost yoga programs for kids in Alexandria. At the Cora Kelly Rec Center, Alexandria. Visit www.yokid.org.

Family and Friends Day. 11 a.m. Guest speaker is Minister Sheila Stubblefield-Whiting. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606 South Washington Street, Alexandria.

Puccini's Opera "Tosca." 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Presented by the American Center for

Puccini Studies. There will be pre-performance operatic entertainment and light Italian fare available, beginning at 3:15 p.m. At First Christian Church of Alexandria, 2723 King Street, Alexandria. Call 301-602-4389 for tickets. Visit PucciniAmerica.org.

Potomac Jazz Project. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Potomac Jazz Bassist and Bandleader Stan Hamrick brings in two great DC Musicians to round out a trio. At Laporta's, Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria.

New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30; \$25/seniors; \$5/students. Performs two Mozart works. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center of the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.newdominion.org or 703-442-9404.

Lecture and Booksigning. 2 p.m. With Christopher Hamner, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, Alexandria. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org

Free Organ Concert. 6 p.m. Faure Requiem and Rheinberger Organ Concerto with choir from St. Martin Lutheran Church, Annapolis. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Contact www.gracealex.org or 703-549-1980.

MONDAY/APRIL 11

Spring Golf Outing. 12 noon check-in; 1 p.m. shotgun start; format: Captain's choice (scramble); handicapped foursomes; fee \$225/person in advance; \$250/onsite. At Mount Vernon Country Club. Fundraiser for The Campagna Center. Contact Lee Martin at 703-224-2351 or lmartin@campagnacenter.org.

APRIL 11 AND 12

Jewelry Sale. Board of Lady Managers Jewelry Sale. All jewelry is \$6; gifts and handbags are \$12-\$48. Monday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, April 12 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. At INOVA Alexandria Hospital Education Rooms 1 and 2. All proceeds benefit Alexandria Hospital Surgical Services.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 13

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. DJ Dance

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 25



APRIL 12 AND 13

Aimee Mann. 7:30 p.m. Currently penning a new musical production based upon the concept album, The Forgotten Arm. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. To purchase tickets log onto: www.Birchmere.com or go to www.ticketmaster.com or call 1-800-745-3000.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 24

Party with DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

Spring Fever Open House. 4 to 7 p.m. Join in an evening of refreshments, door prizes and shopping. The shop and garden center are loaded with new arrivals of unique accessories for home and garden. At Electric Nature, 1503 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-837-0500.

Australian Wine Tasting. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tastings are led by Wilkinson Wine Cellar and tickets are \$25 per person and tours of the historic house will be available during the evening. To purchase tickets, call 703-548-1789 or www.leefendallhouse.org. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, Alexandria.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Flo Anito. 7 p.m. With Poetry by Cliff Bernier. Tickets are \$10. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

Livingston Taylor Performs. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50. With David Buskin and Robin Bateau. At The Birchmere. Visit www.birchmere.com.

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242.

Restoring the Chesapeake Bay with Underwater Plants. 7:30 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173. Contact Alan Ford, VNPS Potowmack Chapter President at 703-732-5291.

Contemporary Religious Trends: The End of Religion or a New Beginning? Free. An Evening with Dr. Diana Butler Bass. 6:30 p.m. hors d'oeuvres; 7:30 to 9 p.m. program; 9 p.m. dessert and book signing. At St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Call 703-780-3081 to register or office@stjamesmv.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. Tickets go on sale for the popular event at Mount Vernon. Experience live jazz and sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries on May 13-15 from 6 to 9 p.m. Fruit and cheese boxes available. Tickets are \$35/person. Tickets are tables available at www.MountVernon.org or the ticket window at Mount Vernon's Ford Orientation Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Musician Carrie Newcomer. 7:30 p.m. Carrie will be co-headlining with Four Bitchin' Babes and Washington, D.C. area resident, Debi Smith. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. To purchase tickets log onto: www.Birchmere.com or go to www.ticketmaster.com or call 1-800-745-3000.

Wellness Fair. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Seminars, lectures, health screenings, a cooking demo, door prizes, refreshments and more. Celebrity Chef Lauren Von Der Pool of Von Der Pool Gourmet will be featured at the fair. She will be talking about healthy eating and also conducting a cooking demonstration. At Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Grand Ball. 8 to 11 p.m. Live music, dance instruction, a special Queen's Cake and dessert, "gaming" and a cash bar. A "King" and "Queen" will be chosen to preside over the ball. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$50/door. Hosted by Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Culinary and decorative herbs and plants from Mount Vernon and Homestead Gardens will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the Friends of Carlyle House. A Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997.

Growing Vegetables in Containers. 10 a.m. to noon p.m. Learn how to grow vegetables in pots, planters or other containers for maximum production on your deck, balcony, porch or patio. At Charles Houston Rec Center, Room 2, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Register early by calling 703-228-6414.

Family Fun Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. D.C. United Mascot Talon, Children's Deejay, Moon Bounces, Petting Zoo, Children's Playgroups, Face Painting, Arts and Crafts, and more. Sponsored by Capital One Bank. At the William Ramsey Recreation Center, 5700 Sanger Ave., Alexandria. Call Kim Turpin Davis at 703-549-3741.

78th Annual Historic Garden Tour of Alexandria. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$35/advance; \$40/day of tour. This Alexandria tradition offers the opportunity to be invited into six of Old Town's finest private homes and gardens. Many of the area's historic sites offer special activities, including Carlyle House, which hosts its Herb Sale, with historical plants plus crafts. Call 703-746-3301 or www.VaGardenWeek.org.

Kelley Cares 5K Run/Walk. Start time 8 a.m. Registration 6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Admission is \$30 (13 and over); \$15 (6-12 years); Free (5 and under). T-shirts included. In memory of Kelley Swanson. Funds raised will support the Therapeutic Recreation Program, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria. Race held at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Send



APRIL 14, 15, 16

Spring Garden Market. More than 20 vendors will be selling natives, perennials, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and annuals. Friday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; AHS Members' Night is Thursday, April 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. At the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria.

donations to Kelley Cares, 203 E. Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

Dead Men's Hollow with Bob Gramann. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. Info: 703-501-6061. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

Kaydee Puppets. 3 p.m. Heritage Presbyterian Women sponsor Kaydee Puppets performing Goldilocks & the 3 Bears and Nursery Rhymes. All ages welcome. Admission is a plate of cookies to be shared after the show. RSVP to Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Ft. Hunt Rd., Alexandria, 703-360-9546.

Japan Disaster Relief Concert. 7 p.m. Tickets \$40. Presented by the Japanese Americans' Care Fund, with Japanese Members and their Friends of the National Symphony Orchestra, Toshiko Khono (flute), Mahoko Eguchi (violin), Tsuna Sakamoto (viola), etc. Mozart, Beethoven, Japanese songs, and more. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Online Reservations: www.instantseats.com/events/JACF Contact: 703-256-5223, or carefund@jacarefund.org.

Potomac Jazz Project. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Potomac Jazz Bassist and Bandleader Stan Hamrick brings in two great DC Musicians to round out a trio. At Laporta's, Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Artists for the Climate. 7 p.m. Participants will include Bill McKibben, E. Ethelbert Miller, Janisse Ray, Tim DeChristopher, Rev. Bob Edgar, Mary Anne Hitt, emma's revolution and SongRise. Following the program, there will be a candlelight vigil at the Gen On coal plant three blocks away. The event is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network and 350.org. Tickets and information, including for the 6 p.m. VIP reception, can be found at www.chesapeakeclimate.org. At Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria.

Spring Concert. 3 p.m. Free. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, cordially invites you to a Spring Concert with Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Ulysses S. James, Director, for presentation of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, op. 125, D minor. (Ode to Joy). At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire at 703-845-6097 or mwhitmire@nvcc.edu.

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Presentation on "Working for the People" with Dr. Kenneth W. Heger, Ph.D., who will show ways to find information documenting employment with the Federal government. Meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

Baby Shower for New Hope. 6:30 p.m. Social; 7 p.m. dinner at Pema's Restaurant. The Mount Vernon Evening Lions will be holding a baby show. If you would like to donate to the baby show, contact Andrea Corsillo 703-960-4973.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

Antique Hats Presentation. 9:30 a.m. Free. The Antique Club of the Mount Vernon Antique Arts Association features Jo Hanna Holcomb who will show off her collection of antique hats from the 1930s and 1940s. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria.

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

Potomac Jazz Project. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Potomac Jazz Bassist and Bandleader Stan Hamrick brings in two great DC Musicians to round out a trio. At Laporta's, Duke Street, Old Town Alexandria.

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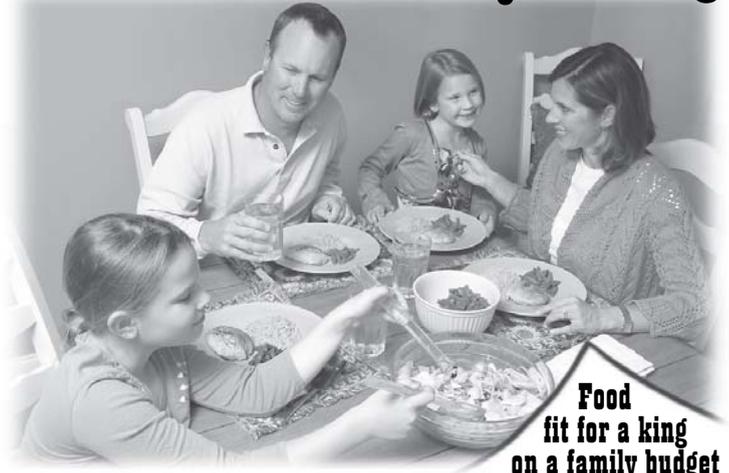
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Groundhog Waterfront

Discussions of the waterfront plan seem to have a certain “Groundhog Day” quality. City planners begin by saying how they’ve listened to the community, then proceed to outline a plan that includes more than 600 new hotel rooms at three development sites. That’s usually followed by community members complaining that city planners haven’t listened to them, and that they don’t want the massive influx of traffic and parking that would come along with three new hotels. Then the cycle repeats, again and again.

“Now we’re at a standoff,” said former Vice Mayor **Andrew Macdonald** during this week’s Planning Commission public hearing on the plan. “Essentially, we’ve had a planning monologue in which the city established the basic framework for the plan before any meetings took place.”

After two years, 21 community meetings and four work sessions, the stakes have been raised. Now the Planning Commission is set to take action on the plan next month. Then it will go to City Council, which could adopt the plan as early as May 14. In one corner are members of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, who strongly support hotels on the waterfront. In the other corner are members of the Old Town Civic Association, which has an unfavorable view of the plan.

“We have tried to create a plan that reflects a balance of interests,” said Planning Director **Faroll Hamer**.

Shutdown Economics

Alexandria was once part of the District of Columbia, and it still retains a sense of being part of the nation’s capital. **Uncle Sam** remains the city’s leading employer. And Alexandria’s economy is heavily invested in the tourism industry. That means a government shutdown could deal a severe blow — if the shutdown lingers. “It’s also possible we might benefit,” said Mayor **Bill Euille**. “If the National Park Service sites are closed, tourists might come here to see our sites.”

The downside risk, Euille says, is the length of the potential shutdown. If it’s fewer than 10 days, the city is in a good position to cope. But if it’s more than 10 days, the mayor says the city might start seeing a negative impact on the city’s economy.

“People who are government employees might stop eating in restaurants,” he said. “And they might start to cut back on their retail shopping. That’s why we’re working with our congressional delegation to see if there’s some way to avoid this.”

If partisan gridlock leads to a government shutdown, funding for many programs would end at midnight Friday. That means the Smithsonian would close, although the Post Office would remain open. Government workers would retain their health care, although the issue of retroactive pay has yet to be determined. That’s an issue that would be worked out by Congress after the shutdown. “We’ll be pushing hard for that,” said **Anne Hughes**, spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8). “The congressman feels that all government employees are essential, and he wants to make sure they are paid.”

Jobs Recovery

In yet another sign that the economy is recovering, more city jobs are being filled instead of remaining vacant. In a budget memorandum issued last week, City Manager **Jim Hartmann** explained that 94 percent of the authorized positions are filled, leaving 176 jobs vacant. That’s the smallest amount of vacancies since the global financial crisis struck in 2008. And the vast majority of those jobs have already been approved for hiring.

“Improved budget conditions no longer warrant the need for positions to be held vacant for extended periods of time,” Hartmann wrote. “There is a greater need to fill vacancies as they occur to ensure the city is adequately staffed, especially given the number of position reductions that have taken place over the last three years.”

The Department of Community and Human Services has 56 vacant positions, more than any other city agency, saving the city \$3.2 million a year. Other offices that have a high number of unfilled vacancies include the Alexandria Library, Transportation and Environmental Services and Emergency Communications.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



Mauricio Gallardo, Dale Caison and Deshawn Strattman pose for a graduation photo just prior to receiving their GED diplomas March 31 at the Alexandria Detention Center.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/
GAZETTE PACKET



Michaelyn Null displays the diploma she earned through the GED program at the Alexandria Detention Center.

Inmates Awarded GED Degrees

Detention Center graduates honored.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

To the strains of Pomp and Circumstance, five inmates at the Alexandria Detention Center donned traditional caps and gowns as they were awarded high school diplomas March 31 in front of a crowd of cheering family members, friends and fellow inmates.

“This is a great accomplishment for me to get my GED,” said 18-year-old Deshawn Strattman, who hopes to be a physician one day. “I didn’t think I’d be wearing no cap and gown in jail but now I feel like I am on the right path and have somewhere to start from when I get out.”

Undersheriff Tony Davis con-

gratulated the graduates, saying “This is something that can never be taken away from you,” before introducing commencement speaker John Porter, who compared the ceremony to the start of baseball season.

“On Opening Day, every team begins with a clean slate,” said Porter, a former principal at T.C. Williams High School and assistant superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools. “No matter how bad last season was, everyone begins anew and has the potential to make it to the World Series.”

Also earning diplomas were Dale Caison, Mauricio Gallardo, Justin Murray and Michaelyn Null.

“They’ve done something that is not an easy feat,” said Adult Education coordinator Krista Sofonia, who teaches the detention center program that boasts an 83 percent passing rate. “They put a lot of time and effort into this and now have a leg up when they leave.”

Porter, who serves as executive director of ACT for Alexandria, offered five pieces of advice to the new graduates: Follow your dreams but have a good backup

plan; don’t ever stop learning; don’t forget those who helped you along the way; don’t forget what’s most important in life - family and friends; and don’t look back and always do what’s right for you.

“I am very happy for this opportunity,” said 39-year-old Gallardo, who joined Strattman and Caison for media interviews prior to the ceremony.

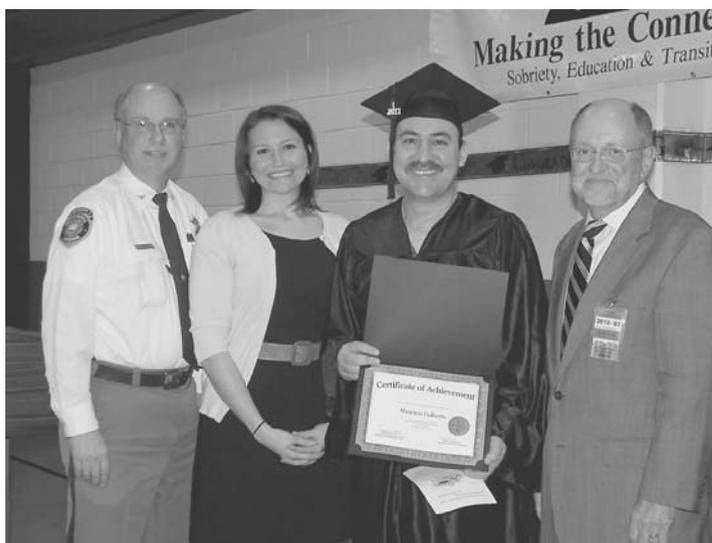
“This is letting me see that I am smart and capable of doing the right thing instead of the wrong thing,” added Caison, 20, who hopes one day to go to college.

Following the ceremony, the graduates, inmates and guests celebrated with music and refreshments.

“I’m happy to see my girlfriend again,” Strattman said. “And I’m happy to have the chance to be in the newspaper for something positive.”

“I feel like I am on the right path and have somewhere to start from when I get out.”

— Deshawn Strattman



Undersheriff Tony Davis, Adult Education coordinator Krista Sofonia, Mauricio Gallardo and commencement speaker John Porter at the March 31 graduation ceremony at the Alexandria Detention Center.

Helping the Homeless

Community Lodgings benefit raises \$33,000, honors volunteers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 200 people turned out March 27 for the 6th annual "Spring Forward to Union Street," a fundraiser to benefit Community Lodgings and honor the service of long-time volunteers and board members Doug Henry and Ed Harris.

"This has been an incredible group of people to work with," said Harris, who served as treasurer for the organization. "From the founders, to the board to the staff, they are all terrific people."

For the second year, Union Street Public House donated the venue and food for the event, which raised more than \$33,000 for programs that serve homeless and low-income families.

The evening featured a live auction that included a trip to watch a taping of ESPN's Emmy-winning show "Pardon the Interruption," an original oil painting by Ellen Welch Granter and an opportunity to name a character in the upcoming novel "The Skelton Box" by Bryan Gruley.

The event culminated with an awards presentation thanking Henry and Harris for their many years of service to the organization.

"It's been a pleasure to serve with this organization," Harris said. "It's a double bonus to be able to work with some great people and do some good for the Alexandria community."

Sponsors for the evening were Nixon Peabody, Maggie and Rob Johnston, McMurray Dispute Reso-



Union Street Public House chef Rich Gunter and manager Jennifer Russell prepare the buffet for Community Lodgings supporters.

lution, Harried Hairshirt Harriers, Donna Cramer of McEneaney Associates, Mortimer and Associates, Systems Engineering Group, Speck-Caudron Investment Group and BB&T.

Founded in 1987, Community Lodgings' mission is to lift families from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency through transitional and affordable housing programs, and youth and adult education programs held at the Fifer Family Learning Center.

For more information, visit www.communitylodgings.org.



Executive director Bonnie Baxley with Mary Tiemann and Mary Hellem, who founded the non-profit private label tea company CommuniTea Calling to benefit Community Lodgings.

Community Lodgings board chairman Chris McMurray, left, and Ed Harris, who was honored for his many years of service to the organization.



PHOTOS BY
JEANNE
THEISMANN/
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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Dirty Business

Turning fossil fuels into energy is a dirty job, but Houston-based GenOn says somebody's got to do it. The corporation's coal-fired power plant on the banks of the Potomac River in Alexandria has long been the source of air pollution and political frustration. The City Council's efforts to shut the plant down were abandoned in 2008, when the elected leaders reached a \$32 million settlement in an effort to reduce particulate matter released into the city's air. So far, a windscreen has been installed. But the vast majority of improvements outlined in the settlement have yet to be accomplished.

"The plant should be shut down," said **Ted Glick** of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. "We should be moving toward wind power and solar power instead of relying on fossil fuels."

To that end, Glick and his colleagues at the network are planning to host their annual "Artists for the Climate" event here in Alexandria. The April 17 rally will start at 7 p.m. at the Crown Plaza, where a number of authors, poets, singers and activists will voice their displeasure with the coal-fired power plant. After that, the group will fire up their candles and launch a three-block march to the plant, which organizers call one of "the oldest and dirtiest plants in America." A spokeswoman for GenOn acknowledges that the plant is old, but says the company has invested millions to improve its environmental performance.

"In recent years, the station provides power on intermediate or peak demand days, usually the hottest or coldest days of the year when electricity is at its greatest," said **Misty Allen**, director of external affairs for the corporation's eastern region. "The rest of the time the plant does not run."

Goodbye 7-Eleven

Some are thanking heaven that a 7-Eleven will not be opening a new location on Upper King Street, although others are upset they won't be able to purchase a Slurpee within earshot of the King Street Metro Station. The Dallas-based corporation withdrew its special-use permit on March 30.

"Well, I'm not happy about it," said **Jim Melton**, a 34-year resident of Harvard Street and a vocal supporter of the special-use permit application. "Now we have to start over, and I'm afraid something more inappropriate might come in."

After 7-Eleven filed the permit in January, several neighbors launched a petition to oppose the application before the Planning Commission and ultimately City Council. As is often the case with 7-Eleven applications, arguments against the proposed land use included late night hours, noisy trash removal, traffic congestion and alcohol sales potentially contributing to a sense of moral turpitude. The Upper King Street application had the added dimension of being located in a highly visible spot along the city's prized commercial corridor.

"We won," declared Upper King Street Civic Association President **Trey Hanbury** in an email to neighborhood residents.

A Set of Twelve

More and more, retailers are shuttering their brick-and-mortar locations to sell merchandise online. But Alexandria businessman **Richard Kinnon** is going one step further by trying to bypass retailers altogether and sell his glass-bead game directly online. Kinnon and his business partner invented the game "Dodeccamente" back in the 1980s, long before they realized that the structure of the contest aligned with a philosophy outlined in the **Herman Hesse** classic "The Glass Bead Game." Now they want to relaunch the game for the 21st century. And what better way to do that than creating a website and offering the merchandise online.

"We relish the challenge," Kinnon said over coffee one recent afternoon. "We feel like we're kind of catching the zeitgeist."

The game, which sells for \$29.99, is a cross between Chinese checkers and backgammon. Glass beads are placed at three layers, which reflect a trinity of participants. Kinnon says this is an aspect of the game that conveys cultural values because players can think of the trinity as social classes, medieval orders or even religious hierarchies. "We like to look at it this way," he says while rolling the dice, "the secrets that you learn for yourself all come under the law of twelves."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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28 Yard Sales

Alexandria. 'Another Yard Sale by Gale,' Saturday, (4/9), 8 a.m.-noon. 902 Danton Lane, (off Wayneswood Blvd. in Mt Vernon). Other families in Wayneswood are also participating on Saturday. Patio furniture, vintage items, household items, women's clothes, books, purses, jewelry, knick-knacks and much more - a little bit of everything

Big Community Book and Rummage Sale! Saturday, April 9th. 9:00am - 1:00pm. Rain or shine. Tons of books, many genres, furniture, clothing, housewares, etc. Held inside the Howard Gardner School at 4913 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310.

HUGE.. HUGE.. HUGE Sat 4/9, 8 am. Lots of toys, electronics, art, clothes 9224 Forest Haven Dr, Mt Vernon

Legal Notices

ABC LICENSE
Mongolian Dining Venture III, LLC trading as Genghis Grill, 7001 F Manchester Blvd. Alexandria, VA 22310. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed beverage on premises, Beer & wine on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vernon Keith Sullins, owner

ABC LICENSE
Riva Enterprise, Inc trading as Euro Bistro and Grill, 6027 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises & Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Fotis Sadikaj, President

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

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Se necesitan Agricultores:
Un estudio de investigacion conducido por la Universidad de la Florida esta solicitando agricultores para participar en un estudio en desarrollo acerca de como el virus de la influenza (el flu) puede ser transmitido por animales. Participantes deseables deben trabajar con cerdos, pavos, gansos, o patos, y tener 18 o mas anos de edad. Remuneracion es disponible.
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LETTERS

Study Costs of Illegal Immigrants

To the Editor:

We should appreciate Del. David Englin explaining finally the thinking behind his support for "comprehensive immigration reform" (viz., amnesty), but we should worry about his governing "compassionately" assertion, recalling how the Republicans' "compassionate conservatism" got us the biggest expansion of a social program since the Great Society and deficits as far as the eye could see till Obama went Bush one better.

But we should read between the lines of Del. Englin's explanation to discern how artfully he responded to my letter criticizing his support for amnesty and state-funded services for those illegally present here. He first cites a chamber of commerce study showing illegal immigration benefits our economy. Recall that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce made amnesty its top 2006 legislative priority. A century ago the National Association of Manufacturers was formed to defend the liberal immigration laws of yesteryear. Illegal immigrants are cheap labor that benefits business because taxpayers pick up the social costs. By this kind of answer Del. Englin reveals that he is carrying business' water for it in the legislature by underwriting under the "compassionate" rubric the social costs illegal immigrants impose.

Next he counter-intuitively asserts that they pay withholding tax — even though many are paid in cash and don't file for their refunds — even though many are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. He points to a Texas study issued by an elected official — a politician likely with a political agenda — showing states make a profit on illegal immigrants, but failing to note that per pupil expenditures in Texas are around \$8,500 versus \$10,500 in Virginia and almost \$20,000 in Northern Virginia where illegal immigrants are concentrated.

So, Del. Englin dismissed out of hand a cost estimate for Virginia because it was provided by an anti-immigration group and instead relied on one for Texas provided by a Texas politician. Shouldn't Del. Englin, when the legislature next meets, call on the legislature to charter a study of the fiscal impact of illegal immigration in Virginia, carried out under the auspices of a commission representing experts spanning the entire range of view balanced by neutrals with social science, accounting and public administration expertise?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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By e-mail:
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Bahta Found Guilty

Although the public defenders who represented him in last week's murder trial hoped to persuade a jury of his peers that he was not guilty by reason of insanity, 35-year-old Simon Bahta was found guilty of double murder last week. The jury recommended a sentence of two life sentences plus 20 years. Circuit Court Judge Lisa Kemler is set to issue a final ruling on Bahta's sentence on May 26.



Simon Bahta

ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

friend. After jurors found Bahta guilty on Thursday afternoon, they reconvened on Friday to recommend a sentence.

"If the no-parole rule is overturned, will he be eligible for parole," the foreman of the jury wrote in a question to Kemler.

"The law in Virginia is as you have been instructed," the judge responded in a handwritten note. "There is no parole."

A few hours later, the jury issued its recommendation.

Kemler has the final say, although judges usually conform to the recommendation of juries.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY R.H. SIMMONS

Tarleton Park Workday

In the City of Alexandria, some of the largest and oldest bottomland swamp trees occur at Tarleton Park — a remnant bottomland backswamp of the Holmes Run Valley where Holmes Run converges with Backlick Run. On April 9, the Holmes Run Park Committee, City of Alexandria, and Alice Ferguson Foundation are sponsoring a native tree and wildflower planting, stream clean-up, and invasive exotic plant removal workday at the park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes and gloves.



Learning To Knit

On March 13, fibre space instructors and volunteers welcomed several young people from the Wright to Read program to boost their knitting skills or learn to knit for the first time. These elementary school students are part of a mentorship program at the Family Resource Learning Center who have been learning to make their own scarves.

Raising Funds for Wells in Sudan

The Builders Club at George Washington Middle School will be raising awareness and seeking donations to fund wells in the Sudan during the screenings of the school play on April 8 and 9. The club is also seeking community donations for a silent auction.

On May 3, 4, and 5, the Builders Club is hosting a Walk for Water for all GWMS students during their PE class. Builders Club is a community service and leadership development club sponsored by the Alexandria/ Del Ray Kiwanis Club which has offered

\$1,000 in matching funds for the GWMS fund-raising.

During the week of April 11, the Student Council Association will conduct an assembly where students see the play and are introduced to the issue. They will hold a Battle For Change during lunch periods and the grade levels will compete to raise money for Water for Sudan, a humanitarian organization whose sole purpose is to dig wells in Southern Sudan. The organization's founder is Salva Dut, the man featured in GWMS's school play.

2011 Alexandria honoree Suzanne Chis has served for the past 28 years as the director of Social Services in Alexandria. From 2008-2010 she served as chief of Child Welfare. She is presently deputy director of Alexandria's newly created Department of Community and Human Services. Pictured with Chis are Leon Harris and executive director of SCAN of Northern Virginia Sonia Quinonez.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Allies in Prevention

SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) held its annual awards luncheon Friday, April 1 at Maggiano's at Tysons Galleria. Five individuals were honored for their work supporting child abuse prevention. ABC 7 news anchor Leon Harris introduced each of the awardees. Christine James-Brown, president & CEO of the Child Welfare League of America gave the keynote address. The 2011 honorees included Suzanne Chis, Joanne Hamilton, Dan Fleig, Laurie Warhol and Jane McMorro.



Former SCAN executive director Diane Charles, second from left, with Suzanne Chis, Chis' mother Gena and her daughter Allie.



T.C. Williams junior Manuel Benites' well-placed corner kick gave the Titans an early lead against West Springfield on Tuesday.



T.C. Williams junior Alex Mansaray leads the Titans with four goals this season.

Benites' Corner Kick Not Enough for Titans

TC loses 2-1 to undefeated West Springfield.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams junior Manuel Benites sent a corner kick toward the near post in the sixth minute of Tuesday's game against West Springfield. What happened next is uncertain, but all that mattered to the Titans was the end result — a goal and a 1-0 lead against the undefeated Spartans.

"Everyone was making runs to the front post so I just tried to put it right there," Benites said. "... I just saw the ball hit the net and that's when I knew it was a goal. Everyone was asking, 'Who hit it? Who hit it?' ... I don't know, [but] it's a goal."

The Titans and their coaching staff couldn't figure out who deflected the ball

into the net, but it was clear TC played with confidence after taking the lead. The Titans controlled the game early and nearly added to their lead when Alex Mansaray hit the right post in the 20th minute. However, West Springfield turned things around with goals from Jannik Eckenrode and Wais Ansary late in the first half and held on for a 2-1 victory at Parker-Gray Stadium.

TC's record fell to 1-3-2, but the Titans proved capable of competing with the team atop the Patriot District standings. West Springfield improved to 3-0-3, including 3-0 in the district, where TC is 0-2-1.

"First half, I think we played really well," Benites said. "I feel as if we dominated in the beginning. Second half, things changed a little bit. The wind kind of hurt us a little bit, but I think we hung in there for the most

part [and] held our own."

TC head coach Martin Nickley said he was pleased with the way the Titans responded to the emotional swing of falling behind after taking an early lead.

"That's a top-notch opponent there," Nickley said. "They're first place in the district at this point. You come in at halftime and you feel like, 'Well, now we're just completely demoralized. We just gave up the lead, now we've got to go into the wind, now we've got to go into the sun,' so they could have just mailed it in at that point, but we certainly came out and played really, really hard in that second half. It was a good tribute to the boys."

Benites was credited with the Titans' goal. "He particularly works a lot on set pieces," Nickley said. "He loves to strike the ball and works on that a lot. Placing the ball right there is something he really works at. We have looked to score on set pieces, that's

something we want to do and that was an excellent strike on his part."

The Titans are led by an experienced corps of defenders. Senior sweeper Tripp Spurio was a first-team all-region selection last season. Senior Paolo Torres is a four-year starter and senior Andrew Frank is the Titans' left back.

Offensively, junior forward Mansaray leads TC with four goals. "He's a very skillful player that strikes the ball real well and is strong in the air," Nickley said. "He's good on the ground and also good in the air ... and has very good touch on the ball."

TC will travel to face South County at 7 p.m. on April 7 and Centreville at 7 p.m. on April 11. The Titans' next home game is at 5 p.m. on April 13 against Annandale.

"We certainly accomplished a goal today of putting our best foot forward and working hard," Nickley said, "and with that the wins will come."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lady Titans Lacrosse Beats Wakefield

The T.C. Williams girls lacrosse team defeated Wakefield 17-1 on Monday in a non-district game, improving the Titans' record to 3-2.

TC faced West Springfield on Wednesday. Results were not available prior to the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Titans will travel to face Lee at 7:15 p.m. on Friday and Woodson on April 12. TC's next home game is April 14 against South County.

According to LaxPower.com, as of Monday TC ranked No. 13 in goals scored in

Virginia with 15.2 per game, an improvement from last year's rank of 59th with 10 goals scored per game. TC ranked 45th in goals allowed in Virginia with 9.8 per game, an improvement from last year's rank of 87th with 14.46 goals allowed per contest. The Titans ranked 22nd in net goals in Virginia with 5.40 per game so far this season, better than last year's rank of 73rd with 4.46 net goals per contest.

TC Boys Lacrosse Blanks Wakefield

The T.C. Williams boys lacrosse team de-

feated Wakefield 15-0 on Monday, improving its record to 3-3. The Titans won their Patriot District opener against Lake Braddock 8-7 on March 29.

The Titans will host Lee at 7:15 p.m. on Friday and Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on April 12.

TC Baseball Drops to 1-4

The T.C. Williams baseball team lost to South County 9-2 on Monday, dropping its record to 1-4, including 0-3 in the Patriot District. The Titans lost to Lee 11-4 on

March 29 and Woodson 10-2 on March 25.

The Titans will travel to face West Potomac at 6:30 p.m. on April 8.

Spring Golf Outing

The Mount Vernon Country Club is hosting The Campagna Center's 16th Annual Spring Golf Outing on April 11. Check-in is at noon with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The event is a scramble format with handicapped foursomes. Cost is \$225 per person

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 32

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 31

in advance and \$250 per person on site.

Youth Coaches Needed

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

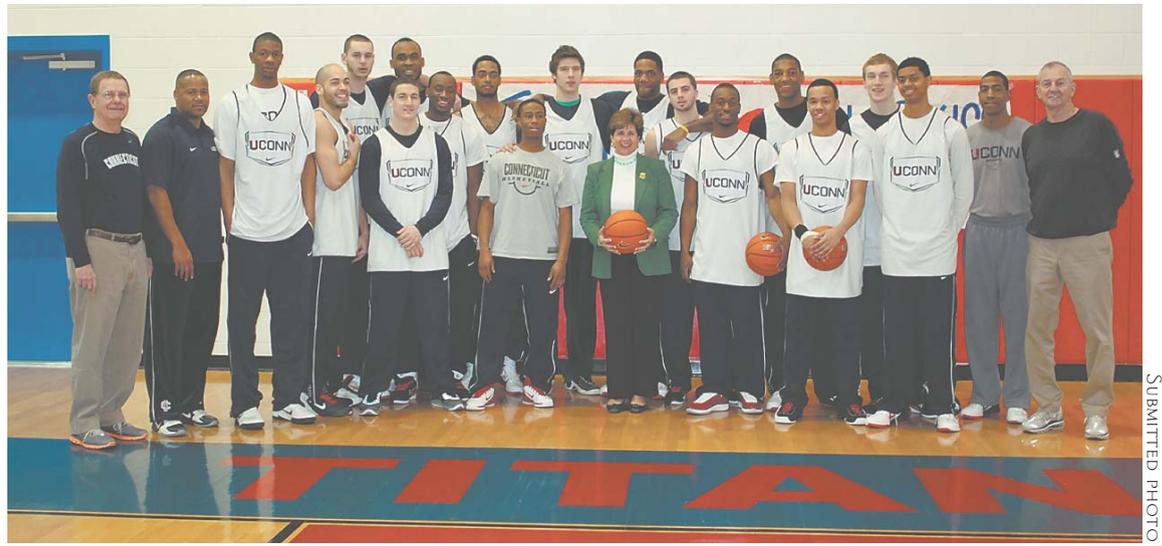
Wahoos Swim Team Registration

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 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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At TC UConn, pictured, and Butler, participants in Monday's NCAA men's basketball championship game, practiced at T.C. Williams High School when they were in town for the beginning of March Madness. UConn won the title game 53-41.

can compete in the 50-, 100-, 200-, and 400-meter dash; 800- and 1600-meter run, 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 soft-

ball 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.

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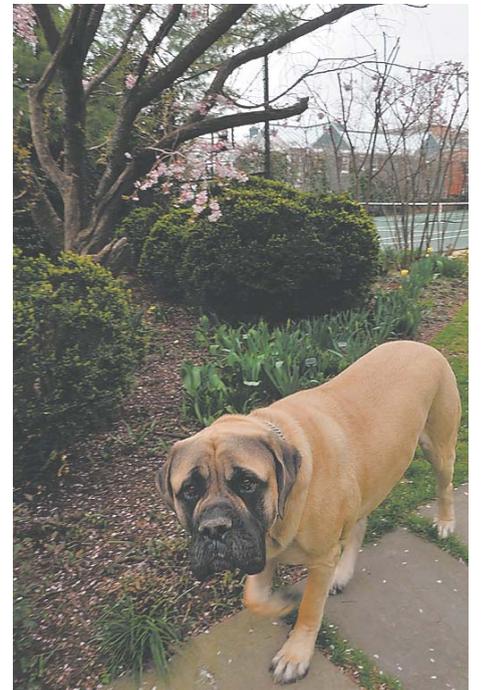
SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



A children's garden is nestled in the corner of the property.



A boxwood walkway surrounds a circular rose garden and leads to the south end of the garden at the Vowell-Snowden House.



Hugo, the master of the grounds, strolls back from a romp by the tennis courts.

Historic Garden Tour Blooms in Old Town

FROM PAGE 3

house was updated to become Egyptian Revival.

"It's fun and kind of whimsical," said Liza Chapman, the house's modern-day owner, pointing out several Egyptian-themed pieces in the house. "But I also wanted to mix in classical American pieces."

Other parts of the tour will deceive and amaze. Visitors to 210 Wilkes Street will be greeted by a trompe l'oeil stair rail. Look up into the stairwell at some framed botanical prints. Don't be deceived by the last two, which are a trompe l'oeil prints including frame and requisite shadows. The illusions were created by none other than the homeowner, Sally Murray, who painted the scenes herself. Originally the house was decked out in high Victorian style, including a Mansard roof. But it was later federalized to make it look older.

"It was a horrible travesty," said Murray, pointing to a photograph in the entry hall showing the original backside of the house. "I can't believe they were allowed to do that, and that the American Institute of Architects gave them an award for it."

THE GARDENS WILL steal the show, of course. One of the most elaborate is the house at 217 North Royal Street, where more than 17,000 bulbs were planted

this year — everything from tulips and daffodils to Spanish bells and Muscari. The expansive garden includes purple wisteria, Dutch tulips and English boxwoods in addition to rhododendrons, peonies, Camellias, hyacinths, ferns and hydrangeas. It even has something called obedient plants.

"You know why they're called that?" asked Anna Andersonm, owner of Anna and the Garden. "Because they grow straight up."

Don't miss the heady green at 420 South Fairfax Street, where ticketholders will find a Japanese-inspired garden designed for low maintenance. Highlights here include a wisteria-covered pergola, a brick wall of climbing hydrangea, a crimson queen Japanese maple and a Japanese garden house. Then there's the garden at 605 South Lee Street, where ticketholders will find a bright and sunny space because of the recent loss of a 100-foot tulip poplar. Perennial begonias and Siberian elms flourish in the backyard retreat, and the Saint Francis statue was sculpted by the owners mother.

"We've got big houses and smaller houses, so there's something for everyone," said Twig Murray. "Even for people who have lived in Alexandria for years, this year's tour will be a special treat."



A winged cherub watches over the garden awaiting the spring flowers.



A trompe l'oeil banister, painted by the owner, goes up the front hall stairwell of the former residence of the co-founder of Burke & Herbert Bank John W. Burke and his wife Julia Thompson Burke.



Russell Murray designed and built the dining room table, including making the inlaid cherry trim.



The garden at 210 Wilkes features small pool.



2010-2011 Northern Virginia Urban League Board of Directors: Kenneth D. Bynum, Keith E. Taylor, Ryan Meyers, Chasiti Dawson, Steven C. Baker, Karla Ballard, Marion Barnwell, Huey Battle, Ronal Butler, Darrell L. Crapps, Lee A. Earl, Glenn Evans, John S. Fountaine, Ph.D., Kevin Giles, Ronald K. Hobson, Tyron L. Johnson, Herb Long III, Michael E. Melton, Steve Meyerson, Angela Y. Moody, Pamela Perkins, Gregory Pickett, Dwight P. Robinson, James A. Simms, Richard Simpkins, Alotta E. Taylor, Danyelle Taylor, Rudolph Tota, Tonia-Michelle C. Travis Ph.D., Karen Price-Ward, Daryle A. Jordan and Laverne J. Chatman.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Community Service And Awards Dinner

Northern Virginia Urban League held its 21st Annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards Dinner on April 1 at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. The organization presented \$75,000 in scholarships to 15 area students. T.C. Williams student Christina Mercedes Carr (at right) is one of the 15 Northern Virginia Urban League scholarship recipients for 2011. Christina has been involved with numerous community service projects including: the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Walk, Walk for the Homeless, a volunteer at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center and the Anacostia Summer Camp. In school she is involved with the Marching/Concert Bands, Track and Field, DECA, Key Club and she is a varsity cheerleader. She has been also working as an intern for AFC Management Services. With Christina is her father Gary Carr.



Taylor Run

ARTISTS' NESTS

A national juried exhibit showing nests as home and refuge will open April 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory.

Twenty works by 18 different artists from all over the United States will be hung. Outdoor art will be shown all over the D.C. area. As part of the project, Habitat for Humanity will construct a community nest in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory.

YOUNG SINGERS

The young singers who were such an appealing part of presentations by the American Center for Puccini Studies will do double duty Sunday afternoon, seeing as they help serve refreshments. Their performance will start at 3:15 and is free. A concert version of Tosca, Puccini's masterwork, which begins at 4, costs \$25. Both are at

the First Christian Church of Alexandria, 2723 King St.

KREKOW TO STAR

The beautiful soprano voice of Kay Krekow, which so thrilled all who heard her in last spring's performance of La Rondine, will be heard again as Floria Tosca. Appearing in the other principal parts will be Harry Dunstan as Mario Cavaradossi, Jeffrey Snider as the Baron Scarpia, Frank Mavillia as Angelotti (he's also the Jailer), Brandon Brylawski as the Sacristan, Daniel Sherwood as Sciarrone, Maria DaFusso as Spoletta, and Erin Docheled as the Shepherdess.

The talented and hardworking pianist Michael Baltzer will be the accompanist. For reservations call 301-602-4389.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Seminary Valley

With heavy hearts, friends and neighbors bade farewell to "Mr. Bob," our beloved crossing guard, last week. Robert Moran was a longtime Washington D.C. resident, and he spent much of his working life here in Alexandria. Bob worked at the Potomac Yards for many years as a railroad car inspector, and he also drove a school bus for Alexandria City Public Schools. Bob also served as a greeter at the Mt. Vernon Estate and worked as a crossing guard at the corner of Richenbacher Avenue and Pegram Street as part of the Alexandria Police Department. Many of his fellow crossing guards and police officers paid their respects at his wake and funeral, as did many of his Seminary Valley friends. Memorial gifts may be made to Capital Hospice.

PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION is nothing new to Seminary Valley. Remember, it was not so long ago that our community put together \$60,000 for the playground on the kindergarten side of Polk Elementary, and built a large wooden playground on that site some 20 years before that. Once again, the James K. Polk PTA is raising money for new playground equipment for the parking lot side of the school, initiating the "Pennies 4 Polk Playground" drive. So far, students have collected \$1,500 toward their goal of

\$2,500. If you have a jar of coins to contribute, please send them with a Polk student, drop them by the front office or deliver them to Mary Patterson at 504 N. Pickett St. Or maybe a neighbors would like to make a matching gift ... that would certainly speed things along.

PLEASE COME to the April 13 quarterly meeting of the Brookville Seminary Civic Association, set for 7 p.m. at the Beatley Library. Councilman Rob Krupicka is the featured guest speaker. You can get updates on the BRAC construction, the proposed parking district, sewer replacement and the Beauregard Corridor initiatives.

MANY OF US are starting to put in our vegetable gardens, and you may have noticed that the St. Martin dePorres Center has put together a very nice vegetable plot. Thanks to volunteer Master Gardener Amber Kim Dewey and Eagle Scout Joe Sullivan from Troop #135, the Center hopes to use the garden to provide seniors with sweet potatoes, kale, strawberries and tomatoes, just to start. If you would like to lend a hand to this project, please contact Maryanne McMillan (mcmillan@ccda.net) for a list of supplies the Center needs and volunteer opportunities.

— MIA JONES

SCHOOL NOTES

Cadet Tara Breiner, the daughter of Theodore and Maureen Breiner of Alexandria, was named to the dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy for the first academic grading period for the 2010-11 school year.

Wei Cao from Alexandria has been accepted to The Graduate School at Vir-

ginia Tech. Cao is pursuing a master's of landscape architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Katherine Perkins of Alexandria has received the Lido Club of Washington, D.C. Scholarship. Perkins attends College of William and Mary and is majoring in English.



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