

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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JULY 28, 2011



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Hanging Out

Skipp Calvert and Hugo Saltonstall. More pet photos on pages 14-15.

Hidden Crime

Chatham Square crime statistics prove elusive.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The crime happened on March 30, according to police records — “suspect arrested for drunk in public” on Euille Street, which cuts right through the southernmost block of Chatham Square. Thirteen days later, a woman who lives in Chatham Square watched through a window as a man was arrested for possession of crack cocaine. That arrest was logged in police records, as were a handful of other quality-of-life crimes since February on the streets surrounding Chatham Square — two blocks of houses that include market rate

houses mixed with subsidized units owned by the Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Charges include everything from public drunkenness and possession of cocaine to a suspect who was arrested for an open container of alcohol.

But when frustrated neighbors organized a new group called the North Old Town Residents Coalition and took their concerns to the city government last month, senior city officials went on the attack. The communications blitz started with a letter to the editor from Police Chief Earl Cook claiming that Chatham Square had no incidents of public drunkenness or

SEE CHATHAM, PAGE 6

‘Healthy Resistance’

Historic structure on Duke Street takes on new life.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Earlier this year, Theresa Wilson was running out of options. She had nowhere to live and limited financial resources. Like many low-income seniors, the Georgia native found herself facing homelessness as her golden years approached. Then she made her way to Shiloh Baptist Church, which was about to open eight new affordable housing units for low-income seniors.

“If this wasn’t here, I’d be sleeping out there in the street,” said Wilson, pointing toward Duke Street. “I wouldn’t have anywhere to go.”

Now, she’s got somewhere to go — Beasley Square. Named for the late Rev. Moses Beasley, who served as Shiloh’s pastor from 1947 to 1986, the church’s long struggle to

create affordable housing for seniors began back in 2005. Neighbors of the traditionally

SEE AFFORDABLE, PAGE 3

“When you try to do something like this, people come out of the woodwork to oppose it.”

— U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8)

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

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Agreeing To Disagree

Members of the City Council have been disagreeing about the future of Alexandria's waterfront for months. Now that they're recessed for the summer, it's the advisory panel's turn.

The inaugural meeting of the eight-member group did not disappoint. The thorniest disagreement erupted over what would happen to three sites slated for redevelopment if the council fails to adopt a small-area plan. That would leave in place existing zoning, which dates to a 1992 update to 1982 plan. Councilman **Paul Smedberg** described "doing nothing" as a "Plan B," one that likely result in more townhouses constructed along the waterfront without the amenities the city is seeking.

"So obviously a Plan C is needed," said advisory group member **Bob Wood**. "The status quo is an option."

Or is it? City Attorney **James Banks** said that the status quo might be murkier than it appears. Because the owner of Robinson Terminal brought a lawsuit challenging the 1992 zoning several years ago, the city attorney said that if the City Council fails to increase density a court might rule that the council has engaged in an illegal downzoning.

"That's an assumption," Wood shot back.

"The city is arguing that failing to upzone is downzoning?" asked **Katy Cannady**, a frequent critic of the plan who was in the audience. "That's the most Orwellian thing I've ever heard."

And the fun has only just begun. The advisory panel will be meeting all summer, and the group is expected to issue recommendations by October.

Talking Like a Pirate

Arrrrrgh! Listen up, scallawags. Mark yer calendar now, you mangy cockroach. Sept. 19.

Yes, that's right — International Talk Like a Pirate Day isn't just an Internet gag anymore. It's become something of an institution here in Alexandria, a place where actual pirates once roamed the cobblestone streets of Old Town. For the last two years, the Potomac Riverboat Company has offered a Talk Like A Pirate Cruise on the Admiral Tilp. But don't expect the company vice president **Charlotte Hall** to start talking like a pirate anytime soon.

"I speak English," said Hall with a smile. "Besides, I'm too tall to be a pirate."

Chamber of Commerce president **Tina Leone** said she'll probably be speaking like a pirate to her newborn son, **Sebastian**. She doesn't plan on spending much time expanding her vocabulary to reflect Pirates of the Caribbean, although she wouldn't mind visiting the costume shop.

"I want to be a sexy pirate," she said.

What's in a Name?

As **William Shakespeare** once famously observed, a rose would smell just as sweet if we called it something else. Nevertheless, humans spend a lot of time naming things and thinking about new names.

Take Four Mile Run. The name doesn't have anything to do with the length of the stream. It was once known as Flour Mill Run because it was the location of Arlington Mill, which was built by **George Washington Parke Custis**. But a faded map made "Flour Mill Run" look like "Four Mile Run." The name stuck, and that's what we call it today.

Now, two centuries later, the city of Alexandria is asking the public for comments about another name: "conservancy." The executive committee of the Alexandria Action Plan Advisory Group is recommending that the new community building there be known as the "Conservancy at Four Mile Run Park." Now the city is seeking input.

"The group agreed that the consensus highlights the unique nature of the location of the building and both the environmental and arts foundations of the community building," said **Jack Broward**, acting deputy director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Comments can be emailed to the city or written in a notebook at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Bill Euille and Vice Mayor Kerry Donley share a moment with the Rev. Earl Lee after unveiling the new historical marker at Beasley Square.

Affordable Housing for Seniors

FROM PAGE 1

AfricanAmerican church raised a series of concerns about the proposal, creating setback after setback for the church's quest to create a place to live for seniors who find themselves priced out of increasingly expensive Old Town.

"When you try to do something like this, people come out of the woodwork to oppose it," said U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8). "You know the reason for the resistance."

One of the neighbors raising concerns was H. Alan Young, who lives on the opposite end of the block. When asked about Moran's comments, he said he never opposed the concept of affordable housing for seniors. Instead, he said, he opposed the church's original plans to demolish an 1880s house to make room for the facility — a battle he won when the church agreed to incorporate the historic structure into the complex. Yet he also argued to preserve the side yard of the 1880s house and locate the apartments on the other side of the church, two ideas that were rejected.

"I do regret not having the open space," said Young. "It was like a little oasis in all these cheek-to-jowl townhouses."

THE IRONY of a black church operating an affordable housing complex on a block where a slave pen was once located was not lost on the leaders of Shiloh. During a dedication ceremony this week, several speakers noted the stark nature of the transition. The ceremony culminated with the unveiling of a historical marker at the northeast corner of West and Duke streets bearing the headline "From Slavery to Freedom and Service."

"This is the most significant historical marker for black history yet in Alexandria," said City Archeologist Pam Cressey. "There are many landmarks in the city that are completely unrecognized as people walk around, and this one is no longer one of them."

The story of Beasley Square started in 1835, when slave dealers purchased the block and set up one of the largest slave trading operations on the East Coast.

After Union forces took control of the block 1861, the federal government constructed EOUverture Hospital here to care for soldiers serving in the United States Colored Troop. The hospital's mess hall became a meeting place for the congregation that eventually became Shiloh Baptist Church. It also became the scene of Alexandria's first known civil rights protest, when hundreds of soldiers objected to burials of colored troops in the Freedman's Cemetery rather than the Alexandria National Cemetery.

"We ask that our bodies may find a resting place in the ground designated for the burial of the brave defenders of our countries [sic] flag," wrote Alexandria Quartermaster Capt. J.G.C. Lee in 1864. "We are now sharing equally the dangers and hardships in this mighty contest, and should shair [sic] the same privileges and rights of burial in every way with our fellow soldiers, who only differ from us in color."

IN 1888, A MAN by the name of Emmanuel Jones built a house at 1323 Duke Street. This is the property that became incorporated into Beasley Square, which includes a new wing that was constructed on a side yard of the 19th century home. Although church leaders initially planned to demolish the historic structure to save money, the Rev. Earl Lee said opposition to that proposal ended up making the project better in the end.

"I like to think of the opposition as healthy resistance," said Lee. "It made us be more clear about what our vision was, and now we have enhanced what was here before."

Lee said the idea for Beasley Square began when then-Councilman Joyce Woodson "pointed a finger" in his face and challenged the church to do something about affordable housing. Although the project was difficult, Lee thanked Woodson for inspiring action that has now created new opportunities for seniors who would find it difficult if not impossible to stay in Alexandria.

"I believe that this can happen at every congregation in America," said Woodson. "Maybe it takes a while, but yes it can be done."



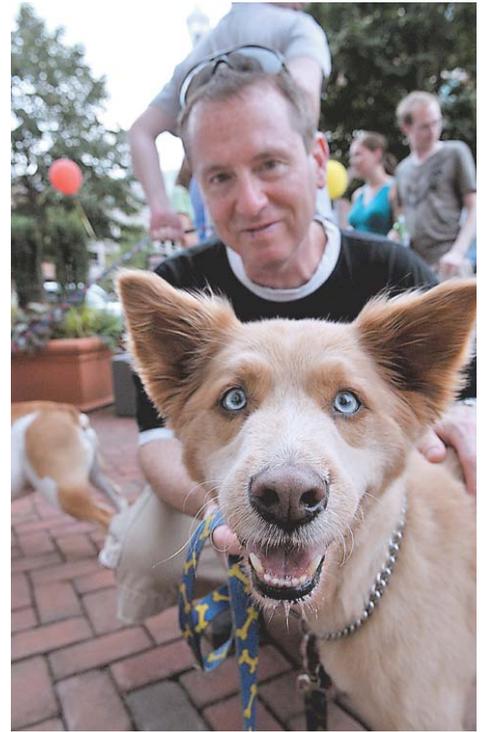
Kyle Sweeney and Candi.



Yappy Hour's organizer and planner Lori L. Drafahl talks to Candi.



Buddy relaxes in the shade with Orion Vinson.



Fancy and Lewis Goldstone.

Yappy Hour BBQ

As the sun settled behind Carlyle on Friday evening, July 22, the staff at Artfully Gifts & Chocolate were busy setting up for the twice-monthly Yappy Hour BBQ. Edward Hart grilled the Barkley Pup Sliders, BBQ Rib Bones and kabobs. Kristina Robertson set out plates of gourmet dog treats. Bowls were filled with spring and sparkling water and another with non-alcoholic Happy Tail Ale. The Yappy Hour is sponsored by Barkley Square and organized by events planner Lori L. Drafahl. Proceeds from the event benefit the Washington Humane Society.



Spring and sparkling water and Happy Tail Ale for the thirsty dogs.



Edward Hart and Eric Nelson.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CZETTE PACKET



Zoe leaps for a biscuit in Naomi Amaha's hand.



Belvedere takes a mouthful of the puppy sliders.



Barkley Square's Kristina Robertson talks to Jesse.



Suzette watches as the patio gains new arrivals.


PET CONNECTION

Tall, Dark and Handsome: Looking for Love

Come to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and meet Barley: a black and white Border Collie and Labrador Retriever mix. He is about 1 year old and looking for his perfect match. Barley takes some time to get to know people. Once he gets comfortable, Barley will ask for belly rubs and ear scratches. Barley loves to play, and loves just about any toy. His lively nature shows while he's playing a game of fetch, and he's quite adorable when he wants to start a game of chase. Barley has a zest for life and loves to goof around with his favorite canine companions. With some reward based training and lots of exercise, he will quickly take to learning basic manners. Weighing in at about 50 pounds, Barley is a heavyweight heart-breaker.



Barley

No Cat Left Behind ...

King Street Cats continues summer "What About Me?" adoption campaign.

BY CORYN JULIEN
 GAZETTE PACKET

Finding forever homes for senior cats and cats with special needs is difficult. King Street Cats has dedicated this summer to connecting such cats with the people who will give them the care they deserve.

King Street Cats (KSC) is a local, no-kill cat shelter that houses and cares for cats of all ages and works toward their adoption. They take in the older and shy cats that would have been euthanized in many other shelters. The "What About Me?" campaign, officially launched on July 16, is focused on showcasing these cats and placing them in good homes. The campaign will continue throughout the summer and a few of the cats have already been adopted.

"Many people look for kittens so that they can watch the kitten grow up and be a part of their family for many years, but what about older cats, shy cats or cats with special needs?" said Allie Phillips, an animal activist and volunteer at King Street Cats. "King Street Cats has a long history of helping these cats as well as kittens. Since we are inundated with kittens during the warmer months, we wanted to remind the community to not forget about cats who are otherwise overlooked."

Potential adopters can visit the KSC cats on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. during their adoption open houses or by appointment. The cats are free roaming, so adopters can have hands-on meetings with them immediately after walking through the doors. Many senior cats and cats in need of continued socialization are still waiting for homes.

More information about King Street Cats, adoptions, and the "What About Me?" campaign is available at www.kingstreetcats.org. King Street Cats is located at 25 Dove St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

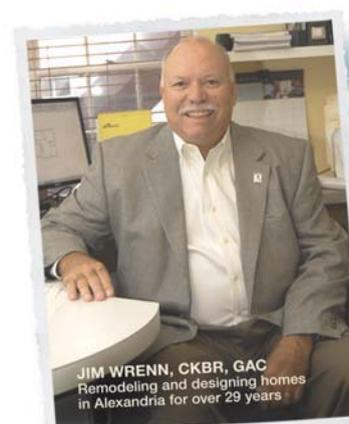
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“I feel like we’ve been attacked by the city and ARHA. They’ve obviously aligned themselves against us.” — Kara Clemens, a resident of Chatham Square

Chatham Square Crime Statistics Prove Elusive

FROM PAGE 1
drug offenses since January. That was followed by sharply worded statements from Mayor Bill Euille decrying “unverified statements” from the neighbors and Acting City Manager Bruce Johnson castigating the “credibility” of media reports detailing their concerns.

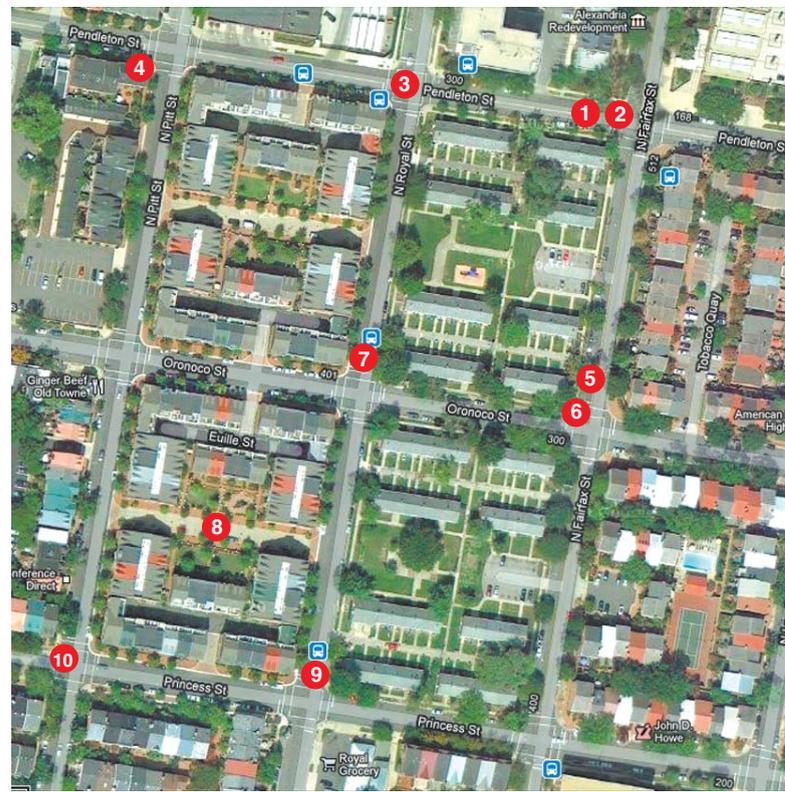
“I feel like we’ve been attacked by the city and ARHA,” said Kara Clemens, a resident of Chatham Square. “They’ve obviously aligned themselves against us.”

A police spokeswoman now says that Cook’s letter should have included the Euille Street crime, an error they say was created when the crime database assigned that crime to another neighborhood. But the open-container violation that happened on the block forming the southeastern edge of Chatham Square does not count as Chatham Square. And the drug crime that a Chatham Square resident said happened five feet from her house also doesn’t count as Chatham Square the way police record crime statistics.

“Technically, that’s not Chatham Square,” said Ashley Hildebrandt, public information officer for the Alexandria Police Department, adding that the Euille Street crime should have been included in Cook’s letter. “Our crime analysts are working out a fix.”

Inaccurate crime statistics are only part of the problem, say members of the North Old Town Residents Coalition. What happens when a crime is reported but no arrest is made? Neighbors say they are concerned it won’t end up in the crime report. What about concerns raised by several neighbors that gunshots are reported that don’t end up in the crime statistics? Neighbors say they have reported gunshots that are not reflected in the official statistics. And why bother reporting a crime when the chief of police will write a letter saying it didn’t happen anyway?

“In their statement to the press, city officials and ARHA are trying to divide us,” said Jenny Smith, president of the Gadsby’s Court Homeowners Association. “Nobody



Chatham Square is bounded on the south by the 400 block of Princess Street; on the west by the 400 and 500 blocks of North Pitt Street; on the north by the 400 block of Pendleton Street; and on the east by the 400 and 500 blocks of North Royal Street.

Quality-of-Life Crimes

- 1 May 21, 2011: 300 block of Pendleton Street. Suspect was arrested for having an open container of alcohol.
- 2 May 4, 2011: 300 block of Pendleton Street. Suspect was arrested for possession of marijuana.
- 3 April 12, 2011: Intersection of Pendleton and North Royal Street. Suspect was arrested for possession of cocaine.
- 4 February 10, 2011: 500 block of Pendleton Street. Suspect was arrested for being drunk in public.
- 5 May 1, 2011: 500 block of North Fairfax Street. Suspect was arrested for having an open container of alcohol.
- 6 June 1, 2011: 300 block of Oronoco Street. Liquor-law violation.
- 7 June 28, 2011: 500 block of North Royal Street. Suspect was charged for possession of cocaine.
- 8 March 30, 2011: 400 block of Euille Street. Suspect was arrested for being drunk in public.
- 9 April 20, 2011: 400 block of North Royal Street. Suspect was arrested for having an open container of alcohol.
- 10 March 30, 2011: 500 block of Princess Street. Traffic stop resulted in arrest for driving under the influence.

Source: Alexandria Police Department

GRAPH BY JOHN SMITH/GAZETTE PACKET/GOOGLE MAPS

wants to be targeted, and if people were afraid of being targeted before, they’re really going to be afraid of being targeted now.”

Tensions between neighbors in North Old Town date back to 2005. That’s when Chatham Square first opened next to Hopkins Tancil, two blocks of subsidized housing also owned by ARHA. At the time, Chatham Square was seen as a visionary solution to lingering crime problems associated with concentrated public housing. The idea was to scatter subsidized units within market-rate housing in a way that made them indistinguishable from each other from the outside. From the inside, however, the juxtaposition has created tension.

“There’s always two sides to a story,” said Sandra Fowler, public resources consultant for the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority. “Some of the market-rate residents have been caught putting trash in ARHA bins, but we didn’t go to the press with it.”

WHEN THE COALITION first raised concerns, residents of subsidized housing said they felt they had been disrespected and denigrated. Community activist Lenny Harris responded by organizing a meeting at Charles Houston Recreation Center, which became a forum for residents of subsidized housing to defend themselves against allegations they considered specious and inaccurate.

“We’re here to discuss what we can do as a community,” Harris told the standing-room-only crowd. “We have to learn to protect our community and protect ourselves.”

Alexandria Communications Director Tony Castrilli invited the press to Harris’ meeting but failed to notify members of the North Old Town Residents Coalition — a move that was interpreted by many neighbors as way to divide neighbor against neighbor. Johnson defended the move, explaining that city officials were “concerned over the credibility” of coverage of the issue. Last week, the acting city manager met with several of coalition members in his office at City Hall to listen to their concerns.

“I understand much better where they are
SEE CRIME STATISTICS, PAGE 7

OBITUARY

Francoise Chauffour

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

They were smitten teenagers in love in the early 1970s, the French village of Orleans providing the backdrop for a courtship that would last 41 years between Francoise Chauffour and her husband Jean-Francois. Their love story came to an end July 17 when Francoise lost her battle with lung cancer.

“She was 15 and I was 18,” recalled Jean-Francois of the first time he laid eyes on Francoise. “She was beautiful and I was ugly. I am still ugly but even until the end, she was always so very beautiful.”



Francoise Chauffour.

Born Francoise Jeanne Bernadette Dayries in Orleans, France on May 6, 1955, she moved to the United States with her future husband in 1976. They married in 1979 and together they opened Le Refuge Restaurant in Old Town in 1983.

“From the very beginning we were almost always together,” Jean-Francois said. “Her

brother worked with me in a restaurant and so I began teaching her how to cook. It didn’t take long before she got very good at it.”

Francoise was a fixture at Le Refuge and her vivaciousness and sense of fun was legendary.

“Her revelry during Bastille Day was quite a restaurant tradition,” said Julie Ferrill, a longtime friend of the family. “Patrons looked forward to her rendition of Le Marseilles delivered on occasion on top of a table.”

Francoise and Jean-Francois had two children; Alexandre and Anne-Claire, who is following in her mother’s footsteps at the restaurant.

“There are so many things I learned from her,” Anne-Claire said. “She always taught me to believe in myself and to always go forward, never backward, in life.”

Francoise, who finally became a U.S. citizen on her birthday earlier this year, was diagnosed with lung cancer in June of 2010, one month before her daughter’s wedding.

“She fought like nobody else,” said Anne-Claire, who just learned that she is expecting her first child. “And even in the end, she was still so full of life and always had a smile on her face. It is especially sad that she never got to hear the news about her grandchild.”

A memorial service was held July 20 at Advent Funeral Service in Falls Church.

Her ashes will be interred Aug. 3 in Tavers Loiret, France, not far from the village where Francoise was born.

“She gave me a great life,” Jean-Francois said. “This is a great loss and she will always be the love of my life.”



Take photos with Santa and your pets in December.

Upcoming Events at the Animal Shelter

All activities of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria support its mission to care for homeless animals and to be a resource for pet lovers. Visit www.alexandrianimals.org for these and other upcoming League events.

SEPT. 25

The Olde Towne Dogge Walke. Join in a Sunday morning stroll with a four-legged friend and help raise awareness and support for the League's homeless animals. Now in its fifth year, the dog walk is a morning of fur-filled fun

celebrating pets, the city and all the animals cared for by the AWLA. Online registration costs \$25 and begins Aug. 1.

DEC. 2, 3 AND 4

Pet Photos with Santa. Santa Claus (or is it Santa Paws?) is coming to town. Book an appointment to have a festive photo shoot this holiday season. The Olde Towne School For Dogs will once again host this annual event at which a professional photographer captures your pet's best side when meeting with Santa. Appointments will be taken after Nov. 15.

NEWS

Crime Statistics for Chatham Square

FROM PAGE 6

coming from," Johnson wrote in an emailed response to questions. "I believe we are all looking for a path forward that maintains and improves the quality of life of all Alexandrians and makes our community an inclusive, safe, enjoyable and peaceful place to live."

WHATEVER COURSE the Alexandria Police Department chooses to take, it's likely to happen in secret. The chief of police has denied repeated requests to release incident reports — basic documents outlining how his officers respond to calls for service. That applies to all cases, whether they are open or closed. Although there's no legal barrier preventing him from releasing the reports, which are widely available in other states, Alexandria has a practice of shielding the documents from the public using a provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

"I don't think we have to justify it," Cook said in an interview last year. "A lot of things can be said about transparency, that doesn't make it effective."

The information blackout even applies to the families of crime, such as the father of a 19-year-old

immigrant from Togo named Kossi Djossou who was murdered at a Del Ray bakery in 2009. When lawyers working with the family submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for the incident report, the Alexandria Police Department denied their request. Now that the police have acknowledged that Chief Cook presented incorrect crime statistics in the chief's letter, some are calling for the Alexandria Police Department to provide a greater sense of transparency.

"I would like to see all the information released to the public," said Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "If citizen knowledge is not reflected by statistics provided by the police department, I would say the chief has an information problem."

Asked about the potential for increasing transparency of the police after the Charles Houston Community Center meeting, Deputy Police Chief Cleveland Spruill said he had no comment. Euille said he had no intention of asking the police department to be more forthcoming with information.

"I don't want to make this a political issue," said Euille.

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Classic American

First there was Clyde's. Then there was the West End farmer's market. This October, the neighborhood will host its first-ever art and wine festival.

Clearly, the West End is going upscale.

The newest addition to the list is the Lounge, a new restaurant at the Washington Suites Alexandria Hotel on Reynolds Street near Landmark Mall. Featuring dark wood paneled walls and porcelain-tiled floors, the Lounge boasts Russian pine tables and 10 television screens at the bar. Perhaps the biggest draw is longtime restaurateur **Jeff Beaudoin**, whose previous gigs include executive positions at Capital City Brewing, Lucky Strikes Lanes and Johnny Rockets.

"The Lounge is aimed at the diner looking for a combination of excellent food, pleasant surroundings and a moderately priced menu," said Beaudoin. "Whether it's for a leisurely lunch, an enjoyable dinner or a nightcap at the bar, we offer the best food, atmosphere and value to today's discerning diner."

The menu is filled with what Beaudoin calls "traditional American favorites," including meatball sliders, fried pickle spears and homemade spinach dip.

Carlyle Cookies

Celebrity Chef **Carla Hall** has chosen Artfully Chocolate and Artfully Gifts & Chocolate as new retail outlets for her *Alchemy Cookies*. Hall was a fan favorite on Bravo's "Top Chef" and will be one of the new hosts of ABC's "The Chew." Now she's bringing her new line of cookies to both Artfully Chocolate locations in the District and Del Ray as well as Artfully Gifts & Chocolate in the Carlyle neighborhood.

The relationship between *Alchemy* and Artfully Chocolate began at the Taste of Del Ray several months ago, where Hall was the celebrity judge. The relationship with Carla's team has developed with different kinds of possibilities being explored. Although the celebrity chef lives in Northeast Washington, she has an affinity for the Alexandria food scene.

"It's totally worth the drive," she told the Alexandria Gazette Packet last month.

Fans of the television star and cookie lovers can meet the celebrity chef and taste the treats in person Friday night at 7 p.m. at Artfully Gifts & Chocolate.

Left and Right

What's the relationship between parts and the whole? How are physics and photography linked? Is a new esthetic grammar emerging?

These are some of the questions that photographer and physicist **Andy Ilachinsky** will explore in an Aug. 2 discussion at the Morrison House in Old Town — the latest in a salon-style series dubbed "Morrison House Presents."

Born in 1960 on Long Island, N.Y., Ilachinsky was the only son of an architect and artist. That set him on a path to straddle the analytical and logical left-brained universe as well as the creative and artistic right-brained world. On the left, there's the doctorate he earned in theoretical physics as well as his experience as project director for the Center for Naval Analyses. On the right, there's his award-winning black-and-white photography, which has appeared in *Focus* magazine and *Black & White* magazine. One again straddling the two hemispheres, his work was featured last year in an exhibit at the American Center for Physics in College Park, Md.

New Transit Planning Manager

Raymond Mui is the new Transit Planning Manager at the Alexandria Transit Company. Mui is a recent graduate of Purdue University, where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering. He will be responsible for the development of a new, high frequency, express bus service between the King Street Metro and Mark Center, in anticipation of the opening of the BRAC-133 complex in August. Mui will also be responsible for the development of new DASH routes and improvements to the current service that will be the result of new multi-year transportation funding approved by the Alexandria City Council this past May.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS



Anne Rector and Christine Todd



From left: Sean Satkus, Mary Lou Sage, Anne Rector, Sheila Kolb, Mary Lou Bourke and Norma Gants.

Veteran Realtor Retires

Anne Rector leaves Long & Foster.

For 39 years, she has been a fixture in the real estate community and an active contributor to the fabric of the City of Alexandria. On June 29, Realtor Anne Rector formally left the Long & Foster Old Town Historic Office that she opened nine years ago.

"I hate the word 'retirement,'" said Rector as she was feted by more than 100 well-wishers at a farewell party in her honor at Belle Haven Country Club. "I am just moving from one part of my life to another."

Originally from Columbia, S.C., Rector began her professional career as a math teacher before transitioning to real estate in the 1970s. Starting as an agent with Manarin Odle, Rector went on to establish her own agency, Rector Associates, which she had for 20 years. She merged with Pardoe and Graham before establishing the Long & Foster Historic Office, which grew to more than 180 agents under her leadership.



Anne Rector

"I wish you could see this from where I am standing," said Rector following remarks by co-broker Bill Jourdan, Long & Foster regional vice president Larry "Boomer" Foster and Northern Virginia Association of Realtors CEO Christine Todd. "You all mean so much to me."

Rector has served as president of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, as treasurer of the Virginia Association of Realtors and as a member of the National Association of Realtors' board of directors. She received the Realtor of the Year award from NVAR in 1995.

In attendance were dozens of Long & Foster agents, including Bunny Jacob, Martine Irmer, Mary Lou Sage, Chris White, Renee Raymond, Mary Bourke, Mike Lekas, Suzanne Backus, Klanci

Vanderhyde, Norma Gants, Ann Kavalijin, Cathy Smyles, Mary Taylor, Glenn Witucki, Franki Roberts, Ellen Young, Sheryl Lambson, Christine Vanderhyde and Vin Tolentino.

Elaine Dauphone Swann paid tribute to her longtime friend and John Randolph presented Rector with a box overflowing with letters from other agents.

Rector will turn her focus to Rector Best Property Management, a residential management company, and is looking forward to traveling with friends, family and her significant other, Tim Allen. The Old Town resident will continue her community involvement, which includes serving as vice chair of the Alexandria Police Foundation Board, on the board of directors of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and as a member of the Business Advisory Committee of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Rector is also a member of the Alexandria Rotary Club.

"I'm not going anywhere," Rector laughed. "And just in case, I do still have my real estate license."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

BUSINESS NOTES

Marjorie Quint-Bouzd of Alexandria has joined the staff of Fort Washington Medical Center as the vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer. Quint-Bouzd brings 25 years of inpatient and outpatient clinical nursing experience with more than a decade in nursing administration. She comes to FWMC from Inova Health System in Alexandria, where she served as the senior director of Women's, Children's & Cancer Services and as an assistant to the Chief Nurse.



Quint-Bouzd

are being sent to the Silver Parrot's VIP (Very Important Parrot) customers. At Silver Parrot, 113 King Street, Alexan-

The Silver Parrot Jewelry Boutique will be giving away "Free Earrings for Life" to one lucky customer. As part of a scratch-off contest being held through July 30, one customer will receive a free pair of sterling silver earrings each year for the rest of their life. The scratch off cards

dria; call 703-549-8530; or visit www.silverparrot.com.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce has agreed to be a Supporting Sponsor of the 2011 Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon on Oct. 2. The 13.1-mile Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon race is sanctioned by USA Track & Field on a USATF-certified course which begins at the Mount Vernon Estates, travels up George Washington Memorial Parkway to historic Old Town Alexandria, crosses the famous Woodrow Wilson Bridge and ends at the modern resort of National Harbor.

LIVING LEGENDS

Don Mela: Dedicated Life to Public Service

Received State Bar Association's Pro Bono Award.

BY DIANE BECHTOL
FOR GAZETTE PACKET

From his perspective as an 87-year old, Don Mela sees public service as an integral component of a life well-lived. "I've seen a lot of Alexandria history. If you are into things, you get to know people. As a consequence, the more you stay in a town and get to know people, you understand that giving back is an important part of life." For his accomplishments as a volunteer, civil servant, lawyer and advocate, he is a 2011 Living Legend of Alexandria.

Mela recently reflected on public service in his own life, and links it to Cicero's definition of a life well lived. Cicero said that if you give back to your country, to your family and to fellow citizens, you will have lived that life. "I spent three years in the Army to serve my country, and I have always cared for my family. My voluntary public service gave back to fellow citizens. I never explicitly ever thought about it, but my father's teaching and example did have an influence on what I did with my life. I never had any trouble in finding things to do."

Mela was born in New York City and attended public school in nearby Pelham, N.Y. He was a Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Michigan, where he earned his B.A. in mathematics. In the first semester of his junior year at Michigan, his studies were interrupted by WWII. He served three years in the Army, primarily at Guadalcanal. He never came under fire and never had to fire a shot, "so I was one of the lucky ones," he reflected soberly. He returned to the University of Michigan to earn his master's degree, and, in 1949, met his future wife, Doris, who was on campus to earn her master's degree in library science. They've been married for 61 years and had four children, and now have seven grandchildren scattered about the world. They first lived locally in Arlington in 1951, and in 1958, bought their first home in Alexandria.

CO-NOMINATOR and neighbor Ann Kaupp praises Don and Doris Mela for making the Marina Towers community more homelike with their committee involvement, his accordion playing at Thanksgiving sunrise gatherings, and their charming, sociable natures. Mela enjoys mathematical puzzles, statistical analysis, good conversation, is an avid music collector and a competitive Scrabble player. In their younger days, the couple enjoyed attending the opera, and book festivals on the Mall. He loves the computer and stays in

touch with far-flung family via email.

From 1960, Don was politically active in supporting City Council campaigns and was president of the Strawberry Hill Civic Association. With other neighborhood association presidents, Mela fought for open space preservation in the city and against harmful developments. He spent 12 years as a member of the Alexandria Planning Commission, retiring in 1977. Early in his term there were applications before the commission to build a large high-rise development on the waterfront where Founders Park lies today, and another high-rise on the site of the Lloyd House at Queen and Washington Streets. These were voted down and then 4-3 votes of the Planning Commission and the City Council led to an ordinance setting building height and setback restrictions in the Old and Historic District. In Don's opinion this was the most significant action in which he was a participant, for it prevented a drastic change of character in the Old Town. Much later, he served on the Washington Street Guidelines Committee, which refined and tightened regulations for building on Washington Street, a major Alexandria thoroughfare, in order to preserve its memorial and historical character.

IN HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE, Mela worked 17 years as an analyst at two Defense Department "think tanks" and then as a civil servant in the U.S. Transportation Department, serving as the chief of the Mathematical Analysis Division at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. After his retirement from the federal government in 1981, Mela entered the George Mason University Law School. He jokes that he was the only person in his class of 1984 to pass the bar exam and collect his first social security check in the same year. His wife Doris helped put Don through school by working as a librarian at the Na-

Living Legends: The Project

Now in its fifth year, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria's Living Legends. The project was conceived by Nina Tisara to create an artistic and enduring record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. Platinum and Gold Sponsors this year are Club Managers Association of America, Erkiletian Real Estate Development, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Renner & Co., Rotary Club of Alexandria and the late Doug Thurman.

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

tional Biomedical Research Foundation at Georgetown University.

After obtaining his law degree, Mela performed pro bono law for the economically disadvantaged. His role model was a man who started a storefront legal clinic on Fairfax Street across from the courthouse before Legal Service came to Alexandria. He credits his good friend Judge Bill O'Neill, a former president of the Alexandria Bar Association, for identifying a segment of the population whose income was too high to qualify for legal aid, but who couldn't afford to pay a lawyer. In one of his own first

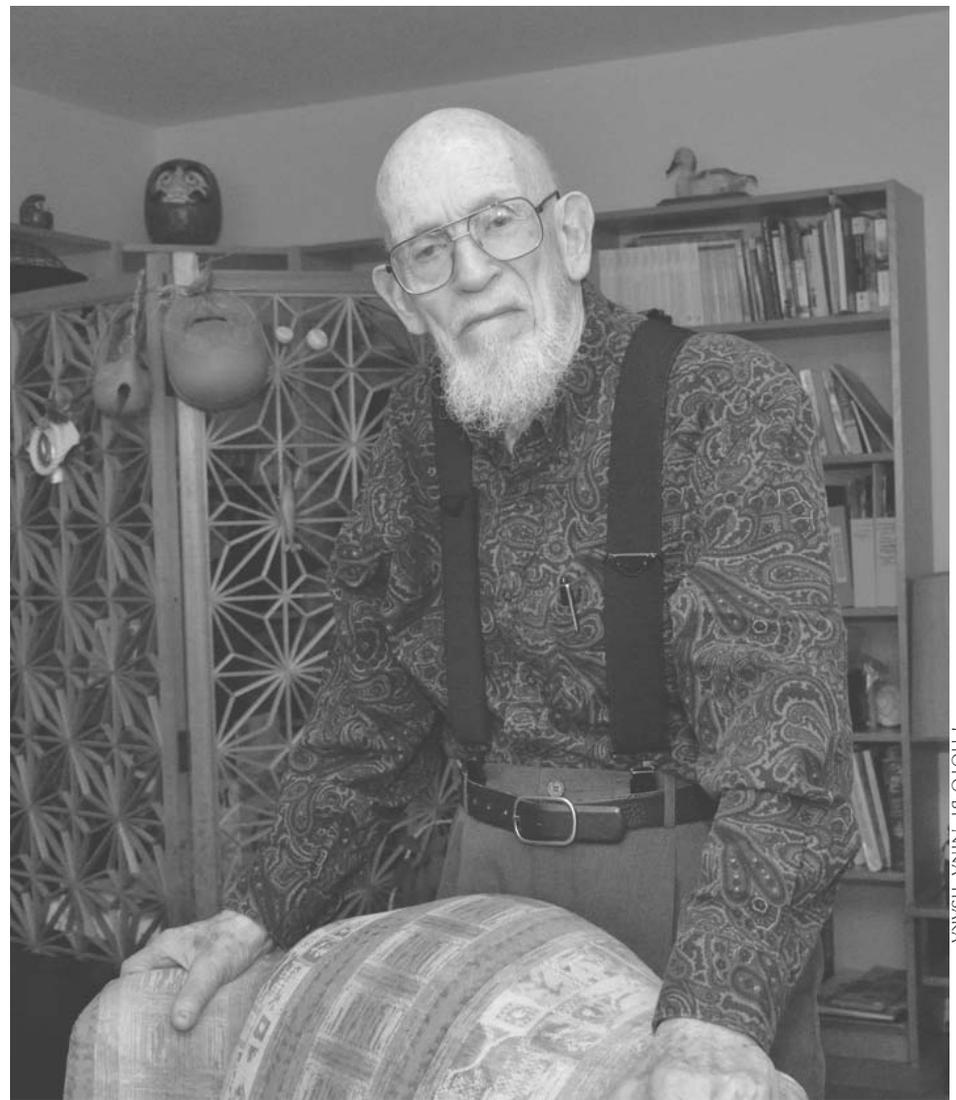


PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Don Mela jokes that he was the only person in his class of 1984 to pass the bar exam and collect his first social security check in the same year.

advocacy cases, Mela volunteered to become a legal guardian and provide legal services for a near comatose woman whose son was misusing her financial assets while she was in a nursing home. In 1997, Don Mela received the Virginia State Bar Association's Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Pro Bono Award for "helping the poor obtain legal services or in providing those services himself."

With his wife, Mela joined the Alexandria League of Women Voters, where his intellect, wisdom and humor were welcomed. Judy Miller, who along with Ann Kaupp nominated Mela for the Living Legend Award, recalls that he was a "contributing male member who gave insight and substance to many of our discussions and events." He served as the organization's membership chairman, and organized and moderated at least five issues sessions. He bemoans the fact that women appear to have less time to advocate more fully in the local political process "because there's been a change in culture and in women's careers." Mela observes that his and Doris' own health and aging issues limit their public participation in late

life, but he hopes younger, able community members will stay involved. "I fear what is to come. This country has some really big problems that we don't seem politically prepared to solve." He wryly comments that through his own lengthy political involvement and personal acquaintance of city leaders, "I knew where a few bodies were buried," a not insignificant element of civic oversight.

Don has volunteered for several charitable organizations, such as ALIVE, where he sorted donated materials and delivered food to shut-ins on a weekly basis for many years. For more than 30 years, Don and his accordion accompanied the Shuter's Hill Ecu-menical Carolers in their serenade of area homes at Christmas to raise money for Children's Hospital. He still plays the accordion and favors ethnic folk songs and operatic arias. "I play anything I am capable of," he says and launches into "Amazing Grace" and other traditional songs. For years, he played "bit parts" in musicals and other productions organized by Lois Kelso Hunt.

Were Don Mela's father alive to witness his son's accomplishments on behalf of country, family and community, the elder Mela might have cited another Cicero quotation that has guided his son, "The good of the people is the greatest law."

What's Your Advice?

Be part of the Gazette Insiders edition.

The Gazette staff and interns are already preparing the annual newcomers and community guide. We invite our readers to help with providing insiders' advice and information.

Below are several suggested questions, but we encourage you to participate in any way.

We'll print selections from the answers along with your name. Answer one question or all of them; give as many answers as you'd like to each question.

What "insider's tip" about your town would you share with a friend? Places to go, things to do, can't-miss events, ideas on what it means to live here.

What advice would you give new residents on how to make themselves at home and get involved here?

What tips do you have for someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret, places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

We invite you to share the expertise you've gained in living in your hometown with your

neighbors and with people new to the area.

Send us a short letter: what do you love about your community? Tell us about one special place you've discovered. Does your family have different favorites in different seasons? How did you get involved in your town? Share your favorite park. Tell us about your favorite annual event. Send us a photo of your family at one of your favorite spots or engaged in a favorite activity.

We also ask for input from local arts organi-

zations, civic organizations, houses of worship, clubs, schools, businesses and other community institutions. Send us information on dates and details for major events for the upcoming year, information on how to get involved in nonprofits and charities, details about your club or other organization.

The Insiders Guide will publish the last week in August. Send in your tips and answers by Aug. 17 to

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

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Email your name, your snail-mail address, email address and the paper or papers you would like to receive to GoingGreen@connectionnewspapers.com.

EDITORIALS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who Represents Neighborhoods?

To the Editor:

The so-called Cost-Benefit Analysis Report of the BRAC-133 location is yet another example of how broken the City of Alexandria's departments and pro-

cesses have become and how much they need fixing.

Two years after the BRAC Advisory Group asked for such an analysis, a City report has been issued that purports to be a serious effort at understanding the total magnitude of the impact of BRAC. It is highly positive about

According to Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks, the report is "professional." In fact, it is anything but. The report does nothing more than provide excuses for the BRAC fiasco and to encourage piling on additional excessive and unwarranted heights and densities in the Beauregard Corridor. Let's take a couple of examples:

The report mentions the BRAC helping to trigger development of a site for the Hekemian Company. Currently most of that proposed tract is zoned R-12, residential, and holds single family homes. If the Hekemian plans go forward, houses would be torn down and in their place would be 535 residential units, 78,000 sq. feet of office, 75,000 of hotel, and 16,000 of retail space. This would be an increase in on-ground square footage from 20,000 to 760,000, intensifying density 3,800 percent. That kind of intensification is unprecedented in Alexandria.

Immediate neighbors, understanding the dire consequences of such massive development for increased traffic and noise, diminished light, air, and general quality of life, have filed petitions of intent to protest the zoning change that would be needed. Completely insensitive to the desires of existing residents, however, the authors of the City report are leading the cheers for this awful outcome.

The report also suggests that the BRAC could spur development of new office buildings by Duke Realty. Remember that is the organization that foisted BRAC on us in the first place. Duke wants to increase its existing density — which now includes BRAC — by 280 percent over the next few years. Its current zoning with City approval would allow the com-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



New Bike Program

Mayor Bill Euille and youngsters gather to appreciate the 35 bikes donated by Ve'locity Bicycle Cooperative to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. The department's bike program will give youths the opportunity to take the bikes out on local bike trails. For more information to get children involved with the neighborhood centers, classes and camps or any activity sponsored by the department, call 703-746-4343.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
pany an additional 520,00 square feet but that is not enough for these folks. They want Alexandria to gift the company with new zoning that would allow it to construct an additional 320,000 sq. ft. of office structures. In other words, let's all reward Duke Realty for bringing us BRAC. This is not professionalism on the part of the City. This is madness. Virtually every civic association in the West End has made known opposition to massive development in the Beauregard Corridor. City staff clearly does not care. It is time for Council to clean house and put

Alexandria back on track to look out for the welfare of neighborhoods, not just the developers.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria

Fundamental Differences

To the Editor:

Chatham Square is an ill conceived, idealistic approach to cohesive living and race plays an insignificant role in this failed project. When people of such diverse back

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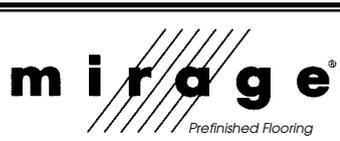
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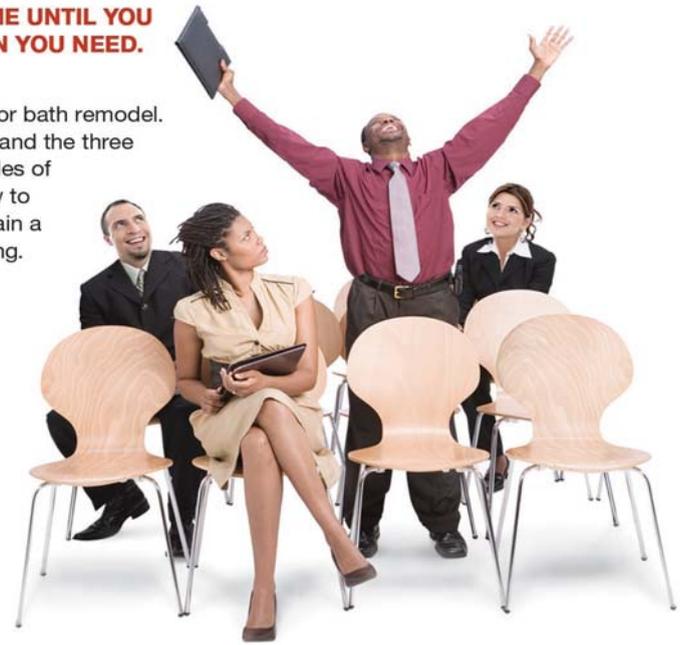
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

grounds are forced to live together as neighbors their different approaches to life and standard of living become magnified. Relocating disadvantaged citizens from public housing to upscale communities creates a feeling of misplacement for them while investors in those high end developments worry about property value and image. When tempers flare on both sides, the illusion of a harmonious environment is exposed and it is unrealistic to believe that police interference can mitigate the frustration and resentment created by such fundamental differences.

Christa Annett
Alexandria

Where Great Stories Start

To the Editor:

Many people may not realize that there is a fantastic resource for pet owners and animal lovers just a few minutes from Old Town. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue. This is our city animal shelter. But we are more than "just" an animal shelter. We are a place where great stories start, and here are two examples.

Several months ago, western Virginia was hit by waves of incredible storms, resulting in damaged homes and struggling communities. We offered to help local shelters overburdened by the influx of homeless pets. Within days, these "storm dogs" arrived at our facility. We welcomed dogs like Abbot and Costello, and helped them move past the storms and into loving adoptive homes. These two pups are now busy building lasting relationships with their adopters — and probably causing some mischief along the way.

Also this spring, we received a gorgeous, large brown tabby cat named JJ. His owner passed away and a friend brought JJ into his home. Unfortunately, JJ and the resident dog did not do well together and the friend thought that JJ would be better placed in a different home. These transitions were difficult for JJ. To help him gain confidence and have more room to roam, he became an "Admin Cat," and now lounges on our desks and in our front window while he is up for adoption. He opens up and shares more of his affectionate personality each day — especially as he positions himself in front of our computer screens! We can only imagine the quiet but warm welcome he will give to his adopter when he finds



Happy Birthday, Tom

More than 70 friends and neighbors of Tom Brosnan gathered Saturday, July 16 at the home of Lee and Brendan Dunn to toast Brosnan's 90th birthday and his departure from the 500 block of South Lee Street after residing there for over 50 years. Brosnan and his wife Margaret raised their three children, Tom Jr., Mary and Margaret, on this block and were the first on the block to have central air conditioning installed in 1962. Some of Brosnan's longtime neighbors include Bobo Brooks and Jennifer Hollings, who also resided on the 500 block of South Lee Street for over 50 years, as well as two of Hollings' children, Paul and Jeannie.

Tom Brosnan and his daughters Mary (left) and Margaret.



his new home.

We see these wonderful animals every day — animals like Abbot and Costello and JJ. We love to share their stories and wish them well as they embark on their next adventures. We also love to welcome visitors, volunteers and friends to our facility to learn more about our programs and our residents.

In addition to adoptions, the League offers education programs (birthday parties, camps and learning opportunities), behavior and training support, animal care and control services, reduced-cost spay/neuter certificates and chances to volunteer and help our resident animals. These are just a few of the services we provide to our community. We are proud of the work we do to care for homeless animals and provide support to area animal lovers. Join us at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and create a great story that involves you.

Gordon Kromberg

Chairman, Board of Directors
Animal Welfare League of
Alexandria

Watch That Water Bill

To the Editor:

Alexandria residents are going to pay a lot more for their water, already the most expensive utility for most homeowners. And there isn't much we can do about it without understanding how the system works. I got a real awakening last year when Virginia American Water (VAAM) sent me a bill for \$2,014 saying I used 184,000 gallons of water, enough to fill five large swimming pools. This was quite a surprise since I was away and my house vacant during the billing period.

Trying to unravel what happened, I examined my bill and discovered it was essentially a sewer bill, not a water bill. Charges for water were only \$570, while the

Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) charged me \$1,174.

A look at the rates told me why. Virginia American charges \$1.64 per 1,000 gallons used. The Alexandria Sanitation Authority charges \$6.36 per 1000 gallons, or almost four times as much. The City of Alexandria adds a sewer charge of \$1.25 per 1000 gallons, plus a "utility tax" of 15 percent on VAAM water charges.

The system works this way. The water company provides clean water, the sanitation authority cleans dirty water, and the city maintains the sewer lines. The customers pay all the bills.

I found the Alexandria Sanitation Authority of particular interest since they got most of my money. The ASA serves some 350,000 people in Alexandria and part of Fairfax County. It is an independent public agency, although the five-member board of directors is appointed by the city council. It has some 93 employees.

The ASA web site says "the cost

of treating water is going to increase in coming years." The Board this year added a new "Chesapeake Bay protection charge" of \$33 annually which will increase to \$100 in 2012. The web site also mentions the need for two bond issues totaling \$341 million.

The ASA board is rather powerful. It sets its own rates under the Virginia Wastewater Act, while the water company needs approval for rate increases from the Virginia State Corporation Commission. The sanitation board recently used its powers of eminent domain to take 10 acres of land for expansion of its wastewater treatment facility on Eisenhower Boulevard. The ASA paid \$36 million for the property in an out-of-court settlement in May 2010.

I've owned my Alexandria home for 43 years. In a sense, the sanitation bill had been flying beneath my radar, a stealth expense. So I took a closer look at the ASA policies. Where could I save money?

I noted the ASA calculates our sewer bill based on the amount of water used in the winter. For the next three quarters we are charged on gallons used in the winter, or actual use, "whichever is less." Last winter I was again out of town, and my usage was "zero."

You can imagine my surprise when I got the spring quarter bill and was charged, not zero, but \$96 for the 13,000 gallons I used. I called ASA and complained. They called back and told me I qualified for a "default" rate of 9,000 gallons. Nowhere in the ASA bill or literature is there any announcement of a "default rate."

So I showed up at the July 19 ASA board's monthly meeting. I complained about the unadvertised default policy. And asked why a utility with 350,000 users does not have a single, full-time customer service person. Since the ASA has no oversight agency, I guess the customers had better apply for the job.

Oh, the bill from hell. I repaired a toilet and applied to VAAM for credit. I got \$835, reducing the damage to \$1,179 — still a staggering sum.

Wayne Kelley
Alexandria

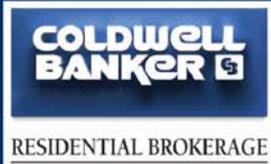
Confrontational Attitude by City

To the Editor:

The Council and the City Attorney need to realize that what they are trying to accomplish with their threats to invoke eminent domain on the properties owned by the Old Dominion Boat Club will only alienate an increasingly large

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

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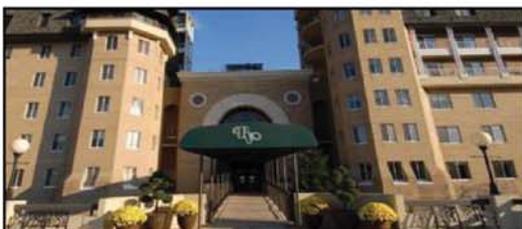


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The Mill Stream \$364,950
304 Cloudes Mill Way, Alexandria, VA 22304

3 story brick front townhouse with garage parking, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, hardwoods on main level, rec room with brick FP, rear fenced private patio and deck.



Sherry York 703-625-3377



Old Town/Porto Vecchio \$1,045,000
1250 South Washington St #805, Alexandria, VA 22314

Glorious views of the Potomac River are yours to enjoy from this 2,225 sq ft penthouse in sought-after Porto Vecchio. This 3BR & 4BA luxury home features marble entrance foyer, HW floors, fireplace, cheerful solarium, pool plus tennis court!



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



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

Seller says to sell! Seller is willing to offer owner-held financing for the entire first trust at only 2 1/2% for 7 years! This is a fabulous financing opportunity for one of Old Town's finest landmark homes.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



NEW PRICE
Fort Hunt \$659,000
8311 Crown Court Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car garage home boasts new hardwoods, eat-in kitchen and fenced flat backyard on a cul-de-sac. Priced to sell and walking distance to Stratford Landing Elementary!



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



OPEN SUN 1-4
Tauxemont \$675,000
1401 Namassin Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

New Price! Completely renovated and almost new. One level living on half acre! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors throughout, large eat-in kitchen, gas fireplace, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops & spacious great room.



Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



OPEN SUN 1-4
Mt Vernon Terrace \$525,000
5308 Remington Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309

Just Listed. Bring your boat! Waterfront community. 3 level contemporary on 1/2 acre with inground pool and terrace. 4BR, 3BR, large garage with separate workshop & huge upper level master suite with den. Gleaming HW floors on main level.



Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Kingstowne/Alexandria \$492,500
7725 Sullivan Circle, Alexandria, VA 22315

Luxury in Island Creek. This beautiful, 3 level, end unit townhouse provides the comfort and convenience you have been searching for. Bright, open floor plan - perfect for entertaining and everyday living. 4BR & 3BA. Private yard backs to woods.



Karen Leonard 703-328-7041



Collingwood Estates \$579,900
1121 Anesbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

Very large four bedroom, three bath and two level rambler located in Waynewood School District. New roof, some newer windows and HVAC. Upgraded insulation, hardwoods, den, deck and gazebo.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



OPEN SUN 1-4
Edsall Park \$379,000
5312 Blacksburg Road, Springfield, VA 22151

Beautifully updated 4BR & 2 level brick rambler. Warm hardwoods, freshly painted, new decorator blinds, upgraded wiring, recessed lighting, new berber carpet and deck. Close-in location.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



OPEN SUN 1-4
Old Town \$2,175,000
608 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Historic Old Town Alexandria. Located across from Lee's boyhood home. Rare find exquisite 3,000+ sq ft with 4BR & 4.5BA. Landscaped backyard retreat, garage & 4 car parking. Addition, kitchen renovation & MBR suite. UphamRealEstate.com.



Chris Upham 202-359-1308



JUST LISTED
Gunnell Estates \$769,000
5595 La Vista Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310

Stunning 6BR, 4BA colonial offering high-end quality craftsmanship & custom details throughout. Featuring gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, professional landscaping and lighting. All minutes to Metro & more.



Joy Deevy 703-930-5198



JUST LISTED
Hawthorne \$469,900
7867 Birch Branch Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22315

Beautiful 3 level, 3 bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath brick front garage townhouse offering 1,800 sq ft of luxurious open light-filled living space. Minutes to Kingstowne, Ft. Belvoir & Metro.



Joy Deevy 703-930-5198

703-518-8300 • 310 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



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PET GAZETTE



PHOTO BY LESLIE B. ANDERSON

After a delightful Canine Cruise aboard the Admiral Tilp, the Schnauzer Schmooze continued at Pop's for ice cream. Pictured clockwise from "11 o'clock" are black and silver Miniature Schnauzers from Old Town: Sparkles [AKC Sarius Sparkling Hollyberry]; Scooter [AKC GOP Star Spangled Scarabeo]; Spats [AKC Blair Puttin' on the Ritz]. Twenty-four hours later, Sparkles delivered a litter of five healthy Miniature Schnauzers. In September, they will make their public debut and will regularly be seen around Old Town with their new "forever" families.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Former Alexandria resident Cali relaxes on the beach at Whidbey Island in Washington State.



Keely and Zambone.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Cece Moore takes in the air at Founder's Park.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

These are our two pitbulls, Dee and Dutch. Dutch was a stray, 6-year-old we adopted from the Alexandria shelter three years ago. They completely belie the idea that pitbulls are aggressive. They are smart, sweet, affectionate and perfect pets.

— Katherine Morrison



Zooley guarding the castle.
— Gale Courtney



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Auden relaxes high above the room in his cat perch.

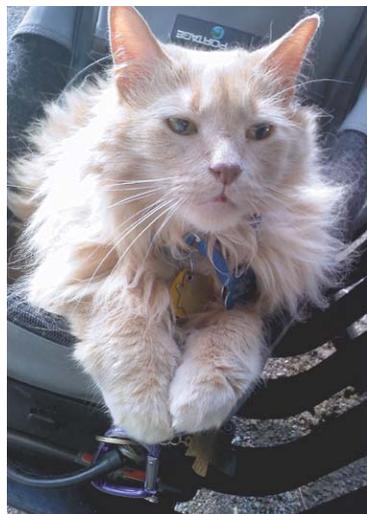


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

HC looks out from his traveling backpack at the view on the waterfront.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Molly and Tina Edwards.

Sausage and Mrs. Norris, 9 weeks old of Old Town Alexandria. Orphaned at a young age, these two love bugs were hand raised and love people. Five months old now, their favorite pastimes include climbing shower curtains, pant legs, and screen doors.
— The Greenwood Family: Davis, Jules, and Lydia





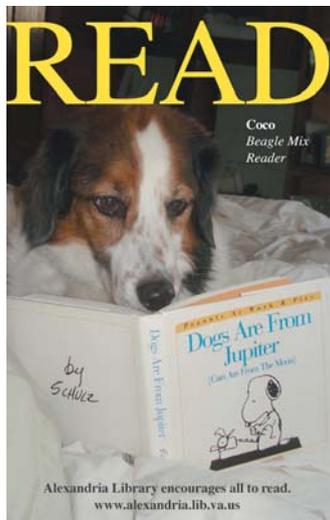
Julie Ferrill of Alexandria with her horse Zorro.



Katje enjoys a nice summer day in his back yard on Wolfe Street. He was adopted from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.



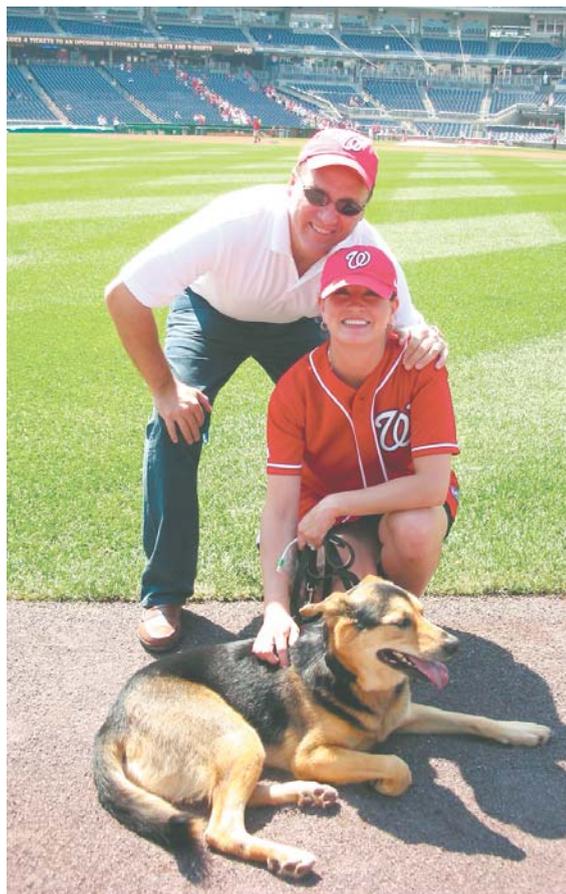
Leslie Carroll, Del Ray resident running errands after a bike ride, with her cockatoo, Gwen on Mount Vernon Avenue on Wednesday, July 20. Gwen is a 10-year-old cockatoo that has lived with the Carrolls for six years. She loves to come out and about. One of Gwen's favorite spots is Los Tios, where she can sit on the railing while her human companions have dinner.



Coco, the Reading Dog.



Julie Ferrill's dog Guapo



Lou Lou Maybelline Knebel, a 5-and-a-half-year-old Shepherd/Husky mix, walks the warning track before a Nats game at Pups in the Park at Nationals Park. Lou Lou lives with her parents, John and Amy Knebel, in Old Town.



Cinco: The Ferocious Hunter

Our newest kitty came to us on May 5, a little over two years ago, as an animal shelter gift. Aply, he became Cinco de Mayo. Cinco is a very ferocious hunter.

One of his hunting expeditions involved a furry slipper from my closet. Cinco must have decided that he needed to kill this particular slipper and bring it to us, because every morning when we came downstairs from our bedroom upstairs, we'd find the slipper under our coffee table in the living room.

Every day we'd take the slipper back upstairs and put it back in my closet. Every morning we'd find it again under the coffee table in the living room. At some point, the slipper ended up in my office and I was able to film him attacking it. The attached picture shows our very fierce hunter attacking this slipper.

One evening during an extreme cold spell, a friend came over for dinner. She was dressed seriously for the occasion, with a floor-length heavy wool coat and a fake wool collar. When she came indoors, we took her coat and merely lay it on the couch in our den. Well, about an hour into the evening, we found our little

Cinco dragging the big coat down the middle of the hall! We assume that he was trying to kill the collar and bring it to us — and since the collar was attached to the coat, the coat had to come, too.

Cinco and I used to have a game where I would throw a little gray fake mouse, about an inch long with a little suede tail, down our hall for him to fetch for me. This was a fun game, sometimes lasting for about 15 minutes.

Well, one night I had come home from choir and was sitting in my chair, talking to my husband, Max, while at the same time throwing the mouse down the hall for Cinco to fetch. A couple minutes into the game, I leaned over to pick up the mouse — and, hmmm, it looked different! Oh, no! "Max, come here! The mouse has feet!" I distinctly remembered the fake mouse not blessed with feet. This was a real (dead) mouse. Fortunately, Max, my brave and loving husband, disposed of it.

And, please note that there are no bugs in our house. That is because Cinco catches them all — and eats them!

— Susan D. Dawson



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OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



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Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan

JUST LISTED **OPEN SUN**

1906 Joliette Ct
\$698,500
Stately Colonial - Remarkable Price!
You will not believe this fab property is available for under \$700,000! Size, location, & condition compare favorably w/homes in the \$700 & \$800's! Special features incl: glass-walled FR, 3 FP's, HDW's, mstr suite, fin LL & oversized 2-car gar.. Most major components recently updated. Gorgeous grounds, quiet cul-de-sac. OPEN SUN 7/28, 1-4: Plovy S, R Belle Haven, L Ft Hunt, R Rollins, R Rollins, L Colgate, R Joliette to 1906.

JUST LISTED **OPEN SUN**

1916 Shiver Dr
\$585,000
Total Renovation - Mins from Old Town!
Better than new! Top to bottom renovation of this fabulous 5BR, 3BA home on quiet street just 4 miles to Old Town. Top quality updates include: gourmet kitchen, all baths, thermal windows, roof & more! Property also features: large sunroom, 2FP, gorgeous hwdw flrs, expansive deck and fenced lot. OPEN SUN 7/28, 1-4: Plovy S, R Belle View Blvd, L Ft Hunt Rd, R Rollins Dr, L Colgate, L Shriver to 1916 on Left

JUST LISTED

4002 Belle Rive Terr.
\$879,900
Stately Colonial - Near River
Classic Brick Colonial, custom built in prestigious Belle Rive neighborhood of many \$1,000,000+ properties. Truly special home with many features inc large room sizes, elegant trim detail, updated, "state of the art" kitchen, 5BRs, and, finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on 1/2 acre grounds w/views of the river. Uniquely attractive property in premiere location. Priced to make a TRULY GREAT VALUE!

\$ 509,900
Falls Church "CAPE COD"
Lovely home is move-in ready & waiting for you. Updated & much larger than appears w/2 adds. Beautiful wood flrs & tile on main lv. Kitchen is a cooks delight w/5-burner stove & wall oven. Living rm w/gas fireplace. Low maintenance exterior. Fully fenced rear yard + oversized garage completes this great home. Future bath rough-in on 2nd fl.

Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

\$ 194,500
The Jefferson "SENIOR LIVING AT ITS BEST"
Enjoy your 2BR/2BA apartment in this luxury building in Arlington (must be 55+ to purchase). Spacious balcony, w/southeast exposure overlooks a nicely landscaped courtyard. Monthly fee covers so much in a POOL!!! Walk to Ballston shops & restaurants. Please call for more information...

Anne Hambley 703.946.7266

\$ 369,000
Alexandria "FANTASTIC PRICE..."
... for a very nice home. Located in a quiet mews setting that's tucked into the back of a private cul-de-sac w/off-street prkg. 3 level TH featuring 3BR/2.5BA, fireplace & back patio. Upper level has cathedral ceilings. Just off Duke St for quick commutes to Old Town & DC. Put this on your short list as a definite MUST SEE.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

JUST LISTED

3718 Carriage House Ct
\$719,000
Riverwood Opportunity!
Spacious 5BR home on quiet cul-de-sac in prestigious waterfront communities. Fabulous home features, updated kitchen, baths and gorgeous hardwood floors. Bright open floor plan with open kitchen-family room. Private fenced rear yard. Community river access. Great Value!

8890 McNairst Dr
\$749,500
Pristine Custom Colonial!
Custom colonial in enclave of 17 homes on quiet cul-de-sac surrounded by grounds of Mt Vernon Country Club. Many fabulous features include: large room sizes, stained hardwood floors, updated kit & baths, open kitchen-family room, upgraded trim detail & custom built-ins. Spacious master suite and 2 car gar. Pristine condition on gorgeous professionally landscaped lot.

804 Pendleton St
\$799,000

CONTRACT!

Construction opportunity combines the advantages of premier Old Town

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 495,000
Alex / Old Town 564 ST ASAPH ST
THIS IS THE ONE! Beautiful 4 lvl all brick condo TH the in heart of Old Town. Enclosed brick patio. 5 blocks to the Potomac. Garage prkg. Close to Metro, shops & eateries + EZ commuting. Call for full list of upgrades - too many to list.

www.brianandjery.com
Brian & Jery 703.929.5764

\$ 459,000
Alexandria "YOUR HOME... ALL YOU NEED"
... to bring are your things because this home has it all. Kit w/SSA & newly installed HW on main lv. Lovely 2BR/2.5BA TH comes w/2-car garage. Located bet. 2 Metro stops, short dist. to the Interstate, military & shops. Great community amenities. Call...

Janice Allen 703.509.0906

\$ 1,050,000
N Arl/Tuckahoe Vill. "INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY"
Bungalow situated on 5,482sqft lot ripe for rehab or build-up is being sold for \$500,000. Add'l 10,681sqft lot at corner of Kentucky St is also avail. for \$550,000. Purchase together or separately. Within walking dist. to East Falls Church Metro. Tuckahoe/Swanson/Yorktown schools.

Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282

NEW HOME

1205 Cedar Dale Ln
\$1,250,000
Pre-Construction Value!
Rare new home opportunity just off GW Parkway! Fabulous price on spacious Fairfax model by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading custom builder. Craftman architecture with full front porch to enhance natural beauty of gorgeous 1/2A lot. Home is loaded with upgrades and custom features and located in Wayneswood School Dist. Priced thousands below other new homes in area! (Pic is similar home)

NEW OPPORTUNITY!

4003 Belle Rive Ter
\$1,895,000
River Front Opportunity!
Owner wants immediate sale and has priced home accordingly. Previously listed at \$4.8 mill! Spacious custom home designed to capitalize on breathtaking river views from every corner of the home. Open floor plan with app. 11,000 sq ft of luxury. Extensive balconies, patio & roof deck embrace the majestic setting of this elevated lot overlooking the Potomac River! OFFERS INVITED!

JUST LISTED

9307 Mount Vernon Cir
\$779,500
Prestigious Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!
Best price in years for a home in area's premier waterfront community. Classic center hall colonial in pristine condition on gorgeous 1/2 acre plus lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac. Numerous features: 3 finished levels, 4 spacious bedrooms, bright updated kitchen, first floor family room and oversized 2 car garage. Unique Opportunity!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 500,000
Alex / Quaker Ln 2332 N EARLY ST
Spacious 3BR rambler with fully finished basement, fireplace, hardwood floors, gas heat, CAC & much more.

Gary Ansley 202.288.7946

PRICE REDUCTION!
\$ 269,900
Alexandria "FABULOUS HUGE PATIO"
Wonderful first floor condo w/tons of light & 15ft plus sliding glass doors to a very large fenced brick patio. Gate from patio to parking. New kitchen. Close to everything - Old Town, airport, eateries, shops, DC & all major commuter routes.

Sheryl Lambson@inf.com
Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012

\$ 450,000 - \$ 699,999
Porto Vecchio Alexandria "LUXURY WATERFRONT LIVING"
If you dreamed of living in this luxury residence, now is the time to make the move! 3 great condos, each w/buyer incentives & different flpls from 1,133sf - 1,550sf. Renovated, garage pkg, resort amenities & more. Call us...

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

NEW PRICE

3932 Ft Worth Ave
\$949,000
Updated Colonial!
Exciting new listing! Spacious 3 level colonial in prime Seminary Ridge location. Home is in pristine condition with many fabulous features including four large bedrooms, updated white kitchen, hardwood floors, luxurious master suite and oversized 2 car garage Deck overlooks private grounds. Walk to St. Stephens/St. Agnes School. Convenient to everything!

JUST LISTED

1203 Falster Rd
\$519,950

SOLD!

Spacious 5 bedroom truly magnificent, private 19,000 sq ft

NEW PRICE

4503 Ferry Landing Rd
\$599,000
One Level Luxury!
Rare opportunity - Spacious one lv home in premier Yacht Haven location! This home has been updated & offers many features: open floor plan, updated kit and baths, stunning MBR suite w/cath. ceiling and luxury bath, sunroom and 2 car gar. Looking to eliminate stairs & not sacrifice size and amenities - this is it!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 549,900
Parker Gray Historic District 334 N PATRICK ST

- GREAT SPACE for NEW PRICE
- 3 levels up, 3BR/2.5BATH
- Eat-in kit w/new SSA + granite
- Beautiful HW's thru-out
- Formal LR, Sep DR
- Lovely yard
- Blks from 2 metros & King St

Martine Imer 703.346.7283

Royal St \$556,900
Pitt St \$510,000
Alexandria / Old Town "WATERGATE OLD TOWN"
Choose either this 3BR brick end TH w/ lots of window & sunny patio w/open floorplan, eat-in kit, wood flrs, LR fireplace, close to river, 2 garage spaces... Or a 3BR end TH close to shops & eateries w/wood flrs, LR fireplace, eat-in kit, large picket fence patio, one garage space, & needs some TLC. Call Renee...

ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330

\$ 15,000 PRICE REDUCTION!
\$ 360,000
Alex / Del Ray 3002 MT VERNON AVE
Charming TH is move-in ready & Priced To Sell - No HOA Fee! 3 lvl 2/3BR & 1BA Rare 2 off-st prkg spaces - 300sf brick patio off LR. Minutes to DC!

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



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Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 879-0475

The helpful place.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

New Online Guide to Dog Friendly Alexandria

Search "Dog Friendly" on VisitAlexandriaVA.com for a new online guide to events, shops, attractions and dog parks. Direct link: www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Dogs

EVERY SUNDAY

West End Farmers Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine, in Ben Brenman Park. Primarily producer-only, every week offers fresh, locally grown

fruits, vegetables and herbs; freshly baked breads, pastries and desserts; artisanal cheeses and yogurt; free range chicken, pork, beef and buffalo; handmade, fresh pasta and oven-ready meals; sweet, savory and smoky nuts; jams, jellies, salsas and sauces; beautiful fresh cut flowers and potted plants. Visit www.westendfarmersmarket.org.

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.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

State of Black Politics in VA Dinner and Panel. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$100. This event brings together supporters of African-American political leaders in the commonwealth of Virginia to network and share information on increasing diversity in elected office, campaign operations and political fundraising. At the Army Navy Country Club, 1700 Army Navy Dr., Arlington. www.virginialead.org or info@virginialead.org.

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606 Upland Place A Magnificent Property \$1,295,000

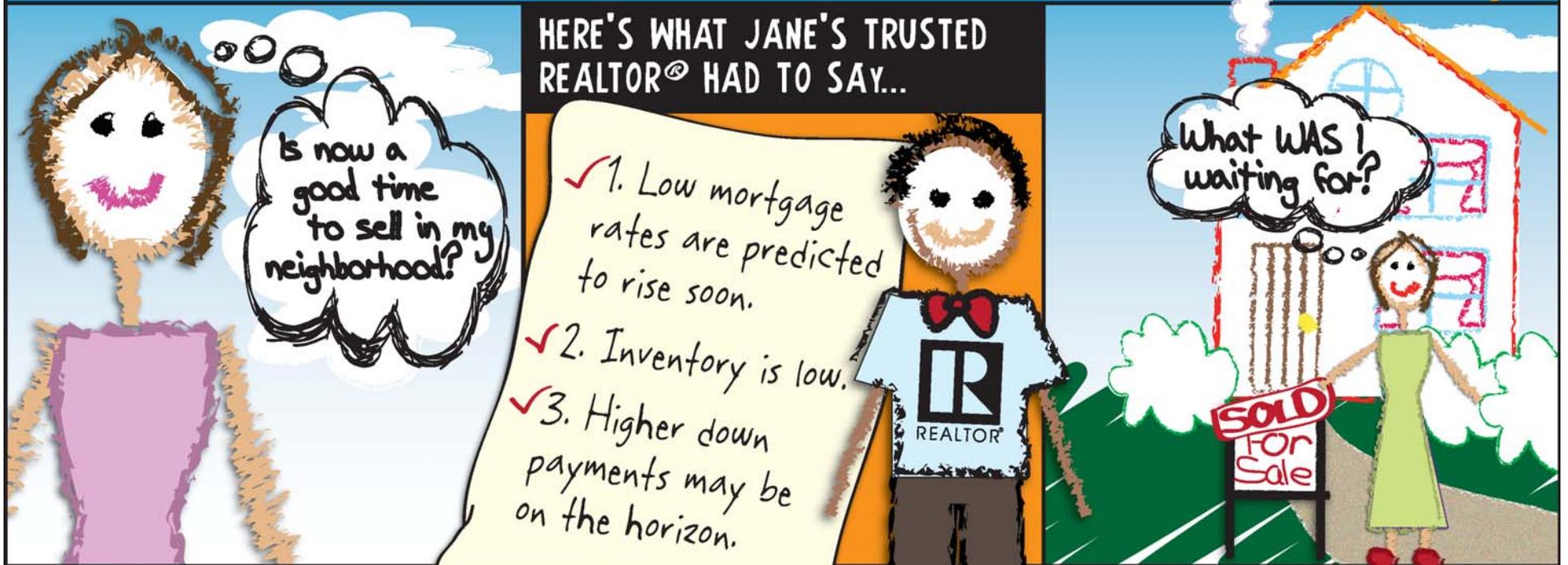


This is a rare opportunity to own a home that backs to the Masonic Temple. This stunning Custom Home has been tastefully remodeled and is wheelchair accessible. The home includes a gourmet kitchen with granite countertops & cherry cabinets, Butler's pantry with wet bar, a spiral staircase leading to a loft/media room, 2 car side load garage fits large SUV, 8 off street parking spaces, 4 bedrooms and 2.5 updated baths with Jacuzzi tub and steam shower. All this and you can walk to King Street Metro. This is a great home for entertaining or just relaxing. Call Kevin @ 703-509-5804 for more info and to arrange a private showing.

Kevin Plunkett
Associate Broker
703-778-7719(d) • 703-922-4348(h)
kevinp@mrisc.com

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PET GAZETTE

The Dog-ma of Pet Boutiques

Alexandria pet care stores and services run the gamut.

BY ADAM BASILE
THE GAZETTE

Pet lovers in Alexandria have a wide selection of stores and services to choose from when pampering their pets. Whether they are interested in all-natural diets, training services or daycare, there are plenty of options at their disposal.



The Dog Park's colorful assortment of themed dog treats.

THE DOG PARK

705 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-888-2818

Opened in May 2010 by owner Anna Fitzgerald, The Dog Park offers a variety of dog- and cat-oriented products. Fitzgerald always knew that she wanted to have her own store, but her desire to open a pet boutique was sparked by her dog Chester.

The store's most important products are treats, collars, bowls, food, and toys for both cats and dogs. Fitzgerald wanted the store "to be a mix of a pet boutique and a functional store ... we mix functionality and unique, decorative items."

She also emphasizes that the store takes pride in its "rotation of items." She added that "you will not see the same items this month as you saw the month before."

One of The Dog Park's best-selling and most eye-catching products is its neon Wacky Walk'r, which is a leash for dogs that pull too much on walks. Fitzgerald said that it "decreases the tension in [the walker's] shoulder and also in [the dog's] neck." No matter what size your dog is, each Wacky Walk'r costs \$28.99.

Fitzgerald has recently added a "grooming shop" to the store. In this space, she will begin to provide grooming services in the near future.

RESERVED BARKING

6404 Telegraph Road, Alexandria VA 22310; 703-417-9755 www.reservedbarking.com

Opened in April 2010 by Bilal Malik, Reserved Barking is an all-inclusive dog daycare. Reserved Barking offers full-service, breed-specific grooming, regimented daycare, boarding services, and personalized training sessions.

The daycare's agenda begins at 7 a.m. From then until 1 p.m., the dogs play in a supervised, cage-less, off-leash environment. From 1 to 3 p.m., the dogs rest. Then, from 3 to 7 p.m., the dogs play again until their owners come to pick them up. The dogs are walked throughout the day through the outdoor facility on the premises.

Day care costs \$35 per full day, but bulk packages can reduce daily costs down to as low as \$28.30 per day. To board your dog at Reserved Barking, you have to pay the daily rate for daycare, plus an additional \$20 for each day your dog is boarded.

Reserved Barking frequently offers promotions and holds events.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Dogtopia of Alexandria owner Jeff Lutton plays with a few of the "large dogs."

DOGTOPIA OF ALEXANDRIA

3121 Colvin Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-751-7387
www.dogdaycare.com/alexandria

Jeff and Sandy Lutton opened Dogtopia of Alexandria, a dog daycare and boarding facility in September 2007, with simple goals in mind. All the couple really wanted to do was spend more time with their Golden Retriever, Josie. After almost four years, they have served over 100,000 dogs.

The Luttons and their 20 employees provide daycare, boarding and even some grooming services.

Lutton believes that there are three aspects to Dogtopia of Alexandria that make it unique. First, Dogtopia uses online webcams so that the "parents can watch their dog all day." Second, the daycare uses separate rooms for the "big dogs, small dogs and the lounge dogs." That way, dogs of different sizes and energy levels can be grouped accordingly. Third, Dogtopia has an outdoor play area for the dogs, which few dog daycares in Alexandria have.

If you want to board your dog overnight, there is a \$20 boarding charge plus the daily daycare fee of \$35.

There are also discounted rates for customers who are willing to buy multiple days of daycare at a time. For instance, a 30-day pass can be purchased at a rate of only \$28/day. Owner Jeff Lutton says that "the majority of the clients do a pass package, so that they can pre-pay" their dog's visits.



Reserved Barking is an all-inclusive dog daycare where your dog can play, be groomed, and trained all while you're at work.

They are currently holding a Camp Canine event that runs until Aug. 15, where you can send your dog to "summer camp" for seven days.

At the camp, your dog will receive personalized obedience training and doggy spa treatments. It will also participate in agility drills, water sports, nature walks and more, all for \$400 plus the cost of boarding.

Employee Anna Lonesome said that Reserved Barking provides "the ultimate in pet care. You call, drop off your dog, and it can be groomed, exhausted and well-socialized by the end of the day."



PetSage Inc.'s yōghund frozen yogurt for dogs has probiotics that help with digestion.

PETSAGE INC.

2391 South Dove Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314;
1.800.PET.HLTH www.petsage.com

PetSage Inc. is a one-of-a-kind, health-conscious pet store that specializes in supplements and specialty diets for cats and dogs. "My animals drove me to it," said PetSage Inc. owner Teresa Grow, whose cats and dog lounge around in the spacious store. She was researching health care and dieting for her own animals when she realized that there was a need for health-conscious food stores for animals. She opened PetSage Inc. in 1995, with a focus on "herbal therapies, supplements, and specialty diets," and has been successful ever since.

Grow said that "a lot of research" goes into selecting the products she sells in her store. Her best-selling products are often her "raw food diets and herbal supplements." Grow said that veterinarians will often refer pets with diet or health issues to PetSage Inc. for "herbal medicines that can be used in complement with veterinarian's medicine."

Grow says that consultations on diet and health care with her and her employees can be made by appointment as well.

Grow believes that "[PetSage's] experience, knowledge-based training and work with veterinarians is what sets them apart" from other health-conscious pet stores.

WILD BIRD CENTER

3216 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-370-5544
www.wildbird.com/franchisee/alx/home

Owners Bradford and Amy Schmonsee offer birdseed, feeders, bird watching expertise and more at the Wild Bird Center Franchise in Alexandria. Ever since Bradford Schmonsee's childhood, he has been an avid bird watcher. He actually grew up near the original Wild Bird Center Franchise in Cabin John, Md.



The Wild Bird Center

The Schmonsees say that their expertise and low prices are what set them apart from other stores.

The Schmonsees said that all too frequently they see customers being misled by other, larger stores. Amy Schmonsee said that "many of the larger stores sell feeders that are advertised as squirrel-proof," but few will actually keep the rodents out. The Schmonsees added that even when other stores carry legitimate squirrel-proof feeders, often, they don't tell the customers how to set them up properly.

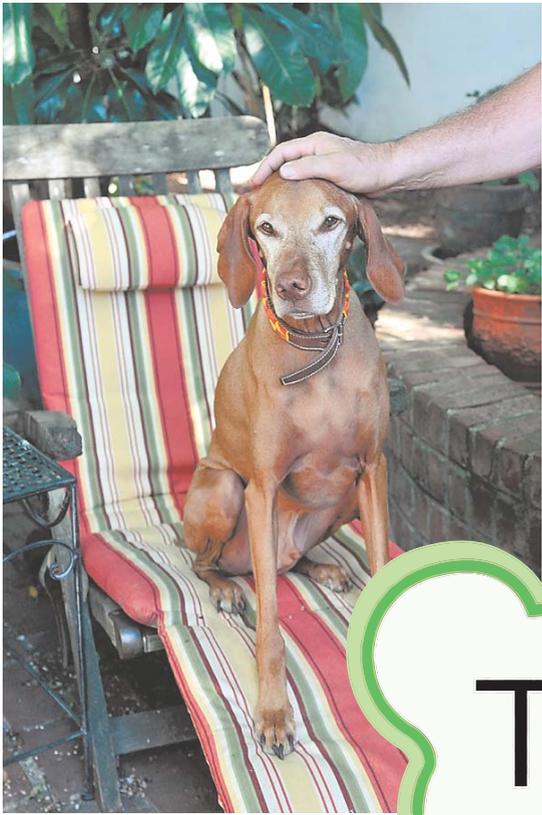
"We're all about birdseed — that's our thing," the Schmonsees said. Their store, however, contains more than just birdseed. It's filled with an assortment of unique bird seeders, birdhouses, and landscaping décor.

Each year, the Wild Bird Center of Alexandria donates thousands of dollars of birdseed to Huntley Meadows Park. The Schmonsees also take other birdwatchers out on bird walks to share their expertise.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ JULY 28- AUGUST 3, 2011 ♦ 19



Photos by Louise Krafft



Talk of the Town

Fido Goes on Vacation

The Wanderer knows how hugely attached Alexandrians are to their dogs, but he also recognizes how dedicated they are to their travels. Therein lies the dilemma...where to take Fido when his owners cannot crate him along to the beach (or wherever). Well, The Wanderer wants to reassure his followers that the places shown on this page will redefine "a dog's life" to mean nothing short of dog heaven.



A DOGTOPIA OF ALEXANDRIA

Jeff and Sandy Lutton have been dog lovers from way back. After traipsing to Dogtopia of Tysons for years, they decided to bring the franchise to Alexandria and are dedicated to making it an excellent choice among fellow dog owners.
 3121 Colvin Street, 703.751.7387,
dogdaycare.com/alexandria

B PAWSITIVE PETS

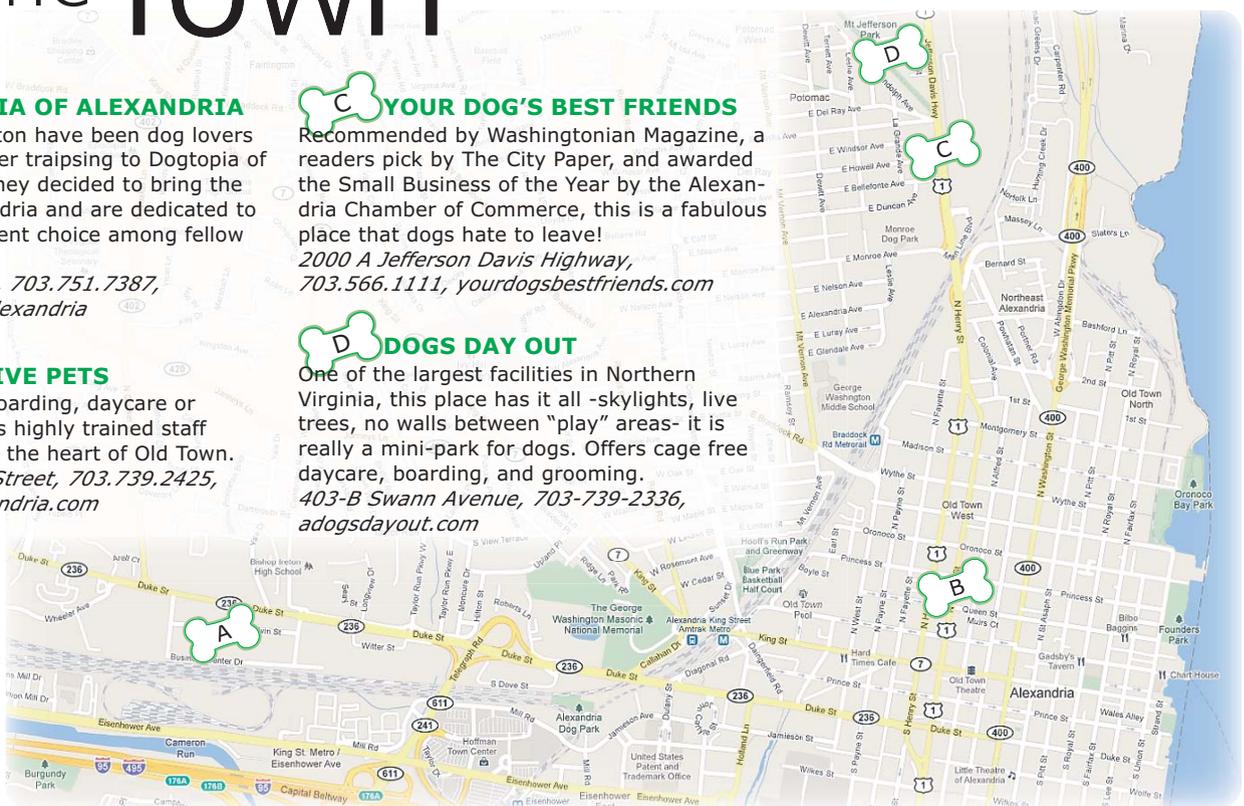
Dog walking, pet boarding, daycare or vacations care. This highly trained staff offers all options in the heart of Old Town.
 314 North Patrick Street, 703.739.2425,
pawsitivepetsalexandria.com

C YOUR DOG'S BEST FRIENDS

Recommended by Washingtonian Magazine, a readers pick by The City Paper, and awarded the Small Business of the Year by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, this is a fabulous place that dogs hate to leave!
 2000 A Jefferson Davis Highway,
 703.566.1111, yourdogsbestfriends.com

D DOGS DAY OUT

One of the largest facilities in Northern Virginia, this place has it all -skylights, live trees, no walls between "play" areas- it is really a mini-park for dogs. Offers cage free daycare, boarding, and grooming.
 403-B Swann Avenue, 703-739-2336,
adogsdayout.com



© Google Map data



PET GAZETTE

OLDE TOWN SCHOOL FOR DOGS
529 Oronoco St. Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-7643; www.otsfd.com

The Olde Town School for Dogs has been in business for over 35 years — that's 245 dog years. Owners Carlos and Sandy Mejias founded the school in 1975 and have been training dogs there ever since. But the Old Town School for Dogs is not limited to its celebrated training programs; it also provides elegant grooming services and is chocked full of unique pet products.

Carlos Mejias has a rich background in dog training. He began training dogs at Captain Haggarty's school for dogs, a prestigious dog school in New York City, in 1968. He then graduated from the distinguished New York School of Dog Grooming. Sandy also began her dog-training career at Captain Haggarty's and had always had a penchant for dog training.

The School for Dogs offers two main types of training: day care and private lessons. In day care, there are three workouts a day; each is 30 minutes, and sessions last for three weeks. Also, there are three hours of training at the end of the week for the owner.

Private lessons are done over a six-week span. Each weekly session lasts one hour, and the owners are expected to practice the learned techniques at home when the sessions are over. Both of these training services can be used to correct a slew of problems such as barking, jumping, digging or any other destructive behavior.

The School for Dogs grooms all breeds of dogs. The School for Dogs grooms "23 to 25 dogs a day, six days a week," said Carlos Mejias. He added that they can, "groom to the standard of a breed or to any style." There's only one problem: you have to book your session up to a year in advance. "Most of the dogs we get are in cancellations," added Mejias.

It's safe to say that The School for Dogs' reputation extends beyond Alexandria. In September 2009, it groomed the Obamas's Portuguese water dog, Bo.

The store's product mix is part boutique and part traditional pet store. "50 percent [of the merchandise] duplicates super stores, the rest is stuff you find at dog shows," Mejias said. He added that many customers are surprised with their low



PHOTOS BY ADAM BASILE

LaPooch shampoo is one of several premium products sold at the Olde Town School for Dogs that is used regularly at dog shows.

prices. "They're competitive with or better than the superstores," he said.

The Mejiases and the Old Town School for Dogs have been in business for 35 years. Mejias says that, "there's nothing we haven't seen. We're a full-service operation."

BARKLEY SQUARE PETS
703-548-3644;
www.barkleysquarebakery.com

The inception of Barkley Square Pets started 20 years ago, when owner Kristina Robertson started pet-sitting for her friends in 1991.

"I went to my church and said I'm going to start watching pets," Robertson said.

As time went on, her pet-sitting service evolved into a full-fledged pet care business that she called Karing by Kristina. In 2003, she opened a pet bakery named Barkley Square and merged it with her preexisting pet care company.

Now, Robertson runs Barkley Square Pets entirely online from the basement of her home. The company provides comprehensive pet care services and colorful, homemade dog treats.

Robertson said that Barkley Square offers several unique, alternatives in pet care when you can't be there for your pet.

Robertson said, "when you need someone to cover for you," Barkley Square can always let your dog out for you on an ad-hoc basis.

Second, Barkley can send someone to stay at your house overnight to accompany your pet.

Third, Kristina offers you the option of "Bed and Barkfast." Here, your pet stays at Kristina's home as if it were her own. "There are no kennels involved," said Robertson.

Barkley Square's treats are all homemade. "Our best-sell-



A Barkley Square cake just before the guests of honor get their paws into it.

ing item is the cheddar cheese and bacon bone," said Robertson. She added that Barkley can make gluten-free and wheat-free treats by request as well.

Barkley Square also does dog parties. For your dog's next birthday, you can get a bone-shaped cake, measuring either 9 inches or 12 inches, to celebrate the occasion. Barkley will also host the party and have games at the event.

NATURE'S NIBBLES
2601 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301; 703-931-5241
www.naturesnibbles.com

When Owner Christopher Gabriel's German Shepherd Labrador mix Gypsy was suffering from a serious skin condition, he turned to all-natural diets to improve its health.

This spawned Gabriel's interest in all-natural pet diets. In 2005, he began Nature's Nibbles as a strictly online business. In late 2007, he moved the store into its current location on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Gabriel classified the Nature's Nibbles' products as strictly "all-natural," which means "no byproducts."

Gabriel said that many of his all-natural products start out as customer suggestions. Gabriel said that when he makes these special orders, he purchases extras. "If they sell, they become part of our stock," Gabriel said.

Gabriel said that Nature's Nibbles' willingness to deliver its products to its customers sets it apart. "We deliver for free within five miles, for \$5 past five miles, for \$10 past 10 miles, and we'll deliver up to 15 miles."

Nature's Nibbles also has a do-it-yourself dog bath, where it provides all the supplies.

Many of their products leave out the tough-to-digest elements that are



Taste of the Wild Dog food, which is grain-free.

commonly found in commercial brands of pet foods. "A lot of dogs still have allergies to grains," Gabriel said. Many of the foods they sell, like Taste of the Wild, take out those grains.



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Staying Power

LTA's 'Hairspray' opens to raves.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The dreams are big and the hair even bigger as plump and plucky Baltimore teen Tracy Turnblad longs to dance on the local American Bandstand-style show in the energetic musical "Hairspray," now playing to rave reviews at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

"I have never seen such talent in my life," said longtime theater veteran Ernie Sult. "This is as good a cast — if not better — as any you'll find on Broadway. What an incredible, cohesive performance."

Based on the 2002 Tony Award-winning musical, itself based on the original 1988 John Waters film, "Hairspray" follows plus-sized protagonist Tracy Turnblad in her 1962 crusade to integrate the Corny Collins show. Allies in her fight against both racism and girls of girth grow to

include Tracy's best friend Penny Pingleton, teen heartthrob Link Larkin and Motormouth Maybelle, hostess of the once-a-month "Negro Day" on Corny's show.

Playing the unlikely heroine Tracy, Shannon Kingett opens the show in overdrive belting out one of the show's signature songs, "Good Morning, Baltimore." In the role that made film stars of Ricki Lake and Nikki Blonsky, Kingett is a diminutive dynamo with a siren-like voice that carries a charging score of 20 infectious melodies.

T.C. Williams High School senior Sam Jones effortlessly plays the dreamy Link Larkin. With his pure tenor vocals and Elvis-inspired dance moves, Jones jumps off stage and into your heart.

As Tracy's duck-to-swan best friend Penny, Jaelyn Young channels her inner Mary J. Blige while mega-talented Adrian Cabbage is her forbidden crush Seaweed.



PHOTO BY DOUG OLMSTED

Reeny Eul as Louann, Shannon Kingett as Tracy Turnblad, and Sam Jones as Link Larkin in "Hairspray," which runs through Aug. 13 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Gardner Reed nails the role of the suave Corny Collins, a savvy TV host who is decidedly Team Tracy.

Determined in their opposition to all this rhythmic righteousness are the bratty Amber Von Tussle, played by Christina Kidd, and Janette Moman as her maniacal mama Velma. Both are hilarious in their over-the-top wickedness.

In a company of standouts, Brenda Parker's Motormouth Maybelle brings the audience to its

feet with vocals that soar to stratospheric heights in the gospel-infused "I Know Where I've Been."

One of the finest performances in the show is given by Christopher Harris as Tracy's mother, Edna. The deftly hilarious Harris adds a luminous poignancy and vulnerability to the role originated by Harvey Fierstein on Broadway and John Travolta in the subsequent movie.

Harris' duet, "Timeless to Me," with Larry Grey as Tracy's father

Wilbur, is an unqualified show stopper and one of the most touching moments of the evening.

Sue Pinkman and Ivan Davila provide the creative direction and non-stop energetic choreography. With colorful and inventive sets by Myke Taister, vivid costumes by Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley and a 13-piece orchestra conducted by Christopher Tomasino, the exuberant LTA production provides as perfectly an in-tune musical ensemble as any you'll find on Broadway.

The upbeat score closes the show with the driving rhythm of "You Can't Stop the Beat," and the LTA version will long be remembered as one of the best dance finales ever performed in community theater.

With a flawless 30-plus member cast, dazzling performances and a contagious score that is as impossible to shake off as Tracy's lacquered beehive, LTA's "Hairspray" is a blockbuster musical with staying power.

"Hairspray" runs through Aug. 13 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH OCT. 31

Alexandria Arts and Crafts Fair. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Sunday. Features some of the areas' best artists and artisans and includes jewelry, glass works, ceramics and pottery, hand woven products, and other crafts. At St. George Gallery, 105 North Alfred Street, in the heart of Old Town Alexandria.

THURSDAY/JULY 28

Music at Twilight Concerts.

7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Alexandria Harmonizers (Men's Barbershop). At Fort Ward Park Amphitheater, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Contact: Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

18th Century Dance Classes.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Learn the dances of Jane Austen's time. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead the series in preparation for the annual Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13. Reservations at 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

Alexandria Citizens Band Concert. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Contact Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

Happy Birthday Jerry Garcia: The U-Liners Tribute. 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15/door. At IOTA Club & Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-522-8340 or visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com.

Cocker Spaniel Adoption Show. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come meet cockers of all ages available for adoption. Dogs are spayed or neutered. At Alexandria Hybla Valley Petsmart, 7690 Richmond Hwy. (U.S. 1), Alexandria. Call 703-533-2373 or visit www.cockerspanielrescue.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 31

Butterflies for Families. 10 a.m. to noon. Join recently graduated Virginia Master Naturalist and avid butterfly enthusiast Mary Alexander on a walk along Huntley Meadow's boardwalk looking for interesting butterflies. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

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

Keira Moran Performs. 8 to 10 p.m. The 16-year-old singer/songwriter will sing at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. A rising junior at T.C. Williams, Keira won the Smashtunes competition with her song, "When I'm With You." Visit www.StElmosCoffeePub.com.

Summer Concert Series. 8 p.m. Free. "Tunes of 'Toons." The U.S. Air Force Band — The Concert Band and members of the Singing Sergeants. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call at 202-767-5658 or www.usafband.af.mil.

THURSDAY/AUG. 4

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Learn the dances of Jane Austen's time. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead the series in preparation for the annual Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13. Reservations at 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

Summer Concert. 6 to 8 p.m. Featuring the music of Charm City Baroque. Concessions such as water, chips and cookies will be available for purchase. Alcohol is not permitted on the property. At the lawn at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.carlylehouse.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 5

The Band POCO. 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$35. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

"The Real Dirt on Farmer John." 7 p.m. PBS documentary to be shown at Hollin Hall House at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-721-0595.

"Hairspray" Cast Holds Talkback. Mink Stole, from the original John Waters film "Hairspray," will lead a Q&A discussion after the performance. The cast will also be available for questions. Find out what it's like to stage a musical on the LTA stage, ask about auditions, choreography, or character development. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-0496.

Alexandria Citizens Band Concert. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Contact Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

SATURDAY/AUG. 6

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



SATURDAY/AUG. 6

Suzy Bogguss in Concert. 8 p.m. At the Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria.

Friendship Firehouse

Festival. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friendship Firehouse celebrates its 237th birthday. Free. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department, a display of modern fire apparatus. The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand. Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Children will receive free fire helmets and balloons. At the 100 block of South Alfred Street, between Prince and King Streets. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.
Living History. Noon to 4 p.m. This free, family-friendly program will feature living history interpreters portraying the Carlyle family. At Carlyle House, 121 North Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.nvrpa.org.
Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. The market boasts amazing artwork from local artists, music from multicultural musicians and great food from local restaurants. At Colasanto Park in the heart of Del Ray. Free and open to public. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or DRALexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com to apply.

Tavern Day. 1 to 5 p.m. Free Open House. Tavern Day will feature continuous tours of the historic site by costumed guides, the opportunity to learn to dance like George and Martha Washington, and much more. At Gadsby's Tavern, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 7

Virginia Ballet Company. 4:30 p.m. Performs "Precedence," contemporary dance styles with classical ballet technique, including ballet, flamenco, modern and jazz. At the Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC Annandale campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at www.virginiaballetcompany.org. Call 703 249-8227.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 10

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

Lunch Bunch Concert. 12 to 1 p.m. Tolumi DE (Afropop, Soul & Gospel). At Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Alexandria. Contact: Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

18th Century Dance Classes. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/series or \$12/class. Learn the dances of Jane Austen's time. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead the series in preparation for the annual Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13. Reservations at 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org.

Music at Twilight Concerts. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bay Jazz Project (Jazz). At Fort Ward Park Amphitheater, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Contact: Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592.

Bill Mulrone & Second Wind Bandits. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Part of the Second Thursday Music. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 12

Buck Owens Birthday Party. 7 to 10 p.m. Telegraph Station is hosting a Buck Owens Birthday Party with two live acts: banjo player Banjer Dan and Washington, D.C. country band The Highballers. Country music legend Buck Owens is the much-revered and influential father of the "Bakersfield Sound." Telegraph Station will be playing Buck Owens music, and the live acts will perform original music along with some versions of Owens's songs. At 5735 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-373-3376.

Alexandria Harmonizers Concert. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Barbershop Chorus. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Contact: Special Events, maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5592

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

Fort Ward Civil War Camp Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5/adult; \$10/families. Highlights include Union and Confederate drills and camp life with costumed interpreters, and a focus on uniforms and equipment from the early war. Free parking available along West Braddock Road. At 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

AUG. 14 TO 15

Auditions for "Twelve Angry Men." 7 to 9 p.m. Auditions for Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) production of "Twelve Angry Men" will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. For character profiles, and further information, visit acctonline.org

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All Need To Address Juvenile Alcohol and Drug Abuse

BY LILLIAN BROOKS, J.D.
DIRECTOR OF THE ALEXANDRIA
COURT SERVICE UNIT

On July 1, 2011, the law changed for Juvenile drivers who drink and drive. The new law has been termed the “Baby DUI” law and imposes enhanced penalties for youth who drink alcohol and then get behind the wheel. Youth who take that chance of drinking and driving will lose their driver’s license for a full year and could end up with a fine of at least \$500 and 50 hours of community service. If the youth does not have a driver’s license at the time of an arrest, the law requires that an application for a driver’s license be delayed by a period of one year. This is important information to know even

COMMENTARY though there have not been more than two or three DUI arrests of juveniles in the City of Alexandria in the past few years.

The bad news is that there was a 27 percent increase for juvenile Possession of Alcohol and/Drugs beginning in FY2009. In the last two years, the juvenile arrest numbers have been consistent: 125 arrests in FY2009-10 and 122 in FY 2010-11. But, these arrest numbers are only part of the story. Many youth that come to court on other charges and those youth in prevention and early intervention programs are self-reporting that they are using drugs or alcohol and drug use is indicated in random drug screens. We also have to remember that it is also difficult to test for prescription drug abuse and so there is no true picture of whether that may be problem in the City.

Youth are smarter about where they use alcohol and drugs. Many youth are not engaging in this behavior in plain view like the old days; they are doing it indoors and in private settings, making it difficult to be caught in the act. Drinking games, mostly prevalent in the college community, are

catching on with high school and middle school students. These games happen at parties or random youth gathering at someone’s home and the purpose of the games is to drink as much alcohol as possible in a short period of time. Participants take turns drinking shots or mixed drinks to see who can outlast the other before passing out. These games are a good way to get alcohol poisoning and hospitals will tell you that they are seeing more of these cases in the Emergency Room. Many arrests for possession of alcohol happen at parties where there is underage drinking. Teens talk about the drinking games at these parties and how they are often arranged and communicated through face book and twitter. Parents who are unaware of these drinking games have no clue what is happening in their own home when they are away.

When a juvenile is arrested for possession of alcohol, Virginia law permits the Court Service Unit to divert first-time offenders. Diversion from court action definitely has its benefits but there is still an accountability and treatment component that is a condition of not going to court. If the case merits consideration for diversion, the youth and his/her parents will have to agree to the terms of a diversion agreement. The terms of the agreement include removing the youth’s driver’s license for a period of six months and requiring that the juvenile perform at least 50 hours of community service. In addition, youth with possession of alcohol charges are required to undergo drug/alcohol screening assessments and attend a psycho-educational group conducted at the Court Service Unit by a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor. In more serious cases, youth are required to begin a substance abuse treatment program. The chief benefit of diversion is that if the youth complies with the conditions of the diversion agreement, the matter is closed and the youth does not have a criminal record. The idea of diversion is that the youth gets “one bite of the apple” for the first possession charge and this one incident

with the law will not appear on a criminal record which could have a negative effect chances at college admission or future employment. If the youth obtains a second charge, then the matter becomes more serious and the case will probably go before a judge. It is likely that there will be stronger penalties imposed, probation may be ordered and there will be a criminal record on file on the juvenile. DUI’s go straight to court and the court imposes the sentences. The case may be dismissed at a later date but the charge still stays on the youth’s record, DMV is formerly notified, and parental insurance costs are often bumped up.

Whether youth are on a diversion agreement or court supervision, Court Services has now found a way to monitor alcohol consumption. Alcohol does not remain in the system as does marijuana and other drugs. This makes it impossible to detect alcohol use in random drug screens. But technology has provided a solution with the Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor (SCRAM) which is an ankle bracelet that measures alcohol use as it evaporates through the skin. This monitoring is done every 30 minutes and if device detects alcohol use, the information is transmitted into a data base at the Court Service Unit. The SCRAM bracelet has a proven track record of reducing alcohol use and recidivism. But it is time limited and only can work for the time the juvenile is wearing the bracelet.

There has been a lot of talk about youth alcohol and drug use lately. Adults are often responsible to selling alcohol to minors; parents are sometimes “hosting” parties where alcohol is available.

Most of the youth that we see in the juvenile justice system are getting alcohol in other ways – such as buying it from an older friend or taking it out of the home without the parent’s knowledge. Research reminds us that the adolescent brain works differently than an adult brain and we should never assume that teens understand and appreciate that the worst can happen to

them if they abuse alcohol or marijuana even when we provide them with information. For some youth, the message to discourage this potentially dangerous behavior may be more effective when combined the health risks as well as information about the legal consequences. The Alexandria Public School system has taken that approach as Court Service Unit staff, city substance abuse counselors and Alexandria Police give talks about alcohol and drug abuse during the school year and just before prom night.

It is well established that young people’s ability to make good choices is inconsistent depending on the level of maturity and the circumstances. Even the most responsible teens allow themselves to be influenced by peer pressure and the promise of a fun time and fitting in with the group. This is not new behavior for teens as many of us adults know too well. But times have changed, there is too much at stake and our society has less tolerance by virtue of tightening the laws regarding underage alcohol and drug abuse.

It is really up to the parents to talk to their kids, lock up the liqueur if there is any suspicion at all and take the driver’s license away as a home consequence of alcohol/drug behavior. Parties in the home need to have adult supervision no matter how much protest from teens. For many youth who do not have a drivers license, parents can impose their own consequences like community service, curfews, chores and confiscating the I phone, etc. These are just a few examples.

Sometimes parents complain to Court Service Unit workers that the terms of the diversion agreement is too strong for just an alcohol possession charge. The truth is that parents have the ability to impose consequences in the home and they should use it. Appropriate and timely parental action is by far the best prevention tool out there. An arrest and the court system process should not be the first step in addressing a juvenile’s alcohol or drug abuse issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

number of citizens.

Just the idea of taking away the 1789 easement on Wales Alley from the Boat Club and giving it to the Virtue Restaurant to conduct business causes the question “What are the Council and City Attorney doing that is not a waste of time and our taxpayers monies?” Taking public access and giving it to anyone for economic development is absolutely contrary to what the Virginia Legislature passed this past year. Granted, that bill still needs to be voted on a second time before it becomes law, however, these threats are viewed by the citizenry as confrontational and “in your face.” Most people think that the Boat Club membership is made up of people who don’t live in Alexandria. The fact of the matter is that 350 of the 700 members are residents of Alexandria who live east of Washington Street.

The City Attorney’s alluding to the city needing the other real estate and parking spaces behind the Mai Tai restaurant on Strand Street for flood control purposes is ludicrous. The City’s current plan to correct the nuisance flooding is a joke at best. It was incorporated into the City’s Waterfront Plan that was rejected by the Council. The newly appointed Waterfront Group will most likely identify flooding as the number one issue in the Waterfront Plan and endeavor to find the right remediation for this continual problem.

It seems that the Council decided during one of its executive sessions to pursue the eminent domain route. The citizens should know who voted for and who voted against the use of eminent domain? Tell us now or tell us later when you are running for reelection. Maybe we should know more about just what goes on in these “closed door executive sessions?”

“Van” Van Fleet
Alexandria

Squeeze on Property Taxes

To the Editor:

Local governments have endured the first back-to-back declines in quarterly property-tax revenue on record, Census Bureau data show, in part because some have been unable or unwilling to raise tax rates fast enough to offset drops in home prices. Property taxes bring in more than a quarter of local-government revenue, according to Moody’s Investors Service. And until recently, they had been a steadier and more reliable income source than sales and income taxes, which react faster to current economic conditions. But total revenue from property taxes across the U.S. fell 3

percent in the fourth quarter of 2010 and 1.7 percent in the first quarter of 2011, compared with a year earlier. Consecutive declines hadn’t happened before in census data stretching back to 1963. That has put a squeeze on already-strapped cities, counties and school districts. Unlike the early years of the most recent recession, property taxes aren’t providing “the relief governments are looking for to get them out of their fiscal doldrums,” said Richard Ciccarone, chief research officer at McDonnell Investment Management in Oak Brook, Ill. One reason is the sharp decline in property values, on which the taxes are based. Another factor: Statutory property tax caps in some states and taxpayer resistance to higher property-tax rates in others have prevented local officials from trying to raise rates enough to compensate for falling assessed values of homes, Mr. Ciccarone

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 24

said. Property taxes had shown resilience until now because municipalities charge tax rates on assessed real-estate values that often lag market values by at least few years. So the sharp decline seen in property values during the recession is just starting to be reflected in some valuations. And while the pace of the decline in home prices has eased, tens of thousands of foreclosures and faltering consumer confidence are expected to leave housing markets bumping near their current level for the rest of the year. Nationally, home prices were down 4 percent in April from year-ago levels, according to the Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller 20-City index.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Need True Vision

To The Editor,

First, full disclosure. I am a member of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission and principal author of the AAC's History Plan, which was the work of many hands, created at the request of the City (with which we worked closely), and somewhat absorbed into the final SAP in detail if not spirit. AAC also sought a voice for history and preservation on the Waterfront Plan Working Group, but Council declined to do so, which, of course, is the right of Council. What follows are my own views and not those of the AAC.

Alexandrians should worry about two recent waterfront developments: the composition of the Waterfront Plan Work Group and the news that the City is considering employing eminent domain to seize the Old Dominion Boat Club parking lot on the Strand. Neither is surprising and both appear to stem from a troubling, and sometimes hypocritical aspect of the waterfront fiasco, Council and planner focus on what amounts to beholden development over true public vision regarding the waterfront. While I am sure the individual members of the working group are serious minded and hope to be fair, the fact is the group is made up largely of those with development, finance, real estate, and land use backgrounds, and in some cases come to the group already having endorsed the existing SAP. The Mayor was not only careful to exclude from the Council convened and led group any history and preservation perspectives, essential to any discussion of issues regarding the waterfront and potential development, the

promised opportunities for public input where that might be offered made at Council meetings did not materialize. Input will be written, not actual public participation during the meetings. This hermitically-sealed deliberation was obviously meant to insulate it from troublesome outside views and public conscience. It's almost as if the deck has been stacked against the fresh perspectives trumpeted by various members of Council in favor of a predetermined outcome along the line of the existing SAP. One hopes the appointees will seek an independent route, yet the fear is they will follow the lead of Council, not the valid concerns of the public at large.

The revelation that the City is also contemplating the "nuclear option" of eminent domain regarding the ODBC property, basically bullying accommodation after ODBC won its lawsuit, is not surprising, but it is perhaps hypocritical considering Council has loudly claimed not only that using it was not an option on the table, but also that purchasing land as part of the Waterfront plan was not possible as it was too expensive — at least when it came to open space and the Robinson terminal parcels, that is. The presentations before Council, featuring inflated parcel prices, and wildly exaggerated costs for what alternatively might be placed (or not placed) on the Robinson parcels, and along the Strand, were coupled with Councilmembers themselves saying that as these parcels were so expensive the City cannot buy them and the public must accept development, perhaps dense development, on them. The guidelines put forth to the public and the working group have been based on these assumptions: Do not deliberate based on the City buying land.

But why should the City take ODBC land, but not other land along the waterfront? Why is it permissible and possible to take the parking lot, yet inconceivable to take even historic buildings to preserve them, let alone a warehouse parcel on prime waterfront real estate? Why is the private property of one less sacred than another? It is deeply troubling that the City seems to have a "flexible" notion of public good when it comes to eminent domain, something usually reserved for properties much like our waterfront when cities want to create parkland, especially riverfront parkland, which is a scarce commodity indeed. The City's record on open space is already poor, and the idea that it would pass up an opportunity for a truly world class

riverfront is regrettable. Put it to the people to decide if they want to pay for those parcels, and offer realistic numbers as well.

Council has repeatedly claimed that developing the waterfront is necessary to pay for still undefined cultural and preservation assets that may or may not be funded and may or not be created at some point in the future. In short, we must destroy the waterfront in order to save it. Council and planners claim jobs will be created for Alexandrians both in construction and in the hospitality industry, and that tax revenues will increase, supposedly to pay for other assets. But is this really true? Few construction workers can even afford to live in Alexandria, and it is unlikely that local contractors, which are mainly small operators, would be hired for any of the projects. Alexandria is too small and too expensive to benefit directly from those contracts. As for the hospitality industry, which is largely

low-wage to begin with, those workers also cannot afford to live here either, and commute long distances already. For these reasons, the argument that it the Waterfront will create jobs for Alexandrians is somewhat disingenuous. Perhaps a few management jobs, and a few well-connected contractors, but the vast majority of the jobs won't come to Alexandrians nor the money from them.

Tax revenues? Why are waterfront tax revenues, if they eventually are there (and we don't know what incentives the City has in mind for developers), more suitable for cultural and preservation needs than other parts of the city? Why is the waterfront the only source, why must it shoulder the costs when the city has massive development elsewhere? Why must we accept being asked to buy a pig in a poke when it comes to revenues and cultural and preservation issues, pacing them on the

willingness of developers to contribute, or some unknown ability to pay at a distant date?

In the end, the nature of the working group on the surface (it has not yet met as I write) and the specter of selectively used eminent domain only adds to the fear of Alexandrians that what they are seeing is no more than another round of crony capitalism, benefiting a few developers at the expense of the general public, who again see little improvement in their own daily experience of the City. Let us hope that the Waterfront Plan Working Group can not only rise above the limits placed on it by council, but also reaches out to the informed community as well. We need true Alexandrian vision for the future, a waterfront to envy as a national treasure, not a shortsighted stab at revenue generation.

James McCall
Alexandria

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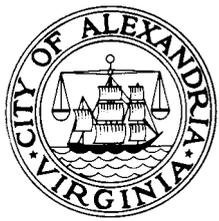
<p>Saturday Evening 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)</p> <p>Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español)</p>	<p>Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)</p> <p>Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)</p> <p>Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass</p>
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NOTICE OF HEARING
CARLYLE/EISENHOWER EAST DESIGN
REVIEW BOARD

The items described below will be heard by the Carlyle/Eisenhower East Design Review Board public meeting on the following date.
CARLYLE/EISENHOWER DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
COUNCIL WORKROOM
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

DRB #2011-0001 - ASA WEST PLANT
EXPANSION

350 AND 400 HOOFFS RUN DRIVE
Design review of a proposal for above-ground storage tanks and associated facilities and the provision of athletic fields on site.

For further information call the Department of Planning and Zoning on 703-746-4666.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the City will accept proposals for a piece of surplus real estate from the time of this advertisement through August 15, 2011, 3:00 p.m. local time. The parcel is commonly known as 200 North Royal Street and is approximately 10,666 (2 floors plus basement), on a 1,677 square foot lot. Details regarding the proposal process and more information about the parcel can be found at the following link:

<http://alexandriava.gov/generalservices/>

Please contact Timothy E. Wanamaker, Deputy Director, Department of General Services, 110 North Royal Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA, 22314, phone (703) 746-3208, e-mail Tim.Wanamaker@alexandriava.gov, with any questions.

Partnership Seeks More Mentors

Like communities across the country, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP) — a collaborative of nine professionally managed mentor programs in the City — is in need of more adult volunteer mentors to help children live healthier lives and, as the summer heats up in the D.C. area, the Partnership is actively in search of more mentors.

This search for mentors took a fun ride on the Potomac River at the end of June. For the fourth year in a row, AMP was one of the top fundraising teams for Spring for Alexandria and received the prize of a free riverboat cruise from the Potomac Riverboat Company. This cruise is used as a means to attract adults to become volunteer mentors. Approximately 80



Alexandria Mentoring Partnership member, Tricia Bassing speaks with a couple of volunteer recruits.



Amy Creed, Director of SOHO West share stories about her program with Jacqueline Halbig, Jennifer Cole, and Loretta Fleming.

potential volunteers boarded the boat for a dockside reception and two-hour cruise, learning about the value of mentoring and the steps to becoming involved. Both City and school officials

were on hand to thank the potential mentors for their interest in helping the children of Alexandria.

More volunteers are still needed. If interested in becoming a volun-

teer in the community, visit www.alexandriava.gov/mentoring or call Lorelei Coyle, at 703-746-4144 or loralei.coyle@alexandriava.gov to learn more about mentoring opportunities.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Seminary Valley

Holmes Run is a huge resource for us West-Enders and lots of your neighbors turned out in May to spruce it up on May 7. Volunteers included: Howard Watson, David Person, Ho C. Hwang, Diane Person, Ann Plamondon, Mary Zoeter, Sam Ulm, Ray Zoeter, Ruth Roush, James Robinson, Judy Cooper, Marion Jackson, Mark Ganter, Blaise Abaiweh, Christian Ganter, Molly North, Jake Jakjoek, Marge Thiel, Liza Rossick, Judith Thompson, John Hoffman, Gill Abernathy, Jane Schepe and Jim Spengler. Special thanks goes to Brian Marquis and his son, Colin, who made the park overlook in Marx Park their special project. In fact, the newly-planted triangle area near the Beatley Bridge is another one of Brian's efforts.

If you are a frequent park user, please consider "adopting" a stretch and periodically sweeping it for trash.

It is time to get out your calendars for two recurring neighborhood events: on Aug. 1, come to the Polk Playground to celebrate Neighborhood Night Out. Festivities will get under way around 6:30 p.m. and will most likely include sno cones, a visit from the K-9 corps, face-painting and a moon bounce.

And for more old-fashioned fun, come out to buy and sell your wares at the Annual Mile-Long Yard Sale on Taney Avenue, set for Saturday, Sept. 17, rain or shine. This fabulous event is 24 years young. Contact katy.mathews@bsvca.net if you want to get involved.

Not sure when it will be open ... but many of us are excited that coffee and donuts will soon be just a stroll away from Seminary Valley. The long-empty storefront next to the Harris Teeter in FoxChase is sporting a Dunkin' Donuts sign. This is a welcome development ... there is nary a cup of coffee available between the two McDonalds' restaurants on Duke Street between Quaker Lane and Landmark Mall.

Last but not least, the BSVCA quarterly newsletter touted several more high school seniors' college plans: Rene Najera and Gabrielle Richichi are attending James Madison University, Jonathan Viney is attending the Art Institute of Washington, Corinne Conn and Ayesha Arshad are attending UVA and Gray Posey is headed to Mount St. Mary's University. Best wishes to all!

— MIA JONES
MAMAMIAJONES@GMAIL.COM

Taylor Run

HEROIC POSTMAN

Betty Livingston called to tell me of a rescue done by one of our postmen. Derrick Harrison was surprised to hear a voice calling him from the other side of a locked door. The voice told him where to find a key to unlock the door, which he did, and saw Mrs. McNabb lying on the floor. He called 911 to come to her aid and continued with his route.

Surely one of the bad effects of reducing the number of postal deliveries a week would be to reduce the opportunities for our postmen to do the useful and helpful acts that they do besides delivering the mail. Mrs. McNabb had been lying on the floor for almost 24 hours. When she got no response to her calls, she decided she would just have to wait for the mailman, and she did.

Derrick, who is a native of the District of Columbia, said he was very glad to have the chance to do this rescue of Mrs. McNabb, who is now in the Mt. Vernon Rehab Center.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Nat'l Night Out

The Taylor Run Citizens Association will be hosting its annual National Night Out on Aug. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Angel Park to raise awareness of crime and drug prevention. Join your neighbors and Alexandria public safety professionals for a night of free food, games, crafts, and exhibits. Alexandria Police with McGruff the crime dog and firefighters will be available to answer questions and demonstrate equipment for the children.

Advice

At the NOVA Expo 11 held at T.C. Williams High School in June, Mina Fies, left, of Reston-based Synergy Design & Construction, advises homeowners such as Miriam Rosenthal on ways to save time and money on remodeling. The expo was the first regional housing fair hosted by the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance in cooperation with the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, the Town of Herndon and Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties.



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Titans Working Hard with Playoffs in Mind

Randolph: It's been an intense offseason.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Prior to the T.C. Williams football team's 2010 season opener against Robinson, head coach Dennis Randolph glanced at the Titans' sideline and noticed an abundance of injured athletes

— players who were expected to help the team but were instead relegated to cheerleading duty.

“The whole thing is about being ready to play the first game. You can't do it if you come out Aug. 8.”

— T.C. Williams head football coach Dennis Randolph

TC battled the injury bug early last season and eventually finished with a 6-4 record, barely missing the playoffs for the second consecutive campaign. Recently, the Titans have been working hard during summer conditioning sessions, with hopes of avoiding injuries and



T.C. Williams head football coach Dennis Randolph stresses the importance of summer workouts.

CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

ending the program's 20-year playoff drought.

“The most important thing is that they really do get acclimated to the weather and get in good condition,” Randolph said. “In [less than two weeks], they're going to be out here with helmets on and they're going to be running around for five hours. ... The whole thing is about being ready to play the first game. You can't do it if you come out Aug. 8. This is crucial to their physical (well being). It's crucial that they get acclimated to the weather and get their bodies moving around and not just sitting around all summer.”

While Randolph is the Titans' head coach, he leaves most of the conditioning instruction to assistants Rodney Johnson and Avery Williams. On Tuesday, the duo was out on the track at T.C. Williams High School, leading a group of Titans through conditioning drills. Williams said there is a focus on in-

corporating football-specific movements into the workouts.

“I say very little. Those two guys are very enthusiastic and they've worked them out and they've done a great job,” Randolph said. “[Johnson mentioned] we'd like to get over that hump and get back in the playoffs [and in order to do that], something's got to change.

You've got to do something different if you want different results. This has been a pretty intense offseason and our kids have responded well.”

Randolph said he was impressed with the team's conditioning during an undefeated performance at a recent 7-on-7 tournament at Wakefield High School — a credit to Johnson and Williams.

“Football is a physically challenging game and you have to be mentally tough to play this game,” Johnson said. “Me and [Williams], what we try to do is push these guys

to their limitations — sometimes past it — because that's what is going to be required on the field.

“We try to get them out of their comfort zone.”

Players are noticing a difference.

“Last year at this time, we didn't have the numbers that we have out here, the number of guys working as hard,” rising junior quarterback Alec Grosser said. “I think it's real important [in] football to build team camaraderie. ... I can't stress [enough] how important it is. Seeing the same guys every single day working hard with me [and] as a team, it's real important. Hopefully it will pay off.”

As a teenager, the idea of sacrificing part of one's summer break can make for a difficult decision, but so far, Randolph said the Titans are averaging 75 participants for Monday-through-Thursday workouts and 40 for Friday workouts.

“Some days you don't feel like coming out here, but you've got to come out here and do what you've got to do,” rising senior lineman Jose Urrutia said. “Sometimes I've got to keep thinking about [showing up] ... but it pays off.”

For the second season, Williams said, coaches are forcing each Titan to participate in 20 workouts before he receives shoulder pads. There are makeup days for those in danger of falling short — and a conditioning penalty for those who do.

So far, TC players and coaches are pleased with the results.

“The kids have been working hard; they've accepted the challenges we've presented,” Williams said. “Hopefully it will transfer into the season and we'll be very productive this year.”

SPORTS BRIEFS

Wahoos Post Winning Record

The Chinquapin Wahoos, the City of Alexandria's only public swim team, finished its summer swim season third in the Colonial Swim League with a record of 3-2. It is the first winning season for the team in more than a decade.

At the Gold Divisional Swim Meet on Saturday, July 24 at the Arlington Knights of Columbus Pool, the Wahoos U8 boys, U8 girls and 11-12 girls walked away with first place in their age groups against five other CSL Gold Division teams — Arlington Knights of Columbus, Glen Cove, Chase Club, Saratoga and Sugarland Run.

The following swimmers earned Most Improved honors for the season: Mikal Helms and Gigi Katsock (U6), Benjamin An and Stephanie Curtis (U8), Jonah Rashidfarokhy and Marisol Kent (9-10), Rodrigo Teran and Medina Helms (11-12), Cameron Evans and Sarah Kent (13-

14) and Luis Teran and Kayla Shoemaker (15-18).

The Coaches Awards went to Jack McLaury and Allison White (U6), Simon Taylor and Alexis Garcia (U8), Malik Gizaw and Symantha Shackelford (9-10), Ian Do and Caroline Hill (11-12), Jason Filios and Emma Schutzius (13-14) and Kenan Grier and Emily Dooley (15-18).

High Point Awards went to Boadie Lauinger and Jocelyn Teran (U6), Will McLaury and Holly Matthews (U8), Lutfi LaSida and Anastasia Shiels (9-10), Dylan Garcia and Ava Hanson (11-12), Austin Do and Maddy Dooley (13-14) and Adrian Padilla-Crisostomo and Charlotte Sackett (15-18).

The Bob and Sheryl Vann Parent Volunteer Award went to Suzanne Doggett, Jules and Davis Greenwood, Jay Kenny, Maria Filios, Lolo LaSida and Debra Yniguez,

LaSida and Hanson each scored 67 points for the season and earned MVP honors.

Will McLaury led the team with 23 first-place swims. Matthews and LaSida each had 19 first-place swims, Shiels had 18, Andrea

Padilla-Crisostomo finished with 14, Ava Hanson recorded 12 and Austin Do and Ronan Lauinger each finished with 10.

Emily Dooley and the McLaury Family were honored with the Brian Schutzius Team Spirit Award.

In 2003, the Wahoos were down to just 30 members. In 2011, the team had 134 swimmers.

Summer Baseball Camps

The StrikeZone Academy, an indoor baseball training facility located in Alexandria, is offering week-long summer baseball camps for the weeks of Aug 1, Aug. 15 and Aug. 29. Camps run from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday. The target age group is from 7-11 years old.

Extended hours from 1-4 p.m. are available as well. Cost is \$160 per week for the morning session and \$160 per week for extended hours. All camps are held indoors in a climate-controlled facility, so parents

have no need to worry about security, excessive heat, bugs, or lack of cold water and restroom facilities. Interested parents can register online at www.thestrikezoneacademy.com/clinics, via telephone at 703-823-0061, or stop by in person at 826 South Pickett Street, near the intersections of South Pickett and South Van Dorn Streets.

American Legion Baseball Players Wanted

The Montgomery College Rockville baseball team is looking for American Legion or showcase-quality players for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 seasons. The Rockville Express of the Cal Ripken League plays their home games at MC Rockville. Contact coach Rick Price at 240-447-6948 for more information.

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 28



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SPORTS



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

For the Record Books

The Chinquapin Wahoos this season posted their first winning record in more than a decade.



SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 28

Register For Senior Olympics

Registration is open for the 2011 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, which will take place Sept. 17-28. Participants can register online by going to nvso.us.

More than 25 indoor and out-

door events from track and field to scrabble and chess are offered. Senior adults 50 years of age and older, who live in a sponsoring jurisdiction, are eligible to participate. Registration information is available at local senior centers, community centers, senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Details and registration forms are also available online at www.nvso.us. Deadline to register

is Sept. 1. The fee is \$10 plus \$1 per event. There are additional charges for golf, miniature golf, bowling and fencing.

Sports Updates

Follow sports editor Jon Roetman on Twitter at [@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman) for sports updates around Northern Virginia and Montgomery County, Md.

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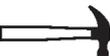
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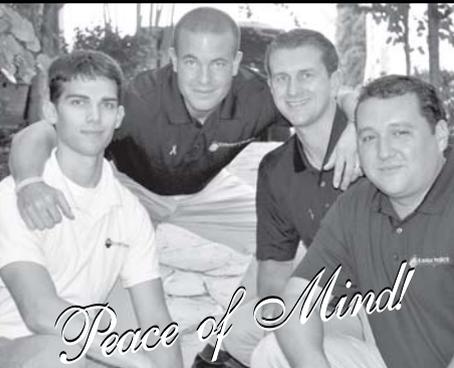
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\$418,500



Sparkling

Immaculately kept, this four-bedroom two-and one half bath detached Colonial features almost 2200 square feet of living space. This home features red oak flooring, updated kitchen with newer refrigerator and dishwasher and new ceramic flooring, family room with brick fireplace, master bedroom with ensuite bath and walk in closet.

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