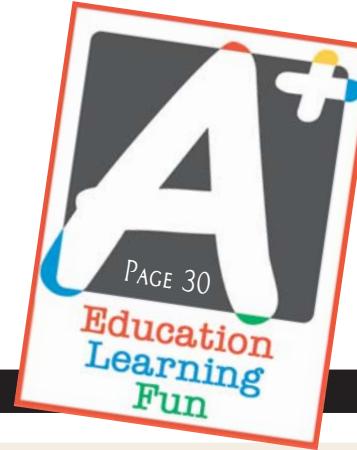


Alexandria Gazette Packet



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25 CENTS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Fight Like A Girl

Locals take on battle against women's cancers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Felicia Vaughn is a procrastinator. Twenty-three years ago, her doctor told her to "get her affairs in order," that there was little hope of her reaching her 25th birthday just a few months away.

She has yet to get started.

"I'll get around to it one of these days," laughed Vaughn, the smiling face behind the counter to many Alexandrians at the George Mason branch Post Office on Washington Street. "I never was the best patient in the world."

Diagnosed in the final stages of Stage 3 ovarian cancer, Vaughn didn't dwell on her fate, nor did she take aggressive measures to combat the disease.

"I'm not sure what I was supposed to do," said Vaughn, now a statistic among the 22,000 women diagnosed each year with the disease. "I was told I was going to die within three months so I was like, 'OK, why should I worry about it even more?' I was just going to let whatever was going to happen, happen."

Her doctor, however, was not giving up without a fight and tracked Vaughn down at her sister's house to make sure she went in for a series of aggressive chemotherapy treatments.

"I didn't want to do it," Vaughn said. "I thought, 'I'm going to die anyway, what's the point of torturing myself?'"

Vaughn braved the severe burning she felt during the treatments, along with the sense of gloom she

SEE CANCERS, PAGE 9



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

With the Bishop's Blessing

On Tuesday morning, Sept. 20, the lobby of the St. Rita's Parish building filled slowly with young mothers and their children all waiting for a visit by the Bishop of Arlington Paul S. Loverde. The bishop was ushered in by the Church Pastor Daniel N. Gee and Deacon Stephen J. Dixon. The bishop gave his blessing to the new school and offered a prayer.



Bishop Paul S. Loverde gives a blessing to Patricia Gold who is the mother of St. Rita's School principal Mary Pat Schlichenmaier.



Arlington Catholic Diocese Superintendent of Schools Sr. Bernadette McManigal talks with the children in the morning 3's preschool class.

Perhaps Running Fowl of Zoning Alexandria residents keep backyard hens for food, fun.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

In hideaways throughout the backyards of Alexandria, proponents of the urban farming movement have been able to keep egg-laying hens under wraps despite city zoning enforcement laws through open dialogue with neighbors.

Seen as a move towards progress and modernity, in the early 1960s Alexandria City officials instituted zoning laws that

essentially forbade rural practices. Of particular impact was Chapter 7, section 5-7-2 of the city zoning code which stipulated chickens and other fowl could no longer reside on property less than 200 feet from neighboring buildings.

In 2011, progress has changed directions with respect to eco-conscious citizens. Urban farming is more than a trend; it is a way of life for many Alexandria residents who keep vegetable gardens in an effort to grow food locally.

For some, the allure of freshly

grown carrots, peas, and herbs is only the beginning. Keeping a hen or two that can produce fresh eggs

SEE FOOD AND FUN, PAGE 27

Public Vs. Private

Two realms collide on waterfront as small-area plan hangs in balance.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For generations, Alexandria's waterfront was closed to the public. It was a dirty and industrial realm, one that reeked of a rendering plant and hummed with activity behind win-

SEE WATERFRONT, PAGE 7

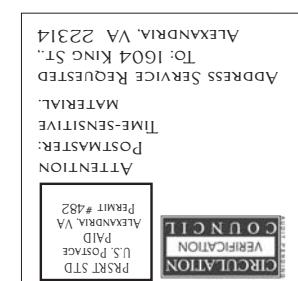
Go West, Alexandria

Drastic change is on the horizon for city's West End.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Bus-rapid transit. High-density development. An ellipse at Beauregard Street and Seminary Road. Radical transformation that would expel thousands of low-income residents in garden apartments slated for demolition. The city's West End is

SEE WEST END, PAGE 5





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COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Thurman Alley

The late **Doug Thurman** wasn't the kind of person to seek the limelight, so the recent City Council decision to name a building after him would have probably made him uncomfortable.

"He wouldn't want it," said restaurateur **Pat Troy**. "He would say, 'Pat, you mean to tell me that these people got together and named an alley after me? Will you check to see if their brains are all right?'"

Thurman was so secretive that many people didn't know the extent of his activity until after he died, a portfolio that included everything from shutting down a coal-fired power plant to advocating for historic preservation.

"He is the only person I've ever met who insisted on watching every City Council meeting," said **Claire Gregory**. "When he didn't agree, he would argue with the television."

After several people spoke in support of designating the alley behind Thurman's house in the 800 block of Duke Street as Thurman Alley, Councilman **Rob Krupicka** took the opportunity to question how the naming process works, calling for a "fair and clear way" of recognizing people who have contributed to the civic life of the city.

"What happens is that people who understand the process can apply to have something named," Krupicka said. "And others who maybe don't have connected friends or connected access don't have the same kind of clear opportunity."

Substandard Decision

For years, neighbors on Little Street assumed that the stretch of land in the 600 block would remain open space — a green lawn smaller than the standard lot on the leafy Del Ray avenue.

But when the property was recently sold, the new owner understandably wanted to build something on it. At the same time, neighbors were understandably concerned that they would be losing a spot of open space on the densely packed street.

"Is this what we want Alexandria to become, a city where any open space — no matter how small — can be called sufficient to build a house despite long-existing zoning laws and recent infill regulations?" asked **Joanna Chusid** in a letter opposing the permit. "Just because it may be legal to put a house on the Little Street property (and I'm not convinced it is) does that make it right, ethical, good or necessary?"

Apparently it did. City Council members approved the special-use permit allowing owner **Brian Thomas** to build a one-and-a-half story single-family house that will be 1,800 square feet in size and 23 feet high. But the decision didn't come with having to wrestle with some complicated issues, including the precedent it sets for future development on substandard lots across the city.

"These substandard cases are tough, and we now have two more in the office," said Deputy Planning Director **Barbara Ross**. "So you're going to see more of them in the pipeline."

Dean of the Council

Councilwoman **Del Pepper** is the longest serving member of the City Council, serving since 1985. This gives her a sweeping sense of institutional memory, but it also makes her the subject of some lighthearted ribbing.

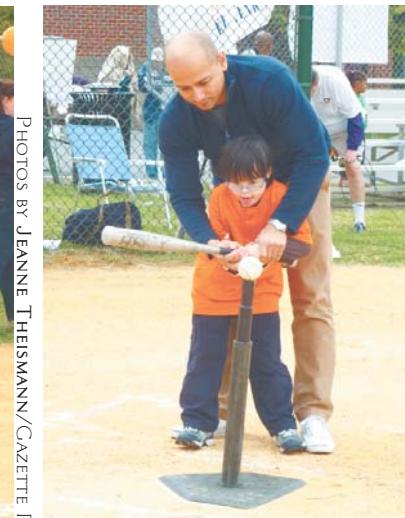
Such was the case last weekend, when council members were grappling with creating a high-capacity transit corridor along Beauregard Street.

The dedicated lanes under consideration will initially be for bus-rapid transit, although the construction will allow them to eventually be upgraded to streetcars. Nobody knows when it would be possible to afford that kind of infrastructure, though. And city officials estimate it could be 10 to 20 years into the future.

"None of us will be here," said Councilman **Frank Fannon**, "except Ms. Pepper."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



Patxi Uy, 8, takes to the plate with help from his father Jonathan at the season opener of the fall Miracle League Sept. 17 at the Lee Center.

Ellen Hawkins, a participant in the adult therapeutic recreation program, takes a swing during her first at-bat during the opening game of the fall Miracle League Sept. 17 at the Lee Center.

Play Ball!

Washington Nationals to host Alexandria Day Sept. 24 to benefit Miracle League.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Fielding a ball at second base is no small feat for any Little Leaguer. So when 7-year-old Tucker Riley, who is confined to a wheelchair, did just that Saturday, his mother Deb erupted in applause and beamed.

"It's great to be back out here," said Riley, whose son participated in the inaugural Miracle League season last spring. "I am so proud of Tucker and of the city for being one of the first in our area to embrace the Miracle League program. Now we just need to get the field built."

Tucker's accomplishments were just one highlight of opening day for the fall Miracle League season Sept. 17 at the Lee Center. The game also officially kicked off fundraising for the Miracle Field, a synthetic turf baseball diamond designed specifically for

special needs participants.

"The Washington Nationals have partnered with us in our efforts to bring a Miracle Field to Alexandria," said Miracle League of Alexandria chair Bill Rivers. "They are hosting the first Alexandria Day Sept. 24 at Nationals Park to benefit the Miracle League of Alexandria and Alexandria's special needs community."

The Nationals also donated 80 tickets to the game, an afternoon match against the Atlanta Braves, so that Miracle League participants can attend the game.

"The Nationals have been a great partner for us," Rivers said. "Earlier this year they set up a special website where a portion of any home game ticket purchase would go to the Miracle Field. They are also going to recognize us on the scoreboard and over the PA system at Saturday's game."

MLA is using the fall Miracle League season to work SEE NATIONALS TO HELP, PAGE 6

Running without Sight

Blind and vision impaired athletes compete in upcoming half marathon.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

To compete in a half marathon takes training, perseverance, and a will-power to overcome mental and physical barriers. What long distance racing does not require, however, is a sense of sight.

Blind runners from across the U.S. will compete with sighted athletes on Oct. 2 for the second



Joe Aukward competes in half marathons with his guide.

Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon. As the only Division VI half marathon championship dedicated to blind and visually impaired runners, the Wilson Half

shows that the blind can do everything a sighted person is capable of.

"It's an empowering feeling fin SEE VISION IMPAIRED, PAGE 29

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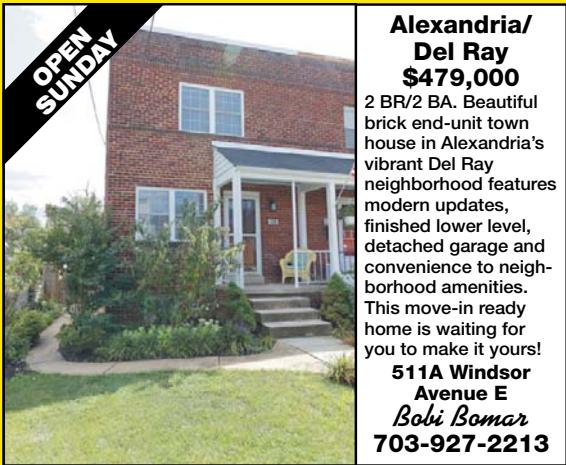
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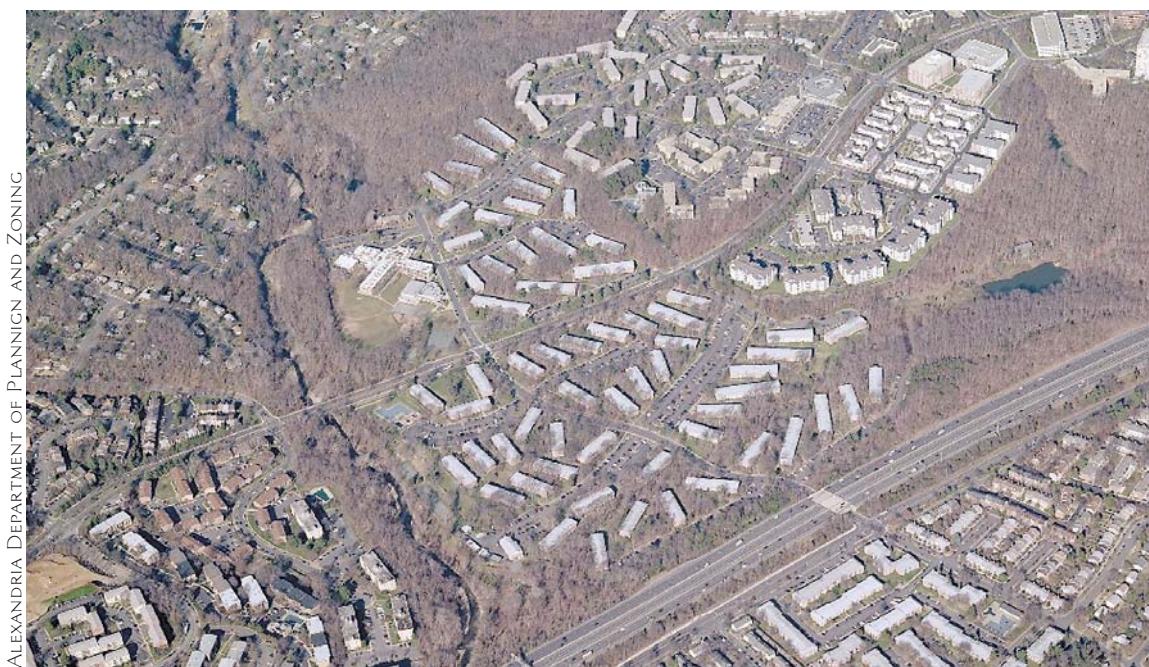
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NEWS



ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

The West End is in the midst of drastic changes.

Change on Horizon for West End

FROM PAGE 1

on the verge of major change, prompting concern among many longtime residents that too much is happening too soon. Some say redevelopment will help transform a sleepy residential area into a thriving urban core. Others say neighborhood residents might find themselves lost in the shuffle.

"Development is not a magic word," said Barbara Rowen, a longtime resident of Greenhouse Condominiums. "It involves sacrifice from people who were here before the development."

After a three-hour public hearing last weekend, Alexandria City Council members approved a plan to widen Beauregard Street and transform it into a high-capacity transit corridor with dedicated lanes for bus-rapid transit that could later be upgraded to accommodate streetcars. The next night, council members met with Planning Commission members at the Landmark Mall to discuss potential development in the area, a wide-ranging proposal that would reshape large swaths of the city for generations to come.

"I think the way to sell this is not so much the additional housing and additional density," said Mayor Bill Euille. "This is about jobs."

SEVEN MAJOR LANDOWNERS in the West End have formed a partnership aimed at coordinating redevelopment efforts. The coalition has been working for months to pitch the plan to citizens, offering food at its meetings and presenting increased density increases as a way for Alexandria to receive a new fire station and other amenities. The plan calls for more than doubling the existing square footage in 222 acres, redeveloping 5.6 million square feet to 12.5 million square feet.

"This is huge," said planning commissioner Donna Fossum. "I've been on the Planning Commission for 22 years, and I've never seen any redevelopment of this magnitude in the city."

A central feature of the redeveloped West End is likely to be its transportation system. On Saturday, City Council members approved bus-rapid transit in dedicated lanes as the initial phase of a high-capacity transit corridor between Van Dorn Metro station and the Pentagon. The vote was taken after a recommendation from the High Capacity Transit Work

Group, which was appointed by former City Manager Jim Hartmann last year. The public hearing was contentious and featured many West End residents opposing the plan as lacking critical details about how the system would work and what the impact on neighborhood streets would be.

"I'm appalled," said Kathy Burns, one of the many West End residents who spoke out against the plan. "They heard what we had to say and decided to ignore us."

THE WEST END has traditionally been a suburban enclave in the city, contrasting with the more urban areas of Old Town and Del Ray. Yet that's rapidly changing. Back in 2008, city officials endorsed the Mark Center site as a potential location for the Washington Headquarters Service — a massive development where more than 6,000 employees will work when the building is at full service early next year. And with seven major developers working together to propose a coordinated redevelopment on the heels of the City Council's transit corridor decision, momentum is clearly moving toward drastic change.

"Change is coming no matter what we do," said Planning Director Faroll Hamer. "We can't put our head in the sand and hope for the best."

Feelings are still raw about the Washington Headquarters Service, and many West End neighbors are afraid that traffic gridlock will clog their streets when the massive building is fully staffed early next year. Some have accused the Department of Defense of being dishonest about how many people will eventually work in the building, suggesting that the building is much larger than necessary for 6,400 people. Others have suggested that the coalition of developers are working together to get the city to approve high density as a way to increase the value of the land so they can sell some of it to the Pentagon to expand the Fort Belvoir annex.

"This is exactly what's happening in Charlottesville," said West End resident Carol James. "If you look at growth industries in this county, the military is right up there at the top."

RAPID CHANGE has a downside, though. One challenge that emerged Tuesday night during the work

SEE WEST END, PAGE 13

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NEWS

Nationals To Help

FROM PAGE 3

in earnest to raise funds for the new field. The Kelley Cares Foundation kicked off the fundraising with a \$10,000 donation at the spring league's closing ceremony June 4.

"We are committed to raising \$135,000 to help pay for the Miracle Field," said fundraising chairman Don Simpson Jr. "We're just getting started and already have pledges for about \$61,000. Fundraising efforts will continue through May of 2012 so that we can have the field completed by the end of that year or in early 2013."

Total costs for the field are \$400,000 and the City of Alexandria has pledged \$285,000 if MLA can meet its goal before May of 2012.

"We're seeking donations from both local businesses and private citizens," Simpson said. "Any donation is tax deductible and can be made at the Miracle League of Alexandria website."

The fall season will run through October, with 25 to 30 special needs individuals participating in each game. The T.C. Williams baseball team, Alexandria Little League, Girl Scouts, St. Mary's School and the Urban Land Institute will be providing volunteers to serve as "Buddies" to the Miracle League participants and Omega Psi Phi will be back serving free food during each game of the season.

"This is amazing," said Ed Walsh, whose sons Ryan, 13, and Sean, 10, were part of the St. Mary's group of volunteers on opening day. "It's not until you come out in person that you really see the impact the Miracle League has on everyone."

As with every Miracle League game across the



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Tucker Riley, 8, gets help from "Angel in the Outfield" volunteer Hawa Belleh.

country, Saturday's ended in a tie. Every player, parent and Buddy was a winner.

"Watch out!" exclaimed adult therapeutic recreation participant Ellen Hawkins as she bounded to the plate. "We're back!"

For more information on the Miracle League of Alexandria or to make a donation, contact Bill Rivers at rivers15@comcast.net or visit www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com.

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NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING



The city wants to turn the Old Dominion Boat Club's parking lot into Fitzgerald Square, which would offer ice skating in the winter.

Public, Private Collide on Waterfront

FROM PAGE 1

dowless warehouse walls. Now, as the city's controversial waterfront plan heads toward a final vote by City Council members in December, the tension between public and private areas are at the center of the debate. Some of that conflict may ignite next month, as a temporarily stalled court case gains new momentum.

"All of the discussion has been about the private realm," said Planning Director Faroll Hamer during a waterfront work group meeting this week. "But what really drove this plan was the public realm."

One of the most dramatic confrontations between the public and private realms is at the foot of King Street. City planners see the foot of King Street as the centerpiece of the proposal now under consideration, a new public space known as Fitzgerald Square. The problem is that the land is privately owned by the Old Dominion Boat Club, which has resisted yielding its land so the city can have a park. The city and the boat club are currently engaged in a legal dispute that has been put on hold until the beginning of October to give the parties an opportunity to come to some kind of settlement.

"The discussions aren't gridlocked, but an agreement is also not imminent," said City Attorney James Banks Wednesday morning. "I'm hopeful we can come to some kind of agreement."

AT ISSUE is one of the most valuable spots of real estate in Old Town — the foot of King Street. Recommendation 3.69 of the small-area plan under consideration suggests the city should "create a new public park/plaza where the ODBC parking lot currently exists." Over the summer Banks raised the specter of eminent domain as a way to take some of the boat club's property, a proposition that would involve taxpayers shelling over fair market value as determined by a court.

"Sooner or later, you'll have to vote on this," former Old Town Civic Association President Townsend Van Fleet told City Council members at Saturday's public hearing. "And then everyone will know exactly who supports the taking of land through eminent domain."

The legal dispute between the Boat Club and the city dates back more than 30 years, although recent years have seen a flurry of action. Last summer, the Boat Club filed a new lawsuit against the city after council members approved an ordinance authoriz-

ing the city manager to execute a five-year lease with Virtue Restaurant allowing the private business to use public land in Wales Alley for tables and chairs. The Alexandria Circuit Court ruled that the Boat Club had a right to use the alley to get boats to their parking lot.

"It is not surprising that there are huge gaps in the evidentiary record," wrote visiting Circuit Court Judge John McGrath in one court document. "Keep in mind that the deed which has given rise to this litigation was executed only months after George Washington had taken the oath of office as the first president of the United States and only four days before the storming of the Bastille."

THE CITY FILED an appeal and allowed the restaurant to install tables and chairs despite the judge's ruling, arguing that the boat club can use the alley before the restaurant opens and after it closes. The boat club responded by filing contempt of court motion, charging that the city has no right to block the public alley for the private use of the restaurant. The boat club and the city agreed to take the lawsuit off the docket until the end of September. If no agreement is reached by the beginning of October, a Circuit Court judge will consider the boat club's charge that the tables and chairs currently in Wales Alley are a violation of the judge's ruling.

"We're still hopeful that we can come to a global settlement that would involve all these issues, including the fate of the parking lot," said Banks. "This has gone on for a long time, but I feel that it is my charge to come to some kind of resolution while I am the city attorney — either through a settlement or some kind of court ruling."

If the city is unsuccessful in negotiating an agreement that gives public access to the boat club's private parking lot at the foot of King Street, a major part of the plan would be put in jeopardy. The most recent version of the small-area plan includes language suggesting that the "optimal design" for Fitzgerald Park might not be possible and that an "interim agreement" would improve public access while the city waited to get access to the boat club's private land.

"I think it's really time to move on," said Bert Ely, a boat club member who is also part of the waterfront work group. "We need to start thinking about a Plan B."

SEE WATERFRONT, PAGE 13

SHILLELAGHS THE TRAVEL CLUB

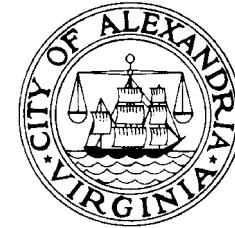
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Includes Motorcoach from Vienna Or Rockville, 2-Nights lodging, Breakfast & Dinner Daily, Art Tour, Safari Tour	
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7-Nights Cruise on RCCL's "Enchantment of the Seas"	
With all meals & entertainment	
NEW YEAR'S CRUISE from Baltimore, Dec. 31-Jan. 7	\$659
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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA 2011 PERSONAL AND BUSINESS PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE OCTOBER 5, 2011

Personal property taxes, decal fees and residential parking fees, if applicable, must be paid no later than October 5, 2011, to avoid late payment penalty and interest. Business property taxes must also be paid by October 5, 2011. Please see the City's webpage at alexandriava.gov/finance for more information.

A City license decal and residential parking decal, if applicable, were mailed with the personal property tax bills to most residents. The City license decal should be removed from the back of the bill and applied inside the front windshield next to the vehicle inspection decal. The residential parking decal should be applied to the driver's side rear bumper.

Pay by credit card or eCheck on the City's web site at alexandriava.gov/payments, in person at City Hall or at any SunTrust Bank Branch located in the City.

Personal property tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34710, Alexandria, VA 22334-0710. Business property tax payments can be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34901, Alexandria, VA 22334-0901. Payments can also be made with cash only at approximately 71 Global Express Cash Payment Centers conveniently located throughout Northern Virginia. For a complete list of the available cash payment centers, including Shoppers Food and Pharmacy Stores, please visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov/payments.

For vehicle assessment questions or to receive a tax bill, please email vehicletax@alexandriava.gov or call Personal Property at 703.746.3901, option 4. For business assessment questions or to receive a tax bill, please email businesstax@alexandriava.gov or call Business Tax at 703.746.3903, option 2. For payment questions, please email payments@alexandriava.gov or call the Treasury Division at 703.746.3902.

Alexandria Teaism Party

The original Boston Tea Party was prompted by taxes, but the new Teaism may prompt a revolt on another issue — parking.

Last weekend, Alexandria City Council members considered a special-use permit for the fast-casual restaurant known as Teasm. The locally owned chain already has three locations in the District of Columbia, and now the fourth location will be in North Old Town. Council members approved a special-use permit for the restaurant and retailer to open in an old sushi restaurant that's been vacant for two years.

"It's exactly the right kind of image for North Old Town," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**. "It attracts a clientele that is more predisposed to walking and biking and using transit than maybe other uses would."

City code requires the one parking space for every four restaurant seats, which means it should have 50 off-street parking spaces. Although the Saul Center, where the restaurant will be located next to the Trader Joe's, will offer 37 spaces. As a result, Teaism requested a 13-space parking reduction. Council members granted the request over concerns raised by neighborhood residents.

"Parking in this area is already almost impossible," said **Nancy Kincaid**, who lives nearby Alexandria House. "We welcome another restaurant in the area, but think that parking needs to be provided."

Going Green

Is your favorite coffeehouse a green business? What about the used bookstore where you find dog-eared copies of books about Alexandria's history? Before the end of the year, Alexandria shoppers may have a better idea of which businesses can document environmentally sustainable practices such as recycling or using alternative sources of energy.

Next week at the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association annual meeting, city leaders will be unveiling the Alexandria Green Business Initiative. The program is a joint effort of the ACVA, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership.

"It'll give these businesses an edge," said **Peter Pennington**, chairman of the Environmental Policy Commission. "Lots of people want to stay in a green hotel or eat in the green restaurant."

The Late Shift

The early bird may get the worm, but the late farmers market shopper could be the beneficiary of momentum.

Following Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes** request that city officials investigate later hours for America's oldest continuously operating farmers market, two farmers took a break from selling produce in the square to testify inside City Hall. Although the farmers said that some customers are on the scene waiting for the market to open, many more are turned away because the city forces the market to shut down by 11:30 a.m.

"They would like to have the market extended another hour until 12 o'clock," said **Aida Ashton**. "A lot of them have trouble getting here before 11, and when they do we kind of have to kick them out so we can pack up and get off the square by 11:30 a.m."

City officials are investigating the possibility of opening the market one hour later so it could stay open until 12:30 p.m.

Waterfront Dog

As the city's waterfront small-area plan heads toward a final City Council vote in December, business organizations are lining up behind the plan. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association have long supported the proposal. Now another group has stepped forward to offer support.

"Up until this point, this was not a hunt we had a dog in," said **Eric Nelson**, president of the Del Ray Business Association. "But we realized the waterfront should be an asset for everyone in the city."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS

Pampering Providers

Circe Salon says 'thanks' to breast cancer technicians.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Ellen Vlasak and her husband Richard may be new to the area, but they haven't wasted any time giving back to a segment of the community they feel passionately about.

"I am a two-time breast cancer survivor," Ellen Vlasak said at a reception held Sept. 16 at their Old Town Salon Circe. "I can appreciate the care that was provided to me during my illness and wanted to say 'thank you' to those in that profession and give something back."

The Vlasaks partnered with Dr. David Weintritt, a breast cancer specialist at Inova Mount Vernon and Inova Alexandria, to provide an evening of complimentary spa services to the mammography technicians who are usually overlooked in the breast cancer awareness cycle of providers.

"Patients don't usually interact much with the mammo-techs," Weintritt said, referring to the radiology technicians that perform the mammograms. "As doctors, we are the ones who get the tokens of appreciation so the Vlasaks and I wanted to pass that appreciation on."

Mammography technicians from throughout the area were invited to indulge themselves in complimentary services ranging from manicures to massages and everything in between.

"It's good for the business community to show support for the disease," Ellen Vlasak said. "These women work behind the scenes and this is a way to connect the radiology staff with our staff."

Weintritt, considered a leading specialist on breast cancer, noted the crucial role mammography technicians play in the fight against breast cancer.



Michele Storms, of the Association of Alexandria Radiologists, gets her hair styled by Tanisha Logan at Circe Salon.

"Zero or Stage 1 breast cancer is almost always 100 percent curable," Weintritt said. "As technology and treatments evolve, basic mammograms are still the best way to detect breast cancer in the early stages. Later stage cancers can still be cured but the effort to get that same result is often much more difficult than those found earlier."

For three hours, the radiology technicians enjoyed the pampering of the Circe Salon and Spa staff, along with champagne and light fare provided by Weintritt and his staff.

"We were happy to be on board with this when Dr. Weintritt approached us," Ellen Vlasak said. It's a nice way to say 'thanks' to some important people and hopefully introduce ourselves to the community as a new business."



Mammography technician Henrietta Mack, right, gets treated to a manicure by Karen Flores at Circe Salon Sept. 16.



Circe Salon owners Richard and Ellen Vlasak join Dr. David Weintritt Sept. 16 at an appreciation event for breast cancer care technicians. Ellen Vlasak is a two-time breast cancer survivor.

NEWS

Taking on the Battle against Women's Cancers

FROM PAGE 1

saw in her doctors' eyes.

"All the doctors always looked so sad whenever I came in," Vaughn said. "I was the one trying to cheer them up. But then one day, I walked in and they were all just staring at me. The cancer cells were all gone. They said it was a miracle."

Today, what was supposed to be a death sentence for Vaughn has given her a passion — raising awareness about the disease and educating women on the importance of proper screening and health care.

"Information and knowledge are very powerful," said Vaughn, who has joined several other Alexandria women and businesses to promote the National Race to End Women's Cancer Nov. 6 in Washington. "Even if

you've never had the disease, we're all in this together to encourage each other to get exams and empower each other with information."

One of those women is 35-year-old Jennie McGihon, a two-year survivor of both Stage 3 ovarian cancer and Stage 1 uterine cancer and the founder of Rock, Paper, Cocktails!, a fundraising event to be held Sept. 26 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town.

"This is our third year for the event," said McGihon, who is the national spokesperson for November's race. "I am truly grateful for the incredible generosity and sup-



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Felicia Vaughn at the George Mason branch post office in Alexandria.

port of the women business owners in Alexandria who are coming together for this event and to support the race in November."

Proceeds from Rock, Paper, Cocktails! will help raise awareness and support research funding to fight reproductive cancers through the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. The evening of shopping and cocktails will include a silent auction and raffle drawing featuring a variety of items from Alexandria boutiques and salons.

"This kind of passion and commitment from women working together can make a



Ovarian cancer survivor Jennie McGihon, third from left, with members of the National Race to End Women's Cancer organizing team at Jennie's 35th birthday bash and fundraiser in Alexandria in July.

real difference in the fight against these devastating - and often not talked about - below-the-belt cancers," McGihon said. "More than 88,000 women annually are affected by reproductive cancers, including ovarian, uterine, cervical, vaginal and vulvar, and we want to raise awareness and do for these cancers what Komen has done for breast cancer."

Alexandria businesses participating in both Rock, Paper, Cocktails! and the race promotion include Hysteria, Shoe Hive, Radiance, Diva Boutique, Bishop Boutique, Zoe, Lou Lou and Radiance Day Spa.

As for Vaughn, she remembers every day what she was told more than two decades ago.

"I'm not supposed to be here," said Vaughn, who is married with a 14-year old

daughter doctors told her she would never have. "When you go through something like this it changes everything. I was 24-years old and still walking with the devil at that time. But God healed me and now nothing moves me."

Vaughn is excited at the opportunity to help other women through her participation in the upcoming events.

"We're all sisters in this fight," Vaughn said. "And what do you do with your sister? You walk with her and uplift her. And until the end, you hold her hand and never, ever let go."

Ticket information for Rock, Paper, Cocktails! is available for on Facebook and Eventbrite. Advance purchase \$25, at the door \$40. For more information, contact Jennie McGihon at jennifermcgihon@gmail.com



Student Leaders Recognized

Local Volunteers of America Chesapeake

Action Team captains joined major leaguer Alex Cora of the Washington Nationals and Volunteers of America CEO Mike King on the field of the Nationals stadium to be recognized for their volunteer service. Ryan Brackett, David Budway and William Hathaway represented the Action Team from St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria; Annie Budway and Sam Hall represented the Action Team from H-B Woodlawn in Arlington; and Peter Janetos represented the Action Team from Washington-Lee High School in Arlington. Each was given a certificate in recognition of their commitment to volunteering and their efforts to encourage other high school students to get involved in their communities. Above are Annie Budway, Will Hathaway, Sam Hall, Peter Janetos, Mike King (Volunteers of America CEO), Ryan Brackett and David Budway.

Getting Back to Business

Sept. 23 silent auction to support breast cancer fund.

Women Mean Business will once again host the Silent Auction Event Sept. 23 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Old Town to benefit Alexandria's Breast Cancer Surgical Fund and the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer.

Founded 11 years ago by Donna Udvari of Burke and Herbert Bank, Donna McIntyre of Today's Cargo and Rose Gentile of Gentile Financial Group, Women Mean Business has raised more than \$82,500 for the Walk Fund through an annual silent auction. This year's proceeds will also benefit the new Surgical Fund.

The Surgical Fund was created last year as a public/private partnership

between the City of Alexandria and Inova Alexandria Hospital which will pay for surgical and anesthesiology expenses at the Medicaid rate for women who are uninsured and have no means by which to pay for breast cancer surgery (lumpectomies and mastectomies).

"This is not a structured evening," said WMB president Mary Breiner. "We want people to know they can come right after work and relax and have a glass of wine while they do their bidding. It's very casual and lots of fun."

To RSVP or for more information on the Silent Auction to benefit the Breast Cancer Surgical Fund, visit www.womenmeanbusiness.info or contact Donna Udvari at 703-660-0674.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

OPINION



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot

The Downtown Baptist Church,
212 S. Washington Street.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Support of Teachers

To the Editor:

Like everyone else, I've recently become aware of the 2010-11 SOL scores at Jefferson-Houston — and I must say, I'm shocked.

I have two children at the school for the second year in a row. Last year, my daughter (who was in third grade) scored "Pass/Advanced" in all four SOL categories, just shy of perfect in reading (she missed one question). And my son, who was a sixth grader last year, comfortably passed all three of his SOL tests.

So how could it be that my two kids did this well — and the school, as a whole, did so poorly?

In my experience, the teachers at Jefferson-Houston are top-notch. I attended many field trips and visited various classrooms last year. I'm not convinced that it's a teaching issue. I believe that the issue lies outside the school. It's the lack of family involvement.

Based on conversations that I've had with Jefferson-Houston families who are fully engaged with the education of their children — SOL

test results are reflective of family involvement. Either a family is involved in their child's education — or they're not. So the question becomes — what do we do about family involvement? How can we put our emphasis there?

Let's not blame the teachers. They are doing a heck of a job!

Tina Games

Alexandria

Proud Jefferson-Houston Parent

Danger of Off Leash Dogs

To the Editor:

Recently a dog was viciously attacked in Old Town by an off-leash dog. Thankfully the victim was able to escape with his life, but not before sustaining life-threatening wounds that required multiple surgeries and thousands of dollars of medical bills.

This horrible incident could likely have been avoided if the attacker was on a physical leash, as required by city ordinance. Unfortunately, too many people think the law does not apply to them or that their dog is "special" and

therefore does not need to be on a physical leash. Others ignore the physical aspect of the law and think an electronic leash (a shock collar) is acceptable.

Both instances (no leash or a shock collar) are not only against the law, but are also inviting a bad situation. An off leash dog, no matter how well behaved is a threat to everyone on the street and themselves. As well as humans think we know dogs, we will never be able to fully understand how they think or what may set them off or spook them.

Shock collars will not prevent a determined dog from going after something it wants, whether that is another dog, or as I recently witnessed, a squirrel. The other day two golden retrievers, both theoretically under their owner's control via a shock collar, took off in an instant and chased a squirrel a good 20 yards. The owner had no chance to shock the dogs to get them to stop and had to chase after them. In this instance it was just a squirrel that was put in danger. It could have been someone's dog, or worse yet, child. Shock collars are no substitute for a physical leash.

Please, let the horrible event that occurred in Old Town be a wake up call to all dog owners in the city. Leash your dog. For all of us, if you see a dog without a leash, tell the owner they are breaking the law, endangering you and their dog, and call animal control to report an off leash dog.

The dog that was attacked was able to escape death likely in part because of its breed: greyhounds can go from 0 to 45 mph in three strides. If this attack had happened to another breed, the victim may not have been so lucky. I don't even want to think of what would have happened if it were a child that had been attacked.

Andrew Magoun
Alexandria

No to Five More BRACS

To the Editor:

Last week the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholders Group meeting at Goodwin House took a vote on whether to give the five parcels involved in a proposed develop

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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OPINION

More ACPS Students Prepare for College by Taking SAT

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Our story continues ... last month we shared the Math Story, the Language Arts Story, and the Next Story based on the SOL results and T.C. Williams High School transformation from the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Now, we can add to our story the 2011 SAT facts for Alexandria City Public Schools.

As we shared with the community in August with the release of state assessment scores, ACPS students made tremendous gains last year including an increased participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses which has grown from 26 percent to 35 percent over the last three years while sustain-

ing high levels of achievement. Last year, 756 students took 1,541 AP tests, an increase of 21 percent from the 2010 total and

qualifying scores increased by 60 percent to 860. Additionally, ACPS eighth-graders had the highest-ever participation and achievement rates in Algebra with 44 percent participation and over 95 percent passing.

Finally 100 percent of eighth-graders taking Geometry passed the SOL. The increase in participation and achievement in these courses position future ACPS juniors and seniors to become higher achieving SAT test takers as well. This too will be a facet of the Next



Story — the future for ACPS students.

Our SAT scores tell yet another story. SAT scores reported today for the 430 ACPS graduating seniors who took the SAT any time during their high school years, represent 64 percent of those matriculating as a senior in June 2011. This is an increase of 77 students from the 2010 total and the good news is that is the largest number of SAT test-takers in the past eight years. Therefore more ACPS students are taking the SAT and thinking about and preparing to go to college. The average SAT scores for ACPS in 2011 were:

- ❖ 477 – Reading
- ❖ 473 – Math
- ❖ 469 – Writing

Here's more you should know:

- ❖ The percentage of ACPS minority test takers was 72 percent as compared to Virginia's 40 per-

cent and the nation's 45 percent.

- ❖ More ACPS students taking the SAT were from families with incomes below \$30,000 (23 percent) than was the case for Virginia (14 percent) and the nation (21 percent).

- ❖ The percent of ACPS test takers with a first language other than English was 21 percent, which was far higher than Virginia's 7 percent or the nation's 12 percent. That 21 percent figure is up from the 14 percent of just two years ago. Identical to last year, only 59 percent of ACPS students reported "English only" as their first languages as compared to 84 percent for Virginia and 73 percent for the nation. The 59 percent figure ties 2010 as the smallest percentage of students in the past six years who indicated "English only" as their first language.

- ❖ The average SAT scores (com-

pared to the state and the nation) for ACPS students ranked in the top tenth of their class finds our students above average in Math (606) but slightly below average in Reading (575) and Writing (572).

- ❖ College Board states ... more than half of all high schools experience mean score changes of at least 10 points up or down from one year to the next, with ACPS test takers experiencing a six point decline from 2010.

We are confident that our renewed focus on reading, the new curriculum based on analytical thinking, and increased student participation in AP Algebra, and Geometry courses will yield increased SAT scores for our students in the future. ACPS will publish a full SAT report with additional analysis and information later in the fall.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

ment plan the additional densities the land owners have requested or whether to hold them to their current development rights.

The result was strongly to denying any new densities. Many of those in favor of more density were developer representatives and consultants who have a clear financial interest, are not neighbors, and perhaps do not even live in Alexandria.

The message is clear: West End residents do not want the functional equivalent of five more BRACs built in our neighborhoodS. City Council should heed this resident sentiment and instruct City staff to:

1. Work with the land owners west of I-395 within the parameters of the current West Alexandria Small Area Plan which is still fully extant and the in-force section of the Master Plan.

2. Work with the landowners east of I-395 within the parameters of the current Seminary Hill/Strawberry Hill Small Area Plan which likewise is still in force.

3. Make affordable housing the first priority in negotiations with landowners and render other so-called "amenities" subordinate to ensuring onsite affordable housing.

4. Ensure that affected neighbors and tenants are kept fully informed of any direct negotiations between City staff and the developers, including giving them a place at the table, when they have an obvious "need to know."

The stakeholder vote last week

makes it clear that the time has come for the City staff to stop trying to foist the equivalent of five more BRACs on the West End and begin talking to landowners with in the parameters of their existing rights.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria

Incomplete Reporting

To the Editor:

Your article concerning the proposed transit lane on Beauregard Street seriously misstated the position taken by the Alexandria Planning Commission on the proposal and causes me to wonder what sources were used by your reporter. The article claims that "the proposal to widen Beauregard Street to accommodate a transit corridor has received the support of ... the Planning Commission." It goes on to say that "the Planning Commission recommended widening the street to make room for the dedicated lane and pedestrian improvements." Neither of these statements is correct as those who participated in our public hearing would know. Instead, the Commission unanimously adopted a motion that (a) affirmed our prior support for transit corridor C as outlined in the Transportation Master Plan, (b) supported implementation of bus rapid transit in dedicated lanes in corridor C (including Beauregard Street), and (c) indicated the Commission lacked sufficient information to

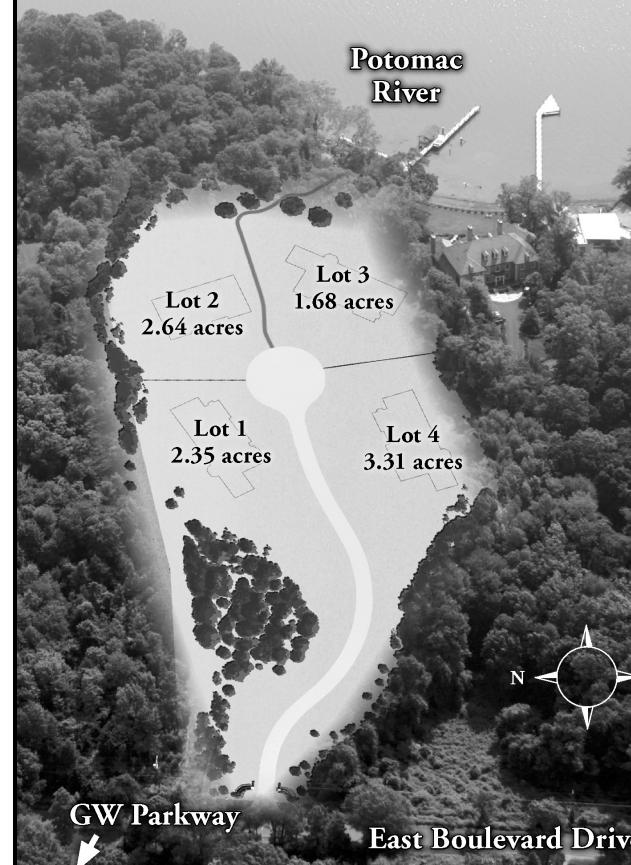
form a judgment with respect to the other planning elements in the proposal. In other words, the Commission said it could not express any opinion with respect to

the proposal to remove trees and widen Beauregard Street. As our discussion highlighted, the members of the Planning Commission who were not part of the High

Speed Transit Corridor Work Group or the Transportation Commission said that the staff report provided to us for consideration at our hearing did not give us enough

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

information to support the City staff's proposals to dramatically alter Beauregard Street beyond the establishment of BRT operating in dedicated lanes. In fact, some of us expressed great concern about the loss of trees and the lack of notice to the general public about the consequences of the proposed action. It's a shame your article omitted the key issues and views we discussed at our hearing.

Eric R. Wagner

The author is a member of the Alexandria Planning Commission.

Take Advantage Of Health Fair

To The Editor:

The Alfred Street Baptist Church of Alexandria will be holding a free Wellness Health Fair on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m., at 301 South Alfred Street in the multipurpose room in the lower level.

Free mini lectures, panel discussions, screenings, information, counseling and an opportunity to "Ask the Doctor" those little questions we all seem to put off even if it's a question for a love one. Find the time to attend. Panel discussions will discuss living through chronic diseases: diabetes, hypertension, breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers. Health and wellness screenings will include blood pressure, BMI, cholesterol/glucose, vision and hearing, HIV/AIDS, adult/children dental, tissue/organ donor.

Information on social services, mental health counseling, reflexology, lupus foundation, food preparation, self - defense, aerobic exercise and dance, chair massage will also be available.

Call to check the time of information you may be interested in by contacting Ministry Director Darly Jasper at 703-971-2428.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

Waste of Money

To The Editor:

I have to disagree with Vice Mayor Donley when he says that visitors who get on the Metro and want to go to Old Town, don't know where to go. I don't know if Donley rides the Metro as often as I do, but I can tell you the visitors do not have any problems in knowing that the King Street Station will take them to Old Town. They even know enough where to wait for the free trolley that will take them directly down King Street. It is ridiculous in this economy to waste so much money on changing signs whether it comes from our taxes, our Metro fares, or the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. And to think that in the future the Council wants to add Del Ray to the Braddock Road Station and "Landmark" (a failing shopping mall) to the Van Dorn Street Station. Where will this idiocy end?

Florence Foelak
Alexandria

Where Are Theatre-Goers?

To the Editor:

I am writing as the producing artistic director of MetroStage. We recently opened our season with John Patrick Shanley's play "Savage in Limbo." It has had terrific reviews. DCTheatreScene said that "once in a while all of the stars align to create a magical theatre event" and that it is "an early frontrunner for the year's best cast." MDTheatreGuide gave it 5 stars and said Helen Hayes Award-winning actor "Natascia Diaz practically ignites the stage as Denise Savage." The Gazette's own Jeanne Theismann describes "mesmerizing performances" and the "exceptional acting of the superb cast." "Savage in Limbo" is an amazing play by John Patrick Shanley — maybe not a household name but you surely have heard of the film Moonstruck with Olympia Dukakis and Cher some years ago.

When we are not producing musicals this is exactly the kind of play we love to introduce to our audiences. Not the usual familiar fare, but challenging, and at the same time highly entertaining. "Savage" is a richly layered play that addresses the questions and concerns of our lives — we may not all end up in a Bronx bar contemplating our lives, but we certainly wonder at times if there is something more and how do we find it. In the midst of these deeply probing questions, Shanley has created with great love, humor and compassion, five characters you will never forget.

There are empty seats at MetroStage these days, and I wonder if people think it might be too depressing given these challenging economic times. Some reviews have used words like desperate lives, dreary routine, discouraging lives. Maybe this suggests that it is all gloom and doom on the stage.

Well, there is remarkable humor and wit and clever exchanges thanks to this gifted playwright. Yes, the questions and concerns are deep and probing, but the interactions among these five characters are witty, fiercely funny and brutally honest (all descriptions taken from reviews) and make for a great theatrical experience.

I encourage every reader to come to MetroStage and experience this level of theatre on our stage in what is essentially your own backyard. No need to travel to off Broadway shows in N.Y. to see this type of drama. This 130-seat theatre in an old warehouse is presenting work that this neighborhood should be proud to call its own. Come see for yourself. I am tempted to offer a money back guarantee!

Carolyn Griffin
Producing Artistic Director of MetroStage
Alexandria

Council Members Not Listening

To the Editor:

There were no marching bands filling the air with catchy tunes, nor brightly colored balloons fluttering in the breeze, nor babies waiting to be kissed by politicians at the 8-hour Alexandria City Council meet-

Planning Ahead: A Crystal Ball?

BY BARBARA S. ANDERSON, ESQ.
PRESIDENT, SENIOR SERVICES
OF ALEXANDRIA



My crystal ball doesn't show me a clear path for the future, no matter how much I wish it. After working with hundreds of families over the last 20 years it is clear that we all need to plan for the unexpected. We buy medical, homeowners, auto and life insurance because we understand the potential for problems and we don't want to risk the financial costs.

COMMENTARY There's one other area that deserves insurance: planning for your own incapacity. This doesn't just apply to seniors. A competitive athlete I know recently learned of a significant arterial blockage requiring surgery. Her first call after scheduling surgery and notifying family was to an attorney to "get her affairs in order" — a smart move.

What does it mean to "get your affairs in order"? Usually folks think of "estate planning" as having a will or trust to transfer property upon death. That's part of the planning effort, to be sure, but those take care of your things. More important is to have documents in place that enable someone to take care of you, while you are alive, in the event you cannot do so yourself because of an accident or illness, and to take care of the people who depend upon you.

In Virginia you can appoint someone to serve as your agent under Advance Medical Directives to carry out your wishes and act in your best interest if your physician determines you cannot make decisions yourself. In that same document you can express to friends, family and care providers what kind of care you want. Similarly, you can appoint an agent to handle your financial affairs under a General Durable Financial Power of Attorney.

There are a number of sources for these forms, but an estate planning or elder law attorney can help you prepare an individual plan that meets your needs and those of your family, and will recognize planning issues you may not consider. It may cost you a little now but the savings down the road may be substantial and, like insurance, will bring you peace of mind when you peer into your crystal ball!

To learn more, come to Senior Citizens Law Day Saturday, Oct. 15, , 8:30 am to noon, at First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. This free event is presented by the Alexandria Bar Association and Senior Services of Alexandria. Call 703-836-4414, ext 10, or click on www.seniorservicesalex.org for more information and to make reservations.

ing on Sept. 17. But there were plenty of voters on hand to watch the unofficial kickoff of the 2012 re-election campaign for seven seats on the City Council.

Prior to that marathon session, residents thought the major 2012 election issue would be defeating any of the remaining incumbents who had secretly supported the creation of the BRAC building at I-395 and Seminary Road. The lynch pin for that was the August 2008 letter, signed by all members then on the Council, emphasizing that there was "no need for community input." But the scathing DOD Inspector General's report and its factual documentation this summer revealed all the ugly facts that were not disclosed to the public when the closed decision was made.

The havoc and upheaval that full implementation of BRAC will create, with traffic, transportation, gridlock, public safety and security issues, plus the sheer costs to the City that are not covered by the federal government, led in part to Saturday's meeting Agenda. It was coupled with a push for a massive increase in the Beauregard Corridor's height and density — to replace the lost revenues to the City from the BRAC, which pays no taxes to cover the additional costs of police, fire and security.

But the Sept. 17 unanimous Council vote on the Corridor C Transit Plan teed up the second major issue 2012 voters will now weigh, based on the members' response: We

hear what you are saying (based on hours of testimony), but we don't have to listen to any of it.

And it triggers a third issue for voters to consider: at the previous Council election, Alexandria voters rejected an all-Democrat slate and pushed for less unanimity and more diversity of opinions and picked two Republicans instead. But the two new Republicans marched in lock-step in their bipartisan and unquestioning support.

Before the vote was even taken, it appeared that Council Member Rob Krupicka would be the spokesman for the group.

Like an Olympic champion, full of self confidence and verbal dexterity, he skated out on the thin ice, ready for his performance. Unbeknownst to the major part of the audience that did not represent the City staff and officials or the developer, this obviously had been a "done deal" long before the meeting ever began. The eventual resolution did not reflect any input from almost three hours of testimony pointing out fatal flaws in the draft plan. No changes, no modifications, no questions. In fact, so sure were all seven of these members that the result would be a foregone conclusion, they had approved a City press release earlier — was sent out before the meeting even ended. It proclaimed this bold and "wonderful" decision, as surprised members of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 28

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NEWS

Change on Horizon for West End

FROM PAGE 5

session with council members and planning commissioners is fire protection. Fire Chief Adam Thiel delivered a presentation outlining a shocking lack of preparedness on the West End. On several occasions, the chief said, Arlington and Fairfax county firefighters arrived at the scene of fires and was completely finished with the emergency before the Alexandria firefighters could arrive on the scene. He added that 48 high-rise buildings on the West End, and that the opening of the Washington Headquarters Service could push response times back to 12 minutes.

"We're maxed out in terms of our ability to respond to emergencies," said Thiel. "Call volumes are in-

creasing, and not in a linear fashion."

The coalition of developers has offered to pay for a \$10 million for a new fire station at northwest corner of Beauregard and Sanger. Currently, the city does not have a fire station west of Shirley Memorial Highway, so the offer is welcomed by city officials concerned that the lack of preparedness could lead to disaster. The developers have also offered to contribute 450 units of affordable housing units, although the proposals now under consideration would demolish 2,500 affordable housing units.

"What's on the table now is more density than we need in the corridor," said West End resident Nancy Jennings. "All it does is give these property owners more value for their land."

Public, Private Collide on Waterfront

FROM PAGE 7

THE FOOD COURT is another piece of the puzzle for the waterfront plan that straddles the divide between public and private. The city owns the land but leases the property to a private business, which operates a food court that has declined in recent years as many vendors have closed shop. During a series of community meetings last year, members of the public expressed an interest in transforming the building into a market hall similar to Eastern Mar-

ket. But the plan under consideration indicates that public desires are likely to be thwarted by private interests.

"The leaseholder has expressed interest in redeveloping the Food Court into two restaurants and is actively pursuing the restaurant option," explains Chapter Three of the plan. "A renovated or replaced Food Court structure should be designed to actively engage with Torpedo Plaza and harbor activity, better address the use conflicts and other design problems in Thompsons Alley, and generally maintain a similar height and footprint as the current building."

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PEOPLE

Hometown Debut for 'Wicked Autumn'

PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Friends, family and fellow mystery writers gathered last week at O'Connell's Restaurant and Bar in Old Town to celebrate the debut of G.M. Malliet's new series. Malliet signed copies of the first book in the series, "Wicked Autumn," which features Max Tudor, a former MI5 agent turned Anglican priest.

A number of the guests were members of The Chesapeake Chapter of Sisters in Crime, part of a national organization that promotes the professional development and advancement of women crime fiction writers.

Malliet is a multi-award winning author, including the Agatha Award for 2008's "Death of a Cozy Writer."

— SANDY LEVITZ
LUNNER



Author G.M. Malliet shares a laugh with Alexandria resident Ellen Bonanno.



Eileen M. McGervey, owner of One More Page Books in Arlington, sold copies of "Wicked Autumn" at the signing party. She planned to have the author sign a few copies for the store.

Erik Dorn, Ted Johnson and Pam DeCandio

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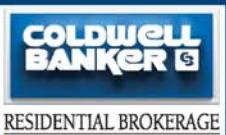
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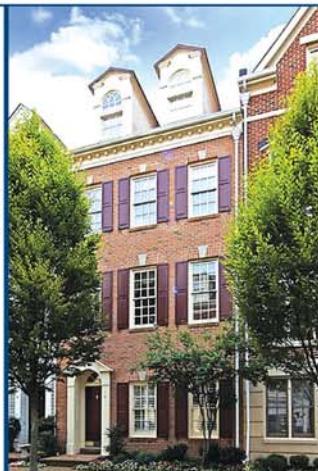
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FAITH

Observing the High Holidays

A time of reflection.

By MAYA HOROWITZ
GAZETTE PACKET



Rabbi Jack Moline

The High Holidays of Judaism include the two days of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. These are the most important holidays for the Jews. As such, many non-practicing Jews observe the traditions and come to synagogue.

This year, Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of Sept. 28 and Yom Kippur begins the evening of Oct. 7. The Roman calendar date changes each year because the date of the holiday is based on the Hebrew calendar, which is lunar rather than solar.

The High Holidays are a time for introspection and reflection. Rosh Hashanah is known as the Day of Judgment. God is said to decide each person's fate for the next year by choosing to inscribe their name in the Book of Life. However, God's judgments are not final until Yom Kippur. There are numerous customs performed on Rosh Hashanah that are not observed on any other day of the year. The shofar, ram's horn, is blown. Meals often include apples and honey to symbolize hope for a sweet year. The ritual of tashlikh is performed by observers visiting a flowing body of water and symbolically casting off their sins into the water by tossing bread crumbs.

"Like any good religion, we have a series of rituals," said Rabbi Jack Moline of Congregation Agudas

Achim. "Public confessions, structured personal reflection, none of which are sufficient in of themselves but all of which provide a template for the hard work that each individual has to do."

The seven-day interval between the two days of Rosh Hashanah and one day of Yom Kippur make up the 10 days of repentance or days of awe. During this period, individuals are compelled to make up for any wrongs you have committed in the past year both towards God or towards their fellow man.

"The message of the high holidays, which has been consistent for 2000 years, is particularly meaningful this year," said Moline. "Because we are required to go deep inside ourselves and look for the flaws and shortcomings that have plagued us, particularly in relationship with ourselves and other people and with God. And then we have to make good with the people and God who have been wronged."

Yom Kippur is referred to as the holiest of the holy days. It is observed by a full day of fasting and intensive prayer. Normal daily comforts such as wearing leather shoes are to be avoided. This is the last day to atone for one's sins and bid to have your name inscribed in the Book of Life.

The traditional greeting during the 10 days of awe is "L'shana tova" meaning "a good year." Some people add "tikatevi v'taihatemi" meaning "may you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."



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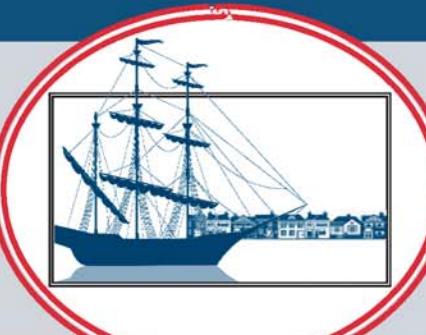


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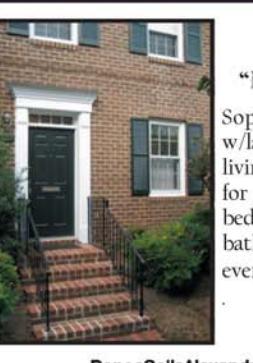
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\$675,000
Alex/off Seminary Rd
5833 Colfax Ave
JUST LISTED! Lovely 4BR/3.5BA, 3 level fully finished basement, 2 car garage, separate dining room with fireplace off breakfast room nook.



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3718 Carriage House Ct \$719,000
Riverwood Opportunity!
Spacious 5 bedroom home on quiet cul-de-sac in prestigious waterfront community. 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!



7804 Southdown Rd \$1,750,000
Unique opportunity!!
Custom Craftsman designed to capitalize on gorgeous setting which combines rural ambiance with sweeping river views. Many fabulous features include open floor plan, spacious kitchen-breakfast room, river view master suite with fireplace and luxury bath. Multi-tiered decks take advantage of river views. Gorgeous 1/2A private grounds.



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PRICE DROP!
\$399,900
Alexandria
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Located across the street from the Braddock Metro, this Penthouse features 2 master bedroom suites, open floor plan, large kitchen overlooking DR/LR, cozy FP bordered by custom built-ins, 2 spacious storage closets. Huge covered balcony offers

Virtual Tour: www.bobskinnerhomes.org
Bob Skinner 703.598.7279



\$ 499,000
Alex / Wolfe Alley
"BOUTIQUE CONDO"
Character and charm abound at this sweet & spacious unit. 2 Master suites, 2.5 baths, FP with built-ins, high ceilings and your own private rooftop deck. Located just steps from King St METRO. Plus 1 assigned parking spot. Very convenient!

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



PRICE DROP!
\$389,900
Alexandria
"ABINGDON ROW"
Wonderful Open floor plan, large island kit w/breakfast bar, granite, cherry & SS apps. Hardwoods. Cherry & granite in both baths. Huge master bedroom has custom closet organizers. 2 full-size parking. Located 1 block from parks & the Potomac River.



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Bob Skinner 703.598.7279



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CHRIS WHITE ~ 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com ~ chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314

703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303

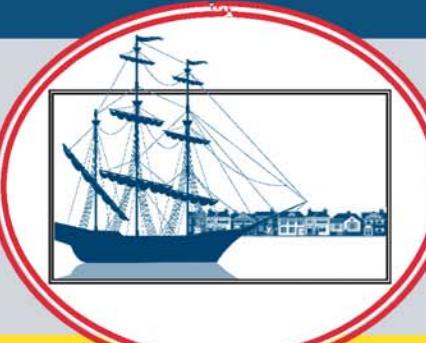
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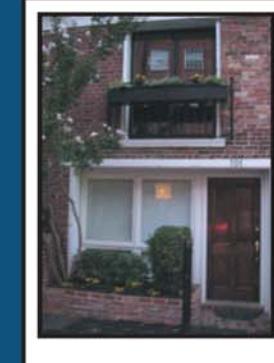
4002 Belle Rive Terr. \$849,900
Stately Colonial - Near River
Classic Brick Colonial, custom built in prestigious Belle Rive neighborhood of many \$1,000,000+ properties. Truly special home with many features: elegant trim detail, updated, "state of the art" kitchen, 5BRs & fin LL. Gorgeous setting on 1/2 acre grounds w/ views of river. Priced to make a TRULY GREAT VALUE! OPEN SUN 9/25, 1-4: GW Pkwy S; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Rive Dr; R-Belle Rive Ter.



1916 Shiver Dr \$569,500
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 hardwood floors, expansive deck and fenced lot. OPEN SUN 9/25, 1-4: Pkwy S, R. Belle View Blvd, L. Ft Hunt Rd, R. Rollins Dr, L. Colgate, L. Shriner to 1916 on Left



8890 McNair Dr \$729,500
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 landscaped lot. OPEN SUN 9/25, 1-4: Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mill; R-McNair.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$799,000
Alex/Old Town
101 ROSS ALLEY
Uniquely converted ice house; 3BR/1.5BA in heart of Old Town. Open floor plan w/updated kitchen & BA. Original exposed wood beams, interior brick walls, wood fls thru-out & private roof-top deck. From King St: N on Wash St, R on Ross Alley (before Cameron St).

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279



NEW LISTING!
\$675,000
Alexandria
"SPECTACULAR PARK VIEW..."
home w/premium finishes. Lg gourmet kit w/maple cabs, granite, SS appls. Sep DR overlooks high-ceiling LR w/panoramic park view. 2-lvl, newly-refin deck for serene outdoor living. Under 1.1 mi to 395/king & BRAC Mark Ctr; 1 min walk to Pentagon, Old Town, & Blue/yellow line shuttles.

Julia Martin 703.850.5543



\$ 559,000
Alex / Old Town
"NEW AT WATERGATE"
Sophisticated & updated brick TH w/large eat-in kitchen, wood floors, living room fireplace, private patio for gardening & BBQs, 2 master bedroom suites each w/updated baths, deeded garage space, walk everywhere. Perfection Call Renee..



ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330



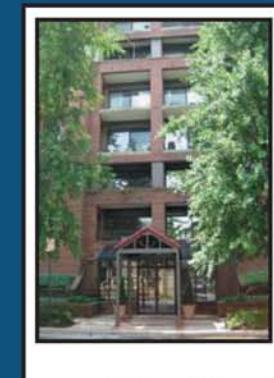
8826 Cooper Rd \$395,000
Spacious Rambler!
Country club views! You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400,000! Numerous features include: large 1/2 A+ lot, updated kitchen with granite countertops & SS appliances, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room with high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage and deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir



4502 Phyllis St \$499,000
Huge Home - Little Price!
Most home for the money in Mt. Vernon area! Incredibly spacious property with major additions including family room, master bedroom and oversize 2 car garage. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, and 2 decks. Library can easily be converted to main level bedroom. Prime location on large lot fronting cul-de-sac. Over 3,000 sq ft of beautifully maintained living area!



5421 Grist Mill Woods Way \$825,000
Modern Home-Magnificent Setting!
Large colonial with bright, open floor plan in prime location on 1/2 acre lot backing to gorgeous parkland. Fabulous home with all the bells and whistles including: high ceilings, dramatic two story foyer, gourmet kitchen, first floor study, large family room, sumptuous master suite, full walk-out lower level and two car garage. Amazingly beautiful, private setting.



NEW PRICE!
\$519,000
Alexandria
"BOUTIQUE BUILDING"
#215 NEW, Rarely Available and the Largest (1,432sqft) 2BR/2FBA exclusive corner unit w/walls of windows, 4x14 balcony & deeded parking 2 blocks to King St Metro, shops & restaurants. Quick commutes to Ft Belvoir, Pentagon, DC.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$795,000 - \$1,050,000
Alex / Porto Vecchio
1250 S WASHINGTON ST
Seldom on the market, both offerings have breathtaking river views. #309 - 3BR, SE corner, 2,160 sq ft, solarium, balc. & 2 garage spaces. #710 - 2BR / library w/walls of glass, fireplace, solarium, 1 garage space.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$375,500
Arlington / South
4631C S 28th RD
Spacious 3BR/2FBA condo at "The Arlington". Main level master BR w/walk-in closet. Move-in ready - updated eat-in kitchen, wood fls, lower level family rm. Private patio off kit. From 395: West King St, R. Walter Reed, R. Wakefield, R. 28th Rd.



Pat Wilson 703.598.7279



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 Waynewood School Dist. Priced thousands below other new homes in area! (Pic is similar home)



9405 Ludgate Dr \$2,790,000
Estate on River!!!
Magnificent colonial custom designed by Boucher Builders to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features include: 4 finished levels, elegant trim detail, multiple decks, private balconies, gourmet kit, elevator, 3 car garage. Private river access!



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Stunning Addition!
MOTIVATED SELLER! One of the most truly spectacular properties in Ft. Hunt area! Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Back of home was expanded resulting in breathtaking, glass walled, open kitchen/family room and main level master suite. Fabulous features include: updated gourmet kitchen with granite and custom cabinets. Expansive deck! Great location!



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SOLD!



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THEATER

Port City Playhouse

Season debuts with Durang's one-act plays.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Nothing is what it appears to be as Port City Playhouse opens its 34th season with "The Actor's Nightmare" and "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You," a pair of one-act comedies by the oft-times controversial Christopher Durang.

Directed by notable actor Shawn g. Byers, the first act opens with "The Actor's Nightmare," a short comic play that finds accountant George Spelvin mysteriously backstage at a theater and mistaken for an actor's understudy. Despite his protestations, he is forced to perform in a play for which he doesn't know any of the lines.

Ric Andersen is terrific as the befuddled Spelvin, who does his best to improvise a role that rotates between Prince Hamlet in "Hamlet," Elyot in "Private Lives," Willie in "Checkmate" and the doomed Sir Thomas Moore in "A Man for All Seasons."

Adding to the misunderstood mayhem is stage manager Meg (Larissa Norris), acting diva Sarah Siddons (Amy Solo), actress Ellen Terry (Aimee Meher-Homji), and actor Henry Irving (Jason Wonacott), all of whom carry on despite Spelvin's cries for help.

The talented cast is charming and the play an unlikely precursor of the darker and more controversial "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" that follows in act two.

The play opens with Sister Mary explaining to the audience her interpretation of the tenets of Catholicism. Assisted by her favorite student, 7-year-old Thomas, Sister Mary is interrupted when a group of her now-grown former students returns to perform a mock Christmas pageant



Amy Solo and Remy Brettell star in "Sister Mary Explains It All."

as a means to reveal to her the deep, psychological scars her teachings have left on them.

Solo is the unrelenting Sister Mary, whose unwavering dogma slips deeper and deeper into psychotic territory, leaving terror once again in the eyes of her students.

In "Sister Mary," Andersen plays the troubled alcoholic Aloysius. Others in the cast include Amiee Meher-Homji as the emotionally wounded Diane, who threatens Sister's life, Larissa Norris as the unwed mother, Jason Wonacott as a soft-spoken gay man, and Remy Brettell as young Thomas.

Durang, who was raised a Roman Catholic, won an Obie Award



A scene from "The Actor's Nightmare," at Port City Playhouse.

for the 1979 play, which sparked controversy and protests across the country for its stark criticism of Catholicism. Indeed, the subject matter and dialogue will be offensive and disturbing to some but for those who prefer the darker side of theater, the acting in "Sister Mary" is notable.

"The Actor's Nightmare" and "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" runs through Oct. 2 at Port City Playhouse. PCP performs at The LAB at Convergence, located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane. For tickets or more information, call 703-838-2880 or visit www.portcityplayhouse.com.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria residents Ric Andersen, left, and Shawn g. Byers celebrate opening night at Port City Playhouse Sept. 16. Andersen appears in the pair of one-act Christopher Durang plays directed by Byers.

LTA Open House

Backstage Pass:
Eleanor Morrison, a 15-year-old sophomore at Bishop Ireton, shows off her purchases at the Little Theatre of Alexandria costume sale Sept. 10. Crowds from throughout the area descended on the theatre for its yearly open house, which included backstage tours, refreshments and a costume sale featuring wardrobe items from past productions. "It's sad we have to part with so many wonderful pieces," said costume chair Annie Vroom. "But we have limited storage space so this is a fun way to see items from our shows find new homes."



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

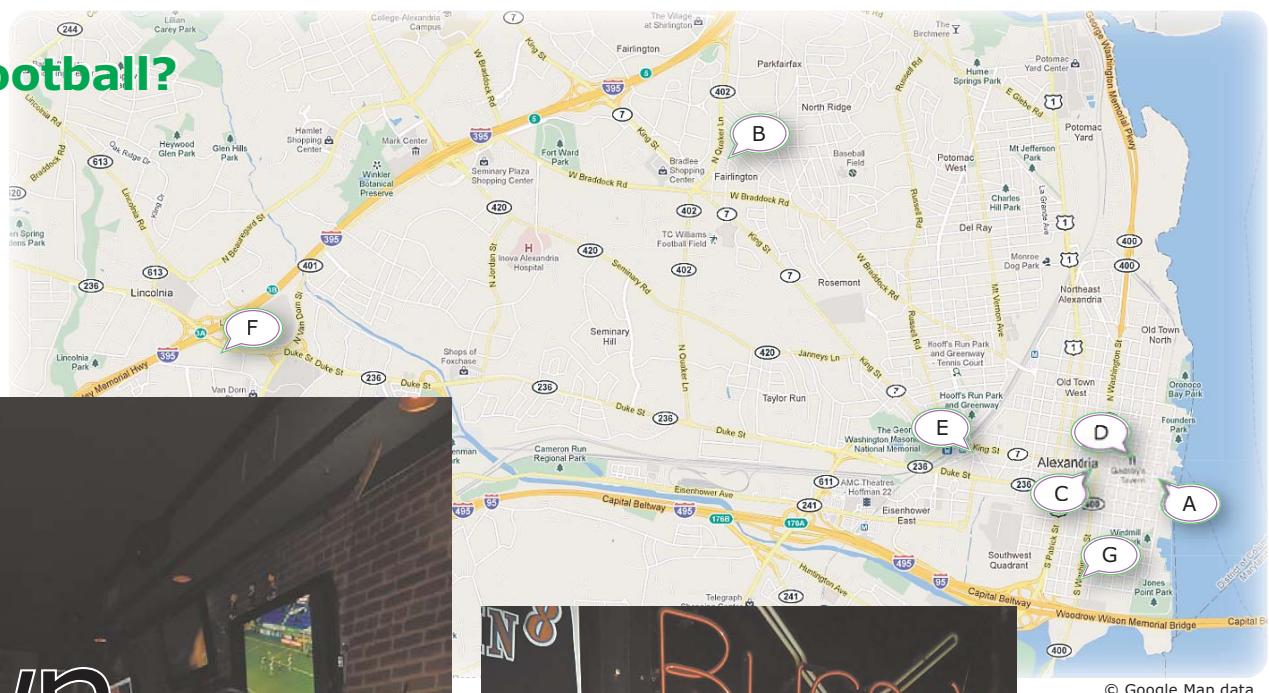


PHOTO COURTESY OF LTA

MEET THE CAST — The cast of "Rabbit Hole" participates in a Talk Back with audience members following the Sept. 16 performance at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Helping facilitate the discussion is Luana Bossolo, right, of the American Psychological Association Practice Organization. About 60 audience members stayed for the discussion on coping with grief, a central theme of "Rabbit Hole." The Pulitzer Prize-winning play runs through Oct. 1. www.thelittletheatre.com.

Are You Ready For Some Football?

What could be better than watching the game in a joint where the TVs are the size of pickups, the crowd is lively, and the beer and Buffalo wings plentiful? With HD broadcasts and game day specials, it's a wonder anyone goes to the stadium anymore (sorry, Dan). As a new season gets underway, The Wanderer is ready to tackle the city's best sports bars for fans of all stripes.



Photos by
Jeanne Theismann

Talk of the Town

RAMPARTS TAVERN AND GRILL B

With 18 screens, you can binge on college and NFL games at Ramparts, one of the few bars in town that still maintains a designated smoking area. Weekends are packed and bulletin boards display the weekly football pools. "We have great football specials," said bartender Gera Clark. "And don't forget to mention the phenomenal service!"

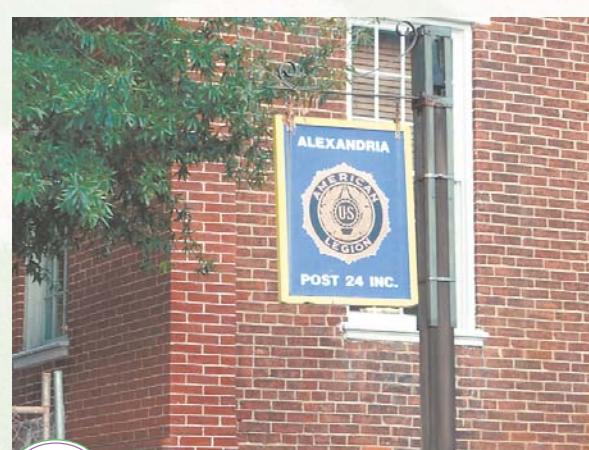
1700 Fern Street, 703-998-6616
www.rampartstavern.com



C THE LIGHT HORSE RESTAURANT C

Don't let the traditional street level dining room fool you. You won't find a more local or boisterous crowd than the game day one upstairs at Light Horse. With pool tables, shuffleboard tables and dining options from traditional pub fare to modern cuisine, Light Horse is a popular gathering place and late night destination for Alexandria sports fans.

715 King Street, 703-549-0533
www.thelighthorserestaurant.com



F ALLEY CAT RESTAURANT AND SPORTS BAR F

Already considered the best Steelers bar in the region, Alley Cat has added a designated Redskins Room for those days when the two teams are playing at the same time. With 14 TVs, 14 draft lines plus game sound throughout the entire restaurant, this is one indoor tailgate party you don't want to miss. And unlike FedEx Field, plenty of free parking.

2 South Whiting Street,
703-461-0450
www.alleycatalexandria.com



JOE THEISMANN'S RESTAURANT E

Thirty-seven years ago, a third string quarterback came to town, hung his name on a sign and opened one of the first sports bars in the area. Today, under the stewardship of Susan and Vernon Grandgeorge, Theismann's sets the bar for sports fans, combining a comfortable atmosphere with fresh cuisine and excellent service. TVs abound and there's even a TV lineup in the men's room.

1800 Diagonal Road, 703-739-0777
www.joetheismanns.com



A BUGSY'S SPORTS BAR A

Like the man himself, Bugsy's is an original. NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, Setanta, ESPN, Fox Sports – you name it, it's here, along with memorabilia galore and some of the best pizza and wings in town. Loyalties here are diverse and Giants fan Greg Anderson (above right), watching Monday Night Football with 'Skins fan Don Leaman, had no qualms about being identified as such.

"Put it in bold," he said.
111 King Street, 703-683-0313
www.bugsyspizza.com



G SOUTHSIDE 815 G

A local favorite since 1993, Southside 815 serves up all day sports along with heaping helpings of its celebrated southern cuisine. With NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB packages on 13 TVs throughout the restaurant, you won't miss a minute of the action. Renowned viewing parties dominate the playoffs.

815 South Washington Street, 703-836-6222
www.southside815.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Art on the Avenue Is Oct. 1 in Del Ray

The 16th annual Art on the Avenue festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. The event is free and open to all.

Held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, Art on the Avenue celebrates the diversity of the Potomac West community. Now in its 16th year, the event is entirely volunteer-run, with support from the local business community.

Art on the Avenue strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work. Last year's event drew more than 50,000 people from throughout the metropolitan Washington area.

The multicultural arts and music festival features more than 350 area artists and craftspeople selling their original works, international food, and three stages of live music. Free children's craft activities and entertainment, artists' demonstrations and a pie-baking

contest complete the day's program.

Debuting this year is the Kids Art Korner, located on the field at Mount Vernon Community School. Local artists and non-profit groups will team up to give young visitors a creative experience — creating a special work of art to take home, or participating in a project that will go on display in the neighborhood.

Free DASH transportation will be provided from the Braddock Road Metro Station to the festival. For more information, visit www.artontheavenue.org.

PIE BAKING CONTEST

Art on the Avenue will host the Sixth Annual Pie-Baking Contest on Saturday, Oct. 1, during the Festival. The homemade pies will be on display starting at noon next to the Festival Store (between Del Ray and Oxford Avenues). Judging begins at 12:15 p.m. Cash prizes are awarded in two divisions! However, everyone who enters is a winner! After judging, pies will be available for \$3 a slice with all proceeds going to a local charity.



PHOTO BY WAYNE HULEHAN

Last year's Art on the Avenue in the Del Ray community.

2011 TWIN STAGES

At the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and East Oxford Avenues

TIME	ARTIST	GENRE	STAGE
10 a.m.	Hokum Jazz w/Esther Haynes Jazz	Jazz	A
11 a.m.	Mighty Spiritual Lights	Gospel	B
12 p.m.	Irish Breakfast Band	Irish	A
1 p.m.	Seth Kibel and Bay Jazz Project	Jazz	B
2:215 p.m.	Welcome new businesses		A
2:15 p.m.	Folsom Prisoners, Country/Honky Tonk	Country	A
3 p.m.	Deja Blues Band	Blues	B
4 p.m.	Joe Chiocca Band	Classic Rock	A
5 p.m.	Pasaporte Latino	Latin	B

2011 HOMEGROWN STAGE

At the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and East Raymond Avenues

TIME	ARTIST	GENRE	STAGE
12-12:45 p.m.	Next Doors	Alternative	
1 to 1:45 p.m.	The Reserves	Alternative Pop	
2 to 2:45 p.m.	Mars Rodeo	Classic Rock	
3 to 3:45 p.m.	Judge Smith	Pop Rock	
4 to 5 p.m.	Subtle Madness	Rock	

Stages

Art on the Avenue hosts four stages that are packed with entertainment throughout the day. Each stage has different performers scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.:

Twin Stages at the corner of Mt. Vernon and E. Oxford Avenues — two stages go continuously, while one stage has performers, the other stage has the next entertainment being set up.

Homegrown Stage in the parking lot at Mt. Vernon and Stewart Avenues — all performers on this stage are from the Del Ray area.

Acoustic Stage at the corner of Mt. Vernon and Raymond Avenues — this stage features music at its best where individual artists perform playing their own music.

Be sure to visit the Art on the Avenue Festival Store, across the street from the Twin Stages at 2308 Mt Vernon Avenue (in front of the UPS Store) and take home your favorite Art on the Avenue musical artist's CD.

Kids Activities

At Art on the Avenue, kids are encouraged not only to look at all the artwork, but to create some of their own. Local artists and non-profit groups team up to provide a real creative experience for young visitors, helping them create a special work of art to take home, or participate in a project that will go on display in the neighborhood.

KIDS ART KORNER will be on the field at Mt. Vernon Community School right next to the Food Court.

Entertainment is featured at the Kids Stage, located on the east side of Mt. Vernon Avenue between Del Ray and Custis Avenues, where kids get a chance to perform, or to watch as other kids put on magic shows, puppet shows and dance performances.

2011 ACOUSTIC STAGE

At the corner of Mt. Vernon and Raymond Avenues

TIME	ARTIST
12 to 12:45 p.m.	Michelle Swan
1 to 1:45 p.m.	Janna Audrey
2 to 2:45 p.m.	Bill Mansfield
3 to 3:45 p.m.	Mike Elosh
4 to 5 p.m.	Billy Clements

HURRY! SALE ENDS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 5 PM!



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alexsym.org/pick2**

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2011-2012 SEASON

Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique*
Balakrishnan *Force of Nature*

Saturday Oct. 8 ~ 8PM

Sunday Oct. 9 ~ 3PM

Featuring David Balakrishnan, violin,
and Mark Summer, cello



Schubert/Liszt *Wanderer Fantasy*
Saint-Saens *Symphony No. 3 "Organ"*

Saturday Nov. 5 ~ 8PM

Featuring Thomas Mastroianni, piano

an altered state

Mozart *Clarinet Concerto & Requiem*

Saturday Feb. 11 ~ 8PM

Sunday Feb. 12 ~ 3PM

Featuring Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto No. 2*
Holst *The Planets*

Saturday May 19 ~ 8PM

Featuring Carlos Rodriguez, piano

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center

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A Taste of the West End

October 8-9

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10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun.

Cameron Station &
Ben Brenman Park

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Illustration: BeckyHeavner.com Design: LisaCarveyDesign.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Boutique District Scavenger Hunt

The Old Town Boutique District, a cooperative association of 30 Alexandria boutique owners, is celebrating its anniversary by giving away more than \$6,000 in gift cards and gifts from merchants during its Fourth Annual Scavenger Hunt Sept. 23-25.

Subscribers to Boutique Buzz, the Boutique District's e-mail newsletter, will receive Scavenger Hunt passports in their e-mail inbox. Passports can also be downloaded from the Boutique District's web site, www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com/scavengerhunt.

When they visit participating stores, shoppers will show their passports to the merchants to receive free gifts they can use to build their own gift bags. Each store will offer free items that scavenger hunters can pick up and add to their collections.

No purchase is necessary to receive the free gifts, but shoppers must have their passport. Shoppers can use their passports to collect stamps from each of the participating merchants and enter to win the prize drawing. You must get a stamp from each store to be eligible to win.

The first place prize winner will receive \$3,000 in gift cards — \$100 from each participating merchant. Thirty second-place winners will each receive a \$100 gift card from a participating merchant drawn at random. To qualify for the drawings, shoppers must collect stamps from each of the 30 merchants between Friday, Sept. 23, and Sunday, Sept. 25. No purchase is necessary to receive a passport stamp.



Fibre Space offers products and classes for current and future customers that knit and crochet.

Coming This Fall, October 8-9

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- Alley Cat Restaurant 2 South Whiting Street
- Dunya Banquet Restaurant 5951 Stevenson Ave.
- Van Dorn Metro



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Alexandria Convention & Visitor's Association



Alexandria Gazette Packet



West End Event Productions, LLC

www.westendeventproductions.com

Visit westendartandwinefestival.com for more information

This publication was made possible through the support of the Alexandria Marketing Fund.

LOCAL THEATRE

NOW THROUGH OCT. 2

"Macbeth." Tickets are \$45 to \$55.

Part of "Speak No More" — The Silent Shakespeare Festival. Wednesdays 7:30 p.m., Thursdays – Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. with some Sunday evenings 7:30 p.m. At Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington. Call 800-494-8487 or www.synetictheater.org.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 2

"Speak No More" — The Silent Shakespeare Festival. Tickets are \$45-\$55. "Macbeth," "Othello" and "Romeo and Juliet." At Synetic Theater at Crystal City. Wednesdays 7:30 p.m., Thursdays – Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. with some Sunday evenings 7:30 p.m. Box Office: 800-494-8487 or www.synetictheater.org.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 2

Two Plays by Christopher Durang.

"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" and "The Actor's Nightmare." Presented by the Port City Playhouse. Performances on Friday-Saturday, Sept. 23-24, and Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Tuesday, Sept. 27; and Sunday, Sept. 25 and Oct. 2. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or visit www.portcityplayhouse.com

FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 25

So Yoon Lym: The Dreamtime.

Artist uses hair and braid styles to make statement about immigration and diversity. At the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 2

Retakes and Transformations.

Art from everyday life. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

Suburbia. A collection of impressionistic oil paintings by Parisa Tirnaz. At Gallery West, 1213 King St., Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 3

"Forgotton" and "Off Season."

Works by photographers Sandy LeBrun-Evans and Eric Jonson. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Suite 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center. Call 703-683-2205.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 3

Red Dots: Drawings by Shanthi Chandrasekar. At the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, Old Town Alexandria.

TUESDAY/OCT. 4

Drawing with Debris. 6 to 8 p.m. Torpedo Factory artist Jackie Ehle will perform a live sculpture demonstration as she discusses the process and inspiration behind creating artwork from discarded



Stoneware handpainted chrysanthemum platter by Kim Ju of McLean.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 2

Shades of Fall. At the Torpedo Factory Center's Scope Gallery. Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays until 9 p.m. At 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm

materials. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or call 703-838-8000.

OCT. 4 TO 30

Scope Gallery's Fall Forms.

Features spooky shapes, scary function. The Scope Gallery hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. At the Scope Gallery at the Torpedo Factory art Center, 101 North Union Street, ground floor



OCT. 20 TO DEC. 4

Artist Carol Reed. Carol Reed's abstract works on paper feature bold shapes, usually in charcoal or ink on paper, that dance alone or with similar shapes. Artist's reception is Sunday, Oct. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. Artist's Gallery Talk on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. At the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org

Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm

OCT. 4 TO NOV. 7

Photographer Michael Borek. "Effective Immediately." Opening reception is Saturday, Oct. 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. At the Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Suite 312, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

THURSDAY/OCT. 6

Mask Making Workshop. 6 to 7 p.m. Free. Followed by lecture at 7 p.m. In connection with the Target Gallery's exhibition, Masks, the gallery and the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center are working with Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA) to help raise awareness of the importance of art as therapy for

mental illness and highlight the PHA's art exhibition. At the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

OCT. 6 TO NOV. 7

"Input Output" by Jackie Hoysted.

Comprised of paintings, ceramic sculptures, and digital photographs, Hoysted leaves the distinction of "what is the original vs. what is the copy" up to the viewer. Meet the artist reception is Thursday, Oct. 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Encaustic Demonstration is Saturday, Nov. 5 from 1 to 2 p.m. At the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

FRIDAY/OCT. 7

Get Sparked! Show Opening. 7 to 10 p.m. DRA and SPARK (getsparked.org) embark on an artistic journey that pushes boundaries. Experience a unique showcase of writing as inspiration, and artistic interpretations. Free. Details: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/watercolor

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

Alexandria Arts Safari. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. Hands-on arts and crafts activities for children. Children will enjoy the Clay Experience, Arts Safari Painting, Fabric Collage, Origami Art, Giant Paper-Mache Animal, and more. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

OCT. 8 TO 31

Kimberley Bush, Ceramist. Sublime 2D forms that focus on positive and vibrant energy and combines encaustic painting with horsehair or raku decorating processes on handcut ceramic panels. Artist's reception is Saturday, Oct. 8 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

FRIDAY/OCT. 14

Get Sparked! 7 to 9 p.m. SPARK writers share aloud the inspiration pieces that prompted the current gallery show's art. Light snacks and refreshments, open to the public! Donations accepted. Details: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19

Exploring Watercolor and the Figure. 2 to 5 p.m. Join local artist Diana Gamerman as she

demonstrates painting the figure in watercolor. A short talk on different types of watercolor paint, mediums, paper and brushes will be followed by a chance for participants to experiment with these different materials as the group paints from a nude model. All supplies provided. Register in advance: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/watercolor

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Students Get Sparked. 7 to 9 p.m. Greenbriar East Elementary students showcase artwork inspired by selected poets and writers. Kid-friendly opening, light refreshments, an art project to take home! Open to public. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or arwright@fcps.edu.

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ENTERTAINMENT

SEPT. 18 TO NOV. 13

Brit Wit. Sundays 5 to 6:30 p.m. Join Maryland Public Television station's Afternoon Tea lady Heather Sanderson, who will help you explore the unique style of British comedy through hilarious short pieces that will remind you why laughter is the best medicine. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-5778 ext. 2.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Scurlock: Negro Leagues. 7 p.m. Dwayne Sims discusses his book at the Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. To RSVP, contact Audrey Davis at Audrey.davis@alexandriava.gov.

An Evening with General Edward Braddock. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum Auditorium, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Performance tickets: \$12 per seat followed by A "Meet the Star" Reception (with cash wine bar). Reservations: 703-838-4994 (during business hours). Purchase tickets online through PayPal at: www.generalbraddockinterview.com

"Old Blue Eyes." 1:30 p.m. Free. The spirit of Las Vegas in the form of Steve Flynn as he sings the songs made famous by Frank Sinatra. At the Hermitage in the auditorium.

Young at Art Reception. 5 to 7 p.m. Recognizing the work of artists over age 55. Sponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and the Goodwin House. At the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Call 703-836-4414, ext. 10

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Hydroplanes Racing Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Air National Guard hydroplanes will return to the Potomac River's National Harbor East Pier for an exhibition to preview The President's Cup/Air National Guard Series H1 unlimited racing. The event features the Valken.com, Graham Trucking, 88 Degree Men and Oh Boy! Oberto teams. Visit www.h1unlimited.com.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Explore the exciting world with some favorite stories and songs. For ages 2 and under. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SEPT. 23 TO 25

Scavenger Hunt. Free. From Friday to Sunday, get your passport stamped at all 30 members of the Old Town Boutique District and be entered to win one of 30 \$100 gift cards or the grand prize of a \$3,000 shopping spree (\$100 gift cards from each of the 30 boutique members). Plus receive a special gift. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Moving Planet: Alexandria Rally. Noon to 2 p.m. A worldwide day of action to move beyond fossil fuels and towards clean energy. Sponsored by The Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Sierra Club, Greenpeace and 350.org. At MetroStage Theater, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. Learn More: <http://www.movingplanet.org/events/us/alexandria/563>

Genealogy Workshop. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Genealogy Workshop: In Search of Mathew Henson's Roots. At the Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. To RSVP, contact Audrey Davis at Audrey.davis@alexandriava.gov.

Charity Casino Event. 6 to 10 p.m. Rebuilding Together Alexandria, a 501 c 3 non-profit that provides free home repairs to in-need homeowners, is hosting Rock the Ante to help raise funds for its program. At Christ Church Fowler House, 111 N Columbus Street. Register online at www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale is the largest native plant sale in D.C. Metro Area. Some 14 vendors from five states are selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade in historic Parkfairfax. At 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Call 571-232-0375 or www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org.

Art Auction Fundraiser. Art preview at 7 p.m. followed by the auction at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance. Special guest artist John Stanisci will be in attendance. Fund-raiser for the Alexandria Jaycees and King Street Cats. To purchase tickets, contact Amy at amy.alexjaycees@gmail.com or visit <http://www.alexjaycees.org/art.php>. At the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street in Alexandria.

Genealogist Char Bah Lecture. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5/person. Discover your own family history with expert techniques for tracing African-American ancestors. Bah will present "In Search of Matthew Henson's Roots," an illustrated lecture on how she traced the Alexandria family members of

the great North Pole explorer. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Twig Homes Tour. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital, is having its 70th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour & Marketplace. Six private residences and gardens in Old Town will be open to the general public. Tickets are \$35/advance; \$40/day of tour. To purchase tickets online, visit www.thetwig.org. Tickets may be purchased at The Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King Street and The Twig Thrift Shop, 106 North Columbus Street.

Melissa Ferrick. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Belle View Annual Craft Show. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. DJ will provide Jazz music throughout the day. Food and refreshments. At 1204 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Rain date is Oct. 1. Call 703-765-8775.

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Parking lot of Lincoln United Methodist Church, 6335 Little River Turnpike at Lincoln Avenue, Alexandria. Rain date Oct. 1. Info: 703-354-5176 or lincolniaumc@verizon.net. See www.lincolniaumc.org.

Museum Day. Three Alexandria museums are participating in the Smithsonian's Museum Day. On that day, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Alexandria Archaeology Museum, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will be offering free admission to anyone presenting a Museum Day Ticket which is available to download at www.smithsonian.com/museumday. Visitors who present the official pass will gain free admission for two people to participating museums and cultural venues.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Explore the exciting world with some favorite stories and songs. For ages 2 and under. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SEPT. 24-25

Bead and Jewelry Show. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Northern Virginia Bead Society is hosting its annual Bead and Jewelry Show at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Admission is \$5, and parking is free on Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. For discount coupons, visit www.meetup.com/NVBS-Jewelry-Classes/ or www.nvabeads.org. Contact NVQUPresident@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

60th Anniversary Party. 8 p.m. Come join the Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) 60th Anniversary Party aboard the Cherry Blossom Paddle Steamer, featuring open bar, door prizes and light refreshments. Tickets are \$30 for OTCA members and \$35 for non-members and can be bought at the dockside at the time of boarding. Boarding starts at 6 p.m., set sail around 8 p.m., returning around 8:45 p.m. You may also join OTCA at this time. Membership dues are \$25 per household.

A Musical Voice for Nature. 3 p.m. Cost is \$20/adult; \$10/student. Join EcoVoce musicians — soprano Denise Freeland, flutist Susan Hayes, and pianist Narciso Solero — on a musical journey, performing songs about butterflies, birds, water and other aspects of our natural world. At Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Visit www.ecovoce.org.

Olde Towne Dogge Walkie. 9 a.m. Start and finish at Market Square on King Street. Part of the Get Healthy Alexandria. Start a team or join Mayor Euille's "Get Healthy Team". Registration is \$25 and includes a T-shirt and bandana. You can sign up at www.doggewalkie.com. Meets at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria.

Bach Vespers. 5 p.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4766 or visit www.wpc-alex.org.

My Kissing Hands Keepsake Impressions. Noon to 2 p.m. Create precious memories with keepsake impressions of your child's hands and feet. Check out [mykissinghands.com](http://www.mykissinghands.com) or call 703-548-4092 or email info@hooray4books.com to schedule an appointment, which are required.

MONDAY/SEPT. 26

Alcohol and Drug Recovery Talent Showcase. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you have been touched by recovery, and want to participate in the showcase, sign up by Sept. 12 at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/recovery_talent or call Noraine Buttar at 703-746-3670. At Metro Stage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria.

SEPT. 26 TO 28



FRIDAY/SEPT. 30

Dinner, Dance and Auction. 7 p.m. The Friends of Rising Hope are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. Tickets are \$100/person. To purchase tickets, visit www.risinghopeumc.org.

SEPT. 30, OCT. 1-2

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6 to 9 p.m. Sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries. Visitors learn about the successes and failures of our Founding Father's wine endeavors, enjoy live blues music, and meet "George and Martha Washington" on the Mansion's piazza. Tickets are \$35/person and go on sale Sept. 1. At Historic Mount Vernon. Visit www.MountVernon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Genealogist Char McCargo Bah. Free. 1 to 2:15 p.m.; and 2:30 to 4 p.m. A close look at Virginia's genealogical documents. Learn the keys to uncovering your family history. Bah will conduct free lectures on tracing family roots at the Special Collections Branch of the Alexandria Library. Sponsored by the Friends of Local History. Space is limited. At Alexandria Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1706.

Sacramento Yard Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. UCM's Sacramento Neighborhood Center will hold a community yard sale at 8792-E Sacramento Dr., Alexandria. Donations of \$15 are being accepted for table reservations to display items for sale. To reserve a table, call 703-619-2964.

Civil War Defenses Bus Tour. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Friends of Fort Ward will sponsor a guided bus tour on the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The tour will be led by military historian Dale Floyd, who has specialized in military fortifications and 19th-century military history. The bus will depart from Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, at 8 a.m. and return to Fort Ward at 5 p.m. Cost is \$75 for members of the Friends of Fort Ward, and \$90 for non-members. The registration deadline is Sept. 29. To register, call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Pet Blessing. 9 a.m. All creatures great and small are welcome to be individually blessed by Pastor Matthew Benton. Each pet will receive a certificate to commemorate the Blessing. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.

Living History. 2 to 4 p.m. Pat Jordan from the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia will take on Dorothea Dix's character (as head of the U.S. Army Nurse's Corps during the Civil War) and explore her experiences during the war in a two-part presentation. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.nvrpa.org.

Folk and Celtic Duo. 7 p.m. Al Petteway and Amy White. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., in Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Features 350 area artists and craftspeople selling original works, international food, three stages of live music, children's craft activities and entertainment, pie-eating contest and artist's demonstrations. At Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, Del Ray, Alexandria. www.ArtontheAvenue.org

OCT. 1 AND 2

Art Show and Sale. Free. The Kingstowne Area Artists Association will exhibit and sell its work on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 2, from 12 - 5 p.m. at the Snyder Center, 6450 South Van Dorn Street, Kingstowne. Work in a variety of media will be displayed, including: acrylics, oils, watercolor, mixed media, pastels, photography, pen and ink, digital media, etc. Visit www.Kingstowne.org or contact Sue Bezdziecki at [smeltheroses05@cox.net](mailto:smeiltheroses05@cox.net) or Ginny Sywyj at duchessducky@msn.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2

Blessing of the Animals. 3 p.m. Members of the parish as well as the local community can bring their pets — cats, dogs, and any pet to be blessed by the Rev. Walsh. At St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Visit www.STJamesMV.org

Rossini's Stabat Mater. 3 p.m. The event will highlight an Orchestra, with the Met Singers and four soloists. Sponsored by the Singers' Project/DCFMC. At George Washington National Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria.

Bach Vespers. 5 p.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4766 or visit www.wpc-alex.org.

Keeping Backyard Hens for Food and Fun

FROM PAGE 1

every morning is the next logical step in the eco-friendly evolution.

Just don't call them chicken lovers. Supporters of the backyard hen movement are quick to point out that cackling roosters would be a severe grievance for neighbors, as well as the hens themselves.

Barbara Jacksier-Chasen, an author and Northern Virginia expert on raising hens, strongly discourages would-be chicken owners against keeping roosters. "The myth about roosters crowing at dawn is not true," said Jacksier-Chasen. "They crow when they wake up, and whenever they want to impress a hen. They bully and assault hens to reproduce, females are much happier without roosters."

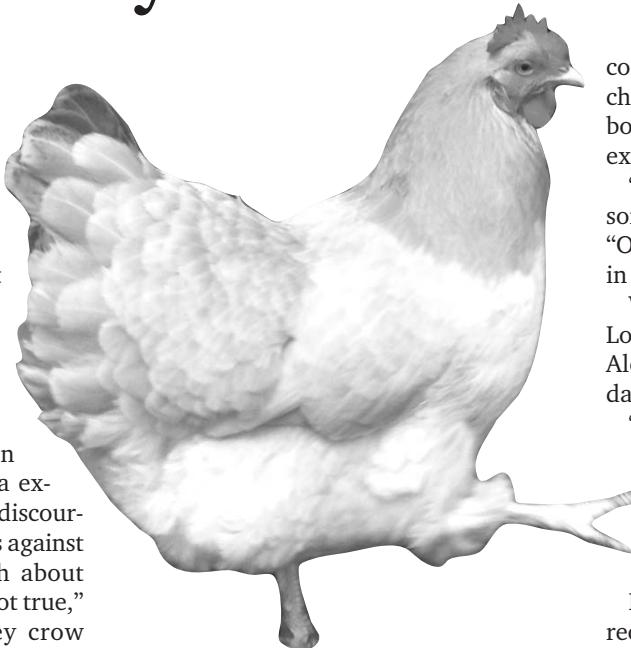
"Chickens have a wonderful personality. Some can be aloof, some are natural leaders and others are followers."

— Alexandria resident Ginger Peabody

Keeping neighbors happy about noiseless hens is of particular importance for proponents of the urban agriculture movement. Ginger Peabody, an Alexandria resident who

Green Eggs

Araucana chickens are particularly prized among backyard hen proponents for their green/blue eggs.



keeps several egg-laying hens in her backyard despite the prohibitive zoning ordinance, has reached out to all of her neighbors. Honest dialogue that addressed potential concerns helped Peabody come to an informal agreement that allowed her to keep hens.

"My neighbors really like them," said Peabody. "Their children come over to visit just to be with the hens."

In addition to fresh eggs, the benefits of maintaining backyard hens also includes their natural fertilizer, manure, which is used to support gardens. Building a coop is a stimulating physical and mental experience as well, but most importantly hens provide excellent companionship.

"The hens follow me everywhere in my yard, their light clucking is soothing and the sense of being attached to the earth is sublime," said Peabody. "There's no reason people can not have them, if people maintain a clean coop and lock the hens inside at night, there's no problem."

Although Alexandria Animal Control has

concerns about residents keeping backyard chickens, the bottom line is that if neighbors do not complain there is no reason to expend already stressed resources.

"We know hens are there," said Joy Wilson, chief of Alexandria's Animal Control. "Our primary concern is that the hens live in a safe fashion and are not a nuisance."

Wilson, who spent 10 years working in Loudoun County before taking her post in Alexandria 15 months ago, has seen the dark side of irresponsible chicken owners.

"In Loudoun County people had cock-fighting rings, and others butchered chickens for religious purposes," said Wilson. "People wanting three or four egg-laying hens aren't going to worry us."

In 14 years, Animal Control has never received a neighborhood complaint relating to a chicken menace.

The one chicken infraction on record can only be described as a gift to amateur comedians. The incident involved chickens from one Alexandria resident's coop that escaped and disrupted traffic, crisscrossing streets until Animal Control officers arrived on the scene.

While there is no inherent danger to keeping backyard hens, they don't bite and they don't scratch, in January of this past year the Centers for Disease Control issued a warning that chickens from an Ohio farm were contaminated with salmonella. Chickens from the Ohio farm ended up in backyards across the country, and over 90 people were sickened.

Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh, an immunologist with the CDC, cautioned that while there are many benefits to keeping chickens, there are also risks associated with backyard flocks.

"Make sure you wash your hands with soap after handling chickens, never allow a chicken inside your house or where food is prepared, and don't let children under five years old play with chickens," said



Hens need to live in a safe environment and not disturb neighbors to thrive in backyards.

Raising Chickens

A growing collection of books about raising backyard chickens includes "City Chickens" by Patricia Forman. "Chick Days" by Jenna Woginrich is a step-by-step guide to raising chickens for absolute beginners.

Behravesh.

Although kissing a chicken may seem innocent enough, even a peck on the cheek carries the risk of disease.

Even though the responsibilities and risks may seem daunting at first to someone interested in pursuing an eco-friendly and urban agriculture lifestyle, information is readily available online and in a variety of books. As Peabody can attest, raising your own hen is just fun.

"Chickens have a wonderful personality. Some can be aloof, some are natural leaders and others are followers," said Peabody. "Have fun, start small, and don't keep roosters."

NEIGHBORHOOD

Old Town

A NO-BRAINER AWAITS - Our city fathers never cease to amaze me as summer leaves us.

They are in a position to possibly acquire some 25 acres of key waterfront property in the heart of Old Town at the very moment an official City working group is debating details of the waterfront's future. The working group has spent most of the summer trying to reach a consensus on changes to a plan already drafted, which has caused some bitter arguing. Critics of the current plan say it has many holes, numerous faulty assumptions and, in its wildest dreams, could not be called visionary.

Now comes news that the GenOn cold-fired power plant on the river in Old Town will close next year. The bottom line is that the 25 acres on which GenOn sits could be available at some time in

the near future and could play a key role in the makeup of any waterfront plan.

Alexandria, it would seem, has a golden opportunity — a "no brainer" chance — to add an attractive 25-acre plot — to the planning process.

But the City doesn't seem particularly interested. City planners are insistent that the GenOn property should not be part of the waterfront plan conversation. They are arguing that redevelopment of the GenOn site should be ignored and that the waterfront site, as modified by the Planning Commission, should be adopted as soon as possible without further change.

What is behind their almost frantic rush to redo our waterfront into something that most of us probably don't want and probably will never see as now designed by pushing through City Council an already shaky plan to ruin it? The short answer is that the powers that be at City Hall, the Chamber

and the Visitors Association think almost exclusively of the cash register when big-time planning is involved. The City argues that the best way to attract tourists is give them three 150-room boutique hotels with all the trimmings. As Alexandria activist Andrew Macdonald has written, there is plenty of data showing that a hotel is not the only way, or best way to entice tourists.

The real irony is that the old port's waterfront, after months of bickering over its future, finally has captured the attention of an enormous number of Alexandria citizens.

Those who live in this glorious old city do so in most cases because they want to. They are watching City Hall closely on this one. So am I.

Happy fall, 'Towners

— BOB FELDKAMP

Rebuilding Together Receives Grants

Rebuilding Together Alexandria, a volunteer-based, non-profit organization that preserves affordable housing and revitalizes communities, has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. The grant will be used to provide home repairs to residents in need, at no cost to those served.

The organization also was selected as a The Home Depot Foundation 2011 Community Impact Grant recipient of \$5,000.

Volunteers will repair door and window locks, replace smoke detectors, install programmable thermostats and compact fluorescent light bulbs, paint, seal air gaps throughout homes, replace broken appliances, repair leaking roofs, and more.

To learn more, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

the public watched it pop up on their iPhones and Blackberries. They quickly realized they had wasted their time and efforts trying to get the Council to focus on the stunning fact that this "concept" was full of holes and instead demand a revised and more realistic draft.

So skillfully had the City's spinmeisters been that the complete focus had shifted at the meeting. Not a single person spoke in opposition to improved, efficient and cost-effective transit, not only for the Beauregard and Van Dorn corridors, but throughout Alexandria. Instead, anyone who spoke in opposition to this weak draft plan was demonized and ignored. It was not a transit vote, but a development vote and a political vote. Realistically, every incumbent and newcomer who runs for a Council seat realizes that the main contributors to their campaign coffers will be developers, not the average citizens. So they were merely planning ahead.

The role of spokesman for the Council's unanimous verdict suited Krupicka, a self-declared lame duck on the Council following his Aug. 23 electoral defeat. Given his new status, he will not be held accountable at the polls for this decision nor any of the others he will make on "growth and development" in the next 14 months.

Neither he nor his colleagues expressed any dismay in the facts that:

❖ Van Dorn would be widened to eight lanes and Beauregard to six lanes, which, coupled with the current six lanes on I-395, would create 20 lanes of parallel traffic in a half-mile radius of the Seminary/Beauregard interchange.

❖ To counteract all the noise from this traffic, the City would construct 20- to 30-foot high concrete "sound barrier" walls along Van Dorn which would make it look like an urban ghetto.

❖ This could be the first time ever that a transit plan was "created" before starting and ending points for a route were established; or did a survey of current users and potential users and where they want to go, besides Metro. (i.e. Shirlington, or Columbia Pike or the Fox Chase or Bradlee Shopping Centers.)

❖ There is no specific data on how this proposed Corridor C would connect up with Corridors A and B.

❖ According to WMATA, the Beauregard Corridor is already "the most profitable" route in the area's entire transit system, with 34 percent of the residents already taking public transit.

❖ If you knock down hundreds of affordable units of those taking mass transit, and

replace them with up-market town houses and condos, many of those new residents will still opt for cars. No government can order you to take the bus to work.

❖ And costs are a "floating" figure, ranging from \$48 million to \$185 million, and the estimate does not include the cost of new transit vehicles, their operation and maintenance or the human drivers. Nor does it factor in the millions of dollars need for eminent domain, to take the property all along the proposed Corridor C.

❖ At least 15 blocks of trees on Van Dorn and Beauregard would be cut down, creating visual blight and a severe environmental impact, since trees are a buffer for CO₂ and greenhouse gases. The trees would be replaced by twig-like saplings, and without a budget for maintenance and irrigation, would soon disappear.

Krupicka has already decided he won't be accountable to voters for any of his decisions. But the other six remaining Council members still standing need to think long and hard about the many troubling and potentially unfeasible aspects of this plan that they just gave carte blanche approval to in a one-sided vote for developers. The only "winners" on Saturday were those representing the developers, who made a significant hourly rate. The losers are the 90,000 West End residents who expected more of their elected officials. The total refusal to delay this plan a few weeks or a few months until it was accurate and complete is what the many residents who attended this session and watched it on TV will remember when they cast their eventual ballots.

Kathleen M. Burns
Alexandria

Why the Rush?

To the Editor:

Increasing density on the West End of Alexandria is not inevitable. It is a choice with serious long-term ramifications. These were my thoughts as I attended a joint session of the Planning Commission and City Council held recently at Landmark Mall. During the session, a Planning Commission member stated that higher density is inevitable. I wholeheartedly disagree. It is a choice facing City Council members as they decide whether the west end should be encouraged to be redeveloped by a handful of property owners over the next 30 years.

Unfortunately, it is already clear that most of the current members of City Council have abrogated this decision to developers and the planning department. Staff is to perform

a "clerical" function of putting recommendations of the Beauregard Stakeholders Work Group into a report. City Council is not taking leadership, or appropriately representing their citizen constituents, but instead is waiting for recommendations to trickle up from the work which developers and staff are doing together.

Last week the Mayor demanded openness and honesty about how BRAC came to Alexandria. Now it is time for citizens to demand openness and honesty about when and why the decision to invite BRAC to Alexandria was made.

The recent vote over the weekend to widen Beauregard for Bus Rapid Transit lanes just compounds the problem. First BRAC is built, then Beauregard is set to widen, and the third stage of this planned redevelopment of the west end of Alexandria is the change in zoning which would more than double density from 5.61 million square feet to 12.48 million sq. feet. Mayor Euille spoke about how to "sell" this plan. They are selling out the West End and the citizens of Alexandria in favor of developers.

As I have gone to more meetings and spent more time learning about the issues in the West End, I am overwhelmed by the similarities between this "process" and the waterfront "process." First, I want to apologize for characterizing the West End as a bedroom community with high turnover. I have met many residents who have lived in the west end for many years. I have heard the statistic many times that 50 percent of Alexandrians turnover every five years. Whether this statistic is true or not, I have learned that it is no truer for the West End than anywhere else in the city. But what I do see is that what is being proposed in the West End is being designed around the wishes of the developers. Developers who have significant financial incentive to hire lawyers and lobbyists, cultivate friendships, and make sure they are at all the meetings. Instead we should have had a community-driven process that is designed around what citizens want, and then figure out if development is the way to pay for it.

First, like Commonwealth Atlantic Properties donated the Amtrak Union Station to Alexandria early in the Potomac Yard Process, Duke Realty should donate the site of a new fire station immediately to create good will in the community. Secondly, we need to consider setting aside existing affordable housing, like the Hamlets, and see how much can be dedicated now for long term affordability. Finally, we should partner with Arlington to extend the Columbia Pike trolley down Beauregard without

widening the road to provide transit where it is needed today. The West End has been treated like second-class citizens, and they should not have to accept second-class fire and rescue protection, and a second-class transit system that doesn't move people through the city, but only across it. Then, if development is pushed forward we need to ask that the affordable housing contribution be in line with other developments, 25-30 percent of new housing units, not 10 percent.

Like the waterfront, we must ask, what the rush is. It is better to get it right, than to push through a plan that will permanently change the character of the West End. If the Mayor wants to "sell this", he has to explain why it is good for Alexandria, and make sure the developers are not running off "kit and caboodle" as one of the presenters, Donna Fossum said. He also needs to explain to the citizens whether he and Council made a decision in executive session to approve the now infamous Mark Jinks letter. Was the thinking, get BRAC, widen Beauregard and help developers in the West End change the zoning? We should be asking asking not how much development is acceptable but what we kind of quality of life do we want for Alexandria.

Boyd Walker

Return to The Beginning

To the Editor:

The city council and the mayor's waterfront working group should slow down and backtrack now that the 25-acre Gen-on/Mirant plant has suddenly become developable. This site is very much part of the waterfront such that a bona fide waterfront plan cannot credibly ignore a parcel of this size. Instead, both bodies should refocus their waterfront planning frameworks to comprehensively consider at the totality of available waterfront land, particularly since tax revenue from development at the Gen-on/Mirant plant site might underwrite the costs of constructing and maintaining non-revenue-generating uses like parks, museums, etc. which many would prefer play a much larger role in a waterfront plan and which would better harmonize with the rest of Old Town. Whether city hall wants to face facts or not, the Gen-on/Mirant plant windfall really does properly put planning our waterfront back to Square One.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Annual Community Wellness Health Fair. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Blood Pressure, glucose, hearing/vision and other screenings; panel discussions; Ask-the-Doctor and more. Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St., Alexandria.

MONDAY/SEPT. 26

Foreclosure Prevention Clinic. 5:30 p.m. Free. At the City of Alexandria Office of Housing,

Conference Room 3, 421 King St., Suite 200, Alexandria. To register, call 202-667-7006.

Agenda: Alexandria. "Who Are We? What Do the Numbers Say?" With Ken Billingsley, director of Information and Demographic Services at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. At Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception at 6:30 p.m., Dinner (members with reservations by Sept. 20: \$28; without reservations: \$38/ nonmembers with reservations by

Sept. 20: \$33; without reservations: \$43) at 6:45 p.m.; Program (\$5 non-members) 7:15 p.m. Dinner reservations required. Contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or agendaalexandria@aol.com.

Alcohol and Drug Recovery Talent Showcase. Free. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Do you write, rap, sing or dance? If you have been touched by recovery, whether personally or through a friend or family member, join the showcase. At Metro Stage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. Sign up by Sept. 12 at surveymonkey.com/s/

recovery_talent or call Carrie at 703-746-4914 or Noraine at 703-746-3670.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28
ACT for Alexandria's IMPACT 2011: Innovation and Philanthropy. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Featured keynote panelists include Darrel Hammond, CEO & Founder of KaBOOM!, Brian Fujito, CEO of Razoo, and Shayna Englin, Principal of Englin Consulting. At First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King

Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$20 and \$30. Call 703-739-7778. www.actforalexandria.org.

Foster Care Orientation. 6-7:30 p.m. Learn more about UMFS and its treatment foster care and foster care to adopt programs. UMFS will be hosting an orientation for prospective parents at its office at 5400 Shawnee Road, Suite 101, Alexandria. To RSVP call 703-941-9008 or email mmiller@umfs.org.

NEWS

"The act of running itself does not require sight. All it takes is a guide who holds a string, he's a running buddy"

— Joe Aukward, Paralympian

Vision Impaired Athletes To Compete in Half Marathon

FROM PAGE 3

ishing a half marathon," said Joe Aukward, a disability manager with the Navy, who also competed in the 2004 Athens Paralympics as a blind runner. "The act of running itself does not require sight. All it takes is a guide who holds a string, he's a running buddy."

Steve Nearman, CEO of Endurance Enterprises, founded the Wilson Half Marathon last year as a project to raise awareness for a group that is all too often marginalized. "There has always been a big place in my heart for the blind," said Nearman. "I wanted to make sure blind and visually impaired runners had a chance to get off the treadmill and experience the open air."

With virtually no starting budget, Nearman relied on his perseverance to realize his dream of a championship race dedicated to the blind and visually impaired. To promote his project Nearman visited blind institutes and schools, and scouted for participants at other races.

Matt Rodjom, a financial analyst and Alexandria resident, was one of the three blind and visually impaired runners who took part in last year's race. Rodjom lost most of his vision over a six-month period while a sophomore in college. Nonetheless, he continued his athletics in track and field despite the lifestyle change.



Matt Rodjom, a local athlete from Alexandria.

"Some people told me I shouldn't run, but I kept at it," said Rodjom. "When I moved to Alexandria I joined the DC Roadrunners. I've competed in the Marine Corps Marathon, and the Boston Marathon twice."

This year's Wilson Half Marathon has expanded in scope and scale thanks to significant donations from the National Industries for the Blind, located in Alexandria.

"Our mission is to provide opportunities for the blind," said NIB spokeswoman Gale Adams. "We want to fight the perception that blind people are stagnant and can not participate in certain things."

Misperceptions of the blind have serious economic consequences, as potential employers believe accommodations are too expensive to put in place. The result is that 70 percent of all blind and visually impaired job seekers are currently unemployed.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, over half of all accommodations cost nothing to the employer, and what employers do pay is far cheaper than most would believe.

"People believe it may be expensive to hire blind and visually impaired individuals based on modifications to the workplace, but this is simply not the case. Technology is the great equalizer," said Angela Heatley, vice president for external affairs at NIB. "For visually impaired individuals, accommodations can be as simple as a magnifying glass."

For blind and visually impaired athletes, accommodations on the race course vary by the severity of vision loss. B1 racers, those with total vision loss, are accompanied by a running guide and begin the race ahead of the massed grouping. B2 and B3 runners, those who have some sight yet are still considered legally blind, have the option of running with a guide alongside with the scrum.

As the Wilson Half gains recognition around the country, more and more blind

Racing for Blind Awareness

The Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon begins Sunday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 a.m., and participants must be able to maintain a 15-minute mile or better. The course starts at Mount Vernon Estate and finishes at the National Harbor. While the race is capped at 5,000 participants, there are still spaces available. For more information visit wilsonbridgehalf.com.

Become a Guide

According to the American Foundation for the Blind, volunteers who want to be guided runners start by following the desired pace, giving verbal directions while holding a tether, and most of all enjoy running outside. For more information visit www.afb.org, or check out the information booths at the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon on the day of the race.

and visually impaired athletes are taking part. Over 25 such athletes will participate this year, and not all of them are Paralympians.

"We often think running a half marathon is so hard, but it's amazing what the human body is capable of," said Aukward.

"They are exactly like any other person, except for a small connection behind the eyeball," said Nearman. "The Half Marathon helps empower people, it can be put on a resume to show an employer, hey! I can do this."



ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Register
www.AlexChamber.com

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A Tribute to the Best in Alexandria Business

Thursday October 6 6:00pm

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SCHOOL NOTES

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

Julianne D. Bigler of Alexandria is a sophomore majoring in psychology in the College of Science at Virginia Tech.



40 Days for Life Alexandria will kickoff at **Bishop Ireton High School** cafeteria from 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27. From Sept. 28 to Nov. 6, local Christians will participate in a national pro-life effort that includes 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach.

Joseph François-Ashbrook, 21, of Alexandria, will be an adviser with the Virginia College Advising Corps at Bassett High School in Henry County. The son of Darryl François and Margaret Ashbrook, he has degrees in foreign affairs and history. While at U.Va. he was a peer adviser for the Office of African-American Affairs and was on the dean's list.

Lindsey Baumann of Alexandria was named to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Lindsey, of Fort Hunt, graduated from Bishop Ireton High School in 2010 and as a result of her excellence in her studies has also earned the Virginia Tech Dean's list for both semesters last year. Lindsey was a four-year varsity soccer player for BI and three-year varsity basketball player. She earned over a 4.0 GPA while attending BI and was honored as an Athlete Scholar. She entered college with 15 hours of AP credits that she earned while attending BI.

Catherine Ray, 14, returned to her second year at Mary Baldwin College. For being on the dean's list, Cathi will be honored by the entire MBC college community on Oct. 6, at the First Presbyterian Church in Staunton. The daughter of Mary and Robert Ray IV of Alexandria, Cathi is currently majoring in math and computer science.

Mark E. Janssen, a resident of Alexandria, graduated with a Bach-



\$10,000 for Jefferson-Houston School

The University of Phoenix donated \$10,000 along with school supplies to Jefferson-Houston School in Alexandria last week. A special check presentation ceremony was held at the Jefferson-Houston School with Erik Greenberg, campus director, University of Phoenix Northern Virginia and Rosalyn Rice-Harris, Principal, Jefferson Houston School in Alexandria.

elor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Mary Washington.

Dana L. Gadeken, a resident of Alexandria, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Mary Washington.

Michael T. Terlecki, a resident of Kingstowne, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from the University of Mary Washington.

Chloe Mullins of Alexandria earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lehigh University this spring.

Kristopher Ensley of Alexandria received a Master of Business Administration degree from Marist College the weekend of May 21.

Michelle Lexo of Alexandria graduated from Saint Joseph's College of Maine in May, with a Bachelor of Science in Health Administration.

The following local students were named to Lycoming College's dean's list

for the spring semester:

❖ **Linda McCargo**, a junior German and economics major of Alexandria;

❖ **Ashley Pratt**, a senior international studies major of Alexandria;

Zachary Tyler Hellmuth, a rising junior at Hampden-Sydney College, has been awarded the Madison Scholarship. Selection is made by the faculty Honors Council and is based on leadership in the community as well as outstanding academic achievement. Zachary, an economics major, is a member of the social fraternity Sigma Chi. He is a graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett A. Hellmuth III '75 of Alexandria.

Sara E. Mathewson of Alexandria earned a Bachelor of Science degree in international studies from the University of Scranton on May 29.

Ellen L. Nichols of Alexandria earned a Master of Science in curriculum and instruction.

Garrett B. Harrison-Lane of Alexandria was named to the spring

2011 dean's list at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa. Harrison-Lane is a senior music recording technology major.

The following local students received degrees at Bowdoin College's commencement ceremony Saturday, May 28, 2011.

❖ **Wesley Fleuchaus of Alexandria** graduated cum laude, majoring in French and history.

❖ **Eileen Palmer of Alexandria** graduated cum laude, majoring in mathematics and minoring in music.

The following local students received degrees at Mary Baldwin College's commencement ceremony Sunday, May 22.

❖ **Rosa Andrea Moran of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

❖ **Ana Gloria Espinoza of Alexandria** received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Steven Berry of Alexandria earned a Bachelor of Science degree with distinction from Harvey Mudd College on May 15. Berry attended Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.



Miller

Miller Named Fund Trustee

Dr. Ericka M. Miller has joined the Board of Trustees of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Miller, a resident of Alexandria, is vice president of operations and strategic leadership for The Education Trust, a national education research and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C. A graduate of T.C. Williams High School, she attended Georgetown University where she earned a B.A. in English Literature, and Stanford University where she earned a Ph.D.

Following four years of service as assistant managing editor of Washingtonian Magazine, she was assistant professor of English at Mills College where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in American literature. She then spent four years in public service as education legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey where she analyzed and wrote federal K-12 and postsecondary legislation and created the Web-Based Education Commission.

In 2001, Miller joined The McKenzie Group, an education consulting firm that is now part of the American Institutes for Research. She joined McKenzie as director of organizational development and government relations. In 2002 she was promoted to president and COO of McKenzie. From 2005-2007, she was vice president and director of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, where she managed contracts for higher education institutions, K-12 school districts, private foundations, and other organizations.

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SPORTS

Titans Fail To Hold Early Lead Against Robinson

TC scores 13 points in 97 seconds but nothing more.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams running back Za'Quan Summers caught a swing pass in the right flat, won the race to the corner and sprinted past the Robinson defense for a 72-yard touchdown on the first play from scrimmage during the teams' Sept. 17 meeting at Parker-Gray Stadium.

Moments later, a Robinson turnover on its first offensive play led to a 5-yard touchdown pass from TC quarterback Alec Grosser to Jamal Williams.

"I thought it was over."

— T.C. Williams running back Za'Quan Summers.

"I thought," Summers later said, "it was over."

TC needed 97 seconds to take a 13-0 lead against an 0-2 Robinson team that had scored just seven points in two games. The Rams, however,

SEE TITANS, PAGE 32



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Quarterback Alec Grosser and the T.C. Williams football team jumped out to an early 13-0 lead against Robinson on Sept. 17, but struggled the rest of the game.

T.C. Williams receiver Landon Moss catches a pass over the top of two Robinson defenders on Sept. 17.

Titans' Offense: Work in Progress

TC volleyball
team swept by
No. 10 Yorktown.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams outside hitter Kate Whitmire elevated near the right side of the net and put away a cross-court kill during the third game of a match against Yorktown on Sept. 19. The 6-foot-1 junior followed the sharpangled smash with a pair of powerfully hit service aces.

Unfortunately for TC, Whitmire's brief display of offensive authority was a rare bright spot for the Titans during a night of sloppy execution.

Yorktown defeated TC 3-0 (25-9, 25-9, 25-15) at the Garden. The

Patriots, ranked No. 10 in the latest Northern Region Volleyball Coaches Association poll, pulled away in each game with a decisive scoring run. TC trailed 10-7 in the opener before Yorktown closed the game with a 15-2 run. The Patriots scored 15 of the first 18 points in the second set and started game three with a 12-2 run.

The loss was TC's third consecutive, dropping the Titans' record to 3-4. Head coach Michael Burch said the team is still experimenting with lineups and isn't overly concerned with results until the start of the Patriot District schedule.

"Are we disappointed with the record? Yeah, but this might be the first match where we're just disappointed with the play," Burch said. "... I'm OK with where we

SEE PROGRESS, PAGE 32



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Athletes of the Month

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club presented its September Athlete of the Month awards Sept. 20 at the Old Dominion Boat Club. Councilman Frank Fannon (back left) joined ASC president Frank Flaherty (back, second from left) in presenting the awards to Malcom Westbrook of Bishop Ireton Football, Brent Armstrong of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Lacrosse and the ASA U12 Travel Soccer team. Led by head coach Jed Bobier and assisted by Brad Ferriere, team members include Miles Clark, John Colucci, David Dorsett, George Mereu, Frederic Miezan, Chima Obenwa, Omar Pilgrim, Christopher Rainey, Bassie Sangarie, Timothy Saunders, Evan Stipano and Ian Zack. For more information on the Sportsman's Club, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

SPORTS

Titans Fail To Hold Early Lead Against Robinson

FROM PAGE 31

would spend the rest of this Saturday afternoon spoiling the Titans' home opener and showing Robinson is still a proud football program.

Robinson responded to T.C. Williams' fast start with a strong running game and a stingy defense. The result was 27 consecutive

Robinson points and a 27-13 Rams victory. The Titans produced 13 points and totaled 108 yards in their first two possessions. During TC's final 11 drives, the Titans managed 151 yards and failed to score.

"As a team, we kind of laid back," senior lineman Jose Urrutia said. "We got comfortable with the quick start. We had it all rolling,

but it wasn't really what was going on."

After a 51-7 season-opening victory against a Wakefield program that hasn't had a winning season since 1983, TC has stumbled against a pair of perennial powers. But while Westfield, which beat TC 28-13 on Sept. 10, is ranked No. 4 in the Washington Post's top 20 poll, Robinson en-

tered Saturday's game with a winless record and less-than-stellar offensive credentials. Stone Bridge shut out the Rams in their opener and Robinson scored just seven points against West Springfield. Against TC, Robinson reached the end zone four times and amassed 365 yards of offense, including 317 on the ground.

Defensively, Robinson limited TC to 26 rushing yards in 20 attempts, an average of 1.3 yards per carry.

"There's nothing I can point to," TC head coach Dennis Randolph said when asked about the game's momentum change. "Tell me why you're up 13-0 and the all of the sudden you let a team run down the field and score against you at will. I can't explain it. ..."

"They stopped our run. Then you've got to throw it all the time and when you throw it all the time, things happen. You don't get to run the clock, you don't get to control the game. They certainly disrupted our game plan. We weren't able to function. The bottom line is you can't have people running up and down the field on you at will."

Grosser completed 18 of 36 passes for 225 yards and two touchdowns. The junior said TC "caught [Robinson] off guard" early in the game. Grosser said Robinson has a "pretty good" defensive line and said the Rams defense covered well.

Summers rushed 12 times for 20 yards and had three receptions for 72 yards and a touchdown.

"[Running lanes] were there," Summers said, "but sometimes they just closed quickly."

The Titans (1-2) open Patriot District competition at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23, at South County (0-3).

"Robinson didn't beat us, we beat ourselves," said Randolph, whose Titans committed at least 10 penalties. "We made so many mistakes that we let them drive down the field. We jumped offside, we dropped balls, we shot ourselves in the foot. You do that, you're going to have trouble against anybody. Whether it's district play, non-district play, ranked team, unranked team, if you do things like that, you're going to lose football games."

Work in Progress

FROM PAGE 31

are right now. We'll keep building."

The Titans' offense is still a work in progress. The team brought freshman setter Riley Arnold up from the JV to split time with senior Mollie Timmons. Burch said, statistically, the Titans had their best passing match of the season against Yorktown, but the rest of the TC attack is still coming along.

"If we can build on [a strong passing performance and] improve the setter position," Burch said, "I think we're heading down the right track."

Outside hitter Sydney Trout finished with two kills. The senior said TC has what it takes to be successful later in the season.

"We had such a great practice on Saturday, and then all the sudden we just had no energy," Trout said of the Titans' effort against Yorktown. "The passing was wonderful — the passing was really great — but ... our hitters were not doing their thing tonight. ... I think if we can pick up the energy and pass how we did and hit better, we can definitely be successful in our next game."

Whitmire led TC with eight kills despite sitting out the first game after missing practice on Saturday

with a back bruise. She tallied 23 kills during a Sept. 14 loss to McLean.

Whitmire, who plays club ball for Virginia Elite and is the Titans' top offensive threat, said she learned from her time sitting on the bench against Yorktown.

"You realize how everyone else feels and you kind of get put in their shoes," Whitmire said. "It's a lot different. It shows you [that] you have to work for your spot and it shows you how supportive a bench has to be in order for the team to come out right and play well. Even though I knew I was going to get in the second game, it showed me how much harder I need to work in practice."

Senior outside hitter Grand Roberson had three kills for TC and senior middle Sophie Siegel had two.

TC's path through the Patriot District could be a tough one to travel as four teams — No. 2 Woodson, No. 3 West Springfield, No. 4 Lake Braddock and No. 9 South County — are ranked in the region's top 10. The Titans open district play at home against Woodson on Sept. 26.

The Titans will host The Titan Clash tournament on Saturday, Sept. 24.



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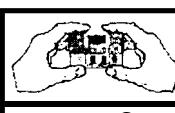
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- 7 Yr. / 100K Mi Roadside Assistance Plan
- 160 Point Quality Assurance Inspection
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BRAND NEW 2011 TOYOTA
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\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$259 PER MO.

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\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$329 PER MO.

- 2.9% APR Financing Available (3).
- 3 mo. / 3K mi Comprehensive Warranty
- 7 Yr. / 100K Mi Limited Powertrain Warranty

(1)BASED ON BLACK BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS CONDITION, MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE. (2)WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE. COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE. PLAN IS FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A DELIVERY OR TAXI VEHICLE. SEE PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS. (3)WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THRU TFS. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER ADVERTISED OFFER. OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION DUE TO MANUFACTURER CHANGE IN INCENTIVES. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE CAMPAIGN DETAILS. 0% APR FOR A LIMITED TERM ON APPROVED TIER1 + CREDIT THRU TFS. DEALER RETAINS ALL FACTORY REBATES AND INCENTIVES. (4)PRICE EXCLUDES \$379 DEALER DOC FEES. EXPIRES 9/30/11.

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4.9 / 5 RATING

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Thirty Steps to Windmill Park

This inviting, four-bedroom, three-and-one-half-bath townhouse is perfectly located next to the park and four blocks from shops and restaurants. A family room with French doors and floor-to-ceiling windows on two sides opens to a brick patio and covered porch. Four gas fireplaces, hardwood floors throughout, granite kitchen counters and detailed moldings contribute to this one-of-a-kind home. Off-street parking is enhanced by remote controlled iron gates.

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ALEXANDRIA



\$315,000

Blocks to Metro

This adorable semi-detached home is just two blocks from the Metro and features a charming front porch, updated windows, hardwood floors on the main and upper levels, and new carpet on the lower level.

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA



\$649,000

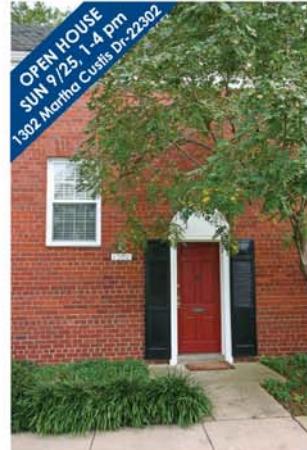
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Enjoy all Old Town has to offer in this exquisite, two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath townhome. Walk to two grocery stores, farmers' market, restaurants, shopping, the riverfront, and more! Light filled home features radiant heat floor in the bath, new roof, updated kitchen with granite, stainless appliances, and Georgetown brick patio.

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Rarely-available two-bedroom residence in Portner House...formal living room/dining room, white kitchen with Italian tile, plantation shutters, hardwood flooring, custom built-ins, private balcony, gas fireplace, garage parking...Trader Joe's, Starbuck's, Sport & Health club, steps to historic district!

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