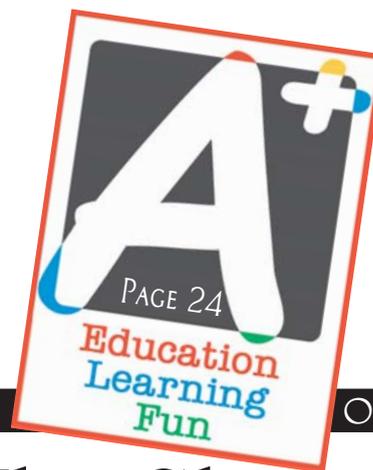


Alexandria Gazette Packet



SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER



OCTOBER 20, 2011

25 CENTS



Family Fun In the field of hay and discarded clothing, scarecrows were being assembled by the dozens as the air grew warmer and more neighbors arrived to enjoy the Family Fun Festival at Armistead Boothe Park on Saturday, Oct. 15.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Willande Unelis shows her young son Cyrus a pumpkin that they might paint together.



Cecilia and Vivian Mergen take a close look at a millipede as it moves over the hands of naturalist Jane Yeingst from the Buddy Ford Nature Center.



Kavin Murali meanders in thought as he rides back to his parents on the pony ride at the park.

The Change Agent

New manager comes to Alexandria with record of reorganization.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

During his two-year term as city manager in Greensboro, N.C., Rashad Young merged six departments into three, eliminating several staff positions along the way including one senior-level director. He also oversaw a major shift in mid-level management, moving some responsibilities under the control of the city manager's office. Now that the Alexandria City Council has selected Young to lead Alexandria after a national search, City Hall is bracing for a shakeup.

"The first thing I do is listen," said Young. "I tend not to come in and make immediate judgments, but I ask a lot of questions."

During his time in Greensboro,

the answers to those questions often led him to merge departments. It was a pattern that repeated itself several times during his years

in North Carolina. The city's Planning Department and Community Development Department merged into one. Information Technology combined with Enterprise Services, a department

that was created to handle a municipal data management system. And the Environmental Services Department was consolidated with Building Services Department,

SEE NEW MANAGER, PAGE 9



Rashad Young

Developers' Waterfront

Pressure to redevelop will likely shape city for next generation.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As members of the waterfront work group sat around the table in the council workroom at City Hall, a portrait of Lord Fairfax gazed on the three-dimensional model laid out before members. Thomas, the sixth Lord Fairfax of Cameron, could reasonably be considered the city's first developer. Owning more than 5 million acres in Northern Virginia — including what eventually became Old Town — he relied on income from his lands in the commonwealth to

fund an expensive lifestyle and maintain the family estate in Leeds, England.

Developers, then and now, want to maximize profits.

That's why Lord Fairfax would have probably approved this week as a parade of developers appeared before his portrait to present their vision for three sites slated for redevelopment. The trio of parcels has been at the center of an ongoing debate in Alexandria, which is considering a small-area plan that would overturn a longstanding ban on hotels and in

SEE PRESSURE, PAGE 7

Hoeflich Brings History to Life

John Adams Elementary teacher wins national award.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
GAZETTE PACKET

Stacy Hoeflich, a fourth grade teacher at John Adams Elementary School in Alexandria, treats her 9- and 10-year-old students like historians. She presents them with primary sources and

challenges them to think critically. Her approach has earned her the title of National History Teacher of the Year.

The award is co-sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, History and Preserve

SEE BRINGING HISTORY, PAGE 6





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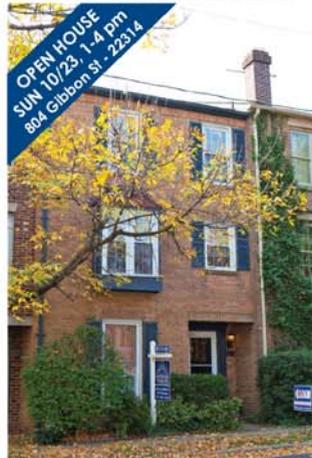
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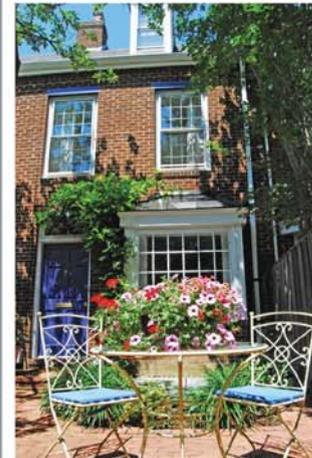
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St Asaph Square	2 BR/2 BA	\$2,400	MLS# AX7655952
Porto Vecchio	2 BR/2.5 BA	\$3,200	MLS# AX7692912
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The Gulden Rule

Back in 1998, T.C. Williams High School teacher **Kris Gulden** was hit by a car while riding her bicycle, paralyzing her from the chest down. Now students in the school's engineering class are working to make it easier for her to carry papers to the copier or write on the whiteboard.

"It's very gratifying to know that there are not just teachers who care about me but students as well," said Gulden, a former Alexandria police officer and sheriff's deputy. "And I am really impressed with the creativity and how clever and intelligent and thoughtful these kids are."

Designs ranged from Gulden buckets and Gulden wands to Gulden pouches and Gulden trays — all specifically designed to help the school's criminal justice teacher perform basic day-to-day tasks. During a series of presentations last week, the students displayed their inventions to visiting engineers and academics.

"I feel good because I know I am helping someone who needs help," said junior **Ismael Interiano**. "And, you know, that makes you feel good."

Engineering teacher **Jennifer Moshier** says the students are also benefitting from seeing a very real application of what they're learning in class.

"I think it gives them kind of a sense of purpose as to how engineers can help people," said Moshier. "Especially people who may have disabilities."

The event was scheduled this month to recognize Disability Awareness Month.

Surplus and Shortfall

Last month, city leaders were boasting about a \$9.8 million surplus. Now acting City Manager **Bruce Johnson** is warning about a \$14.4 million shortfall.

During the first budget work session of the new fiscal year, Johnson explained that the operating budget shortfall is predicted because of the sluggish real estate market. That limits the growth of property taxes, even though overall revenues are projected to rise about \$10 million. Meanwhile, city operating costs are expected to rise approximately \$24 million.

"Fiscal year 2013 is projected to be another tough financial year for Alexandria" said Johnson in a written statement. "This is our fifth consecutive year with an anticipated shortfall, and we will work hard over the next several months with the City Council, the Alexandria Public Schools and the community to develop a budget that will address these challenges."

The next work session is scheduled for Nov. 1, when City Council members will review staffing levels, employee benefits and retirement options.

West End Dump

Most of the discussion about sewage in Alexandria recently has focused on Old Town, which releases thousand of gallons of raw sewage into the Potomac River during heavy rains. But the tables were turned this month when the West End found itself in the midst of a sewage crisis.

Earlier this month, two sanitary sewer lines in Holmes Run broke — one owned by Alexandria and the other owned by Fairfax County. Residents were advised to avoid direct contact with the waters of Holmes Run downstream of Ripley Street, and portion of the bike trail was closed. When neighborhood residents complained about noise from the generators running the pumps, city crews installed a temporary sound barrier.

This week, the city finally lifted the advisory, identifying the source of the problem as a sewage spill near the intersection of Holmes Run Parkway and North Paxton Street, which is about 300 yards upstream of the Beatley pedestrian bridge. Although the advisory has been lifted, city officials said residents will continue to see temporary bypasses and hear noise from generators.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Jack Taylor, center, poses with participants and volunteers at the Oct. 15 Miracle League game at George Washington Middle School. Taylor presented a check for \$10,000 to help fund a Miracle Field for special needs athletes.

A Home Run for Youths

Jack Taylor donates \$10,000 to Miracle Field Fund.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Jack Taylor isn't waiting until the bottom of the ninth to rally behind fundraising efforts to build a Miracle Field for special needs athletes. Instead, he stepped up to the plate Oct. 15 and presented a check for \$10,000 to the Miracle Field of Alexandria and secured an additional \$10,000 for the field from Toyota of North America.

"Getting this field built is important to the city of Alexandria," said Taylor, whose donation helped kick off a fall fundraising campaign to build a rubber turf field that allows children and adults with disabilities to play baseball. "I am very proud to support this project and urge other business leaders in the community to join in as well."

The Kelley Cares Foundation made the first official donation for the field when a check for \$10,000 was presented Sept. 17 during opening ceremonies of the fall Miracle League season at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. Proceeds from the Kelley Cares 5K race next spring will also be donated to the MLA fund.

"We have pledges totaling just over \$61,000," said campaign chair Donald Simpson Jr. "We are committed to raise \$135,000 by next May to help pay for the field, which we hope to see built by the end of next year or in early 2013."

The City of Alexandria will contribute \$285,000 towards the \$400,000 cost of the field, a rubberized surface baseball diamond that is safe for all participants, including individuals using wheelchairs or walkers.

"Today is a perfect example of why we need this field," said MLA chair Bill Rivers. "It's a beautiful day and able-bodied kids are playing their games outside. But because of recent rains, the field over at the Lee Center isn't safe for wheelchairs or those with limited mobility."

Due to unsafe field conditions, the Oct. 15 Miracle League game was played inside at George Washington Middle School. Participants were assisted during the game by "Angels in the Outfield" volunteers



Ryan Bailey takes his turn at bat during the Oct. 15 Miracle League game.

from the T.C. Williams baseball team, Alexandria Little League and Girl Scout Troop 6686.

"As a special education teacher, I'm a huge proponent of programs that support individuals with disabilities," said TC baseball coach Jim Blair. "This is something that definitely needs to get done."

The MLA fall fundraising campaign runs through Nov. 15 and will include the opportunity to purchase brass home plate-shaped plaques for a "monument wall" to be built at the entrance to the field.

"Just look at the faces of everyone here," Simpson said. "This is one of the most important things we will ever do for our community."

For more information on the Miracle League of Alexandria or to make a donation, contact Bill Rivers at 571-216-4425 or rivers15@comcast.net or visit www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com.

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OBITUARY

William Randolph Sengel

William Randolph Sengel, pastor of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Virginia from 1960 to 1986, and the first moderator of the National Capital Union Presbytery, died at Westminster at Lake Ridge, Virginia on Oct. 17, 2011. He was 88. The cause of death was respiratory illness.

Dr. Sengel was a leader in both ecumenical and civil rights concerns throughout his ministry. He was born in 1923 and raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Following service in the U.S. Navy in World War II as a navigator aboard LST 996 in the Mediterranean, he completed his undergraduate studies at Davidson College and then graduated from Yale University Divinity School in 1949. Upon graduation from Yale, he was awarded the coveted Wolcott Calkins Prize for excellence in preaching. (Forty years later, in 1989 a young protégé of Dr. Sengel who had attended the Meeting House was awarded the same prize at her graduation from Yale.) Sengel continued to serve as a reserve naval officer until 1954. He served congregations in Radford, Va., and Fulton, Mo., before being called to the Meeting House.

His service at the Meeting House in Alexandria included more than 700 weddings, 400 babies baptized, 400 young people confirmed, the receiving of nearly 2000 members into the congregation, and some 200 funerals.

A member of the Committee of Twenty Four, he was one of 12 representatives of the Presbyterian Church U.S. (known as the Southern Presbyterian Church) and helped bring about the union of his denomination with the northern church (Presbyterian Church USA) in 1971.

In advance of that long delayed event, he had been elected the first moderator of the National Capital Union Presbytery, bringing into one body the Presbyterian churches of Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and nearby Maryland, including Baltimore. Dr. Sengel also served on the boards of the National Council of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union. He filed dispatches to the Washington Post on the World Council of Churches conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1966. In 1970 he chaired the Presbyterian delegation to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Nairobi, Kenya, and was invited by Pope Paul VI to report on that meeting at the Vatican. In 1973 he published a book entitled "Can These Bones Live?: Pastoral Reflections On The Old Presbyterian Meeting House of Alexandria, Virginia Through Its First Two Hundred Years."

As a local pastor Dr. Sengel shared in bringing integration to the Alexandria library and to its schools. He participated in the Washington March of 1963 and showed in the witness at Brown's Chapel Church in Selma, Ala. in



Sengel

1965. Invited by Alexandria School Superintendent John C. Albohm to offer a eulogy for Dr. Martin Luther King at T.C. Williams High School in 1968, Dr. Sengel made a strong plea to stop the practice of flying the Confederate flag at more than 80 street corners in Alexandria as a gesture of racial reconciliation. The ensuing debate lasted more than a year and led at last to ending the practice.

Following his retirement from the Meeting House, Dr. Sengel served as interim pastor to several local congregations and then served as chaplain at Westminster at Lake Ridge in Woodbridge, Va. for 14 years, until 2007. He and his wife Marian moved from their Alexandria home to Westminster that same year.

Dr. Sengel is survived by his wife Marian Stephens Sengel of Westminster at Lake Ridge, and his sons Stephen Randolph Sengel of Alexandria, David Erwin Sengel of Boone, N.C., and Mark Ashmore Sengel of Chiang Mai, Thailand.



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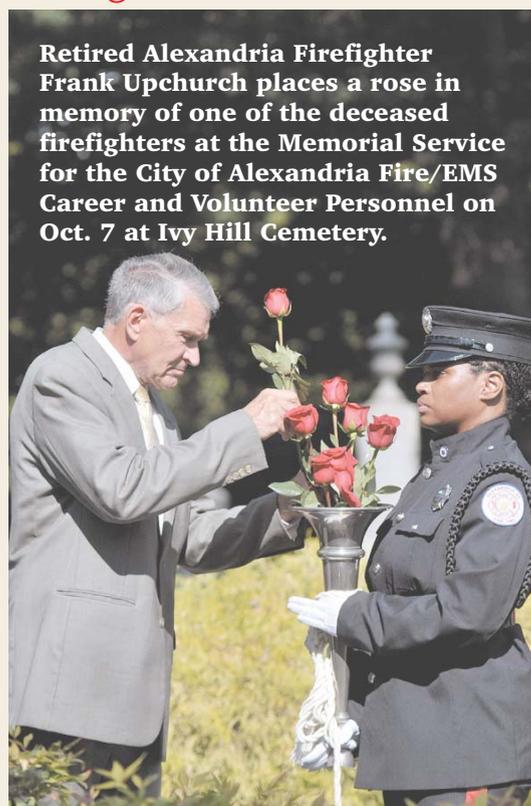


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Firefighters' Memorial Service

Retired Alexandria Firefighter Frank Upchurch places a rose in memory of one of the deceased firefighters at the Memorial Service for the City of Alexandria Fire/EMS Career and Volunteer Personnel on Oct. 7 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Retired Fire Department employee Callie Terrell sings the National Anthem.

Council Approves Sanitation Expansion

Sports field to be added to new facility site.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria is expected to grow by leaps and bounds over the coming decades, and more people means a greater need for sanitation.

On Oct. 15, the City Council unanimously approved a sweeping expansion to the City's sanitation network. The newest facility will be partially underground and is projected to serve community needs up to 2040.

The plant, to be located off Hoofs Run Drive, includes a 20-million gallon tank designed to feed waste-water at a steady pace so micro-organisms can more effectively break down phosphates and nitrogen.

"Our ability to remove pollutants is in keeping with environmental standards set by the EPA," said Karen Pallansch, general manager of the Alexandria Sanitation Authority. "There are four foot walls so no one will be exposed."

In a twist on sanitation, the plan includes eco-friendly features including a sports field with public parking and an administrative building aboveground.

Urban camouflage of sanitation facilities is not a new phenomenon. Other U.S. cities have included tennis and basketball courts above sewage treatment plants. The planned soccer field, however, is one of the first in the country.

A bike path is also included in the plans, much to the delight of Alexandria cyclists.

"From a biker's standpoint the project is not a concern, as long as there is no sanitation on the trail," said Bennett Moore, manager of Big Wheel Bikes on Prince St. "If it's nicely done, with two lanes, it should be just fine."

"The project is really innovative because it blends community needs with community desires," said Pallansch.

The Sanitation Authority is slated to finish construction by 2016 in several phases. Top priority will be given to the 20-million gallon underground tank, with the soccer field established

at roughly the same time. The administrative building will follow at the tail end of the project.

The field, administrative building and bike paths above the sanitation plant will naturally be restroom accessible.

"The project is really innovative because it blends community needs with community desires."

— Karen Pallansch, general manager of the Alexandria Sanitation Authority

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NEWS

Bringing History to Life

FROM PAGE 1
America.

"The thorough lessons that [Hoeflich] submitted as part of her application demonstrate her impressive use of primary sources which included John Smith's 1612 map of Virginia and 1950s political cartoons on Virginia's 'Massive Resistance' against the desegregation of public schools," said Kathleen Wesner, education coordinator at the Gilder Lehrman Institute in an email. "The judges also noted her ability to incorporate literacy and to develop critical thinking skills in all students in her classroom."

"I work really hard to find primary sources that they can have access to," said Hoeflich. "Our school is like 60 percent ELL [English Language Learners]. We have a large special education population. You can't have the Declaration of Independence as a primary source. You really have to work to find things that are visual. It makes history real. It makes the people in history real. It gives them the sense of it being a real story that they can connect to."

Kelly Schrum, director of educational projects at the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, nominated Hoeflich for this award. She is impressed with Hoeflich's skill in the classroom.

"Just seeing how effective she is in the classroom with a really diverse group of students," said Schrum. "Watching her teach them how to think critically and in ways that engage them. Working with a 17th century map, you would think that they are all histori-



Stacy Hoeflich

ans."

"Ms. Hoeflich's application also demonstrated her leadership at the state and national level," said Wesner. "She continues to build her own knowledge through participation in workshops offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress and other organizations. She, in turn, is a leader bringing her knowledge to other teachers through her work on a Teaching American History Grant, in her consulting role for the Center for History and New Media, and in presentations at conferences of several major history organizations."

HOEFLICH ATTENDED George Mason University for both her bachelor's and her master's degrees. Her undergraduate degree was in English and her graduate degree was in education. She has worked for the past 14 years at John Adams Elementary School in the fourth grade.

"It's what I do," said Hoeflich of her unchanging career path.

About becoming a teacher, she said, "My mom is a teacher. She taught first grade in the '60s. My sister is a teacher also a history teacher. Teaching and learning was always part of my life growing up. I knew that I was interested in teaching. I wanted to do something that was not going to a cubicle every day. Being challenged and affecting change every day. It fit. I've always worked with children. It just made sense."

Hoeflich enjoys what she does.

SEE HOEFLICH, PAGE 7

Open House/Community Appreciation Day

@



of Alexandria

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Where: 420 E. Monroe Avenue; Alexandria, VA 22301

When: Wednesday, October 26th from 5pm-8pm

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Pressure To Redevelop Likely Shape Next Generation

FROM PAGE 1

crease the density of allowable development. One developer outlined plans to bring a high-end chain known as Hotel Indigo to the Cummings-Turner property. And the owners of the two Robinson Terminal property outlined their corporate interest for maximizing profits.

"I think that's a real mistake," said former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, who is considering an independent bid for mayor next year. "We are going down a road that I think that's counterproductive."

Since the plan was released in January, it's roiled city politics and divided the city. Macdonald and others who oppose the plan formed the Citizens for an Alternative Alexandria Waterfront Plan, which is planning to roll out its own plan later this month at the Athenaeum. But the plan also has a number of vocal supporters, who formed a group known as Waterfront for All to advocate on behalf of overturning the ban on hotels and increasing density at the three sites slated for redevelopment. Now, after months of waiting on the sidelines, the developers and property owners are making their case to the work group created when City Council members couldn't reach a decision earlier this year.

"We've been watching with great interest," said David Miller, an attorney representing the Washington Post, which owns Robinson Terminal. "We don't love everything in it, but we're willing to work with it."

Back in 2008, when city officials first began considering a new small-area plan for the waterfront, Robinson Terminal made a preemptive attack in the Alexandria Circuit Court. Charging that city officials engaged in "illegal spot zoning" by reducing allowable density at Robinson North in 1992, the lawsuit said it was entitled to develop according to a 1981 settlement agreement.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

A portrait of Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax of Cameron, overlooks a meeting of the waterfront work group this week.

The complaint was eventually withdrawn, but attorneys for Robinson Terminal made it clear that they expected the waterfront plan to restore the allowable density to what it was before the 1992 rezoning, which is exactly what happened when the plan was released this year.

"My perspective on this is a little more crass," said land-use attorney Duncan Blair, who also represents the Washington Post. "I believe that when you enter in a treaty that it should not be abrogated. In fundamental fairness, it should not have been done."

Earlier this year, City Attorney James Banks issued an opinion that the city should probably increase density at the two Robinson Terminal sites because he feels the case is not winnable. Opponents of the plan say that increasing density at the sites would

drastically change the neighborhood, especially because the currently buildings are already below the allowable density under the 1992 zoning. Furthermore, opponents of the plan have pointed out, the floor-area ratio calculations for hotels would allow wiggle room for garages and bathrooms, potentially leading to buildings that are denser than the numbers would indicate. Many have called for the city to keep the current density and fight Robinson Terminal in court.

"There's this sense that we don't have control over what's happening but we do," said Old Town resident Catherine Hobbs. "This case is winnable."

AFTER MONTHS of speculation about how the new hotels would fit into the fabric of Old Town, the contours of how the plan might translate into reality are just now starting to take shape. During the work group's Wednesday morning meeting, representatives of Washington-based Carr Hospitality outlined plans to construct a Hotel Indigo on the Cummings-Turner property in the 200 block of the Strand. Planning officials have long advocated that this is the most important spot to locate a hotel because the new public park that will be directly across the street, so allowing residential properties here under existing zoning is an outcome Planning Director Faroll Hamer was trying to avoid.

"The approach would be to integrate this into the historic fabric of Alexandria," said land-use attorney Jonathan Rak, who is representing Carr Hospitality in Alexandria. "Its characteristics fit in well with what we are trying to accomplish."

Hotel Indigo is a high-end brand that currently operates in downtown Chicago, Midtown Atlanta and the Gaslight Quarter of San Diego. One is currently under construction in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Plans for

a potential Alexandria Hotel Indigo call for 120 rooms and a restaurant with 50 to 70 seats, creating 30 jobs in the city. It would also have conference rooms and reservations through the International Hotel Group. Carr Hospitality has also prepared a plan for residential units in the event City Council rejects the waterfront plan.

"We're happy to look at either option," said Hammad Shah, president of Carr Hospitality. "But we would prefer to develop it as a hotel."

With the work group expected to finish its work in the next few weeks, the group is now moving into the critical final stages of the process. This fall, the panel is expected to present a series of recommendations to the council, which plans to cast a final vote before the end of the year. A majority of City Council members have expressed support for the plan, although the dynamics could change depending on the work group's final report. "I don't think we are going to be able to finish by Nov. 15," said work group member Bert Ely.

"I think we waste a lot of time with administrative stuff," responded work group member Mindy Lyle.

Councilman Paul Smedberg, a non-voting member of the panel who convenes the meetings, reiterated that the City Council is expecting recommendations in the fall. He also encouraged panel members to work with all deliberate speed to finish their work and present a report to the council. The group has six more meetings scheduled before the end of November, and council members have docketed a status report on the process for the Nov. 9 meeting. Council members have scheduled Dec. 13 to formally receive the final report.

"We should try to accommodate that as best as we can," said Smedberg, one of the City Council's most outspoken advocates in favor of adopting the plan.

Hoeflich Wins National History Teacher of the Year Award

FROM PAGE 6

"I like getting up and going to work every day," said Hoeflich. "I like the population and the children and the age I work with. I find it really exciting. Everyday is different even though you teach the same thing over and over again. I like the 'aha' moment when they get it. I like that I had some part in it."

She creates imaginative projects for her students to participate in such as writing operas about the lives of George Mason and Thomas Jefferson and doing a Pocahontas biography project that culminated with watching the Disney movie and writing letters to the creators about the historical inaccuracies.

"She also has a very strong interest in history and a strong content knowledge," said Schrum. "She's always wanting to learn more. That's a key piece of her effectiveness in the classroom. There would be the consistency of her passion in the classroom. She's always asking the questions and always pushing to see what she can do better

and what she can improve. It's really an ongoing dedication she has to history and history education that I think is really remarkable. It's so much fun watching her teach."

Hoeflich has formed relationships outside of the classroom that inform her teaching skills. In 2005, she participated in the Teaching American History Grant.

"She was so exceptional that we invited her to be a lead teacher or master teacher the next year," said Schrum. "She was really good at translating historical knowledge to different grade levels."

HOEFLICH BECAME an educational consultant to the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University.

"I have been able to branch out professionally in lots of different way outside of my classroom and to share my thoughts and hear other thoughts and investigate new ways of thinking and improve my own teaching and learning," said Hoeflich.

She has also presented at the national conferences of the Organization of Ameri-

can Historians, the American Historical Association, and the National Council for the Social Studies.

"When you're in fourth grade and around children, it's a particular mindset, and you get to go to these conferences and it's a different mindset, a different paradigm," said Hoeflich. "It really pushes you to think differently. Most often I am one of the very few non-collegiate presenters. To be able to participate in that from a first-hand perspective. It's really interesting to make those connections."

Hoeflich says she has no immediate plans to change anything because she's enjoying what she's doing right now. She has been honored before, receiving the Mount Vernon History Teacher of the Year Award in 2007.

"It was pretty exciting," said Hoeflich. "I got a bust of George Washington, which was kind of silly but really exciting for a geek like me. It was the first year the award existed."

About receiving the Virginia History Teacher of the Year award, she said she was proud and excited. She noted that her AP U.S. History teacher in high school, Patty

Kolodi, who "was very influential in my passion for teaching history," had won an award while Hoeflich was in her class. Hoeflich said winning this award felt like an homage to Kolodi.

"I have reached out to try to talk to her," said Hoeflich. "I want to send her an email and let her know thanks. I give her a lot of credit for where I am."

She said her plans if she won the National History Teacher of the Year Award were to "Laugh, say 'thank you,' definitely try and get in touch with Patty Kolodi and refinish my basement that got flooded in September."

She describes Alexandria as fantastic. "I think it's charming and full of history. I like that it celebrates its history. Old Town is really interesting and full of little places to learn and to see. I also think Alexandria is really interesting because it's so diverse. There are 13 elementary schools in Alexandria and they are so different from each other."

"Seeing her work with her students, it's such a pleasure to watch," said Schrum.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Foot Stomping

Del. David Englin (D-45) is considering changing his vote on a controversial amendment to the Virginia constitutional amendment to send what he calls a “foot-stomping” message to Alexandria City Hall: Abandon the attempt to take land owned by the Old Dominion Boat Club using the power of eminent domain.

That issue is an amendment that sailed through the General Assembly during the last session earlier this year. According to the idiosyncrasies of Virginia politics, the amendment has to pass the legislature once more with an election intervening before being put to the voters. Because the measure passed with an overwhelming majority in the House and Senate, few are questioning that success in Richmond next year is a foregone conclusion.

“It’s a tough no vote to explain to your constituents,” said Englin, who is running an unopposed campaign for a fourth term. “Who doesn’t support private property rights?”

Over the summer, City Attorney James Banks raised the specter of using the city’s power of eminent domain to take some of the property near the waterfront owned by the Old Dominion Boat Club. The proposal was met with an immediate wall of resistance, and the city attorney almost immediately backed down. Now the General Assembly will be considering the eminent domain amendment yet again, and the Virginia Municipal League is arguing that the effort could drastically increase the cost of everything from adding a curb cut to altering a turn lane.

Englin voted against the amendment in the last session. But with the city venturing into uncharted waters of eminent domain, he’s thinking about switching his vote to send a message.

“I don’t think it’s appropriate for local governments to assert authority they don’t have,” said Englin. “On the other hand, I think the push for this is much more about politics than substance.”

Lopsided Race

Republican candidate Tim McGhee is facing a difficult challenge in his long-shot race against Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49), both of whom are hoping to fill the seat vacated by retiring state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30).

Although the district became 4.6 percent more Republican, it’s not a seat that the GOP has targeted. In fact, the only party support his campaign has received is a \$150 contribution from the Republican Women’s Club of Arlington. The most recent campaign finance reports, which were released this week, showed McGhee raising \$2,500 compared to Ebbin’s \$42,000. McGhee isn’t letting the district’s demographics or the lopsided fundraising numbers dissuade his campaign. “Are we going to be a people of interest groups or are we going to be a people of principles and fundamentals,” said McGhee during a recent debate. “I’m very much interested in driving us back to the fundamentals and the bedrock of what’s our society going to be about and who we are.”

As a four-term member of the House of Delegates, Ebbin already has a clear picture of who his constituents are. And he says he’s ready to go to Richmond and making the case for Northern Virginia. “No one arrives in Richmond as an expert,” said Ebbin, who was first elected in 2003. “It takes time to learn the rules and build the relationships necessary. I’ve done that hard work.”

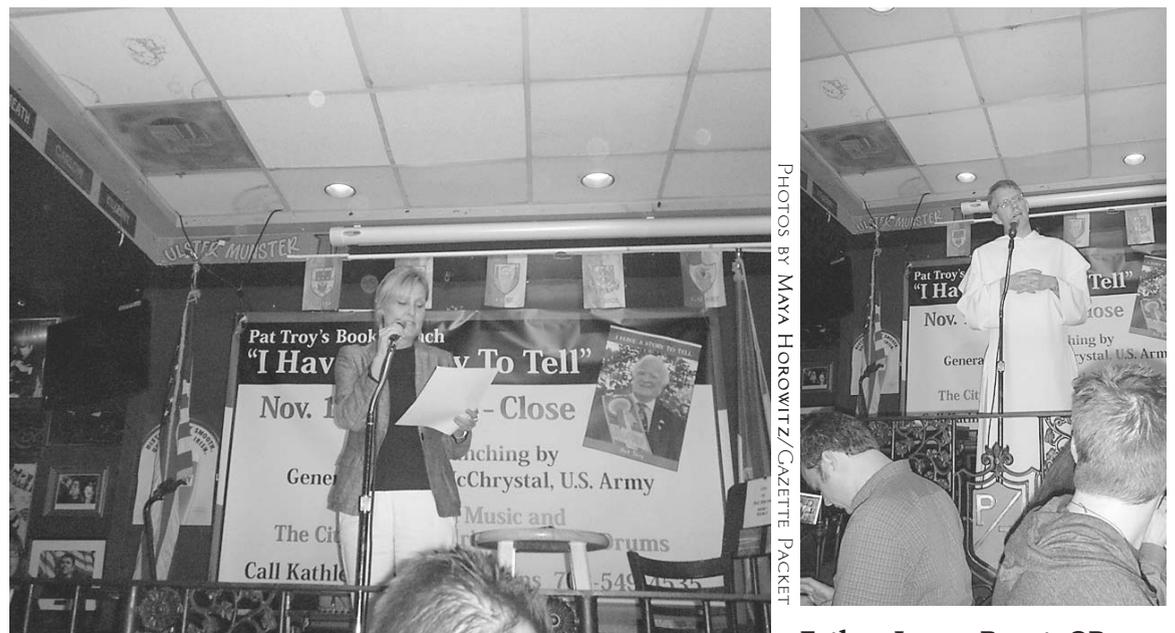
Campaign Card Check

Do you know your rights at the polls? The American Civil Liberties Union wants to make sure you do.

That’s why the civil-liberties group has created free voters’ rights cards that are available to voters who encounter difficulties confirming their registration status or voting. It’s part of an effort to encourage voters to determine in advance of Election Day if their polling places have changed and or they have been moved from one legislative district to another as a result of redistricting.

“According to new reports, as many as one-third of Virginia’s voters will be in different legislative districts due to the decennial redistricting,” said ACLU of Virginia executive director Kent Willis. “The best way to avoid problems at the polls is to be sure of your voting status and your polling place in advance of Election Day, and to know what your rights are when you arrive at the polls.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTOS BY MAYA HOROWITZ/GAZETTE PACKET

Patrons of Theology on Tap at Pat Troy’s Ireland’s Own.

Father James Brent, OP, speaks at Theology on Tap.

Beer and a Sermon

Theology on Tap explores sensitive issues in lively format.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
GAZETTE PACKET

At Pat Troy’s Ireland’s Own pub in Old Town, young Christians come out on Mondays to hear a Catholic speaker and enjoy beer and food. This unlikely mix of faith and fun is called Theology on Tap, a movement that has spread from the Archdiocese of Chicago across the country.

“It’s a great venue to talk about Jesus and drink beer,” said Father James Brent, OP, a professor at Catholic University who spoke at the Monday, Oct. 17 gathering.

“It’s a comfortable setting to talk about topics that make people uncomfortable,” said Brother Sebastian White who is studying to be a priest and came out in support of Father Brent. “To be a Catholic doesn’t mean you can’t have fun.”

Christa Lopiccolo, who will be presenting next week on “the Pursuit of Happiness,” said, “It’s a perfect place for people to come into a relaxed environment and have a candid discussion about God. It’s a great venue for people who may still be searching and not sure in their faith.”

Pat Troy’s was packed with people — standing room only — eating, drinking and discussing what it means to be a modern Catholic. Father Brent and a few other Dominican brothers mingled with the crowd and drank beer.

Theology on Tap is a social venue for many young Catholics.

“I moved to the area a couple months ago,” said Emily Gaudinski, who lives in Silver Spring. “It’s a good way to meet people.”

“A lot of us come here for the camaraderie,” said Matthew Balan, who lives in Fairfax County and volunteers at Theology on Tap.

“This is a really good place to meet normal Catholic people,” said Kate Higbee, who lives in Arlington and teaches Sunday School.

The age of the crowd makes it more accessible for

some young Catholics.

“The difference between when you go to church and when you’re at an event like this is the opportunity to dialogue because you’re with a younger crowd,” said Ashley Ingram who lives in D.C.

The formal part of the night began with Pat Troy, Irish owner of the bar, standing up and telling everyone to meet their neighbors.

“Husbands and wives have met here,” said Troy. “Many of them have had babies.”

Then Father Brent was introduced. He gave a long speech, lasting almost an hour. The title was “How Angels and Demons Affect Relationships.”

The crowd seemed to hang on his every word, laughing at all of his jokes and listening intently throughout.

He explained the concept of angels and demons and how they are at war over the fate of people’s souls. Then he explained that demons try to tempt humans into a life of sin. This relates to relationships mainly in the form of sexual sin.

Father Brent advocated celibacy before marriage and railed against the use of contraceptives.

HIS SPEECH was well received by the crowd at Pat Troy’s.

“He’s a good speaker, easy to follow,” said Eric Kingsepp who lives in Alexandria.

“He was able to articulate his message well,” said Ingram. “He was direct and to the point. But I also think this is sort of a difficult topic. It’s hard to get people to talk about angels and demons.”

“He talked about something that’s on pretty much everyone’s mind in a bar ... looking to get married,” said Balan.

The crowd did not disperse after the priest had finished speaking. A majority of patrons lingered to chat.

“I think Pat Troy does a really good job of putting on these events. All around it’s fun,” said Dan Fogarty who lives in Arlington and is converting to Catholicism.

“I’m thankful something like this exists. It’s a new setting, something you wouldn’t quite expect,” said Balan.

“Theology is really relevant to people’s lives. I’m not going to be embarrassed to talk about it. This is how I’m trying to be a good person,” said Kingsepp.

New Manager Comes with Record of Reorganization

FROM PAGE 1

streamlining an operation that had one department collect trash while another office disposed of it.

"It made a lot of sense, and I would say it was a very logical decision that made things work more succinctly," said Jeri Covington, the former director of Environmental Services Department who has now moved to the private sector. "These departments probably should have never been separated in the first place."

WHEN HE WALKS into City Hall for the official vote approving his contract during a special session scheduled for Oct. 24, Young will be facing a city with a population of 140,000 and an operating budget of \$567 million. When asked about how his efforts to reorganize the government of Greensboro might influence his leadership here in Alexandria, Young recalled his efforts that eventually merged Information Technology and Enterprise Services. During his first few weeks on the job in North Carolina, he met with directors of the two departments and tried to wrap his head around why two different offices were needed.

"I said, 'Why is that?' and I got an answer and then a week later I said, 'Why is that again?'" said Young. "I didn't really understand how that was in the best interest of the city or the customers they served."

Young said that sometimes his decisions were driven by a sense of customer service while other times the reorganization was an opportunity to be more strategic. For example, combining the Planning Department with the Community Development Department allowed Greensboro to combine long-range comprehensive planning with short-term neighborhood area plans. Considering Alexandria's recent history with controversial planning documents such as the waterfront small-area plan, some are welcoming the opportunity for new leadership.

"The problem with the city's planning doesn't have anything to do with organization; it's about personnel," said Katy Cannady, who is frequently critical of the city's planning efforts. "We have a planning

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET



City Hall is bracing for reorganization under new City Manager Rashad Young.

director who doesn't believe in meaningful public participation."

THE POSITION of city manager in Alexandria was created in 1921 as part of a reform effort to make the municipal government more professional. Since that time, the City Council has appointed managers that had administrative authority over the day-to-day operations of government. Today, Alexandria's city government has a wide range of departments and offices. Some have recently been reorganized under former City Manager Jim Hartmann's "Managing for Results Initiative," including code enforcement, human services and communications. Young promised that any future reorganization efforts he moves forward with in Alexandria will include a public dialogue.

"One thing that was critically important and that we had to keep reminding ourselves of is to talk about it a lot," said Young. "Talk about it with the staff because they get nervous when you start to make those kinds of significant changes in the organization, talk about it with the community so they understand why we are doing it and what they can expect to receive differently from it."

In the 90 years since the city manager's office has been created, people who have held the job have taken a variety of styles. Some have been hard-charging taskmasters while others have adopted a more laid back style. Some have found themselves manag-

ing the city during periods of social turmoil while others have faced economic challenges. Former City Manager Albert Hair, for example, had to find a way to create a sense of racial diversity in a former slave-trading city that was easing itself out of the Old South in the late 1960s.

"He succeeded because he let it be known that he was not going to put up with any kind of racial discrimination," said former City Councilman George Cook. "That was difficult for him because of his own background as someone who was from the Deep South."

Perhaps the most transformative city manager in recent memory was Wayne Anderson, who served as city manager in the early 1970s. He moved to Alexandria after leaving his position as city manager in Evanston, Ill. Hoping to streamline some of the city's operations, Anderson decided to move three elected positions out of the realm of politics and create appointed positions instead, eliminating elected commissioner of revenue, city treasurer and city collector. Although he received some resistance, he was able to move forward with the reorganization after promising one elected official an appointed position.

"That was a massive reorganization," said former City Councilman Mel Bergheim. "I can't think of anything comparable that's occurred in my 60 years of observing public life in Alexandria."

Anderson didn't stay long, but he left his mark. After leaving the city he took a posi-

Rashad Young, 35

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Young has a bachelor of science in business management and a master of business administration, both from the University of Dayton. He got his start in municipal government working for the city of Dayton in 1998, when he served as assistant to the city manager and deputy director of information and technology before moving to Cincinnati, where he was assistant city manager. In 2005, he moved back to Dayton to become the assistant city manager for Human Resources before ultimately becoming city manager of his hometown from 2006 to 2009. In October 2009, he became city manager of Greensboro, N.C. Last weekend, Mayor Bill Euille announced that the Alexandria City Council has selected Young to replace former City Manager Jim Hartmann, who left earlier this year to take a position as county manager in Seminole County, Fla.

tion as the executive director of the United States Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. He later went on to serve as chief of staff to Democratic Gov. Chuck Robb. Those who knew Anderson, who died in 2003, say the lesson for the newest city manager might be in resisting tradition for the sake of tradition.

"He really brought the city out of the days when the good-old-boys ran everything," said former City Manager Vola Lawson. "I thought the world of Wayne. He was a real professional."

YOUNG'S REORGANIZATION has yet to take shape. But change seems inevitable, especially considering his official biography includes several passages describing his efforts to reorganize Greensboro government. Young said when he moved to North Carolina from Ohio, he was facing a culture that resisted change and relied on tradition. For example, he moved some positions outside of the city manager's office, then had to deal with disappointed staffers who felt that they had somehow been demoted.

"If you lead with what you are trying to accomplish as opposed to what fits with one's personality or what we are used to, then I think you've got a better conversation and a better basis to make those changes," said Young. "That's what I would do in Alexandria. I wouldn't come in and presuppose why things are structured the way they are, but I want to ask questions why we are organized in this fashion."

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About the Best Street Award

To the Editor:

While the Gazette Packet recently featured a fine picture of a diverse and attractive group of people accepting an award for King Street as Best Street, it did not “tell the story.” It is a story worth knowing.

The American Planning Association, an independent, not-for-profit organization for the development of vital communities, chose King Street from streets in cities all over this country because APA consider the street — from Potomac River to Metro — “historic, vibrant, and eclectic.” They recognize that its unique blend offers what citizens of Alexandria and tourists from around the world cherish and value enough to regularly patronize and visit.

King Street is one of the main threads in the fabric of life of the city of Alexandria on the river; one that make it just what it is: authentic, unique, cozy and with a smile for all. It reflects a town that cares who it is, and where it comes from. The establishments along King Street are on the whole small, with the exception of those occupying the buildings of the jarring urban renewal of the ‘60’s. The restaurants range from Belgian haute cuisine, to Thai, to fish n’ fries, to the ubiquitous Subway sandwiches. Most of these restaurants take advantage of and benefit from the historic buildings that offer them a charming and “sellable” ambiance. As APA points out, it is the Archeological Protection Code adopted in 1989, a first for U.S. cities, that requires evaluating impact of all development projects on the loss of archeological resources, cultural heritage sites, and objects.

The 300 small merchants who have chosen to make it life work here are the backbone of King Street’s success and the overwhelming majority of them are independent. Many are women. And their continuing success is largely based on the local people who shop regularly and talk to their friends about the experience. Much to these small merchants’ credit — and with their own initiative, talent and energy — they are streaming into the vastly underutilized public plaza known as Market Square with colorful umbrellas and food stands. This space has laid dormant at the City’s doorstep for years — hot in the summer, freezing in the winter with an outsized “pond” that



Taste of Giving The Torpedo Factory was bustling with music and food and wine as the 2011 Taste for Giving got underway Friday evening, Oct. 14. The event was hosted by the Alexandria Rotary Foundation and features 15 local restaurants.

PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY



Columbia Firehouse sous chef Erik Harris and Jay Morse serving a goat cheese crostini with red onion marmalade.



Gene and Cindy Laporta of Laporta’s Italian Restaurant on Duke Street dish up a signature chicken and sausage kabob.

with a little tinkering and some entrepreneurial spirit could be a picturesque ice-skating rink, especially when the Tree is up and the balls of boxwood festooning its edges. But as it is now, we can only be grateful for those few hours on Saturday morning when a farmers’ market graces this public space ... and for the occasional spritely bands that make it worth baking your buns to listen in summer’s sweltering sun.

The independent, “boutique” shops of King Street make living here a true pleasure. Comic books, artisanal cheese, fine wines, wigs, upscale cosmetics, antiques, spiritual and sex shop purveyors pack together along this vibrant main artery. They greet visitors from the gateway at the King Street Metro station all the way down to Alexandria on the river. They operate in efficient and conscientious ways

because they must — small merchants have tight cash flows. They must make every penny count and do so in the tradition of the thriving commercial port that built the places they now operate in. Masters of efficiency, they are helped along by Alexandria’s Archeological Protection Code that ensures that 18th century buildings can remain beautiful and productive. And a cheer for the City’s environmental staff, who help with keeping them “green.”

Finally, the true progenitors of King Street’s award are the past City officials and staff who did their best to preserve King Street’s unique nature. In the manner of true Virginia graciousness we should honor these not-so-long ago, far-sighted individuals, especially: past Council members Paul Delaney, Thomas Hulfish, and Ellen Pickering. Without them

there would be no award today.
Kathryn Papp

City Needs Ombudsman

To the Editor:

With all the Council’s back-door dealings, its questionable executive sessions and the embezzlement of funds by a number of city employees, it is absolutely imperative that Alexandria create a new position entitled Ombudsman.

For many years I have taken the position and written extensively that an Ombudsman is direly needed in the city of Alexandria to adjudicate the aforementioned problems in addition to uncovering fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement and corruption. This individual would in essence become

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

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

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

Jon Roetman
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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
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Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
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Jerry Vernon
Publisher/Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

FROM PAGE 10

the conscience of the community. Only an Ombudsman possesses the ability to search out the truth regarding complete and sometimes divergent reports rendered by the citizens, police and city staff.

This newly created office should operate totally independent of the City Council. The individual candidate should be elected to this position in a non-partisan manner for a period of six to eight years, much like the Commonwealth Attorney or Clerk of the Court Officials.

The job description outlining what expertise and qualifications the Ombudsman must possess, would as a minimum ensure that this individual has demonstrated an extremely high degree of integrity and has professional credentials in the areas of accounting, auditing, investigations and public administration. These attributes will be critical in investigating wrongdoing and corruption by those employed by or elected in Alexandria.

The City will be much better served in a number of critical areas the sooner we elect an Ombudsman.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Dedicated Public Servant

To the Editor:

While the office has a low public profile,

the Circuit Court of Alexandria affects the lives of our citizens everyday. It maintains and processes land record documents for the City, issues marriage licenses, provides clerical assistance to judges in all civil and criminal matters, and handles all probate and fiduciary matters, just to name of few of its many responsibilities. The gentleman who heads up this enormous operation is Ed Semonian, and he is running for re-election to the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court in Alexandria.

An Alexandrian from early childhood, Mr. Semonian has served as an elected official in Alexandria for a substantial part of his adult life. In his tenure as Clerk, he has distinguished himself by providing an exemplary level of service to the public and other user agencies. He runs one of the most efficient offices in the state, utilizing a case management system that, when implemented, was technologically superior to other systems used by most Virginia state courts. It became, in fact, the model for other court systems in Virginia. He is constantly searching for ways to update systems and streamline operations in the clerk's office.

Mr. Semonian's leadership, professionalism and work ethic have earned him the respect, admiration and loyalty of judges, attorneys, dedicated employees and citizens alike. He is known throughout the Commonwealth as an innovative and thoughtful manager, and the City places a great deal

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

BE A PART OF HISTORY



**At Inova Alexandria Hospital
our priority is to meet the growing medical
needs of the Alexandria community.**

Did you know that last year one out of four Alexandrians reached age 55 or more? An aging population meant that Inova Alexandria Hospital needed to expand its services.

Envisioning the Future: Project 2010 is the most ambitious building expansion in the hospital's 139-year history.

Expansion Highlights:

- Expanded Emergency Department, serving 60,000 patients annually
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- New 24-patient bed post-surgical center

Nearly one-third of this \$84 million construction project is coming from private donations from generous people in Alexandria. So far, we've raised \$24.5 million.

Help us raise the last \$500,000 and bring our fundraising campaign to a successful close.

Be a part of history – lend your financial support to *Envisioning the Future: Project 2010* by December 12 when we celebrate the Inova Alexandria Hospital's 139th Anniversary!

For a tour of the hospital or to make your donation to *Envisioning the Future: Project 2010*, contact Mary Myers, Foundation Executive Director, 703-504-7770.



Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.

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Eco-CITY ALEXANDRIA

In Partnership with:



**Business owners are invited to attend:
Green Building Workshop 6**

**GREEN OPERATIONS FOR RETAIL,
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WHEN: Wednesday, October 26, 2011

WHERE: The Lyceum

201 South Washington Street

TIME: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Come out to learn.....

This workshop will provide local businesses with the basics on how to save operating costs, increase comfort for employees and customers, and gain an eco-friendly marketing advantage, while lowering energy and water bills, reducing waste, and creating healthier indoor environments.

SPEAKERS:

Tina Leone, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Jerry Lawson, US EPA Energy Star Program

Charis Eglund-Smith, Mom's Organic Market

Rebecca Rubin, Marstel-Day Consulting

Anna Jones, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association

Annette Osso, VSBN

**AIA is offering 2 AIA/CES HSW/SD learning units for
architects attending this workshop**

Participants are encouraged to RSVP by e-mail to

erica.bannerman@alexandriava.gov

Visit the [Green Building Resource Center](http://www.alexandriava.gov/gbrc) at <http://www.alexandriava.gov/gbrc>

An Eco-City Alexandria Initiative

Special thanks to
Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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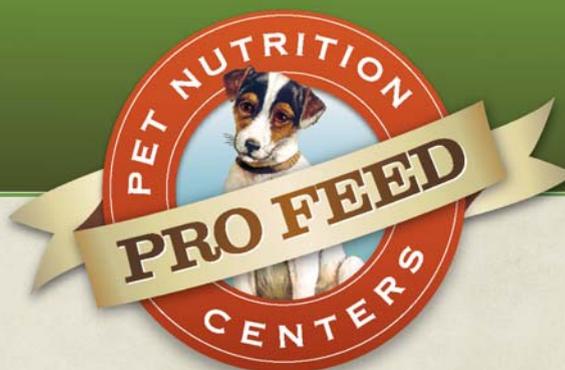
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

of trust in him. He is a dedicated public servant with the experience to best run the clerk's office and deserving of your vote on Nov. 8.

Becky Arnold

Alexandria Democratic Committee

Need Bus Rapid Transit?

To the Editor:

To the extent that the city suffers from transportation problems, problems created by north-south cross-jurisdictional commuters and intra-city destination drivers, the neighborhood has sacrificed its quality of life for the political betterment of others. At issue is the traffic congestion associated with Patrick and Henry Streets, or U.S. Route 1, and the city's unproven need for bus rapid transit especially southbound-morning commuters assigned to Ft. Belvoir.

The city, since the passage of the Transportation Master Plan, has had years to make its case. It has failed miserably. BRT assumptions are weakly stated; their matching solutions poorly defined. More importantly the cost benefit to the neighborhood remains unexplained. What the city offers is a political construct and little more.

City staff's Sept. 15 Corridor A transit meeting deteriorated into public mayhem. The neighborhood does not apologize for its response to the consultants' lack of specificity. When Committee member Donna Fossum asked T&ES staff to explain the "origin and destination of riders on BRT, staff had no answer." Staff has no answer because it has no credible data. Citizens' time has been wasted.

Patrick and Henry Streets were added to the city's 1749 plot map no later than 1798. The street grid then, like today, is of defined width and length. The roadways remained residential, unchanged for 158 years. However with Jim Crow, the 1901-1902 changes in Virginia's constitution, transportation policy discriminated.

In 1956 the city relocated U.S. Route 1 from Washington Street to Patrick and Henry Streets using eminent domain. Patrick and Henry Street residents lost their front yards to roadway expansion, to what remains non-uniform roadway expansion. Neighborhood homes stand 9 feet from U.S. Route 1. Trucks travel unencumbered, parking lanes are a safety requirement, street vibrations and auto accidents a reason for complicated repairs. Owners of these historic homes cannot sound proof

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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Sulgrave Village \$1,195,000

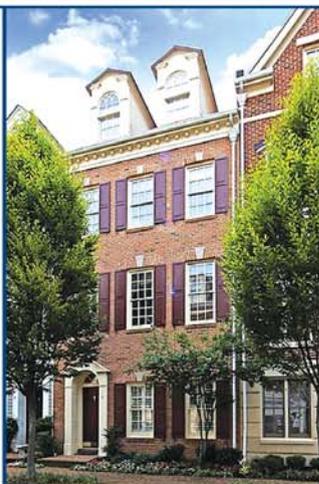
1912 Prices Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
Beautiful nearly new brick 4BR, 4.5BA, colonial with 3 car garage in close-in Mt. Vernon. All the amenities as well as a wall mounted 61" plasma TV with sound system and a permanent back-up generator.
Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Old Town \$589,000

706 South Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Charming 2 BR + 2 bath brick townhome with hardwood floors, fireplace, fully finished lower level plus delightful rear courtyard. Easy diagonal parking. This is a terrific value!

Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Old Town \$995,000

10 Keiths Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314
This beautifully maintained 3BR + 3 1/2 bath brick townhome features elegant LR with fireplace & built-ins, formal DR, eat-in kitchen, den plus two car garage. Only one half block to Potomac River!

Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



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Parker Gray \$479,900

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Eileen Marousek 703-507-2350



Rosemont \$1,500,000

208 West Walnut Street, Alexandria, VA 22301
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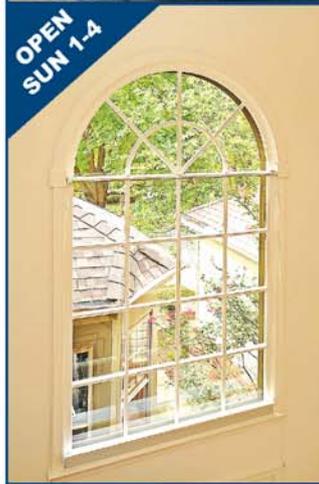
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Historic Old Town \$1,995,000

608 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
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Chris Upham 202-359-1308



OPEN SUN 1-4

Belle Haven On The Green \$565,000

1789 Duffield Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307
Alexandria - South. Belle Haven on the Green! Three Bedroom (2 MBR suites), 3.5 Bath, 2 Fireplaces! Vaulted ceilings, Palladian window, eat-in kitchen, library, garage, fenced patio. Go to www.1789Duffield.com. MarieMeyer@Live.com.

Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Mason Hill \$849,500

1910 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307
A Mason Hill Beauty! Beautiful Renovated Brick Rambler. 5 BR 3 BA Updated Kitchen Sub-Zero, Miele, Viking, Dacor Apps. Updated Baths, hardwood floors, 2 gas FP and skylight, professionally landscaped. www.GregDoherty.com.

Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



Lynhaven \$395,000

232 Lynhaven Drive, Alexandria, VA 22305
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Sherry York 703-625-3377



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Alexandria Knolls \$239,900

6101 Edsall Road, Unit 511, Alexandria, VA 22304
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Joy Deevy 703-930-5198



OPEN SUN 1-4

Rosemont \$839,000

1202 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22301
Wonderful Rosemont home with great space - 4 BR, 3 BA, hwd flrs, large eat-in kit w/island, large lot, oversized 2-car garage plus loads of extra pkg, deck, patio, & close to two Metros.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

windows, nor can they use environmentally-hardy building materials. How much is too much to give to the obvious of politics?

Policy discrimination is a given. Del Ray merchants, unlike Old Town merchants, do not contribute parking revenues. Mount Vernon Avenue has no parking meters, King Street does. Yet Mount Vernon Avenue will soon have trolley service. Committee-determined corridors have been

arbitrarily removed from consideration, corridors like Quaker Lane, Commonwealth Avenue, and Washington Street. Maryland commuters, well-documented as part of the earlier Woodrow Wilson Bridge project, are rarely referenced.

The neighborhood has proven its willingness to deal with the circumstances, for example by organizing trucks down U.S. Route 1's center lane. But city enforcement of such signage, HOV-lane restric-

tions, and speeding has been, and is, woefully lacking. We are asked to believe the city will use due diligence and monitor bus rapid transit. We do not believe. The safety considerations are many, for both riders and residents.

Fairfax County recently recommended widening U.S. Route 1 near Ft. Belvoir. Traveling north, Old Town's U.S. Route 1 offers nothing similar. The city's street grid is fixed. In fact the lane width decreases when crossing the Mon-

roe Street Bridge. The result: rush hour delays. Why should Patrick and Henry Street residents accept longer rush hours when the city repeatedly refuses to facilitate flow?

Finally, the city had an opportunity in 1999 and more recently, to increase density at Potomac Yard; to use density as a payment mechanism to fund neighborhood transportation improvements. It declined in favor of politics and the city's metro stations remain

underutilized.

Metro has capacity, neighbors use metro and the recent Braddock Road Small Area Plan promotes walkability. Let people ride metro or walk to Target.

In the past the neighborhood has offered planning possibilities. Huntington Station Park and Ride was and remains among them. Fairfax County now promotes trolleys; Arlington streetcars, and Alexandria ineffectuality. Alexandria does not lead. It only follows chaotically.

As per page 1-3, paragraph 6, sentence 2 of the Transportation Master Plan, the time has come to shut down process and permanently remove Corridor A from committee consideration. In the words of our neighbors, "Nothing has been presented that shows that our neighborhood will benefit or traffic will flow more easily."

Melissa Luby,

N. Henry Street resident

Charlotte Landis,

N. Patrick Street resident

No Show Candidate

To the Editor:

I was happy to have the opportunity to attend a forum billed as having both Virginia 39th District Senate candidates last Thursday, sponsored by the Holmes Run Civic Association at the Beatley Library, and had hoped to hear where both candidates stood on the issues important to Alexandria West End citizens.

It was very disappointing when the Republican senatorial candidate Miller Baker did not attend, despite having agreed earlier and confirmed recently that he would do so.

I believe that Alexandria would do well to elect a dedicated, accomplished, experienced public servant like George Barker, who at last Thursday's forum proved that he has a wide breadth of experience, and will "show up" to work across the aisle to get things done for the city's citizens.

Geraldine Bernier

Alexandria

'Big, Easy' Projects

To the Editor:

The change in the character of Alexandria over the past 40 years is remarkable — and for many of us long-timers, undesirable. If you have moved here recently, you might ask — what do you mean and how did this happen?

During the '60s, Alexandrians began restoring its buildings and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14
 created a wonderful sense of place as one the nation's colonial cities. Unfortunately in the 1990s once much of this work was complete, the City government shifted its emphasis to business and revenue apparently deeming the historic revival complete. This shift to the business side resulted in the City's new policy of making the development approval process as quick and easy as possible.

Feeding off this "quick and easy" development approval policy, City government moved to what I call a "big, easy" paradigm. Instead of consulting with noted international urban planners and instead of inculcating rigid design and maintenance standards, the City sought "big, easy" projects that required little effort aside from pushing through approvals. So, instead of a planned urban village at Carlisle with a Shirlington ambience, we got the Patent and Trademark Offices (PTO) with its tall, dark and almost identical buildings and little retail beyond service and fast-food restaurants. Instead of working with Landmark Shopping Center owners, Alexandria ignored it until it became a shadow of what it had once been and could have become — successful like the outdoor area at Pentagon City.

Alexandria could have endorsed the PTO at Potomac Yard with an attendant Metro station; rather it encouraged the Federal government to select Carlisle. Western Alexandria is reeling from the effects of the BRAC development off Seminary — an excellent example of "big, easy." Another? Giving the tenants of publicly owned buildings behind the Torpedo Factory 99-year leases, depriving the City of flexibility in management and uses for another 40-plus years.

Are you getting the picture? Now the City has prepared its final assault that is again an example of this "big, easy" approach. The City has proposed at least three hotels on our waterfront — a waterfront rich in the history of how Alexandria came into being. A seaport heritage that will be lost amid delivery trucks, cars seeking free parking, pedestrians trying hopelessly to cross the street, a waterfront so crowded that it is unappealing and hotel structures that are uninviting causing strollers to turn around.

The City's waterfront plan can surely be described as "big, easy" since my research of the waterfront developments of other cities shows long strategic processes that deliberately and carefully vet all interests. And there appear few plans to put hotels on a river's edge. These cities have or are in the process of fashioning these

projects without relying on private development (e.g. hotels) money. Instead they have created non-profit, private-public partnerships and have found federal, state and local grants and endowments. Alexandria has not done any of this — just doesn't fit into its "big, easy" scheme for development.

What we have already lost and are now in danger of losing forever can never be regained. It is imperative that Alexandria residents speak up and speak out loudly — tell the City government to create a waterfront vision that benefits all: history, culture, and art lovers, residents, retailers, seaport aficionados and worldwide tourists. Alexandria is unique and it is special — we must fight to keep it this way.

Let's agree to restore New Orleans as the only "big, easy" in the nation.

Linda Couture
 Alexandria

Experienced Professional

To the Editor:

It is a privilege for me to take this opportunity to encourage every Alexandria citizen to vote on Nov. 8 to re-elect Edward

Semonian as Clerk of the Alexandria Circuit Court.

As a real estate appraiser and broker, I have had the opportunity of knowing and working with Ed Semonian at his former law firm, as vice president and trust officer for the United Virginia Bank (now SunTrust), as board member of the Bank of Alexandria, but most importantly, as Clerk of the Circuit Court in Alexandria for many years.

In searching real estate records and using his office while serving as executor of several estates, I have found his office always to be cordial, courteous, competent and professional in every way.

My work has allowed me to be familiar with every Circuit Court in Northern Virginia and I place the Alexandria Clerk of Court Office at the top of the list in every positive category.

For these reasons, I want to encourage every Alexandrian to go to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, and vote for Edward Semonian. There is no reason to replace an experienced professional with inexperience. We need to reward integrity and professionalism with the reelection of Edward Semonian as Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Scott C. Humphrey,
 Alexandria

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OPEN SUNDAY **JUST LISTED**

3805 Riverwood Rd
\$679,000
Unique Opportunity!
Large home just substantially updated priced for immediate sale! Many fab features include: 3 fin levels, 4BR, updated kitchen and baths, new HVAC system and side load two car garage. Home was just completely redecorated and is in "move-in" condition. Prime location on large corner lot. Best price in neighborhood. OPEN SUN 10/23, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mount Vernon Rd; R-Riverwood Rd.

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Alexandria
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Well kept & spacious 3BR/3BA brick home. Kitchen has table space. Lower level fully finished w/full BA & 2 extra rooms. Large Master BR could be reconverted into 2 rooms. Extra large enclosed patio goes full length of house. Private rear yd. Perfect location, close to shops & transport.

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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

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Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282

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Best price in Stratford Landing!
Five bedroom, 3 bath home.

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JUST LISTED

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\$ 259,000
Washington
510 N ST, SW #222
Harbour Square - Waterfront-1BR/1BA w/ partial view of the Washington Channel & gardens-wood flrs, newly renovated kit, updated BA, lots of storage (7 closets) fresh paint-amenities inc. indoor pool, exercise rm, extra storage, 24hr security, guest & monthly rental prkg + rooftop deck w/monumental views. Move-in!

Frank Roberts 703.898.0840

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10 ft ceilings, 4,500sqft, open flr plan, chef's kit w/ brkfst area, hdwd flrs, plantation shutters only begin to describe this wonderful home. 4/5BR + 4.5BA. 2-car gar + bonus prkg for add'l cars in driveway. Handily located to shops & govt bldg @Mark Ctr. + walk to local parks.

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Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

\$ 650,000
Alexandria
"COMMERCIAL PROPERTY"
Owner financing for qualified purchaser. Circa 1890's, this property has great history + location - just steps from King St. 2 levels offer 1,860 sqft zoned general commercial, & may be possible to create an UL apartment. Outside rear patio area plus a basement.

Listing contact: **Katherine Ward** 703.627.8782
or **Ron Glass** 703.926.5778

NEW HOMES

1205 Cedar Dale Ln
\$1,079,000
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8890 McNair Dr
\$699,000
Pristine Custom Colonial!
Custom colonial in enclave of 17 homes on quiet cul-de-sac surrounded by grounds of Mt Vernon Country Club. Many fabulous features include: large room sizes, stained hardwood floors, updated kit & baths, open kitchen-family room, upgraded trim detail & custom built-ins. Spacious master suite and 2 car gar. Pristine condition on gorgeous professionally landscaped lot.

NEW HOMES **JUST LISTED**

4009 Colonial Ave
\$749,500
New Home-Gorgeous Site!
Pre-construction opportunity-fabulous home by Wakefield Homes on gorgeous half acre level lot on quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Popular Belle View model with open floor plan, fabulous amenities and quality construction that have made Wakefield Mt. Vernon's leading builder for generations. Exceptional value-priced significantly lower than other new home on street. (Pre-construction picture is of similar house)

\$ 590,000
Alexandria
"RENOVATED!!!"
New kitchen & baths, hardwood everywhere, screened porch, deck & private fenced backyard. All this & a lovely quiet neighborhood close to Ft. Belvoir, Alexandria, DC & Huntington Metro. You have to see this home to appreciate it.

www.bonnieclarkrealtor.com
Bonnie Clark 703.725.9449

\$ 556,000
Cameron Station
"A STUNNER"
Beautifully maintained 4 level interior unit w/2 Master bedrooms. Gorgeous main level w/open floor plan. Kitchen includes granite center island w/eat-in seating in addition to direct access to rear deck. Brazilian cherry hardwood floors.

Dave Okonsky 703.585.5268

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 319,900
Arlington
1045 UTAH ST N #2-604
Arlington at it's best / just Reduced / 1BR unit w/sunroom / Brazilian wood flrs / secure access / underground parking space & storage unit. Community pool & BBQ area. Ballston Metro is one block / Ballston Mall is just minutes / restaurants / gym / shopping at your door step. Come and see...

Elife Blankini 703.593.2634

CONTRACT!

4503 Ferry Landing Rd
\$585,000
One

Level Luxury!
Rare opportunity
Spacious one lvl home in premier

CONTRACT!

1907 Rampart Dr
\$587,000
Stunning Home

-Amazing Price!
Owner wants to miss
moved and sell now! Don't out on this unique opportunity to acquire a

CONTRACT!

4313 Amblewood
\$298,000
Terrific large

end unit townhouse just minutes to Fort Belvoir. In

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 524,900
Nethergate
1249 PORTNER RD
Walk to cateries, river/bike path, shop Potomac Yards & mins to 2 Metros, DC & Old Town. 2BR & 1.55BA. Updated kit w/lg brick frpl, granite, SS & table space. Hdwd flrs. Parking, priv. bkld & patio, Home warranty -A+!

The Kohler Team Heidi 703.609.7367
& **Elke** 703.967.7633

NEW PRICE!
\$ 305,000
Parkside @ Alex
"YOUR OWN FRONT DOOR"
2BR/1.5BA two-level condo w/ a priv. patio... SS, wood floors, open floor plan. Lovely community across 395 from new BRAC at Mark Center, minutes to Pentagon, Shirlington, Old Town; community has pool, club house, walking trails. Pet Friendly. Live right in the heart of everything Alexandria!

Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359

NEW PRICE!
\$ 514,900
Old Town
"OWNER SAYS SELL"
Popular Nethergate 4 level end townhouse, granite, SS kitchen, 3 fireplaces, 2BR/2.5BA, family room could be 3rd bedroom, patio, parking, 1,700 sqft. MUST SELL THIS MONTH! To see this great value, call...

ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330



#1 Long and Foster Agent in Virginia - 2009 & 2010!
CHRIS WHITE ~ 703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com - chris.white@longandfoster.com

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



Why consider an Independent School?

Learn more at the Independent School Information Night.

**October 25, 2011
7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Keynote Speaker – Pat Bassett, President,
National Association of Independent Schools**

Presenters will cover admission process, admission testing and affordability.

Admission directors from each school will be available to answer your questions following the presentation.

**RSVP by Oct. 21 by calling 703.548.4804
Hosted by Alexandria Country Day School**

2400 Russell Road,
Alexandria, VA 22301
703.548.4804

Parking is available across the street at the Del Ray Baptist Church/Alexandria Presbyterian Church.



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School





Dia de los Muertos

Costume Dance Party on Halloween Weekend

The Torpedo Factory Art Center and Hungry for Music host the third-annual Day of the Dead extravaganza on Halloween weekend, with live music, dancing, costume contest, cash bar, and more! The event also features a two-week long altar exhibition by local and regional artists, and In-Studio Matchbox Altars created by Torpedo Factory artists.

COSTUME & DANCE PARTY

❖ **Saturday, Oct. 29, 8-11 p.m.** Tickets: Advance: \$15; Door: \$20 or two for \$35. Reserve tickets by contacting events@torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565, x2.

Revelers are invited to put on their Halloween or Day of the Dead finest and get into the spirit with a host of fun festivities. Guests will celebrate with live music and dancing throughout the night. Art projects, including Day of the Dead-inspired Bubble Gum Art and a Recycled Miniature Altar Project, will add a creative edge to the evening. All are invited to participate in a Costume Contest which will take place at 10 p.m. Prizes for the top three costumes will include a gift certificate to Gossypia and other fun prizes from local businesses.

This year, the Torpedo Factory is partnering with Hungry for Music, a Washington, D.C.,-based charity that helps get instruments into the hands of young musicians in need. Guests are invited to bring in their lightly used instruments between Oct. 24 and Nov. 4 to help support Hungry for Music.

ALTAR EXHIBITION

❖ **Oct. 24 – Nov. 4.** Target Gallery hosts an exhibition of altars made by local and regional artists, adorning the main hall of the art center. The gallery has invited Shane Pomajambo, owner of D.C.-area gallery, Art Whino, to select his top three altars. Awards will be announced at the Costume & Dance Party on Oct. 29.

Exhibiting Artists: Lizzy Fink, Blair Dobbins, Marcelo Novo, Angela Raincatcher Roberts, Brendan L Smith, Alexander D'Agostino, Christina McMillan, Lisa Schumaier, Marsha Staiger, Jessica Beels, Kathleen Kendall, Kathlyn Avila, Judy Antico, Ana Elisa Benavent, Stephanie Bianco, Leslie Blackmon, Lisa Bohrer, Maria-Eugenia Carvajal, Lesley Clark, Marie Erb, Octavia Frazier, Jane Johnson, Cecilia Kalish, Paula Lantz, Julia Latein-Kimming, Michele Morgan, Joanne Roberts-Wittauer, Anne Rocha, Gail Saour, Natacha Thys, Mary Cook, and Susan Prytherch

In conjunction with the exhibition, the public is invited to view a series of matchbox altars created by Torpedo Factory artists, displayed in the artists' studios. A list of participating artists and studios will be available at the Information Desk.



An Altar on exhibit.

To Go

WHEN: Costume & Dance Party: Saturday, Oct. 29, 8-11 p.m.
Altar Exhibition: Oct. 24 – Nov. 4

WHERE: Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria

ADMISSION: Costume & Dance Party Tickets: Advance: \$15; Door: \$20 or two for \$35
Contact events@torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565 x2 to reserve tickets

INFO: Torpedo Factory Art Center: www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565
Hungry for Music: hungryformusic.com

Celebrate Halloween With Kimpton's

❖ **Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. — Doggie Happy Howl-o-ween Costume Contest** benefiting the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Prizes will be awarded to the best owner/dog couple, the most glamorous canine, and the overall "top dog." (Kimpton's Hotel Monaco Alexandria/Jackson 20, registration starts at 4:30 p.m. and contest begins at 6 p.m.); Prizes will be awarded for:

The Most Glamorous Get-Up. Prize: Overnight stay at a Kimpton New York property

The Best Dressed Couple (pet/owner costume combo). Prize: Overnight stay the Hotel Palomar Philadelphia

The "Top Dog" Award (best overall costume). Prize: Overnight pet package stay and dinner at the Hotel Monaco Alexandria and Jackson 20 Restaurant.

Jackson 20 Restaurant and Hotel Monaco Alexandria are located at 480 King Street, Alexandria. Event will be held in the restaurant's courtyard; use the Royal Street entrance.

❖ **Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. — The**

Grille at Morrison House's Halloween Concert-Style Open Mic Night will feature pianist Bob Smith, who will lead the evening's line-up of old favorites such as "Monster Mash," "Thriller," and more. In addition to the great music, there will be a costume contest for most original costume, and Halloween-themed food and drink specials. At The Grille at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria; Call 703-838-8000

❖ **Oct. 30 at 3 p.m. — "Scary" Cupcake Decorating Class.** Pastry Chef Joanne Decoux of BRABO by Robert Wiedmaier will lead a "Scary" Cupcake Decorating Class in the restaurant's adjoining wine and food shop, The Butcher's Block. Chef Decoux and Butcher's Block manager Pamela Doherty will lead the demonstration on decorating techniques with frosting, candy corn and other Halloween-themed toppings. The price is \$15 for an adult with child and \$8 for each additional child, and includes a Halloween treat bag, the cupcake to be decorated and a glass of wine for the adult. Other decorated cupcakes will be available for purchase in the shop. Come in costume! At The Butcher's Block, 1600 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-894-5253.



Doggie Happy Howl-o-ween Costume Contest

Trick or Treat With the Boutiques

The Old Town Boutique District, a marketing cooperative of 30 Alexandria boutiques, will be celebrating Halloween with its 3rd Annual Trick or Treating event on Saturday, Oct. 29. Children (and adults) of all ages are invited to visit participating boutiques to receive special tricks or treats.

"Our annual Trick or Treat with the Boutiques event is a great way for families to enjoy a safe and fun Halloween day in Old Town Alexandria," said Kim Putens, mother of two and the owner of Bloomers. "My children love every and any opportunity to wear their Halloween costumes." "And, give them an extra day of trick or treating, well, that is icing on the cake," Putens said.

All of the participating OTBD stores will offer treats. Some may also offer family friendly tricks. Halloween costumes are encouraged. Tricks and treats will be available during the day and during store hours.

To identify participating OTBD stores, a special "Trick or Treat with the Boutiques" poster will be displayed in all participating stores.

Participating Boutiques

- ❖ Apple Seed, 703.535.5446, 115 S. Columbus Street, www.appleseedboutique.com
- ❖ Arts Afire, 703.838.9785, 1117 King Street, www.artsafire.com
- ❖ Bellacara, 703.299.9652, 1000 King Street, www.bellacara.com
- ❖ Bloomers, 571.312.0852, 924 King Street, www.shopbloomers.com
- ❖ Current Boutique, 703.549.2272, 1009 King Street, www.currentboutique.com
- ❖ Diva, 703.683.1022, 116 S. Pitt Street, www.divaboutiqueva.com
- ❖ Fibre Space, 703.664.0344, 102 North Fayette Street, www.fibrespace.com
- ❖ Gossypia, 703.836.6969, 325 Cameron Street, www.gossypia.com
- ❖ Hooray for Books, 703.548.4092, 1555 King Street, www.hooray4books.com
- ❖ Hysteria, 703.548.1615, 125 S. Fairfax Street, www.shophysteria.com
- ❖ Imperfections, 703.837.1670, 1210 King Street
- ❖ K Aubrey Flowers, 703.548.9808, 1401 King Street, www.kaubreyflowers.com
- ❖ La Cuisine, 703.836.4435, 323 Cameron Street, www.lacuisine.com
- ❖ Lawrence Miller & Co, 703.548.0659, 121 S. Royal Street, www.lawrencemiller.com
- ❖ Little Monogram Shop, 703.549.3777, 106 N. Columbus Street, www.thelittlemonogramshop.net
- ❖ Mint Condition, 703.836.6468, 114 S. Royal Street, www.shopmintcondition.com
- ❖ Monday's Child, 703.548.3505, 218 N. Lee Street, www.Mondayschildofalexandria.com
- ❖ Mystique Jewelers, 703.836.1401, 211 The Strand, www.mystiquejewelers.com
- ❖ Periwinkle, 703.519.5242, 1557 Potomac Greens Drive, www.periwinkleshop.com
- ❖ Pink & Brown, 703.684.1050, 1212 King Street, www.pinkandbrownboutique.com
- ❖ Red Barn Mercantile, 703.838.0355, 113 S. Columbus Street, www.redbarnmercantile.com
- ❖ The Christmas Attic, 703.548.2829, 125 S. Union Street, www.christmasattic.com
- ❖ The Dog Park, 703.888-2818, 705 King Street
- ❖ The Shoe Hive, 703.548.7105, 127 S. Fairfax Street, www.theshoehive.com
- ❖ The Spice and Tea Exchange, 571.312.8505, 320 King Street, www.spiceandtea.com
- ❖ The Sugar Cube, 703.548.2868, 210 N. Lee Street, www.sugarcubesweets.com
- ❖ Treat, 703.535.3294, 103 S. St. Asaph Street, www.shoptreat.com
- ❖ Walker Home, 703.299.9255, 1125 King Street, www.walkerhomeinc.com
- Visit www.OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH OCT. 31

Pumpkin Sale. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Fundraiser that benefits local charities. Autumn crafts and cookies, brownies, cake, candy, hearty soups, gourds, mini pumpkins, apple crisps, Indian corn and cornstalks are also available. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH OCT. 20

Nuts Plain and Fancy Fund-raising Sale. Five products to choose from for holiday gifts, hostess gifts and treats for the family. Sponsored by the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria, a volunteer group that raises funds to support the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Call 703-548-7454 or jrning10@comcast.net to order. Pick up or delivery the middle of November.

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Beverly Hills Garden Club Meeting. 10 a.m. Presentation by Master Gardener Anne Alexander on Shade Gardening and a plant swap. Members and guests are encouraged to bring flowers and plants you have divided from your gardens to share. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Rd, Alexandria.

"The Mud March." 7:30 p.m. The Alexandria Civil War Round Table presents Frank O'Reilly, historian. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-231-2596 or visit www.alexandriacwrt.org.

Fashion Show and Luncheon. 10 a.m. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting its 28th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, "Girls Just Want To Have Fun." Fashions for women of all sizes will be provided by Bloomingdales. At the Fort Belvoir Officers Club in Alexandria. Contact: deborah.alea@verizon.net or 703-447-1315.

Colonial Republican Women. Social time at 6:30 p.m.; Meeting 7 to 9 p.m. At the Virginia Hills Administration Center (Old Virginia Hills School), 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. Contact Debbie at 703-768-1934 or dbodlander@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY, OCT. 21

King Street Brass Quintet. 7:30 p.m. With organist Thom Robertson. If you enjoy the heroic sound of organ and brass, you'll enjoy this evening. A free-will offering will be received to help defray expenses. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Contact www.gracealex.org or call 703-549-1980.

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

Pajama Storytime. 7-8 p.m. Free. Snuggle up in the cozy storytime corner for some soothing lullabies and bedtime stories. And don't forget to wear your PJs! Ages 6 and under. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Alexandria Seaport Foundation Riverfest. Come enjoy three bands, Port City's famous brew and food from Union Street Public House, Chadwick's and Bittersweet as apprentices cook up sausage and brats. From noon-3 p.m. enjoy an ASF

open house at 2 Duke St. and tour a display of wooden boats, toy boat decorating and gutter races. From 4-7 p.m. enjoy the music, food and fun! Free T-shirts from Vineyard Vines to the first 100 ticket buyers. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

AppleFest

Extravaganza. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cooking demonstrations, entertaining crafts, prizes, tastings and more. The in-store festivities will allow customers to compare apples to apples. At Whole Foods in Old Town, 1700 Duke Street, Alexandria. Visit WholeFoodsMarket.com/stores

Free Appraisal Day.

1 to 5 p.m. Broadway Gallery invites the public to its Free Appraisal Day. Ben Hastings will give free verbal appraisals at their "Antiques Road Show." Limit of three items per person. At Broadway Gallery, 5641 General Washington Dr., #B, Alexandria off Edsall Road inside the Beltway.

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

Fall Mini-Festival. 3 to 6 p.m. Live music, carnival games, food and candy. Sponsored by Eclectic Nature, 1503 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.engiftandgarden.com.

Mousetheater Ball for Kids.

1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Author Cheryl Barnes will sign her book, "Alexander, the Old Town Mouse," and read the story of Alexander and his ball at Gadsby's Tavern. Then kids can create masks and enjoy a ball of their own, in the same ballroom where Alexander – and George Washington – danced! For kids ages 4 to 7. Admission is \$10/child. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Martial Arts for St. Jude. 11:15 a.m. Tae Kwon Do classes, board breaking, demonstrations, face painting, kicking contests and more. At 3533 S. Jefferson St., Baileys Crossroads. Call 1-800-567-0636 or visit www.stjude.org/martialarts.

Rummage Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. Great deals on toys, clothes, bikes, electronics, household items and more. At Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool, 7719 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria. All proceeds benefit the school. Visit www.tauxemont.org.

Engleside Yard and Bake Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community baked goods, chili, hot dogs and sodas will also be for sale with proceeds going to Engleside Civic Association. Yard sale item proceeds will go to individual participants. At the end of Rosemont Avenue near Engleside Baptist Church on Highland Lane.

Fall Festival at River Farm. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Bring a picnic, with arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt, story time. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Call 703-768-5700 ext. 126.

Electronics Recycling Day. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. All electronics from computers, hard drives, monitors, modems, faxes, printers, TVs, microwaves. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

Autumn Open House. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia are holding an Open House at Simpson Park Gardens. Observe the basics of garden design, layout, focal point and more while Master Gardeners lead you through the waterwise, scented, tufa, flagstone and butterfly gardens. The gardens are located between Route 1 and Mount Vernon Ave in Alexandria.

Green Springs Gardens Lecture. 9 to 10:15 a.m. "Nature's Artifice — Reintroducing Ecology Back into the Urban Environment." Scarfone's lecture will be part of a daylong Garden Design



TUESDAY/OCT. 25

James Farmer on Gardening.

7 to 9 p.m. James Farmer teaches respect for the age-old rules of flower and vegetable gardening, in a fresh voice that resonates love of life and entertaining at home. Part of the Woodlawn and The Pope-Leighey House Lecture Series. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Admission is \$15/\$10. Call 703-780-4000, ext. 26327.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Del Ray Chili Cook-Off. 4 p.m. To enter a chili: Bring \$10, your best batch of chili, a table, and a clever name for said chili. Set up early at 3:45 p.m. Winner takes all the loot and bragging rights for what could be the last chili cook-off. There is also a cornbread contest. Held at Bellefonte and La Grande. Awards ceremony at 6 p.m. Call 703-518-9918 or 703-836-3092 or visit www.delraychilicookoff.com

Aged Rye Whiskey Released. 10 a.m. Historic Mount Vernon releases its first batch of aged George Washington Rye Whiskey. Three hundred of the limited edition 375 ml bottles will be available for purchase for \$185 each. Visit MountVernon.org.

Troop 996 Anniversary and Reunion. Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Fort Hunt will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 996. The evening will include a dinner and an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Contact Bill Darrough at 703-660-6048 or wdarrough@verizon.net.

Suede Performs. 7:30 p.m. With Alan Blackman and Max Murray, and comic Vickie Shaw. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Frog Pond's Fall Fun Festival. 10 a.m. to noon. The festival will feature entertainment, seasonal food and drink along with arts, crafts and other kid-friendly activities, including pumpkin decorating, face painting, natural henna tattoos, tire rolling and more. Suggested donation: \$5. At 7205 Harrison Lane, Alexandria.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With the Alturas Duo. Sibelius' Tapiola, Farias' Commissioned Concerto, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "Eroica." Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Holiday Mart. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Get a head-start on holiday shopping at the 2nd annual holiday mart featuring all handmade, original crafts and artwork. At Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 North Kings Hwy., Alexandria. Visit info@calvarypres.org, 703-768-8510, www.calvarypres.org.

Foster Parent Orientation. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

Fall Mulch Sale. Price per bag is \$5. At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria.



SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Green Springs Gardens Lecture. 9 to 10:15 a.m. "Nature's Artifice — Reintroducing Ecology Back into the Urban Environment." Scarfone's lecture will be part of a daylong Garden Design Symposium: Designing Tomorrow's Garden from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Tickets for the Garden Design Symposium are \$75 per person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Symposium: Designing Tomorrow's Garden from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Tickets for the Garden Design Symposium are \$75 per person. Visit

OCT. 22 AND 23

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mount Vernon welcomes the autumn season with Fall Harvest Family Days! The entire family enjoys autumn activities including wagon rides, wheat treading in the 16-sided barn, 18th-century dancing demonstrations, a straw bale maze, farrier (blacksmithing) demonstrations, apple-roasting, corn husk dolls demonstrations and early-American games and music. Potomac River sightseeing cruises are half-price. Fall Harvest Family Days is included with admission to the estate: \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children 6-11; free for children under 5. Visit MountVernon.org. At Historic Mount Vernon estate.

SUNDAY/OCT. 23

QuinTango Cabaret Concert. 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35/bar seating; \$40/table seating; \$45/booth seating. Featuring QuinTango with Jeffery Watson and actor/singer Chris Vasquez and bandoneonist Emmanuel Trifilio. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Dr., Alexandria. Tickets at www.instantseats.com or www.quintango.com or call 703-548-6811.

Author Mary Quattlebaum. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Welcome Mary (aka "Cap'n Q") and her first mate, Crabclaw, as they host a costume party and entertain us with Pirate vs. Pirate, Jo MacDonald Saw a Pond, and The Hungry Ghost of Rue Orleans. Ages 6 and under. At Hooray for Books! 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Bishop Ireton Cardinal 5K Run. 9 a.m. Cost is \$30/\$35. Packet pickup is Saturday, Oct. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during Bishop Ireton's football game, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Or Oct. 23 at 7:15 to 8:45 a.m. at Cameron Run. Race held at Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Email Larry Clark at clarkplpmr@aol.com.

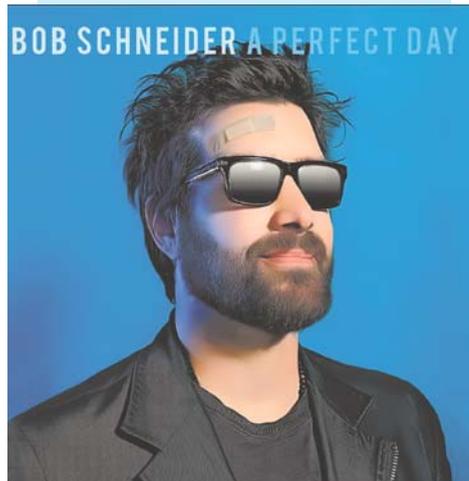
Evidence of Things Not Seen. 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25/\$18. Presented by Ned Rorem. Featuring soprano Melissa Coombs, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Beattie, tenor Terry Johns, and Baritone William Heim, with Virginia Sircy at the piano. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Visit www.words-music.org or call 202-643-7282.

Tea Around Town. 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30/adults; \$20/child. This tasting tour blends tea and history for a fun and flavorful fall afternoon. Tour three history museums around Market Square, sampling six different teas provided by the Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria. Tickets can be purchased at www.HistoricAlexandria.org or by calling 703-746-4242.

"Bravo Mozart" All-Mozart Concert. 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20/adults; \$18/seniors; students free. Featuring Aaron Goldman and Dotian Levalier in Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp. At the Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call 703-758-0179 or www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

Fall Open House. 1 to 3 p.m. At Bishop O'Connell High School. Tour the school, meet faculty and students, learn about financial aid, and discover extracurricular programs. At 6600 Little Falls Road

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 21



MONDAY/OCT. 24

Bob Schneider Performs. 7:30 p.m. Will perform from his new album, A Perfect Day. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 20



From left: Christian Osborne, Sibet Partee, Virginia Coffield, and Matthew Mirliani in St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's upcoming performances of "Fools."

OCT. 28 TO NOV. 5

"Fools" by Neil Simon. Tickets are \$5. Show times are Oct. 28, 29 and Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the Stage One Players at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/arts.

in Arlington. Call 703-237-1433 or www.bishopoconnell.org.
Bach Vespers. 5 p.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4766 or visit www.wpc-alex.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 24

Bob Schneider Performs. 7:30 p.m. Will perform from his new album, A Perfect Day. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/OCT. 25

Mount Vernon Quilters Lecture. 12:30 p.m. Free. "Stack-n-Whack" originator Bethany Reynolds will demonstrate easy ways to create quilt blocks with kaleidoscope designs. MVQU meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact MVQUPresident@gmail.com

James Farmer on Gardening. 7 to 9 p.m. James Farmer teaches respect for the age-old rules of flower and vegetable gardening, in a fresh voice that resonates love of life and entertaining at home. Part of the Woodlawn and The Pope-Leighey House Lecture Series. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Admission is \$15/\$10. Call 703-780-4000, ext. 26327.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 26

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

Baseball Author Talk. 7:30 p.m. Gary A. Sarnoff, a local baseball fan and historian, will be at Alexandria's Duncan Library to introduce readers to his book, The Wrecking Crew of '33: The Washington Senators' Last Pennant. At 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Art on the Rocks. 6 to 9 p.m. The Art League has challenged six local mixologists from Austin Grill, Chadwicks, Columbia Firehouse, Hank's Oyster Bar, The Light Horse Restaurant, and RedRocks Pizza Napoletana to each select a juried piece from one of the October exhibits as inspiration to create the most artistic cocktail and then compete at Art on the Rocks. Ticket holders may sample the cocktails and vote for their favorite at the event. Appetizers from the restaurants and drawings for prizes will complete the evening. At The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St. (in the Torpedo Factory Art Center), Alexandria. Buy tickets either by phone, 703-683-1780; online; or in person. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. Contact The Art League Gallery: 703-683-1780, galler@theartleague.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Colonial Beer Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Historic Mount Vernon and Philadelphia's own, Yards Brewing Company have partnered to bring history and food together. The evening will begin with a beer reception, featuring Yards' Brawler, a classic British Mild Ale, paired with appetizers from Mount Vernon Inn Chef Richard Thompson, and guided after-hours tours of George Washington's Mansion. During the four-course dinner in the Mount Vernon Inn, Tom Kehoe, founder/ president of Yards, will discuss the pairing of Yards' Ales of the Revolution with the menu featuring venison tenderloin, duck, and

hoecakes. Tickets are \$95 and can be purchased at MountVernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/OCT. 28

Rock N' Blades. 8:45 to 10:30 p.m. With special lighting and popular music. Cost is \$10/person including skate rental. At Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-768-3224.

A Fort Hunt Halloween. 5 to 8 p.m. Free. Families are invited to drop in at Pavilion A for s'mores and tales of characters who walked the grounds at Fort Hunt. An after dark tour of the park (bring flashlight) and special activities for children. Call 703-289-2553.

OCT. 28 TO NOV. 5

"Fools" by Neil Simon. Tickets are \$5. Show times are Oct. 28, 29 and Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by the Stage One Players at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/arts.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Fall Festival and Bazaar. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you would like to participate as a vendor (arts, crafts, or other) or a family garage sale space, contact Ron Skaggs at MVHSPfallfest@gmail.com. Spaces range from \$20 to \$50 (free space to community organizations on a first come first serve basis). At Mount Vernon High School.

Fall Festival for Children. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. Enjoy games, prizes, crafts, food, and Haunted Hallway, all in a wholesome safe environment. Costumes are welcome. At Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org, and www.franconiaumc.org.

Death Comes to Carlyle House: Funeral Reenactment and Ghost Tours. 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15/person. Col. John Carlyle's 1780 Funeral Reenactment and Ghost Tour of Alexandria. At the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or visit carlylehouse.org.

Artillery Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Learn about army life for Union artillerymen stationed in the Defenses of Washington at Fort Ward Museum's living history program, "Civil War Artillery with the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery." At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Celebrate Mahalia Jackson's 100th Birthday. Free. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

- ❖ 10:30 a.m. — Author Charisse Carney-Nunes's "I Dream for You A World."
- ❖ 10:30 a.m. — Mahalia Jackson Program with Director Rose Dawson.
- ❖ 10:45 a.m. — Musical Performance by The St. Xavier Children's Choir.
- ❖ 11 a.m. — Screening of the motion picture masterwork St. Louis Blues
- ❖ 1 p.m. Closing remarks and refreshments by Dr. Lewis Brown.
- ❖ 1 p.m. — Storyteller Diane Macklin's "Magnificent Folks and Other Such Tales."

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THURSDAY/OCT. 20

P is for Pumpkins. 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Stories and activities about pumpkins and harvest time for 4-5 year olds, with adult. 703-765-3645, TTY: 711.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Mousequerade Ball for Kids. 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Author Cheryl Barnes will sign her book, "Alexander, the Old Town Mouse," and read the story of Alexander and his ball at Gadsby's Tavern. Then kids can create masks and enjoy a ball of their own, in the same ballroom where Alexander - and George Washington - danced! For kids ages 4 to 7. Admission is \$10/child. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 28

A Fort Hunt Halloween. 5 to 8 p.m. Free. Families are invited to drop in at Pavilion A for s'mores and tales of characters who walked the grounds at Fort Hunt. An after dark tour of the park (bring flashlight) and special activities for children. Call 703-289-2553.

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SUNDAY/OCT. 30

Woodlawn Halloween Book Signing: "Ghosts of Alexandria." 3 p.m. Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Alexandria resident and author Michael Pope visits Woodlawn for a Halloween book signing and lecture on "Ghosts of Alexandria." 703-780-4000.

5K Run, 1K Costumed Fun Run/Walk. 2 p.m. Hosted by Episcopal High School, the event will help raise funds

toward building a new orphanage in Haiti. Registration for the 5K Run is found at <http://register.racedctiming.com> or www.episcopalhighschool.org

OCT. 30 AND 31

Edgar Allen Poe Performance. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum lecture hall to re-create Edgar Allen Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849. At 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Costume Contest. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the following categories: 1) Best farmer costume; 2) Best fruit costume; 3) Best vegetable costume; 4) Best use of recycled materials; 5) Best family costume. At the West End Farmers Market, Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria.

MONDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Fun. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Wear a costume to a story time about fall fun. Age 2 years-35 months with adult. 703-339-4610, TTY: 711.

Halloween Scavenger Hunt

Ghosts and goblins and ghouls, oh my! If you thought you knew Alexandria, then think again because it's haunted and you can find out how for yourself as King Street Cats and Widmer Brothers Brewing Company take to the streets for a Haunted Halloween Scavenger Hunt solving mysteries and performing challenges. Old Town's history and haunts set the stage for those willing to face what lies within...

The grand prize is \$500! Extra points will be awarded for those who show up in their most ghoulish attire. Following the hunt, there will be a ghostly affair for all who dare to participate!

The hunt will begin on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m., rain or shine. A \$20 registration fee applies for teams of two (no larger groups). A T-shirt is included with the registration fee and a portion of the proceeds will benefit King Street Cats. To register, visit www.ontaponline.com/store. All team members must be 21+ and pre-registered to participate. The deadline to register is Thursday, Oct. 20.



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THEATER

Reasonable Doubt

ACCT debuts 'Twelve Angry Men.'

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The power of a single vote. Never has it been more critical than when a young man's life hangs in the balance as a jury deliberates his fate in the riveting presentation of "Twelve Angry Men" by the Aldersgate Church Community Theater.

"This was the perfect opportunity to direct a theater-in-the-round," said Roland Branford Gomez, who masterfully turns ACCT's Wesley Hall venue into a sweltering jury room simmering with rage. "This is the first time a theater-in-the-round has been done here and this show makes it work perfectly."

Gomez's vision allows the audience to literally peer into the room and over the shoulders of the 12 men tasked with deciding the guilt or innocence of a 16-year-old accused of killing his father.

"It's as if the audience is a part of the jury," Gomez said. "They can feel the rage and frustration each

of the jurors experiences as the play unfolds."

Originally aired as a television play in 1954, "Twelve Angry Men" became a cinema classic in 1957 starring such luminaries as Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb, E.G. Marshall and Jack Warden. Written by Reginald Rose and Sherman Sergel, the play unfolds as a lone juror — known only as Juror Number Eight — slowly plants seeds of doubt into what at first seemed an open-and-shut case.

Under the skillful guidance of Gomez, ACCT brings the spell-binding drama to life with a cast of some of the finest actors in community theater.

In the quiet but commanding role of Juror Number Eight is Rich Amada, an award-winning playwright seen recently as Oscar Wilde's barrister in the Little Theatre of Alexandria production of "Gross Indecency." Amada is compelling as the logically-minded juror whose gnawing doubts about the evidence slowly convinces his fellow jurors to question their own conclusions on the guilt or inno-



The Aldersgate Church Community Theater cast of "Twelve Angry Men."

cence of the accused.

The counterpoint to Amada's calm is David James as Juror Number Three. James gives a blistering performance as the vengeful juror seething with rage as his arguments for a guilty verdict slowly unravel.

John Shackelford is absorbing in his role as Juror Number Eleven, an immigrant who never loses sight of the freedoms and democracy the others take for granted, and Jeffrey Clarke is the diplomatic but frustrated jury foreman.

The stellar cast also includes

Elliot Bales (Juror Number Six), Ron Becker (Juror Number 12), Brian Clarke (Juror Number Five), Gary Cramer (Juror Number Two), Teddy Gron (Juror Number 10), Will Monahan (Juror Number Nine), Mike Russell (Juror Number Four), Cal Whitehurst (Juror Number Seven) and Howard Soros as the Guard. There's not a weak link to be found as each masterfully rations their emotional outbursts and destructive explosions as the tensions between them escalate.

Produced by Kacie Greenwood

and Robert Kraus with set design by Stuart Travis, ACCT capably recreates this powerful and provocative story of a dissenter and his opponents.

That idea that a single vote can make such a difference is one worth remembering and ACCT's theater-in-the-round production of "Twelve Angry Men" is one worth experiencing.

Twelve Angry Men is playing now through Oct. 30 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, 1301 Collingwood Road. Visit www.acctonline.org.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO **Alexandria Gazette Packet**



George Washington Middle School students and their German exchange colleagues stand in front of the White House.

Students Share in Cultural Exchange

German counterparts visit GWMS.

George Washington Middle School students greeted 24 German students when they arrived Sept. 14 from Hamburg. During their 16-day visit, each German guest stayed with the family of a GW student who is studying German.

This bi-annual exchange program is led by GW's German teacher Adrienne Connolly, along with Norbert Rittman and Utta Ehlers of Hamburg's Stadtteilschule Lohbrueggeand. The exchange program has been an important part of the German language program at GW since 1997. Currently, 107 students at GW study German, one of five languages offered at the school.

During this year's exchange, these students took part in a cooperative learning project. The German

students are studying "revolution" as a theme at their Hamburg school and, while here, they delved into the American Revolution. The GW students helped them find appropriate materials in the library and then simplified the text for them. The group toured early American sites during a weekend camping trip to Williamsburg and saw exhibits at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History that related to the theme.

"It's put our country's history into context for all the kids," said Connolly.

Other highlights of the exchange included a field trip to Philadelphia and a visit to George Washington's Mount Vernon. Each German student also spent time with their host family — going to a Nationals game, heading to a farm to try the corn "maze," touring the Solar Decathlon exhibit, trying the zip lines at Sandy Springs Adventure Park or just hanging out together — which has given the middle schoolers the chance to learn one another's language and culture. And the experience will continue in August 2012 when these GW students visit their new friends in Hamburg.



Nico and Caleb work together during the German student exchange program at George Washington Middle School.



Aaron and Miguel work on a presentation.

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At Story Festival



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Author Kwame Alexandria quizzes the audience on the names of the jazz greats that sound like the names of the barnyard characters in his new book. The book was published this month by Sleeping Bear Press.

Joyce Rawlings accompanied her granddaughter Amena to the Story Festival.

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.

Juan Garcia graduated from Grinnell College on May 23 as one of 347 members of the Class of 2011. Garcia earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian. He also earned awards in U.S. Fulbright Student Grant, Anne K. Hanson '86 Memorial Award (2010), John M. Mohan Russian Study Award (2010,

2011). He is the child of Efrain Garcia and Reina E. Garcia of Alexandria.

Aida Stephanie Dohou of Alexandria, a student at Bishop Ireton High School, was named the 2011 recipient of the Saint Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement with a Social Conscience. The award recognizes students who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in volunteer service and academic achievement.

Zachary Zaranka of Alexandria graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering at Cornell Univer-

sity with the Class of 2011 during Commencement ceremonies in Ithaca, N.Y., May 29.

Columbia College Chicago congratulates **Molly Patterson**, Film & Video major from Alexandria, on being named to the Dean's List for spring semester 2011.

Marjorie Glassco, daughter of Richard Glassco and Sarah Glassco of Alexandria, was named to the Dean's List at Ithaca College's School of Humanities and Sciences for the spring 2011 semester.

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OBITUARY

Cornelius Francis Murphy, M.D.

Cornelius Francis Murphy, M.D., died from natural causes on October 10, 2011. He was a resident of Alexandria, VA. Born in Tilton, NH on September 1, 1920, he grew up in Lowell, MA. After graduating with honors from Keith Academy in Lowell, he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics from Boston College in 1944. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in the European Theater. He worked as a health physicist at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island, NY and received his Medical Degree from Georgetown University in 1956.

After an internship in Internal Medicine, he completed his residency in Radiology at Georgetown University Hospital. Dr. Murphy began his medical career in the Department of Radiology at George Washington University Hospital in 1960. He also served as an Associate Professor of Medicine at The George Washington University Medical School. In 1964, Dr. Murphy founded the Nuclear Medicine Division at George Washington University Hospital, where he served as its first Director.

In order to continue his research in developing the use of ultrasound technology and thermography to improve the quality of medical diagnosis, he joined the Radiology Department at The Veterans Administration Medical Center in Washington, D.C. in 1972. Dr. Murphy, who also specialized in Nuclear Medicine, retired from full-time medical practice in 1990. He was a member of the American College of Radiology, and many professional organizations, both in medicine and physics. His wife of forty-five years, The Honorable Betty Southard Murphy, died in 2010.

Survivors include his children, Ann Southard Murphy, and Cornelius F. Murphy, Jr., longtime Murphy family housekeeper Astevia E. Rodriguez and a grandchild, all of Alexandria. Three sisters also survive. Funeral services will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 310 S. Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314 on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 10:30 AM. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School Foundation (for the benefit of the Esther Carroll Murphy Award for Creativity), 400 Fontaine Street, Alexandria, VA 22302.



PUBLIC

NOTICE

The City of Alexandria invites residents to attend a public meeting on Monday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2000, 301 King Street, City Hall. This meeting will present information on the regulation and regional Water Supply Plan. Representatives from the City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) Engineering Division, VDEQ, NVRC, and Virginia American Water Company will be available for additional information and to answer questions. For more information visit www.alexandriava.gov/watersupplyplan or call T&ES' Engineering Division 703.746.4045.

OPINION

Restore Promise of Exceptional Education

By DR. MORTON SHERMAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



ACPS is on the cusp of being one of the finest school divisions anywhere.

Our professionals are caring, hard working, and dedicated to the success of each and every one of our students. The core of greatness for any school or school division lies in the strength of its professionals.

Throughout ACPS, teachers and school leaders have begun to think differently about their role in the lives of students. We have begun to see that even though society and circumstances might contribute to a student's struggles, we "own the challenge." I applaud this deep introspection, honest reflection, and increased collaboration on the part of our teachers. Owning the challenge is the first step to making a difference.

Class sizes are exceptional. Salaries are among the top in the region. Buildings are well maintained and have been updated to enhance instruction and support student achievement, as well as to be sustainable and efficient, using "green" technology. We have an exceptional new curriculum. Our human and financial resources are strong. The Alexandria community wants us to succeed and supports our efforts. The School Board has been courageous and steadfast in supporting our efforts.

We have evidence that we are making a difference, that our efforts are working, and that we can fulfill the priority set by our School Board to ensure that all students demonstrate significant academic growth, and dramatically improve achievement outcomes for students below grade level.

Our reality is that we have achievement differences among our students where there should be none. We know that our African-American, Latino/Hispanic, Special Education and English Language Learners (ELL) students have a disproportion of lower test scores, higher rates of drop outs, greater discipline referrals, less participation in TAG, Honors, and AP programs.

As we recommend priorities to the School Board for this year, there is no doubt in my mind that eliminating academic achievement differences among race, income, disability and language subgroups must be the highest priority.

We see this as an educational and moral imperative. We believe that we are well poised to tackle this goal ... better prepared than ever before.

To address the differences in student achievement is at the very essence of the transformational work to which we are all committed. It is not "extra"; it is inherent. It is the work that each of us must accept as our own: to ensure that every student achieves at the highest possible level is our sacred trust with our students and their families.

THE ACTION PLAN

To achieve true educational justice, we must re-align our priorities and examine our practices. We must:

- ❖ Analyze relentlessly the differences in all NCLB student groups in these areas:
 1. SOL Achievement
 2. Talented and Gifted Participation
 3. Special Education Referrals and Classifications
 4. Discipline

5. Graduation Rates
6. Types of Diplomas
7. Advanced Placement Courses
8. Courses taken by English Language Learners
9. Retention and Remediation
10. Grades
11. Parent Involvement
12. SAT Disparities
13. Extra-curricular Activities
14. School Readiness

❖ Develop a school-level analysis of the differences listed above

❖ Discuss in each school the data on differences and ideas to eliminate those differences

❖ Eliminate (immediately) any lower level, discrete courses that perpetuate racial and gender differences in achievement

❖ Evaluate the extent to which our current programs and professional development plans contribute to the elimination of these differences

❖ Develop division-level support to ensure continuity and continuous improvement.

Closing the gaps in achievement — including the gaps in all of the factors that impact achievement, such as disciplinary actions and high expectations — is a challenge we accept.

This discussion must continue at every turn: School Board meetings, principals meetings, faculty meetings, and community meetings. I have proposed that the School Board adopt as a priority the elimination of academic achievement differences ... and that we review each and every factor that contributes to the achievement gap.

Right here and now, we can make specific decisions that can close the gap. All children deserve a quality education; the time is now.

Campagna Center Celebrates 'First Day'

U.S. senior advisor visits Tiny Titans classroom.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Jacqueline Jones, Senior Advisor on Early Learning to the Secretary of Education, joined Campagna Center president and CEO Tammy Mann for the Campagna Center's Head Start First Day celebration Oct. 13 at the Tiny Titans classroom at T.C. Williams High School.

"Having people come out and see what we are doing helps them better understand what Head Start is all about," Mann said. "It's a real honor to have Dr. Jones here to talk about what the administration is doing with Head Start as well as other early childhood programs."

Community leaders, parents and board members were also invited to participate in the traditional First Day events, which featured a

book reading by Jones to some of the children in the program.

"It's important for people to understand the first stages of learning," Jones said. "From birth to age 8 is an awkward period of early development and we need to do it well."

Students from T.C.'s Early Childhood Education Teacher Prep course were on hand to greet visitors and talk about their own experiences volunteering with the program.

"I love working with the Head Start program," said 16-year-old junior Kate Whitmire. "I'm working toward my teaching certification and this allows me to help figure out exactly what I want to do."

Jones praised the work of the high school students and T.C.'s early childhood teaching program.

"It's wonderful to have these classrooms here," Jones said. "See-



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

U.S. Secretary of Education Senior Advisor Jacqueline Jones, second from right, joins students Antonique Langhorne, Joy Johnson and Kate Whitmire Oct. 13 for the Campagna Center's Head Start First Day celebration at the T.C. Williams Tiny Titans classroom.

ing the high school students working with the young children - it's exactly the cradle-to-career continuum of care we want to see and build on."

For more information on the Campagna Center and the Head Start programs, visit www.campagnacenter.org.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Experiencing Growing Pains

Saints continuing fighting against Bullis despite lopsided score.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

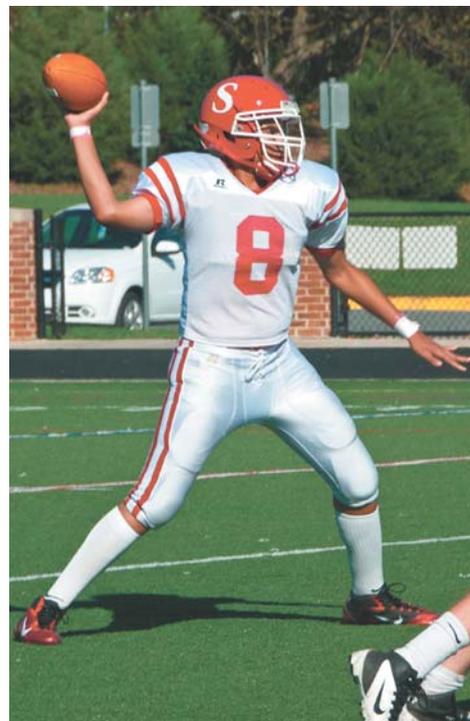
Facing third-and-17 on his team's own 27-yard line, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes quarterback Myles Nelson completed a deep pass to Sam Gallahan for a 51-yard gain early in the second half of the Saints' Oct. 15 matchup with Bullis.

"This dog is not dead!" first-year Saints head coach Bernard Joseph shouted from the sideline. "Let's go!"

At this point, St. Stephen's trailed 33-0 against a soon-to-be 6-1 Bullis team. The Saints were overmatched from a talent standpoint, allowing 213 first-half rushing yards to standout running back Kevin Jones, and had little hope for a comeback. But for a St. Stephen's program with two wins in the last two seasons, fewer than 30 athletes dressed on game day and only three seniors on the roster, continuous effort from players — and encouragement from coaches — are more important than the result on the scoreboard at this point.

The Saints lost to Bullis, 39-0, dropping their record to 1-5. St. Stephen's is in rebuilding mode and Joseph, who was an assistant for two seasons at SSSAS before taking over as head coach, is working to get the Saints headed in the right direction.

"We played a better second half," Joseph



Junior quarterback Myles Nelson is in his first season starting for the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes varsity.

said. "The kids didn't give up. We're young. ... I think it's a maturation process for us. The team's growing. That's all I can hope for right now is for these guys to keep fighting and that's what they were doing so I'm pleased with that — not the score, but the fact that we kept fighting."

One of the Saints' more experienced players is junior running back and team captain Darius Manora. The 5-foot-11, 200-pound ball carrier rushed 27 times for 78



Junior running back Darius Manora is one of the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes football team's most experienced players.

yards against Bullis. Against St. Mary's Ryken on Sept. 30, Manora ran for 218 yards and three touchdowns.

"He's a tough kid," Joseph said. "He gives us everything he has every play and that's something that the rest of our football team, they're starting to feed off of."

Joseph said Manora is a team leader.

"We're sitting in the locker room at half-time and I was just telling the guys they've

got to keep playing hard," Manora said. "Right now we're inexperienced, so they're still learning their positions because basically they got thrown into the fire this year. So when they're down, I tell them keep playing hard and you can come away with a victory or we can come away looking prideful."

Nelson is a junior in his first season as a varsity starter. After completing just one of his first seven pass attempts against Bullis, Nelson settled down and finished 8 of 17 for 111 yards.

"I realized I had more time than I thought," Nelson said. "I started really taking my time and looking over my progressions."

Joseph commented on his quarterback's improvement.

"[In] the second half," Joseph said, "he grew up a little bit."

Joseph said sophomore lineman/linebacker Jordan Waite, sophomore receivers Will Dyson and Gallahan and senior linemen Matt Alexis and Joe Lindsay have played well. Alexis, Lindsay, junior receiver Khaamal Whitaker and Manora are team captains.

The Saints will host Landon at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22.

"We have a good group of kids," Joseph said. "They understand where we are and what we're trying to get through. They're in it. They're buying into what we're trying to do. They understand, so they're still fighting and that's all I can ask of them at this point. Like I tell them all the time, they're going to be the kids that can come back one day and say, 'Hey, we built that. We were there when it was lean and we started it.'"

SPORTS BRIEFS

ODBC Rowers Capture Gold, Silver at Occoquan

Competing in their second race of the fall rowing season, the men and women of the Old Dominion Boat Club Select Crew Team took to the water at the Occoquan Challenge Regatta on Oct. 9, turning in stellar performances against a very strong field and capturing gold and silver medals along the way.

Leading the way for ODBC was the women's junior 4, which crossed the finish line almost 10 seconds ahead of its nearest competitor to capture top honors in the race. Coxswain Maddy Stone and

rowers Kalie Benjamin, Katie Pickup, Nadia Magallon, and Alexandra Lemke won gold medals.

Competing in the same race, ODBC coxswain Lauren Soriente and rowers Kate Banchoff, Paige Mellerio, Emily Breeding, and Kate Arnold pushed past crews from Bishop Ireton, Bethesda-Chevy Chase and several other programs to take fifth place.

In the women's junior 8 competition, ODBC took fourth place over a tough field that included local rivals Bishop Ireton, B-CC, and the Northern Virginia Rowing Club. With Lauren Soriente in the coxswain seat, rowers Lemke, Magallon, Allyson Emblom, Banchoff, Pickup, Gabriella Salcedo, Kelin Baldrige and Chloe Reynolds turned in another solid performance this fall.

Members of the ODBC women's youth 4 crew with their gold medals after their victory at the Occoquan Challenge on Oct. 9. From left: Alexandra Lemke, Nadia Magallon, Maddy Stone, Kalie Benjamin and Katie Pickup.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The ODBC men's junior 4 also had a stellar day at the Occoquan Challenge, powering their way to a second-place finish out of a field of six very fast competitors. The men's junior 4 silver medalists included coxswain Mark Comey and rowers Madison Weitekamp, Chris Porter, Greg Montenegro and Chris Kidd.

The ODBC men's junior 8 also turned in another

solid showing, placing eighth out of a field of 15 tough competitors, racing against local clubs such as the Northern Virginia Rowing Club, B-CC, Bishop Ireton, and Prince William Rowing Club. Members of the men's junior 8 included coxswain Comey and rowers Weitekamp, Porter,

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 28



The Alexandria Titans U15 boys travel soccer team, from left: (front row) Goalkeepers Ciaran Lewis and Edgar Martinez, (second row) Yusuf Monawer, Will Rossello, Fernando Sanchez, Abdiel Casillas, Jilmer Garcia-Ayala, coach Gabe Damiani, Gabriel Gomez, Andre Barrios, Zach Eisenhour, (third row) coach Abdullah Monawer, Sebastian Hendi, Emir Cnrovic, Mario Lazo Martinez, Patrick Kelly, Francisco Guevarra, Fredy Flores, Mauricio Young, Edwin Hernandez and manager Andy Kelly.

FROM PAGE 27

Montenegro, Dru Hodgens, Sam Hanoura, Chris Dobson, Kidd and Sam Zickar.

The ODBC Select Crew Team is guided by men's coach Meredith Mariani and women's coaches Stephanie Patton and Lori Criado.

Titans U15 Boys Win Columbus Day Tournament

The Alexandria Titans U15 boys travel soccer team won its division at the 29th Annual Kicker's Columbus Day Tournament held Oct. 8-9 in Richmond. The Titans won all of their games, outscoring opponents, 16-1. The team played clubs from Richmond (Central and South), Norfolk/Newport News and Stafford. Goalkeepers Ciaran Lewis and Edgar Martinez, and defensive backs Francisco Guevarra, Fredy Flores and Patrick Kelly held all opponents scoreless until the last game. Mario Lazo-Martinez and Yusef Monawer led the offense with three goals each, followed by Sebastian Hendi, Will Rossello, Mauricio Young and Andre Barrios with two each. Fernando Sanchez and Edwin Hernandez followed with one each.

The Titans, who won their division in the National Capital Soccer League in the spring, are currently at the top of Division 2, midway through the fall season.

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On Saturday, **Jack Taylor of Alexandria Toyota** donated **\$10,000** to the Miracle Field, along with **another \$10,000 from Toyota itself – a total of \$20,000 in one day!**

Other recent donors:
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-William Van Horne


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Job Announcement

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American Clean Skies Foundation

The American Clean Skies Foundation (ACSF) is a Washington D.C. non-profit founded in 2007 to advance America's energy independence and a cleaner environment through expanded use of natural gas, renewables and efficiency. ACSF carries out its mission primarily by encouraging large scale fuel switching in the electric power sector based on innovative regulatory and business proposals; and promoting alternative fuel vehicles, especially natural gas powered vehicles, using public policy tools and demonstration projects. Both of these program initiatives seek to catalyze change through carefully targeted government interventions and entrepreneurial activity. ACSF also supports a wide range of educational and media programs, including white papers, conferences, workshops, TV shows, films, and web sites, to advance its goals.

ACSF seeks a Clean Power Program Director to manage a cutting edge project in Alexandria, VA (see www.potomacrivergreen.com) and similar initiatives in other states. Candidates should be entrepreneurial with outstanding organizational and communication skills. Knowledge of local metropolitan Washington, D.C. zoning processes, local energy and environmental authorities, real estate development practices, and the National Park Service, are preferable. Experience working on clean power/coal retirement issues, experience with one or more aspects of the nation's electric grid and one or more advanced degrees (MBA, MPP, MPA), a plus. The Program Director reports directly to the CEO of the American Clean Skies Foundation (ACSF). The Program Director may help recruit additional staff for the Program. Some travel may be required.

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Schneider, Maryke age 69 of Ho Ho Kus, died Thursday, October 13, 2011. Born in Hilversum, Holland she lived in Midland Park before moving to Ho Ho Kus 20 years ago. Maryke was the co-owner of the Ridgewood Corset Shop, Ridgewood, NJ since 1977. Surviving is her husband Grant H. of Ho Ho Kus, her sons, Grant II and his wife Amy of Alexandria, VA and Eric and his wife Deanna of Westwood, NJ. Also surviving are her 4 grandchildren, Laina, Kate, Eric and Reeve. The family will receive friends on Friday from 2-4:30 pm followed by a Funeral Service at 4:30 pm at the Vander Plaats Funeral Home, www.vpfh.com, 257 Godwin Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ. Interment will take place on Saturday at 2 pm at Mt. Comfort Memorial Park, Alexandria, VA. In lieu of flowers donations to ALS Association, 1275 K. Street NW, Suite 1050, Washington, DC 20005 would be appreciated.

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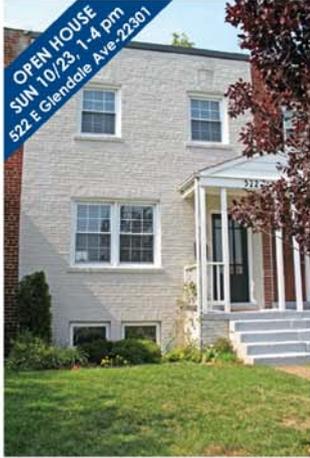


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