

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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NOVEMBER 24, 2011



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Volunteer Krishna Leyva works with Ansley Shakelford on handing out Thanksgiving dinner boxes at the Child and Family Network Center at the Birchmere Nov. 19.



John Shackelford holds his grandson William while William's mother helps distribute the dinners.

Thanksgiving Arrives Early

Staff and volunteers at The Child and Family Network Center located at the Birchmere handed out more than 100 boxes of Thanksgiving dinners to families on Saturday, Nov. 19. The boxes included a 15-pound turkey, 5-pound bag of potatoes, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and brownies. This is the 14th year that McLean Bible Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church congregations have donated the dinners.



A youngster begins the walk back home with a bag of potatoes on Saturday afternoon.

Minimize Change Or Manage Change?

City, citizens clash as January waterfront vote nears.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Like ships passing in the night, the city of Alexandria and the Citizens for an Alternative Waterfront Plan have little use for each other. This week, city officials went on the offensive, blasting a plan the group released last month as financially infeasible and legally indefensible. Citizens for an Alternative Waterfront Plan shot back that the city is employing the playbook of urban renewal, which demolished several blocks of historic buildings to create an economic revival that remains controversial half a century later.

"Change is coming; it's just a matter of how you manage it," said acting city manager Bruce Johnson. "Their plan is designed to minimize change, not to man-

age it."

"Their idea of a waterfront is reminiscent of what happened during urban renewal," responded Boyd Walker, one of the leading voices behind Citizens for an Alternative Waterfront Plan. "They want to take a historic waterfront and replace it with phony colonial architecture."

"Their idea of a waterfront is reminiscent of what happened during urban renewal."

— Former Vice Mayor
Andrew Macdonald

A work group appointed to find common ground is set to present its findings on Dec. 13, and the Alexandria City Council could schedule a final vote on the controversial plan as early as Jan. 21. At issue is a recommendation from the Alexandria Planning Commission to overturn a longstanding ban on hotels along the waterfront, increasing allowable density at three sites slated for redevelopment in the near future. The alternative proposal re-

SEE CITY, CITIZENS, PAGE 4

The Bully List: How Specific Should Legislation Be?

School leaders and elected officials differ about creating specially protected categories.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

School administrators knew something was not right with Johnny. Observing his behavior in the cafeteria, they could tell that he was overly aggressive with the other children in the elementary school. The pattern of behavior presented itself again and again, to the point where

school officials knew it was time to take action.

"Bullying is one of the risk factors we look at for gang involvement," said Mike Mackey, gang prevention and intervention coordinator in Alexandria. "This is something we take very seriously."

School officials enrolled Johnny in a program called Intervention, Prevention and Education, offered by the Alexandria Court Services

Unit. A trained "interventionist" showed up at his house and conducted sessions with his family, hoping to head off any problems before they presented themselves. Next year, Alexandria officials begin training teachers and staffers in something known as the Olweus Program, an anti-bullying initiative that has gained popularity in recent years.

"It's happening a lot more than

it used to," said Lillian Brooks, director of the Alexandria Court Services Unit. "We're definitely seeing more of this kind of behavior than we've ever seen before."

ACROSS NORTHERN VIRGINIA, school administrators and elected officials in Alexandria and

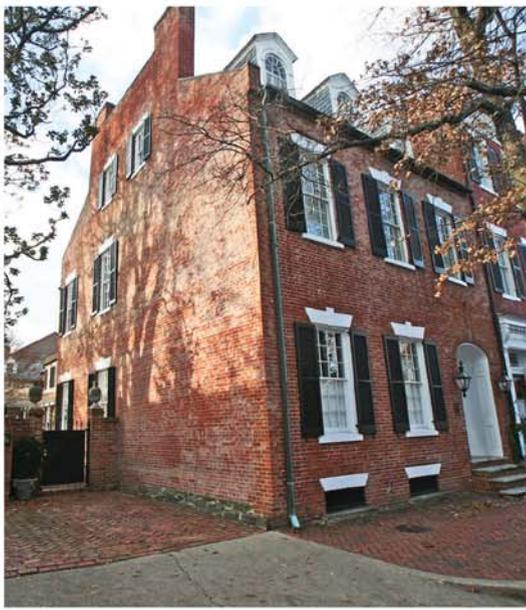
SEE PROTECTING, PAGE 7





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Thanksgiving Under Siege

Occupied Alexandria didn't have much use for Thanksgiving during the Civil War. A quick check of the Alexandria Gazette archive from 150 years ago this month shows that the holiday was considered a Yankee affair, one that barely deserved mention. In fact, it warranted only one sentence.

"Yesterday was Thanksgiving Day at the North," observed newspaper editor **Edgar Snowden** on Nov. 29, 1861, "and we received to-day but very few exchanges."

Cautious Budget Mood

Your tax rate is likely to stay the same this year, according to guidance City Council members presented to acting city manager **Bruce Johnson** this week. The plan calls for holding the line on city services without raising the real-estate property tax rate, currently set at 99.8 cents for every \$100 of assessed value. The current estimate is that revenues would increase by about 2.24 percent under the current tax rate, although city officials cautioned that could change.

"The willingness of individuals and companies to spend personal savings and make business investments is limited by a cautious mood toward the economic future," Johnson wrote in his monthly financial outlook. "Events in Europe and Congress are the primary contributors to this cautious mood." This year will likely be the fifth year in a row that city employees would have no across-the-board salary increases. The only new spending on the agenda is for Fire Station 210, a new facility in the Eisenhower Valley. City officials plan to include operating funds to hire, train and equip the station so it's ready to open in fiscal year 2014. Incoming City Manager **Rashad Young**, who will begin his new role in office next month, will present his first budget to City Council members on Valentine's Day.

"This proposed budget will be the subject of numerous work sessions and at least two public hearings before council adopts a budget, tax rates, and [a capital-improvement plan] on May 7, 2012," Johnson wrote in a memorandum outlining the upcoming budget process.

Obese Pseudonym

A woman from Ghana was convicted last week of unlawfully procuring United States citizenship under a false identity.

Lady Jacqueline Locotin, also known as **Joyce Amene Obese**, was indicted back in August. On Nov. 17, federal judge **Gerald Bruce Lee** convicted her of unlawfully procuring naturalization, two counts of passport fraud and misuse of a Social Security number. When she's sentenced in February, she could be facing a maximum of 25 years in prison.

Court records show that she first entered the United States in 1992 under a false name and travel documents, requesting political asylum. While awaiting an immigration hearing, she receive a Social Security number under the name Lady Jacqueline Locotin. She failed to appear for her immigration hearing in 1993 and left the country sometime before March 1997.

Then, in 1997, Locotin received a visa to enter the United States under the fraudulent name of Joyce Amene Obese a dependent spouse of a diversity lottery winner. In her application, she failed to report her previous stay in the United States. In June 2011, the Alexandria Police Department found her hiding in the closet of her Alexandria home.

"Examination of photographs and fingerprint evidence verified that Locotin and Obese were the same individual," said **Peter Carr**, spokesman for the United States Attorney's Office.

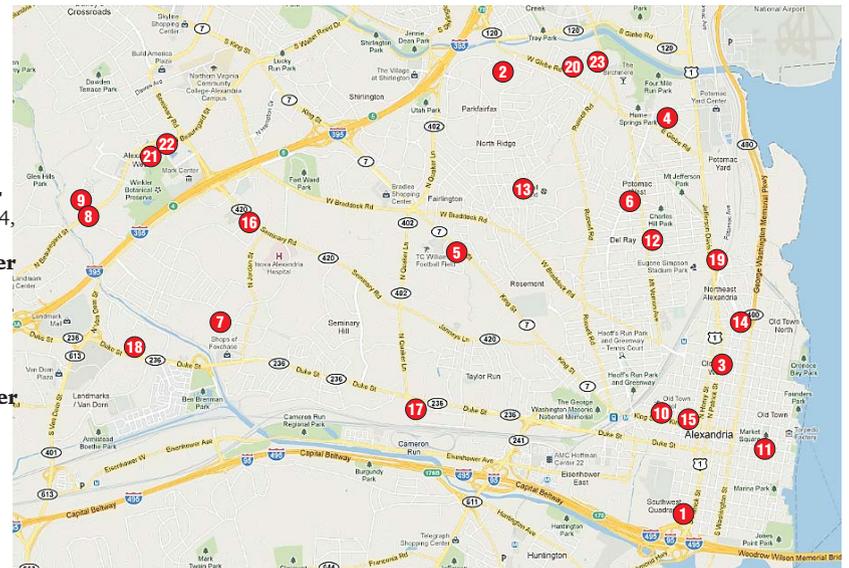
Drunk Driving Crackdown

Alexandria officers staged a driving-while-intoxicated crackdown Friday night into Saturday morning, with more than 800 vehicles passed through the checkpoints. Nine arrests were made for driving while intoxicated, two people were charged with possession of marijuana and one person was charged with underage possession of alcohol.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Safe Place Locations

- 1 **Nannie J. Lee Rec Center**
1108 Jefferson St., 22314,
703-746-4343
- 2 **Charles Barrett Rec Center**
1115 Martha Custis Drive, 22314,
703-746-5551
- 3 **Charles Houston Rec Center**
901 Wythe Street, 22314,
703-746-5552
- 4 **Cora Kelly Rec Center**
25 Reed Avenue, 22305,
703-746-5554
- 5 **Chinquapin Rec Park Center**
3201 King Street, 22302,
703-746-5553
- 6 **Mt. Vernon Rec Center**
2701 Commonwealth Avenue,
22301, 703-746-5556
- 7 **Patrick Henry Rec Center**
4643 Taney Avenue, 22304,
703-746-5557
- 8 **William Ramsay Rec Center**
5650 Sanger Avenue, 22311,
703-746-5558
- 9 **Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center**
5750 Sanger Avenue, 22311,
703-746-5559
- 10 **Oswald Durant Center**
1605 Cameron Street, 22314,
703-746-5560
- 11 **Fire Station #201**
317 Prince Street, 22314,
703-746-5201
- 12 **Fire Station #202**
213 East Windsor Avenue, 22301,
703-746-5202
- 13 **Fire Station #203**
2801 Cameron Mills Road, 22302,
703-746-5203



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- 14 **Fire Station #204**
900 Second Street, 22314,
703-746-5204
 - 15 **Fire Station #205**
1210 Cameron Street, 22302,
703-746-5205
 - 16 **Fire Station #206**
4609 Seminary Road, 22304,
703-746-5206
 - 17 **Fire Station #207**
3301 Duke Street, 22304,
703-746-5207
 - 18 **Fire Station #208**
175 N. Paxton Street, 22304,
703-746-5208
 - 19 **Fire Station #209**
2800 Main Line Blvd., 22305,
703-746-5209
 - 20 **Community Lodgings #1**
607 Notabene Drive, #1, 22305,
703-739-5856
 - 21 **Child Protective Services**
1900 N. Beaufort St.
Suite 200, 22311,
703-746-5800
 - 22 **The Center for Alexandria's Children**
1900 North Beaufort Street,
Suite 200, 22311, 703-746-6008
- OPENING DEC 2011**
- 23 **Community Lodgings #2**
3912 Elbert Avenue Suite 108, 22305
 - 24 **Northern Virginia Shelter Care**
(Youth Facility not a walk-in facility, referral needed), 703-746-5400

A Safe Haven for Teens

National Safe Place program comes to Alexandria.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities has become the first city government in the nation to launch the National Safe Place program. The program had already been available in 40 states including Virginia in Virginia Beach.

The Safe Place program provides 24-hour access to help and supportive resources for young people in crisis.

"This program was put in place for teens but it's actually for children, teens, adults, seniors — anyone who needs help," said Jamie Aylor, Safe Place representative at the Therapeutic Recreation Program at the Lee Center.

The National Safe Place program was started in Louisville, Ky., in 1983 by the YMCA. Two years ago, William Chesley, the deputy director of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities for the City of Alexandria came across the program while looking for something to address the issue of bullying.

"A crisis is whatever the youth deems a crisis to be," said Ann Redfearn, Alexandria's Safe Place coordinator. "It could be as small as maybe a kid who is bringing home a report card that may not be so good because they don't want to take it home to Mom and Dad because they're afraid they're going to be in trouble, or as excessive as abuse or neglect where we are working with Child Protective Services."

Teenagers can come to a Safe Place and verbally or nonverbally indicate that they are in need of help.

"I've been working with youth for 25 years," said Redfearn. "Anybody that works that age group can

tell you that sometimes when they come in they don't always directly say, 'I am in crisis.' Sometimes they come in and they indicate just by their body language."

The person in distress will then be provided with a quiet, comfortable place to wait while a Safe Place staff member is contacted. The Safe Place responder will then assess the youth's needs and connect them with the appropriate services.

"We direct them to already existing services," said Redfearn. "We are partnering with city agencies and some of the nonprofits. We work closely with Department of Community and Human Services."

Safe Places have been established at 24 locations throughout Alexandria: 11 recreation centers, 9 fire stations, 2 local shelters, 1 nonprofit and 1 youth service agency.

"The program does not close," said Redfearn. "It's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Some of the facilities close. There is a message on the door and if they call the number someone will always respond to them."

In looking for facilities that were open 24 hours a day to make into Safe Places, Redfearn said she took a cue from other cities that had instituted the program by using the fire stations.

"When we looked at that piece, and looked at other states, everybody had the fire department," said Redfearn. "We spoke with former chief Russell Middleton. Then the fire department was on board. They didn't hesitate — they were on board that first day."

Administrators at the locations now deemed Safe Places say the facilities themselves have not changed.

"It hasn't changed much," said Candice Goines, recreation coordinator at Mount Vernon Recreation

SEE NATIONAL SAFE PLACE, PAGE 6

City, Citizens Clash as January Waterfront Vote Nears

FROM PAGE 1

jects overturning the ban on hotels and suggests that some of the land slated for redevelopment could be acquired for open space through the use of land swaps.

"There are people who want to delay this thing forever," said Paul Smedberg, one of the city plan's leading advocates, during a work group meeting last week. "And we're not going to do that."

"Who?" asked Bob Wood, one of the members of the work group.

"Bob, come on," said Smedberg without replying to the question.

THE CITY'S WATERFRONT plan was originally released in January 2011. Opposition was immediate and vociferous, with opponents eventually creating a group they called Citizens for An Alternative Waterfront Plan to formally object. That prompted a rival group to form in support of the plan, known as Waterfront For All. City Council members were scheduled to vote on the plan earlier this year, but it became a flashpoint in a hotly contested Democratic primary for the Virginia state Senate, and council members decided to put off a final decision until after the election.

"The City Council almost made a terrible mistake in approving the proposed waterfront plan," wrote Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49), who eventually won the Democratic pri-

mary and the general election. "It was only citizen pressure from Citizens for an Alternative Waterfront, the Greater Alexandria Preservation Alliance and residents that turned the tide and have pointed the plan in a new direction."

City officials maintain their direction has not changed. In a memorandum outlining their objections to the Citizens for an Alternative Waterfront Plan's report, city officials outlined a number of concerns. The first is financial. City officials say the alternative plan presents "unrealistic" revenue estimates. Because the potential revenue would be a fraction of what the alternative report estimated, city officials say, taxpayers would be on the hook for implementing the cost of the proposal.

"We do not agree that our proposal will cost twice as much as the city's plan," said former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald. "In fact, we think that the city's plan has many hidden community and environmental costs that have not been considered, ranging from traffic congestion to pollution of the Potomac."

CITY OFFICIALS also described the alternative plan as legally indefensible. In a memorandum outlining the legal concerns, City Attorney James Banks outlined his concerns that the alternative plan called for a "downzoning" of existing waterfront ware-

houses. And although opponents have repeatedly called for using a strategy similar to the one that led to the creation of Founders Park in the 1970s, Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks said the city simply does not have any large parcels of land to offer in a swap.

"We just don't have anything of the magnitude that would be needed for that," said Jinks. "The alternative is giving up a large public city park, which would be indefensible from a public policy standpoint."

Opponents of the city's plan say Alexandria officials are intentionally misstating their objectives. Nobody has ever called for a public park to be donated in the name of acquiring open space on the waterfront, they say, and the city owns the old Health Department building in Old Town that's been vacant for years. They also rejected the city attorney's suggestion that they are seeking a downzoning, describing their plan as a way to negotiate the purchase of selected parcels at a commercial market rate.

"The city would then develop the river side as parks with shore amenities for all of Alexandria's citizens and visitors," said Tony Kupersmith, who wrote a key section of the

alternative plan. "The new developers would have prime real estate next to city parkland."

ONE OF THE CITY'S chief complaints about the alternative plan is that it does not respond to changes that are expected in the near future. Robinson Terminal, for example, has already filed a lawsuit indicating it's willing to fight for a higher density on their property so they can sell it for a bigger profit. In a memorandum outlining his rejection of the alternative plan, Johnson was particularly critical of the opponents' desire to require new businesses to be located in existing buildings.

"The CAAWP proposal contains few new revenue sources to help pay for new waterfront parks," Johnson wrote. "To myself and staff, the intent, and certainly the effect, of the CAAWP proposal is to try to minimize change rather than direct and manage change."

"The city's plan is all smoke and mirrors and is mostly about revenue and not about preserving what is so special about Alexandria," said Macdonald. "The price tag of the city's plan is Alexandria itself."

"Their plan is designed to minimize change, not to manage it."

— Acting City Manager **Bruce Johnson**



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E-mail to: gazette@connectionnews.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Nov. 30, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

Alexandria Gazette Packet



Sandra Fowler, ARHA Public Information officer, performs an excerpt from "The Redemption Play" Nov. 11 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

ARHA CEO Roy Priest, left, and McKenya Dilworth-Abdalla acknowledge special guests in the audience at the Nov. 11 performance of "The Berg Diaries" at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

'The Berg Diaries'

Local playwright showcases local talent.

The stars of Alexandria took to the stage of the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center Nov. 11 for an encore performance of "The Berg Diaries." Written by playwright and Ruby Tucker program director Jason Ellis, "The Berg Diaries" featured performances of dance, vocal duets and spoken word pieces. An excerpt of "The Redemption Play," written by Lee Center Director McKenya Dilworth-

Abdalla, was performed by Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority public information officer Sandra Fowler.

Prior to the evening's performance, an appreciation dinner was held for members of the cast and crew and featured two-time heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe as the keynote speaker.

"It's all about the kids tonight," said Bowe, who earlier delivered a speech titled Knocking Out Negativity. "I'm happy to be here for them and help show them that their contributions to the community are valued."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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National Safe Place Program Comes to Alexandria

FROM PAGE 3

Center. “We get a lot of people that get in and want information on Safe Place because we have two signs posted — one facing Commonwealth side and one facing Mount Vernon side. We give them information and they think it’s a great idea.”

“All the staff who work in the different rec centers and fire stations have been trained,” said Aylor. “We are now more aware to look for signs of people who may

be needing a safe place. The facilities themselves have not changed but moreso the people have changed.”

The program is in the beginning stages. Right now, a lot of the effort is going in to getting the word out about the presence of these Safe Places.

“We have had a couple of Safe Place incidents,” said Aylor. “Two different centers on different occasions. It was launched in September. I think the information is getting out there.”

“We are doing outreach,” said Redfearn. “We are marketing the program to our teens. We did presentations anywhere and everywhere from back-to-school nights to community and agency meetings. There’s also information on our website. Kids will always come where they come comfortable.”

Organizations that would like a Safe Place presentation can contact Ann Redfearn at Ann.redfearn@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5410.

Redfearn, Aylor and Goines are optimistic about the prospects of the program.

“This is a great program,” said Redfearn. “I think in time, people in the community will see the benefit of a program like this. As long as we have kids that are in crisis, locally, nationally, there’s always going to be a need for programs like Safe Place.”

Look for the Safe Place logo, a yellow sign with an adult embracing a child with the words Safe Place underneath it, in locations around Alexandria.

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NEWS

“It’s a difficult balancing act. But there’s a value in calling out specific kinds of bullying.”

— Del. David Englin (D-45)



“The problem with creating a list is that you’re bound to leave something out.”

— Sen.-elect Adam Ebbin (D-30)

Protecting Against Bullies

FROM PAGE 1

Arlington are struggling to address the trend. One legislative fix that has attracted controversy is crafting a list of specially protected categories that could be amended to existing legislation, which describes “harassment” and “intimidation.” Supporters say creating a list of categories would be a valuable check to the most insidious forms of bullying, especially bullying based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

“Bullying is especially heinous and reprehensible when it’s directed at someone because of some characteristic like sexual orientation or gender identity,” said John Vihstadt, a parent at Yorktown High School. “I don’t see any reason not to have a list.”

But efforts to craft a list of specially protected categories haven’t had much success in Richmond. In 2009, Del. David Englin (D-45) introduced a bill that offered special protection to victims of bullying based on the motivation of the act. The list was based on New Jersey legislation and included a wide array of classifications: “race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability.”

“It’s a difficult balancing act,” said Englin. “But there’s a value in calling out specific kinds of bullying.”

THE IDEA was controversial even among Democrats. During the session, Englin was approached by the Equality Virginia, the leading advocacy group for the lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual community. They were concerned that “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” might be stripped from the list during the legislative process, which could make it seem as if that kind of bullying might be condoned. The advocacy group was also seeking action with the Virginia Board of Education at the time, and its leaders told Englin his legislation would complicate their efforts at the time.

“We’re all working for the same goal,” he said. “So I took it out.”

That piece of legislation, House Bill 1694 from the 2009 session, ended up passing because it also had a popular section outlawing cyber-bullying. But the idea that Virginia’s existing anti-bullying legislation should include a list of specially protected categories still has support. This year, the Alexandria Commission on Human Rights asked the Alexandria City Council to add an item to the city’s legislative package based on North Carolina legislation that includes the following list: “race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability.”

“The problem with creating a list is that you’re bound to leave something out,” said state Sen.-elect Adam Ebbin (D-30), the only openly gay member of the General Assembly. “I think prohibiting certain kinds of bullying is troublesome.”

NEVERTHELESS, SOME are still pressing for adding a list to the Virginia code. The Alexandria Commission on Human Rights persuaded the Alexandria City Council to add the item to the city’s legislative package this year, which was designed specifically to offer new protections to victims of bullying based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Arlington school officials say the county has already created its own protections for sexual orientation and gender identity in employment discrimination, so crafting new legislation for bullying is something that many county leaders could support as long as it doesn’t create any new mandates.

“The General Assembly is always telling us what to do in our classrooms, and that’s a big mistake,” said Arlington School Board member Libby Garvey, who recently launched a campaign for the Arlington County Board. “As long as this is a policy guideline and not an unfunded mandate, I would support it.”

Now that the Alexandria City Council has approved the item as part of its legislative package, the city’s legislative director will be tracking the measure in Richmond. But it’s unclear whether the idea will find a sponsor. The measure is in a part of the document outlining bills that would receive support, not in a section that asks members of the local delegation to introduce specific pieces of legislation. But because Englin has already introduced a similar measure in the past, he says he’s still considering whether he wants to make the Alexandria Human Rights Commission’s request part of his agenda for the upcoming session.

“This is a very important issue to the commission,” said Jean Niebauer, executive director of the Office of Human Rights. “They feel strongly that something needs to be done.”

NOBODY KNOWS for sure why bullying has increased in recent years. Some have speculated it’s the hostile tone of public discourse. Others have wondered if technology has played a role, allowing young people to post hostile comments online with the imprimatur of anonymity. Yet another theory is that people are noticing and reporting the behavior with more frequency, creating a rise in the perception of a longstanding problem that’s merely become more visible in recent years. Del. David Albo (R-42) says existing legislation focusing on “harassment” and “intimidation” should be sufficient to address the trend.

“We went down this road with hate crime legislation, and I don’t want to see us coming back every year to create a new category for special protection,” said Albo, who is chairman of the committee where these bills would likely end up. “I don’t see any reason why we need to have sexual orientation and gender identity singled out.”

Englin disagrees.

“If the status quo were working, we wouldn’t be having this conversation,” said Englin. “But the status quo is not working, and we need to find some way to address this situation.”

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New Space Coast

Florida's loss may be Virginia's gain.

With the manned spaceflight program coming to an end, at least for now, Virginia Gov. **Bob McDonnell** is looking to the stars. This week, the governor released a study that could have drastic consequences for the commonwealth. The report, commissioned in response to the 2011 Virginia Appropriation Act, reviewed what it would take to make the Mid-Atlantic Spaceport known as MARS on Wallops Island the best commercial space launch facility in the country.

"We must take steps to ensure that this occurs," said McDonnell in a written statement. "Given the job creation and economic development potential surrounding MARS, I will be submitting a promotion bill this session of the General Assembly to implement the report's recommendations." Recommendations include making a capital investment necessary to transform MARS into a multi-use facility. The report also suggests that the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority should develop market-based usage cost rates that reflect the facility's infrastructure, site and equipment. The report was conducted by KPMG. "We look forward to working with the General Assembly this session to implement the initiatives, recommendations in KPMG's report and take the steps to ensure the continued success of the commercial space industry in Virginia," said Secretary of Transportation **Sean Connaughton** in a written statement.

Fighting Obesity

About 44 percent of Alexandria children between the ages of 2 to 5 are obese, one of the highest rates in Northern Virginia. That's one of the reasons why the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria is giving away \$15,000 in grants to spruce up Alexandria playgrounds. The effort is known as Project Play, a joint effort between the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network, Alexandria Smart Beginnings and ACTion Alexandria.

"The ultimate goal of Project Play is to ensure that every child in Alexandria has a quality space to play," said **Tracy Viselli**, community manager for ACTion Alexandria.

Two grants of \$5,000 and two grants of \$2,500 will be awarded by the Project Play taskforce to four submissions based on the number of votes received and how well they align with recommendations from a recent citywide playspace assessment. ACTion Alexandria is accepting nominations and collecting votes.

Occupy Alexandria

Hotel occupancy rates are up this year, an indication that the local economy is gaining strength even though the national financial picture remains sluggish.

According to a recent financial report, the total fiscal year-to-date occupancy rate for all hotel types increased from 62.8 percent in August 2010 to 65.3 percent in August 2011. Occupancy increased in all hotel types except mid-range hotels. One note of caution, however — the one month August total average occupancy rate was 59.1 percent, which is down from 69 percent in July 2011. "The overwhelming majority of the year-on-year decrease is due to significant decreases in the budget and mid-range categories, which tend to reflect tourism rather than federal travel-related business," wrote acting city manager **Bruce Johnson**. "The month-over-month decrease seems to be partially explained by a seasonally recurring drop in occupancy in August."

High Tax Corridors

Alexandria has a number of high-capacity transit corridors in the works, although not a lot of money set aside to pay for them. That's why the city will be pursuing General Assembly action in the upcoming session to raise taxes. The city's legislative package includes one provision that would allow local governments to raise the gasoline tax by up to 2 percent, provided that the funds are used for high-capacity transit infrastructure. Another item would allow local jurisdictions to increase the retail sales tax by as much as 0.5 percent in order to pay for transit infrastructure.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

In the Pink

Jack Taylor, center, presented a check for \$20,800 to the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer Fund Nov. 16 on behalf of Alexandria Toyota. Taylor pledged \$100 for every new car sold and \$10 for every Facebook "Like" during the month of October to the fund, which provides mammograms and diagnostic testing to uninsured and underinsured women. Above, with Taylor are Laurie Rhodes, Carmen Jimenez, Office on Women director Lisa Baker, Shirley Davis, Toni Dunbar, Nancy Jasso and Ana Sanchez.



Artist Todd Healy and his wife Laraine celebrate the launch of the 2012 Old Town calendar Nov. 4 at Healy's King Street studio.



Willie Moncure and Polly Burke join artist Todd Healy at the launch of Healy's 2012 Old Town calendar Nov. 4.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

New Look for an Old Town

Artist Todd Healy debuts 2012 calendar.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For more than 30 years, artist Todd Healy has been capturing the historic sights and charm of Old Town on canvas. On Nov. 4, Healy celebrated the debut of his annual 2012 calendar featuring new images from his collection.

"I try to make each year's calendar exciting," said Healy during a reception at Gallery Lafayette, his King Street studio. "This year, I am especially proud of the image of George Washington's townhouse.

That one is very special to me."

In addition to the calendar, Healy's distinctive images are also available as Christmas cards, gift tags and other gift items for the holidays.

"I make sure we have the largest selection of Old Town art and gift items," Healy said. "What can I say? I love this city and want to share that with my customers."

More than 75 people turned out to celebrate with Healy and to get a start on holiday gift shopping.

"I just love Todd's work," said longtime customer Polly Burke. "Once again, he has given Alexandrians a wonderful calendar and keepsake of this beautiful town we live in."

Gallery Lafayette is located at 320 King St., 703-548-5266.

LIVING LEGENDS

A Life in Balance Stewart Dunn: One of the City's Living Legends.

BY SHERRY WILSON BROWN
DIRECTOR, AGENDA:ALEXANDRIA

For Alexandria Living Legend Stewart Dunn, it is a matter of balance. He balances his professional duties as a partner at Ivins, Phillips & Barker with his duties as vice chair of the Planning Commission. He must have the balance right as in 2010, Stew was named Washington DC Tax Lawyer of the Year. In addition, the George Wythe Society of Citizen Lawyers (the oldest organization at William & Mary Law School) recently invited him to give the first lecture in 2010 of their annual Citizen Lawyer Series. They brought him to talk to students and faculty as an attorney who exemplifies the citizen lawyer ideal via his civic engagement and commitment to the ethical practice of law.

Stew Dunn was born and raised in Pittsburgh, one of five children, the son of a lawyer and a homemaker. He graduated from Yale University in 1951 with a BA in political science and then earned an LLB, magna cum laude, from Harvard Law in 1954, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. Three years in the Army followed, including time in the Judge Advocate General Corps stationed in Washington. After the Army, he decided to pursue his legal

career in Washington and has lived in this area since 1954.

He and his first wife lived in Washington and Arlington before settling in Potomac, Md. After his first wife died in 1975, Stew was left to raise his three sons who ranged in age from junior high to college freshman. In 1978, Stew married Loti Kennedy Savage.

They lived in Potomac while remodeling their historic house in Alexandria to accommodate five children. Today, Stew's son, Chris, is a lawyer in New York City and his son, Tim, who has retired after a successful career in managing investment funds, lives in Middleburg, Va. Son, Anthony, died in an automobile accident in 1980. Of Loti's children, Eliza lives in Alexandria and Rhett in Portland, Ore. Stew and Loti enjoy being grandparents to their six grandchildren.

After settling in Alexandria at the beginning of 1980, Stew became an active member of the Old Town Civic Association and served as treasurer. A request to host a fundraiser for Hopkins House at their home led to an invitation to serve on its board. Stew served for 10 years.

He was appointed to the Alexandria Human Rights Commission in 1983 where he served a full term and, in the late 1980s, he was selected to serve on a commission to revise the existing zoning code. Council

Living Legends: The Project

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

This is one of a series of 12 profiles that will appear this year. For more information, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com.

adopted the revisions in 1992. Stew served on the Board of Zoning Appeals (ending as vice chair) and he has been on the Planning Commission since 1995, where he currently serves as vice chair.

On the Planning Commission, Stew has represented the Planning Commission on the Washington Street Standards Task Force, the King Street Retail Advisory Committee, and the current Waterfront planning process.

He also serves as the chair of the Infill Task Force. In nominating Stew for the Living Legends recognition, John Komoroske,



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Stew Dunn: "... the tactfulness of a senior diplomat, but with an iron will to do the right thing for the City."

chair of the Planning Commission, described him as having "assisted that body in every meeting with his uncanny atten-

SEE STEWART DUNN, PAGE 29

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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Children's Gazette Packet

Call for student artwork and writing; deadline Dec. 9.

During the last week of each year, The Alexandria Gazette Packet devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The annual Children's Gazette Packet is a tradition of well over a decade, and we begin getting inquiries from teachers and parents about submitting artwork and writing almost as soon as summer is over.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories and photographs.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or on CD. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Please provide the submissions no later than Friday, Dec. 9.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings, paintings, photographs of 2-D and 3-D artwork that have been digitally photographed or scanned as .jpeg files.
- ❖ Short stories, poetry, essays, class-wide prompt writings.
- ❖ Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Put People Before Profits

To the Editor:

Occupy Arlandria? For many

the critique of society's richest 1 percent expressed by the 'occupy-movement' is interesting but fairly abstract. Sure we all have seen an historic concentration of wealth over the last three decades. Yes, it

has happened through both Democratic and Republic presidencies and congresses. Locally we may see the power and arrogance of the 1 percent played out over the next couple of weeks as one of the

wealthiest corporations in the area, parking lot oligarchs PMI, attempt to get city approval to redevelop the Arlandria Shopping Center on Mt. Vernon Avenue. As proposed, approval of this development, will accelerate pressures to destroy the predominantly Latino/a and working class character of Arlandria.

Although City staff has been discussing this proposal for over a year however, this plan first surfaced publicly in September. Its approval is being expedited in a way that all but eliminates community debate and thoughtful consideration and negotiation for a better alternative. The Planning Commission and City Council are slated to review these plans in December. Now is the time to start putting the needs of the 99 percent ahead of the 1 percent. For the following reasons this proposal and request for a special permit should be denied:

The PMI calls for a density that will dwarf adjacent properties. It is two stories too high and can be built to this size only with a Special Use Permit. More density means more traffic in an area that is already badly congested every

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and home schoolers.

Email submissions for The Gazette Packet to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

To send CDs of artwork or CDs of typed submissions, mark them clearly by school and/or hometown and mail the CD to Children's Gazette Packet, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Kurspahic Takes Over as Editor of Four More Papers

Kemal Kurspahic, longtime Connection managing editor, has taken the helm of the Springfield Connection, Burke Connection, Fairfax Connection and Fairfax Station/Lorton/Clifton Connection. He adds these responsibilities to his editing of the Vienna/Oakton Connection, McLean Connection, Great Falls Connection, Reston Connection and Oak Hill/Herndon Connection.

Kurspahic, who has won some of the most prestigious international awards as well as many awards for local news coverage, focuses on a well-honed local mission with a lean team of reporters, photographers and freelancers, as well as editorial assistant Amna Rehmatulla.

Kurspahic was among the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes named more than a decade ago, honored again in Vienna, Austria in September, 2010.

In December 1988, Kemal Kurspahic was named editor-in-chief of Oslobodjenje, Sarajevo's 70,000 circulation daily newspaper, the first editor of that paper not appointed by the Communist Party. Then after the communists were ousted, Kurspahic maintained editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties who wished to control the press. During the siege of Sarajevo, with snipers' bullets flying, shelling which destroyed the paper's building, no electricity and very little newsprint, Kurspahic guided the paper's multi-ethnic staff in a nuclear bomb shelter, publishing the paper, providing one of the city's only sources of information. Often its pages were filled with lists of the dead.

A U.S. citizen since 2001, Kurspahic is the author of several books, including "As Long as Sarajevo Exists" and "Prime Time Crime." He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute for Peace and also worked for the United Nations.

Questions? Comments? Story ideas? You can reach Kurspahic at Kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM



'Bountiful Tom Turkey'

The students of Grace Episcopal School helped feed the homeless of Alexandria by creating a gigantic, canned-food "Bountiful Tom Turkey" on Nov. 17. Measuring 28 feet by 32 feet this turkey-shaped structure was made of boxed and canned foods contributed by Grace Episcopal School families. This outreach project took four hours, with every child from preschool through grade 5 helping with the construction. All of the food was donated to the Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry, which works in conjunction with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to feed Alexandria families in need. See www.graceschoolalex.org.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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OPINION

Conversation about Aging Matters

A suggestion that retirees skip Florida and stay here.

BY JANET BARNETT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

At the recent Speaker Series sponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria, entitled "Housing Alexandria's Seniors," Steve Gurney, the founder and publisher of Guide to Retirement Living SourceBook, opened the gathering with some thoughts regarding the value of "aging in community" in Alexandria. Gurney shared with the audience how many have embraced

COMMENTARY

the concept of a dream retirement in Florida sipping Margaritas under the palm trees. He shared how he receives a high volume of calls from individuals who made the move to Florida and are seeking to return to the community they have known and loved for so many years.

Gurney stated with a smile, "Instead of moving to Florida I would prefer to see our elders remain right here in Alexandria and sip a few Margaritas from time to time. Our elders are a tremendous human resource with deep connections in this community. They can help us and we can help them."

Gurney shared the need for us think "outside the box" as individuals and as a community on ways we can work together to support the needs of elders and



to tap into the wisdom and living history they provide to make Alexandria more livable for all ages and abilities.

The presentation was held at Shiloh Baptist Church. Over 60 people attended the 90-minute presentation by a panel of experts on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Topics included aging in

place, publicly funded housing resources and options for private sector communities.

The morning was sponsored by Goodwin House, Inc., Sue Goodhart Real Estate McEneaney and Associates, Inc., Paul Spring Retirement Community, Senior Living Well, LLC, Sunrise Senior Living and Jenn Walker Real Estate, McEneaney and Associates, Inc.

This presentation was one in a series of presentations that will be presented in 2012. Future topics include senior employment and volunteer opportunities, nutrition, recreation and continuing education for seniors.

For more information on Senior Services of Alexandria, call 703-836-4414, ext. 10 or visit our website at www.seniorservicesalex.org.



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
morning.

The PMI plan calls for only 28 affordable housing units out of the proposed 478 apartments. These units will be priced so that families earning \$60,000 / year will be able to afford them. No low-income resident of Arlandria will qualify to live on the property. This continues a city-wide trend (see Potomac Yards, the Calvert Apartments, the Berg, etc. ...) that marginalizes affordable housing within Alexandria.

The PMI plan will add runoff to an area that has four floods over the last 15 years. This runoff destroys adjacent apartments and ultimately pollutes the Chesapeake Bay.

Trees that the developer will plant in Four Mile Park instead of on-site will eliminate or relocate one of the few free play areas in the Arlandria neighborhood.

The 1 percent will tell us that there is no alternative to their vision of progress. Over the last 30 years we've see systematic dis-

placement of African American and now Latino/a families. We've seen middle class homeowners whose sons and daughters can't afford to live in Alexandria. We've seen the destruction of the Black small business community in Old Town and Del Ray. It's time for elected officials to stand up for the 99 percent and say "no" to this proposed Arlandria Shopping Center redevelopment. It's time for all of us to say there is a better way. Put community needs including affordable housing, sustainability,

and community development and preservation ahead of developers' profit.

Jon Liss, Executive Director
Virginia New Majority
Alexandria

BAR and Common Sense

To the Editor:

There's been a very public discussion recently regarding the Parker-Gray Board of Architectural Review ("BAR" or "Board") and

chain-link fences in that historic district, which is located in the northwest quadrant of Old Town. To us, this shows that historic preservation isn't a static process. It occasionally requires robust debate to keep efforts appropriately directed — in other words, to ensure they "make sense."

In our opinion, Alexandria has a heritage of common sense and its preservation requirements reflect that. Think of the Scots, Quakers, African-Americans and others who helped found the City and propelled it to its current standing. Through the Zoning Ordinance and a series of implementing technical standards, Alexandria protects elements of local and national history in order to strengthen the local economy, protect property values, educate the public, and instill civic pride. The requirements, especially the technical standards, are the tools to achieve those common-sense objectives in a common-sense and consistent manner. For example, they require saving original historic materials when possible because they represent a level of design and craftsmanship no longer available. It's often cost-effective to do so and those materials are frequently superior to similar materials on the market today (e.g., certain woods).

The recent discussion about whether it "makes sense" to protect chain-link fences is a small part of a larger debate about the preservation of a type of architecture located in the district. We're referring to "mid-20th century vernacular architecture" — big words to describe plain buildings built around 1950 that were designed to be functional rather than pretty and were included in the district, when created in 1984, to stabilize the neighborhood and preserve the scale and context of older buildings nearby. Examples of such buildings, which look a lot like simple, sturdy brick boxes, are located around the Braddock Road Metro Station.

Preservation of this type of architecture is an example of the tension that sometimes arises between the language of the requirements — the technical standards primarily — and their common-sense spirit. The language suggests rigorous protection may be warranted when common sense might suggest otherwise. For example, the visible yard created by visually open chain-link fencing is a prominent feature of these plain buildings that helps define their character. The standards say such character-defining features should be protected. Hence, preserving these buildings could in theory require

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

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Santa Claus is coming to OLD TOWN

Come Meet Santa!
Every Saturday and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve at 210 S. Union St. in Old Town, Alexandria.
Nov. 26th–27th, Dec. 3rd–4th, 10th–11th and 17th–18th.
\$15 — includes photo with Santa.
For hours and more details, visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com
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THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE ALEXANDRIA MARKETING FUND.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

From left: Vicky Suazo, current Twig president, Cassie McLaughlin and Seema Nawaz, immediate past Twig presidents, Joe Viar, chair of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation, Christine Candio, CEO Inova Alexandria Hospital, Valerie Murphy, patient care director, Twig Surgical Center, Dr. John Albrigo, chair, department of surgery and Dr. Eric Reines, president of the Medical Staff celebrate the Oct. 24 ribbon cutting of the new Twig Surgical Center at Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Inova Opens Twig Surgical Center

\$84 million Project 2010 completed.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Dignitaries, donors and honored guests gathered Oct. 24 as Inova Alexandria Hospital officially opened the Twig Surgical Center, a new 24-private room unit for post-surgery patient care.

"Thanks to everyone here the hospital has 24 new private-bed patient rooms that will be dedicated to post surgery patients," said Inova Alexandria Hospital CEO Christine Candio. "The Center will serve more than 8,000 patients each year, providing post-surgery patients a dedicated rehabilitation gym and remote telemetry."

The new surgical center is the final construction piece of Project 2010, the hospital's \$84 million renovation and expansion. The dedication ceremony recognized



Robert Dugger checks out the hospital room made possible through the contributions of he and his wife Joan Huffer.

the \$1 million contribution made by the Twig Auxiliary in addition to the 14 families who sponsored patient rooms with a minimum \$50,000 contribution: Linda and Benno Brenninkmeyer; James, Helen, Thomas Cox and Mary Olivia MacLead; Mariam and Windsor Demaine; Rob Dugger and Joan Huffer; Nancy, John, Burton and David Gray; Jack Taylor; Buford and Linda Lewis; Cathy and Fred Sachs; Jeff and Christie Veatch; Tom Depasquale; Joe and Michael Hadeed; Bernie Imming; Martha and George Sawyer, and

Marie Sheperdson. Donnie Wintermute sponsored the new rehabilitation gym facility.

The expansion included the construction of 68,000 square feet of new floor space and the renovation of more than 50,000 square feet of existing hospital space.

"I hope I never have to spend time here," said Robert Dugger as he checked out the room sponsored by he and his wife Joan Huffer. "But if I or any of my family or friends do end up here, we will be blessed. What Inova has done is extraordinary."

Volunteer Efforts To Keep Children Warm

Record 2,700 coats collected for area children.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 2,700 children in Alexandria and Fairfax County will be warm this winter thanks to a new coat made possible by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, the Alexandria City Sheriff's Department and the national nonprofit Operation Warm.

"This is a wonderful program," said ACT for Alexandria Executive Director John Porter. "Combined this year with Operation Warm, it has exceeded all expectations in

providing coats to children in Alexandria and throughout Fairfax County."

Spearheaded for several years by Capt. Willie Bailey and members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, this year's coat drive collected over 2,700 new coats in a new partnership with Operation Warm.

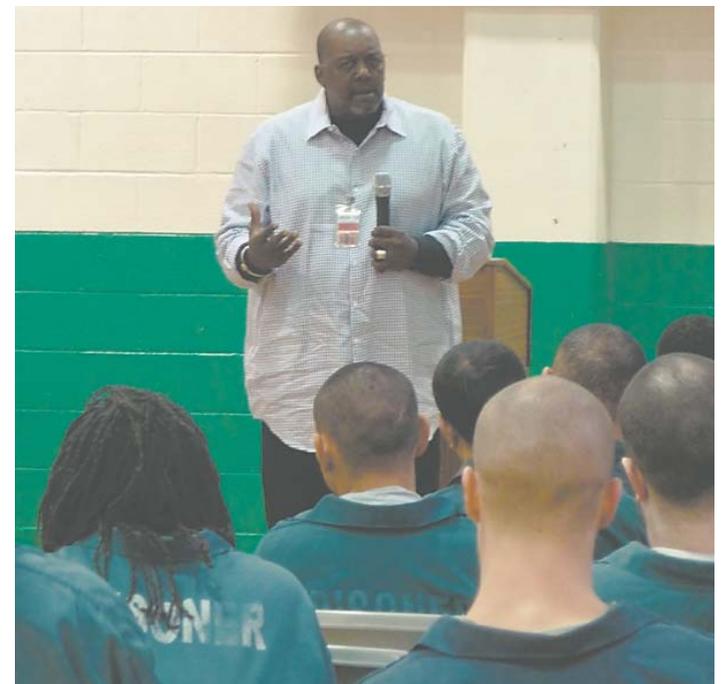
"You have put smiles on the faces of so many young people," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland prior to the Oct. 26 distribution of coats at Penn Daw Fire Station 11. "Not only will these children be warm, they'll have something

on their back that they can be proud of and feel like they fit in."

Primo's Restaurant provided food for the dozens of retired firefighters and volunteers who gathered before dawn to sort through the coats and prepare them for distribution to representatives of 55 area schools and nonprofit organizations.

"This shows the incredible power of our community," said Mount Vernon District School Board representative Dan Storck to the firefighters and volunteers in attendance.

"You see that no one is left behind. Thank you for seeing the needs of our community and addressing them," he said.



Former inmate Geoffrey Thomas delivers an inspirational message at the Alexandria Detention Center Nov. 17 during a special Thanksgiving program for inmates.

Giving Thanks

Inspirational program held at Detention Center.

The William G. Truesdale Detention Center held a Thanksgiving celebration Nov. 17 as inmates were treated to an inspirational program featuring gospel music performances and a message delivered by former inmate Geoffrey Thomas.

"You are probably asking yourself 'What do I have to be thankful for?'" said Thomas, who is now the coordinator of the Alexandria Consortium Group. "You need to be thankful for the opportunity to look at your life, understand the power within and believe what's possible for the future."

Jacqueline Jones and Sandy Hawkins provided the musical entertainment, singing gospel selections that garnered each a prolonged standing ovation.

"It's a blessing to be able to



Gospel singer Jacqueline Jones entertains inmates at the Alexandria Detention Center Nov. 17.

sing here," said Jones, a city finance division employee well-known for her vocal talents. "I hope that my music will inspire others to give thanks and praise no matter the circumstances they are in."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Volunteer Jacki Tinsley sorts through some of the 2,200 coats collected for needy children throughout the region prior to distribution to schools and nonprofits Oct. 26 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

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NEWS

TC Hosts Craft Fair

Vendors starting setting up early on Saturday, Nov. 19, for the 2nd annual high school craft fair at T.C. Williams. Raffles were held in the hallway and lunch was being prepared and served by student groups. The cafeteria, Titan Hall, was transformed into a marketplace. Natural salts with additions of herbs and flowers were offered for sale, holiday cards, wreaths, fun things for children, jewelry and puppets were some of items available for purchase.



Gina Brotherton works on another ring at her GGX Jewels booth. Brotherton creates jewelry with intricate wire-work and also creates eclectic bead designed and hammered aluminum objects. www.ggxjewel.com

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Niki Van Ech shows one of her many paper wreaths, Pickwick Papers, at the fair. www.etsy.com/shop/thepickwickpapers



Holiday
Skin...
let it glow,
let it glow,
let it glow!

**BLACK FRIDAY
BLOWOUT!**
November 25th
10A.M.-6P.M.

\$100 gift certificates for \$50
(limit of 5)
All retail Products 20% Off



The Switch Witch works on another switch plate at the fair. Switch Witch is locally known as Christine Boyd. Using recycled paper, Boyd decoupages the exteriors of household switch plates while she has time in-between her other missions and jobs. Ten percent of the sale proceeds fund non-profit green art. www.theswitchwitch.com



Carol Giles sets out another holiday wreath from her recent creations.



Puppeteer Don Becker brings to life one of his hand creations.

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BUSINESS NOTE

Clarke & Sampson Insurance Marks 65th

Clarke & Sampson Insurance, Inc. is celebrating its 65th year of operation in Alexandria. A full service, independent insurance agency, the firm was established in 1946 as the F.W. Clarke Company on North St. Asaph Street providing home and auto insurance. Later, when Everett R. Clarke and Jack Sampson joined the firm, the company became Clarke & Sampson.

As part of the celebration, Clarke & Sampson will serve as the main sponsor of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's "Merry Membership" event on Dec. 1 at the Carlyle Club.

Clarke & Sampson holds the longest membership with the Alexandria Chamber — dating back to 1955.

Its staff have been critical to the company's success and one of those employees, Janice Aller, is also celebrating a milestone year: her 38th anniversary with Clarke & Sampson.

Aller, personal insurance assistant & flood insurance specialist, began her career at the firm in 1973, making her the company's longest tenured employee.

See www.clarkeandsampson.com



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Walking for Others

The student body of Commonwealth Academy gathered Nov. 4 to walk through the community in an effort to raise awareness for homelessness. Food For Others representative Jessica Hogan spoke about the stereotypes associated with hunger and homelessness to the students, who raised more than \$2,500 for the nonprofit food bank.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Seminary Valley

Voter turnout on Nov. 8 was lower than usual but just over 1,000 of us showed up at the Polk precinct to vote. Overall Alexandria turnout was just over 22 percent.

On my way out the door, I stopped in for a quick visit to see Libby Delgado, Polk's longtime secretary. It's always nice to see a familiar face at Polk. Libby gave me some sad news ... Ms. Paula (McNeil) Hamner passed away in October at the young age of 41. We knew Paula as "Miss McNeil" back in the day when she was a kindergarten aide with Mr. Riddle. A 1986 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, Paula was a basketball star and a member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church. Her latest posting was at Imagine Hope Charter School in Washington, D.C. She leaves behind her husband, Detrick Hamner and two girls, Trinity and Amara. She brightened both our Katie and Sam's kindergarten years and we know that she will be missed by all her students, friends and family.

A recent Washington Post article highlighted our Zip code's census results. A little personal research revealed the following about 22304. It is the fourth-most dense area in Alexandria (not surprising, given the number of apartments). Eighty-seven percent of its residents completed high school, and 47 percent have a bachelor's degree. Forty-six percent of us are married, and only 34 percent of us have lived in the Zip code for 5 or more years. The income level compared to the rest of the City lies about in the middle, at just over \$50,000. Unemployment is on par with the City as a whole, at 2.22 percent.

Those expecting holiday visitors need to take note: the Police Department will begin enforcing Overnight

Parking restrictions for Brookville/Seminary Valley on Nov. 28. Anyone without a valid City of Alexandria decal on the windshield will be ticketed. If you see cars without the required Alexandria City decal, call the Police at 703-838-4444. Please provide a description of the car, its location and license plate number. This also applies to the weekday, daytime restrictions of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on streets where the restrictions are posted in the Brookville-Seminary Valley District 12 area. (Daytime enforcement is already in effect.) If you need to get a parking pass, you can do so online or at the Burke Library; tickets start at \$40 per offense.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

MIA JONES

MAMAMIAJONES@GMAIL.COM

OBITUARY

Etta Louise Bennett

Etta Louise Bennett peacefully departed this life on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011. She was 78. Predeceased by her husband, Charles E. Bennett and by her son, Charles E. Bennett Jr., she leaves behind a daughter, Betty (husband Jim), daughter-in-law, Teri, eight grandchildren, two brothers, and many nieces and nephews. In addition, she leaves behind a wonderful friend, Harvey. A formal service is not planned at this time.

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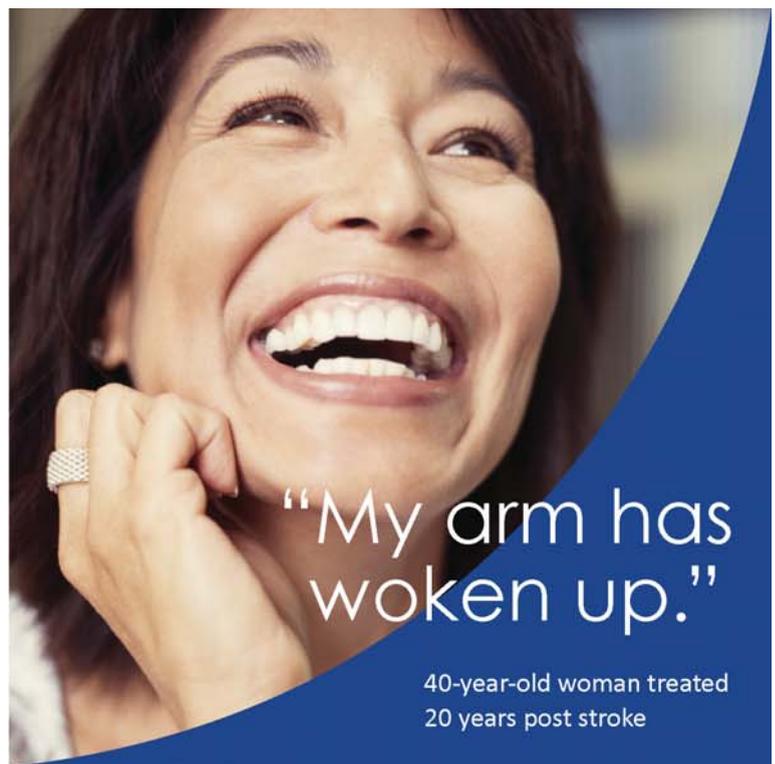
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REWARD

\$10,000

Intentional Hit and Run of a Bicyclist- Severe Injury

HAVE YOU SEEN A GOLD/BRONZE CADILLAC

(POSSIBLY A SEDAN DE VILLE-PROBABLY A 4 DOOR) WITH VIRGINIA TAGS IN THE ALEXANDRIA/MOUNT VERNON AREA?

VEHICLE MAY BE A LITTLE DARKER IN APPEARANCE THAN PHOTO BELOW.

POSSIBLE FIRST THREE LETTERS FOR TAG ARE IVP OR JVV (VIRGINIA TAGS)

DRIVER DESCRIPTION:

WHITE MALE, GRAY HAIR, Older (60+ yrs). WE BELIEVE HE IS LIVING IN THE BELLE HAVEN TO MOUNT VERNON AREA NOT FAR OFF THE GW PARKWAY. THIS VEHICLE WAS INVOLVED IN AN INTENTIONAL HIT AND RUN OF A BICYCLIST WITH LIFE THREATENING INJURIES ON OCTOBER 9TH, 2011 AT APPROX. 11:00 A.M. IN THE VICINITY OF COLLINGWOOD ROAD AND THE GW PARKWAY.



Contact THE OFFICES OF
JAMES D. TURNER, ATTORNEY AT LAW
for further information and reward terms

703-836-3400

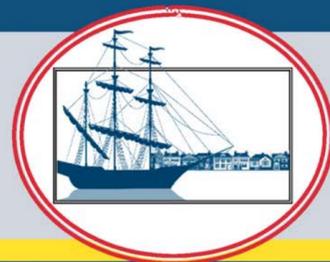
email: jamesturner@odtitle.com

-All information received will be confidential-



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Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan

Happy Thanksgiving



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." JFK
We thank you for your patronage and wish you a wonderful holiday from the AGENTS and STAFF of the Old Town Office.



1098 Sea View Ave
\$898,900
Price Slashed!
Stunning Potomac riverfront home just 8 miles from Ft. Belvoir. 7,000 sq ft luxury home on gorgeous lot with sandy beach for less than half the price of just a riverfront lot in Alex/Mt. Vernon area. Home has everything! Highlights include: 3 finished levels, 6BR, 7.5BA, sumptuous MBR, gourmet kit & 3 car garage. Price just slashed for immediate sale! **OPEN SUN. 11/27, 1-4! Rt 1 South; L- Featherstone Rd; bear Left & take first Right onto Sea View.**



4002 Belle Rive Terr
\$898,900
Price Slashed!
HUGE PRICE DROP! Classic brick colonial, custom built in prestigious Belle Rive. A neighborhood of many \$1 mill+ properties. Truly special home w/many features including large room sizes, elegant trim detail, updated 'state of the art' kitchen, 5BR & finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on half acre grounds w/view of river. Uniquely attractive home in premier location. **OPEN SUN. 11/27, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Rive Dr; R-Belle Rive Terr.**



8826 Cooper Rd
\$395,000
Country Club Views!
You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400K! Numerous features include: large 1/2 A + lot, updated kitchen w/granite countertops & SS appli, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room w/high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage & oversize deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir. **OPEN SUN. 11/27, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, R-Old Mill; R-Cooper.**



9387 Mount Vernon Cir
\$950,000
Majestic Home-Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!
Unique opportunity-bargain price on property with true estate potential in area's leading waterfront community. Private marina access. Home offers approx 6,000 sq ft living space, brick exterior, spacious rooms, open kitchen-family room, high ceilings, library with custom built-ins, 3 finished levels, 4FPs and oversize garage. Half acre grounds, custom pool.



3805 Riverwood Rd
\$629,000
Check this Price!
Best value in prestigious Riverwood in years! Large home just substantially updated. Fabulous features include: 3 finished levels, 4 bedrooms, updated kitchen and baths, 3 fireplaces. Home was just redecorated and is in "move in" condition. Owner wants immediate sale and has priced accordingly!



1916 Shiver Rd
\$549,000
Close In Location!-Minutes to Old Town!
NEW PRICE! Better than new! Top to bottom renovation of this fabulous 5BR, 3BA home on quiet street just 4 miles from Old Town. Top quality updates include: gourmet kitchen, all baths, thermal windows, roof & more! Special property also features: large sunroom, 2FP, gorgeous hardwood floors, expansive deck & 'sundance' hot tub. Gorgeous setting on private fenced lot.



2300 Candlewood
\$569,000
Expanded Tri-Level!
Builder's own! Exceptionally large well maintained home for the money! Fabulous property in prime location featuring 4 bedrooms, bright open floor plan, finished lower level and large breakfast kitchen area. Most major rooms have been substantially expanded. Private backyard features large pool and deck. Unique opportunity!



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.



516A E Howell Ave
\$679,000
Del Ray-Rare Opportunity!
Exceptionally spacious home by one of area's leading builders in prime location. Four stories of luxury featuring bright open floor plan, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite and private rear yard and deck. Unique combination of close-in convenience with up to date floor plan and amenities. Buy during construction and customize to suit your taste. (Photo is rendition)



7929 Bayberry Dr
\$549,000
Spacious Home-
CONTRACT!
Two Car Garage!
A large home in prime location with an oversize 2 car garage for under \$549,000!



1907 Rampart Dr
\$587,000
Stunning Home
SOLD!
-Amazing Price!
Owner moved and sell now! Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to acquire a rare Level Luxury! Rare opportunity to acquire a spacious one lvl home in premier location.



4503 Ferry Landing Rd
\$585,000
One
SOLD!
Level Luxury! Rare opportunity to acquire a spacious one lvl home in premier location.



\$272,000
Alex / Hallmark "OWNER WANTS OFFER"
10th floor unit w/balcony - great views - 2BR/2BA - 1,295 sqft - wood floors in LR & DR - neutral carpet in bedrooms - W/D in unit. Very well cared for unit and move-in ready. Well maintained building w/great management. Amenities: tennis, pool exercise & party rms. Close to Metro, Old Town, Airport & DC.



Louise Devers 703.795.9944



\$264,900
River Towers "NEW PAINT THRU-OUT"
Spacious, 3BR/2FBA. New kitchen w/SSA & granite. Condo fee inc all utilities & services: pool, tennis, bhall ct, nature & bike trails, grocery & shopping w/in walking distance. Beautiful gardens & roof-top deck to see "DC". Front door bus ser. - 1 mi Metro.



The Kohler Team Heidi 703.609.7367 & Elke 703.967.7633



\$215,000
Alex. Knolls West "BACK ON THE MARKET..."
... and move-in ready! Spacious 2BR/2BA unit w/enormous LR, sep DR w/wet bar, huge MBR w/walk-in closet; washer/dryer; LR & both BR open to 40' balcony. Home Owner Warranty. EZ to Metro, 395/Pentagon, Beltway, Old Town & more.



Wendy Shelley 703.919.6045

"The Giving Tree"
21 years ago the Agents of the Long & Foster Old Town office began our annual "Giving Tree" as a way to give something back to our community. Each year the Alexandria Public Schools identify for us a number of Alexandria families truly in need, and a Holiday Wish List for each child. AGENT contributions of toys, games, children's clothes, monetary donations (for food vouchers), and your help give these CHILDREN and their FAMILIES A GREAT HOLIDAY. Your donations to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated! Please stop by our office OR contact/mail to: Bill Jourdan OR Janice Allen (703.683.0400) 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 Please make checks payable to: Long & Foster's Giving Tree



\$275,000
Alexandria Station "MILLION \$ VIEW"
Most conveniently located IBR/BA w/den condo. Steps to Metro, minutes to 495/95, Old Town, DC & more. Large corner unit featuring gourmet kit, one garage space, + low utilities. So many amenities inc: concierge, exercise/meeting/party rooms, pool, sauna, guest suites etc.



Elife Biankini 703.593.2634



\$459,000
Old Town "A LITTLE FIX-UP"
1940's vintage townhouse w/front porch. Partially renovated. You do the rest. 2BR, wood floors, open granite kitchen, new carpet, lower level rec room needs finishes, large private patio. Want a project? Call...



ReneeSellsAlexandria.com Renee Reymond 703.507.5330



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Talk of the Town

Bed Check

It's that time of year again. Deck the halls, roast the chestnuts and find a place to put up the in-laws and out-of-town guests during the holidays. If the guest bedroom is not an option or a desire, The Wanderer knows many places in town that provide overnight accommodations without skimping on superb dining options. On second thought, give the in-laws your room and make a reservation for a weekend away for yourself.

Photos by Jeanne Theismann



E THE JAMIESON GRILLE — WESTIN HOTEL

After being greeted by Heather Graser and Wanda Kneddy, above, Chef Joe Jender will put a seasonal spin on creations that take advantage of the freshest local ingredients. The restaurant's airy interior is equally refreshing and features a minimalist décor of mosaic columns and warm, neutral colors. A wall of wine separates a semi-private dining room that can seat up to 14 for those extended family gatherings
 400 Courthouse Square
 703.253.8600
www.westin.com/alexandria



A THE GRILLE AT MORRISON HOUSE

Searching for distinctive Old Town Alexandria flavor? You need look no further. From a casual cocktail to a classic afternoon tea to a creative dinner accompanied by live piano music, The Grille at Morrison House satisfies. This local favorite features an inviting and intimate atmosphere, contemporary American cuisine and outstanding wine and cocktail selections. Home to one of the few — and some say finest — piano bars in the Washington region.
 116 S. Alfred Street
 703.838.8000
www.morrisonhouse.com



B JACKSON 20 AT HOTEL MONACO

Named for U.S. President Andrew Jackson and his visage on the \$20 bill, Jackson 20 continues the tradition of its namesake's hospitality on the site of the historic Marshall House Hotel (President Jackson was legendary for his hospitable nature - he was the first U.S. president to invite the public to attend the inaugural ball). Jackson 20 boasts a communal table and recently extended hours of menu service. The pet-friendly Hotel Monaco is home to the famous Doggie Happy Hour.

480 King Street
 703.549.6080
www.monaco-alexandria.com



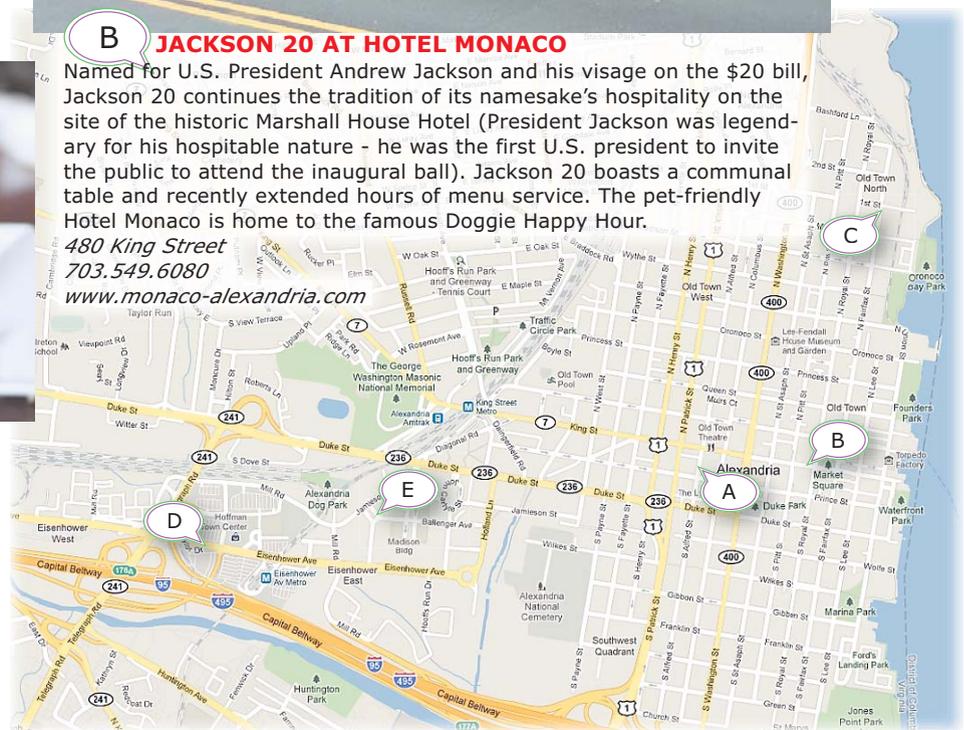
D THE DUKE'S HOLIDAY INN EISENHOWER AVE

Known for its bountiful and family-friendly holiday brunches, The Dukes Restaurant features sizzling breakfast skillet sensations and an unlimited buffet at breakfast and lunch. For dinner, you can enjoy regional specialties and upscale-casual cuisine in an inviting atmosphere.
 2460 Eisenhower Ave.
 703.960.3400
www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/alexandria



C RAILSTOP GASTROPUB — CROWNE PLAZA OLD TOWN

The recently opened Railstop Gastropub, located on the second floor of the hotel, boasts flat screen TVs, a comfortable atmosphere and specialty drinks like "The Caboose." Chef Henry's house-made pork sausage is a must. Daily Happy Hour and dining specials.
 901 N. Fairfax Street
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THEATER

What the Dickens?

MetroStage revives 'A Broadway Christmas Carol.'



Tracey Stephens and Michael Sharp in 'A Broadway Christmas Carol' at MetroStage.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Oh come, all ye faithful fans of musical theater. MetroStage is once again staging the wickedly funny "A Broadway Christmas Carol," an irreverent musical take on the classic novel by Charles Dickens.

"It is absolutely drop-dead funny," said audience member Susan Kellom, who attended the Nov. 20 performance of the show. "My sides hurt from laughing."

A parody of the oft-told Dickens tale, the shameless Broadway spoof follows Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Through the inventive work of creator Kathy Feininger, Scrooge is shown the error of his miserly ways through the songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim.

"I came up with the idea when I was in graduate school," said Feininger, who attended the Nov. 20 show. "I was watching Mr. Magoo's Christmas show and he saw Scrooge's face in a doorknocker. I started singing 'Look at that Face' from 'War of the Grease Paint' and things just took off from there."

Feininger uses Broadway's finest to lampoon the holiday classic, cleverly creating lyrics for more

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than 30 musical numbers. A talented cast of three takes on the multitude of characters with various backgrounds and personalities.

In the central role of Scrooge is Helen Hayes award-winner Michael Sharp, who also acts as director and choreographer. A versatile performer, Sharp brings his strong vocals and expert comedic timing to the vaudevillian musical numbers.

The Man Who Isn't Scrooge is the inimitable Matthew A. Anderson. Anderson tackles the roles of Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's nephew Fred, the Ghost of Christmas Past and even Tiny Tim with uproarious aplomb.

Tracey Stephens is the Woman Who Isn't Scrooge, playing the ghost of Jacob Marley (yes, as his penance he returns as a woman), the Ghost of Christmas Present, Mrs. Cratchit, Scrooge's fiancé and the woman seeking holiday donations for the poor.

The comically gifted Anderson and Stephens tackle the demanding split-second character and costume changes with astonishing ease while Sharp brings tenderness and vulnerability to the villainous Scrooge. All three have voices that soar throughout the challenging score of Broadway melodies.

Central to the acting perfor-



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Michael Sharp as Scrooge in 'A Broadway Christmas Carol' at MetroStage.



Tracey Stephens and Matthew Anderson as Mr. and Mrs. Cratchit.

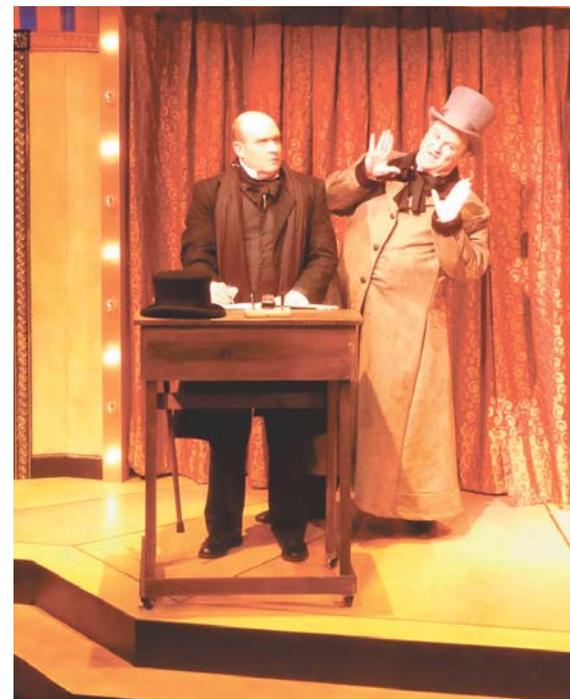
mances is the on-stage musical accompaniment by musical director Elisa Rosman. Rosman, who dons a Phantom of the Opera mask to serve as the Ghost of Christmas Future, sets the mood and atmosphere for each scene with skill and panache.

With dozens of inside jokes aimed at theater buffs, part of the fun of "A Broadway Christmas Carol" is recognizing the songs Feininger has transformed for the show.

"Master of the House" from "Les Miserables" is now "Founder of the Feast," Mrs. Cratchit's ridicule of Scrooge and his meager salary for her husband. "Avenue Q's" "It Sucks to be Me" is hilariously transformed into "It Sucks to be Thee" and "Tomorrow"



Michael Sharp and Tracey Stephens in 'A Broadway Christmas Carol' at MetroStage.



Michael Sharp as Scrooge and Matthew Anderson in 'A Broadway Christmas Carol' at MetroStage.

from "Annie" stops the show when brilliantly performed as "I'm Going to Walk Tomorrow" by Anderson as Tiny Tim.

Other creative reinventions include Scrooge singing "I'm in the Money" ("42nd Street"), Anderson as Bob Cratchit jubilantly dancing to "Once-a-Year Day" ("Pajama Game") and Anderson and Stephens singing "A Real Nice Pudding," to the tune of "Carousel's" "Clambake."

There is no better way to kick off the holiday season than with "A Broadway Christmas Carol." The inside Broadway references are clever enough for the theatre cognoscenti but thoroughly entertaining for anyone looking for a lively alternative to traditional holiday entertainment.

"A Broadway Christmas Carol" is playing now through Dec. 18 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.



THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

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Scottish Walk Parade
A Taste of Scotland
Heather & Greens Sales

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes
Deck the Halls with Santa
A Christmas Marketplace

Parade: Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

For tickets and more information visit
www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com



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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Cost is \$7/group of three. A five-visit pass is \$30. A weekly open playtime and a new craft activity each week. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 24

36th Annual Turkey Trot 5-Miler. 10 a.m. George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Flat, fast, USATF-certified course, starts and ends at George Washington Middle School. Conducted by the DC Road Runners Club. Chip Timing with Chronotrack. Prizes and awards in all age groups. \$5-\$25. www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com.

NOV. 25, 26, 27, DEC. 3, 4, 10, 11

St. Aidan's Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fresh-cut Fraser Fir Christmas trees and wreaths. All proceeds benefit the under-served in our community and day school education. At St. Aidan's, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-4220 or www.staidansepiscope.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 25

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

Alexandria Black Friday Sale and Festivities.

6 a.m. and all day. Free parking at meters and in City-owned garages and parking lots, plus early bird hours and deep discounts at dozens of locally owned stores. Shop as early as 6 a.m. and warm up with a hot beverage and breakfast from some of Old Town's charming cafés. Stay for the City's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. Call 703-746-3301 or visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

Tree Lighting Ceremony.

7 p.m. Free. Entertainment features a visit from Santa, a performance of Santa's Frosty Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, caroling and a community sing along. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3301 or visit www.visitAlexandriaVA.com.

NOV. 25 TO DEC. 18

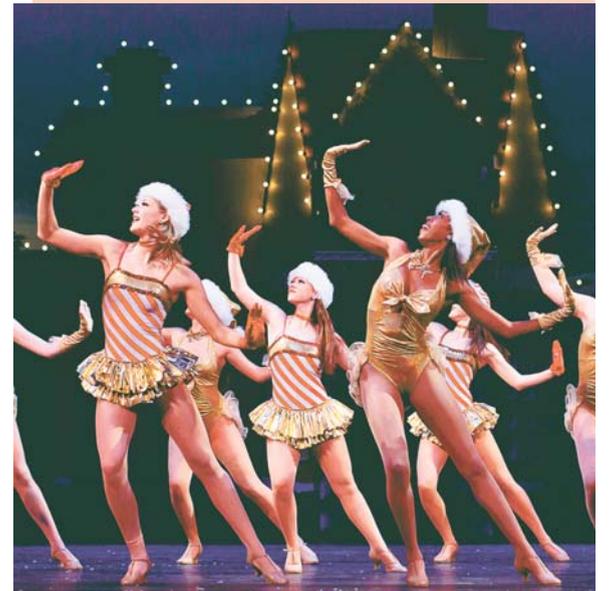
Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5 to 8:30 p.m. recurring weekly on Sunday, Saturday. "Mrs. Washington" hosts an enchanting evening of candlelit tours, fireside Christmas caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. The Mount Vernon by Candlelight tour includes the first and second floors, featuring characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the home and adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Admission: Adults: \$20; Children 11 and under: \$14. Visit www.MountVernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

NOV. 25 TO JAN. 6

Christmas at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. recurring daily. Holiday visitors will enjoy themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread replica of the Mansion created by former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, chocolate making demonstrations, and a rare opportunity to tour the third floor of the Mansion. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for his guests' enjoyment. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin the camel. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Christmas at Mount Vernon admission is included in general admission: \$15/adults; \$7/youth. Call 703-780-2000.

SATURDAY/NOV. 26

Holiday Open House. 4 to 6 p.m. Holiday items and gifts include ornaments, table top trees, angels, scarves, jewelry, books, frames, stationery, bath and body products, books and gifts. At Contessa's Garden & Gift, 1906 Mount Vernon



DEC. 10 TO 18

ETAP Holiday Musical Extravaganza. Santa's Special Delivery is a family-friendly show suitable for all ages, written by Scott Dees and directed by Raynor van der Merwe, featuring the ETAP company members and special guest performers Tina and Dan Delafield. At the Richard J. Ernst Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performances are Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Closing weekend: Friday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 to \$25; visit www.encore-tap.org or 703-222-5511.

Ave., Alexandria.

Wee Ones Storytime.

10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Explore the exciting world around us with some of our favorite stories and songs! For ages 2 and under. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092.

TUESDAY/NOV. 29

Eat Smart, Stay Healthy. 11 a.m. Hollin Hall Senior Center Hosts "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy." With Jolanta Coleman, an avid health and nutrition advocate. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

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

Kirkin' O' The Tartan. 7 p.m. Bagpiper and Scottish Music. 7 p.m. At St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church, 402 E. Monroe Ave., in Alexandria. www.standrewandstmargaret.org or 703-683-3343.

Free Group Vocal Lessons. 7 p.m. The lessons will be conducted by Ozzi Mask, master director of Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International. Held at The Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. To reserve your spot, call 703-764-3896 or visit www.potomacharmony.org.

Author Talk. 7:30 p.m. Free. Willis Gidney will discuss his book, Steal the Show. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705.

THURSDAY/DEC. 1

Hawaiian-Themed Holiday Bash. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Wear your favorite Hawaiian outfit and enjoy refreshments and live music by the Aloha Boys as you shop for one-of-a-kind gifts in studios and galleries. A Holiday Gift Guide will be available for visitors with unique gift ideas from Torpedo Factory artists and galleries for everyone on your list. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565

NOVA Community Chorus. 7:30 p.m. Winter Concert. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, will perform Sergie Rachmaninoff's The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, for mixed chorus a capella. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard Road, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire at mwhitmire@nvcc.edu or 703-845-6097.

Dundee (Scotland) School Concert. 8 p.m. Free. Dundee Schools' Music Theatre and the Lord Provost of Dundee. The performers are part of a 20-member delegation that has traveled from Dundee to participate in the 41st Annual Scottish

ENTERTAINMENT

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Christmas Walk, including the Lord Provost of Dundee. At the Minnie Howard School Auditorium, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria.

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

Del Ray Tree Lighting. 6 p.m. Come out and enjoy the luminaries along Mt. Vernon Avenue; sing holiday carols led by Kate Moran Band; enjoy hot cider or hot chocolate; have a photo taken with Santa. Events are at the Del Ray Farmers Market, corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and East Oxford Ave. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Avenue on Nov. 26 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 2 p.m., to distribute the luminaries along Mt. Vernon Ave., 5 p.m. to light them, and at 10 p.m. to extinguish and pick them up. To help, contact Pat Miller at pmiller1806@comcast.net.

Heather and Greens Sale. 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Shop a selection of Boxwoods, Balsams, Noble Fir, Eucalyptus, Magnolias, ribbons, ornaments and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

ArtFest 2011. 6 to 9 p.m. Open house and holiday party. Check out where the most hands-on classes are taught while enjoying a variety of artist demos, 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic and jewelry sales (held throughout the weekend), live music by Rew Smith Band, food and drinks. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

Christmas Marketplace. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. A collection of unique vendors under one roof, including Haute Papier, Discovery Toys, Silver Star Collection, and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

Taste of Scotland. 7 to 11 p.m. Patron Pub opens at 7 p.m.; General Admission 8 to 11 p.m. A tasting featuring a vast number of scotches to entice each guest. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, ales, and wine also served. Patron tickets \$175/person; \$275/couple; \$100 general admission. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

DEC. 2 AND 3

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hardcover \$3 and paperback \$2. At the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1703.

Christmas Boutique. Heritage Presbyterian Church is hosting a "Made by the Bell" Christmas Boutique on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts are among the items for sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is at 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. Call 703-360-9546.

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Includes a parade through Old Town, holiday festivities, a marketplace, heather and green sales, Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, a scotch tasting — the Taste of Scotland. Patsy Ticer is the Grand Marshall. Sponsored by the Campagna Center, The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and the Scottish Government. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

DEC. 2-4

ArtFest Weekend. Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale; Jewelry Show and Sale; Retrospective show and sale of work by Nancy Reinke, featuring prints, drawings, paintings, rugs. Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 from noon to 5

p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

The Nutcracker. Presented by BalletNova (formerly The Center Dance Company/Arlington Center for Dance). Performances are Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Because of the limited availability of the theater, BalletNova presents a series of "Petite Performances" at both Bishop Ireton High School and the BalletNova Center for Dance Studios. These shorter 45-50-minute mini-

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 22



SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Free. Festivities at 4 p.m.; Boat Parade at 6 p.m. Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront. Festivities begin at the Alexandria City Marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 4 p.m. with live performances and Santa arriving by fireboat at 4:15 p.m. At the Alexandria City Marina, One Cameron St., Alexandria. Visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com; 703-746-3301.

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For more information, please call 703-746-1701 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Sincerely,

Rose Dawson

Rose T. Dawson
Director of Libraries
Secretary of Alexandria Library Foundation

Brooksie Koopman

Brooksie Koopman
Library Board Chair
President of Alexandria Library Foundation

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ENTERTAINMENT

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performances include a narrative of the story, and highlights from Act II - The Kingdom of the Sweets and are especially appropriate for the 3 - 5 year old crowd. To date the schedule is: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. at Bishop Ireton High School; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at BalletNova Center for Dance Studios, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Tickets are \$13 to \$35. Petite Performances are \$5 to \$20. Visit www.BalletNova.org, or call 703-778-3008.

Holiday Market. Free admission. 16th annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers handmade work from 20 local artists and bake sale to benefit Rebuilding Together Alexandria. Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. (reception); Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 4 from noon to 4 p.m. At the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Virginia Grand Military Band. 8 p.m. Adults \$20. Loras John Schissel, music director; Major Allen Crowell, guest conductor; Scott Shelsta, trombone soloist. Performing works by Grainger, Alford, Elgar and Wagner. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-426-4777 or visit www.vgmb.com.

Alexandria Scottish Dancers. 2 p.m. Donation of \$3 requested. A benefit for the Campagna Center with special participation for spectators. At The Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria.

Oldies But Goodies. Cocker Spaniel Dog Adoption Show. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Dogma Bakery, 2445 N. Harrison St., Arlington.

Book Signing Event. 2 to 4 p.m. With author S.E. Simpson who will sign copies of her book, *Ginger & the Bully*. At Grounded Coffee Shop, 6919 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

41st Annual Scottish Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Over 100 Scottish clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, Scottie dog groups, and, Santa will march through the streets of Old Town. Brought to you by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center and the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., with support from the City of Alexandria. The Parade Grand Marshal is the Hon. Patsy Ticer. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

Ornament-Decorating Workshop. 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. On the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #327, in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30/advance; \$35/day of tour. Stroll through seven



Kate Campbell

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Country/Folk Singer Kate Campbell. 7 p.m. With special guest Charles Williams. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. Presented by Focus Music in Mount Vernon. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road in Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

historic properties in Alexandria, which are dressed up for the holidays. Featured properties: 206 Wolfe St.; 716 Wolfe St.; 408 Prince St.; 103 Prince St.; 430 S. St. Asaph St.; 228 S. Pitt St. (St. Paul's); 418 S. Washington St. (The Campagna Center). Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

Heather and Greens Sale. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop a selection of Boxwoods, Balsams, Noble Fir, Eucalyptus, Magnolias, ribbons, ornaments and more. At the Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

Craft and Vendor Fair. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring 30 crafters/vendors. Proceeds benefit the children of Angelus Academy. At St. Lawrence Church Parish Center, 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria.

Virginia Grand Military Band. 8 p.m. A Salute to Ernest S. Williams and Arthur Pryor with special guest conductor Major Allen C. Crowell. Admission is \$20. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-426-4777 or visit www.vgmb.com.

Holiday Children's Book Fair. 1 to 5 p.m. The fair features Usborne Books, publisher of educational books for children, as

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 23

Enjoy festive holiday events at the
Torpedo Factory Art Center,
and don't forget your holiday shopping list!



Holiday Open House
Thursday, Dec. 1st • 6-9pm • Free Annual Bash
Add a little Aloha to your holidays! Wear your favorite Hawaiian outfit and enjoy live music by the Aloha Boys, refreshments, and holiday shopping in studios and galleries.

Artfest 2011 • Dec. 2nd • 6-9pm • Free
The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St.
The Art League kicks off the holiday season with its annual open house and holiday party, featuring live music, demonstrations, libations, and more!

Ornament Decorating Workshop
Saturday, Dec. 3rd • 1-4pm • Free
Families are invited to make a memorable keepsake at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum.

2nd Thursday Art Night: Decadent December
Thursday, Dec. 8th • 6-9pm • Free
Celebrate the season with two holiday staples, chocolate & shopping! The evening will feature holiday shopping, indulgent treats, gallery receptions, a wine tasting, and DIY ornament making.

Holiday Gift Guide: From handmade ornaments and playful scarves to small sculptures and elegant jewelry, there's something for everyone!

Give Back! Donate to our food drive benefitting Carpenter's Shelter and our toy drive benefitting Community Partners for Children.

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Sunday, December 4
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

well as a craft activity area for kids. Shoppers will also have the opportunity to donate a book to the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, dedicated to tutoring Alexandria's kindergarteners and first-graders in literacy skills. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Messiah Sing-Along. 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8/door. With G.F. Handel, Messiah (Part I and Hallelujah Chorus). At Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.fairlingtonumc.org or call 703-671-4057.

Tennis Workshop. 2 to 5:30 p.m. This USTA QuickStart Workshop shows you how to teach tennis to juniors up to 18 years old, with an emphasis on kids 10 and Under tennis. Admission \$5. Learn to coach Kids Tennis. At the Mt. Vernon Athletic Club, 7950 Audubon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Lee Ellis, PlayTimeTennis.org. Call 203-433-2533.

The Milk Carton Kids. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. With Over the Rhine. At The Birchmere in Alexandria.

Women's Art and Shopping Holiday Show. 1 to 5 p.m. More than 30 female artisans will sell their work at the 14th annual Women Artists' Show, sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission. Jewelry, pottery, hand-crafted clothing, scarves, purses, crafts and much more will be available. Proceeds will benefit the Alexandria Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Programs. This is also a collection site for new, unwrapped toys and gift cards for the Battered Women's Shelter Holiday Party. At Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3123 or <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofAlexWomen>

MONDAY/DEC. 5

Christmas Dinner. 6:30 to 9 p.m. The Samuel Cooper Chapter #105 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOS&B) and the R.E. Lee Camp #726, Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), and will hold a Christmas dinner and celebration catered by The Royal Restaurant at the American Legion Post 24 Hall at 400 Cameron Street at S. Royal St. behind Gadsby's Tavern. BYOB, and the cost to attend the dinner is \$25 per person. RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703 299-1725. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria, VA 22314, and must be received by Dec. 2. Payment at the door is \$30/person. Visit www.leecamp.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 6

Evening of J.S. Bach. 7:30 p.m. Free. The National Chamber Players, with guest Kenneth Slowik, will perform Bach's Sonata No. 1 in C Major (BMV 1037), Concerto in C Minor for Two Harpsichords (BMV 1060) and Cantata No. 62, "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" (with the Episcopal High School choirs) in Pendleton Hall at Episcopal High School, 3800 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Before the concert, at 6:30 p.m., there will be an opening reception for the gallery exhibition "Ted Aub: Selected Works." Call 703-933-4135, email vdp@episcopalhighschool.org, or visit www.episcopalhighschool.org/Arts/ncp_ehs

Sisters in Crime. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Alexandria Library sponsors "Sisters in Crime" for an evening with six local mystery writers: Donna Andrews, Ellen Crosby, G.M. Malliet, Katherine Neville, Alan Orloff, and Sandra Parshall. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street. Call 703-746-1702.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

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

Children's Magic Show. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Sponsored by the Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Bring a canned good or toy that will be donated to the Salvation Army's Alexandria Citadel Corps. At the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-960-3400.

Musician Raul Malo. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50. At The Birchmere, 3702 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Holiday Open House. 2 to 4 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with Virginia's premier "Village," Mount Vernon At Home. Meet members and volunteers who help our community residents age in their community. Open to the public, light refreshments will be served. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-303-4060.

"Children's Holiday Magic Show" 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by I.B.M. Ring 50 — featuring four of Washington's finest children's magicians. Free with donation of can of food or toy for local charity. At the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. For details: president@ibmring50.org or call Danny Selnick, call 704-347-5540.

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

Musician Jack Bond. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Part of Second Thursday Music. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

DEC. 9 TO 17

"School House Rock - Live!" Presented by Mount Vernon High School. Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 127 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5/children; \$7/students; \$10/adults. At Mount Vernon Little Theater, located at Entrance 4. The ensemble cast includes Bryan Azucena, Kodie Badolato, Logan Beveridge, Vanessa Blake, Desha Brown, Lizzy Craine, Jerry Halstead, Courtney Kramer, Jonathan Leonard,



Holiday Door Decoration Contest Now Going On

The Old Town Walled Garden Club will be judging holiday decorations in the Alexandria Old and Historic District the week of Dec. 12. Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place winners. Photographs of the winning doors will appear in The Gazette Packet before Christmas. Judging will be based on originality; the use of all-natural materials is strongly preferred. Other factors considered are scale, color, contrast, and visibility. The decorations also have to be done by the homeowners themselves (i.e., no purchased professional arrangements). For additional details, contact Pete Farnham, with the Old Town Walled Garden Club, at pdfarnham@aol.com

Christopher Lisle, Jessica Merkman, David Parces, Aylana Randall, Chris Rohe, and Emily Whitworth. Call Trena Weiss-Null at Mount Vernon High School at 703-619-3100.

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Seasonal Poetry Presentation. 11 a.m. By "Tuesdays at Two" Writing Group. Join Peter Lattu as he leads a presentation by the "Tuesdays at Two" Writing Group at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Holiday Ice Skating Show. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Skaters of all ages will show off their skating skills. At Mount Vernon RECenter's ice arena, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Contact Carl Kirtley at 703-768-3224.

"The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration." 4:30 p.m. Part of Movies with a Mission Series. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Christmas in Camp. Noon to 4 p.m. Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War by attending Fort Ward Museum's "Christmas in Camp" Open House. Meet a patriotic Santa Claus with living history presentations, Victorian decorations, refreshments, tours and crafts. Donation is \$2/adults; \$1/children. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

DEC. 10 AND 11

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. Saturday 6 to 9 p.m.; Sunday 3 to 6 p.m. Admission: \$20 adults/\$15 seniors/\$5 kids. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum by candlelight and enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and light refreshments. Shuttle among the sites included. At 134 North Royal St., Alexandria; call 703-746-4242 or visit www.HistoricAlexandria.org.

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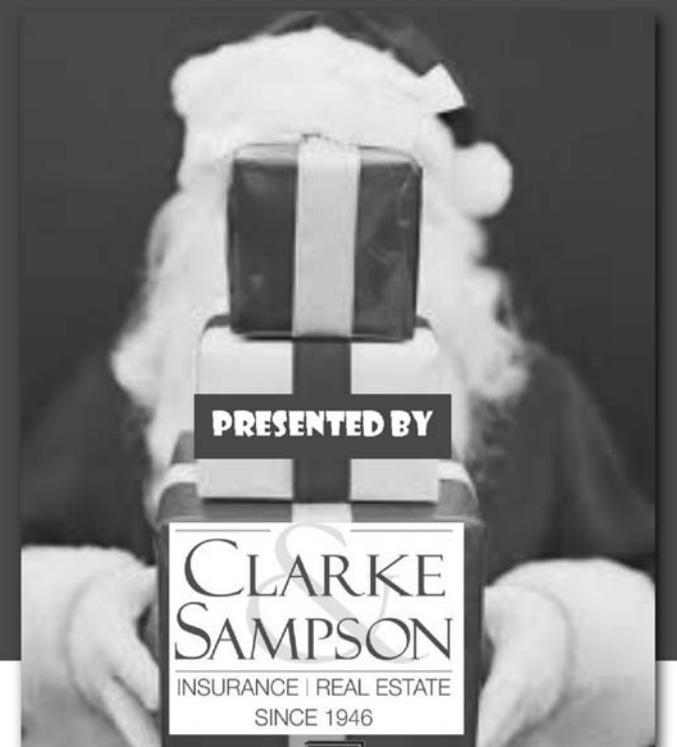
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School Division's Budget Is a Moral Document

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



The Alexandria City School Board and the Alexandria City Council conversation around the Fiscal Year 2013 budget has begun. The City Council has announced its guidance to help frame the creation of a fiscally responsible budget for the city and the school division. Our administration is working diligently the FY2013 budget to present to the School Board for consideration.

In the past three years, ACPS has made

some remarkable accomplishments. We have:

- ❖ reduced class sizes while managing an enrollment increase of 1,900 students;
- ❖ increased the number of counselors;
- ❖ increased the number of math and English teachers;
- ❖ provided raises for teachers; and
- ❖ raised achievement among our students. Even given our successes, we know

we have a great deal of work to do with our limited resources. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress in developing the budget and welcome your input. The budget for the school division is a moral document by which we must lead and serve; therefore it deserves our very best efforts. You can view the presentation made to the City Council at the recent meeting between the Council and School Board members at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/budgets/op2013/briefs/20111108.php>.

I encourage the community to join in our

budget discussions and provide us with your valuable input and feedback. Please look for opportunities to attend or watch School Board meetings and work sessions dedicated to working on the budget. Parents and community members have the opportunity share their views on the budget by registering to speak at a School Board meeting and by written correspondence or email to me or school board members. I also encourage you to comment on the FY 2013 budget on the Superintendent's Blog at <http://www.acpsk12.org/superintendent/>. Please be apart of the conversation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

preserving their chain-link fences. But, chain-link fences have negative connotations, economically speaking, and the desires of homeowners have evolved far beyond housing that is merely functional.

The Board recognizes the tension, and it's been studying the issues to find solutions that adhere to the requirements but also respect their spirit. Hence, those 9-page staff reports everyone's heard about, as well as the lengthy discussions at BAR hearings that everyone hasn't. This reasoned approach has paid dividends. To our knowledge, other than one early decision based on relatively unique facts, the Board has never required preservation of chain-link fences and instead has helped homeowners find character-preserving alternatives that lack the economic baggage. The approval process enables the Board to craft those solutions — hence, its concern about homeowners ignoring the process.

To reduce the tension, the BAR has held two meetings with the affected civic associations and it's assembling a work group to determine whether and if so, how, to further relax the technical standards for the mid-20th century vernacular buildings and possibly others. We hope that you'll contribute to those efforts.

Bill Conkey AIA,
Chairman of the Parker-Gray BAR
Philip Moffat, Member
of the Parker-Gray BAR

Trolley Nonsense

To the Editor:

Michael Lee Pope's article warning us about the Arlington-Fairfax streetcar scheme neglected one item of data which would show how nonsensical the notion is: their streetcar, running mainly in mixed traffic, would take 36 minutes to cover its approximately six-mile route. Metrorail would take about 8 minutes to cover this distance.

Travelers would go from Alexandria's rapid bus in dedicated lanes to slow-pokey trolley in mixed traffic. A real solution requires starting to set aside money now for a new Metrorail line between the Blue and Orange lines as was originally planned, with an already-built "bump-out" tunnel at Pentagon City.

Dino Drudi, Alexandria

Correct Deadline?

To the Editor:

In your edition of Nov. 16, you printed a letter from Boyd Walker regarding the old American Legion building at 224 N. Fayette Street which claimed that the building must find a buyer by January or it will be demolished by its current owner.

Sources knowledgeable about Mr. Walker's lawsuit regarding the Legion have informed me and others in our community that the two-year countdown before the building can be demolished starts March 1, 2011, making the deadline for a sale March 2013 instead of January 2012.

Mr. Walker should either expand on why he stated the deadline is January or, if unable to do so, explain why he is careless with facts that he should be intimately familiar with.

Leslie Zupan, President
West Old Town Citizens Association

Take a Step Back

To the Editor:

In case you are not already aware, the City's waterfront plan is dead. This is obvious because of the following:

❖ Over 2/3 of Alexandria residents who responded to a recent pole were opposed to it.

❖ It does not include the GenOn site which any waterfront plan that guides development decisions for the next generation needs to.

❖ Fitzgerald Square which was the heart and soul of the Plan at the base of King Street is gone.

❖ Proposed flood mitigation solutions that incorporate higher elevation berms and walkways that block views and access to the Potomac was ill received by all — so the plan does not include an acceptable effective flood mitigation strategy. It is a plan without a plan.

❖ The piers which were a distinguishing feature in the original plan have been greatly reduced and those that remain if ever approved will face a long and arduous permitting process.

❖ Traffic and Parking within Old Town was not studied and the impact of the development on traffic and parking is not known and adequate solutions to the im-

pact are not addressed. Again a plan without a plan.

❖ Transportation solutions on how buses, trolleys and other modes of transportation might bring visitors to the waterfront, and how to accommodate these have not been developed. BRAC should send shivers down the spine of anyone proposing another plan that does not address traffic, parking and overall transportation — especially a plan that proposes adding 440,000 sq. ft. of new development to three blocks. And again, it is a plan without a plan.

❖ It does not provide any additional protection from poor development decision because all the review tools such as Special Use Permits and the Board of Architectural Review already exist under current zoning — that provides for less overall density.

❖ The current plan does not recognize the public's interest in West Point Park at the site of Robinson Terminal North. This is an exciting opportunity that would link Founders Park with Oronoco Park and truly create one aspect of the waterfront that approaches world class.

❖ The current plan totally misses the point of preserving the character and scale of Old Town.

The current plan has no vision and no longer has a soul and without a soul the plan is dead. Whether or not a few influential City and business leaders admit that fact, the only real question we need to grapple with is where do we go from here.

Recently dialogue has begun between the City and the Citizens for an Alternative Alexandria Waterfront Plan, and some hope that the City may incorporate some of CAAWPs ideas in the current plan. I fully support any dialogue between the City and any citizen group; however, adding a few good ideas cannot and will not revive a plan that is beyond resuscitation. Adding a little tenderloin, sage and garlic to offal and you still end up with sausage, and sausage making is not the public process we desperately need.

The City needs to take a step back, relook at the initial assumptions and invite the community back to assist in developing a vision we can all be proud of. This is not starting over. There has been extensive research and work already completed; and the shortcomings of the current plan have been identified. Community dialogue and inter-

action has been intense over the last six months, and although public input was initially dismissed, there now appears to be an effort on the City's part to listen to and have dialogue with constituent groups. We can take a step back, invite all stakeholders including landowners, developers and design professionals as well as the City and especially its taxpaying, voting residents to come to a public table to aspire to a greater vision and create a plan with a soul. As expressed by several people at a recent Waterfront Work Group meeting there is no reason to race toward a December or January deadline; why we can't take a fresh look and put a plan together that a majority of Alexandrians support and have council pass it prior to the 2012 elections. The citizens win, the Council wins, and the greater region and nation wins if we can all embrace and pass a great plan that has broad community support and preserves the character of historic Alexandria forever and for all.

Joe Demshar
Alexandria

Not Constructive

To the Editor:

As vice chairman of the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholders' Group ("BCSG") I was intrigued to read Annabelle Fisher's latest critique in last week's paper. It was quite a condemnation of a process in which she has been an active participant from the outset. I respond only to offer a counter-balancing perspective for the benefit of those readers who may not be terribly familiar with the BCSG.

Ms. Fisher is certainly welcome to criticize the leadership to whatever extent she chooses. That said, I would note that, at an early organizational meeting of the BCSG, she assumed leadership of the group. Subsequently the Group chose a different chair and a vice chair. Both individuals were well known to Ms. Fisher and she had ample opportunity to explain to the membership the error of their choices.

Those familiar with Ms. Fisher know that she is not reluctant to assert her opinions and certainly tends to get her fair share of "floor time", whatever the meeting. To the extent she determined the BCSG had

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25

OPINION

Every Spy a Patriot, And in Alexandria

BY HARRY COVERT

It's no secret that Alexandria has one of the largest populations of taxpayers who are either retired or active spies. Many have played extraordinary roles and distinguished themselves in defending America and its allies.

These folks have had a lifetime of working behind the scenes, out of the glare of public recognition. That's part of the game and they keep their oath not to talk out of school. Only as the years pass do details leak. Usually friends and neighbors are surprised and amazed at what can be described as derring-do among those with whom they've lived, shopped and raised families.

The afternoon came when my office telephone rang. The voice on the other end was forceful and direct.

"What do you know about a sheriff's association in Texas?"

"Pardon me?" I said.

"I always get these letters asking for money and I like to know about them before I give any money," she interrupted. "I live in Old Town and thought you'd know."

OK, another crank on the phone or somebody who just wants to talk. I tried to explain that I was partial to the Alexandria Sheriff's Association and the National



Sheriff's Association. "Well, I know about some of this stuff."

I was trying to humor her along and not to appear unconcerned.

"With a name like yours you ought to

know something."

We chuckled.

I asked how she knew so much about sheriffs and police. We were off to the races and talked for over an hour. The then 85-year-old Anne Mary Ingraham of Royal Street, Alexandria, explained she was born and raised in Scotland. At the beginning of WWII, she worked for an aircraft company. In 1942, she joined the motor pool of Services of Supply (SOS) driving all vehicles including a half-track and was assigned a 2-and-a-half ton truck.

In October, 1944 she was recruited by the London-based Office of Special Services (OSS) and became a driver for General William Donovan, founder of the OSS, forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). She was later assigned to the OSS in Washington.

As Mrs. Ingraham took control of our conversation, I "googled" the OSS Society. She gave me the full and accurate details.

She invited me to come by for a visit and talk about her days. I suggested she'd be a



Anne Mary Ingraham

great subject for a newspaper story or broadcast interview. "No, we did what we had to do and there were lots of people who did their duty." She had been and was then a senior vice president of the McLean-based OSS Society. She had been a 30-year resident of Alexandria and was an active life member of the city's American Legion Post 24. One of her favorite activities was representing the OSS and Post 24 in Alexandria's yearly President's Day parade.

Ms. Ingraham, a horsewoman, was also an active member of Alexandria's St. Mary's Catholic Church and the mother of one daughter, five grandchildren and eight grandchildren. I never dropped by her house for a visit much to my regret. She died at her home at age 88 on Dec. 12, 2009. She was a treasure trove and one of the unexpected callers who make life exciting and right at home.

minutes of the monthly BCSG meetings clearly attest. To the extent this Group has become "an awful mess," one might ask why Ms. Fisher and others did not intervene to change the direction. Writing the media at the 11th hour is hardly a constructive approach.

Donald N. Buch
Alexandria

Cycle to the Bottom

To the Editor:

Saturday mid-afternoon, someone's pounding on the front door, not the polite, hesitant taps of a would-be vendor soliciting for a noble cause, canvassing the neighborhood for a political campaign or even selling firewood, but authoritative knocking, the kind you have to respond to. It's a member of the Alexandria Parking Police, "sir, we have an anonymous complaint by a cyclist that the way your car is parked infringes on the North Union Street bicycle route." Looking at the supposed transgression with the officer, we come quickly to similar conclusions. The car is parked perpendicular to the townhouse and the street in a legal driveway belonging to the homeowner being questioned, the car does not encroach upon the brick-laid sidewalk for which the Alexandria Police Department issues tickets and fines so that sidewalk access is unencumbered, and even this small sports vehicle cannot fit on the small space allotted between sidewalk and bike path.

Welcome to the combat zone of North

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

Driving Miss Geneva

BY KATHARINE DIXON MEDINA,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Seventy-eight year old Geneva* was born and raised in Alexandria, and my, how things have changed. In the 1930s and '40s,



her family had chickens and goats in their back yard — now a days, fowl and livestock are against city code. "Downtown" Old Town began at King and Washington, and trains used to run down South Henry — so hard that house windows would break every now and then from the power of the train cars hitching together. Now she hardly recognizes the old King Street

as it has greatly expanded and so many new stores and restaurants have opened. Geneva even remembers a Chevrolet dealership on the corner of King and Henry, now home to HDR Architecture.

Not that Geneva ever visited the car dealership — she didn't drive as a young adult. Though she traveled to various jobs, cleaning homes and waitressing at Charcoal House and Blue Marlin, her father drove her everywhere. And when she started working at Sears in the Landmark Mall in 1965, he drove her there, too. When her father passed away and Geneva inherited his automobile she finally had to learn to drive.

Geneva drove herself to Sears, from which she retired in 2004. She remembers that it once was an outdoor mall, then it became an indoor mall, and now there are plans to convert it to an outdoor mall again. She recalls too many businesses to count that existed in Alexandria and have now either been torn down or moved. And though Alexandria has changed a lot for Geneva, she still loves living here. Her sister, children and many grandchildren live in the area and everyone congregates at her Del Ray home for the holidays ... a home that is helped maintained by Rebuilding Together volunteers.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is an award winning, non-profit organization dedicated to repairing and revitalizing homes at no charge for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans and families. To date, in-kind donations of labor and materials have resulted in \$5.5 million worth of value on more than 1,400 properties. If you'd like to volunteer or donate, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

* It is Rebuilding Together Alexandria's policy to not disclose full names.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 24

"turned into a dysfunctional family process that has been all over the map" she again had every opportunity to help the Group see the light and to attempt to lead them on a better path.

Yes, there have been differences of opinion — hardly a surprise in 2011 in the City of Alexandria. In response, the Group agreed that, where there were significant differences of opinion on major issues, we would list the agreed options to be recorded as such when forwarding the group's recommendations (about the updating of the Small Area Plan for the area) to the City. We have taken very few votes as most participants agreed that for a group of (typically) 40-50 attendees to take a vote and suggest to anyone that it was a valid representation of the view of the +/-70,000 people in "West Alexandria" seemed rather presumptuous. Contrary to Ms. Fisher's insinuation, the question of how and when the recommendations would be forwarded to the City was discussed on several occasions with no suggestion or proposal that doing so necessitated a vote, nor was there any notable objection to the manner in which the conveyance was handled.

Ms. Fisher's contention that "citizen input ... has not been listened to by the elected leadership" is not borne out by the record, as supported by extensive minutes, all of which can be found on the BCSG's website: <https://sites.google.com/site/bcsgalex/>. In fact, as Ms. Fisher well knows, each and every one of the written comments relating to the recommendations and made

by any member of the Group was compiled and forwarded, verbatim, to the City with the clear understanding all will be made available to the Planning Commission and City Council in advance of any votes they may ultimately take on the Small Area Plan. Numerous members of City government have attended most, if not all, meetings of the BCSG and are hardly in the dark with respect to community perspectives.

I would agree that there are clearly "important issues related to transportation that need further discussion with TES." That is precisely why it is (was) a central focus of the Nov. 21 meeting hosted by the City's Planning & Zoning and Transportation & Environmental Services departments. The subject is a complex one involving many different entities; solutions will logically take time to develop and implement.

For more than a year we (as a group) have been attempting to understand all of the components of a successful Small Area Plan and educate ourselves to a point where we can make meaningful contributions. On numerous occasions we have asked City staff, developer representatives and third parties to help us understand various issues. To those who now find themselves "without having enough information to form an informative draft plan" one can only ask why they have not pursued their specific concerns before now. Perhaps they are the same people who complained about the BCSG having "too many meetings"? Sometimes you just can't win.

As for the assertion that "all of this should have started a year ago" — it did, as the

LETTERS

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot from Oct. 13 to Nov. 21, 2011 to elect the President Elect, Treasurer, five seats on the Board of Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 4, 2012. Information about proxy ballots is available at www.asco.org. Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for casting at a meeting held on Nov. 30, 2011, 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22318. Members with questions can email ASCOelection@asco.org or call 571-483-1316.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No J031119-06-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
JAYDEN WARD

The object of this suit is to:
Terminate the residual parental rights and responsibilities of Adrian D. Williams, putative father to Jayden Ward, born on 11/19/2010 to mother Sophie Ward, and to authorize the placement of the child for adoption.
It is ordered that the defendant Adrian D. Williams (father), appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/11/2012 at 2:00pm

ALEXANDRIA
Gazette Packet CLASSIFIED

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THE CONNECTION
to your community

FROM PAGE 25

Union Street where the tension is daily, palpable, depressing, and geographically discriminatory. Something's got to give which is why when the Alexandria City Council and Planning Commission — (staffed with people who don't live here and governed by would-be local developers who also don't live in our streets but who are so well versed in putting profits before people and planet that it's now second nature to Council and Commission proceedings) — tell us that we're going to love the full Monty commercial development plans they are ramming down our throats, we organize.

In this city divided against itself by the development ambitions of a special interest few against the resident many, this weekend's anonymous phone call to the parking police is almost a respite. What usually happens when unloading our groceries, or trying to back out of our garages and driveways to get to work or run an errand is that even going zero plus one miles an hour we have to jam on our brakes, crouch down in anticipated shock, and then endure the raised middle fingers, and salty "gangsta" insults shouted in full voice by skin-tight, racing uniformed, helmeted bi-Nazis with competition logos on their jerseys conducting random biker fly-bys. Clearly these Union Street racers believe this street belongs to them, do not stop at any intersections, and may or may not even live in Alexandria like most of our planning commission staff. Old Town residential lifestyles, home ownership rights, weekend relaxation needs, and attempted peaceful access to our common municipal waterfront are tossed aside as inferior collateral damage in the rush to realize the personal and professional self-interests of those who get to benefit but who don't have to live with the consequences.

The police do respond eventually, you can see them parked alongside the Robinson North terminal on Pendleton, waiting for one of the bi-Nazis to terrorize the neighborhood. Usually, it's not during weekend or holiday prime cycling time because, let's face it, catching bicycle thugs is not what real crime fighters sign up for. But since we don't have street cameras and license plates on registered bicycles, and we certainly don't have any policy tools to enforce normal, civic decorum or even hold a citywide referendum on flagrant commercial development conflicts of interest — the North Union Street confrontation beat goes on and on. We attempt to live with the rhythm of constant congestion, endless streams of monster delivery trucks from way early to way late each day, rats pouring out of local restaurant back alleyways, tour buses sometimes six to eight at a time idling in front of our doorsteps, crowds of people that we welcome but who often don't clean up after themselves, no parking anywhere except for those who get here early and stay late or who decide to park in our driveways which happens at least two or three times per weekend and often when we've finally commuted home after a long work day and are about to try and drive into our garage or parking space and then can't.

If only Alexandria's unbroken track record of neo-colonial/post-modern sprawl cum hideous architecture on or near the waterfront was the only problem residents here face. If only we just had to deal with normal brownfield to greenfield remediation of the Gen-On power plant before any commercial

"repurposing" is attempted by developers like "American Clean Skies", or brownfield to greenfield remediation of the two Robinson Terminal sites and surrounding areas where in-ground industrial contaminants have co-existed with residents and inflicted uncompensated health taxes on citizens for far too many years. But we are not so lucky. Instead of the Baghdad "green zone" we have back-handed, back room, back-stabbing taxation without representation, waterfront rezoning manipulation, and other crimes against our home front humanity such as seasonal flooding that menaces us all for which past developer-city cabals promised permanent but never delivered solutions. The author, Michael Lewis, informed us in his seminal book on Wall Street, "Liars Poker," that the worst insult to call anyone was "client." That's about where we are with the status of "tax-paying, voting resident" in Mayor Euille's up-for-sale historic Alexandria even before pompous, passive aggressive bicycle-mannequins call us out.

Michael A. Peck

Alexandria who owns a bicycle and likes to peddle peacefully and lawfully.

Analyzing CAAWP Plan

To the Editor:

I have spent some time going through the CAAWP plan. After thinking of several ways of reacting to it, I settled on one approach. When all is said and done, it is what you physically put in place that really shows what you want. I therefore went through the report and listed where an actual physical thing was placed.

The report is over 200 pages long. A lot of it discusses history. I appreciated that and learned some things. Quite a bit more criticizes the City's plan. There is a lot on how to do a plan, and a section on what other cities did, good or bad. But I was looking for statements on what should be on the waterfront. Here is what I got.

- ❖ Where Carr Hospitality plans a 120-room hotel, could be townhomes (15 units), or a multifamily residential building (40 units). (p. 76).

- ❖ Close Prince Street east of the Strand and create a cobblestone and grass park, with a fountain as a centerpiece. A small subtle commemorative plaque, with a quote from Henry George could be incorporated here. Cobblestone paving should be continued from this park up Prince Street, across Union Street to the 100 block of Prince Street where cobblestone paving currently exists. The several historic warehouse buildings on the northern edge of the Cummings/Turner block should be retained. (p. 128)

- ❖ Keep all historic buildings on the north end of Cummings/Turner in place. Maintain current retail and restaurant uses and provide residential loft uses above the street. (p. 129)

- ❖ Save the Beachcomber building if possible. (p. 129)

- ❖ At Robinson Terminal North, create a park and close the portion of Oronoco Street east of Union Street. Propose a cultural center here. Propose retaining a portion of the Terminal to the west of Union Street and adding a performance shell facing east to the newly created park. The rail tracks in the park could be maintained, and the concrete surface of the current dock could be paved with more appropriate

wood decking. (p. 131)

- ❖ Increase parkland by over 10 acres. (p. 133)

- ❖ The site at 210 Strand could be used for boatbuilding again, or as a relocation site for Old Dominion Boat Club. (p. 134)

- ❖ 226 Strand deserves additional research to determine its fate. (p. 134)

- ❖ No. 2 Duke Street be preserved and could be used in a variety of ways, which might include a small history museum or other cultural venue. This space might have an open park in front of it, or even an alley between the warehouse and the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. It would also be an ideal location for the Alexandria Archeology Museum. (p. 134)

- ❖ Historical museum at the end of Oronoco Street. (p. 136, 137)

- ❖ A waterfront museum, possibly located at Robinson Terminal North. (p. 138)

- ❖ The warehouse to the west of Union Street (RTN) could be adaptively reused. The south face could be a museum entrance. The deepwater docks could house tall ships, part of a maritime exhibit. Turn the foot of Oronoco and the block of Union Street between the two current Robinson Terminal's into public space (park). Ideal space for a band shell. (p. 139)

- ❖ Increase the number of docks and their facilities thru a special fund for water services. (Note, not sure what is being proposed here). (p. 144)

- ❖ A small museum on the waterfront. 9,000 sq. ft, 4,500 sq. ft. exhibition space. (Note, does not indicate location). (p. 157)

- ❖ A 60-room boutique hotel at one site (Cummings/Turner?) A 10,000 sq. ft. museum. 50,000 sq. ft. of restaurant space. 36,000 sq. ft. of retail space. (p. 158)

- ❖ Envision two thirds of the land (I assume the three properties, RTN, RTS, Cummings/Turner) dedicated to parks and civic uses, remaining one third dedicated to private development. (p. 159)

- ❖ The 160-slip marina off Robinson Terminal South is not acceptable. (p. 170)

- ❖ City to purchase RTN, convert to park and outdoor performing arts pavilion. City to purchase RTS and convert to park, possibly housing of maritime museum and the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. (p. 172)

Let's summarize. Looking at the three sites, RTN, RTS, and Cummings Turner, where 99 percent of what is proposed here sits. First, the CAAWP plan proposes all are purchased by the city and converted to parks, with the following exceptions. At RTN, either a performance shell (west of Union) overlooking the park, or a museum either located west of Union, or east of Union, and/or a maritime exhibit and tall ship. At Robinson Terminal South, convert to park and possible housing of a maritime museum and the Seaport Foundation. At Cummings/Turner, park, retention of historic buildings, museum, 60-room hotel, possibly townhomes or residential units. Conversion of Duke Street east of the Strand to cobblestone and park. Take out proposed marina, and allow for increased number of docks (again, not sure where). Once the overlapping suggestions are cleaned up, we can have a better idea of just what CAAWP wants to locate where. There are other areas of the plan that need looking at also. Certainly the financing plans proposed deserve analysis. Looking at the other waterfront communities and their plans deserve a look also.

Dennis Auld, Alexandria

TC Enters Season Short on Rebounders, Experience

Titans coach King has big expectations for Kerman, Huggins.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams boys basketball program returned to its winning ways during the 2010-11 season, capturing Patriot District and Northern Region championships on its way to a state semifinal appearance.

The Titans' success came one year after a 2009-10 campaign that involved T.C. Williams forfeiting victories due to the use of ineligible players and eventually failing to qualify for regionals. The Titans responded to the challenge of returning to title-contender status by winning a pair of championship banners. Finding a way to remain successful after the loss of eight seniors — six of whom were 6 feet 4 or taller — will also be a difficult task.

"We're undersized," senior T.J. Huggins said. "We've got to play a lot harder because we had more talent last year."

Rebounding is a concern for TC after losing so many experienced big men. The Titans have five players on this year's roster listed at 6 feet 4 or taller, none of whom were full-time starters last season. Two of those five are listed as small forwards, not a position typically associated with big rebound totals.

Head coach Julian King said every Titan has to help pick up the rebounding slack, even if it means grabbing four or five per contest. King said it would be "irresponsible" to depend on athletes who might be playing out of position — who aren't true power forwards or centers — for nightly double-digit rebounding efforts.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bishop Ireton Seniors Sign To Play College Lacrosse

Bishop Ireton seniors Margaret Nealon, Eva Irwin and Gabby Barowski each signed letters of intent on Nov. 16 to play college lacrosse.

Nealon will attend the University of Vermont, where she will play in the America East Conference. Nealon was a second-team all-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference midfielder and an academic All-American in 2011. Irwin will play at Monmouth University, which is located in West Long Branch, N.J. Irwin was a second-team all-WCAC midfielder in 2011, but was recruited as a defender. Her sister, Madeleine, plays Division I lacrosse for UMBC.

Barowski, also a second-team all-WCAC selection in 2011, will play for Florida



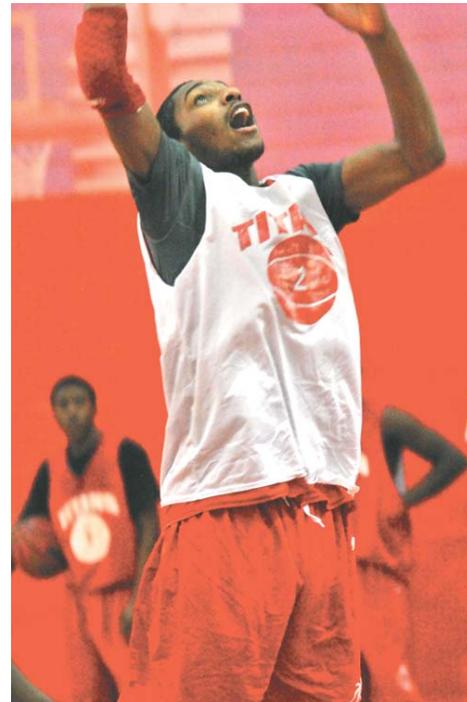
T.C. Williams senior point guard Daquan Kerman is the Titans' only returning full-time starter.

"The entire team is going to have to put it on themselves that we all have to rebound," King said. "If we don't rebound as a team, we're not going to have a chance to be successful. If every one doesn't get another level of toughness, meaning rebounding and getting 50-50 balls, loose balls, we will not have the season we had last year."

Senior shooting guard Jordan Byrd (6'1") said overcoming a lack of size involves an aggressive attitude.

"[We need to] focus, have heart and have that killer instinct that no one on the court can beat us," he said. "We're undersized, but we'll get the job done."

Senior point guard Daquan Kerman



T.C. Williams head coach Julian King said 6-foot-6 senior T.J. Huggins should be "flirting with a triple-double every night."

(5'10") is the Titans' lone returning full-time starter. King said Kerman, who enters his third season as a varsity starter, will be relied upon heavily in many facets of the game.

"He's going to bear the brunt of the load, just being another coach on the floor," King said. "We don't have other senior guards out there for him to rely on. He's the guy now. Before he was the guy who made us go, but now he not only has to make us go, but he's going to have score, probably play the other team's best guard. He has to be a tremendous player this year for us to have a chance — not to win, to have a chance."

Big things are expected from Huggins, a 6-foot-6 small forward. Huggins, Byrd and

6-foot-5 junior small forward Landon Moss were each part-time starters last season.

"[Huggins] should be flirting with a triple-double every night," King said. "There's no reason [for it not to happen]. He should be flirting with a triple-double [and] he should be one of the best defenders in the area. He has good length, good athleticism and I need him to use his instincts a little more and be a little more active. He has my green light to just play."

Sophomore guard/forward Mert Ozkaynak (6'3") was on the varsity as a freshman and will have a bigger role this season. Ozkaynak said it feels good to have more playing time and he wants to continue working on his game.

"He's going to have to grow up fast," King said. "He's going to go from playing spot minutes last year to playing major minutes this year, possibly even being a starter."

Juniors Dealo Robertson (6'1" guard/forward), Andre Suggs (6'1" guard), Javon Wilson (6'3" guard/forward) and Torrey Johnson (6'1" forward), sophomore Malik Carney (6'4" forward) and freshmen Malik Smith (5'6" point guard) and Jamison Clarke (6'4" forward) will compete for playing time.

TC will scrimmage at Good Counsel (Olney, Md.) at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26 and will open the regular season at home against Wakefield in the Parker-Gray game at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. The Titans will open Patriot District competition on the road against South County on Dec. 10.

TC will travel to Virginia Wesleyan University to face Oscar Smith on Jan. 7 and will play Sidwell Friends at American University on Jan. 16. The Titans will travel to Charlottesville on Feb. 3-4 to face Fredericksburg Academy and Kinston (North Carolina) at the University of Virginia.

TC will host Riverdale Baptist on Jan. 14 and Montrose Christian on Jan. 21.



Bishop Ireton seniors Margaret Nealon, Eva Irwin and Gabby Barowski sign their letters of intent to play college lacrosse.

Southern University in Lakeland, Fla. The Moccasins will compete in their inaugural season in 2012. "I am very proud of Gabby, Eva and Margaret," Bishop Ireton head coach Rick Sofield said in a press release. "They are three talented players who have

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 28



The U14 ASA Dolphins competed in the Suburban Friendship League tournament on Nov. 12-13 and finished their season 7-0-3. From left are: (front) Sarah Griswold, (first row) Ashleigh Cameron, Camilla Villas Boas, Calla Zane, Erin Paige, Haley Shea, Kaelyn Hoque, Alexis Browand, (second row) Claire Vermillion, Anna Pusey, Zoe Gage, Josie Brocato, Sarah Scroggs, Asha Zane and Isabel Shaw. Vermillion, Pusey, Gage, Brocato, Griswold, Scroggs and Browand have played together on the ASA Dolphins since they were 5.

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 27

earned an opportunity to compete at the next level. Margaret is a shifty midfielder who was elected a preseason captain for Bishop Ireton and has helped lead our offseason conditioning program — the University of Vermont will be lucky to have her enthusiasm and dedication. Eva is a multi-faceted player who can both score and defend — her skills will be put to good use at Monmouth University. Gabby is an exceptionally athletic defender — Florida Southern will be able to build their defense around her. These three women are the latest proof that the Bishop Ireton girls lacrosse program consistently produces quality student-athletes whose academic and athletic efforts are rewarded with the chance to compete at the highest levels both on the field and in the classroom. We look forward to seeing more great things form them.”

Titans Youth Teams Win Championships

The Alexandria Titans Youth Football Program, a program that is run through the Alexandria De-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Alexandria Titans of the Fairfax County Youth Football League's 75 National 2 Division beat the Lee-Franconia Wolverines 19-13 on Nov. 12 at T.C. Williams High School to win their second straight league title.

partment of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Sports Section, won three Fairfax County Youth Football League championships and had one team lose in the championship game on Saturday, Nov. 12 at T.C. Williams High School. The Titan program participates in the Fairfax County Youth Football League along with 25 other clubs, 360 teams and more than 6,500 participants from the Northern Virginia area including Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County and Alexandria. The Titans had five of their 10 teams make the playoffs this season, with four of them reaching the FCYFL finals.

The Titans from the 75 National 1 Division defeated the Gainesville

Grizzlies 41-6 to finish with a 9-0 record and capture their second consecutive league title. The Titans are coached by Wonnell Wesley.

The Titans of the 75 National 2 Division beat the Lee-Franconia Wolverines 19-13. The Titans, coached by Dave Curtis, finished 7-2 and won their second straight league championship.

The Titans of the 85 National 3 Division beat the Ft. Belvoir Bulldogs 19-6 and finished the season 8-0. The Titans are coached by Moses Alford.

The Titans off the 75 American 1 Division lost to the Gainesville Grizzlies 14-6 and finished with a 7-2 record under head coach Carlton Wilhoit.

The ODBC Select Crew team closed out the fall 2011 season at the Head of the Occoquan Regatta on Nov. 6 by winning medals in three out of four races it entered. Pictured here is the men's junior 4, which earned fifth-place honors out of 21 boats.



ODBC Fall Crew Ends Season

The Old Dominion Boat Club Select Crew team wrapped up its 2011 fall rowing season on Nov. 15 with a recognition dinner at the Old Dominion Boat Club in Old Town. Athletes were treated to a BBQ dinner, a celebratory cake, and presented with pins to recognize them for their efforts this fall.

The rowers, coxswains, coaches and parents in attendance were also treated to a history of rowing in Alexandria by ODBC Rowing Committee Chairman Jim Dooley, who rowed for the George Washington High School team in the 1960s and told the young athletes about rowing out of the establishment where they were dining (ODBC used to be the home of rowing in Alexandria before the

construction of the Dee Campbell Rowing Center in 1986).

The recognition dinner followed up on ODBC's last race of the season, the Head of the Occoquan Regatta, which was held on Nov. 6 and saw ODBC turn in its best performance of the season, winning medals in three out of the four races in which they were entered.

The 2011 ODBC Select Fall Men's Crew team included: Mark Comey, Henry Walch, Madison Weitekamp, Greg Montenegro, Chris Porter, Chris Dobson, Dru Hodgens, Chris Kidd, Sam Zickar, Sam Hanoura and Emily Kubik. The Women's Fall Crew team included: Lauren Soriente, Alexandra Lemke, Nadia Magallon, Allyson Embloom, Kate Banchoff, Katie Pickup, Gabby Salcedo, Kelin Baldrige, Chloe Reynolds, Paige Mellerio, Kalie Benjamin, Emily Breeding, Kate Arnold and Maddy Stone.

Men's coach Meredith Mariani and women's coaches Stephanie Patton and Lori Criado guided the Select Crew team this fall.

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28 ❖ ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ NOVEMBER 24-30, 2011

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LIVING LEGENDS

Stewart Dunn

FROM PAGE 9

tion to both microscopic detail and the global goals of our planning process, treating applicants, the public, staff and fellow commissioners with the tactfulness of a senior diplomat, but with an iron will to do the right thing for the City."

Being asked if he regretted any decision he had made on the Planning Commission led to discussion among others of the Patent and Trademark Office project. Stew voted against it because he feared that, in the evening, it would lead to a dead zone in Carlyle. Ironically, it will be an active hub on the evening of March 17 when it is the site of the Meet the Legends Reception at which Alexandria will be introduced officially to these outstanding citizens.

Stew has had a lifelong fascination with history. He even had an opportunity to participate in making history. He was an usher at the Inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. Given this interest in history, it was only natural that he would be attracted to Alexandria's historic side. He has been a trustee of the Historic Alexandria Foundation for 20 years. He has said, "We are the stewards of these historic buildings and it is our duty to preserve them. Alexandria is a truly fine city with a wonderful spirit that moves ahead while respecting the past."

It is not surprising that Stew balances his busy civic and professional activities with reading history-themed books in his spare time. His most recent indulgence was a biography of Ulysses S. Grant. He does not watch much television, although he makes an exception for Redskin games.

Stew's wife, Loti Dunn, is a very active volunteer for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and in recognition of her dedication to the mission of the Fund, Stew has established in perpetuity four annual scholarships for TC graduates.

Of all the activities in which Stew participates, the one to which he is the most dedicated and which he regards as the most important is his service as a board member and policy maker for the area American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). He regards the ACLU as the most conservative organization in the country, in part, because it is dedicated to the protection of the Constitution. Prior to the founding of the ACLU, the Supreme Court had never declared any Federal or state law to be in violation of the Bill of Rights (i.e. the first 10 amendments to the Constitution).

The ACLU provides counsel to parties based on its principles to defend Constitutional rights, and not its agreement with the position of the person or group it represents, and has successfully represented persons and groups such as Oliver North and the Ku Klux Klan. If there is a significant constitutional issue, the ACLU will most likely take the case.

It is in this work that Stew finds his most important challenge: to balance the rights of the majority with the rights of the individual. Stew Dunn has gotten it right there and luckily for Alexandria, he has gotten the balance in his life right as well. He is deservedly a Living Legend.

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21 Announcements

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-Abraham Lincoln

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Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



*Nancy
Dunning*

The Best Mom In The World

A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily. We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.

A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.

If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.



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