



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

More than 150 clans, dignitaries and others walked in the 41st annual Scottish Walk parade on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Alexandria Gazette Packet



Home Life Style
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DECEMBER 8, 2011

Already Lining Up

Democrats to hold primary rather than a caucus; Republicans yet to decide.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For the first time in recent memory, the Alexandria Democratic Committee will be conducting a citywide primary to choose a slate of six candidates for the City Council. Traditionally, the party has used a firehouse caucus to select a slate — meeting at a single location for a limited time and making participants sign a loyalty

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 14

Likely Democratic Candidates

- ◆ **Kerry Donley**, current vice mayor and former mayor
- ◆ **Paul Smedberg**, current councilman
- ◆ **Del Pepper**, current councilwoman
- ◆ **Tim Lovain**, former councilman
- ◆ **Justin Wilson**, former councilman
- ◆ **David Baker**, former police chief
- ◆ **Arthur Peabody**, current School Board member
- ◆ **Donna Fossum**, current Planning Commission member
- ◆ **Jack Sullivan**, Seminary Hill resident
- ◆ **Boyd Walker**, co-chairman of Citizens for an Alternative Waterfront Plan

Likely Republican Candidates

- ◆ **Frank Fannon**, current councilman
- ◆ **Alicia Hughes**, current councilwoman
- ◆ **Phil Ceferatti**, Realtor with Weichert
- ◆ **Scott Gordon**, board member of the Del Ray Citizens Association



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

'BRAC the Vote'
Will resentment in West End influence City Council election?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When Arlington School Board member Libby Garvey was running in the hotly contested Democratic primary for the state Senate over the summer, one wall of her King Street office featured a sign that read "BRAC the vote." It was a reference to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendation 133 to move 6,400 employees to Mark Center. An August 2008 letter from Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks approved the site, adding "no additional transportation studies are warranted." But when a firestorm of opposition erupted the neighboring

SEE WILL BRAC, PAGE 7

"Could we have done a better job in making sure some of the details were ironed out?"

Yes. We certainly couldn't have opposed it."

— Mayor Bill Euille

Next

Waiting on Pitt Street, bagpipers tuning their pipes are ready to be called into the 41st annual Scottish Walk parade on Saturday, Dec. 3. More photos, pages 12-13.

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"Pam listened to our description of the home we wanted, walked with us through the search of great candidates, found the right home in a great location, and helped us through the 'buying' process. We appreciate all of Pam's hard work throughout our home buying experience." ~ Dale



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"Pam knows the Del Ray area so well! She helped us sift through the homes on the market to find the best home for us. She was always available to answer our questions. Highly recommended!" ~ Renee & Dave

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"Pam was the perfect fit for us, first-time homebuyers approaching the process with some trepidation and endless questions. She listened and never rushed us. Pam's energy and accessibility put us at ease from the start and made a potentially stressful experience truly enjoyable. We could not have asked for a more conscientious, hard-working realtor. We were constantly struck by Pam's focus, timeliness and real estate know-how. On top of that, she brilliantly blended business savvy and assertiveness with a fabulous sense of humor. We trust Pam implicitly, believe she is a strong advocate for her clients, and would be thrilled to team up with her again in the future." ~ Katie & Kelly



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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-778-9415 OR GAZETTE@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Think Small

Independent retailers offer variety of gift ideas.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Sandwiched between this year's shopping frenzy of Black Friday and Cyber Monday emerged the second Small Business Saturday, a promotion initiated by American Express to promote independently owned retailers during the holiday season.

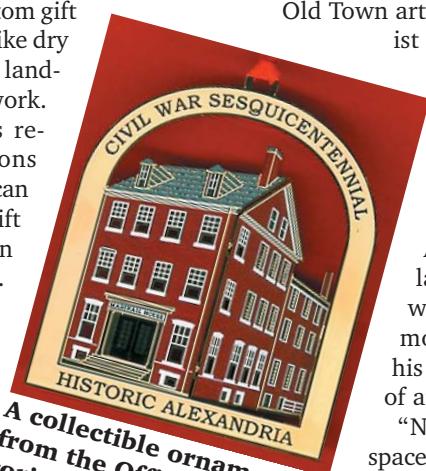
"Supporting local independent business owners is important to our community," said King Street Blues owner Lisa Capobianco. "It's how America was built and how we can survive these tough economic times."

Alexandria is filled with local retailers brimming with a variety of gift ideas as well as service providers and crafts men that can create custom gift certificates for services like dry cleaning, maid service, landscaping or handyman work.

"People don't always remember that hair salons and other professionals can be a source of holiday gift ideas," said hair salon owner Lorraine Aprile. "If you know someone who has a favorite salon, restaurant — any service they use regularly — a gift certificate can be a welcome gift in this economy."

Local artists and authors are also a source of gift ideas.

"I make sure we have the largest selection of



A collectible ornament from the Office of Historic Alexandria commemorates the Civil War Sesquicentennial with an image of the Marshall House. It is available online and in city museums for \$16.95. www.historicalexandria.org



Canine Pup Cakes from Bittersweet Café and Catering, 823 King St., 703-549-2708.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The artwork of Artfully Gifts and Chocolate co-owner Eric Nelson is available in his Carlyle shop along with novelty holiday items, cards and custom made gift baskets. 506 John Carlyle St., 703-575-8686.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

A gift certificate from locally owned service providers like hair salons and restaurants supports independent businesses in Alexandria. Lorraine Aprile at her salon at 112 S. Fayette, 703-299-6100

Old Town art and gift items," said artist Todd Healy of his shop Gallery Lafayette.

"What can I say? I love this city and want to share that with my customers."

Another local artist is Artfully Gifts and Chocolate co-owner Eric Nelson, who has added smaller and more affordable pieces to his translucent acrylic works of art.

"Not everyone has wall space for a large painting," said Nelson, whose work is carried in both the Carlyle and Del Ray locations of his stores. "But a vase is something that can be incorporated into any home."

Nelson and his staff also create custom gift baskets and the stores themselves carry a wide range of cards, gifts and novelty holiday items.

Just-released books by local authors Ted Pulliam ("Historic Alexandria: An Illustrated History"), Michael Lee Pope ("Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.") and Pat Troy ("I Have a Story to Tell") are gift ideas that focus on local history.



Shuman's famous Jelly Cakes are still available by special order for pick up at The Winery or Alexandria Cupcake.



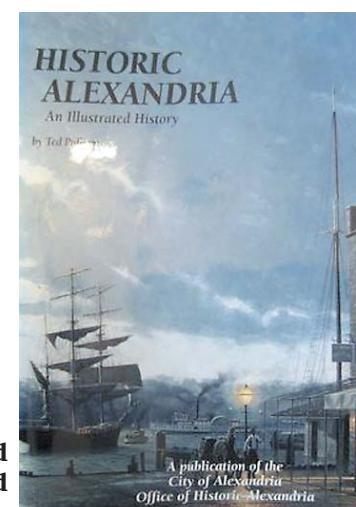
Shuman's no longer makes ice cream but their famous Jelly Cakes are still available for delivery in zip codes 22301-22315. www.shumansbakery.com



David Martin specializes in creating custom pieces like these City of Alexandria cufflinks, studs and charms. Goldworks, 1400 King St., 703-683-0333.



Todd Healy calendars and specialty items celebrate historic Old Town. 320 King St. 703-548-5266.



Books by local authors Ted Pulliam, Michael Lee Pope and Pat Troy make unique gifts.



Pup Pies available at Artfully Gifts and Chocolate, 506 John Carlyle St., 703-575-8686.

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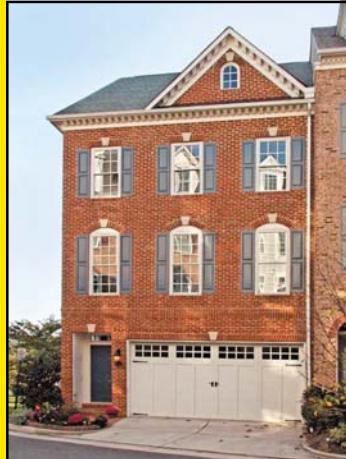


Alexandria \$824,500
A must see! Beautifully renovated 5 bdrm, 3.5 bath Colonial which backs to woods, boasts an open floor plan, spacious dining room, & renovated kitchen. Outside you'll find a large yard, playground, & deck off the dining room. Located on a private cul-de-sac, here you'll be close to the shops and restaurants of Old Town and Shirlington & King St Metro. MacArthur Elementary School District.
811 Albany Avenue

Jennifer Bolsein 703-835-1256



Alexandria \$659,000
Unbelievable price for one of the largest TH's inside beltway. All brick 4 bdrm/3.5 bath end unit w/ 4300 plus sq. ft. Totally upgraded w/hardwood floors, new carpet, SS appliances, granite counters thru out. 3 w/in closets, 2 fpl and so much more.
6317 Chaucer Lane
Nancie Williams
703-608-6959



Quaker Ridge \$669,000
Luxury all brick end townhome in the MacArthur School District. Fabulous open floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 finished levels, 2 gas fireplaces and a 2 car garage.
3510 Goddard Way
Christine Garner
703-587-4855



Fairlington Towne \$422,000
This fabulous end unit townhouse is a 3 level home with a delightful private Garden of Eden back yard. Kitchen features NEW cabinets, GRANITE, and NEW floors. All baths are upgraded beautifully. BAY window. Lots of extra windows!
3740 Keller Avenue

Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Old Town \$1,189,000
Everything you could want and more. New construction - 5BR/4.5BA 4-level townhome with additional rooftop deck, 2 off-street parking spaces, and a fenced yard in North Old Town. Gleaming hardwoods throughout and Viking appliances. Lower level is a full in-law suite with 2nd kitchen!
714 Wythe Street
Phil Cefaratti
703-371-7601



Old Town \$545,000
Low interest rates = the gift of a new home plus an Old Town lifestyle. Large open kitchen so many cooks can use the new gas stove & convenient built-in storage/serving area. Entertain in a freshly painted, spacious dining room with new chandelier. Decorate for the holidays with greenery from your back yard. Guests will appreciate 2 bedrooms & 1.5 baths, plus 2 off street parking spots & a 4 block walk to Metro. Ask about a \$3,000 flooring credit. Detached home so no HOA.
1016 Pendleton
Joni Koons
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Alexandria \$435,000
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Alexandria \$359,900
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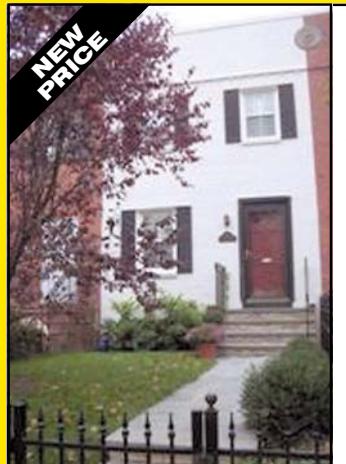
Alexandria \$590,000
Fantastic close-in location with easy access to Pentagon, BRAC, DC, Old Town & 395. Community pool & parks. Rare split Colonial with best layout in the neighborhood incl open flow, kitchen with breakfast room overlooking private green space, laundry room off kitchen, bay window & large finished basement. TOTALLY renovated & too many great features to highlight!
6211 Berlee Drive
Kristen Mason Coreas 571-213-0617



Old Town \$659,000
New listing in OLD TOWN, 4 blocks to Metro. 3 BRS+ Den. Parking. Gorgeous 4 level home, wood floors, high ceilings, large garden.
1012 Wythe Street
Diann Hicks
703-628-2440



Alexandria \$329,900
Countryside View... from balcony of renovated, elegant unit with two master bedroom suites. New hardwood floors throughout. Charming new kitchen w/ marble tile floor & granite backsplash. Garage parking space. Pet-friendly community w/ 35+ wooded acres & 24-hour monitored security. Great location, just 2 miles from Old Town.
5901 Mount Eagle Drive, Unit 1109
Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418
Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010



Old Town \$479,900
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NEWS



More than 40 brightly lit boats participated in the 2011 parade of Lights Dec. 3.



The Crowe's Nest, center, won Most Animated with "Santa and Weiber the Whale."

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

Let There Be Light

Holiday boats shine in 2011 Parade of Lights.

The 12th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights lit up the Potomac River Dec. 3 as 40 boats cruised from the Washington waterfront to Old Town to compete in more than a dozen categories in the traditional seafaring holiday display of lights.

Dressed as the Grinch, Wakefield High School special education teacher Alan Glascock took Best in Show honors aboard The Dugout Too with a "Christmas Gone Wild" theme. Captained by Mark Silcox, Latitude Adjustment won Best Sailboat with "SEAS-ons Greetings" and Tom Crowe and The Crowe's Nest took Most Animated honors with "Santa and Weiber the Whale."

The parade was emceed by WTOP's Man About Town Bob Madigan and judged by Jody Manor of Bittersweet Café & Catering, Dee Beresford, Board of Governors of the Old Dominion Boat Club, and Nancy Belmont of Belmont, Inc. and Co-Founder of

SEE BOATS, PAGE 32

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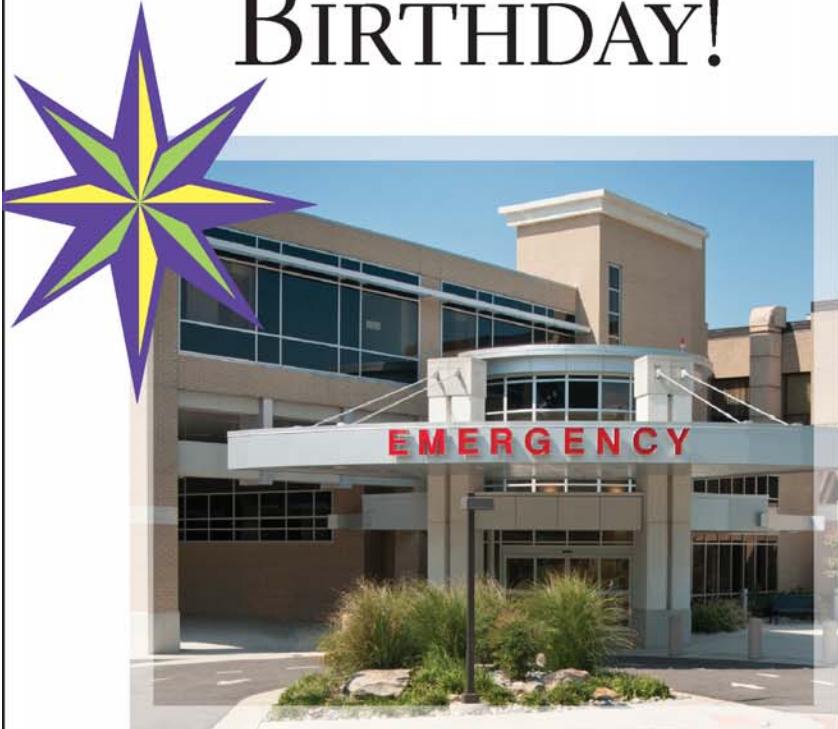
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HAPPY 139TH BIRTHDAY!



On December 12th Inova Alexandria Hospital celebrates its 139th year of service.

We remain dedicated to meeting the medical needs of the Alexandria community.

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

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

Expansion Highlights:

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

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Help us raise the last \$200,000 and bring our fundraising campaign to a successful close.

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

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



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

NEWS

Dominion Over School Calendars

Northern Virginia school officials ready to fight for opening schools before Labor Day.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For a quarter century, King's Dominion has exercised a strange power over school divisions across Virginia. In 1986, operatives for the Doswell amusement park successfully shepherded legislation through the General Assembly that prevented schools from opening before Labor Day. School officials can apply for waivers, but that doesn't mean they'll be given clearance. Earlier this year, the Virginia Board of Education was on the verge of rejecting an application from the Alexandria City Public School system when it was withdrawn.

Now, with the General Assembly session ready to open in January, school officials across Northern Virginia are ready to renew the fight against the King's Dominion Law.

"It just doesn't make any sense," said

Libby Garvey, a member of the Arlington School Board. "We need flexibility to increase student achievement, and we can't do that if we're in a vice."

The hospitality industry is ready to defend the King's Dominion Law, as they do almost every year in Richmond. Leading the charge will be the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association, which represents King's Dominion and other amusement parks that benefit financially from public schools starting after Labor Day. The association estimates that shortening the tourism season would forgo spending by about \$274 million and decrease wages and benefits by about \$104 million.

"We've never seen any kind of difference in academic achievement in terms of starting before Labor Day," said Katie Hellbush, director of government affairs for the association. "But studies have

SEE DOMINION OVER, PAGE 37

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

Will BRAC Shape Council Election?

FROM PAGE 1

communities about gridlock, Garvey hoped to tie primary opponent and Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka to the Jinks letter.

"Whenever you are talking about an emotional issue, it always sways voters," said Kirk McPike, who managed the campaign for Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49). "Candidates are going to have to think about how they answer this question because it is going to come up over and over again."

In the end Garvey and Krupicka lost to Ebbin, who won the general election and is now headed to Richmond. What role if any did the outrage over BRAC-133 play in the election? Some say that

Krupicka's loss should send a message to members of the City Council at the time when Jinks sent the 2008 letter, which include the incumbent mayor, two incumbent council members and two former incumbents seeking to make a comeback. Now that the Alexandria Democratic Committee has opted to conduct a citywide primary, those five candidates are going to become the focus of some difficult questions.

"It's a touchstone issue," said Don Buch, a West End resident. "Anybody tied to this decision is going to have to answer for it."

THE KRUPICKA CAMPAIGN outlined a strategy for candidates to defend themselves on the issue, but it's unclear how persuasive that will be to voters. He said that he had always opposed the Mark Center, although opponents pointed out that there was no record of opposition until after the location had been selected and it was clear traffic was going to be a serious problem. When asked about what happened leading up to the Jinks letter from August 2008, Euille said that deliberations were conducted in secret executive session.

"Could we have done a better job in making sure some of the details were ironed out? Yes," said Euille. "We certainly couldn't have opposed it."

Critics say that line of defense is problematic. For starters, a development special-use permit granted to the previous owner specified that 16 acres should be set aside for open space. Why didn't the city ask the Pentagon for the same open space requirement that had already been approved? Perhaps more critically, a January 2008 letter from Euille to Duke Realty lawyer Howard Middleton outlining his concern that city support for the Mark Center site "is contingent upon the city receiving significant financial compensation to offset its multi-year loss of future real-estate taxes" estimated at \$60 million. When the Mark Center site was approved, no contingency was placed on the endorsement.

"This was a transaction between a private business and the federal government," said Euille. "We were not involved in the negotiations."

THE STORY of how a massive Department of Defense installation ended up at a spot without access to the Metro is a story of flawed assumptions and inaccurate information. Duke purchased the Mark Center complex in 2006, making it one of the principal taxpayers in the city because its land was valued at more than \$225 million. Two years later, the Department of Defense released a request for propos-

als for a "build to suit" facility that could accommodate 6,400 employees and be ready by September 2011, the statutory deadline in the federal legislation aimed at vacating leased space in Arlington.

"It's an overreaction," said Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fisette in a 2005 interview with Connection Newspapers. "The Department of Defense is attempting to evacuate leased space based on security rules that no one else meets."

Duke responded by offering to sell the Mark Center site to the United States and presented a bid that was \$200 million lower than the Victory Center site, which was assumed by many to be the leading contender. The selection represented a windfall for Duke, especially because the federal government is exempt from density limitations and traffic-management requirements. Alexandria City Council members went along with the idea, allowing the August 2008 letter to endorse the Mark Center site along with the Victory Center site in late 2008.

"In my opinion, the city should have only endorsed one site — the Victory Center," said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, who was not a member of City Council at the time and has been critical of the decision. "Instead they left the door open for Mark Center, and I have yet to hear a clear rationale for that decision."

NOW THAT the traffic is clogging West End streets, new doubts are being raised about how the Army presented misleading information in its traffic management plan for Mark Center. Last week, a Department of Defense Inspector General report revealed that the traffic counts were conducted around national holidays when schools were not in session, resulting in peak hour traffic volumes up to 35 percent less than normal conditions. The report also noted that the Army failed to consult with local jurisdiction planning officials including the Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax County and the city of Alexandria.

"The IG's report proves exactly why we opposed this relocation three years ago and have been highly critical of the planning process as it has proceeded," said U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8). "Full occupation of this building will result in serious gridlock for some 200,000 daily commuters who must travel past the Mark Center each day."

That gridlock is certain to remain a potent political force, particularly for the coming election cycle. Although Donley and the two Republicans currently on the City Council were not in office when the city government endorsed the Mark Center site, Euille

SEE WILL BRAC SHAPE, PAGE 37



The Washington Headquarters Service was constructed as a result of recommendation 133 of the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission.


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A Political Tie

Move over, **Rush Limbaugh**. Forget about **Jerry Garcia**, Alexandria City Councilman **Rob Krupicka** now has his own line of neckties.

Yes, that's right. Neckties. Most people in Alexandria know Krupicka as a politician and education guru. But he's also an artist who specializes in acrylic paintings. And now he has his own line of neckties, known as ALX49. The name is a mashup of Alexandria and 1749, the year the city was founded. Krupicka formally launched the effort last weekend at the Scotch tasting at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

"It was a lot of fun putting the collection together," said Krupicka. "The best part was thinking about what makes Alexandria unique."

All the designs are based on the city's history, although some are more abstract than others. One is inspired by the myth of **George Washington** and the cherry tree while another evokes a statue at the Freedman's Cemetery. Several ties have geometric patterns, suggesting the angular pattern of Market Square or the grid design of Old Town streets. One of the ties is inspired by the tide lock that helped move commercial goods in the early 19th century. Each tie is \$58.

"We have a lot more ideas about future designs," said Krupicka. "I'm hoping we can sell enough to do more designs."

New Shade of Yellow

Alexandria's biggest taxicab company is about to get a bold new look. Last week, members of the Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board approved a new logo for Alexandria Yellow Cab, which is regulated by the city government. The new look features the George Washington Masonic Temple, a traditional checkered pattern and a head-on view of a 1940s-era taxicab.

"Our old logo was outdated," said **Spencer Kimball**. "We wanted something that could embrace the past but also have a modern feel."

In recent months, company has made a number of changes. Cameras have been installed in all cabs to record forward and backward as well as an audio feed. Credit card readers have been installed in all the taxicabs for the convenience of consumers. Cellular data sticks have been installed so drivers aren't dependent on a radio tower. And redundant servers have been added to the phone system and the dispatch system so the company can continue operating if something goes wrong.

"We have a lot going on," said Kimball. "And we wanted a new logo to reflect that."

January in Helsinki

Alexandria celebrity bartender **Todd Thrasher** is one of 14 American bartenders in the running to head to chilly Finland this January for the Finlandia Vodka Cup. Thrasher is a mixologist at the upscale speakeasy known as PX, tucked away above Eamonn's Dublin Chipper. If his drink, known as "Nothing Left to Lose," is selected to compete he could win \$25,000.

Here's the recipe: one ounce of Finlandia Vodka, half an ounce of yellow chartreuse, three ounces of Bay Leaf Soda with roasted lemon and four dashes of lemon bitters. Just fill a glass with crushed ice, then add the vodka and chartreuse. Next add the bitters and soda. Stir gently and enjoy.

Commercial Road

The Virginia Department of Transportation and Fluor-Transurban have struck a deal to build high-occupancy toll lanes on Interstate 95 this week. The move opens the door to financing the \$940 million project.

"Through this action, we will put to work nearly \$1 billion in private sector investment to address one of Virginia's most critical transportation needs," said Republican Gov. **Bob McDonnell**. "The project will bring congestion relief and new travel choices to Northern Virginians."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS

Clarke and Sampson Marks 65 Years

Local firm partners with ACT to give back to community.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For nearly a year, Bill Howard and Tim Geary have been anticipating the 65th anniversary of Clarke and Sampson, an insurance and real estate firm that is one of Alexandria's oldest continuously operating businesses. While most people assumed the company principles would plan a lavish celebration, the two had something else in mind.

"Bill and I have been looking for a way to give back to the community that has kept us in business for so many years," Geary said at a Chamber of Commerce holiday reception Dec. 1 at the Carlyle Club. "We've been looking at ACT for a while and decided that establishing a charitable fund with them was the perfect way to do that."

Howard and Geary used the Dec. 1 event to announce the new partnership with ACT for Alexandria.

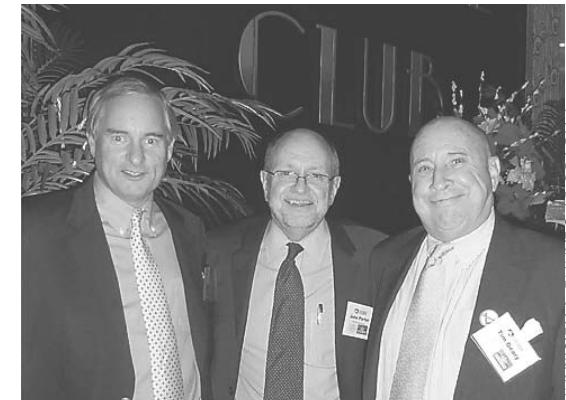
"Clarke and Sampson is the first commercial company to open a charitable fund with ACT to help with philanthropic giving," said ACT Executive Director John Porter. "This is a wonderful way to celebrate such a significant milestone for them and for the community."

In lieu of a traditional party, Clarke and Sampson will send out cards to its customers announcing the new fund.

"We didn't want to do a party that lasts for only one night," Geary said. "We will let our customers know that we are making a donation to ACT on the company's behalf to help provide much-needed services in an ongoing basis to the community we call home."

In making the announcement, Howard thanked several Clarke and Sampson employees in attendance, noting that over half of the company's 17 employees have been with the firm for more than 20 years.

"We're very proud of the people who represent Clarke and Sampson," Howard said. "It is because of them we have succeeded and we are looking forward to the next 65 years."



ACT Executive Director John Porter is flanked by Clarke and Sampson representatives Bill Howard and Tim Geary at the Chamber of Commerce Merry Membership event Dec. 1 at the Carlyle Club.



Kevin Peck of the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association with Campagna Center CEO Tammy Mann.



Bruno Grinwis, former Chamber of Commerce CEO Tina Leone and Chamber board member Caren Camp.



Pork Barrel BBQ Opens in Del Ray

A line ran through the restaurant on Friday evening, Dec. 2, as customers waited in line for a seat in the newly opened Pork Barrel BBQ Restaurant in Del Ray.

BUSINESS



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Volunteers from Dominion Power joined with city employees Oct. 27 to make landscaping improvements to the former substation at 3550 Commonwealth Ave.

Reed Avenue Park Revitalized

Dominion Power, City replace storm-damaged trees.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The torrential rains of Oct. 27 didn't deter more than 20 Dominion Power volunteers from joining City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities employees to help clear and beautify the former power substation at 3550 Commonwealth Ave.

"This was a mess," said community organizer Kevin Beekman. "The different storms over the last year destroyed about 40 trees. We tried to save them but couldn't."

The city purchased the property from Dominion Power with the intent of creating an open park space across from the Cora Kelly Recreation Center. Neighborhood volunteers began the transformation using their own donated time and supplies.

"The original park created here was all through sweat equity," Beekman said. "The plants, the mulch, the upkeep - everything was donated by the community."

The Dominion Foundation donated \$2,500 to fund the replacement of shrubs and trees and expand a walking path and garden created by community volunteers. The City matched the Dominion funds with additional plantings.

"We enhanced the landscape with shade trees, or-



Dominion Power volunteers Neil Atwell and Marty O'Baker join city employee Keith Beasley (on bulldozer) Oct. 27 to help with landscaping improvements at the former substation on Commonwealth Avenue.

namental trees, mulch and top soil," said City of Alexandria Urban Planner Laura Durham. "After today, we'll be adding benches as well."

The half-acre parcel referred to as the Reed Avenue Park received four maple trees, a dozen Leland Cypress and three crepe myrtles during the one-day joint effort between the city and Dominion Power.

"Even with the rain, it's amazing to see the transformation," Durham said. "All the credit goes to the community residents who led the effort to beautify the park."

BUSINESS NOTES

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



**Jeremy R.
Moss**

professional community association managers and business partners, and for

The WMCCAI recognized Moss for his leadership in educating the community association industry by speaking at chapter-sponsored programs, writing articles for Quorum - a magazine for community association volunteer leaders,

his service on the Virginia Legislative Committee.

Vacation.com of Alexandria, North America's leading travel services marketing organization, announces the acquisition of Weston, Fla.-based Cruise Shoppes, the only national travel agent consortium focused strictly on cruising.

McCollister's Transportation Group, Inc. of Alexandria, an agent

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 15

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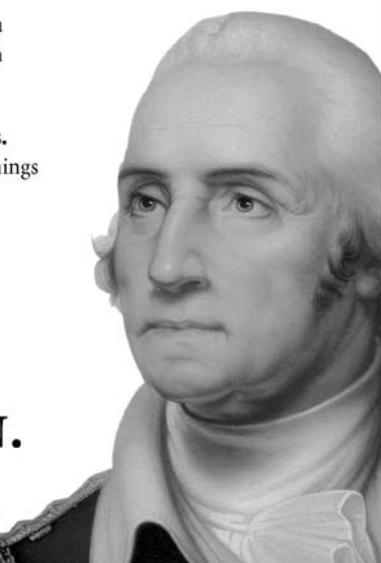
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OPINION

More on Giving Locally

Every year the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services devotes hundreds of hours to make the holidays special for families in Alexandria who otherwise might not be able to offer their children even a single present.

EDITORIAL Suzanne Kratzok, who has led the Holiday Sharing Program since 1999, works to provide one gift and one book to children in more than 800 families, as well as 150 elderly citizens who may not otherwise receive anything for the holidays.

Organizations that help needy families and individuals in Northern Virginia have seen a dramatic increase in requests for assistance since the recession hit in 2008, and right now those organizations need your help to meet the need.

Note the examples of Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) and Food for Others. In 2010, ECHO assisted more than 1,472 households, an increase of nearly 30 percent from before the recession. And Food for Oth-

ers delivered a record 2.7 million pounds of food to an average of 125 families a day last year.

In the City of Alexandria, more than 6,400 students, 54 percent, are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

In Northern Virginia, thousands are unemployed and many more are underemployed. Among the homeless in Northern Virginia, many are working poor, families with at least one wage-earner who doesn't make enough to pay for housing for the family. About half of the homeless in Northern Virginia are children.

Here are some suggestions about how to help, but there are dozens of other opportunities.

Where to Help

- ❖ ACT for Alexandria, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and Donor Services
- ❖ Alexandria Community Services Board, www.alexandriava.gov/mhmrsa, Crisis Intervention Services, Elderly Needs, Mental Health, Substance

Abuse, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

- ❖ Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, 703-525-7177, www.aachomeless.org
- ❖ Carpenter's Shelter, 703 548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless Services and Programs including Education and Case Management
- ❖ The Campagna Center, 703-549-0111, www.campagnacenter.org
- ❖ Center for Alexandria's Children, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriachildren.org, Child Abuse & Neglect and Parent Support
- ❖ Child and Family Network Centers, 703-836-0214, www.cfnc-online.org
- ❖ Community Lodgings, Inc, 703-549-4407, www.communitylodgings.org, Transitional and Affordable Housing, Youth Education, Adult Education, Bilingual Staff Assistance
- ❖ Computer C.O.R.E. 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult Education, Computer Training and Career Development
- ❖ Hopkins House, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, 703-385-3267, www.nvfs.org, Employment and Job Training, Healthcare, Housing, Mental Health, Foster Care and Healthy Families (home visitations to new parents)
- ❖ Volunteer Alexandria, 703-836-2176, <http://volunteeralexandria.org>, Volunteer Recruitment and Placement, Court-Referred Community Service Placement, Community Awareness Events, and Volunteer Management Training

For more, see <http://www.achsova.org>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Avoid Being A Lost City

To the Editor:

Compared with most American cities, Alexandria is chockablock with history, a plethora of architectural styles from every era of the nation's past. It is an architectural mix that reflects the major mileposts of our physical history.

If we allow the City's plan to be accepted, Alexandria will be a serial victim of "criminal urbicide." We cannot allow a collective failure to preserve our city's cultural heritage. The preservation of our past should trump revenue. We want our past to be a part of a living city, not a lost city thanks to the greed and poverty of imagination to preserve its past. Years down the road, we will blame the politicians and developers for robbing us of our physical past.

This decision deserves collective participation. There should not be a forced sense of urgency. Rather, we need more data and time to make an informed decision, regarding a permanent vision, which does not compromise our historical integrity. The decision we make today will effect an image of Alexandria in the minds of many generations to come.

Dr. Tescia Ann Yonkers
Alexandria

Appreciative Band Boosters

To the Editor:

The T.C. Williams Band Boosters would like to thank all those who have made our fall fundraising efforts a huge success.

First, our annual TAG Day netted over \$18,000. This money, which is spread out over the five ensembles at T.C., pays for scholarships, concert attire, musical instruments and other equipment, music, transportation to com-

petitions, and specialized instruction.

Second, the Marching Titans' fund for new marching uniforms is growing steadily. We would especially like to thank Forum One Communications in Del Ray for letting us set up for the "Marching Zombies" performance at the Del Ray Halloween Parade. At that same event, we were surprised and gratified to get a spontaneous \$1,000 donation from the A Dog's Best Friend. Thank you! We would also like to thank Brian Gendron and the Alexandria Choral Society, which designated the Marching Titans as its beneficiary for the "Annual Gift of Giving", and to all the community donors (including the Gazette) that made our Nov. 13 silent auction and dinner a great success.

We are also grateful for the continuing support of two Alexandria McDonalds Restaurants, one at 121 West Glebe Road and the other at 1000 North Henry St.; their "Spirit Nights" have netted us the equivalent of three uniforms thus far.

The Marching Titans are thankful to be part of a community that supports the arts. To find out more about upcoming performances and how individuals can help with a donation, go to tcwilliamsband.wordpress.com.

Sharon Dooley
President, T.C. Williams Band Boosters

Support Current Museums

To the Editor:

I am writing to comment on the proposal by some for a maritime museum as part of the Waterfront Plan. As a former chair of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission for six years, I fully understand the interest in celebrating our maritime history and the desire to educate citizens and visitors about the central role of the Potomac River in our history; however a new museum is not needed nor is it in the best interests of the city.

First, the City of Alexandria is blessed with having many museums within our city, both city and non city-owned. Non city-owned museums include the Lee-Fendall House, Carlyle House, Freedom House Museum, and R.E. Lee Camp United Confederate Veterans Museum. The City of Alexandria, through the Office of Historic Alexandria, operates Alexandria Archaeology, Alexandria Black History Museum, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. All of these museums offer insight into our maritime history, from Native Americans to the present, through historic interpretation, exhibits, lectures and special events.

Plans to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War include focusing on the importance of Alexandria as a transportation hub for the Union utilizing the city's shipping and rail capabilities. The Waterfront Plan should not include a new museum, but rather encourage citizens and tourists to visit our many museums to learn more and explore our history. We must do all that we can to invite people to make use of our historic resources already existing within the city.

Secondly, museums do not make a profit; they cost a great deal to operate and to maintain. All museum directors spend a great deal of time researching and writing grants and constantly raising money through fundraising events and solicitation. For instance, despite attracting over a million visitors every year, the yearly operating costs for Mount Vernon are supported by admission fees (only about one-third of the yearly total needed), gift shop and restaurant sales, and donations.

The care of our historic treasures requires continuous vigilance and resources that should be directed to those sites, not a new museum. For many years the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission advocated for the main-

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

NEWS



City officials and firefighters present a check Dec. 2 to paramedic Jason Cage, fifth from right, for monies raised on his behalf following a lung transplant in April.

'A Gift of Life'

Firefighters raise funds for paramedic Jason Cage.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The odds were stacked against Jason Cage. Born with Cystic Fibrosis, the Alexandria paramedic had his right lung removed in 2008 due to an infection. By 2010, the 34-year-old was put on oxygen and told earlier this year he would need a transplant for his rapidly deteriorating remaining lung.

"At first the surgeons told me they wouldn't do the surgery," said Cage, who was presented a check Dec. 2 at Market Square by Alexandria Firefighters Local 2141. "It is a tricky surgery and very complex. A Cystic Fibrosis patient with one lung is very rare."

But on April 26, a lung became available that Cage's doctors at Duke University Medical Center called "a perfect fit" and the transplant was performed.

"I was only on the wait list for 11 days, which is unheard of," Cage said. "But Duke does the most lung transplants in the world so the wait time is short."

The check, totaling \$7,158.10, represented monies raised in the Second Wind Golf Tournament, sponsored by Local 2141 and held Sept. 26 on Cage's behalf.

"This is truly a gift of life," said Cage, who along

BULLETIN BOARD

Alexandria's Domestic Violence Program is organizing its annual holiday party for mothers and children who have been recently helped at the women's shelter. More than 100 families will receive a bag of gifts for their children, which they can take home, wrap and place under their tree. Toy donations for children and gift cards for mothers are needed. To make a donation, bring unwrapped toys and gift cards to 421 King Street, Suite 400, no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Call 703-746-4911.

Tutor! And Change Two Lives. The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium needs volunteers to tutor kindergarteners and first-graders in literacy skills for 30 minutes once or twice

a week through May in Alexandria public schools. Training and lesson plans provided. Call 703-549-6670, ext. 119, or visit [www.alexandriatutors.org](http://alexandriatutors.org).

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contact Club Vice-President for Membership, Katharine Gagné at 202-521-2307 or e-mail of Club VP Mbrshp@fivestar.freetoasthost.com and Club President, Charlie DeWitt at 202-997-5087 or Club_President@fivestar.freetoasthost.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Foster Parent Orientation. 6 to 7:30 p.m. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.



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Paramedic Jason Cage, center, is congratulated by Vice Mayor Kerry Donley and Mayor Bill Euille.

with his wife Katie faces tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket medical expenses from the surgery. "Someone in the country had to lose their life for me to live. And now, to see what my friends and co-workers have done for me, I am just overwhelmed with emotion."

Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley and Deputy City Manager Bruce Johnson — himself a Duke University graduate — joined the firefighters for the check presentation to Cage, who has served as a paramedic for 15 years.

"We've got each other's back," Euille said. "That's what families and communities are for."

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SCOTTISH WALK PARADE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The 84th Highland Regiment sends off a volley of musket fire.



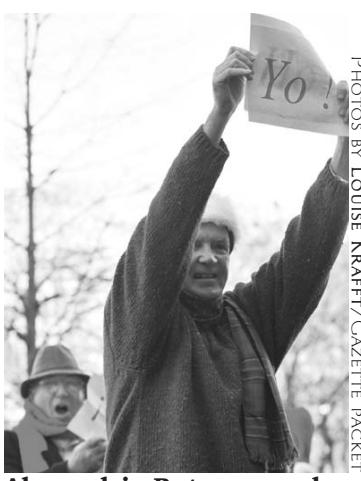
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Clydesdale horses, brothers Abe and Jake, begin the route by pulling a coach with Scottish Christmas Walk co-chairs Kari Steinberg and Katherine Murphy.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Lord Provost of Dundee, Scotland
John Letford and Dundee's Chief Executive
David Worward.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Rotary member Drew Carroll draws a competitive cheer from the crowds on both sides of the streets as the club nears the reviewing stand.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Rugby players
Elijah Melton and Angus
Todd have a bit of fun on
the parade route.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Spencer Holland carries the
Junior Friends of the
Campagna Center sign as
he walks to Market Square.

Plaid Tidings

Scottish Walk Parade celebrates 41 years.

Bagpipes and tartans filled the streets of Old Town during the 41st annual Scottish Walk Parade Dec. 3, the centerpiece of a weekend of holiday events that included a Holiday Marketplace, Designer Tour of Homes and Taste of Scotland cocktail reception.

More than 30,000 people lined the streets to watch this year's parade, which included more than 100 Scottish clans, local dignitaries and costumed canines.

Sponsored by the Campagna Center, the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C. and the Scottish Affairs Office, proceeds from the weekend events go directly to support the center's programs for Alexandria's children.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums begins the Mass Bands finale of the Scottish Walk Parade.



Frank Fannon, Val Hawkins
and John McCaslin at the
St. Asaph Street home of
Caren Camp.



Linda Black and her niece,
9-year-old Lydia Hamilton,
on the steps of the St.
Asaph Street home of Mary
Neumayr.



Sonia and Scott Price and John Chapman.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

SCOTTISH WALK PARADE



Under the direction of drum major J.J. Powers, the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums kicks off the Scottish Walk Parade in Old Town.



Tom Hulfish walks with the Saint Andrews Society, a co-sponsor of the Scottish Walk.



Alexandria Town Crier Ben Fiore Walker.



Megan Murchie-Beyma performs with the Thistle Dancers to begin the Mass Bands finale of the Scottish Walk Parade Dec. 3 in front of Market Square



Drum major Brian Brendel salutes visiting dignitaries as the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band passes the reviewing stand.



Campagna Center President and CEO Tammy Mann.



Members of the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums relax at Ireland's Own after the Scottish Walk Parade. Front: Drum major J.J. Powers and Mike Bryan. Back: Frank Fannon, Pat Troy, Joe Oguin and Mike Dow.



Scottish Walk Parade Grand Marshall Sen. Patsy Ticer.



Charles Frazier Gibson, 3, enjoys a wagon ride during the Scottish Walk Parade.



Campagna Center Head Start participants walk through the streets of Old Town.



Fred Parker and the Hard Times Horse.



Alexandria resident and longtime Gadsby's Tavern volunteer Kathy Kelly, right, with her cousin Mary Beth Regan.

Gentrifying Arlandria

For years city planners have been hoping to redevelop Arlandria, a working-class neighborhood of immigrants bordering Arlington. Now the Planning Commission has unanimously approved a plan to demolish a 1940s-era strip mall and replace it with a massive new mixed-use development. A coalition of neighbors and activists has joined forces to oppose the project as gentrification that will displace the poor and Latino community.

"I am very worried my rent is going to go up," said longtime resident **Carlos Moreno** through a Spanish translator. "And I don't know where I will go when that happens."

Opponents say the high-end development will result in higher rents in adjacent properties, which include 84 public housing units, 156 public assisted units and 950 market rate affordable units. The development approved this week by the Planning Commission would demolish the existing 50,000 square foot retail strip and replace it with two six-story buildings with 478 rental residential units and 53,000 square feet of retail with 940 parking spaces.

"Staff does not believe this project, in and of itself, will gentrify Arlandria," said **Gwen Wright**, development division chief. "New market-rate housing is quite limited."

Commissioners struggled with the issue of gentrifying the neighborhood. **Eric Wagner** said he "lived in fear" that new development could be stimulus pushing out the existing community. **Stewart Dunn** offered the motion, but added that he was reluctant to do so. And **Donna Fossum** said the project had "tepid approval." "You should put in a museum," said **John Liss**, former director of Tenants and Workers United. "Because it will displace every single Latino resident in the neighborhood."

Buffaloed at City Hall

Last week, city officials learned that **Timothy Wanamaker**, the city's deputy director of General Services, pled guilty to a felony charge in a New York federal court on Nov. 29. Court documents show that he admitted to using work-issued credit cards to pay for non-work related travel and expenses.

Before Wanamaker was hired to work for Alexandria, city officials say, a background investigation did not report any criminal investigations or activity. When they found out about the guilty plea, city officials placed him on administrative leave and he eventually resigned. Alexandria's auditor has also initiated a review Wanamaker's financial transactions within city government.

"At this point, we have no evidence of any wrongdoing during his employment in Alexandria," acting city manager **Bruce Johnson** wrote in a memo to City Council members.

The development follows a number of problems at City Hall in recent years, including a human resources employee charged with embezzlement, a Chinquapin Recreation Center employee charged with embezzlement, a meter maid convicted of pocketing quarters, a DASH employee who was taking taxpayers for a ride and a Fleet Services division chief who sold a city-owned trailer to a local farmer for \$3,500.

Fixing Dysfunction Junction

It's an intersection so notorious that former Councilman **Justin Wilson** ended up delivering his wife's baby while caught in traffic here. That's why the confluence of King Street, Quaker Lane and Braddock Road is known to many as "dysfunction junction." Now a \$6 million plan may be emerging to solve the problem. This week, Transportation and Environmental Services Director **Rich Baier** issued a memorandum to City Council members outlining a potential solution.

Additional turn lanes would be added for several approaches to the three-way intersection, and vehicles would be able to turn right from the service road to North Quaker. City officials are planning a January public meeting to outline the details, assuming that people aren't caught in traffic.

"This project will require the acquisition of right-of-way from a number of businesses, who may or may not be supportive of these changes once more detailed information about right-of-way impact is known," Baier explained in the Dec. 5 memo.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Democrats Decide on Primary

FROM PAGE 4

oath to cast a ballot. But tradition was thrown out the window back in 2009, when the lame-duck Democrats on the previous City Council decided to do away with the longstanding tradition of a separate springtime election for local offices after they lost two seats. Because the next council will be elected in November 2012, that allows Democrats to piggyback onto the existing citywide June 12 primary for Congress.

"When we put forth the idea of fall elections, the idea was to increase participation," said Councilman Rob Krupicka, who will not be seeking a fourth term on the City Council. "A primary will make our candidates stronger."

Some members of the old guard in the Democratic Committee opposed the idea of a citywide primary, including former chairwoman Susan Kellom. They argued that opening up the process to a primary would allow Republicans to participate, opening the door to partisan mischief in which the opposition might try to support weak candidates. Another argument against a citywide primary is that it might divert financial support and volunteer resources from other activities leading into a presidential year.

"A primary will be more expensive for our candidates," said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley. "We might be putting our candidates at a disadvantage."

In the end, the vast majority of Democrats voted to conduct a primary rather than a caucus. Because primary voters will not have to sign a loyalty oath, the vote will be opened to many who would not otherwise participate.

And because the election will be a citywide operation rather than one location for a limited time, the dynamics of this campaign will be vastly different than the insular politics of years past when a handful of party leaders could control the process.

"Yes, they are going to have to raise more money. Yes, they are going to have to engage more volunteers. Yes, they are going to have to talk to more voters," said Del. David Englin (D-45). "But guess what. When we raise more money and engage more volunteers and talk to more voters we win."

IN MANY WAYS, the campaign for City Council in 2012 will be one without precedent. Since Alexandria was founded in 1749, voters have always had a separate election for city offices.

Abandoning that tradition is a radical departure, one that will influence the dynamics of the race. When the all-Democratic members of the lame-duck council approved the measure in 2009, opponents argued that it was a cynical ploy to take advantage of the swelling ranks of Democratic voters who will be showing up at the polls to support the reelection of Democratic President Barack Obama. Now that the election is coming into focus, Democrats are feeling confident that they will enjoy an edge over Republicans in the fall.

"We are going to have a lot of Democrats coming out," said Paul Friedman, an active member of the party who has worked in several local campaigns.

"We are not going to have a problem getting Democrats elected in the fall."

The June 12 primary will have a host of familiar names. Mayor Bill Euille said this week that he will be seeking a fourth term, running in a separate race from the six council seats.

And all the incumbent Democrats are expected to seek reelection with the exception of Krupicka, who recently lost a primary for the Virginia state Senate. Former councilmen Tim Lovain and Justin Wilson, the two Democrats ousted in the last springtime campaign, are expected to seek redemption in the new autumn election.

The primary is essentially a popularity contest, putting the six candidates with the most votes on the Democratic ticket for November 2012. Because the incumbents and former incumbents have experience waging these kinds of campaigns, they naturally have a leg up. But a handful of other candidates have been talking about jumping into the race, including former police chief David Baker, current School Board member Author Peabody, Planning Commission member Donna Fossum, Seminary Hill resident Jack Sullivan and Citizens for an Alternative Waterfront co-chairman Boyd Walker.

THE REPUBLICANS have yet to decide on whether they use a primary or a caucus to select their candidates, although the stakes are much lower for the G.O.P. because the party is not expected to field a full slate of six candidates.

The committee is set to decide at its first meeting new year. So far, the only candidates that are expected to launch Republican campaigns for the City Council are incumbent Councilman Frank Fannon, incumbent Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, Realtor Phil Cefaratti and Del Ray resident Scott Gordon. Republicans say that even though they may be handicapped by the dynamics of a fall election, they could stand to benefit at a rising level of anger over recent decisions of the City Council.

"I think there is a lot of disappointment with the existing City Council members," said Tom Fulton, chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. "While there is certainly going to be a higher turnout, the issues in Alexandria will play an important role in the local races."

At the top of the list is anger over the 6,400 new employees in the West End at the Washington Headquarters Service because of Base Realignment and Closure recommendation 133.

Although a final vote on the controversial waterfront small-area plan has not taken place yet, many are expecting that issue to become a major topic of conversation in the upcoming election cycle. And many West End residents are also upset about the City Council's recent decision to widen Beauregard Street to accommodate a new high-capacity transit corridor that was opposed by many neighborhood residents.

"The candidates will have to justify their actions," said Kathy Burns, a West End resident who has been critical of the high-capacity transit corridor and BRAC-133. "And having a primary rather than a caucus will mean we'll have more of a campaign and more of a chance to get answers."

"We might be putting our candidates at a disadvantage."

— Vice Mayor Kerry Donley

"A primary will make our candidates stronger."

— Councilman Rob Krupicka

BUSINESS

FROM PAGE 9

of United Van Lines, has been honored by the worldwide transportation company for exceptional professional achievement.

ASCD of Alexandria, a leader in providing programs, products, and services that empower educators to support the success of each learner, announces two new staff appointments. Megan Wolfe has joined ASCD as the association's new manager of public policy-advocacy and Lori Schulman has joined the association as general counsel.

Matthew Rumbaugh, previously the senior manager of education and training for the National Glass Association, has joined the International Sign Association in Alexandria. In his role as director of education, Rumbaugh will look for opportunities "to come alongside member companies as a partner in education, not just a content provider."

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria announces the induction of three new board members to the organization's leadership. At its October board meeting, the AWLA welcomed new board members Robert Avary, Jr., Charlotte Hall and Patrick Murray.

All three inductees are residents and prominent personalities in Northern Virginia. Robert "Bobby" Avary has extensive experience as a lobbyist for the energy, defense and financial industries. Charlotte Hall is Vice President of the Potomac Riverboat Company and named Alexandria's Business Leader of the Year in 2010. Patrick Murray is a retired U.S. Army Colonel with 24 years of active service. Murray was the 2010 Republican nominee for Congress in the 8th District of Virginia.

Other current AWLA board members include Jackie Cottrell, Kendra Davis, Gordon Kromberg, Vola Lawson, Sharon McMichael, Patrick Ronan, Deidre Schexnayder, Tykie Tobin, and Sandy Yamamoto.

The Fort Belvoir Community Hospital held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 28. The new \$1.03 billion, 1.3 million square-foot hospital has a 120-bed, seven-story main structure flanked on each side by two specialty care outpatient clinic areas.

A product of the 2005 BRAC Law, the new hospital is the premier military community hospital within the Department of Defense and provides the highest quality health care to the nation's military service members, retirees and their families. The expanded outpatient specialty care at Belvoir Hospital brings the care closer to home. Inpatient services have also expanded and encompass a full spectrum of medical specialties.

Inova Alexandria Hospital has dedicated new Cardiovascular Interventional Radiology Laboratories, an expansion of the Inova Heart and Vascular Institute at the Alexandria Campus. An investment totaling close to \$10 million, the expansion includes five new labs and a radiology department area renovation marking the completion of Phase II of Project 2010.

At a capital investment of \$84 million, Project 2010 represents the largest investment of capital into Inova Alexandria Hospital in 40 years. For the past five years Inova Alexandria Hospital has been under construction, expanding the Emergency Department, Pathology Lab which included new computer automation, a redesigned Same Day Surgery Department and the addition of two new operating rooms.

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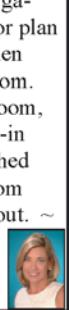
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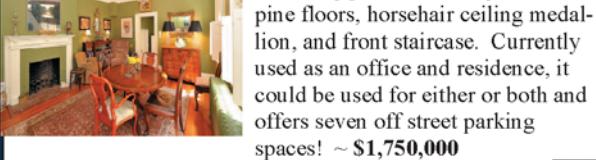
Pristine colonial in culdesac with his and her master baths. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Hardwood floors on main level. Updated kitchen and baths throughout. Attached 2 car garage. Open floor plan and spacious kitchen opens to family room. Large recreation room, deck and screened-in porch. Fully finished lower level. Custom moldings throughout. ~ \$699,000



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Home Life Style

Decking the Halls

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

When it comes to creating festive holiday home decor, simpler is not only easier and less expensive, but it can also be more elegant, say local home designers.

From limiting the color scheme to a palette of two or three shades to looking to nature for inspiration, local design pros offer easy ideas for dressing up your home for the holidays.

"I am seeing a lot more traditional, old-fashioned [decorations]," said Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey, an interior designer based in Old Town Alexandria. "Anything that harkens back to the past or pulls pieces from the past rather than buying new. For example, I keep copies of my family's Christmas cards from past years and put them in acrylic block frames."

Cavin-Winfrey suggests adding antique toys or sleds into your holiday décor, but adds, "Holiday décor should speak to who you are and the overall style of your house."

Vienna-based design consultant Denise Willard of Décor by Denise suggests choosing a color scheme, but limiting the palette.

"A simple way to give your holiday decorations a designer look is to stick to two or three colors at most," said Willard. "This year the silver and green color combination is hot."

When deciding on colors, look for inspiration under your own roof. "I had a client who loved turquoise, orange and brown in her home," said Cavin-Winfrey. "One of the things I did was fill orange vases with white

poinsettias and [wrap] them with chocolate brown and turquoise ribbons. I also twined garland down the banister [and added] orange ball ornaments."

Adding splashes of holiday shades to neutral tones is a simple and unexpected way to spread seasonal cheer.

"You can begin with a neutral setting and add accents with pops of color," said Cavin-Winfrey. "In my own home, I changed out neutral pillows and throws and replaced them with red accent pillows and throws, and replaced cream lampshades with red lampshades."

Cavin-Winfrey suggests making decorations by finding new uses for existing items. "Anything repurposed [as well as] felt or paper decorations are trends this year," said Cavin-Winfrey.

Mixing sizes and adding patterns creates an element of intrigue. "I like an interplay of patterns and scales," said Cavin-Winfrey. "I take large [ornaments] and mix them with smaller ones. The standard size for Christmas balls is 3 inches. Mixing those with 6-inch and 1-inch balls creates more visual harmony and visual interest than using all the same size. I also create balance by mixing solids with a little bit of pattern."

Designers suggest looking to nature for holiday inspiration.

"The outdoor, woodsy, organic feel is really popular right now," said Ann O'Shields, owner of the Nest Egg in Fairfax. "You can incorporate [things] from your own back yard, whether it is pinecones or holly. [You don't have to purchase] brand new decorations every year. You can freshen up what you have by using new elements



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAZALYNN CAVIN-WINFREY

Mixing sizes of design elements and adding patterns creates visual holiday harmony says Old Town Alexandria designer Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey.

from outside."

Make adornments for windows and doors by tying tree swaths such as pine or cedar with a festive ribbon. "Use your pine swags with electric candles and a pretty red ribbon to create amazing and natural window

displays," said Willard.

Experiment with unexpected tree trimmings. "Instead of opting for the run-of-the-mill star, ribbon or angel topper, go for something with much more flair," said Willard. "Faux feathers, icicles and berry bunches make for a great alternate choice."

Holiday greenery on an entryway sets a tone of holiday cheer from the moment guests knock on the door. "Natural greens like wreaths [made] with boxwood, pine and fir greenery [and] decorated with pinecones and lights are very popular," said Megan Mears of Potomac Garden Center in North Potomac.

To avoid a chaotic aesthetic on the outside of a home, Lynne Quade of Christmas Decor by Renaissance Grounds suggests thinking about design goals. "You have to figure out whether you're decorating for your 5-year-old with colored lights and a Santa Claus, or if you're trying to impress your neighbors," said Quade who designs and installs interior and exterior holiday decorations in Northern Virginia. "Once you decide on a plan, stick to it."

Designers say LED lights allow homeowners to reduce their carbon footprint without compromising style.

"LED Christmas lights are much brighter than traditional incandescent lights, but they consume much less energy," said Megan Mears of the Potomac Garden Center in North Potomac. "People looking for a burst of color can choose colored LED lights."

Creating the Holiday Table

Local designers offer suggestions for dressing a festive table and caring for guests.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

A festive holiday table requires more than prime rib and plum pudding. From incorporating natural elements to maintaining a consistent theme, local entertaining and design gurus dole out advice for creating a tablescape as enticing as the food it holds.

Candlelight creates a warm ambience, but Ann O'Shields, owner of The Nest Egg in Fairfax suggests skipping tall tapers.

"Low candles set a really nice glow on the table and give it a really nice feeling as well," said O'Shields. "I always recommend doing unscented candles so they don't interfere with all the fragrances from your holiday meals."

Vienna-based design consultant Denise

Willard of Décor by Denise suggests choosing a color scheme, but limiting the palette.

"A simple way to give your holiday decorations a designer look is to stick to two or three colors at most," said Willard. "This year the silver and green color combination is hot."

O'Shields agrees that simpler is better. "Whether you want to decorate with blues and browns and silver or go more traditional and use red and gold, keep your palate at a minimum for really high impact."

Remember when creating concepts for the table, height matters. "You don't want it to be so high that you can't see the person across from you," O'Shields said.

For the most polished look, choose a theme and keep it consistent. "I always think that if you pick a theme and do it well throughout and don't falter, you'll be satisfied whether you spend a lot of money or

not," said Michael Corrado, owner and head designer at Devers Design Group in Arlington. "If your theme is candy cane, for example, and everything you do [is] red, white and candy cane oriented, it is going to be very successful."

FOR YOUR GUESTS

Use care in choosing a menu, keeping in mind possible dietary restrictions of your guests.

"Make sure you understand all of your guests' needs and are doing your best to make sure that you have food for everyone so that no one feels overlooked or left out," said Scott Hoffner, corporate chef for Main Event Caterers in Arlington. "Keep in mind that the dietary restrictions of the average person are much different than even just a few years ago. There is a huge turn to vegetarianism and veganism, and you have gluten issues and religious factors in terms of pork or shellfish."

Hoffner believes a menu with farm-to-table fare will make a memorable meal.

"Find food that is local, fresh and in sea-



Ann O'Shields, owner of the Nest Egg in Fairfax

son," said Hoffner. "At the end of that day, that is what is going to give you the best result."

HomeLifeStyle

Top 10 Things To Know Before You Remodel

BY JOSHUA E. BAKER

There are very few decisions that can impact your family life, and the value of one of your biggest assets than selecting the right remodeler. Why not approach this as you would when hiring a lawyer, investment advisor, or even a physician?



1 Seek an Advocate: Unless you're an expert, and have an enormous amount of time, you will need someone who is able to assemble and manage team of professionals to work together on your behalf. Complex projects require input from numerous players, and may include an architect or designer, various engineers, landscape designer, lighting expert and others.

2 Plan Early Government regulations and the permitting process for home remodeling are becoming increasingly restrictive and challenging. An experienced professional can help you navigate through this process.

3 Find a Good Match Ensure that your contractor has a track record of success with projects similar to your own. Ask specifically about projects of comparable complexity, magnitude and level of finish, or requiring special areas of expertise, such as green remodeling, or historical restoration.

4 Get First-Hand Info Check the remodeling company's current references and visit recently completed projects to see firsthand if you are satisfied with the caliber of work. The best remodeling firms will be able to provide you with a list of raving fans who will welcome you into their homes.

5 Explore Options "Paper is cheap." It is better to invest in design which is relatively inexpensive, vs. having missed opportunities or costly changes during the construction process. Look into using durable materials and investing in green technologies that will pay off over time.

6 Be Wise Beware of deals that appear too good to be true. Understanding what you are getting and ensuring the remodeler will be able to provide service in the long-term are essential. Ask for bank references, research employee tenure and confirm that subcontractors have been paid on time to evaluate a company's financial stability.

7 Prevent Stress Especially for larger or more complex projects, insist on a full-time onsite project supervisor to orchestrate the entire process and all the players involved.

8 Be Firm Insist that a detailed production schedule be tied to your contract, and hold the builder accountable for these deadlines.

9 Double Check Warranties can vary greatly from one remodeler to another, so make sure you understand exactly what your builder will cover and for what duration after the completion of the project.

10 Take Advantage Now is a great time to remodel compared to a few years ago.

Joshua E. Baker is founder of BOWA Builders.

I'm Phillip Norris - Your Alexandria Neighbor



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Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan

RIVERFRONT OPEN SUN!

1098 Sea View Ave
\$895,900
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 12/11, 1-4! Rt 1 South; L-Featherstone Rd; bear Left & take first Right onto Sea View.

OPEN SUN!

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. OPEN SUN 12/11, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; R-Mount Vernon Cir.

OPEN SUN!

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! OPEN SUN 12/11, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; R-Old Mill; L-McNair.

\$ 349,900 Ballston "ENCLOSED SUNROOM"

A beautiful 1BR/1BA condo in the heart of Ballston - w/in walking distance to Metro, restaurants & shops. Gourmet kit w/granite, SS. Master w/huge closet. Rooftop pool, fitness ctr, state of the art business ctr. Commuter's dream. Inc. assigned garage prkg.

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"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.

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\$ 175,000 River Towers "HAS IT ALL"

Unique condo community located on 26 acres of trees & beautiful landscape. Amenities include tennis, pool, basketball, picnic area & jogging trails. Freshly painted 1BR w/balcony overlooking creek/pool.

www.marylousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

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!

NEW PRICE!

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!

4002 Belle Rive Terr \$849,000 Classic Colonial River View!

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\$ 589,000 Alexandria "MOTIVATED SELLER"

New wood floors, granite & painted cabls. Rarely avail. 3BR/2.5BA model w/numerous upgrades incl: gas frpl, built-in bookshelves, wood flrs, eat-in kit. Extremely low maintenance, backs to lawn. Garage prkg. Excellent Old Town location.

www.michaelmanuel.com
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\$ 527,500 Alex / Nethergate "NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITY"

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www.richardwebber.com
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NEW PRICE!

1916 Shiver Rd
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CONTRACT!

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 appl, 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.

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)

\$795,000 - \$1,050,000 Alex / Porto Vecchio "WATERFRONT PROPERTY"

Seldom on the market, both offerings have breathtaking river views. #309 - 3BR, SE corner, 2,160 sq ft, solarium, balcony & 2 garage spaces. #710 - 2BR / library w/walls of glass, fireplace, solarium, 1 garage space.

www.pattierney.com
Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
www.marytaylor.com
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

\$ 215,000 Alex. Knolls West "OWNER NEEDS AN OFFER"

Spacious 2BR/2BA unit has been freshly painted + new carpet, 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.

www.wendyshelley.com
Wendy Shelley 703.919.6045

\$ 460,000 Alexandria House "CORNER UNIT"

2BR/2BA condo w/tons of light, private wrap around balcony w/access from every room. Floor to ceiling windows, eco-friendly cork flrs, upgraded kit has Corian counters. Mstr bedroom is ensuite + walk-in closet. 2nd bedroom has wall-to-wall closets. 2 garage spaces. 24hr service, rooftop pool, party rm, sauna & sundeck w/river views.

www.normastraton.com
Norma Stratton 703.966.0756

TESTED!

7929 Bayberry Dr
\$549,000
Spacious Home-

Two Car Garage! A large home prime in location an oversize 2 car garage for under

CONTRACT!

8723 Badger Dr \$439,000 Stunning

Renovation! Completely renovated-model

CONTRACT!

4503 Ferry Landing Rd \$585,000 One

Shows like home! Prime location on huge lot

SOLD!

\$ 275,000 Alexandria Station "MILLION \$ VIEW"

Most conveniently located IBR/IBA 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.

www.elfibiankini.com
Elvie Biankini 703.593.2634

\$ 1,095,000 Alexandria "STATELY GEORGIAN"

10 ft ceilings, 4,500sqft, open flr plan, chef's kit w/ brkfst area, hdwd flrs, plantation shutters only begin to describe this wonderful home. 4/5BR + 4.5BA. 2-car gar + bonus prkg for addtl cars in driveway. Handily located to shops & gov't bldg @Mark Ctr. + walk to local parks.

www.mikelakas.com
Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

\$ 589,900 Old Town "PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT"

Have a new home for the holidays w/this sleek, updated 1,700sqft end TH in popular Nethergate. This is updated to the max w/master suite fireplace, new designer bath w/heated floors, cascade faucets, rain forest shower. 4 lvs of living space, 3 fireplaces, wood floors, patio, many updates, pristine condition. Call me to wrap it up!

www.ReneeSellsAlexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330



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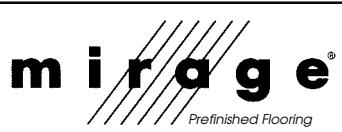
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12•31•11

Four Spotlight Areas of Entertainment between the Masonic Memorial and the Waterfront featuring 107 performances beginning at 7:00 pm

Admission badges are available online now through December 18 for just \$15. Children 12 and under, and active military are FREE, sponsored by Spectre Group International (Dec. 31 pick-up only)

Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!



Third Annual Fun Hunt starts at 1:00 pm

More information and retail badge sites at FirstNightAlexandria.org

HOME SALES

In October 2011, 142 Alexandria homes sold between \$1,860,000-\$95,000.

This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,860,000-\$500,000 range.

For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
608 FORDS LANDING WAY	3	.2	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,860,000	Townhouse	0.04	22314	FORDS LANDING
702 FORDS LANDING WAY	3	.3	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,615,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	FORDS LANDING
106 PRINCESS ST	3	.2	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$995,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	BRANDT TOWNHOUSE
407 NELSON AVE E	3	.3	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$958,714	Detached	0.18	22301	BRENTON
1859 POTOMAC GREENS DR	4	.3	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$945,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	POTOMAC GREENS
4110 FORT WORTH PL	4	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$940,000	Detached	0.24	22304	SEMINARY RIDGE
4907 JOHN TIGER DR	3	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$934,500	Detached	0.08	22304	CAMERON STATION
711 MCKENZIE ST	4	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$910,000	Townhouse	0.07	22301	POTOMAC YARD
316 FAYETTE ST S	3	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	OLD TOWN VILLAGE
2001 COMMONWEALTH AVE	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$875,000	Detached	0.15	22301	DEL RAY
103 FRANKLIN ST	3	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$799,900	Townhouse	0.03	22314	POMMANDER
2709 MOSBY ST	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$790,000	Detached	0.11	22305	DEL RAY
2703 CENTRAL AVE	4	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$780,000	Detached	0.13	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
727 FAYETTE ST N	3	.2	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$762,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	BRADDOCK LOFTS
18 BRADDOCK RD W	3	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	0.13	22301	ROSEMONT
605 WEST VIEW TER	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$720,000	Detached	0.26	22301	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK
520 PITTS ST S	3	.1	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$717,500	Townhouse	0.04	22314	OLD TOWN
814 FAIRFAX ST S	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$674,000	Townhouse	0.05	22314	YATES GARDENS
625 TIMBER BRANCH PKWY E	4	.3	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$665,000	Detached	0.23	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
702 BRAXTON PL	4	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$655,000	Detached	0.11	22301	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK
1009 CAMERON ST	2	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Townhouse	0.08	22314	OLD TOWN
308 HOWELL AVE E	3	.1	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$649,000	Detached	0.13	22301	DEL RAY
309 CAMBRIDGE RD	3	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$649,000	Detached	0.19	22314	COLLEGE PARK
212 GREEN ST	2	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$645,250	Townhouse	0.04	22314	YATES GARDENS
540 SECOND ST #403	2	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$642,600	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	LIBERTY ROW
119 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	.3	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$639,900	Townhouse	0.02	22304	CAMERON STATION
418 FERDINAND DAY DR	4	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$633,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION
2151 JAMIESON AVE #1410	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22314	CARLYLE TOWERS
207 UHLER TER	3	.2	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$624,500	Detached	0.11	22301	GROVES
7 DEL RAY AVE	3	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$620,000	Detached	0.11	22301	ROSECREST
1418 CAMERON ST	3	.1	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$617,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	OLD TOWN
320 WEST ST S #205	2	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$575,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	THE DUKE @ OLD TOWN
227 WEST ST N	2	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$574,900	Townhouse	0.03	22314	PARKER GRAY
5005 WAPLE LN	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$552,500	Townhouse	0.04	22304	CAMERON STATION
910 POWHATAN ST #303N	2	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$551,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	900 N WASHINGTON ST CONDOS
305 EAST MASON AVE	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Townhouse	0.09	22301	DEL RAY
4 SPRING ST E	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$546,000	Townhouse	0.06	22301	ROSEMONT PARK
5020 GARDNER DR	3	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Townhouse	0.04	22304	CAMERON STATION
706 AVON PL	2	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	VIRGINIA VILLAGE
2212 COMMONWEALTH AVE	3	.1	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$534,900	Semi-Detached	0.06	22301	GROVES MT
5057 MINDA CT	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Townhouse	0.02	22304	CAMERON STATION
1123 MICHIGAN CT	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$524,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	NETHERGATE
175 BARRETT PL	3	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION
2707 RUSSELL RD	3	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$515,000	Detached	0.11	22305	DEL RAY
1021 COLONIAL AVE	2	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Semi-Detached	0.09	22314	WESTOVER
1251 QUAKER HILL DR	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.05	22314	QUAKER HILL
113 GLENDALE AVE E	3	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Duplex	0.06	22301	ROSEMONT / DEL RAY
312 SKYHILL RD	3	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Detached	0.19	22314	CLOVER
556 COLECROFT CT	3	.2	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	COLECROFT

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I think what separates the superstar from the average ball-player is the fact that he concentrates just a little bit more.

—Hank Aaron

GIFT GUIDE

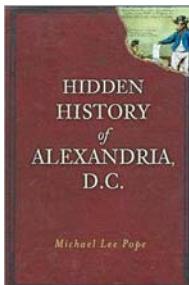
Gift Ideas

FROM PAGE 3
released a commemorative holiday ornament marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

The etched-brass rendering of the historic Marshall House is \$16.95 and comes in an embossed gift box. It is available at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Lyceum, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, City Hall, Carlyle House or the Historic Alexandria History Center and Museum Store as well as online at www.historicalexandria.org.

Another online option is the return of the famous Shuman's Bakery Jelly Cakes. Founded in 1876, Shuman's closed in 2004 when Lonny and Teddy Marchant — the fourth generation of Shuman family members to own and operate the business — decided to retire.

Due to popular demand, the bakery has re-emerged as an online business focusing solely on its signature cake. Made using the original family recipe — three thin layers of pound cake, separated by home-made red currant jelly and served in diamond-shaped bite-size pieces dusted with powdered sugar — the Jelly Cakes can be ordered online at



Michael Lee Pope's "Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C."

www.shumansbakery.com.

"We found a local baker who we think does the family recipe justice," said Patrick Hagan. "Without a storefront, our focus is on fulfilling advance orders, with free local delivery (Alexandria zip codes 22301 to 22315), and shipments throughout the United States. We shipped to virtually every state — even Alaska — over the past year."

Pre-ordered cakes can be picked up at The Winery, 317 S. Washington St., and Alexandria Cupcake a 1022 King St.

"Both places have been so great to work with," Hagan said. "I hope everyone will support these independent businesses in Alexandria."

The local businesses help keep the character of Alexandria unique.

"Supporting all of our local business owners is near and dear to my heart," Capobianco said. "And remember, our gift certificates are always the right size and always the right color," she added with a laugh.

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Photos by Louise Kraft



© Google Map data

Talk of the Town

Puttin' on the Glitz

All that glitters is not necessarily gold. The Wanderer has set out to find sparkle plenty in things that may surprise you. Alexandria's bedecked shops shine with brilliant ideas for holiday fun to fit fat or skinny wallets.

THE MARKET SQUARE SHOP
202 King Street
703 548-0603
The Old Town Box
for Halcyon Days
by Bruce Schaffer
Limited Edition, \$300.



E THE SHOE HIVE
115 South Royal Street
703 548-7105
theshoehive.com
Kate Spade Shoes
from \$125.

ENTERTAINMENT



Alexandria by Candlelight

By MAYA HOROWITZ
GAZETTE PACKET

Experience four notable sites decorated for the holidays on this year's Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours.

"It's a great way to kick off the holiday season with your family," said Gretchen Bulova, director of the Gadsby Tavern Museum. "It's a great group activity. It's a different tour than you would normally receive if you came on tour of the site."

On this year's tour are Gadsby's Tavern Museum, the Carlyle House, the Lee-Fendall House and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. Each will be decorated with greenery and displays for the holidays and there will be seasonal music.

Usually, the sites have a Colonial theme, but this year as part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial events, the sites will be Civil War-themed.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum will feature a fiddle player and Civil War-style dancing. Cider will be served at the Carlyle House,

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.

which was a Union hospital during the Civil War. There will be a Christmas tree at the Lee-Fendall House trimmed with antique toys, gilded ornaments and ribbons as in the 1850s. Guides at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will explain how the store stayed open for business, despite the war.

Tour the sites in any order; a shuttle will be running on a continuous loop.

Buy tickets for Dec. 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. or Dec. 11 from 3 to 6 p.m. at <http://alexandriava.gov/> or call Gadsby's Tavern Museum at 703-746-4242.

'Movies With A Mission'

The Alexandria Black History Museum is continuing its partnership with SankofaSpirit to share the "Movies with a Mission" program. The screenings are held at 4:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

♦ **Dec. 10 — "The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration."** This landmark, vibrant documentary from M.K. Asante uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American experience. Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, "The Black Candle" is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa are so important to African Americans today. Narrated by Maya Angelou, it traces the holiday's growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants. (71 minutes)

Historic Alexandria 2011 Holiday Ornament

Celebrate the holiday season and honor Alexandria's Civil War heritage with the newest collectible ornament from the Office of Historic Alexandria. This year's ornament commemorates the Civil War Sesquicentennial with an etched brass-finish design of historic Marshall House, an important site in Alexandria's Civil War history. Each ornament costs \$16.95 and comes in an embossed gift box.

On May 24, 1861, the Marshall House became the scene of a violent confrontation between Union officer Colonel Elmer Ellsworth and secessionist innkeeper James Jackson that would come to symbolize the opposing sides and the war itself. Because of its significance, the Marshall House, at the corner of King and South Pitt streets, became a popular destination for sightseeing soldiers to visit and one of the most photographed subjects during the war.

Visit www.historicalexandria.org or call 703-746-4242.

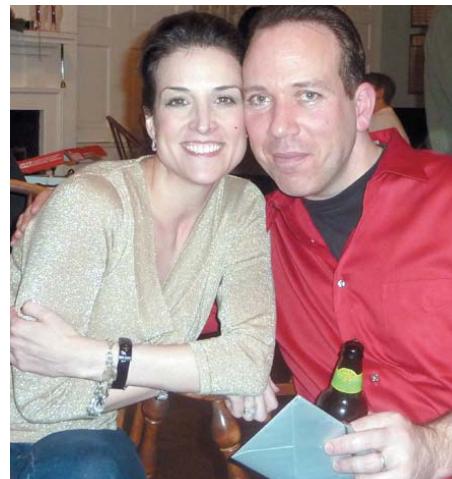


PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

LTA Property designers Benjamin and Heather Norcross parody roles from 'Noises Off' following the Nov. 26 closing performance of the show.



Director C. Evans Kirk and Kat Sanchez celebrate at the cast party for 'Noises Off.'



Rachel Hubbard and Lars Klores relax following the final performance of 'Noises Off' at LTA.

One Last Laugh

LTA crew parodies 'Noises Off.'

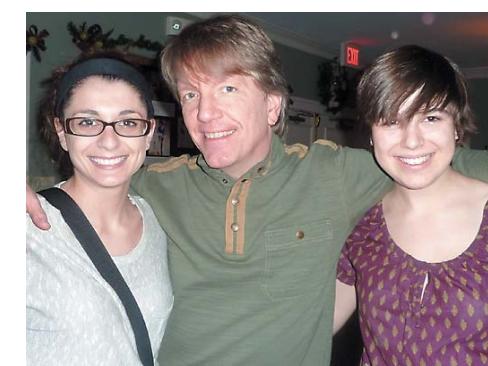
After 21 performances, the cast of "Noises Off" sat back as crew members of The Little Theatre of Alexandria took to the stage Nov. 26 to continue the tradition of staging a parody of the production following the show's final performance.

"This has been a great run for all of us," said director C. Evans Kirk at the cast party that followed the show. "For many of us this has been the hardest show we have done but in the end it all came together."

Property designers Benjamin and Heather Norcross stole the faux show with their impersonations of actors Kat Sanchez and Adam Downs.

"This is our first show working at LTA," said Old Town resident Heather Norcross. "Everyone was so welcoming and helped make it an amazing experience."

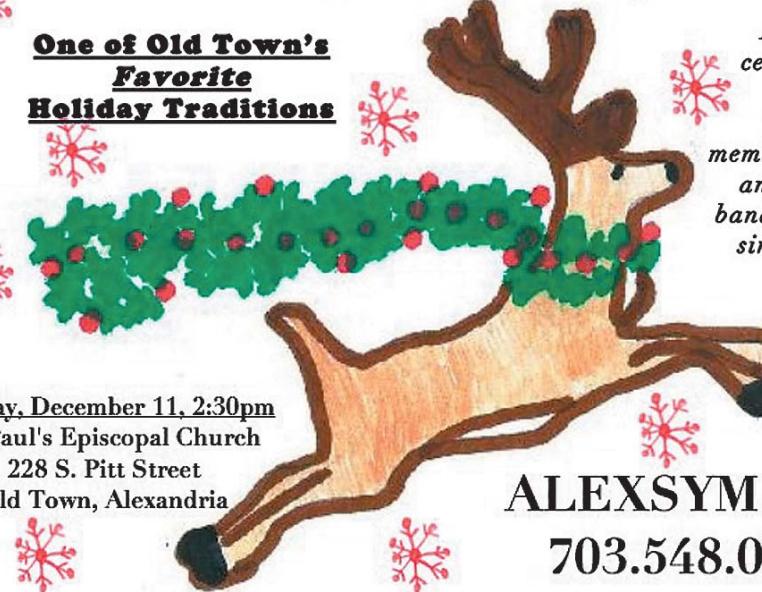
— JEANNE THEISMANN



Bruce Rascher, center, poses with fans Catherine Caruso and Sarah Taubner after the Nov. 26 performance of 'Noises Off.'

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THEATER



NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

"A Broadway Christmas Carol." Created by Kathy Feininger, the show tells the story of the classic Dickens' tale with uproarious parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes. Performances are Nov. 17-Dec. 18, Thurs. and Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sun. at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$45-50 (students \$25). TKTS 800-494-8497/www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 28

"The Rough-Faced Girl."

Performances are Wednesdays to Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with some weekend 11 a.m. performances. Tickets are \$12/advance; \$15/door. At Signature Theatre, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington.



NOW THROUGH DEC. 23

"Romeo and Juliet." Tickets are \$45 to \$55. Part of "Speak No More" — The Silent Shakespeare Festival. Wednesdays 7:30 p.m., Thursdays – Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. with some Sunday evenings 7:30 p.m. At Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington. Call 800-494-8487 or www.synetictheater.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Bash. Hosted by Signature Theatre, the event includes a performance of "Hairspray" at 8 p.m. and then a count down to the new year with the entire cast. Tickets can be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or by calling the Signature Box Office at 703-820-9771. Performance prices are \$82 and \$87 (excludes handling fees). The New Year's Eve party, which includes two drinks, hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast, and dancing to our DJ's tunes, are \$100 for the general public and \$75 for Signature season ticket holders. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

Know of something missing from our Local Theater listings? Send it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com or gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412.

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More Holiday Gifts and Entertainment on December 21, deadline December 14. **Plus, be a part of the acclaimed annual Children's Connection**, December 27, deadline December 14.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

NOW THROUGH 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.

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.

NOW THROUGH 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.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 11

"Plaid Tidings, A Special Holiday Edition." Dec. 8, 9 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/seniors and students; \$5/children. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626 or ZemfiraStage@gmail.com.

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.

Decadent December. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Part of the 2nd Thursday Art Night. Browse open studios, interact with artists, enjoy refreshments. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.

"Three Boys Night Out." 1:30 p.m. Free. At the Hermitage of Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-797-3815.

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, 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.



SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Children's Holiday Concert. 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Kim Allen Kluge, conductor, leads members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in jazz arrangements of favorite holiday tunes. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0885 or www.alexsym.org.

DEC. 9 AND 10

Alberto Parada's Mystique Trunk Show. Friday, Dec. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. A cocktail hour is from 5 to 7 p.m. both days. At Mystique Jewelers, 211 The Strand Waterfront, Old Town Alexandria.

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.; 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.

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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 28

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DESIGNED BY YELLOW DOT DESIGNS

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 27



Rheana Gray, Carlin Trevisan, Tam Hoang and Mina Boyd, all from Alexandria, will perform alongside Johnny Weir and two-time U.S. bronze medalist Ashley Wagner, also from Alexandria.

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

Holiday Dreams on Ice. 7 p.m. Local ice skaters will skate alongside Olympic champions. Rheana Gray, Carlin Trevisan, Tam Hoang and Mina Boyd, all from Alexandria, will skate alongside champion Johnny Weir and Ashley Wagner, also from Alexandria. At the University of Pennsylvania, Class of 1923 Arena, Philadelphia, PA. Visit www.holidaydreamsonice.com.

for ticket purchases and start of tour at 5500 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir. See www.belvoirosc.org or contact Carla at BOSCFundraiser@gmail.com or call 540-847-1467.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Join 4-H! Youth ages 9-18 are invited to join the new Mt. Vernon 4-H Community Club. 4-H is the youth development education program sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension. The central theme of 4-H is "learn by doing" with club projects determined by the interests of club members. For this year, club members have selected Health/Wellness projects related to learning about First Aid and Winter Sports. The Mt. Vernon 4-H club members meet monthly on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1600 Shenandoah Rd., for their kid-directed business meeting. Next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 14. Project meetings are planned by volunteer leaders and schedules vary. Additional county and state sponsored activities, such as Contest Day, 4-H Fair, and 4-H Camp are also offered. There is no cost to join 4-H. Visit offices.ext.vt.edu/fairfax or contact Lenah Nguyen, Extension Agent, at lenah.nguyen@fairfaxcounty.gov or the Mt. Vernon Club at mountvernon4h@gmail.com

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

Noonday Noels. 12:05 p.m. Annandale Singers. A 30-minute musical service. At the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria.

Foster Parent Orientation. 6 to 7:30 p.m. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Holiday Spectacular. 7:30 p.m. West Potomac high school choirs along with guests from Carl Sandburg Middle School and Hybla Valley Elementary School, are singing and dancing during their "Holiday Spectacular!" Directed by Ernest Johnson and choreographed by Gennifer Lisenby, this evening of music has something for all ages, including a visit from Santa Claus! At West Potomac High School, Springbank Auditorium. Tickets, \$6, may be purchased at the door.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Library Open House. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy music and other activities. At the Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-768-6700.

Nutcracker in a Nutshell. 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Presented by the Center for Ballet Arts. 703-273-5344 or www.thecenterforballetarts.com.

Oldies But Goodies. Cocker Spaniel Dog Adoption Show and Pictures with Santa. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Hybla Valley Petsmart, 7690 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Holiday Bike Ride. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Meet at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. (gather outside). Bike 4 or 5 miles to admire the light displays on the houses of friends and neighbors. Part of the Alexandria BPAC ride. RSVP to: jonathan@jonathankrall.net

Christmas Carol Sing-Along and Brunch. 10:30 a.m. St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Catholic Church on Monroe Avenue in Alexandria will be holding a free Christmas carol sing-along and brunch. Visitors are welcome to join members in singing traditional Christmas carols, along with musical accompaniment. Lyrics will be provided. A fellowship brunch will follow the carol singing. At 402 E. Monroe Avenue in the Del Ray area of Alexandria. Visit www.standrewstmarginet.org, or call 703-683-3343.

FINE ARTS



Alexandria resident Judy Heffner displayed her photographic skills during the recent portraitDC exhibition. She entered "Chinatown Alley" in the exhibit because "the shapes and colors in the image had an appealing geometry in the abstract sense. I liked the fact that the man in the picture was eclipsed by everything around him yet everything led into him. It made him look insignificant, almost anonymous." Heffner's work has been displayed at several venues, including The Kennedy Center, Alexandria City Hall, Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Aldie Mill Historic Park, Tyler Teaching Gallery, and the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory.

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

Growing Panes: Windows to a Better Tomorrow

Better Tomorrow. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. An exhibition of Art Windows by four Alexandria youth teams. At 301 King St., Room 2000, 3rd Floor, City Hall, Alexandria. Contact Leisa Collins; 703-598-7360 or leisa@leisacollins.com.

DEC. 8 TO JAN. 22

Into the Light. Works by Esther Yi and Victoria Shaheen, Curated by Amy Morton for Morton Fine Art. Artist's reception is Sunday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. At the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

The Art From Three Rivers."

Presented by The von Brahler Ltd./Gallery, the work will be on display at the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters. The exhibition will feature paintings by Nikolai Antyuchin of Russia's Moscow River, Yuri Kokoyanin's paintings of St. Petersburg's Neva River, and art by Robert Murray from the Potomac River. Call 703-798-8686 or vbgpromo@aol.com.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

Petri Dish. All of the work will be displayed in standard size Petri dishes. Artist's reception is Dec. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. Special Programming: Dec. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.: Experimental mixed-media workshop and artist talk with Leah Schreiber, fee: \$15. At the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

HearSee: A Look at How Artists Interpret the Five Senses.

HearSee features work about our five senses by exploring how we interpret and understand the world around us. This exhibition challenges artists and visitors to think about their senses in a new way. Artist's reception is Dec. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. At Studio 9, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 8

Watershed Moments. Contemplative photographs of the Chesapeake Bay.

Photos by Alexandria photographer Lynn Teo Simarski. At River Gallery, 1000 Main St., Galesville, MD. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 410-867-0954.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 24

Holiday Small Works and Silent Auction. Gallery West fills the walls with an eclectic show of small works perfect for holiday gift giving. Reception is Saturday, Dec. 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 5

Pieces of Earth. The Kiln Club show at Scope Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Ground Floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm

DEC. 7 TO JAN. 1

Small Works. Members from the Multiple Exposures Gallery located in the Torpedo Factory, exhibit "Small Works". Nothing larger than 12"x12" in film, digital, color and B&W will all be represented. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, Alexandria.

DEC. 9 TO 18

It's All About the Little Things. Del Ray Artisans art exhibit. Tiny, diminutive, miniature, but not microscopic. Show features 8x10-inch or smaller artwork in 2- and 3-dimensions. At 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

NOW THROUGH JAN. 8

All That Glitters. Artists are inspired by everything that is not gold. Featuring jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

Artist Samuel Miranda. "Collective Inheritance Installation." At the Schlesinger Center Margaret & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria.

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THE CONNECTION
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

tenance of our historic sites because necessary restoration and care of the historic sites owned by the city had been deferred. Through the collaboration of HARC and the support of former City Manager Jim Hartmann and Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks, these maintenance issues were successfully addressed.

The Waterfront Plan provides the city with an opportunity to celebrate our history and to encourage citizens to be good stewards of that history. We can educate and inspire our citizens and visitors by inviting them to visit and support our many existing museums within the City of Alexandria.

Ellen Stanton
Alexandria

Economically Short Sighted

To the Editor:

Let me get this straight Councilman Krupicka. The City is so strapped for cash that it cannot develop a shared community vision for the waterfront that will revitalize Alexandria's historic riverfront more than hotels, town homes, and offices. That citizens who pursue more open space in a City that has too little for a growing population are on some quixotic quest? That the idea of a museum that will bring in tourist dollars like the Torpedo Factor makes no sense? That hiring a consultant and telling them what you want to see on the waterfront is the same as good planning?

Mr. Krupicka paints a specious picture of the debate and the stark choices we face as a community in redeveloping the waterfront. Choices that he says preclude us from investing in the waterfront directly and indirectly. Let's start with a few economic facts. The City has spent over a \$100 million on a new high school, about \$80 million on a new police station, and approved a \$500 million metro stop in Potomac Yards. The metro station should have been paid entirely by developers, but instead it will cost Alexandria taxpayers about \$250 million and will not solve the traffic problems caused by the City's addiction to density.

In 2008, Mr. Krupicka and his council colleagues wooed the Washington Headquarters Service Building (BRAC-133) to town. We all know the "unmet" costs of that decision. That's another bill that taxpayers are going to have to pay. It is decisions like these that are threatening our AAA bond rating, not the acquisition of a few precious acres of waterfront open space, or the construction of a seaport museum in the future.

Mr. Krupicka wants us to believe that the financial problems the City faces are beyond our control. The nation's economy is stagnant, he says. True, but we do, or should have control over planning and zoning. The problem is, we aren't planning per se, we are trying to be developers, and we are failing miserably. The waterfront planning process started with a decision to develop land owned by The Washington Post Co., not with a blank planning sheet that allows citi-

zens to help create a long-term vision for this important asset.

There is no basis in fact for saying that the City's waterfront plan is more "economically feasible" than the proposed alternatives. In fact, such development rarely reduces property taxes, and it hardly ever improves quality of life.

We can make sensible, long-term economic choices for Alexandria's waterfront, and the rest of the City, too, that don't mean under-funding essential infrastructure improvements, or the educational needs of our kids. These arguments, and others like it, are canards that hide what is really missing from the City's waterfront plan: a long-term economic vision for the future of the waterfront that safeguards our history, environment, and neighborhoods.

Andrew Macdonald
Alexandria

Annual Christmas Festival at Church

To The Editor:

The Music, Drama and Liturgical Dance Ministries of Alfred Street Baptist Church Alexandria will host its Annual Christmas Festival with guest artist Joseph Joubert, pianist and composer, to mark a season of celebration of the Birth of Baby Jesus our Lord and Savior.

The festival, open to the community, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School 3330 King St. Free admission and free parking. For more information, contact the Alfred Street Baptist Church Office at 703-683-2222.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

City Needs Innovation

To the Editor:

The Alexandria Night-Blooming Garden Club, composed primarily of West End residents, is writing to you to voice its great concern regarding the Sept. 17 vote of 7-0 to remove an estimated 15 blocks of mature trees on Beauregard and Van Dorn in order to accommodate transit proposals for Corridor C. This would have a profound impact not only for the visual quality of life aspect for all surrounding residents, but also for the aural impact. We understand that the removal of this many trees, which act as a sound buffer, would trigger the necessity of erecting 20-30 foot tall concrete sound-barrier walls, which would radically alter the neighborhood we currently call home.

Given the proposed six lanes of traffic on Beauregard, eight lanes on Van Dorn and seven lanes of #395, for a total of 21 lanes of constant traffic in a half-mile area, there would be no trees to filter out the carbon dioxide from the many cars or to modify the sound of whirring traffic.

Today's garden clubs, locally and nationally, do much more than arrange flowers. Environmental concerns are a major focus

for study and active involvement. Water, air, sewage and trees all impact all of our citizens. Past mistakes and destruction of the environment must be avoided and corrected, if possible.

Seminary Valley (yes, it is a valley) is a location where air, gas, fumes, pollution etc. Tend to sink and to stay for longer periods of time, with plans to move the roadways almost into the present housing. And a proposed sound wall to hold the air and heat will cause environmental dangers for people and plants in the surrounding region. Residential property values will not increase as demonstrated in several area neighborhoods, following the installation of sound barrier walls. We would like to ask the City officials, staff and consultant to consider in its future planning for the West End in general and for the Beauregard/Van Dorn corridor in particular, some suggestion noted in the Oct. 3 issue of Time magazine:

* Where possible, use permeable road surfaces. "Philadelphia wants 1/3 of its streets and parking lots to absorb water, not run it off."

* Look for ways to recycle waste water. Philadelphia has "launched a remarkably aggressive campaign to keep storm water out of its sewers in the first place, with rain barrels, vegetated green roofs and permeable roads, new trees and new parks. A green road looks like any other road, but rain falls on it slowly and percolates underground instead of zipping into a storm drain."

* For Philadelphia, "the eventual goal is to capture runoff from 1/3 of the city's impervious surfaces and make 15 miles of man-made urban jungle function more like a natural forest."

* Focus on smart building, "Whether of a more efficient water-management system or a smarter grid or a better transportation network." This requires three principles: 1) reduce demand; 2) look for creative solutions over concrete; and 3) look for private solutions. Philadelphia is using financial incentives like tax credits for green roofs, technical assistance to help businesses and homeowners deal with drainage issues; and mandates like a rule that all new buildings must absorb the first inch of rainfall in a storm.

* Search for grants, from the public and private sector, to fund innovations and rely on modern technology for creative options. For example, Philadelphia's water department "has used Google Earth-type technology to set sewage rates, according to square feet of impervious surface rather than square feet of property; that has provided even stronger incentives for landowners to plant vegetation on parking lots and rooftops."

In 2006, Philadelphia had one green roof. Today, it has more than 60.

On behalf of the Night-Blooming Garden Club, and on behalf of Alexandria's West End citizenry, we ask that the City just slow down and explore various alternatives to this easy solution of cutting down trees in order to maximize density and add more lanes for trains, buses and cars. Let us be far more imaginative with the use of permeable roads and surfaces. Let us look to Philadelphia and borrow some of its innovative ideas as we work together to recreate the West End.

BJ Sullivan, President
Alexandria Night-Blooming Garden Club

Consider Lasting Value

To the Editor:

As a long time property owner in Old Town Alexandria, 316 Duke Street and before that on Royal Street, I write to urge you not to approve a high-rise hotel conference complex on the waterfront.

In these difficult times, the prospect of new jobs and property tax ratables no doubt hold great appeal. In my book, it is a false promise. The city would be far better served over the long run, economically and in other ways, with a waterfront that is predominantly open space and accessible to people.

The high-rise hotel is the kind of project that looks good on paper and counts on public investments for roads, sewers and other services and infrastructure, without guarantee of a return to the public. Such complexes age all at once, and not gracefully, as new hotels and conference centers spring up around the metropolitan area. What seems today an economic boon could well be tomorrow's white elephant as developers scramble to finance and refinance, sell and move on. Harbor Place, with all its fanfare, has not proved the financial success its proponents hoped it would be, nor a vibrant addition to the Prince Georges waterfront.

Indeed, as you look around the country at cities fortunate enough to be situated along a river whose waters are cleaner after 40 years of action under the Clean Water Act, the places most vibrant and appealing to the educated and affluent, those who can choose where they live, are precisely those communities that have figured out how to make their waterfronts an integral part of city life, easily accessible to their citizens, with parkland, open space, greenery and outdoor recreation. Investments in these attributes pay ongoing dividends in the quality of life residents enjoy and the long-term economic health that comes with stable and improving property values, tourist attractions, new businesses and continuing revitalization. The waterfront is among Alexandria's most treasured features, reflecting the town's historic riverside character, assets that can distinguish the city in a highly competitive global economy.

One additional factor must enter the city's thinking: global warming. More and more, communities along riverfronts, estuaries and other major water bodies are radically altering shoreline development plans and policies in anticipation of rising sea levels that will flood built up areas. Old Town has already experienced this phenomenon at the base of King Street. It can and likely will get worse. Alexandria must recognize the threat and proceed to develop its waterfront in ways that are resilient and can accommodate rising waters. Open space is

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OBITUARIES

Charlotte Dyer Boran

Charlotte Dyer Boran, 96, died on Dec. 2, 2011, at the Blue Ridge Nursing Center in Stuart, Va. Mrs. Boran was born and raised in Alexandria, where she met and married her late husband, Roland Joseph Boran. They raised three sons there and retired to Colonial Beach, Va., in 1975. There she became a devoted member of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church. Her wit, charm, and sparkling personality won her countless friends in the Colonial Beach community.

She is survived by her three sons, Edgar Louis (wife Kathleen) of Spring, Texas; Roland Michael (wife Christine) of Woolwine, Va.; and Paul David (companion Diana) of Woodstock, Va., and a sister, Bette Dyer Walling, of Banning, Calif. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren, all of whom loved their "Sharlie" very deeply.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church, 12 Lossing Avenue, Colonial Beach, Va.

Anthony Paul Giuseppe

Anthony Paul Giuseppe, a life long resident of Alexandria died at Fairfax Hospital on Oct. 6, 2011 after a brief illness. He was 88 years old.

A loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle, Anthony was born in Alexandria, a son of the late John and Maria Giuseppe. He was educated in the Alexandria public school system, but from an

Coldwell Banker Hosting Toy Drive

The Alexandria and Old Town Offices of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children at The Children's National Medical Center until Jan. 6, 2012. Donations can be dropped off at the Coldwell Banker Alexandria office, located 310 King Street, during normal office hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and will delivered to the center's Oncology Unit and Fairfax INOVA Oncology Unit for children in cancer treatment.

"The toys that we collect during this drive are for the children to enjoy year-round," said Linda Trinkle-Wolf, sales associate at Coldwell Banker's Alexandria office, and director of the toy drive. "We need to collect enough toys, so that every time a child has a difficult procedure in 2012, they can go to the toy collection and pick out something that will put a smile on their face."

The Alexandria and Old Town toy drive started in 2001, and has grown into the single-largest gift to the Oncology Unit and Fairfax INOVA throughout the calendar year.

early age he spent much of his free time learning carpentry skills. By the age of 13 he was working as a finish carpenter for his uncle. These skills as well as the knowledge of construction would serve him well throughout his life.

Anthony graduated from George Washington High School in 1941 and went to work for the Department of the Navy. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and proudly served his country for four years. After his honorable discharge in 1946, he returned to Alexandria and continued working for the Department of the Navy until starting his own construction business in 1947. Together with partners Dominic Colangelo (through the mid 1960s) and Anthony Liggio, he built single family homes and apartment complexes throughout Alexandria and Fairfax. After the retirement of Anthony Liggio in the mid 1970s, Anthony and his brother Oreste and cousin George formed Braddock Construction Company specializing in home remodeling and additions.

Anthony retired from active construction in the early 1980s and went to work for the City of Alexandria Department of Code Enforcement as a building inspector, a position he held until 2002 when

he retired from the City of Alexandria.

An avid Washington Redskin fan, he attended Redskin home games with his brother-in-law for over 40 years. Saturday afternoons in the fall would find him watching Virginia Tech and Notre Dame Football. However, his earliest sports passion was for the Washington Senators.

As proud as he was of his professional accomplishments, his greatest love was for his family. He was his happiest when everyone was together at the family home on Sundays and holidays or spending time together in the summer at Bethany Beach.

Anthony is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years Angie, whom he met while stationed at Sampson Naval Base near Geneva New York, his children Mary Anne Giuseppe (Peter Colangelo) of Kendall Park, N.J.; Linda M Giuseppe of Fairfax, Va., and Anthony P. Giuseppe II (Mary Ellen) of Vienna Va. and grandchildren Anthony P. III, Madeline and Thomas Giuseppe. He is also survived by his brother Oreste Giuseppe (Regina) of Alexandria, and his sister Mary Ewen (Julius) of Naples Florida. He was predeceased by a daughter Carole Maria

Giuseppe and his sister and brother-in-law Dorothy and Robert Cole.

He also leaves behind a large extended family including sisters-in-law Stella Pucci of Hilton, N.Y.; Marie Mularski (Fred) of Geneva, N.Y. and Geraldine Carone of Fredericksburg, Va., as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews, and godchildren.

He will be greatly missed. He will be remembered his warmth

and compassion, his encyclopedic knowledge of construction and watching him carve the turkey and ham at the holidays.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011. Burial was held at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Alexandria. Donations in his memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105

NEIGHBORHOODS

Taylor Run

NEIGHBORS ALL OVER

Lyn Hampton is in Abu Dhabi doing a consulting job.

Sandy and Larry Wiener enjoyed Thanksgiving with a friend of Larry's from college days back in Oregon. They had an enjoyable trip to beautiful Lake Como in Italy.

ROWES TO INDIANA

John and Nancy Rowe are going to Bloomington, Indiana to visit son Greg and grandchildren Haylen, age 5 and Addison, who

is 2.

Dr. Daniel Rowe is now chief resident at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boston. He teaches psychology to Tufts medical students. Nancy and John are thrilled that he will be able to come home for Christmas.

CAROLING DELAYED

Because Christmas is on a Sunday, Shooters Hill carolers will not be able to tromp around the top of the hill singing and collecting money for Children's Hospital until Dec. 30.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

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Legal Notices

ABC LICENSE
MSG MT VERNON, LLC trading as Moe's Southwest Grill, 7698 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer On-premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Frank Maresca, Managing Member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Legal Notices

Obituary Virginia Funkhouser

Virginia Funkhouser passed away on December 3, 2011 in Springfield, VA. Born in Orlando, WV, she graduated Burnsville High School in 1935; received her BS degree in Elementary Education from Glenville State College in 1946; received her MS degree in Elementary Education in 1955 from Vanderbilt University. During her career, Mrs. Funkhouser became Assistant Principal at MacArthur Elementary School in 1956; moved to Minnie Howard Elementary School as Assistant Principal from 1957-1958 before transferring to Prince Street Elementary School as Principal from 1958 to February 1960. From February 1960 to 1967, she was the Principal at Robert E. Lee Elementary School on Washington Street before transferring to Charles Barrett Elementary School as Principal from 1967-1973. Finally in 1973, she transferred to James K. Polk Elementary School where she was the Principal for 9 years from 1973 until the time she retired in 1982.

Mrs. Funkhouser was a leader and promoter of a nationwide children's reading program called Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) for many years headed up by Lynda Johnson Robb, who frequently visited schools in the Alexandria school system. In 1981, as principal of the James K. Polk Elementary School, she played a part in the production of a National RIF movie. She served as co-President of RIF for Northern Virginia in 1986-1987, and remained active as the chairperson for the Alexandria area RIF program for many more years. In 1991, Mrs. Funkhouser was awarded the Distinguished National Service Award by the Reading Is Fundamental Foundation.

Mrs. Funkhouser was preceded in death by her husband, Marshall Funkhouser in 1995 and is survived by 14 nieces and nephews. Friends may gather on Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 11 a.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Bradcock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302 with interment to follow at Mt. Comfort Cemetery.

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Obituary

In Memory of Mary Frances Hodge Secord

September 21, 1912 - November 27, 2011

Mary Frances (Fannie) Secord, 99, of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on November 27, 2011 at The Hermitage in Northern Virginia in Alexandria, Virginia. She was born on September 21, 1912 in Sumter, South Carolina, the first child of Wallace and Laurel Hodge. Fannie was a 1937 graduate of Tuomey Hospital School of Nursing in Sumter.

In 1937 she married Harold Secord and together over the years they contributed greatly to community service in Old Greenwich, Connecticut; Groton, Vermont; and Gloucester, Prince George, Roanoke, and Alexandria, Virginia. Harold predeceased Fannie in 1996.

Fannie's life revolved around the strong support and nurturing care she unselfishly gave to others. Her inner drive to serve others spanned all ages. From 1968-1975 she worked with the Mothers of Pre-Schoolers program (MOPS) at Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria. Additionally, she contributed to the efforts of the Virginia United Methodist Association for Retarded Citizens. When volunteers were needed for the Alexandria Meals on Wheels, she helped organize the program. She served Trinity United Methodist Church in numerous ways - all in dedicated service to others. Even at her retirement home, she was a friend who listened in times of special need.

She is survived by her three children: Grace Repass and her husband, Don; Harold Secord, Jr. and his wife, Carol; and Laurel Secord. Surviving also are her sisters, Alma DeGroot and Ruth Odom. She has five grandchildren: Jenny Kabin (Mark); Brian Repass (Sandy Feutz); Stephen Secord (Diane); Chris Repass (Dana Gillihan); Karen Mason (Kell). Fannie has six great grandchildren, Hunter Kabin, Canon Secord, Taylor Mason, Colin Mason, Reese Secord, and Mia Frances Kabin.

A Memorial Service will be at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 in the auditorium at The Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia. The family will receive friends following the service.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to:

The Hermitage in Northern Virginia,
5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301

Capital Caring Hospice Services
5568 General Washington Drive, Suite A215,
Alexandria, Virginia 22312

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PEOPLE

Taste of Scotland

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 300 people turned out for The Taste of Scotland Dec. 2, the traditional kick off to the Scottish Walk Weekend of events benefitting the programs and services sponsored by The Campagna Center.

Held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, the event was hosted by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Cen-

ter and featured a tasting of more than 15 varieties of scotch with food provided by Bev Hamed of A Thyme and Place Catering.

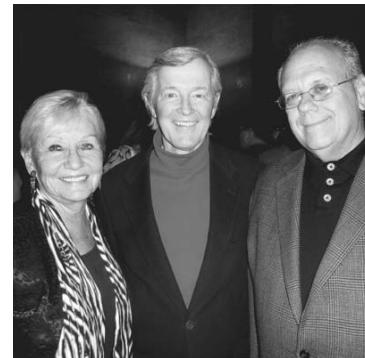
In attendance was Scottish Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop, who praised the event and the efforts of The Campagna Center in the community.

"It's an honor to be here," Hyslop said. "What a wonderful way for Scotland to have some small part in supporting the many programs for children at The Campagna Center."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



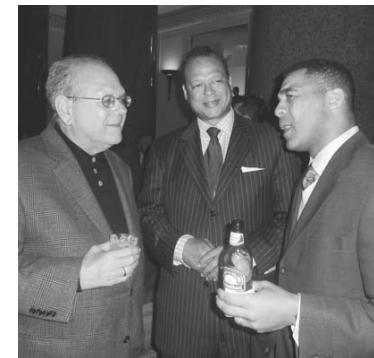
Becky Mahood and Col. Thomas Green compare notes after sampling a Scotch at the Dec. 2 Taste of Scotland.



Former ACPS Superintendent Herbert Berg with his wife Paula and Lonnie Rich.



Scottish Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop, Campagna Center CEO Tammy Mann and Andrea Hageman, Taste of Scotland co-chair



Lonnie Rich, Walter Clarke and O'Kelly E. McWilliams III.

Boats Shine in Parade of Lights

FROM PAGE 5
Imagine Alexandria.

This year's boat parade was produced by RedPeg Marketing in partnership with the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association and the Washington Waterfront Association.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Ryan Rogers and Kelly McCarthy were part of "Christmas Gone Wild" aboard The Dugout Too, which took Best in Show honors.



Captain Alan Glascock as The Grinch won Best in Show for his "Christmas Gone Wild" theme aboard The Dugout Too. He is congratulated by 8-year-old Madison Akers following the Parade of Lights Dec. 3.



John Porter and Chris Covert enjoy the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights at City Dock Dec. 3.



Roger Parks, Bruno Grinwis and Tina Leone at the Parade of Lights Dec. 3.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 30

the best answer.

I understand that a citizens group has proposed an alternative to the large-scale, high-rise hotel complex. They investigated what Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Wilmington and other cities have capitalized on. In Pittsburgh the mayor launched a public-private partnership to confer with residents, craft a vision that restores and celebrates the city's waterfront, and create an exciting, environmentally sustainable, economically vital approach that has been heralded nationally, to revitalize Wilmington's waterfront, the city and state joined to create a nonprofit real estate development corporation to invest in and leverage private dollars for amenities like a river walk, river taxies, cultural facilities and concerts, rowing clubs, restaurants, parking and more. Philadelphia is hard at work using so-called green infrastructure to make its riverfronts more resilient. In other cities — Newport, Rhode Island and Beaufort, North Carolina — waterfront renewal is capitalizing on history, as Old Town could do. The report offers examples of creative, visionary, economically sound thinking that have benefited a wide range of citizens.

Though the citizens' report may not have all the answers for Alexandria, their report on reclaiming Alexandria's waterfront has much to commend. They deserve to be heard and their ideas incorporated in a revised city plan. We know well that people protect what they love, and Alexandria residents cherish the waterfront, for what it is and more importantly, for what it could become.

Plans for the waterfront offer Alexandria the opportunity to shape the city's future for decades to come. A hotel complex that blocks residents and visitors from the waterfront is the wrong way to go. Far better to embrace a vision as other cities are of an open, accessible waterfront for all to enjoy. That would have lasting value.

William K. Reilly
Alexandria

Sacrifice Quality of Life?

To the Editor:

The City is asking the citizens who live on or near Patrick, Henry or Washington streets, what the City terms "Corridor A," to once again sacrifice our neighborhood and quality of life for the sake of politics and some ill-defined and ever-changing goal.

After more than three years and multiple meetings, the City has failed to make its case for installing bus rapid transit (BRT) through Old Town. It has wasted citizens' time and squandered our patience.

City Staff and its consultants advance conflicting goals and explanations to attempt to justify installing BRT through Old Town. At one point during a Sept. 15 high capacity transit corridor meeting, David Whyte, the consultant hired by the city, claimed installing BRT might improve travel

times on Patrick and Henry streets only to be contradicted by City Staff later in the same meeting who admitted it would have little impact. The City's justifications for BRT shift continually; when one justification fails to receive buy-in, they move to the next one.

Despite requests from citizens, the City has failed to provide a shred of hard data to support its claims. New 2010 Census data shows that a staggering 41 percent of the residents in West Old Town already utilize public transportation for work — the highest rate in Alexandria and well above surrounding jurisdictions. Yet staff and their consultants have offered no evidence or even reliable projections that BRT will result in a significant additional increase in ridership that could even begin to justify its costs and disruptions to Patrick and Henry Street residents.

Claims by T&ES's consultant that BRT is necessary in Corridor A because Metro is already at capacity are contradicted by previous information provided by the City. The recently passed Braddock Road Small Area Plan states "WMATA has capacity to increase service frequency on the Yellow and Blue lines to accommodate anticipated growth and demand" (p. 77). In March 2011 Planning and Zoning further advised the Braddock Implementation Advisory Group (of which I am a member) that "In speaking with WMATA, there is plenty of capacity to board or deboard more people at the station. The station was designed to accommodate eight car trains, and most of the current trains are six cars. The amount of usage of this station is relatively low, so there is considerable room to grow."

The route alignments the City proposes belie logic and clearly indicate it has not yet defined what public or function BRT is supposed to serve. One of the City's proposed alignments would run between the King Street and Braddock metro stations via West Street, but City Staff cannot explain what function such a route would serve. It speaks of needing to serve the residents of southeast Old Town, who are some distance from metro, but then proposes a route that runs along Patrick and Henry streets — hardly the optimal route to achieve that particular goal. It cannot provide any hard data on if thru-commuters would give up their cars to take a bus to the Braddock Metro. Nor, can it explain why such commuters would want to go to the Braddock Metro in the first place, given that it is located in a residential neighborhood with few businesses.

The City's first and foremost responsibility is to its citizens and taxpayers. The City's desire for BRT would put additional heavy vehicles on Patrick and Henry streets and further compromise the fragile historic houses, many of which sit less than 10 feet from traffic. As residents can attest, the noise and vibrations from trucks and buses can be felt within our homes, impacting our quality of life and causing damage to these older homes.

The City has not provided a believable justification for adding BRT through Old Town. Nor, has it provided any evidence to show that their proposals will benefit our neighborhood or improve traffic flow. Just the opposite. Until the City can provide hard

data to show the benefit to its citizens and can provide credible statistics on who would use the proposed BRT, it is a waste of both citizens' time and taxpayers dollars to continue this process. Indeed, given the multi-million dollar metro station the City is building at Potomac Yard, which fills in the one remaining transit gap in Corridor A through Alexandria, the logic for BRT in any form through Old Town invites dubiety.

Heidi Ford
Alexandria

Realistic Approach

To the Editor:

Last week I sent [a letter] to the Gazette about my analysis of the CAAWP plan in regards to what did they physically put on the ground. A summary of that piece was: "Let's summarize. Looking at the three sites, RTN, RTS, and Cummings Turner, where 99 percent of what is proposed here (in the CAAWP plan) 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)."

In reviewing the City's Summary document, if you take off the table the Old Dominion Boat Club, the three development sites, I find very little difference between the City plan and the CAAWP proposal. As to facilities, and recognition of history, arts, and culture, they are very close. Close enough to say there is basically no difference. If the CAAWP people continue to say that the City plan is a hotels plan with a history afterthought, one can say that the CAAWP plan is a parks plan with a history afterthought. This in spite that the group proclaims vociferously about being a history-based proposal. And you can throw away CAAWP's suggestion that museums will pay for it all. Not even close.

As to the density issue, let's look at it in a different way. To me, density and FAR calculations are devices and measures to what is really the important point, what will be the effect on traffic on the street, both vehicular and pedestrian. Trip generation depends on the use, not on square feet. One good example is office versus residential. Offices generate twice as many trips as residential because 1000 square feet of office space accommodates an average of four people, whereas 1000 square feet residential space accommodates an average of two people. So the same FAR would generate twice as many trips for office as for residential. Office and residential uses both generate trips during the peak hours,

whereas hotels generally do not. Hotel guests occasionally arrive and leave during peak hours, but most often that is not the case, and they travel by taxi or metro much more often than office or residential users.

I would also add that density does not equate to incompatibility. That's much more a function of design. Planning staff tried to deliver that analysis in a presentation a few weeks ago. The historic warehouse on Union Street, right next to the shopping center parking lot, has a density of 3.0 FAR, a density which most Alexandrians think is very high, but it looks right in that location and with that design. So let's expand the argument about density to what actually ends up on the streets. Nobody is arguing that we will have more traffic, but the City plan has looked realistically at how to handle it. The only way to not increase traffic, is for the CAAWP Parks plan to be accepted, something that is not financially feasible. I think Rob Krupicka put it well when he stated in his letter that "By working with the planning commission framework, we can have a waterfront that is a pleasure to walk along and visit without an extravagant waterfront spending spree. Opponents are entitled to hold the view that their proposed spending is a higher priority than education, public safety or transportation. Or that the city should do it all by raising taxes to be among the highest in the region. Or that the city should abandon its AAA credit rating to make the alternative work. But they should be clear about what they want to give up and who it will impact. There are no free lunches. Not even on the waterfront."

When it comes to economics, density, attractive development that will enhance the waterfront, not over develop it, the City's is a realistic approach. The City needs to rezone to make it happen, and have a greater say in the waterfront's future. I disagree strongly with Andrew Macdonald's quote in regards to the City's approach: "I think the amenities are trash," said former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, cochairman of the coalition. "We're giving the land owners everything they want in exchange for a sliver of land and controls and some permitting control over restaurants?" No Andrew, we are trying to avoid townhouses and or condos on these sites. Something no one in Alexandria wants.

Dennis Auld
Alexandria

Not Very Productive

To the Editor:

I was rather astounded to read Dave Cavanaugh's claims about the workings of the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholders' Group ("BCSG") including the accusation that the leaders "blur(ed) the truth" about the Group's "recommendations" that were recently provided to City staff. As one of the accused, allow me to offer a considerably different perspective.

In brief — six major developers own more

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 33

than 50 percent of the 395 acres in the subject planning area. Their existing buildings total some 5.6 million sq ft of developed floor area, all of which can be renovated/remodeled virtually at will. Existing zoning gives them the right to develop an additional 4.4 million sq ft on this acreage with minimal constraints, no changes to the current Small Area Plan(s) and providing no appreciable benefits to the community (save for additional market-rate housing and an expanded tax base).

The developers would like to add another 2.4 million sq ft and this is where the community has considerable "leverage" in terms of what benefits it would want to see in return. To provide the reader a sense of scale, I would note that the Deputy City Manager recently estimated the value of the amenities discussed to date (including major road improvements, contributions to transit, providing rights-of-way, a new fire station, playing fields and open space, dedicated affordable housing) to be \$139.5 million.

To the extent there has been a "contentious" issue within the BCSG, it appears to have centered around a perception by some that we can all but prevent development of the 4.4M sq ft or else require the developers to provide a lengthy list of amenities. The City's Planning and Zoning Department and, most recently, the City Attorney, have repeatedly asserted this is simply not so. However, there clearly remain a number of "no new development/density" proponents. Others view the redevelopment and new development as inevitable and believe the community will be best served by working together with the developers.

To the extent Mr. Cavanaugh contends that "misinformation ... is perpetuated by City officials and citizen leaders and groups that blur the truth" it would be helpful to have factual information supporting his accusations.

I am intrigued by Mr. Cavanaugh now taking issue with the term "recommendations." To the best of my recollection, the term has been used, without objection, since the early days of BCSG's activities. Since early July, the BCSG has been working with and refining a formal, written draft of its recommendations (in a document so titled). Evolving versions have continually been circulated to BCSG attendees and provided on the group's website (<https://sites.google.com/site/bcsgalex/>). Now, five months later, Mr. Cavanaugh asserts "It is the responsibility of the elected leaders conducting the meetings to entertain a motion if actions of the group are to be characterized as recommendations to the City staff." Use of the term was hardly a secret. Had Mr. Cavanaugh chosen to make a motion relating to the use of the word, I see no reason that it would not have been entertained. Absent his doing so, how were "the leaders" to know that this terminology was apparently troubling him?

Moreover, as Mr. Cavanaugh well knows, each and every written comment received in response to the draft recommendations was forwarded to the City and will be shared with the Planning Commission and

City Council before they make any final decisions on the future of the Beauregard Corridor. Of many hundreds of comments, several dozen emanated from Mr. Cavanaugh himself. If he failed to make his positions or concerns known, it was hardly for lack of opportunity.

As for voting, the group agreed that was generally impractical. In a small area plan that will inevitably run to well over 100 pages, were we to take a vote on every line? To take but one simple example from Mr. Cavanaugh's list — building heights. Is a group of 40-50 people going to go building-by-building and vote on how many feet tall each one should be? And if there are 5 or 10 different viewpoints with respect to a given building does forwarding that vote to the City help in any way? Where there were major differences of opinion (such as "no new density"), it was agreed that the alternative positions/options would be forwarded to the City. That is what was done — as the group agreed.

City staff have attended every BCSG meeting from the outset and are totally familiar with the process, how it evolved and what the recommendations represent. For some individuals to now be accused of not "accurately and truthfully report(ing)" what has transpired is, quite frankly, offensive. Mr. Cavanaugh has had months and months to set the record straight if he felt anyone was misleading our City officials. Resorting to the press at the 11th hour would not appear to be a terribly productive way of addressing his apparently unresolved issues.

Donald N. Buch
Alexandria

City Should Approve Plan

To the Editor:

The debate over the city's proposed waterfront plan has become surreal, with opponents increasingly saying things about the plan that bear little resemblance to what is actually in it.

For example, consider the recent, over-the-top statements that the plan would imperil our national historic district and wreak historic destruction equivalent to the notorious urban renewal period. There is no factual basis for these statements. Indeed, the city's plan would preserve, restore, and reuse the few significant historic structures that remain on the waterfront.

Some opponents claim that the plan was forged in secret backroom deals between the city and developers. On the contrary, the plan is first and foremost a public-oriented document. The planning staff worked hard to maximize public control and leverage over development, as well as maximizing the level of public amenities that could legitimately be extracted from developers.

It's hard to believe that there could be so much controversy over a plan in which some commercial development would take place on just three blocks of a very long waterfront — or 8.5 acres of the 362-acre waterfront plan area. The owners of the development properties already have significant rights, and the city has proposed a modest increase in these rights. But if you listened

to the near-hysterical talk of some opponents, you would think that the city was proposing a new Miami Beach. There won't be high-rise hotels on the waterfront.

City staff proposed increasing the development rights for eminently sensible reasons. In the case of the two Robinson Terminal sites, the city reasonably concluded that because the owner of Robinson Terminal was awarded more development rights in a 1982 legal settlement than are now allowed under city zoning, any effective take back would result in a law suit that the owner probably would win. This would be a disaster, because the city would lose its leverage over the development.

Why is there so much opposition to the plan? One reason seems to be basic self-interest.

A fair number of the opponents seem to want the status quo-plus — more open space, more public access to the water, and a more attractive environment. But for the most part, they don't want more public activities or public-oriented uses such as hotels because these would bring more people to the waterfront.

One way to achieve the status quo-plus would be to defeat the proposed plan, which would probably lead to by-right townhouse development. The waterfront would become even more of a private residential enclave than it is today, but residents, because of the federal legal settlement, would still get more water access and a more attractive environment.

The status quo-plus could also be achieved if the city purchased some or all of the development properties and converted them mostly to parkland and a museum, as some opponents prefer. But the cost would be enormous and is unrealistic given the city's financial situation.

The city plan provides benefits for all of the people of Alexandria, as well as visitors to the city, and not just those who live nearby.

In contrast to what opponents say, the city plan is amenity-rich, largely because of two intensive citizen efforts. Members of the Alexandria Commission on the Arts put together the Art Walk proposal, which is a creative and detailed plan for integrating public art in many different forms along much of the waterfront. The history proposal, developed by members of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission, would imaginatively incorporate various historical elements along the waterfront. Both proposals have been fully incorporated into the city plan.

If fully implemented, the art and history proposals, along with the conceptually imaginative new public open space in the city's plan, would transform the waterfront into a truly distinctive place.

My major criticism of the city's plan, however, is that it doesn't ensure that these proposals will be fully funded. The plan is vague on this. The planning staff needs to estimate what it will take financially to fully implement these proposals. If more money is needed, the City Council should consider some public financing. These proposals are enormously important to the plan's success.

In short, the city's modest plan features three small hotels, some new restaurants

and housing, preservation of historic structures, environmental and aesthetic improvements, a rich array of public amenities, and it largely pays for itself. It's time to end the debate and approve it.

Bill Hendrickson
Alexandria

Concerned about Adult Education

To the Editor:

As a volunteer teacher at the Alexandria Education Center, I was shocked to hear that the Education Department plans to close the school at the end of December. I hope that conscientious Alexandrians will turn out on large numbers to protest this decision at the School Board's Dec. 15 meeting.

I teach the lower two of seven levels of ESL classes. The center also teaches GED students. Can the Education Department seriously plan to throw our two most vulnerable populations — African Americans and new immigrants — to the winds? Can the Department really care so little about America's future which depends upon these populations being able to succeed?

Please let the Education Department know that their intention of closing the school is unacceptable. Information about our Coalition to Save Our School can be obtained from our head, Vincent R. Tocci, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret) at vrtoocci@cox.net.

Elizabeth Vodola
Alexandria

About Adult Education Changes

In an email sent Wednesday, Dec. 7, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Morton Sherman issued the following statement concerning adult education:

Thank you to the students, staff, and families who have called or written to ask about proposed changes to our Adult Education programs.

When I receive the final report and set of recommendations, we will post it for all to see not only on the School Board agenda web site, but through other forms of communication such as the Daily Digest. We will send a note out letting you know when this report has been posted.

I know that there are some stories going around of drastic measure being recommended, of severe cuts to programs being proposed, of students being left without support and options, and of our adult learners being left without means to address ELL needs. None of that is true.

The bottom line is that we know we can and we must do better for our students and our families at all levels of the school division and the community. Part of our transformation as a school division includes taking candid and hard looks at programs so that we can improve our service and raise levels of achievement. To think that we would eliminate services to some of our most needy and deserving students is unimaginable to me. To always seek to improve services is at the very core of our work.

SPORTS

TC Williams, Wakefield Honor Basketball History

Titans junior Moss records double-double in victory.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Pressure and expectation accompanied the name on the back of T.C. Williams junior Landon Moss' jersey when he took the floor on Dec. 3.

For the second straight season, the T.C. Williams and Wakefield boys basketball teams donned throwback jerseys to honor historically black schools in Alexandria and Arlington. TC dressed as the Parker-Gray Bulldogs while Wakefield dressed as the Hoffman-Boston Trojans. On the back of each jersey was the name of a former player from that school.

While honor came with wearing any uniform on this Saturday night at T.C. Williams High School, Moss sported the No. 5 jersey honoring Earl Lloyd, the NBA's first black player and the man for whom the Titans' court is named. Moss had a lot to live up to, but it didn't take long for the lanky forward to show he wouldn't be weighed down by pressure.

Moss drove baseline, skied toward the rim and threw down a one-handed dunk over two Wakefield defenders in the first quarter, electrifying the sizable crowd on hand. He finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds as the Titans opened the 2011-12 season



SUBMITTED PHOTO

T.C. Williams senior point guard Daquan Kerman leads the Titans onto the court prior to their Dec. 3 contest against Wakefield at The Garden.

with a 69-58 victory against the Warriors.

"It's a lot of pressure because you don't want to [fall short of] the expectations," Moss said. "Especially [wearing the] Earl Lloyd [jersey]. I mean, the court is named after him."

A tribute-themed Saturday of basketball started with a TC-Wakefield freshman boys game at 2 p.m. After the schools' boys and girls JV teams played, the varsity girls tipped off prior to the varsity boys. Paid attendance reached nearly 1,300 by the end of the night, and former Parker-Gray athletes had courtside seats to take in the action. The TC girls wore Parker-Gray throwback jer-

seys for the first time, and the varsity boys teams wore last season's jerseys that Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley helped design. The Parker-Gray jerseys were modeled after the New York Nets of the 1970s and the Hoffman-Boston uniforms resemble those of the early-1970s Atlanta Hawks.

"Having somebody else's name on your back that built the [foundation] for us [brings pressure]," T.C. Williams senior Jordan Byrd said, "so you just have to go out and try to represent the name and number on our back."

Byrd led all scorers with 19 points. TC senior forward T.J. Huggins added 10.

Wakefield took a brief lead early in the second quarter, when a pair of free throws gave the Warriors an 18-17 advantage. TC would pull away, however, and led by as many as 24 points in the second half.

"We wait for this game every year," TC senior point guard Daquan Kerman said. "This is one of the [most fun] games. [It brings] an adrenaline rush. This is the most hyped game of the year, other than the Montrose [Christian] game."

After the game, the Titans voiced displeasure with their performance, but Saturday's event was about more than what happened on the court.

"It's just a great feeling to have the kids honor the old players and have the old players come out and see our players give 100 percent effort," TC head coach Julian King said. "In that aspect, wins and losses really don't matter. As coach Bentley and I have talked about, it's not about us, it's about the two schools."

Corey Aldrich led Wakefield with 13 points. Anthony Chatman finished with 10 points and Khory Moore added nine.

"To me, winning and losing this game means nothing," Bentley said. "It's about what we're doing for Arlington County and Alexandria. If you've been around, Alexandria and Arlington have had so many fights with each other. [T.C. Williams head coach] Julian King and I have really tried to bridge the gap with Arlington and Alexandria by doing this game. It's so fun to see the old-timers out there enjoying their old days, so I'm really happy about that."

TC will host South County at 7:45 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8.

TC Girls Honor Parker-Gray with Lopsided Victory

Titans wear throwback jerseys for first time.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams girls basketball team sported Parker-Gray Bulldogs throwback jerseys for their Dec. 3 contest against Wakefield to honor the historically black high school in Alexandria.

On the back of each Bulldogs jersey was the name of a former player. T.C. Williams senior point guard Sofie Schedler was thrilled to represent former Parker-Gray point guard Christine Howard, who was sitting courtside. Schedler presented Howard with a rose prior to tipoff. Other former Bulldogs in attendance also received roses from their TC representatives.

"They [got to] see our trailblazers," TC head coach Kesha Walton said, "that paved the way for where they are today."

Having shown respect through pregame gestures, TC moved to the next stage in its Parker-Gray tribute — an on-court dismantling of Wakefield. A 30-point second quarter propelled the Titans to a 73-33 season-opening victory against the Warriors at T.C.

Williams High School. Junior guard Christian Roberts recorded a double-double, scoring 11 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Junior guard Baylee Simpson also scored 11 points and freshman guard Rejoice Spivey added 10. Sofie Schedler and sophomore guard Angie Schedler opened scoring with back-to-back 3-pointers and finished with seven and eight points, respectively.

After a TC-Wakefield freshman boys game at 2 p.m. and a pair of JV contests between the two schools, the varsity girls took the court prior to the varsity boys, who honored Parker-Gray and historically black Arlington school Hoffman-Boston with their own throwback jerseys. The result was a sizable crowd, with paid attendance reaching 1,300 people by the end of the night.

"It's much better than playing in front of a small crowd," Roberts said. "It's more energy, you play better and I feel like you play more as a team when you've got more people there to support you."

Earlier in the day, the Titans had lunch with the former Bulldogs in the TC hospi-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

T.C. Williams junior Christian Roberts (24) and senior Jada Roberts defend Wakefield's Brenare Williams during the Titans' 73-33 victory on Dec. 3.

tality room.

"I like how we were able to meet everybody, all the people from the old school," Sofie Schedler said. "It was really nice that

our school came out to support us. I kind of feel honored to play for them."

The Titans will host Edison at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9.

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SPORTS

Rodriguez Wins William V. Campbell Trophy

Andrew Rodriguez, a 2007 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School, has been named the winner of the William V. Campbell Trophy as the nation's top senior scholar-athlete in college football.

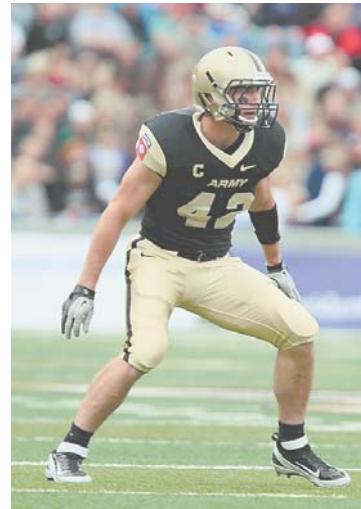
A linebacker at the United States Military Academy, Rodriguez was presented the award at the 54th National Football Foundation Annual Awards Dinner in New York City Dec. 6.

The Campbell Trophy is one of college football's most prestigious awards, recognizing academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership. The award comes with a \$25,000 postgraduate scholarship.

Rodriguez received his award from NFF Chairman and former NFL great Archie Manning, whose sons Peyton (Campbell winner) and Eli were NFF National Scholar-Athletes in 1997 and 2003, respectively.

Carrying a 4.14 GPA as a mechanical engineering major, Rodriguez ranks third in a class of 1,052 cadets. He has posted 21 A-plus grades and recorded six terms with a GPA of 4.0 or higher. He is a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-District honoree and has qualified for the Dean's List five times.

On the field, Rodriguez has 140 career tackles in 23 games. As a sophomore in 2009, Rodriguez led the Black Knights with 85 tackles while also registering two interceptions, three pass breakups, two



COURTESY PHOTO/USMA

Bishop Ireton grad and Army linebacker Andrew Rodriguez.

forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, 1.5 tackles for loss and 0.5 sacks. He recorded a career-best 15 tackles versus archrival Navy and also posted 14 stops against Air Force that season.

Rodriguez missed the 2010 season due to what was originally thought to be a career-ending back injury, but returned as a team captain in 2011 to appear in all 11 contests. He currently ranks third on the squad with 55 tackles, one interception and 1.5 tackles for loss. He leads the team in pass breakups, passes defensed and fumble recoveries. Rodriguez and the Black Knights will face Navy this Saturday at FedEx Field in the first Army-Navy game to be played in the nation's capital.

Rodriguez is the son of Ginny and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command David Rodriguez. His sister Amy, also a BI alum, graduated from West Point in 2006 and recently completed a tour of duty in Iraq.

Rodriguez is Army's first Campbell Trophy winner and joins 1990 Campbell Trophy winner Chris Howard (Air Force) as the only winners representing a service academy.

In addition to Manning, past recipients include Danny Wuerffel (1996), Chad Pennington (1999), Brian Leonard (2006), Alex Mack (2008), Tim Tebow (2009) and Sam Acho (2010).

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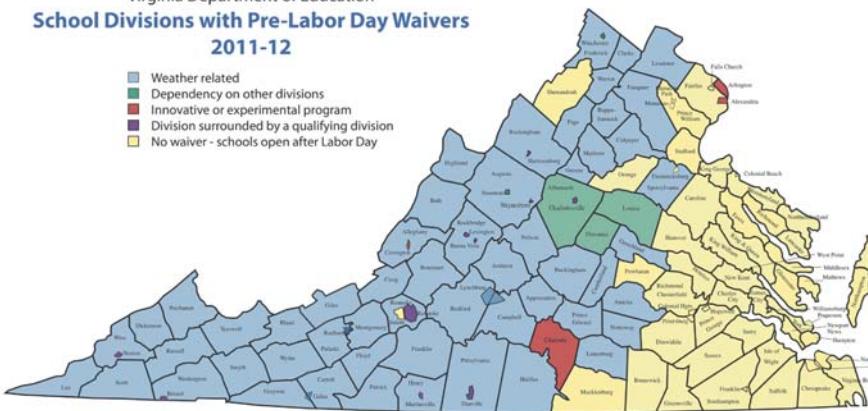
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NEWS

Virginia Department of Education
School Divisions with Pre-Labor Day Waivers
2011-12



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Map depicts school districts approved for pre-Labor Day opening due to weather waivers.

Dominion Over School Calendars

FROM PAGE 6
shown a distinct change in tourism."

THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY has spent more than \$200,000 in the last 15 years contributing to Republicans and Democrats in Richmond. Top recipients in Northern Virginia include \$4,500 to Del. David Albo (R-42), \$2,050 to Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-31), \$2,000 to former Del. Vince Callahan (R-34), \$2,000 to Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and \$1,750 to state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35). But votes don't always follow the money. Albo, for example, said he'll be voting to overturn the law this year.

"Now that we have the Standards of Learning, it's really important to give the schools time to prepare the students to take the test," said Albo. "You can't have it both ways." Two years ago, Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) introduced a bill that would have allowed school with high rates of poverty be exempted from the Labor Day restrictions. That failed, but Ebbin is undeterred. Alexandria's experience being essentially denied a waiver has galvanized local school officials to put pressure on Alexandria City Council members, who added the item to their legislative package this year. Now Ebbin says he's going to take another crack at it, introducing a bill that would give school divisions the ability to start school whenever they want, regardless of poverty statistics.

"This is not going to be an easy bill to pass," said Ebbin. "But I feel strongly about

local school divisions having autonomy."

SCHOOL OFFICIALS say momentum is on their side this year because the Virginia School Boards Association has identified the issue as a top priority. It's an issue that's a shared frustration across Northern Virginia, especially the easternmost divisions that can't get the weather-related waivers. Alexandria's failed attempt was to get an "innovative program" instead of a weather-related waiver, which became a problem when the state education officials determined starting before Labor Day wasn't required to carry out the innovative program Alexandria officials were outlining. Fairfax County considered applying for a waiver but abandoned the idea after considering the prospects of trying to fight the system.

"The state is flat out wrong," said Alexandria Superintendent Morton Sherman. "It's just downright silly to say that schools can start early if they get a lot of snow but can't if they want to help teachers."

This year, the effort is supported by the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents as well as a handful of Northern Virginia jurisdictions.

"The big hurdle is going to be having the business community not as concerned as it's been in the past," said Michael Molloy, director of government relations for Fairfax County Public Schools. "It's really about persuading legislators that this change is needed to help student achievement."

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and four Democratic candidates for council were. That leaves the two incumbent Republicans and the two other likely Republican candidates in a position to campaign on the issue. It also leaves Democrats like Jack Sullivan, who has been very critical of the council's actions on the issue, able to raise the issue during candidate forums leading up to the June 12 primary.

"Using BRAC as a political issue worked for us in the sense that it brought lots of people to our campaign to volunteer about something they felt passionately about," said Max Glass, who managed Garvey's campaign. "It also helped us recast someone who was viewed as an outsider as someone who was a champion for the dispos-

sessed."

The lessons of how to use BRAC-133 for 2012 aren't clear, though. Krupicka lost the election, although it's not clear what role if any the issue played in his defeat. And Republican candidate Miller Baker tried to use the issue against state Sen. George Barker (D-39), although that was another unsuccessful campaign. Nevertheless, West End residents who feel they have been marginalized say they will make sure the issue becomes one of the central topics of discussion during the coming election cycle.

"They're going to have to justify why they supported it," said Cathy Burns, a West End resident who has been critical of council's action on the issue. "If they say they didn't support it, they'll have to explain that too."

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FROM PAGE 7

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Death Notice

Joseph L. Williams
Major US Army (Retired)

December 3, 2011. Survived by Daughters, Carla Troidl (Justin) and Cheryl Dellingen (Jason). Fiancé Karen Tisher. Four grandsons, Matthew, Michael and Dylan Troidl and Bryce Dellinger. Sister Margaret Hanna and two nephews. Family is accepting visitors at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria on Sat., Dec. 10th from 2-4pm. Memorial Service at Old Post Chapel and interment at Arlington Cemetery, date TBD.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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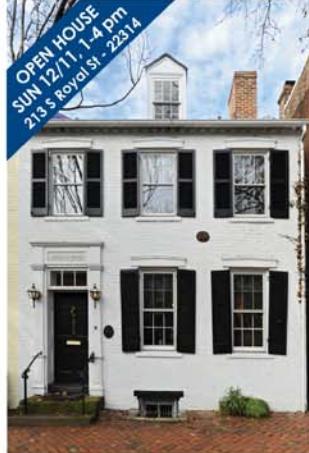
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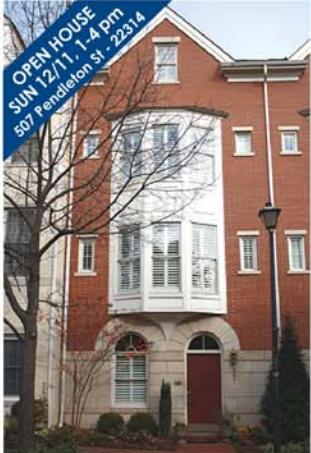
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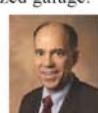
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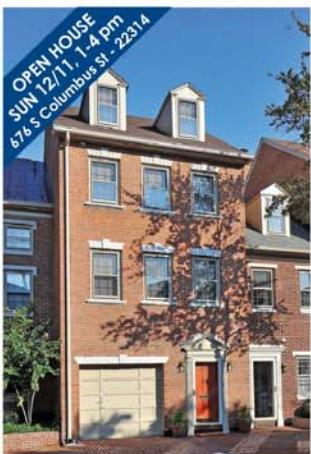
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