

'The Most Segregated Hour'

Lack of diversity crosses all denominations.

BY MONTIE MARIN
GAZETTE PACKET

In 1963 at Western Michigan University, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "at 11 on Sunday morning when we stand and sing and Christ has no East or West, we stand at the most segregated hour in this nation."

Nearly 50 years since King noted the near total absence of diversity in church congregations, the racial and ethnic makeup of today's churchgoers in Alexandria is still far from the multicultural ideal.

"It's like interracial marriage, no one looks up anymore when you see it, but it isn't that common"

— Dr. Alton Wallace, deacon, Alfred St. Baptist Church

The lack of diversity crosses all denominations. From Catholic to Baptist to Episcopalian, blacks continue to gravitate to black congregations, whites settle into white flocks, and Hispanic worshippers continue to pray with Hispanics.

Alexandria's problems with diversity in churches are emblematic of the nation as a whole.

According to Isaac Newton Farris Jr., president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and nephew of Dr. Martin Luther King, much remains to be done to obtain the benefits of a diverse congregation.

"Compared to what was happen

SEE LACK, PAGE 8



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Open House at Shelter Hogette Susan Gundling talks to visitors in the cat enclosure at the open house Sunday, Jan. 8, at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue. Gundling is looking for a companion cat for her 6-year-old cat at home. MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 5.

Plan Heads To Rocky Conclusion

Supporters have votes to pass plan, but opponents plot final stand.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The first rule in politics is knowing how to count. By almost any standard, that means that a controversial proposal to allow hotels and increase density at three properties on the waterfront is likely headed for approval. Five out of seven City Council members have already indicated that are

Democrats Launch Primary Campaign

Candidates are eager to win back two seats lost in last election cycle.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Six candidates officially launched their campaigns this week at a meeting of the Alexandria Democratic Committee, and several more are expected in the coming weeks. The stakes are high for Democrats, who are eager to reclaim two seats they lost back in 2009 while retaining the four seats they currently hold. This year marks the first election cycle in the history of the city that local candidates are going to appear on the same ballot as the presidential race — a high-turnout election that will bring many Democrats to the polls who would not otherwise vote in a springtime city election.

"Hey, Mr. President, November 2012 — don't forget we're on the same ticket," Democratic Mayor Bill Euille said to President Barack Obama at a fundraiser this week,

according to a story recounted later by the mayor. "He said, 'That's right. What can I do?' I said come on over to Alexandria."

Euille is likely to be unopposed in the primary, leaving the upcoming Democratic primary fight as the main attraction in the coming months. Republicans are going to hold a caucus, and the party will probably not be able to field more than six candidates. As a result, the coming months will see a fierce battle among the Democratic candidates to nail down the six slots on the Democratic ballot for the general election. Because Democrats will hold such an advantage being on a presidential ticket for the first time, the fight for the six slots will take on an added intensity leading into the primary.

"Unfortunately, our Republican friends have a very different view of what our city and state should look like," said Sean Holihan, a first-time candidate. "That's why

we have to keep fighting for a more progressive Alexandria. It's a fight we can win, and it starts with sending the two Republicans on City Council back home."

Last month, Holihan was critical of how the city handled a controversial redevelopment in Arlandria. Council members ended up approving the proposal despite massive opposition. Holihan said the process suffered from a lack of communication between city officials and neighborhood residents, and that a better dialogue might have been able to lead to better compromise to include affordable housing. Holihan is not the only Democratic candi

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"It's possible that some kind of compromise will emerge, but that hasn't happened yet."

— Councilwoman Alicia Hughes

likely to support some form of the plan when the final votes are cast on Jan. 21. But opponents say they will be spending the upcoming weeks trying to gather enough signatures to force a supermajority of

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Donley Won't Seek Reelection

Concern about high-blood pressure has persuaded Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** not to seek reelection in the upcoming City Council election. Donley said he made the difficult decision against seeking reelection as a way to reduce stress in his life.

"Right now, my health and my family come first," said Donley, adding that he would keep his job as vice president at Virginia Commerce Bank. "I've got to pay the bills."

Originally elected to the City Council in 1988, Donley eventually rose to the position of vice mayor and launched a campaign for mayor when **Patsy Ticer** was elected to the Virginia state Senate in 1995. He won a special election in February 1996 and was reelected to two full terms before stepping down in 2003 to become chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. In 2005, he became athletic director for Alexandria City Public Schools, a job he left in 2008 to launch a campaign for the House of Delegates. In November 2008, he decided to run for City Council instead. In May 2009, he received more votes than any other candidate and became vice mayor.

"He's a very centered person, so I'm sure he'll be fine. The rest of us are freaking out," said **Susan Kellom**. "I'm sure this will open the door for more candidates to jump into the race."

Councilman **Rob Krupicka** has already announced he won't be seeking another term, and Democrats are hoping to take back two seats they lost in 2009. That leaves four open slots on the six-person Democratic ticket that will be chosen in the June 12 Democratic primary.

Economic Worries

The vice mayor may be serving his final year in office, but he made it clear Tuesday night he won't be going quietly. During a discussion of the city's monthly financial report, Donley pointed out that the city's office vacancy rates show a troubling decline. According to the report, Alexandria's office vacancy rate has increased to 13.6 percent, which is 2 percent more than last year. The increase comes at a time when Northern Virginia's office vacancy rate dropped from 12.7 percent to 12.4 percent.

"We've put a lot of effort into streamlining code enforcement and doing things to make it easier to do business here," said Donley. "But that's not reflected in these office vacancy rates."

The report also noted a 4.5 percent unemployment rate in Alexandria, much lower than that Virginia rate of 6.4 percent or the national rate of 8.6 percent. Nevertheless, the city is still in a difficult position. "Though the local unemployment level remains far below the national average, we still remain heavily tied to federal government jobs," wrote City Manager **Rashad Young**. "Government employment continues to be one of the few areas that is trending downward."

Realignment at City Hall

At the end of his first month as the new city manager, Young has already made some major changes to how the city government is organized. And more are likely on the way. Late last week, he announced he would be creating a new chief of staff position to oversee the transition. In a memorandum outlining the realignment, he also identified which city agencies would report to which deputy city manager or assistant city manager.

"These changes to the reporting and liaison relationships among the departments and the city manager's office are being made to create reporting relationships that are more thematic and support a 'line of business' structure among operating staff agencies and the senior manager who works with them, as well as increase accountability and performance across the organization," Young wrote in the memo.

The new chief of staff role will be filled by former Budget Director **Bruce Johnson**, who served as acting city manager after former City Manager **Jim Hartmann** stepped down in May. In the new position, Johnson will focus on preparing the docket items, coordinating council work sessions, supervising legislative liaison activities and responding to public inquiries received by City Council members. He'll serve in this capacity until his retirement in fiscal year 2013.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Former governor George Allen discusses campaign issues as candidate seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

Allen Declares War on Unions

Seeking his old Senate seat, former governor goes on the offensive against organized labor.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

HOping to capitalize on anti-union sentiment in Virginia this year, Republican George Allen is giving labor issues a starring role in his bid to recapture the Senate seat he lost to Jim Webb in 2006. In a meeting with Connection Newspapers reporters and editors, Allen proposed a series of specific measures to undercut the power of unions. The agenda would undercut the power of the National Labor Relations Board, prohibit mandatory labor agreements on federal projects and ensure secret ballots before a labor union can be created.

"Unions are a big part of the Democrats' political operation," said Allen. "There's no secret about that."

Allen says the series of proposals were inspired by the National Labor Relations Board's lawsuit against airline manufacturer Boeing, which sought to punish the company for locating a new plant in South Carolina in retaliation for strikes by unionized workers at its existing facility in Washington state. The lawsuit was dropped last month, but Allen and other Republicans are now hoping to capitalize on the issue on the campaign trail.

"This is an issue that hits a sweet spot for Republican voters," said Kyle Kondik, political analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "So it certainly helps him in the primary against Jamie Radtke. It remains to be seen whether it's something that would appeal to voters in the general election against Tim Kaine."

ALLEN SAYS the freedom to work is "under assault," and repeatedly used the lawsuit against Boeing as a reason for the federal government to take decisive action. But Allen's agenda is broader than simply undercutting the power of the National Labor Relations Board. He would also like to amend the National Labor Relations Act to prevent workers from being compelled to pay union dues or fees to get or keep a job, essentially expanding Virginia's Right To Work law nationwide. He would also work to guarantee that workers have the opportunity to cast secret ballots before a union can be organized.

"None of George Allen's proposals would help workers in Virginia like me in any way," said Karen

Conchar, Fairfax County employee and member of Local 5 Service Employees International Union. "Taking away rights at the workplace doesn't help the middle class put food on the table or pay the mortgage, and it doesn't help businesses create good jobs."

As governor in the 1990s, Allen says he saw firsthand how the commonwealth's Right to Work Law helped encourage investment and expansion of business in Virginia. If elected to the Senate, he says, he wants to advance an agenda to undercut the power of unions in a way that would help businesses create jobs, save taxpayers money and protect the liberty of non-unionized workers. One of his goals would be to repeal the Davis-Bacon wage laws that he says diminish competition and inflate costs to taxpayers for construction when the federal government is involved. Ultimately, Allen said, he's hoping that voters send a mandate for action.

"The reality is that it matters who the president is," said Allen. "President Bush didn't allow project labor agreements. This president is all for them."

ONE OF ALLEN'S proposals would have particular resonance in Northern Virginia: It would prohibit the federal government from entering into mandatory project labor agreements, a collective bargaining agreement that establishes terms and conditions for a specific

construction project. These are frequently large-scale infrastructure projects, such as bridges or Metro expansion to Dulles International Airport. Allen says that taxpayers would get more bang for their buck if the federal government was prohibited from engaging in collective bargaining on these projects.

"The reason you don't want to have these is that they increase the cost of a project, on average by 22 percent," said Allen. "You have less competitive bidding."

Union groups dispute this notion, questioning if taxpayers would really save money by hiring low-wage workers. Supporters of project labor agreements say unionized workers are paid more money because they produce better work. As a result, supporters say, they also create infrastructure that is less likely to break down or fail — sometimes with catastrophic consequences.

"Sometimes what you see is that without project

"Unions are a big part of the Democrats' political operation. There's no secret about that."

— George Allen

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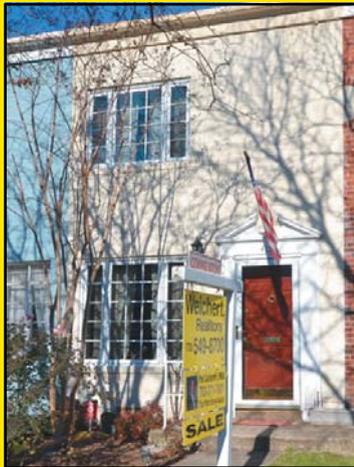
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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Police Sergeant Steve Carr and his black German Shepherd G'Kar.

Open House at Animal Shelter

Friends and visitors to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue on Sunday, Jan. 8, were treated to a welcome by Ms. Virginia Julie Wilson, treats from Barkley Square and cupcakes from the CupCake Ladi, Nefertiti. Members of the Alexandria Police Department also brought a few of their K-9 dogs to greet the guests and visitors.

Members of the Alexandria Fire Department brought a truck for the children to explore. As a bonus four of the Hogettes made an appearance and spent the afternoon talking with visitors.



Fire Captain Luis Santano talks with Ms. Virginia Julie Wilson.



The CupCake Ladi, Nefertiti (right), and her assistant Natasha Otero.



Hogetts Eddie, Big Mac, Stoneyette, and Susan Gundling gather for a photo with a friend Pat Malone at the open house on Sunday at the shelter.

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Allen Attacks Cost of Organized Labor

FROM PAGE 3

labor agreements you end up with a more exploitable workforce," said Julie Hunter, spokeswoman for the Virginia AFL-CIO. "These are workers that tend to not have the same training that the union workforce has."

Allen's opponents don't have much to say about his specific proposals. Campaign officials for Jamie Radke, the Tea Party candidate hoping to challenge him in the Republican primary, declined to respond to multiple requests for an interview. Her campaign website says she would oppose laws that would require a worker's secret ballot in union elections. The site also says she would support Virginia's Right To Work Law and oppose collective bargaining between government entities and public employee organizations and unions.

"The fundamental right to associate with those we choose assures workers the right to form labor organizations," Radke said in a written statement on her campaign website. "However, this fundamental right of association also guarantees the individual the right not to associate."

If he's successful against Radke, Allen will face former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine — pitting two former governors against each other in a Senate race. Like Allen, Kaine also supports Virginia's right-to-work law. When contacted about Allen's labor proposals, the Kaine campaign issued a statement saying that the former Democratic governor up-

held the law as governor and will continue to support states' rights to establish their own rules on this issue as senator. The campaign did not respond to a request to address Allen's specific proposals.

"The answer to our economic challenges is not tinkering with workplace rules, as George Allen suggests," said communications director Brandi Hoffine in a written statement. "The real answer is building a high-talent economy by investing in education and workforce development."

Allen's suite of proposals will pit traditional political opponents against each other, labor unions and their Democratic allies on one side and business leaders and allies in the Republican party on the other. What's different about this election is the recession, with the unemployment rate in Virginia currently at 6.2 percent. Another difference with this election cycle is the growing Occupy movement, which seeks to cast a spotlight on the same wealth inequality that gave rise to the original labor movement in the late 19th century. Now, Allen says, it's time to move away from that model and adopt a more free-market approach.

For voters in Northern Virginia, the stakes are high. "This artificially increases the costs and it also ends up with less competition so you end up with a higher cost to the taxpayers," said Allen. "If you look at the Metro extension to Dulles, the ones who will ultimately have to pay for these unnecessarily higher costs will be the taxpayers."

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Waterfront Plan Supporters Have Votes To Pass Plan

FROM PAGE 1

seven votes.

"This is probably the most important vote since urban renewal," said Boyd Walker, co-chairman of Citizens for An Alternative Waterfront Plan. "It will change the landscape of Alexandria, and so there should be a higher standard."

Currently, the whip count is a bit unresolved. Mayor Bill Euille is one of the chief advocates for the plan, as are Vice Mayor Kerry Donley and Councilman Paul Smedberg. After his unsuccessful campaign for the Virginia state Senate last year, Councilman Rob Krupicka also announced his support for the proposal. So far, the only member to indicate she will likely vote against the plan is Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, expressing concerns about the use of eminent domain against the Old Dominion Boat Club to acquire land at the foot of King Street.

"I just can't support a plan that says we should set aside land that's currently pri-

vate property for use as a public park," said Hughes. "It's possible that some kind of compromise will emerge, but that hasn't happened yet."

Councilman Frank Fannon is conflicted between his support for the Old Dominion Boat Club, where he is a member, and his loyalty to the business community, which is strongly in favor of the plan. So far, he said, he has yet to make up his mind. That leaves Councilwoman Del Pepper as a wild card. At an Alexandria Democratic Committee meeting Monday night, she indicated that she might be willing to vote for the plan if certain amendments were added. When asked by a reporter what kind of amendments, the longtime councilwoman wasn't forthcoming.

"None of your business," Pepper said and headed for the exit.

OVER THE COURSE of the last year, the debate on the waterfront plan has gone from heated to hostile to downright rude. Now, with the final vote only days away,

tensions are mounting as each side makes its final pitch. Opponents are planning a rally members are calling "Take Back the Waterfront," for Jan. 11, the day of the final vote.

Supporters have organized a series of meetings to mobilize speakers for the final public hearing on the issue, which is likely to be one of the longest in recent memory. During a work session on Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Bill Euille joked that the Army museum at Fort Belvoir has been in the works since 1814.

"I hope we don't take that much time to make a final decision," said the mayor, breaking the tension in a packed council chamber.

As council members digested the recommendations of a work group that submitted recommendations late last year, the outlines of a final version of the plan came into view. City planners say it will take about 25 years for the plan to pay for itself, eventually adding \$1.1 million of new revenue each year to the city's coffers. Councilman

Krupicka suggested that the money be set aside in a lockbox so that it could not be used for other projects in different parts of the city. He also agreed with a work group recommendation that a separate entity such as a not-for-profit organization be created to help implement the plan.

"I think we have a spotty record" with implementation, Krupicka said during the work session.

Hughes said she was concerned that the plan may have what she called "hidden costs" for implementation because an environmental impact study has yet to be conducted, and at least one of the formerly industrial sites is known to have potential problems. City planners said they have created what they call "planning-level cost estimates," and expressed confidence that they have accounted for an "order of magnitude" for costs associated with the plan.

"There's an opportunity for leadership here," said Smedberg at the end of the work session. "For the community's sake, hopefully we can come to some resolution."

Democrats Eager To Win Back Two Seats Lost in Last Election

FROM PAGE 1

date to offer criticism of incumbent Democrats in recent years. Newcomer Charles Sumpter said he would have voted against the Arlandria redevelopment and added that the city has dropped the ball on economic development on the West End.

"We've lost sight of the end goal for Landmark Mall," said Sumpter, who is not currently a member of the Alexandria Democratic Committee but says he will be by the primary. "We need to get back on track."

WITH ALL the incumbent Democrats seeking reelection except Vice Mayor Kerry Donley and Councilman Rob Krupicka, recent controversial decisions will take a central role in the upcoming campaign for City Council. Aside from the Arlandria redevelop-

ment, which was widely criticized as gentrifying a neighborhood in a way that will displace poor and Latino residents, another hot-button issue is the city waterfront small-area plan that would allow hotels at three sites slated for redevelopment and increase density.

"The positions we've had to take recently I know that some of you aren't quite pleased with," incumbent Councilman Paul Smedberg told members of the Alexandria Democratic Committee at the Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center on Monday, Jan. 9. "So I know it is not going to be easy."

One issue that is certain to become a central focus of the campaign is traffic gridlock at the Mark Center, where 6,400 new Department of Defense will be working by July. The Washington Headquarters Service was located here as a result of recommendation

133 of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission back in 2005. Three years later, a deputy city manager sent a letter to the Department of Defense endorsing the site, adding that the city was "comfortable that sufficient capacity will be created" and that "no additional traffic studies are warranted."

"I didn't see that letter until after it was sent," said former Councilman Justin Wilson, who was a member at the time but later lost his reelection bid. "Our discussion up to that point had been about making a zoning determination and figuring out a way to get money in lieu of taxes, so I was surprised to see that transportation was part of the letter."

But it was. And the Department of Defense chose the Mark Center over another site known as the Victory Center, which was

at a Metro stop and widely assumed to be the leading contender. So much so that the owner asked about \$200 million more for the site. Driven by financial considerations, the Department of Defense selected the Mark Center and Alexandria got stuck with the traffic mess. Late last month, U.S. Rep.

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Likely to Announce

Donna Fossum, 62: A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Fossum grew up in New Mexico and moved to Alexandria in 1982. She has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of New Mexico and a master's and a doctorate in sociology and a juris doctor from the State University of New York. She served as an attorney at the American Bar Foundation and on Capitol Hill. After receiving her doctorate, she took up a position at the Rand Corporation and is currently an independent consultant. She lives in the Beatley precinct.



Arthur Peabody Jr., 64: A native of Lynn, Mass., Peabody moved to Alexandria in 1972. He has a bachelor's in political science from Northeastern University and has a juris doctor degree from Cornell University in New York. He was an attorney in the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice for 34 years and is currently the lead Medicare counsel for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He lives in the Chinqunpun precinct.



Boyd Walker, 43: A native of Washington D.C., Walker was raised in Alexandria. He has studied at Northern Virginia Community College, George Mason University, and the University of Virginia. He works as a real-estate property manager and lives in the Durant precinct.



Announced Candidates

Sean Holihan, 30: A native of Long Island, N.Y., Holihan moved to Alexandria in 2007. He studied at Northern Virginia Community College and has worked at his family's construction company. Since moving to Virginia, he has worked for Del. Brian Moran (D-46) and state Sen. George Barker (D-39). He is currently a communications manager for NARAL, and he lives in the Nova Arts precinct.



Del Pepper, 75: A native of Omaha, Neb., Pepper moved to Alexandria in 1968. She has a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Grinnell College and did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. She served as a social worker in Cook County before moving to Alexandria and working as an aide to former Mayor Charles Beatley. She lives in the Patrick Henry precinct.



Paul Smedberg, 51: A native of Hartford, Conn., Smedberg moved to Alexandria in 1988. He graduated from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania with a double major in economics and history. He also has a certificate of graduation from the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. He works as a director of government affairs for Affymax, a pharmaceutical company based in Palo Alto, Calif. He lives in the Lyles-Crouch precinct.



Charles Sumpter, 26: A native of the Bronx in New York City, Sumpter came to Alexandria in 2009. He has a bachelor's degree from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., and a master's degree from Catholic University. He worked in government for the last six years in policy legislation and government contracting. He lives in the Tucker School precinct.



Justin Wilson, 32: A native of Cheverly, Md., Wilson moved to Alexandria in 2001, though he also lived in the city for two years shortly after he was born. He has a bachelor's degree in business information systems from Virginia Commonwealth University, and works at Amtrak as a systems engineer. He lives in the Mount Vernon precinct.



Lack of Diversity

FROM PAGE 1

ing when my uncle was on the front lines, things have certainly changed, but not sufficiently enough," said Farris. "When we worship together we see different last names, ethnicities, races and age groups. It fosters the notion that we are all unified in our belief in the Creator."

In response to a growing need for pastoral awareness, in 2005 the Arlington Diocese established the Office of Multicultural Ministries, led by Corinne Monogue, to support the diversity of area Catholics.

"Seeing diversity in the same pew, in the same congregation shows the beauty of Christ's message 2012 years ago; we are not strangers to one another, but human beings," said Monogue. "Nonetheless, there are churches in Alexandria that are more racially homogenous than not."

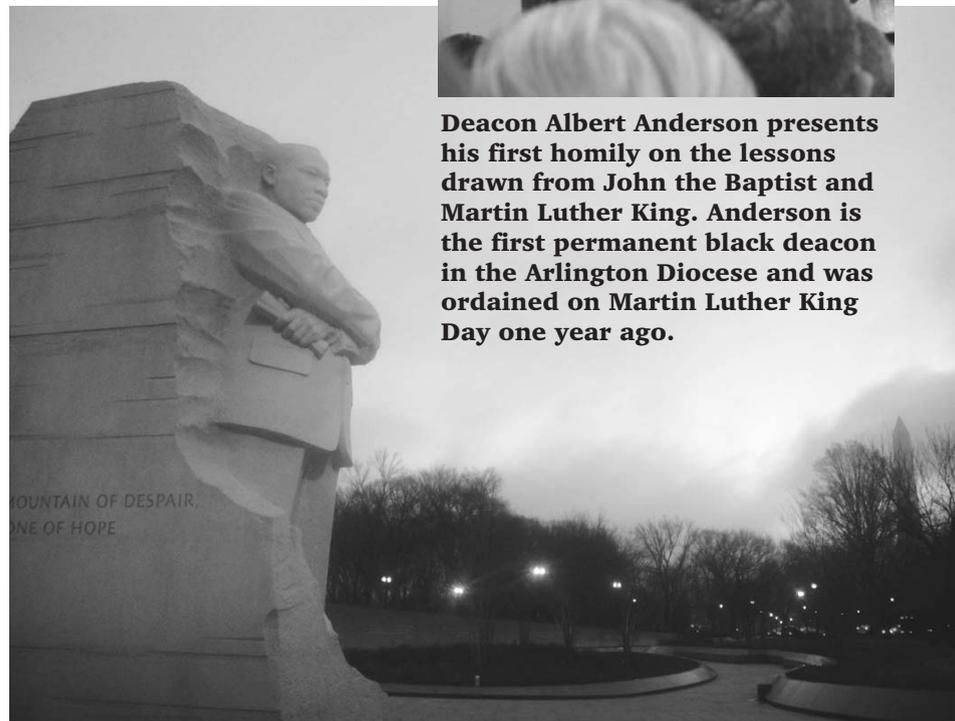
St. Joseph Catholic Church was established as an all black congregation in 1915 as a response to the need for black Catholics to practice their faith without segregated areas. This sense of history continues to draw strongly on the 300 mostly black families who attend services.

Relevant to the changing times, Albert Anderson from St. Joseph was ordained one year ago as the first black deacon in the Arlington Dioceses. He also happened to be ordained on King's birthday.

"As an African American, to be ordained on Martin Luther King's birthday is very special," said Anderson. "I was a product of the movement, I heard him speak on one occasion and it was an amazing experience. My first homily drew comparisons from John the Baptist and Dr. King."

Many Baptist churches in Alexandria arose out of the historic necessity for African Americans to worship freely. In 2012, however, breaking down those historic and cultural divides is not easy.

"Sadly diversity has not come; for whatever reason there are social issues that do not allow it to happen," said Raymond Anderson, deacon at Ebenezer Baptist Church. "As a Baptist congregation, we be-



Deacon Albert Anderson presents his first homily on the lessons drawn from John the Baptist and Martin Luther King. Anderson is the first permanent black deacon in the Arlington Diocese and was ordained on Martin Luther King Day one year ago.

PHOTO BY MONTIE MARTIN/GAZETTE PACKET

The Martin Luther King Monument at sunrise.

lieve Jesus came to unite all people, but it's up to the individual to come. Once you come and the barriers that separate us break down, you'll see we are more alike than not."

"We're perhaps another 50 years before congregations are truly integrated," said Dr. Alton Wallace, deacon with Alfred St. Baptist Church. "It's like interracial marriage, no one looks up anymore when you see it, but it isn't that common."

Findings from the first ever National Black Catholic Survey, released in November of 2011, show that nationally 86 percent of black Catholics find it is important to include African American culture in worship. The significance of cultural differences has been investigated by Protestant denominations with similar findings.

Julien Randolph served 10 years as the outreach chair for Immanuel Church on the Hill, during which time he was tasked with

identifying why so few African Americans join the Episcopal Church.

"Several theories exist as to why the number of black Episcopalians is somewhat limited; maybe it's too formal, maybe the music is not appealing," said Randolph. "Immanuel does very well with diversity because everyone, no matter who they are, are welcome with heartfelt sincerity."

The sincerity of welcoming others regardless of differences transcends denominations in Alexandria. Although diverse congregations are still something that must be achieved, the importance attached to the goal brings King's message one-step closer towards his dream.

"My uncle was motivated by the simple Christian ethic that we are all God's children," said Farris. "It's a great thing to see diversity in congregations, and seeing more and more of it. That is certainly what my uncle was fighting for."

Democrats Launch Primary Campaign

FROM PAGE 7

Jim Moran (D-8) was successful in passing legislation that limited the number of parking spaces at the facility until improvements could be made. But the level of anger over the issue is white hot in the West End. Even during the last campaign in 2009, former Mayor Kerry Donley was critical of the way council members handled the situation.

"In my opinion, the city should have endorsed only one site — the Victory Center," said Donley, who is now the vice mayor because he received more votes than any other council member. "Instead they left the door open for the Mark Center, and I have yet to hear a clear rationale for that decision."

FOR WILSON and former Councilman

Tim Lovain, this year's election will be about retribution. Lovain made that point clear when he opened his speech to Alexandria Democrats with: "As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted by losing by 168 votes last time around in 15 percent turnout." Yet even Lovain was willing to offer some criticism of the recent direction in the city, charging that Arlington and the District of Columbia have engaged in more progressive land-use policy in recent years.

"I'm a big believer in smart growth and transit-oriented development," said Lovain. "And I think that Alexandria's behind the curve on that."

Although the Democratic primary is scheduled for June 12, that date could be pushed back if the General Assembly takes too long to draw new congressional district maps. Alexandria Registrar Tom Parkins said

the fallback date would be in August, a time when many people are out of town and the turnout would likely be smaller than in June. Whenever the primary is held, Democrats are bracing for a fight. In addition to the candidates that formally announced this week at the Alexandria Democratic Committee meeting, more are still waiting in the wings to potentially launch campaigns in the coming weeks. They include School Board member Arthur Peabody, Planning Commissioner Donna Fossum, former Police Chief David Baker and activist Boyd Walker.

"I think the waterfront is going to be one of the hottest issues this year," said Walker, who said he was waiting for a final vote on the small-area plan before making a final determination on a potential candidacy. "Anyone who votes for this plan should be voted out of office in my opinion."

Youth Summit Emphasizes Service

BY MCKENYA DILWORTH-ABDALLA
CENTER DIRECTOR
NANNIE J. LEE MEMORIAL
RECREATION CENTER

Martin Luther King Day is a day that the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities takes to heart by planning a day filled with meaningful events and service projects for volunteers, children and youth to enjoy and do. Service is the core message of the annual MLK Youth Summit because Dr. King stressed that service was the needed quality of leaders and service is the action needed to make sure that communities remain together, healthy and safe.

"The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is important." That is this year's quote from Dr. King that serves as our reminder that as long as we lead a quality life enriched with community service our age (the length of our lives) is not what makes us significant, but rather the contributions we make. Opinions and ideas are not more important because they come from an older person. We want to stress to youth this year that their ideas, their creativity, their service and their opinions are valued. We want to teach them how to prepare themselves with information that will help them to have "informed" viewpoints.

So, you want to come out and volunteer at the center for the MLK Youth Summit and want to know what's there to do. We have the following events and service projects planned: making care packages for homeless people, caring for the community garden, making basic first aid kits, creating inspirational/motivational cards for our troops and children in hospitals, making cupcakes for children in shelters, stuffing envelopes, creating anti-bullying posters and slogans, creating a collage of the activities of the MLK weekend, building set pieces for the upcoming theatre (ACCT) productions and helping to create our center's museum for the month of February.

We will also host dance and drama workshops to be performed at the end of the day. Those workshops were popular last year, so they are returning this year. The re-enactment of the March on Washington will lead us to the Kauffman Auditorium where youth perform what they learned from the dance and drama workshops.

If you have a creative idea that you think would benefit a group of people please let us know by calling 703-746-5533. We are also still collecting items for our care packages for the homeless at the following locations: Nannie J. Lee, Charles Houston and Hammond School.

OBITUARIES

Family, Friends Recall Librarian Frankel

A couple weeks after Gertrude Frankel died, her daughter Karen Frankel called the city of Alexandria to ask about insurance benefits. The woman on the other end asked if her mother had worked in the library's Barrett branch. Karen Frankel said she had, and the woman said that Gertrude Frankel had helped her with her term papers.

Gertrude Frankel worked with the Alexandria public library for 45 years, from 1960 to 2005, before her death in December at the age of 92. She was a reference librarian, and over her time at the desk she gained a reputation for being the person to come to for answers. "She loved answering questions," Karen Frankel remembers.

She was especially good at answering business questions. Linda Wesson, the Division Chief of Administrative Services at the library and who worked with Gertrude Frankel for over 20 years, remembers that patrons would often seek Gertrude Frankel out to ask about specific investments. She was able to point them to the sources they needed.

Lee Deroche, a fellow reference librarian who came to the Alexandria public library in 1973, said that Gertrude Frankel loved people and helped Deroche apply the lessons that Deroche had learned in library school. "She was like a second mother to me," she said. Like Wesson, she remembers Gertrude Frankel as being intelligent and knowledgeable on business subjects.

However, Gertrude Frankel's interests as a librarian lay beyond the technical aspects of business advice. She loved to read mysteries and detectives stories and, as her son Jack Frankel recalled, westerns. "She loved to read about the West," he said.

Gertrude Frankel read about the West, but she traveled the world. Her journeys included trips to Europe, Russia, Canada and China, some with her daughter and some alone. Her most recent trip was to England when she was 84. She traveled back first class; her parents had come to the U.S. in steerage, and she wanted to know the experience from the opposite end.

Gertrude Frankel was proud of her heritage, especially her upbringing on New York City's Lower East Side, which was at the time a run-down, traditionally Jewish neighborhood. Her father owned a restaurant on Ludlow Street, which sold

kosher meals to the neighborhood's religious inhabitants.

Though Karen Frankel said that her mother was not a devout Orthodox Jew, she worked hard to keep a kosher home after moving to Arlington. In a town with a small Jewish population at the time, this was often difficult. "Now you have Trader Joe's," said Karen Frankel, "but back then you had to truck down to Maryland to buy kosher."

But Gertrude Frankel was always a part of the Arlington community. She was a Girl Scout troop leader, a member of the Congregation Etz Hayim synagogue, and a Sunday School teacher at the Temple Beth El. Towards the end of her life she served as president of the Fairgolds senior group.

And she was a beloved member of the Alexandria public library. "She was really a fixture of the library system," said Karen Frankel. Trying to sum up her mother's legacy, she said "basically, a love of reading and writing and research and finding out new things and helping people."

Contributions in Gertrude Frankel's memory can be made to the Alexandria Library or to the American Cancer Society.

— COLLIN SMITH

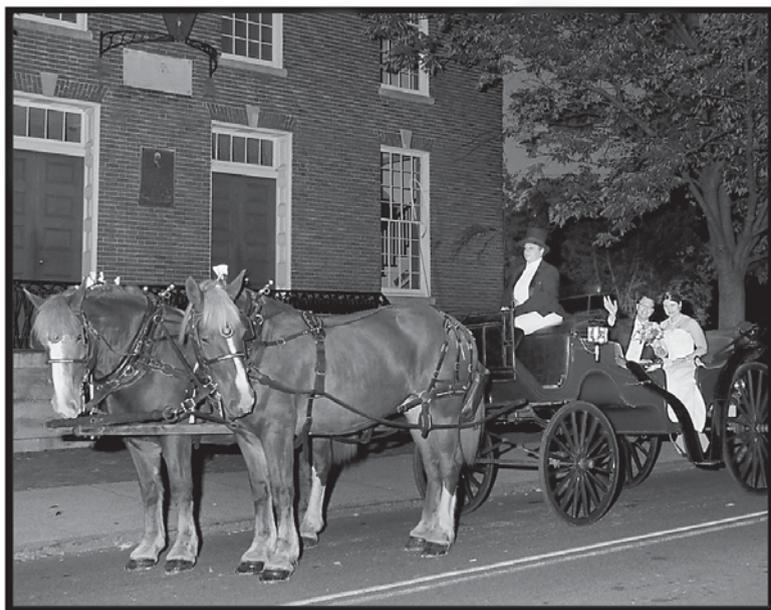
John Lawrence



John Paul Lawrence, 86, of Reston died on Dec. 28, 2011. He was born in Elizabeth, N.J. on May 24, 1925. He lived in Reston and Alexandria over the years. During WW II, John served on the Navy troop transport ship, U.S.S. Lejeune, as a medic for five years. He spent the majority of his adulthood working for Dominion Resources.

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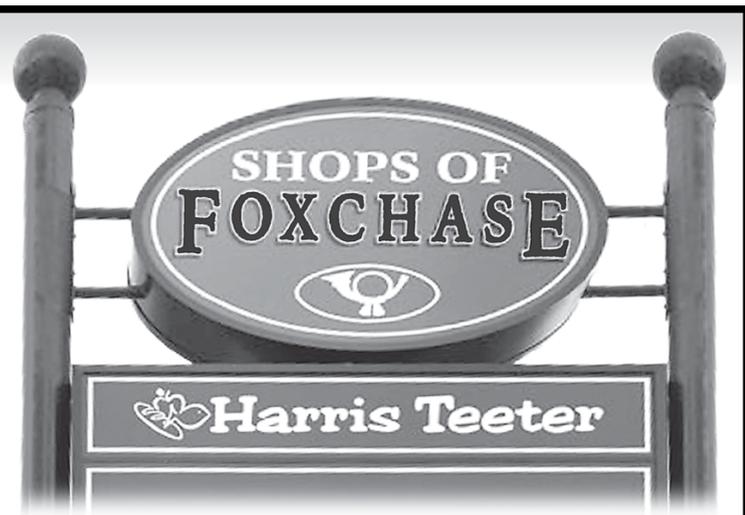
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OPINION

Tune in to General Assembly

Republicans control House of Delegates and Senate; Senate has served as roadblock to many things passed by the House in the past.

The newly configured Virginia General Assembly has begun its work in Richmond, convening on Jan. 11.

By Valentine's Day, the Senate and the House will be done with their own legislation and will be considering only legislation already passed by the other chamber. In previous years, this is where the legislation passed by the Republican-controlled House often met its demise in the committees of the Democratic-controlled Senate, but this year is different.

With 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans making up the Senate, and Republican Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling able to cast the tie-breaking vote on

many issues, plus a Republican governor to sign bills passed, this year is likely to have a somewhat different flavor and outcome than sessions past.

If everything goes smoothly passing the budget and Congressional redistricting (what could go wrong?), the session will adjourn on March 10.

Some things to watch: As the Governor seeks to increase money for transportation without raising taxes, the proposed budget will reduce money for K-12 education and social services. More conservative legislation, including concerning abortion and guns, is likely to emerge. The Governor's proposals to reduce regulation will likely move freely through the assembly.

Northern Virginia residents expressed their concerns at a hearing before the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly last Saturday, Jan. 7. About 60 people spoke, many about the need for continuing funding for social services, help for people with disabilities, treatment for people struggling with substance abuse, and more.

Chances are excellent that the senator and delegate representing you have changed since last year because of redistricting, elections and

the retirements of several long-time representatives. New districts snake, rattle and roll around Northern Virginia in a way that makes it impossible to say simple things, like, if you live in Arlington, your senator is so-and-so. Unfortunately, if you live in Arlington or Alexandria, your senator could be one of three people. If you live in Fairfax County, it's also impossible to describe simply. You need to look it up.

The good news is that the General Assembly website is relatively user-friendly. Visit http://legis.virginia.gov/1_cit_guide/contacting_my.html to look up who your legislators are, and how to contact them. You can also track particular legislation that interests you, or browse some of the thousands of bills that have been introduced by topic.

General Assembly website: <http://legis.state.va.us/>

Follow the Virginia Senate on Twitter, @vasen and the Virginia House of Delegates on Twitter @vahouse

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM, ON TWITTER, @MARYKIMM OR @FOLLOWFAIRFAX

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Almost 40-Year Perspective

To the Editor:

Open letter to the Alexandria City Council and neighbors:

In 1973, a half dozen Alexandria residents and families brought suit against the City Council for approving construction of four 19-story apartment buildings on wa-

terfront land that is now, thankfully, Founders Park. Working with neighbor and attorney Robert Montague, members of the Northern Virginia Conservation Council and pro bono lawyers of the Washington law firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering, we claimed the high rises would be built on filled waterfront land that actually belonged to the federal government

and that city approval also violated new Virginia Constitutional protections for historic and environmental places. The federal government took over and won that lawsuit.

Now almost 40 years later, after decades of haphazard and often ugly high-rise development permitted on and around the city's historic waterfront, the city is pro-

posing what appears to be a more carefully planned mixture of low-rise waterfront development, parks and marinas to enhance and preserve its heritage as one of America's oldest seaports.

This letter is not necessarily endorsed by all who brought the original suit, but is written in hopes that city officials and residents can reach consensus, despite decades of citizen distrust over development decisions of previous City Councils.

The Past: The city's north waterfront is a motley collection of huge office and apartment buildings and a high-rise hotel, ranging up to 20 stories. The massive office buildings, architecturally undistinguished to put it mildly, are dark, empty and dead at night and create high masonry walls restricting public view and access to the waterfront. Large blocks of 4- and 5-story townhouses, the tallest in the city, were also approved directly on the Potomac River. Public streets were closed off to permit some of these developments, some given free to developers, and in many places there is now only narrow and awkward public access to and along the water. Despite the citizen/federal lawsuit, which prevented four additional high rises, the waterfront today is a mix of dilapidated buildings, ugly new construction, the wonderful Torpedo Factor Art Center, with some minimal parks created as a result

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot

Mail Thai employee Jose Castolo takes his break before lunch in Waterfront Park on Saturday, Jan. 7. The weather temperature rose into the high 60s.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

of the lawsuit. Few would call this an attractive waterfront. Thousands may come to lower King Street, cited as one of the most attractive streets in the nation, but beside it the historic seaport's waterfront is a largely seedy, deserted area, especially at dark.

The Present: The current City Council, city planners and commissions are to be commended for welcoming public input on the new waterfront plan, in an open, extended, if increasingly impassioned and politicized public discussion. The opposition to the plan appears to want little new waterfront development, and no hotels, even small, low-rise "boutique" hotels. Yet, attractive, small waterfront hotels are considered crucial to almost every waterfront city around the world. They would bring Alexandria's dead waterfront to life, produce less traffic than office buildings, provide some public parking, and increase tax revenue. But the crucial factor is that they would be low-rise. That is a major accomplishment of the lawsuit. They would be no higher than the huge four- and five-story waterfront townhouses approved by the city, and far, far smaller than any of the huge, bar-

ren office buildings, high-rise apartment buildings and hotel that previous City Councils approved. Let us remember, the city and many residents vociferously opposed plans for the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, yet now it is seen by many as not only a beautiful bridge but one that has had virtually no adverse impact on the city. Small boutique hotels are and should be a crucial part of this revitalization plan.

Architectural Competition: To ensure that the small hotels are also attractive, the city could require as part of its approval process an architectural design competition for the hotel sites. It could do it for other proposed new construction along the waterfront as well, either as part of the BAR or Planning Commission process or through the City Council. This could involve city and public discussion and result in more attractive designs. A major reason the north waterfront is an ugly, desolate area is that the office buildings approved by the city are ugly brick boxes, if not architectural eyesores.

Bottom Line: The draft waterfront plan proposes modest, well thought out and attractive improvements, including boutique

hotels, with preservation and new parks. They would enhance the liveliness and maritime use of the city waterfront and also increase its tax base. Now, nearly 40 years after the waterfront lawsuit, it is time to do something and to get it right. This draft plan appears to do that. And without ugly high rises, which our lawsuit was all about. Those proposing an alternative waterfront plan, with no new small hotels and little development or tax revenue to fund public park and waterfront improvements, have argued clearly and well. Some small concessions have been made in response. And perhaps other specific changes to the plan could and should still be considered. But now is the time for consensus: for citizens to step back, having had their say, and welcome consideration by the City Council they elected. This draft plan as a whole is far better for the city and its waterfront than any previous City Council ever considered.

**Paul and Avis Fleming
Hodge**
Middleburg

Note: We lived in Old Town for 24 years and Avis still teaches at The Art League School. We were one of the families who brought the original lawsuit.

Right Plan, Right Now

To the Editor:

We are all lifelong Alexandrians who support the City's proposed waterfront plan and believe it should be adopted without further delay. Our homes are located all over the City — in Old Town, Del Ray, Rosemont, Beverly Hills, Jefferson Park, Clover, the West End — and we have no interest other than wanting our waterfront to be an attractive and thriving place that benefits all Alexandrians. Here are a few reasons why Council should adopt the City's plan at the upcoming Jan. 21 meeting.

A vibrant and viable waterfront — what the City's plan will help create. For too long, the waterfront has been an underutilized, disconnected and basically ho-hum stretch of land, hardly befitting a city as great as Alexandria. Alexandrians deserve a vibrant waterfront that respects the history and uniqueness of our city, while balancing the interests of all residents. And it needs to be viable, so that it pays for itself, and doesn't leave taxpayers with a big bill. The City's plan absolutely sat-

isfies these critical elements. While no plan will ever be perfect, the City's plan proposes a nicely balanced mix of public spaces, commercial uses and much needed flood-control measures, and all without putting the City and its taxpayers into hock.

The City's plan doesn't substantially increase potential development, but, rather improves it. Some opponents have tried to suggest that the City's plan would usher in a wave of new development along the waterfront. The truth is, the main properties at issue, the two Robinson Terminal sites and the Cummings/Turner block along the Strand, already can be redeveloped under existing zoning with increased density for office, retail, residential and other uses — and all without offering the City much of anything in return.

The City's plan includes zoning changes that encourage uses with less overall traffic, parking, fiscal and environmental impacts than the uses currently allowed. While the potential square footage of development is increased modestly, this is necessary in order to obtain owner-furnished parks, open space, parking facilities and

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OPINION

A Space of Her Own

My name is Brianna Williams and I'm an 8th grader at Hammond 1 Middle School. During the 2009-2010 school year, I participated in SOHO, Space of Her Own, and was matched with a mentor. My mentor is someone who I look up to. She is fun, nice, and easy to talk to. My mentor is Melissa Richardson, and she is the best person who could ever be in my life.

I consider Melissa to be my best friend. I talk to her about things I wouldn't want to talk about with anyone in my family. Things like boys, and personal things you would talk about in health classes. The advice she gives me is well spoken and interesting.

We hang out like I would hang out with any of my friends. We go places like ice-skating, the movies, dinner, or sometimes we just make chili at her house and then watch Glee. It is not just going out and having fun. It is time together that has meaning and is special to me.

One time we even went to a ballet performance. While ballet is not my thing, it was fun to watch because Melissa was with me. She isn't just a person who I hang out with, she is a person who I have a lot in common with.

Our future plans include writing a dialog together. I'm looking forward to that because I'm a good writer



Brianna Williams with mentor Melissa Richardson

but I want to be great. I know Melissa will help me be a great writer. I'm only 14 and I love to be with the most amazing person anyone could ever have ... Melissa Richardson.

Note: January is National Mentoring Month. To learn more about becoming a mentor in Alexandria, join the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership for a seminar on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lyceum. RSVP to Mike Mackey at mike.mackey@alexandriava.gov or learn more by calling 703-746-4144.

MENTOR OF THE MONTH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

other amenities that could never be realized if the land were to be developed under existing zoning rights. Notably, building heights remain unchanged from current zoning, except for a slight increase at Robinson Terminal north, which is consistent with the 1983 waterfront settlement. If these zoning changes are not implemented now, the properties at issue could be redeveloped at any time in a far less optimal and coordinated fashion.

Two-plus years of study and discussion is more than enough. The City's plan is the product of more than two years of studies by consultants and City staff, and has been dissected and discussed in dozens of public workgroups and meetings. Every conceivable voice and opinion has been heard and considered. Further studies and discussions are unnecessary, and will only induce "analysis paralysis," resulting in no plan ever being adopted.

The status quo — doing nothing — is not an option. As the old adage goes, failing to plan is a plan to fail. The City's plan is the right plan, right now. We urge City Council to adopt it on Jan. 21.

Terry Androus, Theo Androus, Bill Butcher, Andrew Calhoun, Amanda Chandler, Stephanie Clayton, Dwight Dunton, Michael Hart, Nancy Lacey, Peter Lawson, John Leary,

Maureen Leary, Laura Machanic, Keith McConchie, Michael Porterfield, Cathy Puskar, Mimi Rolph, Greg Ruff, Art Schmalz and Sylvia Schmalz

Much Yet To Be Done

To the Editor:

The Old Town Civic Association, along with many other constituent groups with a stake in maintaining our history and quality of life, have been deeply engaged with and have closely monitored the Waterfront planning process since 2007. As new issues and facts have come to light, we have evaluated our position relative to the Waterfront Small Area Plan. OTCA takes the position that any plan for our waterfront must take into account several core principles, including:

First, stay with the current densities. Changing the existing W-1 zone to expand the range of allowable land uses to include small boutique hotels has one impact; changing the density has a much greater impact on adjacent neighborhoods. Adding density to generate tax revenues to underwrite public improvements will add traffic and parking pressure to an already congested area of Old Town, and overwhelm the historic character of its core area. The waterfront may be visible from I-495 but

it is not part of the exit ramp economy. You cannot get there without penetrating a hinterland of historic residential neighborhoods with skinny historic streets with limited capacity for more traffic and on-street parking. Options for traffic impact mitigation are limited, King Street, the one commercial corridor that reaches down to the waterfront, is at, or near, capacity as far as transit alternatives are concerned, while all other streets to the waterfront are residential streets.

Second, if the City truly believes in comprehensive waterfront planning, then it must take the extra time now to allow the Planning and Zoning department to complete a new Old Town North Small Area Plan, including the reuse of the GenOn property. The GenOn property affords opportunities to provide more tax generating land uses to underwrite the waterfront public improvements, adds capacity for traffic/transit access to the waterfront, and offers sites better suited for some of the proposed water-based plan elements such as the pleasure boat marina. The GenOn property represents a unique opportunity to redevelop a large parcel in harmony with Old Town and especially Old Town North. Consequently, the planning for that site should be integrated with planning for the entire Alexandria waterfront.

Third, add more teeth to the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

urban design controls and more specific criteria for hotel/restaurant/commercial uses Special Use Permit (SUP) process as currently proposed in the plan. Lacking standards for measuring the impact of such uses, the SUP process is no more than a rhetorical exercise — a placebo rather than a safeguard against unwarranted development. Why not make the City's architectural model of the core area of the waterfront plan a benchmark as part of the SUP Process? The model illustrates several design features that go a long way toward addressing the concerns citizens have regarding the compatibility of the urban form of new development and the scale of our historic waterfront, including:

- ❖ Alleys as view corridors to the river.
- ❖ Three story urban form with set-backs along Union Street.
- ❖ The top floors contained within a roof form rather than as flat roofed buildings.
- ❖ Small footprint buildings instead of large "super block" development.

We do recognize that a small area plan is essentially a framework plan, and not an implementation plan, and that opportunities

for more open space and cultural/historic amenities should not be precluded if the funding mechanisms can be identified.

We appreciate the hard work that has gone into the plan by City staff and the Work Group, as well as that of other organizations, and recognize their sincere efforts to constructively work towards a plan that the larger Alexandria community can accept.

John Gosling
President

Old Town Civic Association

Time To Move Forward Now

To the Editor:

I have been reading with interest comments in all of the local media by the opponents of the City of Alexandria' Waterfront Plan. It is no longer debating the issues. Instead it is mudslinging. This can only say to me that CAAWP knows that it cannot prevail on the issues. Therefore they are, unfortunately, listening to the ill advised counsel of Andrew Macdonald and Boyd Walker to crank up attack mode on innuendo and false claims. This is not only pathetic, but a disservice to the citizens of Alexandria.

When all of this is over, we need to move on and live together like neighbors. I am beginning to wonder if the prolific commenters supporting the CAAWP position can understand that. Do they realize that they are mudslinging, in making accusations about individuals, thinking they are offering legitimate concerns? There is no support to their recent accusations. If there is, bring them forth.

I also read recently a letter to the editor from the owner of Gossypia recalling the beauty of Alexandria before they developed the 300, 400, and 500 block of King Street. Perhaps Ms. Lasker forgets the fact that there were prostitutes on King Street, not any value in property and that Alexandria was considered by citizens of surrounding areas as a "dump." It was a forward leading City Administration and courageous developers that were willing to take chances to make Alexandria the City you enjoy living in now.

It is time to move on. This issue has been analyzed to the final degree. The recent strategy of attacking anything on emotional conceptions shows there is a bankruptcy of ideas on the issues. Stop poisoning the waterfront CAAWP is so fervently trying to save with the mis-

conception that the plan creates unreasonable traffic and density by comparing three small hotels to BRAC and National Harbor. The bulk of Alexandrians are not in this corner, as CAAWP also continues to incorrectly believe. Stick with facts, and argue them. The decision rests with the Council we elected. Many years of public hearings have provided the Council with the material they need to make a decision. The members of CAAWP may find that they have influenced the decision, but still be unhappy with the totality of the final result. But because of tactics and mudslinging, your reputation for working on issues for the City will be in tatters.

Dennis Auld
Alexandria

Tale of Two Citizens Groups

To the Editor:

Two citizens groups are battling to influence Alexandria's Waterfront plan on which the City Council plans to vote after a public hearing on Jan. 21.

One, the Citizens for an Alternative Alexandria Waterfront Plan (CAAWP), has banded together

because of a shared belief that the waterfront is a public treasure that should benefit all Alexandrians. They oppose the emphasis in the city's favored plan on commercialization of the waterfront (featuring three hotels and about 300 townhouses). They prefer an approach that emphasizes parks and open space, art and history.

The second group, which supports the city's plan, is called Waterfront4All. But do its supporters really mean the waterfront for all? Or rather for the guests of high priced boutique hotels and the residents of expensive town houses? It has produced nothing comparable to CAAWP's comprehensive 200-page report regarding the waterfront's future.

Bank rolling last September's lavish Waterfront4All fete and the current three restaurant "open houses" are people who stand to benefit financially from the proposed rezoning. If so, the organization is being deviously misleading in calling itself a citizens group rather than a lobby for real estate developers. To dispel this impression, Waterfront4All officers and active supporters should publicly pledge, like members of CAAWP

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25



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OPINION



Children's Concert

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra concluded 2011 with its Children's Holiday Concert on Dec. 11 at St. Paul's Church in Old Town. Above, Maestro Kim Allen Kluge addresses the audience

Children's Holiday Concert Co-Chairs Katie Wiegmann (left) and Elise Darden (right) with ASO Executive Director Adrien Finlay (center).



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 14

are doing, that none has a financial stake in the future of the area proposed for rezoning.

Ambassador (rtd)
Dennis Kux
Alexandria

Unfortunate Truth

To the Editor:

When I decided to move back to the U.S. after working abroad for seven years, Old Town Alexandria was the only place I considered. I loved the friendly neighborhoods, the historic streets and architecture and walking my dog along the waterfront. It seemed like an idyllic community.

After the waterfront controversy hit full steam last spring, I real-

ized some very unfortunate truths about Alexandria. First, local politics is extremely unpleasant. The fact that our Council members have full-time employment that might conflict with City decisions is appalling. Second, and equally important, business interests appear to be driving the decisions of the City.

How so? Leaving aside BRAC, Beauregard, and Arlandria for a moment, just look at what has driven and supported the City's proposed waterfront plan, which involves re-zoning to allow increased density and hotels on our waterfront where neither is legally allowed. How did this happen?

First, the owners of the Robinson Terminal warehouses sued our City to try to force us to change the zoning. Seems they felt that increased construction density and the approval of hotel development

would allow them to earn a better return when they sold their no-longer-needed warehouses. This, despite the fact that their own expert determined, as posted on the City docket, that hotels were not viable on the waterfront sites in question. Despite this recorded finding, the proposed plan includes more density and allowance for hotels on Alexandria's waterfront. The result? Business interests first, above that of residents.

Second, a spurious and small group, known as Waterfront4All (probably better named as Waterfront4Business) began to make noise in July, after hundreds of citizens rallied against the City's proposed zoning changes. Who is this group that claims to have the best interests of residents at heart? The founders and supporters of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25

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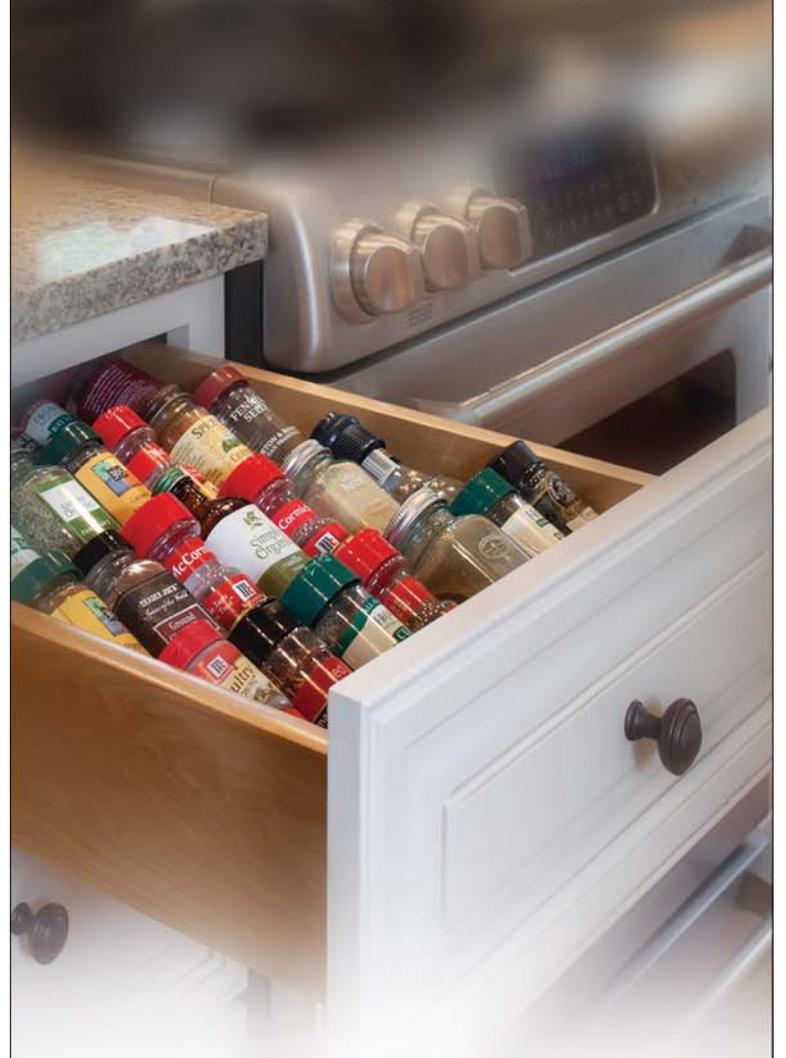


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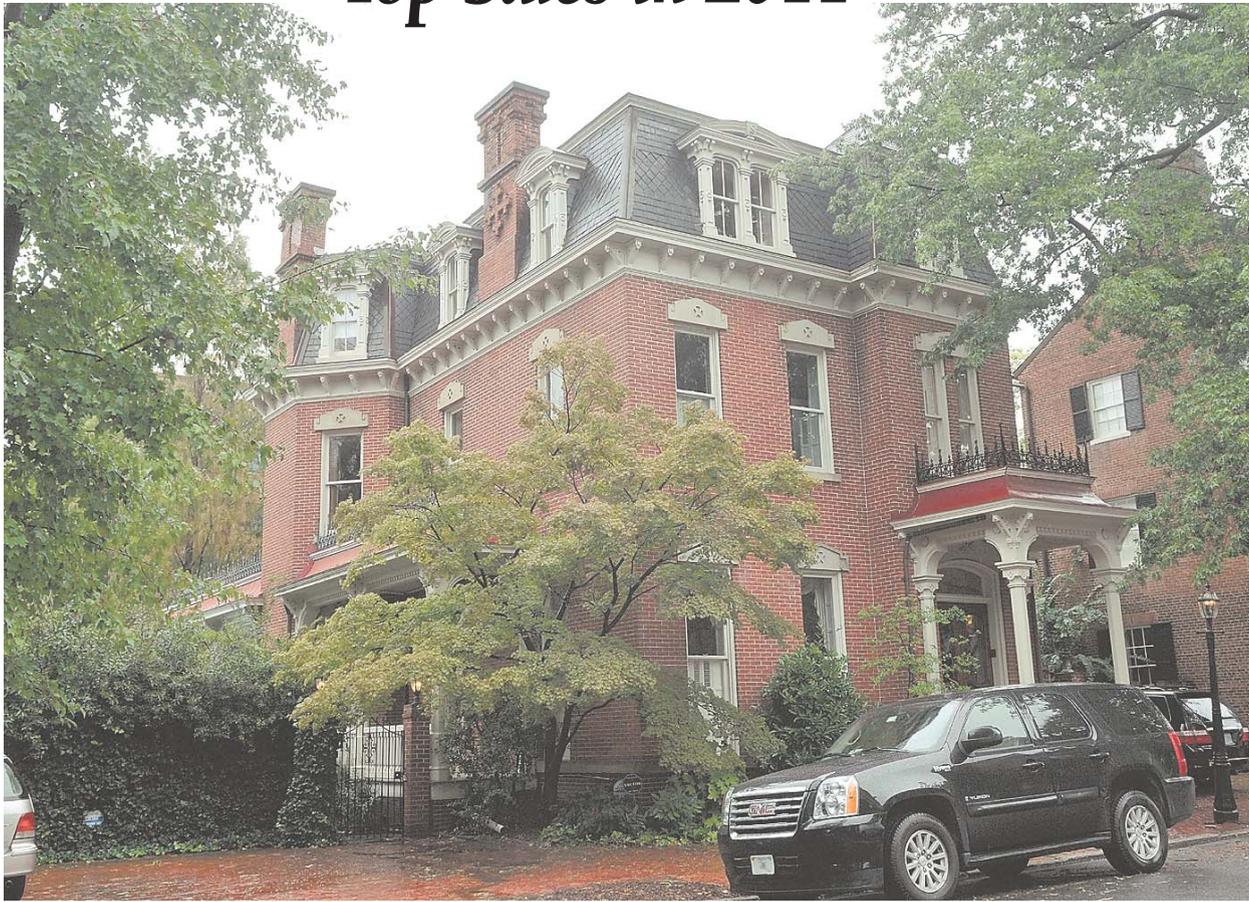
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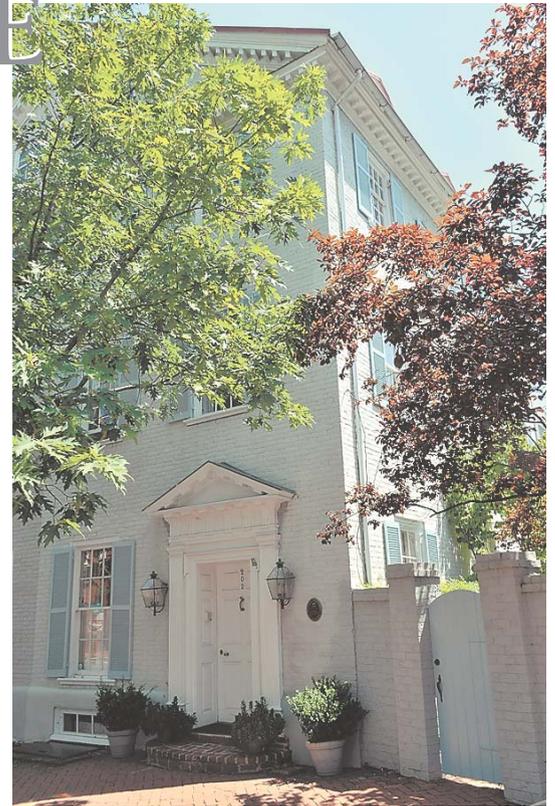
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Top Sales in 2011



1 311 Saint Asaph Street South, Alexandria — \$3,500,000



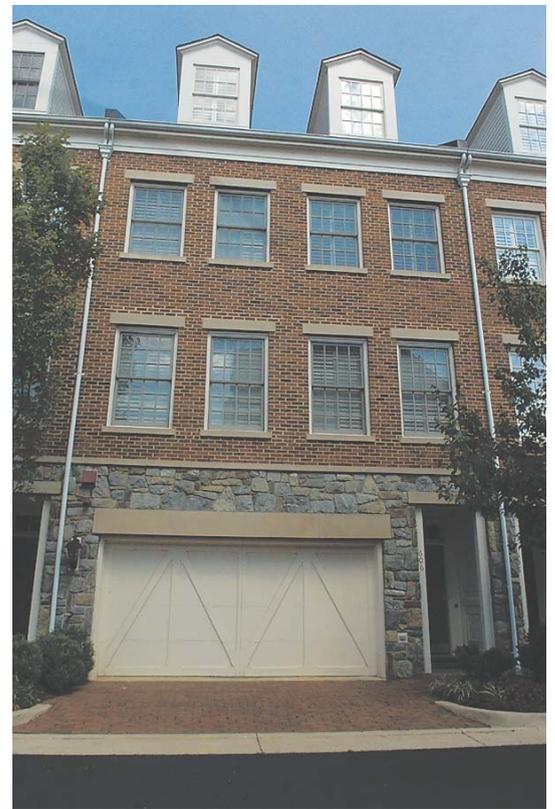
6 202 Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria — \$2,100,000



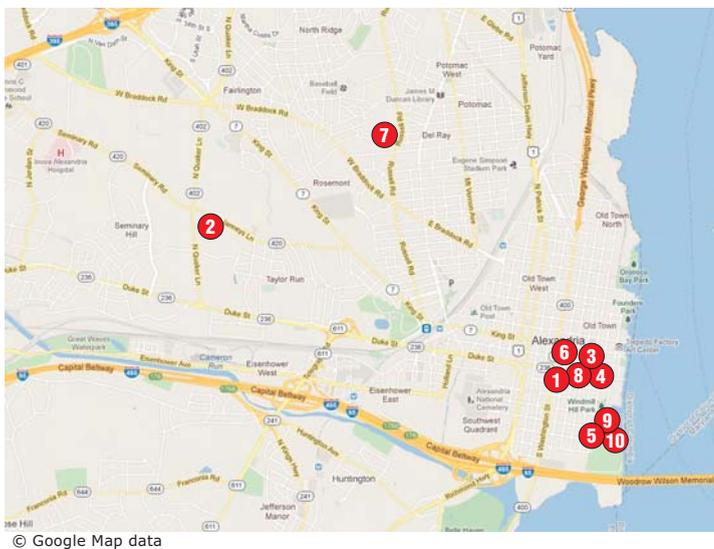
4 121 Duke Street, Alexandria — \$2,450,000



8 320 Fairfax Street South, Alexandria — \$1,950,000



9 608 Fords Landing Way, Alexandria — \$1,860,000



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2	510 CATHEDRAL DR	4	..	4	.	2	ALEXANDRIA	Detached	1.53	22314	MAIVERN HILL	06/28/11
3	227 FAIRFAX ST	5	..	4	.	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	Townhouse	...	0.07	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	02/11/11
4	121 DUKE ST	5	..	3	.	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	Townhouse	...	0.09	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	06/03/11
5	725 UNION ST S	4	..	5	.	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	Semi-Detached	.....	0.05	.....	22314	.....	BACKYARD BOATS	.....	01/28/11
6	202 SAINT ASAPH ST	4	..	4	.	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	Townhouse	...	0.13	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	06/10/11
7	226 WINDSOR AVE W	6	..	6	.	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	Detached	.....	0.37	.....	22301	.....	WINDSOR OAKS	.....	03/15/11
8	320 FAIRFAX ST S	4	..	3	.	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	.....	Detached	.....	0.08	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	05/16/11
9	608 FORDS LANDING WAY	3	..	2	.	2	ALEXANDRIA	Townhouse	...	0.04	22314	FORDS LANDING	10/14/11
10	702 KAHN PL	5	..	2	.	2	ALEXANDRIA	Townhouse	...	0.00	22314	FORDS LANDING	06/09/11

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Home Organization for the New Year

Simple solutions for achieving and maintaining an organized home.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The holiday season is now a festive memory, and Yuletide decorations are packed away. The New Year offers an opportunity for a fresh start and a chance to get organized.

For some, the thought of sifting through unruly closets, disheveled desk drawers and messy cabinets is overwhelming. But experts say clearing out a clutter conundrum can actually bring serenity.

“Organizing is good for the mind and emotions,” said Margaret Buco, owner of Organizing-by-Margaret in Potomac. “When a home is organized, stress and chaos are lessened and are replaced by efficiency and freedom.”

When faced with linen closets that hold everything from batteries to extensions cords, and kitchen drawers that are home to items ranging from hammers to toothpaste, it is difficult to know where to start. Local professional organizers say there are simple steps to home organization and believe it is wise to work incrementally.

“The best thing to do is begin with your most difficult area and break your project down into small pieces so it is not overwhelming,” said Sally Reinholdt of Closets 911 in Alexandria.

DECIDE which organizational hotspots cause the most angst and tackle those first. “Let’s say it is the closet,” said Potomac-based organizer Nancy Atkinson Patch of Not-A-Problem. “Pull everything out and then take a good look at the space.”

Once the space is empty, start to visualize the possibilities.

“Go into a room or space and really day-

dream about what you want that room to be,” said Eileen LaGreca, owner of Sensational Spaces in Fairfax. “What is its function? How do you use it? Then plan what you want to have happen in that space.”

Next, divide the contents of the room into categories. “Set up a sorting station,” said Atkinson Patch. “Get everything in one spot, and then start grouping so you can get a handle on what it is you’re dealing with.”

“The best thing to do is begin with your most difficult area and break your project down into small pieces so it is not overwhelming.”

— Sally Reinholdt of Closets 911 in Alexandria

Belongings should fall into three categories: those to keep, those to donate and those to discard. Experts say be ruthless. “This is an excellent quality to have when you are organizing,” said Atkinson Patch. “Look at the items and ask, ‘Have I used this in five years?’ If the answer is no, it is time for the item to go bye-bye. Hang trash

bags on the door knobs while you’re organizing.”

Create specific spaces for each object. “There is a saying: ‘A place for everything and everything in its place.’ Buy appropriate storage containers and label them,” said



Alexandria-based organizer Sally Reinholdt says that with the proper organizational gadgets, she can make crowded closets seem more spacious.

Atkinson Patch. “Then think in departments. Group similar items in one place, put them in a container and call it a department. For example, the extension cords go in the electrical department. Hammers go in the tool department. Needles and thread go in the sewing department.”

As you sort, you might find multiples. “Once I had a client who started organizing and discovered that she had 12 staplers because when she couldn’t find one she would go out and buy another one,” said Susan Unger, an organizer and owner of Clutter SOS in Vienna.

Work gradually until a home or space is organized. “Do it in small, manageable chunks,” said Jody Al-Saigh, owner of Picture Perfect Organizing in Arlington. “Perhaps 15 or 20 minutes per day and perhaps one day out of the week. Make manageable goals that you can achieve because you are going to get frustrated if you don’t. If you can’t do a whole room in one day, maybe do a drawer one day and another one the next day until the room is finished.”

ORGANIZERS say resist the urge to purchase organizing tools until you assess your needs. “First start by using things you already own before buying new things,” said Buco.

Drawer dividers, non-slip hangers and clear plastic containers are among organizers’ top weapons in the battle against chaos.

“[One] client had a lot of necklaces and bracelets that she never wore because they

SEE GETTING ORGANIZED. PAGE 20



A little organization makes these jewelry pieces and handbags easy to find.



Applying organizational strategies puts these tools in easy — and visible — reach for this workbench.



Shelving and clear bins can transform a basement.

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HomeLifeStyle



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

One of the keys to organization is creating specific spaces for household items.

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Getting Organized in a New Year

FROM PAGE 19

were in a drawer and she couldn't see them," said Unger. "I found these great Lucite jewelry hangers that we attached to her closet, and now she sees them and wears them all the time."

"One main organizational problem is a lot of junk drawers," said Atkinson Patch. "Everybody has them. They hold everything from bills to throat lozenges. You're allowed to have one junk drawer in your house. Put everything else in

the proper place."

Another source of clutter is unsorted mail. "Stand next to the trashcan and go through the mail when you first get it," said Atkinson Patch. "Throw out or recycle things you know you don't want or need. Ask yourself, 'Do I have money to give to this charity right now?' If the answer is no, throw it in the trash. You don't need to save these things. You can go online to give to charity and order from catalogs."

To help eliminate excess paper,

scan documents and store them electronically whenever possible. "For important things like passports and birth certificates get a fireproof box so you can keep them safe and access them quickly," said Bucco.

With the proper organizational gadgets, crowded closets become more spacious. "One way to make more room in closets [is to buy] hangers with several clips so you can hang multiple clothing items on one hanger and use your lateral space more efficiently," said Reinholdt. "You can piggyback your hangers and hang maybe four or five things in the same space. I am also big on using over-the-door shoe pockets for not only shoes but for storing all kinds of things like scarves, jewelry [and] small items like socks and underwear."

When organizing a child's space, techniques such as labeling instead of words makes it easier for young children to put belongings in the proper space. "If there is a bin for blocks, put a picture of blocks on the front," said Bucco. "Keep like items together. Dolls with dolls, crayons with crayons."

Bucco organized the playroom in her grandchildren's Centreville home using the same tools that she uses for adult spaces. "What is important for children is that they can see everything clearly and that everything is in arms reach," she said.

Take inventory of children's spaces quarterly. "Go through playrooms and children's bedrooms four times each year to organize and assess toys and clothing," said Bucco.

Once a home is tidy and everything is in its proper place, what is the secret for keeping it that way? Experts say it takes discipline. "There is a maintenance routine where for 10 minutes every day you go around your house and put things back where they belong," said LaGreca.

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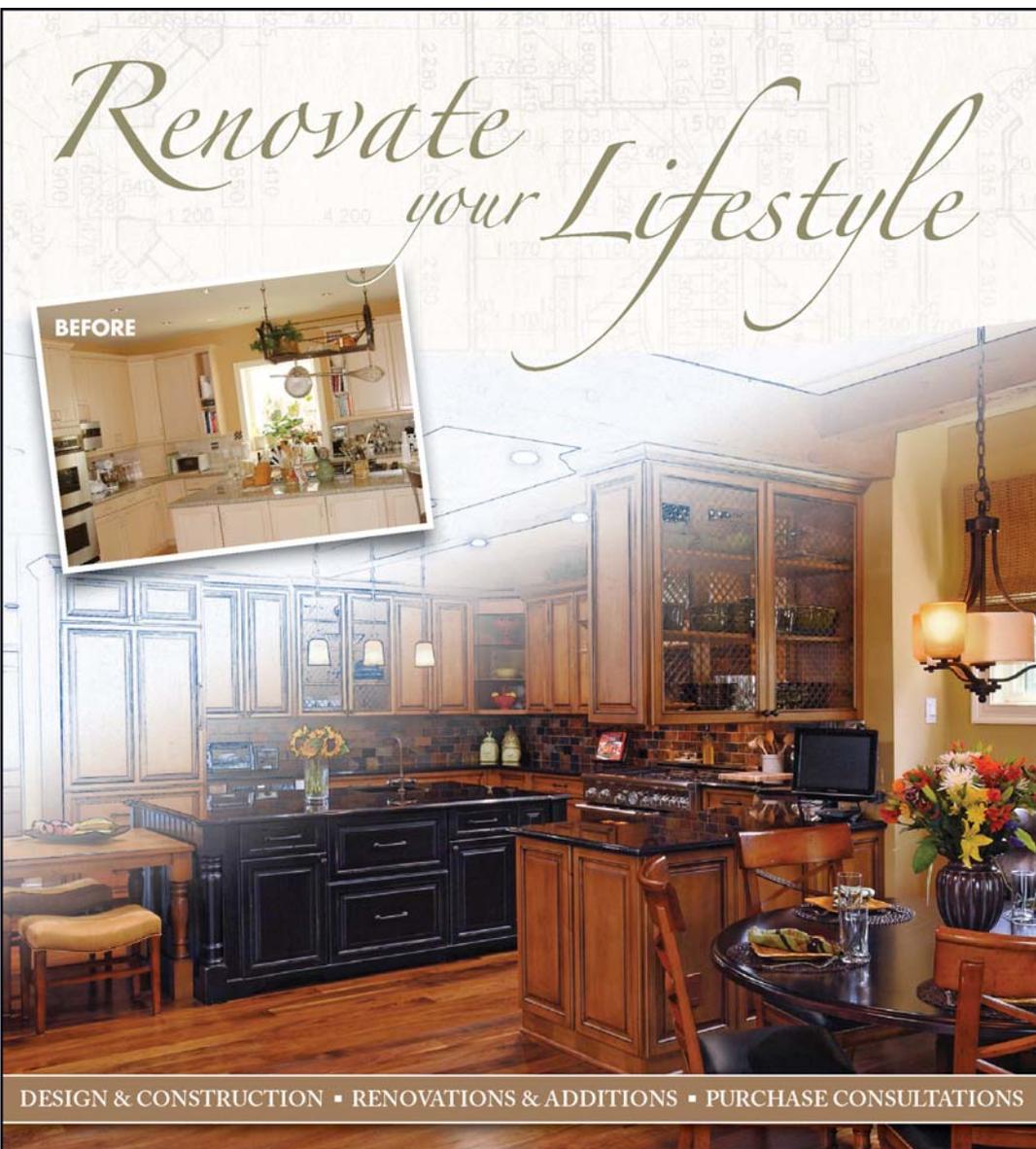


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BEFORE



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ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria Black History Museum Announces Winter Film Line-Up

“Movies with a Mission” screenings explore African Diaspora.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is continuing its partnership with SankofaSpirit to share its



“Taking Root”

4:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the museum, 902 Wythe Street.

“Movies with a Mission” are free

monthly films from and about Africa and the African Diaspora that seek to inform and inspire dialogue. Screenings will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-746-4356. The following films will be offered this winter:

JANUARY 14 - “END OF THE RAINBOW”

“End of the Rainbow” provides a concise but in-depth look at the impact of global extractive industries on local populations and their economy, traditions and environment. The film depicts the dismantling of a massive gold mining operation in Borneo and then follows its reconstruction in northeastern Guinea. The film also explores the impact on a Guinean village near where the gold mine was rebuilt after the mining company negotiated a secret royalty arrangement with a local government noted for its corruption. (83 min.)

FEBRUARY 11 - “HOMECOMING”

The epic story of African American farming in the South, “Homecoming” chronicles land loss and black farmers from the Civil War to the present. Featuring archival footage and audio tracks

including the voices of Malcolm X, Fannie Lou Hamer and Julian Bond, the film also excerpts the testimony of freed slaves, Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon and the writings of August Wilson. Producer/director Charlene Gilbert places her own family farm in Montezuma, Georgia, squarely in the historical context of the black farm movement in America. Narrated by Charles S. Dutton. (111 min.)

MARCH 10 - “TAKING ROOT: THE VISION OF WANGARI MAATHAI”

Planting trees for fuel, shade, and food is not something that anyone would imagine as the first step toward winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet with that simple act, Wangari Maathai, a woman born in rural Kenya, started down the path that reclaimed her country’s land from 100 years of deforestation, provided new sources of food and income to rural communities, gave previously impoverished and powerless women a vital political role in their country, and ultimately helped to bring down Kenya’s 24-year dictatorship. “Taking Root” tells the dramatic story of the woman whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration. (80 min.)

Founded in 2002, Atlanta-based



“Homecoming”



“End of the Rainbow”

SankofaSpirit is dedicated to providing cultural and educational programs and services that focus on Africa and the African Diaspora. Through its programs and services, SankofaSpirit encourages people of African descent to reconnect with their great legacy. For more information, visit www.sankofaspirit.com.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the heart of the Parker-Gray Historic District and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week Is Jan. 13-22

Some 60 restaurants offer \$35 menu.

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week returns, Jan. 13 to 22. Some 60 restaurants throughout the city will feature a \$35 prix-fixe, three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two. Savor the flavors of Alexandria’s distinctive collection of eateries, from fine dining establishments to casual neighborhood favorites, with special offers available exclusively during the event.

Restaurant Week menus and online reservations are available on VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

This 10-day event lasts two weekends, inviting residents and visitors to experience Alexandria’s diversity of restaurant choices and taste the culinary inventiveness of local chefs. Alexandria Restaurant Week was launched in 2009 and has been a hit with patrons and restaurateurs ever since. The Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association coordinates and markets the event, which is free for participating restaurants. In addition to serving as an economic driver for Alexandria restaurants, Alexandria Restaurant Week builds the Alexandria brand as it helps the city to become known as a culinary destination.

Alexandria restaurants have taken their place alongside Washington, D.C., restaurants as some of the best in the nation with The New York Times praising, “...the city has taken its place at the culinary table”. With



both locally owned and operated neighborhood restaurants as well as nationally recognized chef-owned eateries, Alexandria is a flavorful melting pot in the truest sense.

Menus, event details, and online reservations at VisitAlexandriaVA.com or call 703-746-3301

Participants \$35 DINNER FOR TWO

Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar
Chadwicks Old Town
Chakra Café
Cheesetique
Daniel O'Connell's Irish Restaurant & Bar
Dishes of India
Duke's Bar & Grill
Faccia Luna
FireFlies
Fontaine Caffé & Creperie
The Jamieson Grille
King Street Blues
The Light Horse
Mango Mike's Caribbean Restaurant
Monroe's An American Trattoria
Murphy's Grand Irish Pub
Overwood
Pizzeria Paradiso
Pizzeria Venti
Ramparts
Red, Hot & Blue Kingstowne
RedRocks Pizza Napoletana
Savio's Restaurant
Seagar's Restaurant
Shooter McGee's
Southside 815
T.J. Stone's
Villa Di Este Restaurant

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Bastille
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Delia's Mediterranean Grill
Finn & Porter
Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant
Geranio Ristorante
GRAPE + BEAN
The Grille at Morrison House
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La Bergerie
La Strada
La Tasca Spanish Tapas Bar & Restaurant
Laporta's Restaurant
The Majestic
Medieval Madness
The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant
Nina's Dandy
Phillip's Flagship
Railstop Gastropub
RT's Restaurant
Tempo Restaurant
Two Nineteen Restaurant
Virtue Feed & Grain
Warehouse Bar & Grill
The Wharf Restaurant

ENTERTAINMENT



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January 13-22, 2012

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THURSDAY/JAN. 12

Civil War Dance Classes. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the January 28, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia reel and more from an expert dance master at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street. Class is 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and costs \$12 per class or \$30 for the series of three. Reservations recommended. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

"Confederates of Color" Discussion. Join Daryl Michael Scott at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, at 7 p.m. for a "Confederates of Color: Not Quite a Figment of the Neo-Confederate Imagination." Dr. Scott will examine both sides of the story behind African-American Confederate soldiers. Tickets are \$10 per person, and reservations recommended. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Wintry Mix. 6 to 9 p.m. Cozy up at the Torpedo Factory as you enjoy a wintry celebration complete with a sweet candy buffet, Do-It-Yourself Snowflake Station, and more! Mix it up with exhibition receptions in Target Gallery for Fears & Phobias, Studio 9 and Site 2 & 3 Galleries for Connectivity: Threads of Community, and The Art League Gallery for the 2012 Solo Preview and the All-Media Membership Show. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

Author Talk. 6:45 p.m. Free. Movie Night: "Captain America" (2010). At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

JAN. 13-22

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week. 59 restaurants offer a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two. Savor the flavors of Alexandria's distinctive collection of eateries, from fine dining establishments to casual neighborhood favorites. Participants include the Majestic, Bastille, La Bergerie, the Grille at Morrison House, Tempo, and Cheesetique. 703-746-3301. Menus and online reservations on VisitAlexandriaVA.com

JAN. 13 AND 14

"The Jungle Book." 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. A play by Monica Flory. At Carl Sandburg Middle School Auditorium, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

JAN. 14, 15 AND 21

Pinewood Derby Workshop. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Old Town Ace Hardware announces its fourth annual Pinewood Derby Workshop. Cub Scouts, their parents and siblings are invited to bring their Pinewood Derby cars to the store to have local craftsman Jesse Cathell rough cut their designs. Cub Scouts are required to have the car design traced on their cars. In addition, electric sanders, sand paper and hand tools will be available for the Cub Scouts to perform additional work on their cars. At 809 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call Rich Heilman at 703-879-0475.

SATURDAY/JAN. 14

BPAC Ride. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. For the next informal Alexandria BPAC ride, take a 10-mile loop around the east end of Alexandria, to get to popular eating, shopping and entertainment destinations via bicycle. Meet at Dunkin Donuts, Potomac Yard Center, 3325 Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 1), Alexandria. Bring a bicycle, water. RSVP: jonathan@jonathankrall.net

Quest for Gadsby's Gold. 1 p.m. Price is \$25/player. Looking for something to keep you free of post-holiday/why is it so frickin' cold doldrums? The Quest for Gadsby's Gold is like a combination of The Amazing Race, DaVinci Code, and Goonies all rolled into one. This is not your typical scavenger hunt - this is a game for the spirited intellectual complete with codes, riddles and ciphers to challenge your wit and will as you race by foot through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. Each team will receive a hand made treasure map, clues, and gadgets at the start of the game. Teams will race through the streets, cracking codes and ciphers and unraveling the mystery of Gadsby's Gold. The race ends at a local pub where tacky prizes and libations will be awarded. Spaces are limited. Sign up today! Questions? Contact admin@ravenchase.com or visit www.ravenchas.com.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Friar Tuck, aka Samantha Delloroso, laments on what to do first ... eat the chicken or drink the root beer!

JAN. 13 TO JAN. 22

"The Trials of Robin Hood." Performances on Jan. 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 15, 16, 21, 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$9/online; \$10/door. Presented by Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT). At 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit www.acctonline.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday with the Second Annual Youth Arts Symposium at Charles Houston Recreation Center. The youth symposium calls for youth dream makers or youth ages from preschool to teens to explore different forms of visual and performing arts including dancing, stepping, drama, poetry, drawing, painting, and candy making. Contact Celena Noel at celenanoel@gmail.com or 225-773-0789.

SUNDAY/JAN. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. VIC Choir Festival. 8 p.m. Festival includes songs and hymns sung by choirs from the Mount Vernon community, schools, and faith communities. At the end of the evening, all choirs join together for a mass choir. The Rev. Ketlen A. Solak, Associate Rector from St. Luke's Episcopal Church will be the guest conductor. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Contact Jeri Fields at 703-799-9165.

Ladies Tea. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sip a special blend of tea from Gadsby's Tavern Museum and eat period-inspired delicacies with your 21st-century friends and Gadsby's 18th-century hostesses. Tea is \$30/person. To make reservations, call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org. At Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St., Alexandria.

Winter Pruning of Trees and Shrubs. 1:30 p.m. Learn when to prune and how to use pruning tools to make cuts, reduce size and shape, and correct defects. Bring your own pruning tools (hand pruners, lopping shears, pruning saws) if available and dress warmly for working outside. At Ben Brenman Park, 5000 Duke St., Alexandria. To register, call 703-228-6414.

All Wood and Doors. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. Special acoustic tribute to The Doors with James Lee Stanley and Cliff Eberhardt. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

JAN. 15 AND 16

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 15; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 16. Thousands of books in many subjects (all sorted by categories), including paperbacks, trade paperbacks, hard cover, and a large collection of CDs, tapes, and record. Free admission. At Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 703-370-9400.

MONDAY/JAN. 16

Family Volunteer Day. Volunteer Fairfax is calling all families with elementary school aged children to register to participate in Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day held in conjunction with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Service projects range from giving back to homeless individuals, animals in shelters, children, hospital patients and military personnel. At Gum Springs Community Center in Alexandria. To register to participate, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 17

Sponsor Night. 7 p.m. The T.C. Williams Marching Titans are

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 23

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

holding a "Sponsor Night" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria on Tuesday, Jan. 17. A 7 p.m. reception precedes the 8 p.m. curtain for LTA's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee". General admission tickets are \$30, including the reception. Contact the Band Boosters directly for tickets: qplguy@gmail.com or mamamiajones@gmail.com. Donations to the uniform fund can be made at tcwilliamsband.wordpress.com.

Mt. Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Free. Speaker Sandra MacLean Clunies who will present "Countdown to 2 April 2012: Release of the 1940 Federal Census." Meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Room 112, Alexandria. Call Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

JAN. 17, 24

Alexandria Singers Open Auditions. The Alexandria Singers, the D.C. area's adult pops chorus, is auditioning for all voice parts on Tuesday evenings, Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 6:45-10 p.m. We invite you to join us at our regular rehearsal time from 6:45-9:30 p.m. with auditions immediately following. At the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St., Alexandria. Contact audition@alexandriasingers.com to arrange an audition. Visit www.alexandriasingers.com.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18

Be a Better Consumer. 7:30 p.m. Don't be a victim! Learn how to be better consumer about what you buy, where you buy it, etc. Presented by Ferris Kaplan, an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$10. With Jimmy and the Blue Dogs. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

Pie Birds Discussion. 9:30 a.m. Free. Julie Ellis, the director of the Hollin Hall Senior Center, will be speaking about her collection of pie birds, some of which were collected by her mother in the '70s. These ceramic utensils were designed to prevent pie fillings from boiling over by creating a steam vent. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria.

BPAC Meeting. 7 p.m. For those who are interested in promoting bicycling and walking in Alexandria. At the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria.

Square Dance Lessons. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. No experience is necessary. Singles, couples and families are welcome. At the Lincolnia Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Contact Nancy at 703-573-8378 or email EMAIL:tom.nancystafford@cox.net.

Author Talk. 7:30 p.m. Free. Ferris Kaplan, a GMU professor, discusses "Being a Better Consumer." At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

JAN. 19 TO 21

"Richard III." West Potomac High School drama department will present "Richard III." Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10. All performances are at West Potomac High School in the Kogelman Theater, 6500 Quander Rd., Alexandria. Tickets are available at the door. Call 703-718-2585.

THURSDAY/JAN. 19

A Bee's Eye View of Native Plants. 7:30 p.m. Explore the plant-pollinator relationship from the bee point of view and learn why what we plant has consequences for these fascinating creatures. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. www.vnps.org and www.vnps-pot.org

R.E. Lee Banquet. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Celebrating the 205th birthday of Gen. R.E. Lee. Cost is \$75/person. At the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703 299-1725. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria, VA 22314 and must be received by Jan. 18 as no payments will be accepted at the door. Visit www.leecamp.org.

Colonial Republican Women: The next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 19 from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Virginia Hills Administration Center (Old Virginia Hills School), 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., the meeting begins at 7 p.m. Contact Debbie at 703-768-1934 or



PHOTO BY RUSSELL PARIS

Cliff Eberhardt, left, and James Lee Stanley, right

SUNDAY/JAN. 15

All Wood and Doors. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. Special acoustic tribute to The Doors with James Lee Stanley and Cliff Eberhardt. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

dbodlander@hotmail.com

FRIDAY/JAN. 20

Jonathan Parker Quartet. 8 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub in Alexandria. Contact Jonathan Parker at 703-819-3808

Historic Beer Dinner. 7 p.m. This culinary adventure pairs history-inspired beers from Yards Brewery of Philadelphia with a four-course meal. Tickets are \$85. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

JAN. 20-21

"Why Try?" Training. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Urban Passage Inc. is hosting this compelling training. At 711 No. Columbus St., Alexandria. Contact Jim Wilson, Director at "Why Try?" at 866-949-8791 or www.whytry.org.

JAN. 23

Tavern Toddlers. Weekly open playtime on Mondays between 10:30 a.m. and noon, and a new craft activity each week. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

DJ Dance Party. 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$6. With DJ Dabe Murphy.

At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.
Potomac Harmony Chorus Open House. 7 to 9 p.m. For women and teens who like to sing. Visitors will be treated to refreshments and socializing, along with quartet and chorus demos and a group singing lesson during which everyone will learn and perform a full song. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.PotomacHarmony.org.

Author Talk. 7 p.m. Free. Local author Brooke C. Stoddard talks about his book, *The World in Balance: The Perilous Months of June - October 1940*. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/person. Encore Lecture by Author Wally Owen includes 3-D and rare Civil War images. See what Alexandria looked like during the Civil War through the eyes of photographers who documented it. Meet some of the people behind the lens who are responsible for Alexandria's rich Civil War photographic heritage, such as Andrew J. Russell and Egbert Guy Fowx. Tickets are available by calling The Lyceum at 703-746-4994 or through www.alexandriahistory.org. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria.

FRIDAY/JAN. 27

Pieta Brown in Concert. 7:30 p.m. With Iris Dement. Tickets are \$35. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-965-3347 or visit www.birchmere.com/calendar

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Archaeology Talk. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Gunston Hall are co-sponsoring a symposium on Mason Neck archaeology. The program includes talks by Mike Johnson, Christopher Sperling, David Shonyo, Wendy Miervaldis, Paul Inashima, and Douglas Comer. Visit the website at <http://www.gunstonhall.org/grounds/archaeology.html>.

Author Discussion. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Author and former Chief Historian for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Robert K. Krick, will give a free lecture on "Robert E. Lee and His Detractors in the Age of the Anti-Hero." At the Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

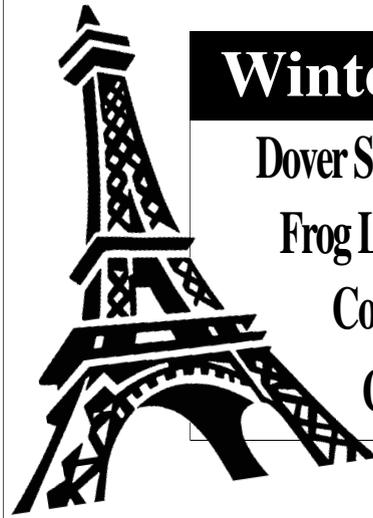
Civil War Ball. 8 to 11 p.m. Live music, dance instruction and period desserts. Tickets are \$45/advance; \$50/door. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. In preparation for the ball, Civil War-era dance classes will be offered at Gadsby's Tavern Museum from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 12, 19, and 26. Dance instruction will include the waltz, polka, Virginia reel, and more! Classes are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Advance reservations for both the Ball and dance classes are strongly recommended. Call 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org. At Gadsby's Tavern ballroom.

Art*iculation — Marketing Your Artwork. 1 p.m. Free. Artists need to create marketing and promotional writing, and artist's statements, to present their work. David Hazard, a 34-year veteran of talent and product development, will help you create yours. At The Art League at Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Designer Steals & Deals

7th Annual Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale set for Feb. 4

Style-mavens and fashion hounds are gearing up for the biggest and popular designer clearance sale of the year — the 7th Annual Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale. The one-day shopping extravaganza featuring high-end boutique merchandise will be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shoppers will find the best brands of clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more up to 70 or 80 percent off retail prices.

Founded in 2005, the annual clearance sale has attracted a large and loyal audience of shoppers traveling to Alexandria from as far away as Richmond and Pennsylvania. The most serious fashion fans line up early in the morning hours to get the first look at the top label merchandise. The Old Town Boutique District will also give away to four lucky shoppers early entry into the Warehouse Sale (must enter on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/OldTownBoutiqueDistrict>).

PARTICIPATING STORES AND LOCAL DESIGNERS:

Andrea D'Ambrosia
Periwinkle
Apple Seed
Red Barn Mercantile
Diva
Stanton Gallery
Fornash
The Little Monogram Shop
Gossypia
The Shoe Hive
Hysteria
Top It Off
J McLaughlin
Treat
La Cuisine
Queen Bee Designs
Lawrence Miller & Co.
Zoe Boutique
Mint Condition
Mystique

A list of participating stores is located at www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

Children Honor Dr. King's Legacy with Poster Contest

Alexandria schoolchildren are celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., again this year by taking part in a City-wide poster contest. Winners of the 22nd annual juried competition and exhibition will be honored at an awards program on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street.

The contest and exhibition are sponsored by the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage (ASPBH) and the Alexandria Black History Museum. The posters represent students' interpretations of this year's King holiday theme, "Continuing to Keep the Dream Alive." The artwork of all finalists will be on display in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall through Wednesday, Feb. 29.

The contest serves as a means of recognizing the life and accomplishments of Dr. King while encouraging the students to express their artistic talents. The ASPBH designed the competition to provide an opportunity for children of all cultures to express

their understanding of the late civil rights leader.

Student submissions are judged in two phases, beginning with the individual elementary schools. Three finalists from each grade (first through fifth) from each school are selected and sent on for further consideration. In the second phase, a panel of ASPBH representatives evaluates the artwork within grade levels but across the City, so students are competing against their peers from all City elementary schools. First, second and third place winners for each grade level will be selected. Winners will be announced and will receive their prizes at the Jan. 16 ceremony.

Under the leadership of chairman Carlton A. Funn, Sr., the ASPBH hosts programs and exhibitions presented by the Alexandria Black History Museum while providing yearly funds to help promote educational programs at the museum. The Alexandria Black History Museum, located at 902 Wythe Street, is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

FINE ARTS

JAN. 12 TO FEB. 19

Fears and Phobias. Reception is Jan. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. What does it mean to be fearful — to live and cope with a phobia? The 21 artists in the gallery's latest exhibition explore their own interpretations of various fears and phobias. At the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. At the www.torpedofactory.org/target

JAN. 12 TO FEB. 5

Connectivity: Threads of Community. Will showcase the works of 24 artists. Connectivity explores the many facets of connectivity artists create throughout their lives, and how these relationships relate to their work. Reception is Jan. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 27

2012 Solo Preview. In lieu of a solo exhibit in January 2012, The Art League Gallery will host a group "preview" exhibit featuring work by the artists who have been selected for solo exhibits in 2012. From Jan. 5 - 27, visit the Gallery for a taste of the exciting exhibits to come. The show will feature work by Cecily

Corcoran, Theresa Esterlund, Elissa Farrow-Savos, Juan Hernandez, Pattee Hipschen, Marcia Jestaedt, Georgia Nassikas, Suzanne Vigil, and Andrew Zimmermann.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14

Patrons' Show Ticket Sales. 10 a.m. The Art League's Patrons' Show is an experience that's part fundraiser, part block party, and totally fun. It's The Art League's biggest fundraising event of the year, and it provides seasoned art collectors and newcomers alike with the opportunity to acquire high quality, original fine art at a bargain price while supporting a great non-profit organization and community of artists. For each ticket drawn, ticket-holders go home with a work of art valued anywhere from \$175 to upwards of thousands of dollars. Tickets, \$175 each, will go on sale Saturday, Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. in the Gallery.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 29

Artist Warriors: Post Apocalyptic Adventure Art Exhibit. Surviving artists document this inhospitable world with art and fashions to move through it. Apocalyptic era clothing; Two- and Three-dimensional artwork. Opening Reception: Friday, Jan. 6, 7-10 p.m. Show Dates: Jan. 6 - 29, 2012. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

“Waterfront4All” include people who own, or are employed by, the following businesses that stand to benefit from waterfront over-development: home builders, real estate developers, real estate agents, riverboat companies, local restaurants, and current and past local Chamber of Commerce executives. They certainly have the right to support City plans that will help themselves financially. But I do have a problem when they seem to misrepresent their mission as one of residents’ interests as opposed to their own financial interests.

Finally, let’s look at the composition of the Waterfront Plan Work Group, as appointed by the Mayor. It was clear early on that consensus would not be reached; four of the seven members work for, or own, the following types of firms: consultants in urban and landscape planning/design, transportation consulting for municipalities, real estate development, and real estate agents. The other three members, local residents who opposed rezoning, are not affiliated with any business that could benefit from the proposed waterfront redevelopment.

It is disheartening to realize that

this seemingly idyllic community is, in fact, led by business interests, instead of those of our tax-paying and voting residents. We have an election coming up, involving City Council. Alexandrians, take note.

Leigh Talbot
Alexandria

Understandable Opposition

To the Editor:

I’ll say again what I think is worth repeating: Our neighbors who oppose the City Council’s waterfront plan are right to oppose it, and for all of the right reasons. It is a bad plan because it trades the historical charm of Old Town for the short-lived revenue producing potential (potential is a key word here) of National Harbor.

This trade, should it come to pass, will be permanent.

At the core of the issue, however, are not only these arguments but the reality that the residents of Old Town live, with respect to this issue and many more, in relative geographic disfranchisement.

Are we really to believe that Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, Rob Krupika, and Del Pep-

per; a majority of the City Council (none residents of Old Town) truly care about the day-to-day impact this ill-conceived plan would wreak on the daily lives of Old Towners?

Newsflash: They do not. They won’t be impacted by the traffic; last I checked you don’t have to drive down Union Street to get to City Hall from Del Ray. When have you seen any one of them in Old Town — outside of a parade or a Council meeting?

Heck, the two members of the Council who do live in Old Town have been a bitter disappointment to us all; Frank Fannon, who as a member of the yet-to-be-vocal political minority should be rallying against this plan, has not. Paul Smedberg, once a lone voice of reason on the Council, has either been cajoled or coerced into supporting this mess by a political machine that, true to form, squashes dissent.

All should be ousted in the next election.

All politics is local and in a small city like ours, I’d say it’s even neighborhood-centric.

This is why it’s clear to me that we either need to go to a precinct system that equally divides geographic representation in this City

or, if our “representatives” from Del Ray are so inclined to support such a plan, we ought to enthusiastically support locating the development on Mt Vernon Avenue.

Yes, if our City, with a budget of more than a half billion dollars, needs the revenue so badly, let’s put the boutique hotels and attractions “where Main Street still exists.”

This solves two problems; first, it preserves the historic nature of Old Town, as well as our parking and secondly, it would placate the concerns of the residents of Arlandria — who are worried that the development of high rises will destroy the ethnic and economic diversity of that neighborhood. Without having to tear down existing apartment buildings, the City could invoke eminent domain on any number of existing businesses on Mount Vernon Avenue (St Elmo’s, The Dairy Godmother, etc), just as they are willing to do with legitimate enterprises in Old Town. This is a win-win-win! We would raise desperately needed revenue, preserve an apartment building or two, get a new boutique hotel without spoiling the waterfront; the tourists get to hang out on Main Street, and the City gets to exercise undue in-

fluence over the little guy — just as they want. Everyone wins! Oh, that’s right, everyone except for the residents of Del Ray, who would have to deal with more traffic, less parking, another generic hotel on an otherwise cool little Main Street

In my extensive travels, I’ve had people around our country and the world ask me, when I tell them that I’m from Alexandria, “I’ve heard about it — what’s it like there?” I’ve been able to tell them that it’s kinda like all those “Main Street shopping centers” that keep cropping up all over the place — except that King Street is the original one — it is what all of those designs are based upon; it is what all of those other places strive to be, but will never become.

Mayor, City Council: Don’t you see what we have here? This isn’t some part of “Genericia;” what we have is special and it deserves to be cherished and preserved. Pass this plan and you will relegate our town to the posterity of placelessness — where everything is the same, maybe it’s designed to look old but everyone knows upon a not-so-close inspection that it’s a façade, that it’s artificial.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

Bevans

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www.christthesaviouranglican.org
703-953-2854

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening
5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday
7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 11)

Weekdays
(Mass of Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)

Sign Language Interpreter
Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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CHURCHES—BAPTIST
ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH...703-683-2222
COMMONWEALTH BAPTIST CHURCH...703-548-8000
CONVERGENCE CREATIVE COMMUNITY OF FAITH...703-998-6260
DEL RAY BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-8116
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FIRST AGAPE BAPTIST COMMUNITY OF FAITH...703-519-9100
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA...703-684-3720
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8 AM - Holy Eucharist - no music
All Education programs – 9:00 AM
10:15 AM - Holy Eucharist - music

5614 Old Mill Road, Mt. Vernon, Virginia
Just outside Ft. Belvoir’s Walker Gate
Bearing true faith and allegiance - Blessings to all who serve
Office: 703-780-3081 • www.StJamesMV.org

Worship At Bethany Lutheran Church

2501 Beacon Hill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Services

8:30 a.m.: Worship Service
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School for children, Bible classes for youth and adults
11:00 a.m.: Worship Service
12:00 noon: African-style Worship

More info: 703-765-8255 or www.bethany-lcms.org

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LETTERS

Legal Notices

ABC LICENSE

AEY LLC trading as River Towers Deli Mart, 6631 Wakefield Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22307. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jin S. Yang, owner.
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.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

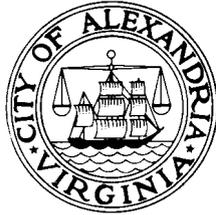
To whom it may concern, take notice that the Annual Report of the BLACKBURN FOUNDATION, INC. FYE 10/31/11 is available for inspection at 201 North Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, during regular business hours by request within 180 days after publication of this notice. Request to inspect said Annual Report should be made to J. W. Blackburn, Prin. Mgr. 703/519-3703

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Virginia Department of Health, of its intent to solicit sealed proposals to establish Abstinence Education Program. Copies of RFP Number VDH-2012-00084 may be obtained by contacting Stephanie Gilliam, Clerk, at (703) - 746-4790. Proposals will be received until 3:00 P.M. on January 27, 2011, at the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Purchasing and General Services (OPGS) 109 Governor Street 12th Floor, Suite 1214, Richmond, Virginia 23219, Attention: Carol Shelton, Procurement Officer II.



Public Hearing

Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the sale of property owned by the City of Alexan-

Legal Notices

dria, located at 716 and 718 North Columbus Street in the City of Alexandria, Virginia to King Street Properties, LLLP. The proposed ordinance authorized the sale of the referenced real property and authorizes the City Manager to enter into all appropriate agreements to complete the sale.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article A (WATER), Chapter 6 (WATER AND SEWER) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES), all of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance creates two divisions within Article A, Division 1, which contains the current code provision related to stagnant water, and Division 2, which contains new sections related to local and regional water supply emergencies and related processes and procedures.

PUBLIC HEARING on the Northern Virginia Regional Water Plan.

MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT #2011-0001
TEXT AMENDMENT #2011-0005
WATERFRONT SMALL AREA PLAN

Public hearing and consideration of a request for A) an amendment to the City's Master Plan to include the Waterfront Small Area Plan chapter; and B) a text amendment to Section 5-500 of the Zoning Ordinance for the W-1/Waterfront mixed use zone. Staff: Department of Planning and Zoning

The Waterfront Small Area Plan boundary includes Daingerfield Island at its north end and Jones Point Park at its southern end (both national parks). In between, the plan is bounded to the east by the Potomac River and to the west by (from north to south) East Abingdon Drive beginning just north of Marina Drive to the railroad tracks, continuing southeast along the railroad tracks to a point just west of Pitt Street, continuing east along Bashford Lane to North Royal Street, continuing south along North Royal Street to Third Street, continuing east along Third Street to North Fairfax Street, continuing south along North Fairfax Street to Queen Street, continuing east along Queen Street to a point approximately 100 feet west of North Union Street, continuing south about 100 feet west of Union Street to Wolfe Street, following along the northern, western, and southern boundary of Windmill Hill Park until it meets South Union Street, continuing south on South Union Street to Jones Point Park.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL, JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

FROM PAGE 25

Mayor, City Council: Pass this plan and you will be murdering the very soul of this City.

I'm sure as you read my illustration of "everything that Del Ray could be" a few paragraphs earlier most of you thought what an absurd notion — putting these hotels in Del Ray. And it is, and that's my point.

Is it not equally absurd to put them on our waterfront?

My fellow citizens, I implore you, take a few minutes to write the Mayor and Council and tell them they must reject this plan.

George G. Demetriades, Jr.
Alexandria

Lack of Vision

To the Editor:

Although the proposed Waterfront Plan is very controversial, few realize how open-ended it really is. This Plan will give full flexibility for the developer in return for vaguely formulated guidelines that even now are being undermined further.

The Waterfront plan is extraordinary voluminous, consisting not only of a 170-page report, but there are intertwined documents that together form the actual "Plan." Copiousness aside, this construct encompasses a radically different concept from other small area plans.

To fully understand, compare this to the Small Area Plan that was passed in 1992, which for the Waterfront consists of one paragraph. The Plan recommends the following policies.

1. The zoning of the remaining development parcels should be CRMU (commercial residential mixed use) which calls for limiting the densities in development not including housing. This zone is similar to the W1 zone, but attempts to put some teeth into the requirement to include residential.

The zoning ordinance conformed to the wishes of the Plan by requiring not only a height limit of 50 feet, but also that any development had to be mixed-use with the residential component comprising at least 50 percent in order to get the maximum density. Otherwise, less than half of the maximum density would be allowed.

The currently proposed Plan is actually an appendix to a Text Amendment offered to the Zoning Ordinance. Together, these documents give full flexibility for developers to do what they want on their property in exchange for following some guidelines. Never

before have I seen this paradigm. This construct is worrisome, because guidelines have no legal standing and are entirely subjective. Some are even downright pathetic, or even missing, as in this case.

Some examples of the dilemma are as follows:

- ❖ It recommends modern building design for the Robinson Terminal South, even though this building is in the Historic District. A few years ago, the City Staff tried to place a "21st Century warehouse motif" building on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Since this was soundly defeated, I am very surprised that they wish to engage in a similar battle here.

- ❖ Although there is lots of talk about hotels in the report, they are merely recommended in the guidelines.

In essence, this is about a text amendment giving full flexibility to the developers in return for unenforceable, subjective guidelines.

A second major point is that the lawyer representing the Robinson Terminal submitted a letter to the City Council and the City Staff asking for changes to the Guidelines that were never made public. However, I was able to get a copy anyway.

Although the lawyer was performing his job, no matter how the letter might seem to undermine the guidelines, was staff doing its job? On the day of the public hearing, the representative tells the City Council members that he has submitted a letter with some changes and the council members then ask the staff if they have any objections during the hearing. I was advised that they would not have any objections and the changes would have been approved without any citizen knowing about it.

The letter totally makes the case for why the guideline paradigm is a sham. Just to mention a few points. The changes to the guideline eliminates:

- ❖ The underground parking requirement
- ❖ The fixing of the piers, which is a linchpin in the goodies bag according to the Staff.
- ❖ Historic considerations.

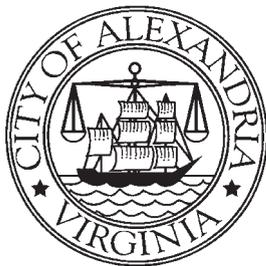
A more traditional approach would have been for us to ask the owners of the Robinson Terminal how much less density they are willing to take in exchange for the flexibility they seek. It is not acceptable to hand it over to them in this manner.

The purpose of is to provide confidence over development of an area by allowing all parties more

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 29

Legal Notices

Legal Notices



Washington Street Streetscape Improvements

City of Alexandria's
Department of Transportation
& Environmental Services (T&ES)

Design Public Hearing

Wednesday, January 25, 2011, 6-8 p.m.
City Hall, Sister Cities Rm. 1101
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Find out about the proposed streetscape design improvements to the Washington Street corridor, between Church Street and Gibbon Street. The proposed project will add enhancements to the lighting, sidewalk and streetscape improvements, traffic safety improvements, and drainage improvements.

Review the proposed project plans and the National Environmental Policy Act documentation at the public hearing or at City of Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 3200. You can also review the project on the City of Alexandria web site at

<http://alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=2876>. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of personnel to answer your questions. Streetscape and landscape impact information and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above address and will be available at the public hearing.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by February 8, 2011, to Mr. Rashad K Friday, MS, MBA, Project Manager, City of Alexandria, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 3200, Alexandria, VA 22314. You may also e-mail your comments to rashad.friday@alexandriava.gov. Please reference "Washington Street Streetscape Comments" in the subject line.

The City of Alexandria ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact T&ES at 703.746.4025. TTY/TDD 703.838.5056

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Titans Fall Short of Revenge Against Spartans

TC erases 12-point halftime deficit but loses to defending region champions.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Gaby Moss said the Titans were confused near the end of the fourth quarter. Head coach Kesha Walton said the game would be a learning experience. Angie Schedler was left with tears in her eyes.

The T.C. Williams girls basketball team had been waiting for its shot at West Springfield since the Spartans defeated the Titans for the fourth time last season, beating TC in the Northern Region championship game. On Jan. 6, the Titans got their first crack at the Spartans, who were without injured first-team All-Met point guard April Robinson.

“We knew we had it. We’re just frustrated because we played our heart out.”

— T.C. Williams sophomore Angie Schedler

Despite 10 months of motivating frustration and West Springfield missing one of its best players, TC fell behind early and trailed by 12 at the half. The Titans battled back, however, tying the score at 48-48 with less than three minutes remaining, but a free throw by West Springfield’s Jordan Miller and a strong defensive effort by the Spartans lifted the defending region champions to a 49-48 win over TC at West Springfield High School.

The Titans will have another chance to beat the Spartans when the teams



T.C. Williams senior guard Sofie Schedler scored a team-high 13 points against West Springfield on Jan. 6.

face one another on Jan. 30, and TC is still one of the better teams in the region, but Friday’s loss left the Titans disappointed about a missed opportunity.

“West Springfield is a great team, so I’m not taking anything away from them,” Walton said. “There’s just some work that we’ve got to do to improve as a team. And I learned some things tonight as a coach, too. I’ve got to help get them ready when we play them again.”

TC had possession down by one with less than a minute remaining, but came up empty against the West Springfield defense.

“We didn’t know exactly what play we were going to run,” said Moss, who finished with 11 points.

There were some bright spots in defeat for TC. Sofie and Angie Schedler finished with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Sofie Schedler made a key layup to pull the Titans within one with 3:33 remaining in the fourth quarter and the 5-foot-5 point guard finished with five rebounds. Angie Schedler



T.C. Williams sophomore Angie Schedler knocked down a trio of 3-pointers and finished with 10 points against West Springfield on Jan. 6.

knocked down a trio of 3-pointers, including a triple that cut the West Springfield lead to 48-45 with 6:12 remaining.

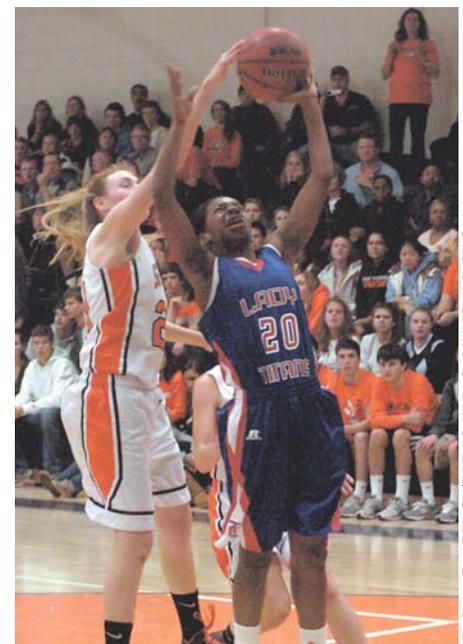
“Angie shot the ball well,” Walton said. “Sofie was very aggressive penetrating as well as distributing. Defensively, she gets it going for us. She’s in their face, bumping them a lot and playing good D.”

Angie Schedler said the Titans’ effort made the loss more emotional.

“We knew we had it,” she said. “We’re just frustrated because we played our heart out.”

Freshman Rejoice Spivey was rejected twice by West Springfield standout and Georgetown signee Logan Battle, but the 5-foot-6 guard continued to be aggressive and finished with five points.

“That’s my freshman baby assassin,” Walton said. “I told her to keep taking it. She’s got a real quick first step, finishes good around the basket and she’s very aggressive. I said no matter what, keep taking it to the basket. So what if they blocked the shot? You’re going to get it back. They’re



T.C. Williams freshman Rejoice Spivey remained aggressive against older, taller West Springfield players.

going to foul you or we’re going to get the ball back. So I told her don’t worry about it and keep attacking.”

Sophomore guard Amy Berglund led West Springfield with 15 points. Battle and Lindsey Mares each finished with 12 for the Spartans.

“We knew that’s what they wanted. We knew they wanted us, we knew they wanted revenge,” Battle said, “and we didn’t want to give them that chance and we didn’t today.”

Mares said the Spartans are expecting a tough matchup with they travel to T.C. Williams High School on Jan. 30.

“When we play them at their house it’s going to be a lot harder because the fans are going to be a lot more intimidating, for sure,” Mares said. “TC is known for their fans.”

The Titans rebounded with a 70-37 victory against South County on Jan. 10, improving the Titans’ record to 8-4, including 4-1 in the Patriot District. TC will host Lake Braddock at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13.

SPORTS BRIEFS



Members of the Olde Town beginner fencing class practice their lunge.

Olde Town Fencing Club Offers January Lessons

Looking for a way to get in shape for the New Year? How about trying out one of the original Olympic sports in the Olympic Year of 2012?

Alexandria’s Olde Town Fencing Club will open its Winter season of Fencing classes on Monday, Jan. 23 and Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Olde Town’s beginner fencing classes are offered through the Alexandria Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities, at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Youth classes (ages 10-15) are held on Mondays, beginning Jan. 23. Adult classes (age 16 and up) take place on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 25. Classes run from 8-9 p.m.

The cost of the eight-week session is \$64. Masks, foils and jackets are provided at no additional charge. Students should

wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes with non-marking soles. Pre-register on-line at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation, or sign up on the first night of class.

The Olde Town Fencing Club has been representing Alexandria in U.S. Fencing Association competition for some three decades. Olde Town’s women’s foil team won the U.S. National Championship in 2004, and members of the club have won numerous other USFA national medals. Club members routinely make a strong showing at local, regional and national tournaments.

In addition to the Beginner classes, Olde Town also offers private lessons for intermediate and advanced fencers, taught by Jun Liang-Smith, a former Penn State assistant coach and two-time member of the Chinese Olympic Fencing Team. For questions, call club president Wayne Bowman at 703-549-7451 or instructor Joe Hoffman at 703-645-0771.

PEOPLE

Writing Workshop Comes to Alexandria

Author teaches aspiring writers.

BY GALE CURCIO
GAZETTE PACKET

David Hazard loves to write. As the bestselling author of over 30 books, published in 21 languages, Hazard has connected with nearly a million readers.

He also loves to teach. With 34 years as a publishing consultant, he is coming to Alexandria to help aspiring writers launch their writing careers.

"A huge gulf has opened between publishers and new writers. Anyone who has tried to connect with an editor or publisher knows that. My mission is to help bridge that gulf," said Hazard.

Through Ascent, a "prep school for authors," Hazard leads four-day Writing Intensives — one of which is scheduled to be held in Alexandria in February. The Writing Intensive Workshop will be held at The Vanderzee Gallery at 105 S. Lee Street in Old Town, Feb. 16 to 19.

This is the fourth year that the workshop has been held and the



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO

David Hazard talks to book club group in Alexandria.

gallery lends itself to creativity. Writers work side by side with Rob Vanderzee as he paints — and some writers are also artists, as well.

"I help authors find the core energy of their book, and then create great outlines and marketing hooks for their work. In four days, writers learn the foundational tools for powerful narrative and essay writing," said Hazard.

Lane Dolly took the course two years ago, and said, "David taught me the building blocks, the amino acids, if you will, of writing. I feel much more capable and confident now that the process makes sense and I have an idea of what to expect — from the process and from myself."

Another student, Kassie Brown,

said, "David is a very passionate and inspirational teacher. I had never taken a creative writing course - and he really helped me find my true writing voice. I would definitely recommend him."

Hazard's 1984 book, "Blood Brothers," led to a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for its subject, Dr. Elias Chacour, and is now published in 21 languages. Other bestsellers and award-winning books include: "A Place Behind the World" (1st Place, Fiction, ECPA); "No Compromise: The Keith Green Story" (over 1 million sold); "Rekindling the Inner Fire," an 11-volume series (over 250,000 sold).

For information call Ascent at 540-454-4495 or visit www.itsyourlifebethere.com.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The T.C. Williams Marching Titans are holding a "Sponsor Night" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria on Tuesday, Jan. 17. A 7 p.m. reception precedes the 8 p.m. curtain for LTA's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee". General admission tickets are \$30, including the reception. Contact the Band Boosters directly for tickets: qplguy@gmail.com or mamamiajones@gmail.com. Donations to the uniform fund can be made at tcwilliamsband.wordpress.com.

The winners of the No Texting/Driving Contest were announced Nov. 30, at the Mt. Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. The contest asked students to use their creativity in developing a message (logo and campaign slogan) to their peers — persuading them to refrain from texting while driving.

The winning entries are as follows:
 ♦ First Place: Meghan Okonsky, (T.C. Williams High School) \$2,500;
 ♦ Second Place: Karen Alvarez, (Wakefield High School) \$250;
 ♦ Third Place: Tyler Olsen, (West Springfield High School) \$100;
 In addition to her \$2,500 award, Okonsky's entry earned her school an additional \$1,000.

Kevin Bloomfield of Alexandria has been named to the Dean's List for the 2011 spring semester in the Villanova School of Business.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 25

certainty and less apprehension. On Washington Street, the 21st Century Warehouse motif was unanimously rejected by the City Council only because the "Washington Street Standards" is an ordinance that superseded the subjective interpretation of guidelines that brought the plan forward. In the Waterfront Plan, there is no such provision.

This bespeaks volumes about the lack of visioning that has taken place. Full flexibility for the developer for extremely subjective guidelines is more akin to a laissez-faire approach. We should let the developer maximize their profit subject to conditions, but we as a community need to set these boundaries in an enforceable manner. I urge everyone to not play the guideline game. It proved disastrous on Washington Street, and there is nothing to suggest otherwise here. To quote Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction."

Poul Hertel

Time to Retire?

To the Editor:

There is always a point in a person's career when they decide it's time to retire. Often times these days it's at age 65, perhaps it's earlier for Government employees or later for workers with difficult pension issues. For Alexandria City Councilwoman Del Pepper, I believe that time is when you can longer communicate with your constituency.

Recently a reporter and Alexandria resident asked Councilwoman Pepper her opinion on the proposed Alexandria Waterfront Re-Development and, if any, what changes she might want to make.

What was Councilwoman Pepper's response?

"It's none of your business."

I have news for the Councilwoman, it is his business ... and my business ... and everyone else's business.

I have stated publicly that the very essence of Democracy is enjoying the ability to legislate based on argument and opposition; and so I take no issue with the councilwoman having her personal positions however when clarity and accountability are no longer present at the core of a politician's public persona, that politician is no longer effective.

Councilwoman Pepper was first elected to City Council in 1985, she has served her City well, with honor, with dignity and there cannot be a single Alexandria resident that doesn't respect her service. With time though, as with most things, change is inevitable and with change the necessity for new voices and newer more innovative strategies becomes even more obvious.

Councilwoman Pepper, with the upmost respect I say, it is time for you to retire from City politics.

Scott Gordon
Republican Candidate
Alexandria City Council

Meet Highest Standards

To the Editor:

As a candidate in the Democratic primary for Virginia's 8th congressional district, I read with particular interest Michael Pope's article "Blind Trust" [The Gazette, Jan. 5, 2012] on the disparity among candidates for ballot access.

In 2011 I ran a principled campaign as an Independent for Fairfax County chairman to voice concerns and stop cutting education funding, stop increasing students per teacher, and stop reducing the take home pay of teachers and first responders.

Working with people across political lines, I am proud and thankful Democratic and Republican senators and delegates signed my ballot petition.

Michael Pope's excellent article exposes the inconsistency of how partisan and Independent candidates are treated in Virginia.

For example, no one reviewed the ballots submitted by Mitt Romney's campaign for the March 6, 2012 Virginia Republican Presidential Primary to verify their authenticity. Separately, former Republican candidate Tim McGhee admitted several of his ballot petitions in his campaign for delegate lacked addresses.

Pope quotes Del. David Albo (R-42) saying, "It just seems to me that we should all be playing by the same rules. Independent candidates shouldn't be subject to more scrutiny than Republicans and Democrats. That's just not right."

Delegates David Albo and Bob Brink (D-48) both said they would support legislation requiring partisans to meet the same standards, although neither is sponsoring legislation currently.

The Democratic Primary for Virginia's 8th congressional district requires my campaign to turn in at least 1,000 voter signatures with dates and addresses on a petition so I may have ballot access.

My campaign will submit signatures collected in Arlington and Alexandria to their respective registrars to verify. We will do the same in Fairfax and Falls Church if their registrars will verify.

We will meet the highest standards in seeking public office.

A. Will Radle, Jr.

Candidate for Democratic nomination in the 8th Congressional District

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
Gazette Packet
1606 King St.
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Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:

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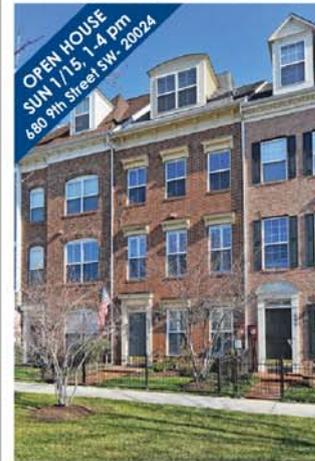
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Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
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