

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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FEBRUARY 16, 2012



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria Fire Department place the flag presented by the Capitol Police among the memorial tributes at the Seminary Road Fire Station.

Mourning One of Their Own

Alexandria paramedic dies while responding to a car fire on Interstate 395.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Joshua Weissman, a popular and optimistic Alexandria paramedic with a wry sense of humor, died last week after receiving a head injury while responding to a fire on Interstate 395. He was 33.

"He was an excellent technician," said Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel. "But even more important than that, he showed compassion for his patients."

He died while trying to get to a vehicle fire on the overpass when he slipped and fell 20 feet into Four Mile Run Creek. He was given CPR on the scene then transported to Washington Hospital Center, where he died the next day. An investigation has been launched, and Thiel said the results will probably become part of the public record later this year.

"We're trying to get through this week right now," said the fire chief, his badge shrouded with a black band. "As you can imagine, this is a difficult time for us right now."



Joshua Weissman

was promoted to Medic II the following year. Most recently, he was assigned to the D Shift at Fire Station 206 on Seminary Road.

By the young age of 33, he had lived more than half his years as an emergency responder.

SEE WEISSMAN, PAGE 12

A NATIVE of Ithaca, N.Y. Weissman was born on Feb. 23, 1978. As a child, he developed an interest in fire engines and construction equipment and. The fascination grew over time, and at the age of 16 he began volunteering with the Cayuga Heights Fire Department.

He soon realized his passion for providing emergency medical care. While continuing to gain education and experience as a volunteer firefighter, Weissman studied at Ithaca College receiving a bachelor of arts in history in 2000.

As a student volunteer, he lived at the fire station, where he met another volunteer, Rebecca Updike. They married in 2005.

Weissman served with several ambulance companies including Bangs in Ithaca, N.Y., TLC in Cortland, N.Y., Rural-Metro in Syracuse, N.Y. and the Washington, D.C. Fire Department. At 26, he joined the Alexandria Fire Department where he served for more than seven years. Weissman was hired as a Medic I for the Alexandria Fire Department in April 2006, and he

The Young Budget

New city manager offers proposal that would increase average residential property tax bill by \$52.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

With two months under his belt as the city's new chief executive, City Manager Rashad Young proposed his first budget to City Council members on Valentine's Day. The \$585.6 million proposal is a 3.3 percent increase from last year's budget, pumping an additional \$18.7 million into the annual budget. The city manager's suggested budget does not raise the tax rate. But rising property tax values mean the average property taxpayer will pay \$52 more than last year — a 1.2 percent increase.

The budget includes about \$1.4 million of expanded services. New spending items include \$100,000 for a new advertising campaign from the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, \$106,000 for a new emergency planner and a new home-based youth therapist to keep troubled youth in the community rather than shipping them out of the city. It also includes \$6.8 million in expenditure reductions. Cuts include \$180,000 in reduced service for DASH buses, a \$50,000 reduction in rodent abatement and \$37,000 for elimination of an early child

New Spending Items

♦ \$2.1 million to staff and equip a new fire station for Eisenhower Valley; funding provides for 12 firefighters, eight medics, gear, training, recruit costs and breathing apparatus.

♦ \$1 million in DASH bus expansions, including a new crosstown AT9 route between Mark Center and Potomac Yard and to increase peak service frequency from 30 minutes to 15 minutes on the AT6 route from King Street Metro to Northern Virginia Community College.

♦ \$309,000 for a new Office of Project Implementation to facilitate implementation of high-priority capital projects, including the Waterfront Plan, Potomac Yard and Landmark Mall.

♦ \$106,000 for a new emergency management planner that can assist in coordinating the city's response to terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

♦ \$100,000 for the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association to launch a destination advertising campaign encouraging overnight stays in the city.

♦ \$33,000 for a new parking garage automation pilot program.

♦ \$25,000 for an ethics initiative aimed at reducing the potential for incidents of employee malfeasance, created as a response to several cases of embezzlement.

Spending Reductions

♦ \$104,000 reduction would eliminate the New Horizons program administered by the Northern Virginia Urban League, which offer prevention services to 85 at-risk youth.

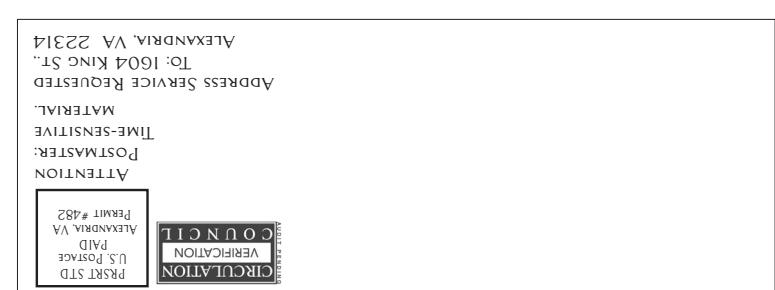
♦ \$83,000 reduction in advertising budget for the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership to help promote the city to existing and prospective business audiences.

♦ \$17,000 reduction in consulting services of outside experts provided to Alexandria small business owners through the Small Business Development Center.

♦ \$56,000 reduction in rodent abatement, which will limit proactive baiting to Old Town Alexandria and near the Potomac River.

♦ \$46,000 reduction from eliminating a vacant nurse aid position at the Teen Wellness Center.

♦ \$86,000 reduction from eliminating two public health nurses who handle prenatal care and case management.





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Waterfront Rezoning Delayed

The **Fat Lady** has yet to sing an aria for the waterfront plan, and now the controversial upzoning has been put on hold. At least for now.

The turn of events took place late on Valentine's Day, sending a love note of sorts to opponents of the proposal. At issue was a technical ordinance legally required to follow the public hearing vote on the small area plan. The legal document is usually a routine matter with council members adopting the document with little or no discussion.

But that would not be the way of the waterfront, would it?

City Attorney **James Banks** told council members they couldn't approve the ordinance finalizing the upzoning because an appeal had been filed to a protest petition requiring a supermajority of six members are needed to pass the plan. Because only five members voted in favor of the proposal, the outcome of the appeal could change the outcome.

"This is a step toward victory," said **Boyd Walker**, co-chairman of Citizens for An Alternative Alexandria Waterfront Plan. "The zoning is the irreversible part of the plan, so I'm happy that's on hold for now."

In a separate vote, council members approved an ordinance that amends the city's master plan to include the waterfront plan.

"The council could easily continue to move forward with implementation of the master plan," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**. "It does mean that every applicant for any land use issues would have to come forward for a zoning amendment, but we do that in other small-area plans in the city."

Two separate appeals have been filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals, and a separate action has been filed in the Alexandria Circuit Court.

A Raise and an Office

Do members of the Alexandria City Council deserve a raise? What about an office at City Hall? Both are questions that were raised Tuesday night, as the elected officials began scrutinizing spending priorities for the coming year.

Councilman **Rob Krupicka** suggested that council members should be paid more. At \$27,500 a year, he said, Alexandria's elected officials were the least paid in the region. It's a salary that hasn't changed in the last nine years. Krupicka also said it was time to increase the salaries for council aides, who make \$21,400 a year.

"It is always politically difficult to talk about council pay," Krupicka wrote in a memorandum outlining his position. "As an outgoing member of council, perhaps I can at least start the conversation."

After Krupicka raised the issue Tuesday night, Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes** chimed in that she would like to see council members have offices at City Hall. Currently, only the mayor has an office in the building, although aides have cubicles on the second floor. Councilwoman **Del Pepper** said that would be a terrible idea because the offices would remain vacant while the elected officials are working their day jobs or out with constituents and the empty offices would make it look like they're not working. Pepper also said council members once had offices at City Hall, but city officials complained because the elected officials were always pestering them about pet projects.

"Been there, done that," said Pepper, who was first elected in 1985.

"That was more than 30 years ago," responded Hughes. "Yes," Pepper shot back. "And the reasons haven't changed."

Summertime Hangovers

One organization that will be getting a raise is the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The regulatory agency is set to receive a check for \$280,700 from GenOn, which owns a coal-fired power plant on the Alexandria waterfront. Last week, the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board issued a consent decree citing the plant for exceeding nitrogen oxides limit six times last summer. The fine represents the largest fine imposed against the plant, which is set to close in October.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



Spotlight Moves West

Developers stand to gain, but what about low-income residents?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Ever since city officials annexed the half of Alexandria west of Quaker Lane in 1952, the West End has had to fight for a place at the table. Alexandria is a city where Del Ray and Old Town seem to hog the spotlight, and people who live on the suburban streets named for Confederate heroes have long said they feel ignored. West End residents feel particularly slighted by the recent Department of Defense installation at the Mark Center, which has already clogged the intersection of Seminary Road and Beauregard Street enough to earn it a failing grade from city transportation officials.

"I feel like the West End is always getting the crumbs of the cookie," said Jim Brown, who has lived in the West End for 62 years. "It's about time we got some of the cookie."

City officials are about to focus a major spotlight on the West End of Alexandria, although some are saying that the light is a garish display of wealth and power. Five developers have been working with city officials for months to craft the Beauregard small-area plan, which will add millions of square feet of development to the community and drastically increase the value of the land. In exchange for the windfall profits, the developers have agreed to fork over over \$147.5 million in contributions. Some say it's a Faustian bargain.

"When they talk about fields and open space, that sounds wonderful," said Esteban Garces, an organizer with Tenants and Workers United. "But it's

important to remember that will come at the expense of displacing people who live here now."

THE FUTURE OF THOUSANDS of low-income residents is at stake, pitting wealthy developers against the city's poorest residents. Caught in the balance are the city's elected leaders, who are trying to navigate through the planning process. The current proposals call for adding 700 units affordable housing units, although qualifying for them will require that recipients earn between 55 percent to 80 percent of the area median income. At the low end, that means that a family of four must earn at least \$59,000 a year to qualify for one of the dedicated affordable housing units. Meanwhile, thousands of low-end housing units will be torn down to make way for redevelopment. During a recent work session between members of the City Council and Planning Commission, some participants were skeptical.

"Once those are gone, they're gone for good," said Planning Commission member Eric Wagner. "We are not getting them back."

Wagner and others have been critical of the temporary nature of the dedicated affordable units that are part of the deal with developers. Like Cinderella's time at the ball, these units are set to expire after a certain number of years. That means that city leaders of a future generation would have to figure out how to handle the affordable housing problems then without the benefit of permanently dedicated units. Some have called for the city to boost the number of dedicated units beyond 700, although housing officials say that would upset the balance that has already been negotiated.

"Follow the money," said Planning Commission member Stu Dunn. "There are people who are going to make a lot of money on this, and I'm concerned that the people on the other side haven't been heard."

The coming decades are certain to see drastic SEE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PAGE 14

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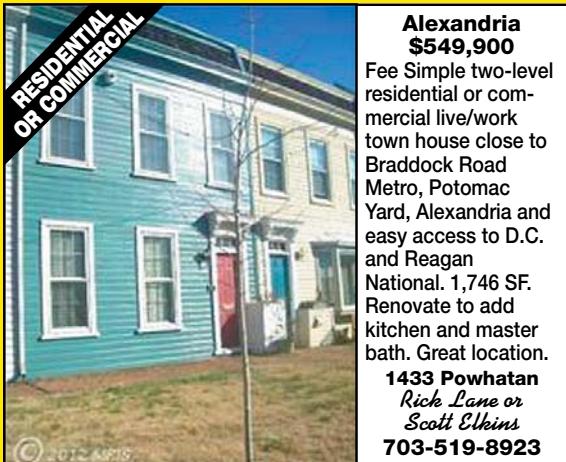


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703-519-8923



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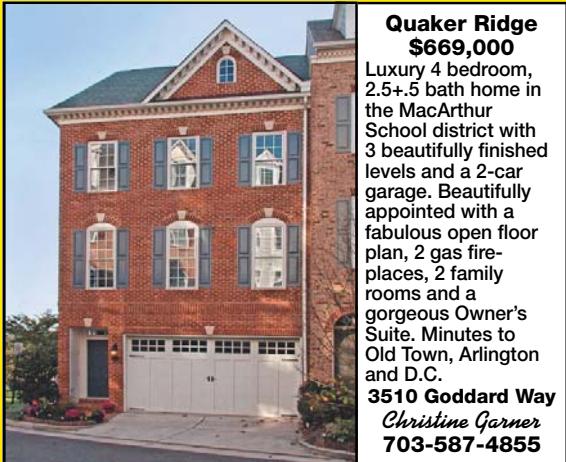


Rosemont \$999,000
Wonderful expansion of a gracious 1925 colonial with 4 upper level bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 3 finished levels and an attached garage. Wonderful flow with large rooms, abundant light and tons of character throughout. Located just a few blocks from the King Street METRO, shops & restaurants in Old Town and Carlyle.
400 Russell Road
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Rosemont \$869,000
Light-filled 4 bedroom, 3 bath Colonial with 3 finished levels located just a few blocks from the King Street METRO, shops and restaurants in Old Town and Carlyle! Beautifully renovated kitchen, updated baths, off-street parking and large rear deck.

304 Russell Road
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Quaker Ridge \$669,000
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Leading the Charge

McCaffrey to keynote Friendship Veterans Breakfast.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Intense mortar fire pierced the early morning hours of Oct. 6, 1966, as a young infantry officer barely out of West Point led a search and clear operation near Dong Ha, a village strategically located along the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone. Before the ensuing 12-hour battle ended, the senior American advisor would be killed and First Lieutenant Barry R. McCaffrey severely wounded as he organized a counterattack that successfully repelled the Viet Cong.

McCaffrey was awarded the first of two Distinguished Service Crosses for his heroism that day and as a general went on to command the 24th Infantry Division in Desert Storm where he eventually earned four stars, the Army's highest peacetime rank. After 32 years of active duty service, McCaffrey retired in January of 1996 to become the director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

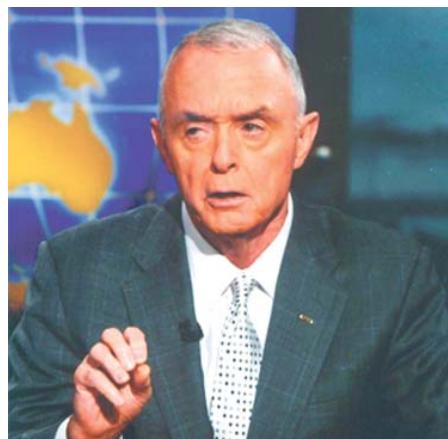
"Those five-and-a-half years are probably the most useful period of my entire life," said McCaffrey of his time as America's Drug Czar. "We were able to increase substantially the money desperately needed for drug treatment and prevention."

During that time, McCaffrey took on the then-unpopular role of leading the fight against performance-enhancing drugs in sports.

"This was a huge problem for U.S. sports teams," said McCaffrey, who recalled being booed as he arrived at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. "From Little League to professional sports, it felt like David taking on Goliath."

McCaffrey has persevered in his fight and has become a pioneer on raising awareness of the causes and treatment of drug addiction.

"While there was only marginal progress made in those early years, we moved the conversation forward so that now we are seeing results," said the



COURTESY PHOTO

Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.) will be the keynote speaker at the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association breakfast Feb. 20 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Old Town. For ticket information, visit www.friendshipfire.net/frontpage.html.

place, especially in sports as athletes, doctors and enablers are being prosecuted."

McCaffrey, the principal consultant at BR McCaffrey Associates in Old Town, serves as an adjunct professor of International Security Studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point and will discuss security issues in his keynote address that kicks off Alexandria's George Washington Birthday celebration.

"I will give an update on the national security challenges facing the United States today," said McCaffrey, whose son, Col. Sean McCaffrey, is in Afghanistan serving his third tour of combat duty. "While America may be sick of the war in Afghanistan, there is still enormous support and trust in our Armed Forces to protect our nation."

Married for 47 years to his wife Jill, McCaffrey was the most highly decorated serving general upon his retirement. An outspoken leader within the Army for women's rights and the rights of minorities, he was awarded three Purple Hearts and two Silver Stars in addition to the Distinguished Service Crosses for wounds received in his four combat tours.

"The most trusted institution in society is still the U.S. Armed Forces," McCaffrey said. "That is generated by the integrity and character of our sons and daughters who continue to serve our country."

While America may be sick of the war in Afghanistan, there is still enormous support and trust in our Armed Forces."

— Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.)

Free Foreclosure Prevention Clinics Offered

Housing Counseling Services will host multiple Foreclosure Prevention Clinics during the month of February. Clinics are currently scheduled for Feb. 20, and 27 at 12 p.m. in Conference Room 3 of the City of Alexandria Office of Housing, 421 King Street, Suite 200.

The clinics are provided to help participants:

- ❖ Identify financial options and services available to homeowners that have defaulted or are in danger of defaulting on a mortgage,
- ❖ Avoid predatory lenders and foreclosure rescue scams that prey on homeowners facing foreclosure,
- ❖ Meet individually with a housing counselor and get answers to questions.

Housing Counseling Services is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved housing counseling organization funded to provide free training and counseling to tenants, homebuyers and homeowners. Counseling will be offered in both English and Spanish. This event is free to participants. To register, call 202-667-7006.

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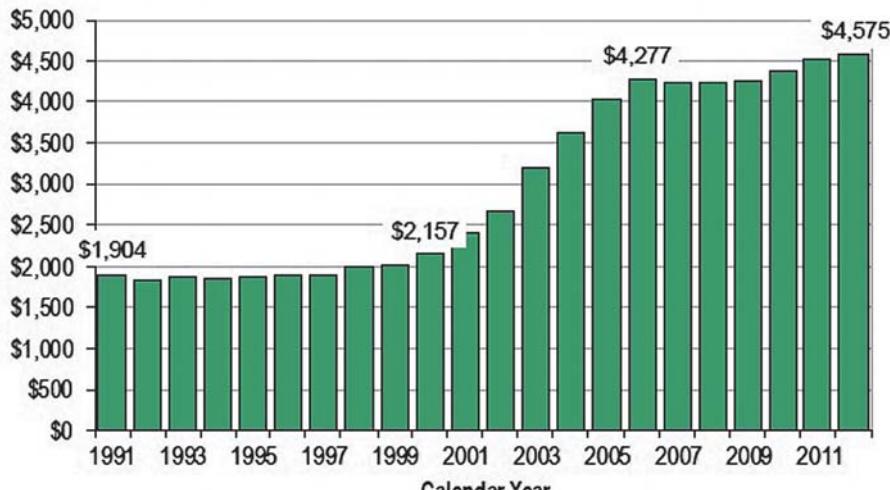
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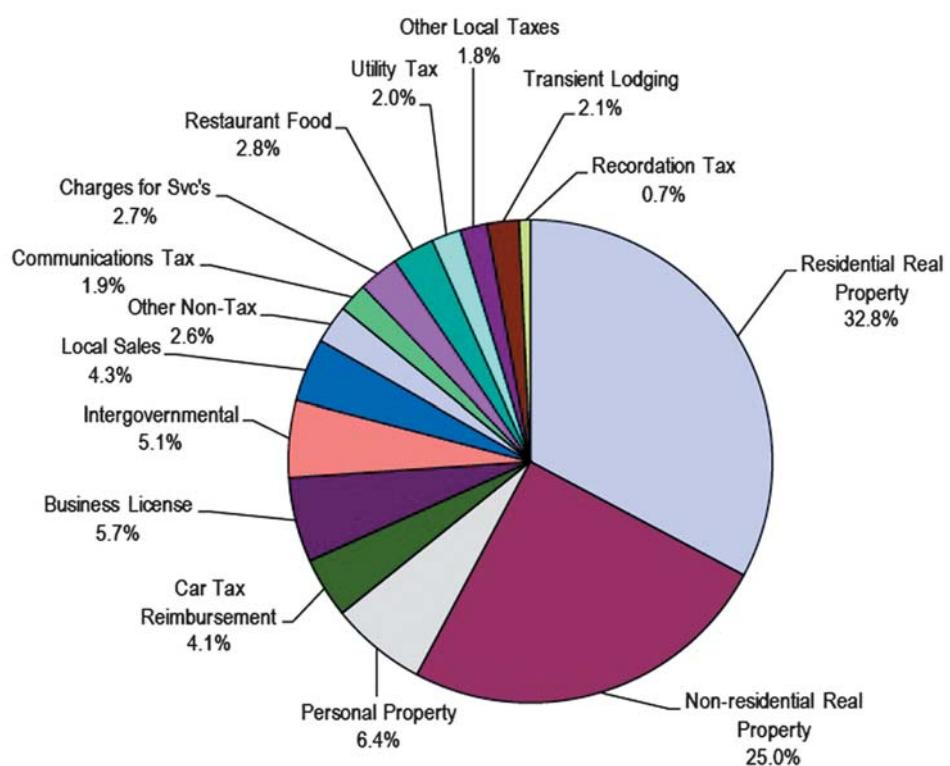
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NEWS

Average Residential Tax Bill



ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET



Average residential property tax bills are at an all-time high.

A look at where the city gets its money.

Manager's Budget Proposal Seeks 3.3 Percent Increase

FROM PAGE 1

hood social worker. Young said that he struggled the most with cuts to the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

"Those were hard decisions to make," said Young, who was formerly city manager of Greensboro, N.C. "Human nature is that you really don't want to make reductions there because you see the value of those kinds of programs, but to have a balanced budget you've got to create those trade-offs."

YOUNG'S PROPOSAL represents the official beginning of the budget season, which includes two public hearings and eight work sessions culminating in a final adoption on May 7. The proposal meets the guidance set by council members last year, which asked the new city manager to refrain from raising the tax rate and increase the funding for the school system and public safety at the same rate as the overall revenue growth.

"It's not dead on arrival, unlike the president's budget," observed Mayor Bill Euille. "So you are doing very good."

In response to a series of city employees who have been charged with embezzlement, Young has created a new ethics initiative. The initiative includes \$22,000 in ethics awareness training and \$3,000 to create a third-party anonymous hotline to report suspicious activity. City officials described the initiative as a first step in ensuring a culture of ethics throughout the city.

"I commend you for bringing that forward," Councilman Frank Fannon told Young during Tuesday night's meeting. "In every organization you have great employees and then you have the bottom of the barrel."

SOME OF THE BIG-TICKET new spending items include \$1 million for DASH bus expansion, which will create a new cross-town route and increase peak frequencies. The expansion of service is paid for by a new dedicated source of funding for transportation, which was created last year when City Council members rejected an add-on tax and instead carved out 2.2 cents of the tax rate for transportation projects.

One new spending item that received immediate praise from council members Tuesday night was a \$309,000 initiative to create a new Office of Project Implementation.

"Our plans are great, but if we're not using them we might as well use them to prop open the door to City Hall," said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley. "This is perhaps one of the biggest initiatives you've put forward here."

"I think this is long overdue," agreed Councilman Rob Krupicka. "This moves us from spending a lot of time planning to spending a lot of time doing."

One budget proposal that wasn't as popular with council members Tuesday night was a pilot program to automate parking garages. The plan would make three parking garages fully automated, reducing the number of parking attendants accounted for in the parking management contract. Eventually, Young said, the program would save money by reducing the need for employees. Councilwoman Del Pepper said she was concerned about a lack of security in the garages if computers replace the attendants.

"Those attendant provide an eye on

what's happening," said Pepper. "I think \$33,000 is hardly worth that."

Councilwoman Alicia Hughes agreed with that assessment, especially for the parking garage under Market Square.

"Things have happened in this garage," said Hughes, adding that her car was keyed while she was in City Hall. "I think it would be a problem if we were to do that."

ONE REDUCTION that is likely to become the topic of discussion is a \$36,000 cut to the city's annual birthday celebration. Instead of hiring the Alexandria Symphony to perform, which is usually what happens, Young suggested a military band or local band might perform. The symphony might be able to perform if a donor was identified to pay for the performance.

"So you're not messing with the cupcakes," asked Hughes, referring to the miniature birthday cakes available during the city's annual celebration.

"I'm not sure what the cupcakes are," Young responded.

"You'll find out," explained Vice Mayor Kerry Donley.

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To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

25th Anniversary T-shirt Design Contest. In honor of Rebuilding Together Alexandria's 25th Anniversary, it is holding a t-shirt contest, with the winning design to be featured on RTA's web site and 1,000 volunteer t-shirts this spring. Participants are asked to submit a design that shows what Rebuilding Together Alexandria means to them or a design reflective of RTA's impact in the community. Design guidelines and entry rules can be found at www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org. All

submissions must be received by Feb. 15, by 6 p.m.

"Rock'n Fossil Adventures"

Spring Break Camp. Children ages 7 to 10 can enjoy a week-long, full-day nature camp for youth ages 7-10 where children learn about the geology of Alexandria and the surrounding region. Activities include outdoor hikes, games, rock and fossil collecting, related crafts, journaling, and more at Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave., April 2-6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (drop off at 8:30 a.m.). Fee: \$275 City resident / \$300 nonresidents. To register, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703-746-5559.

The Lyceum's History Camp for

Kids. The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, is now registering for its three-day camp for children ages 5 to 7. Clio's Kids mini-camp introduces children to American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing, crafts, old-fashioned games, and visits to nearby historic places. Clio's Kids runs from Tuesday, July 24, through Thursday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. Camp will be held at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. The cost is \$105, which includes snacks and souvenirs, and advance registration is required. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Alexandria Archaeology is host

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 28

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Personhood in Virginia

Abortion has sparked some of the sharpest exchanges in the General Assembly session this year, with two controversial bills making it out of the House of Delegates at the halfway point this week. Del. **Bob Marshall** (R-13) introduced the symbolically important House Bill 1, an indication of its significance among the Republican leadership. The effort, known as the Personhood Bill, would effectively outlaw all Virginia abortions by declaring that the rights of persons apply from the moment sperm and egg unite.

"We're talking about inside a woman's body," said Del. Charnie Herring (D-46) during the debate on the House floor. "This is the first time, if we pass this bill, that we will be dictating a medical procedure to a physician."

For years, Marshall's bill has passed the House only to become bogged down in the Senate. Now that Republicans are in charge of the upper chamber, it stands to survive a Senate under new conservative control. Republicans said opponents were alarmists who were exaggerating the consequences.

"I would suggest the claim that there are a vast field unintended consequences because of the word person is sorely misplaced," said Marshall. "For example, if a person's going to be given a ticket for driving 80 mph, I would suggest that it probably doesn't apply to the child before birth."

The measure passed on a 66-32 vote.

No Consent Needed

The effort to require women seeking abortions to undergo an ultrasound has also sparked some of the most heated debate in Richmond this year. Earlier in the session, Sen. **Janet Howell** (D-32) introduced an amendment that would have required a rectal exam and cardiac stress test before men could obtain a prescription for erectile dysfunction. That amendment didn't pass, but it sure got a lot of attention.

This week, as the House of Delegates took up the issue, Del. **David Englin** (D-45) took a different tactic. On the House floor, he introduced an amendment that would require a woman to give written consent before a doctor could probe her with an ultrasound device.

"I still couldn't vote for the bill, even with this amendment," Englin acknowledged. "However, this bill is going to become law. And if it's going to become law, we ought to at least protect the women of the commonwealth from this kind of invasive penetration against their consent."

Del. **Kathy Byron** (R-22) took the floor to oppose the amendment, describing abortion as the ultimate invasive procedure. She said House Bill 462 was necessary so women seeking an abortion fully understood the process. Englin shot back that all he was trying to do was make sure that a woman consented to a procedure that involves vaginal penetration before it was conducted. "This is about protecting women in this commonwealth," said Englin. "How difficult a moral concept is it to say before you perform an invasive procedure on our wives and our daughters that you have to get that woman, who you are going to use a probe inside, to sign a piece of paper saying, 'Yes I consent to having this done to my body'?"

The amendment failed on a vote of 64 to 34.

A Tale of Two Metrics

Virginia currently uses a formula that evaluates energy-saving projects based on how they impact energy users who don't participate in the conservation program. Critics say that approach makes it harder to justify the return on investment for a project. That's why Councilman **Rob Krupicka** suggested that the City Council support House Bill 894, which was introduced by Del. R Lee Ware (R-65), which excludes those who don't participate when determining energy efficiency.

"The metric they use severely undercuts the opportunity for implementing new and innovative energy efficiency programs," said Krupicka. "The problem with that is you may be able to create a bunch of clean-energy jobs, but if a program is based on participation."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Children at Network Preschool enjoy a puppet show.

Using Leftover Money for Preschools

Bill would set aside unallocated money for preschool funding as grants to help children.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Every year, millions of dollars worth of preschool funding goes unused. Here in Alexandria, for example, Virginia offered \$1.6 million worth of matching funds for preschool programs in the city. But only \$945,000 was raised to offer for the match, leaving \$655,000 unspent. The way Virginia law currently works, that money goes back into the general fund. But a bill introduced by Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) would set aside that unused money for a new grant program aimed at expanding access to preschool rather than having the money spent on prisons or tax credits for corporations.

"Some people just don't understand how important preschool is to a successful outcome for success later in life," said Ebbin. "It's important for communities to have access to preschool funding, and we don't want to limit it to communities that have money for a match."

Here in Alexandria, one in four children show up for the first day of Kindergarten without a quality preschool experience. And even though 315 Alexandria children are participating in the Virginia Preschool Initiative, more names are being added to the waiting list every year. And because of the sluggish economy, more and more parents are falling on hard times. That means more and more children are eligible to participate in the program, which covers families that struggling to get by at 250 percent of the poverty rate.

"These are all at-risk children from disadvantaged families," said Carol Farrell, director of the Alexandria Office of Early Childhood Education. "These are needs that are currently unmet, especially in rural parts of the state."

"Some people just don't understand how important preschool is to a successful outcome for success later in life."

— Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

known how much will be left over."

THE FUNDING FORMULA for the Virginia Preschool Initiative is based on an assumption that providing pre-Kindergarten costs about \$6,000 for each student each academic year. But because the actual cost of providing the service is much more expensive than that, city officials say, the match received from Richmond turns out to be less than half the cost. Part of the reason for that is the diversity of different settings where the classes are offered, which include everything from school-based classrooms to private preschool classrooms.

SEE LEFTOVER MONEY, PAGE 14

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Reflecting on When Black History Was Ignored

Funn's role extended to series of lectures for police.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

Slaves were happier than Northerners believed, and African Americans made no notable contributions to society. So says the 1957 school textbook, "Virginia: History, Government, Geography."

As antiquated and ignorant as the comments may seem, the textbook was in use throughout middle schools in Alexandria until the 1970s. Retired educator and community activist Carlton Funn keeps the textbook close to his heart, but the message far away.

"I want people to see this is what motivated me," said Funn. "This book lacks achievements made by African Americans."

Funn taught history at Lyles-Crouch for 15 years, during which time he developed his own curriculum and taught beyond the book. Included among his students was Alexandria's current mayor Bill Euille, a seventh grader at the time.

"Funn was bright, intelligent and inspi-



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Black History director Louis Hicks interviews retired educator Carlton Funn for the ongoing Alexandria Black History series.

rational, he was a breath of fresh air," said Euille. "He wrote his own curriculum because he wanted African American achievements to be made known."

Funn influenced the Lyles-Crouch community as a whole. Although he was never a student in Funn's history class, Alexandria's current police chief Earl Cook was inspired by Funn's diversion from the

text.

"I felt his influence without a direct touch, the community effect was there," said Cook. "I became a history major. Trying to get history accurate is difficult, politics are taught in textbooks."

According to Louis Hicks, director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, the political ramifications of portraying slaves as

being happy and content is a subtle way to justify human bondage.

"The textbook was typical of the climate we were taught in, our only contribution was a paragraph about slavery," said Hicks. "Depicting people as content and happy supports and justifies slavery."

Funn took his teachings beyond the classroom, and in 1970 he presented a series of cultural lectures to the Alexandria Police Department. As an important point of contact with the community at large, Funn believed cultural understanding could solve latent problems associated with police relations.

"Police relations with the community were pretty good, but there were problems," said Funn. "After the lectures I saw how the police applied the lessons, I saw men and women treating citizens differently."

As a significant aspect of police history, Funn recently presented a plaque commemorating the successful lecture series to Cook. A second plaque was given to Euille in recognition of his personal accomplishments as the first African American mayor of Alexandria.

Today Funn has formalized his lecture series into a traveling cultural exposition. To date he has presented the exhibit over 500 times in 12 states, and has included over 28 diverse cultures.

Teacher Launches TeamEsteem Program

Latest book addresses finance for youths.

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Born and raised on Buchanan Street in Alexandria, West Potomac High School teacher Daryl Mackey was determined to give back to his community. In the early 1990s, he launched his DreamEsteem program as West Potomac High School's basketball coach.

"The TeamEsteem started with the camps," Mackey said. "I believed in teamwork as being a strong component to a person's self-esteem. I felt that Pat Riley, who had patented the word 'Threepen,' had something that was his unique word."

The word, TeamEsteem, he said, represents his coaching philosophy for a high school team and beyond. "TeamEsteem" has since been trademarked.

"It was 'TeamEsteem,'" he continued, "meaning your team had to be prevalent in your school, home and community, on the basketball court or any area that you went, you represented your team. You



High school teacher Daryl Mackey

had to have a word that summarizes that."

Since launching TeamEsteem within the school's basketball team and affiliated camps, Mackey has included it in his classroom. In 2011, with the help of talents and perspectives of his students, he wrote two books. One he co-wrote with his wife, Dana R. Colbert-Mackey, it's geared toward younger children entitled, "A Successful Team Has TeamEsteem," with illustrations by at the time freshman student Hiwan Adhamon.

This was part of Mackey's plan to "empower youth to define their niche and enhance their skills," an element of TeamEsteem.

"The concept of TeamEsteem is seizing

veterans (adults) to build a rapport with young people to encourage them to follow their goals, refine their gifts that have been given to them on their arrival," Mackey said.

The second book, which he also wrote in 2011, "TeamEsteem is the Key to a Teen's Financial Dreams," which outlines the essence of the concepts and how it can help students achieve and pay for their post-graduate goals.

Mackey said there will be a book signing at Hooray for Books! in Alexandria on Feb. 19 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The signing will be "to introduce TeamEsteem to the City of Alexandria and to bring positive people together in an outstanding environment that promotes reading, which is one of our initiatives — to encourage students to be financially literate," Mackey said. "The goal of the event is to introduce positive people to young people who need role models."

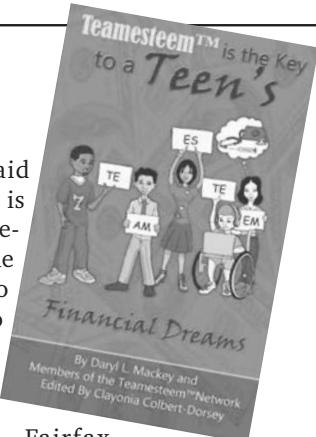
There will also be a financial summit on April 7 at the Carlyle Club to promote TeamEsteem.

Mackey owns real estate which is the foundation to D&D Enterprize, LLC, which funds the TeamEsteem Network and philanthropic efforts. Ten sponsors are in negotiations for the DreamEsteem financial summit in April. Among the sponsors that are making the event possible include Peggy White of Long and Foster, BB&T, Burke and Herbert, Nate Wilson and the Carlyle Club is giving a generous discount.

Mackey said TeamEsteem is just at the beginning and he expects it to grow and to thrive in Alexandria and throughout Fairfax County and the rest of the East Coast.

"TeamEsteem and our network have a streamline growth drivers for 2012," Mackey said. "Our first quarter goal is to introduce the book throughout the United States, throughout corporations and organizations such as the military and the industry."

Secondly, Mackey said he hopes to continue the networking financial seminars that would take place in the spring and the fall, which includes the launch event in April. "We will continue throughout the year at various locations locally and throughout the East Coast," he said. "We will be utilizing outreach associates who will represent the 10 concepts that we're introducing in this second book where we'll educate teenagers and our youth about knowing the concept of TeamEsteem, financial literacy and reading. We'll also be collaborating with different programs like AVIT and various programs throughout the city of Alexandria and Fairfax County."



OPINION

Saving the Bay: A Good Investment

Cleaning up the water that runs into the Chesapeake Bay will help create jobs and economic activity in Virginia.

A plan to raise \$300 million in bonds to upgrade wastewater treatment plants around the commonwealth stalled in a House of Delegates committee last week, a setback in meeting EPA requirements to clean up the water that leads to the Bay. Money is tight, lawmakers say, although an identical plan cleared the Senate.

Let's be clear that part of what we're talking about by delay is continuing to allow raw sewage to run into Virginia's waterways every time it rains.

This is like deciding to let the toilets in the house overflow rather than spend money on the plumber. Not only is it unhealthy and un-

EDITORIAL

pleasant, it also makes Virginia less attractive for tourists and eco-tourists.

Upgrading the sewage treatment plants will generate jobs, but also upgrade the quality of the water Virginians depend on for drinking, household and business use and recreation.

More than 30 years of "saving" the Chesapeake Bay has accomplished about half of what needs to be done. The bay is primary attraction for tourists in Virginia, and is the basis for many jobs. The investment in the health of the bay is a jobs bill for Virginia.

Aside from upgrading the treatment plants, states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will

need to find ways slow the pace of stormwater runoff, do better with erosion control, change some agricultural practices to keep "fertilizer" from rushing into waterways every time it rains, and more. Efforts made upstream by other states will also benefit Virginia's waterways. There are new green and more cost effective ways to go about many of these tasks.

The mission will also need the continued involvement of individuals and organizations who are dedicated to the Chesapeake Bay.

It's an investment that will pay dividends for Virginia.

Pet Connection

Send us photos of your pets this week for inclusion in next week's Pet Connection. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of your pet, include address and phone number, and email to: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Losing Battle For Education?

To the Editor:

Decisions. When it comes to public policy, the decisions are never as simple as everyone would like and many times, you never really understand why people make the decisions they make. The Superintendent's salary was increased salary increased to \$244,080 (\$44,380 more than what the U.S. Secretary of Education makes and \$69,080 more than what the Governor of Virginia makes), and what has Alexandria gotten for that money?

An audit recently revealed that \$211 million had been mismanaged.

School officials had to ask City Council for an additional \$18 million.

The chief financial officer resigns claiming that ACPS is a "hostile work environment."

ACPS hires an expensive executive who ran the company that ACPS purchased a scripted reading program from.

And now it is eliminating important educational services impacting ACPS students with disabilities:

- ❖ Elimination of 13 Special Education staff positions at Mount Vernon Elementary School.

- ❖ Elimination of seven Special Education staff positions at T.C. Williams.

- ❖ Elimination of an Early Childhood Education position.

- ❖ Elimination of summer school programs

- ❖ Elimination of four physical

therapy and occupational therapy positions.

- ❖ Elimination of two technology integration teachers.

- ❖ Elimination of an instructional coach who worked to meet student needs for language acquisition, special education, English language learners, cultural competency, and student engagement.

- ❖ Elimination of the district level social work coordinator.

These cuts impact ACPS students with disabilities, like my son, a teenager with Autism, who will be attending T.C. Williams High School next year — great to know that there will be even less of the very little help he currently gets in middle school, for him, when he gets to high school.

Virginia's Constitution states that all of the children in Virginia are guaranteed a high quality educational program and that educational program has to be maintained. It does not improve student learning or academic achievement.

Instead, it pays lip service that Alexandria's children deserve the best possible education, rewards the bureaucracy down at 2000 N. Beauregard Street and guts that constitutional guarantee.

Michael J. Carrasco

Ideological Differences

To the Editor:

Del. David Englin exhorts us to "Put Pragmatism Over Ideology" so as to not "balance the budget

SEE LETTERS, PAGE II

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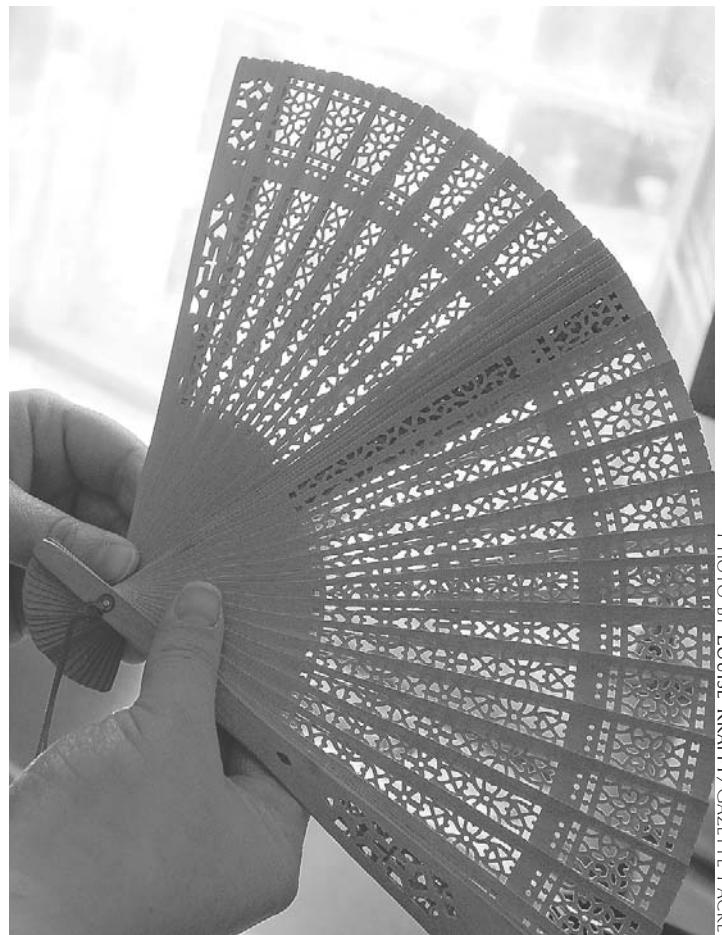
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A Connection Newspaper
The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-917-6480 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



Messages Sent by Fan

In the language of the fan: Come visit me at the Lee-Fendall House. In the Victorian era, fans were in popular use. Similar to texting a friend across the room, a few of the possible messages include: closing slowly - I wish to speak with you, carrying in the left hand - I desire your acquaintance, dropping the fan - we will be friends, carrying in right hand in front of face - follow me, resting on the left cheek - no, resting on the right cheek - yes, snapping shut - anger or annoyance, opening and shutting - you are cruel, open wide - wait for me, drawing forward across forehead - we are being watched, and drawing across cheek - I love you.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

on the backs of the poor." But an attitude against "balancing the budget on the backs of the poor" is no less an "ideology" than that of the "no tax pledge" contingent. Increasing taxes to fund health, education, welfare and social services for children, many of whose parents are not legally present in the country, and the poor, many of whom are not legally present, is no less ideological nor more pragmatic than not doing so to hold the line on taxes when the

economy is already very weak. Why not retitle Delegate Englin's Richmond Report, "Put My Ideology Over Their Ideology?"

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Keep All Options Open

To the Editor:

In their letter to the editor last week, Nate Macek and Bob Wood,

co-authors of the Waterfront Plan Work Group final report, remind readers that the Work Group "was in broad agreement that eminent domain should play no part in the acquisition of private property along the City's Waterfront." This sentiment was not shared by all, as member David Olinger requested, to no avail, that the bracketed word be added to Group Recommendation 3.69, as follows: "Pursue eliminating the ODBC

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

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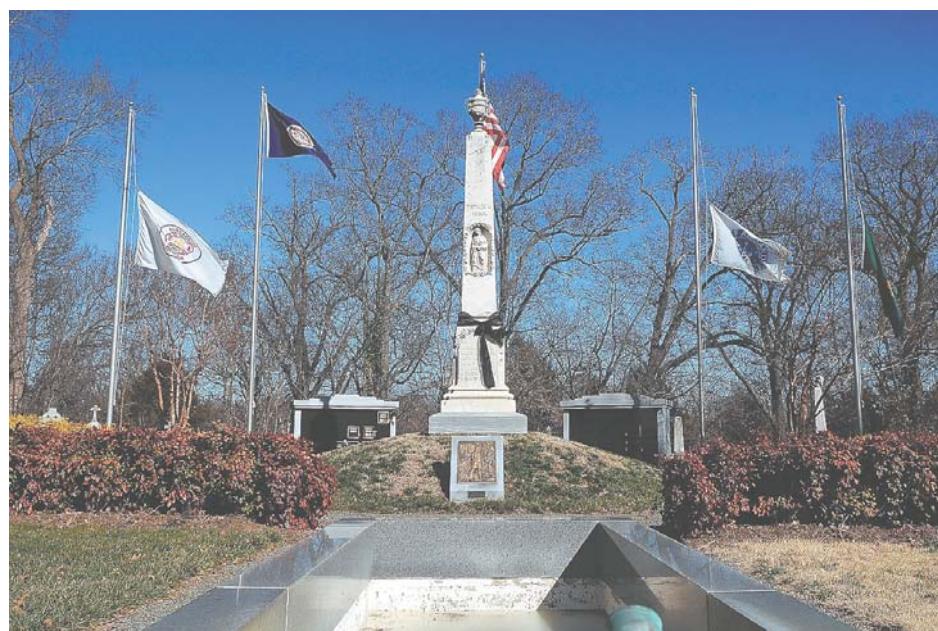
NEWS

Weissman

FROM PAGE 1

Thiel said the department had received countless letters and emails from people that Weissman had helped in his role as a paramedic over the years, an indication that his patients seemed to care as much about Weissman as he did about them. In one situation, for example, he responded to a incident in which a grandmother who had been carrying her young grandson tripped and fell. The boy's mother, upon arriving home after the incident, was concerned with the medical status of her son. Weissman revisited the home and reassured the mother that he had thoroughly checked the little boy during the initial response, alleviating the mother's concerns. The mother was so impressed by Weissman's concern that she wrote a letter to the fire chief expressing her appreciation for his actions.

FIRE OFFICIALS praised Weissman's clinical skills and commitment to those he served. He was known to visit the homes of the individuals and families he helped, providing comfort even after an emergency subsided. Beyond serving as an emergency responder, Weissman participated in numerous committees for the department and as an instructor. Weissman's work has been



After the news of the death of Alexandria EMS Officer Joshua Weissman, the Alexandria City flag, the Alexandria Fire Department Flag and the Ivy Hill Cemetery flag were lowered to half-mast and a black ribbon drapes the historic Alexandria Firemen's Memorial at the Ivy Hill Cemetery.

recognized by numerous awards, including the Alexandria Jaycees Award in 2011 for his contributions to the Field Training Program for EMS Interns, and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Valor Award. He was an active participant in the EMS Training Committee and the EMS Quality Management Committee. Weissman was also involved in establishing and implementing a training program on mass casualty incidents.

Beyond work and family Weissman filled his life with his love of construction equip-

ment, American history, caring for his garden, playing with his most loved cat Nahla and as a proud fan of the New York Rangers, New York Jets and the New York Mets.

He is survived by his wife Rebecca; his parents, Edward and Frances Weissman; his brother and sister-in-law Gabriel and Jessica Weissman; father and mother-in-law Ronald and Maureen Updike and Rebecca's sisters and brother-in-laws Sarah and Rodney Smith, Michelle Updike and Charles McCreless, Kristin and Steven Pronko and finally his nephew and niece Trevor and Madison Smith.

Thousands to Attend Services For Paramedic

Firefighters from across the nation are expected to convene in the Alexandria this week to honor fallen Alexandria paramedic Joshua Weissmann.

If possible, residents are encouraged to avoid travel or expect significant delays near event areas during memorial events and funeral services.

Traffic is expected to be substantially obstructed between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Thursday as the following streets will be closed intermittently for the funeral service.

The memorial processional and services are expected to bring more than 200 fire vehicles and more than 2,000 people into Alexandria. Community members should avoid these areas if possible and be patient with delays during this event.

From time to time during the day, the following streets will be closed to facilitate movement of the funeral procession and the participants:

- ◆ Janney's Lane from King Street to Quaker Lane
- ◆ Seminary Road from Quaker Lane to Van Dorn Street
- ◆ Van Dorn Street from Seminary Road to Braddock Road
- ◆ Braddock Road from Van Dorn Street to King Street
- ◆ King Street from Braddock Road and Quaker Lane to Russell Road.

Alexandria City Public Schools will alter dismissal times to ensure that students can safely leave school and be transported to their afterschool destinations in the midst of road closures and unprecedented traffic.

The City has coordinated with Campagna Center after care programs and after-care programs at city recreation centers to provide child care for families currently enrolled in these programs. In addition, recreation centers at Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, William Ramsay, Patrick Henry, Mount Vernon, Charles Barrett, Nannie Lee, and John Adams will be open immediately following the early dismissal.



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APRIL 26, 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

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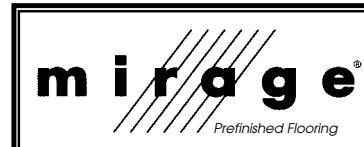
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Forest Knoll \$699,950
1110 N. Howard Street, Alexandria, VA 22304
This fantastic updated colonial offers amazing space w/ 4100+ SF and .29 acres, 4BRs, HW floors, high-end appls, new windows, huge sunroom & walkout bsmnt in a park like setting!
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Del Ray \$997,000
103 W. Monroe Street, Alexandria, VA 22301
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Old Town Village \$969,000
321 South Fayette Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
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Stratford \$559,000
8616 Yardley Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308
Gracious home in lovely sought after neighborhood! HW flrs on main & upper level! Updated kitch w/breakfast room & granite! Impressive list of updates throughout! 4BR, 2.5 BA! **Nicky McDonnell** 703-201-3318



Rosemont \$839,000
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NEWS

Leftover Money for Preschools

FROM PAGE 8

"The cost of a private preschool is, on average, about \$9,800 for a 4-year-old for a full year," said Farrell. "So we not only have to come up with a match, we also have to come up with a way to locate the rest of that funding."

Preschool is not mandatory, and some parents may not be interested in sending their children to preschool or may not know about the Virginia Preschool Initiative.

Those who want to participate must put their name on a waiting list and hope for a slot to open up. Krupicka said that closing that waiting list will be a personal goal as he begins his final year in office.

"Closing the waiting list does not mean that we are serving every child in this city," said Krupicka. "So the next step in the process after closing the waiting list is finding a way to reach out to families around the community and let them know that this is a service that's available to them."

Development Plan for Beauregard

FROM PAGE 3

change on the West End. A recent study by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments concluded that in the next 30 years, Alexandria is projected to add 52,000 new jobs, 43,000 new residents and 24,000 new housing units. The new Washington Headquarters Service at the Mark Center, which added more than 6,000 daily commuters to the West End, may be the tip of the iceberg.

"We knew we couldn't rely on one mode of transportation to manage that traffic," said Abi Learnier, deputy director of Transportation and Environmental Services. "We knew we had to create a multi-modal approach."

The solution is a high-capacity transit

corridor that snakes through the West End, connecting Shirlington and the Pentagon. The transitway will include elements such as larger stations with real-time information, new signs, improved transit headways and rapid transit vehicle with a greater capacity than a typical local bus. The centerpiece of the transportation network is a controversial ellipse at Seminary Road and Beuregard Street designed to eliminate left turns from both directions on Seminary, redirecting those movements in a way similar to a traffic circle.

"I am not convinced by anything I have seen or read this will work," said Councilwoman Del Pepper, who lives on the West End. "It may work on paper, but I don't think it will work in reality."



Be Part of The Pet Connection in February

Send Your Photos & Stories Now to

gazette@connectionnewspapers.com
or complete our online form at
alexandriagazette.com

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos.

Submission deadline is February 17.

And the Winner Is ...

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Neighborhood Pharmacy owner Stacy Swartz was presented the 2012 Heart of Del Ray Award as representatives from the Del Ray Business Association made a surprise visit to the pharmacy Feb. 13 to reveal the winner of the online poll.

"Of all the events I work on, this is one of my favorites because I love getting to read all the wonderful comments about the amazing businesses in Del Ray," said DRBA representative Gayle Reuter. "And these businesses really do help make Del Ray feel like such a welcoming small town and is the reason why we love to live, work and shop in Del Ray."

The Heart of Del Ray Award is presented annually by the DRBA during the Valentine's Day holiday to the business that serves as the "heart and soul" of Del Ray. More than 400 votes were cast in the week-long voting prior to the presentation. Other finalists for the 2012 award were: Greener Cleaner of Del Ray, Pork Barrel BBQ, St. Elmo's Coffee Shop and Taqueria Poblano.

As one online comment noted: "Stacy

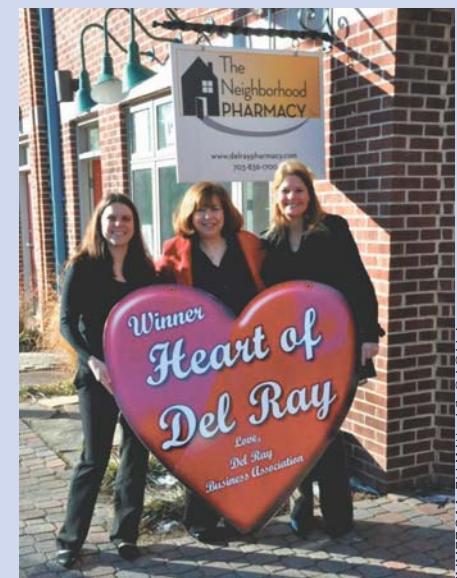


PHOTO BY WAYNE HULEHAN

Neighborhood Pharmacy owner Stacy Swartz, left, is presented the 2012 Heart of Del Ray Award by Gayle Reuter and 2011 winner Bobi Bomar.

and the Neighborhood Pharmacy truly reflect the home town feeling of Del Ray. Everyone is always helpful, always friendly and always going out of their way for you."

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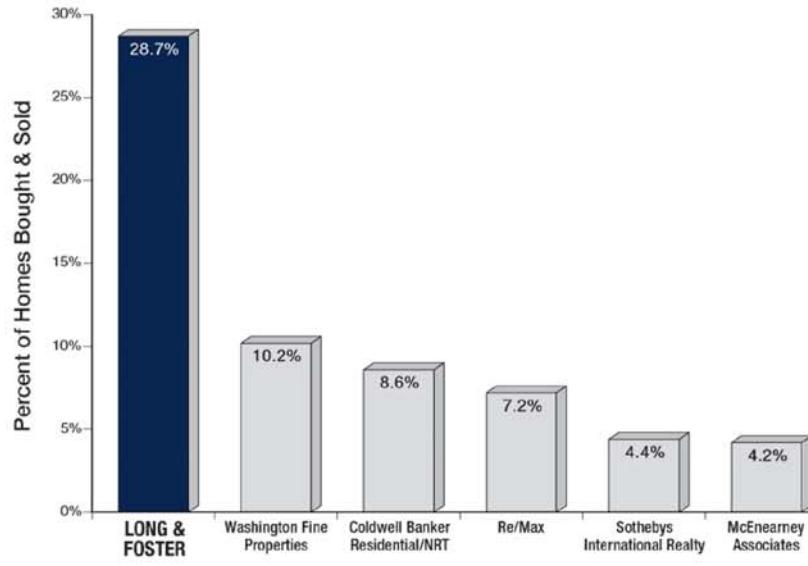


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Source: Information included in this report is based on data supplied by MRIS and its member Association(s) of REALTORS who are not responsible for its accuracy. Does not reflect all activity in the marketplace. Data from January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010 on number units bought and sold \$1 million and above. Information contained in this report is deemed reliable but not guaranteed, should be independently verified, and does not constitute an opinion of MRIS or Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc. © 2011 All rights reserved.



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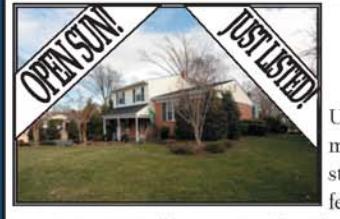


Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan



OPEN SUN!
JUST LISTED!

7006 Stone Mill Pl
\$460,000
Classic Colonial- Reasonable Price!
A rare find, reasonably priced three level Colonial in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in highly sought after Stoneybrook. Many fab features: open kitchen-family room with FP, first floor study, expanded master suite, finished lower level, hdwd flrs and covered parking. Interior recently painted - shows well! Large fenced lot convenient to everything including metro and Ft. Belvoir. OPEN SUN 2/19, 1-4! South Kings Hwy; L-Stoneybrooke; R-Stone Mill.



OPEN SUN!
JUST LISTED!

9017 Stratford Ln
\$949,000
Totally Expanded and Updated!
Understated elegance - modest front elevation belies stunning expanded interior featuring room sizes and amenities typically associated with new custom homes. Many fabulous features include gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite, hardwood floors, upgraded HVAC system, imported tile and many additional luxurious amenities. No cost was spared in renovation resulting in top of the line brands throughout. OPEN SUN 2/19, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-Stratford.



NEW PRICE!

9405 Ludgate Dr
\$2,195,000
Stunning Price Reduction!
Magnificent colonial custom designed to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features: 4 finished levels, elegant trim detail, high ceilings, multiple decks & private balconies, fabulous gourmet eat in kitchen, formal dining, 5 fireplaces, elevator. Direct river access.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$199,000
Alexandria
1201 DARTMOUTH RD
Impeccable 4BR/3.5BA, 3 lvl home in convenient Quaker Hill; minutes to Metro, Old Town, shops & restaurants. New 100K Chef's kit + updates thru-out, make this a "10'1 3 fin lvs, detached 2-car garage, stunning landscaping & charming plantation style covered front porch overlooking lake. MUST SEE!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



OPEN FEB. 18th 1-4!
\$609,900
Springfield
6430 MELIA ST
4BR/2.5BA/3lvl center hall colonial w/2-car garage on flat, wooded .5 acre lot. Gazebo & shed in rear w/electricity. Remodeled kit w/granite & hrdwd. 2-story first fl FR w/brick frpl. No HOA fees. DIR: from Belvoir. Van Dorn Exit S. R on Franconia L. on Elder (becomes Melia) to home on L.

Sheryllambson@inf.com
Sheryllambson 703.217.7012



NEW & OPEN SUN. 1-4!
\$749,900
Parker Gray Historic Dist.
334 N PATRICK ST
• Charming circa 1900's TH
• Hardwood floors thru-out
• Formal LR/DR & eat in kit w/SS appls & granite
• Opens to lg back yard
• 3BR/2.5BA
• Blocks to 2 Metros & King St shops



Martine Imer & Alexander Imer
703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465



NEW HOME!

8355 Justin Rd
\$870,000
PERFECTION!
Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet kitchen, 2 levels of hardwood floors, stunning master suite and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home!



UPDATED!

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



JUST LISTED!

4502 Phylliss St
\$525,000
SUPER VALUE!
Exceptionally spacious home - Featuring the most size and largest room dimensions for the price in the area! This property has everything! Brand new gourmet kitchen with custom wood cabinets, stainless appliances, and gorgeous granite countertops. Other features include: Spacious family room, five bedrooms, including luxury master suite, home office on main level, and oversized two-car garage. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Convenient to Everything!



JUST LISTED!
\$365,000
Jefferson Manor
"WALK TO METRO- NO HOA!"
Lovely duplex on corner lot w/expansive front porch, fenced yard, extensive landscaping. 2 BR/2FBA, granite/stainless kitchen, open kit/dining. Finished attic w/pull-down stairs for extra storage. Off-street parking. Easy walk to Huntington Metro.

Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359



NEW PRICE!
\$949,000
Porto Vecchio
"WATER VIEWS"
Every room has Potomac River views in this elegant 3BR, 4BA home. Spacious balcony, updated BAs & kit w/ granite, SS & bamboo flrs plus new carpet & paint. His & her master baths. Garage parking. Walk to Old Town, 24 hr security, Limo service, Pool, Tennis and more!

Jennifer Collier 703.966.1810



NEW!
\$349,900
Fairlington Villages
"2 LEVELS"
Barcroft model w/2BR & 2FBA plus sep. laundry. Wonderful wood floors, sunny location & great pain choices. Larger kit w/tray ceiling & hardwood. Great fenced-in back yard w/deck & patio. Wonderful location w/lots of easy guest parking, near pools, tennis, management office & bus stops. Convenient to EVERYTHING!



Julia Martin 703.850.5543



CONTRACT!

4200 Kimblelee Ct
\$949,000
Updated Custom Home!

Majestic brick colonial on quiet prestigous Oxford on the



CONTRACT!

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



CONTRACT!

8528 Monticello Ave
\$559,000
Updated Colonial/ Classic Colonial pristine

in cond. & updated throughout! Features



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1405 ARGALL PL
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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$475,000
South Arlington
3046 S GLEBE RD
4 levels - 2,340sqft of open contemporary living space w/ hdwd thru-out; large LR/ DR open to sunlit kit; LL fam rm has wood-burning frpl; 3 large BRs ea w/en-suite BAs. Entire 4th fl is MstrBR Suite w/cathedral ceilings + 2 car gar.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$595,000
Torpedo Factory
115 N LEE ST #305
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2300 Candlewood
\$569,000
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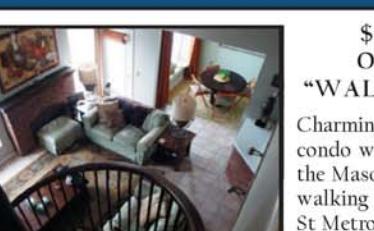


SOLD!

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



\$569,000
Old Town
"WALKtoMETRO"
Charming 2 level loft condo w/sunset views of the Masonic Temple plus walking distance to King St Metrol Soaring ceiling, cozy brick fireplace, updated kit, 3 spacious bedrooms and 2 full baths define the main living space. A spiral staircase off the foyer leads to the loft w/Murphy bed & room for office. Front load W/D in unit. 1 prkg + add'l visitor spaces.



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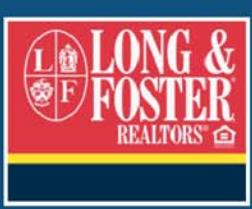


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SCHOOLS

Ben Carson Reading Room Opens at T.C. Williams

First in the state.

By GALE CURCIO
GAZETTE PACKET

The door to a new room at T.C. Williams High School was unlocked last month. The Ben Carson Reading Room is now open to all students, giving them a new place to unlock their hopes and dreams.

Filled with hundreds of books donated by Duffy Books in Homes USA, the room is also equipped with Kindles, laptops, and iPads. There are comfortable chairs, making it a warm and inviting place to read.

A dedication of the Ben Carson Reading Room at T.C. Williams High School was held last month — and all the people who made it happen were in attendance.

Dr. Roy Heron, founder of Doctor's Weight Loss Center, had the original vision which he shared with Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille, who in turn shared it with Suzanne Maxey, principal of T.C. Williams High School and Dr. Morton Sherman, superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools.

The project was the culmination of two years of dedicated fundraising by Heron and members of the DC Metro Carson Scholars



Samuel Davies, Carson Scholar recipient.



DeAra Brown, sophomore, T.C. Williams High School.



Ra'Quell Carrington, junior, T.C. Williams High School.

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/GAZETTE PACKET

They came together to make a difference."

Heron said, "I want to be the spark for the community and be the trail setter for the area."

Part of the money raised was apportioned to The Carson Scholars Fund scholarship — a program that awards students who strive for academic excellence and demonstrate a strong commitment to their community with \$1,000 college scholarships.

Receiving those awards were Samuel Davies and Abby Bolton. Davies addressed the crowd, as did DeAra Brown and Ra'Quell Carrington, sophomore and junior representatives respectively, all of whom spoke about their dreams and goals for the future.

Heron started raising money in 2010, holding a fundraising gala at The New Zealand Embassy. He went on to solicit sponsors and donations throughout 2011 and connected with B. Keith Fulton, vice president of Verizon Virginia; they agreed to be the main sponsor of the project.

"Not too long ago, we were having dinner and talking about this," said Fulton. "Now it's here. Everybody believes in you. That's why we're here and that's why we did what we did."

For more information, visit <http://carsonscholars.org/content/about-csf/chapters/washington>.

Chapter.

The new reading room is one of over 60 Ben Carson Reading Rooms that currently exist in nine states; the one at T.C. Williams is the first in Virginia. The Ben Carson Reading Project is the brainchild of Dr. Ben Carson, a pediatric neurosurgeon at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center and author of "Gifted Hands." The program provides funding and support to local schools so that they can create friendly and inviting reading rooms in schools for students to discover the joy of reading.

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran spoke at the dedication, saying, "This is what it's all about. You

are opening up a whole new world. I was so excited when I met Ben Carson. Ben is a great man; brilliant and is changing the world. This [room] will provide a comprehensive learning program."

Sherman then spoke, recalling how Heron and Euille connected him with the work that Carson does.

"From that conversation, it grew into this," said Sherman. "When I first spoke to Bill and Roy, they were thinking big."

Euille thanked Sherman for "believing in the project" and then went onto acknowledge Heron and Carson, saying, "Roy is a healer of bodies. Ben is a healer of minds.

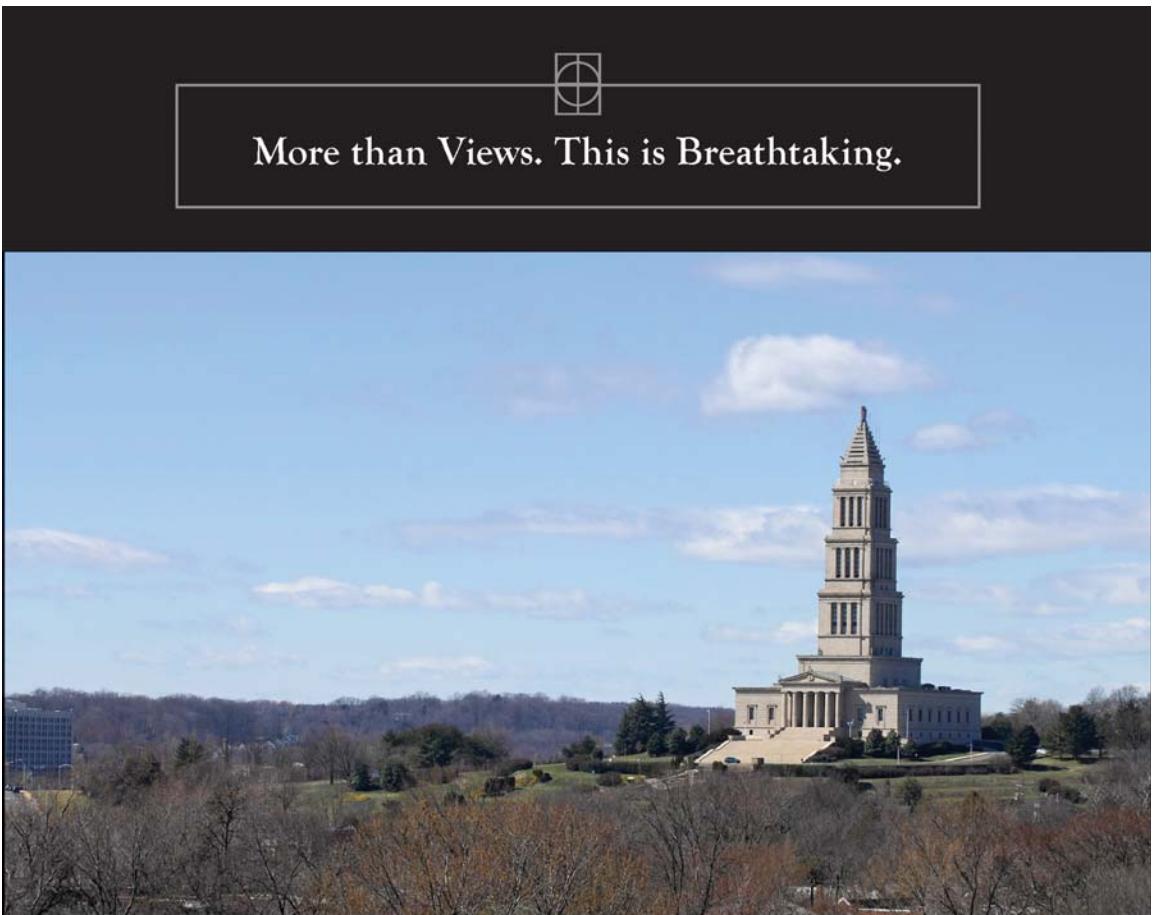
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THEATER

Reasonable Doubt

Spellbinding "Really Really" debuts at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Did he or didn't he? It was the college party of the year and ambitious young co-ed Leigh finally gets her man, the All-American rugby captain Davis. But all is not what it seems as events unfold in the spell-binding production of "Really Really," now playing at Signature Theatre.

The debut play by 26-year-old playwright Paul Downs Colaizzo, "Really Really" follows a group of college seniors on the verge of graduation. In the aftermath of a hook up gone wrong, friendships unravel in the face of accusations of rape at an elite unnamed university.

Directed by Signature's Associate Artistic Director Matthew Gardiner, the contemporary drama showcases a brilliant young cast that includes Paul James, Kim Rosen, Bethany Anne Lind, Danny Gavigan, Lauren Culpepper, Evan Casey and Jake Odmark.

As the play opens, Leigh (Bethany Anne Lind) and her roommate Grace (Lauren Culpepper) are arriving home in a drunken stupor following a party at the apartment of Davis (Jake Odmark) and his fellow teammates. It becomes clear that Leigh, a have-not in a school of privileged students, has an agenda of her own following her ill-timed sexual encounter with Davis while her wealthy fiancé Jimmy (Danny Gavigan) is out of

town.

Or was it ill-timed after all? The morning after finds Leigh, who has led Jimmy to believe she is pregnant with his child, accusing Davis of rape after Davis' roommate Cooper (Evan Casey) lets it slip to Jimmy what took place in his absence.

The he said/she said play, which coincidentally makes its debut as University of Virginia student George Hugely is being tried for the murder of Yeardley Love, divides the friends and roommates as each takes sides and struggles to protect themselves and their futures in the face of the scandal.

Complicating the situation is the fact that Davis can't actually remember his alleged encounter with Leigh, a point the accuser and her sister Haley (Kim Rosen) uses to their advantage.

Lind and Odmark are riveting in the lead roles of Leigh and Davis. As the story unfolds, the character of each becomes more complex and the truth about the night in question becomes clouded with doubt.

The scenic design by Misha Kachman consists of a stage cleverly split between the well-kept apartment of Leigh and Grace and the more traditional man-cave digs of the rugby roommates. Gardiner skillfully uses the lighting by Colin K. Bills to direct the attention of the audience to the unraveling details of the ill-fated night now under investigation.

With a recurring theme of "Generation Me," Colaizzo has crafted



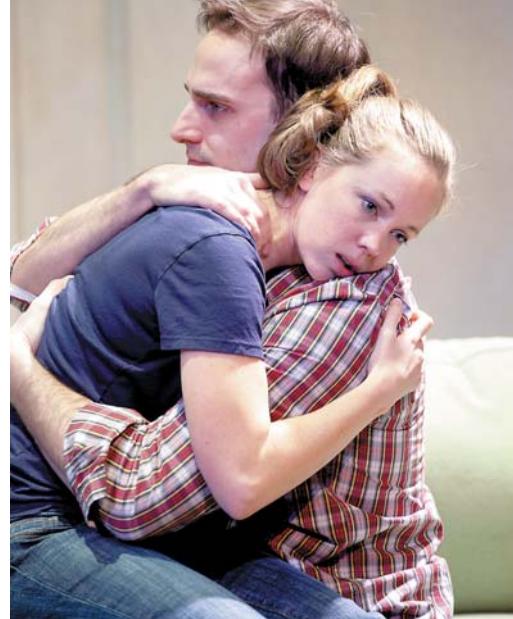
PHOTOS BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

From left: Danny Gavigan (as Jimmy), Paul James (as Johnson) and Evan Casey (as Cooper) talking about last night's big party in "Really Really" at Virginia's Signature Theatre through March 25.

characters that epitomize today's pampered generation of students that will stop at nothing to avoid accountability for their actions.

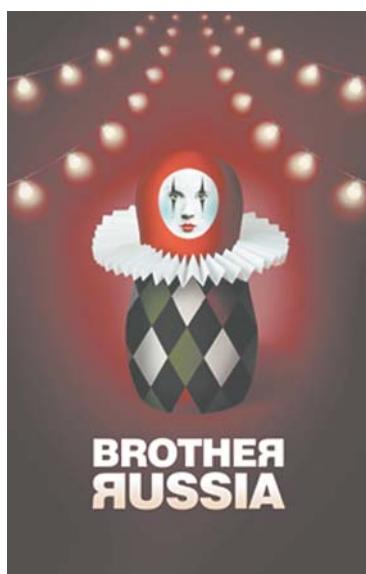
Despite what some may be a disturbing subject matter, "Really Really," is mesmerizing and thought-provoking with a brilliant ensemble cast. It will keep you guessing long after the final curtain call and is a production not to be missed.

"Really Really" is playing now through March 25 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. The production contains strong language and explicit situations and is for mature audiences only. For tickets or more information, call 703-820-9771 or visit www.signature-theatre.org.



Danny Gavigan (as Jimmy) gives Bethany Anne Lind (as Leigh) a comforting embrace. "Really Really" plays at Virginia's Signature Theatre through March 25.

THEATER



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

MARCH 6 THROUGH APRIL 15

"Brother Russia." Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are now on sale starting at \$63. Single tickets are available in person at the Signature Box Office or by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT. Student discount tickets are \$30 and must be purchased the week of the performance. At Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 11

Jules Feiffer's "Little Murders." Show times are Thursday through Saturday 8 p.m.; Saturday/Sunday

matinee at 2:30 P.M. Post-show talk-back on Jan. 19. At Gunston Theatre II, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington. Order tickets online at americancentury.org or 703-998-4555.

FEB. 24 TO MARCH 10

"The Dixie Swim Club." Port City Playhouse presents a delightful comedy about five women who were on their college swim team and get together for a "girls only" weekend at a cottage on the Outer Banks every summer. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 24-25, March 2-3 and 9-10; Tues., March 6 at 8 p.m.; Sat. matinees March 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

APRIL 20 TO MAY 6

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." Port City Playhouse presents a play

focused on the trials and tribulations of an Irishman, Englishman and an American who are kidnapped and held hostage by unseen Arabs in Lebanon. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

FEB. 3 TO 17

"Laughter on the 23rd Floor." Show times are Feb. 3, 4, 5 (m), 10, 11, 12 (m), 16, 17. Evenings at 8 p.m., Matinees (m) at 2:30 p.m. Presented by the Arlington Players. At Gunston Theatre One, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

"Really Really." Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$56 - \$80 and are available by

calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signature-theatre.org. Signature is offering a special "20 Seats for \$20" ticket deal for every performance. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

FEB. 9 TO MARCH 3

"Genesis Reboot." Tickets are \$30. Presented by Synetic Theater. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. At Crystal City Theater, 1800 South Bell St.

JUNE 1 TO 17

"A Little Night Music." Presented by TAP. Auditions will take place in March. The director will cast 14 singing actors (five male, nine female), age ranging 14-70. Singing actors of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to audition. At the Mead Center for American Theater. Visit www.theearlingtonplayers.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH FEB. 26

Love, Politics & Scrabble. The Games People Play, juried art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, inspired by the games people play throughout life. This juried show explores the numerous games people play in life, whether power, Monopoly, manipulation, poker, Angry Birds, baseball, or gossip. The community is invited to 'get their game on' at Art Games on Feb. 10 and Game Talks on Feb. 25. The exhibit and Marketplace, with artful Valentine Cards, closes Feb 26. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or 703-838-4827.

FEB. 11 THRU 19

Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Speckled Band. Feb. 11, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12, 19 at 3 p.m. Presented by the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Tickets: \$10 available at the door only. Visit www.MVCT.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 16

Beverley Hills Garden Club. 10 a.m. to noon. Meets in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. The program will be "Garden Therapy" and members will be creating small floral designs to donate to Goodwin House. Supplies will be provided and a light lunch will be served. Beverley Hills Garden Club meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian. All are welcome.

Plants and Pollinators: A Perfect Partnership. 7:30 p.m. Laura Beaty, VNPS Potowmack Chapter propagation chair will present a slide lecture that will feature the bloom sequence of local natives and highlight their

importance to local pollinators. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

FRIDAY/FEB. 17

Open House. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit West Potomac Academy's career and technical education classes; meet with instructors; talk with students; become a business partner. At West Potomac Academy, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Call 703-718-2750.

Artist Trading Card Night. 7 to 9 p.m. Make and swap artist trading cards from playing cards. Led by Theresa Kulstald. Refreshments. Free. Adults 18-plus. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

A Celebration of Charles Dickens with Stephen Mead. 7 p.m. Acted from memory and brought to life, the scenes to be performed are: The hilarious "Mr. Bob Sawyer's Party" - from The Pickwick Papers; The gruesome "Murder of Nancy" - from Oliver Twist; and the heart-warming "Nicholas and Smike at the Yorkshire School" - from Nicholas Nickleby. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 18

Colonial Tea. 2 to 4 p.m. The tea will be followed by a Living History program featuring a Fashion Show of 18th Century Clothing and a Presentation on Deportment. Presented by the Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild. Tickets are \$25/adults; \$10/children. At Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

Mardi Gras Fundraiser. 7:30 to 10 p.m. The Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee sponsors this event to raise funds to elect Democrats



SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Singer-songwriter Bob Franke. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. The workshop (\$60 general, discounts are available) will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 19, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061.

in the Mount Vernon District. At Don Beyer Volvo, 7416 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

George Washington Birthnight Banquet and Ball. 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. The evening includes a three-course 18th-century banquet by Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, English country dancing, toasts, a special 18th-

century style dessert collation, and character re-enactors – including General and Mrs. Washington. "After-five" attire is encouraged; period costumes are optional. Tickets are \$100/person; \$50/ball only. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242.

The Marsh in Winter. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. A nature walk at the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, led by Martin Ogle, Chief Naturalist at Potomac Overlook Regional Park. Will discuss winter tree and plant identification, look for ducks, geese and eagles, and examine winter marsh ecology. Meet at 1 p.m. at the entrance to the Haul Road (the walking path into DMWP), just south of the Belle Haven parking lot. Call 703-329-1748 or visit www.fodm.org.

Virginia Grand Military Band. 8 p.m. A Salute to Karl L. King and Leonard B. Smith. Admission is \$20. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-426-4777 or visit www.vgmb.com.

FEB. 18 AND 19

Meet the Critters. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Petco Store's National Adoption Weekend featuring dog, cat and rabbit events at the Petco Store in Alexandria at 6612 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Call 703-660-1300. Visit www.petco.com.

Musician Nils Lofgren. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., in Alexandria.

SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Marty Nau Quartet. 10:55 a.m. Part of Worshipful Jazz Sunday at Heritage

Presbyterian Church. Always held prior to Lent, this is a community favorite that features non-traditional worship with jazz and gospel music. Heritage Presbyterian is located at 8503 Ft. Hunt Road, 703-360-9546, www.heritagechurchva.org.

Barbershop Harmony Concert. 3 p.m. Free, offering taken for United Community Ministries. In classic barbershop style, the 40-member Harmony Heritage Singers do favorite songs from days gone by such as "Delta Dawn" and the Beach Boys hit, "Barbara Ann." In honor of Presidents Day, there will be patriotic music, including "America" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The men's chorus, also known as the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, presents over 25 performances a year in the Washington area. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria 22307. Call 703-765-4779. Email brandtron@verizon.net.

Baroque to Jazz. 4 p.m. Virginia Chamber Orchestra's Winter Concert. Featuring Grieg's Holberg Suite, selections from Handel to Ellington. Tickets are \$20/adults; \$18/seniors. At the Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call 703-758-0179.

"Hail to the Chief." 2 p.m. Presented by the U.S. Marine Band. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. 3 p.m. Admission is \$20. Conducted by U.S. James, presenting Cesar Franck's Symphony SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 21



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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 20

in D minor, The Washington Saxophone Quartet in Bob Mintzer's Rhythm of the Americas, Composition Competition Finalist Johathan Blumhofer's Diversions, and Haskell Small's Scraps. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-799-8229 or visit www.wmpamusic.org.

Singer-songwriter Bob Franke. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. The workshop (\$60 general, discounts are available) will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 19, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061.

Blood for Blackie Blood Drive. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In memory of Blackie Davis. At Crowne Plaza in Old Town.

MONDAY/FEB. 20

Tour Christ Church. Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Docents will be on hand to answer questions and to provide tours of the church which was completed in 1773. George Washington was the first president to worship at Christ Church. The pew that belonged to his family is in its original condition and is still in use. At 118 N. Washington St. in Alexandria. Contact Linda Dienno at ldienno@ccalex.org or 703-778-4928.

Free Foreclosure Prevention

Clinics. Housing Counseling Services will host Foreclosure Prevention Clinics during the month of February. Clinics are at 12 p.m. in Conference Room 3 of the City of Alexandria Office of Housing, 421 King Street, Suite 200, Alexandria. To register, call 202-667-7006.

Free Tour of Carlyle House. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. Celebrate George Washington's 280th birthday in Old Town Alexandria. Enjoy the annual George Washington parade and tour the Carlyle House. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or e-mail: carlyle@nvrpa.org

TUESDAY/FEB. 21

History of Big Band Music and its Practitioners. 7:30 p.m. Free. The NOVA Alexandria Music Department will be hosting the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra. At NVCC, Alexandria campus, Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.bohemiancavernsjazzorchestra.com

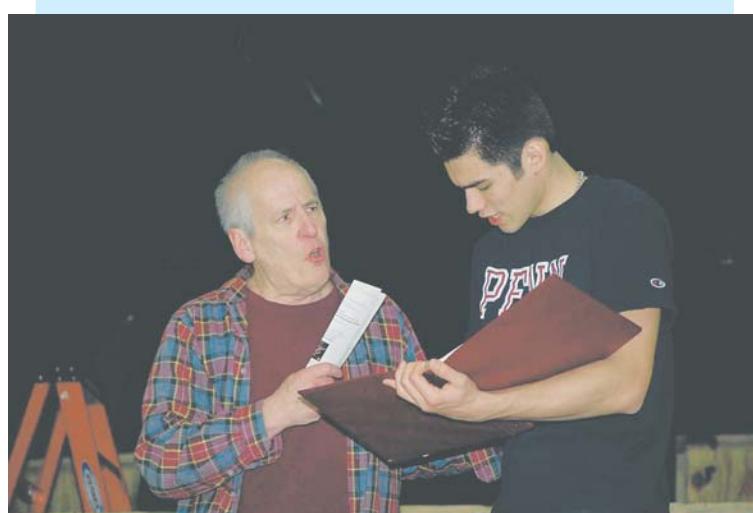
Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Speaker Charles Mason will discuss, "Mapping the Neighborhoods to Understand Our Ancestors' Lives." At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

BPAC Meeting. 7 to 9 p.m. The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) will meet at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Agenda includes the election of BPAC officers, Beauregard Small Area Plan, community bicycle rides, Bicycle-Friendly Community Project, Bike to School Day (May 9), Bike to Work Day (May 18), and more.

Unknown No Longer Workshop. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Attend a workshop to learn how to use Unknown No Longer: A Virginia Slave Name Database. This free database is the latest step by the Virginia Historical Society to increase access to its varied collections relating to Virginians of African descent. Dr. Laranett Lee, curator of African American History, and Paige Newman, assistant archivist, will highlight some of their research findings and provide tips on how to navigate the database. Reservations are required. At the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum. Call 804-340-2280, or email pnewman@vahistorical.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 22

DJ Dance Party. 9 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$6. www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Nurse with Romeo (Dave Adler and Alex Wong).

MARCH 2 TO 18

"Romeo and Juliet." Sponsored by Aldersgate Church Community Theater. Performances are March 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; also matinees on March 4, 11, 18 at 2 p.m. Discount tickets purchased online at www.acctonline.org are adults \$14 and youth/senior \$11. Tickets purchased at the door are adults \$15 and youth/senior \$12. All shows take place in Wesley Hall at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Alexandria. Visit www.acctonline.org or 703-660-2611. Taking on the role of Romeo is Alex Wong, 18, of West Potomac High School. Accompanying him are his fellow WPHS Theatre Arts classmates Joe Quinn and Eddie Perez. Other West Potomac students involved off stage are Eliza Lore (Assistant Director), Morgan Peasley (videography), Margie Woods (videography), Jessica Moreno (costumes) and Hannah Lau (lights). Rounding out the West Potomac contingency is the school's English Department Head, and Shakespeare Studies teacher, Colin O'Grady, who plays the role of Prince Escalus at selected performances.

With DJ Dave Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

Ash Wednesday Services. 7:30 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., and with choir at 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., Old Town Alexandria. Contact St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster, at 703-549-3312, grant@stpaulalexandria.com.

Alexandria PTA Council Summer

Camp Fair. 5:30 to 8 p.m. Some 50 exhibitors will represent a wide range of campus, including day and overnight campus. At the cafeteria of TC Williams Minnie Howard Campus, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Contact Marianne Hetzer at alextaccamp@comcast.net.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. Kenneth T. Walsh discusses his book, Family of Freedom: Presidents and African-Americans in the White House. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

"Ask the Expert" Lecture. 6:30 p.m. Free. Join Nitin Goyal, MD, on "Osteoarthritis and the Latest Techniques in Joint Replacement". At Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. Call 1-855-My-Inova (694-6682) or visit inova.org/asktheexpert to register.

THURSDAY/FEB. 23

Life Line Screening. Get screened to reduce your risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. Packages start at \$149. At the YMCA of Alexandria, 420 East Monroe Ave., Alexandria. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

AAUW Lecture. 7 p.m. Speaker Holly Kearn, who works as a program manager for AAUW in the Legal Advocacy Fund department, will talk about sexual harassment at school and on the streets. At the Mt. Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria.

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

Brain Health and Memory Tips. Noon. Susan Wranik, MS, will present

"Save Your Memory and Your Mind, 7 Steps to Better Brain Health." A luncheon is open to the public with advance reservations. Attendance is free and seating is limited. For information or reservations, call 1-877-254-9840. At The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria.

FRIDAY/FEB. 24

Variety Show. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. The show will feature The Arya International Dance Academy, Batala DC, Capoeira Candeias and Salsa Vive. There will also be a food-tasting extravaganza. At Carl Sandburg Middle School.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Civil War Recruiting Day. From 1 to 4 p.m. Soldiers and civilians of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will talk about a soldier's uniform and equipment, demonstrate drills and explain the roles of military and civilian reenactors. At Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

"Lincoln's War at Washington's Boyhood Home." 10 a.m. Archaeologist Paul Nasca presents a free Java Jolt lecture co-sponsored by Friends of Alexandria. Reservations are requested, and can be made by emailing archaeology@alexandriava.gov or calling 703-746-4399. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327, Alexandria.

A Cappella Contest. 7:30 p.m. 28th Mid-Atlantic Regional Harmony Sweeps "A Cappella" Festival and Competition. Groups specializing in Pop, Rock, Jazz, Gospel, Beat Box, Doo Wop, Barbershop and Comic. Visit www.harmony-sweepstakes.com/dc.html. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Book Lovers Love Music and Food. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold a "Book Lovers Love Music and Food" CD and Cook Book Sale at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1742 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

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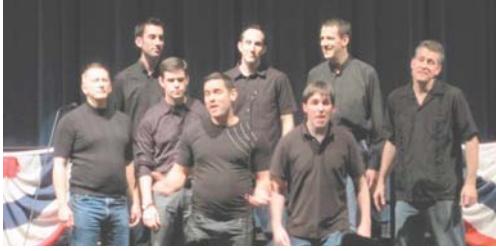
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Loose Interpretations: Jen Kipley, Erin Byram, Stacia Woodcock, Willa Cochran, Heather Glotzer, Reynetta Sampson, Laura Campbell, Jenn Wexler.



TBD: Thomas Kraus, Noah Van Gilder, Scipio Garling, Chris Clark, Terry Reynolds, Jeremy Richardson, Josh Roots and Ken Rub.



Glorious: Eugene Glatto, Barry Fleming, John Elliott, Wilson Cleary and Michael Lemon.

MUSIC

7 A Cappella Groups to Compete



Keystone: Joe Gooch, Amy Howe, Tom West, Jennifer Steinberg, Josh Schrager and Jamie Howe.



De Capo: Ryan Griffith, Tony Colosimo, Wayne Adams and Joe Sawyer.



GQ: Katie Gillis, Katie Macdonald, Amanda McNutt and Ali Hauger.



Epic: Christina Lewellen, Anne Albright, Shana Oshiro and Kristina Adams.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25
The Mid-Atlantic Regional Harmony Sweeps "A Cappella" competition. 5 p.m. doors open; 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave, Alexandria. Visit www.harmonysweepstakes.com/dc.html

Seven A Cappella groups, three of them local to the area, will compete at the Birchmere on Saturday, Feb 25, at the region's premier A Cappella event: the Mid-Atlantic Regional Harmony Sweeps A Cappella Festival Competition.

Groups competing this year will be: Epic, Faithful, Glorious, GQ, Keystone, Loose Interpretations, and TBD. They come from a variety of backgrounds but all share one common bond — a love of A Cappella music. They include music teachers, jazz singers, government workers, a farmer, church musicians, scientists and engineers, New Yorkers, former members of college A Cappella groups, and a former Miss Maryland.

Three of the competing groups are local:

❖ Epic — Four fun-loving young ladies with backgrounds ranging from barbershop, jazz and opera, who love harmony. They are members of Harmony, Inc., an international organization of women barbershop harmony singers;

❖ Faithful — A composite of richly talented musicians coming together from Richmond and D.C., from diverse churches and spiritual persuasions. They sing gospel music with a jazz influence; and

❖ TBD — A contemporary A Cappella group styled after professional A Cappella groups such as Rockapella and Da Vinci's Notebook. They are members of Alexandria's award-winning barbershop chorus, The Harmonizers, but as TBD perform a wide array of genres from traditional A Cappella standards to current radio hits.

This year's show will be hosted by last year's regional and national champions, Da Capo — a men's Quartet from the D.C. area that got together to help their lead singer propose to his girlfriend, and have been winning awards ever since including the national Harmony Sweepstakes title last year. They have over 50 years of singing experience between them. In addition to introducing the competitors, Da Capo will give a showcase performance.

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Chamber Hosts 'Giving Back' Gala

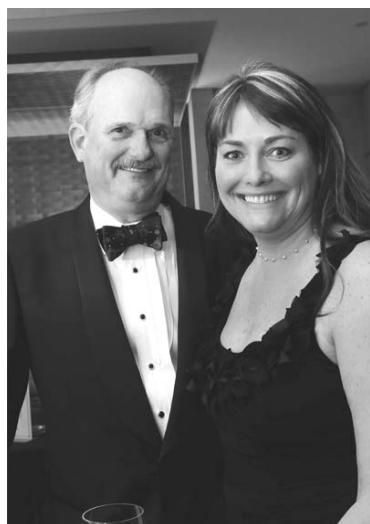
The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2012 Chairman's Giving Back Gala at the Westin Alexandria Hotel in Carlyle on Saturday, Feb. 11. The gala sponsors were Hadeed Carpet, United Way, BB&T, Dominion, B3 Solutions, Speck-Caudron Investment Group, Maginniss+Del Ninno Architects, Focus Data Solutions, nSourceIT, Walsh Colucci Lubeley Emrich & Walsh P.C., TD Bank, Wells Fargo, Appleby Law, Dale Digital Printing, Chewning Design LLC, Yellow Dot Designs, DigiLink, People's Flower Shop, RGS Title, Post Apartment Homes and PSAV. Annual sponsors included: Kimpton hotels and res-

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Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young and his wife Tameka talk with City Attorney James L Banks, Jr. and his wife Rey at the chamber gala on Saturday evening.



Former Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland and his wife Ruth Cleveland volunteered to sell raffle tickets at the annual chamber chairman's gala.



Gala live auctioneer Adron Krekeler and Catherine Roper.



Senior Services of Alexandria Executive Director Janet Barnett.



Amanda Beaumont, Val Hawkins and Andy Duncan.



Cedric and Tammy Mann talk with Anthony Lowe before dinner.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET



Doug and Dee Phillips



Kim and Buzz Lasch



ODBC Chairman of the Board Eric DeSoto and wife Cheryl.



Roberta Dittmer and Les Thomas

Change of Command for Old Dominion Boat Club

The Old Dominion Boat Club celebrated its 132nd Change of Command Jan. 21 with the formal transfer of the club's Burgee from Dave Beck to incoming Commodore Dave Howell.

"We've faced a lot of challenges in 2011," said ODBC president Miles Holtzman. "But through it all the ODBC was still able to main its charitable and civic involvements."

Community involvements for ODBC include: Supporting the Fall rowing pro-

gram for the T.C. Williams Crew Boosters; presenting the Franklin/Whitestone Scholarship for rowing at T.C. Williams High School; providing "needed infrastructure" for security forces in the use of docks and boat ramps as well as for fire and rescue personnel; continuing a 40-year plus history of sponsoring Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing, and providing annual programs for local children with special needs.

Holtzman introduced the 2012 Board of Governors and Officers and recognized

Linda Barlow as the 2011 Non-member Volunteer of the Year.

"We are honored by the enthusiasm and dedication of all those who accept leadership positions within our club," said Holtzman, who pledged that the club would continue working with the city and community to maintain its position as a historic presence on the Alexandria waterfront. "We have a great team in place and I am confident it is going to be another fun and productive year."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

COURTESY PHOTOS

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

parking lot along the Strand [preferably] through negotiation with the ODBC."

At the Council's Jan. 21 hearing on the Plan, I asked the Council to adopt Mr. Olinger's version. In the ensuing Council discussion, Mayor Euille proposed to so amend Recommendation 3.69, and it was adopted as part of the 5-2 vote in favor of the Plan. Messrs. Macek and Wood apparently view this action as inappropriately grounded in the attitude that "eminent domain and negotiation [are] equal alternatives with one simply 'preferable' over the other." On its face, however, the revised wording does not suggest any such equality; negotiation is still the preferred option, but eminent domain is not ruled out, despite the determined efforts of the Work Group majority.

The Work Group majority's unqualified hostility to eminent domain is indefensible. In the classic case of its use — to acquire right-of-way for a new public road — eminent domain is a residual power that is needed to neutralize strategic efforts by landowners to hold out for windfall profits by rejecting a fair market value offer for their land. When that happens, eminent domain is used to take the land and the road gets built without delay.

On a separate track and timetable, a judge or jury will decide how much the taken land was worth. Faced with this prospect, there is every incentive for all landowners in the way of the road to act reasonably in the negotiations that invariably precede resort by the government to exercising the power of eminent domain.

Perhaps the Work Group was thinking about cases where the "public use" requirement for invoking eminent domain is questionable, as in the controversial *Kelo v. City of New London* case decided by the Supreme Court in 2005. The Court, by 5-4, let stand the City's use of eminent domain to condemn neighborhood homes so that the land could be transferred to a private developer promising an influx of jobs and revenue along with its plans to redevelop the taken land.

A moment's reflection makes clear that any residual use of eminent domain to eliminate the ODBC parking lot would be very much like the classic right-of-way situation of "public use," not an urban renewal scenario with the City acting at the behest of a private interest. If there is one thing all sides in the Waterfront Plan debate agree on, it is that the most important attribute of a successful Waterfront Plan will be continuous pedestrian connectivity all along the Waterfront. Nowhere is this more critically important than in the vicinity of the foot of King Street, where pedestrians currently encounter a chain link fence around the ODBC parking lot that is as high as it is unsightly and uninviting. The only difference from the classic case is that here, the "road" need by the public is for pedestrians, not automobiles.

I am not privy to the City's negotiations with the ODBC, but we can all have far greater confidence that those negotiations will be successful if the use of eminent domain remains clearly available as a residual, but not the preferred, method of advanc-

ing the public interest in a successful Waterfront.

David W. Brown
Alexandria

Focus on People In Beauregard

To the Editor:

Recent diagrams by City of Alexandria staff used to explain the proposed Beauregard Corridor relies on dots and circles. What is overlooked in the maps, are realistic proposals or guidelines connecting the dots — people to destinations within the plan area.

The City of Alexandria Transportation ideas for the Beauregard Corridor revolve around the proposed HOV ramp, the ellipse (a traffic rotary with traffic signals) and a dedicated lane for a bus rapid transit (BRT) system. What is overlooked by transportation engineers is an attractive network of streets, sidewalks, shared public spaces that will allow people in the plan area or nearby to conveniently walk or bike to and from the separate developments.

The proposed redevelopment plans for the Beauregard Small Area Plan area would increase current densities allowed under current zoning from 10 million square feet to 12 million square feet. The existing development in the plan area is approximately 5.5 million square feet. The proposed plan area encompasses nearly 400 acres. As a result, the population of the area will increase substantially, overburdening again the new transportation infrastructure.

The Beauregard Corridor Plan should focus on using public space to create a multi-model network connecting people to the transit stations at Mark Center Station and Southern Towers as well as the retail stores, cafes and coffee shops. Providing convenient options to allow people to move from one place to another will reduce the dependency on cars and create a more active and vibrant interconnected community. The small area plan should ensure streets, sidewalks, and shared spaces are designed to operate together for all users.

Residents living at Seminary Park should be able to safely cross Seminary Road to a bus stop or using internal sidewalks and public space be able to walk, ride or bike through the proposed Hekeman development to Southern Towers. The public spaces used to get from one place to another should be safe, attractive and interesting — not parking lots or garages. Once on the Southern Towers property, pedestrians should be able to make their way to the proposed retail areas and proposed BRT station at Southern Towers and the Mark Center Station. Passengers arriving at Southern Towers from the District of Columbia, Skyline, Bailey's Crossroads should be able to walk to the Mark Center Station or the nearby office buildings and hotels.

In addition, residents living at Seminary Towers and Seminary Hill Apartment, and office workers at the Alexandria Professional Building east of I-395 should be able to easily walk or bike to and from the transit hubs at Southern Towers, Mark Center Station or nearby office buildings. Connect-

Conservatives Shape Legislation

By CHARNIELE HERRING
DELEGATE (D-46)



The Virginia General Assembly has moved into the halfway point, a time of year we call crossover. During crossover, legislation that has passed from one chamber will go to the other for consideration. For the past several years this is where extremist legislation passed by the Republican-controlled House of Delegates would go to the Senate and quietly die in committee. This year will be different.

Since Lt. Governor Bolling has decided that he will also take on the role as the 41st Senator, it is possible that the extremist social agenda of the Virginia Republican Party (and the Tea Party) will see the light of day. This is even more worrisome in a year when self-proclaimed "moderate" Governor Bob McDonnell is beefing up his conservative credentials to be considered for Mitt Romney's Vice-Presidential spot on the ticket in 2012.

Just this week, legislation passed that would require an invasive medical procedure for a woman seeking reproductive healthcare and making an already difficult choice. Republicans have taken the first steps to banning contraception and abortion in the Commonwealth through passing a personhood bill, language even the voters of Mississippi found too conservative for themselves last year.

The extremism is not even limited to social issues though. Teachers are under attack, and legislation has passed to the Senate that will fundamentally alter the way teachers are hired and fired. There is also legislation passing to the Senate that will allow corporations to receive a tax credit to fund scholarships to private schools, but what none of the Republi-

can proponents will talk about is how this will reduce General Fund money for public schools, health programs, and public safety.

While many people may see a bleak outlook, two things make me have hope. First, while Democrats are in the minority we can be vocal and take our message to the people. Articulating a vision for a better Commonwealth will strengthen us as a Democratic Party, and bring more people into the conversation about how we want our future to look.

Second, we are small but mighty. I stood up on the House Floor and told my colleagues of all political persuasions the same thing that I wish to say to you. Not on my watch, not on my watch will I stand quietly by while people try to undo our civil rights and the Voting Rights Act. Not on my watch will I stand by while women's privacy and bodies are attacked. Not on my watch will I stand by while public education is jeopardized because we will not have a conversation about how to pay for roads.

I hope you will not let these things happen on your watch either. Bills making it more difficult to vote, changing teacher contracts, and ending a woman's right to choose have passed to the Senate to decide this week, and I hope you will have your voice heard. Even though the dynamic has changed here in Richmond, ultimately, it is the people to whom we are accountable, and I hope you will not let this happen on your watch.

Charniele Herring (D-46) serves as the House Minority Whip and represents Alexandria City in the Virginia General Assembly. For more information, visit www.charnieleherring.com or on twitter @c_herring.

ing people and places within a network of streets, sidewalks, parks and shared spaces is as important as designing streets and intersections and projecting levels of service.

Greater focus on pedestrian, bicyclists and accessibility for everyone would produce a more active community environment, spur local retail, and reduce dependency on cars. Planning pedestrian movement within the plan area should occur now. It is important that transportation engineers connect the dots to ensure pedestrians are not walking through parking lots, scampering across wide, busy streets, or finding other unsafe shortcuts to get to their destination.

Dave Cavanaugh

Concerned With Vacancy

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Feb. 14, , Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young presented his fis-

cal 2013 budget recommendations to City Council. Until Council approves the final budget on May 7, the City's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC) will be examining the budget, hearing the concerns of citizens and making its own recommendations to Council.

However when BFAAC meets, there will be a conspicuous empty seat at the table. Since Mathew Tallmer submitted his resignation on Oct. 27, 2010, Councilwoman Alicia Hughes has not had a representative on this important body. We are going into a second budget cycle without the benefit of the advice of her appointee. BFAAC's budget analysis and yearly report are major vehicles for citizen involvement in the budget process.

I hope that Ms. Hughes will make an immediate recommendation to the entire Council to fill this vacancy. I also believe that she owes the taxpayers of Alexandria an explanation of why this vacancy has ex-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25

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OPINION

Bringing Job Search Assistance

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON
SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR

Valentine's Day was very special this year at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (OPMH) in Alexandria. The church hosted the latest event in Senior Services of Alexandria's Speaker Series titled, "Staying Connected: Employment and Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors in Alexandria." Over 80 attendees learned

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA about the wealth of volunteer, employment, and mentoring options available to seniors in the City who want to stay actively engaged in the community, as well as share their wisdom, experience, and talents.

The audience also heard an exciting announcement from the sponsor of the Senior Speaker Series, Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA). Barbara Anderson, SSA's Board President, told the packed room about a new partnership between SSA and Annandale-based nonprofit Senior Employment Resources (SER) that expands employment search services for Alexandria's senior job seekers. "Starting today, SER advisors will be available every Tuesday afternoon for initial counseling appointments at SSA's office at 700 Princess Street in Old Town. Since 1983, SER has provided senior (50+) job seekers with employment counseling and assistance, as well as training programs.

This partnership is a perfect example of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 24

isted for close to 16 months.

Susan B. Kellom
Alexandria

Say Thanks

To the Editor:

Police officers chase criminals, walk up to dangerous situations without hesitation, fight crime and protect our families. Our firefighters and EMS do the same, they walk into burning buildings, save lives, risk their own every day and more often than not, they do all of this without the hand shaking and hand clapping of the citizens they serve. But then, that's how they'd prefer it. Much like the men and women of our Armed Forces, no police officer, firefighter or paramedic applied for his or her job in hopes of striking it rich. These men and women work long hours for little pay so, as the USCG so aptly puts it, "other may live."

On occasion we lose a first responder to injury or, every now and then, one of these heroes gives their life to the cause.

It's times like these where an Alexandria firefighter has suffered a great injury or loss of life that we should step back from our busy day and consider the differences in what we do versus what they do. I know that I sit in an office most days and, most of my friends and acquaintances do the

same. I have friends who are lawyers, they spend a great deal of time in court and I have friends in sales, they spend a great deal of time in their cars. At the end of the day, 99 percent of us come home at a reasonable hour to our spouses and kids. We have time to cook and eat, time to read bed-time stories, time to sleep and time to wake up with a cup of coffee to get our days started right.

The ways the 99 percent of us spend our days and nights aren't wrong, quite the contrary in fact; but the way our hero first responders spend their days ... is exceptional. Exemplary. Extraordinary.

This is why I often take a step back and think about these men and women. I think about their families and friends and how everyone in their lives sacrifices just to be associated with such an honorable person. I implore you to do the same. When you see a police officer on the street, stop and say hello, perhaps offer a handshake and a hearty "thank you." When you see our local firefighters food shopping or walking our neighborhoods ensuring our smoke detectors are working, thank them.

Remember that they don't do their jobs for the thanks we provide but, I'm sure the thanks we provide help them do their job.

Alexandria is not just a city, we are the very essence of a community and, in a community, and we take care of each other.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements



**Barbara Jean Parkinson,
age 67**

of Sterling, VA, died February 7, 2012 at her residence. Born on September 17, 1944 in New York she was the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Lundy. Ms. Parkinson was a member of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, VA. Barbara attended Michigan State University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Music. During her high school years she was a member of the singing group known as The Jill's. She worked for Connection Newspapers for many years. Barbara enjoyed and loved spending time with her grandchildren and doing crafts with them.

She is survived by her son Mark(Rachel) Parkinson of Purcellville, VA; daughter Jennifer(Jay) Daughtry of Sterling, VA; brother Wayne Lundy of Loveland, OH; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Ebenezer Cemetery, Round Hill, VA with Pastor Mike Emerson officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Cornerstone Chapel at www.cornerstone-chapel.net.

Please visit www.hallfh.com to express online condolences to the family.

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26 Antiques

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Huggins' Career Night Leads TC to Regional Berth

Senior scores 29, Titans beat West Potomac.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams boys' basketball program has won the last four Northern Region tournaments for which it has qualified.

Thanks to a career night from senior T.J. Huggins, the Titans will have a chance to extend the streak to five.

Huggins scored a career-best 29 points to lead fourth-seed TC past No. 5 West Potomac 57-42 in the opening round of the Patriot District tournament on Feb. 14 at the Garden. The Titans advanced to the semifinals and assured themselves of a berth in the Northern Region tournament.

TC led 24-21 early in the third quarter when Huggins started to take over. The 6-foot-6 playmaker scored the Titans' next 11 points, extending the lead to eight. West Potomac closed the gap to two points midway through the fourth quarter, but TC closed the game on a 16-3 run, including seven more points from Huggins, who put the finishing touches on his final home game with a breakaway, one-handed dunk.

"[I'm] just being aggressive," Huggins said. "Sometimes I'll score in bunches, then go in a lull. I tried to keep it going."

— T.C. Williams senior
T.J. Huggins

district and region titles before losing in the state semifinals.

This year, TC entered districts in an unfamiliar position: with nine on-court losses. King was asked about how it feels to win a first-round district game when not sitting at the top of the standings.

"It's not really relief, it's a confidence booster," King said. "Getting to the second round, just knowing that we can go out and

King said of Huggins and his role as the Titans' go-to scorer. "He's finally going into the role we envisioned for him. He's been pretty good all year, but inconsistent. I think if he's a little consistent, he can be dominant on some nights, which tonight he was."

King was also pleased with the performance of senior point guard Daquan Kerman.

"He played a great game," the coach said. "He handles the ball for us 90 percent of the time. I think he limited his turnovers tonight, had some good assists [and] he ran the show."

Landon Moss finished with 10 points for TC, Jordan Byrd scored nine and Torrey Johnson added six.

TC has won four of the last five region tournaments. In 2010, the Titans entered districts as the No. 7 seed after forfeiting 12 victories due to the use of ineligible players. TC lost to No. 2 Annandale in the opening round and failed to qualify for the regional tournament. Last season, the Titans returned to their winning ways, winning the

district and region titles before losing in the state semifinals.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior T.J. Huggins scored a career-high 29 points against West Potomac on Feb. 14.

do exactly what we talked about before the game. Did we have some ups and downs? Yes. But for the most part we were up most of the game. I was happy about that."

T.C. Williams faced No. 1 Woodson in the semifinals on Feb. 15 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Results of the game were not available prior to the Gazette Packet's

deadline. The district championship game is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 17 at Lake Braddock. Regionals start on Monday, Feb. 20.

"Of course we're happy," Moss said of beating West Potomac, "but we came into the season with goals to win the state championship. It's just a stepping stone."

TC Girls Secure Spot in Northern Region Tournament

Moss outscores West Potomac through three quarters.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

After a stretch of nearly six minutes without a field goal to open the second half, T.C. Williams senior Gaby Moss removed any doubt about the Titans' season lasting longer than the first round of districts.

Moss knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers, extending TC's lead to 19 points as the second-seeded Titans cruised to a 60-25 victory against No. 7 West Potomac on Feb. 14 at The Garden. TC advanced to the district semifinals and assured themselves of a berth in the Northern Region tournament.

TC led 27-14 entering the second half when both teams went ice cold. The Titans

and Wolverines each made one free throw for the first 5 minutes, 55 seconds of the third quarter before Moss got TC back on track.

"It was a moment where ... collectively, the thought was, 'OK, you know what? We've been playing around too much. Let's go,'" Moss said. "After that, as a team, we just started making our shots, being aggressive [and] attacking the goal."

Moss finished with a game-high 17 points, including a trio of 3-pointers, and grabbed seven rebounds. Referred to as the "Offensive Assassin" by head coach Kesha Walton, Moss outscored West Potomac 17-15 through three quarters.

TC's Brooke Ninman scored 11 points and grabbed six rebounds. Freshman guard Rejoice Spivey scored eight points and Christian Roberts tallied seven points and seven rebounds.

While the Titans' offense struggled for stretches, their defense was stifling. After the Wolverines' Caroline Kelly scored late in the second quarter, TC held West Potomac without a field goal for a stretch of nearly

14 minutes. After scoring one point in the third quarter and making six free throws in the fourth, the Wolverines snapped the streak when Georgia McBride scored with 2:54 remaining.

"That says a lot about [the Titans'] heart and commitment, to committing themselves defensively," Walton said. "... We were starting to get out of it a little bit, mentally, but [TC used] the defense to get the offense going. I noticed once our defense started picking up, I know our offense is right behind it."

TC will face No. 3 Annandale in the semifinals at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Titans won both regular season meetings with the Atoms. The district championship game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 at Lake Braddock. Regionals begin on Monday, Feb. 20.

"One of our goals is accomplished: to actually go to the regional tournament, so the girls are very happy," Walton said. "I told them to enjoy that moment. Still, it's not over yet."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Gaby Moss led the Titans with 17 points against West Potomac on Feb. 14.

OBITUARIES

Harold 'Bud' Beagle

Harold Lee (Bud) Beagle (86) of Milton, Tenn., (formerly of Englewood, Fla.), died on Feb. 8, 2012. He was born Dec. 10, 1925 in Alexandria, and grew up in Catonsville, Md. Bud married the love of his life, wife Livie Sue Thomas in 1947 and they were together 64 1/2 years until her death in December 2011. He was a Freemason of the Alexandria Washington Lodge

#22. Bud was co-owner and operator of Beagle & Collins Plumbing and Heating Co. in Alexandria for many years, until he moved his family to Florida in 1974.

He retired as chief inspector from the Charlotte County Building Department. In 1997 he and Sue relocated to Milton, Tenn. to be near family. Bud will be remembered for his steadfast love of the Lord and his impassioned dedication to his family.

Bud was preceded in death by his sister, Natalie, and his beloved

wife, Sue. He is survived by his children; son Michael (wife Linda) of Readyville, Tenn., daughter Natalie Watts (husband Steve) of Sarasota, Fla., son Robert (wife Debra) of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; grandchildren, Matthew, Ryan, Eric, Jordy, Stephanie, Michael; great grandchildren, Blake, Ava and Mason.

Services were private. Memorial donations may be made to CCSVI Alliance, Inc., 14115 W. 59th St. Arvada, CO 80004, or American Diabetes Association, 1701 North

Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311.

Archie Lee Liming

Archie Lee Liming, 92, formerly of Alexandria, Va., died peacefully at the home of his daughter in Lusby, Md. on Feb. 12, 2012. He was born on Nov. 14, 1919 in Joplin, Va. to Archie and Virgie Liming.



He was raised in the Joplin, VA area. At 17, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) and helped build the Skyline Drive and several recreational camps for District of Columbia children. He later served honorably in the United States Army; then joined the U.S. Government as a civil servant. He worked at the original Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria during WWII and later worked at Ft. Belvoir, Va. for over 30 years until his retirement in 1975.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 38 years, Rita P. Liming. He is survived by his daughters, Deborah Whitten (Patrick) of Lusby, Md. and Penelope McKim (Bill) of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., three grandsons, Mark McKim, Matthew McKim and Aaron Whitten as well as one granddaughter, Margaret (Maggi) Whitten. He is also survived by one brother, Lindell Liming and one sister, Virginia Beahm. He also leaves his loving pup, Mia.

A memorial gathering will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012 at Alexandria National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick MD 20678.

Barbara Parkinson

Longtime Connection employee



Barbara Jean Parkinson, age 67 of Sterling, Va., died Feb. 7, 2012 at her residence. Born on Sept. 17, 1944 in New York she was the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Lundy. Ms. Parkinson was a member of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Va.

Barbara attended Michigan State University where she received her bachelor's degree in music. During her college years she was a member of the singing group known as The Jills. Being a music major in college she had a talent and love for music. She also played the piano and enjoyed singing.

She worked for Connection Newspapers for many years.

Barbara enjoyed and loved spending time with her grandchildren and doing crafts with them.

Barbara was passionate about her faith and enjoyed sharing it with others.

She is survived by her son Mark Parkinson and his wife Rachel, of Purcellville, Va.; daughter Jennifer Daughtry and her husband Jay of Sterling, Va.; brother Wayne Lundy of Loveland, Ohio; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2012 at Ebenezer Cemetery, in Round Hill, Va. with Pastor Mike Emerson officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Cornerstone Chapel at www.cornerstonechapel.net.

Visit www.hallfh.com to express online condolences to the family.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

The Alexandria Archaeology Museum is located on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #327, in Old Town Alexandria.

Call the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at 703.746.4399 or visit www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org.

Civil War Kids' Camp. Fort Ward Museum is now registering for its annual Civil War Kids' Camp, a week of learning and fun for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Participants explore the lives of Civil War soldiers and civilians with marching, drilling, reenactor guest appearances, games, crafts and other activities. Civil War Kids' Camp runs Monday, June 25, through Friday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Registration, including souvenirs and snacks, costs \$200 per child, with limited scholarship assistance based on financial need. For more information or to sign up, contact Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

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Making the Grade

School officials offer strategies for improving study habits.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

When Jackie Jackson's son brought home his report card recently, the Centreville mother of three was shocked.

"His grades had fallen to an unacceptable level," said Jackson. "Getting my son to do his homework has always been a battle, but during the winter break when there was no school, we got out of our routine and haven't been able to get back on track."

Children with low grades and poor study habits can be a source of stress for some parents. Educational experts say that there are effective techniques that can improve learning practices.

Starting a dialogue is a good first step. "In terms of academic success, it is key that there is open communication between parents, students and teachers," said Lizabeth Borra, School Counselor at Potomac Elementary School in Potomac, Md. "We want to work as a team to teach students the tools to be lifelong learners. In order to do so, we must set expectations and work together."

Experts say that one of the best ways to improve academic performance and decrease battles over completing homework assignments is to develop a daily schedule that includes time for studying and relaxation. "Set up a regular time to do homework; routines develop into habits," said Borra. "Establish a regular procedure; study for a length of time, have a short break, and return to studying."

Once the schedule is in place, work to maintain it and hold children accountable. "Consistency helps establish a pattern. When it is done on a regular basis it becomes second nature," said Valerie Garcia, principal, Blessed Sacrament School in Alexandria. "When a student is personally responsible they understand accountability and they understand the consequences if they don't follow through. Those consequences can end up being a less than desirable report card."

Create a study environment with minimal distractions. "The best way to help children is to have a quiet place in the home for homework," said Dr. Marjorie Myers, principal, Key Elementary School.

Support children, but avoid over involvement. "If parents help too much, children become dependent on them and don't develop their own sense of responsibility for getting their homework and studying done," said Myers. "Let them get a 'C' or a 'D' on a test and show them that if they ... study ... and pay attention in class, they can change those grades to 'A's' and 'B's.' It's their responsibility to learn and the intrinsic reward of earning that grade on their own is extremely valuable for future academic success."

There might be times when a child needs extra help. "If parents are concerned that their child may



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Francis Scott Key Elementary School teacher Briana Tavernier leads first grade students in a morning discussion. Experts say helping children succeed academically requires an open dialogue between parents, students and teachers.

have difficulty learning they should contact the teacher," said Borra. "Teachers are well trained in working with students that have many different learning styles."

Organization is critical, particularly for older students. "Plan ahead," said Leila Sidawy of Georgetown Learning Centers in Great Falls and McLean. "A great way to do that is to get a planner. This is important especially for students who have multiple activities that they are juggling like sports or clubs. Having a planner can help them stay on top of their assignments and avoid procrastination. The planner should include test dates, project due dates and after school activities. Getting organized will help a student feel more in control."

"Note taking is a crucial, but often overlooked aspect of academic success," said Sidawy. "Make sure students take good notes and keep them organized by date or subject, and include headings on the notes as well as relevant chapters or page numbers. After class, students should review the notes to help solidify the material."

Educators encourage parents to stay optimistic. "Maintain a positive attitude regardless of how challenging an assignment may appear," said Borra. "Prioritize studying and homework. Help your child understand the purpose of learning and that they will do it throughout their lives."



Students at Arlington's Francis Scott Key Elementary School practice counting with blocks. School officials encourage parents to develop a daily schedule that includes time for academics and recreation.

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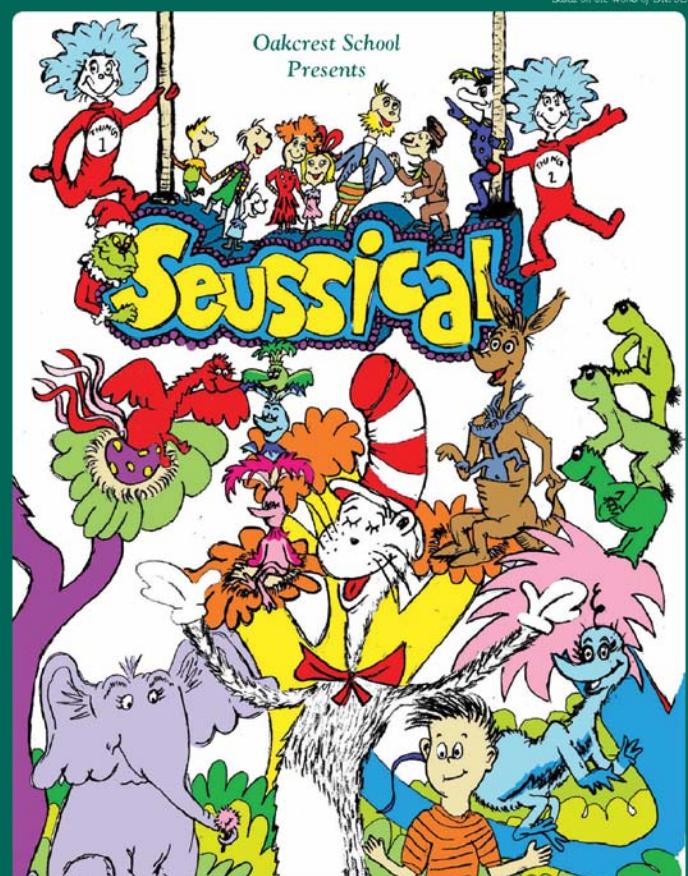
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 25

When a siren cries in the distance, when a fire truck or ambulance rushes by, remember that the men and women inside are saving a life at that very moment, one way or another.

Let's all raise a hypothetical "glass" to our first responders. We know who you are, we care about you, we respect you but most of all, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Scott Gordon
Alexandria

Fight To Save Waterfront Continues

To the Editor:

Three citizens who filed a Protest Petition on behalf of over 200 waterfront homeowners and commercial property owners along the Potomac River have won their first victory. The Council was forced to delay a second required vote to rezone the waterfront at their meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 14 until an appeals board reviews the matter later this spring.

The three ladies — known affectionately now as the Iron Ladies of the Waterfront — were notified last Friday by the Planning Director that their second attempt to appeal what many consider to be an unlawful Council vote on Jan. 21 had finally cleared

the "procedural" hurdles that had been placed in their way to block citizen opposition to the current waterfront plan. The result is that the Council cannot vote to approve the rezoning amendment that would have opened the door to "boutique" hotels and higher density development along the Potomac at several historically important sites until the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) hears their latest appeal.

In what can only be called a Kafkaesque planning process, citizens who filed a Protest Petition on Jan. 19 were told on Jan. 21, the day of the public hearing and vote, that their Protest Petition was invalid, and that they could not appeal the decision to the Board of Zoning Appeals because City Hall was "closed for business" that day. This last-minute determination by Planning Director and City Attorney James Banks enabled the City to vote on the plan that day. More importantly, this decision — which many consider to be unlawful — allowed the Council to ignore the requirement that a supermajority of the Council members (6 or greater) had to vote in favor of the plan in order for it to be approved.

In the end, the euphemistically named waterfront plan that is the "fantasy script" for the rezoning changes passed by a vote of only 5-2. Frank Fannon and Alicia Hughes were the only two council members to vote no. Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Council members Krupicka, Smedberg, and Pepper all voted yes.

Citizens for an Alternative Alexandria

Waterfront Plan (CAAWP) believe that protest petition is valid and that supermajority of the City Council had to vote in the affirmative for the rezoning change to pass.

If you thought that the City had finally decided to change direction and actually listen to the community — think again.

On Tuesday, Council still voted on the other part of this spot planning, waterfront redo — a document called the Waterfront Plan.

The Waterfront Plan however is neither a plan nor a vision for the waterfront. It is a weak set of guidelines that gives developers unfettered control over the nature and scale of waterfront development. It doesn't even include the GenOn Power Plan site, which is well within the waterfront planning boundaries. This vote, like all the others that preceded it, illustrates the PR game that the City has been playing with the community for the last three years.

CAAWP is confident that the citizens who submitted this Protest Petition and subsequent appeal(s), on behalf of everyone in Alexandria who opposes the City's waterfront plan, will ultimately prevail in their efforts to overturn the Jan. 21 vote. CAAWP will be supporting the Iron Ladies' efforts at every turn and we hope you will too.

The vision for the waterfront, indeed the vision for the West End, can be summed up quite simply: money.

Andrew Macdonald



60th Anniversary

Marvin and Charlotte Waldman were married Jan. 13, 1952, in Yonkers, N.Y. Marvin was a store manager for the McCrory company, which led them to live in several cities before settling in McLean in 1962. Here in Washington, D.C., he began his career in the Beauty Supply Business. They lived in the Northern Virginia area while raising their four children and working together for many years. They have enjoyed traveling the world and settled in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area until July when they re-located to Alexandria. Along with their four children and their spouses, they have 12 grandchildren and a great-grandson. Their 60th wedding anniversary was celebrated with 19 family members at Cedar Knoll restaurant.

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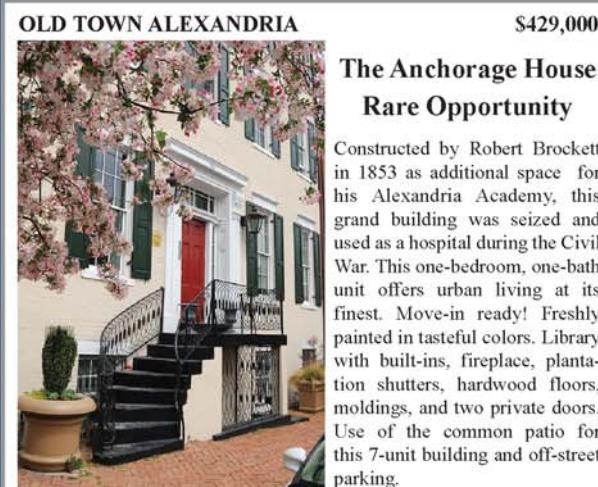
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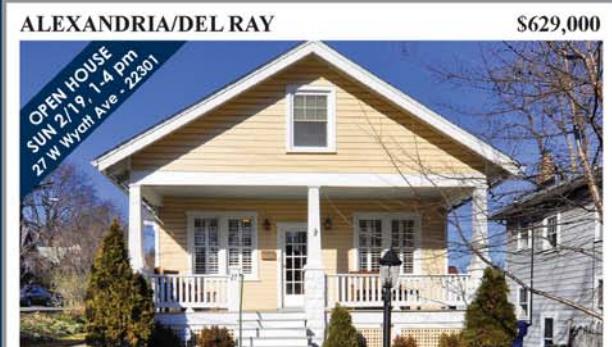


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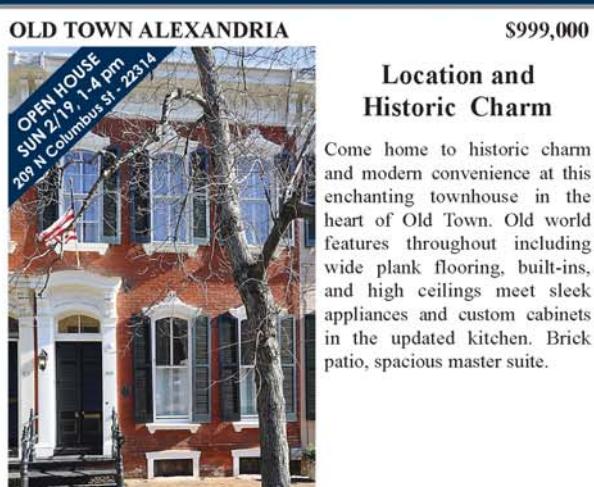


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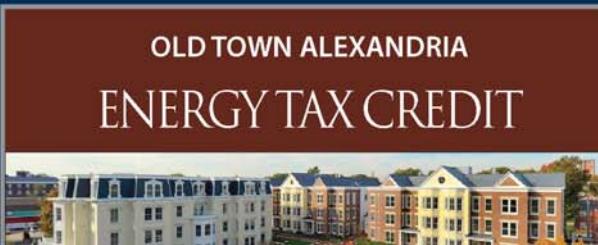
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