

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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Home Life Style

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MARCH 15, 2012



Director of the Women's Ecumenical Choir Becky Mays Jenkins leads the choir in a pre-concert rehearsal.

'Our Journey of Praise'

The Ebenezer Baptist Church Women's Ecumenical Choir will celebrate its 5th anniversary with a concert Sunday, March 18 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 5 p.m. The choir was formed in March of 2007 with nearly 40 women from different churches to provide music for the Women's Day Service at Ebenezer Baptist Church. In April of 2007, the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria sanctioned the choir under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Duane T. Kay. The choir presently fellowship in song each 5th Sunday during the 11 a.m. worship service at the church. There are currently more than 65 women from churches throughout the Washington metropolitan area



Soloist Taloni Johnson rehearses a song at choir practice on Monday evening, March 12.

singing in the choir. Aldersgate United Methodist is located at 1301 Collingwood Road in Mount Vernon.

Salvation Army Wins 'Battle of the Bells'

Red Kettle volunteers win new van for local corps.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was a hard fought fight but in the end, it was the Alexandria Corps of the Salvation Army that emerged triumphant in the "Battle of the Bells," a competition. SEE SALVATION, PAGE 5



Alexandria Salvation Army board chairman Walter Clarke, left, joins Lieutenant Sherri and Trey Jones March 9 in celebrating the acquisition of a new van from Jack Taylor's Toyota.

'Dysfunctional'

Audit rips school system; vice mayor calls for Sherman to resign.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

An independent auditor has concluded that the budget office at Alexandria City Public Schools suffers from a "dysfunctional environment," prompting at least one elected official to call for the resignation of the school superintendent. The nine-page audit released late last week blasted budget officials for allowing a culture of information silos to emerge regarding the division's Capital Improvement Program.

"This fragmentation and lack of transparency have created significant internal control weaknesses

"In my opinion, the superintendent should resign."

— Vice Mayor Kerry Donley on Superintendent Morton Sherman

in monitoring CIP financial transactions," the audit concluded.

The audit capped a series of dramatic developments in recent weeks, beginning with the resignation of budget director Jean Sina. That was followed by the resignation of Deputy Superintendent Margaret Byess, a former budget director who oversaw the financial side of the school system's operation. On Tuesday night, Alexandria Vice Mayor Kerry Donley called for Superintendent of Schools Morton Sherman to step down.

"In my opinion, the superintendent should resign," Donley said

SEE DONLEY, PAGE 3

The March for Art

Target Gallery partners with March of Dimes for outreach and support.

By MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

March Art Reach is in full swing at the Target Gallery, and Friday, March 16 offers an opportunity to purchase panel works by local artists at steep discounts. With 100 percent of proceeds set aside for outreach projects, the event also promises to help fund important programs that benefit the community.

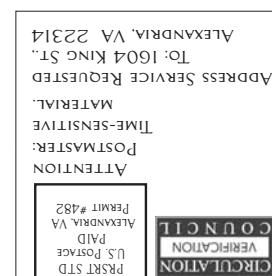
"This is a great opportunity for

Art Reach

On Friday, March 16 the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory will host an art party, complete with music, a "wing off" competition, and \$100 works by local artists. The event starts at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For more information visit: torpedofactory.org/galleries/target.htm.

people who want to start a collection, a normal price for some of the artists might be two or three times higher," said Mary Cook,

SEE MARCH, PAGE 9

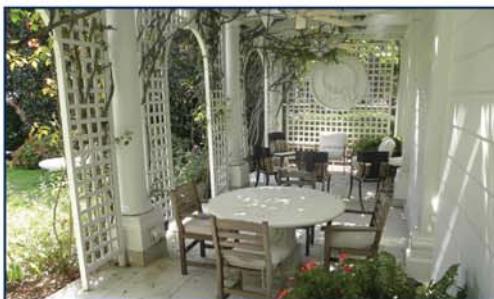




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Budget Gridlock

The budget standoff in Richmond could have dramatic consequences in Alexandria, where every service from education services to transportation funding is on the line. Legislators fled the Capitol last weekend without adopting a budget, calling for a special session in March to finish the job. Some say that could be postponed or abandoned altogether unless an agreement breaks the 20-20 partisan deadlock in the Senate.

"I'm not making hotel reservations yet," said **Bernard Caton**, legislative director for the city of Alexandria.

When the parties were deadlocked during the administration of former Republican Gov. **Jim Gilmore**, the only budget items up for consideration were amendments to the biennial budget. This year the whole biennial budget is on the line, raising the stakes in the partisan standoff. Trillions of dollars for transportation, social services and education are at stake.

"Wall Street doesn't like uncertainty, and I mean that's that the issue is — maintaining a AAA bond rating," said George Mason University professor **Toni-Michelle Travis**. "And that's what usually brings compromise."

Travis suspects the Democrats will blink first.

"Maybe not later in March, but April, May or June," she said. "They'll hold out as long as they can and then they'll say, 'OK we've made our point. Now we have to have a budget.'"

The final deadline for some kind of compromise is June 30.

Passing the Buck

City leaders are concerned that the Virginia Retirement System might take an unexpected chunk out of the budget, although the final outcome depends on what happens with the budget standoff. One scenario would require local governments to increase salaries so city and school employees could contribute five percent of their salaries to the retirement system. Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** said this was yet another example of an unfunded mandate from Richmond.

"This has happened with administration after administration, and it's not a Democratic thing or a Republican thing," said Donley, a former chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. "I think this is one more situation where we hear a lot of political rhetoric until its time to meet the financial obligations."

Several weeks ago, Donley clashed with Republican Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes**, who was a member of the governor's task force for local government mandate review. Donley criticized the work of the committee as trivial, prompting Hughes to outline what she felt was the significant work of the task force. This time, however, Donley and Hughes were in agreement about the potential burden changes to the retirement system could create for the city.

"Yes, this is an unfunded mandate," said Hughes. "And it's absolutely ridiculous."

Parking the Guests

For years, residents at various spots in Old Town have been unable to obtain residential parking tags or even guest parking placards. The regulations were created more than a decade ago to account for the availability of off-street parking at newer developments such as Chatham Square and the Monarch. The conditions were created to minimize the crush of demand created by new developments. Now those regulations are being called into question.

City Council members are poised to consider a change to the city's zoning ordinance that would allow all residents of Old Town to obtain guest parking passes. Currently if a resident at a restricted property goes to City Hall to get a guest pass for a visiting relative, the computer system denies the application as unauthorized. Councilman **Paul Smedberg** would like to see the reform taken a step further, allowing residents at some of the restricted properties to obtain residential parking passes as well.

"There's a fundamental fairness issue here," said Smedberg, who lives in a development known as Backyard Boats, one of the properties where residential and guest parking passes are currently unavailable.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Donley Says Sherman Should Resign

FROM PAGE 1

Tuesday night. "Ultimately, the buck stops at the top."

"I appreciate his perspective, but he is way off base," Sherman responded a few minutes later in an email response to the Alexandria Gazette Packet. "I am sure that Mr. Donley is frustrated and angry about the CIP situation, but not nearly as frustrated and angry as I am."

On their way out of the City Council chamber Tuesday night, School Board members expressed confidence in the superintendent, who has led the division since 2008. School Board Chairwoman Sheryl Gorsuch and former School Board Chairwoman Yvonne Folkerts both said Sherman is responsible for identifying the problem, notifying board members and taking action to solve the problem. Gorsuch said Donley should have refrained from speaking out in public, sharing his opinion with the School Board liaison or the chairman instead of making a public display of the situation.

"I'm very disappointed with Mr. Donley," said Gorsuch. "He had other more appropriate ways to share his opinion."

THIS IS NOT the first time that the budget office on Beauregard has come under fire. Back in 2006, School Board members questioned several budget transfers that had not been authorized by the board, including a \$132,000 budget transfer for two school buses. At the time, newly installed School Board Chairman Arthur Peabody declared an end to unauthorized expenditures.

"Those days are over," Peabody declared during School Board meeting. "We're simply not going to approve documents that we don't understand."

A few months later, the budget director left and Byess took the job. She was later promoted to deputy superintendent in charge of finance and Jean Sina was brought on board to oversee the budget office. The new team rearranged the organization, moving the lines of authority in a way that led to a lack of communications between departments. When the financial mismanagement came to light, Sina and Byess were out. Now Sherman, with an annual salary of \$250,000, is under fire.

"I am outraged at the actions of some staff," Sherman said in a terse written statement late last week, "and it is clear that our internal documents and procedures have to be updated and made more rigorous."

THE AUDIT uncovered a number of problems. Legal counsel did not review contracts for capital projects. Documents were changed after the fact. Contracts were awarded for services that had not been budgeted. In some cases, purchase orders were completed after invoices. School Board members were provided with inaccurate reports. Now the system has an action plan to resolve the problems, although Donley described many of the recommendations as basic accounting procedures.

"We will retain the public trust by ensuring that all report recommendations have been implemented," said Gorsuch. "We are keenly aware of our fiduciary responsibilities and have asked for a follow-up audit to confirm that strong internal controls, as well as checks and balances are in place."

The firm of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates conducted the audit.

Recommendations include making sure funds are available before contracts are awarded, completing purchase orders before services are provided and providing accurate information to School Board members. Sherman and School Board members say

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Superintendent of Schools Morton Sherman

changes have already been implemented and more are on the way.

"Changes are needed to achieve the goals of this division," said Sherman.

THE REPORT comes at a time when the school system is facing major pressure to handle a rising student population. Last year, Sherman and city officials clashed over the need to build several new schools to handle the crush of new students. Sherman and School Board members requested \$372.6 million to build four new schools. Former City Manager Jim Hartmann set aside less than half of that amount, and former budget director Bruce Johnson questioned the school system's enrollment projections.

"The question we need to be asking ourselves is if we think the enrollment trends we've seen over the last few years will continue for the next 10 years," Johnson said at the time. "I'm not convinced that's true."

In the end, City Council members staked out a middle ground, funding two new elementary schools, rebuilding Jefferson-Houston School and renovating Patrick Henry Elementary School. Four months after that budget was approved, Sherman noticed some irregularities in a report of capital projects over the summer. School Board members say he notified them of the irregularities and launched an investigation. That led board members to hire the independent auditor. Now the question facing city leaders and school administrators is how to respond.

"There just doesn't seem to be the expression of responsibility coming from the top," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "I just don't hear that from the lead administrator."

Macdonald Announces Independent Candidacy

Former Democratic Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald announced last week that he will be challenging incumbent Democratic Mayor Bill Euille as an independent, leaving the party that elected him twice to the Alexandria City Council. Macdonald made the announcement on the Kojo Nnamdi Show, which airs on WAMU 88.5 News.

"I think we need to find a way to bring Alexandria together. It's been a very divisive atmosphere in Alexandria," said Macdonald. "I just don't see working in the party as the way to do it at the moment."

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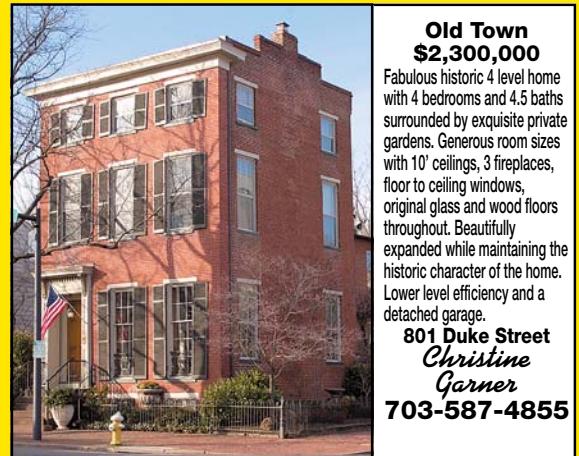
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PEOPLE

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Chair of the CAC Board of Directors Nigel Morris and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner present Rob Dugger and Joan Huffer with the 2012 CAC Champion for Children Award.

Gala Raises More Than \$90,000

Celebration benefits the Center for Alexandria's Children.

At the sold out Center for Alexandria's Children's Gala on Thursday, March 1, more than 300 people honored three Alexandrian's that have made major differences in the lives of children.

The CAC is a public-private partnership that protects children and strengthens families by coordinating the investigation, prosecution, treatment and prevention of child abuse in one safe, child-friendly facility.

The gala's honorees were: Alexandria residents Rob Dugger and Joan Huffer who received the 2012 Champion for Children Award and Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Cathryn "Cat" Flanagan Evans who was awarded the 2012 CAC Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children's Award for her work as a city child sexual assault prosecutor.



Commonwealth Attorney Randy Sengal introduces Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Cathryn "Cat" Flanagan Evans at the award ceremony.

"Evans is one of the CAC Multi-Disciplinary Team members who currently handles the child physical abuse docket. "Cat's expertise in the courtroom provides the team with insight into what is required to successfully prosecute the perpetrators of child abuse and neglect," CAC Executive Director Giselle Pelaez said. "She consistently demonstrates sensitivity to the needs of each child and has played an integral role in the Center's recent Accreditation process." For more information about the CAC, visit its web site at www.centerforalexandriachildren.org

— LOUISE KRAFT

Salvation Army Wins 'Battle of the Bells'

FROM PAGE 1
tition among 11 Washington regional corps to log the most volunteer hours during the 2011 Red Kettle Campaign. The prize: A new van for the victor.

"We are very grateful to our volunteers for their efforts," said Lieutenant Trey Jones of the competition sponsored by the Salvation Army National Capital Region Area Command. "If it weren't for the many individuals and organizations throughout the area that donated their time for us, we would not have been able to acquire this much-needed van."

With the combined bell-ringing efforts of volunteers from organizations such as the American Legion Post 24, the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Clubs of Alexandria and Mount Vernon, the Old Dominion Boat Club and The Dairy Godmother, the Alexandria Corps logged 934 hours during the Red Kettle Campaign to win a new van from a dealer of their choice.

"There was no question where we would go to buy the van," Jones said. "Jack Taylor has been so generous to us over the years so we didn't hesitate at all to bring our business to him when we won the new van."

Lieutenant Sherri Jones picked up the new 2012 Toyota Sienna on behalf of the Corps on March 9.

"This is so exciting," Sherri Jones said. "It's so new it only had five miles on it. Now it has eight," she added with a laugh, referring to the close proximity of the Corps headquarters to Jack Taylor's Toyota showroom. The Fairfax Corps of the Salvation Army finished second in the competition with 840 hours.

"This really was a community-wide effort," Trey Jones said. "There are so many individuals who came out for us. We are so grateful and hope they know just how much their time and support is appreciated."

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NEWS

All Deliberate Speed

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia has eight months to create a certification plan for how it plans to create a health-care exchange, a legal requirement of President Barack Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. But Virginia is lagging far behind other states, which

have made more progress toward creating the new exchanges, state-run insurance markets designed to operate online. So far, the state has failed to act on a majority of the recommendations created by the Virginia Health Reform Initiative.

"We are deliberately moving slowly to make sure we don't get ahead of the Supreme Court ruling," said Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Bill Hazel.

McDonnell administration is deliberately moving slowly on creating health-care exchanges.

In June, the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the constitutionality of health-care reform. State officials are trying to prepare for a number of scenarios. One would be that the court finds the mandate to purchase health insurance unconstitutional, which Hazel said would undercut the creation of the exchanges because they depend on federal subsidies. Another scenario would be that the court rules the entire act

unconstitutional, which would mothball the entire project. A third scenario would be that the court upholds the law, a development that would prompt fast action in Virginia to meet the Jan. 1, 2013 deadline for creating a certification plan outlining how the exchanges would be created.

"We have teed up the ball," said Hazel. "But we don't want to hit the ball yet."

SEE HEALTH CARE, PAGE 9

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COURTESY PHOTO

Capt. Willie Bailey, fifth from left, is honored March 6 by Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for his more than 1,000 hours of volunteer service to the community.

Fairfax Honors Del Ray Resident

Willie Bailey recognized for 1,000 volunteer hours.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was supposed to be a one-time event, a toy drive to help 50 struggling families in the Gum Springs community along the Route 1 corridor. But that was 15 years ago. Today, Capt. Willie Bailey's Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive serves more than 4,000 children in need throughout Northern Virginia.

"I never expected it would grow like this," said Bailey, founder of the toy drive. "But businesses and people in the community have really stepped up to help fill what is a growing need in this area."

Bailey's efforts to help serve the community have grown to include a back-to-school backpack drive and fall coat drive and are supported by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue department, the Fairfax County Firefighters and Paramedics union and numerous corporate sponsors.

It is because of these efforts that Bailey was recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors March 6 as a nominee for the 2012 Fairfax County

Volunteer Service Awards Benchmark 1,000 award. The award recognizes individuals who volunteer 1,000 hours or more each year toward community service and humanitarian efforts.

"This took me by surprise," Bailey said. "It is a huge honor for me to be recognized by Chairman [Sharon] Bulova and the entire Board of Supervisors. They have been encouraging of my efforts over the years and none of these programs would be successful without their support."

Sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax, the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service through a broad range of activities and programs. During the past 19 years, more than 2,500 residents and businesses have been recognized for their contributions to the community.

"When we [fire and rescue personnel] are not running 911 emergencies, we're trying to find other ways to give back to the community," Bailey said. "I didn't have much growing up in Del Ray but have been very blessed in my life. Now it's my turn to give back in whatever small way I can."

Bailey will be recognized at the 2012 Volunteer Service Awards ceremony on April 27 at the Waterford in Springfield. For more information on the awards, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Deputy Retires from U.S. Army Reserve

Alexandria Sheriff's Deputy William L. Morgan retired from the U.S. Army Reserve earlier this month following a 31-year career.

Morgan, who joined the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in 1986, retired from the 1107th Mobilization Support Battalion as a Command Sergeant Major. His commanders and close friends from the Sheriff's Office attended his retirement ceremony at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Va., on Sunday, March 4, the day before his retirement became effective.

From late 2002 to 2005, Morgan was activated and assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., where his unit assisted in preparing more than 10,000 soldiers for duty overseas during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. After working assignments at the detention center and the courthouse, Morgan has been assigned to Support Services for the past two years.

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Deputy William L. Morgan, second from left, is joined by Brigadier General Leslie Purser, Undersheriff Tony Davis and Chief Deputy Tony DiCesare at Fort Eustis, Va., March 4 to celebrate his retirement from the U.S. Army Reserves after 31 years of service.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Learning at the Mall

How far did the empire of Orange Julius reach? What's the capital of Banana Republic? Is Aeropostale aerodynamic?

These are some questions that may be posed by T.C. Williams High School students attending classes at Landmark Mall. According to a proposal members of the Alexandria City Council will consider this weekend, the long-suffering mall may be partially occupied by the Flexible and Extended Learning Opportunities Program. Students in the program have difficulty in a traditional classroom setting. And what could be more non-traditional than studying algebra at a mall?

The aim of the program is to remove students from the large-scale environment of a school with 3,000 students and put them in a different setting, hopefully reducing dropout rates and discipline problems in the processes. The school system hopes to occupy a 3,500 square foot space in the mall near the rear entrance and parking garage.

The Landmark Mall classroom would serve up to 100 students each day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. School officials envision it as the first of several satellite classrooms for the high school, which could be as far-flung as Old Town or Arlandria.

"Courses will be blended in nature, combining 21st century online learning that is student-paced with facilitated instruction as well as direct instruction opportunities," according to a memorandum from the school system.

Tourism Boom

Alexandria's tourism industry is booming, leaving other Northern Virginia jurisdictions in the dust. Statistics compiled by the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, tourism generates \$22 million in tax revenue and provides 6,000 jobs. In the last four years, the industry grew 16.8 percent, drastically outpacing Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington.

"The scale of their promotional activities has not been the same as ours," said **Stephanie Brown**, president of the association. "It's because of a public-private partnership."

Brown said that includes everything from hotel development to funding for a free trolley service on King Street. City Manager **Rashad Young** has proposed a \$100,000 advertising campaign for "Charm-Ville," full-page advertisements that will appear in a host of magazines including Town and County, Travel and Leisure and Real Simple.

"This will extend our reach even more," said Brown.

Glazed Conditions

City officials have found some holes in operation of the Dunkin' Donuts on Upper King Street, leading to a review this weekend of the operation's special use permit.

The problems started in March 2011, when city officials discovered two minor violations of the 2007 special-use permit. That was corrected, but then another visit in August 2011 uncovered a major problem — restaurant supplies were being loaded from tractor-trailer trucks parked on King Street rather than from the alley behind the building.

That violated condition 16 of the special use permit, which outlines how loading and unloading activities should take place. Subsequent conversations revealed that the business had changed ownership without approval.

"Because staff has observed ongoing violations of Condition #16 it elected to bring forward the SUP request, which might have been processed administratively, for full public hearings," the staff report explained.

Hold Your Wallet

Member of the Alexandria City Council voted Tuesday night to authorize an advertisement for the maximum possible tax rate on residential and commercial properties at \$1.008 for every \$100 of assessed value. If approved, that rate would increase the average residential property tax bill by \$98.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



TWIG president Vicky Suazo with past TWIG presidents Anita Carson and Starlet Zarek.

16th Annual Antiques in Alexandria

The doors of The Waterford at Springfield opened up to the 16th Antiques in Alexandria Anniversary Preview Party on Thursday, March 8. Presenting sponsor of the event was TTR Sotheby's International Realty. Honorary event chairs were Senator and Mrs. John Warner. Proceeds from Antiques in Alexandria benefit The Alexandria Association, The Lyceum Company and The Twig, The Junior Auxiliary of the Inova Alexandria Hospital.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAGAZETTE PACKET

Honorary Antiques in Alexandria event chairs, Senator John Warner and his wife Jeanne, tour the show at the preview party.

OBITUARIES

Lt. Col. Wayne A. Babb (ret)

Lt. Col. Wayne A. Babb, USMC (ret), died recently at his home in Alexandria after a courageous fight with terminal illnesses. Wayne was born in Hendersonville, N.C. and was a native of Brevard, N.C. until leaving for college.



Wayne was the son of Mr. And Mrs. Kenneth L. Babb, the grandson of Mr. And Mrs. Witcher M. Melton and Mr. And Mrs. J. Garland Vaughn, all natives of Brevard, N.C. and now deceased. Wayne is survived by daughters Kimberly A. Babb and Patricia L. Babb, and two grandchildren, Thomas Kirtland and Meghan Parkinson. He is also survived by a brother, Gary D. Babb of Brevard, N.C. and a sister, Brenda B. Babb of Waxhaw, N.C. and numerous cousins, nephews and nieces.

Wayne was a four-sport letterman at Brevard High School and later attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science. He completed the graduate degrees with highest honors. He is a member of numerous honorary fraternities and organizations relating to academic achievement.

He served over 20 years as a Marine officer, retiring in the mid-1980s as a lieutenant colonel with over 20 personal and unit decorations earned in both combat and peacetime. Among his many personal decorations were the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was a highly decorated combat veteran of Vietnam.

For the past 25 years, Wayne was a real estate broker in Virginia and abroad. He was directly responsible for over one billion dollars in national and international real estate volume. He earned virtually every designation and award given to high-performing real estate professionals. He taught

real estate and counseled real estate throughout the United States and abroad. Wayne was the nephew of R.W. "Buddy" Melton, a prominent broker in Brevard, N.C. and a highly respected teacher and appraiser in North Carolina.

During his career, Wayne was a philanthropist who directed substantial amounts of his own assets to bring students from Russia and eastern Europe to study undergraduate and graduate business and economics in the United States. Many of them returned to their native countries and now have played prominent roles in growing the free enterprise systems in those countries. Wayne was highly respected as a business development advisor to the leadership of the same countries.

Wayne will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., with full military honors. A memorial service will be held at The Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, Va., directly next to the cemetery, prior to the honors and burial. Arrangements are in the hands of Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria. Wayne asked that tributes or memorials be made to The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, Quantico, Va. He asked that no ornamentals or flowers be sent.

Emily Marie (Anderson) Davis

Mrs. Emily Marie (Anderson) Davis, 69, beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend died on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at Alexandria Hospital from complications of lung cancer.

Emily was born on March 4, 1943 in the old Alexandria Hospital in downtown Alexandria. The daughter of Stonewall Jackson and Minnie Virginia Anderson, Emily grew up in Alexandria in a large family with six brothers and one sister — Joe, Lelia, Raymond, James (Butter), Charles (Charlie Buck), Frank, and William (Billy). Emily lived in Louisa, Va. but was a long-time resident of Alexandria calling Old Town home for many years while growing up on Fayette Street. Emily met her husband to be Lawrence Hampton Davis in Old Town and

they were married on Sept. 21, 1959. While Emily did not graduate from high school, she was the type of person that was always hungry for knowledge and taught herself everything from cooking to computers. As the second youngest sibling, Emily worked hard to keep a close-knit family and was always organizing events and gatherings. Emily's mother died when she was very young so Emily took it upon herself to care for her father until his death in 1989, she knew that would help keep the family together. Emily had a way of making everyone feel special and she had the gift of creating happiness everywhere she went — she knew that the meaning of life was to live life to its fullest and be happy as often as possible. Emily's two daughters, Robin Lyn Trowbridge and Barbara Lee Davis (Punkin) were her pride and joy; and just as she lived her life, she instilled the love and family values in Robin and Punkin to carry on.

Emily was known and loved by many. She made an impact in everyone's life she touched and her family will miss her but knows she is with the Lord God. Emily's faith in God was strong and it was her faith that made her the person she was.

Emily is survived by her husband Lawrence Hampton Davis of Louis, Va.; daughter Robin Trowbridge of Springfield, Va.; daughter and son-in-law Barbara Davis and Tony Dockery of Alexandria, grandchildren Jennifer Chiles, Jonathan Paterson, Casey Trowbridge, and Valerie Duque; great grandchildren Mackenzie Chiles and Nathan Chiles; sister Lelia Cefaratti; brothers Joe Anderson, Raymond Anderson, James Anderson, Charles Anderson, Frank Anderson, and William Anderson. There are so many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends to mention that an entire section would be filled; but suffice to say, Emily was the person that helped bind together a strong family and was the friend everyone wanted in their life.

Visitation times were scheduled at Cunningham Funeral Home in Alexandria for Tuesday, March 13. A Memorial Service was scheduled for Wednesday March 14. Burial Services will be at Bethel Cemetery in Alexandria at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 16.

Dorothy Moore Jones

Dorothy Moore Jones of Alexandria died on March 10, 2012. As an Army wife and mother, she accompanied her husband, Frank Phelps Jones (deceased) to assignments in the U.S., Canada and Europe, where she was active in volunteer programs for Red Cross, Girl Scouts, Gray Ladies, youth and handicap swimming programs and Project Read. Born in Chester, Penn. in 1925, she was a Powers model before marrying in 1947.

She later embraced her life in Alexandria; she loved working at the Why Not shop, was an active participant at Christ Church and enjoyed tennis at Army Navy Country Club.

Survived by her son Carter Jones (Stacy) of Arlington, Va., and daughter Page Frantz (Randy) of Charlotte, Vt. she was the devoted grandmother of Caroline Jones Simpson (Jeremy), Elizabeth Jones, Henry Frantz and Isabel "Minxie" Frantz. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fisher House Foundation.

Burial at Arlington Cemetery will be at a later date. The family will host a tribute in her honor on Friday, March 16; friends are welcome. Further information is available at everlyfuneralhomes.com or by contacting 703-838-0021.

Betty M. Miller

Betty M. Miller, of Haymarket, Va., formerly of Alexandria, died on March 1, 2012. Loving mother of Marilyn Mallory and her husband Dave.

Cherished grandmother of Michael Mallory and his wife Kim and Peter Mallory and his wife Christina. Great grandmother of Amber, Michael, Matthew, Shaman and Cheyenne Mallory. Betty retired from the photography department of the CIA. After her retirement she worked at a medical pharmacy in Annandale.

The family will receive friends at the Everly Funeral Home, 10565 Main Street, Fairfax, on Thursday, March 8, from 6 until 8 p.m. Inurnment will be at a later date in Mt. Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the local animal rescue league.

NEWS

Health Care

FROM PAGE 6

THIS WEEK, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released new rules designed to help states set standards for establishing health-care exchanges. The 642-page document provides guidance on how states should establish exchanges, qualify health plans for participation and determine the eligibility of individuals in the system. Federal officials envision the exchanges as the cornerstone of an individual's interface with their own health care.

"It's kind of like a Travelocity for health insurance," said Brian Chiglinsky, spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. "You can put some basic information in get some basic information about yourself and pull up affordable options for health insurance."

Obama's health-care reform was designed to provide coverage to more than 30 million uninsured Americans. In addition to the creation of the state-run exchanges, the law also calls for an expansion

March For Art

FROM PAGE 1

gallery director with the Target Gallery. "It's amazing how many people in the community want to support by buying art."

Money raised from the event contributes to community outreach efforts by the Target Gallery. Plans include a weeklong workshop to support survivors of war trauma through art therapy, as well as programs that help the homeless get back on their feet.

Event organizers have also teamed up with the March of Dimes, an organization devoted to a world of healthier and stronger babies.

"We're connecting people in the community, raising awareness for arts and our mission," said Nicole Johnson, NOVA community director with the March of Dimes. "We're using this as an opportunity to tell people about our events."

Ten percent of all proceeds will go directly to the March of Dimes, and mission families will be on site to share their success stories and put a face to the trials of premature birth. The Target Gallery has a set goal of raising \$10,000 by selling 10X10 panels donated by Torpedo Factory artists. The works will sell for \$100 on Friday and would-be collectors have until Sunday, March 18 before the exhibit is taken down.

of Medicaid services to the poor. Under the law, all states are required to have the health-care exchanges up and running by 2014. The rules released this week were designed in part to start shifting the policy focus to the states.

"We're obviously under the statutory deadline of Jan. 1, 2014 to have state-based exchanges operating in every state," said Chiglinsky. "And we are going to meet that, whether it's a federal or state-based exchange."

The fate of the reform efforts de-

pends on what happens this summer at the Supreme Court. Officials in Richmond are ready to scrap the planning that's already been conducted, especially since they haven't invested that much into it anyway. If the law is determined to be constitutional, however, state leaders will have to scramble to catch up. Hazel said he would expect a special session on health care this fall if the bill is found to be constitutional.

"We would be on a tight timetable," Hazel acknowledged.

One of the consequences of inaction could be increased federal oversight. Under the current law, if Virginia fails to create a health-care exchange the federal government will step in and create one for the commonwealth.

"Unless the governor calls a special session, outside of the special session that we are currently in," said Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), "we are going to miss the deadline."

So far, the governor has called a special session to appoint judges and a separate one to deal with

the budget. But no special session has been called yet to address the looming deadline for health-care reform. Hazel said that he would expect the governor to call a special session if the Supreme Court decides the law is constitutional. Hope, who was a member of the Virginia Health Reform Initiative, said he would like to see an increased sense of urgency.

"We need to decide: Do we want Washington, D.C. to operate the exchange or do we want to operate it out of Richmond."

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO RECOVER HEXANE COSTS CASE NO. PUE-2012-00014

On February 3, 2012, Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company") filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting approval to recover \$1,252,580 of costs relating to the non-Btu component of hexane injections for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, and \$12,908 of costs related to the actual under-collection of non-Btu related hexane costs incurred during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009 ("Application"). In its Application, WGL explains that it has been injecting hexane into its system since February 2006 to replace heavy hydrocarbons in liquefied natural gas that enters the Company's distribution system. WGL's Application advises that pursuant to a Stipulation accepted by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the Company's performance-based rate regulation ("PBR") plan docket, the Company may request approval to recover the non-Btu portion of hexane costs in excess of \$400,000 if the Company's return on equity is less than 10% in any PBR annual period. Under the terms of the Stipulation accepted in Case No. PUE-2006-00059, the cost recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane will be limited to that amount in excess of \$400,000 required for the Company to achieve an earned return on equity of 10.0% for that PBR period under WGL's PBR Plan. The Company's Application advises that for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, the Company earned less than a 10% return on equity. WGL therefore proposes to collect its actual Virginia-jurisdictional non-Btu hexane costs in excess of \$400,000, or \$1,252,580, as well as an additional \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-collected for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009.

WGL proposes to collect the non-Btu hexane costs from its customers receiving service under Rate Schedule Nos. 1-Residential Service, 1A-Residential Delivery Service, 2-Commercial and Industrial Service, 2A-Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 3-Group Metered Apartment Service, 3A-Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service, 4-Interruptible Service, and 7-Interruptible Delivery Service, 8-Developmental Natural Gas Vehicle Service, and 10-Large Volume Delivery Service. The Company's Application further notes that it proposed new Rate Schedule Nos. 5-Large Commercial and Industrial Service, 5A-Large Commercial and Industrial Delivery Service, 6-Large Group Metered Apartment Service, and 6A-Large Group Metered Apartment Delivery Service in its currently pending general rate case, Case No. PUE-2010-00139. If the Commission approves the Company's proposed rate schedules in its general rate case, the Company will also recover the non-Btu hexane costs from customers receiving service pursuant to these new rate schedules.

WGL proposes to collect its non-Btu hexane costs through an adjustment to the distribution charge for these rate schedules. WGL's Application advises that the hexane charge will be computed on a cents-per-therm basis comprising a current and a reconciling factor. According to the Company's Application, the current factor, if applicable, will be calculated annually by dividing the non-Btu portion of hexane costs approved by the Commission by the total weather normalized throughput for the year. The reconciling factor proposed by WGL will be the difference between the actual amount to be charged and the actual amount collected during the twelve-month period. WGL proposes to implement the current factor as an adjustment to the distribution charge in the first billing cycle month following the Commission's approval of the Company's Application to recover the non-Btu portion of the costs of its hexane injections. The Company's Application also includes testimony and exhibits showing the computation of a proposed charge of \$0.0020 per therm, which will allow the Company to collect the proposed \$1,252,580 of non-Btu hexane costs expensed in fiscal year 2010 and the \$12,908 of non-Btu hexane costs under-recovered in fiscal year 2009.

The details of WGL's proposals are set out in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and other materials filed with the Application for the details of these proposals. Interested persons should also be advised that after considering the record in this case, the Commission may change the tariff revisions proposed by the Company or take other actions with respect to the recovery of the non-Btu component of hexane costs that differ from the proposals set out in the Company's Application.

The Commission has entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, docketed the Application as Case No. PUE-2012-00014 and established a procedural schedule for the filing of comments, requests for hearing, and the filing of testimony or a Report by the Commission Staff. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for details on how to participate in this proceeding.

Interested persons may also review a copy of the Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, as well as other documents now or hereinafter filed in this matter, in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the First Floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. A copy of the Application may also be obtained at no cost to interested persons by making a written request to the Company's counsel at the following address: Meera Ahamed, Esquire, Washington Gas Light Company, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20080. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the Application, with or without attachments, by electronic means. In addition, the Company's Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, other orders entered in this docket, the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and other information concerning the Commission and the statutes it administers, may be viewed on the Commission's website at: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Pursuant to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, interested persons may file written comments or requests for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission on the proposals set out in the Company's Application on or before April 27, 2012. An original and fifteen (15) copies of all written comments and requests for hearing must be filed with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Any request for hearing must state with specificity why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be adequately addressed in written comments. If no sufficient request for hearing is received, the Commission may consider the Application based on the papers filed without convening a hearing at which oral testimony is received.

Persons filing a request for hearing and expecting to participate as a respondent in any hearing that may be scheduled in this case shall also file, on or before April 27, 2012, an original and fifteen (15) copies of a notice of participation as required by 5 VAC 5-20-80 B of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq., with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Interested persons should refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for more information on how to participate as a respondent.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on or before April 27, 2012, by following the instructions available at the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case> and referring to Case No. PUE-2012-00014. Interested persons shall refer in their comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation to Case No. PUE-2012-00014, and shall serve a copy of any such document filed with the Commission upon counsel for the Company at the address set forth above.

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

OPINION

So Hard to Imagine?

Poor families face challenges that officials and many of the rest of us have trouble envisioning.

The Commonwealth of Virginia and even Northern Virginia includes many poor families and individuals. But officials seem to have trouble wrapping their brains around some of the difficulties this can cause.

In Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria, some analysis of the effect of budget cuts and service cuts on families in the bottom 20 percent of income would be appropriate and revealing.

Cutting library hours and service again? Consider that for many, the public libraries are

their only source of computer and internet access. This has a significant impact on school performance, the ability to hunt for a job, the ability to access services and more.

It's hard for many of us to imagine, checking email at stop lights on our smart phones, that there are families who need to go the library to check theirs. If anything, in the current environment, the libraries should be open more hours, not fewer.

When Fairfax County Public Schools eliminated the year-round school calendar, followed by some of the county's poorest schools, and summer school, poor students were most affected, losing access to meals in the summer as well as a needed boost in instruction.

Similarly, some schools systems eliminated the telephone hotline to find out if schools are closed in inclement weather. Everyone checks that online, right? Or gets their daily email update?

Requirements to present a variety of identification to do a variety of things also present bigger challenges to poorer residents.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Density Dominoes

To the Editor:

What I've learned from the Waterfront contrempts is our elected and appointed city officials are playing a game of density dominoes.

The sequence seems to be: the city needs money, so it contrives to thwart the majority of its residents by enabling more density along the waterfront. Next, developers provide additional density by placing more structures on the few remaining open spaces, or they alter existing structures to accommodate greater

occupancy. The result is increased density providing more tax revenue for the city. This much I understand.

What I do not understand is when this game will end. At some point, just as a glass can hold only so much fluid, or as a theater can hold only so many patrons, the city will reach capacity. Alexandria's boundaries are fixed; so too are our roads. Exactly how many more inhabitants are our city officials seeking?

Whatever the number, surely they have established a cap on the number of inhabitants Alexandria could reasonably accommodate before it becomes too congested, even for cut through commuters? In other words, when

Veto Voter ID Bill

Gov. Bob McDonnell should read the handwriting on the wall from the U.S. Justice Department about making it harder to vote.

More than 600,000 registered voters in Texas do not have the identification that the voter identification law would require, according to Tom Perez of the Justice Department, including a disproportionate number of minority voters, and more than 10 percent of Latino registered voters.

The analysis will reveal similar disparities in Virginia. The Governor can save Virginia money, time and trouble by vetoing the bill now.

MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Correction: Last week's editorial failed to correctly identify Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). The full editorial has been corrected online.

does Alexandria achieve maximum desired density?

A better question is why are they playing density dominos at all? If the overarching goal is revenue to redress Waterfront flooding, then why don't they go to the same pool of funds they draw from to pay for other public works projects (e.g., the new high school, the new police station, the new athletic field, etc.)?

Since greater density results in more traffic, loss of open spaces, greater human congestion, all of which equate to a less livable city, lost charm and greater stress, it would seem Alexandria has already reached its optimal density. If so, then our city officials should rejoice.

By keeping density constant, it will make their planning and budgeting simpler. It would also make close-in Alexandria homes more desirable. This will trigger improved property values that will, in turn, effortlessly generate more tax revenue, which is what our city officials are seeking in the first place. They don't have to play density dominoes after all.

Jim Roberts
Alexandria

Transportation Commission's Role?

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, the March 7 monthly meeting of the obscure Alexandria Transportation Commission wasn't covered by cable TV as is done for sessions of the City Council — but perhaps it should have been. Nor was there the benefit of any "instant replay" which is common for sports events, so those not in attendance could hear the surprising levels of discourse. Nor were reporters were on hand to offer the community eyewitness media coverage. And the minutes won't be available for several weeks.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE II

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Snapshot

T.C. Williams TV2 students Emily Dooley and Lora Strum are all set up to record the Scholarship Fund press conference at the school on Monday afternoon, March 12. With the students is class instructor Vilma Zerfan.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

But the highly unusual nature of this particular group and this particular meeting deserve some mention.

Two topics were on its agenda: public hearings on the transportation plans for the pending Beauregard Small Area Plan and on the improvements being considered for the King Street Metro station. As the meeting progressed, it appeared several commission members were not well informed on the topics at hand, and, in some cases, the staff offered little assistance.

Initially, the commission had planned to vote on the transportation elements of the controversial Beauregard Small Area Plan at this March meeting. In February, the commission decided no members of the public would be allowed to speak, so the hearings were shifted to March. The expected "approval" at the March 7 meeting would then pave the way to additional expected "approvals" by the Planning Commission and the City Council in May. But that anticipated first step didn't happen. This is the same commission that lost its way earlier in assessing the proposed Corridor C transportation plans for Beauregard

and Van Dorn. Instead of offering a neutral investigation of the data, the commission turned into a cheer leading squad, ignoring the more than eight hours of residents' testimony in September, questioning gaping holes in this plan.

West Ender Don Buch posed a series of questions to the five commissioners in attendance. Where had they been for the three years of discussion by the BRAC Advisory Group on the numerous shortcomings of the traffic/transportation proposals at the I395/Seminary Road intersection? What about on the Environmental Impact statements? Logistical details? He got few substantive responses. He hit a nerve when he asked about the proposed I395/Seminary Road ellipse for \$29 million, of which \$9 million would be a "contingency fund" in case things go wrong.

Nancy Jennings, president of the Seminary Hill Association, presented four points that her board had voted on to submit to the commission. This association represents some 2,100 households on the West End. But Ms. Jennings was immediately challenged by a commission member who doubted whether Ms. Jennings had the authority to represent her group in

speaking before the City commission. This is an insult to the almost 30 civic associations throughout Alexandria who believe in a representative democracy.

Commission members backed down on the evening's proposed vote in support of the Small Area Plan (SAP) as speaker after speaker questioned the significant flaws that still exist in the draft of this plan. Still missing from the SAP are essential details on connectivity of transportation along this corridor with Landmark Mall as well as Fairfax and Arlington. Nor is there a stipulated mandatory dollar commitment by the developers to make sure these transit proposals ever leave the station. Former Council member Justin Wilson said that he had been the one who had written the resolution creating the Transportation Commission, but he admitted he wasn't really sure what its purpose should be. He asked staff to provide some guidelines on this at the next commission meeting. Why does this unknown commission suddenly seem to have so much power and influence over the future of Alexandria?

Equal confusion also seemed to exist over the King Street Metro

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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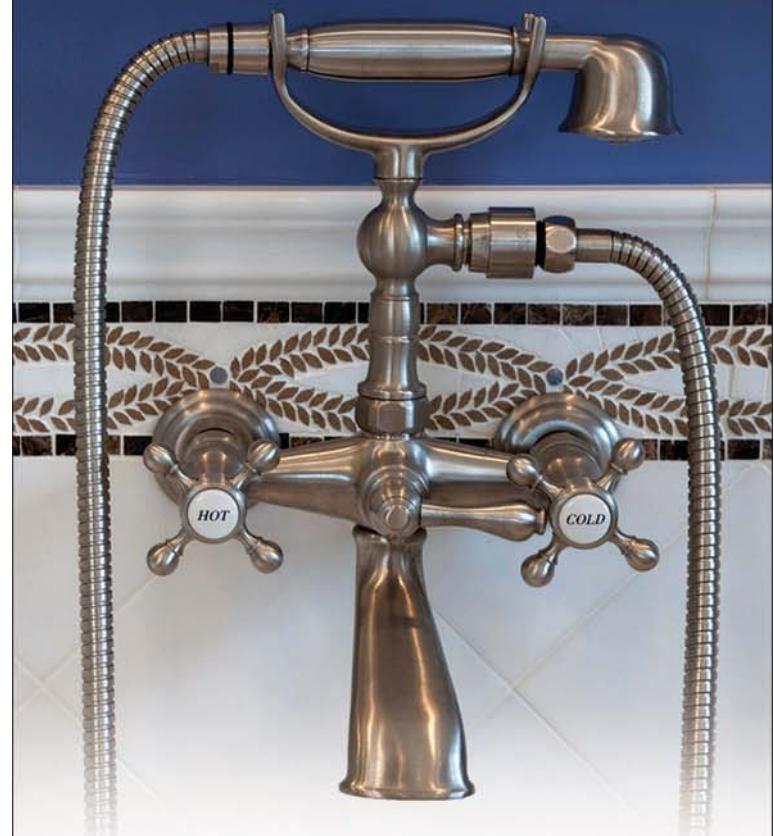
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

station, which was described by staff as the City's "largest transit facility, and it requires significant work to update it, expand it and make it a safer facility." But they couldn't seem to explain why the costs had ballooned out from an estimate of \$4.46 million in 2010, to a projected \$8.1 million.

Kent Fee of the City's Handicapped Commission questioned why brick was being considered for the walkways. He noted that such rough surfaces are very difficult for handicapped people with canes or wheelchairs to navigate (and he could have included most women in high heels).

This is still a "work in progress" and should not be rammed through to simply accommodate the schedules and coffers of developers or the unrealistic plans of city staff. Reschedule the May 1 Planning Commission vote and the May 12 Council vote until a more comprehensive and compatible draft is created that serves the needs of all members of this community. This is not ready to move ahead.

Kathleen M. Burns
Alexandria

Spring Cleaning In Alexandria

To the Editor:

Spring begins on March 20 and many in Alexandria will find themselves in the yearly

act of cleaning a house from top to bottom, a traditional act that helps to keep everyone accountable.

The same needs to happen at Alexandria City Public Schools, as various recent press reports have shown just how unaccountable Alexandria City Public Schools is becoming and how much of a house cleaning is needed down at 2000 North Beauregard Street.

Scott Newsham, a former member of the Alexandria City School Board, has even gone so far as to suggest that Alexandria needs to return to an appointed rather than an elected school board. An interesting notion, since voter turnout for school board elections is traditionally low.

However, considering our own school board does not have their own taxing authority and depends upon City Council for funding, City Council should play a bigger oversight role when it comes to ACPS. It was clear at a previous work session when Alexandria's Vice Mayor, Kerry Donley, took ACPS to task that there needs to be a house cleaning. Vice Mayor Donley hit the nail on the head when he said that the lack of accountability begins "at the top" and that the fiscal mismanagement will have broader implications between the City and the school system.

It should. Alexandria's kids depend on it.

Michael J. Carrasco
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Fund's Newest Corporate Partner

Mark G. Anderson, president, and Cindy Anderson, officer, of MGAC, presented a check for \$25,000 to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria on Monday, March 12, in support of SFA's Corporate Partner Program. The Anderson's are both TCW '80 and parents of two Titans. MGAC was welcomed as the Scholarship Fund's newest Corporate Partner in a ceremony outside T.C. Williams. Dr. Morton Sherman and School Board Chair Sheryl Gorsuch thanked the Andersons on behalf of the students of ACPS. SFA Board Chair, Jeffrey McQuillkin, TCW '81 accepted the check for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Also present is school principal Suzanne Maxie and Scholarship Fund director Susan Yowell. For more information about The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria visit www.AlexScholarshipFund.org.

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223 North Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
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Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Sulgrave Village
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Stratford on the Potomac
8425 Porter Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
Fantastic Opportunity at a Buyer's Price Great price on this 6/7 BR/4BA, 3 lvl, Gramercy model begging to be updated & loved. Included are newer double pane windows, screened porch, sep DR, hrdwds & moldings. Well over 3000 sq ft. Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



River Towers
6631 Wakefield Dr Unit 602, Alexandria, VA 22307
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2151 Jamieson Avenue, Unit 1610, Alexandria, VA 22314
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503 North Payne St, Alexandria, VA 22314
Location! Location! Location! 3BR/2BA updated end unit rowhouse in Historic Parker Gray! Walk to metro from this light-filled home w/large fenced-in-yard. Finished basement & OSP for 2 cars. Eileen Marousek 703.507.2350



Old Town Alexandria
507 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314
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www.DuffieldLane.com Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



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Hearthstone Mews
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Planners vs. Searchers

To the Editor:

The critical knowledge that defines a place like Old Town is so special that it cannot be found anywhere but in the minds and hearts of those who live there. Searching out diverse, non-city appointed, residents to be a part of the startup design team that imagines the first design framework is crucial to producing a viable and unique expression of place. Doing this would immediately filter out those elements that are commonplace and emphasize those that resonate with the people who know it best, the locals. A recent book talks in depth about the importance of searching for local knowledge, and how the general principles of planning are never as awesome as the collective, local accord. Planners' insistence that they know best is often seen in the way generic design, frequently inharmonious, pops up in the midst of complex urban areas. A stove pipe mentality can create false confidence, sense of

final solution, and myopic pride of product. James Scott, a political scientist, calls this "an invitation to practical failure, social disillusionment, or most likely both." The waterfront's development process and the generic model we have before us couldn't be described more accurately.

This prescriptive and stubborn development approach is the most notable feature of the City of Alexandria's recent "planning" efforts. And despite its repeated failure — most spectacularly on the waterfront but also with Beauregard — it is now being relentlessly pursued for defining Gen-On's 25 acres. Once again, the critical first step in creating a design vision is being handed off to a consulting company for a mere \$350,000. In the realm of great design, this is not much. In fact, for that amount of money unless you have truly exceptional internal staff, you will probably get a cliché.

What is missing at the start is engaging the wide variety of local intelligence, and the community's shared vision of place and itself. The city further increases the odds of achieving maximum mediocre by deliberately sidestepping the

considerable bank of local skills that citizens would bring to this early design. As Scott would have us understand, a consultant's general principles cannot create even a rudimentary vision of a distinctive place, because the place those principles reflect is so complex and "non-repeatable", e.g. parking and traffic flows in a historic district bounded by a river, that failure to express its unique nature is guaranteed.

In essence "searching" is fundamentally ferreting out a large dollop of local intelligence and adding it to create a exclusive and extraordinary expression of the place. Instead of using a single outside "planner" viewpoint to arrange and emphasize the generic and then shoehorn the particular character of Alexandria into it, we could — from the start — make a landscape that is ours alone.

Let's talk about it and change the way we do development from "planning" from the outside in, to "searching" from the inside out to knit a more resilient and remarkable locale.

Kathryn Papp

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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Erik Dorn, Ted Johnson and Pam DeCandio

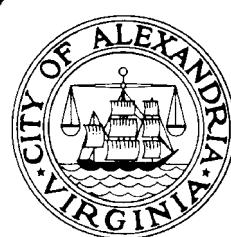
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE



This notice is required by State law. The City Council has authorized a proposed real estate tax rate for advertising purposes of \$1.008 per \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate may not exceed \$1.008, it could be less, and it will not be set until May 7, 2012.

- The City of Alexandria proposes to increase the current property tax levies.**
1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 3.56 percent.
 2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.962 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
 3. Effective Rate Increase: The City of Alexandria proposes to advertise a tax rate of \$1.008 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the advertised tax rate would be \$0.046 per \$100, or a 4.78 percent increase. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.
 4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Alexandria (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will exceed last year's by 1.9 percent.
 5. The City proposes to continue an additional tax rate of \$0.20 per \$100 for all properties that have been classified in the Tier I Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Services District.

A public hearing on the increase will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., at the City Council Chamber of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

All persons wishing to speak to this issue may contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council located on the second floor, Room 2300, City Hall, or may appear and be heard after completing a Speakers form before Council.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements, or who require language translation services to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at (703) 746-4550. We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

Restoring Trust In School System

To the Editor:

Public education funding in Alexandria has long been understood sacrosanct. As a result, when ACPS has sought funding increases from City Council, we've acquiesced. While less than 15 percent of all households in Alexandria have children in ACPS, approximately 33 percent of the City's operating budget is given to schools annually, and Alexandria spends more money per pupil on average than all jurisdictions in our region.

Last year, the School Board made a case for us to do more under the CIP to make ready for the upsurge in the public school population. Though some of us scratched our heads at the enormity of the request, we substantially increased the CIP budget for schools. While I share the public outrage over apparent malfeasance with ACPS use of CIP dollars and agree that accountability starts at the top, I am also concerned about the schools operating budget. I share Vice Mayor Donley's sentiment that "[t]he revelations have shaken city council's confidence in the district" generally. The only problem is while we can issue our opinions we can't fire Dr. Sherman or make ACPS personnel calls. And the school board's call for Dr. Sherman's resignation appears doubtful.

City Council's actual schools authority is limited to funding from our wallet filled with citizen money. So while Vice Mayor Donley has led the charge of publicly calling for Dr. Sherman's resignation, I have started down the path of exploring what we can and have an appetite to do through the budget process to try to restore public trust through council broad control over school spending, even though we have no program-determining or line item authority.

The City Attorney has advised that we can decide how much to appropriate for the ACPS budget and how to do it. We can make categorical allocations, pursuant to nine distinct budget areas outlined in the Virginia Statutes. Alternatively, we can continue to make a blanket, one-time allocation for general operating expenses. What council ultimately decides remains to be seen, but I have taken steps to request a budget memorandum to learn where school dollars have been concentrated over the last 5 to 10 years so that we can publicly debate whether the same is consistent with our community values

before passing our budget resolution. If we choose to categorize monies, if expenditures approach excess of a categorical allocation, it will force ACPS to approach City Council for the authorization of a transfer to a different funding category, thereby allowing us an opportunity to make more transparent, expenditures and how they align with community priorities. I hope this will be a strong consideration and a step in the direction that we can control in restoring public trust. I also hope that we

encourage the School Board to reprogram existing dollars in a manner that meets community priorities instead of increasing the budget this year.

Alicia Hughes

Alexandria City Councilwoman

Housing in Beauregard

To the Editor:

Good planning is one of the

main themes of my campaign for city council, and one of the most important things a city council member can influence. Unfortunately the planning in the West End of Alexandria, the Beauregard Small Area Plan, lacks vision. The only vision being offered is that of the development group, and there is no alternative on the table. One central issue has emerged — closely associated with what kind of city we will be and our future as a caring community — housing.

Yes, there is no "permanent

"workforce housing" in the small area plan, but there is a lot of very affordable housing. It is good to know that most of this housing, in the area known to many Alexandrians as The Hamlets, but now called Lynbrook and Meadowbrook, would be the last to be demolished, but they would eventually be demolished in 25-30 years if this plan is passed. But this demolition and dislocation can't happen without the proposed re-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26



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Large Home-Prime Location-Amazing Price!

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Updated Home-Spectacular Lot!

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One of the most truly spectacular properties available on market today at any price! Spacious home with top quality renovations. Features amazing open floor plan, dramatic glass walled sun room, brand new gourmet kitchen, 6BR, 3 remodeled baths, 2FP, finished LL, covered parking for 2, deck. Gorgeous setting! OPEN SUN 3/18, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; past Estate; L-Old Mount Vernon Rd.



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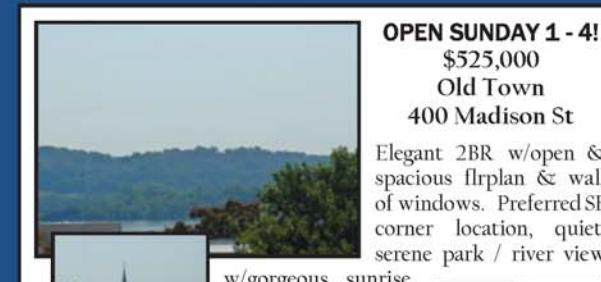
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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



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Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



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Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



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Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



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Ben Grouby 703.362.2891



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1600 PRINCESS ST

- NEW PRICE!
- Charming 3 level brick TH
- 2BR/2BA
- Open floor plan
- 2,600sqft, spacious yard
- Off-street prkg
- Located between 2 metros

Martine Irmer & Alexander Irmer 703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465



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Anya Macklin 703.518.8720

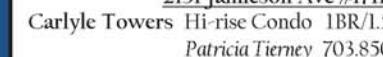


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- NEW PRICE!
- Charming 3 level brick TH
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Katherine Ward 703.627.8782



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Patricia Tierney 703.850.5630
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Heidi Kohler 703.609.7367
6509 Bluebill Lane \$2,400
Belle Haven Detached Split 4BR/2.5BA Carport

Brad Kintz 703.548.0888
2121 Jamieson Ave #1501 \$2,600
Carlyle Towers Hi-rise Condo 2BR/2BA 1 garage parking

Patricia Tierney 703.850.5630



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Katherine.Ward@longandfoster.com
Katherine Ward 703.627.8782



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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.



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You won't believe this large updated rambler is



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CONTRACT!
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Pristine Custom Colonial!

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Home Life Style



PHOTOS BY ROBERT RADIFERA

Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey, of SCW Interiors in Alexandria, was chosen to design the dining room of the 2012 D.C. Design House. She is creating a room suited for parties and celebrations.



Sharon Kleinman of Transitions in Potomac will design the master bedroom in the 2012 D.C. Design House using the room's garden view as her inspiration.

Local Designers Selected to Make Over D.C. Design House

Annual event raises money for Children's National Medical Center.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Some of the Washington area's top interior designers are unleashing their creative talent all in the name of charity. Organizers of the 2012 Washington, D.C. Design House announced the designers who will make over the 2012 D.C. Design Home.

"The selection [was] open to all area designers who wanted to apply," said Susan Hayes Long, chairperson of D.C. Design House. "They started by coming to a design walk-through to get a feel for the space, and then [submitted] up to three proposals for rooms, with at least one presentation board. The board [included] their floor

plan, color selections, and finishes they would use. Our design team selected the final 23 designers. We had more than 80 proposals this year, and so many fantastic presentation boards. The competition was really tough."

The D.C. Design House serves as a bellwether of local design trends. "Being selected to design for the show house is a bit like being crowned homecoming queen then having to run a marathon in your ball gown while collecting items for a scavenger hunt," said Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors in Alexandria, who was one of the designers selected. "It is the most prestigious invitation. ... For a committee of veteran designers and industry leaders to select a designer is truly one of the highlights

Where & When

The DC Design House opens to the public on Saturday, April 14 and remains open until Sunday, May 13. Times are: Saturday and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or at the door.

of one's career."

With no paying clients to please, the designers unleash their creative talent. "I love participating in show houses for the freedom it allows me," said Annette Hannon of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke, who was also one of the designers selected. "For each house I've had the opportunity to engage in, I've gotten to conjure up an

imaginary 'perfect' client and design according to their needs and desires. It's a bit like celebrating one's birthday and getting to create your perfect party."

The Washington, D.C. Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design event in which some of the region's most sought-after designers decorate a luxury home to raise funds for a local charity. After completion, the home is opened to the public for tours. Now in its fifth year, the D.C. Design House has attracted more than 30,000 visitors and raised nearly \$600,000 for Children's National Medical Center (CNMC). Proceeds will go to CNMC again this year.

Built in 1956, the 2012 D.C. Design House is located in Washington, D.C.'s Spring Valley neighborhood. It is currently on the market for \$3.9 million.

Local Designers

Some of the local designers who were selected to make over the home offer a preview of their plans.

Potomac-based designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions will decorate the master bedroom. "The room is architecturally challenging with many doors and minimum wall space," she said. "The focal point in the room becomes the sliding glass doors that look out into the garden. I use the garden view as my inspiration. Choosing fabrics in lush greens and warm browns, I brought the colors of the garden indoors. I believe master bedrooms should be serene so I used lots of different textures and very little pattern."

Great Falls-based designer Susan Nelson of Susan Nelson Interiors designed a teenage girl's bedroom. "I combined a variety of block and geometric prints in greens, yellows, pinks, brown and cream to create a cozy haven.

By using a mix of new and repurposed furniture, the room has the quality of changing along with the girl," she said. "For instance, the coverlet fabric is a sophisticated fabric with a water color quality to the flowers on it, but the club chair is slip covered in a fun confetti print in pinks and purples that she might have had as a child."

Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors in Alexandria is charged with transforming the dining room. "I anticipate wonderful parties and celebrations in the dining room I will be creating this year and my use of color and pattern is a play on this celebratory mode. I am thrilled to help people who see the space take away some element in the design that might fit their home or their lifestyle," she said.

Victoria Sanchez of Victoria Sanchez Interiors in Alexandria is creating a teenager's retreat. "I have chosen a very lively, colorful design scheme from Missoni and will be using Mid-Cen-

tury modern furniture," said Sanchez. "This room is designed to be a perfect hangout for teenagers and will reflect the energy teenagers create."

Nancy Twomey of Finnian's Moon Interiors in Alexandria will design a boy's bedroom. "I love good design, but I also know children. Children's rooms are messy places, so it is best if there is an inherent order in the design elements, starting with the palette," said Twomey. "My 2012 D.C. Design House room has a serene quietude in its bones, but it isn't sleepy. It has timeless, classic ingredients such as menswear fabrics, juxtaposed with modern, playful ones."

Elizabeth Krial of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston will create a modern nursery. "The most afforded luxury in my space is the natural sunlight that washes the room," she said. "As a designer, I have added luxurious layers of softness and comfort through textiles. The modern

nursery has a lightness that will remind you of the hope and joy that a new baby brings."

Matthew Moore of John Matthew Moore Fine Art in McLean will decorate the foyer and staircase. "My design philosophy is clean, classic spaces. My favorite period in design is the late fifties and sixties," he said. "I feel that that is the time when American design came into its own. I've chosen this style for the entrance and reception hall [because] the home was built in that period. It's a sophisticated design that would be as much at home in the fifties as it is now in the present."

Shanon Munn of Ambi Design Studio in McLean will decorate the master deck. "My concept for the space is to have an outdoor retreat," said Munn. "I chose pieces that are scaled similarly

SEE LOCAL DESIGNERS, PAGE 19

Home Life Style



Elizabeth Krial, of Elizabeth Krial Design in Reston, was one of 23 designers selected to make over the 2012 D.C. Design House. Krial will design a modern nursery.

Local Designers

FROM PAGE 18

to indoor pieces and provide a great lounging spot. We chose patterns that are interesting and bold. We plan to take the existing railing, currently an eyesore, and make it a highlight of the deck with a long row of custom benches and pedestals strategically placed to create focal points and to hide the dated metalwork."

Annette Hannon of Annette Hannon Interior Design in Burke designed the parlor. "The [parlor] is the first living area a visitor will enter," said Hannon. "My goal was to create a comfortable, luxurious space someone would want to linger in long after the party's over. I felt it was essential to add layers of interest in the room."



Shanon Munn, of Ambi Design Studio in McLean, was one of 23 designers selected to make over the 2012 D.C. Design House. She will decorate the master deck.

I'm Phillip Norris - Your Alexandria Neighbor



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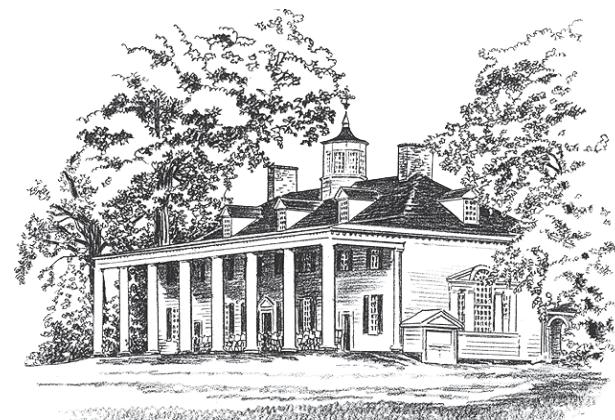
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Alexandria REAL ESTATE

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① 308 North View Terrace, Alexandria — \$1,160,000

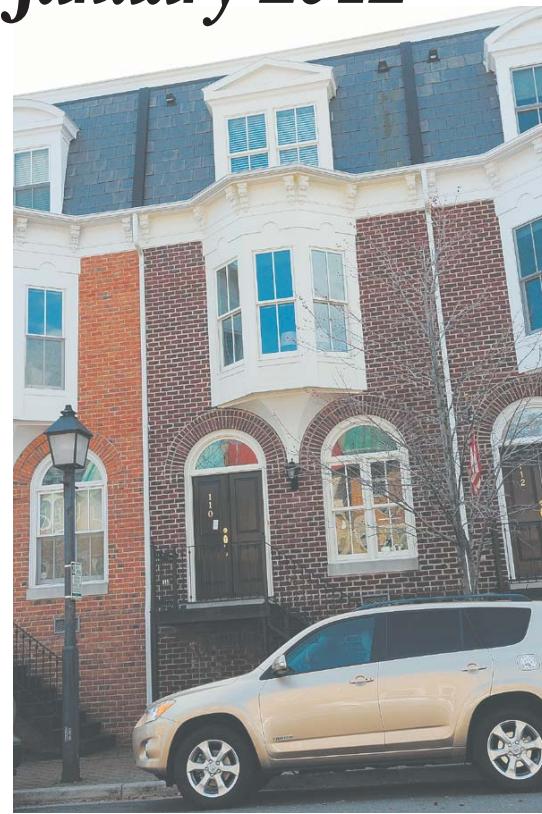


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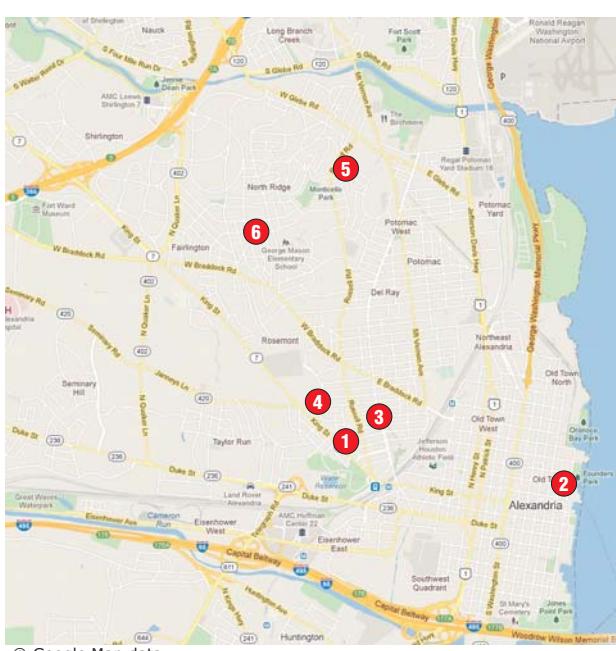
② 110 Queen Street, Alexandria — \$950,000



③ 2 Oak Street West, Alexandria — \$880,000



④ 407 Masonic View Avenue West, Alexandria — \$880,000



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Address BR FB HB ... Postal City Sold Price Type Lot AC . PostalCode Subdivision Date Sold

- ①** 308 NORTH VIEW TER 4 .. 4 .. 1 ALEXANDRIA \$1,160,000 Detached 0.15 22301 ROSEMONT 01/12/12
- ②** 110 QUEEN ST 3 .. 3 .. 1 ALEXANDRIA \$950,000 Townhouse ... 0.02 22314 QUEENS ROW 01/30/12
- ③** 2 OAK ST W 3 .. 2 .. 1 ALEXANDRIA \$880,000 Detached 0.17 22301 ROSEMONT 01/17/12
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SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

THEATER



Shannon Kingett, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical



Christopher Harris, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical



LTA cast, crew members and supporters celebrate following the WATCH Awards March 11 at the Birchmere Music Hall.

And the Winner Is 'Hairspray' leads LTA to 17 WATCH Awards.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria was the big winner at this year's Washington Area Theatre Community Honors Awards (WATCH), taking home 17 trophies at the March 11 ceremony at The Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria.

"What an exciting night for us," said Sue Pinkman, a dual winner for Outstanding Hair Design and Outstanding Direction of a Musical for her work on the blockbuster production of "Hairspray." "This was an incredible journey for everyone who worked on the show."

LTA's production of "Hairspray" was clearly a crowd favorite during the evening and the cast received a resounding standing ovation as Brenda Parker performed "I Know Where I've Been" as part of

Outstanding Cameo in a Musical - Gina C. Tomkus as "Matron/Gym Teacher" - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Choreography - Iván Dávila - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical - Jean Schlichtine and Kit Sibley - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Direction of a Musical - Sue Pinkman - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Hair Design in a Musical - Anna Michelle Jackson, Irene Kasotakis, Margaret Murphy, Sue Pinkman - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical - Christopher Harris as "Edna Turnblad" - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical - Shannon Kingett as "Tracy Turnblad" - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Light Design in a Musical

- Franklin C. Coleman - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Makeup Design in a Musical - Robin Parker - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Music Direction - Christopher A. Tomasino - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Musical - Hairspray Outstanding Properties in a Musical - Judy Kee and Margaret Snow - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Set Design in a Musical - Myke Taister - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Set Painting in a Musical - Kevin O'Dowd, Cathy Rieder, Sabrina Begley, Maggie Cotter - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Sound Design in a Musical - David Correia and David Hale - "Hairspray"

Outstanding Set Construction in a Play - Dan Remmers - "Noises Off"

Outstanding Light Design in a Play - Ken & Patti Crowley - "Widderhins"

the WATCH Awards ceremony.

Going into the evening with a record 43 nominations among re-



Margaret Snow, Outstanding Properties in a Musical (with Judy Kee, not pictured)



Jean Schlichtine and Kit Sibley, Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical



Ivan Davila, Scott Strasbaugh and Gina Tomkus celebrate LTA's haul at the WATCH Awards.



Dan Remmers, Outstanding Set Construction in a Play



David Correia, Outstanding Sound Design in a Musical (with David Hale, not pictured)



Ivan Davila, Outstanding Choreography in a Musical

gional theatres for the 2011 season, "Hairspray" led the evening with 15 WATCH Award wins. The productions of "Noises Off" and "Widderhins" each won one award, bringing LTA's 17 awards to more than triple the second place theatre, The Arlington Players, who took home five of the coveted statuettes.

"I am so proud to be a part of community theatre," said Pinkman, who received a standing ovation from the sold out crowd of more than 500 as her name was called for Outstanding Director in a Musical. "We all work so hard for no pay, and while it's nice to be recognized by your peers, we do it because we are part of a family and make friends that we'll have the rest of our lives."

Winners were selected from 127 productions that were adjudicated at 33 community theatre companies. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.



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LOCAL MEDIA
CONNECTION



ENTERTAINMENT

MONTH OF MARCH

Radiance Yoga Classes. \$5 for all weekday morning classes during month of March. For classes starting from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Arrive 10-15 minutes early for class. At Radiance Yoga, 110 King street, Alexandria. Visit www.Radiance-yoga.net or call 703-535-8282.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 1

20 Years on The Avenue. The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to celebrate DRA's 20 years on "The Avenue" with past and present masterpieces. This member-only show runs from March 2-April 1, 2012 and will be juried from outside our DRA family of members. Opening Reception for the "XX" show on Friday, March 2, 7-10 p.m. and will feature local jazz band "Veroneau". (www.VeroneauMusic.com). Running March 3- April 1 special exhibits of Del Ray Artisans' history will be featured. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 18

March Madness. Features 200 panels of artwork each \$150, a free kids art activity on March 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Art Party on March 16, from 7-10 p.m., featuring prizes, music, food drinks and more. The Art Party will be located in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, outside of the Target Gallery. Cost is \$15/advance; \$20/door. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/marchmadness.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

St. Paddy's Day Business Networking

5:30 to 7 p.m. Sponsored by Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. Hosted by ServiceMaster of Alexandria, 7551 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Food will be provided by Olympians Restaurant. Meet local businesses and learn about the chamber of commerce. No cost. Make a reservation at www.MtVernonLeeChamber.org.

Landscape Design for Pollinator Diversity

7:30 p.m. Join Susan Abrams for a slide lecture that will showcase the use of native plants in area landscapes to enhance wildlife diversity, with particular emphasis on enhancing pollinator diversity. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

MARCH 16 TO 25

Repertory Opera Theater. Presents Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." Fully staged with costumes. In Italian with



THROUGH MARCH 16

Join the League of 25. The Art League launches their latest arty fundraising initiative, a new society of 25 supporters who pitch in \$100 a piece to fund an Art League Gallery exhibit while having some fun. The inaugural exhibition sponsorship is for the environmentally conscious "Earth," which opens on April 12 with a reception featuring a recycled art challenge, with teams of League of 25 members competing in a sculpture making relay race. Donations are requested by March 16. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; www.theartleague.org, 703-519-1741.

projected English translations. Friday, March 16 and 23 at 7; Saturday, March 17 and 24 at 8; Sunday, March 18 and 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$30; Seniors, \$20; Students, \$15; under 10, free. At Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Rd. and Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

MARCH 16 AND 17

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. Featuring Joey Ledonio, 15; as Charlie Brown, Mim Blower, 12, as Lucy; Chris Adleson, 12, as Schroeder; Jack Ladd, 13, as Linus; and Bruno del Alamo, 12, as Snoopy. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Show times are Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students or can be reserved in advance by calling the Box Office at 703-212-5175.

MARCH 16 TO 18

St. Pucci Bridal Trunk Show

Friday, March 16 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, March 18 from noon to 4 p.m. The luxury bridal line by wedding dress designer Rani Totman will be featured in a three-day trunk show at Le Star Bridal, 1201 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-9797.

Get to Know a Great Dane. At the Super Pet Expo at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. Friday, 4-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League (MAGDRL).

MARCH 16 TO 25

Repertory Opera Theater. Double bill of Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana & Leoncavallo's Pagliacci. In Italian with projected English translations. At Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Rd. and Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Show times are Friday, March 16 & 23 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 17 & 24 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 18 & 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$30; Seniors, \$20; Students, \$15; under 10, free. For tickets, visit repopera.eventbrite.org

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

"Her Story: Women in Action." Cost is \$6/person. A panel of former Girl Scouts will share their memories of Girl Scouting and how scouting empowered them. Participants will

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www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

learn about Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of American Girl Scouting, by looking at a timeline of her life. Two sessions: 12:30 to 2:45 p.m.; and 3 to 4:10 p.m. Advance registration at www.alexandriahistory.org or by calling 703-746-4994. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria.

Steven Gellman in Concert. 8 to 10 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com or call 703-739-9268.

Free Water Testing. 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite drinking water and have it tested for free. At the Martha Washington Branch Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call Margaret 703-599-7527.

Mighty and Future Shock Youth Showcase. High-energy Hip-Hop and street dancing from dancers across the U.S. Groups include Future Shock Ottawa, Future Shock Atlanta, Future Shock LA, Beat Ya Feet Kids, Dimensions Dance, and more. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria.

Spring Kid's Rummage Sale. 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$1. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Proceeds from the door will go to Mondloch House, a community shelter that helps the homeless. There are a few tables still available. If you are interested in selling children's items and would like more information, contact Jen at jakelley19@gmail.com.

Choreographers Collaboration Project. 7 p.m. Presents The Science Project, a Modern Dance Concert. This concert is the culmination of a season creating dances based on

science concepts, and exploring "science as inspiration" for other art forms. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$5/ages 12-17. At T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King street, Alexandria.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With pianist Rick Rowley. Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919 version), Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, and Sibelius' Finlandia. Free pre-concert discussion for ticket holders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxesymphony.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

In Nature's Realm. 2 p.m. The Marine Chamber Orchestra performs. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com

Celtic Group Runa. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At the Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

Piano Celebration Concert. 6 p.m. A festive event to "christen" the recently restored Hoffmann grand piano. Selections include Cheryl Sabo with the Franck Flute Sonata, classical DMA pianist Jasmin Lee, "Rhapsody in Blue" piano duet with Yee Von Ng and Li-Tan, and cellist Gozde Yasar and modern dancer Shannon Dooling performing Piazzolla's "Le Grand Tango." The MVUC Choir closes with Copland's "The Promise of Living" with four-hand piano accompaniment. Freewill offering benefits the Piano Preservation Fund. At Mount Vernon

Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Contact Mark Zimmerman, music director, music@mvuc.org.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

Mini Open House. 1 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center. Tour Hollin Hall Senior Center with Jan Kestyn, enjoy refreshments, and peek in on some ongoing sessions. Bring a friend! An opportunity to participate in programs on this day. Call 703-765-4573.

Historian Ted Pulliam. 7:30 p.m. Free. Will discuss Alexandria's beginnings in Historic Alexandria: An Illustrated History. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705 or visit the library online at www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

"The Alexandria Beat: Our Evolving Press." Rodger Digilio, Alexandria News; Shannon McLoone, Old Town Patch; Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet/WAMU; and David Sachs, Alexandria Times. Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception at 6:30 p.m., Dinner (members with reservations by March 13: \$28; with reservations after deadline: \$33; without reservations: \$38/non-members with reservations by March 13: \$33; after deadline: \$38; without reservations: \$43) at 6:45; Program (\$5 non-members) 7:15 p.m. Dinner reservations required. Contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or agendaalexandria@aol.com.

MARCH 19 AND 20

Jewelry Sale. All Jewelry by Toby of Masquerade, \$5. Sponsored by The



MARCH 17

Choreographers Collaboration Project. 7 p.m. Presents The Science Project, a Modern Dance Concert. This concert is the culmination of a season creating dances based on science concepts, and exploring "science as inspiration" for other art forms. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$5/ages 12-17. At T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King street, Alexandria.

Board of Lady Managers of INOVA Alexandria Hospital. All proceeds go to the purchase of new anesthesia machines for the hospital's surgical services. Monday, March 19, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Tuesday, March 20, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. At INOVA Alexandria Hospital, Education Rooms 1 and 2.

Fairfax County Police Department who will give tips on personal safety. Meets at Pema's Restaurant for dinner. Contact Andrea Corsillo at 703-960-4973.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Hangover Royale Band. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

Foreclosure Prevention Clinic. 4:30 p.m. Free. At the City of Alexandria Office of Housing, Conference Room

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 24

EARLY HONOR ROLL AS OF MARCH 1, 2012

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

CROWNE PLAZA, OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA
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Attend the event to honor the men and women of the three public safety departments that keep us safe every day of the year. Please visit <http://www.alexchamber.com> for more information.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 23

3, 421 King Street, Suite 200, Alexandria. To register, call 202-667-7006.

Mount Vernon Genealogy Meeting.

1 p.m. Free. Speaker Marie Varrelman Melchiori will describe the important finding aids to NARA (National Archives Records Administration) Records. Meet at Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

Have Trunk, Will Travel. 9:30 a.m.

Free. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club will feature Fred Murray, a curator, historical authority, and restorer of antique trunks. A slide show will be included. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria.

Mount Vernon Pyramid Chorus

Concert. 7 p.m. Free. Each year, the choruses from Mount Vernon High School, Walt Whitman Middle School, and their feeder elementary schools put on a joint concert for the Mount Vernon Community. This year the theme is "Rainbow Connection" and the choirs will feature music from all around the world. Contact Judi Belzer at Judith.Belzer@fcps.edu.

Have Trunk, Will Travel. 9:30

a.m. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club will feature "Have Trunk, Will Travel" with Mr. Fred Murray, a Curator, Historical Authority and restorer of antique trunks. The public is invited. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria.

George Washington Lecture. 7:30

p.m. Tickets are \$12/person; \$10/members. Join Dr. Peter Heniques,



Joseph Siedlarz will be starring as Jesus in St. Louis Catholic School's March 22 and 23 performances of "Godspell Junior."

MARCH 22 AND 23

"Godspell Junior." 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by St. Louis Catholic School. Tickets are \$3/students and seniors; \$5/adults. Visit www.stlouisgodspell@gmail.com. At 2901 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-768-7732.

MARCH 22 AND 23

"Godspell Junior." 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by St. Louis Catholic School. Tickets are \$3/students and seniors; \$5/adults. Visit www.stlouisgodspell@gmail.com. At 2901 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-768-7732.

THURSDAY/MARCH 22

Toast to Fashion. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$50. The event combines a fashion show, marketplace, raffle and cocktail reception. All proceeds benefit the Campagna Center.

Sponsored by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center. At Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria. Visit www.campagnacenter.org.

Meet the Legends Reception. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Honoring the 2012 nominees. Reservations by March 15: \$40/\$75 for two; after March 15: \$50/\$95 for two. The 2012 Legends are: Bob Calhoun, Al Grande, Harry "Bud" Hart, Wendy McGann John, William "Bill" Kehoe, Allen Lomax, Jimmie McClellan, Pat Miller, Mike Oliver, Lillian Stanton Patterson, Joseph S. Shumard, The Steuerle Family, and the team of Dorothy Turner and Gwen Menefee-Smith. At the Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulaney St., Alexandria.

MARCH 22 TO MARCH 24

Used Book and Art Sale. Thursday, March 22 from 1 to 5 p.m.; Friday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-5950.

FRIDAY/MARCH 23

Spring Fling Silent Auction. 6 to 9 p.m. Stratford Landing Elementary will host its annual Spring Fling Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social. At 8484 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Contact Beth Day at 703-801-8806/ beth.day001@verizon.net or Frances Sankey at 703-799-0969/ frances.sankey@gmail.com.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. Free. The James Madison University Jazz Ensemble, directed by Chuck Dotas, will perform a program featuring the music of Radiohead, Dave Douglas and John Hollenbeck. Faculty guest soloists will be David Pope, Andy Connell and Bob Hallahan. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135, email vdp@episcopalhighschool.org, or go to www.episcopalhighschool.org.

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Saturday Evening

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Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon

2:00 pm (en Español)

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FINE ARTS

NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

Japan's Gift to Nature. Solo exhibit of Oriental Brush Paintings celebrating 100th anniversary of planting of the cherry trees in D.C. Art exhibition at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Meet the artist's reception is Sunday, March 25 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.Greenspring.org.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 23

Artist Raphael G. Nadeem. Artwork of 30 oil paintings and six pencil drawings will be displayed at the 2nd Floor Room 2000, Chet and Sabra Avery Room, City Hall in Old Town. All paintings are for sale. Contact the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 703-746-5588 or aca@alexandriava.gov.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 22

"A Palette of Paper - the Collages of Megan Coyle." The Center for the Arts, Caton Merchant Family Gallery in Manassas, will feature Alexandria resident Megan Coyle's collage art in a solo exhibition called "A Palette of Paper." Coyle's show will display portraits of people, animals, as well as landscape and cityscape collages.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

Cuba Revisited, 2011. Karen Keating, member of Multiple Exposures Gallery, will be exhibiting new images from her most recent trip to Cuba, April 2011. Artist's Talk is Thursday, March 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. At Multiple Exposure Gallery, Studio #312.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 1

20 Years on The Avenue. The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to celebrate DRA's 20 years on "The Avenue" with past and present masterpieces. This member-only show runs from March 2-April 1, 2012 and will be juried from outside our DRA family of members. (www.VeroneauMusic.com). Running March 3-April 1 special exhibits of Del Ray Artisans' history will be



"The Choir" handbuilt porcelain sculpture with stains by Christine Moerenhout-Hubloue of McLean.

APRIL 2 TO 29

The Kiln Club Annual Show. Featuring works by clay artists. Novie Trump, a Northern Virginia sculptor, will judge the show. Reception and awards presentation on April 12 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. At the Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6288, visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm and www.kilnclubwdc.com

featured. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

MARCH 5 THROUGH APRIL 4

Winds of Change. Featuring enameled jewelry, wall pieces and bowls. At the Enamelists Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Extended hours on Thursdays til 9 p.m. Call 703-836-1561.

MARCH 5 TO APRIL 1

"Large and Little" Ceramic Guild Show. At Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., Ground Floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

MARCH 23 TO MAY 6

"In Medusa's Company." Ceramic artist Judith Kornett's works at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Opening Reception Saturday, March 31, from 3 – 5 p.m. with Artist's Talk at 4 p.m.

APRIL 28-29

Clay Portrait Workshop with Rich Jones. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Workshop fee is \$130 members; \$140 nonmembers. Sponsored by the Del Ray Artisans. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

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 8 TO MARCH 26

"Light in the Darkness." Its run at Synetic Theater has been canceled due to visa delays for the artists of Tantehorse Theatre Company from Prague. The performances were scheduled to take place from March 8 through March 26, at Synetic Theater in Crystal City. Visit www.synetictheater.org.

MARCH 30 THROUGH APRIL 28

"On the Waterfront." Show times are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. No matinee on March 31. No performance on Sunday April 8. Tickets can be ordered online at americancentury.org or by calling 703-998-4555. At Gunston Theatre II, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington.

APRIL 20 TO MAY 6

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me."

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



John Lescault as "Brother Russia."

NOW 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.

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.

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.

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 Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle at the Mead Center for American Theater. Visit www.theearlingtonplayers.org.

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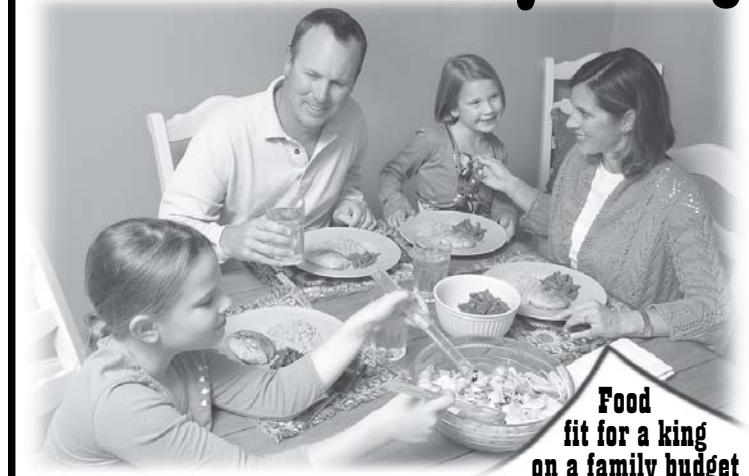
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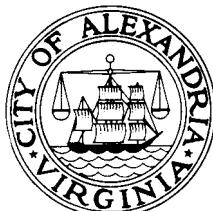
LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

zoning. The demolition of much of the affordable housing in Alexandria means the displacement of many of the residents who will be forced out of Alexandria to other jurisdictions, because they will not be able to afford the new "workforce" housing. The 703 new units do not replace the 2519 units that are proposed to be demolished.

The current proposal calls for 10 percent of the 6,000 new housing units to be affordable, but there have been numerous requests to increase this to 20 percent. But neither number will solve the problem. As Katy Cannady said during the meeting "You must have housing at all income levels to work in the hotels and restaurants being built in other parts of the city." What should be built if there is redevelopment, is a true mixed income community, with affordable rental apartments, townhouses, and some set aside for affordable housing, instead of trying to completely displace the current population for a new more upscale population, we should be creating an area where the current residents will be welcome.

Legal Notices



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, March 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the estimated maximum amount of \$76,820,000; and providing for reimbursement to the City of Alexandria from bond proceeds.

The proposed ordinance authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds for various city and school capital projects in the estimated maximum amount of \$76,820,000.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-11 (ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL ABSENTEE VOTER ELECTION DISTRICT AND VOTING PLACE) by adding Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library as an additional absentee voting place for the 2012 Presidential Election.

The proposed ordinance adds the Charles Beatley, Jr. Central Library as an additional absentee voting place for the 2012 Presidential Election. Currently, the City has only one permanent absentee voting place located at 132 North

Who are the current residents? Many of them are Hispanic, and one of them, Hector, expressed very well the feeling that many residents must have when he spoke. "Throwing our families outside of the city, bringing in people of higher income, because we are poor, we are getting affected. Where is our government that fights to keep diversity in this area? I don't know numbers, I don't have a tie or a suit, but I want a place to live with my kids." All I can say, is hopefully that government that fights for its most vulnerable is on its way.

I was on the Hunting Towers/Hunting Terrace Task Force and by rejecting the proposal for a complicated formula of affordable "workforce" housing we ended up saving both Hunting Towers and Hunting Terrace, and preventing replacement with luxury condos. Hunting Terrace was vacated when the owner wanted to redevelop the area, but when his proposal was rejected, he renovated and re-rented the existing apartments which are still relatively affordable when compared to the rest of Old Town. Sometimes the best way to negotiate is to reject

Legal Notices

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

ABC LICENSE

Mee Gin, Inc trading as Sugar Plum Thai Restaurant, 5580A, 5580B Vincent Gate Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Somchat Sriwatthanah/Chief Executive Officer.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALEXANDRIA

In the matter of the adoption of a child to be known as KAIA GRACE PRITCHETT (Birth Certificate Registration Number 2005 120102, State of Florida) a minor, born on July 7, 2005 by Robert Wesley Pritchett and Jamie Anne Pritchett,

PETITIONERS

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of the above-styled suit is an adoption action. An affidavit having been filed that due diligence has been used by the plaintiff to ascertain the address of the Defendant, Kenneth James White, without success. ORDERED that the defendant appear on or before the 23rd day of March at 9:00am, 2012 in the Clerk's office of this Court and do what is necessary to protect his interest.

the first proposal that comes forward, and this plan would not have my support. I think we can do better, and come up with more creative solutions. We need to think outside the box. As Councilman Rob Krupicka said "We are not even close to an acceptable plan yet." I agree.

Boyd Walker

City's Vision Is Practical

To the Editor:

Mr. Robert Pringle [Letter, "Vision-based Planning"] recently responded to my March 7 letter. His comments show a very different view than mine. Addressing his concerns is appropriate.

It is my opinion that the City's Waterfront Plan is a well-balanced document, meant for all Alexandrians. It is esthetically and financially sound. Alternative plans were not. The idea that "low-density appropriate development is appropriate for a National Historic Landmark and should be driven by public welfare" is not historic or fiscally sound. Historic would be warehouses and factories. As for fiscally sound, asking the city to purchase those properties (outlined in the CAAWP document) certainly is not in the realm of "public welfare." Is it fair to the taxpayers to pony up the tax dollars to pay for CAAWP's concept of "preservation," and ask the citizens, firefighters and schools, whose needs are being addressed

in the approved but not yet funded CIP to wait? Yes, that includes schools, public safety, and infrastructure needs across the City. Purchase the sites for parks, and/or museums, and these needed projects get pushed back for a 50 percent increase in the existing city debt load. The idea of public-private partnerships and civic largess, simply will not materialize. Look at the recent articles about the financial status of the Washington Post companies. Analytical persons have already come to the realization this will not happen. A good comparison is the funding of the MKL memorial. This \$110 million project with international significance has still not reached its funding goal. The Washington Post, while a good public citizen, is a public corporation with stockholders and a profit motive. Having the Post donate their land to the City (in whole or partially) simply will not happen.

Your statement "long-term profitability, not short term profits and long term mediocrity" does not make sense. Where would profits come from other than what is included in the City's plan? It has been pretty well documented museums don't have a chance paying for the investment. Our wonderful Smithsonian's are free to the public and subsidized by taxpayers. Advocating a sales tax to fund the museums? Virginia could not get a sales tax increase to improve our roads. A sales tax increase to create what would essentially be a gated community for Old Town would be detrimental to all

Alexandrians. The City's plan and the SUP process should require architecturally significant buildings which incorporate any existing historic structures. This is where we need to work together to achieve what the City's plan brings us.

The CAAWP plan (on page 159), shows CAAWP advocating for purchase of the 3 properties (8.5 acres). There are already 140 acres of parks along the Alexandria waterfront. It is disingenuous to say "well not all CAAWP participants agreed on everything." Together you put out the plan, and it does not stand reasonable analysis.

With parks and museums (as you describe in your piece) not feasible, that leaves the City's plan as the only reasonable solution to your desire to that view from Robinson Terminal North. For some reason CAAWP continues to ignore the inevitable. Should you be successful in defeating the City's plan, you will then have townhouses and/or offices on that spot. Goodbye view.

The City's waterfront plan is a vision, maybe not what all participants agree on, but it is a vision that many Alexandrians support and look forward to enjoying. It is a community-based vision with input from citizens over a three-year period. It protects the City, creates new parking, new parks and an exciting waterfront. Many straw men were discussed during the development of the plan, and the results are excellent.

Dennis Auld
Alexandria



Stuart Agnew with Rotary member Joan Holden, head of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School.



Stuart Agnew at the Rotary Club luncheon with her parents Elizabeth and Pen Agnew.

Agnew Receives Rotary Community Service Award

Stuart Agnew, a senior at Episcopal High School, received the Alexandria Rotary Club's School Committee's Community service Award at its Feb. 14 meeting.

In her introductory remarks, Rotary Club member Joan Holden, head of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, said, "Stuart has been an active member of the Episcopal High School Community Service Council and now serves as the Council's treasurer. This year, Stuart helped raise over \$12,000."

"One of the efforts Stuart helped spearhead is a 5K Run/Walk for the Haiti Micah Project. Other

fundraising contributions have gone to aid two Episcopal High School partnerships Stuart is passionate about: one with St. Thomas School in Haiti, and the other with Moding High School in Kenya. This spring and summer, Stuart will travel to both Haiti and Kenya to further serve both of these partnerships.

"Stuart is a dedicated volunteer and in that role has helped inspire students, faculty, and administrators to find ways to be involved in service both here and abroad. To quote Gideon Pollach, Chaplain at Episcopal High School: 'In short, Stuart is an incredible young woman.'"

SPORTS

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET SPORTS EDITOR JON ROETMAN
703-224-3015 OR JROETMAN@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



T.C. Williams senior Manuel Benites (23) defends between Mount Vernon's Simond Kargbo and Erik Rodriguez on March 13.



T.C. Williams senior Abdel Al Nimiry (21) scored the game-tying goal against Mount Vernon in the closing minutes of regulation on March 13.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Titans Salvage Tie Against Mount Vernon in Opener

TC in search of first Patriot District title since 2008.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Frustration could have gotten the best of the T.C. Williams boys' soccer team. After a few missed goal-scoring opportunities and disagreements with officiating, the Titans trailed 1-0 late in their season-opening match at Mount Vernon.

But rather than give in, TC found a way to put one in the net and salvage a tie against a team that reached the regional quarterfinals each of the last two seasons.

Senior forward Abdel Al Nimiry headed in a goal in the closing minutes of regulation and T.C. Williams finished in a 1-1 tie with Mount Vernon in both teams' season

opener on March 13. The Majors finished last season 14-3 and enter the 2012 campaign with state tournament aspirations. TC head coach Martin Nickley said he was pleased with the Titans' effort.

"It was just nice to see us perform so well so early in the season," he said. "We really want to work to get off to a fast start. We ran a lot of guys out there tonight and every one of them showed that they were at that level and had that pace and that drive to play well for us, and they really did."

Senior defender Manuel Benites said if TC's effort was any indication of how the season is headed, the Titans have a bright future. "We didn't give up," he said. "They came out strong, they scored first and we bounced back. It's a challenge for us at the

beginning of the season to see how our team is going to be. We're looking pretty good, too. I think TC should be right there with Mount Vernon."

Benites is part of an experienced group of Titans leading a TC program in search of its first Patriot District championship since 2008. One of Benites' strengths is his ability to produce long sideline throw-ins.

"Every now and then you get a guy that can just throw it a mile and you're happy to have him," Nickley said. "He's just an excellent athlete and we are fortunately the recipient of a very dangerous throw-in because he puts it in at a flat trajectory."

Senior forward Alex Mansaray was the team's leading goal-scorer last season.

"He's all over that field," Nickley said. "He

didn't stop out there. When you get that kind of leadership by example, [it's a good thing]. We had a number of players doing that."

Mansaray does not lack confidence.

"Everyone expects me to score in each game I play," he said. "I know I didn't score today, but I did really great and I'm going to look up to the games coming up, and I'm going to do really good. I believe in myself." Al Nimiry, senior midfielder Kelvin Marin-Soli, junior midfielder Mauricio Salvatierra and junior defender Neil DeWakar are also key players for the Titans.

TC will host South Lakes at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15. The Titans will open district play against West Potomac on April 10.

head coach Mercedes Kiss.

The Spring 2012 crew season marks the 65th year of public school rowing in the City of Alexandria.

SPORTS BRIEFS

TC Crew Begins Fourth Week of Practice

With the start of the Spring 2012 rowing season just around the corner, members of the T.C. Williams crew team began their fourth week of practice this past Monday at the Dee Campbell Boathouse in Old Town.

Practice for the Spring season started for T.C. rowers on Feb. 21 and has been held every day since except Sundays. Weekday practices take place in the afternoon after school from 4-6:30 p.m., while Saturday practices begin in the morning at 7 a.m. and generally run for at least two hours.

Moderate conditions over the past two weeks have allowed the team to spend an increasing amount of time on the water, where they can be seen rowing the Potomac

between Gravelly Point and the Wilson Bridge.

When not on the water, the rowers spend their time working out on the erg machines at the Boathouse and running the Mount Vernon trail along the river.

The Spring 2012 rowing season officially begins for the T.C. Williams crew team on Saturday, March 24, with their only home regatta of the season — against Washington-Lee at the Dee Campbell Boathouse. One week later, the Titan rowers travel to St. Andrews School in Middletown, Del., for a regatta on Noxonotown Pond.

Other races of note include: the Charlie Butt Regatta in Georgetown on April 28; The Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship at Sandy Run Regional Park on May 5; the Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia on May 18-19; the Scholastic Rowing Association of America Championship in Camden, N.J. on May 25-26; and, the Canadian Secondary School Rowing Associa-

tion Championship in St. Catherines, Ontario on June 1-2.

The T.C. Williams crew team is guided by boys' head coach Pete Stramese and girls'

T.C. Williams rowers Ethan Vannatta and Cody Brooks lead their boat down the ramp out of the Dee Campbell Boathouse for practice on the Potomac River just after dawn on Saturday, March 10.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NEIGHBORHOODS



Students perform in the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Taylor Run

Joy filled the air as the students of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes brought to life "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," the musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

Director Jim Marvin continued his practice of introducing his performers to widely varying forms of theater. He moves the 48-person cast all over the theater, creating a feeling of inclusiveness. "We are all connected, but we sometimes lose sight of that," he said in his director's notes. The camaraderie came to a height in the closing number when the entire cast went into the audience and fetched Headmistress Joan Holden to join them onstage in the final number, where she danced happily.

Adhana Reid used her remarkable voice to great effect as the narrator. Matthew Mirlani bounced joyously through the role of Joseph. TreVaughn Allison was impressive as Jacob. P.J. Dupree played Pharaoh, Emma Brown was the Butler, Aaron Brackett was the Baker, Christian Osborne was Potipher, and Christina Thompson, a very lively Mrs. Potipher. The Hairy Ishmaelites were portrayed by Catie Beckhorn, Natascha Zelloe, Anii Chams-Eddine, Dylan Reynolds, and Ellen Stevens.

In the audience were parents of students who had come from a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Holden. Among the guests were Fran and Gant Redmon, Janice Connally, Sara, Lindsey and Elizabeth Gamble.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Seminary Valley

If it's spring ... the Austrian Exchange Program must be getting underway at T.C. Williams! Probably not the first thing you thought of ... but our neighborhood teenage population is about to swell. Of 22 Austrian students about to descend on Alexandria, six are going to live in Seminary Valley: Andreas (Philip Espinoza is hosting), Simon (Emma Augustine), Armin (Brendan Zack), Marie (Maria Jones), Anja (Kaycee Schulman) and Daniel (Jen Hatstat). In June, the Austrians will reciprocate by hosting their friends in their hometowns of Spittal, Sachsenburg, Ferndorf, Pusarnitz, Einöde, Möllbrücke, Ferstritz, Baldramsdorf, Seeboden, Radenthein and Mühldorf.

T.C. Williams seniors have completed their applications to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, and now it's time for us to do our part. Please consider purchasing a raffle ticket to win a new Toyota Camry or \$25,000. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased from yours truly, neighbor Stephanie Clayton (Stephanie@federalcity.com) or from the Fund (syowell@acps.k12.va.us). The winning ticket will be drawn at this year's Annual Gala, set for April 28. Go to www.alexscholarshipfund.org for information on attending the Gala or to donate an item to the silent auction.

The Annual Science Fair is not the most popular activity in the Jones house. However, three neighbors made it their priority and their efforts paid off. Caroline Chamberlain, a Junior at T.C. Williams, placed second in this year's Regional Competition. Caroline investigated whether children could visually discern between liquid medicine and candy. Colleen Cox and Zoe Gildersleeve, both freshmen, tested water quality in a nearby creek and they too moved on to the Regional Level.

Congratulations, ladies. Kudos also to Hammond 1 student Andrew Reese. Not only did Andrew win first place in the 2011 Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Festival this month, but he also qualified to represent Alexandria in the state-level National Geographic Bee on April 1. This is Andrew's fourth year as Alexandria champion and his third to qualify for the State Bee. Fingers crossed, Andrew!

Lois Brown updated me on her daughter Mia's latest exploits. Mia, a junior at UVA, is spending a "Semester At Sea." Lois reports that so far Mia has visited Ghana (where she witnessed some pretty

horrible poverty), Brazil, South Africa and Mauritius. She has had her first celebrity sighting: while doing homework in an otherwise deserted mess hall, she was joined by none other than Lynda Bird Johnson Robb and her husband, Chuck, who are travelling on the ship from Cape Town to Shanghai. The Robbs and Mia had a good conversation about public service and working for human rights.

We are blessed in the Valley to have two libraries within walking distance. It is time to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Burke Library (well, 10 years in its refurbished state). Come to the library on Saturday, March 17. There will be games, activities and programs all day long.

Last but not least, keep those car doors locked! Neighbors on the Seminary Valley Listserve (SeminaryValley@Yahoogroups.com) are reporting the ransacking of their cars, most of which were unlocked ... even while parked in their driveways. Our proximity to major roads and highways makes getaway easy, so take the minimal step of locking your cars.

— MIA JONES
mamamajones@gmail.com

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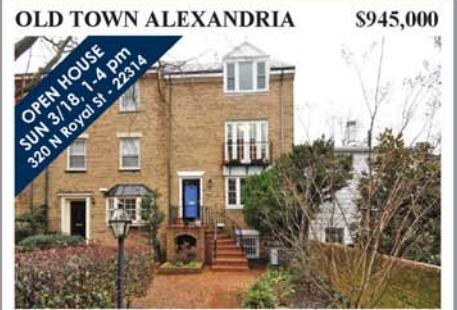


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