

PHOTO BY DEREK LYMUS



Rosa Byrd and Patricia Yancey

Keepers of the Flame

SSA gala to honor family service legacies.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Pearl S. Buck once said that the test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its helpless members. For Senior Services of Alexandria Executive Director Janet Barnett, the mission to help Alexandria care for some of the city's most vulnerable citizens is vital and will take center stage as the annual Generation to Generation Gala honors three families for their legacy of service.

"The gala is a chance for us to honor the contributions three special families have made to our community," said Barnett. "It is also our biggest event of the year, raising desperately-needed funds to support the programs we provide to our seniors."

Scheduled for March 31 at the Mark Center Hilton, proceeds from the gala will help support services such as Meals on Wheels and the Senior Resource Center, which provides direct and indirect services to seniors and their adult children.

"Senior Services is committed

to helping those we serve age with dignity," Barnett said. "We hope that those individuals we are honoring — Rosa Byrd and Patricia Yancey, Harlene Clayton and Stephanie Clayton, and Patsy Ticer and Margaret Janowsky — will serve as inspiration to others to reach out and help the less fortunate in our community."

ROSA BYRD AND PATRICIA YANCEY

For more than 50 years, Rosa Byrd has lived and worked in Alexandria spending countless hours as an advocate for the community.

"My initial volunteer activity was in the Alexandria City Public School System," Byrd said. "I was a member and officer of PTAs at Cora Kelly Elementary School, Francis Hammond Middle School and T.C. Williams High School. My involvement in the educational system expanded to include PTA Council, TCW Athletic Boosters, African American Advisory Council, Superintendent Search Committee and NEA representative."

A resident of the Lynhaven neighborhood, Byrd served as an executive officer for the Lynhaven Citizens Association for 35 years and has been active in numerous organizations

SEE SSA, PAGE 9

Board: Sherman Here to Stay

Embattled superintendent is defiant in face of vice mayor's challenge.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria School Board are standing by Superintendent of Schools Morton Sherman, despite a call from Vice Mayor Kerry Donley for him to resign in the wake of an auditor's report that showed financial mismanagement. The announcement came after board members emerged from a three-hour, closed-door executive session last week.

On her way out of the late-night meeting, School Board chairwoman Sheryl Gorsuch said the board was standing behind Sherman.

"I have complete confidence in the superintendent," said Gorsuch, stepping into her car. "We are taking steps for additional accountability to make sure this doesn't happen again."

That's not enough for the vice mayor. In a speech last week calling for Sherman's ouster, Donley said that the accounting problems were so egregious that the superintendent had to go. As usual, Sherman has been bold in the face of adversity. Last year, when parents and community leaders expressed concerns about the superintendent's communication skills and leadership style, the board ended up extending his salary another four years and giving him a raise. Now, with a divide between city leaders and school officials, the superintendent is defiant.

"I think we have been responsible," Sherman said Thursday night after the executive session. "I accept responsibility for moving us ahead and making sure that we're fiscally responsible and that we are on top of the issues and serving our kids well."

Sherman says he's not at fault.

"You can't say that because you didn't know about it or you didn't do something about it that it's your fault," he said. "So I think there's a difference between responsibility and fault."

THE WAR OF WORDS between Donley and

SEE SHERMAN, PAGE 4

Attack of the Former Vice Mayors

Ghosts of 1985 haunt election 2012.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A former vice mayor making a comeback, leaving the Alexandria Democratic Committee and waging an independent campaign and taking on a popular incumbent mayor. Sound familiar? It's happened before. The ghosts of 1985 are haunting 2012, creating eerie parallels and some instructive differences.

Back in the 1980s, Moran used modern polling and massive fundraising to steamroll the incumbent mayor, who had a reputation for being a watchdog politician constantly making charges and shaking up City Hall. These days, the situation is the reverse. Mayor Bill Euille raises a lot of money even when he has no opposition while Macdonald is the one with the reputation for watchdog politics. But the two campaigns have certain similarities. In both 1985 and 2012, former Democratic

elected officials abandoned the party to pose a direct challenge toward the city's current leadership. In both cases, the former vice mayors were making a comeback to city politics after

"Jim and Andrew both have a lot of baggage, but it's different kind of baggage. Very different baggage."

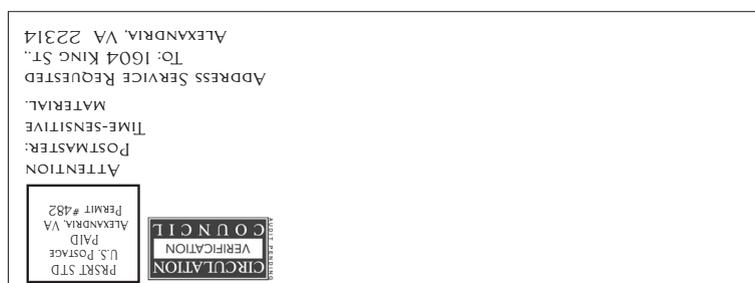
— Former state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30), who was vice mayor in 1985

dramatic resignations that shook the city.

"Jim and Andrew both have a lot of baggage, but it's different kind of baggage," said former state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30), who was vice mayor in 1985. "Very different baggage."

Moran's baggage involved allegations of conflict of interest as an elected official, charges that he fought against even as he quoted William Shakespeare in the final court hearing. He resigned as vice mayor and started plotting a comeback. Macdonald's baggage is more personal. Court records show he was going through a divorce when he stepped down in 2007.

SEE ATTACK, PAGE 3





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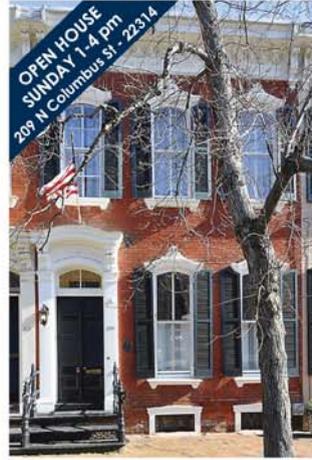


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Charming Campaign

Everybody knows that Baltimore is Charm City. But what is Alexandria?

For years, the city was known as “Fun Side of the Potomac,” a marketing campaign that bit the dust in 2007. The city’s newest pitch describes the city as “Charm-ville,” a distinction that’s already been splashed across the pages of high-end magazines such as *Town & Country* and *Food & Wine*. The Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association is currently seeking an additional \$100,000 to launch a new Charm-ville destination advertising campaign to encourage overnight stays.

Charming? Some say it’s vile.

“The name ‘Charm-ville’ sounds like a fairy tale, comic book or reality TV show team,” wrote **Christine Bernstein** in a letter to city officials. “It certainly does not reflect the rich history of our city and will not entice visitors to visit.”

Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association president **Stephanie Brown** disagrees. She says the campaign has already attracted attention to Alexandria, and she’s hoping to extend its reach even more. Last week, she presented statistics to City Council members showing a recent spike in the industry. In the last four years, for example, Alexandria’s tourism industry grew 16.8 percent, drastically outpacing growth in Prince William, Fairfax or Arlington.

Even though Baltimore has been known as Charm City since the 1970s, Brown says, there’s still room for the Charm-ville campaign.

“This will extend our reach even more,” said Brown.

Shifting Battle Lines

For those keeping score, mark one battle victory for City Hall in the war for Alexandria’s waterfront.

Late last week, Circuit Court Judge **Jim Clark** denied a writ of mandamus to force city officials to reconsider their January vote for the controversial plan to increase density and allow hotels. At issue was the city’s refusal to accept an appeal to Planning Director **Faroll Hamer**’s rejection of a protest petition of property owners on the waterfront. That could have required a supermajority of six members to pass the plan. Because only five members voted for the proposal, the stakes were high.

“We tried to go through normal channels,” said **Beth Gibney**, one of the three Old Town women who filed the lawsuit. “But nobody listened to us and so we had to take action.”

The trio hired attorney **Roy Shannon** to represent them during the January public hearing on the waterfront. During the hearing, Shannon presented his clients’ objection to the waterfront then plunked a stack of papers on a table where Hamer was sitting. City officials said they could not accept the appeal because City Hall is not open for business during a public hearing. The dispute ended up in court.

“In order for the court to grant the relief requested by the plaintiffs, it would first have to require the director to accept the plaintiffs’ appeal as properly filed,” Clark wrote in a two-page ruling. “The court is without authority, on a writ of mandamus, to require the director to accept the plaintiffs’ appeal as properly filed.”

Although that battle may be over, the Board of Zoning Appeals is considering at least two challenges to the waterfront plan. Either of those could end up in Circuit Court. So there’s no end in sight yet to the war over Alexandria’s waterfront.

Blarney at City Hall

Newsflash: Saturday was St. Patrick’s Day. That’s a day when everyone is Irish, of course. And everybody wears green.

Almost everybody.

During a discussion of code enforcement, Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** stopped suddenly to ask City Manager **Rashad Young** a pointed question.

“Why didn’t you wear any green today?” the vice mayor inquired.

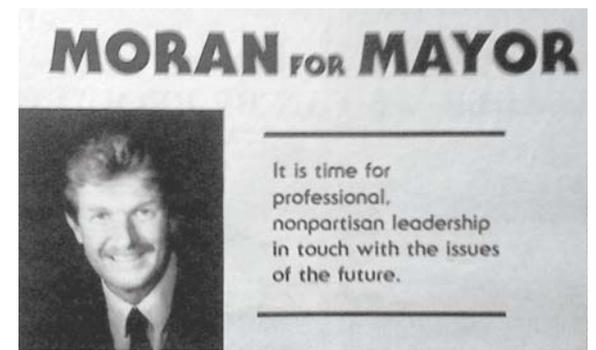
“It’s my grandmother’s birthday today,” he said. “I have no awareness that today is St. Patrick’s Day.”

“We need to have a discussion,” Donley shot back.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



Charles Beatley campaign advertisement 1985



Jim Moran campaign advertisement from 1985

Attack of the Former Vice Mayors

FROM PAGE 1

Since that time, he has emerged as a leading critic of the city’s development efforts on the waterfront and the West End.

“The similarity for me is that I supported the incumbent then, and I support the incumbent now,” said former Councilman Lonnie Rich, who was managing Democrat Jim Dunning’s reelection campaign for sheriff at the time. “I took a lot of guff for that, especially in Del Ray. But I still think that Beatley probably changed Alexandria more than any other mayor in modern history.”

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL in 1985, Moran and Beatley sparred over spending on a new library for the West End. Beatley had a reputation for championing West End issues, a legacy that’s now carried on by his one-time aide Del Pepper who was waging her first campaign for office at the time. As the campaign heated up, Beatley told members of the Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association that he was in solid support of a new library that would be a high-tech modern marvel. Moran, on the other hand, opposed the library in favor of circulating kiosks and leased storefront space.

“It went over like a lead balloon,” the late Ben Brenman told the Packet at the time. “When he made his statement about the library, I thought I was attending a grunTERS convention. Everybody went ughh!”

Despite Moran’s opposition, that library was eventually constructed. It’s now known as the Charles Beatley Library, a tribute to a man with a reputation for progressive reform. The pedestrian-protecting bump-out sidewalk crossings in Old Town are still called “Beatley Bumps” today because the former mayor saw them on a trip to Europe once and thought they would be a good idea in Alexandria. In some ways, Macdonald fits that mold, calling for investment in a maritime museum on the waterfront and ecological stewardship of the environment. But in other ways, Macdonald’s politics are a departure

from Beatley’s enthusiastic support for large-scale development.

“The main difference today is that voters have a broad dissatisfaction with the current City Council on a range of things, from the waterfront to BRAC,” said former Republican Councilman Connie Ring, who went on to challenge Moran for mayor. “In 1985, there was broad support for the incumbent members of the city council, who where largely reelected even though Beatley lost.”

WITH FRESH ANGER over the waterfront plan and lingering bitterness over how the city handled traffic gridlock on the West End, Macdonald will be able to tap into an existing well of discontent that Moran did not have. The political fault line can largely be traced along the waterfront, where opponents of the plan are disappointed with the push toward higher density, which many Old Town residents fear will come at their expense. The campaign between Euille and Macdonald will largely be about what kind of city residents want Alexandria to become.

“Andrew is saying some very good things about this waterfront issue,” said Ticer, adding that she hasn’t decided which candidate she will support yet. “I’m not committed to anybody right now.”

Moran divided the Democrats and conquered the election. Those who recall the era say those were dark days for the party, with many unwilling to allow Moran to return after ousting Beatley from office. That was a conflict largely between Moran’s Del Ray and Beatley’s West End. This year’s election will pit Euille’s Del Ray campaign team against Macdonald’s Old Town forces of opposition. Ready to join the fight are all the businesses interests who have a stake in redeveloping the waterfront. He may even get support from the Republicans, a group he actively courted before announcing his campaign.

“How is it that the Republicans have become the anti-development party?” asked Rich, who went on to become chairman after stepping down from his role on council. “I think people that support moderate development will support the mayor.”

Firefighters Extinguish Fire in Basement

The Alexandria Fire Department, with the assistance of Arlington and Fairfax County Fire Departments, responded to a report of smoke filling a home in the 1200 block of Janneys Lane on March 9 at 8:21 a.m. Firefighters arrived within 4 minutes of being dispatched and found smoke on the first floor and basement of a single family home. A special alarm consisting of an additional fire engine, air and light unit and an ambulance was requested to assist while firefighters at-

tempted to locate the source of the fire.

A search of the basement located the fire in the ceiling area of a utility room. The fire was declared under control and extinguished at 8:53 a.m. Initial damage estimates are approximately \$30,000. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. There were no reported injuries. Janneys Lane was closed between Cambridge Road and Quaker Lane for over an hour while firefighters extinguished the fire.



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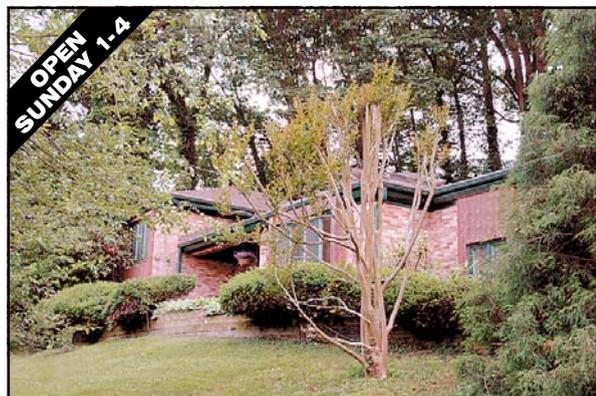
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Dir: Alex. S on GW Pkwy R on Tulane L on Park Terrace R on Westgrove L on Marine L on Warrington R on Burtonwood to 7111 on left.



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Dir: From Old Town, South on GW Pkwy. R on Belle View Blvd. R on Potomac St. R on I Street to 1111-B on Right.

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NEWS

Supporting Sherman

FROM PAGE 1

Sherman is largely about who is at fault and who should take responsibility. When pressed, other members of the City Council would not agree with Donley that Sherman should step down. Councilman Paul Smedberg came the closest, although he stopped short because the School Board is responsible for hiring and firing the superintendent. Donley, on the other hand, said it was his duty "as a fiscal steward" of the city to call for new leadership in the school system.

"The buck stops at the top," said Donley. "I think a resignation is in order."

Sherman says he did nothing wrong, and that he brought the problem to School Board members as soon as he found out about it. Within a matter of weeks, two senior level employees were gone. Budget Director Jean Sina was first to go. Then Deputy Superintendent Margaret Byess announced her resignation.

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

Donley said outrage and blame is not enough from the superintendent.

"Part of the problem I have is that we've spent too much time in the last few days pointing fingers," said Donley in his speech calling for Sherman's resignation.

Gorsuch says there's enough blame to go around. Last summer, for example, when the city government was rocked by charges of embezzlement from two employees, School Board members stopped short of calling for resignations. Gorsuch suggested that School Board members were unhappy with how the city handled the situation, but kept their opinions out of the public spotlight.

"I think he needs to remember how the School Board members handled their opinions last summer regarding the problems on the city side," said Gorsuch.

FROM OPPOSITE ENDS of the city, rival budget officials oversee vastly different operations. Despite the fact that the school system oversees a budget that's about one third the size of the city's budget, its Financial Services Department is three times as large. Margaret Byess was executive director until Jean Sina was hired in September 2009. Both have now resigned in

"... I think there's a difference between responsibility and fault."

— Superintendent Morton Sherman

the wake of the scandal.

Sherman's proposed budget, now under consideration by the School Board, has 19 employees in Financial Services with a budget of \$3 million. The senior staff includes an executive director, a director of accounting, a director of budget, a procurement manager, a payroll supervisor and full-time position to implement a program called "Enterprise Resource Planning." The department also has two accountants, two accounting clerks, one budget supervisor, two budget analysts, two budget technical support staffers, a budget clerk, a procurement clerk and two payroll clerks. The auditor's report, which was limited to looking at the Capital Improvement Plan at six schools, said the department has a lack of communication.

"It should be noted that over a period of years, a process that fragments procurement, budget, facilities, and the City Office of Management and Budget has been present," the audit concluded. "During the course of our interviews, it became evident that ACPS has operated in a dysfunctional environment in relation to CIP related activities."

Over at City Hall, the Office of Management and Budget is headed by acting budget director Morgan Routh. He took the job when Bruce Johnson was promoted to chief of staff by City Manager Rashad Young. The department has 10 employees with an annual budget of \$1 million. Its staff includes 5.4 positions in budget development and presentation, three positions in budget implementation and monitoring and 1.5 positions in management improvements and long-range financial analysis.

Councilman Rob Krupicka said he was concerned that the city's finances are audited by the same firm that missed much of the financial mismanagement at the schools in recent years.

"It leads me to question whether or not that auditor is doing their fiduciary responsibility properly," said Krupicka. "I want the city to take a close look at our confidence in this outside auditor as it relates to our fiscal management as a city."

PEOPLE

Rodriguez Receives 2011 Sullivan Award

Bishop Ireton grad named
nation's top amateur athlete.

JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Army standout and 2008 Bishop Ireton graduate Andrew Rodriguez was named the winner of the 2011 James E. Sullivan Award in a ceremony held March 20 at the New York Athletic Club.

"It's a great day to be a Cardinal," said Bishop Ireton Athletic Director Bill Simmons. "When I heard he was in the running, I knew he was going to win. I'd like to meet the guy that has a better resume than Andrew Rodriguez. That is the only household in the world with a 4-star general playing second fiddle to a son."

Presented by the Amateur Athletic Union, the Alexandria native was honored as the nation's outstanding amateur athlete. The award is based on character, leadership and sportsmanship. Notable recipients include Mark Spitz, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Florence Joyner, Peyton Manning, Michael



PHOTO COURTESY AAU

Andrew Rodriguez, a 2008 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School, was presented the 2011 James E. Sullivan Award March 20 in New York City.

Phelps, J.J. Redick, Tim Tebow and Shawn Johnson.

Joined by Army head football coach Rich Ellerson and numerous family members, Rodriguez, son of Gen. David Rodriguez, Command

SEE RODRIGUEZ. PAGE 9

Rotary Club Honors TC's Palacios Cruz for Community Service

The Rotary Club of Alexandria honored T.C. Williams senior Valeria Naroe Palacios Cruz as the Community Service recipient of the month at the organization's March 13 meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

Palacios Cruz, who goes by her Peruvian name Naroe, which means "I am," is involved in the Youth Service Initiative, Young Women of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Alexandria Youth Council and National Honor Society. As part of Model U.N., she was a representative to the Scotland Youth Summit during the summer of 2011 and is also a founding member of Titan Ambassadors.

Palacios Cruz serves as vice president of the Alexandria Youth Council, working with other youth leaders and the Mayor to improve student relations. While attending a summer Leadership and Global Development Program at the Brown University Leadership Institute, Palacios Cruz conceived a training program that she implemented at T.C. Williams by recruiting 38 "Titan Ambassadors" who



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Naroe Palacios Cruz, left, receives the Student Community Service Award from Alexandria Rotary Club president John Woods March 13 at Belle Haven Country Club.

pair with new students to provide information, offer tours of the school, introduce students to peers and school staff, and aid in the overall transition to the T.C. Williams community.

Palacios Cruz is a merit scholar and plans to major in international business for nonprofits when she enters college in the fall.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



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Wernher von Braun's home on 816 Vicar Lane as it looks today.



The observatory platform built for Wernher von Braun's 8-inch Celestron telescope.



Wernher von Braun's swimming pool.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET

Space-Struck Resident Wernher von Braun —centennial of his birth is March 23 — came to rest locally.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
GAZETTE PACKET

For his entire life, Wernher von Braun looked up and wished to be one with the stars. In the end, he became one with the earth, and that earthly plot is in Alexandria.

This year marks the centennial of von Braun's birth (March 23, 1912), and the 35th anniversary of his death (June 16, 1977). As a member of the Third Reich's Nazi party with rank of major in the paramilitary SS, there is no mystery as to why he does not lie in Arlington National Cemetery. Questions could be posed as to why he is not buried in Wirsitz, Germany, his birthplace; or Huntsville, Ala., where his team of German engineers began the U.S. military rocket program after World War II; or Cape Kennedy, Fla., the premier launching site of his successes.

The simple answer is that von Braun lies at Section T, Plot 29, Site 5, Ivy Hill Cemetery, in King Street near Janney's Lane, because he was a resident of Alexandria when death found him in Alexandria Hospital.

Timothy B. Burk represents the most common type of visitor to the cemetery and gravesite: through an interest in rocketry and space flight as a youth. The interest continues into adulthood and includes collecting space memorabilia.

"In recent years I've read several of his biographies and, as an engineer, have studied his rocket [the Saturn V] at some level of detail," he said. Traveling from home in Pennsylvania to visit the Air and Space Museum, he continued, "I decided to see if I could find [von Braun's] grave. I did so, and decided to place the flowers there. I suppose just something I wanted to do at a personal level."

The final element of Burk's connection with von Braun may surprise some. "I also take my faith quite seriously, as did von Braun," he said. One reported example of that faith involves a 12-year old boy from Carefree, Ariz., dying of cancer. When an article mentioned the youngster's interest in space, von Braun was touched and led his staff in praying for the youth.



Wernher von Braun's grave in Ivy Hill Cemetery.

Charles Jennings' approach is more that of local history buff, not only in relation to Alexandria but also to Huntsville, Ala.

Retiring as a U. S. Naval officer, Jennings and his family decided to stay in the Washington area.

Known to walk for exercise in the Rosemont neighborhood, a neighbor mentioned von Braun's grave. Jennings has passed it many times over the last seven years. "I've seen people leave Apollo patches, Saturn 5 rocket models, U. S. flags, and many times flowers," he said. "Occasionally, I see people looking for his grave, people who have come long distances to find it, one couple from Germany."

Born and raised in Huntsville during the heyday of the rocket program, Jennings grew up at the height of von Braun's celebrity. "I went to elementary, junior high, high school and college with children of the German scientists. My father worked for one at NASA and my high school drama teacher was a son of one of von Braun's V-2 colleagues," he said.

Von Braun left his position at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama to become a senior executive at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Washington headquarters. Arriving in spring 1970, he and wife Maria reportedly looked at 50 properties before settling on a house in an Alexandria cul-de-sac. For the family, they added a swimming pool to exercise and a telescope observatory to enjoy the skies. Biographers hint that principal use of the pool was von Braun's daily lap swimming. City directories of the era list their residence

as 816 Vicar Lane (off Quaker Lane across from Virginia Theological Seminary). Those directories also state that he is a "nuclear scientist" at NASA.

Although quite unusual for a family home to be titled only in the wife's name, that is the case with von Braun. The deed states that Maria owns the house as "her sole and separate equitable estate free from the control and marital rights of her present or any future husband." She sold it in 1979.

The house seen today differs in appearance from the 1970s. The first new owners added a room next to the garage and improved landscaping. The next and current owners since 2005, husband and wife David J. Arp and Laurie J. Clark, built the roof dormer and reconfigured the front porch. They decided to leave the telescope platform alone, at least for the moment, but are rebuilding the swimming pool.

Losing the fight with cancer, von Braun died at 3 o'clock of a Thursday morning. Private burial services were held the next day according to cemetery staff, before any announcement of his death. The Washington Post had no report on von Braun's death until the weekend. However, Alexandria's Gazette provided a front page report the day he was buried. Consistent with the family's wish for privacy, the article reports von Braun's attorney, Phillip Tierney, refused to say where the burial occurred and

an Ivy Hill Cemetery employee avoided comment.

One week to the day of von Braun's death, friends and associates held a formal memorial service in Washington's National Cathedral but, according to The Washington Post, "members of Dr. von Braun's family did not attend." Services were conducted by Dean Francis B. Sayre, Jr. in sunlight through a stained glass window whose centerpiece is a small rock that astronauts brought from the surface of the moon.

Recent inquiry to the cemetery for details about von Braun's burial was turned aside "out of respect for the family's privacy." A staff member does confirm the grave location and remarks that inquiries and visitors arrive from time-to-time. Von Braun's attorney, now retired, did not respond to multiple messages.

Asked if any note would be taken of von Braun's centennial birth date this year, the German Embassy in Washington D.C.'s answered: "There is no event planned."

A visitor to the grave will find a plain, flush-to-ground marker:

WERNHER VON BRAUN
1912 - 1977
Psalms 19:1

The biblical passage is a von Braun favorite and reads: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork."

Where is von Braun's Telescope?

The parting gift of Wernher von Braun's staff on leaving Huntsville, Ala. in 1970 was an 8-inch Celestron telescope with camera attachment. Aerial photographs taken for the City of Alexandria in March 1973 show his observatory adjacent to the swimming pool behind the home at 816 Vicar Lane.

Von Braun's estate records are public in Alexandria's Circuit Court. An October 1978 inventory values the telescope and camera at \$2,000 and the first accounting lists them as a specific bequest to wife Maria.

Neighborhood rumor has it that the observatory was given to popular singer-composer John Denver. Denver had a great personal interest in flying; in fact, he died piloting an experimental aircraft. When von Braun created the National Space Institute (now the National Space Society) to arouse public opinion in favor of space exploration, Denver became a member of the original Board of Governors. He attended meetings and performed

at fundraisers. His well-publicized home in Colorado featured an observatory. These points have fueled the rumor that Denver wound up with von Braun's telescope. Unfortunately, the rumor is incorrect.

Alan Hale, then owner of Celestron, has ample reason to doubt that Denver obtained von Braun's telescope. "I knew John Denver as he visited with me at Celestron, and we had a few conversations on the phone about helping him to obtain the correct equipment for what he wanted to do. He was inspired by the heavens as it helped his creativity in writing songs.

He bought [two models of telescope] which were kept at his home in Denver."

The last word on von Braun's telescope would be from his widow. She resides in Northern Virginia, not far from Vicar Lane, but has persisted in a life-long pursuit of personal privacy. Efforts to contact her failed.

— MICHAEL MCMORROW

Killer Instinct

The metaphor usually used for governing is making sausage. Although you might appreciate the final product, you don't want to see it being made.

Last weekend, former Vice Mayor **Bill Cleveland** added another to the lexicon. When City Council members considered a proposal from the school system to allow high-school classes to meet at the failing Landmark Mall, Cleveland appeared before council members to testify in support. In his own inimitable way, Cleveland implored council members to take swift and decisive action.

"I want you to look at the proposal like a seagull peering at a shrimp in shallow water," Cleveland said.

School officials want to use part of the largely abandoned shopping mall as classroom space for a program known as the "Flexible and Extended Learning Opportunities Program." Students in the program have difficulty in a traditional classroom setting, so the idea is to take them out of the traditional classroom and find a non-traditional setting. Council members seemed to agree with Cleveland's assessment.

"For the record," quipped Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** "I'm viewing this item as a seagull viewing shrimp in shallow water, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

"I will only vote for this if I see some cocktail sauce showing up," added Councilman **Rob Krupicka**.

Condiments aside, the measure was approved.

Double Stuffed Restaurant

Del Ray Pizzeria hasn't been open very long, but it's already doubled the number of seats. One problem — nobody bothered to tell City Hall.

During a recent inspection, city officials discovered that the Mount Vernon Avenue pizza joint was packing in about twice as many patrons as their special-use permit allowed. Although the restaurant has approval for 36 seats, the business currently seats 72. City officials said they decided to work with the restaurant rather than taking punitive measures.

"These are all new business owners," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**.

"Ignorance is not a defense," responded Councilman **Paul Smedberg**.

City officials say they took steps to make sure some other issues were resolved, including how the trash was disposed and parking problems near the restaurant. But they used their discretion to let the restaurant keep the seats. Forcing them to slash half their customers, zoning officials say, could have killed the business.

"If staff had taken a hard line in December, this business would have shut down," Krupicka responded. "We could do that as a city, but we would be shutting down restaurants all over the city every time there's a violation."

Next month, members of the Planning Commission will consider an amendment to the special-use permit for Del Ray Pizzeria to add more seats.

Expedited Problems

One Alexandria business is learning a difficult lesson — be careful about listening to people who claim to be experts.

The owner of the Dunkin' Donuts location on Upper King Street appeared before City Council members last weekend to apologize for breaking city rules. In August 2011, city officials discovered that restaurant supplies were being loaded into the shop from tractor-trailer trucks parked on King Street rather than in the back alley as their permit specified. Subsequent conversations with city officials revealed that the business changed ownership without first receiving permission from City Hall, yet another violation.

"When we acquired the business, we used an expediter," said **Chris Mellgrin**, vice president of operations for Quality Brand Capital, which now owns the doughnut shop. "Apparently, not so much."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

PEOPLE

Learning To Clean Teeth

Party spotlights Children's Dental Health Month.

BY NICOLE MACON
GAZETTE PACKET

Alaris Bentley, 9, played the role of dentist and leaned the dentist's chair back to examine Dr. Angela Austin's teeth at Alexandria Children's Dentistry.

"Dr. Angela's teeth are really clean," Alaris said. Austin hosted a party at her office on Little River Turnpike Feb. 24 to conclude Children's Dental Health Month where children could play dentist, meet the tooth fairy and have their face painted while enjoying healthy snacks and becoming more comfortable visiting the dentist.

William Gilbert was initially worried about his daughters Gabrielle's, 5, and Brianna's, 3, first visit to the dentist three months ago, but found that the office's child-friendly design, made them so comfortable they ask when they will go back.

From a play area in the waiting room with an entry way just small enough for children to enter, to the stuffed animals placed in shelves in the open examination rooms, Austin, who started her practice in October, designed several areas with children in mind. But Gilbert especially likes one examination room set up with a TV that a child can watch during a procedure.

"I love the way they have it set up — it's for the kids. They have videos [the children] can watch while they're doing the actual procedures," Gilbert said.

A tooth fairy greeted children as they entered the office when she was not reading to Dominic, 6, and other children about how Sister Bear's tooth was removed in "The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist."

Austin opened the office especially for Dominic to treat what his pediatrician thought was a tooth abscess.

"It makes me feel like that's a dentist who really cares about her patients, especially since he wasn't a patient at the time," Dominic's mother Maureen Orsini said.

Austin recommends that parents bring their children to the dentist as early as age one. "If a child sees a dentist by age one, then he or she will have happy visits to dentists in the future."

Lockwood Celebrates 40 Years with Coldwell Banker

Anne Lockwood, sales associate at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Alexandria/Old Town Office, recently celebrated her 40th year with Coldwell Banker. Lockwood, who was with previous companies that were acquired by Coldwell Banker, was recognized for her achievements and dedication at a Feb. 1 event where she was presented with flowers and a commemorative, 40-year pin.

"For 40 years Anne has provided the Alexandria area with a level of professionalism not often seen," said Paul Valentino, Regional President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Washington, D.C. "Her



Dr. Angela Austin lets Alaris, 9, play dentist and floss Austin's teeth at Alexandria Children's Dentistry to celebrate Children's Dental Health Month.

Isabelle, 2, helped paint a flower on her mother Ariana Lara's face while she sat in a dentist's chair in a corner further away from the main events. Lara heard about the party when she brought her daughter Isabelle, 2, in for a cleaning the day before. "[The staff] really knows how to deal with kids on their level. Their tone of voice is very welcoming for the children."



Isabelle, 2, paints a flower on her mother Ariana Lara's face at Alexandria Children's Dentistry to celebrate Children's Dental Health Month.

Austin also spoke at PTA meetings, in classrooms, and at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library throughout February to educate and motivate Alexandria children to take care of their teeth.

"It's so important... to see that she's planting the seeds so early," Austin's mother Rosemary Austin, who assisted with the party, said. "They'll remember this [experience] literally all their life."

Sharif Abdrabbo was so happy with the experience his three children had at Austin's office that he and his neigh-

bor Ravi Ramani encouraged their Cameron Station neighbors to come to the party.

"We tried to tell our neighbors and drag them along so that they could meet Dr. Angela and see what the office was like," Abdrabbo said.

Austin has a long history of community service — as a National Health Service Corps Scholar, she spent two years practicing in a dentally underserved community and completed an externship providing medical care at an orphanage in Honduras during her residency.

career as a perennial top agent in Coldwell Banker has garnered respect and admiration from agents throughout the area. Ann is a class act."

"Every time I'm in the Alexandria/Old Town office, there Anne is, putting in hard work," added Ruth Papuchis, Regional Vice President, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Washington, D.C. "We were even having a hard time getting her to commit to a time and date to celebrate her accomplishments because she was always too busy showing listings. She is a true professional."

SSA Gala To Honor Family Service Legacies

FROM PAGE 1

dedicated to battling drug abuse and providing help for youth recreation.

"My activism expanded to include membership in VPAG, the Virginia Prison Advocacy group, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Panel and chairwoman of Alexandria United Way," Byrd said. "I am also a presidential correspondence volunteer to President [Barack] Obama."

Byrd's civic service was not lost on daughter Patricia Yancey, whose service began as a child attending Alexandria public schools from kindergarten to the 12th grade. Yancey was a cheerleader and Girl Scout, and a member of the drill team, marching band and flag corps.

"Under the influence, guidance and tutelage of my mother, I am an active and involved citizen," Yancey said. "My mother and I joined countless others in yearly marches demanding that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday be made a national holiday. We attended the Million Man March in Washington and the Million Woman March in Philadelphia and we were present at the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall."

Following in her mother's footsteps, Yancey moved to the Lynhaven community and became active in community affairs. She has assisted in neighborhood cleanups and dinners to Carpenter's Shelter and the National Night Out events.

Yancey currently serves as assistant precinct judge for the Cora Kelly precinct where her mother is chief judge and 21-year-old daughter Chanel is an election officer.

"My family is the crown jewel of my life," said Byrd, who recently retired after 30 years with the Alexandria City Public School System. "Jack and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and are blessed with two children, Patricia and Julious, and



Harlene Clayton and Stephanie Clayton

three grandchildren — Chanel, Jordan and Jalen."

HARLENE CLAYTON AND STEPHANIE CLAYTON

A native of Crisfield, Md., Harlene Cullen Clayton first moved to the Parkfairfax neighborhood of Alexandria as a young bride in 1967. Along with her husband Jack, she has been an active member of Beverley Hills United Methodist Church for more than 42 years and has dedicated her life to community service.

For a number of years, Harlene Clayton was active in the League of Women Voters and served as president of the Charles Barrett PTA and the PTA council. An active member of the Alexandria Democratic Committee, she managed six winning campaigns and was a volunteer in the Clinton White House.

She has been active in the Alexandria Community Mental Health Association and

served as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, ALIVE! and Carpenter's Shelter.

Professionally, Harlene Clayton worked as aide to former City Councilman Donald C. Casey; was legislative aide to Delegate Marian Van Landingham for 17 years, and served as an aide to former Councilman Tim Lovain.

For eldest daughter Stephanie Clayton, her earliest memories of "volunteering" usually involved local Democratic politics, where she was often recruited by her campaign manager mom to leaflet a neighborhood or even tap dance at a musical fundraiser. Following in her mother's footsteps, she volunteered as a candy striper at Alexandria Hospital while her mom was an active member of the Twig. She was active in her youth group at Beverley Hills Church, where she helped build the community playground that stands today.

A co-president of the T.C. Williams High School class of 1985, Stephanie Clayton graduated from the University of Virginia before returning to Alexandria to manage the local headquarters for Douglas Wilder's gubernatorial campaign.

Currently an event planner, Stephanie Clayton continues to give back through her work with the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, where for nine years she has served as a trustee. Lending her event planning expertise, she helped transform the SFA Spring Gala into its most successful fundraiser, where \$1.5 million has been raised for its operating budget. For her efforts, she was recently honored with the Scholarship Fund's "Patron Saint" award for her longtime dedication to the Fund.

PATRICIA S. "PATSY" TICER AND MARGARET TICER JANOWSKY

It's hard to remember when Patricia "Patsy" Ticer was not a fixture in Alexandria. A 1951 graduate of George Washington High School, she has lived in the city since she was in the seventh grade.

As a young bride to husband Jack, Ticer first became engaged in civic affairs as a Yates Gardens Homeowners Association officer. She went on to join the Old Town Civic Association and has served on vari-



Patsy Ticer and Margaret Janowsky

ous PTA boards as well as the Board of Alexandria Hospital.

Her first foray into politics was as an aide in her husband's campaign for Alexandria City Council in 1955. Ticer herself was elected to Council in 1982 and became the city's first female mayor in 1991, a position she held until her election to State Senate in 1995.

Despite her 30 years of public service and advocacy on behalf of children, education and the environment, Ticer is still taken aback by some of the accolades she receives.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I expect this," said a surprised Ticer when she was honored last month with the Rev. Ben Lynt Distinguished Service Award. "My contributions are minimal compared to what so many others are doing in our community."

Ticer's daughter, Margaret Ticer Janowsky, was born and raised in Alexandria and continued her mother's passion for environmental causes while living in the Tidewater region following her graduation from college.

Upon her return to Alexandria, she became actively engaged in her mother's political activities as well as those of other City Council and School Board candidates.

She and her husband Laurent own La Bergerie Restaurant in Old Town and are set to open the Del Ray Café later this year. Through their business, the couple supports several nonprofit organizations, including Senior Services of Alexandria.

Janowsky is an advocate of breast cancer awareness and both she and her mother support the city's annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer. She also serves as a volunteer at Maury Elementary and George Washington Middle schools where her two children are students.

"I know firsthand that you don't have to go very far or get very old to realize how much we need others in our lives," said Ticer referring to her rehabilitation from a fall she suffered in late 2010. "We are very lucky to live in a place where people care about each other and act on that caring."

For more information on the Senior Services and the Generation to Generation Gala, visit www.seniorservicesalex.org.

Rodriguez Receives National Award

FROM PAGE 5

ing General, U.S. Army Forces Command, dedicated the award to his family and U.S. servicemen and women around the world.

"It is an incredible honor to win this award," said Rodriguez, who will begin infantry training in Georgia following graduation from West Point this spring. His first duty station will be in Vicenza, Italy.

Rodriguez is only the sixth football player to win the Sullivan Award in its 82-year history, and only the second Army football player to win the award. Felix Blanchard, also from Army, was the first football player to win the Sullivan Award in 1945.

"The thing that makes Andrew so spe-

cial is that he is truly a wonderful kid," Simmons said. "He always had time for everybody and made everyone feel as if they were his friend."

In addition to his athletic achievements, Rodriguez maintained a 4.14 GPA as a mechanical engineering major and ranks third in a class of 1,052 cadets. Rodriguez is Army's first Campbell Trophy winner and the school's 14th National Football Foundation's National Scholar-Athlete. He joins 1990 Campbell Trophy winner Chris Howard (Air Force) as the only winners representing a service academy.

"What a great honor and a great family," Simmons said. "We have always been proud of Andrew Rodriguez and we are glad everyone else is finding out what a great young man he really is."

'Practices That Undermine Trust'

Virginia gets a failing grade on ethics rules.

The State Integrity Investigation is “designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right.”

Virginia got a failing grade, ranking 47 out of 50 states for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the Commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

Here are a few comments about Virginia from the investigation (can't call them highlights):

“The Old Dominion is one of nine states with no statewide ethics commission, one of four states with no campaign finance limits and one of only two states (South Carolina is the other) where the part-time legislators handpick the judges before whom many of them practice law.

EDITORIAL

“With 8.1 million residents, Virginia is the 12th most populous state in the union. But its part-time lawmakers have one of the shortest meeting schedules in the country — 30 days in odd-numbered years and 60 days in even-numbered years. At that speed, lobbyists of necessity have been elevated from influence peddlers to trusted advisers and authors of laws.”

Virginia has admirable disclosure of campaign contributions, earning a near perfect grade on citizen access to campaign finance records. The credit on the transparency of actual contributions to candidates belongs to the Virginia Public Access Project, vpap.org, more than the Commonwealth.

But the benefit of access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by “lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed,

limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications,” according to the report.

A couple of examples of laws and practices that could undermine trust:

- ❖ Virginia has no limits on financial contributions to political candidates. Literally. Companies and individuals can give unlimited amounts to any and all state and local elected officials, with some very limited restriction on timing.

- ❖ The licensing of car title loan companies, and allowing those companies in Virginia to lend to out-of-state car owners is clearly not in the interests of consumers or the communities where these storefronts are located.

- ❖ Despite a groundswell of indignation about a state law that sets the start date for public schools rather than allowing local school districts to set their own calendar, the entertainment industry prevailed this year again.

- ❖ Votes in subcommittees, where many important reforms go to die, are not recorded and not available to the public.

See Virginia's report card (overall grade: F) <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

LETTERS

City Needs To Explain Budget

To the Editor:

Although City Council reportedly instructed the city manager to submit a budget that does not raise taxes (it is an election year), he submitted a budget that does take more money from us.

Sadly, recent news reports have revealed that city and school employees have abused their authority regarding our money. I doubt that the city manager's proposed remedy of spending \$25,000 on an ethics course will be effective in stopping such employees from stealing/misallocating money. Such misdeeds result from a problem of character, not a lack of knowledge of the difference between right and an obvious wrong. Also, that sum seems high for such a basic course. (I speak as a human resources consultant.)

In every organization I know, it is the supervisor's responsibility to sign off on hours worked/ materials and supplies purchased/ monies paid to ensure an honest accounting. Have the supervisors of those city employees have been penalized for failing to exercise the necessary oversight? What has the city's director of human resources done during this mess? Someone exercised judgment in hiring that consulting company which sup

THEN & NOW



By 1937, the Fitzgerald complex was largely abandoned.



Today, Frappuccinos and gifts have replaced tobacco and grain at 100 and 104 S. Union Street. Although not visible in this image, the front of the building has a pronounced tilt toward the river.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/GAZETTE PACKET

Old Town History: Fitzgerald Warehouse

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
GAZETTE PACKET

The city of Alexandria enjoys a rich and colorful history, one that began in colonial times and has encompassed periods of industrial concentration, wartime pressures and residential booms. A few physical reminders of those past eras endure, but sometimes they are hard to find or recognize.

The three-story building on the southeast corner of King and Union Streets is good example of a structure with major historical bones. The section facing Union, which hosts the Virginia Shop and Starbucks, dates to about 1781. In the jargon of city historians, it's Fitzgerald's Warehouse.

John Fitzgerald, a military aide to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War, acquired the property while home on leave in 1778. At that time, his one acre largely consisted

of a mudflat, but fill extended the shoreline and soon three conjoined warehouses arose on the site. By 1789, a 50-foot-wide wharf served the facility. Fitzgerald was an Alexandria mayor and a founding patron of St. Mary's Church.

Thomas Irwin and family owned the warehouses and wharf through 1881, and afterward Julius Dreifus bought and sold hides and junk there.

Justus Schneider opened the building's first restaurant in 1867. Others followed over the years — Brill's, Ketland's “Bill's Old Anchor” and the Seaport Inn.

The wings on the east side of the main structure have come and gone since Irwin added two before the Civil War. Part of current north wing dates to 1962, and the other river-facing structures are much more recent developments.

Wales Alley, between the Fitzgerald warehouse and Virtue Feed and Grain, dates to 1789 but was known in the 1800s as Fitzgerald's Alley or Dock Street.

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

posedly vetted the city's new hires; that person must assume at least some of the blame — and appropriate penalty — for the unfortunate results, but I haven't heard of anyone doing so. Has the consulting company been asked to make restitution (at least to return its fee)?

It was reported that the city budget had a surplus last year which the city manager has recommended spending rather than putting it into a rainy day fund. I think we should build a financial cushion for an expected slowing of economic activity in our region if the federal government reduces its expenditures and our revenues fall as a result. Alternatively, return it to us taxpayers.

I was surprised that Mr. Young's proposed budget provides the School Board with even more money than it requested; I hope he will explain his reasons for that decision which also increases our taxes.

Since other taxpayers must have the same concerns, I hope Mr. Young will address them in your columns as well as on the city website. If the acting city manager has already addressed the person-

nel and related problems, I hope Mr. Young's response will include what he did. I'd also like to know what measures have been implemented to avoid similar problems in the future.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Appropriate Action Taken

To the Editor:

I am surprised by the continuing debate about the school system's CIP budgeting deficiencies. The superintendent's review of vendor complaints uncovered these actions. The superintendent promptly brought the facts to the School Board. The School Board promptly authorized an independent inquiry. The independent inquiry was conducted without resistance or interference from the superintendent or the School Board. The results, while clearly bad, revealed no actual defalcation. The results were promptly made public. The superintendent immediately took severe disciplinary actions, including the removal of essentially all of the ACPS senior officials with actual or im-

puted knowledge of the improper activities. At no time was a material detail not disclosed. Isn't that exactly what the superintendent and the School Board were supposed to do?

Mark Williams
Alexandria

Think Things Through

To the Editor:

Councilwoman Hughes is and was correct in her "fiscal budgetary" no vote on opening a continuing education facility at Landmark Mall. Why would you spend money on opening/setting up a satellite facility when the mall will begin major renovations and redevelopment in two years bringing in to question the viability of the satellite facility to exist beyond one year. A smarter move would have been to make TC a 9-12 grade campus and then using Minnie Howard for said item or using it to house our elementary school kids from a given school that is otherwise in line for a complete renovation. Where is the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

long term planning ... another major missed opportunity. Given Landmark Malls vacancy, I'd welcome it with open arms too if I were them.

Also, the ASA/city property transfer and to get a mini athletic field should have been a no brainer ... all a council member needs to do is a two-minute pit stop to the site to realize it's a win for the city.

Last, very disappointing to realize that a divider/left turn lane for Jefferson Davis Highway was not incorporated into the Potomac Yard development between Custis Avenue and Hume. This is a perfect example if poor planning when it comes to infrastructure improvements.

Ruben Duran
Alexandria

City's Students Deserve Better

To the Editor:

The people of Alexandria would be wise to recall the headlines of 2004 when ACPS Superintendent Rebecca Perry was arrested for driving while intoxicated as she left a school board meeting; that is, as she left work.

As punishment, the School Board reduced her contract by one year and asked that she donate \$10,000 to the T.C. Williams' All Night Graduation party. Later, the same

Board extended her contract through mid-year 2008, and gave her a raise.

Indeed that School Board acted as though Ms. Perry was the only person in this world qualified to run what is, essentially, a mediocre (by regional and national standards) school system.

Now, if we were to put 100 people in a room to each give us one reason why our school system is plagued with this mediocrity, we'd leave with 200 answers. Everyone has an opinion; most of us are smart enough to figure out some of the solutions.

It does not appear that the root cause can be found in our educators; for the most part they are dedicated, creative, caring professionals.

The problem is certainly not money — well, it's not a lack of money. Here in Alexandria, we have money in measures: don't let the City Council tell you different when they go to raise your real estate taxes — as municipalities go, we're rollin' in the dough.

A big part of the problem could be found in parental involvement. Few would argue that parental involvement is the key to a young person's success in school. It's no secret that the socio-economic demographics of our community don't match the socio-economic demographics of our school system. There's a disconnect; the affluent here decry the state of our schools but refuse to send their kids to T.C. Williams — the per

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



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several seating areas, exquisite moldings, built in shelves + cabinetry, French doors leading to deck, elegant dining room with fireplace, light filled updated kitchen with breakfast area. Inviting

family room with fireplace, and 2 car garage. ~ \$1,450,000

6111 Vernon Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

Open Sunday in Belle Haven!



Elegant custom built colonial in the heart of Belle Haven. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths on over 4200 finished square feet. Tall ceilings, exquisite moldings, hardwood floors, elegant formal rooms, 4 fireplaces, 2 car garage, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, large master suite, and fabulous deck for entertaining. ~ \$1,695,000



6102 Woodmont Road Alexandria, VA 22307

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8127 Bainbridge Road
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3625 Drews Court
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2411 Cavendish Drive
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6213 Foxcroft Road
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Open Sunday in Belle Haven!



Elegant Brick colonial sited on a lot overlooking wooded park land. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, on 4 fully finished levels. Gracious formal living room, inviting family room, private screened-in



porch and deck, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, and 1 car garage. ~\$1,195,000

6102 Edgewood Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

Just Listed ~ Open Sunday!



The Best of Hollin Hall! Completely renovated in 2007. Custom kitchen and bathrooms. Gas fireplace in living room + surround sound, granite counter tops, stainless steel



appliances, large mud room, master bedroom w/ attached private bath! Fully fenced back yard oasis and oversized 1 car garage with electricity, TV, shelving, workshop. 2006 Windows and Roof. ~ \$469,000

1505 Baltimore Road Alexandria, VA 22308

The Best in Alexandria



Completely remodeled in 2011. 6000 square feet on 4 fully finished levels, 6 bedrooms, 6.5 baths, library, formal living and dining rooms, sun room, fully finished lower level, and 4th story loft. Master



suite w/ gas fireplace, 3 closets, spa like bathroom. Hardwood floors. Gourmet eat-in kitchen with granite counter tops, Wolf range, 3 dishwashers, separate bar area w/ ice maker, large island with

seating for 4. Flagstone walkway and garage ~ \$2,499,000

317 Mansion Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horsehair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off



street parking spaces! ~ \$1,695,000

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

Just Listed in Stratford Landing



Over 5000 sq feet in culdesac. 5 bedrooms, 2.55 baths. Dramatic ceilings, 2 frpls, walk to elem and middle school. Hardwood floors throughout main level, Large bright eat in kitchen with center island and breakfast rm opens to spacious private deck with hot tub.. Formal LR and DR plus office on main level. Great lower level with rec rm, den or 5th bedroom, gym and more. ~ \$849,000



1786 Rampart Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

Just Listed in Mt. Vernon



Potomac water view from this pristine renovated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial. Recent improvements include Pella windows, custom cooks kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances & granite, screened



porch overlooking idyllic yard. Stunning owners suite w/ custom designed closets and luxury baths. Its all done! Lower level w/ plumbed for bath. Easy walk to river. ~ \$759,000

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

ception is the poor kids go there. We have to honestly confront that if we want real change in our schools.

(For the record, I do not have kids but I am a product of the public school system in Georgia and I am the son of a former public school teacher. I believe in public schools.)

So if we're loyal enough to maintain that those we've entrusted to educate our children are doing the best they can, and we're wise enough to know we don't need to throw any more money at the problem, and if we as a collective are honest enough to admit to ourselves that we're partly at fault by "buying out" of ACPS; and there's but one place left to turn for incremental victories — that is, the administration of the schools; the administration of the resources we've entrusted to the School Board and Superintendent.

Now I'm not a fan of Kerry Donley but School Board Chairwoman Sheryl Gorsuch is wrong to say he has more appropriate ways than in the Council Chamber to share his opinion regarding the dysfunctional budget office Morton Sherman ultimately manages. As

part of the elected body that oversees the City's budget in its entirety, including what is awarded to the schools each year, that's exactly the venue for Mr. Donley to express his opinion.

Let's not forget, this isn't the first time members of the public have had a reason to question Dr. Sherman's ability to lead our school system.

ACPS is the largest single part of the City's budget — if the Council Chamber isn't the place to talk about the administration of resources and the future of those administering the resources, when and where is the place, Ms. Gorsuch? I am concerned that Ms. Gorsuch may be falling into the same trap that so many of our City leaders often do — the trap of believing it's acceptable to conduct the public's business behind closed doors. Furthermore, I am concerned that Ms. Gorsuch views Dr. Sherman as the old School Board viewed Ms. Perry — in spite of the questions surrounding his ability to effectively lead ACPS — that he is the only person in the world qualified to run a mediocre school system; that he is the only person around who can improve on average.

I don't buy it. And neither should

you.

Our students deserve better, don't they, Ms. Gorsuch?

**George G. Demetriades,
Jr.**
Alexandria

No Need For Cars?

To the Editor:

Michael Lee Pope's "Parking the Guests", although a mere news brief, puts in sharp relief the lies developers and their city hall allies peddle to the public under the "transit-oriented development" fad du jour. After having bought into dense development inappropriate for historically low-density neighborhoods on the grounds that the new residents "won't need cars", and accepted conditions denying on-street parking permits for the residents of these behemoth apartment buildings such as the Monarch, now that city hall has the dense development its developer friends want, it wants to renege on the quid-pro-quo which got these dense developments in the first place, figuring these be

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25



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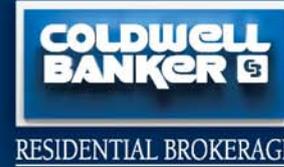
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Old Town **\$2,750,000**
 213 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22315
 Circa 1780, this stately free-standing 6BR + 3 1/2BA brick townhome boasts a grand entrance hallway, 10 1/2 ft ceilings & orig. fls. The glorious brick walled garden offers mature plantings plus pool! **Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156**



Old Town **\$949,500**
 507 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314
Total Renovation With Historic Appeal Beautifully renovated 3BR/2.5BA TH built 1853 in Old Town's SE Quad. Features Viking & JennAir stnls appl; Sep FR & LR w/ WB Fpl. MBR w/ sitting rm & balcony overlooking gardens. **Chris Upham 202-359-1308**



Sulgrave Village **\$1,050,000**
 1912 Prices Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
This Stately Colonial Has It All 4BR, 4BA, 3 LVL, 3 CAR GAR, 9' ceilings, Gourmet Kit, 61" TV & Sound System, brk circular drive, warm wd flrs, plantation shutters. \$150,000 price reduction. **Ed Pagett 703-518-6161**



Old Town **\$1,895,000**
 608 Oronoco St, Alexandria, VA 22314
Historic Old Town Located across from Lee's boyhood home, exquisite 3,000+ sqft, 4BR, 4.5BA. Landscaped backyard retreat, garage & 4-car pkg. Spectacular addition, kitchen renovation & MBR Suite. **Chris Upham 202-359-1308**



Forest Knoll **\$698,000**
 1110 N. Howard Street, Alexandria, 222304
 This fantastic updated colonial offers amazing space w/ 4100+ SF and .29 acres, 4BRs, HW floors, high-end appls, new windows, huge sunroom & walkout bsmt in a park like setting! **Joy Deevy 703-930-5198**



Florence Overlook **\$850,000**
 6127 Stegen Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310
House Beautiful Impeccable property in Wilton Woods area. Stunning new kitchen, 4BR, 3.5BA, 3 finished levels, 2-car garage, 3 fireplaces. See photos at www.RitaRealtor.com **Rita McCauley-Redmond 703 447 9114**



Wilson Woods **\$899,900**
 5901 Ashby Manor Place, Alexandria, VA 22310
Wilton Woods Area Exceptional custom home on one-acre lot, 3 levels, 3-car garage, 4BR, 4 BA, library, columned back porch overlooking private backyard. Photos at www.RitaRealtor.com **Rita McCauley-Redmond 703 447 9114**



Old Town **\$524,900**
 1612 Lafayette Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308
Fabulous 1 Of A Kind Home Beautiful 3BR, 2BA cape cod w/frt porch on corner lot across fr woods & wildlife. Lusciously private backyard. Warm wd floors, gourmet kit & sunny family room. **Ed Pagett 703-518-6161**



Wilton Forest **\$664,500**
 6103 Mulberry Court, Alexandria VA 22310
Just Listed Spacious 5 lvl home full of surprises. Over 3500 sq ft--5 bdrs, 4 full BAs, super master suite w/ library, solarium, family rm, play rm, exercise rm, 2-car gar & so much more. **Jane Cole 703 598-6198**



Plymouth Haven **\$924,500**
 8636 Plymouth Road, Alexandria VA 22308
Just Listed Handsome 5BR, 3 1/2 bath colonial on half-acre landscaped lot. Approx 3500 sq ft + screened porch & 2-car garage. Short distance to schools, Fort Hunt Park & Mt. V bike path. **Jane Cole 703 598-6198**



Port Royal **\$1225 TO \$1750**
 801 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Location! Location! Old Town Rentals! 1 studio w/balcony & parking - \$1,225, 1 BDR w/water views - \$1750 & parking, 1 studio renovated & parking - \$1250. www.mariemeyer@Live.com **Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080**



Lakewood Hills **\$547,000**
 7711 Bertito Lane, Springfield, VA 22153
New Listing Great 4 BR, 3 BA, 2-car garage home with renovated eat-in kitchen, sep LR and DR, rec room w/fplc, double decks, designer touches. Close to shopping, dining & commuter routes. **Yvonne Croft 703-973-1540**



Old Town Alexandria
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JUST LISTED **OPEN SUN**

2327 Wittington Blvd
\$699,900
Better Than New-Gorgeous Lot!
Stunning 3 level, 4 bedroom Colonial just renovated from top to bottom! Many features include: large room sizes, open kitchen-family room, finished lower level and 2 car garage. Virtually every major component is brand new! Upgraded throughout! Gorgeous large fenced lot. Walk to nearby pool! Amazing Value! **OPEN SUN 3/25, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; R-Stratford; L-Camden; L-Wittington.**

JUST LISTED **OPEN SUN**

3035 Battersca Ln
\$539,500
Spacious Home-Pristine Condition!
Pride of ownership is evident throughout large 5 BR, 3 BA home in prime location backing to conservation land. Fabulous features include: hdwd flrs, updated HVAC, recently installed roof and 2 car garage. Screen porch overlooks landscaped grounds. Special property offers size, condition and location rarely available at this modest price. **OPEN SUN 3/25, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; at Mansion hard R on 235; R-Battersca.**

NEW HOME

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

NEW & OPEN SUNDAY 1-3!
\$550,000
Alexandria
75 ARELL CT

4BR, 3.5BA Pulte built town home in super convenient Quaker Village, just off Duke Street. Loads of space, light bright kitchen, backs to green space, extremely private yet just minutes to everything!

www.susanmovesyou.com
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

\$505,000
Alex / Old Town
"A SECRET"

Old Town's Best Kept Secret - Tannery House. 2BR/2BA w/over 1,250 sq ft, 2 off-street parking spaces, lots of closets & a Low Condo Feel! This condo faces Wilkes St & features a 21 ft balcony, fireplace & hardwood flrs. For more information, please call:

Virginia Jacob 703.836.7210
Bonnie Clark 703.725.9449

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$679,000
Alex / Old Town Greens
709 SCARBURGH WAY

JUST LISTED! Stunning 3BR/3BA TH w/2-car gar. Gourmet eat-in kit w/adjoining cozy FR. Elegant DR, LR & den. MBR has loft. New HVAC & water heater - plus amenities galore! Walk to Rustico, Buzz, & much more. Close to DC, Pentagon, airport, Metro.

Peggy Baldwin 703.772.5236

NEW PRICE

7804 Southdown Rd
\$1,499,000
Unique opportunity!! Huge Price Reduction!
Custom Craftsman designed to capitalize on gorgeous setting which combines rural ambiance with sweeping river views. Many fabulous features include open floor plan, spacious kitchen-breakfast room, river view master suite with fireplace and luxury bath. Multi-tiered decks take advantage of river views and soothing breezes. Absolutely gorgeous 1/2 acre private grounds.

JUST LISTED

9514 Mount Vernon Ld
\$1,950,000
MVOP WATERFRONT-PRIVATE DOCK
Unique opportunity to acquire direct waterfrontage with private dock in prestigious MVOP! Designed by leading architect to capitalize on stunning water views. Dramatic open flr plan, soaring cathedral ceilings, expansive glass walls and all brick exterior. All major components in place - personalize interior. Rare property in this price range.

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

\$679,000
New Alexandria
"INVITING OPPORTUNITY"

Renovated home located on a quiet street just minutes from Old Town & the Potomac River trails. There are 4BR up + 2.5BA, private rear deck w/lg fenced side yard & 2-car gar. Features inc: LR w/fireplace, dining area & kit/family rm combo w/breakfast bar.

www.marylousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$225,000
Montebello #1511
"5902 MT EAGLE DR"

1BR & den, often used as a 2nd BR. Stunning long-range vistas (W,NW & NE) from 3 sides of the glass enclosed balcony! Sparkling wood floors, fresh paint, prof. cleaned! Ready for move-in. Price reflects need for updating.

Mary Siverson 703.209.6918

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$639,000
Alexandria South
7112 MARLAN DR

2 level rambler boasts 3BR/2.5BA, form. LR/DR & an attached gar. Enjoy screened porch/deck that overlook the private rear landscaped yard. LL rec rm w/FP, den/guest rm & BA. Upgrades inc: fresh paint, refinished wood flrs, roof, gutters, electric, recent HVAC & newer appl.

www.marylousage.com
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

NEW PRICE

9020 Old Mt Vernon Rd
\$650,000
Stunning Renovation-Borders Mt. Vernon Estate!
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!

NEW PRICE

8355 Justin Rd
\$819,900
PERFECTION!
Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet kit, 2 levels of hardwood floors, stunning MBR and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home!

JUST LISTED

7912 Bayberry Dr
\$399,900
Large Home-Prime Location-Amazing Price!
Sounds too good to be true! 5BR home in prime Fort Hunt area for under \$400K! Spacious home with many features including open floor plan, updated kit and baths, hdwd flrs, gas heat and hot water, replacement windows (main level). Bright finished LL w/direct outside entrance. Fabulous setting on large lot just mins from Old Town.

\$1,250,000
The Reserve
"WATERFRONT"

Large 5 acre lot - waterfront (rip wrapped) in gated community w/security, private deep water marina. 180 degree views of the north end of the Potomac in Gunston Grove to wonderful views all the way to Mt Vernon mansion. Fiber internet, electric, propane, public water & peat-moss septic system.

www.11281crosswellking.z57websites.com/showcase.z57.com/
Randy Bender 703.906.1749

\$800,000
Alexandria South
"UNIQUE"

This exceptionally beautiful home has 4BR/2.5BA & is worthy of Architectural Digest! Lots & lots of windows create unusual amounts of light & a happy warm atmosphere. There is an eat-in kit, sep. DR, LR w/wood-burning fireplace & a family room w/built-in bookshelves. The yard has lovely landscaping & is sunny & open. For more info, call...

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4!
\$879,000 & UP
Hollin Hall Knolls
8115 YORKTOWN

Four exquisitely built homes by Long Homes of VA located in the heart of Mt. Vernon. EZ access to GW Pkwy, shopping, bike trails, swimming & more. These luxurious homes have all the upgrades & options.

www.hollinknoll.z57websites.com/showcase.z57.com/
Randy Bender 703.906.1749

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

JUST LISTED

9219 Allwood Dr
\$525,000
Updated Home-

Spectacular Fabulous listing!

CONTRACT!

Lot! new listing! Move in ready! Stunning home on

8826 Cooper Rd

CONTRACT!

\$395,000
Country Views! You won't believe this large updated rambler is

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$675,000
Alexandria
2121 JAMISON AVE #1403

Beautifully refreshed luxury home. NEW SSA w/lovely silestone, undermount sink & decorative tile backsplash. New paint thru-out. Separate dining rm w/NEW chandelier. Gorgeous sunsets from balcony. Monument views from 2BR. Seldom lived in unit feels like BRAND NEW!

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Brian Hong & Jery Beamer 703.929.5764

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$509,000
Alexandria
513 S FAYETTE ST

Expanded 3 lvl end unit TH in SW quadrant. Beautifully renovated w/high-end finishes - kit w/granite, SSA, breakfast bar & custom tile flrs.

Hardwood flrs & Berber in LL. Lush landscaping, brick walkway, ext. storage shed, privacy fencing, room for parking. A short stroll to King St Metro.

Sean Satkus 703.887.2116

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$190,000
Alex / Del Ray
305 E DUNCAN AVE

Cozy 1BR, 1st floor unit in secure building. Fresh paint, new SS fridge-dishwasher-stove. Nice hdwd flrs. Free laundry! Move in condition. Close to restaurants, shops & public transportation. General parking w/permit plus street parking. Storage unit. Low fees.

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria resident Dorothy Taylor celebrated her 98th birthday with four generations of her family and friends at her home on N. Alfred Street. From left (bottom row) are Beatrice Taylor, Taitiana Chandler, Don Jones (Napper), Maia Chandler, Corin Turner Jr., Corinne Turner, Jaden Ashley Chandler, Donte Childs, Jacquez Napper-Braxton, Rhonda Taylor. Middle row: Dorothy E. (Elizabeth) Taylor, holding Damien Taylor Jr., Charlene A. Taylor Napper, Francis Burke, Zoe Chandler, Tiffany Harris, Damien Taylor. Next row seated: Louis Napper, Donald Taylor. Next row standing: Damine'ka Napper Braxton, Charlene "Donell" Taylor, Donna Taylor. Next row standing: Greyling Chandler, Jackie Golden, John Taylor, Quinnette Napper-Braxton, Tai Turner, Ernest Murphy. Next row standing: Anja Turner, Karen Taylor Chandler, Crystal Taylor Redman, Dwight Redman, Lyndsy Chandler, William Summers, Ashley Chandler, Kamaria Olubayo, Curtis Boxley (Taylor), Darnell Braxton. Next row standing: Jalani Napper Braxton, De'jah Napper-Braxton, Brian Lewis, Ashley. Standing last row: Erich Napper, Terry Barber and Corin Turner.

Dorothy Taylor Celebrates 98 Years

The house on N. Alfred Street was bustling with activity as dozens and dozens of friends and family stopped by on Sunday, March 18, to celebrate Dorothy Taylor's 98th birthday. Born on March 20, 1914, Taylor grew up in Alexandria and was in the first class that attended the newly opened Parker-Gray School. Her great-great grandparents Arthur W. and

Lucy Lomax are buried in the Freedman's Cemetery. She has been a member of the Daughter of the Elks Lodge (IBPOEW) for over 63 years and deaconess and life-long member of Third Baptist Church. Her great-grandmother was a founding member of Third Baptist Church on Princess Street.

— LOUISE KRAFFT



Quinnette Napper-Braxton dances and sings to her great-grandmother. With Quinnette are: William Summers, Tai Turner, Zoe Chandler and John Taylor.

Dorothy Taylor holds her youngest great-grandchild Zoe Chandler. With them are Taylor's sons Donald and John.



Inmate-Graduate Terrance Kerney with Instructor Krista Sofonia (left) and Chief Deputy Tony DiCesare.

Learning Behind Bars

Inmate appreciates jail high school program.

BY HARRY COVERT
GAZETTE PACKET

Terrance Kerney had to come east to earn his high school education.

Of course, his original intent wasn't to come from Los Angeles to Alexandria to go to class.

Kerney has been an inmate in the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in the Alexandria Sheriff's Office for a while and took advantage of the opportunity. He had some time on his hands and instead of laying around, watching television, playing checkers and exercising, he joined the classes of Krista Sofonia, the jail's Adult Education coordinator.

Sofonia doesn't call these classes readin', ritin' and rithmetic but she is a stern taskmaster who insists her students pay attention, study, do their homework.

Kerney was one of 13 students last year who earned their Equivalency Diploma (GED), high school education, while serving time in the Alexandria Jail. Some 20 inmate-students attended the classes and the test with a 65 percent pass rate in 2011, Sofonia said. Another inmate, Jose Zuniga also graduated with Kerney but has since left the facility.

"Earning a GED opens the student up to possibilities that were not there before, whether it's applying to college or better employment opportunities." Said Sofonia. "For most of them, earning a GED is the first step necessary to achieving their long term goals."

A total of 100 inmates participated in the program last year, Sofonia said. "Obviously due to the nature of the jail business, most inmates are not

here long enough to complete the program."

Inmate Kerney wrote an essay, "How the GED Program Changed My Life:"

"The GED program changed my life in three different ways. For example, it has given me hope in furthering my education with huge confidence. It has also given me an opportunity to experience how hard work pays off. The most satisfying thing it has given me is praise from my mom.

"The first significant impact getting my GED has done for me is giving me the audacity to strive and try to enroll into NOVA Community College upon my release. The 'ole me' would never had the courage or confidence to try to enroll into a college.

"I understand now that success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out so with persistence and hard work I can accomplish anything.

"During my graduation the looks and smiles on my mother's face was priceless. I can't remember the last time she has been soooooo proud of me. She bought two airline tickets and "flew miles and miles just to attend my graduation with my son.' My mom believes I have a bright future now and will be able to be productive in society now.

"In retrospect I never would have imagined how dramatically me and my family's lives would be positively impacted, all because I decided to enroll in a GED program in the Alexandria Detention Center. So based on all of the above reasons I can honestly say 'with conviction' that the GED program saved my life. I thank Jesus Christ for this program."

'Brother Russia'

The Mad Monk comes to life at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Born in a remote Siberian village, he was raised impoverished and uneducated yet became powerful enough to infiltrate a Russian dynasty. Such was the journey of Grigori Rasputin, whose story is brought to life in the world premier musical of "Brother Russia," now playing at Signature Theatre.

The innovative rock musical — a work commissioned by Signature Theatre — is the latest creation by musical theater team Dana P. Rowe and John Dempsey, the award-winning creators of "The Fix" and "The Witches of Eastwick."

The play-within-a-play opens in a desolate potato field north of Omsk, where a fourth-rate traveling theater troupe has set up its tents to entertain the local farm-

ers with tales of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. But on this night, the company instead decides to tell the story of their impresario and star, the larger-than-life Brother Russia, more commonly known as Grigori Rasputin.

Under the masterful direction of Eric Schaeffer, Signature colorfully traces Rasputin's path from poverty to power over the Romanov Dynasty in the waning days of Imperial Russia.

To pull off the ambitious account of Rasputin's life, Schaeffer has assembled a stellar cast led by Doug Kreeger in the pivotal role of Grigori/Sasha. Kreeger is nothing short of electrifying, unleashing a powerful passion throughout a driving score of more than 25 original songs.

Helen Hayes-award winner Natascia Diaz is Anastasia/Sofya, the recipient of Grigori's intensifying desires. Kreeger and Diaz,



John Lescault as the enthusiastically delirious "Brother Russia."

whose hunger for each other is palpable, combine for a vocally powerful duo in songs such as "The Room Above the Tavern" and "I Belong to You."

Acting as the elderly Brother Russia and director of the traveling troupe is John Lescault with Amy McWilliams and Russell Sun-

day nailing the commanding roles of Tsarina Alexandra and Tsar Nicolas.

Stephen Gregory Smith, fresh from his performance as Corny Collins in the Signature production of "Hairspray," adds a sardonic comic relief in a brilliant performance as Sergei/Felix.

Rounding out the artistically gifted cast are Kevin McAllister, Christopher Mueller, Tracey Lynn Olivera, Erin Driscoll and Rachel Zampelli.

Stunning sets by Mischa Kachman depict both the desolation of Siberia and the opulence of St. Petersburg while Gabriel Mangiante directs the orchestra through a memorable score highlighted by the driving rhythm of the anthem-like Brother Russia.

With a flawless cast and dazzling performances, "Brother Russia" leaves audiences wanting more — more Kreeger, more Diaz and more of what Schaeffer does best — innovative and award-winning theatre.

"Brother Russia" is playing now through April 15 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. For tickets or more information, call 703-820-9711 or visit signature-theatre.org.

Susan Makara Named 2012 Artist of the Year

The Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center named Susan Makara, TFAA artist, as the 2012 Artist of the Year on Feb. 9. Laurie Fields was named runner-up.

In selecting Makara, juror William Schran, assistant dean of fine arts at Northern Virginia Community College, said, "Susan demonstrates a command of the medium with powerful imagery that speaks to the viewer, yet presents a sense of mystery. There is a haunting dream-like quality with the figures, all hidden behind masks. Behind the mask, who is looking at whom?"

Makara's entry is entitled "Masks." The series includes 15 works, 10 paintings and five sketches. In Makara's words, "Masks showcases my strongest and most fantastical work to date. The ideas for the series come from my imagination, visible only in my mind's eye until I paint them. We all wear masks. Our true feelings and thoughts are not always revealed for others to see. Sometimes we hide the person within."

Susan Makara holds a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. She served as assistant art director at a Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C.,

and as art director for the PBS series "Powerhouse." Her work can be found in the School of Art Museum in Buenos Aires, at the U.S. State Department, in the homes of James Brady and Barbara Bush, and at the Garden Court in Jordan's Royal Palace.

Laurie Fields' abstract paintings and ceramics are included in the collections of the Vanderbilt family, IBM, General Foods, Westinghouse, Adolpho, Geico, Helmsley-Spear and the Hyatt Regency. More than 50 of her images have been published as posters. She received a BFA from the University of Hartford.

Makara's winning works will be exhibited in the Target Gallery from July 1 to July 29, 2012. A reception will be held in her honor on July 12 in the Target Gallery, 6 to 8 p.m. The event will be open to the public.



Susan Makara



"Incubator" by Susan Makara

FINE ARTS

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.

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, 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 featured. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

NOW THROUGH 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.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 2

"Play" Exhibit. Free. Artist Victoria Cowles provides hands-on art activities for children. "Play" is The Art League's kick-off for Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Children in the Arts. At the Art League, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-1780 or www.theartleague.org

NOW 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.

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 APRIL 29

The Garden Path. Consistency and Change in Botanic Art. The Garden Path contains works by members of the Botanical Art Society of the National Capital Region (BASNCR), and is curated by botanical artist Marcia DeWitt. ♦ A gallery talk with Karen Coleman: The Path of Botanic Art on Sunday, April 1 at 4 p.m. ♦ Children's Workshop: Flowers, Textures, and Leaves on Saturday, April 14 at 3 p.m. ♦ Janet Egan Design Trunk Show (during Alexandria's Historic Garden Tour) on Friday, April 20 at 4 to 7 p.m. / Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Athenaeum. Free, but space is limited. Call 703-548-0035 to make reservations.

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

APRIL 5 TO 30

Somewhere in the Orient II. Elegant sculptural forms and garments, inspired by the Far East, are the subject of "Somewhere In The Orient II," a solo exhibit of raku ceramic work by Marcia Jestaedt. Opening reception and meet the artist: April 12, 6:30 – 8 p.m. At the Art League, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Talk of the Town

The Ladies of Old Town

The Wanderer celebrates women every single day. But, this week he would like his followers to note these special women for their contributions to the Old Town retail community.

Photos by Louise Krafft



B LA CUISINE

Nancy Pollard spent two years on North Lee Street before moving to her current location. For 41 years Nancy has been a resource for regional chefs and home cooks directly importing the best French cookware, knives, German cookie molds, as well as marble mortars and pestles and olive oil from Italy.

323 Cameron Street, 703.836.4435, lacuisineus.com



NUEVO MUNDO

Maria O'Leary established Nuevo Mundo in 1966 with her magical flair for clothing, jewelry and artifacts that are veritable works of art. Her business grew to become one of Old Town's best known shops with customers from all over the world.

Today, its sales are exclusively online 800.695.0041, nuevo-mundo.com



D WHY NOT?

Original owner **Jeanne Graef** opened her shop in 1964 and taught **Kate Schlabach** everything about this destination kids shop. Since then, it has grown as fast as a small child. It just shouts fun and dominates the corner of Lee and King Street with window displays that make grumpy old men smile!

200 King Street, 703.548.4420



A SCRIPTORIUM

In 1976, **Judy Shavin** was welcomed to the Courtyard on Cameron Street with a celebration thrown by all the other women who owned businesses on the block. Judy has been there for 36 years now, as the go-to lady for advice on invitation etiquette for weddings and personalized stationery.

309 Cameron Street #C, 703.549.2880, scriptorium-alexandria.com



C GOSSYPPIA

Amanda Lasker has been in her current location on the corner of Cameron and North Royal Street for 44 years. She specializes in clothing and jewelry, importing many items from Latin America. She continues to enjoy being one of many diverse locally owned businesses that contribute to the charm of Old Town.

325 Cameron Street, 703.836.6969, gossypia.com



E THE CHRISTMAS ATTIC

Since 1971, this women-owned family business has captured the holiday imagination of locals and tourists from all over the country. Original owner, **Nita Hyde-Whitesall** opened the shop aided by an assortment of family and elves. Now, daughters **Fay Carter** and **Cheri Hennessey** run the business, enthusiastically celebrating holidays from Christmas to the 4th of July, not missing a single holiday occasion.

125 S. Union Street, 703-548-2829, thechristmasattic.com



© Google Map data

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.

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.stlouiscatholic.org. At 2901 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-768-7732.

MARCH 22, 23, 24

"Annie." 7 p.m. At Hayfield Secondary School. There is a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 24. Tickets are \$6/elementary age and younger; \$8/students and seniors; \$10/adults. This full-scale production features Cristen Centra in the title role, Han von Kolnitz as Daddy Warbucks, Alexis Beard as Miss Hannigan, and more than 65 characters and crew members.

MARCH 22 TO 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.

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



SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Rum Punch Challenge. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50/person. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local restaurants and distilleries and vote for your favorite. Rum Punch Challenge participants include reigning champ Dogfish Head, returning competitors Bacardi, Bittersweet, FireFlies, and Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, and first-time challenger Red Rocks. Guests will also enjoy food – both period and modern – as well as a silent auction. At Gadsby's Tavern. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.



Tom Rush

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Tom Rush in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call the Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com; for tickets, please call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or order online at www.Ticketmaster.com.

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.

FRIDAY/MARCH 23

James Madison University Jazz Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Free. Will perform a program featuring the music of Radiohead, Dave Douglas and John Hollenback. 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. **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 Hollenback. 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.

MARCH 23, 24, 25

Opera Double Bill. Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." Friday, March 23 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 24 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$30/adults; \$20/seniors; \$15/students; under 10, free. Fully staged with costumes. In Italian with projected English translations. At Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Rd. at Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit repopera.eventbrite.org or repopera.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Kids Rummage Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. High-quality used infant, children and maternity gear, gently used clothing, toys, games, books and furniture. Some home furnishings too! Rain or shine. At Fort Hunt Preschool in Alexandria.

Mental Health First Response. 9 a.m. to noon. Learn how to recognize early signs of mental health and substance use concerns. At Emmanuel Baptist Church, 3801 Buckman Road, Alexandria. Contact Ann Bahr, phone 703-324-7010, TTY 711.

Workout for the Cure. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Sport & Health Club in Alexandria. A \$25 donation is requested. Events include 8:05 a.m. Yoga; 8:30 a.m. Cycle; 9:15 a.m. TaeBo; 9:20 a.m. Pilates Mat; 10 a.m. Cycle; 10:30 a.m. Body Pump; 10:30 a.m. Power on Sports Conditioning. Call 703-519-1600 Ext. 103 or email skinner@livewirecd.com.

Invasive Exotic Plants. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Join National Park Service ecologist Erik Oberg and Audubon Society of Northern Virginia naturalist Cliff Fairweather to learn how to halt the invasion of exotic plants. At the American Horticultural Society's River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. To attend, RSVP to chair.er@mvcca.org or call 703-360-0691.

Tauxemont Preschool Silent Auction. 6:30 to 11 p.m. Sponsored by the Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool. To be held at the Collingwood Library & Museum, 8301 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.tauxemont.org/auction.

Wedding Wishes Vendor Event. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tour Carlyle house, enjoy tea blends from The Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria, enjoy delicious creations from Occasionally Cake and admire the designs of area florists. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Friends of Martha Washington Book Sale, Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Contact Lee Mayfield at 703-965-8677.

Walt Whitman and the Civil War. 4 p.m. Free. Presented by Dr. Carrol Peterson, Emeritus Professor of English at Doane College in Nebraska. Part of the Living History Presentation in Old Town. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

The Junior League of Washington's

20th Annual Tossed & Found Sale

You are invited to shop a wide array of quality pre-owned items at unbelievable prices! Purchase "fabulous finds" including clothing, designer fashions, jewelry, furniture, housewares, books, electronics, sporting equipment, and more.

General Shopping Days
Saturday, March 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 25th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hoops & High Heels Preview Night
Friday, March 23rd, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Have first pick of all sale items including Quality Corner and Furniture Store. Enjoy food & refreshments! Tickets are \$45 please visit www.jlw.org for more information & tickets

Benefiting J.L.W.'s volunteer training programs, literacy initiatives, and targeted grants.

Sale Site
Crystal City Shops
2100 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia
(metro accessible)

Thank you to our Site Sponsors

Cash or Check Only
no credit cards will be accepted for merchandise purchases on March 24th & 25th

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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 22

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Donation receipts provided
Have a really big item to donate?

Contact Helen Kruger (703-748-4068) to make pick-up arrangements
For more information on the event, item donation and pre-registration visit our website at
<http://www.fairfaxbgcgw.org/index.php/rummage-sale>

Admission: \$5 per Person
Members of the Military FREE with Military ID



ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

Into the Light. 8 p.m. Fairfax Choral Society will perform Beethoven's Elegischer Gesang, Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music, Randall Thompson's Choose Something Like a Star, Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna, and Dolly Parton's Light of a Clear Blue Morning. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria.

Wonders of Science Demo. Visit the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used. Admission is \$6. Reservations can be made at 703-746-3852. At 105-107 South Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.apothecarymuseum.org or call 703-746-3852.

McLean High School Historical Reenactment Society. 1-4 p.m. Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Members of McLean High School's historical reenactment society will conduct scientific demonstrations about science in the 1700s. Explore the Apothecary and its large variety of objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood. \$6, includes a tour of the museum. Reservations required at 703-746-3852.

Runway Modeling Workshop. For Beginners - Ladies Ages 13 and up. Learn the basics: model stance, poses, runway walk, turns, posture and more. Pre-register between Feb. 6 and March 23. Sponsored by Walk This Way Productions/Kalaj. Held in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-927-2927.

SUNDAY/MARCH 25

Third Practice Concert. 7 p.m. Suggested \$15 donation. Third Practice brings David Lang's little match girl to Alexandria. Enjoy an evening of renaissance masterworks, followed by this heartrending setting of the classic Hans-Christian Andersen tale. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Email: 3rdpractice@gmail.com

Sunday Night Salsa. 7 p.m. Dancing, instructions, food, drink and fun. Join in a hot night of salsa dancing and instruction from Martin Zuniga and his 8-piece band. At Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Cost is \$50/person or \$40/person if purchased before March 10. Call 703-998-6460. Visit www.agudasachim-va.org/salsa.

Choral Concert. 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$15. Third Practice Vocal Ensemble presents the music of Josquin, Handl, Woollen, and featuring The Little Match Girl Passion by David Lang. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4342.

Castles in the Air. 2 p.m. U.S. Marine Band performs at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beaufort St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com

Longaberger Basket Bingo. Features 20 regular games for gift-filled Longaberger baskets. Also Specials, Raffles and Door Prizes. Admission is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Doors open 1 p.m.; bingo starts at 2 p.m. Sponsored by the West Potomac High School band. At West Potomac High School cafeteria, 6500 Quander Rd, Alexandria. Details and advance ticket sales at www.wolverineband.com or 703-799-8394.

At the Ballet. 4 p.m. The Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble performs at the Memorial Theater, George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria. Visit www.vabronze.org or call 1-888-824-2541.



WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

Beau Soir Ensemble. 7 p.m. D.C. based flute, viola and harp trio, will present a free concert at The Torpedo Factory. They will perform music by Telemann, Debussy, Respighi, and traditional Irish folk music. At The Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.beausoir.org.

Poetry Presentation. 10:30 a.m. Join the "Tuesdays at Two" Writing group for a special Poetry presentation titled "New Beginnings". Peter Lattu as well as many talented local writers and avid poetry lovers will be represented. Open to the Community! At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573 to reserve a seat.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Swingin' Lincolns. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

Rachael Yamagata. Will be performing from her album, Chesapeake. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000 or call 703-549-3701.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

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

Singer Amy Obenski. 7:30 p.m. Free. Part of her Carbon Conscious Tour. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-739-9268.

Author Michael Lee Pope. 7 p.m. Will discuss his book, "Hidden History of Alexandria." At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

FRIDAY/MARCH 30

String Quartet Concert. 8 p.m. Free. Members of the Air Force Strings will present an evening of string quartet. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

How to Get To Wonderful. 5:15-6:45 p.m. Ronna Webb, Reiki Master, leads this 90-minute class on creating the life you want. Learn to use your intuition and attract health, success and peace of mind. \$47 Alexandria Massage Therapy, 1217 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0310.

Palm Sunday Drama. 6 p.m. The Alfred Street Baptist Church will observe Palm Sunday with "Jesus: The Cornerstone of our Faith." At Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-2222 or www.alfredstreet.org.

Virginia Grand Military Band. 8 p.m. A Salute to Henry Fillmore and Edwin Franko Goldman with principal guest conductor Colonel Arnold D. Gabriel Admission is \$20. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-426-4777 or visit www.vgmb.com.

Archaeology of the Civil War Set. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 23

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

Free program. This will be a full day of informative presentations by experts in the field of archaeology and history. Seating is limited to 200 at the James Lee Center in the Monroe Gymnasium, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Call C.K. Gailey at 703-534-3881, extension 404.

MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1

Violinist Midori.

Featuring the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra/Symphonic with Kim Allen Kluge, conductor. World premiere of Maestro Kim Allen Kluge's **MEIBUKI** — Regeneration featuring student musicians from Alexandria and Arlington Schools and the Arlington Children's Chorus. Tickets are \$40/adults; \$10/students; \$5/children. Saturday, March 31 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 1 at 3 p.m. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/APRIL 1

In Concert: "Songs of Sunset." 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$20/door. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Performed by the NOVA Community Chorus (Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director) with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, featuring Grace Gori, Mezzo-Soprano, and Aurelius Gori, Baritone. Call 703-845-6097 or email mwhitmire@nvcc.edu

A Celebration of Bulgarian Culture. Hopa Tropa Kukerica at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Playing with Kukerica, workshops at 12:30 and 3 p.m. Includes puppetry, folk objects, song, dance, and food. Featuring: Amie Cazel, Daria Kondova, Konstantin Hadjipanov, Daniel Rovin and



MARCH 23 AND 24

"Mulan Jr." 7 p.m. Some 40 children from the upper elementary classes of the Aquinas Montessori School are performing at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Tickets are \$5/adults; \$3/children. "Mulan, Jr." is set in ancient China. Following an invasion by the Huns, brave Mulan (played on alternate nights by Caroline Schuermann and Kathryn Mechanic) and her sidekick, the mischievous Mushu (Samantha Kadlec) strive to save the Emperor. Directed by Judy Heiser and musical guidance of Dave Futrell. Contact the Aquinas Montessori School at 703-780-8484.

Meeting. 6:15 p.m. Cost is \$25/person. Author Eric Buckland will be speaking on Mosby and his men. At American Legion Post 24 Hall, 400 Cameron Street at N. Royal St., behind Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria. RSVP to Lawrence Graham at 703-217-7871. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to P.O. Box 4024, Oakton, VA 22124. Payments will be accepted at the door. Visit www.leecamp.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 3

Ice Sculptures. 6 to 8 p.m. The Crystalline World of Ice and Snow in Harbin, China. Morrison House Presents: Tatyana Schremko Schriempf, Torpedo Factory Sculptor. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit Morrison House: www.morrisonhouse.com or 703-838-8000.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Scott Ramming and the Crawstickers. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

Gwendolyn Torrence. At the Masonic Theater at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive Alexandria.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.

3 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Featuring Claude Debussy's Nocturnes, Gustav Holst's Concerto for Two Violins with violinists Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff, Composition Competition Finalist Charles Bestor's Variations for Orchestra conducted by U.S. James; and Frederick Delius' Songs of Sunset conducted by Dr. Mark Whitmire with the NOVA Community Chorus, mezzo-soprano Grace Gori and baritone Rex Gori. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-799-8229 www.wmpmusic.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 2

R.E. Lee Camp Dinner

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Does Music Make Children Smarter?

During Music In Our Schools Month, musicians raise awareness of impact of music education on lives of students.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Can playing the piano strengthen a child's reading and math skills? Can joining a school band be a catalyst for building self-confidence? Does one develop strong analytical abilities by taking violin lessons? Some music experts say yes.

"Every minute that you're engaged in music, you're applying more than one concept or one knowledge," said Dr. Kevin Strogher, Head of Music at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. "Music develops analytical thinking because it requires students to be creative. They don't just regurgitate memorized facts. They have to apply those facts."

March is Music in Our Schools Month and some music aficionados are trying to raise awareness about impact of music education on the lives of students. The National Association of Music Education in Reston cites a strong body of evidence which shows that participation in musical activities can enhance a student's education. "For today's students to succeed tomorrow, they need a comprehensive education that includes music taught by exemplary music educators," said Elizabeth Lasko, assistant executive director, NAME. "Music In Our Schools Month gives music teachers the chance to ... let everyone know how learning music benefits kids, and how it contributes to their growth and development both as students and as future adult citizens."

Instructors say playing music can boost brain power. "Music helps build and develop cognitive skills because you have to do three or four things at the same time to perform music," said Holly Vesilind, music instruc-

Considering Private Music Lessons?

When should students start taking music lessons?

Between the ages of 5 and 6 for piano. Between the ages of nine and ten for wind instruments or band instruments because students have to have the lung capacity and the finger stretch to perform on the instrument.

What is a good first step?

The piano is a great instrument to start on because it plays in every key and gives students a deep understanding of musical harmony and how music works in terms of cords, melody and harmony.

— **Holly Vesilind**, music instructor at Westgate Elementary School



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Dr. James Criswell directs orchestra students at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. Experts say participation in musical activities can enhance social development.

tor at Westgate Elementary School in Falls Church and a private flute instructor in Fairfax. "It builds math skills because it involves counting and fractions.

Experts say music activities can affect social development. "Music ensembles work much like team sports, students learn the necessity of teamwork and collaboration," said Dr. James Criswell, director of the Middle School advanced band and Upper School wind ensemble and orchestra at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

Strogher dispels the notion that the discipline attracts social misfits. "It is not just the choir geeks or the band nerds," he said. "When [The Heights Men's Chorus] was performing in Austria recently, we had the [school's] best lacrosse player with us, we had baseball players, basketball players. In fact, most of our top athletes are also in the music program. It is actually a cool thing to be in music."

So, what do students think? "Music allows people from different social groups to bond and come together over a common interest," said Connor Ortman, a sophomore at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

"Regardless of a student's level, participation in music education teaches the importance of teamwork and collaboration as a group as well as individual discipline and preparation, much like athletics," added St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School sophomore Kathryn Cavallo.

EXPERTS SAY early musical experiences benefit even the youngest musicians. "We focus on experiences, the process and overall music making through movement, singing and instrument playing," said Julie Mueller, a music teacher at Arlington's Jamestown Elementary School.

Earlier this month, the Jamestown Elementary School chorus joined other student choral groups from around the world for the "Concert for Music in Our School's

Month," an annual musical experience sponsored by The National Association of Music Education. "Events like these are wonderful opportunities to encourage the students to develop their musical abilities and to be part of activities with musicians from all over," said Dr. Maritza Sadowsky, a music teacher at Jamestown.

Music educators want musical interest to extend beyond a month-long effort. "We hope that because of advocacy efforts such as [Music in Our School's Month] ... that parents will encourage their children to get and stay involved in music," said Lasko.

One means of involvement say educators is exposure to professional musicians

through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras. "Having been a school strings and band teacher, myself, I understand how the voices of professional musicians who come into the classroom can reinforce the instruction the teachers give," said Helen Fall, a Fairfax Symphony Orchestra violist.

Hall and other FSO members mentor students as part of programs like Symphony Creating Outreach Resources for Educators (SCORE) and Overture to Orchestra. Overture to Orchestra is designed to introduce elementary school students to the instruments and sounds of a symphony orchestra through in-school concerts performed by chamber ensembles from the FSO. The SCORE program offers extensive master classes, individual sectional instruction, and "side-by-side" rehearsals to middle and high school bands and orchestras.

"The students are always excited to have us come. They feel they are getting extra special attention, and having a pro on every instrument makes them all feel important," said Fall who teaches violin and viola in her home studio in Fairfax.

The FSO allows students ages 6-18 to join the Student Passport Club where members get \$5 tickets to symphony performances. Young music enthusiasts also have an opportunity to play symphonic instruments and meet members of the orchestra.

"The FSO concentrates on providing its programs to areas where students have limited access to private music instruction or consistent support for their music studies in the home," said Elizabeth Murphy, FSO president and CEO. "These are the students who will benefit most from one-on-one exposure to the instruments and professional musicians."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Helen Fall of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra mentors students from the Sandburg Area Orchestra. Experts say students can benefit from exposure to professional musicians through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

hemoth buildings won't be torn down just because their residents don't want to abide by the conditions allowing them to be built in the first place which the residents accepted when they moved there.

Do, I wonder, the "transit-oriented development" cheerleaders realize how any relaxation of these parking restrictions undermines the credibility of their entire transit-oriented development approach for any future project anywhere in the city and maybe even region? Opponents will say: "You're telling us this project won't impact parking and that its residents won't use cars, but look at the [fill-in-the-blank] which made the same promise, only to run to city hall a few years later to renege. How stupid do you developers and your city hall lackeys think we are to fall for this again?" Will Councilman Smedberg, who is pushing for this change, be willing to look them in the eye and answer, "Very"?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Appointed School Board Needed

To the Editor:

Regarding the recent news of the report/study done by the accounting firm of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Association for ACPS, isn't it amazing how Superintendent Sherman completely attempts to divert attention from his responsibility as superintendent of Alexandria Public Schools and points the finger of blame on upper management employees who have either resigned or been terminated. Now we find that school board chair Sheryl Gorsuch has called for another independent compliance "audit" of financial controls for ACPS CIP programs/procedures. Why? Wasn't this report, not an audit, already completed by the accounting group with recommendations for changes even though the accounting firm was not provided with any data from ACPS and Superintendent Sherman?

Mr. Sherman has stated that he wants to "move ahead in a unified manner." Sorry Superintendent Sherman. We cannot move forward until this major lack of compliance, transparency, financial issues and facts are set forth in an open, complete audit, not a report.

What are some of the things that can be done to restore trust and accountability from the leadership of Alexandria schools? I would first suggest that the most important step is for Superintendent Sherman to begin looking for another job, ASAP. To ask for his resignation from a clueless school board who have just extended his contract for another three years until 2014 with a salary increase to \$250,000 plus a \$40,000 annuity is not realistic. It would be too expensive to buy out Mr. Sherman's new contract.

Secondly, if ever there was a time for a referendum to be placed on the November ballot to have an all appointed school board, now is the time. Our elected delegation in Richmond would have no problem allow-



Much Ado

Burgundy Farm Country Day's Middle School's Shakespeare elective class performed "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Masonic Memorial on March 14.

ing Alexandria to place this referendum on the November ballot.

Superintendent Sherman has made certain since he was hired three years ago that he would have absolute power and control of our school district/school board and it was going to be his way or the highway. He has obviously done away with the needed checks and balances for financial accounting, continuing to prop up his image and has shown little interest in the academic achievements and needs of all students who attend Alexandria schools. The school board has fallen in line and dare not question nor counter what Mr. Sherman wants to enhance his public image. Current school board members should consider not running again as they are as compliant in this CIP financial mess as is Mr. Sherman and refuse to accept responsibility. The buck stops with the superintendent and the school board members who hired him.

Alexandria school system cannot regain its credibility until there is new leadership at the top and an appointed school board. Superintendent Sherman and all members of the current school board have failed every student/teacher/support staff and all Alexandria taxpayers wherein the school district's budget takes up a major part of the city's budget. ACPS teachers and staff really do care about teaching their students, making sure they learn and achieve, but have been hamstrung by Superintendent Sherman's narcissistic needs.

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Bolster Sense Of Community

To the Editor:

Is Alexandria's sense of community being undermined by city budget cuts? I don't know the answer to this, but it's a question worthy of debate.

In recent years, I have been troubled by cuts in programs that tend to build and sup-

port community life and cohesion; for example, reduced library hours and the closing of swimming pools.

None of these cuts have saved the city a lot of money, and yet I wonder: As city officials scour the budget for savings, do they consider the effects that cuts in certain programs and activities might have on the city's sense of community? Do they even ask the question?

I want to focus in particular on community events and activities, many of which are being hurt by the city's diminishing financial support.

For example, Alexandria's three major parades are now in jeopardy because the city wants the organizers to pick up most or perhaps all of the parade costs. But these parades are run by volunteers who by and large do not have fund-raising experience. The elimination of any of these events would be a great community loss.

Yet another example is the current budget proposal to eliminate the paid performance of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra at the city's birthday celebration in July. Although this may make budget sense, ending the ASO's tenure devalues a great community institution.

A big reason why many of our events are feeling the pinch or even in trouble is the cost of police protection. We certainly need our police at these events, but the cost appears to have become prohibitive. Indeed, is it possible that the cost of protection is inadvertently hurting events that are a key to our strength as a community? If so, what can be done?

I have two suggestions. First, the City Council should direct the city manager to form a task force made up of individuals with diverse community experience to examine the issues I have raised. Specifically, the task force should examine all community events and activities and ask a variety of questions: Which are most worthwhile in terms of building community? Which have marginal value and could be eliminated? Should we consider having fewer overall events but aim for higher quality of

the events that are continued? Are there events that we do not have now that we should be having?

My second idea is that the city should consolidate all funding for community events and activities into one office with one budget, with citizens given a major role in deciding which events and activities are funded in the future.

The strong community that exists in Alexandria today is a major reason I live here. The city government needs to do all it can to support and bolster that sense of community.

Bill Hendrickson
Alexandria

Fast-Tracking Beaugard Plan

To the Editor:

At the March 17, City Council meeting, the Mayor and several Council members took exception to a statement the Beaugard Small Area Plan is being "fast tracked."

The proposed Beaugard Small Area Plan Working Draft, unless modified, will dramatically change the character of the area within the plan boundaries. The Working Draft envisions a more densely populated, urban, mixed use, transit-oriented community. The proposed redevelopment includes a new framework of streets, bus rapid transit in both dedicated and mixed lanes, a new intersection (ellipse) at Seminary and Beaugard, hotels, new retail, and a 24 percent increase (2,384,285 square feet) in currently allowed zoning. The current area includes 5,500 apartment units of which 2,519 will be torn down. Most of the units to be demolished are the apartments owned by JBG Properties (former Hamlets). The proposed plan will add 3,894 units to the remaining units (2981) bringing the total number of units to approximately 6,500 units. Over the development period apartments will be vacated and residents displaced.

Since the release of the Beaugard Small Area Plan Working Draft on January 23, 2012 the following meetings have been held regarding the working draft.

- ❖ March 19-Community Meeting
- ❖ March 12-Community Meeting
- ❖ March 7-Transportation Commission held a public hearing regarding the Beaugard Small Area Plan. (Agenda Item # 6)
- ❖ March 6-Community Meeting
- ❖ Feb. 27-Community Meeting
- ❖ Feb. 23-Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Housing Town Hall
- ❖ Feb. 21-Community Meeting
- ❖ Feb. 13-City Council and Planning Commission Work Session — Beaugard Small Area Plan
- ❖ Feb. 1-Transportation Commission agenda item included the Beaugard Small Area Plan recommendations and "to provide input to the Planning Commission and the City Council for their consideration." (Agenda Item #5)

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 25

❖ Jan. 23-Community Meeting - Working Draft released.

The revised Beauregard Draft Plan is scheduled to be released on March 21.^o

In addition the schedule going forward includes:

❖ April 2 - Beauregard Town Hall Meeting

❖ April 3 - Planning Commission Work Session

❖ April 5 - Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Meeting

❖ May 1 - Planning Commission Public Hearing

❖ May 12 - City Council Hearing

The tight schedule strongly suggests the public process for City Council approval of the Beauregard Small Area is being “fast tracked.” Many voters believe the Mayor and City Council would like to complete action on the Beauregard Small Area Plan prior to the November elections.

This is a major redevelopment project involving large taxpayer commitments and more time is needed to address the complex issues. Hopefully citizens will have sufficient time to evaluate the revised Beauregard Small Area Plan and provide comments. Fast-tracking a major redevelopment plan is not in the public interest.

Dave Cavanaugh

Violating Scenic Easements

To the Editor:

Last Month, I appeared before the City Council to venerate the George Washington Memorial Parkway. So you can imagine my disappointment about the following proposal, apparently being pushed by the City and according to National Park Services, quite forcefully.

The City has approved a plan for Metro on the Potomac Yard, and is looking to implement it. As part of the solution, they are looking at several alternatives for the Metro Station. One is to build on the original site that was approved, one is to build on Potomac Yard itself, one is a no-build option, and the last option, which is the source of my concern. This option not only moves the Metro station closer to the GW Parkway, which affects the view shed, but there are also some very detrimental and far-reaching side effects.

The alignment moves the tracks closer to the parkway, further impacting the view

shed. Furthermore, this proposal is recommending that construction take place from the GW Memorial Parkway, and that the wetlands adjacent to the parkway be filled in and used as a staging ground for construction. In addition, a right-in right-out access road is to be built onto the parkway to accommodate the trucks.

The concerns are threefold; first, this proposal needs a lot of airing. An intrusion into a scenic easement on the parkway is a citywide concern. Secondly, once built there, it will stay, as witnessed by the City Staff telling me they want, and some of the Council members pushing for, a bridge over the memorial parkway at that spot. Third, the developer of the potential metro station strongly prefers this option and the City seems to be pushing it as well.

The City is making the case that the wetlands will be rebuilt. As you approach Alexandria heading south from Reagan National, the state of the wetlands adjacent to the parkway on both sides is alarming and at the same time, tragic. Just as I was told that all the dust in our house was caused by our poor housekeeping practices when we initially complained about the then Mirant Power Plant, I have heard that the condition of the wetlands is all due to the work of beavers. At times, these wetlands look like a setting for a Gothic horror novel, complete will rotting trees, brackish, undoubtedly polluted water, and fallen fences. There was evidence of some beavers there, but could it be that the City miscalculated the area of the wetlands they allowed the developer to fill in for development? Whatever the cause, there is an oversaturated run off containing highly polluted waters.

The fact that the proposal has gotten so far without farther review says a lot about where we as a community are heading. The venerable Ed Braswell taught me many things; most significant of which was that as the George Washington Parkway goes, so goes Old Town, and this alternative is an ominous sign.

Trampling on the historic to achieve a developmental leg up is what we have become if you allow this particular project to go forward. I can hear the voices of Ellen Pickering and Jean Caldwell telling us that we can do better, much better. And, we must do better for the environment, for the region and for the George Washington Memorial Highway. Not everything needs to be an engineering exercise, some things really should matter.

Poul Hertel
Alexandria

OBITUARY

Margaret Brennan Danaher

Margaret Brennan Danaher, born Nov. 12, 1917, died on March 10, 2012, in Coronado, Calif., after a short illness. Margaret was born and raised in Covington, Ky. She married Timothy Danaher in 1946 and was widowed in 2003. They had seven children. Margaret lived in Alexandria for nearly 40 years and was a Realtor. She moved to Coronado, Calif., in

2010 to be near her family.

Margaret is survived by sons Patrick and John Danaher and daughter, Mary Danaher Sikes. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. She was adored by her family.

Services were held Friday, March 16, at Good Shephard Catholic Church on Mount Vernon Highway.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Lee-Fendall Museum director and volunteer Leia Saunders create a few examples of Victorian style valentines.

Victorian Valentine Workshop

The wicker tables were set in the front hallway filled with papers and scissors, feathers, colored pencils and lace doilies last month — all that might be included in the creation of a valentine, Victorian style.

The Lee-Fendall House Museum was built on land owned by “Light Horse Harry” Henry Lee in 1784. Phillip Fendall built the house in 1785. It was renovated in 1850 and remained in the Lee Family until 1903. In 1937, John L. Lewis, a labor leader who became president of the United Mine Workers of America and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, presently known as the AFL-CIO, purchased the house. He lived in the house until his death in 1969.

The museum is planning a wine reception featuring wines selected by Jane Cahill of the Winery on South Washington Street on March 8. The reception will take place in the house. Reservations are limited. For information and reservation call 703-548-1789.

In April, the museum will host an Easter Egg Hunt in the garden. The Hunt is planned for both April 7 and 8. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday



Valentines begin to fill the table as the workshop is prepared.

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. There is a small fee for a guided tour. The garden is open to all for free during museum hours and dogs are welcome. The gate on North Washington Street is unlocked during museum hours.

— LOUISE KRAFFT

NEIGHBORHOOD

Taylor Run

SUCCESSFUL BLIND DATE

Krista Kendlmyer, born and raised in New Jersey, went to Texas to visit her brother in 1979; there she went on a blind date with Karl Kendall, a petroleum engineer working for an oil company down there. They were married and have just moved to Alexandria from Arlington where they lived 27 years. “Arlington has changed dramatically,” says Karl. “We were delighted to find the Shooter’s Hill neighborhood here in Alexandria.”

Karl now works for the Export-Import Bank of the United States. He checks up on the technical development to make sure that the project is done with “due diligence.” He has most recently been involved with developments in Colombia and Brazil. Colom-

bia, he says, is much calmer than it used to be.

Krista works as a consultant in historic preservation. She was formerly a staff member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, but now consults independently. Her most recent job was to get the Congressional Club of Washington, an organization of spouses of members of Congress, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Krista is impressed by Alexandria’s Historic Preservation Commission, one of the oldest in the country. She feels that this commission is responsible for the good job done in preserving Old Town.

The Kendall household also includes Abby, a 13-year-old dog, who is, says Krista, a very sweet dog.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

TC's Huggins Scores Winning Bucket in All-Star Game

TC seniors Huggins, Byrd participate in all-star festivities.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bryant Fultz wasn't among the top performers in the dunk contest during NVABBC all-star festivities on March 17, but the West Potomac senior made his mark during the main event.

Fultz threw down a fourth-quarter alley-oop dunk from fellow Wolverine Randall Brobby, scored a team-high 15 points and earned game MVP honors as the Concorde/Patriot All-Stars defeated the Liberty/National team 109-108 in overtime at Wakefield High School. The all-star game featured some of the top players from the Northern Region, and matched a team composed of athletes from the Concorde and Patriot districts against players from the Liberty and National districts.

"With the dunk contest, it was really hard because I'm not really a trick dunker," Fultz said. "I'm more of a go-up-and-do-it kind of guy."

Fultz made up for any lack of flair in his dunk-contest performance. With the Concorde/Patriot squad leading by four late in regulation, Brobby threw an alley-oop pass off the backboard, which Fultz slammed home for a 99-93 advantage.

"In practice," Fultz said, "we do it all the

time for fun."

The West Potomac boys' basketball program had a strong showing during the St. Patrick's Day event in Arlington. The afternoon started with a 3-point shooting contest, won by Wolverine junior Brandon Pressley. After the dunk contest, Fultz and Brobby participated in the all-star game, which is a senior-only event. Brobby scored 10 points.

"All three of those guys had great seasons," said West Potomac head coach David Houston III, a spectator at the event. "It feels good. We put a lot of time in and they did, too. It took a long time to build a good program with good kids. ... We had a lot of my



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams' T.J. Huggins scored the game-winning bucket in overtime as a member of the Concorde/Patriot All-Stars during the NVABBC all-star game on March 17 at Wakefield High School.

younger guys here and Brandon is only a junior, and [participating in all-star festivities is] something they look to. That's why it's good for our league and for our region. It's something they look forward to doing. There's a lot in it. Guys know that you can't just be on the team. You have to have a good season to be selected."

After the 3-point shootout, South County's Oren Burks held off Lake Braddock's Tyler Snow to win the dunk contest. Jumping over a human prop became the unofficial theme of the event. T.C. Williams' T.J. Huggins was one of the first to attempt the maneuver, leaping over fellow Titan Jordan Byrd, who stands 6 feet. "It was his idea at the last minute," Byrd

said. "I was just supposed to throw the [alley-oop]. He missed it a couple times and then at that time he just changed it and said, 'Can I dunk over you?' I said, 'Go ahead, I'll give it a try, but you better not hurt me.'"

The all-star game provided an exciting end to the afternoon. The Liberty/National team overcame an 11-point second-half deficit to force overtime and held a one-point lead late in the extra period. But after allowing the go-ahead bucket to Hayfield's Nate McShay of the Liberty/National team, Huggins, the region Player of the Year, drove to the rim and scored the game-winner for the Concorde/Patriot team.

"The dude had just scored on me and I was like, I can't lose the game," Huggins said. "... I just said, 'I've got to get this.'"

The Concorde/Patriot All-Stars, led by Woodson head coach Doug Craig, featured a balanced scoring attack. South County's Marquice Johnson

"The dude had just scored on me and I was like, I can't lose the game. ... I just said, 'I've got to get this.'"

— T.C. Williams senior T.J. Huggins.

SEE ALL-STARS, PAGE 28

Saints' Reed Wants To Prove She's Earned Accolades

Junior attacker is already all-time leading goal scorer for SSSAS lax.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

In two seasons, Carly Reed rewrote the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse record book and helped lead the Saints to a pair of state championships. The standout attacker is committed to the University of North Carolina and was named first-team All-American by U.S. Lacrosse and second team by ESPN RISE.

Now a junior, Reed has pretty much done it all in her high school career. She enters the 2012 season as the program's all-time leading goal scorer with 237, and holds single-season records for points (194) and goals (153). But despite having accomplished so much so soon, Reed remains driven to succeed by a desire to prove she has earned the accolades bestowed upon her.

"I think [what motivates me is] just kind of living up to expectations and feeling better about myself, that I deserve what I've been given — going to UNC, everything," Reed said. "I deserve it and [I want] to show I'm working hard for it and I earned it."

Reed's hard work was evident on March 19 when St. Stephen's opened the 2012 season with a 14-3 home victory against Bishop Ireton. Reed scored six goals, including five in the first half, and could have added plenty more if the Saints hadn't let off the accelerator with a 12-0 halftime lead.

"I think with Carly, she always wants to get better," head coach Kathy Jenkins said. "She wants to do better than she did last year, so she's trying to work on looking for more assists this year. We're trying to help her develop a better dodge. Because she's so fast, she can outrun people, but everyone's doubling her and tripling her this year. We want her to work on a couple moves."

Junior midfielder Besser Dyson scored three goals for the Saints. Dyson, who tallied more than 100 goals as a sophomore, is committed to the University of Virginia. She said her love of the game keeps her motivated.

"I love coming out here every day," Dyson said. "After school, I just get ready and come out here. We come out here early at like 3

[p.m.] — practice starts at 3:30 — but we come out here and shoot around. It's just a fun atmosphere."

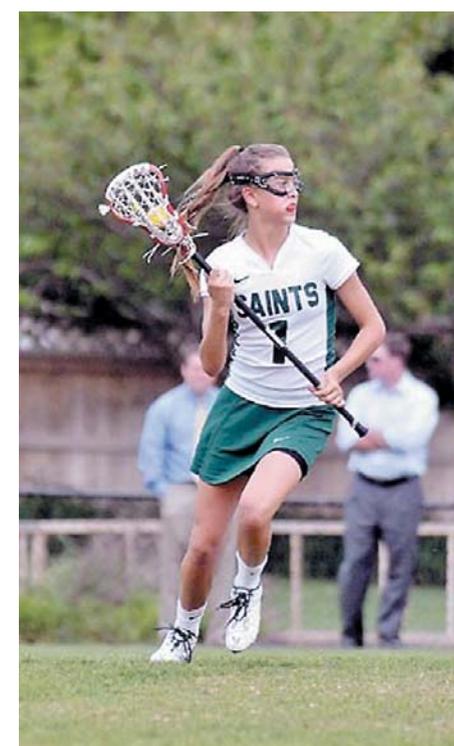
Reed and Dyson were featured in an ESPN.com article about the duo's close-knit relationship on and off the field. Both said they enjoy the attention, but it comes with a price.

"It's exciting," Dyson said. "I love that kind of stuff, but it does make me [feel] like, 'Oh, I can't play bad because I don't want everyone to think I'm awful.' Everyone does have bad games, but it does put a little pressure on you to always perform well."

Reed and Dyson are a talented duo on a loaded Saints team, which includes senior midfielder Michele Phillips, who scored 90-plus goals last season, senior attacker Katie Austin and senior goalkeeper Katie Wiseman, among others.

"This year, we felt like we have 20 returning players, which we never have, and kids that have played together," Jenkins said. "And we added some more speed and height."

The Saints will host Hutchinson from Tennessee at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 23.



GAZETTE PACKET FILE PHOTO

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes junior attacker Carly Reed, seen last season, is the program's all-time leading goal scorer with 237.

TC Seniors In All-Star Game

FROM PAGE 27

and Westfield's Quentin Basil each scored 11 points, and Lake Braddock's Snow had 10. Centreville's Evan Fuller and Robinson's Robert Pillow each tallied nine points, while Huggins added eight.

Johnson, a rebounding force for the Stallions, said it took some time to settle into a rhythm while playing with athletes from other schools, but the teams eventually found a groove. He also said there was a relaxed approach in terms of competition, but that didn't stop hip from hustling.

"It's not a want to win the game, It's just always play hard," Johnson said of his approach. "Everything I do, I just want to show everybody that I'm trying to play hard. I just want to show the coach if I'm going to be on his team, I'm going to play hard."

Chantilly's Brady Caslavka (7 points), Robinson's Tristian Crenshaw (7), T.C. Williams' Byrd (6), Centreville's Robert Coker (5) and Lake Braddock's Brendan McHale (2) also competed for the Concorde/Patriot team.

Edison head coach Terry Henderson led the Liberty/National All-Stars. Henderson received a good-natured ribbing for calling a timeout in the closing seconds of the first half to design a play for Langley's Daniel Dixon. The play worked, as Dixon buried a 25-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer to give his team a 49-48 halftime lead.

"It's fun. You get some talent you don't normally have," Henderson said. "It's kind of like coaching at

a private school or something. You've got your shooters, you've got big men [and] you've got ball handlers. I was like a kid in a candy store; I didn't know what to do and what to call."

DIXON, WHO ALSO had the ball in his hands near the end of regulation and overtime, said he enjoyed having opportunities during crunch time.

The play prior to halftime "was drawn up to get me the ball, but probably in a different spot than near halfcourt," Dixon said. "But I just pulled it from there."

Hayfield's McShay led the Liberty/National team with 20 points. Dixon scored 17 points, South Lakes' J.D. Wallace finished with 15 and McLean's Gordon Rogo added 11.

Edison's Tyrone Mackall (9), Wakefield's Justin Glenn (8) and Corey Aldrich (5), McLean's Sango Amolo (7) and Thomas Van Wazer (6), South Lakes' Jordan Francis (4), Langley's Joey Robinson (4) and Marshall's Latrell Watkins (2) also competed.

Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley hosted the festivities for the third consecutive year. He said the all-star game was the best it has been and he enjoyed watching his players — Glenn and Aldrich — participate.

"That was really good to see those guys get out there and play with some of the best competition and see how they matched up and played," Bentley said. "I was happy to see Justin and Cory just get out and play with smiles on their faces, unlike playing with me when I'm fussing and yelling at them."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

On Saturday, March 10, the **ACPS' All-City Elementary Band** performed in the 2012 District 10 Assessment (previously known as District Band Festival). Playing before a panel of three adjudicators, the All-City Band earned Superior Ratings from all three adjudicators. For this achievement, each band member will be receiving a Festival Medal for their performance. The medals will be awarded at the All-City Band's final concert this year on March 29, in the Hammond Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. This is the 40th Anniversary of the All-City Elementary Band's Spring Concert.

Carly Sable of Alexandria will portray the character Rona and work in makeup in the Davis & Elkins college spring theatre production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which will be presented April 19-22, in the college's historic Boiler House Theatre in Elkins, WV. A Theatre Arts and English major, Sable is the daughter of Carolyn Sable of Alexandria.

Nicholas Lawrence Leggieri, a junior at Hampden-Sydney College, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall semester of the 2011-2012 academic year. Nick is a graduate of West Potomac High School and is the son of Carl and Charlene Leggieri of Alexandria.

Ruth Talbott of Alexandria is the recipient of the Veritas Award at Oakcrest School in McLean. An eighth-grader at St. Rita's, Talbott was chosen from a competitive applicant pool of 28 eighth-grade students.

Paul Fiesel, a sophomore history major from Alexandria, has been named to the University of Dallas Honor Roll for the fall 2011 semester.

The following local students were named to the dean's list of distinguished students for the fall 2011 semester at Roanoke College:

❖ **Wesley Ann Allin of Alexandria**, who is the daughter of Jeffrey Allin and Ann Gillespie.

❖ **Erin Lynne May of Alexandria**, who is the daughter of Cynthia May and Michael May.

Kerry Flanagan of Alexandria performed in Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla., with members of the Marist College Music Department. Flanagan is a Marist College Sophomore. Students performed their Americana-themed concert twice at Downtown Disney during the College's winter recess. For the first time, the College's band and singers performed together on the Disney stage.

C3C Stephanie Ann Marris is on the Dean's List and the Commandant's List at the U.S. Air Force Academy. She was a 2009 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Math, Science and Technology. Her major is Environmental Engineering with a minor in Spanish.

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April 6, Good Friday
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7:30 pm: Liturgy for Good Friday

April 8, Easter Sunday
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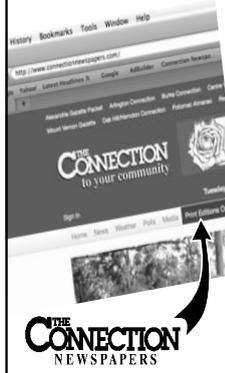
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Magnificent view from this Normandy contemporary post and beam home located on a one acre wooded lot with a stocked, spring fed pond. Three bedrooms, three baths, two fireplaces, detached two-car garage, and a great room. Conveniently located inside the beltway close to Mark Center and the Pentagon.

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703.868.5676
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ALEXANDRIA/MT VERNON \$539,000



Yacht Haven Beauty!

Located on George Washington's original property this updated Contemporary home with three bedrooms and two and a half baths features vaulted ceilings and gleaming hardwoods. A separate dining room leads to country kitchen with two ovens and upgraded appliances. Living room showcases wall of windows and floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace.

Vicki Binkley
703.994.0778
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ALEXANDRIA SOUTH \$523,700



Vernon on Potomac

Be among the first to see this four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home located close to Fort Belvoir, Mount Vernon bike path, Fort Hunt park, excellent schools, and public transportation. Gourmet kitchen with new appliances, renovated baths, enclosed porch, hardwood floors, replaced windows. Private fenced yard for quiet cook-outs. Move-in condition!

Sally Z. Haper
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ALEXANDRIA/Jefferson Manor \$345,000



The Gem of Jefferson Manor!

Totally "done" with gourmet kitchen, gleaming hardwoods, designer paint colors, all-American front porch, renovated bath, large rear deck, and gorgeous plantings. Attention to every detail is evident throughout. Private corner lot on a quiet street. Walk five minutes to Metro. Move-in condition.

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703.507.8655
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ALEXANDRIA CITY/Braddock Heights \$859,000



All The Space Is Already Here

Offering four bedrooms and three and a half baths, there's no need for an addition in this light-filled brick Colonial. Above grade, walk-out lower level with living and sleeping quarters is ideal for au-pair suite. Gorgeous patio and landscaping and generous room sizes throughout. Screened porch, garage and walk to George Mason school.

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First Offering ~ A Must See

This property was built on Potomac Valley Farm, one of five farms owned by George Washington. Offering four bedrooms, two and a half baths (renovated), gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, screened porch, and an oversized two-car garage. Located a short distance to great schools, Fort Hunt Park, Mount Vernon bike path, and public transportation.

Sally Z. Haper
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