



Looming Towers

What will happen to hundreds of workforce units at the southern edge of Old Town?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

After almost a decade as a reluctant landlord, the Virginia Department of Transportation is getting out of the property rental game. It was never much of a fit in the first place, forged by a need for state transportation officials to manage and oversee construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Now that the bridge has been completed, VDOT is planning to put two residential mid-rise apartment buildings on the open market. That means the hundreds of market-rate affordable housing units there may be jeopardized if the new owner decides to renovate and increase rents.

The stakes are high because the fate of more than 500 units are at stake.

"It's potentially one of the biggest workforce housing opportunities we've ever



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

"It's potentially one of the biggest workforce housing opportunities we've ever seen."

— Councilman Rob Krupicka

The towers have such solid construction that city officials say it's impossible to demolish internal walls to combine apartments.

seen," said Councilman Rob Krupicka. "But we don't have the cash resources to play a significant part in that discussion."

The towers are assessed at \$61 million, much more than the city could pay to preserve 530 affordable housing units. Back

when the towers were sold to VDOT, Councilwoman Del Pepper suggested that the contract include a provision that allowed the city to purchase the buildings for \$1 when the agency no longer needed them to construct the bridge. The \$1 idea never re-

ceived much traction, although Mayor Bill Euille has suggested that VDOT could simply donate them to Alexandria in an effort to preserve workforce housing.

"Such a donation would be the way to

SEE FUTURE UNCLEAR, PAGE 4

Lebanon No More City residents and planning officials clash over West End.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

After the Confederate victory at the Battle of Manassas, federal soldiers occupying Alexandria wanted revenge. So they set fire to Lebanon Union Church, the center of a neighborhood that was once known as Lebanon. As the ashes of the old neighborhood smoldered, Union supporters renamed the area from Lebanon to Lincolnia — a tribute to the president leading the invasion of the South.

Today, the old Lebanon cemetery is the only trace that the once thriving community ever existed.

In many ways, the West End is now experiencing another inva-

sion. This one is led by planning officials at City Hall, who have crafted a plan with developers into what they call a "garden city." The plan would more than double the existing square footage in 222 acres, redeveloping 6 million square feet to 12.4 million square feet. Meanwhile, advocates for the poor and Latino residents who currently live here say thousands could be displaced by redevelop-

ment. Since city officials released the small-area plan in January, they've been calling for a survey of residents here to find out how many would even qualify for affordable housing considering the minimum income requirements. Last month, city officials agreed to conduct a survey — after City Council members approve the plan in May.

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 5



Members of the city planning and zoning office describe the changes that have been made on the latest West End/Beauregard Plan before comments from citizens were taken with a 30 minute PowerPoint presentation.

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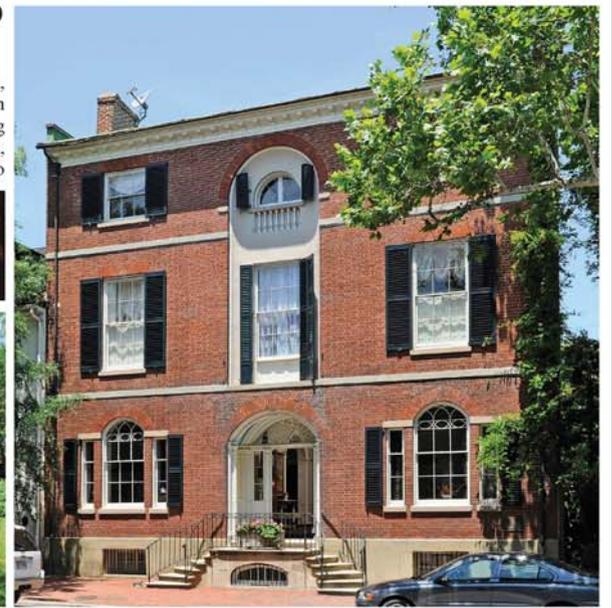
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COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Del Ray is sometimes called “the little neighborhood that could,” a reference to the area’s history as a residential spot for railroad workers at Potomac Yard. Since the yard closed, Del Ray has evolved as a sort of Greenwich Village for Alexandria — a stark contrast to the more buttoned down and colonial Old Town. But the two neighborhoods are about to begin sharing one important feature.

Trolleys.

No, these are not the streetcars that elected officials in Arlington County have been pushing for years. These are rubber-tire buses designed to look like trolleys, offering free rides to passengers up and down King Street since April 2008. The service has carried 7 million passengers, 450,000 in the last year alone. One survey of riders shows that 25 percent would not have come to the city if it weren’t for the free trolley service in Old Town.

“It’s a very powerful economic engine for the city,” said **Abi Lerner**, deputy director for the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

Now the city is about to expand that service through Del Ray into Arlandria. City officials are on the verge of issuing a request for proposals in the next few months, a process that will eventually come before City Council members for final approval later this year. Council members have already budgeted \$700,000 this year and are considering another \$700,000 next year. That’s on top of the existing \$700,000 cost of the King Street Trolley.

“We can’t call this the Del Ray Trolley,” said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**, who lives in Del Ray. “The name has to make it clear that this serves Arlandria and Del Ray.”

Hours for the Mount Vernon Avenue trolley — if city leaders decide to go with that name — would be from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Thursday and Fridays and from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Poppycock Excuses

Parents of public-school children are always drawing attention to Maryland tags dropping of students in the morning, and Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes** received harsh criticism from Democrats for driving around in a car with Maryland tags during the last campaign. Now the specter of Maryland tags is haunting the city once more.

With the city getting ready to start using its own hybrid diesel trolleys on King Street, the Maryland-based contractor that supplied the vehicles will have a few extra rubber-tire trolleys that aren’t being used. That means the company would be a likely candidate to help launch the new Mount Vernon Trolley service. There’s only one problem: Maryland license plates. City officials say the reason the original Old Town Trolley had Maryland tags was because the business was based in the Free State.

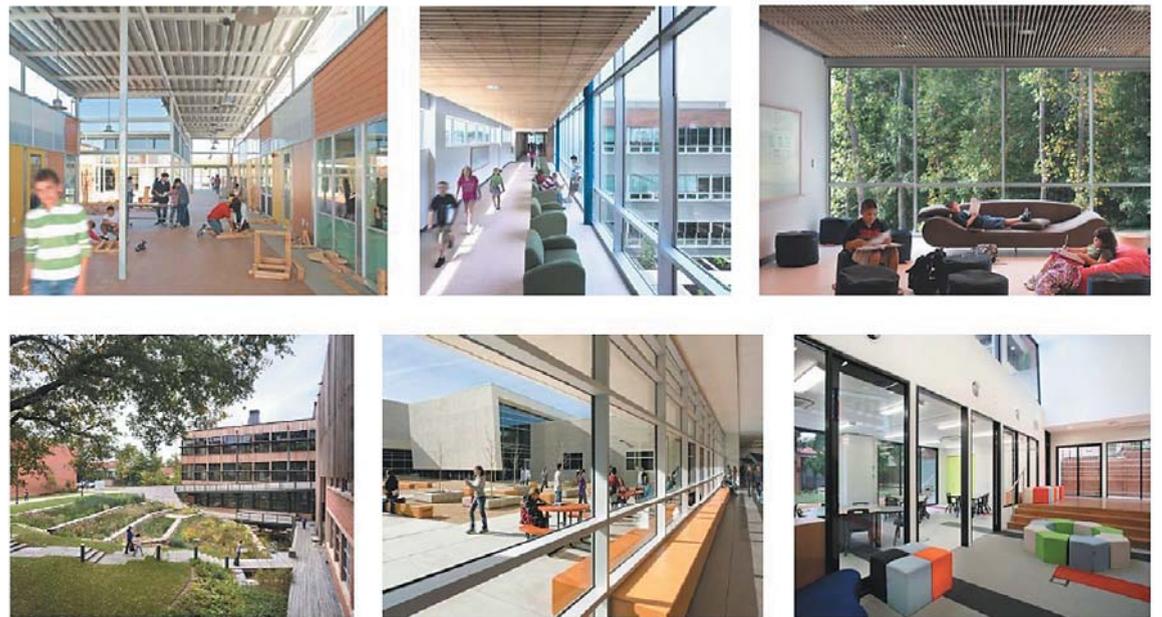
“That’s poppycock,” said Councilman **Paul Smedberg**. “That same operator has trolleys in the District and all those vehicles have District plates on them.”

Demolition Date Unclear

Alexandria’s coal-fired power plant is about to experience its last season on the waterfront. Use of the facility has been scaled back in recent years, with the facility limited to providing power during the coldest days and the hottest days of the year. This summer will be the last that the plant will spew particulate matter into city air. Then, on Oct. 1, the plant is expected to shut down for good even though the building and its pollution will probably be around for some time.

“GenOn is not demolishing the plant or any related structures it owns on the site,” said GenOn spokeswoman **Misty Allen** in a written statement. “Once a developer is on board, it would be expected that the closure then moves into what I call Phase II, ultimate disposition of the leasehold and redevelopment of the site.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Views of what the inside of the building would look like.

‘Plan A’ for Jefferson-Houston

School system presents site plan to City Hall for new construction project.

After years of failing test scores and faltering attendance, school officials now have a plan to demolish the existing Jefferson-Houston School and build a new one. The proposal, which administrators at Alexandria City Public Schools call “Site Plan A” is a 120,000-square-foot school expected to cost \$44.2 million. Construction is slated to start in April 2013, and public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council are scheduled for November.

“We made a commitment to the students and families in that community, and we intend to keep it,” said Superintendent Morton Sherman in a written statement.

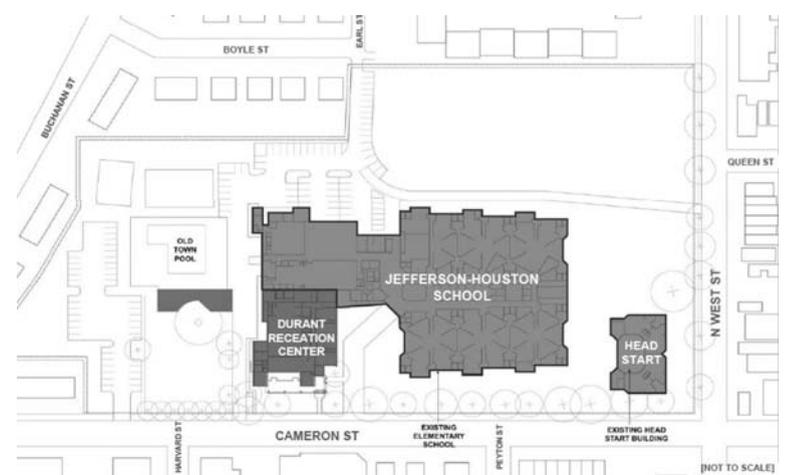
VMDO Architects of Charlottesville is leading the design team, and Brailsford & Dunlavey is providing project management services. Planning for the new school began last year, when School Board members approved initial capital improvement funding for the project. The site plan submitted to the Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning has an L-shaped building, which is oriented to West Street framing a rectangular athletic field. School buses will enter from Earl Street and exit to West Street.

“We have worked on other projects where it has been very difficult to get the community engaged and excited about a project,” said Jay Brinson, project manager. “This is certainly not the case in Alexandria, and we are



ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Site plan A.



ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Current site plan.

looking forward to continuing to work with ACPS and the Jefferson-Houston community as this project moves forward.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Future Unclear for Hunting Towers' 530 Workforce Units

FROM PAGE 1

ensure that Hunting Towers could serve an affordable housing role in perpetuity," Euille wrote to VDOT in January. "We do not understand from a budgetary basis VDOT does not want to donate the property, as Hunting Towers sale revenues were budgeted as a resource to pay for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project."

VDOT officials say they have no intention of donating the towers, citing legal constraints. Meanwhile, the agency is accepting "expressions of interest," nonbinding offers that will be used to calculate a real-market value when the buildings go on the open market later this year. When that happens, city officials say, the free market system could evict hundreds of residents who would be pushed out of Alexandria.

"If we take a laissez-faire approach, I'll tell you what will happen," said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley. "We will lose those units forever."

"We can't go out and spend \$80 million to save 530 units," said Councilman Frank Fannon. "We have to realize that every time we subsidize something, a taxpayer is paying for it."

THE AREA WHERE the towers is now located was once known as Broomilawn Point, a favorite spot for picnics and barbe-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Known for many years as Hunting Towers, the apartments are now rented as Hunting Pointe.

cues. In 1794, part of the site was leased to Robert Hooe, Alexandria's first mayor. By 1800, he had constructed a tavern on Broomilawn Point. In the 1850s, the Manassas Gap Railroad constructed a cut separating the point from St. Mary's Cemetery, which later became the location of the Capital Beltway. A brick works was constructed on the site in 1884 and remained in operation until it was destroyed by fire

in 1919.

In 1950, three identical towers known as Hunting Towers were constructed with a brick exterior and a reinforced concrete interior laid out in a cruciform shape. One was later demolished to make way for the southern span of the new bridge, leaving the twin towers some of the last remaining market-rate affordable housing units in Old Town. The buildings were constructed in

such a way that prevents internal walls from being demolished, city officials say, which may help the city's efforts to prevent them from becoming luxury condominiums.

"You can't put more bathrooms. You can't do washers and dryers. You cannot do central air. They have wall units," said Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks. "It provides great housing for the people who are there, but it's very limited as far as making it class A."

The site is currently zoned RC, High Density Apartment, permitting up to 54.45 dwelling units per acre and a floor area ratio of 1.25. Over the years, VDOT has heard from developers who have expressed an interest in converting the apartments to condominiums, although the market for that kind of conversion is not as strong as it was before the global financial meltdown. Unless a developer is able to triple the density, city officials say, it's unlikely that an investment trust would be interested in the project because it would be difficult to provide a yield.

"We are not going to upzone this property for any additional density," Vice Mayor Kerry Donley said.

In the last decade, Alexandria has lost more than 10,000 units of affordable housing. That's one of the reasons why city leaders are so hopeful that a nonprofit might step in to work with the city to preserve the units at Hunting Towers.



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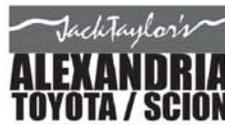
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photos: Tisara Photography

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Third generation Alexandrian, the Rev. Tai Smith, comments on his family's history in the city and questions the availability of affordable housing in this latest proposal.

Residents Question West End Proposal

FROM PAGE 1

"It's offensive," said Gabriel Rojo, executive director of Tenants and Workers United. "How can the City Council approve a plan before they have all the information?"

Some say the survey is not needed now. Because the small-area plan now under consideration is a concept plan rather than a specific proposal, the argument goes, it would be a mistake to conduct the survey now. That's why many are calling for the Planning Commission and City Council to approve the plan in May, then worry about the survey. That way the information can be used to craft a development special-use permit.

"We're at 10,000 feet right now," said Donna Fossum, member of the Planning Commission who led a stakeholders group. "When we get closer to earth, that's when you need a survey."

SINCE THE PLAN was first released in January, city officials have made a number of significant changes. In addition to agreeing to conduct a survey, city planners have now added 100 new dedicated affordable housing units, bringing the total to 800. And the percent of the area median income needed to be eligible for the dedicated affordable housing units has been lowered from 55 percent to 30 percent. The revised plan also extends the time the units will be dedicated from 30 years to 40 years.

And it identifies \$114.1 million in private and public resources to accomplish the creation of the 800 new dedicated affordable units.

"This is \$34 million more in private and public re-

sources and includes 87 more units than in the first draft of this plan," according to language added to the revised plan. "This goal number of units may grow as other sources of leverage are identified over time."

Another key change to the revised draft is the location of open space to be purchased with \$1.5 million from the Pentagon. City officials negotiated the one-time payment last year to account for the loss of open space when the Department of Defense purchased the land from Duke Realty. Now city officials have identified a plot of land known as Elliot Park that is currently a parking lot. Some have criticized this decision as a waste of resources.

"This is going to end up as a total lot serving two apartment buildings way off in a remote area," said West End activist Don Buch. "I just think that's crazy."

"How can the City Council approve a plan before they have all the information?"

— Gabriel Rojo, executive director, Tenants and Workers United

ANOTHER MAJOR CHANGE city officials are now proposing would be to expand the boundaries of the planning area to in-

clude Goodwin House and the Hermitage. This offers an opportunity for the plan to lock in retention of existing and new senior housing units in an effort to accommodate the city's growing senior population, providing them an opportunity to stay in the city.

"The plan acknowledges that the existing zoning may need to be revised to accommodate the intent of the city's strategic plan on aging," the revised small-area plan explains. "Any changes to the existing zoning for the Goodwin House or the Hermitage should be limited to the provision of senior housing, senior programs and associated issues."

Firefighters Respond to Two-Alarm House Fire

On Sunday, April 8, at approximately 10:15 p.m., the Alexandria Fire Department assisted by the Arlington County and Fairfax County Fire Departments responded to a reported house fire at 1147 Palmer Place in Alexandria.

The firefighters arrived to find a house that was well involved with fire. It took two alarms, approximately 40-50 fire and EMS personnel,

about an hour to bring the fire under control.

Two occupants were alerted to the fire by smoke detectors and were able to exit the home. A 19-year-old female was taken to the Alexandria Hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. The other occupant refused treatment at the scene. The cause and origin of the fire is under investigation.

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OBITUARIES

Irene R. Jones

Irene Reid Jones, 89 of Martinsville, Va., formerly of Warrenton, died on April 1, 2012, at Landmark Center, Stuart. She was born on Aug. 14, 1922 in Fauquier County, Va., a daughter of the late Eppa Clark Reid and Maude Lillian Moffett Reid; predeceased by her daughter, Delores M. Jones; five brothers and three sisters.

Mrs. Jones worked as a contract negotiator with the U. S. Govern-



ment living in Alexandria and Bethesda. Upon her retirement in 1973, she moved to Warrenton living there until moving to Stuart to be near her son.

She was a member of the Warrenton Baptist Church and NARFE.

She is survived by one son, James A. Jones, Martinsville, Va.; five granddaughters and nine

great grandchildren.

The family received friends on Wednesday, April 4, at Moser Funeral Home, Warrenton, where funeral services were held on Thursday, April 5. Interment was at Bright View Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be offered in Irene's name to the Alzheimer's Association, National Chapter Area, 3701 Pender Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030. Online condolences may be made at www.moserfuneralhome.com.

Richard Sandford Laurent

Richard Sandford Laurent, 59, of Alexandria, died peacefully on April 7 at the Halquist Memorial Inpatient Center after a brief illness.

Born in Charlottesville, Va., and reared in Alexandria, Richard was a 1971 graduate of T. C. Williams High School and spoke at his commencement ceremony. At the University of Virginia, he was an



Echols Scholar, spent his junior year in Paris, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and the Raven Society, and earned his B.A. and M.A. in French. He received a second M. A. in linguistics from Georgetown University.

At the University of California at Berkeley, he completed his doctorate in philology. His doctoral dissertation, "Past Participles from Latin to Romance," was published by the University of California Press in 1999.

Dr. Laurent worked as editor to the Executive Board at the International Monetary Fund for 10 years and later held many consulting and advisory positions.

He is survived by his father, Lawrence Laurent of Alexandria, a brother Arthur Laurent of Leesburg, Va., two sisters, Margaret Laurent Gordy (Joseph Gordy) of St. Augustine, Fla., and Elizabeth Laurent (Lawrence Dame) of Merion Station, Penn., two nieces and two nephews. His mother, Margaret Goodwillie Laurent, predeceased him by six years.

A service in celebration of his life will be held Friday, April 13, 2012 at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 402 East Monroe Ave., Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, direct memorial contributions to St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Alexandria.

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BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY/APRIL 16

BPAC Meeting. 7 to 9 p.m. The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The agenda includes: Bike to Work Day Plans, upcoming local elections, community bicycle rides, Bike to School Day (May 9), the Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation project and more. At the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria.

StagePlay Summer Camp

registrations are now been taken for an assortment of camps for pre-schoolers through middle schoolers. Locations are at the Little Theatre of Alexandria and St. Aidans Episcopal Church, Alexandria. For a full camp listing, email bardsplay@gmail.com, or call 703-360-0233.

Wonder how to grow great tomatoes, which tree is best for your home landscape, or what strange insect you have found? VCE Master Gardeners can help find the answers at weekly Plant Clinics held in the following locations:

❖ **Old Town Farmers' Market,** 301 King Street, Alexandria, Saturdays, from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., May 5 through Sept. 29.

❖ **Del Ray Farmers' Market,** intersection of Mt. Vernon and East Oxford Avenues, Saturdays, from 8:30 to 11 a.m., May 5 through Sept. 29.

Liberating Some Libraries

Bucking regional trends, Arlington is poised to increase library hours.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Even as Fairfax County and Alexandria consider yet another round of budget cuts, members of the Arlington County Board are poised to restore almost all the hours that were eliminated during the recession, restoring \$605,000 into the system and adding eight new employees. The move comes at a time when libraries across the region are seeing a steady increase in demand, stretching library resources thin at a time when they are needed the most. County Board member Chris Zimmerman says he's been fighting to make sure Arlington County leads the way in restoring the hours and staffing that was lost when Northern Virginia governments began cutting back in 2008.

"They're one of the great levelers in American society that give everybody a fair shot," said Zimmerman. "They are equal and open to all, and give opportunities for anybody to, in one way or another, improve themselves."

So far, it's a trend that has not caught on. In Fairfax County, attendance is up and demand has increased over the last five years. And yet since the recession hit, members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have slashed \$5 million from the library system. Outgoing County Executive Tony Griffin's proposed budget suggests another \$300,000 in cuts, although several members said they would like to see some restoration in staffing and hours.

"Shifting the chairs on the Titanic doesn't really do it," said Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross. "We need to make sure that what we decide is sustainable in the long run."

Alexandria is also seeing an increased number of visitors and a spike in circulation, even as City Manager Rashad Young's proposed budget suggests slashes another \$156,000 by eliminating three vacant positions. Although Young suggests reallocating \$110,000 to fund part-time help

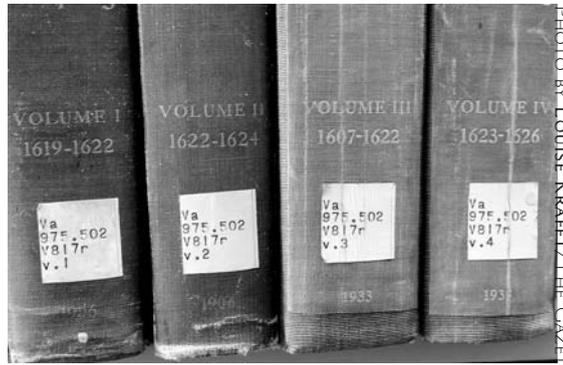


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAEFT/THE GAZETTE

Even as demand for libraries grows, most Northern Virginia governments have been slashing hours and staffing.

across the system, the library system would see a net reduction of \$46,000. Currently, no effort has been made to restore any of the reduced hours to the local history special collections, which is open only one Saturday a month.

"For people who have an everyday job, that leaves a very limited time to do research," said Ted Pulliam, author of "Historic Alexandria." "The books in special collections don't circulate, so you have to be there to do the research. And when it's only open two nights a week and one Saturday a month, that really puts people who are doing original research at a disadvantage."

"The books in special collections don't circulate, so you have to be there to do the research. And when it's only open two nights a week and one Saturday a month, that really puts people who are doing original research at a disadvantage."

— Ted Pulliam,
author of "Historic Alexandria"

Last fall, Arlington County officials held two planning sessions and conducted two public surveys to engage the community on the future of the library. Members of the public who participated in those sessions overwhelmingly supported access to neighborhood libraries that are open full days, Monday to Saturday. Last year, members of the County Board issued guidance to County Manager Barbara Donnellan to consider restoring services and hours that had been reduced in the recent downturn. When she issued her budget earlier this year, the proposal restores all but six hours at the county's central library.

"If we could afford it, I would like to see our libraries open even more hours than this," said Zimmerman. "I think these are assets that should be made available to the community, and I would like to see all of our branches open seven days a week."

Police Investigate Attempted Abduction, Assault

Alexandria Police are investigating an attempted abduction and assault that occurred in the 2200 block of Mill Road. Around 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 10, two females were grabbed by a man and pulled into a vacant building. The two victims were physically assaulted but were able to fight back and escape out of the building.

Police were called and officers on the Special Operations Team and the K-9 unit searched the building without success.

The two victims were taken to a nearby

hospital and treated for non-life threatening injuries.

The suspect is described as white, 20 to 30 years old, with a tall, thin build. He had dark colored hair pulled back into a ponytail. He was wearing a long black coat with black pants.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Criminal Investigations Section of the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6711.

Detectives would like to remind witnesses that they can remain anonymous.

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Special Thanks to:

Mount Vernon Gazette Alexandria Gazette Packet

Set in Stone

The city's latest round of business and professional license taxes, which were due in March, reveal a city on the rebound. Car sales are speeding ahead. Janitors are cleaning up. Clothing sales are stitching together delicate gains. Grocery stores are bearing fruit. Public relations firms are preparing press releases showing their gains. And, of course, gas stations are making a stealing. Even sculpture is showing solid growth, with gross receipts for sculptors increasing \$35,000 in the past year.

"Good," responded Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** when he heard that tax revenue from sculptors had increased. "I'll sleep better."

The unemployment rate in Alexandria is at 4.6 percent, well below the national average and the Virginia average. That's the good news. But the bad news for Alexandria is that hotel occupancy rates are down over the last year for full-service rooms and extended stay suits. Even more disconcerting is the commercial office vacancy rate, which has spiked to 13.5 percent. That's higher than the Northern Virginia average and the Washington metropolitan region.

"The trend has been that we were slowly closing that gap, now we're exceeding it," said Donley. The region is going to get more competitive as the federal government slows down its spending, and that's going to make the competition that much stiffer."

Commercial or Residential?

This weekend, City Council members will be considering yet another proposal to convert a commercial property to residential. It's a trend that concerns city officials, who have seen a recent spike in office vacancy rates and sluggish property assessments. Because the commercial market is so soft right now, the developer of Braddock Metro Place is seeking to abandon a commercial development in favor of a residential one.

"I don't want to prejudice my colleagues," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**, who will not be present on Saturday. "But we will be making it difficult for more commercial projects to come forward because we'll be basically sending a signal to the marketplace that we're not all that committed to our commercial projects."

The property in question is the location of the old Parker-Gray Middle School, which was demolished in the late 1970s. Since that time, the site has been built out except one parcel, which remains vacant today.

The development plan calls for a 62,800 square foot office building, but now the developer wants to construct a multi-family residential building instead.

"I worry about a trend that says we will regularly take residential over commercial when that's the thing that's in front of us," said Krupicka. "I think at some point, we've got to be able to say no or we are going to lose all of our commercial opportunities."

End of an Era

Sharon Dove has been showing up to Market Square before the crack of dawn since the 1950s, when she started coming with her mother as a 7-year-old. Since then, she has taken over the business, selling coffee and baked goods each Saturday morning at two tables.

One of the tables is rented in her name and the other is listed in the name of her late mother. Nobody keeps exact records on this sort of thing, but Dove considers herself the longest serving vendor, essentially the dean of Market Square.

"I always tell people to come early," said Dove last weekend. "You can always go home, take a nap and boogie the night away."

Dove is among the long-time vendors who opposed the later hours to Market Square, which go into effect next month. Instead of beginning at 5:30 a.m. it will begin at 7 a.m. And instead of closing up shop at 11 a.m., the market will stay open until noon. Dove said she remembers a time when the market closed at 9 a.m. In some ways, she still considers that the tail end of the productive hours each Saturday morning.

"The earlier you come, the better selection you have," she said. "After 9, it's leftovers."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

City Wins Technology Solutions Award

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria, the first jurisdiction in the state to transition from on-premise enterprise messaging to cloud services, has been awarded the Technology Solutions Award for 2011-2012 by the Public Technology Institute.

Migrating first to Microsoft's Business Productivity Online Services and then to Office 365, the city was honored in PTI's IT and Telecommunications category for jurisdictions with a population between 100,000 and 349,000.

"In approximately six months, the city migrated over 2,700 email accounts from their legacy Domino/Lotus Notes on-premise architecture to the cloud with no data loss and minimal downtime," said Alexandria's Chief Information Officer Tom Trobridge. "The project also included the conversion of over 30 legacy Domino applications, an enterprise desktop productivity suite upgrade and the transition of over 400 mobile devices from BlackBerry to iPhone and Android smartphones. By leveraging the cloud and streamlining the telecommunications and information technology infrastructure, the city realized immediate operating efficiencies and cost savings." According to Trobridge, the new system better supports the city's mobile workforce and telecommuting with smart phones and Outlook Web Access.

"This has been a very important program for the city because it's about more than just creating a better way to send and receive email," Trobridge said. "We have also been able to standardize and



City Council members Frank Fannon and Del Pepper use an iPhone and iPad to prepare for a City Council meeting last month. Alexandria was named a Technology Solutions Award winner for its migration to cloud email services.



Deputy City Manager Michele Evans uses an iPad to prepare for a recent City Council meeting. Alexandria won the Technology Solutions Award for its migration to cloud email services.

simplify our desktop computing environment, which means we are running a more efficient operation and can provide better support to our customers."

The PTI award will be formally presented at the CIO Leadership and Summit East Conference in Boston next month.

"I really enjoyed this project because it was an amazing team ef-

fort on the part of the Information Technology Services staff," Trobridge added. "There was an unprecedented level of collaboration within the department by everyone to make this happen. There's not a lot you can't do when you have a team of committed individuals who believe in creating positive change through the application of new technology."

Keep Pets Out of Hot Vehicles

As the region transitions into spring and the warm weather that accompanies it, Alexandria's animal control officers will be enforcing the new ordinance passed in November 2011 prohibiting the confinement of animals in vehicles when the outside temperature is at or above 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Animals are more susceptible to heat-related illness than humans, and in the period from May to September 2011, animal control responded to 103 calls about animals confined in vehicles at high temperatures. Owners in violation of Section 5-7-58 that cause their animal to suffer from heat stress, as diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian, will also be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor of animal cruelty.

TRCA Spring Meeting and Elections

The Taylor Run Citizens Association will host its annual Spring Meeting on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Elections will be held for TRCA executive officers as well as members of the board.

Additionally, City Council candidates will be in attendance to introduce themselves and field questions from the audience.

Learn more at the redesigned TRCA website <http://www.taylorryunalexandria.com/>

Notice of Hearing

A criminal hearing will be held in Alexandria General District Court on Thursday, April 19, 2012, located on the second floor of 520 King Street, Alexandria, VA, on the following: Case GC12-1410.

On April 6, Alexandria Animal Control impounded two cats believed to have been abandoned by the owner at the 300 block of Ashby Street. A hearing has been scheduled, per section 3.2-6569 of the Code of Virginia, to determine whether the owner is fit to retain custody of the animals, or if ownership will be relinquished to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Any interested parties are entitled to present evidence at the hearing.

PEOPLE

Alexandria Woman Wins \$250,000

Eckley Finn of Alexandria was with her husband when they discovered she'd won \$250,000 in Mega Millions.

"We were shocked," she told Virginia Lottery officials as she claimed her prize. "We play to win, but it's still a surprise."

She matched the first five numbers in the March 9 Mega Millions drawing. The winning numbers for that drawing were 9-10-27-36-42 and the Mega Ball was 11.

She bought the winning ticket at the 7-Eleven at 8434 Frye Road in Alexandria. She used Easy Pick and allowed the computer to randomly select the numbers on her ticket.

Finn is the sixth Virginia Lottery player in 2012 to win \$250,000 in Mega Millions.

Mega Millions drawings are held Tuesday and Friday nights at 11 p.m. Drawings are broadcast on TV stations across Virginia and streamed live at www.valottery.com and on the Lottery's Facebook



Eckley Finn

page. The odds of winning the \$250,000 prize in Mega Millions are 1 in 3,904,701.

Historical Society To Honor Madison, Pope

The Alexandria Historical Society has selected local historian Robert L. Madison and journalist Michael Lee Pope as winners of Special Alexandria History Awards for 2012. This award is given to a person or persons who have made notable contributions to the Society and to Alexandria history. Pope and Madison will be honored at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m., at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. State Sen. Patricia S. "Patsy" Ticer, will present the award. The honorees for the 2012 special awards are authors of works researching local aspects of Alexandria history.

Madison is the author of "Walking with Washington: Walking Tours of Alexandria, Virginia, Featuring over 100 Sites Associated with George Washington." This guide highlights more than 140 Alexandria sites related to George Washington. As a result of its publication, Madison was Alexandria Archaeology's 1998 Volunteer of the Year. All of the proceeds from the sale of the book go to Alexandria's historic sites. Madison has been a docent with the Carlyle House for over 12 years. For seven years, he was a board member of the AHS, and held positions of vice president and program chair. During his tenure with the AHS, he managed the website, edited the newsletter, handled publicity and scheduled a stellar roster of speakers for the society.

Pope is author of "Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C." (2011), which covers an overlooked period of Alexandria's history. In addition to this publication, Pope's "Ghosts of Alexandria" (VA / 2010), also contains local history. In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Pope has written a series of articles on Alexandria's Civil War history. As an award-winning journalist, he has reported for WAMU 88.5 FM, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the New York Daily News and the Tallahassee Democrat. Born in Moultrie, Ga., he grew up in Durham, N.C., and Tampa, Fla. Pope has a master's degree in American Studies from Florida State University. He was also a former adjunct professor at Tallahassee Community College. Pope resides in Old Town Alexandria with his wife, Hope Nelson.

The awards for outstanding high school history students will be presented to Saara Kaudeyr of T.C. Williams High School, Robert Larose of Bishop Ireton High School, Joslyn Chesson of Episcopal High School, and Douglass Maggs of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School.

Following the awards presentation, guest speaker Stephanie Pace Brown will give a short talk. Brown serves as President and CEO of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association.

A reception will follow the awards ceremony and lecture. The event is free and open to all.

New Board Members at Volunteer Alexandria

Seven new members have been elected to Volunteer Alexandria's Board of Directors. They include:

- ❖ Lyles Carr, Senior vice president, The McCormick Group, Inc.
- ❖ Jennifer Ferrara, vice president, Business Development, BB&T Bank
- ❖ Stephanie Landrum, senior vice president, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
- ❖ David Markley, financial advisor, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
- ❖ John Porter, executive director, ACT for Alexandria
- ❖ Joseph Shumard, vice president, Sales Lab, Incorporated
- ❖ Rodger Stephens, CEO, Prize Performance, LLC

Stephanie Landrum was elected treasurer. Ferrara and Markley also serve as two of the co-chairs of Spring for Alexandria along with Alexandria City Assistant Manager Tom Gates. Shumard is co-chairing the Spring for Alexandria Service Day. Re-elected to the board were: John Taylor Chapman, vice president; Allison Cryor DiNardo, president; and Laurie Blackburn, secretary.

Spring for Alexandria, Alexandria's citywide celebration of giving, features Volunteer Alexandria's two signature events on Friday, May 4: the 14th annual Business Philanthropy Summit and the 5th annual Community Service Day that will attract more than 1,000 people involved in giving back to the Alexandria community.

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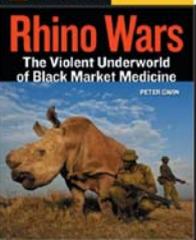
You're Invited:
Peter Gwin, National Geographic Staff Writer
Rhino Wars Gallery Talk
Thurs. April 19th at 6:30 pm
526 N. Fayette St., Alexandria, VA

Gwin will read from his forthcoming ebook and discuss the poaching epidemic currently threatening Africa's rhinoceros population. A portion of book sales and donations will benefit the International Anti-Poaching Foundation.

RSVP: marian@potomackcompany.com



Rhino Wars
The Violent Underworld
of Black Market Medicine
PETER GWIN



OPINION

On Funding the Silver Line

Commonwealth will collect the dividends, but refuses to invest; Northern Virginia pays.

Northern Virginia localities should together commission a study now to determine how much growth is stimulated by the opening of the Metro stations in Tysons and along the toll road out to Dulles, how many new jobs created, quantify how much that growth leads to increased income and sales tax, and how much revenue (taxes) would get shipped off to Commonwealth coffers.

There should be a way to keep that money here in Northern Virginia.

Residents from around the region will pay for the majority of the construction of rail to Dulles via the Dulles Toll Road.

Virginia is all too happy to benefit from one of the biggest drivers of the Northern Virginia economic engine, Dulles Airport. Rail to Dulles, part of the plan for the airport since its conception, is a key part of supporting the expected volume growth in passengers and other commerce at the airport. But at every turn, the state has pushed paying for the rail line onto Northern Virginia, onto Fairfax and Loudoun county

governments, onto property owners in the corridor and especially onto drivers on the Dulles Toll Road.

While Virginia had committed to contributing an additional \$150 million to the rail project, and at various points the governor and the General Assembly dangled \$200-300 million, it now appears that money will not be forthcoming. It was never enough.

This is one more example of the Commonwealth of Virginia happily collecting revenues, including income and sales taxes, generated from the economic vitality of Northern Virginia, then forcing Northern Virginia residents to pay for the infrastructure of that economic activity out of local funds and personal pockets.

The most recent Virginia Department of Aviation report identifies at least \$17.5 billion in annual economic activity in Virginia from Dulles and Reagan National airports, with Dulles providing the majority of that. The num-

ber of jobs created and maintained by this activity is staggering, and in Virginia, the state collects 100 percent of the income tax; there is no local income tax.

The state collects the income tax from the good jobs generated here in Northern Virginia by the airports, by the high tech firms, by the business innovators, by proximity to the Pentagon and the federal government. Then the governor celebrates the result, that Virginia is top ranked as business friendly.

The Commonwealth collects much of the tax revenue that results from this activity, but would pay only three percent of the \$6.2 billion cost of rail to Dulles. This will force more than 80 percent of the costs of building rail to Dulles to local drivers and property owners. The toll road contribution is projected at 57 percent of the total.

Having major airports adequately served by rail and other transportation options is more than an amenity, it is part of sustaining the economic benefit that comes from major airports. The question is not whether we should be building rail to Dulles, but about who benefits and who pays.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hybrid School Board?

To the Editor:

That in the past few months there have been issues of extraordinary concern and increasing public outrage over ACPS is well-understood. I realize that as leaders, the community looks to the City Council for guidance and answers when things go wrong and as the City Council has taxing authority and makes decisions routinely impacting the quality of our private lives, a reliance on us is also well-understood. The questions become what can we do as a body to make things better and convey in a way that is meaningful our belief in a need for change, both short-term and long-term?

There are no great theatrics here, no sensational or salacious way to claim a power that doesn't exist. As I've already said, City Council cannot fire Superintendent Sherman ... and we can't make the School Board do so either.

I recently wrote an opinion piece advising that our authority with ACPS is limited to appropriations power. In the short term, we can make categorical allocations as prescribed by state statute rather than make a blanket \$250 million+ budget appropriation. However, we have no policy/program authority or line-item veto authority with the schools. To more fully examine where things are and have been recently with the schools budget and to provide a basis for making intelligent cat-

egorical allocations if we so choose, I've requested a budget memo that will outline by statutory categories expenditures made under the ACPS over the past 5 years. We expect to receive that any day now and the same will then be found on the city's website with other budget materials.

To effect a more long-term change, City Council can request a charter change from the General Assembly that augments the school board composition. Whether there is a prevailing appetite or perceived need to do so either by the City Council or the public at-large, no one can say. I have recently given some thought to the value of a hybrid school board, partially council-appointed and partially elected.

The last time Alexandria contemplated changing from an elected to an appointed board, there was an awful lot of civic engagement ... and even angst. Suffice it to say that even in the absence of considering a composition change, with recent reports regarding ACPS, there is angst now. In an effort to gauge the pleasure of the public, I invite consideration of whether City Council should vote to have an advisory referendum item placed on the November ballot so that we may better understand public opinion on whether the school board should be an elected-appointed hybrid.

Should the results of a referendum question show that the public prefers a hybrid board, I would hope that the sitting City Council, as one of its final acts would seek a charter change during the 2013 General Assembly Session to effect the same. While this change would not augment the 2012 elections, to the extent that board composition is construed as a systemic issue, this long-term change could prove advantageous in addressing public concern. Please feel free to share your thoughts. I can be reached via e-mail at alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov.

Alicia Hughes
Alexandria City Councilwoman

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



Ribbon Cutting at New Hospital

The new IAH Mark Center had an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, April 4. The hospital will specialize in Advanced Imaging; Breast Care Center; Internal Medicine Out-patient Care Center at 1800 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. From left are: Christine Candio, CEO, Inova Alexandria Hospital; Frank Fannon, Alexandria City Councilman; Alexandria Mayor William Euille; Mark Stauder, President and COO, Inova Health System; Del Pepper, Alexandria City Councilwoman; John Long, President and CEO, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and state Sen. George Barker.

Alexandria
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OPINION

Fixing Flaws, Building on Successes

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to school staff and residents.

When I accepted the position as the superintendent of the Alexandria City Public Schools in 2008, the School Board and I made a commitment to review all programs and to take action if needed. When the review process began, two things were evident immediately:

- ❖ This school division is, with rare exception, staffed by caring, dedicated, and professional individuals who want the very best for each and every student

- ❖ The systems of this school division need study and updating.

I am very appreciative of our staff's work on behalf of our students. You work in a school division with wonderful challenges and opportunities, and which is also recognized as being on the cusp of becoming exceptional.

Our review of programs is ongoing, methodical, and transparent as we release each report to the board and community. We looked first at programs with the most critical issues. To date we have completed reviews of and began making changes in the following areas:

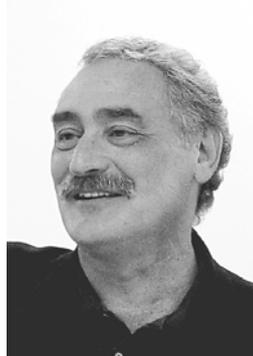
- ❖ Strategic Planning
- ❖ Curriculum; Student Progress
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ English Language Learners
- ❖ Special Education (two reports)
- ❖ Summer School
- ❖ Modified Calendar Schools and Intersession
- ❖ Disproportionalities (variances in achievement among student groups)
- ❖ Discipline
- ❖ Annual reports on SAT, AP, SOL
- ❖ Facilities and Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)
- ❖ Adult Education

Each of these reports recognized ACPS' strengths and weaknesses, was discussed with the School Board at public meetings and is available on the ACPS website.

As part of our methodical and ongoing review, I requested the most recent reports dealing with facilities and adult education. Significant systemic flaws in those areas have been revealed. I agree with these findings, and the division is taking steps to ensure that these longstanding deficiencies in process, structure, and personnel are addressed quickly. These reports found that key staff members failed to follow approved policies and procedures and did not use plain common sense, resulting in severe consequences.

Waiting on my desk when I started here were many reports and articles. Of note, Forbes Magazine in 2007 included ACPS as one of the worst bangs for the buck in America. One of our partners, Tenants and Workers United, issued a report in 2007 condemning the achievement gaps for our students of color. Also in 2007 members of the African American community challenged the achievement gap and discipline data.

The federal government notified us that our special education program was out of compliance. One of our earliest reviews released in 2009 was of special education, which was similar to a 1995 report in which ACPS was described as lacking a culture and belief system that valued the capabilities of all students. In early 2010, the federal and state departments of education released a report which listed T.C. Williams as a Persistently Lowest Achieving School, having never reached the benchmarks set by



state and federal No Child Left Behind requirements.

We said, "Enough!" Rather than focusing only on the division's deficits, we established the mentality of being transparent, turning the page, looking ahead, and building on the many wonderful things that have gone on in ACPS for a very long time. We have a strong foundation, good traditions, and a cul-

ture of continuous improvement.

ACPS has made remarkable progress for which our staff, community, and school board are to be commended. While enrollments have grown from 10,600 in the spring of 2008 to over 12,400 this spring, our budgets have increased an average of only about 2 percent per year. More important, our staff has adopted a "can and should do" attitude, which has propelled T.C. Williams to the highest SOL scores ever in math, reading, and writing.

At the same time, we have made progress on Virginia Standards of Learning test results, Advanced Placement participation and test results are the highest ever.

Our middle school staff has led the way in moving from 17 percent of our students taking Algebra I or Geometry in eighth grade to over 51 percent with a 99 percent pass rate last year. We have increased our Pre-K enrollment seven fold, and we have seen good growth in our mathematics and writing results in the elementary schools. And so much more ... fine and performing arts participation and awards, athletic success, and community service participation. With our new culture of continuous improvement, these accomplishments will only grow exponentially.

The environment I wish to create for the dedicated ACPS staff is one of working together to move ahead in a positive and supportive manner. Our accomplishments have been nothing short of amazing. Our future accomplishments will be even greater.

Ultimately, all that goes on in the school division is the responsibility of the superintendent, and I accept that responsibility and take it very seriously. When I interviewed for this position, the School Board and many members of the community and staff spoke openly about the division's challenges — and also about its extraordinary potential. They were right on both counts.

In the coming months we will be taking on a series of additional reviews, over time looking at all aspects of our school division. We can be sure that there will be additional challenges that we will need to address as a school community.

It is important for our families and community to have confidence in ACPS and its leadership and staff. Supporting all of the wonderful individuals as we improve our systems is going to be critically important work.

I am confident that we are on a good path, that we will continue to have even more successes in the coming years, and that at times we will continue to find issues which will test our resolve, spirit and abilities.

Best wishes to all of you for a healthy, happy, and peaceful spring.

Dr. Morton Sherman
ACPS Superintendent of Schools

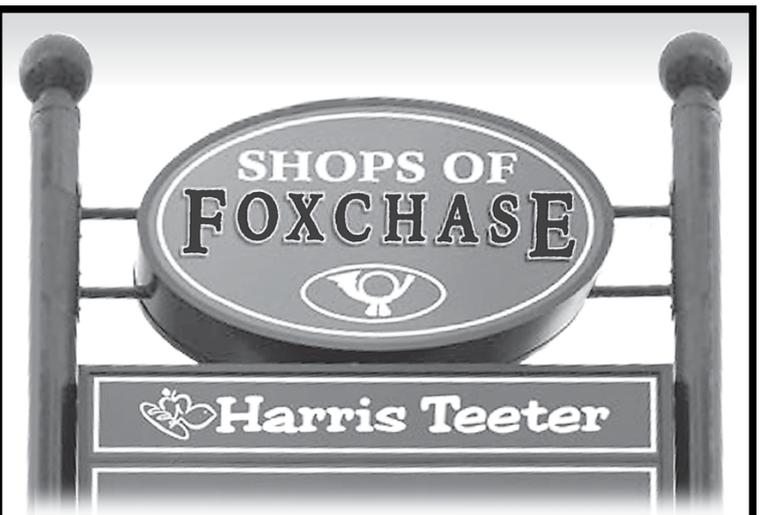
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THEN & NOW



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1860: This Civil War-era photograph shows the original Bank of Alexandria building on the corner. James Green turned the structure into a hotel in the 1840s and built the four-story addition on the right in 1855.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/GAZETTE PACKET



Developer Rodger Digilio saved the original 1807 door to the bank's vault.

Old Town History: Bank of Alexandria

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
GAZETTE PACKET

A fairly nondescript building sits on the southeast corner of North Fairfax and Cameron Streets. It's a bit taller than the others nearby, and forms a quiet bookend for the distinctive Carlyle House next door. It's anonymity, however, belies its rich history.

The Bank of Alexandria, established in 1792, moved from its original offices on Cameron Street to this building at 133 North Fairfax Street in 1807. Philip Fendall

was the first president, and he was succeeded by William Herbert, a son-in-law of John Carlyle and a mayor of Alexandria. George Washington was an early stockholder.

The bank failed in 1834, a victim of Andrew Jackson's Bank War. James Green converted the building into the Mansion House Hotel in the late 1840s, and built an addition in 1855 that ingloriously blocked the view of the Carlyle House from Fairfax Street. During the Civil War, the Union Army used the hotel as a hospital, as it did with many large buildings in the city. Again a

2012: Saved from demolition in the 1970s, the Bank of Alexandria building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

hotel after the war, new owners in the 1880s renamed it the Braddock House. Another conversion near the turn of the 20th century made it the Carlyle Apartments, and gradually some spaces became offices.

The Northern Virginia Park Authority bought the building complex in 1970 as part of its planned Carlyle House restoration. The Authority hoped to raze everything in order to feature the Carlyle House. How-

ever, a debate within the city ensued about the demolition — "Wreck Peter to Save Paul?" was the Washington Post headline in December 1970. According to Alexandria developer Rodger Digilio, the park authority ultimately gained permission to proceed since the building apparently did not predate 1847 and thus qualify for preservation. "It wasn't until demolition had started in 1973 that it became clear that the bank fragment was much older," Digilio explained recently. "A records search revealed it had been built in 1807, so it was saved."

Digilio's firm, OTV, Inc., redeveloped the building in the 1970s and has a 40-year lease on the building. It is now a mix of office spaces and co-op apartments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

Don't Encourage 'Magic Bullets'

To the Editor:

As a desperate high school student just sliding by, I too would hope for a magic bullet cram course to improve my standardized test scores and chances of getting into college. However, adults should know there is no magic bullet to acquire skills and information that should have been learned in years of serious preparation before college tests loom, and encouraging such thinking in our students does not serve anyone well. Even if students successfully game the tests via a cram course and get into college, they need the skills tested to remain and thrive. It's distressing to learn that about half of the applicants to community colleges in our area fail the placement tests and need remedial English and math before they can take college courses for credit — and these remedial classes are heavily taxpayer subsidized.

Now T.C. Williams is offering "free" (taxpayer paid) college prep classes to improve students' scores — in response to student wishes. This is a poor use of resources for several reasons. Starting at the elementary level, all students take standardized tests, so they should already be familiar with test-taking strategies. Test-makers know the

gaming strategies teachers tell students to improve their scores and have adjusted the tests to skirt such methods.

Just as cramming for a final exam is marginally useful, taking prep classes for a college entry test hardly prepares one — but one can hope! Jesse Jackson, visiting TCW 25 or so years ago, told students that if they studied as many hours as they spent practicing ball on the blacktop/field/court, they would succeed in the classroom and be better prepared to become responsible adults with desirable choices in their future. I remember he paused for effect and then there was silence with guilty looks as his words sank in.

If, as staff say, students claim they don't know what test they are taking, they should be removed from the test room. Testing room doors must be marked with the name of the test, tests are labeled in large letters on the front page, and teachers are required to read the test titles and directions to the students. Condoning any student's irresponsibility sets a poor example. Taxpayers fund registration for the SAT, which costs \$49, and the subject matter tests cost \$22 for a basic subject, \$22 for a language with listening test and \$11 for other subject tests. The ACT costs \$34 or \$49.50 with the writing section. Because TCW students' average scores on these tests have decreased, it seems the administration may be pushing students who are not prepared to take the tests — and then, before the scores become

available, bragging that increasing numbers of students are taking the prestigious tests. This approach wastes time and money. Taxpayers expect all school staff to maximize the use of taxpayer provided resources and to set an exemplary example for our youth.

Re preparation for the content: The test making companies provide a free booklet to each student with suggested test-taking strategies and sample questions of similar difficulty to the actual test so students know what to expect. (Useful prep books are also widely available for less than \$25.) When I taught at TCW, English and math teachers were expected to discuss the appropriate parts of the test booklet with their classes. English teachers know that there is no substitute for teaching vocabulary, reading and writing/thinking skills over the student's entire career — and those skills also affect scores in other disciplines. Students also need to learn self-discipline and perseverance.

Alexandria taxpayers already spend \$17,343, more than any other locality in the country on our students. Why should we pay lots more for what they should have done already and thereby encourage students' bad habits and false expectations? I hope the superintendent will answer this question in his column and/or another appropriate means.

Ellen Tabb
Alexandria

Consider Children's Safety

To the Editor:

The following letter was sent to the City Council and School Board.

Good day. Today I am coming to you with a Petition for the Safety of the Children. In attending all of the meetings for the new school building for Jefferson Houston Elementary School, I have found that so much of the focus has been on the site and next the architecture of the building. I realize that the site plan that was chosen is the site plan that will be used.

I find it puzzling though that as this is about what is best for the children of our City, nobody really thought about their safety when the design for the parking area and drop off was designed. I would like to remind you that three years ago when this project was begun as a public-private partnership, Parks and Recreation already had a plan and presentation of how they were going to renovate our little Buchanan Street playground. With the petition I am sending, I am also sending the current site plan and a copy of the plan for the playground so you can see how easy it would be to leave the playground and basketball court right where they are, and you can visually see how safe the area is now and how it will

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

affect the children if these amenities are moved.

Currently, we have 40 parking spaces in the parking lot next to the pool, 20 alongside the Durant Center, with 62 plus 4 handicapped spaces behind the current building totaling 126. The proposed site plan is to "give" us 100 spaces, if the drawing is accurate, it shows 102, meaning a loss of 24 spaces. I am proposing the playground and basketball court stay in their current location. This way children or adults that are at the pool or using the playground and/or basketball court do not have to cross moving traffic. One can say the cars move in the parking lot, yes they do, but they come in, they park, they unpark and they leave. By opening the parking lot and winding it around the pool, all people using these amenities, including the camp buses in the summer will all have to beware of moving traffic as it will constantly be circling the pool.

Once the current school is demolished and removed, there will be room to wrap the driveway around the Durant Center, plus add more parking in the location behind the Durant Center where the school sits, and add parking along the edge of the new play field allowing people that use the field to have off street parking right by the field to unload children or equipment. Handicapped parking could also be placed closer to the front of the Durant Center for

the elderly or handicapped that attend various activities at the Durant Center.

In closing, I ask that you look and think hard about what I am saying. There are a lot of children that use this part of the block and to open it would put them all at risk. Have the builder give us the new park where it is, have them repave and paint the current parking areas keeping the parking lot just that, a parking lot not a thoroughfare. Repave and paint the basketball court, give us new hoops. Add parking behind the Durant Center, do not put the playground and court there. There is a cost savings in what I am saying. There is also life savings.

Bea Porter
Alexandria

Another Step for Smoke-Free City

To the Editor

The Mayor and City Council are to be congratulated for steps they have recently taken to address what Surgeon Generals of the U.S. have called the two leading causes of preventable death and disease in America: tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke. In January, the City Council, by a vote of 5 to 1, authorized the placement of signs discouraging smoking in all City-owned parks, playgrounds and bus shelters. The signs read: For everyone's health, thank you for not smoking in our

parks and playgrounds, with a similar message for bus shelters.

The signs have information on how to contact the state Quitline (1-800-QUITNOW) for those who are thinking about quitting. Surveys indicate that at least 70 percent of smokers are interested in quitting but most say they know of no other alternative than to go "cold turkey." The Quitline offers free and confidential counseling by telephone; and, it often serves as the first (and sometimes the only) line of help for smokers who want to quit.

The resolution followed a six-month experiment that permitted smoke-free signs in City playgrounds, with a proviso that public sentiment must be assessed before Council would agree to move forward in other public spaces. Last December, the Alexandria Health Department surveyed users of all 34 playgrounds and found a 94 percent public approval rate.

With such significant community support and a strong recommendation by Stephen Haering, MD, MPH, the director of the Alexandria Health Department, City Council approved the measure to allow signs to be placed in all parks and bus shelters.

On March 21, scores of youth and community volunteers gathered at a bus stop on King Street, just two blocks from the T.C. Williams campus, to witness Mayor William Euille and Councilwoman Del Pepper place the first "Thank you for not smoking" sign

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/GAZETTE PACKET

Migratory

Great Egrets winter in Mexico and South America and breed along the shore, passing through this area in migration. But at least three of them have been fishing recently in Roaches Run Waterfowl Refuge across from National Airport in Arlington, and in a narrow wetlands, recently enhanced by beavers, between Carpenter Road and the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Alexandria. Standing nearly four-feet tall when they extend their necks, they have a massive wingspan. This one was photographed in Alexandria.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

on a City bus shelter. Both the mayor and the councilwoman thanked the crowd for their activism and encouraged them to develop more ideas that could lead to further reductions in smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke in the community.

Councilwoman Pepper, sponsor of the original resolution, said she was proud of the fact that Alexandria is the first jurisdiction in the Commonwealth to have covered all three public sites — parks, playgrounds and bus shelters — with signs that ask smokers to consider the health of those around them and to refrain from smoking in those areas.

The action by City Council clearly places the City of Alexandria as a leader in the Commonwealth on this important public health issue. The initiative offers a unique and non-bureaucratic approach to reducing the exposure of children and non-smoking adults to the harmful effects of second hand smoke. And it relies totally on the good will and civic-mindedness of the public for compliance. Both the Public Health Advisory Commission and the Clean and Smoke-Free Air Coalition are working on other recommendations that could move the City toward a vision of becoming the most smoke-free city of its size in America.

Richard E. Merritt

Chairman, Alexandria Coalition on Clean and Smoke-Free Air
 Chairman, Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission

Support the Environment

To the Editor

As a 14-year-old boy growing up in Virginia, I am so happy that President Obama has taken the time to create a plan to clean bodies of water and major rivers of the pollutant mercury. Mercury gets into are food sources and water basins through fish and leftover waste from factories and power plants. I believe that enforcing mercury and air toxics standards is one of the most important things we can do to start protecting the environment from ourselves. In the long run mercury can poison water systems and make people really sick. The entire thing is just such a big hassle once something has been contaminated. I don't know why some people believe that the benefits outweigh the cost to keep the power plants that produce mercury running. I hope that sometime in the future I can help bring the environment back to its former glory, but for now I can only write letters to you, and be grateful for our leaders who are working to clean up the problem.

Colin Cech

Alexandria



Councilwoman Del Pepper and Mayor Bill Euille place the first "Thank you for not smoking" sign on a City bus shelter.

Metro Parking: Best Way To Spend \$7 Million?

To the Editor:

The mayor and the City Council have proven again that they do not represent their Alexandrian citizens. According to "Kissing and Riding" (March 29), they will abolish the 30 parking spaces (including the handicapped spaces) at the King Street Metro station and spend \$7 million to enhance the parking lot.

The vice mayor says the parking lot creates a conflict. What conflict is he talking about? Pedestrian safety is important but I don't see where the lot presents any more of a problem than one has in crossing the streets from either side of the station's exits.

In this economy how can the City justify this \$7 million extravagant expenditure for this unnecessary project? Where are they going to get the money from? In the same newspaper it is noted that business license tax revenue is down, recordation tax is down and revenue from the Federal Government is down.

This is the same group in their infinite wisdom brought you the Brac Building, the waterfront project, and have not collected the \$10.3 million in taxes from city businesses and residents.

This is also the same group that voted to increase our real estate taxes even though when Acting City Manager Johnson left, I believe, he stated there would be no need to increase taxes.

It is time for the present mayor and council to be voted out of office. We need a clean slate.

Florence Foelak

Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

PUBLIC MEETING:
 POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION EIS

You're Invited!

Thursday,
 April 19, 2012
 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Cora Kelly Recreation Center
 25 West Reed Avenue
 Alexandria, Virginia

The Federal Transit Administration and the City of Alexandria, in cooperation with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and the National Park Service, are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Potomac Yard Metrorail Station.

You are invited to attend the meeting to learn about the station location alternatives that will be evaluated as part of the EIS process, and to provide feedback. No RSVP is required and all members of the public are welcome. Note: the presentation describing the alternatives will begin at 7:15 pm.

POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION EIS

Take transit to Cora Kelly: DASH bus route AT10 or Metrobus routes 10A/B/E. Limited parking is available on-site.

Visual materials and a Spanish-speaking staff member will be available.

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the City Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4086 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056. Please provide 72 hours advance notice.

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

6111 Vernon Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

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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

Just Listed! Open Sunday



Stunning like-new colonial situated on almost half acre in quiet cul-de-sac! Over 4300 finished square feet, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 car attached garage, hardwood floors throughout main level, formal living and dining rooms. Sunny eat-in kitchen opens to large family room with vaulted ceilings. Updated bathrooms, large fully finished lower level and huge rear patio! Walk to swim and tennis club ~ \$899,000



2717 Woodlawn Trail Alexandria, VA 22306

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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

Open Sunday in Mt. Vernon



Renovated Top to Bottom. 4 BR suites-all with walkin closets and luxury tile baths w granite counters-total 4.5 baths! New kit w/ SS appliances & granite opens to stunning Fam Rom w/ fireplaces, breakfast and dining rms, Gleaming HW floors, recessed lighting & moldings. Spacious bright above grade Lower Level walks out to HUGE flat fenced yd. Large sunny deck. ~\$434,900



8401 Leaf Road Alexandria, VA 22309

Open Sunday in Mt. Vernon



Pristine colonial in culdesac with his and her master baths. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Hardwood floors on main level. Updated kitchen and baths throughout. Attached 2 car garage. Open floor plan and spacious kitchen opens to family room. Large recreation room, deck and screened-in porch. Fully finished lower level. Custom moldings throughout. ~ \$675,000



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The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick town-house 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



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

Clear Cutting Of Trees

To the Editor:

This morning I watched as contractors for WMATA cut down tree after tree along the property line adjacent to my apartment complex. The Metro Office of Systems Maintenance property at 195 Telegraph Road (actually Mill Road), Alexandria, runs along a creek bed, where all the trees are being clear cut. This creek bed is a tributary to Taylor Run, part of the Potomac Watershed, ultimately contributing to the Chesapeake Bay. The foreman of the company contracted to cut down the trees shook his head as he informed me that WMATA was clearing trees on all of their properties across the Washington Metro area. Why? At least along this creek bed there is no apparent need. No electrical lines, no criminal activity. (Unless you count the leaves dropping on the employees' cars in the WMATA parking lot as criminal). In fact the opposite is true. The trees provided a privacy screen between the residential apartments and the unsightly metro yard building and parking lot behind it. The creek bed was a small, but vital area of nature and animal life.

All those trees on all that land on all those Metro properties at what cost? I'm sick of hearing that Metro has no money. How much does this tree cutting cost? There were at least 10 contractors for at least five days (including Sunday — overtime pay?) at this location alone to cut down all the trees along this Metro property. Is that what our tax dollars are going to — subsidizing the destruction of the environment?

I suggest that an inquiry be made into the necessity and cost of this wasteful project. My personal suggestion is also to call for an immediate stop to the unjustified cutting down of trees, and a withholding of any taxpayer dollars towards the unnecessary destruction of the environment. WMATA should immediately replant at least one tree for every tree they have had cut down. WMATA wonders why ridership is down, perhaps they should remember that riding the Metro is supposed to be good for the environment — “not destroy it!

Emily Olhoeft
Alexandria

GW Memorial Parkway Metro?

To the Editor:

Although officially it is referred

to as the Potomac Yard Metro, if the option to move the tracks closer to the GW Memorial Parkway is used, it creates a construction zone on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and furthermore creates a right-in right-out for the trucks and mechanical equipment to use. In effect, that part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway becomes a designated truck route and construction zone for a metro station serving the Potomac Yard.

The Alexandria City Council promised public hearings and citizen participation. However, there is an upcoming meeting that has practically not been advertised at all. For those interested, here is the meeting information. “Potomac Yard Metrorail Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Public Meeting April 19, 2012 at Cora Kelly Rec Center from 7-9 p.m. Three Build Alternatives Will Be Presented For Public Comment.”

The City of Alexandria claims that it is not pushing the George Washington Memorial Parkway option, but their actions to date speak volumes. The George Washington Memorial Parkway is a ceremonial highway, as described by the Macmillan Commission Report of 1902: “These drives had certain definitions: Parkways or ways through or between parks; distinguished from highways or ordinary streets by the dominant purpose of recreation rather than movement; restricted to pleasure vehicles, and arranged with regard for scenery, topography and similar features rather than for directness.”

(see following for complete history http://www.oldtowncivic.org/Pages/News/Other%20News/2009-2010/gw_parkway.pdf)

So why are we breaking every agreement we have made with the Federal Government regarding the disposition of the George Washington Memorial Parkway? It seems that a city designated as the First President's hometown is headed towards a path that further erodes the bucolic ambiance of a parkway that was dedicated to his memory.

Poul Hertel

Time To Step Down

To the Editor:

The following letter is addressed to Dr. Morton Sherman, Superintendent of Schools, Alexandria City Public Schools.

In response to your letter addressed to Alexandria's general public and to the employees of Alexandria City Public Schools, I ask

this question: Why do you continue to put a public relations style “spin” on the fatal underlying problems facing ACPS? And why can you not, in as few words as possible, accept full responsibility for these failures and do as every accountable leader in the past has done, exit.

You state in your letter that “Rather than focusing only on the division's deficits, we established the mentality of being transparent, turning the page, looking ahead, and building on the wonderful things that have gone on in ACPS for a very long time.”

Dr. Sherman, just in case you have failed to keep up to date on the media's coverage of your office, not only does the general public see your actions as anything but transparent, but it's clear you, and therefore we, have been unable to “look ahead” as we are still suffering the slings and arrows of your blatant system-wide mismanagement.

Sure, certain programs and initiatives within ACPS have been successful, we have seen improvement in varying statistics as they pertain to Alexandria's student body, but we thank our front line employees for this, we thank our hard working teachers and teacher's aides. Because much of the city-wide educational successes can be attributed to our hard working and generally underpaid teaching staff, and because even you readily admit your failures as superintendent, allow me to make a proposition. Because you earn more than the Governor of Virginia and the vice president of the United States, because you have a car allowance and office decoration allowance, and because teachers in general tend to be paid less than they deserve (along the same cost/benefit lines as our hero first responders), why don't you entirely forego your salary for FY13 or until a thorough audit of your offices failings can be established. The sum total of the money we will have saved can then be repaid to the CIP, of which you have essentially destroyed, or split among our City's teachers as nothing more than a “thank you.”

Superintendent Sherman, your letter to ACPS staff and the general public makes it very clear, as it was I am assuming written by you, that you do in fact accept full responsibility for the three or so years of failure and mismanagement rampant throughout ACPS. There cannot be a “look ahead” or the “turning of a page” without radical change.

The author Robert Collier once said, “In every adversity there lays the seed of an equivalent advance.”

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 29



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\$ 705,000
Alex / Oakbrooke
8201
CHOLLMAN CT

JUST LISTED! Lovely 4/5BR / 3.5BA colonial w/2-car garage on cul-de-sac. Large corner lot w/fenced yard. Au-pair/in-law suite, remodeled kit w/granite, SS, ceramic tile. Hdwds. Fully fin. walk-out bsmt. Oakbrooke neighborhood in popular Waynewood School District. Home Warranty!

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



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Alexandria
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Alexandria South
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8428 Old Mt Vernon Rd



9219 Ashwood Dr

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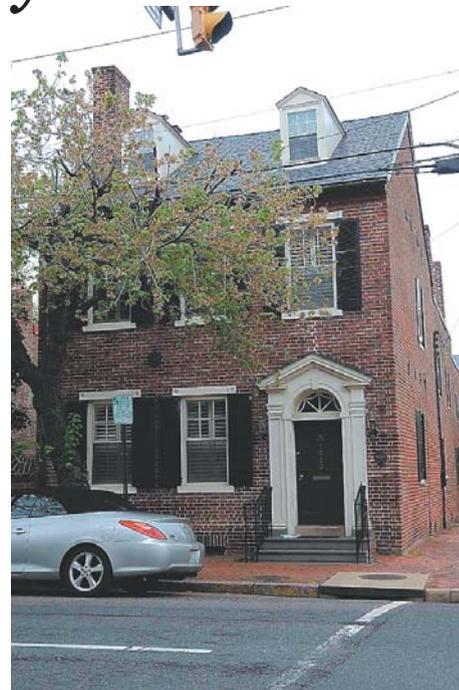
Top Sales in February 2012

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

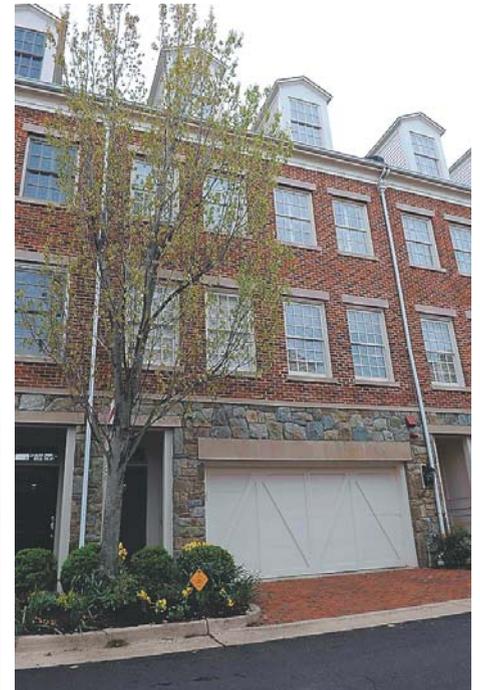
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\$2,375,000-\$92,000.



1 6 Wolfe Street #22,
Alexandria — \$2,375,000



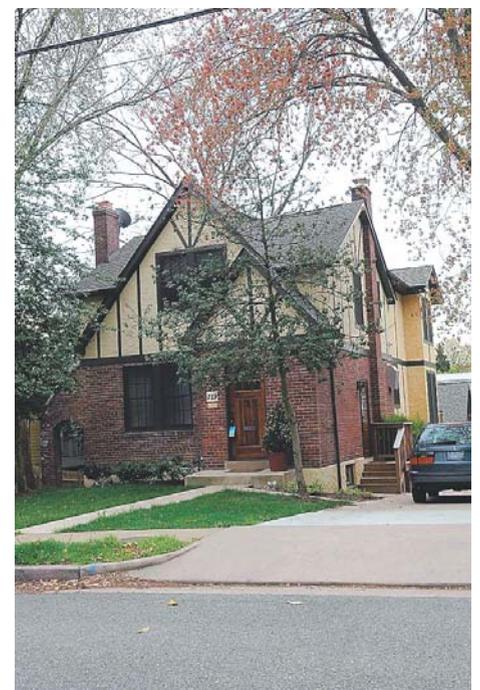
2 1020 Prince Street,
Alexandria — \$2,200,000



3 706 Fords Landing Way,
Alexandria — \$1,333,000



7 713 Royal Street South,
Alexandria — \$1,002,500



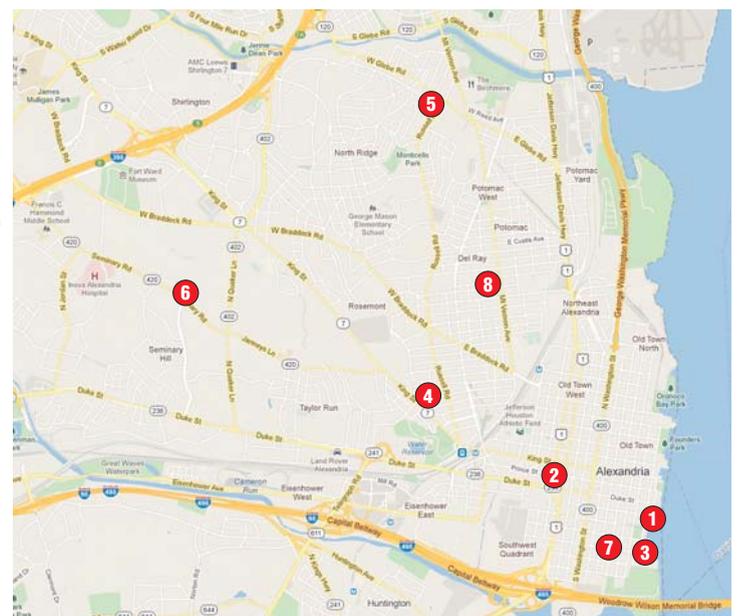
8 219 Mason Avenue East,
Alexandria — \$935,025



4 208 Walnut Street West,
Alexandria — \$1,250,000

| Address | BR | FB | HB | Postal City | Sold Price | Type | Lot AC | Postal Code | Subdivision | Date Sold |
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Creating a Dream Bathroom

Local pros share the latest design trends for this essential space.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Updating or renovating a bathroom can be a daunting project. From selecting tile and fixtures to choosing a tub and vanity, options are overwhelmingly plentiful. One source of inspiration when transforming a boring bath into a luxurious, spa-inspired retreat is the newly released National Kitchen and Bathroom Association's annual design trend survey. The 2012 list offers a snapshot of the latest in bathroom decor. Local designers and association members discuss the list and share their ideas for making stunning visual statement in this essential space.

FREESTANDING TUBS. The focal point of any bathroom is the tub. Local designers say a freestanding tub can transform a bathroom into serene sanctuary. "It is like your master bathroom is like a hotel," said designer Megan Padilla of Aidan Design. "We're seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience."

POLISHED CHROME. Bathroom accessories are increasingly bright and shiny as polished nickel and chrome finishes gain popularity. "Polished chrome tends to work

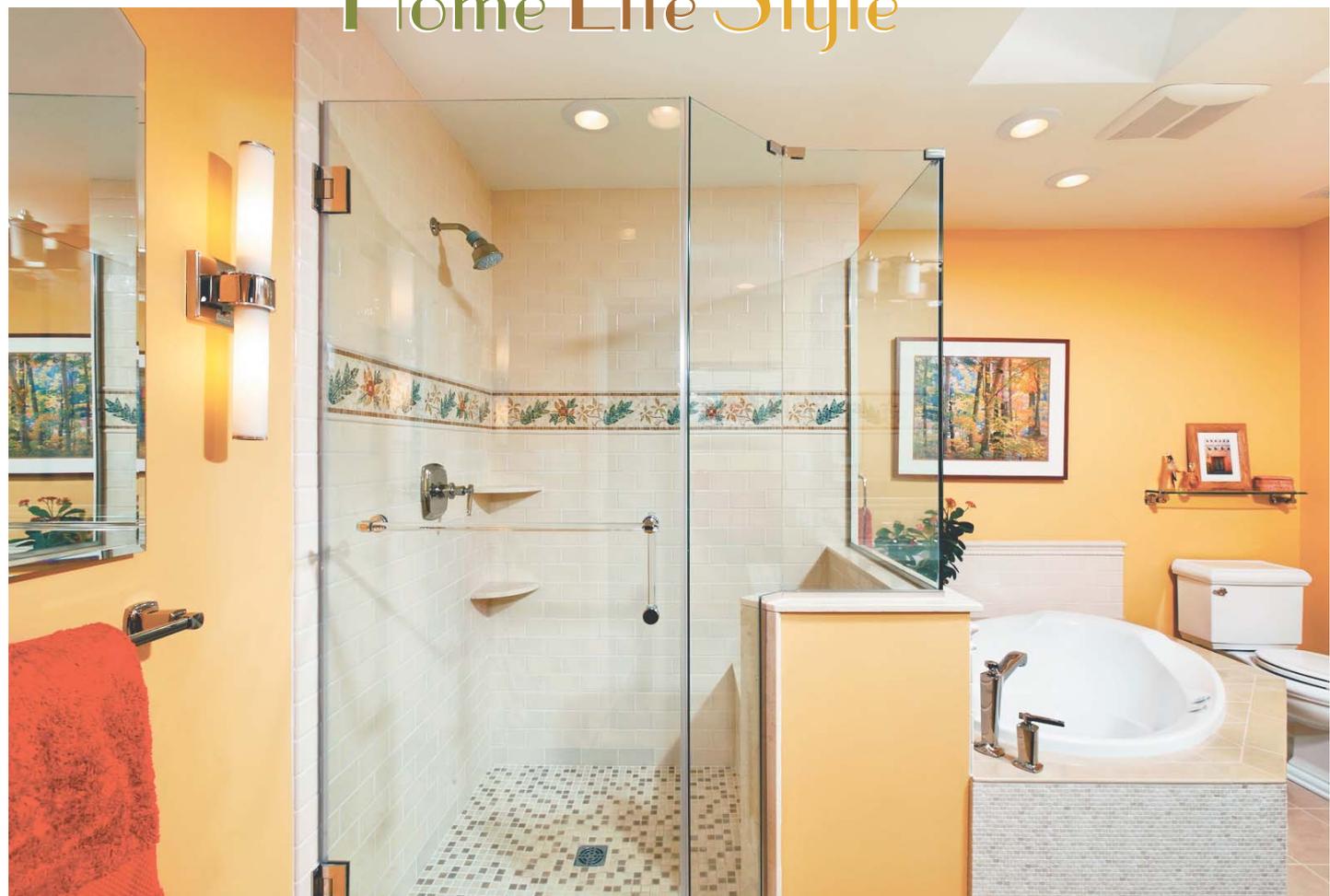


PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING

April Case Underwood uses an open shower and large tile to make bathing in this Alexandria bathroom a spa experience.

especially well with grays, blues and white. It is also an easy choice if you are budget-conscious," said Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling. "Another choice is polished nickel. It has nice brown undertones that can pair well when you're going outside the traditional white and grey tones."

Some designers say that brushed metal finishes are still a practical choice for many homeowners. "Many people prefer brushed nickel because it shows fewer water spots and looks cleaner," said David Doughton, kitchen and bathroom designer at the Kitchen and Bath Factory in Arlington.

WATER CLOSETS. Designer April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling has seen a spike in the demand for bathrooms with a separate room for the toilet. "If the bathroom is large enough, a lot of people like to add water closets. Even though they are sharing a bathroom with a spouse or partner, water closets give them the opportunity to be a little bit more private when they are using the toilet."

MEDICINE CABINETS. As homeowners look for effective ways to add additional storage space, shelving and cabinetry in the bathroom, the time-tested medicine cabi-

net is making a re-emergence after a decline in popularity. "In [the Washington, D.C. area] where bathrooms are small, every inch of space is premium," said Doughton. "Medicine cabinets are definitely a must in this area. I've even made units that are 60 inches tall that go behind a door to give people the ample amount of storage space."

Another option is a furniture-style vanity cabinet. "They are different from traditional cabinets because they look like a piece of furniture and can add a 'wow' factor to a

SEE LATEST, PAGE 22

PHOTOS BY DAVID DOUGHTON/KITCHEN AND BATH FACTORY



When it comes to vanity tops, solid surfaces are clear favorites. Granite, quartz and marble are the most popular choices. Arlington-based designer David Doughton installed marble counter tops in the master bathroom of this McLean home. He also added tub-cabinets for additional storage space.



Arlington-based designer David Doughton says furniture vanity cabinets, like those in the bathroom of this McLean home are increasing in popularity as homeowners look for effective ways to add additional storage space.

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Home Life Style

Latest in Bathroom Design

FROM PAGE 21

bathroom,” added Doughton.

SOLID SURFACES. When it comes to vanity tops, granite, quartz and marble are the top choices. “Quartz vanity tops are low maintenance, but some people

want the natural look of granite,” said Doughton.

As an alternative, Mann suggests an engineered stone known as Cambria. “It is man-made and is a good solid surface,” said Mann. “It is not a porous material and does not require a lot of maintenance.”

A National Kitchen and Bath-

room Association survey found that another trend is the use of glass vanity tops. “It gives a bit of flair,” said Mann. “It adds a little bit of interest to the space and gives it a little bit of charm and personality.”

SHADES OF GRAY. While whites and off-whites continue to be the most popular color for bathrooms, gray is gaining ground as a versatile option. When used skillfully, gray color schemes can provide a distinguished backdrop without overpowering a design.

“What’s nice about gray finishes is that it can accent just about any palette, especially blues or greens,” said Doughton.

Mann used gray paint and white marble to turn an Arlington bathroom into a tranquil sanctuary. “Gray is pleasing and calming,” she said. “It has become the new neutral. [Designers] say it has become the new beige.”

TRANSITIONAL OVER TRADITIONAL. For the first time since the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association began tracking annual trends, transitional is no longer the most popular design style. Replacing it is transitional style, a combination of traditional and contemporary elements that creates a classic, timeless design.

“I think some people may be afraid to commit to one style over another,” said Doughton. “Transitional allows them to incorporate things that they like from both realms and blend them together. What you pair with it really determines which way it sways on the line between modern or contemporary or traditional.”

LARGE TILE. Local designers say that large tiles for the floor and walls of the shower are a practical and popular choice. “What people like about larger tiles is that there is less grout involved so there is less maintenance and cleaning. It ends up looking like you have one piece of solid flooring in your bathroom,” said Doughton.

MULTIPLE SHOWERHEADS. Multiple showerheads can turn a daily activity into an indulgent luxury.

“They can create a spa-like feel, but there are also practical and great for young families with little kids,” said Padilla. “You can use the hand held hose and rinse the shower down like you would in a sink to clean it out.”

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Alexandria on Tour During Historic Garden Week

Sponsored by Hunting Creek Garden Club and The Garden Club of Alexandria; Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Information Centers and Restroom Facilities: Alexandria Visitors Center — The Ramsey House, 221 King street in Alexandria. Call 703-746-3301.

Tickets: \$40, full ticket on tour day includes six private houses and gardens, refreshments at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and all-day admission to nearby historic properties. Group tours for 10 or more people and tickets purchased in advance are \$35. Single site ticket, \$20. Full tickets for children under 12 are 420. Children younger than 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance Tickets: \$35, are available at the Alexandria Visitor's Center, 221 King St. For internet tickets, visit www.Vgardenweek.org.

Refreshments: Complimentary light refreshments available at the Old Presbyterian meeting House, 323 South Fairfax St., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the tour.

117 SOUTH LEE STREET

This Italianate style Victorian residence was probably an early public building along the 18th century waterfront. The south façade indicates early window and door configurations, which are "ghosted" in the old brick patterns. Mid-19th century architectural and interior trim details are from Victorian pattern books (1850 to 1875). These details, including the prominent bracket cornice, pierced metal door and window hoods, interior transom window and hand carved interior window trim in the entry, living room and dining room, indicate a major renovation during that time period. Also at that time, wood burning fireplaces were replaced with coal fireplace heaters. From 1902 to 2009, the home was occupied by the Bernheimer family who made some major improvements during the 1930s, most notably, adding second floor plumbing. The current owners completely renovated the home and garden in 2010, opening the kitchen to a new family room and walled garden. The garden features a large split boxwood salvaged from the original garden and a privacy hedge of Russian olive trees. Ken and Esther Carpi, owners.

212 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET (THE WRIGHT GARDEN)

The lots on which the dwelling and garden sit were purchased by Lawrence Washington in the original Alexandria land auction of 1749. He subsequently lost title when he failed to build within the required time. The property was later acquired by Dr. William Brown, Physician General in the American Revolution, friend of George Washington, fellow officer at Valley Forge and author of the first American "Pharmacopoeia." The emphasis in this elegant shade garden is on color, texture and spring blooms. Many of the boxwood and azalea plantings were present in 1969 when the current owner purchased the property. They were later moved when the gate was relocated from the side of the house to its present location. The small brick building at the back of the garden, once a smoke and spring house, is original. The patio was constructed using brick pavers excavated from the rear of the property near an old stable that is shown on an early map. Cobblestones, which were also unearthed, were given to the city to use for repairing Alexandria's two cobblestone streets. The orangery was constructed by the current owner in 1991. Also of note are the espaliered ginkgo trees along the driveway. Mrs. Frank H. Wright, owner.

320 SOUTH LEE STREET

The central portion of this Federalized Victorian was likely built during the first quarter of the 19th century. Alexandria required that residents build on their lots within two years of possession. Originally, the dwelling unit would have been entered by the side door that today provides access to a closed al-

ley. In 1850, the home was significantly enlarged and an adjoining mirror image home was built for the two married sisters. The two properties were connected via a doorway at the top of the back stairs. In 1949, the dwelling was renovated by the Armfield family and an English garden replaced old dog kennels, which were used by the previous owner for their hunting dogs. In 1999, the kitchen was completely renovated by the current owners. Legend says that the house was visited each Christmas by the spirit of a mid-19th century gentleman. His visits ended when a new doorway was built between the living room and dining room. In the garden, the boxwoods planted in 1950 still thrive. A large triple trunk 4river birch shades the dining patio. The garden features specimen plantings of dwarf loropetalum, snowball viburnum and hydrangea. Mr. and Mrs. George Boteler, owners.

206 WOLFE STREET

This 19th century Greek Revival townhouse is built on the foundations of an earlier house which was destroyed by fire. On Jan. 4, 1871 at 11 p.m., a fire broke out in Frederick Schwoop's bakery at 210 Wolfe Street destroying the bakery and several adjacent structures, including 206 Wolf. The owner, a seaport captain, did not rebuild and subsequently sold the property two years later. The current home was later rebuilt and has undergone multiple renovations, most recently last year. The result is a lovely, warm, bright and open interior. In 2010, the owners added a sunroom and outdoor porch off the master bedroom. The floor in the sunroom was purchased in Marrakesh during one of their travels. The garden features a Haddonstone fountain and understory trees such as Sweet Bay magnolia, Acer griseum, Stewardia pseudocamillia, camellias, poenies, boxwood, spring bulbs and Japanese perennials. This garden has evolved over the past 12 years under the stewardship of the owner who is a retired horticulturalist from the U.S. Botanic Garden. It has also expanded into the cobblestone lane beyond the garden walls. Betty and Ed Spar, owners.

613 SOUTH ROYAL STREET

This fine traditional brick town home was built over 30 years ago. Sited back from the street, raised beds in the front of the home feature hosta, daylilies, hydrangea and colorful annuals shaded by a mature cherry tree. During the last 10 years the owner has completed major renovations including second floor bedrooms and baths at the back of the first floor, an open an inviting new floor plan. The kitchen now opens to a dramatic volume ceiling in the family room with a stone fireplace and views of the garden. The owner has transformed the previous Japanese garden to a more casual space, adding traditional Virginia plantings while retaining a specimen Japanese maple. Also featured around the flagstone and brick terrace are cornus florida, rhododendron, crepe myrtle, poenies and a styrax. In addition, the owner converted a potting shed at the back of the property into a bar area with architectural arbor and a fountain to create a lovely outdoor entertaining area. A brick walkway on the south side of the property leads to a glass conservatory which floods the kitchen with natural light. Shelby Scarborough, owner.

215 JEFFERSON STREET.

This fine 18th century home was last on the Historic Garden Week Tour in 1955. This property dates to 1782 when a free-standing dwelling was constructed on five lots. The original owner was the son of John Alexander, for whom the city is named. In the living room, the original windows and fireplace mantel can still be seen. It was not until 1966 that the large west addition was constructed. Recently, the home was completely renovated by the current owners offering a spacious family room opening to the expansive gardens. In 2010, the gardens were refreshed by noted landscape designer Jane MacLeish. Known as the Sally Ann Gardens, they consist of four areas: The parterre garden with Korean boxwood, tulips and hollies, the East garden featuring euonymus and sarocci shrubs, the North garden lined with American holly and filled with hydrangeas and the West garden, composed of azaleas, euonymus and crepe myrtle. A side walkway is lined with magnolias, azaleas and acuba. There are more than 50 boxwoods throughout the gardens, some dating back 60 years. Mr. and Mrs. Gene Jankowski, owners.

Other places of interest are also included in the Historic Garden Week ticket. Please note, tour tickets are not sold at the following locations:



The gardens of Ken and Esther Carpi and Betty and Ed Spar, which will be on Alexandria Garden Tour.

The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, 614 Oronoco Street at North Washington Street. Built in 1785 by Philip Fendall on land purchased from Revolutionary War hero "Light Horse Harry" Lee, this gracious historic house museum presents an intimate study of 19th century family life. Home to several generations of the famed Lees of Virginia (1785-1903) and labor leader John L. Lewis (1937-69), the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Guided tours are offered 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the tour day. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org

Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street. When Scottish merchant John Carlyle completed his riverfront house in 1753, this was the grandest mansion in the new town of Alexandria. The stone architecture, furniture and decorative finishes reflect Carlyle's status and wealth. The Garden Club of Virginia restored the front landscape to the mid-18th century period. A lovely garden with a boxwood parterre graces the rear of the house. The site is owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Guided tours are offered 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the tour date. Visit www.nvrpa.org.

George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, 8 mi. south of Alexandria on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Situated on the Potomac River, Mount Vernon was the home of George and Martha Washington. From the end of the American Revolution in 1783 to his election to the presidency in 1789, Washington replaced outbuildings, reshaped gardens, created new lawns, planted trees and even realigned roads and lanes. The George Washington Pioneer Farmer Site features a distinctive replica of Washington's 16-sided barn and displays of his farming principles. With funding from Historic Garden Week, the Garden Club of Virginia has helped to restore Mount Vernon's bowling green, one of the major landscape features on this vast plantation. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association owns the property. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

American Horticultural Society at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. The headquarters of the American Horticultural Society overlooks the Potomac River and was one of George Washington's original properties. The property is comprised of 25 acres of gardens and grounds, which include perennial borders, annual beds, children's gardens, a meadow, a woodland, and picnic areas. The estate house was remodeled in the early 20th century and the property is described as a "gentleman's estate." Large porches offer a panoramic view of the Potomac River and gardens. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit www.ahs.org.

Woodlawn. 9000 Richmond Highway, 3 mi. west of Mount Vernon at the intersection of Rte 235 and U.S. Rte. 1. This Federal mansion was built on 2,000 acres that George Washington carved from Mount Vernon when his wife's granddaughter Nelly Custis married his nephew Lawrence Lewis. Designed by Dr. William Thornton, the first architect of the United States Capitol, the house contains fine Federal period furnishings, many brought from Mount Vernon. The garden was restored by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1958-60 and is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org.

Gunston Hall Plantation. 15 mi. south of Alexandria off U.S. Rte. 1 on Rte. 242. This 550-acre National Historic Landmark was the home of George Mason (1725-92), author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. The estate consists of a Georgian mansion, ca. 1755, and reconstructed kitchen, dairy, laundry and schoolhouse. The brick mansion exhibits elaborately carved woodwork enhanced by furnishings of the colonial period. The Potomac River is viewed through the original Deer Park. While no longer a restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia, the Club assisted Gunston Hall with landscaping work in 1949-53. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.



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April 14, 20 and 21 at 7:30 PM
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 Directed by Frank Pasqualino
 Musical Direction by Cathy Manley

Carl Sandburg Middle School
 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA

Tickets: \$10 in advance online
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ENTERTAINMENT



Claudia Schmidt



Dulcie Taylor

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

Claudia Schmidt and Dulcie Taylor. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org. call 703-501-6061.

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

MONTH OF APRIL

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church 25th Anniversary. At 8012 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Services are held at 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; and 5 p.m. Special dates:
 ❖ April 15: Pastor Nelson Snead, Pastor Abram and Bishop Donald Smith;
 ❖ April 29: Dr. David Cunningham, Dr. Regretta B. Johnson Ruffin and Bishop William Walker, Latta SC.
 Featuring: HABC Dance Ministries and the HABC Unity Choir
 Adults: \$40 13 & up; Children: \$20 12 & under
 Featuring: The Singing Angels, HABC Pastor's Praise Team
 Call: 703-799-7868.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

Childhood Memories. Works by artists inspired by their childhoods. Memories are endless: an experience, a trip, a gathering, an animal, a poem, a person or a place that brings one back to a childhood memory. Show exhibits April 6-29; opening reception April 6, 7-10 p.m. Open Thursday-Sunday. Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. 703-838-4827. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

THURSDAY/APRIL 12

Exploring Activities for Alexandria's Seniors. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Enjoy free exercise and activity demonstrations including recreation programs, aquatics, gardening, library activities and more. At Chinguapin Recreation Center, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-836-4414, ext. 10. Visit www.SeniorServicesAlex.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Music for Brass Quintet. 8 p.m. Free. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Mt. Vernon's Helping Hands. 4:30 to 10 p.m. Third-annual tennis charity event for youth and adults will be held at the Mount Vernon Athletic Club. It will benefit Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children Pediatric Oncology Programs with emphasis on children's access to education, promoting physical exercise and activities, and maintaining connections with family and friends while the children are hospitalized. Youth activities \$10, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.; Adult activities \$25 (\$30 at door), from 6:30-10 p.m. Walk-ins without tennis \$10. Silent Auction, Raffle, Food & Beverages and more. At 7950 Audubon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703 360-7300. Visit www.mtvac.net.

APRIL 13 AND 14

Spring Garden Market. Vendors from throughout the mid-Atlantic region will be selling a wide variety of plants as well as garden supplies and garden art. Friday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. AHS members-only preview night is Thursday, April 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. Hosted by the American Horticultural Society. At River Farm headquarters, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Call 703-768-5700. Visit www.ahs.org or call 703-768-5700.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Cleanup of Little Hunting Creek. Noon to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Del. Surovell and Supervisor McKay and held in coordination with the Friends of Little Hunting Creek and the Alice Ferguson Foundation Potomac River Cleanup. Staging Location at Sequoyah Condominiums Parking Lot, 7950 Seven Woods Drive, Alexandria. Gloves will be provided. RSVP to bit.ly/creekcleanup

Life Line Screening. Get checked for blocked arteries, irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms and hardening of the arteries in the legs. Packages start at \$149.

At Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.lifelinescreening.com.

APRIL 14 TO 22

"Tom Sawyer." MVCCT presents the play "Tom Sawyer," featuring 54 actors ages 8-18. Directed by Frank Pasqualino; Musical Direction by Cathy Manley. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. Show times are April 14, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.; April 15 and 22 at 3 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit www.MVCCT.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m.-noon. At Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, the Belle Haven Picnic area, off George Washington Memorial Parkway in the Mt. Vernon area of Fairfax County. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM), the National Park Service, and the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Meet at the entrance to Dyke Marsh's Haul Road, near the Belle Haven south picnic area. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, sun protection and gloves. Cleanup supplies provided. Visit www.fodm.org, or call the National Park Service Information Line at 202-619 7222.

Singer Lera Lynn with Joan Osborne. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. At The Birchmere Music Hall, The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Magi-Whirl 2012. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with strolling magicians; showtime at 7:30 p.m. Las Vegas Style Family GALA Magic Show staged by Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and Bishop Ireton High School. Five world-famous magicians — one from Argentina. Tickets are \$12/adults, \$10/seniors and students; \$15/door — family packs available. At Bishop Ireton High School. Visit www.magi-whirl.org/gala/

BPAC Ride. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Take part in a 13-mile ride from Old Town to National Harbor. Meet at Founders Park, Oronco and N. Union Streets, Alexandria. RSVP: jonathan@jonathankrall.net.

The Grandest Congress: The French and Indian War in Alexandria. Noon to 4 p.m. Donation of \$5. Spring, 1755: Major General Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America convened a meeting of five colonial governors at John Carlyle's Alexandria home. Among Braddock's objectives was to secure funding for his upcoming campaign against the French. Carlyle called this gathering "the Grandest Congress ... ever known on the Continent." Peek in on the meeting inside and enjoy the sights and smells of 18th-century style food being prepared for a grand dinner for Braddock and the Governors. Costumed interpreters will be on site to answer your questions.

Growing Flowers and Vegetables in Containers. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Learn how to grow flowers and vegetables in pots, planters or other containers for maximum beauty and bountiful crops on your deck, balcony, porch or patio. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, with the support of Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. At the Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. To register, call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com or visit www.mgnv.org

Explore Alexandria's Firefighting History. 1 p.m. Tickets are \$6/adults; \$4/youth. The walking tour, "Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting Past." As they walk through Old Town, participants will learn about volunteer firefighting in early Alexandria and stop at historic buildings that once served as fire stations. At Friendship Firehouse, 107 South Alfred St., Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net or by calling 703-746-4994.

George Washington's Whiskey for Sale. 10 a.m. George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, will have the limited edition George Washington Rye Whiskey available for sale on April 14 at 10 a.m. This is a limited edition rye whiskey made at George Washington's reconstructed distillery — 600 bottles are available for sale. Each 375 ml bottle retails for \$95; purchases are restricted to two bottles per person. The whiskey

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will be available for sale in person only at the Distillery & Gristmill site gift shop and The Shops at Mount Vernon. The whiskey sale hours are: Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

Gala Concert. 7 p.m. Free. Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Friday Morning Music Club (FMMC). Will showcase the Avanti Orchestra, the FMMC Chorale, and several winners of the Washington International Competition (WIC) that is held annually by the FMMC Foundation. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, Alexandria Campus. Contact Anne Zim at 202-213-0692 or email annezim@comcast.net.

Green Fair. 12:30 to 3 p.m. Will feature tables, talks, and tours including brief talks about MVUC's solar and geothermal systems and its green storm-water-management system. There will be a bird walk and a tour of the grounds to identify and discuss invasive plants. A live bee hive will be displayed - weather permitting - and a basket of bee-related products will be raffled. Ethical eating cooking demonstrations will provide free samples and the Young Unitarian Universalists will sell Boca burgers. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. RSVP to green@mvuc.org

Family and Friends Day. 11 a.m. With Guest Speaker: Reverend Sonja Flye-Oliver. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606-A South Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-836-7332.

Ladies' Tea at Gadsby's Tavern. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$30/person. At Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Make reservations at 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Claudia Schmidt and Dulcie Taylor. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org. call 703-501-6061.

MONDAY/APRIL 16

BPAC Meeting. 7 to 9 p.m. The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The agenda includes: Bike to Work Day Plans, upcoming local elections, community bicycle rides, Bike to School Day (May 9), the Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation project and more. At the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria.

Spring Golf Outing. Noon check-in; 1 p.m. Shotgun start. Format: Captain's Choice (scramble); handicapped foursomes. Fee: \$250/person. All golfers receive a round of golf and a golf cart, full access to driving range and putting green, a boxed lunch, refreshments during play; a BBQ dinner following play. A Fundraiser for The Campagna Center at Mount Vernon Country Club. Contact Lee Stenberg at 703-224-2351 or lstenberg@campagnacenter.org.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. Free. Featuring the U.S. Air Force Band-Concert Band and Singing Sergeants. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Mini Open House. 1 p.m. Tour Hollin Hall Senior Center with



SUNDAY/APRIL 15

Beau Soir Ensemble. 4 p.m. Donation of \$10. This D.C.-based viola, flute and harp trio, will present a free concert at Immanuel on the Hill in Alexandria. It will perform music by Telemann, Debussy and a world premiere by composer Christopher Dietz. At Immanuel on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Visit www.beausoir.org.

Jan Kestyn, enjoy refreshments, and peek in on some ongoing sessions. An opportunity to participate in programs on this day. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573 and ask for Julie.

Masters of Tradition. Celebrating the art of Irish music with seven of Ireland's most compelling musicians, including Fiddler Martin Hayes and singer Iarla O Lionaird. Will appear at The Birchmere Music Hall, The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

Nina Tisara Discussion. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Artist-photographer Nina Tisara will speak on the beginnings of the Living Legends of Alexandria project and tell the stories behind some of the portraits at an Artist's Talk at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center for the performing and visual

arts. Thirty-seven black and white portraits — the Legends of 2008, 2009 and 2010 — are on view at the Center through July. The Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. Featuring the band, All Wheel Jive. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Free. Speaker Robert D. McLaren presents a lecture on DNA Testing for Genealogy: The Basics. Meets at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Usonian Architecture. 9:30 a.m. Free. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club will feature Peter Christiansen, a long-time docent, speaking about the "Usonian" Pope-Leighey House, situated on the grounds of the Woodlawn Historical Home. Mr. Christiansen is an authority on Frank Lloyd Wright and will speak about the man and this type of architecture. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, King Teddy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

Mount Vernon At Home. 2 p.m. Virginia's premier "Village" is holding its spring information sessions every other Wednesday in April and May. Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization that helps residents in the Mount Vernon community "age in place." The information session will give residents an opportunity to meet with volunteers, members and support services that are available in our community. Wednesday, April 18 and May 2 at 2 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library. Volunteer opportunities are available. Call 703-303-4060 or mountvernonathome.org

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Rhino Wars. 6:30 p.m. Alexandria resident and National Geographic staff writer Peter Gwin will speak at The Potomack Company about his book "Rhino Wars: The Violent Underworld of Black Market Medicine" in conjunction with Potomack's auction of a collection of wild game hunting

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ENTERTAINMENT

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trophies with proceeds going to the International Anti-Poaching Foundation. At The Potomack Company Auctions & Appraisals, 526 North Fayette St., Alexandria. Visit www.potomackcompany.com.

Beverly Hills Garden Club Meeting. 10 a.m. to noon. Presentation by Dr. Robert E. Lyons on "Ornamental Plant Choices for the Cultivated Landscape." Lyons is a professor of Landscape Horticulture and Director of the Longwood Graduate Program at the University of Delaware/Longwood Gardens. He will discuss breeding breakthroughs, solid garden standards and plants with untapped potential. Meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Rd, Alexandria. Contact Amy Reed at ahreed703@yahoo.com or 703-837-8861.

Silver Restoration. 12 noon to 5 p.m. Melissa Kenis, a silver restoration expert, will be at Silverman Galleries, Antiques and Antique Jewelry, 101 North St. Asaph St., Old Town Alexandria. She will give recommendations and estimates on repairing and refinishing sterling heirlooms.

Author Katie Truitt. 4 to 6 p.m. Will sign copies of her book, *The Hillbilly Debutante Cafe*. At Hollin Hall Pastry Co. & Shop, 7920 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

Pollen as a Window Into the Past. 7:30 p.m. How Ecologists Use Pollen to Reconstruct Past Vegetation. Dr. Emily Southgate will illustrate how paleoecologists use the unique characteristics of pollen preserved in sediments as a window on the past. At Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Visit www.vnps.org.

APRIL 19, 20, 21, 22

Spring Book Sale. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library in Alexandria host "It's Raining Books, Hallelujah." Preview is Thursday, April 19 from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Continues Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, April 22 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Prices: paperbacks \$1; hardbacks \$3. At the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.



Aiden White as Huck Finn and James Woods as Tom Sawyer.

APRIL 14 TO 22

"Tom Sawyer." MVCCT presents the play "Tom Sawyer," featuring 54 actors ages 8-18. Directed by Frank Pasqualino; Musical Direction by Cathy Manley. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. Show times are April 14, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.; April 15 and 22 at 3 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit www.MVCCT.org.

APRIL 20 TO MAY 5

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." Tickets are \$18/adults; \$16/military, seniors and students; \$14/groups of 10. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays, April 20 to May 5, plus Tuesday, May 1. In addition, there will be matinees on Saturday, April 24 and May 5, starting at 2 p.m. At the LAT at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

APRIL 20 AND 21

Colin Hay in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30. 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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

Third Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Owen Hammett will conduct the live band. Light refreshments will be provided by Mount Vernon 4H Clubs. \$4 at the door. Open to the Community. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

See Raptors Up Close. 10 a.m.-noon. For Earth Day, at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, at the Belle Haven Picnic area, off George Washington Memorial Parkway in the Mt. Vernon area of Fairfax County. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the National Park Service, and the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia. The Raptor Conservancy will bring live raptors for close-up encounters. Meet at the Belle Haven picnic area near the bike path. Visit www.fodm.org, or call the National Park Service Information Line at 202-619-7222.

Nourish & Flourish Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show.

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Tickets are \$20/person. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Proceeds benefit Rising Hope United Methodist Church and UMW Missions in Cambodia. For tickets, visit www.aldersgate.net.

Global Youth Service Day. Children and youth will address critical issues in their communities. More than a dozen nonprofits are offering projects throughout Fairfax County. Locally, more than 700 youth and families are expected to give back to the local community. To view a project near you, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Chalk Walk. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Football Stadium. Run or walk around the track and school for exercise

and honor your favorite teacher at the same time. The \$5 registration fee includes a Chalk Walk T-Shirt. Contact Ms. Card (703-619-3120 or bmcard@fcps.edu).

Author Event. 2 to 4 p.m. Local author Tansil Johnson will sign and discuss her new books, *Who Is Mooma?* and *Mooma and the Mouse*. At Charles Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria.

Bike Collection. 9 a.m. to noon. Trinity United Methodist Church will be collecting gently used bicycles (and parts) for Bikes for the World (B4W). At 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. B4W ships bikes to many countries, thus helping poor people overseas become more productive through providing affordable bicycles for personal transport to work, school, and health services. Visit Trinity UMC: <http://trinityalexandria.org> or visit Bikes for the World: <http://b4w.org>

MVHS Spring Mulch Sale. \$5/bag - 3 cubic feet, double shredded hardwood bark mulch. Orders of 10 bags or more will be delivered to select ZIP codes. For more information or to order, send a note to mvhsmulchsale2012@gmail.com or call 571-214-4348. Proceeds will support the senior class All Night Grad Party.

Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Friends of Carlyle House. An exciting mix of herbs and vegetable plants from Mount Vernon and Layng & Company will be available for purchase. Bring your family and participate in child-friendly activities, listen to performances by area musicians and living historians throughout the day. This event is free, however admission for the House tour is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children 5-12 years old; free for children 4 & under or free with your Alexandria Garden Day ticket. Carlyle House Historic Park is at 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria.

Project Discovery-Alexandria's 16th Annual 3K Walkathon. 8 a.m. Registration. 3K Walk at 9:30 a.m. \$20/adults; \$5/students; \$500/corporate sponsors. The program serves T.C. Williams High School students with limited financial resources and/or who will be the first in their family to go to college. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5970. Register online at alexandriava.gov/PDWalkathon or call 703-746-5970.

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'Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You'

A riveting saga of survival at MetroStage.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

He was just 4 years old when his father hurriedly whisked him away one dark, moonless night into the unknown. For Jay Alvarez, the journey was profound and one he shares in a riveting performance of "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You," a one-man show written and performed by Alvarez chronicling his family's flight from Fidel Castro's Cuba in 1964.

"The show is an intimate solo journey of my life as a Cuban-American," said Alvarez following his April 7 performance at MetroStage. "Much of the text is taken from a recording done by my father before he passed away."

Alvarez brilliantly reconstructs his family's struggles as Castro's regime takes hold and Cubans risk their lives for the free-



Jay Alvarez in "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You" at MetroStage.

dom of America. Central to the story are his father Humberto and mother Chiqui as they leave behind their homeland in hopes of a better future for their children.

"It's the American story, really," Alvarez said. "Just my story about one family and how we survived."

Alvarez engages the audience in a personal, honest and dynamic piece of theater that follows Humberto as he masterminds a dangerous escape for 24 family members

and friends. The fear and doubt are palpable as Alvarez takes us out to sea for 30 hours on boats held together with wooden screws.

"So much of the focus with immigration is on the numbers of people seeking visas," said Thomas Jefferson High School student Nick Arango, whose grandparents fled Cuba in 1959 under the threat of imprisonment. "But this story reminds us there are people behind those numbers risking their lives."

Directed by Theresa Gambacorta, "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You!" played to sold-out audiences at Stage Left Studio in New York in June 2010, and was chosen to be performed at the United Solo Theatre Festival on Theatre Row in New York in November of 2010. It won Best Solo Performance at the 2011 New York International Fringe Festival and The Best of Fringe at the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

"I passionately want to share my story and reach out to both the Latino and American communities in our country," said Alvarez, who greets and talks with audience members about his story following each of his performances. "These communities have become very insular and the established

American communities forget at times what people go through to get to our shores."

"Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You!" runs thru April 22 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Fundraiser for Parent Leadership Training Institute

The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria will hold a fundraiser on April 19 at Alexandria's MetroStage for a performance of "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You." Ticket prices begin at \$50 per person and reservations can be made by calling 703-739-0233 or online at www.plti-alex.org. Applications for enrollment in the next PLTI class can also be found on the website.

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OBITUARY

Irene Reid Jones, 89 of Martinsville, VA formerly of Warrenton, VA died on April 1, 2012 at Landmark Center, Stuart, VA. She was born on August 14, 1922 in Fauquier County, VA a daughter of the late Eppa Clark Reid and Maude Lillian Moffett Reid; predeceased by her daughter, Delores M. Jones; five brothers and three sisters.

Mrs. Jones worked as a contract negotiator with the U. S. Government living in Alexandria and Bethesda. Upon her retirement in 1973, she moved to Warrenton living here until moving to Stuart to be near her son.

She was a member of the Warrenton Baptist Church and NARFE.

She is survived by one son, James A. Jones, Martinsville, VA; five granddaughters and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 5 at 10 AM at Moser Funeral Home, Warrenton. Interment Bright View Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be offered in Irene's name to the Alzheimer's Association, National Chapter Area, 3701 Pender Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030. Online condolences may be made at www.moserfuneralhome.com.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

tage. In every defeat is a lesson showing you how to win the victory next time." You have made clear to those of us who watch and listen the changes that must be made so as to move forward and protect the sanctity of our schools. In a strange way, you, with your resignation, will have allowed the system you claim to love, to be stronger and wiser.

Be wise Superintendent Sherman, the public, the government, and your very own teachers are calling for you to leave, listen to the people.

Scott Gordon
Alexandria

Pay More Attention To City Schools

To the Editor:

Where there's smoke there's usually fire. Unfortunately, for Alexandria City Public Schools, too few people have pulled the alarm.

During the last three months, I've gone out knocking doors in nearly every neighborhood in our city. Whether it's Del Ray, Park Fairfax or Cameron Station, people are talking about schools. Almost every conversation I've had with voters at their doors has centered on their worry with the direction of our school system. This isn't a coincidence.

People are concerned. They're concerned because they're afraid their kids aren't getting the education they deserve. They're concerned because teachers are fleeing Alexandria Public Schools at an alarming rate. They're concerned because every time they read the local news there is another problem coming from the superintendent's office.

Alexandria's schools are blessed with smart and devoted teachers who, while being paid less than our regional neighbors, have not been treated fairly.

When Superintendent Morton Sherman was brought on, our schools needed a shakeup, but it has been done hastily and carelessly. We can't implement new program after new program without teacher input and expect them to be up to speed within hours.

Many of our students come from families where English isn't the first spoken language. They start off with a disadvantage because they aren't able to receive homework help from parents. This is why our adult education GED and ESL classes are so important to the long-term success of our city. Yet, we've seen threats to eliminate these programs and even worse, administrative errors large enough to draw an investigation from the state.

This all comes along on the heels of an external audit revealing that management of the school system's capital improvements budget was "dysfunctional." It's time for change. Alexandria Public Schools must be a great place to teach and to learn. We need closer oversight. Superintendent Sherman

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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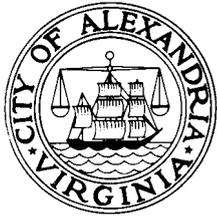
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Dwivedy, LLC trading as Lee Grocery, 3201 Landover St, C-104, Alexandria, VA 22305. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Anil Dwivedy, member ATTN: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

LEGAL NOTICE

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



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations of funds for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2012. The proposed ordinance makes supplemental appropriations of funds for the operation of the city government.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article E (ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance amends the City Code to accomplish the changes to the composition and functions of the Waterfront Committee directed by City Council as discussed on docket item #15 on March 27, 2012.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by City Council to the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan Chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2009-0002 and Master Plan Amendment No. 2011-0005 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment. (Project Name: Hoffman Blocks 11 and 12 and Block 8) The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2009-0002 and 2011-0005 to increase the height in Blocks 11 and 12 (2210 Eisenhower Avenue) and to transfer allowable gross floor area from Blocks 2 and 3 to Block 8 (2401 Eisenhower Avenue).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 4-702 (PERMITTED USES) of Section 4-700 (CR/COMMERCIAL REGIONAL ZONE) of Article IV (COMMERCIAL, OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2012-0001. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2012-0001 to

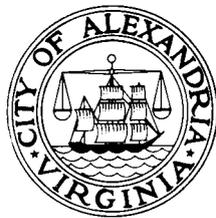
Legal Notices

add the public school use to the list of permitted uses in the CR/Commercial Regional Zone.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-181 (LEVIED; AMOUNT), Section 3-2-188 (CLASSIFICATION AND TAXATION OF CERTAIN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY), and Section 3-2-189 (TIER 1 POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TAX) of Division 1, (REAL ESTATE), and Section 3-2-221 (LEVIED ON TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY OTHER THAN MOBILE HOMES, AUTOMOBILES, TRUCKS, ANTIQUE MOTOR VEHICLES, TAXICABS, MOTOR VEHICLES WITH SPECIALLY DESIGNED EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE HANDICAPPED, MOTORCYCLES, CAMPERS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS AND TRAILERS; AMOUNT), Section 3-2-222 (LEVIED ON MACHINERY AND TOOLS USED IN MINING OR MANUFACTURING BUSINESS; AMOUNT), SECTION 3-2-223 (LEVIED ON MOBILE HOMES; AMOUNT), Section 3-2-224 (LEVIED ON AUTOMOBILES, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, SEMI-TRAILERS, ANTIQUE MOTOR VEHICLES, TAXICABS, MOTORCYCLES, CAMPERS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS AND TRAILERS; AMOUNT) of Division 3 (TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND MACHINERY TOOLS) all of Article M (LEVY AND COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES), Chapter 2 (TAXATION), Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance sets the City's 2012 general tax rates for (1) real property; (2) personal property; (3) machinery and tools; (4) for additional real property taxes assessed on commercial and industrial property; and (5) real property located in the special services tax district located in the Tier 1 Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Services District.

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



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, April 14, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

PUBLIC HEARING on the Draft Fiscal Year 2013 HYPERLINK "HTTP://dockets.alexandriava.gov/fy11/041412/ph/di7.pdf" Action Plan for Housing and Community Development. A public hearing will be held on the Draft FY 2013 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development, which includes the City's application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 funding of \$678,236 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies and \$373,796 in Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) monies.

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FROM PAGE 29

needs to start acting like a responsible administrator.

Vice-Mayor Donley pulled the alarm weeks ago. It's time the rest of us paid attention.

Sean Holihan

Candidate for Alexandria City Council

Value of an Ombudsman

To the Editor:

Recently a new group, Democrats for a Better Alexandria, has suggested that the City needs an Ombudsman (or Ombudswoman). According to Wikipedia, an Ombudsman is a person who acts as a trusted intermediary between government, and constituents, representing the broad scope of constituent interests. I would definitely support developing this idea, because as I travel around the city, I am often stopped and presented with a concern, or I find myself communicating to a constituent something happening in the city.

I am sure this happens to a lot of people running for office, because it is ultimately elected officials who have to be responsive to constituent concerns. For instance the other night a neighbor stopped me because she was concerned with the parking area being proposed around the new Jefferson Houston elementary school. Or at a meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board, a member interrupted to ask what my opinion on the revised proposal for affordable housing in the Beauregard area was. Luckily I was knowledgeable on both these issues, and was able to have constructive dialogs on the topics.

It is hard enough being a candidate to keep up with all the issues in the city, but citizens need elected officials with the experience and willingness to look into a variety of issues that are affecting our city, and not just provide simple answers to complicated issues. I went to both the Transportation meeting on the Beauregard Small Area Plan and the Affordable Housing meeting on the Beauregard plan because I know these meetings are the preliminary steps before the planning commission meeting. It is important to track issues through the whole process.

I am always leery of creating of creating another layer of bureaucracy that is an expense and a barrier between government and citizens, but clearly better communication is needed in Alexandria, and an Ombudsman could be a bridge between citizens and government.

Boyd Walker

Candidate for Alexandria City Council

Re-evaluate Public Amenities

To the Editor:

The recently released Beauregard Small Area Plan Draft includes a complicated and risky provision that earmarks the increase in property tax revenue generated in the plan area into a separate fund. The March 27, 2012 draft includes a provision that would reduce the growth in General Fund Revenues by as much as \$81 million and financially constrain future City Councils' when considering the City budget and setting property tax rates. It would also pass on increased costs and potential liabilities if various assumptions built into the 30-year projection are delayed.

City officials and developers have tentatively agreed to a list of public amenities and have estimated costs on a planning level basis. As a precaution, the projection in the Draft Plan includes substantial funding for contingencies.

If the developers are successful in getting the densities being requested in the Draft Plan, the developers have tentatively agreed to pay for items characterized as "public benefits". The so-called public benefits include:

- ❖ The traffic Ellipse (Seminary Road and North Beauregard);
- ❖ Transitway for BRT;
- ❖ Fire station;
- ❖ Enhanced landscaping on North Beauregard;
- ❖ Enhanced tree canopy to replace the trees removed as part of construction;
- ❖ All-purpose athletic field and other recreational facilities; and
- ❖ Financial contribution towards providing affordable and workforce housing.

The estimated total cost (2011 dollars) of the developer paid amenities is \$153.8 million.

The City proposes that a portion of incremental real estate taxes generated by construction be earmarked and set aside to advance construction. Assuming build out of the project in phases and construction of proposed infrastructure, it is estimated the incremental tax revenues collected in the separate fund during the first 12 years would generate over \$81 million. The Draft Plan estimates one-third of the \$81 million in City tax increment revenues will be reimbursed by developer contributions over the last two decades of the Plan. The Draft Plan also assumes the City would provide \$4.0 million in housing trust funds and other monies from other sources.

The revenue stream and payback projections require faith in forecast-

ing the future. To generate the cash flow necessary to start construction of the fire station and other amenities, it would be necessary for the City to "infuse" into the project the incremental real estate tax revenues. The revenues collected would depend on the amount of net new cumulative development measured in square feet. The finance provision does not include other unanticipated costs due to the project such as improving the capacity of the Holmes Run Trunk Sewer Line and maintaining the overflow ponds in the flood plain to be donated to the City.

As an example, the fire station is estimated to cost \$10 million and the developer would receive credit (in-kind contribution of \$18 million) for dedication of transportation right-of-way and land for the fire station. Using funds from the earmarked fund, the fire station would be built by the City sometime between 2014 and 2016. The developers would reimburse the City during the last 16 years of the projected development build out schedule.

The financing provisions are based on a variety of assumptions over a 30-year period that could dramatically change. Given the City's dependence on the Federal government, a downturn in the local economy would reduce incoming revenue and lengthen the payback period. In addition the City would be in a subordinate position in relation to the developers and likely have to agree to adjust the plan to minimize losses in revenue. More importantly revenues accumulating in the separate fund could not be used for schools, parks, public safety and other programs supported by general revenues.

The proposed implementation plan is open ended and places added risk to City taxpayers. It also infringes on the budgetary discretion of future City Councils. To better evaluate the consequences, the Beauregard Small Area Plan Draft should include the following:

- ❖ A legal reference setting the authority for the City Council to make open-ended budgetary commitments in the planning process,
- ❖ An analysis in the Appendix and include reasonable scenarios (best and worst case), and
- ❖ A performance based schedule limiting the City's infusion of tax revenues into the project to commitments of financial resources to begin construction.

Forecasting the financial future is perilous. The so-called "public amenities" should be reevaluated in terms of the potential impacts of redevelopment in the plan area as well as the risk to taxpayers.

Dave Cavanaugh

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T.C. Williams' Abdel Al Nimiry scored three goals against West Potomac on April 10 at Parker-Gray Stadium.



Manuel Benites is a facilitator on set pieces for the T.C. Williams boys' soccer team.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE PACKET

Nimiry's Hat Trick Leads TC Boys' Soccer to Victory

Titans score five goals in Patriot District opener against West Potomac.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams defender Manuel Benites let fly with a lengthy sideline throw-in that found teammate Alexander Wolz, who headed the ball in the net during the first half of the Titans' April 10 matchup with West Potomac.

More than eight minutes later, TC's Mauricio Salvatierra initially came up empty on a penalty kick, but managed to score after the ball ricocheted off the West Potomac goalkeeper.

In the opening minute of the second half, Benites booted a corner kick that Abdel Al Nimiry put away for his second goal of the

evening.

The T.C. Williams boys' soccer team had struggled to capitalize on scoring opportunities early in the season, managing just six goals in five games en route to a 0-4-1 record. Against the Wolverines on Tuesday, the Titans found several ways to get the job done. Nimiry scored a career-high three goals and the Titans cruised to a 5-0 victory in their Patriot District opener at Parker-Gray Stadium. The victory came 12 days after TC earned its first win of the season against Chantilly, 3-0. With back-to-back victories and more

"He's one of the players in practice who just never stops. He's always giving 100 percent all the time, everywhere."

— T.C. Williams' Manuel Benites about Abdel Al Nimiry

goals in their last two games than in their first five, the Titans are hoping to ride momentum into their district schedule.

"We've been getting a lot of chances, but we haven't been able to put them away," head coach Martin Nickley said. "The positive in the matches was we weren't able to score, but at least we were making the opportunities. Then it's just been a matter of us continuing to work on that confidence

said. "He was playing [multiple] positions on the field. He's such a hard worker. [Some of his] goals he creates because he's an opportunist — he puts himself in a position to score."

Nimiry took a modest route when describing the key to his three-goal effort.

"I couldn't do it by myself," he said. "I did it with my teammates. My teammates helped me out. If it wasn't for my teammates, I wouldn't have any goals."

One of his teammates acknowledged Nimiry's hustle.

"He's one of the players in practice who just never stops," Benites said. "He's always giving 100 percent all the time, everywhere."

While Benites didn't score, he showed his offensive value as a facilitator in set pieces.

SEE TITANS SCORE FIVE, PAGE 32

TC Crew Concludes Spring Break with Intra-Squad Scrimmage

The T.C. Williams crew team wrapped up a week of two-a-day practices over spring break by holding a time trial and an intra-squad scrimmage on April 7 at the Dee Campbell Boathouse in Old Town.

The time trial featured the boys' and girls' varsity, lightweight, freshman and novice boats competing against the clock in a 1500-meter race up the Potomac. Results included: boys' lightweight - 5:07; boys' varsity 4 - 5:33; boys' third 8 - 5:38; boys' freshman 8 - 6:03; boys' novice 8 - 6:51; girls' first 8 - 5:36; girls' second 8 - 6:10; girls' third 8 - 6:44; and girls' freshman 8 - 6:07.

In the intra-squad scrimmage, which was held immediately following the time trial, rowers from the boys' and girls' teams were mixed together in racing shells and then pitted against each other in a head-to-head, single elimination competition. Members of the winning boat included coxswain Brian Comey and rowers Maeve Bradley, Sam Zickar, Gabby

Salcedo, Chris Kidd, Perry Connor, Urmana Islam, David Salmons and Lia Niebauer.

The T.C. Williams crew team returns to official competition this coming weekend with a pair of regattas on April 14. The boys' team travels to the Occoquan Reservoir to compete in the Darrell Winslow Regatta, while the girls' team returns to Middletown, Del., to compete in the St. Andrews Regatta on Noxontown Pond.

On Sunday, April 15, the team will hold its annual car wash fundraiser at Minnie Howard. The car wash will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and be held in the lower parking lot at the school.

T.C. Williams girls' coach Pat Marquardt talks to some of his rowers before the start of the time trial and intra-squad scrimmage at the Dee Campbell Boathouse on April 7.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Titans Score Five Goals in Patriot District Opener

FROM PAGE 31

His ability to generate considerable distance on his throw-ins led to TC's first goal, when he found Wolz in the 26th minute for a header to the far post.

"He always makes his run right to the front post," Benites said. "He looks at me right before I throw it. He said 'Hey, I'm going front post, front post.' I found him and [the throw was] just like a beam, just right to him. It skipped right off the head right to the far post. It was great."

Benites also takes many of the team's corner kicks.

"Both with the throw-in and with his corner kicks, he has such good control of the ball," Nickley said. "The trajectory with which the throw-in comes in is just the perfect height for little flick-ons and nod-ons. He strikes the ball so well both from shooting and the delivery — and he works really hard at it. ...

"He was a driver of the ball because he was a field goal kicker [for the school's football team], but he's now putting a curve to it in there, as well, which is very effective."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams' John Longabaugh slides in against a West Potomac player during the Titans' 5-0 victory on April 10.

T.C. Williams will look to continue its strong play against defending Northern Region champion Lake Braddock at 7 p.m. on

Thursday, April 18 in Burke. The Bruins are 2-3-1, including a district loss to Lee on April 10.

"We're very pleased with our last

couple matches and our start in the Patriot District," Nickley said, "and hopefully we can build off that."

SPORTS BRIEF

SSSAS Girls' Lax To Host 'Spring Fling'

The 21st Annual St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Girls' Lacrosse "Spring Fling" will take place on Saturday, April 14 at SSSAS. First games start at 10 a.m.

Twelve teams will participate, including five that finished in the nation's top 50 in 2011, with more than 50-college bound athletes competing.

Participating teams are: SSSAS, Good Counsel, Collegiate School, Rumson (N.J.), Holy Child, Holy Cross, Honeoye Falls-Lima (N.Y.), Loyola Academy (Ill.), Archbishop John Carroll (Pa.), Radnor (Pa.), Georgetown Visitation and Notre Dame Prep (Md.).

The Saints will face Good Counsel at 1:30 p.m.

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Participants gather at the Hunger Banquet held at Bishop Ireton High School.

Bishop Ireton Serves Up Hunger Banquet

Bishop Ireton High School hosted a Hunger Banquet in January as a fundraiser for its sister school in Haiti, Louverture Cleary. Seventy-five students, parents, and staff came to the Bishop Ireton cafeteria wondering how well they were going to be fed. Upon arrival, each person was randomly given a different colored ticket, which assigned them to a high, middle, or low income tier based on the latest world statistics about the number of people living in poverty. Each income level received a corresponding meal, filling and nutritious or sparse and simple. Each ticket also had a name and a biography of a real person who lives in Haiti.

About 15 percent of the participants received yellow tickets and they were the upper class. They sat at tables with tablecloths, china and silverware. Waiters brought them a three-course dinner of salad, casserole, vegetable, bread, and dessert. There was plenty of food left over after their meal. The orange ticket holders, roughly 35 percent of the participants,

were the middle class who sat at long tables looking at the upper classes. Their meal was self-serve: rice and beans on paper plates and plastic utensils and a Dixie cupful of water. Everyone else (roughly 50 percent) was a red ticket holder and they were the lowest class. They sat crowded together on a center rug. They had to get a tray with a bowl of rice and paper plates. They were not given utensils and were allowed only one serving.

Before the dinner began, several of the middle class folks suffered economic losses and were moved to the rug area. One "family" moved from the upper classes to the middle classes because one of them lost their job. After the dinner, there was a discussion on hunger and poverty in the world, focusing on the importance of education as the long term solution to the complex problem of hunger and poverty.

The event raised over \$1,000 for Louverture Cleary School in Croix de Bouquet, Haiti.

Student Supports Wounded Warrior Project

Bishop Ireton Senior Gabby Goddette is passionate about the Wounded Warrior Project. As the president of Bishop Ireton's Beta Club, a service organization, Gabby has spearheaded several fundraisers for the Project. She is a "military brat" whose military father retired last spring. As a military dependent, she travelled around the country a lot, and moved 10 times throughout her childhood.

Gabby first heard of the Wounded Warrior Project through the Dewitt Army Hospital and National Naval Medical Center in

Bethesda, where she has been a patient. While there, she

heard about the Fisher House which provides free or low cost lodging to veterans and military families receiving treatment at military medical centers. The Fisher House supports the Wounded Warrior Project, which provides programs and services to severely injured service members during the time between active

duty and transition to civilian life. She saw all the good work that both organizations were providing and she wanted to help.

This year, the Beta Club has held bake sales, done a cake walk, solicited money at a home basketball game, and sponsored the Bishop Ireton Coffeehouse on Feb. 25. They have raised approximately \$3,500. Gabby and the Beta Club are planning to do a toiletry drive for the last fundraiser for the Project this year.

The military has a tradition of giving "coins" when a member changes ranks or moves. The coin is like a business card, and has identifying information on it. The coin can also be given to honor someone else.

At the coffeehouse this year, Kenneth Fisher, chairman and CEO of the Fisher House in Washington, D.C., gave Gabby a coin with the Fisher House emblem. He spoke to students about the organization and how much what they were doing would help them.



Bishop Ireton senior Gabby Goddette receives a coin from Kenneth Fisher, chairman and CEO of the Fisher House.

Gabby gave the coin to Tim Hamer, so that Bishop Ireton could retain the honor.

Gabby plans to attend University of Rochester next fall and play soccer. She will continue to support the Wounded Warrior Project.

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Raffle winner Elizabeth Wainstein with evening hosts Patricia and Latane Montague.



Arthur Keleher and Stratford Hall curator Gretchen Goodell.



Michael Bradshaw and Donnie Wintermute.

Gathering in Support of Stratford Hall



Stratford Hall curator Gretchen Goodell talks about Light Horse Harry Lee, the current focus of historical interpretation at the estate.

Members and friends of the Alexandria Committee of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association gathered March 8 at the residence of Latane and Patricia Montague on Prince Street for an evening celebration, raising funds for Stratford Hall, home of the Lees of Virginia and birthplace of Robert E. Lee.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Jackson Montague sounds the conch shell.



Young Latane Montague follows suit.

RTA Design Chosen

In honor of Rebuilding Together Alexandria's 25th Anniversary, the non-profit organization held a t-shirt contest, with the winning design to be featured on RTA's web site and 1,000 volunteer t-shirts produced for their city-wide volunteer project at the end of April. Participants were asked to submit a design that shows what Rebuilding Together Alexandria means to them or a design reflective of RTA's impact in the community.

Chosen by online voters, E. Forest was the winner. His design captured a celebration of the 25th Anniversary and depicted a sense of the repair work RTA volunteers provide.



E. Forest

To learn more about RTA, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

City Council To Hold Hearing on Tax Rates

The Alexandria City Council will hold a public hearing on the 2012 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates on Saturday, April 14, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers, Room 2400 (2nd Floor) at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St. On March 13, the Alexandria City Council voted 5-2 to authorize advertising a maximum possible real residential property tax increase to \$1.008 per \$100 assessed value, an increase of one cent. The personal property tax rate on vehicles and business tangible prop-

erty tax rates would remain unchanged. The Council will determine and vote on a final real property tax rate when they adopt the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program on May 7.

Individuals may sign up online prior to the public hearing or call the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at 703-746-4550. Presenters are requested to provide a copy of their text to the City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

For more information about the City's draft FY 2013 Budget, visit alexandriava.gov/Budget.

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¹INCLUDES TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$379 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36-MONTH LEASE W/12K MILES PER YEAR. EXAMPLE CAMRY L. ²0% APR FOR 60-MONTH TERM ON SELECT NEW TOYOTA PRIUS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. UP TO \$1,000 CUSTOMER CASH AVAILABLE WHEN FINANCED THROUGH TFS. ³BASED ON KELLEY BLUE BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. ⁴0% APR FOR A LIMITED TIME ON SELECT NEW TOYOTAS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. EXCLUDES \$379 DEALER DOC FEE. ⁵WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. [†]FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. ^{††}WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THRU TFS. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. ^{†††}WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE. COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE. PLAN IS FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A DELIVERY OR TAXI VEHICLE. SEE PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 4/30/2012.

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$5,500,000

Historic Treasure

Step back in time within this carefully renovated and restored, early nineteenth century brick home with exquisite woodwork and appointments in spacious, sun-washed rooms, five exceptionally private bedrooms, five and a half baths, inviting casual rooms, and nicely blended twenty-first century amenities. With more than 7,225 square feet of living space in the Lord Fairfax House, there is something for everyone from the billiard room to a library, banquet-sized dining room, formal parlor, large open kitchen, breakfast room, and sunroom. Its expansive, beautifully maintained garden is awash with the colors of its perennials, annuals and blooming plants, yet nicely shaded with lush trees and a year round gazebo with fireplace. Off-street parking for two cars plus a garage add to the delights of this in-town oasis reflecting yesteryear but clearly up-to-the-minute in living conveniences.

Carol Cleary 703.625.6829
www.carolcleary.com MLS ID# AX7813655



ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY

\$959,000



Spacious, Updated Del Ray Home!

This adorable Del Ray Cape Cod was built in 2002 with a charming front porch, dramatic two-story foyer, spacious interior rooms and gleaming hardwoods. The beautiful kitchen with granite counters, breakfast area and center-island opens to a wonderful family room with fireplace and French doors. Walk to shops and restaurants.

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.suegoodhart.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$1,265,000



Nellie Lives Here!

Nellie loves this sunny, four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath house she lives in. Located in the southeast quadrant, there are many places to walk easily from the red front door. So many kind business owners offer Nellie dog biscuits...her favorites! She likes to sit by either fireplace, living room or family room, in the winter. In a large grassy back yard shaded by a cherry tree she has the grandchildren throw a ball for her. Nellie loves visitors, so come see her...and the house too!

Babs Beckwith
703.836.1297
www.BabsBeckwith.com
MLS ID# AX7792493



ALEXANDRIA/BEVERLEY HILLS

\$695,000



Upgrades Galore!

You'll love summer evenings on the screened-in porch of this Beverley Hills beauty! This two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath charmer has updates throughout including new kitchen and baths. Beautiful hardwoods and high-end touches everywhere. Finished basement with rec room and storage. Large, fully fenced and landscaped lot perfect for entertaining!

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com



ALEXANDRIA

\$719,000



First Open!

This stately, all-brick split is two blocks from the Potomac just off the Mt. Vernon Parkway. It hosts a beautiful kitchen and vaulted ceiling family room opening onto a private deck/patio and yard. Master "retreat" with a spa bath. Three or four bedrooms, three baths, newer systems and appliances, newly refinished wood floors, fresh paint, class and style.

Joel Miller
571.277.1321
www.mceneaney.com
MLS ID# FX7813277



ALEXANDRIA

\$249,000



Light Filled!

Resort Living in Watergate at Landmark. Super, two-bedroom, two-bath G Model - 1,309 square feet. Gleaming hardwood floors, updated baths, gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, and generous closets. Indoor/outdoor tennis and swimming. Garage parking for one car included. Gated 24-hour security, free shuttle to Metro. Welcome Home!

Sally Z. Harper
703.517.2849
www.sallyzharper.com
MLS ID# AX7813696



ARLINGTON

\$205,000



Leave Your Car at Home

Less than a ten minute walk to the Ballston Metro is this one-bedroom garden style condo just waiting for a first time buyer, investor, or someone who enjoys urban living. New laminate floors, new energy-efficient windows, a washer and dryer in the unit, and fresh paint simplifies the moving process. Extra bicycle storage is close by.

Cecily Winchell
703.851.9292
www.cecilywinchell.com
MLS ID# AR7763439



703.549.9292
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Alexandria, VA 22314
www.McEneaney.com

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