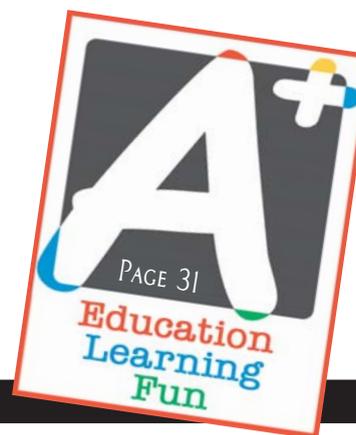


Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

MAY 17, 2012

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Community Yard Sale

The lower parking lot at Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center was trimmed with tables laden with goods for sale on Saturday, May 12. Vendors offered shoes and accessories, gently used clothing, household items, books, toys and more.



T.C. Williams students Shavonni Dickens, Dale Hacker and Lattavia Taylor set up a booth for the junior class. At the conclusion of the sale, all unsold items were donated to the Salvation Army.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Antonett Battle, Paris Jones and Kahia Anderson offer Avon products for sale. Antonett is raising money for her first year of college in the fall.

Beauregard Boom

City Council approves massive development over bitter opposition.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Once again, members of the Alexandria City Council cast aside hours of bitter opposition to support a controversial plan. This time, though, an election is days away. And candidates will be judged in part on their support or opposition to the Beauregard small-area plan, a controversial proposal to demolish hundreds of low-end garden apartments in favor of high-end housing, offices and hotels. During a contentious daylong public hearing on the plan Saturday, opponents of the plan were calling for 20 percent of the units to be set aside as dedicated affordable housing.

“Nobody is saying no to the 20 percent. It could be 50 percent. Pick a number,” said Mayor Bill Euille in response to one of the speakers. “No matter what the number is, it’s the almighty dol-

Candidates Who Support Beauregard Plan

- ❖ Melissa Feld
- ❖ Donna Fossum
- ❖ Sean Holihan
- ❖ Tim Lovain
- ❖ Del Pepper
- ❖ Justin Wilson

Candidates Who Oppose Beauregard Plan

- ❖ John Taylor Chapman
- ❖ Michael Hepburn
- ❖ Victoria Menjivar
- ❖ Sammie Moshenberg
- ❖ Arthur Peabody
- ❖ Alison Silberberg
- ❖ Paul Smedberg
- ❖ Boyd Walker

lar. And that’s the hang-up. That’s what inhibits us in meeting any goal.”

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 27

A Divided Slate

Factions emerge among Democrats approaching June 12 primary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

With four weeks until the Democratic primary for Alexandria City Council, the city’s Democrats are forming opposing factions in the

hotly contested race. A handful of political action committees have emerged in recent days to support rival slates of candidates, adding to the heat of competition among the 14 Democrats seeking six

SEE FACTIONS, PAGE 7

Treaty of Four Mile Run?

A potential compromise to ongoing dispute between Arlington and Alexandria.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Back in October 2010, Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition chairman Tim Lovain feared what he called a “disaster” on the horizon — transit corridor commuters may be facing a day when they would have to get off an Arlington streetcar and board an Alexandria bus. Now that disaster could become a reality as the two neighboring jurisdictions are moving in different directions, with Arlington seeking Small Starts funding for the Columbia Pike streetcar project and Alexandria seeking Small Starts funding from the Federal Transit Administration for the Crystal City Potomac Yard transit corridor.

“It’s fair to say there’s competition,” said Lovain, a former member of the Alexandria City Council. “But there may also be a solution.”

Behind the scenes, Lovain and others have been urging officials on both sides of Four Mile Run to broker a compromise. Instead of extending the streetcar line from the border of Arlington to the Braddock Road Metro. The alternative scenario under discussion would terminate the streetcar line at the new Potomac Yard Metro station, the location of which has yet to be determined. Arlington and Alexandria would then enter a joint application for a Small Starts grant that would include a stop at the Arlington side of Four Mile Run and extend through Alexandria to the new Metro station.

“It makes perfect sense to me that the Arlington streetcar should terminate at a Metro, although there might be some raised eyebrows at the FTA,” said Lovain, a registered lobbyist with Denny Miller Associates. “It’s a little unconventional, but I think it

SEE SEEKING SOLUTIONS, PAGE 34





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Can the Circle Be Broken?

What happens to members of city boards and commissions who get sued by the city government? It's an awkward question, one that Alexandria now faces in the Alexandria Circuit Court.

"We don't envy suing any of our appointed boards or commissions," said Mayor **Bill Euille**. "In my tenure of 18 years on the City Council, I believe this is the first time we have ever done such."

Last week, city officials filed an appeal to a decision issued last month by the Board of Zoning Appeals. That decision, rendered in a late-night meeting, overturned Planning Director **Faroll Hamer's** determination that property owners in Old Town were not able to file a protest petition requiring a supermajority vote to pass the controversial waterfront plan.

"This appeal is absurd," said **Bert Ely**, a member of the waterfront work group. "The city will have to pay additional thousands of dollars in fees to provide legal counsel to the BZA since it is among the main respondents in the city's appeal."

Not so, says City Attorney **James Banks**.

"The BZA does not need to have counsel," said Banks, adding that Fairfax County took a similar position in a recent case. "It is the city's position at this point that we will not incur the expense of providing them such outside counsel."

Ely and others have also suggested that suing the BZA is unnecessary because the city can always change the part of the code in question. That way, the decision does not set a precedent and the city could avoid taking its own board to court. Again, Banks disagrees, saying the suit is necessary to set the record straight.

"The city is just simply in a position where we've got to clarify that as an underlying matter," he said. "Otherwise, we'll be in an endless cycle of litigation."

Dubious Distinction

We're Number One! Too bad it's not for something better.

This week an environmental advocacy organization known as American Rivers issued a report on the state of the nation's rivers. The Potomac River earned the dubious distinction of being the most endangered river in the country as a result of threats from pollution and development.

"When a member of Congress makes his or her cup of coffee in the morning, they are drinking Potomac River water," said American Rivers president **Bob Irvin**. "So we all should be concerned about the quality of that water."

The report notes that the Potomac is cleaner than it used to be, although it's still threatened by urban and agricultural pollution. That's a problem that could get worse, the report notes, if Congress rolls back clean water safeguards. Specifically, group is urging member of Congress against passing legislation that prevents the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Corps of Engineers from restoring protections for small streams and wetlands.

"We actually have situations now where many of the male fish found in the Potomac River carry eggs," said Irvin. "That's not the way nature intended it."

Biking to Work

Get out your bike helmet. Dust off your handlebars. Friday May 18 is Bike to Work Day.

This year marks the 15th year that Alexandria has been part of National Bike to Work Day, when thousands of area commuters will ride their bikes to work on this day to promote the use of bicycles as an environmentally friendly way to commute. This year, the city will have three "pit stops" that will be part of the 40 regional spots — Market Square from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.; Carlyle Square Park from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.; and the Mark Center Transit Center from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The pit stops will include free food, gear and prizes from local businesses and sponsors. Alexandria's locations usually draw some of the largest crowds, and about 800 participants are expected this year.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Think Pink!

Designs sought for breast cancer walk t-shirts.

Calling all artists. The Alexandria Fire Department is seeking submissions for the logo for this year's pink breast cancer walk t-shirts which are worn by fire department personnel during October — the month of the City's Walk to Fight Breast Cancer.

Last October, fire personnel wore the shirts as part of their uniform and sold 1,500 shirts raising \$9,000 for the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer Fund. This fund helps uninsured women pay for mammograms.

There is a three-color limit for the design and the image will be



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Firefighters Kim Bosser, Sokthear Van, Fred Ruff and Capt. Phil Perry sell t-shirts to raise funds for the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer at the Women Mean Business auction last September. Submissions are being sought for the logo for this year's shirt.

printed on pink shirts. Deadline for submissions is June 1. Mail design and contact information to Station 201, 317 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or email to

Rodney.massser@alexandriava.gov. For more information, contact Sarah Watson at sarah.watson@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-3123.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITT LECKMAN

The George Washington Middle School Orchestra, conducted by Jonathan Ray Jones, performed April 30 at the John F. Kennedy Center.

Students Perform at Kennedy Center

An honor for George Washington Middle School.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

Students with the George Washington Middle School Orchestra wowed audiences at the Kennedy Center April 30. The orchestra performed as a part of World Projects International, and held its own on stage with high school and college groups from as far away as Miami, Fla., San Luis Obispo and Woodland, Calif.

"The level of discipline and musicianship is amazing," said Ralph Brooker, who has a daughter in the orchestra. "They understand it's a real honor to perform here at the Kennedy Center."

The performance came on the heels of big wins at the "Music in the Park" event, held April 29 in Williamsburg, Va. The group took home trophies for

superior ranked performances, and won first place in division as well as first place in the overall category.

"It shows how much the kids enjoy being in the orchestra, they really rise to the occasion," said Diane Hill, president of the George Washington Middle School Friends of the Orchestra. "Mr. Jones works them hard."

Jonathan Ray Jones, orchestra director, has been teaching students at George Washington for 14 years. Unlike other teaching positions, as head of the orchestra Jones stays with the same middle school students from sixth through eighth grades.

SEE KENNEDY CENTER, PAGE 32
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ MAY 17-23, 2012 ♦ 3

Support Fine Arts

The George Washington Middle School Orchestra operates on a shoestring budget, with expenses that include sheet music, string replacements as well as trips to competitions. To support the orchestra, checks can be made out to: George Washington FOTO and sent to Diane Hill, 215 E Custis Ave., Alexandria VA 22301.

PEOPLE



SSSA senior Maddie Davidson poses with her scholarship check with Redskins running back Tim Hightower following the ASC awards dinner May 15 at the Westin Carlyle Hotel.



T.C. Williams scholarship winner Demetry Johnson, center, celebrates with his sister Taloni, left, and grandmother Ruby Lewis



Mildred Coit gets a hug from Tim Hightower.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

‘Cherish This Moment’

Tim Hightower returns to ASC awards dinner.

Redskins running back and 2004 Episcopal High School graduate Tim Hightower joined the Alexandria Sportsman’s Club May 15 in honoring the city’s top scholar athletes eight years after he himself was named athlete of the year by the club.

“It seems like only yesterday,” Hightower said prior to taking to the podium to deliver the keynote address.

Hightower praised the student athletes in the room, saying “People don’t see what goes on behind being the best. You still have to study and do your chores then go out on the field and be a leader. It’s not easy and I admire

all of you for your accomplishments.”

Hightower recalled his time as a student at EHS and praised football coach Mark Gowin, who was surprised with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Gowin recently announced his retirement after 24 years in coaching.

“I can’t thank coach Gowin enough for all the lessons he taught me,” Hightower said.

Other awards included the Sportsman of the Year Award, presented to Gerald File, the Hall of Fame award to George Washington High School athletic standout Dan Lehman, Coach of the Year to Bishop Ireton’s Tony Verducci and the Civic Award to Denise Dunbar.

“My hat is off to all of the student athletes in this room,” Hightower said in celebrating the award winners. “Cherish this moment. You’ll remember it always.”

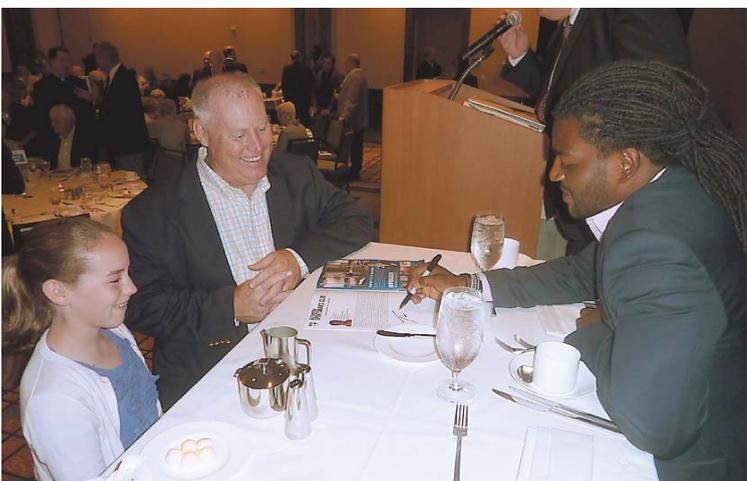
— JEANNE THEISMANN



Episcopal High School football coach Mark Gowin, Susan Gowin, Tim Hightower, Kristen MacDonough and Brian Gowin. Mark Gowin was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual ASC awards dinner.



Sportsman of the Year winner Gerald File, left, receives his award from past ASC president Warner Moore.



Tim Hightower signs an autograph for SSSA student Erin Phillips, 12, and her father Dave.



Hall of Fame award winner Dan Lehman, his wife Karen Uemoto and Tim Hightower chat following the ASC annual awards dinner May 15.



ASC president Frank Flaherty, right, presents the Coach of the Year award to Bishop Ireton’s Tony Verducci



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The historic Skipjack Minnie V. takes its maiden voyage from the Alexandria City Dock May 12.

All Aboard Alexandria now home to historic Skipjack Minnie V.

Capt. Robert Laurence demonstrates safety precautions prior to the inaugural sail of the Skipjack Minnie V. from Alexandria City Dock May 12.



BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The distinctive click of digital cameras filled the air as a crowd of onlookers gathered May 12 to capture the historic skipjack Minnie V. departing on its maiden voyage from the Alexandria City Dock.

"The skipjack is a historic boat," said Capt. Robert Laurence prior to the inaugural sailing. "The Minnie V. really belongs in a historic port like Alexandria."

After spending two years docked at National Harbor, the Minnie V. will now call Alexandria home after an agreement was reached between the Potomac Riverboat Company and city officials.

"We were in talks with the Waterfront Commission and city staff for some time about docking the Minnie V. in Alexandria," said company vice president Charlotte Hall. "When Willem [Polack] came up with the idea to build floats alongside the Cherry Blossom, an agreement was reached to allow the skipjack to dock there."

Built in 1906, the 45.3' long sailing craft was designed to dredge for oysters, once a mainstay of business along the Potomac River. A traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjack, the Minnie V. is a member of the

last commercial sailing fleet in the nation. Still the state boat of Maryland, fewer than 30 skipjacks remain in operation today.

"Where we go depends on the winds," said Laurence, who raises the massive sails up the 57-foot tall mast once the skipjack leaves the dock. "Today the winds are coming up from the south, which will make for a nice sail up the river."

Capable of speeds up to seven knots (approximately 8 miles per hour), the tour lasts between 90 minutes and two hours. During that time, Laurence and his crew regale passengers with tales of maritime life on the Potomac River and the history of the Minnie V, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Sailings on the Minnie V, which was once featured in the "Homicide: Life on the Streets" television series, are now available on Saturdays and Sundays. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, sailings will take place Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

"The Minnie V. is a wonderful piece of living history," Hall said. "We are very excited to have her here in Alexandria."

For more information about the Skipjack Minnie V., call 703-684-0580 or visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

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POLITICS

In 8th: First-timer Vs. Longtimer

Former Navy pilot hopes to defeat Moran with charges of conflict of interest.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Former Navy pilot Bruce Shuttleworth's campaign to oust U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) in the Democratic primary is fashioned as an indictment, a campaign in which the issues are framed as an attack on the incumbent. The first-time candidate hopes to knock off the 10-term congressman by describing him an insider who uses his power to help campaign contributors and himself.

"I think that Congressman Moran sides with big business too often," said Shuttleworth. "And too often those big businesses have given him big campaign contributions, and in fact he is number one in all of Congress in taking campaign contributions from his earmark recipients."

Supporters of Moran say these kinds of charges are nothing new, and the same accusations are resurrected every election cycle.

They say candidates have to raise money to get elected, and that the congressman is an experienced legislator who votes his conscience. Several said that if Moran was known as a legislator who votes in favor of contributors he would have raised a lot more than \$600,000, the amount of money he's raised and spent so far in this election cycle. Ultimately, they say, voters have considered these charges and dismissed them.

"Voters in the 8th District know Congressman Moran," said Austin Durrer, a spokesman for the congressman. "He fights for their issues they care about, provides strong, progressive representation, and has helped strengthen the region's economy through his work as a senior member on the Appropriations Committee as a leader who understands the importance of the federal role in our regional economy."

ON THE ISSUES, Shuttleworth says he would have voted differently than Moran on a number of key votes. One is the F136 engine, developed by General Electric and Rolls-Royce. Shuttleworth says that he would have voted against funding for the project, which the Pentagon opposed. Shuttleworth says the project was unnecessary, adding that Moran took campaign contributions from General Electric and Rolls-Royce.

"It puts him in a conflict of interest position," said Shuttleworth. "I disagree with any congressman who will embrace that kind of conflict of interest, especially if they're voting against the Pentagon's wishes."

Supporters of the project say it's important to con-

sider the cost ramifications of eliminating the project, which some people call "the alternative engine." They say that the military would have benefited from improved engine performance, increased contractor responsiveness and enhanced operational readiness while sustaining an industrial base for future aircraft programs.

"In Econ 101, you learn that competition brings down costs," said Durrer. "In this case, having an alternative engine would have saved taxpayers more than \$20 billion over the life of the F-35 program."

ANOTHER ISSUE where Shuttleworth would have voted differently than Moran is the 2005 bankruptcy reform. Shuttleworth criticized the law as making it harder to declare bankruptcy, preventing people from getting a fresh start. He described the law as a "big win" for the credit card companies, repeating the charge that the congressman took a loan from credit card company MDNA in advance of the vote.

"Four days later, he cosponsored legislation to make it harder for citizens to declare bankruptcy, the very bankruptcy he avoided by taking that sweetheart loan," said Shuttleworth. "So there's another example of having an extreme conflict of interest."

Moran supporters scoff at the idea that a 10.7 percent mortgage loan is a "sweetheart deal," dismissing the idea that there was any relationship between the loan and the congressman's support for the reform.

SHUTTLEWORTH ALSO SAYS he would have voted against the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act, which he says helped contribute to the global financial crisis. Moran

voted to repeal the act, and Shuttleworth says he would have voted to maintain a separation between investment banking and commercial banking. Because that was at the heart of the financial crisis, Shuttleworth says, Moran bears some of the responsibility for the downturn.

"Too many investment bankers are intent on getting those short-term bonus checks," said Shuttleworth. "They take wild risk knowing that the downside is capped but the upside is not."

In a meeting with Connection Newspapers reporters and editors, Moran pushed back on criticism of his actions during the height of the financial crisis. He criticized a book titled "Throw Them All Out" by Peter Schweizer, which reports that the day after a meeting between Secretary of the Treasury Hank Paulson and New York Federal Reserve Chairman Tim Geithner that Moran sold 92 stocks.

"The book says two things, and then you naturally assume there's a connection. It doesn't actually say I was at the meeting. I wasn't. I never attended the meeting," said Moran. "To suggest that you would make a decision based on some meeting is a little absurd."

Nominations Sought for 2012 CIVIC Awards

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is seeking nominations for the 2012 CIVIC Awards. The annual awards program recognizes the unsung volunteer efforts of Alexandrians who are involved in their communities and who have provided a valuable

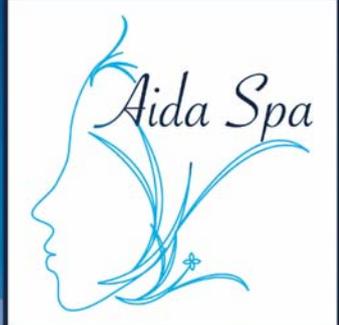
service to Alexandria in meeting recreation, park, or cultural needs. Nominations must be received by Thursday, June 14.

Individuals can nominate an Alexandria resident, group, club, organization, or corporate neighbor. Nominees for the award should be

volunteers who have contributed their time, talent, or resources in an exemplary fashion and who reside or are located in the City.

A nomination package is available online at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation, or by calling 703-746-4343.

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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Opposite Sides

A river runs through the candidate for mayor. On one side is incumbent Democratic Mayor **Bill Euille**, who supports a plan that would more than double the density of three sites slated for redevelopment along the waterfront compared to what's there now. On the other side is former Vice Mayor **Andrew Macdonald**, who blasts the proposal as a threat to the health of the Potomac River.

"You can't undo the damage of adding new impervious surfaces to the shoreline," said Macdonald, an independent candidate for mayor who led opposition to the waterfront small-area plan. "You are better off creating more green space that can flood and has more natural qualities."

The mayor disagrees. He says the city's consultants and staff have thoroughly investigated the dynamics of increasing from the current level of 300,000 square feet to a proposed 800,000 square feet. The zoning change is still in limbo pending the result of an appeal filed by adjacent property owners in Old Town. Ultimately, Euille says, the waterfront plan will greatly advance environmental sustainability by creating an elevated walkway to mitigate flood damage.

"This plan is a huge step forward in terms of correcting and eliminating danger," said Euille. "Staff and consultants studied this and concluded that imperious surface was the way to go."

Campaigning on the Edge

Candidates love to be photographed on location. From standing before the George Washington Masonic Temple to posing in Market Square, setting the right scene is an important element to any campaign materials. Former Councilman **Tim Lovain** famously used the red railcar at the Mount Vernon Community Center as a nod to his love of streetcars that also tugs at the heart of the Del Ray crowd. Former Councilman **Justin Wilson** had a similar idea, promoting his work on the city's public transportation system by positioning himself in front of a DASH bus.

Wilson chose the King Street Metro station during a busy afternoon. The wail of Metro trains could be heard in the distance as new hybrid DASH buses arrived and departed. The candidate tried posing in front of one, but it sped away too soon. So he waited for the next to arrive. When it came to a stop, Wilson and his photographer positioned themselves accordingly and snapped a handful of frames. The pair finished just in time to avoid being — literally — thrown under the bus by their own photo shoot.

"I managed not to get run over," said Wilson. "And we got the shot."

The Next Election

Even as Democratic primary for City Council reaches its peak, Democrats are already talking about the seat that will be opened by the announcement that Del. **David Englin** (D-45) won't seek reelection in 2013. Already, Councilman **Rob Krupicka** has announced that he intends to run in the primary. And Arlington School Board member James Lander has also thrown his hat into the ring. This week, former Alexandria School Board member **Eileen Cassisy Rivera** acknowledged that she's also considering the race.

"Yes," she said after a recent City Council candidates forum. "I'm considering it."

Of Candidates and Authors

Democrat **Allison Silberberg** is not shy about plugging her book, "Visionaries in Our Midst," published by University Press of America in 2009. On the campaign trail, she frequently mentions the book and its Amazon ranking. But she's willing to spread the wealth. When asked about the Del Ray trolley, Silberberg dropped the name of another author.

"The fact that we have to fight for the Del Ray trolley to come into the heart of Arlandria is straight out of **Steinbeck**."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

All 14 candidates participate in a forum last week hosted by the Alexandria Democratic Committee.

Factions Emerge Among Democrats

FROM PAGE 1

seats. The leading point of distinction between the factions is the scale of density the city should allow. From the waterfront to the West End, candidates in the Democratic primary are drawing clear battle lines that will give voters a stark choice on June 12.

On one side of the spectrum is Securing Alexandria's Future, a new political action committee that endorsed a slate of six candidates this week. Its leaders include former Councilman David Speck, outgoing Councilman Rob Krupicka, businessman Murray Bonitt, Waterfront for All founder Gina Baum and former Police Chief David Baker. For the most part, their slate of candidates supports the scale of recent controversial development plans. On Tuesday, the committee formally endorsed John Taylor Chapman, Sean Holihan, Tim Lovain, Del Pepper, Paul Smedberg and Justin Wilson.

"These candidates have demonstrated a broad interest in all facets of our community," said former Councilman Lonnie Rich, who is also affiliated with the PAC. "More importantly, they have balanced views on how to move our city forward. We also believe they have the personal qualities necessary for collegial action on the city's business."

At the other end of the spectrum is Alexandrians for a Livable City. Its members include people who have been critical of recent developments, including Katy Cannady, Lynn Bostain, Robert Pringle and Ginny Hines Parry. They endorsed a slate that has consistently opposed the proposals, including Victoria Menjivar, Sammie Moshenberg, Arthur Peabody, Allison Silberberg and Boyd Walker.

"None is an incumbent or past member of the council," the committee said in a written statement endorsing the slate. "That reflects our strong belief that Alexandria needs new leadership."

Adding their voice to the chorus of PACs the week is Virginia New Majority, the political wing of non-profit Tenants and Workers United. Led by former

Securing Alexandria's Future

- ❖ John Taylor Chapman
- ❖ Sean Holihan
- ❖ Tim Lovain
- ❖ Del Pepper
- ❖ Paul Smedberg
- ❖ Justin Wilson

Alexandrians for a Livable City

- ❖ Victoria Menjivar
- ❖ Sammie Moshenberg
- ❖ Arthur Peabody
- ❖ Allison Silberberg
- ❖ Boyd Walker

Democrats for a Better Alexandria

- ❖ John Taylor Chapman
- ❖ Tim Lovain
- ❖ Sammie Moshenberg
- ❖ Arthur Peabody
- ❖ Boyd Walker
- ❖ Justin Wilson

Virginia New Majority

- ❖ Victoria Menjivar
- ❖ Sammie Moshenberg
- ❖ Arthur Peabody
- ❖ Justin Wilson

Tenants and Workers director John Liss, the group also endorsed a slate of four candidates this week: Menjivar, Moshenberg, Peabody and Wilson. In a statement announcing the slate, Liss said the Virginia New Majority slate was chosen because the candidates expressed a "clear intention" to foster "economic security" in Alexandria by defending workers rights and ensuring Alexandria's immigrant communities are able to thrive.

"These candidates are all strong campaigners for a more inclusive and participatory Alexandria," said

SEE A DIVIDED SLATE, PAGE 27

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ MAY 17-23, 2012 ❖ 7

PEOPLE



Sommelier Emily Wines mixes sparkling wine cocktails.



From left: Elizabeth Moon, Darlene Duffett and Kate Perrin, vice president, Dress for Success Washington, D.C. Board.

Supporting Dress for Success

The Morrison House hosted a sparkling wine and tasting adventure on March 28 to benefit Dress for Success. Sommelier Emily Wines created sparkling wine cocktails and new Chef Brian McPherson and Sous Chef Stephanie Geist created special bites for the evening.



Allison Priebe Brooks (left) and Victoria Cuesta of Kimpton Hotels.



From left: Adult Education Coordinator Krista Sofonia, Walter Castro-Reyes, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne.

Alexandria Inmate Earns GED

Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and his staff recognized the GED graduation of an inmate at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center on May 3.

Sheriff's Office staff and fellow inmates applauded Walter Castro-Reyes who was dressed in a traditional cap and gown at his graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, Adult Education Coordinator Krista Sofonia presented Castro-Reyes, 20, with a Certificate of Achievement for passing his General Educational Development examination. Sheriff Lawhorne gave brief remarks and

congratulated Castro-Reyes on his accomplishment.

Sofonia also recognized volunteers with the Adult Education program, including Morgan Gerhart, a graduate student at Marymount University who interned at the Sheriff's Office this semester and will earn a master of arts degree in forensic psychology this month.

Three other inmates also passed their GED exams this spring, including two who were released prior to this ceremony. Since 2005, 82 inmates at the Alexandria detention center have successfully completed their GEDs.

Jean Ann Bolling: Republican Party Is for Women

Jean Ann Bolling, wife of Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, was the keynote speaker at the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) annual membership meeting May 3 at the Lloyd House on North Washington Street in Old Town, Alexandria. The reception recognizes those who work successfully for the Republican Party both locally and state-wide.

In her speech entitled, "The State of the State, 2012" Bolling laid out current problems facing the state and detailed good solutions, including lowering unemployment rates and the success of women. She encouraged women to get involved in politics.

Bolling said that under her husband's leadership with Gov. Robert McDonnell, state unemployment has fallen to 5.6 percent in the state. The national unemployment rate remains high at 8.2 percent, a difference in Virginia that Bolling attributes to good economic policies. She also said the Republican Party is the party for women, and encouraged all to get



Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and wife Jean Ann with their two children.

involved. "If you are not already a member of a political club, I encourage you to join the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club today," said Bolling.

In addition, special guest Rae Lynne Chornenky, president of the National Federation of Republican Women, spoke briefly about her goals as president of the federation in this important election year.

The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club is a member in good standing with the National Federation of Republican Women.

For additional information on the women's club or campaign activity in 2012 in Alexandria, visit CRWC at www.alexandriacrwc.org. or contact Gail Ledwig at donaldgail@yahoo.com.



Tamika Barbour and Courtney Sherrill

Barbour and Sherrill Are Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Greene of Alexandria are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tamika Barbour, to Courtney Sherrill, son of Ms. Lola Sims of Alexandria.

Ms. Barbour is an alumna of Old Dominion University and the University of Phoenix. Ms. Barbour currently teaches at Cora Kelly STEM School in Alexandria and is a candidate for her doctoral degree in educational leadership. Mr. Sherrill is currently working in the security field in Washington, D.C. The couple plans to get married in the Caribbean island of Jamaica. The couple will make Northern Virginia their home.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Keller Williams associates arrive at Jefferson-Houston ready to work on Thursday morning: Susan Cambon, Tamara DeSouza, Mel Hanson, Nicole Hamilton, Carey Gooch, Nancy Tompkins and Nicole and Jordan Gooch.

4th Annual Red Day at Jefferson-Houston

The staff and associates of Keller Williams Realty in Old Town spent Thursday, May 10, painting, gardening and cleaning the exterior of Jefferson-Houston Elementary School.

Red Day is a company-wide — across the U.S. and Canada — day of giving back to the local community. This is Keller Williams' way of focusing time, efforts and caring to give back to the community.



Tamara DeSouza, Kendra Whitaker, Jason Shine, Jordan Gooch and Kris Bernard clean off graffiti on the playground equipment.



Red Day volunteers: Tamara DeSouza, Suzanne Snyder, Nicole and Jordan Gooch, Kris Bernard, Kendra Whitaker, Jason Shine, Shane McCullar, Justin DeVinney, Bana Qasha, Jim Lyons, Carey Gooch, Bryan Taylor, Susan Cambon, Renee Gallagher, John Ragano, Mike Anastasia, Suzanne Runyon, Mel Hanson, Nancy Tompkins, Ann Shack, Rick Wanzer and Brenda Stone.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

ACVA President Stephanie Pace Brown and Research for Virginia Tourism Vice President Elizabeth McLaughlin pose for photos following McLaughlin's keynote address at the Marketing and Tourism Summit May 10 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Tourism 101

ACVA hosts 3rd annual Tourism and Marketing Summit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

In celebration of National Travel and Tourism Week, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association presented the third annual Alexandria Tourism Marketing Summit May 10 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

"In a single year, visitors to Alexandria spend more than \$650 million and generate \$22.4 million in city tax revenue," said Mayor Bill Euille. "That lowers our property tax rate by 7 cents."

ACVA used the summit to unveil its new website, designed to be more interactive and user-friendly, according to Director of Marketing Anna Jones.

"The website uses a new booking engine that allows visitors to purchase attraction tickets, including our Key to the City booklet, online," Jones said. "A Google mapping 'What's nearby?' feature was also added."

The new VisitAlexandriaVA.com site integrates reviews from TripAdvisor and Yelp, with social media feeds from Facebook and Twitter available for each business listing.

Following a keynote address by Elizabeth McLaughlin, vice president of research for Virginia Tourism, breakout sessions were held on topics including press relations, social media and advertising strategies.

This year's breakout session speakers included Brian Payea, head of industry relations for TripAdvisor, Ben Isenberg, president of Isenberg Group, Sarah



ACVA Director of Marketing Anna Jones explains the features of the new VisitAlexandriaVA.com website.

Zlotnick, associate fashion editor of Washingtonian magazine, Missy Frederick, reporter for The Washington Business Journal, Paul Raphael, FOX-5 TV segment producer for "Holly Morris Live," Maurisa Turner Potts, founder and CEO of marketing and public relations firm Spotted MP, and Karen M. Gonzales, senior vice president of Destination Marketing Association International.

"In the past five years, visitor spending in Alexandria has increased nearly 17 percent," said Euille, who also announced City Council's approval of a \$100,000 increase in ACVA's advertising budget. "This success has outpaced our neighbors by far, with the average rate of increase for Virginia at just seven percent."

McLaughlin wrapped up the main presentations, saying, "At the end of the day, what's good for the tourist is good for the resident."

OPINION

Most Endangered?

Unless your home is served by well water, you are almost certainly among the five million people in the Washington Metropolitan area who get their drinking water from the Potomac River.

This week, the organization American Rivers named the Potomac River as the most endangered river in the nation. The Potomac River is far cleaner than it was 40 years ago when the Clean Water Act was enacted.

"Before the Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972, the Potomac was a cesspool of sewage and industrial pollution," says American Rivers. "Thanks to the Clean Water Act, the Potomac and rivers across the country are cleaner and safer for drinking, boating, and fishing. But ... a University of Maryland report card has given the river a 'D' grade for water quality for the past two years."

Now it's safe for high school crew teams to take to the river by the dozens. Kayakers and paddle-boarders join them in intimate contact with the water. Motorboats, marinas and fishermen all show the confidence we now have in the integrity of the Potomac River.

Still, after a rain, stormwater washes agricultural waste, suburban and urban runoff carrying loads of pollution into our area's small streams, into the Potomac River and on into the

Chesapeake Bay. Bacteria in the river after big rainstorms, from dog waste in suburban areas, agricultural runoff in more rural areas, has led to the recommendation by some that people avoid contact with the river for two-to-three days.

Slowing stormwater runoff, limiting the amount of "nutrients" that are swept down the river into the Chesapeake Bay, and improvements in methods of treating sewage are all critical to the ongoing health of our water supply.

Fish in the Potomac River also continue to show symptoms of exposure to endocrine disruptors, with male bass carrying eggs and other signs. Scientists suspect variety of pharmaceuticals and chemicals are causing these abnormalities, and it is not known whether current water purification systems are removing those pollutants fully from the drinking water.

American Rivers called on Congress to kill any legislation that weakens the Clean Water Act or prevents the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from restoring protections for small streams and wetlands under the Act. American Rivers also called on the Obama Administration to finalize guidance clarifying the scope of the

Potomac River has made great strides, has miles to go to save the Bay.

Clean Water Act and issue a rule-making to ensure that all waters get the protections Americans expect and deserve.

The Potomac River continues to serve as the scenic backdrop to much of what we do here. Let's continue to push for improvements.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIALS

Father's Day Photos

Every year at this time, the Gazette Packet puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grand children.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, 2012 and once again the Gazette Packet will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 8.

You can submit your photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spare No Incumbent

To the Editor:

The upcoming City Council election presents both quandary and opportunity to shape Alexandria's future. The quandary is how to choose among the many candidates, fine people who are offering their services to the City. The opportunity is to find those who will reflect our best values for the future development of Alexandria.

What values do I find important? Aesthetics, to preserve the charm which brings people to the City. Diversity, which mixes people from all walks, and all income levels, in a common community. Environmental sensitivity, which fosters green spaces and parks. Responsiveness to input, respecting those with whom we differ. Development with impact mitigation, so the City does not have to pay the bill for businesses.

On these scores, regrettably, both the current and recent councils have not had high grades. Potomac Yards (anyone consider the construction pretty or charming?) will clog Highway 1, and the once-promised developer-financed Metro stop is not there. The BRAC move to Seminary Road lacked consideration for the traffic impact. The Waterfront planning process divided the community, and treated some with disrespect. The

Beauregard plan will eliminate much low-income housing. The Arlandria plan also will eliminate much low-income housing. And so on. We are well on the way to becoming just another gentrified suburb

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that the Council's actions reflect almost a single-minded focus on increasing property tax revenue, with much less attention to the community's other needs. This is judging by the results, not by the intentions.

So, this liberal who believes in conservation of the best of our community, has come to a harsh conclusion: Alexandria's voters have the opportunity to send a message to the Council by voting for an entirely new slate. No incumbent should be spared. We need to start over.

Allan Abramson
Monticello Park
Alexandria

Support Mental Health Services

To the Editor:

May is Mental Health Month, established in 1949 to spread the word about the importance of mental health and to combat the stigma associated with mental illness.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot 10:10 a.m., May 12: Cary Blair Terne sets out another flat of fresh strawberries from Three Ways Farm in Northern Neck on Saturday morning at the Del Ray Farmer's Market.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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A Connection Newspaper

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

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

This is an appropriate time to ask community leaders and families in Alexandria to recognize the importance of mental health and the overall development of school-aged children. These are critical developing years, where children can find themselves entangled in a variety of challenges that can take a heavy toll upon them, and get their lives off track.

When children know that people care about them, they are more likely to be successful in school and less anxious and depressed. Supporting a child's mental and emotional needs helps them think clearly, develop socially, build self-esteem and have a positive mental outlook.

Many times, however, adults brush off concerns as "kids simply being kids," or adults can be indifferent. However children face all kinds of stresses and trauma growing up, and at the very time in adolescence when they really want to be just like everyone else, if they are perceived as different, including having a disability or suffering from mental illness, they are targeted for bullying.

We should be educating everyone that responding to mental health concerns is just as important as looking both ways before crossing the street.

Alexandria's leaders need to continue to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of protecting the funding for those mental health programs.

I know Rob Krupicka led efforts to restore some funding for those much-need mental health services during this last budget cycle, and I thank him for his efforts. He knows how important those mental health programs are to those who need them.

And in the shadow of Virginia Tech, we cannot forget the devastating impact of what happens when someone, who needs help and doesn't get it, lashes out.

Michael J. Carrasco
Alexandria

A Prediction

To the Editor:

Everybody loves predictions. So here are mine for the slate to be endorsed by the group Securing Alexandria's Future in the June 12 Democratic Primary.

To disclose, I am on the steering committee of the political action committee Democrats for A Better Alexandria, which the aforementioned group is emulating — thank you for the flattery. Our selections were made a few weeks ago.

But the objectivity and seriousness of the Securing Alexandria's Future's effort — led by longtime former Republican David Speck — has to be questioned as they can best be described as status quo, pro-development, Chamber of Commerce advocates. Yes Alexandria, in the past two decades some Democrats on City Council have acted and voted more like what the man or woman on the street would think of as Republicans when it comes to the core issue of density sought by developers versus neighborhood and community preservation.

As did Democrats for Better Alexandria,

Enabling Resident To Stay in Her Home

BY KATHARINE DIXON
REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Dorothy* and her husband moved into their Alexandria home when her son was just three months old — that was nearly 50 years ago. And although the neighborhood has gone through many changes over the years, Dorothy, born and raised in Alexandria, is here to stay. Her siblings, two sisters and a brother, keep her here, too!

The neighborhood was much smaller when Dorothy and her family first moved in. There was a piper cub airport operating small aircraft nearby but at only \$9,000, the house was not to be passed up. And though the airport has long since given way to residential buildings, Dorothy loves that today there is a nature center only five blocks away.

Four years ago, her husband passed away, making it difficult for Dorothy to maintain her home. She reached out to



COMMENTARY

Rebuilding Together Alexandria and its teams of volunteers to help her stay in her home, safely. This month, a group of Skanska employees will install smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher,

pair kitchen cabinets, build a walkway, repair her shed, add a doorbell, and repair tiles in the kitchen and bathroom as part of National Rebuilding Day.

Dorothy's situation is not uncommon. The affordable housing squeeze that many of our neighbors feel also impacts long-time homeowners who can't afford to move but have difficulty affording to stay as well. Helping these homeowners remain in their homes is important to strengthening our community and preserving affordable housing.

As more low-income homeowners struggle to maintain their homes, Rebuild-

ing Together Alexandria's work to repair and revitalize homes at no charge for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans and families, is more important than ever. Our efforts over the past quarter century have helped more than 1,400 families in Alexandria and added \$5.5 million worth of value to their homes through in-kind donations of labor and materials.

For Dorothy, our volunteers' efforts mean that she doesn't have to make tough choices about paying for medicine or food or home maintenance. Instead, she can continue to stay in her home, relax in her living room, and continue to watch the small neighborhood of wildlife around her — fox, deer, raccoon, and even a turkey.

If you would like to volunteer or donate, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

* It is Rebuilding Together Alexandria's policy to not disclose full names.

Securing Alexandria's Future sent out a questionnaire on which to ostensibly base its selections. Will it matter? I venture not much, which is why I preview the group's endorsements: Paul Smedberg, Sean Holihan, Donna Fossum, John Chapman, Justin Wilson and Tim Lovain.

For each one of these that I'm wrong on, I will make a contribution to the Virginia chapter of the Sierra Club.

Rod Kuckro
Alexandria

Rod Kuckro is the former president of Del Ray Citizens Association and the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations.

A Solution for Catastrophe

To the Editor:

Based on the City's approval of the Beauregard Small Area Plan we can expect the continued forced exodus of at least 5,000 low- and moderate-income people from Alexandria. We have the City proclaiming its commitment to diversity as City actions will result in the forced displacement of its most diverse neighborhood. The West End neighborhood holds high concentrations of African American, African, Latino and Muslim and most are likely to move without City intervention.

Despite banner headlines proclaiming "800 units" of affordable housing committed because of the BSAP; the reality is starkly different. It is two to three years out before even one unit of dedicated affordable housing will be available. In the last three years rent increases have priced almost 1,700 apartments out of the "affordable" housing category. In the last three years rents have skyrocketed, fees have

been added, and utility charges imposed. Residents who paid close to \$1,300 / month for a two bedroom apartment in 2009 are now paying close to \$1,700. With annual increases of 10 percent or more, it is likely that most residents will be "constructively evicted."

The affordable units promised by the plan will not be available in time to prevent mass displacement of the residents of the West End. Close to 75 percent of the affordable and workforce units envisioned in this plan will not be available until 2020 or 2028 or later. It is hard to pin down when these units will actually be available because the language approved by City Council is so vague. Developers' contributions and commitments to housing are conditioned by vague or non-committal words like: "may," "depending on market forces," "potential(ly)," "goal," "preliminary target," "some dedicated units," and "shall negotiate in good faith." Rather than delay the vote or better yet to negotiate concessions to address the pending mass displacement, the City approved the plan and in doing so lost a major bargaining chip.

Even at this late moment, the City can preserve the unique and vibrant community that makes up the neighborhood. The City and the developer can do the right thing and roll back rents to 2009 or 2010 levels when all of the apartments were considered affordable. A rollback of \$150 / month should be made available to all tenants who sign a 12-month or longer lease, are low-income and have lived on the property for 12 months or longer. The City should agree to use Housing Trust Fund monies to pay for half of this rent reduction. Future annual increases should be limited to either cost of living increases or to the 5 percent Voluntary Rent Guideline. Essentially JBG would receive about a million dollars / year

less in rent, the City would offer about a million dollars a year in rent subsidy. There would be instant savings as high turnover and associated maintenance and marketing costs will be reduced. This arrangement should stay in place until the projected affordable units in the BSAP are actually available. Yes, this is an extraordinary measure. The City is a partner and investor in this multi-billion dollar plan which is also extraordinary. This one relatively inexpensive act will do more to preserve the West End's diverse tenant community than a \$100 million of housing that will not be available until next the decade or later. Budgets and plans should reflect our community's values and priorities. Tenants, property owners, elected officials, and staff can work together and turn this likely tenant catastrophe into a shining example of Alexandria at its best.

Jon Liss
Alexandria

A Ticket To Nowhere

To the Editor:

Alexandria Democrats should think twice before providing support to City Council Candidates Lovain and Wilson for numerous reasons, the top four being:

1. Lovain and Wilson strongly supported and voted for the BRAC. Thousands of people now suffer longer commutes because these so-called transportation experts, Lovain, a professional transportation lobbyist, and Wilson, a transportation bureaucrat, failed to see the obvious negative implications of this huge project.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

LIVING LEGENDS

Lesson for Life: 'Be the Best That You Can Be'

A life coach for many in the community.

BY SARAH BECKER

Al Grande is a self-described optimist, most likely his grandchildren's notion of the "Little Engine That Could." Retired since 1999, he sits in a wheel-chair. "Life is good," Grande said. "I have had success, I enjoy success." He built a successful printing business and is successfully recovering from a spinal cord injury. Grande recently appeared on television to demonstrate the benefits of at-home rehabilitation therapy.

"A lot of life is mental: can do, will do, and do," Grande grinned. "I enjoyed every minute of my career. My glass is always half full." His is a satisfied smile.

"The customer is the best part of business," Grande continued. "People have printing needs and I enjoyed going up to the counter and engaging them. I liked people thanking me for a job well done."

"If I have only one word to describe Al it is reliable," said former Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Chairman Shawn McLaughlin. "He was a Del Ray Ambassador, one of a handful of quality people who had their own community niche." Grande was actively involved in the Del Ray Business Association.

Al Grande was born in 1936 in Dover, N.J. He is of Italian heritage, a self-made man who never felt poor. His father mortgaged the house so he could attend prep school. Grande graduated from Blair Academy and Bucknell University, the latter with a double major: psychology and sociology.

"I was also ROTC so upon graduation the Army made me an officer and a gentleman," Grande chuckled. "I went regular Army and was assigned to the military police."

Al is a Vietnam veteran who remained active for 20 years. Lt. Colonel Grande came to Washington to work at the Pentagon. Soon after, he made Virginia his permanent home. Grande's printing business, ASAP Printing & Mailing, Inc. was his second career.

"The Grandes did for Mount Vernon Avenue what Burke & Herbert Bank did for King Street," McLaughlin said. "Al opened his printing business before Del Ray was trendy, and his business had staying power. ASAP's presence made it comfortable for new businesses to open when they might otherwise take a pass."

"In the 1970s Del Ray was the armpit of Alexandria," Grande agreed. "The neighborhood was rough, really dangerous. I started my business in the basement of my house in 1972 while still on active duty, and I needed space to expand. The Calvert had a bay available, a storefront subleased from Crestar (now SunTrust) Bank. It was either me or a video porn store, and the Bank chose me. The business was profitable from the first day and within two years I took in



"A lot of life is mental: can do, will do, and do," says Al Grande.

two other tenants. The space was affordable, what else can I say?"

What is Al Grande's greatest accomplishment? "Recognizing opportunity," he replied.

"Al's a real business booster, a dedicated supporter whose leadership, research, and vision resulted in the Small Business Development Center — a 501(c)(3) organization — being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce," said SBDC Executive Director Bill Reagan. "The Center was established in cooperation with George Washington University, flourished under the Chamber's leadership (1999-2010), and now is affiliated with Alexandria Economic Development Partnership."

"As a small business owner, a supplier to local small business, Al understood small business needs," Reagan continued, "and, of course, we all looked forward to celebrating Al Grande Day with him. He was a boater, an excellent chair, and each year he and his wife provided a welcome water respite for Chamber staff. He's an encourager, for sure."

Prior to moving to Greenspring, the Grandes' home was located along the Mount Vernon Parkway across from the Potomac River. "My son was a boater and introduced me to the sport," Grande said. "We were members of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club for many years." Grande managed the Club's gasoline sales for a time and received the Club's Distinguished Volunteer Award in 2009.

"I'm not used to failing," Grande noted,

"I am willing to work hard."

"What I sell is dependability, dependability and accuracy," Grande continued. "With ASAP I sold both at a reasonable price. When I first opened the business I kept a bed in the back. I was often there from 2 a.m. until 6 a.m., printing, so my orders were ready for pick-up. Other printers were my best advertising, especially when their jobs were late."

"Many of my core values I got from my father," Grande recalled. "I remember when, as an Academy student, Blair Academy awarded me 'Most Dependable.' It was one of the highest honors I have ever had. Today's businesses need more dependability. Now it's too much bottom-line." He repeatedly shared these values with students in T. C. Williams Printing Program, hiring

Living Legends: The Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria's Living Legends. The project was conceived by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Club Managers Association of America, Dominion Foundation, Erkiletian Real Estate Development, John McEneaney in memory of Ginny, Renner & Company, CPA, P.C. and the Rotary Club of Alexandria.

This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a Legend for 2013, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Nina Tisara, AlexandriaLegends@ninatisara.com.

as many as five at a time from the high school.

What is Al Grande's life lesson? "Do your job, be respectful, and be the best that you can be," he said. "A lot of us have a hidden talent and do a good job keeping it that way. Set a goal, meet the challenge, but be flexible. Don't beat a dead horse. I didn't want the business to get big; I wanted the business to be the best."

"I am proud and pleased Al Grande has been named a Living Legend of Alexandria," Police Chief Earl Cook said. "He is the most straightforward guy I know, and an integral part of the community. More importantly, he is one of the fathers of former Police Chief Charles Samarra's Alexandria Police Foundation, an organization that offers scholarship grants to police officers and medical insurance for retired K-9s. Al was one of our most dependable attendees, has given thousands of dollars in in-kind services, and all of us love him. He is a true public servant."

What will Al Grande choose as his third career? ASAP Printing & Mailing has passed to the next generation, and Al now serves on the Greenspring Resident Advisory Council's Marketing and Publicity Committee. Many consider him a life-coach, perhaps in the building phase once more.

Writer Sarah Becker was nominated as a Living Legend in 2007.

AHA!'s First Anniversary



Best-selling author Judith Viorst spoke to an audience of more than 200 on last month at the first anniversary celebration of At Home in Alexandria (AHA!). Viorst's remarks, which included readings from several of her published and award-winning poems and books, interpreted life's lessons in childhood, love, marriage, friendship and old age. The event was held at the Beth El Hebrew Congregation on Seminary Road in Alexandria. Above are AHA! Board Chair Carol Downs, Viorst (center) and AHA! Board Member Barbara Rosenfeld.

PEOPLE



Linda Kelly, fourth from left, is honored April 23 for her outstanding Girl Scout Leadership. Celebrating with her are Girl Scout Ambassadors Maggie Johnston, Natascha Zelloe, Sarah Laane, and Jackie Pastore, surrounded by Adult Volunteer Pat Laane, Service Unit Manager Gretchen Schreiber, Assistant Troop Advisor Monika Hoffarth-Zelloe and Cookie Manager Karen Helbrecht.

Scouts Surprise Advisor with Award

It was billed as the Special Awards Ceremony for her Senior Girl Scouts, but Troop Advisor Linda Kelly got a surprise. Moments into the meeting, representatives of her Ambassador Troop 2615 and Service Unit Manager Gretchen Schreiber joined with the Seniors to present Kelly with gifts and the highest award for leadership bestowed on a Girl Scouts Troop Advisor — the Jan Verhage Spirit of Leadership Pin.

“I never expected this,” said Kelly. Her Ambassador Troop, however, had worked on this award for several months. Again and again, they asked themselves how they could show their gratitude to someone who has been an inspiring Girl Scouts Troop Leader for over three decades. How could they thank this woman who takes care of four troops at a time and has made Girl Scouts her daily life? The Girl Scout Council of Washington contemplated this question a few years ago and decided to institute the Jan Verhage Spirit of Leadership Award in honor of its former executive director, who has a legacy of selfless commitment to girls and Girl Scouting. Kelly’s Ambassador Girl Scouts

felt that their leader showed the same selflessness, inspiration, dedication and love.

On Monday, April 23, the troop surprised Kelly and presented her with this gift of distinction. Schreiber and Monika Hoffarth-Zelloe, the assistant troop advisor, summarized in short speeches the outstanding leadership service that Kelly has performed during the last 30 years. They said that “no member in Service Unit 60-8 more fully embodies the Jan Verhage Leadership values than Linda Kelly.”

Over the years, Kelly has empowered hundreds of Girl Scouts, inspiring them to serve in their community, encouraging them to attend and participate in council programs, showing them how to help others, and motivating them to try new things. Schreiber reminded everyone that “many girls have taken their first international trip under Linda Kelly” — trips to Mexico, England, or India. Kelly has additional proof of her encouragement and enthusiasm — most of her Ambassadors will receive their Gold Award in the next few months, a goal that only a small percentage of Girl Scouts reach nationally.



Girl Scout Ambassadors Sarah Laane, Natascha Zelloe, Maggie Johnston and Jackie Pastore with their surprised Troop Advisor Linda Kelly.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

2. Lovain and Wilson support imposing street cars on Alexandria — This retreat to a transportation modal rejected decades ago, costing hundreds of millions of dollars, which will likely increase taxes for small businesses owners to create a disruptive, unattractive transportation channel that Alexandrians, don't want or need.

3. Lovain and Wilson repeatedly raised your taxes at every opportunity when they were in office. They will raise your taxes again

and again if they are elected.

4. Lovain and Wilson successfully attacked Alexandria's Democratic Process. They cried sour grapes when they were voted out of office and played games with our election dates despite widespread, bipartisan opposition. Less than two weeks after they lost the election, Lovain and Wilson voted to change our election dates from May to November in hopes of having a better chance to win. Voters of all parties should be wary of lame duck professional politicians who fear democracy and change

the rules after being rejected.

Fortunately, there are plenty of new candidates in this election cycle. President Obama has called for Change; Alexandria Democrats now have an opportunity to provide it. The time for change in our City Council is long overdue. Don't let us down.

Bud Miller
Alexandria

This letter does not reflect the view of any organization the author is, or has been, associated with.

Much To Be Thankful For

To the Editor:

This week provides two special opportunities to give thanks to those in our lives who have made a difference. In honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week and Mothers' Day I wish to say two simple, yet profound words, that often go unspoken: Thank you.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16



Live it Up!
on the loop

Family Fun Day at Market Common Clarendon

Sunday, May 20
10 am - 2 pm

Get moving with this fun event encouraging the whole family to *Live it Up!* with an active lifestyle!

Fun Activities!	Work-out & Refresh!
Rock Climbing Wall	11 am, FITNESS
Moon Bounce	with Washington Sports Club
Nolas Salon's Cut-A-Thon*	\$1 Ice Tea & Lemonade*
Glitter Tattoos	with Red Mango

Live Entertainment!

10 am - 2 pm, **Strolling Entertainment**
10 - 10:50 am, **Mr. Knick Knack!**
12 - 1 pm, **Rocknoceros**

Admission is **FREE!** Rain or shine.
*Benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
Nolas Salon haircuts, \$20; Kids feather extensions, \$10. Cash only.

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1786 Rampart Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

Resort Living on the Potomac



Resort Living on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River from every room! Only 30 minutes to the Washington DC, but with a remote feeling and renovations just completed! Idyllic for relaxation with all the luxurious modern touches. Grand entertainment areas inside and outside w/ pool and cabana. Impressive bedroom suites, sunfilled morning room and spa inspired lower level . 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. **\$2,950,000**. Adjacent parcel of .34 acres also available for **\$1,050,000**.

9326 Old Mansion Road Alexandria, VA 22309

A Gem in Fort Hunt! 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

Build Your Dream Home



Stunning three quarter acre lot with seasonal water views in the most sought after neighborhood along the George Washington Parkway Small home on property conveys as is. 3 miles to the heart of Old Town and along the scenic bike trail. 20 minutes to Downtown DC. Design your own home

7855 Southdown Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Stunning in Alexandria



Beautifully renovated and expanded colonial with exquisite finishing details. Every room thoughtfully planned, flows well and is useful. Light filled spaces and expansive rooms create a contemporary openness in a traditional setting. Windowed French doors lead to a charming patio, putting green and landscaped yard. 5 bedrooms-one with attic hideout, 3.5 baths and 3 family living areas. ~ **\$1,099,000**



600 W Windsor Avenue Alexandria, VA 22302

Chic and Historic in Old Town



Simply the most outstanding restoration in Old Town. Originally built at the end of the 18th century, this unique residence is a blend of history and modern



design. Original materials alongside elegant urban finishes creates the ultimate sophisticated home. 3 sides of windows, outdoor fireplace, reclaimed floors, commercial appliances. 2 bedrooms + Office, 2.5 baths, over 2200 finished square feet. ~ **\$1,295,000**

555 S Washington Street #100 Alexandria, VA 22314

8728 Thomas J. Stockton Parkway
Coming Soon

529 N Alfred Street
Coming Soon

7503 West Boulevard Drive
Coming Soon

900 Clifton Drive
Coming Soon

New Price 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. ~ **\$649,900**

4309 Sheridans Point Ct Alexandria, VA 22309

Live Life Along the Water



3 level custom brick colonial sited on large waterfront lot with sandy beach and 3 car garage. Over 6500 finished square ft w/



5/6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, expansive water views, soaring ceilings, elevator, screened in porch, large eat-in kitchen, formal living and dining rooms , 2 story family room. Plus main level master suite, ~ **\$1,995,000**

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OPINION

Searching for the Noun

BY HOLLY HERMAN
SENIOR SERVICES OF
ALEXANDRIA



COMMENTARY

When you're working it's common to define your

self as what you do. At a social gathering or networking event you are a [fill in the blank] lawyer, doctor, CEO, manager, etc.

What happens when that goes away? You may be out of a job, retiring, changing careers or have decided to stay home with your young family. There may be times where your definition of self is not as clear as it used to be.

Tip one: Embrace the loss. There is a sense of loss when your identity is in transition and you're no longer a [fill in the blank]. It's natural to feel a sadness. You'll know if this is happening if you stumble when you meet someone new and search for words. Or you might be saying "I used to"

Tip two: Start early. Choose more than one identity to define your self. Ask yourself, if I wasn't a [fill in the blank], what would I

be? What else, other than work, is meaningful to you? Search around for something to get involved with — before there

is a change in your status.

Tip three: Practice. When you're out and about try on different nouns. I'm a volunteer. I'm a coach. I'm a speaker. I'm a motivator. I'm a blogger. Realize that how you fill in the blank is more important to you than others. People you encounter are more interested in talking about themselves than hearing who you are. They need to hear a noun, they don't need to understand your noun.

Tip four: Plan ahead. See tip two. Maybe you don't know what is meaningful right now. Each quarter or so, try on something new. Volunteer some place that is remotely interesting, you might find it is very interesting. Research different jobs — interview people in those jobs. Who do you admire and what are they doing?

Tip five: Get out. Every day or each week do something a little different. Put yourself in a different place — a new coffee shop, a library or a park. Getting out of a routine can get your creative juices flowing. Opportunities often come from places you least expect.

Tip six: Get involved. Attend public meetings. Comment on blogs. Write editorials. Reach out beyond yourself.

Tip seven: Blank sheet of paper. You can be any noun you want to be. You can fill in your own blank. Leave the judgment at the door. Ask a friend or a spouse what they think your noun is. They may show you a direction that you never dreamed of.

Remember there are no "noun" police. You have the power to create any noun you want to be.

Holly Herman is a guest writer for Senior Services of Alexandria. She helps people find their nouns. She is an executive coach, speaker, trainer, blogger and meeting facilitator. You can find other great tips for personal and professional development on her website www.AchievingSkills.com.

For information on Senior Services of Alexandria, call 703-836-4414 ext.11.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

I was born and raised in Northern Virginia and am proud to have been educated in public schools. My father passed away when I was 10 years old, and my mother raised three kids as a single parent. She cleaned houses for a living to make ends meet, and taught me, along the way, the importance of hard work.

As you might expect, I had a great deal of responsibility and freedom thrust upon me at a young age. Fortunately, I was blessed with amazing and caring teachers who educated and looked out for me. Were it not for my mother and these loving teachers, I would not have achieved any of my goals in life. I simply cannot repay all they have done for me, but I can certainly show my gratitude with words and actions.

I've spent my professional career working in education policy and advocacy. After earning my undergraduate degree at Virginia Tech and my law degree at Washington & Lee, I had the privilege of working for U.S. Sen. John Warner for a decade. During this time, I focused extensively on education issues. I met with teachers, super

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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Old Town Alexandria \$614,900

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

Eddington Terrace \$1,195,000

2917 Eddington Ter, Alexandria, VA 22302

Beautiful, light-filled 5BR/3.5BA/3FP Colonial in priv enclave. Elegant details thruout 3 lvls w/ many recent imprmnts. MBR Suite & Lux Bath. Garage & DW. www.UphamRealEstate.com **Chris Upham 202.359.1308**



Wayne Wood \$529,000

1106 Croton Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308

Great Home & Price! Fabulous 3BR, 2.5 BA, 3 Level, Salem model w/addition w/FP. Freshly painted throughout. Large newer Kit w/island. Warm wood flrs. Newer double pane windows. clean, vacant & ready. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

Valley View \$339,000

3211 Spring Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306

\$10,000 Price Reduction/Owner Say Sell It! Updated kit, freshly painted, hardwoods, 3BR's, FR, new HVAC, private patio on 1/4ac lot high on a hill with great vistas. Fantastic close in opportunity. **Ed Pagett 703.518.6161**



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Belle Haven On The Green \$525,000

1789 Duffield Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sun! High Ceilings, Large Rooms, Bright 3 Br, 3.5 Ba, Brick Th w/ Lib, Eat-In Kit, 2 Fp! Gas Heat, Finished LI, Gar + Parking -- Bellehaven CC, Metro. See: Www.1789Duffield.Com **Marie Louise Meyer 703.836.2080**



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

Del Ray \$885,000

106 E. Maple Street, Alexandria, VA 22301

Turn key and enjoy! All new in 2010, this stunning 3 level, 4BR, 3 full BA offers a gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, new systems, off-street parking & more w/n blocks of 2 Metros. **Joy Deevy 703.930.5198**



JUST LISTED

Seminary Valley \$575,000

700 N. Latham Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

Delightful all brick 4BR, 2.5 Bath single family home offering large a family room addition, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, newer windows, 2-car garage minutes to schools, parks & more. **Joy Deevy 703.930.5198**



JUST LISTED

Riverside Estates \$475,000

8604 Cherry Valley Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309

Spacious light-filled Concord model featuring 4BR, 3 full baths, hardwood floors, large eat-in kitchen, private master suite, open living & dining rooms, abundant storage & 2-car garage. **Joy Deevy 703.930.5198**



JUST LISTED

Watergate at Alexandria \$575,000

400 Second Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Unique corner 3BR/2-1/2BA TH renovated w/built-in's, FP & french doors to European style patio. Attic w/lots of storage. Grand location in historic Old Town--Nat'l Airport&DC only min's. **Eloise Brantley 703.408.4887**



Wilton Woods Area \$499,000

3095 Madison Hill Ct., Alexandria, VA 22310

Great cul-de-sac location near Huntington Metro. 3BR, 3 levels, 1-car garage, 2 fireplaces, fenced backyard with treehouse. Nicely updated. See photos at www.RitaMcR.com **Rita McCauley-Redmond 703.447.9114**



Del Ray \$649,000

2512 DeWitt Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

Too Late! Under Contract Here is your opportunity to have a fixer upper in a detached bungalow in Del Ray! Sold 'as is', but great bones! Corner, double lot, parking and potential! **Bonnie Rivkin 703.598.7788**



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OPEN SUN **JUST LISTED**

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\$589,900
Stratford Colonial!
Great Price!

Unique opportunity - three level, 4BR, Colonial in prime location on quiet cul-de-sac for remarkably reasonable price! Many fabulous features include: expanded family room, finished LL, hwd flrs, thermal windows, oversize two car garage & gorgeous fenced yard. Many major updated components. Combination of size, condition & location rarely found for under \$600K! **OPEN SUN 5/20, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; R-Vernon View; L-Elkin; L-Linton; L-Sword; L-Parry**

OPEN SUN

9405 Ludgate Dr
\$2,195,000
Stunning Price Reduction!

Magnificent colonial custom designed to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features: 4 fin levels, elegant trim detail, high ceilings, multiple decks & private balconies, fab gourmet eat in kit, formal dining, 5 FP, elevator. Direct river access. **OPEN SUN 5/20, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon; L-Washington Woods; R-Ludgate.**

OPEN SUN

8355 Justin Rd
\$799,900
PERFECTION!

Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet kitchen, 2 levels of hardwood floors, stunning master bedroom suite and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home! **OPEN SUN 5/20, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; R-Old Mt Vernon; L-Old Vernon Ct; R-Justin Rd.**

\$ 710,000
North Arlington
"A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH"

Investors, contractors, & do-it-yourselfers... solid brick Colonial on large flat lot, slate roof, detached gar, walk-up attic - original wood floors on main/upper levels, 2 fireplaces & freshly painted... Plenty of room left for you to customize. Sold as is!

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 270,000
Alexandria City
202 SKYHILL RD #5

Beautiful Seminary Walk remodel w/priv. deck overlooking wooded area. Totally renovated kit & bath +W/D. Two spacious BRs w/storage. Walk to King St Metro & Old Town shops. See me on...

Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

\$ 619,000
Wayneood
"A MIGHTY OAK..."

... to be! On-going renov. Oversized corner lot 3BR/2.5BA Salem model ready in 45 days. Buy now & pick your colors & granite. Expanded great room + kit w/granite & SS. Bonus room. One-of-a-kind gem!

Louise Devers 703.795.9944
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708

808 Pendleton St
\$495,000
Just Completed - Total Renovation!

Unique property combining the best of both worlds - new home amenities with the character and convenience of a prime Old Town location. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, brand new kitchen & baths, upgraded trim detail and hardwood floors. New windows, siding and roof. Complete rebuild by leading builder. No condo or HOA fees.

JUST LISTED

9403 Ferry Landing Ct
\$755,000
Large Colonial - Custom Pool!!!

Fabulous Colonial in prime location on one of area's most attractive streets. Home features unique courtyard effect with "L" shaped two car garage. Exceptionally well maintained home with bright floor plan and spacious rooms. Open kitchen and family room. Gorgeous professionally manicured 1/2 acre grounds with custom pool. Exceptionally well priced.

NEW HOME!

516A E. Howell Ave
\$679,000
Grand Opening! Just Completed!

Exceptionally spacious home by one of area's leading builders in prime location. Four stories of luxury featuring

\$ 189,900
Alexandria
"COMMUTING HAVEN"

Well located near I-395/495, bus lines & Van Dorn Metro. Spacious 2BR/2BA inc. W/D in unit. Hdwds in LR/DR. Garage + assigned pkg. Basic cable & all utilities in condo fee. Pool, tennis, sauna, fitness ctr & more amenities.

Dave Olinger 703.864.3196

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 824,000
Cameron Station
5213 BRAWNER PLACE

Stunning 4 level Stonehurst w/3BR/2.55BA! Fabulous features inc: sumptuous owner's suite w/loft & frpl + built-in bookcases, 10' ceilings, wood flrs on main/lower lvls, library, 2 frpls, deck & brick patio.

Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

\$ 869,000
Monticello Park
"A FOREVER HOME"

Completely renovated over the past 5 yrs, this 5BR/3.5BA cape is much larger than it appears w/ 2,800+ sq ft. Generous room sizes, hardwoods, upper lvl laundry & a must see family rm/mstr suite addition. Large, flat side lot, screened porch... The whole home is like new!

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244

NEW PRICE!

2327 Winton Blvd
\$645,000
Better Than New - Gorgeous Lot!

Stunning 3 level, 4 bedroom Colonial just renovated from top to bottom!

CONTRACT!

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

CONTRACT!

400 Madison Pl
\$489,000
Nature Lover's Delight!

Absolutely unique property with stunning floor plan featuring marble

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 524,500
Alex. House #901
400 MADISON ST

Step into Italy in this wonderful 2BR/2.5 BA unit w/sunny southern exposure, inc: a cook's delight kit, updated BAS, & great, easy to maintain tile flrs. Alexandria House features a rooftop pool w/surrounding vistas of Old Town, National Harbor & DC. This is the place for all the July fireworks in the area. **Call for updates...**

Ann Kavallian 703.626.9171

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4!
\$ 994,000 & UP
Hollin Hall Knolls
8115 YORKTOWN

GOING FAST... ONLY 2 LEFT of these exquisitely built homes by Long Homes of VA located in heart of Mt. Vernon. EZ access to GW Pkwy, shopping, bike trails, swimming & more. Luxury homes with all the upgrades & options.

Randy Bender 703.906.1749

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 579,000
Alex / Old Town
511 N HENRY ST

NEW PRICE! Great! 1900 comprehensively renovated detached home on a large landscaped lot, parking for 2+. Few restrictions on additional expansion - key-holed outside the historic district. 4 blocks to West Braddock Metro.

Richard Webber 571.329.3401

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8617 Valley Dr
\$549,500
Gorgeous Custom Pool & Grounds!

Spacious two level rambler with bright open floor plan. Expansive glass walls on both levels overlook gorgeous pool and

JUST LISTED

2413 Cambridge Dr
\$547,500
Stratford Colonial!
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JUST LISTED

9115 N. King Dr
\$549,500
Picture Book Cottage - Park Like Setting!

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 619,900
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Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

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\$ 785,000
Alexandria
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Margaret Ruhe 703.599.7527

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\$ 535,000
Alexandria
4614 LATROBE PL

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PEOPLE



Kate Michael and Laura Niswander.



Kristyn Admire and Tom Taylor.



Mary Sparks Sterling and Ruthie Apelt.



Gregory Hunanian and Lana Manitta.

Campagna Center Hosts Bowties And Belles

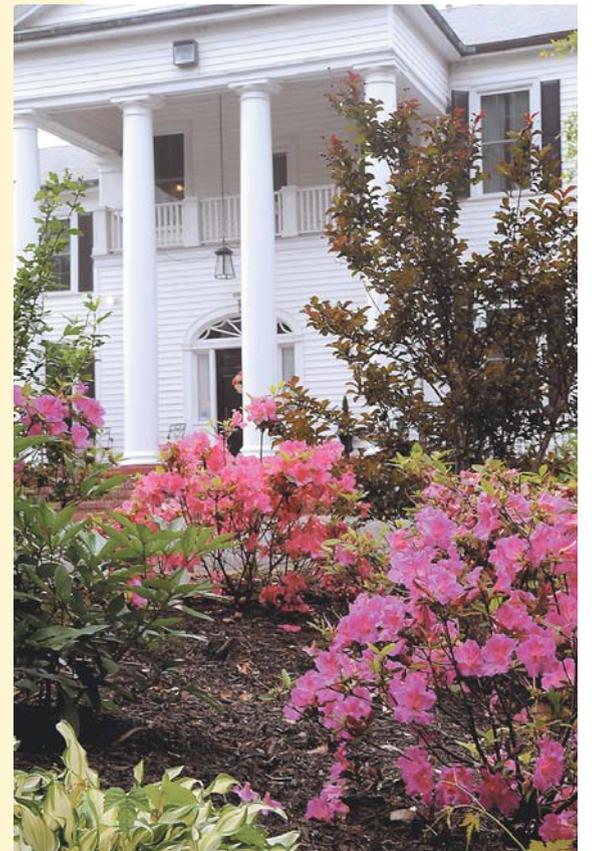
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET



Peggy White, Evie Cartwright and Megan Roberge.



Passport Auto displayed some of the latest model sports cars on the grounds at Collingwood during the afternoon Derby Party.



Junior Friends of The Campagna Center raised funds through its Bowties and Belles Derby Party on May 5 at Collingwood on the Potomac.



Jane Spence, Kim Speed, Anne Colbert and Jennifer Mellon Peterson.



Tracy Score, Eli Peterson, Steve Reidy and Kristin Husak.

THEATER

Don't Miss 'Lonely Planet' at MetroStage

AIDS play never mentions the word.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Like the American city where Steven Dietz's "Lonely Planet" takes place, the disease paralyzing the gay community with fear remains unnamed in the powerful and moving production of the award-winning work now playing at MetroStage in Alexandria.

Told through fanciful, game-playing dialogue, the AIDS play that never mentions the word is a story of two men who ponder friendship and death within the sheltered confines of a map store.

Poignantly realized in the performances of Michael Russotto and Eric Sutton and under the expert direction of John Vreeke, "Lonely Planet" is about two gay friends: Carl (Sutton), a flamboyant man with a vivid imagination and ever-changing occupations; and Jody (Russotto), a quiet and cautious man who lives in fear of venturing outside the map store that he owns.

Afraid to venture out in the world and get tested for AIDS, Jody immerses himself in his maps as Carl turns up time and again



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

MetroStage Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin, left, celebrates opening night of "Lonely Planet" with Michael Russotto, director John Vreeke and Eric Sutton.

toting seemingly random chairs that begin cluttering the shop. With a maddening habit of describing his imaginary jobs, Carl insists on storing chairs there as Jody's frustration and isolation grows.

It is only as the play evolves that Jody and the audience learn that both chairs and occupations once belonged to friends who have died, an increasing reminder of everything Jody is laboring to forget: the horrors of disease and the fact that he has yet to be tested for H.I.V.

"I have wanted to do this play for years," said Russotto at the

opening night reception May 13. "I didn't think I'd ever get the chance but then Carolyn [Griffin] and John called. I've done many shows with John and known Eric for years so this is a dream show for me."

Russotto and Sutton brilliantly sustain a verbal tug of war and create a powerful friendship based on need, comfort and strength.

Sutton is a tornado of energy as Carl, who is trying to memorialize his friends in some way. As the map store steadily fills with chairs, Carl gets Jody to confront his fears and leave the shop to get tested for H.I.V.



Eric Sutton and Michael Russotto in "Lonely Planet."

Russotto's Jody is more subtle and indirect, delivering a performance full of effective silences in his many monologues. The two actors make the friendship credible and engaging.

"Lonely Planet" is perfectly cast with a handsome set by Jane Fink and piercing lighting effects provided by Jessica Lee Winfield, notably in the final scene where Jody returns to his shop to find Carl's favorite chair sitting in the store.

"This is a timeless and universal story, maybe even more important today than it was in 1995," Griffin said.

By examining a relationship be-

tween friends and not lovers, Dietz has crafted a haunting memorial to lives lost, and the MetroStage production of "Lonely Planet," with deep reflections of grief, denial and struggle, is a timely reminder that the fight against AIDS is not over.

With a superb cast and poignant message, "Lonely Planet" is a must-see end to the MetroStage season.

"Lonely Planet" is playing now through June 22 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

FINE ARTS



Caroline Sedgwick, Mieke Baran, Tim Shaheen, Lindsay Stowe, and Rob Kimmitt enjoy the Third Annual Lawrence Miller & Company Kentucky Derby Party at the silversmith shop, located at 121 South Royal Street, Alexandria.

On Saturday, May 5, the studio of local artist Mieke Baran (born and raised in Alexandria) was open to visitors during the Third Annual Kentucky Derby Party at Lawrence Miller & Company, 121 South Royal Street, Alexandria. Mieke's most recent oil-on-canvas paintings focus on various historic townhouses that line the streets of Old Town. Mieke's inspiration for the series is the intense winter light that falls on the brightly painted Old Town houses, where vibrant and defined shadows are cast by barren trees. Mieke has recently studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art, in particular with Washington, D.C.-based artist, Joey P. Manlapaz, M.F.A.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 17

Artist Donald Depuydt. Fusions of lithographs, intaglios, and collagraphs, Donald Depuydt's works include haunting figurative and architectural references, rich textures, and mark making, both precise and spontaneous. At the Athenaeum in Old Town Alexandria.

NOW TO JUNE 3

The Biennial Ikebana Show and Tea Ceramics Exhibit. Reception is May 31, 6-8 p.m. Some 200 ceramic artists from all corners of the United States and Canada turned out to submit various wares associated with the ritual of drinking, serving, and presenting tea. Juror John Neely, ceramic artist and current Professor of Art in Ceramics and Assistant Department Head at Utah State University in Logan, UT, selected 47 pieces created by 33 artists from 19 states and Canada. The Tea exhibit is open now through June 3, but the Ikebana Show does not open until May 31. At The Art League, 105 North Union Street, Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 18

Variations. A photography exhibit featuring new works by Alan Sislen. Opening reception is Sunday, May 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center #312, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.MultipleExposuresGallery.com

NOW THROUGH MAY 19

Word Incarnate. The Gallery at Convergence presents "Word Incarnate" featuring visionary artist Anita Breitenberg Naylor. Come explore as Biblical passages are brought to life and rearranged as visual images to provide a focal point for contemplative thought. Artist's reception is Saturday, May 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260. Visit www.convergenceccf.net.

Mount Vernon's Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour

Mount Vernon's Wine Festival & Sunset Tour celebrates the history of wine in Virginia with exclusive evening tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington," and live jazz on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River. Visitors can bring a blanket and relax on the lawn as they sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 18, 19, and 20, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 per person. Private reserved tables featuring a fruit and cheese platter, three bottles of house wine and VIP table service are available for \$1,000. Visit MountVernon.org or the ticket window at Mount Vernon's Ford Orientation Center. Note: individual tickets for Friday and Saturday are sold out.

Historic interpreters will conduct special candlelit tours of the Mansion throughout the evening. The interpreters will discuss Washington's attempts at creating a vineyard and highlight various wine-related items inside the Mansion, including the basement's brick vaults where Washington stored his wine.

To accompany the wine tasting, Fruit & Cheese Boxes are available by advance purchase for \$26. A variety of hot and cold food and desserts including baguettes, gourmet sandwiches, and specialty sweets will be available on site from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Outside food and beverages are not allowed. Pets are also not allowed. Guests can take home a remembrance of Mount Vernon's Wine Festival and Sunset Tour from the Shops at Mount Vernon, open until 9:30 p.m. each evening.

THEATER



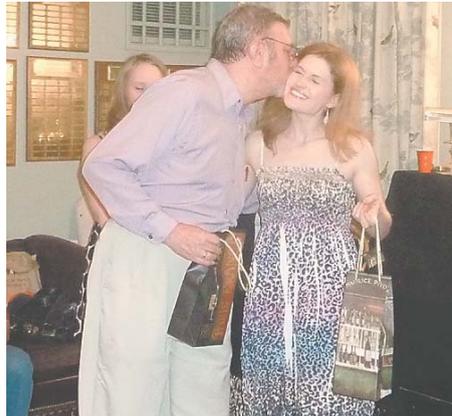
Director Eddie Page, right, is presented with an autographed cast poster by Cheryl Sinsabaugh, Robin Zerbie and Russell Silber at the wrap party for LTA's "Witness for the Prosecution" May 12.



Co-producers Dick Schwab and Carol Strachan celebrate at the May 12 cast party for "Witness for the Prosecution."



Mary Beth Smith-Toomey and Russell Silber at the LTA wrap party.



Co-stage manager Charles Dragonette kisses Robin Zerbie after receiving a gift from the cast at the LTA wrap party May 12.

It's a Wrap!

LTA cast bids adieu to "Witness for the Prosecution."

More than a few tears were shed as The Little Theatre of Alexandria continued its long tradition of hosting a closing night wrap party following the final performance of "Witness for the Prosecution."

"I can't thank Eddie enough for casting such dynamic personalities," said veteran actor Mark Lee Adams of director Eddie Page. "I have never had such a great cast to work with or had so much fun every night."

Highlighted by a parody of the show by the normally behind the scenes producers and crew, the May 12 party recognized the year-long efforts of the all-volunteer LTA production team and cast.

"You have been an amazing group to work with," said Page after being presented with a framed and autographed playbill by the cast and crew.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Mark Lee Adams makes remarks at the LTA wrap party for "Witness for the Prosecution" as Robin Zerbie looks on.



Actors Larry Grey and Terry Gish hold personalized limericks based on their characters that were presented to the cast.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET




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Alexandria Gazette Packet

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAYS

Summer Rehearsals. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. May 23, 30, and June 6, 13. Potomac Harmony Chorus will host a series of open rehearsals at The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Each week through May and June, women (13 years and up) are invited to join the chorus on the risers to learn how to sing four-part a cappella, barbershop harmony style. Call 703-764-3896 or email chorus@potomacharmony.org or www.PotomacHarmony.org.

MAY 17, 23, 31

"Tea" Talk. 10:15 a.m. Experience the world through Tea with your guide, Lee Maguire. Join tea aficionado and Hollin Hall Senior Center Assistant Lee as he leads this four-part series about the world's second cheapest drink. Learn about the history of tea, its role in society, and how it has even changed history. Participate in blind tea tastings and help decide what tea best captures the essence of Hollin Hall Senior Center. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

THURSDAY/MAY 17

Mount Vernon At-Home Gala. 4 to 7 p.m. Includes music, food, auctions and raffle. Tickets are \$35/members; \$40/non-members. Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization that helps seniors 'age in place.' Held at George Washington's River Farm. Advance reservations required; call 703-303-4060 or email info@mountvernonathome.org.

Ascension Day Choral Evensong. 7:30 p.m. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster, will direct the Adult Choir in an Ascension Day Choral Evensong. Donations of non-perishable foods will be accepted for St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., corner of Pitt and Duke Streets in Old Town. Call 703-549-3312, grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

"Pennsylvania Railroad." 10 a.m. Model Railroad Club presents the story of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the history of the famous Broadway Limited Passenger Train, the Pennsylvania Railroad and World War II, and HO display of PRR Locomotives and Cars. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Spring Flower Show. 12 to 3 p.m. Free. At Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8532 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Presented by the Garden Club of Waynewood, which is celebrating 50 years of gardening, education, service and friendship.

Consciously Exploring Your Legacy. 10:30 a.m. Free. Bev Hitchins of Alexandria is a professional organizer who will show seniors how to shed light on clutter so they can let go and move on. At The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call 703-845-5000.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

Tristan. 7:30 p.m. With Justin Townes Earle. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.Birchmere.com.

Mount Vernon Swing Band. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Owen Hammett will conduct the live band. Light refreshments will be provided by Sunrise @ Mount Vernon. Cost is \$4 at the



SUNDAY/MAY 20

Cosmic Quest. 2 to 4 p.m. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present its annual Children's Arts Festival, "Cosmic Quest," at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. in Alexandria. In addition to activities that range from face painting, yoga, and an instrument petting zoo, the symphony will present two concerts featuring selections from Holst's The Planets. Tickets \$5, free parking.

she does this is by providing a platform for local artists to showcase and auction off their work. The office is at 5901 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Suite 300, Kingstowne.

Princess for a Night. May 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Monday, May 21 from 2:15 to 6 p.m. The "Princess" program at Mount Vernon High School (Room H208), 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, allows high school students to shop for prom dresses, handbags, shoes and jewelry — all free. Students will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Katie Basinski, School Social Worker at 703-619-3304 or kbasinski@fcps.edu.

Bra Drive. Bloomers of Alexandria will conduct its annual Bra Drive benefitting the BraRecyclers. The bras are distributed around the world to deserving women and girls in transition. Customers who donate gently used bras will get 20% off a new bra. At 924 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Bloomers' owner Kim Putens (202-297-9090) or kim@shopbloomers.com.

Kelley Cares 5K Run/Walk. 8 a.m. at George Washington Middle School. A fundraiser for the Therapeutic Recreation Program of Alexandria. Registration can be completed online at kelleycares.org. The Kelley Cares Foundation is a mission of love for Kelley Swanson. Call 703-772-0638 or email Lindsey.Swanson@gmail.com.

BPAC Ride. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. Bring a bicycle, water and a sense of adventure. The group will do an 18-mile ride up to D.C. to try out the protected bike lanes on Pennsylvania Ave. and 15th St., NW. RSVP to jonathan@jonathankrall.net

Open House. 4 p.m. With refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. At the Hermitage of Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. RSVP by May 16 at 703-797-3815.

The Planets. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35/adult; \$30/senior; \$10/student. Featuring Kim Allen Kluge, conductor; Carlos Rodriguez, piano; Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2, Holst: The Planets. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Estate Planning and Life Transitions Seminar. 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Free. Presentations by expert attorneys, certified financial planners, stock brokers and others. A catered lunch is

door. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Music for Woodwind Quintet. 8 p.m. Free. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit homepage: www.usafband.af.mil www.usafband.af.mil

SATURDAY/MAY 19

EMS Week Activities. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's theme is EMS: More Than a Job, A Calling. EMS providers will be available with various displays, educational materials for adults covering cardiac and stroke subjects, will provide blood pressure screenings, apparatus displays. At Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-768-3224.

Kingstowne Canvases for a Cause. 2 to 6 p.m. Dr. Nikki Waddell will be holding an Open House to showcase her practice, and her not-for-profit art gallery, Kingstowne Canvases for a Cause. A part of Dr. Waddell's practice is providing a service to the community and one of many ways

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 23

available (\$15 each/\$25 couple) by pre-purchase when you register. Hosted by Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Collingwood at Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit www.aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555.

Lion Chef Invitational. 7 to 10 p.m. Professional and amateur chefs alike will compete using the "not-so-secret" ingredient: lemons, in five categories: cocktails, appetizers/soups, main course, dessert, and African dish. Funds raised by the event will be used to support the programs in FHSSA, which focuses on expanding access to palliative care services in Africa. At the Madison Building Atrium of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria. Call 703-647-5167 or visit www.fhssa.org/lionchef2012.

Boutique's Give Back

Charity Day. Some 30 retailers from the Old Town Boutique District and 30 charities will be participating. On this day, retailers will create an activity or promotion in their stores that would benefit that charity of choice. To be held at participating stores in the Old Town Boutique District. A listing of shops and charities is at www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

Sidewalk Sale for ALIVE. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. On South Payne street between Commerce and Prince Streets, Old Town Alexandria. Rain date Sunday, May 20. Donations are welcomed. Bring to the Ice House, 200 Commerce St., Saturdays May 5 and 12 from 9-5 p.m., Sundays May 6 and 13 from 1-5 p.m. Call 703-684-1430 or email alivehouse@alive-inc.org or more information and for pick up of large items. A fundraiser to benefit ALIVE! House Women's Shelter. Continuing Education for Seniors. 9:30 a.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 13.

St. Rita Parish Festival. Free. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., games, raffles, food, white elephant, clowns, moonbounce and dunk-the-priest. At the parish parking lot at 3815 Russel Road, Alexandria.

Talk on School Desegregation. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join AARP, NAACP, DOVE, and Urban League of Hampton Roads at a "School Desegregation: Learn, Preserve, and Empower" event. At Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Registration is required. Call 1-877-926-8300.

Fort Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Soldier-led tours of historic Fort Ward will be held in honor of Armed Forces Day. The tours will feature museum staff member Kevin Moriarty in Union uniform, providing an orientation to the defenses of Washington and a guided tour of historic Fort Ward, one of the largest of the forts that guarded the Federal capital during the Civil War. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. 3 p.m. Cost is \$20. Presenting Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto with violinist Marlissa Del Cid, Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 6, and 2011 Composition Competition Winner Jonathan Kolm's Renewables. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Visit www.wmpmusic.org.

Spring Virginia Native Wildflower Sale. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Native trees, shrubs, ground covers, ferns and wildflowers will be for sale by the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Visit www.vnps.org or call 703-642-5173.

Historic Huntley Re-opens. A rare architectural gem, Huntley House, located at 6918 Harrison Lane in Alexandria, will open to the public on Saturday, May 19. This is a significant accomplishment after the property, which was acquired by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1989, sat vacant for many years waiting for funding to enable historic restoration. The house is a federal period villa built in 1825 for Thomson Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. Historic Huntley was used as a summer retreat, troops of the 3rd Michigan infantry camped at Huntley during the Civil War and later the property was farmed. It changed ownership several times, and in later years, after being abandoned, it suffered considerable vandalism.

Kathie Truitt Book Signing. 1 to 4 p.m. Alexandria author Kathie Truitt will sign copies of her book, False Victim, at Books A Million, 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Woodbridge.

MAY 19 AND MAY 20



SUNDAY/MAY 20

Family Walk for Childhood Cancer. Noon to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation. Speakers and family activities: crafts & games, 26 ft. rock climbing wall, LEGO build tables and train display, football and soccer clinics, Zumba, food from Clyde's, magic show, games, learn to juggle clinic, face painting, nail art, balloon animals, fantastic raffle prizes, moon bounce, and a walk around the track to benefit Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation and fund a ChildLife Specialist position at Georgetown University Hospital. Admission is \$25/adult; \$15/children. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School Campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. More Information and to Register: www.mattiemiracle.com OR https://www.mattiemiracle.com/Cancer_Walk_2012.html

p.m. Cost is \$15/person; \$10/students. Join President James Madison in Gadsby's historic Assembly Room as he discusses and engages guests about political and personal issues of 1812. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

Family Walk for Childhood Cancer. Noon to 4 p.m. Speakers and family activities such as arts and crafts, cooking demonstrations, magic show, 26 ft. rock climbing wall, games, raffles, and a walk around the track to show support for the cause. To benefit Mattie Miracle Foundation and fund a ChildLife Specialist position at Georgetown University Hospital. Admission is \$25 Adults/\$15 children. Includes T-shirt. At St. Stephen's upper campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.mattiemiracle.com

Women's Day. 11 a.m. Featuring the Rev. Dr. Jean Robinson-Casey. Lunch will be served. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-836-7332.

Jazz at Meade. 4 p.m. Donation is \$15. Featuring Kenny Sanders and Friends. At Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-1334 or visit <http://www.meadechurch.org>.

Marty Nau Jazz Trio. 3 to 5 p.m. Will be performing at Paul Spring Retirement Community, 7116 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Admission is free and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Call 703-768-0234.

Workshop on How to Prune Trees, Shrubs and Perennials. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.. Join Master Gardeners, Tree Stewards, and VCE Extension Agent Kirsten Buhls at a workshop that provides hands-on experience in pruning small trees and shrubs and deadheading/cutting back perennials. Bring your own pruning tools (hand pruners, lopping shears, pruning saws) if available. At 2416 Ridge Road Drive, Alexandria. To register, call 703-228-6414 or visit www.mgnv.org.

The Songs of Bob Dylan. 7 p.m. A Hungry for Music benefit featuring Chatham Street, Tim Bracken, Willie Barry and Rod Deacey. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beaugard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

Spring Concert. 7 p.m. The Wakefield Chorale will present its annual Spring Concert — 30 Years of Song with "Our Music Man." Tickets available at door. At the Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, NOVA Community College. Call 703-451-7917.

MONDAY/MAY 21

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

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Free. John Philip Colletta will present "Turning Biographical Facts into Real Life Events. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Information about the meeting, the Research Center and MVGS can be found at <http://www.MVGenealogy.org>. Call Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

Agenda: Alexandria. "A Fireside Chat with New City Manager Rashad Young" Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception at 6:30 p.m., dinner (members with reservations by May 15: \$28; with reservations after deadline: \$33; without reservations: \$38/non-members with

Tea With Martha Washington. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Here is your chance to experience history with Martha Washington as she discusses 18th-century tea customs as well as clothing and dancing of the period. Party attire requested. \$25 per person, \$20 each for groups of 6 or more with reservations. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4739.

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Stories and Music in the Garden. 4 to 6 p.m. Set amid an enchanting boxwood garden, Stories and Music in the Garden offers lively storytellers, entertaining musicians, and delicious refreshments for kids of all ages. At Fort Hunt Preschool, on the grounds of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com or call 703-768-7584.

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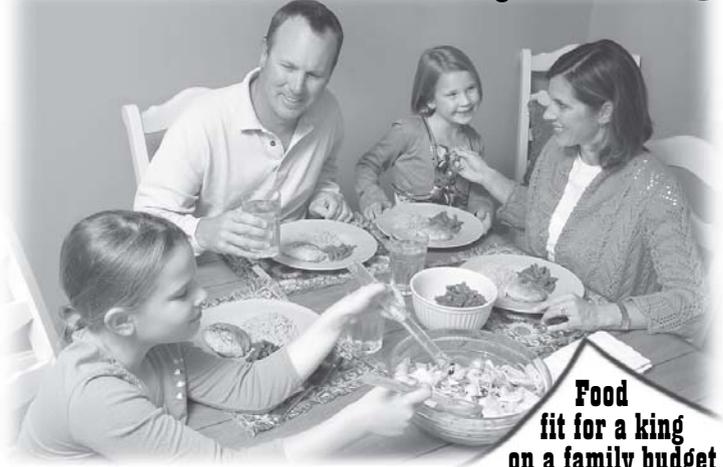
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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 29

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

intendents and school boards throughout the state, and together, we increased federal investments in education.

One achievement I am particularly proud of is the Teacher Tax Relief Act. Working together in a bipartisan fashion — Democrats and Republicans — and working with teachers in Virginia, we were able to enact a federal tax law that provides our educators with an above-the-line tax deduction for the expenses they incur to benefit their students.

I am running for the City of Alexandria's School Board because I believe that a first-rate city like ours deserves a first-rate school system. We are moving in the right direction and parents, teachers, principals, staff and others are leading the way.

While ACPS has recently been in the news for the wrong reasons when it comes to our capital improvement budget and our adult education program, we should be proud of the fact that more and more of our schools are now fully accredited and that overall reading, writing and math test scores are up at the elementary and high school levels.

Certainly, much work remains. But, this week in particular, let us show our appreciation to all of the mothers and teachers in Alexandria. I am living proof that you make a serious, positive impact in the lives of young people.

Chris Yianilos
Alexandria
Running for School Board in District B

Now It's Up To Voters

To the Editor:

The marathon City Council hearing on May 12 for the Beauregard Small Area Plan (BSAP) was a great win for the developers and the City's planning staff. But at what cost to the community, when the pervasive problems of traffic and transportation were ignored?

One wonders if we should even waste time holding such "public hearings" in the future — for things like the City Council, the Planning Commission and the Transportation Commission — if the outcome is a foregone conclusion. All three turned a deaf ear to anyone who said there are serious flaws in this plan that need to

be addressed before the carte blanche approval is given. And the courageous effort of Councilwoman Alicia Hughes to seek a deferral to address these gaping holes in things like the HOV Ramp, the Ellipse, the lack of adequate recreational amenities and Open Space for the enormous flood of people expected, got an equally cold shoulder response from her colleagues.

What is most troubling is the rejection of the idea that renters deserve a right to be a part of this City, but the vote said no, we only want up-market townhouse and condominium residents to live here. This was never about "subsidized" housing, but about "workforce" housing. Hundreds of families and their children will be displaced, in spite of the many years they have lived here. Would the Council have been as eager to destroy huge chunks of wealthy enclaves like Seminary Hill, Del Ray, Beverly Hills and the Waterfront as they were for the neighborhoods of the West End that will face this onslaught of traffic, congestion and density? Obviously the Council and the two commissions learned nothing from the after

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

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Council Approves Development Over Bitter Opposition

FROM PAGE 1

Supporters of the plan say it represents the free market at work, with a lack of housing supply in Alexandria leading to sharply increased demand. The deal that was finally struck after the daylong public hearing sets aside 800 units of dedicated affordable housing for those who meet the income requirements, although opponents pointed out that the city has yet to conduct a tenant survey. One of those opponents was Democratic City Council candidate Boyd Walker, who compared the Beaugard plan to urban renewal.

“Working in the African-American community, I have learned that they still call it black removal,” said Walker. “So what should we call what’s happening today? I have a suggestion: Latino removal.”

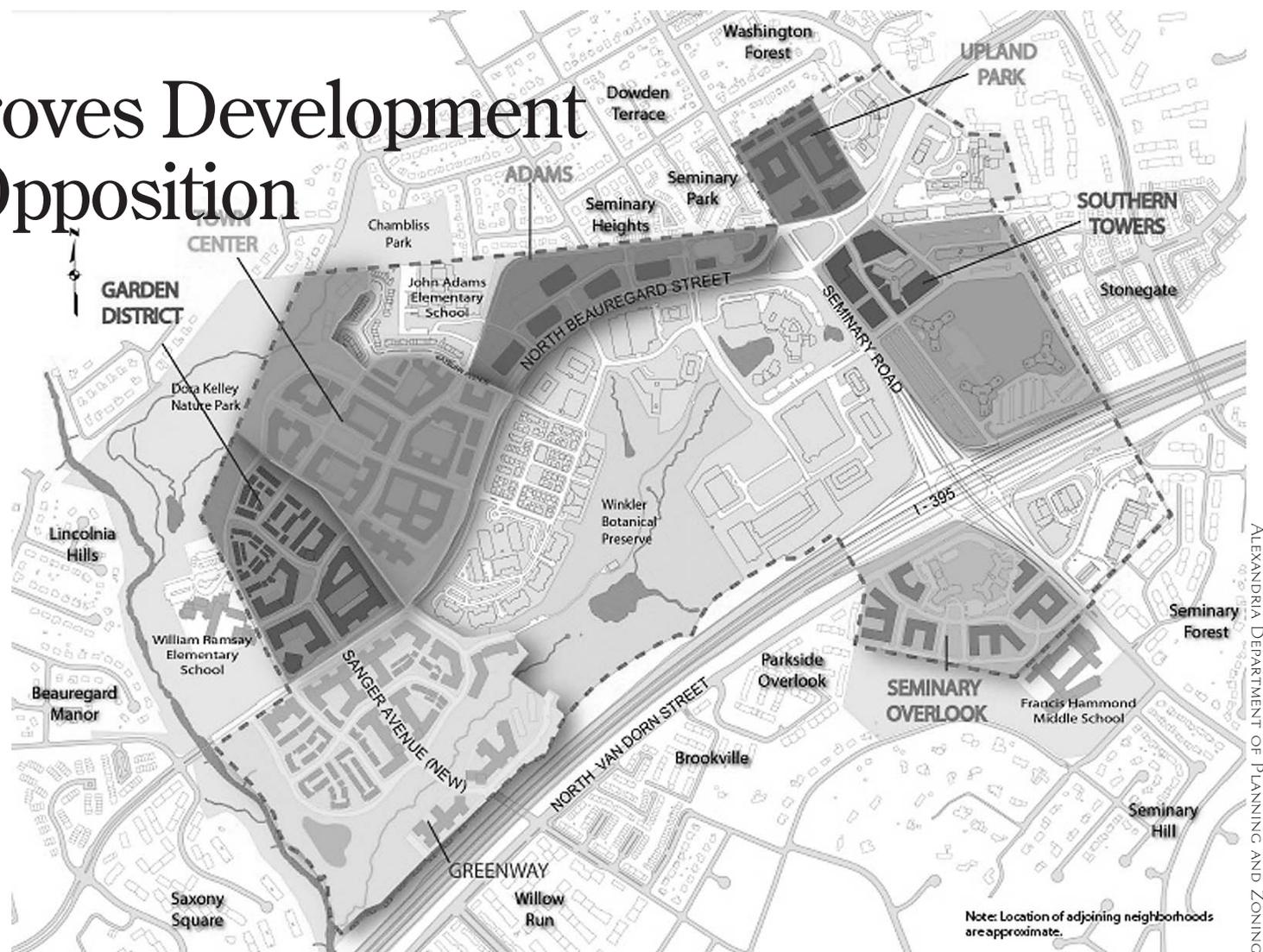
Vice Mayor Kerry Donley took issue with the characterization

“For you to stand up here and say that this is Latino removal is absolutely ridiculous,” said Donley. “You know, I will tell you, you are asking us to turn down a plan, well that is a guarantee that all that market-rate affordable housing will be gone.”

LIKE THE STREET that bears his name, Confederate Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beaugard was difficult to manage. The hothead rebel couldn’t get along with superiors, and now the small-area plan named in his honor may be sparking its own Civil War in Alexandria. The 30-year proposal covers a sweeping 400 acres west of Shirley Memorial Highway, including almost 200 acres of land slated for redevelopment. The vision of the plan is to create “a series of new urban neighborhoods” with housing that is connected by transit.

“This is one of the most significant transit-oriented smart growth plans the city has ever done,” said Councilman Rob Krupicka.

The plan adopted last weekend will more than double the density of what’s there now, increasing from a low-slung 6 million square feet of existing development to 12.4 million square feet of new development. Upzoning the properties will significantly increase the



The Beaugard small-area plan identifies seven distinct neighborhoods that will be part of future development.

value of the land, benefiting the land owners and developers. In exchange, city officials are getting \$154 million to build a new fire station, pay for transit infrastructure and create dedicated affordable housing units. That wasn’t enough to silence critics.

“From the waterfront to Beaugard, we see a troubling pattern,” said Bob Wood, Republican candidate for City Council. “Once again, there is an apparent rush to failure in the planning process that makes no sense to most citizens.”

CENSUS DATA indicates this part of the city has some critical differences from other neighborhoods. While 24 percent of the city is foreign-born, 43 percent of the Beaugard area is foreign-born. While 57 percent of city residents are renters, 86 percent of Beaugard residents are renters.

And the median household income in Beaugard is \$59,000 compared to \$80,000 in the rest of the city. Opponents of the plan repeatedly called for a survey so city officials knew the income of people who live here so they can make sure the affordable housing options won’t be displacing the city’s most vulnerable citizens. Some estimate that as many as 5,000 city residents will be displaced by the plan.

“This is a watershed moment for the City Council,” said Ernie Lehman. “This could be called the Alexandria tenants trail of tears.”

Aside from affordable housing, one part of the plan that prompted criticism was a new traffic ellipse at the intersection of Seminary Road and Beaugard Street. Transportation planners say they are concerned about the safety of the triple left turn

lane from Seminary onto Beaugard. So the plan calls for a traffic ellipse to allow drivers exiting the Interstate to stay in the right lane to get to the Mark Center, where more than 6,000 new employees work at the new Washington Headquarters Service. City officials say they considered a traffic circle, but that doesn’t store enough cars waiting to get into Mark Center.

“It seems very convoluted to me,” observed Councilman Paul Smedberg.

Now that City Council members have adopted the small-area plan, more steps are needed before the transformation of the West End can begin. First, there’s the survey of existing tenants. Then City Council members must approve zoning changes. Ultimately, the developers will have to secure development special-use permits before demolition can begin.

A Divided Slate of Democrats

FROM PAGE 3

Liss, who recused himself from voting in the selection because he is married to candidate Victoria Menjivar. “Alexandria needs champions of working families that will put the needs of people first, and these four candidates will do just that.”

Democrats for a Better Alexandria may have started the trend. Months ago, prominent Democrats Jack Sullivan and Doratheia Peters began talking about forming a group and announcing a slate of candidates. The other PACs emerged since then, indicating

deep divisions among Alexandria Democrats. In a press conference at the Royal Restaurant earlier this month, Democrats for a Better Alexandria endorsed a slate of candidates that tried to bridge the divide between candidates who support recent development proposals and ones who have been critical. Their list of six candidates is Chapman, Lovain, Moshenberg, Peabody, Walker and Wilson.

“We were looking for candidates with intellectual heft,” said Rod Krukro, a member of the PAC. “And we wanted to make sure they had diverse backgrounds.”



All 14 candidate participate in a forum last week hosted by the NAACP, New Latino Movement, Tenants and Workers United and the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/ GAZETTE PACKET

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-Thomas Fuller

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 25

reservations by May 15: \$33; after deadline: \$38; without reservations: \$43) at 6:45; program (\$5 non-members) 7:15. Dinner reservations required. For information or reservations, email agendaalexandria@aol.com or contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089.



THURSDAY/MAY 24

Civil War Concert. 7 p.m. Free. Featuring the Washington Revels Heritage Voices at Fort Ward's Amphitheatre. Their repertoire of Civil War music includes military and patriotic songs, African American spirituals, and popular folk tunes from the period. Fort Ward Museum and Park is located at 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

1964 The Tribute. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. A tribute to the Beatles live. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.1964site.com.

Alexandria Running Festival. Half marathon at 7:30 a.m. 5K at 8 a.m., and children's race. Register on-line at www.mc-coop.org/arf or call 703-927-4833. Race-day registration opens at 6 a.m. near Eisenhower Avenue Metro, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

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

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

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

Author Talk. 7 p.m. Come and hear local author Chet Nagle speak about his book, *The Woolstorters' Plague & The Iran Covenant*. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Dr. John in Concert. 7:30 p.m. At The Birchmere. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.Birchmere.com.

Contribute to Time Capsule. Youth up to age 18 are invited to submit an essay or art work representing the present day library. Submit on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Entries should be submitted at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Entries will be placed in the time capsule to be opened in 50 years. Deadline to enter is June 1. Call 703-768-9840.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

"We're Still Here: Celebrating an African American Community at Fort Ward." 1 to 4 p.m. Free. A commemorative program recognizing the post-Civil War African American community known as "The Fort" at Fort Ward. Program held on the front lawn of Fort Ward Museum, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave site of Clara Adams, a matriarch of the community who was born on June 2, 1865. The program continues in the Park amphitheatre where public remarks will include an overview of the history of "The Fort" families, remembrances of and reflections on daily life in the area by individuals who lived on the site or whose ancestors resided there, and a performance by the Oakland Baptist Church Choir. Fort Ward Park is at 4301 West Braddock Road.

Volunteer Training. Curious about early American medicine and health? Then consider volunteering as a tour guide at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary in historic Old Town Alexandria. The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, at 105-107 South Fairfax Street, is hosting a new volunteer training June 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Volunteers can complete an application online through www.apothecarymuseum.org or email Michele.longo@alexandriava.gov. Visit www.apothecarymuseum.org or call 703-746-3852.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Vendors Wanted- Successful DC Saturday market now seeks vendors for the big show Sat June 16th rainout June 30th DuPont area heart of DC next to Whole foods can handle up to 100 vendors-antiques/ woodcraft's-artists/specialty boutiques-food artisans-apply DC-marketplace.com 571-432-9998

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21 Announcements

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Major General, U.S. Army, Retired, William H. Moncrief, Jr.

August 16, 1921-April 10, 2012

William Henry Moncrief, Jr., Major General, was born 16 August, 1921 in Denver, Co. and died at The Fairfax, Fort Belvoir, Va. on April 10, 2012. His younger brother, Col. John A. Moncrief, M.D., preceded him in death in 1977 following a career in burn surgery and research. MG Moncrief attended Vanderbilt University and graduated from Emory University School of Medicine, with post graduate work at Barnes Hospital, Fitzsimons General Hospital and Walter Reed General Hospital. He was board certified in general surgery and thoracic/cardiovascular surgery. Over 31 years military service, MG Moncrief served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. A graduate of the National War College in 1966, MG Moncrief was detailed to the State Department where he oversaw the civilian health program in the Republic of Vietnam for USAID and was senior advisor to the RVN Ministry of Health. MG Moncrief then served as Commander, Brooke General Hospital, Letterman Army Medical Center, and finally Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He received the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters.

Following retirement from the Army in 1973, Dr. Moncrief practiced general and thoracic/vascular surgery in San Francisco Ca.. A strong patient advocate and sponsor of external oversight of quality of care, he served as president of state and national peer review organizations including the California Medical Review, 1984-1987, and the American Medical Peer Review Association, 1988-1991. He retired to Durango Colorado in 1995 where he hunted and fished, and was an avid reader of history, political science, health policy as well as anything on Scotland where he traveled regularly with his lady, Ms Dale Gibb, Alexandria, Virginia. He retired to The Fairfax near Fort Belvoir in 2006, spending much time in Old Towne where he regularly marched in the Scottish Walk, attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church and enjoyed Wolfe Street neighbors.

He is survived by his children Jeff Moncrief of San Diego, Laura Grady of Burlingame, Calif., Candace Anderson of San Francisco and Scott Moncrief of Temecula, Calif.; and six grandchildren. A son, Stephen, preceded him in death in 1960.

Burial with full military honors was at Arlington National Cemetery on May 15, 2012 at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please support Planned Parenthood's work at the local or national level.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 26

math of BRAC, on how bad planning leads to bad outcomes.

The one good outcome of the Council vote is that it will make it much easier for voters to wade through the 14 candidates on June 12 Primary list when they go to vote for Council candidates. Cross-over voting is allowed so Republicans and Independents can join Democrats to give momentum to a desperately needed shift in outlook and priorities. Given the clear record of positions of all candidates on the BSAP, Waterfront, Arlandria and Corridor C (and A & B), skip all those candidates supported by developers and lobby-

ists and look instead to the new faces and new ideas for a Council that needs a “reality check” along with balance and fairness. Pick new people far more responsive to citizen input. The old mantra, “Alexandria never met a developer they didn’t like,” still resonates. Come to the last debate on June 4 at George Washington Middle School so you know exactly how each candidate would impact your neighborhood and your City. Vote absentee if you can’t vote in person on June 12. One person — and one vote — can make a difference for our City.

Kathleen Burns
Alexandria

Legal Notices

ABC LICENSE

Linda June Harkness trading as Tasteful Affairs Catering, 5700 J. General Washington Dr, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed Beverage Caterer Limited license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Linda June Harkness.

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

ABC LICENSE

Yvonne H. Le trading as Yvonne's Hair and Nails, 8643 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Day Spa license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Yvonne H. Le, owner

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that the 2012 ASCO Annual Business Meeting will be held on June 6, 2012, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM (Central Standard Time) at the Hyatt McCormick Place, Regency Ballroom, 2233 South Martin L. King Drive, Chicago, IL 60611. Members with questions can call 571-483-1316.

Major General, U.S. Army, Retired, William H. Moncrief, Jr.

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Legal Notices

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He is survived by his children Jeff Moncrief of San Diego, Laura Grady of Burlingame, Calif., Candace Anderson of San Francisco and Scott Moncrief of Temecula, Calif.; and six grandchildren. A son, Stephen, preceded him in death in 1960.

Burial with full military honors was at Arlington National Cemetery on May 15, 2012 at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please support Planned Parenthood's work at the local or national level.

Notice of AVAILABILITY For Public Comment

Proposed Construction Project - Nutrient Management Facility Alexandria Renew Enterprises

The Alexandria Renew Enterprises proposes to construct and operate a Nutrient Management Facility (NMF) on land west of the existing Water Resources Recovery Facility located at 1500 Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria, Virginia. The NMF is needed to meet the new permit requirements for total nitrogen developed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The NMF would consist of large, concrete, rectangular holding tanks, a pump station, an odor control system and the electrical facilities to power the new equipment. The tanks would have a total capacity of 18 million gallons and would be arranged within a partially buried, large rectangular concrete structure. The NMF structure would measure approximately 260 feet by 415 feet. An athletic playing field and related amenities for public use would be constructed on top of the tanks. The loan request is \$5.127 million.

In accordance with the Procedural Guidelines for the Virginia Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund, Alexandria Renew Enterprises has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action. The EA evaluates potential environmental and human health effects associated with construction and operation of the NMF and athletic field at the proposed location.

The EA has been submitted to state, and local agencies for review and is available for public review at -

Alexandria Renew Enterprises
1500 Eisenhower Avenue,
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Written comments will be received and considered up to 30 days from the publication of this notice, and should be directed to -

Karen Pallansch, CEO
Alexandria Renew Enterprises
1500 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

A public hearing is scheduled as part of our June 19th Board Meeting,

June 19, 2012 @ 6pm

Alexandria Renew Enterprises
1500 Eisenhower Avenue
Room J-104
Alexandria, VA 22314

Growth That Isn't Smart

To the Editor:

If elected mayor in November, I will change the kind of planning process that brought us the waterfront plan, Beauregard plan and the proposed \$500 million Potomac Yards metro station. The current approach assumes growth is always good and more growth is even better, and that all new development will make Alexandria more livable.

I am a conservationist, and I'm not opposed to all development. However, I am quite concerned about what Alexandria's current mayor and planners call smart growth. The development plan for the area around the Winkler Preserve that Council approved on Saturday has too many uncertain and incompletely studied benefits — and costs — to be called a sustainable roadmap for our future by any objective measure.

Supporters say that without more density — a mere 6 million more square feet — we will also lack the additional tax revenue needed to help pay for 800 units of affordable housing, a new transit system, more parks, more trees and a new fire station. If it sounds too good to be true, I think it is. Residents have clearly shown that many of the community benefits, like the transit improvements and plan to preserve affordable housing, are unlikely to work very well. For instance, if we can't negotiate some short-term relief for lower income residents, then many will be forced out within the next 13 months or so. For another, congestion is likely to increase significantly, despite the improvements, including a multi-million dollar traffic circle at the intersection of Seminary and Beauregard, and state-funded HOV ramp designed to link I-395 with BRAC-133.

Yet this is supposed to be a transit-oriented project that will make the area greener and more livable than it already is. Isn't that the goal? Many residents though aren't so sure that the improvements will actually improve what is already a green urban oasis, and when they voice their concerns, as they did on Saturday, the response from the mayor and other council members was: So, what you suggest we do? As mayor, I would start by making sure that these issues are examined more thoroughly, with the support and input of the community.

Time and time again, the City says that taxpayers will have to pay little or nothing for all these new “benefits,” which will be paid for incrementally with new tax

revenue generated by the density. I think poorly planned growth like Beauregard is likely to be a net drain on the City's general fund that will require us to either to raise taxes or cut services, or both.

The City is addicted to density because it appears to pay for the benefits we either want or need, like a new park or a new grocery store, if the population rises, and not add to our unsustainable debt levels. But if we are not careful, all it may do is make Alexandria a lot less livable. We must be much more careful about what we expect from developers and what the real costs and benefits are to every taxpayer in Alexandria.

Density by itself is not a vision for the future. Nor is smart growth, if the objectives are not clearly defined, and the community is shut out of the planning process. So, how about we start doing some real long-term planning that includes the community? How about we stop pushing density and take a hard look at all the assumptions behind this rush to grow bigger? How about we elect some new members of Council who won't rubberstamp any more of this smart growth?

Andrew Macdonald
Independent for Mayor of
Alexandria

Endorsing Newcomers

To the Editor:

On April 30, 2012, I resigned as president of the Alexandria League of Women Voters, although I remain a member, as I have been for many years now.

I felt I should do something different and do it within the structure of the Democratic Party, which has always been my political home. I think these are gloomy days, but one strong ray of sunshine is that this year Democratic Council candidates will be chosen in a primary on June 12. This makes it 1000 times easier to participate than was true with the old caucus system. Caucus voters had to go to one location in the city and there was no possibility of absentee voting.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Gazette Packet
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Game On

George Mason University students develop video games aimed at curtailing gang recruitment in Virginia.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Law enforcement officials now have two unlikely weapons in the fight against gang activity in Virginia: video games and college students.

Students in the Computer Game Design program at George Mason University partnered with Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's office to create video games designed to show children the consequences of joining a gang. The result of the collaboration is a series of interactive and educational computer games and mobile phone applications designed to reduce gang recruitment. The games were unveiled earlier this month on the George Mason campus in Fairfax.

"Gangs are constantly working to recruit new kids to replace those going to jail and getting killed. Their recruitment techniques are evolving, even to the point of using online gaming and other technologies. We have to work even harder to stop them," said Cuccinelli. "The goal of this partnership with GMU is a novel approach in the war against gangs to beat them at their own game."

Students enrolled in the university's GAME 232 Online Gaming and Filesharing course presented game proposals to Cuccinelli's office. The attorney general's staff selected three:

- ❖ "A Second Family," created by Michael Katz, Romel Ramos and Brandon Miller. The game tells the story of Justin, who is trying to fit in at a new school and becomes involved with some questionable people. He is forced to rely on his friends and mentors



PHOTOS BY ALEXIS GLENN/GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Seth Hudson, assistant director of the Computer Game Design Program at George Mason University, plays a game created by Mason Game Design students in Dewberry Hall at Fairfax Campus in Virginia. The students created interactive and educational games aimed at teaching kids about the risks of joining gangs.

to overcome these negative influences.

- ❖ "Influenced," created by Austin Fain, Tiffany Nguyen, Con Son and Lamesha Coley. In this game, the player chooses vari-

ous scenarios in which he or she can either help or betray members of the local community, and influence the impact gangs have on the community.

- ❖ "New Kid on the Block," created by Stephen Berrigan, Steven Fernandez, Devin Gibson, John Murphy and Daniel Paquette. In this game, the player has just moved to a new town and has to assimilate into a new school. He or she must make the right decisions and find a trustworthy group of friends.

THE GAMES ARE TARGETED at middle and high school students. "This is an attempt to reach kids using devices that they already have in their hands," said Arlington resident and George Mason adjunct professor Matt Randon. "The kids are already addicted to these devices so we have a better chance of reaching them with our message."

During the course, Randon, who also works as an English teacher in Manassas, taught students about the history, practice and design of online games and smartphone applications. Throughout the semester, the

students developed written scripts and storyboards, art and sound design, programming, coding and musical compositions.

"I wanted the game to be fun for the player while teaching them about gang violence and how it can be harmful. Finding that balance wasn't easy, but ... we were able to create a game that's educational, but

also fun to play," said Daniel Paquette, who helped design one of the games.

THE GAMES will be available for mobile download free of charge by summer 2012. The games will also be available on the attorney general's website, as well as

the websites for George Mason University, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, and Virginia Rules.

"Games have a pretty bad reputation in the media. What I hope this project shows people is that the greatest asset of games is that they make learning fun ... which is a talent school systems around the world should look into," said Stephen Berrigan, lead writer and narrative designer for "New Kid on the Block."

"I wanted the game to be fun for the player while teaching them about gang violence and how it can be harmful."

— Daniel Paquette



Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli plays a game created by George Mason Game Design students in Dewberry Hall at Fairfax Campus. The students created interactive and educational games aimed at teaching kids about the risks of joining gangs.

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SCHOOLS

Future Teacher Honored

Jessica Raugitinane, a graduate of T.C. Williams High School, has been honored by the Alma Exley Scholarship Program, which promotes greater diversity in the teaching profession.

Raugitinane is a junior in the five-year Integrated bachelor's and master's program at the University of Connecticut, where she is pursuing a triple major in Elementary Education, English and Spanish and a minor in Latino Studies.

A consistent dean's list student, she has an outstanding record of public service in education. She has taught in the Dominican Republic with International Student Volunteers, and has served as a tutor, mentor or teacher's assistant in schools in Connecticut as well as in Alexandria, and Washington, D.C.

Raugitinane joins 22 others pre-



Jessica Raugitinane

viously honored in the program, which has awarded approximately \$50,000 in scholarships since its inception in 1996.

At Kennedy Center

FROM PAGE 3

"I see the whole metamorphosis, watching students grow physically and musically," said Jones. "Middle school students are very stimulated kids, and classical music means keeping them focused; we can be in the middle of rehearsal on the stage of the Kennedy Center and their minds might wander to the pizza dinner."

Performing at the Kennedy Center is a first for Jones and the 57 students who take part in the orchestra. "This is my first time going to the Kennedy Center, and I'm a performer," said sixth grader

SCHOOL NOTES

Sam Jones, a senior at T.C. Williams High School, received the Christopher Newport University Theatre Guild Music-Theatre/Dance Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to the most promising incoming theatre student who intends to concentrate on musical theatre/dance. He will enter CNU this fall.



The Alexandria City Public Schools' Strategic Plan is one of only 15 programs to receive a first-place honor in the Magna Awards 2012, co-sponsored by American School Board Journal, the National School Boards Association and Sodexo School Services to recognize "school board best practices and innovative programs that advance student learning." Created by the Alexandria City School Board, the five-year ACPS Strategic features high-quality preschools, a focus on special education, individual achievement plans for students, a richer array of course offerings, increased accountability of school employees and the adoption of a rigorous

Spring Concert

The award-winning George Washington Middle School Orchestra will perform its spring concert June 13, 7:30 p.m. at the school.

Zazhary Khan, who plays the bass.

The evening's repertoire included "The Badinerie" by J.S. Bach, "Gypsy Rover" by Elliot Del Borgo, "The Sleeping Beauty" waltz by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and "Caribbean Festival" by Edmund Siennicki.

"Not many middle school kids play at the Kennedy Center," said Will Milone, a seventh grader who plays the violin.

new curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking and project-based learning.

The following Alexandria residents are among the 506 cadets who were recently named to the Deans' List for the first semester of academic year 2011-12 at the Virginia Military Institute.

Nicholas V. Engle - A recent graduate from Alexandria who majored in International Studies.

Alex K. Haitzuka - A recent graduate from Alexandria who majored in Economics/Business.

Kenia R. Hurtado - A sophomore from Alexandria is majoring in International Studies.

Min K. Jung - A senior from Alexandria is majoring in Civil Engineering.

Ryan F. Schaedel - A senior from Alexandria is majoring in Physics and Applied Mathematics.

Ray D. Montolin - A sophomore from Alexandria is majoring in International Studies.

Daniel Paul Baylog of Alexandria is among nearly 1,700 University of Nebraska-Lincoln recognized April 22 in conjunction with the All-University Honors Convocation. Baylog, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, will be honored as a High Scholar.

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BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

With two on and two out in the sixth inning of the ISL AA softball tournament final, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes pitcher Alexis Sargent induced what appeared to be an inning-ending groundball from Flint Hill's Emily Davine. The Saints had a 6-0 lead and seemingly little to worry about as the ball rolled along the infield dirt.

What started as a routine grounder, however, didn't end that way. Instead of the third out, a Saints error allowed a run to score and kept the inning alive.

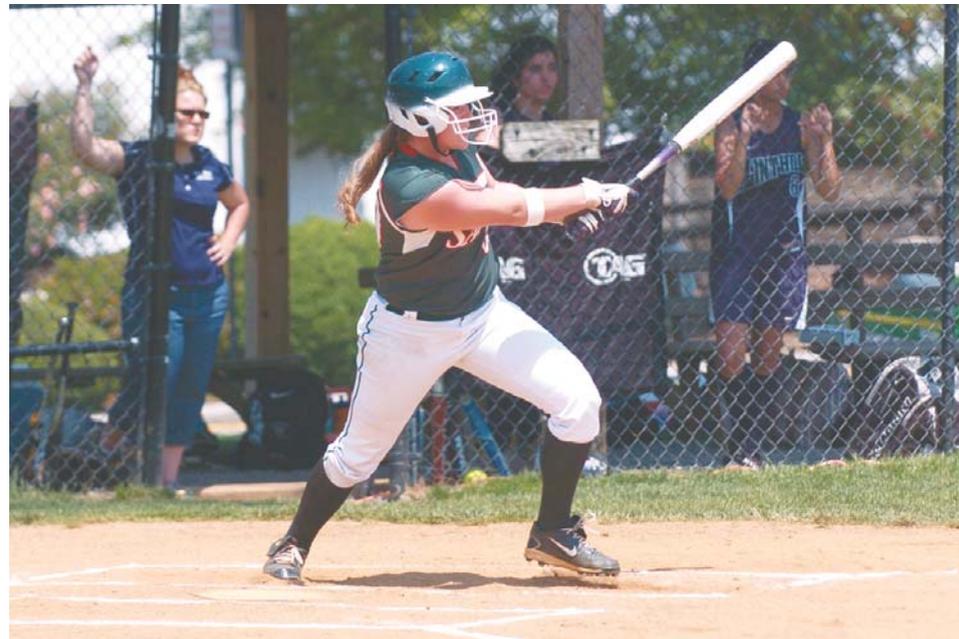
The ensuing batter, Michelle Webber, produced a two-run single, followed an RBI single by Michelle Abt and a four-pitch walk to Ashli Everstine. Sargent finally retired the Huskies with a strikeout, but Flint Hill had made things interesting with a four-run frame.

In previous seasons, Sargent might have melted down under the pressure she put on herself to carry the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes softball team. A teammate's mistake combined with giving up back-to-back hits might have been enough to make her crack.

Not anymore.

Now a junior, the University of Pennsylvania commit remained composed. Rather than stress over the four runs, Sargent stepped to the plate in the bottom of the sixth and got two of them back.

Sargent drove in a pair of insurance runs with a sixth-inning single, helping the Saints



Alexis Sargent went 4 for 4 with five RBIs, leading the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes softball team to the 2012 ISL AA tournament title.

secure an 8-4 victory over the Huskies on May 13 at Flint Hill School. One year after losing to Georgetown Visitation in the tournament final, the Saints won the AA tournament title and an outright regular season championship in the same season for the first time in school history.

"It's a lot different than last year," Sargent said. "I think I've grown a lot, personally. Last year, I kind of freaked out ... but this year I stayed calm and we stayed together as a team instead of falling apart and I think that's why we pulled this out in the end. We all showed a lot of heart. ..."

"Physically, there's not too much more I can do, but mentally I'm maturing not only off the field but on the field and realize that my teammates have my back and that it's not all on my shoulders. That I have a great

team to back me up and that they're going to help me get through it."

SSSAS head coach Stephanie Koroma said she notices a difference in Sargent.

"She's definitely matured a lot in terms of her ability to rebound and bounce back after she gives up a hit or after the fielders make an error," Koroma said. "She's done a much better job, too, of realizing she doesn't have to shoulder everything upon herself and to rely on her teammates."

Sargent may have grown comfortable with relying on her teammates, but she certainly did plenty to help them. A first-team all-state selection, Sargent finished Sunday's game with 13 strikeouts and did not allow an earned run. At the plate, Sargent went 4 for 4 with five RBIs.

"[O]n both sides of the ball," Koroma said,

"she was awesome."

Stone Ridge intentionally walked Sargent three times in the tournament semifinals. Flint Hill chose to pitch to Sargent and paid for it.

No. 00 belted an RBI single in the first inning, delivered a two-run double in the third, singled in the fifth and drove in two with a single in the sixth.

"It was definitely a relief after three intentional walks yesterday that I got to see a couple pitches to hit," Sargent said. "I love to hit and I love being able to help my team out. It meant a lot to me and I'm glad I could do it."

Sargent's college decision came down to Penn and the University of Iowa. In the end, the benefits of an Ivy League education outweighed the opportunity to play Big Ten softball.

"I just realized, in the long run, academics are going to mean a lot," she said. "Being able to attend the Wharton Business School, there's nothing like it out there. That was the game-changer."

SSSAS first baseman Taylor Heasley will also be playing college softball. The senior will attend Ohio Wesleyan University.

"I originally had started off with a list of 25 schools that I was being recruited by, so I visited all of them," Heasley said. "I went back to OWU three times and I met the coach, I stayed with the team and it seemed like the best fit for me. They were all so welcoming and it was a big fit academically."

Against Flint Hill, Heasley finished 3 for 4 with a triple, a double and four runs scored. Emma Luparello went 1 for 3 with three RBIs. Allison Buch went 2 for 4.

The victory improved the Saints' record to 19-3-1, including an undefeated record against ISL opponents.

TC Boys' Lightweight 8 Wins State Championship

The Brother's Cup, a silver chalice that stands about two feet tall and is awarded annually to the fastest lightweight crew in the Commonwealth of Virginia, has a new home — T.C. Williams High School.

The Cup was captured by the T.C. Williams boys' lightweight 8, a squad of nine athletes whose drive, focus and workmanlike attitude throughout the 2012 rowing season helped propel them to victory at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship, which was held on the Occoquan Reservoir this past Saturday, May 12.

The Titan rowers, who took first place in their last race two weeks ago at the Charlie Butt Regatta in Georgetown, claimed the Cup and the Championship this past weekend in convincing fashion, winning with a time of 4:55.90 — nearly six seconds faster than runner-up Woodson.

Members of the TC boys' lightweight 8 include: coxswain Brian Comey and rowers Cody Brooks, Ethan Vannatta, David Salmons, Chris Porter, Constantine Ivanis, Sam Zickar, Mitchell Youmans and Ben Blakeslee. The lightweight 8 is guided by Pete Stramese, the head coach of the T.C. Williams boys' crew team.

The Brother's Cup was not the only hardware TC rowers brought home on Saturday. Of the seven boats raced by the Titans at the Virginia State Championship, four came away with medals on the day. The strong performances were highlighted by the boys' varsity 4, which won a bronze medal in the afternoon final, a race that saw them cross the finish line less than .30 seconds behind second-place finisher St. Albans.

Also winning bronze for T.C. Williams at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship were the girls' second 8, who finished with a time of 5:47.74 against a very competitive field, and the boys' junior 4, who crossed the finish line in a hard fought contest with a time of 5:46.53.

The T.C. Williams crew team will race next at the Stotesbury Regatta, which will be held this Friday and Saturday, May 18-19 on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia and is the oldest and largest high school rowing competition in the world. The TC crew team is guided by Stramese and girls' head coach Mercedes Kiss.

For the complete schedule and more information about T.C. Williams Crew, visit www.tcwcrew.org or www.facebook.com/alexandria.crewboosters.



Members of the T.C. Williams boys' lightweight 8 hoist the Brother's Cup above their heads following their victory at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship on May 12. Members of the lightweight 8 include: coxswain Brian Comey and rowers Cody Brooks, Ethan Vannatta, David Salmons, Chris Porter, Constantine Ivanis, Sam Zickar, Mitchell Youmans and Ben Blakeslee. The Lightweight 8 is guided by Pete Stramese, the head coach of the T.C. Williams boys' crew team, who is on the right.

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NEWS



The Crystal City Potomac Yard transit corridor crosses from Arlington into Alexandria at Four Mile Run.

Seeking Solutions to Transit Border

FROM PAGE 1

could work.”

LOVAIN ESTIMATES the project would cost about \$40 million, half of which could be picked up by the Federal Transit Administration under the Small Starts program. If Arlington were willing to kick in \$5 million to \$10 million, Lovain said, Alexandria might be willing to pay for the rest, estimated at \$10 million to \$15 million. Arlington would get to have its valuable streetcar line terminate at a Metro, and Alexandria would get federal funding for a pilot streetcar project.

“It sounds like a great idea, although I’m not prepared to support it right now,” said Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey. “I think we are going to work something out. Whether this is it or not, I don’t know.”

For years, Arlington County Board member Chris Zimmerman has been one of the leading advocates of creating a regional streetcar system. Since Alexandria leaders learned that Arlington officials decided against participating in a joint study with Alexandria on Small Starts funding for the Crystal City Potomac Yard transit corridor, Zimmerman has declined to return calls for comment. His aide said that he would be declining to participate in this story after receiving written questions from Connection Newspapers.

“For Mr. Z, the Columbia Pike corridor is where his heart is,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. “So it seems to be that he sacrificed one for the other.”

ARLINGTON’S DECISION to opt out of an optional alternatives analysis on the Crystal City Potomac Yard transit corridor leaves Alexandria leaders scrambling to come up a new plan of action, and opinions are divided on the campaign trail about whether or not Lovain’s plan is the best course. Several council candidates applauded the proposal as a creative solution to the stalemate between the two neighboring jurisdictions. Former Councilman Justin Wilson said he supports Lovain’s plan in principle, although he wants to make sure that Alexandria is not distracted from finishing its own transit corridor to the Braddock Road Metro.

“Arlington and Alexandria are in a game of chicken right now,” said Wilson. “Both sides are looking at the funding options.”

Several Alexandria City leaders say that Arlington County acted in bad faith by inviting Alexandria to be part of an alternatives analysis that the county ultimately decided against pursuing. Now the ball is in the city’s court, and several are urging against moving forward with Lovain’s solution. Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, for example, says the city should abandon the concept of streetcars altogether — at least for now.

“We can’t afford it,” said Hughes. “It is unrealistic, and to the extent that we try to make it reality, a tax bill that is more than unduly burdensome on Alexandria taxpayers, which is irresponsible.”

WHEN ASKED about Lovain’s proposal, candidates in the Democratic primary for Alexandria City Council had a range of responses. Sean Holihan praised the idea as an “original solution” that encourages regional cooperation while Boyd Walker said he thinks the city should consider abandoning the Potomac Yard Metro in favor of investing in a streetcar system. Several of the candidates criticized Arlington leaders for opting out of the alternatives analysis for the Crystal City Potomac Yard transit corridor. Arlington County Board Chairwoman Mary Hynes declined to return calls for comment.

“I don’t think it’s fair for Arlington to wait until the last minute that they aren’t going to be participating in this,” said John Taylor Chapman. “The original agreement was 50/50, and so I think we should hold out for Arlington to pay for half of this.”

Melissa Feld said she’s not sure she would support Lovain’s proposal because she’s not sure Alexandria would be getting enough out of the bargain. Sammie Moshenberg said she wasn’t sure the community has had enough input into the process, pointing to other recent decisions that she says have lacked a clear mandate from citizens. Allison Silberberg said Lovain’s suggestion was a “win-win” solution that should be seriously considered in Arlington and Alexandria.

“I give Tim a lot of credit for coming up with this,” said Silberberg. “If it works well, we can see if expanding streetcars is something we want to look at in other parts of the city.”

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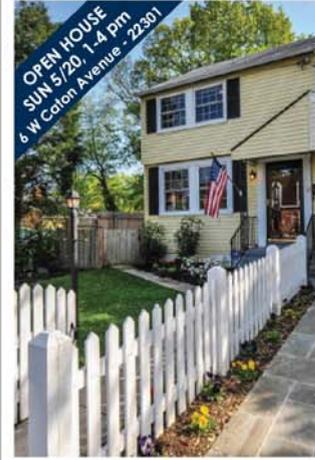
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