

Randolph Returns to Titans

Coach missed final six games of 2011 season due to cancer treatment.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Exhausted, emotional and uncertain, Dennis Randolph entered the unknown as he exited T.C. Williams High School on Sept. 24. TC was four games into the 2011 football season and Randolph, the school's head football coach and assistant athletic director, had nothing left to give. One day earlier, the Titans lost to South County, dropping their record to 1-3 as a once-promising season plummeted toward the program's 21st consecutive campaign without a trip to the postseason. Randolph's inability to push forward, however, had nothing to do with wins and losses or X's and O's. The 58-year-old's health was failing. What started with dark urine, extreme fatigue and thoughts of dehydration in early August had transitioned to a chilling diagnosis: pancreatic cancer.

Doctors found a tumor on Randolph's pancreas after the season's second game. He coached two more before leaving the program and his duties as assistant athletic director in need of treatment. According to Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results data from the National Cancer Institute, the five-year relative survival rate for white male pancreatic cancer patients from 2002-2008 was 5.4 percent.

"When I walked out of here that Saturday (Sept. 24), I never knew if I was coming back," Randolph said. "I never knew if I would see this place again. ... It was such an emotional moment for me to hand my keys off — that alone was emotional — and to walk out these doors and to think, 'I don't know if I'll ever see this place again in my life.' I could have got a death sentence ..."



T.C. Williams head football coach Dennis Randolph, 59, is back on the field after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer during the 2011 season.

One year later, Randolph's doctors tell him he's cancer free. After surviving surgery, complications due to infected blood and five months of chemotherapy, Randolph, 59, is back for his sixth season as T.C. Williams head coach. His absence affected the program in multiple ways, but after a 3-7 finish to the 2011 campaign, the Titans are hoping adversity faced last season will make them stronger in 2012.

"I thank God every day that he decided he has something in store for me other than being part of that 95 percent of the people that don't make it a year," Randolph said. "I wouldn't [have] even [had the chance] to see this football season."

ALONG WITH DARK urine and fatigue, Randolph appeared jaun-

dice early in the 2011 season. His tired face caught the attention of an official, who asked Randolph about his health prior to Titans' second game of the season at Westfield on Sept. 10. After the game, a 28-13 TC loss, Randolph's yellow complexion and eyes caught the attention of his daughter, Alyson, who told him he needed to see a doctor.

The following day, Randolph went to after-hour care in Falls Church and was told he might have hepatitis A. He received an IV and was told to see his primary care doctor. On Wednesday, Sept. 14, Randolph had a sonogram and an MRI, which led doctors to three potential reasons for the coach's jaundice

SEE CANCER-FREE.
PAGE 23

Blitzkrieg Election

Lightning campaign pits longtime elected official against progressive newcomer.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

This week, Democrats will determine their candidate in a special election blitz campaign that offers little time for voters to learn much about their options. One is a longtime elected official who recently lost a Democratic primary for the Virginia state Senate. He enjoys the endorsement of a host of elected officials. The other is a progressive newcomer who wants to shake things up in conservative Richmond. She has the endorsement of Del. David Englin (D-45), who announced his resignation back in June after acknowledging being unfaithful in his marriage.

"Being endorsed by the guy who has resigned his seat is not exactly the greatest endorsement," said Geoff Skelly, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Poli-



Karen Gautney



Rob Krupicka

tics. "It's not like Democrats are particularly enamored with Englin at this point."

Democrats have been buzzing about the potential for a special election since Englin first announced he would not seek a fifth term back in April. By the time he finally announced that he would resign his seat in June, two Democrats had already emerged as rivals. In his written statement formally announcing his resignation at the end of August, Englin launched the campaign with a full-

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 3

Rosemont Crime Wave

Two detectives assigned to investigate growing trend of theft from vehicles.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Lock your doors. That's the message from the Alexandria Police Department, which is currently engaged in an effort to address a growing trend of thefts from vehicles in the

Rosemont neighborhood. Sgt. Michael Kochis says the vast majority of victims do not bother locking their car doors, giving criminals easy access to GPS devices, portable electronics and even loose change.

SEE THEFT, PAGE 4





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School Crunch

This week marked the first day of school at Mount Vernon Community School, which has about 100 more students than last year. It was also the first day of school at Tucker Elementary School, which has about 100 more students than last year. When the rest of the city's schools open after Labor Day, Alexandria is preparing for a massive crunch.

"It's a good problem to have," said Superintendent Morton Sherman. "It means we have a city that's young and vibrant and full of families sending their children to public schools."

In the last four years, John Adams Elementary School and Mount Vernon Community School have increased more than 200 percent. Ramsay Elementary School, James K. Polk Elementary School and Maury Elementary School have all increased more than 100 percent in the last four years.

"This year, we are looking at record Kindergarten classes in Alexandria," said City Councilman Rob Krupicka, who is also a member of the Virginia Board of Education. "We're also seeing a rise in sixth graders, and I think part of that is that we're seeing the first piece of population boom that started about six or seven years ago because those Kindergartners that started the boom are now in sixth grade."

The City Council has already approved funding for three new schools. But Sherman says two new additional schools are needed on top of that, potentially adding as much as \$90 million to the city's capital-improvement plan.

"I will be talking very publicly about the need for another elementary school on the east side near Potomac Yard and on the west side near Landmark," said Sherman. "We need these new schools, and we're going to need them soon."

Special Anger

In politics, as in life, timing is everything.

That's why Democrats are hopping mad with Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell. On Monday, the governor issued a writ of election to fill the seat of Del. David Englin (D-45), who announced his resignation back in June after acknowledging being unfaithful in his marriage. Many Democrats expected the governor to call for a special election to coincide with the November general election, when historic numbers of Democrats will head to the polls in Northern Virginia to support the reelection of President Barack Obama.

But that's not what happened.

Instead, the governor's action this week sets up a schedule forcing both parties to determine their candidates by Saturday. And the special election has been scheduled for Sept. 4, a date many Democrats say will live in infamy.

"What we have now is an election on the day after Labor Day on the first day of school that is going to cost the combined jurisdictions of Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria around \$50,000 to run a separate election," said Alexandria Democratic Committee chairman Dak Hardwick. "That just boggles the mind."

A spokesman for the governor disagrees.

"If we didn't hold them quickly enough, they'd be putting out press releases saying Bob McDonnell is dragging his heels and if we do hold it quickly they'd be putting out press releases saying he's moving too quickly," said Tucker Martin, the governor's press secretary. "The reason they say these things is because these are Democrats in an election year trying to get a couple of little points."

Strange Bedfellows

What do the ACLU and the Libertarian Party have in common? They both believe that Virginia's law forcing people who collect ballot petitions to be Virginia residents is unconstitutional. And, according to U.S. District Court Judge John Gibney, they're both right. This week, he struck down the law, which created problems for several Republican presidential candidates this year.

"This ruling affirms that people from out of state may greatly contribute to the political discourse in Virginia," said Rebecca Glenberg, legal affairs director for the Virginia ACLU.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

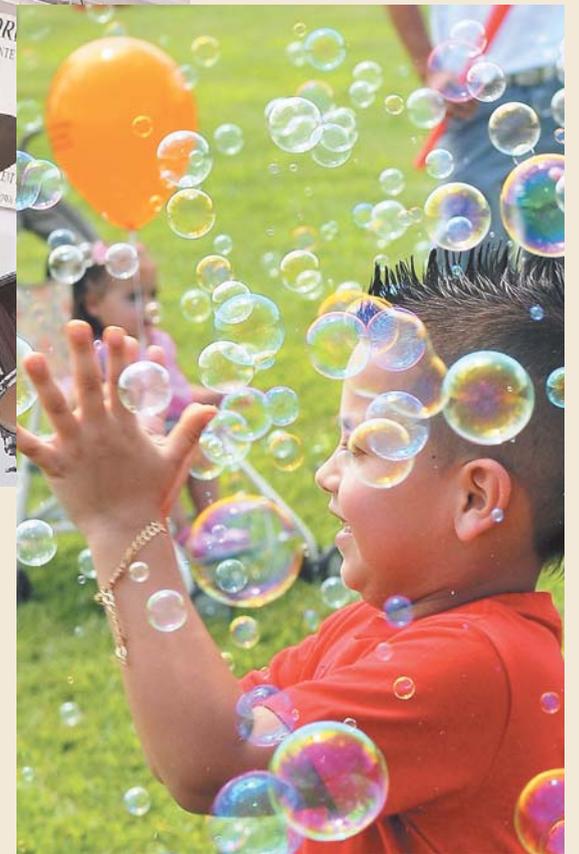


The La Furia Band warms up for a set.

Gathering at Arlandria Chirilagua Festival

Tenants and Workers United hosted the 12th annual Arlandria Chirilagua Festival at Four Mile Run Park on West Reed Avenue on Sunday, July 29. Musical entertainment filled the stage throughout the afternoon and evening. Vendor tents surrounded the field offering games, crafts, services and refreshment.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Roxana Hernandez's young son plays in the bubbles at the annual Arlandria Chirilagua festival on Sunday afternoon.

Democrats To Choose Delegate Candidate

FROM PAGE 1

thoated endorsement of civil rights leader Karen Gautney.

"Karen faces an uphill battle and needs your help now," Englin wrote in his farewell address, a fundraising appeal for the Gautney campaign. "I urge everyone who has stood with me over the years as your delegate to stand with Karen Gautney now and do everything you can to ensure she is the Democratic nominee for this seat."

THE CHOICE now before voters is a referendum on recent leadership. Krupicka has been a strong supporter of the controversial waterfront plan as well as development issues that have caused hours of divisive public hearings at City Hall. Many of those issues were debated last summer, when Krupicka battled then-Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) and Arlington School Board member Libby Garvey. Ebbin is now in the state Senate, and Garvey is now on the Arlington County Board. Krupicka is also looking for a promotion.

"I need Rob as a partner in Richmond so that together we can take on the radical right-wing agenda that is pulling Virginia backwards," Ebbin wrote in an endorsement issued Wednesday.

Both Democrats are trying to position themselves as a counterbalance to Republicans in Richmond, although the candidates come at it from different angles. Gautney says she will be a progressive force in Richmond who will be able to use her experience to achieve results even though Democrats are in a deep minority. Unlike Krupicka, she also uses her status

as a political newcomer to present herself as a fresh alternative to the current crop of elected leaders in Northern Virginia. When asked what the biggest difference between herself and Krupicka, Gautney is blunt.

"I'm not a career politician," she said. "And I've spent my whole life fighting bullies."

IF ELECTED, Krupicka said he would like to focus attention on early childhood education. That's been an ongoing theme of his years in politics over the last decade, although one in four children in Alexandria remain without a quality pre-Kindergarten experience. Krupicka also said he would work to give the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission more revenue authority, reducing the role of the Virginia Department of Transportation. That could mean that the commission would be able to create new taxes, although Krupicka would not endorse any specific proposal.

"That would have to be part of a package," said Krupicka. "I want to move away from VDOT determining our destiny."

On the issues, Krupicka and Gautney share many of the same values. But their priorities are different. If elected, Gautney says she would work against restrictions on abortion providers, encourage state leaders to cooperate with health-care reform efforts and promote increased transparency for citizens to have access to police documents.

"Our default has become withholding information, which is backwards," said Gautney. "The police should operate in the public interest, and the public interest is transparency."

Police Investigate Growing Trend of Theft from Vehicles

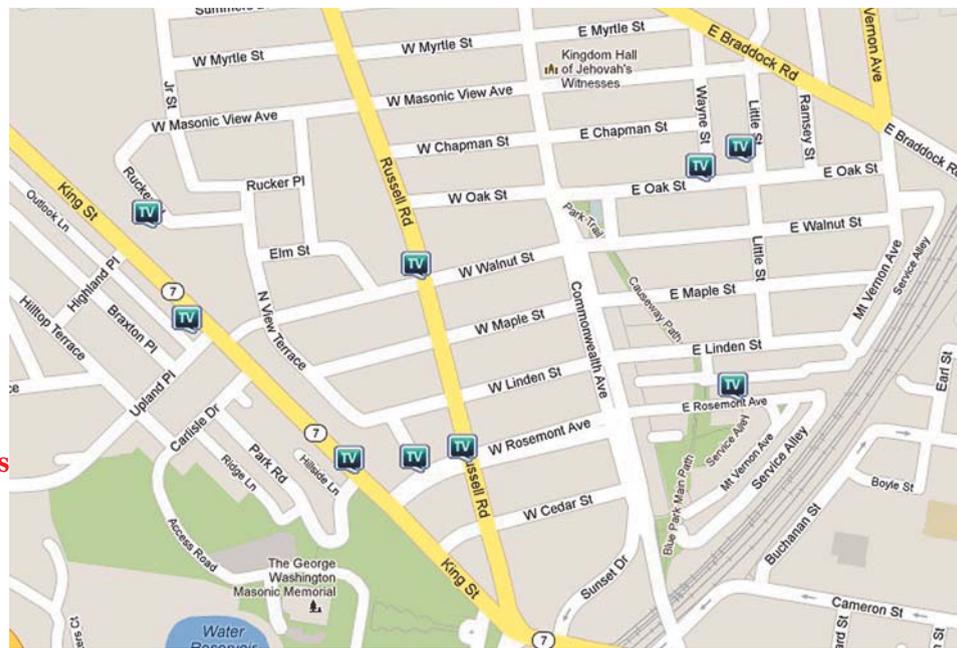
FROM PAGE 1

“Citizens should really lock their doors,” said Sgt. Michael Kochis, who works in the detective bureau, “They are targeting unlocked cars.”

“Both detectives are out there every single day beating the pavement and running down leads.”

— Sgt. Michael Kochis

Kochis says police have logged about a dozen or so incidents in the last two months, including nine in the last month. Two full-time detectives have been assigned to the case, and they are currently trying to determine if the incidents are related or a series of unrelated crimes of opportunity. Summaries of incident reports released by the Alexandria Police Department show a variety of items stolen, including iPods, digital cameras, GPS units — even a parking sticker was stolen from one unlocked car parked on West Rosemont Avenue on



Police say criminals in Rosemont are targeting unlocked cars.

July 10.

“We’re still gathering all the evidence and putting the case together,” said Kochis. “Both detectives are out there every single day beating the pavement and running down leads.”

SUMMERTIME USUALLY brings more

crime, although recent crime trends in Rosemont are higher than normal. When police officials appear before the Rosemont Citizens Association, they always make a point of reminding residents to lock their doors, although sometimes efforts fall on deaf ears.

“We always get the lecture from the po-

Recent Thefts From Vehicles in Rosemont

- ❖ July 7 at 10:12 a.m. on East Rosemont Avenue
- ❖ July 9 at 9:12 a.m. on Rucker Place
- ❖ July 10 at 9:29 a.m. on West Rosemont Avenue
- ❖ July 10 at 11:11 a.m. on King Street
- ❖ July 16 at 10:03 a.m. on East Oak Street
- ❖ July 16 at 1:30 p.m. on North View Terrace
- ❖ July 17 at 6:45 a.m. on West Walnut Street
- ❖ July 24 at 11:40 a.m. on King Street
- ❖ July 25 at 3:46 a.m. on Little Street

lice about locking our doors,” said longtime Rosemont resident Katie Cannady. “Most of the times I lock my car but sometimes I don’t. “Good luck to anyone who wants to go through all the junk in my car.”

Longtime Rosemont residents say crime has been a concern for many years, with criminals becoming increasingly brazen. Longtime neighborhood resident Anne Shine said her house has been burglarized and a car was stolen right out of her garage. More recently, the back window of her car was bashed in during an unsuccessful burglary attempt.

“I’m not sure how much good it does to lock the doors because they just try to get into the locked car anyway,” said Shine. “This stuff seems to happen in waves, and I’m not sure if it’s the weather or the economy. I tend to think it’s the latter.”

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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The 2012-2013 officers and board members of the Rotary Club of Alexandria pose for a photo after the installation ceremony July 10.

Rotary Installs New Officers

Petniunas takes reins as 85th club president.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Rotary Club of Alexandria formally installed Raymond V. Petniunas as the 85th club president at the July 10 meeting at Belle Haven

Country Club that also recognized the 2012-2013 slate of officers and board members.

“Many say that Rotary clubs are composed of old men and their fathers, and they just meet for lunch,” said Petniunas, who has been a member of the club since 2003. “I SEE ROTARY, PAGE 21



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Before making a school shopping trip, take time to view what schools recommend for parents and students at: acps.k12.va.us. For a complete list of eligible items under the tax holiday, including clothing, visit: tax.virginia.gov.

Tax Holiday This Weekend Exempts School Supplies

By MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

A sharp new wardrobe, a perfect notebook, and a new school year go hand in hand. Back-to-school shopping is a yearly tradition for students and parents, and this weekend marks the seventh year of Virginia's school supply tax holiday. From Aug. 3-5, back-to-school shoppers can purchase select items tax-free and save 5 percent off their ex-

penses. Such items include index cards, notebooks, binders and backpacks. Art supplies will also be included, such as paints, brushes, musical instruments and accessories. Clothing, as well as shoes, is also included among tax-free items.

"This is by far the oldest tax holiday; anyone can participate," said Joel Davison, a spokesman for the Virginia Department of Taxation. "The General Assembly looked at this as a way to help consumers, it's also a boom for the business community."

Tax-free shopping helps consumers and business alike. While customers save off their total purchases, businesses can expect to see an increase in foot traffic and total sales. "We are busy all the time; back-to-school weekends are always busy," said Yaya Alvir, shift manager at the CVS Pharmacy on Monroe Ave in Del Ray. "Sometimes we have additional sales on school supplies."

Although there is a wide swath of items on sale during the tax holiday, tax-free shoppers should be aware of what is and is not

eligible. The complete list of items can be found at the Virginia Department of Taxation website. Holiday shoppers should also make sure to check what their schools recommend.

"As far as what student needs, parents should visit the school website and see what is recommend. There is a wealth of information for how parents decide how they want to spend their resources," said Kelly Alexander, a spokesperson for Alexandria City Public Schools.



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Tom Dolan, CEO, Tom Dolan Swim School;
Cheryl S. Beebe, Cardinal SVP & Market Executive.



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8728 Thomas Stockton Pkwy Alexandria, VA 22308



The Market is Moving... Are You?



Uncrunching Credit

As members of the Alexandria City Council enjoy their summer recess, elected officials turn to their day jobs. For Councilman **Frank Fannon**, that means trying to close some mortgage loans for SunTrust Bank — if he can.

Fannon says the global financial crisis that emerged in 2008 created a backlash against lending that has created excessive regulation.

He acknowledges that some of the new regulations were needed because the market was flooded with loans to people who could never repay them. But he also says some of them are choking business, limiting banks from making legitimate loans.

“We have lots of retired people here in Old Town who have an \$800,000 house and a \$300,000 mortgage and \$2 million of investments,” said Fannon. “But if they don’t show an income stream, then they can’t qualify for a loan.”

The new rule, which is part of the Dodd-Frank Act, sets up an income-to-debt ratio that Fannon says is unrealistic. Many people who have a high net worth but little or no income are unable to get loans under the new rules, which are administered by Fannie Mae.

As a result, Fannon says, changes need to be made to loosen up lending practices so that people who have an ability to repay loans can get the credit necessary to invest in the economy.

“This happens with self-employed people all the time because they write off a lot of their business expenses,” said Fannon. “They end up getting the loan denied.”

Underage and Undercover

This week, undercover agents will be dispatched into about two dozen stores in Alexandria. The volunteer agents, who are between the ages of 18 and 21, will be looking to buy alcohol. It’s part of a quarterly sting operation to find businesses making illegal sales of alcohol to underage consumers.

“The point of this is to maintain awareness,” said Capt. **Chris Wemple**, commander of special services. “We want to remind people that it’s their duty to have staff trained and complaint with the law.”

The operation starts with a letter, informing business owners of the upcoming compliance check. Then police issue a press release informing the public. Wemple won’t say when and where the compliance checks will happen, but he says the department will eventually release the list of businesses that were found out of compliance with the law. Penalties can range from \$2,000 to a year in jail.

“We don’t want a place to have a reputation as an easy mark,” he said.

‘Love on Tap’

For those who are old enough to enjoy a taste of alcohol, this month marks the first-ever Craft Beer Month in Virginia.

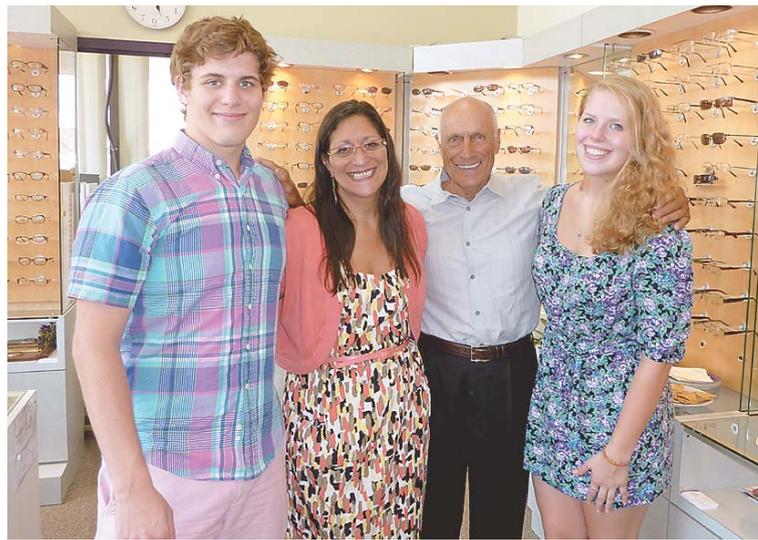
“Critically acclaimed craft breweries are thriving all over the commonwealth, from Arlington to Abingdon,” said Gov. **Bob McDonnell** in a written statement. “A growing craft beer community in Virginia generates tourism, manufacturing, agricultural production and much needed jobs.”

The theme of the first-ever Craft Beer Month is “Love on Tap,” a nod to the commonwealth’s well-known marketing slogan proclaiming “Virginia is for Lovers.” The Virginia tourism office has created a new interactive map to help locate craft breweries open for tastings and tours, including two Alexandria locations — Port City Brewing Company in the West End and Hops Grill Brewery in Potomac Yard.

“The Virginia craft beer scene, combined with our 220 wineries, makes Virginia a top destination for culinary travelers looking for true local flavor,” said **Rita McClenny**, president of the Virginia Tourism Corporation. “Our craft breweries are found throughout the state and are ideal places for people who love local beers, outdoor adventure and exploring small towns and cool cities.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS



Nancy Benjamin, second from left, celebrates the 25th anniversary of Brahm Opticians July 26 with her children, twins Kyle and Kalie Benjamin, and father Andy De Prete.



Customer Carolyn Graham has some fun trying on sunglasses at the 25th anniversary reception at Brahm Opticians.

The Eyes Have It

Brahm Opticians celebrates 25 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Nancy Benjamin was 16 years old when she decided that she wanted to be an optician. Beginning as an apprentice, she aggressively studied and worked to earn the credentials necessary to make her professional dream come true — owning her own business. Benjamin not only achieved that dream but on July 26, celebrated the 25th anniversary of Brahm Opticians, an independent optical store that has been fixture of the West End business community.

“I knew early on this is what I wanted to do,” said Benjamin at a reception celebrating the milestone. “I have had great support from the community as a small business owner trying to raise a family on my own. I would not have this success without the help of a lot of people over the years.”

Located on the ground floor of the medical building at 4660 Kenmore Ave., Brahm Opticians thrives against chain retailers by focusing on personalized customer service. “I can’t tell you how many pairs of glasses Nancy has done for me,” said longtime customer and City Councilwoman Del Pepper. “There

isn’t anyone better than Nancy and she is a huge asset to Alexandria’s small business community.”

Brahm Opticians stocks a broad array of glasses and lenses for adults and children and Benjamin is known for making the extra effort to track down specialty lenses or frames for her customers.

“I won’t get my glasses anywhere else,” said Carolyn Graham, who playfully tried on several pairs of glasses during the celebration. “Nancy not only has a successful business, but she goes above and beyond in sharing that success with those less fortunate in the community.”

Benjamin, a board member of the West End Business Association, dedicates a substantial amount of her time to philanthropic efforts. She provides financial support and donates eyeglasses to those unable to procure them on their own through the Lion’s Club, T.C. Williams High School, the Alexandria Scholarship Fund, Alexandria Crew Boosters and Help the Homeless. For her service to the community, Benjamin was recognized as 2011 nominee for the city’s Salute to Women Award.

“I have worked hard but also know how fortunate I have been,” Benjamin said. “I have the support of my family and the best customers in the world. Without them, I wouldn’t be here today.”

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Brahm Opticians is offering \$25 off any pair of glasses now through Sept. 30. For more information, call 703-751-2800 or visit brahmopticians.com.



City Councilwoman and longtime customer Del Pepper, left, congratulates Nancy Benjamin on the 25th anniversary of Brahm Opticians.



Brahm Opticians owner Nancy Benjamin, left, gets a congratulatory hug from customer Jeanette Chisolm.

LIVING LEGENDS

Helping Preserve History

Joe Shumard: From George Washington Birthday Parade organizer to president of Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association.

BY MAX ROTERMUND

In Alexandria, Joe Shumard's name and the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Parade are almost synonymous. He is considered the lifeblood of this annual event, the largest such event in the nation. As the chairman of the George Washington Birthday Celebration since 1994, he has organized a committee to produce, fund, publicize, organize and direct the many annual events of the Celebration.

He is on constant lookout for local community groups to dance, sing and march in the parade. By doing this, he presents a parade lineup that is custom-designed for Alexandria. Furthermore, he does it all with a smile on his face. Shumard is gifted with that rare combination of organizational skills and good-natured personality that enables him to lead and bring along with him a cadre of followers who truly enjoy working with him.

Though Shumard has never been a firefighter, he serves as the president of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, making him a leader in a world almost totally foreign to laymen. It was the historical importance of the association that drew him to it. The Friendship Fire Company has played a significant role in the history of the city. It is a survivor of the costliest fire in Alexandria, a fire in 1855 when six firefighters lost their lives.

Today, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association assists in the preservation of the historic fire



Joe Shumard is gifted with a combination of organizational skills and good-natured personality that enables him to lead.

engine house on South Alfred Street in Alexandria; supports the Alexandria Fire Department, and provides scholarships, and other benevolent and philanthropic services to the Alexandria Community. The association promotes civic involvement, honors the legacy of its 18th-century founders — dedicated citizen firefighters — and values the contributions of our present-day first responders. Thanks to his efforts, Friendship has drawn the contributions of many volunteers and is a key sponsor of the annual Firefighters Memorial Service at the Ivy Hill Cemetery.

Shumard has also worked actively with and for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, first as a member for more than a decade and then as a part of the staff for several years. His congenial personality helped to make chamber events and activities a pleasure to attend. By chairing or serving on a number of chamber committees, he helped to support the work that this organization provides to the city's business community.

Because of his leadership and active participation with the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, the Friendship Firehouse and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Shumard has earned the reputation as the "go to" person for recruiting volunteers in Alexandria, not only for these organizations but for events such as First Night Alexandria and Spring for Alexandria. Volunteers appreciate the opportunity to participate in activities that are so well organized, thanks in large part to the efforts of Shumard.

For these many reasons, Shumard is selected as a Living Legend of Alexandria.

INSIDER'S EDITION Community & Newcomers Guide

This annual edition will be chock full of tips from community insiders, plus a guide for newcomers and long-time residents alike. Everyone will learn something new in this special edition. Ask about our summer ad specials.

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OPINION

Help This Village

To the Editor:

We all know that our children are our future. As a result, we wisely invest vast financial resources into efforts we hope will benefit them. But money does not replace the value of time. I write “our children” as a single, childless woman to underscore to others like me that the children of Alexandria belong to you, too. As the African proverb goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Please actively engage in our village by mentoring a child.

Few people will argue that their individual success in life is not correlative to the presence of an adult, be it a parent, extended family member or community member who has

encouraged and supported the best in them. While our community outpaces the state and the nation in terms of education and

LETTERS

economic prosperity, that is a symptom of our past and our present. Unfortunately, indicators for our collective future are not keeping track (though there are improvements), if we look at school data. While education opportunities have increased over generations, the inverse occurrence has happened with success outcomes. Arguably, that is due to a void wherein adults are working more and making more, but available less to spend time with our future the way our parents and our communities took time with us. This makes the community its own worst enemy when trying to build a future.

I recall sitting on the Council dais one Saturday at a public hearing by a band of former school board chairs, regaled by the esteemed Ferdinand Day. The chairs challenged City Council to engage as much on the issue of our children as our future as vigorously as we have campaigned. These chairs called on the council and the community to change the face of education one child at a time by giving of our talents and of our time. More than a year later, I stand echoing that sentiment.

A Space Of Her Own, www.spaceofherown.org, is an exceptional program done in collaboration with the Art League that provides a unique opportunity to have a place in the life of an impressionable young woman by helping her change her personal space.

The last orientation to attend to qualify as a mentor is Aug. 9 at The Art League Annex from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

I received an email yesterday advising that as the last orientation nears, there is a substantial shortage of mentors to work with our wonderful girls.

I plan to attend mentoring orientation on Aug. 9. Will I see you there? Please go online to register at <http://soho-orientation.eventbrite.com/> today. If this opportunity does not suit you, in addition to the remarkable work done by so many faith and non-profit organizations, the City of Alexandria’s Mentoring Partnership has a host of programs, too. Please go to www.alexandriava.gov/mentoring to learn more. Remember, “it takes a village to raise a child.” Please invest your time in the village.

Alicia R. Hughes
City Councilwoman



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot

A dragonfly rests on a leaf above a splashing pond in the Calvert’s garden off Wolfe Street in Old Town on Saturday afternoon, July 28.

Educational Conundrum

To the Editor:

Decades ago when Frank Perdue’s poultry operation ran into a rough patch with its labor union, they joked “It takes a tough union buster to make a tender chicken.” So Fairfax County might today quip, “It takes a discriminating school system to make a # 1 school.”

That certainly is Fairfax Country’s modus operandi for TJ, in sharp contrast to Alexandria’s assertive outreach to disadvantaged groups and minorities. One has top notch public schools, whereas the other has failing schools needing waivers of federal standards. Look at the flack Fairfax’s TJ caught for making a good-faith effort to be more inclusive when too many of its students needed remedial help. TJ lost its top rank and fell to # 2. TC takes all comers, meanwhile, staring across the city-county line with envy, not even in the same league academically as TJ, but more inclusive.

At its root, this dichotomy is metaphysical: Is humanity perfectible or are some imperfections ineluctable? Can a dollar targeted at improving an underperforming, underprivileged group’s performance produce as much academic advance as a dollar targeted elsewhere? Does a school system which tries to do both soon reach diminishing returns and diseconomies of scale? Are teachers talented enough to pull this off too rare relative to the need for such teachers? If taxpayers are pressed too hard for resources to try doing both, will they decide education is a parental — not public — responsibility?

How many angels can dance on the head of a pin? While your editorial — newsworthy and informative — never used these words, it essentially asked this question about the conundrum described.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Irony of Tissue Comment

To the Editor:

I note the irony in Ms. Lee Perkins’ letter of July 26 in which she likens the McDonnell administration’s attitude toward women as “disposable as Kleenex.”

No, Ms. Perkins, it is not Republicans who regard human beings as “just a bunch of tissue.” It is liberals like yourself who think and act that way. The present Republican-led administration is seeking to protect all citizens of the Commonwealth, including the unborn, the frail elderly and those needing many different types of social services. It is seeking to hold abortion clinics to the same standard as hospitals where first through third trimesters surgical abortions are performed on young women who want to terminate the life of a human being. It opposes a “managed care” attitude toward the elderly, which under the so-called “Affordable Care Act,” will counsel patients in their advanced years that the anticipated outcome of a heart operation, cancer drug or a hip implant will not add more than a few months of life. The McDonnell administration also strives to preserve the unity of the family and the most fundamental rights of all parents by supporting and enforcing parental notification that protects minor children in need of family and other counseling. Mr. Cucinelli, our attorney general, has also stated that he unequivocally upholds the right of all religious entities to define who they are and what services they can ethically and in good conscience provide to a broad-based needy population. Bravo to these principled people who are in charge of our Commonwealth, and to other states that have gone on record to recognize that our First Amendment religious liberties are at great risk due to the overbearing policies of HHS and the Obama administration.

Kleenex, you say? Disposable? No, I don’t

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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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

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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

think so. "Don't worry, it's just a bunch of tissue." Thanks to clever rhetoric and the muddled thinking of liberals, that's the line that every vulnerable, frightened and possibly very pregnant young woman hears the moment she enters the portals of her local Planned Parenthood Clinic.

Kerry Carter
Alexandria

Open Government Needs Open Debate

To the Editor:

Last week, the Andrew Macdonald for Mayor campaign formally invited three-term Mayor Bill Euille to engage in two, one-on-one televised debates this fall. We are still waiting for a definitive answer.

We have six council positions, but only one mayor. The position of mayor stands apart from the other elected positions in our city. He or she sets the tone for our elected government and helps to implement a vision for the city that is shared by its citizens. As such, the citizens of Alexandria deserve the opportunity to hear both mayoral candidates debate their positions. The Macdonald campaign believes that good government begins with a well-informed electorate, and that these debates serve the public interest.

The question remains: Will the mayor step forward and publicly declare that he will debate Mr. Macdonald this fall? The answer to this question will say a lot about whether changing the local election from May to November was about politics or making city government more democratic.

Chris Johnson

The writer serves as the debate coordinator for the Andrew Macdonald for Mayor campaign.

What Next for GenOn?

To the Editor:

The time is drawing near when the fate of the 25-acre GenOn site on the Alexandria waterfront will have to be decided. It's important to bear in mind that this property is three times as big as the area directly affected by the city's disputed waterfront plan.

Now is the time for the city to begin an open, participatory process, involving all interested parties, to plan how this potentially magnificent parcel of land will be used. By declaring that GenOn is not part of the waterfront, contrary to physical reality, the city is suggesting that it will stick to its accustomed slice-and-dice, behind closed doors strategizing. Once the dispute over the rest of the waterfront is resolved, it is reasonable to expect an all-out effort to cram as much high density into this tract as possible, if such an effort isn't already under way.

The fact that it may take years to clean up the GenOn site is all the more reason to begin an open discussion now, instead of once again making confidential commitments and then asking the citizens concerned to ratify them. Above all, planning for GenOn should be part of, not done in isolation from, the eventual waterfront plan.

The way the city handles such planning issues should be a major issue in the November elections

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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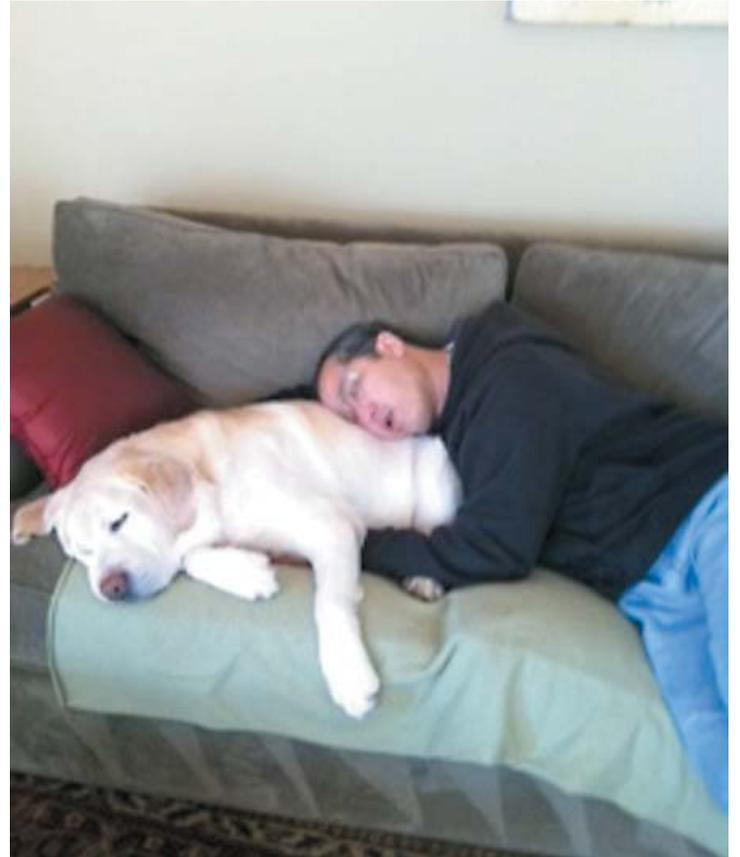
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OPINION



Snapshot

No one enjoys a good nap like my husband, Richard Yep, and our 10-year-old lab, Oly.

— Mona Yep

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Seminary Valley

It may be the dog days of summer, but there is a lot of neighborhood action and news to take in before we head into fall.

One of the neighborhood's favorite activities is coming on Monday, Aug. 6 at the Polk Playground, when the BSCVA hosts the Neighborhood Night Out.

The evening usually featured some fun for the kiddies and a visit from local police and fire officials with their trucks and canine companions. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.

Our household will be getting to send two offspring off to college in a few weeks; while getting their possessions together, I am going to try to put together a good number of items for this year's Annual Mile-Long Yard Sale, which is set for Saturday, Sept. 22. The event starts at 8 a.m. and is held rain or shine.

Belated congratulations to two graduates who I neglected to mention in my last column: Tamara Wilkerson, who graduated from George Mason University, and Lily Ramey, who graduated from St. Stephens/St. Agnes and is headed to Virginia Tech in a few weeks.

Congratulations also to our local summer swim team, the Dowden Terrace Dolphins, a 150-

member-strong team that fought it out with Great Falls all season and ended up with a 4-1 record in second place. DT is sending several neighborhood swimmers to the All-Star meet next weekend: Jacob Foster, MacKenzie Prall, Abby Cox (who also coached), Colleen Cox and Brendan Richichi. A shout-out also to Larry Dow and Stephen Hetzer, two DT alums who served on the coaching staff this year.

Thirteen-year old Will Augustine has done it again. Will won his division of the 2012 K-Pro Hydro National Championship, held in Lake DePue, Ill., for the second year running. Will is an avid outdoorsman, just having completed a spelunking camp.

— MIA JONES

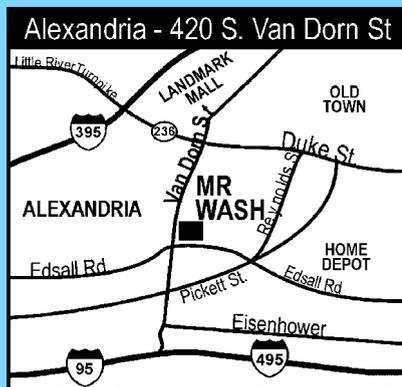
Taylor Run

In support of National Night Out, on Aug. 7, at 7:30 p.m., the Taylor Run Citizens' Association will be hosting an "Ice Cream Social" at 701 Upland Place. This event will allow residents the opportunity to meet and mingle with their neighbors and local law enforcement officials, as well as see the community's new pollinator garden, installed and maintained by Girl Scout Troop 4143.

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Stratford Landing \$544,900
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 Don't be deceived: Larger than it looks! 4 generously sized BR's, 2.5BA's, main lvl hrdwd flr, new int & ext paint, new windows, bright basement, lots of storage, eat-in kit.
 Ann-Marie Grotticelli 703.501.4092



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 Bonnie Rivkin 703.598.7788



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 Bonnie Rivkin 703.598.7788



OPEN SUN 1-4PM



Bucknell Manor \$412,000
 6905 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307
 Charming 3 BR, 2 BA home w/garage overlooking parkland. Sun-filled living room, hardwoods, main level master, kitchen adjoining FR/DR addition, 2BR upstairs with dormer windows.
 Cathy D'Antuono 703.819.3077



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OPEN SUN

7913 Candlewood Dr
\$529,850
Backs to Park!
Super Value! Fabulous expanded home. Special features: 5BR, spacious eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, and 2 fireplaces. Stunning glass-walled addition and custom screened porch overlook wooded park. Prime location just minutes from Old Town on gorgeous lot bordering acres of county parkland. **OPEN SUN 8/5, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, R-Collingwood; R-Candlewood.**

OPEN SUN

9403 Ferry Landing Ct
\$735,000
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 kit and family room. Gorgeous manicured half acre grounds with custom pool. **OPEN SUN 8/5, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon; L-Ferry Landing Ct.**

2406 Wittington Blvd
\$625,000
Updated Charming Colonial!
The home you have been waiting for! Classic 3 level Colonial in prime Stratford Landing location. Numerous features include: updated gourmet kitchen, 4 large BRs, "Andersen" thermal windows, updated baths, screened porch and side load 1 car garage. Walk to neighborhood pool! Unique opportunity!

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1250 S. Washington St
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\$610,000
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NEW LISTING

9516 Ferry Harbour Ct
\$650,000
Unique Opportunity!
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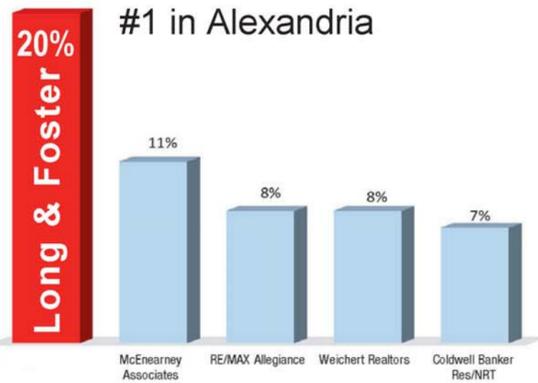
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\$1,600,000
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www.thebendergroup.net
Randy Bender 703.906.1749

\$1,219,000 Alexandria Belle Haven "FABULOUS"
Backs to parkland, this 5BR / 4BA brick Colonial was totally renovated - 2 main level family rooms, gourmet kitchen, luxury Master Suite including marble bath, sunken tub, jetted shower, deck. Walk-out lower level with fireplace, nanny room with bath opens to brick patio. '06 new HVAC / HWH / thermalpane windows & more! Classic slate roof. Garage.
Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$462,900
Alexandria / Kingstowne 6625 HALTWHISTLE LN
Just listed this gorgeous rick garage townhouse featuring a 2 story entry with Palladian window, new gourmet kitchen with custom tiles, 3BR, family room fireplace, deck off breakfast room. Walk to major shopping, movie theater, restaurants, pool, gym. For an appointment, call...
Reneesellsalexandria.com
Renee Reymond 703.507.5330

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$615,000
Alex. / Olde Belhaven Towne 6332 GOLF COURSE SQ
Terrific 3-level brick TH facing courtyard and Belle Haven golf course! Perfectly located! Lots of light, open kitchen, separate dining room, living room bay window and many upgrades. Fenced in, landscaped backyard with slate patio, fountain pond and shed. 2 parking spaces. Baths renovated - ceramic tile in family room with fireplace, built-in shelving and walkout to patio.
Franki Roberts 703.898.0840

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Alexandria / Old Town "SKY BLUE"
Look up as you enter this contemporary townhome's open 2-story living room and... travel over a suspended bridge that connects the 2BRs. The kitchen is totally remodeled with new stainless steel appliances, granite counters and cabinets plus brick floors that lead to a private enclosed patio. This is a treat... come and see!
Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460

\$449,900 Alexandria / Montebello "J MODEL"
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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

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Kendra Carey 703.887.2117

\$499,900 Springfield "POSH & PRETTY!"
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The Powers Team
Paula Powers & Sheryl Powers Vermont 703.472.6925

\$650,000 Alexandria The Carlyle "MONUMENT VIEWS"
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www.brianandjery.com
Brian Hong & Jery Beamer 703.929.5764

OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4! \$437,000
Alexandria / Del Ray 1703 N CLIFF ST
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www.richardtwait.com
Richard Waite 202.821.8940

Source: Information based on data supplied by MRIS and its member Association(s) of REALTORS, who are not responsible for its accuracy. Does not reflect all activity in the marketplace. April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012. Information contained in this report is deemed reliable but not guaranteed, should be independently verified, and does not constitute an opinion of MRIS or Long and Foster Real Estate Inc. ©2012 All rights reserved.



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ENTERTAINMENT

'Sweeney Todd'

LTA serves up
Sondheim's macabre
musical.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The story hasn't changed, the music is hauntingly familiar and of course the body count remains the same. But with The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "Sweeney Todd," you will be seeing the macabre musical of Stephen Sondheim as if it were for the first time.

How can one cheer for a mass murderer? When his sharp acting and cutting vocals are as effortless as Harv Lester's (as Sweeney Todd), it's an easy thing to fall prey to. A villainous and evil public official? Doesn't sound too far-fetched this day and age, but to the extent of Chris Gillespie's oily octane portrayal of Judge Turpin, it's palpable, disturbingly lascivious and thoroughly enjoyable. And the meat pies of Mrs. Lovett are all too delicious when served up with Jennifer Lyons Pagnard's luscious vocals and scorching acting.

From Christopher David Harris' portrayal of the sadistic Beadle Bamford down to the last choral ensemble member, all the LTA performances are truly transcendent. The bench of talent is deep as those who usually play leads — Elliott Bales, Sam Jones and Margie Remmers — populate what may be the most noteworthy ensemble to hit the LTA stage.

Lester, last seen in the title role of LTA's "Will Rogers' Follies," is an especially stirring Sweeney, the coolly amoral barber who seeks revenge with his razor. Eerily lit from below so his eyes glow with fierce passion, Lester's rage boils over with scalding intensity.

Details

"Sweeney Todd" is playing now through Aug. 18 at The Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

With equal command, Pagnard gives a standout performance as Mrs. Lovett, the meat pie shop proprietor whose moral sense is quickly overcome by her love of profit and lust for Sweeney and the fantasy of a marriage she'll never have.

OTHER STANDOUT cast members are Will Hawkins and Roxanne Scher as young lovers, Ben Ribler as the simple waif who helps Mrs. Lovett, and Zachary Frank as a rival barber.

But as brilliant as the acting is, as thoroughly entertaining and engaging as the singing is, some of the principal stars of this production are the backstage crew, set designers, costumes and make-up working behind the scenes by the all-volunteer cast and crew.

Vibrant and startling costumes by Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley meld with the cutting, dissonant chords of the 12-member orchestra that effortlessly envelops the audience in the plot's absurd madness.

Sondheim specifically sets his grisly musical melodrama in 1849, which creates a Dickensian atmosphere of 19th-century London that is brilliantly duplicated in the set design of the award-winning Dan Remmers and lighting team of Ken and Patti Crowley.

All of this talent is brought together under the brilliant vision of director Andrew JM Regiec, who expertly draws the audience into the always absurd,

sometimes comedic psychopathic world that is "Sweeney Todd."

With arterial blood spurting as if from water pipes, "Sweeney Todd" is not a show for the faint of heart. But the characters in LTA's production are vividly realized, complete with dialects smartly layered by coach Carol Strachan.

So let the bodies hit the floor, or rather fall through the floor, and prepare for a savory serving of demonic shearing in a superb production of Sondheim's signature musical thriller.



Jennifer Pagnard as Mrs. Lovett with Pie Shop cast.

PHOTOS BY SHANE CANFIELD



Roxanne Scher (Joanna), Will Hawkins (Anthony), Mike McAdoo (Ensemble), and Harv Lester (Sweeney Todd) in the LTA production of "Sweeney Todd."

Demon Barber Benefits Alexandria Charities

BY SANDY MARTINEZ
GAZETTE PACKET

If you were unable to obtain a ticket to London for the 2012 Olympics you can still take part in a unique British cultural experience. Alexandria resident Brooke Curran is hosting a charity event on Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria on behalf of at-risk children living in the city.

The evening's events begin with a pre-show dinner reception consisting of meat pies, roasted vegetables on skewers and drinks. Why such a peculiar dish? Because

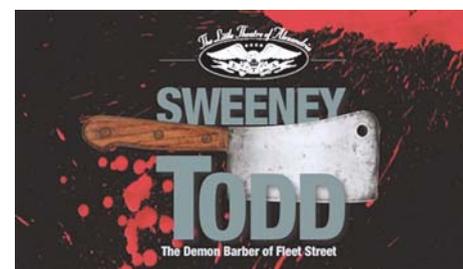
the evening will be capped with a performance of "Sweeney Todd," the demon barber of Fleet Street, known to dispose of his victims by baking their flesh into meat pies and selling the pies to unsuspecting customers. Food and drink will be provided by two Alexandria businesses, Unwined and Thyme and Place.

All proceeds from the \$50 ticket price will be donated to the five Alexandria-based charities closest to Curran's heart: ACT for Alexandria, Child & Family Network Centers, Community Lodgings, Girls on the Run and The Reading Connection; \$30 of the ticket price is tax deductible.

"When someone buys a ticket and comes to a Runningbrooke event, not only are they having a good time at a really fun event but all of their dollars are literally going to the charities here in Alexandria," Curran said.

Curran is an Alexandria marathoner who raises money under her RunningBrooke Fund. When she is not hosting special events like the one at LTA, she raises funds by running marathons. Recently, she won a marathon in Antarctica and hopes to run a marathon in Africa in 2013.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria produces seven full shows each season and many one



act plays but also offers Tuesday sponsor nights to charities, businesses, and other private functions. "We are a community theater. The sponsor nights are a way of bringing people into the theater who have never been to this theater," said Rachel Alberts, Little Theatre's director of public relations.

Visit runningbrookeandsweeneytodd.eventbrite.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

After the Storm

Port City Brewing's 'Derecho Common' beer to be tapped Aug. 3.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When a derecho swept through the area June 29, downed trees and power lines left more than a million people without power during a record-breaking heat wave. Alexandria residents and businesses alike were left scrambling to salvage what they could of any perishable products. For Port City Brewing, that meant trying to save the beer.

"We lost power for almost a week and nearly lost 13,000 gallons of beer," said Port City's tasting room manager Jennifer Chace. "We were able to get a generator and keep the brewery online but one batch of lager fermented at a higher temperature than intended. We didn't know it at the time but there is actually a style of beer intentionally brewed this way."

Developed in San Francisco, this type of brew is called steam beer, or California Common beer. It is made with lager yeast and fermented at higher temperatures, which is what happened to a 60-barrel tank of Port City's beer.

"What started out as a Bohemian Czech Pilsner is now a California Common," Chace said. "This is called making lemonade out of lemons, or what we have named our Derecho Common. We'll be tapping our limited edition brew Aug. 3 here at the tasting room and select restaurants in the area will carry it as well."

THE DERECHO COMMON is described as "medium amber in color with toasty, caramel malt flavors. It is medium-bodied with an assertive hop profile. It is dry hopped with Amarillo hops, which give



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

it a spicy, citrusy hop kick on the finish," according to information posted in Port City's tasting room. "This is good," said Alexandria resident John Bordner, who got a sneak preview of the special brew during a July 28 visit to the brewery. "I'm normally a pale ale guy but find this very refreshing and would definitely order it again."

The limited edition brew — equivalent to about 120 kegs — will be available on draft only in the Port City Brewing tasting room and at bars and restaurants in the D.C. Metro area.

"Right now the beer is still in the fermentation tank," Chace said. "But at 3 p.m. Friday, we're going to officially tap our Derecho Common beer. We had a lot of support from the community during the storm and hope folks will come by, grab a growler and celebrate with us."

Port City Brewery is located at 3950 Wheeler Ave. For information on the Derecho Common or other beers call 703-797-2739.



LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The longest line of the day at Friendship Firehouse's 2011 festival was for waiting for a turn spraying the fire hose down the alley.

Festival Celebrates 238th Birthday of Friendship

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association will hold its annual Friendship Firehouse Festival on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the 100 block of South Alfred Street between Prince and King streets, which will be closed off to traffic for the festival. Admission is free.

Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department, a display of modern fire apparatus. The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand. Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Children will receive free fire helmets and balloons.

In addition to the day's outdoor events, festival participants will be able to experience the history of the Fire Company

through a tour of the Friendship Firehouse Museum. The building was originally built as a firehouse in 1855, remodeled in 1871 and restored again in 1992 before undergoing roof and cupola repairs in 2009.

The Engine Room on the first floor showcases historic firefighting equipment, including hand-drawn fire engines, leather water buckets, axes, and sections of early rubber hose. The second floor houses exhibits on the Friendship Fire Company, also known as "George Washington's Fire Company," which was Alexandria's first fire company and a source of civic pride since its founding in 1774.

Now a philanthropic organization focusing on fire and life safety, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association remains active in community events, including this year's Festival, which marks the 238th anniversary of the Company. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY MIKE PABLO

Alexandria Irish Festival

The 27th annual Alexandria Irish Festival will take place Saturday, Aug. 11 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Waterfront Park in Old Town Alexandria. This year's festival features a lineup of Irish musical and cultural groups. Visit www.ballyshaners.org for a complete list of entertainers. Browse Irish goods as well as arts and crafts from a wide variety of vendors, as well as food and cold refreshments. The Irish Festival is sponsored by the Ballyshaners - Gaelic for "Old Towners." Proceeds from the festival help cover the cost of staging the annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade. Lawn chairs are welcome. Coolers are prohibited at the festival.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

THURSDAY/AUG. 2

Music At Twilight. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Musical performance by The Hot Society Orchestra of Washington, featuring 1920s-1940s Jazz. John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Call 703-746-5418.

AUG. 3 THROUGH SEPT. 2

Boarderlines. Thursday-Sunday. Free. This exhibit is an individual and group journey across "boarders" and features a silent auction, 2-D and 3-D gallery artwork, and take-away art. At the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. Visit www.theDelReyArtisans.org.

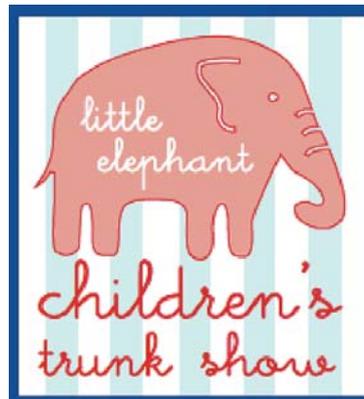
FRIDAY/AUG. 3

Sea Chanters. Noon - 1:15 p.m. The U. S. Navy Band "Sea Chanters" chorus is the official chorus of the United States Navy. The ensemble performs a variety of music ranging from traditional choral music, including the sea chantey, to Broadway musicals. Market Square, 301 King St. Contact Maureen Sturgill at maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5420.

Alexandria Citizens Band

Concerts. 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Alexandria Citizens Band, the City's Oldest Performing Arts Organization, is celebrating 100 years. Join them in front of City Hall and enjoy the wide variety of music including marches, jazz, classical, patriotic and others. Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-5592.

Open House. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Mount Vernon opens its doors for an inaugural evening event at George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill, learn more about Washington's role as "Distiller-in-Chief." The Gentleman Distiller: Dinner and Whiskey Tasting event begins with a reception at the Distillery & Gristmill, where visitors



A sip-and-shop event, **Little Elephant's premiere** will feature fall/winter 2012 finds for children from infants to young teens/size 14. **Thursday, Aug. 2, 4-8 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Living Room at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road.**

watch as costumed distillers operate five copper stills, stirring mash tubs, and managing the boiler as they demonstrate 18th-century distilling. The event continues at the Estate with a brief lecture by Mount Vernon's resident whiskey expert, Dr. Dennis Pogue, followed by a whiskey tasting and seated dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn. Tickets are \$150 per person, including tax and gratuity, and go on sale June 1 at 10 a.m. at the Ford Orientation Center, or online at MountVernon.org.

Wee Ones Storytime. Explore the exciting world around us with favorite stories and songs. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore. 1555 King St. 10:30-11 am. Ages 2 and under. Free. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

Wee Ones Storytime. Explore the exciting world around us with favorite stories and songs. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore. 1555 King St. 10:30-11 am. Ages 2 and under. Free. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Pig Day. Celebrate of Mo Willems. Come in your best pig or elephant costumes. Face painting and piggie mask making station for those without. Reading from favorite Mo Willems books. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore. 1555 King St.

4-5 p.m. All Ages. Free. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Enjoy birthday cake, craft and food vendors, and a special display of antique and modern firefighting equipment at the 238th anniversary of the Friendship Fire Company. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net or call 703-746-3891.

Friendship Festival Public Open House.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free admission to visit and explore the museum dedicated to the Alexandria companies of the 17th Virginia Infantry that defended Virginia during the Civil War. Donations welcome. At R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum, 806 Prince St. Contact relcamphall@hotmail.com or call 703-519-2123.

R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum Open House.

Free, noon - 4 p.m. This family-friendly program will feature living history interpreters portraying the Carlyle family. Enjoy games on the Carlyle House front lawn and explore native plants with a naturalist. At 121 North Fairfax St. Visit www.carlyle.org or call 703-549-2997.

John Carlyle's Housewarming. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Come to Gadsby's Tavern Museum's free open house to

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

703-746-5418.

experience an 18th century five-star hotel with costumed tour guides. At 134 N. Royal St. Visit gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY/AUG. 5

Health Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Will be filled with health screenings, cooking demonstrations, health food vendors, fitness demonstrations, seminars, holistic practitioners, and fun activities for everyone. At the Community Praise Center SDA Church, 1400 Russell Road.

Tavern Day Science. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, a showcase of an original May 26, 1861 edition of The New-York Tribune. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org or call 703-746-4399.

AUG. 7 THROUGH SEPT. 9

Art Show. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of the juried show "Paper of All Kinds." The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Free. Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. 105 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria on the waterfront.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 8

Lunch Bunch Concert: Project Natale. noon-1 p.m. Musical performance by Project Natale, featuring "real" jazz. Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza. Call

FRIDAY/AUG. 10

Friday Night Live featuring Gerald Scott & CO. 7p.m. Free. Special guest William McMillan with songs from his new album "Incredible." Shiloh Baptist Church Worship Center. 1401 Jamieson Ave.

SATURDAY/AUG. 11

Summer Trees of Park Fairfax. 9-10:30 a.m. Free. Join us for a summer morning walk at amongst the trees at Park Fairfax. Education chair Scott Knudsen will review the keys to summer tree identification techniques. He will discuss the native habitat of each tree and good uses for the tree in the landscape. RSVP required. Email to sknudsen@earthlink.com to register.

Debi Smith. 7 p.m. A folk/pop singer, Smith has recorded more than 20 albums and compilations. Performing at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

THROUGH AUG. 12

"The Wizard of Oz" presented by the Port Tobacco Players. Come see the family musical adapted for the stage from the classic movie version. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets for are \$14-17.



Experience Alexandria's five-star hotel of the 18th century at Gadsby's Tavern Day, Saturday, Aug. 4, 1-5 p.m. Tavern Day will feature continuous tours of the historic site by costumed guides, the opportunity to learn to dance like George and Martha Washington, and more. This year's Tavern Day highlights 18th-century science experiments and demonstrations of historical espionage techniques by Project Enlightenment, McLean High School's reenactment society. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal Street. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

for mayor and City Council. We know that Andrew Macdonald favors greater transparency. Mayor Euille's position on this subject appears, not surprisingly, to favor current practice.

Robert Pringle
Alexandria

Disservice of September Election

To the Editor:

Governor McDonnell's decision to hold a special election for the 45th House of Delegates seat on Sept. 4 is rightly being criticized by many residents of the 45th in Fairfax, Alexandria, and Arlington. The focus of these criticisms, however, seems to focus on the fact that the special election will be held the day after Labor Day when many families will be stressfully preparing for the beginning of the school year. This is a fair criticism especially in light of the governor's explanation that the early election will allow the new delegate "time to fully prepare for the 2013 legislative session." With this remark, the governor is saying to residents that one delegate's time preparing to work is far more valuable than all of their time doing important work. But, the governor should be criticized for two other reasons that are just as important: the cost of a special election and the need for

residents of the 45th District to have enough time to get to know their candidates.

On the cost criticism, the governor has spent his entire term talking tough on fiscal discipline. But, this decision was a straight-forward choice between politics, which sees the special election held on Sept. 4, and common sense, which would have seen it held concurrently with the Nov. 6 general election. This special election will cost residents of Fairfax, Alexandria, and Arlington around \$50,000 when it didn't have to cost them anything. The governor must know that actions, not words will define his tenure, and this action makes it clear that he places political gimmicks such as hoping for low voter turnout to advance his own broken brand above all else.

On the need for more time to get to know candidates, the governor's decision gives Democrats until Aug. 4 to nominate a candidate for the special election. While the Democrats should be confident of winning this seat, the process to do so is unfair to those individuals who would like the opportunity to serve as the delegate. As a result of the seriously shortened timeline, the citizens will not have nearly enough time to do the important work of getting to know candidates and where they stand on the issues that matter. This does a disservice to the democratic process that relies on people making informed decisions about who should represent them at every level of government. The governor seems to be taking his advice from the political hacks on the

cable news shows to win at all costs, but he must know that nobody wins when this approach is taken.

The governor may talk tough, but his actions in calling the special election for Sept. 4 show he doesn't care about the busy schedules of those he represents or the added cost of holding yet another special election or the democratic process that relies on voters being informed about their candidates. In the end, this governor is just all talk.

Niall O'Connor
Alexandria

Misreading Rating Agencies?

To the Editor:

I was disappointed to read the July 25 letter to the editor from standing candidate Andrew Macdonald. Dr. Macdonald has apparently predicated his argument — that the mayor is directing a policy of the city concealing a perilously weak financial position — entirely on his guess that the credit reporting agencies covering the city "believe the city council can always raise property taxes to service this debt if our economy deteriorates."

Dr. Macdonald couldn't be more wrong. In fact, Dr. Macdonald's comments are situated so far from Alexandria's reality that his letter cries out for rebuttal.

1. The rating agencies do not (and did not) presume that any particular tax rate increase would be levied, or even could be levied. In public finance matters, the rating agencies look first at the city's tax base, actual and anticipated revenues based on then-identifiable sources, actual and anticipated outlays, and extraordinary items such as material contingent liabilities. Rating agencies typically do not assume, or predicate their ratings, on inchoate or hypothetical tax hikes; if they did, they would be required to clearly disclose such anomalous assumptions.

2. As Dr. Macdonald should have learned during his weeks of service as vice mayor, the mayor — the subject of his letter — has no unilateral right or role in establishing the city's taxable base, budget, or levy rate. The city's public finance policies are governed by City Council, subject to state law and local ordinances, are overseen by the city's Budget and Financial Advisory Commission, and are executed by city staff.

3. Dr. Macdonald characterized one of the economic outlook projections served up in one of the ratings as being "somewhat negative." It wasn't. The rating (in this case, from Moody's) reported forward-looking risk-factors (as it's required to do), but Alexandria received the highest overall rating available. Several hundred localities received cautionary rating comments, reminding bondholders, counterparties, and even Dr. Macdonald himself that no city is fully immune from

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

Advanced Construction Group Launches the "Ugliest Bathroom" Contest

Advanced Construction Group, an Alexandria-based construction company that specializes in additions, remodels and renovations, is on a mission. Put simply, we want to wipe out ugly bathrooms. And we want to start with the ugliest bathroom we can find. The sink might be purple, the tiles cracked, and the style straight from the 1950's.

So, we're issuing the Ugliest Bathroom Challenge. Show us how dated, deteriorated, and downright ugly your old bathroom is. If you're the owner of the ugliest bathroom, you'll win a makeover valued at \$10,000 including vanity, fixtures and accessories.

To enter, simply register by becoming a "fan" of the official Advanced Construction Group Facebook page (facebook.com/AdvConstruction). Once registered, you'll be able to submit photos of your ugly bathroom.

Ugly Bathroom entries will be accepted on our ACG Facebook page until August 9, 2012. The winner will be selected by public voting on our Facebook page starting on the 9th and ending August 16th. To be eligible, the homeowner must be over the age of 21, be a "fan" of ACG on Facebook, and reside in either Alexandria City or Arlington County, Virginia.

Good luck. And may the ugliest bathroom win!



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PEOPLE

Rotary's New Officers

FROM PAGE 5

disagree. Our club is composed of dedicated individuals who want to help our community."

Petniunas is managing principal of Utility Resource Consulting, an Alexandria-based utilities consulting firm. Born in Kaunas, Lithuania, he earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Connecticut and a master of science in engineering administration from George Washington University, where he is also a candidate for Ph.D. in economics.

"I want to thank John Woods for his dedication and hard work during the past year and all of his accomplishments," Petniunas said of his predecessor. "But our work isn't over. We will continue our efforts toward humanitarian goals for our community and internationally by using Rotary's core mis-

sion of 'service above self.'"

Petniunas and his wife Susan, owner of Public Affairs Resources Incorporated, have been married and living in Alexandria for more than 30 years.

"No question she is my better half," Petniunas said. "I would not be here without her."

Petniunas, who served as a captain in the U.S. Army, challenged members to continue the club's longstanding tradition of community service.

"We have never been a luncheon club," Petniunas said. "We are an achieving club. But actions speak louder than words and we all need to contribute, not just a few of us. We should be proud of our accomplishments over the years and as your incoming president, I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve you, our club and our community."

"We have never been a luncheon club. We are an achieving club."

— Alexandria Rotary Club President Raymond Petniunas

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WELLBEING

Taking Care of One's Teeth

American Dental Association says many Americans don't know basic oral care.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Here's a pop quiz: How often should a person replace their toothbrush? "Once a year," said Terrie Andrews of McLean.

When should a parent schedule a child's first dental appointment? "Just after their 6th birthday," said Julie Mahon, an Alexandria mother of 2-year-old twins.

Both answers are incorrect, but consistent with the findings of a new survey by the American Dental Association, which tested the average person's knowledge of oral health care. On average, Americans did not know the answers to questions ranging from how often to brush to what causes cavities.

THE SURVEY is part of an initiative, launched this summer, aimed at educating the public about maintaining healthy teeth. Dental care experts say prevention, care and treatment information are key to fighting gum disease and keeping teeth healthy. "Good dental health is important, as we are living longer and we need to make the one set of teeth we get last a lifetime," said Dr. Matthew Messina, ADA consumer advisor.

In fact, toothbrushes should be replaced every three months or as soon as the bristles become frayed or worn. The ADA also recommends brushing one's teeth twice per day and says a child's first dental visit should take place no later than six months after the first tooth appears.

More than 80 percent of those surveyed believe sugar causes cavities. They're actually caused by acid that forms when germs in the mouth feed on sugar. The acid attacks and weakens the tooth enamel, allowing a cavity to form.

The survey showed that many believe gums that bleed after brushing is normal, but experts say such bleeding could be a sign of early gum disease. "Periodontal disease is a slowly progressing disease where the early warning signs are subtle. There is seldom any pain until the disease is very advanced. Redness and puffiness in the gums around the teeth are something to watch for. Bleeding of the gums when someone brushes or flosses is not normal and should be evaluated. Eventually, pain and swelling from gum infections will occur, but the damage is advanced by that point," said Messina.

Diet plays a role in healthy teeth, as well. "Don't underestimate the role of nutrition and the role that food choices play in preventing gum disease and maintaining



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Matthew Messina of the American Medical Association says prevention, care and treatment information are key to fighting gum disease and keeping teeth healthy.

healthy teeth. The presence of too much or too little of any nutrient can have harmful effects, particularly on the mouth and

Beating Bad Breath

Dental experts offer solutions for chronic halitosis.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When Amanda Welch's boyfriend asked her to marry him last spring, she accepted his proposal on one condition: that he find a cure for his bad breath.

"I just couldn't live with the smell," said the Arlington resident. "It was horrible. I told him he had to do something."

Foul breath, also known as halitosis, can affect a person socially and professionally. "I have heard many stories about bad breath ruining people's lives: business executives losing their jobs, young people whose dating lives were ruined, and even a few engagements and one marriage that were broken off," said McLean resident and halitosis specialist Richard A. Miller, DDS. He is also the author of "Beating Bad Breath."

Halitosis can be triggered by everything from poor oral hygiene to smoking to dia-

Selecting the Best Dentist for a Child

Choosing the right dentist for one's child is one of the most important decisions that a parent will make. What should a parent consider when choosing a pediatric dentist? The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry offers a few suggestions:

- ❖ Does the dentist have special training or interest in treating children?
- ❖ Is the dental office set up for children? For example, does it offer toys, books, games or child-sized furniture?
- ❖ How does the dental office manage emergencies?
- ❖ Is the office conveniently located to your home or child's school?
- ❖ Does the practice accept your dental benefit plan?
- ❖ Is the dentist a member of the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry?

betes to kidney failure. "Typically, bad breath originates in your gums and tongue. It is caused by waste from bacteria in the mouth, decayed food particles [or] other debris in your mouth, and bad oral hygiene," said Dr. Raymond K. Martin, spokesman for the Academy of General Dentistry. "Your teeth and jaws are made mostly of calcium. Without enough calcium in your diet, you risk of developing gum disease and tooth decay. Iron deficiency can cause your tongue to become inflamed, and sores can form inside your mouth." Martin added that a lack of vitamin B3 can cause bad breath and canker sores.

Dentistry on the Edge: The Latest Technology in Cosmetic Dentistry

While a toothbrush and floss are considered the keys to a beautiful smile, cosmetic dentists have new tools in the quest for perfect teeth. The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) says a few technological advancements are increasing safety, efficiency and patient comfort during dental procedures. Topping the list:

❖ Computer-Aided Dentistry-Computer-Aided Manufacturing: Dental restorations like porcelain crowns can now be made faster and without the mess of traditional, goop-filled rubber molds used to make impressions of one's teeth. The new procedure uses 3-D scans and computer software to create perfect restorations.

❖ iPad and Smartphone Applications: Tasks ranging from managing dental records to displaying x-rays are now made easier with a few new iPad and smart phone applications. One such application is the Smile Touch Guide, created by AACD dentist David Traub, DDS. Used for virtually any cosmetic procedure, dentists and patients can work together to decide on the correct shape and length of the teeth. The patient can see what the full set of teeth will look like and make changes.

❖ Digital X-Rays: With digital x-rays, cosmetic dentists can reduce the amount of radiation patients are exposed to with standard x-rays by as much as 90 percent. The dentist places a small camera into the patient's mouth and takes a picture. An image appears on a computer screen almost immediately. Cosmetic dentists say digital x-ray pictures are clearer than those taken with standard machines.

❖ Botox: Cosmetic dentists are now using Botox and dermal filler treatments to treat problems like temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. RICHARD MILLER

Halitosis specialist Dr. Richard Miller counsels a patient on oral health care. Experts say mouthwash often provides only a temporary solution for bad breath.

severity of the problem," said Miller, who runs the Fresh Breath Clinic in Falls Church. "We check for bleeding under the gums and look for everything that can possibly contribute like stones in the back of the throat or anything going down the sinuses."

After the diagnosis, patients get a treatment plan. Services don't come cheap, however. An initial office visit starts at \$350 and increases according to the severity of the problem. Most insurance plans don't cover services for halitosis.

Still those who've cleared the air say finding a solution is worth every penny.

"We're getting married, so it was worth it to us," said Welch.

Cancer-Free, Randolph Returns to Titans

FROM PAGE 1
appearance: his bile duct was obstructed by a gallstone, he had a liver infection or he had a tumor. With both of Randolph's parents having died of cancer, the TC coach said he already knew the culprit.

Randolph was taken to Arlington Hospital for additional tests and would stay overnight. Randolph missed practice on Sept. 14 — the first practice he had missed in 35 years of coaching.

On Sept. 15, Randolph awoke from an endoscopic exam to find his ex-wife and two daughters "crying profusely."

"So we're not going to Disney World?" Randolph joked.

The exam revealed a cancerous tumor on Randolph's pancreas and doctors explained to the coach his treatment options. Meanwhile, Randolph's mind was also on the Titans' home opener against Robinson, which was just two days away.

"We have a game Saturday against Robinson and I'm starting to wonder if I'm ever going to coach football again," he said. "You don't know."

Randolph was a candidate for a surgery called the "Whipple" procedure. However, he still faced long odds. According to the American Cancer Society, at the time of diagnosis, about 10 percent of pancreatic cancers appear contained entirely within the pancreas. Only five percent are completely removable during surgery.

RANDOLPH CONTINUED coaching despite his diagnosis. Two days after finding he had cancer, Randolph was on the TC sideline leading the Titans against Robinson on a Saturday afternoon at Parker-Gray Stadium. TC jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the first 97 seconds of the contest, but the Rams came back to win, 27-13. The Titans were now 1-2 with an ailing coach. Randolph had yet to tell his players about his cancer diagnosis.

"I guess it was his way of not showing us that he was hurt," said lineman Michael Crockett, who was a junior when Randolph was diagnosed with cancer. "He didn't want us to feel bad for him so he showed us that he was strong."

On Friday, Sept. 23, Randolph coached the Titans against South County in Lorton. TC fell to 1-3 with a 35-13 loss to the eventual Division 5 state runner-up Stallions. After a 51-7 victory against Wakefield to open the season, TC had dropped three in a row.

The following day, Randolph realized he was too worn down to properly do his job.

"The day I left after the South County game, I knew I couldn't coach anymore," he said. "I was going to try to make it through the Lake Braddock game [on Oct. 1], but my first and primary objective the day I started coaching was to help kids and I couldn't help them anymore. I was worried about myself."

"I found myself at the South County game — and I had no business coaching that game — I found myself in the game wondering. I knew I had cancer, I knew I had a tumor

Dennis Randolph enters his sixth season as T.C. Williams' head football coach.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

and I knew that I was going to undergo surgery. The kids didn't know yet. They knew something was wrong with Coach Randolph because I didn't look right and I had missed several days. I just knew at that game that was it."

The following day, Randolph went to the T.C. Williams-South County junior varsity game at TC. He ran into then-junior Alec Grosser, the program's starting varsity quarterback, and informed the signal caller of his cancer diagnosis. Grosser was the first athlete to know. Randolph had already addressed the coaching staff in a meeting and he would later tell the rest of the team.

"I actually had no clue [Randolph was sick]," said receiver Landon Moss, who was a junior during the 2011 season. "It caught me off guard. I didn't think anything like that would happen."

Randolph informed athletic director Steve Colantuoni that he could no longer fulfill his duties as head coach. Linebackers coach Avery Williams was promoted to interim head coach for the final six games of the season.

Randolph had surgery on Oct. 3 at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Randolph's surgeon used a technique called the "Whipple" procedure, during which parts of the pancreas, stomach and small intestine, the gallbladder, part of the common bile duct and some nearby lymph nodes are removed, according to the American Cancer Society. As the surgery progressed, no additional cancers were found. He was later released from the hospital, but had to return due to a blood infection. While he was back in the hospital in November, Randolph briefly shared a room with a man who had just undergone a Whipple procedure. The man's cancer had spread, however, and doctors predicted he had six months of quality life remaining. Randolph said they talked for more than two hours before the man went home. Randolph doesn't remember the man's name, but their conversation stuck with him. Randolph considered exchanging phone numbers with the man, but decided against it.

"When I wake up in the morning, the first thing that goes through my mind is I think about that guy," Randolph said. "That was the middle of November, we're ... coming up to the end of July and they told him [he would have] six months [of] quality life and then after that he'd be struggling."

Along with being the head coach, Randolph is also the offensive coordinator

and quarterbacks coach for T.C. Williams. He installed a version of the spread offense in his second season with the Titans as a way to utilize the program's skill-position players. The offense is run almost exclusively from the shotgun and, if a team has the right personnel, provides the quarterback a chance to shine by spreading the ball around in space to a plethora of talented receivers.

After Randolph left the team last year, Williams and the Titans coaching staff opted for a more ground-oriented attack, operating primarily out of the I-formation with the quarterback under center. While the Titans also ran the ball out of Randolph's spread, the blocking schemes were different, meaning adjustments were needed.

Grosser was arguably the Titan most affected by the change in offensive philosophy. After a stellar sophomore season in which he took over as the full-time starter in week four and led TC to its first winning record in 15 years, Grosser spent much of the second half of his junior campaign handing the ball off. Along with being less of a factor, Grosser didn't have Randolph to turn to when he had questions about reads or footwork in the new offense.

Randolph and Grosser had developed a bond working together since Grosser was an eighth-grader.

"I'm not going to lie, it was definitely tough — middle of the season switching [offenses] and not even to have Coach Randolph there to help me through it and work on footwork and all the plays and stuff," Grosser said. "... I walked in the locker room the Monday after he told me [and], I don't want to say I was confused, but I didn't really know where things were headed."

From a coaching standpoint, Williams, who was in his third season as a Titans assistant, ran the show while Randolph was away. Williams said one of the biggest challenges he faced was getting everyone to listen to one voice.

"Obviously, there are a lot of people within the school, outside the school who have influence and a relationship with the kids, and I think the biggest thing that I encountered was trying to get them to understand and listen and buy into the system that we were implementing," he said. "It's kind of difficult when you're telling them one thing here and then an outside person tells them something else and now they're confused and they don't know which

way to go. That's just part of what happened."

After Williams took over, the Titans lost to Lake Braddock and previously winless Woodson, but responded with victories against West Springfield and Annandale. TC closed the season with losses to Lee and West Potomac, finishing 3-7, including 2-4 under Williams.

"One thing for sure, the guys never quit last year," Williams said. "They never quit. In the past, I have seen a team get up on us and [we] just lay down. One thing, we fought. We fought all the way until the end whether we were down or up. We continued to play, which was very pleasing to see."

Randolph praised the work of Williams, who is in charge of the Titans' strength and condition program and has played a major role in getting players offseason exposure at camps and combines. Williams coached at H.D. Woodson in Washington, D.C., for six seasons, including four as the JV head coach. Randolph said he hopes Williams at some point takes over as Titans head coach — just not yet.

"He's going to be an excellent head football coach one day," Randolph said. "I know he wants to be the head football coach here and I want him to be the next head football coach here, I'm just not ready to step aside and let him be the head coach. I told him that. I know it's hard for him because he's put so much into it and he's just that kind of guy — he does it thanklessly. I've said thank you to him 1,000 times and every once in a while he says, 'Coach, you don't have to say thanks,' and I said 'Yeah I do.'"

"Of all the people on my staff, he's the only one that was capable of taking over like he did and doing the things that he still does. He's a solid individual and he's going to be a great head football coach and I hope he's the next head football coach at T.C. Williams, I just don't want it to be yet. I certainly don't want to end my career at T.C. Williams in a hospital bed, which is what would have happened if I left."

RANDOLPH RETURNED to his job as assistant athletic director on a limited basis in January. His appearance had changed as the cancer and ensuing surgery left him looking scrawny and weak (he's lost 70 pounds to date). Randolph attended away basketball games so he wouldn't have to take part in the strenuous activities needed to set up the gym at home games.

When athletes saw Randolph, some of them acted afraid to hurt their frail-looking coach.

"I couldn't believe it. It kind of frightened me," Crockett said. "I felt worried for him and I wanted to do all I could to help him. It shocked me, but now to see him, I'm glad that he's out here and he's being positive every day."

Randolph said he's thankful his players care. "There are some kids that had a hard time," he said "I know they did because I see the reaction that they have when they look at me. I still have kids come up to me

SEE RANDOLPH, PAGE 24



Alexandria Aces
Collegiate Summer Baseball
Where Legends Begin

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PEOPLE

Barber and Felt Engaged

Nicole Marie Barber, daughter of Dave and Joann Barber of Eden Prairie, Minn. and Justin Ennis Felt, son of Jack and Judy Felt of Alexandria, would like to announce their engagement and August wedding.

Nicole is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C. and is currently in a graduate program in speech-language pathology at Loyola University in Maryland. She part-time tutors an autistic child with whom she has worked for six years.

Justin obtained his undergraduate

degree at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and has master's degrees in business administration and natural resources from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Justin is an associate director at Thomson Reuters where he consults for the clean energy industry.

Nicole and Justin plan to make their home in Washington, D.C. Nicole and Justin's wedding ceremony will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minn. on Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012. There will be a reception to follow at Pinstripes in Edina, Minn.



Nicole Marie Barber and Justin Ennis Felt

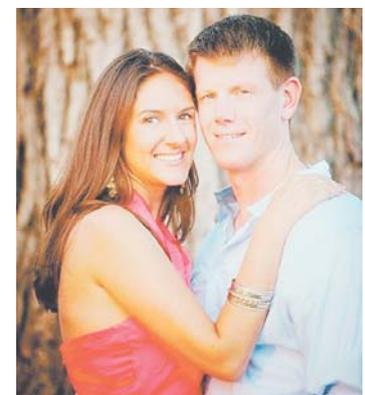
Howell and Harrington Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Howell of Clifton announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Marie Howell of Arlington, to Brian Michael Harrington of Alexandria, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Harrington of Alexandria.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Sullivan, formerly of Falls Church and the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Howell, formerly of Ozark, Ala. The groom-to-be is the grandson of Mrs. Marie Harrington of San Francisco, Calif. and the late Mr. John F. Harrington Jr. of San Francisco, Calif. and the late Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Briggs of Long Branch, N.J.

Laura is a graduate of James W. Robinson Secondary School and Clemson University. Laura, a Zeta Tau Alpha, received her B.S. degree in business management. She is employed by DRT Strategies, Inc. in Arlington as an IT program manager.

Brian is a graduate of Mount Vernon High School and the University of Virginia where he was captain of the Atlantic Coast Conference Champion swim team. Brian received a commission in the U.S. Navy in 2006 and has deployed to Iraq and the Horn of Africa. He is currently stationed in Washington, D.C. A September 2012 wedding in Alexandria is planned.



Laura Marie Howell and Lt. Brian Michael Harrington

PHOTO BY CONNOR STUDIOS

Randolph Returns After Cancer Treatment

FROM PAGE 23

and talk to me like I'm a gingerbread cookie — really careful about how they talk to me.”

In January, Randolph started a six-week chemotherapy program during which he had a chemo pump on him 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During that time, he also received radiation treatments five times a week as a way to help keep the cancer from coming back. After a few weeks off, Randolph started a three-month chemo cycle where he received a treatment once a week for three weeks before taking one week off. He has been off chemo for about a month.

While Randolph struggled with fatigue, Colantuoni said it can be good for someone trying to recover from cancer to do small tasks to keep his or her mind occupied. Colantuoni is four years removed from a battle with colon cancer. “It gives you something to look forward to — to come in because your mind is racing 100 miles an hour,” Colantuoni said. “Even though your body can't do anything, your mind wants to do something. So to come in and do emails, or to come in and schedule some buses or to come in and see kids or see people or socialize, anything other than just sitting in a bed.”

While Randolph's strength slowly returns, Colantuoni said the two are honest with each other about what the coach is capable of doing on the job. If some heavy lifting is required, Colantuoni won't ask Randolph if he can handle the load or tell him he can't. Instead, he trusts Randolph to make the decision on his own.

Colantuoni's experience with cancer makes him someone Randolph can confide in when times are tough. Randolph said Principal Suzanne Maxey and Superintendent Dr. Morton Sherman have also been helpful.

“I'm more of a sounding board,” Colantuoni said. “We talk all the time about how he feels, what can he expect. Simple things [like], when will I get my appetite back? How come I feel sick some days? How come I don't? How come I'm so tired and I can't sleep? Just things that everybody goes through. I'm more of a sounding board for him, which helps out.”

Randolph's father, Billy, died of prostate cancer in 2002 at the age of 73. Randolph's mother, Geraldine, died after a 10-year battle with lung cancer at the

age of 80. Randolph moved Geraldine from Ohio into his Northern Virginia home to help take care of her for the final 10 years of her life. She died on April 9, 2007, the same day Randolph was scheduled to be announced as the new head football coach at T.C. Williams. Despite having been around cancer for years, Randolph said he had no idea what he was up against.

“She died the minute I walked out of the house,” said Randolph, who was on his way to the old T.C. Williams High School to be introduced as head coach. “She was waiting for me to leave. She didn't want to die in front of me because I had taken care of her. I took care of my mother while she was going through chemo and radiation and I had no idea this is what she went through. You can't explain it to anybody.”

Colantuoni also said cancer is something one has to experience to fully understand. “Once you get back up on your feet, people think everything's OK,” Colantuoni said. “Even though it's the biggest effort in the world to get [yourself] up and to come in here, people think it's OK. They think you're better. There's just something about seeing somebody walking around or someone eating and they think, oh, they must be getting better. People that go through it, at first I think you start by trying to tell somebody, ‘God, I'm just so tired, I don't understand.’”

“People don't understand unless they've been there.”

RANDOLPH SPENT the summer taking part in offseason activities, helping Titan athletes prepare for the 2012 season. The first day of practice is Monday, Aug. 6, and the Titans' season opener is Aug. 30 at home against Wakefield.

Randolph said he focuses on getting better in the way an athlete must focus on the field while blocking out distractions.

“Every minute I was awake [in a hospital],” Randolph said, “I thought about how I was going to beat this, what I needed to do, because they told me the cancer was gone, but you have a tough road ahead of you.”

Thanks in part to his return to football, it's a road Randolph won't travel alone.

“I'm happy he's still alive,” Grosser said.

EMPLOYMENT

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12 Commercial Lease

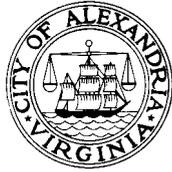
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LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746 6709.



Request for Information (RFI) - Carshare Program (Deadline: August 24)

The City of Alexandria is requesting information regarding the availability and willingness of Car-sharing companies to provide two carshare vehicles to be placed at two different locations on Ballenger Avenue in Carlyle. For this RFI, the City of Alexandria is interested in soliciting carshare companies to submit an expression of interest to lease two (2) on-street metered spaces located in the following locations for a cost of \$1,500 per space per year: one Carshare space at 1920 Ballenger Avenue, south side of the street; and one Carshare space at 2000 Ballenger Avenue, south side of the street. The City is currently drafting a city-wide on-street Carshare Policy which might affect the terms of the contract after the expiration date of the contract. For more information please click [HERE](#) or contact Faye Dastgheib at 703.746.4139 or at Faye.Dastgheib@alexandriava.gov

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Richard Snowden Stanley, 56, of Broad Run, VA, passed away the morning of July 27, 2012 at Inova Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia from complications of pneumonia. Richard was born December 28, 1955 in Prince Georges County, Maryland. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy Ann Stanley, his mother Camilla H. Strange, his brother, John W. Stanley (wife Susan Stanley), his brother, Courtland H. Stanley, and his nephews, Cpt. Courtland W. Stanley, Donald F. Stanley, and former wife Margie M. Stanley, and his beloved dog, Kipper. "Rick" was retired as the owner of S&S Auto Sales in New Baltimore, VA. He was beloved by all that knew him as a kind and generous person. He had a magnanimous sense of humor often introducing himself to people as "Frank Perkins". He had a great love for people, animals, automobiles, and boating. A graveside service will be held at Annadale Farm in Gordonsville, VA on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 11:00 am. Prior to the graveside service; attendees should meet at Preddy's Funeral Home in Gordonsville, VA by 10:45 am. Arrangements have been entrusted to Preddy's Funeral Home in Gordonsville, VA under the direction of Gary Preddy. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the local SPCA.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements



Margot Brockman Scheweppe, age 78, died on Sunday July 15th from complications of Alzheimer's disease. She is survived by her children Mark, Michael and Laura Scheweppe, daughters in law, Ellen Gray and Marsha LeBoeuf, son in law Steve Harris, her grandchildren Drew and Maggie Scheweppe and her brothers Richard and Andrew Brockman. Margot moved to Alexandria in 1991 from Lombard, IL, a suburb of Chicago, to be closer to her children.

A graduate of Elmhurst College, Margot will be remembered as a devoted mother, Girl Scout Volunteer Leader and a true friend to many people both in Lombard and Alexandria. Margot travelled the world including all 50 States in America. Margot was an avid birder and enjoyed hiking, camping, canoeing and backpacking well into her 60s. Her adventurous and friendly spirit will be remembered by her family and friends.

Her ashes will be spread along a favorite hiking trail in Shenandoah National Park in a private ceremony. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Margot's memory, to the Alzheimer's Association P.O. Box 96011, Washington DC 20090-6011, www.alz.org.

FROM PAGE 20

the overall economy, even a city located inside the Beltway and linked economically to the seat of government.

4. Dr. Macdonald may not have fully connected the investment-value dots. The infrastructure improvements for which he calls operate as capital improvement costs to the city. Publicly-owned infrastructure is typically not taxable, but must be bought, built and paid for using other tax revenues. As to the city's priorities for public investment, the Moody's report that Dr. Macdonald cites with alarm actually stated that Alexandria's receipt of the highest available "rating reflects the city's strong and vibrant tax base, sound and stable financial condition, conservative budgeting and favorable debt profile," and a "conservatively managed budget with sound reserves." Dr. Macdonald omitted this key quote, which is unfortunate — it states, in so many words, exactly the opposite of Dr. Macdonald's letter.

Mark C. Williams
Alexandria

Every Vote Will Matter

To the Editor:

It is time for some new blood in Alexandria politics, and there is no better way to shake things up in Richmond and send a message, than by sending Karen Gautney to Richmond to represent Alexandria. I believe she will fight for us and stand strong for our progressive values.

Governor McDonnell was wrong to call this election in haste, thinking that candidates in two strong Democratic districts would draw more Democrats to the General Election in November. On Sept. 4 two more Democrats will be elected to the state legislature, and their first task will be to work on behalf of all the other Democratic candidates in the November election. But which Democrat will best serve us?

Karen Gautney was put at a great disadvantage with such a short time to campaign, being the candidate with less name recognition because she has never held elective office. I have worked with her on the Alexandria Democratic Committee and in the Durant Center Precinct and know that she will work hard in Richmond not only for marriage equality, and against the war on women being waged by our governor and

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

A Fine Beginning. 12 -4 p.m. Free. In August 1753, John Carlyle and his wife, Sarah Fairfax Carlyle, moved into their new home in Alexandria. That night, Sarah gave birth to a son, William. On Aug. 4, the family invite visitors to experience life at the Carlyle House. This family-friendly program will feature living history interpreters portraying the Carlyle family and local Alexandrians, help them welcome the Carlyle's to their new home. Location: Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 15

CARD Virginia School will host open house 10 a.m. - noon for families of children ages 3 to 12

attorney general, but she has a great background in law enforcement and non-profits as well. She is not a one-issue candidate.

One of her first priorities is to create "A budget that invests in education, infrastructure, and public safety while keeping Virginia a great state for business." That sounds like common sense. She supports "the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act." She would like to return Virginia to the "one handgun a month" law. Standing up to the gun lobby is a critical issue with the Virginia tragedy at VA Tech and the more recent tragedy in Aurora. She also feels Virginia should be a leader in sustainable energy, and she will work hard to support collective bargaining rights.

But I also believe she will be a leader in education, something that is her opponent's signature issue. On her website it says: "We all have a vested interest in the performance of our public schools. Every child has the right to a quality education. We must do more to close the gap between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers, preparing all children for a successful future. I am committed to quality, safe education for every child. I will work hard to combat bullying and harassment in our schools, as I have done in our community. I will support programs that foster parental involvement in their child's education. I believe strongly that we must support the Virginia Community College System, which has been setting enrollment records as more and more people of all ages look for ways to obtain quality, affordable higher education and skills-training. We must also support our public colleges and universities more robustly to slow the rise in tuition prices, and end the calls at many of our public institutions to reduce their number of in-state students. Lastly, I will fight Republican efforts to privatize education at the expense of our public schools."

These are strong positions for sure. Former Alexandria Delegate Bernie Cohen stood up against miscegenation (laws forbidding interracial marriage) and Marion Van Landingham stood up for the prison population across Virginia. I look forward to seeing what Karen will stand up for in Richmond, but I know she will stand up for our progressive values in Alexandria. I believe Karen Gautney deserves a chance to be our delegate in Richmond, and in this special election a small number of votes can make a big difference.

Boyd Walker

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Every room in this expansive six-bedroom, three-bath executive home shows the talent of the custom builder and the style of the owners. With Spanish and French accents, and located on a large landscaped lot in the heart of Stratford Landing, this home has it all. Updated throughout with many custom features. A beautiful covered deck and pool complete the picture.

Vicki Binkley
703.994.0778
www.VickiBinkley.com
MLS ID# FX7897229



WOODBIDGE \$555,000



Upgraded & Elegant!!!

Gleaming hardwoods, gourmet kitchen with granite, stainless steel appliances and sunroom bump out, family room with surround sound, finished lower level with sixth bedroom, in-ground sprinkler system, and fenced backyard!

Kristie Zimmerman
703.786.6155
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MLS ID# PW7875368



703.549.9292
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