

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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OCTOBER 25, 2012



Photo by Yuhuan Xu/Gazette Packet

The Titans are cheered onto the field.

Homecoming Spirit

Students, parents, school staff got together for T.C. Williams 2012 Homecoming on the sunny afternoon of Oct. 20, where the Titans versus Atoms football game and Homecoming parade highlighted the final day of the Homecoming Spirit Week. This year's theme is "T.C. in the Wild."

— CHELSEA BRYAN AND YUHAN XU



Homecoming Queen Morgan Lataillade and King Abraham Lamin are crowned.



Cpt. Jenna Samara (left) and Sgt. Kimberly Alvarez, T.C. Williams Army JROTC Ball queen and princess, prepare for the parade.



The marching band leads the parade.



Principal Suzanne Maxey (right) with academic principal Jessica Hillery are ready for the game and parade.

Eminent Question

Voters to determine fate of amendment to limit the use of eminent domain.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
Gazette Packet

Nowhere is the debate about eminent domain more intense than the foot of King Street in Alexandria, where city officials threatened to take land owned by the Old Dominion Boat Club using the power of eminent domain for flood mitigation. The land is currently leased by the club as parking, creating a perpetual source of revenue for the organization. As a result, an amendment to the Virginia constitution that will be on the ballot in November could have drastic consequences.

"Any use of eminent domain af-

ter this amendment passes, could potentially be more expensive for the city," said City Attorney James Banks. "How much more expensive, I have no idea — nor does anyone else because it requires further definition by the General Assembly."

Across Northern Virginia, local government officials are concerned that the amendment could increase the cost of public-works projects such as building roads. The language of the amendment allows land owners to seek damages from local governments if they can prove a loss of profits or a loss of access. If a county government prevents traffic from

SEE DOMAIN, PAGE 7

Closing the Gap

School Board candidates offer variety of perspectives on addressing failing test scores for students with disabilities.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
Gazette Packet

The last three years have seen test scores plummet for students with disabilities, a group that constitutes an expensive and vexing challenge for Alexandria City Public Schools. Special education students have the highest cost per per pupil and the lowest scores in the system. In the last few years, school administrators have launched a program of "inclusion," bringing special education students out of their own classrooms and placing them in the general population. The initiative has had mixed reviews, and

it's become a point of contention on the campaign trail this year.

"This is good for social skills but not good for learning," said Chyrell Bucksell, candidate in District B. "It's important that they get the best social skills so they can be able to interact and that they get educated in the way that's best for them in the best environment for them, and that's not inclusion."

Bucksell is not the only candidate to be critical of inclusion. In a series of interviews with the 11 candidates running for the three contested seats this year, opinions varied about how the program was conceived and how it's been

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 8

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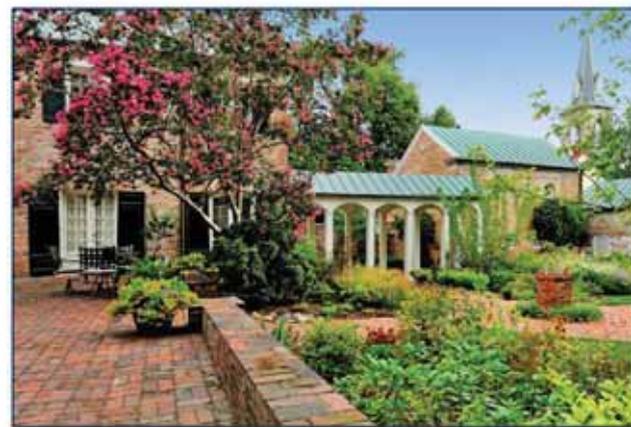
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Night Whistles

Alexandria has become a whistle stop town — in more ways than one. Trains have been a regular feature of life in the city since before the Civil War. But lately they've been making a ruckus. All over Alexandria, the sound of train whistles has been heard night and day — even during the recent presidential debate.

"It's very annoying," observed Mayor **Bill Euille**. "Especially at night."

The reason for the hullabaloo is maintenance work. Florida-based CSX is conducting track work on its railroad track between Alexandria and Woodbridge. The horns are part of federal safety requirements for this work, which is being conducted Sunday through Thursday night between 8:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. City officials are quick to point out that Alexandria has no authority to alter or influence the sounding of the horns.

The project is set to end by the beginning of November.

West End Worries

For two years, tenants on the West End of Alexandria have been protesting rent and utility increases imposed by JBG Properties. The neighborhood, known by many as the Hamlets, has some of the last market-rate affordable housing units in Alexandria. Earlier this year, JBG was one of the property owners who worked with city officials to craft the controversial Beaugard small-area plan, which was opposed by dozens of speakers at a daylong public hearing before council members adopted the plan. Supporters praised the plan for setting aside dedicated units of affordable housing, while opponents criticized the lack of market-rate affordable housing.

Now JBG has been named "Developer of the Year" by the Commercial Real Estate Association.

"It's not too late for JBG to show that it truly is the developer of the year," said **Hector Pineda**, longtime resident of the West End.

Pineda and other are calling on JBG to reverse course and take steps to ensure that redevelopment in Beaugard preserves the existing community. As city officials move forward on rezoning the West End, Tenets and Workers United are advocating that the city and JBG roll back rents to 2010 rates and provide all current residents with affordable housing in the new development.

Through a spokesman, JBG declined to comment.

Bad Faith

When Arlington County leaders decided against moving forward with an optional study for federal funding of a transit corridor along Route 1, Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes** accused the Arlington County Board of acting in "bad faith." This week, she suggested that Alexandria withdraw a \$320,000 allocation to reimburse Arlington for the development of preliminary information related to an environmental assessment of potentially converting the transitway to a streetcar. Now, Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** is accusing Hughes of acting in bad faith.

"For us to now renege on an agreement that we had after Arlington has in good faith gone out and expended dollars based upon an agreement that was approved by both jurisdictions seems to be to be a little bit in bad faith," said Donley.

"It really does carry forward with our credibility," said **Rich Baier**, director of Transportation and Environmental Services.

Donley said that he wasn't sure if he supported upgrading the transit corridor from bus-rapid transit to streetcar is a good idea because of the cost, although he said it was important for the city to live up to an agreement between the neighboring jurisdictions that was crafted earlier this year. Hughes said she didn't support the agreement, adding that she voted against it. Hughes criticized Arlington for not moving forward with the optional study.

"Until this is publicly vetted, I will not support us spending any dollars," said Hughes.

Hughes and Councilman **Frank Fannon** voted against the appropriation.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



Photos by YUHAN XU/Gazette Packet

ACPS School Board members, from left: Helen Morris, vice chair; Sheryl Gorsuch, chairman; Morton Sherman, Superintendent and Arthur Peabody.

Overcrowding Leads Budget Concerns

Parents also seek improved after-school programs.

BY YUHAN XU
Gazette Packet

At the Alexandria City School Board's Oct. 11 public hearing on its FY 2014 budget, parents and school staff voiced their concerns over funding for various schools and programs.

"MacArthur is exceeding capacity," said Elizabeth Jones, representing Douglas MacArthur Elementary School PTA. "We have nearly 700 students. There's no teachers' lounge this year. Teachers have no place to decompress, and we need to expand the cafeteria. We need modular units to alleviate this overcrowding."

When it comes to overgrowth in student population, MacArthur is not alone. George Mason Elementary School has 502 students this year, compared to 400 six years ago. Four to six modular units are needed as most classes exceed the class size cap. Additional bathrooms are in need as 72 teachers and school staff are now sharing one adult bathroom, and there are only two bathrooms for children.

In the Superintendent of Schools Morton Sherman's report, the student population keeps growing from 10,521 back to 2006 to 13,112 in 2012. "This is 25 percent increase in enrollment,"

said Sherman. "This is at the top of our planning list."

While overcrowding is an urgent issue, after-school programming is another area that requires more funding. "The foreign language after-school program varies every year," Jones said. "I'd like to see the school consistently provide foreign language opportunities in the after-school program and ideally incorporate it into school day across the entire division. It will be nice to have Mandarin and Spanish all the time. And last year, we had a successful chess program. One hundred students were interested in taking that program, but we couldn't accommodate all the students. I'd like to urge the School Board to fund the programs."

Ashley Chappell, representative of Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, also said parents would like to have more after-school programs to provide more opportunities for children.

Besides expressing the needs for funding, representatives of school provided suggestions. "If we can't do it with funds," said Tom Tyler, president of Cora Kelly PTA. "Let's do it with grants. We're so excited to work with the grant writer to seek more grants. I was so impressed with the grants that Cora Kelly had and benefited so many children there."

At the meeting, T.C. Williams Principal Suzanne Maxey updated board members on the school's transformation and requested them to fully fund the cost of Advanced Placement examinations.

The FY 2014 budget calendar is scheduled for approval on the School Board meeting on Oct. 25.



Elizabeth Jones, who represents the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School PTA, speaks at the meeting.



Parents, students and school officials attended the School Board meeting on Oct. 11.

Photos by YUHAN XU/Gazette Packet

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NEWS

Requiring Art

New policy asks developers to contribute 30 cents for each square foot of development.



Photo by MICHAEL LEE POPE/Gazette Packet

This piece of public art at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Commonwealth avenues has prompted much debate in Del Ray.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
 Gazette Packet

Public art has always created public disagreement. Whether it's the Confederate veteran on South Washington Street or the suggestive sculpture at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Commonwealth avenues, some of Alexandria's hottest arguments have been sparked by public art.

And that talk is not cheap.

Over the years, developers have contributed works that range in value from \$10,000 to \$10 million. But the contributions have lacked consistency, leading city officials to consider a number of possible solutions. One idea under discussion was to require developers to pay 50 cents for each square foot — an idea that provoked massive resistance among commercial property owners at a public hearing earlier this month. That idea was spiked in favor of returning to a case-by-case approach, although that was also unpopular.

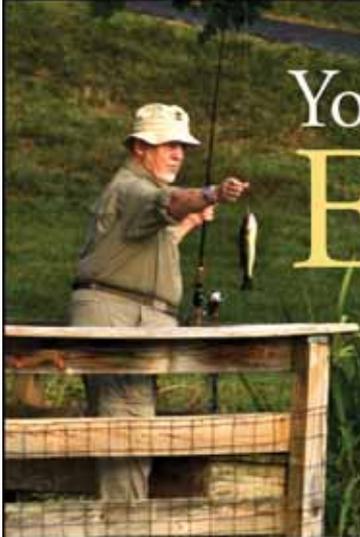
"We do not support the lack of clarity and guid-

ance on the amount of money that developers will be expected to contribute," said David Millard, representing a group of commercial property owners. "The policy has had a number of extravagant suggestions for what this contribution should be."

Councilman David Speck offered a compromise — require developers to contribute 30 cents for each square foot of development, with a maximum contribution of \$75,000. City leaders say that will bring Alexandria in line with other public art policies in Arlington County and the District of Columbia. Council members approved the compromise motion this week, adding an exemption for parking garages when calculating the square footage.

"What do developers hate more than anything else? Uncertainty," said Speck. "You want to control your costs. You don't want costs added on that you can't control. And you definitely want to know what the specifics are."

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Photos by JEANNE THEISMANN



Walk founder and breast cancer survivor Vola Lawson addresses the crowd in the Hoffman Center parking lot prior to the start of this year's walk.

Station 201 firefighters Fred Ruff, Rachel Grayson, Tim Curley, Mike Johnson, Ray Whatley, Dale Barr and Rodney Masser sold "Fire Up for the Cause" t-shirts to raise money for the walk.

The Power of Pink

Walk to fight breast cancer raises \$90,000.

It was during a routine mammogram in 1994 that then-city manager Vola Lawson discovered she had breast cancer. Shortly thereafter, her mother and two sisters were diagnosed with the disease.

"This is something I am passionate about," said Lawson prior to this year's walk. "It's because of a mammogram that I am alive and one of my sisters is not so I am committed to helping every woman in the city get the screening they need regardless of their economic situation."

Still recovering from a double mastectomy in 1995, Lawson founded the city's annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, which celebrated its 17th anniversary Oct. 20 and raised more than \$90,000 to fund mammograms and other diagnostic screenings for Alexandria women who are not adequately insured to obtain medical care.

More than 900 walkers and runners took to the starting line on Eisenhower Avenue to raise money for the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer Fund, which has provided mammograms to more than 7,000 women since its inception. Major donors included Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota/Scion, who pledged \$50 for every car sold during the month of October and \$15 for every Facebook "Like," and the Alexandria Fire



Breast cancer surgeon Dr. David Weintritt is flanked by two-time survivor Ellen Vlasak, left, and recently diagnosed Brenda King.

Department. "We will keep selling the T-shirts," said Capt. Rodney Masser of the fundraising effort that raised more than \$7,000. "They will be available at Station 201 on Prince Street until they're gone."

The event is jointly sponsored by the City of Alexandria and the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation.

"My life was saved by a mammogram," Lawson said. "We need to give every woman in this city that same chance."

For information or to make a donation, contact Sarah Watson at 703-746-3123 or sarah.watson@alexandriava.gov or visit www.alexcanwalk.com.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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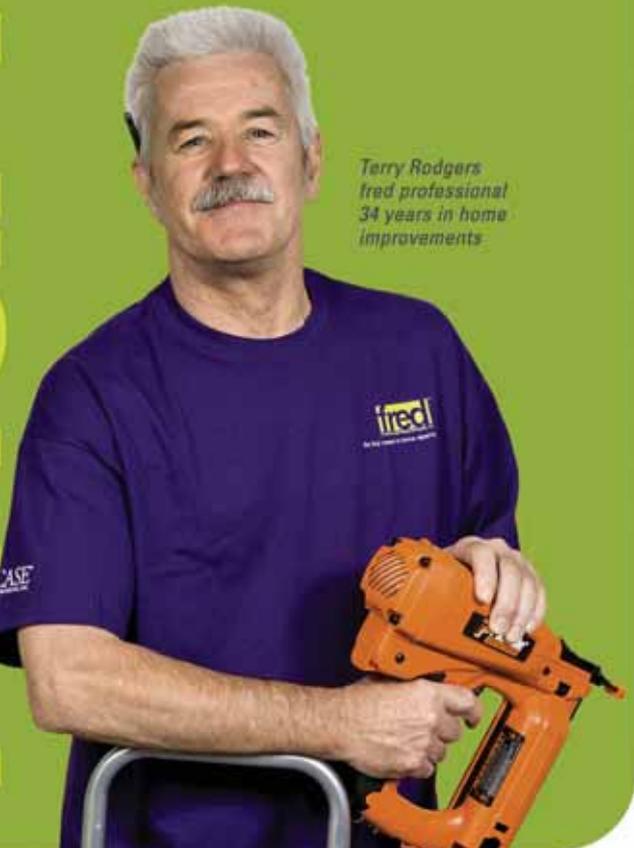
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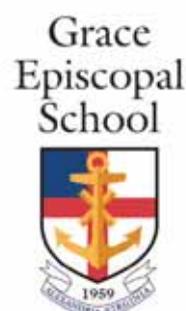
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Amendment on Eminent Domain on Ballot

From Page 1

turning into a parking lot, for example, a retail outlet could seek damages for loss of access to the business.

“I’d be surprised if it didn’t pass because when given the opportunity to limit eminent domain, voters would probably decide to do that.”

— **Kyle Kondick, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics**

erty for any reason the legislature defines as a public use.”

THE AMENDMENT before voters this year is, in many ways, part of the backlash against the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Kelo* versus *City of*

The Old Dominion Boat Club, on the other hand, could seek damages for the loss of profits on the parking spaces.

“Virginia has one of the worst state constitutions in the entire country with regard to property rights,” said Ilya Somin, professor of law at George Mason University. “Most state constitutions say you can only take property for a public use. But what the Virginia constitution currently says is you can condemn property for any reason the legislature defines as a public use.”



Photo by MICHAEL LEE POPE/Gazette Packet

New London. Virginia is one of 44 states that enacted legislation limiting how eminent domain could be used in the wake of the decision, a five-to-four ruling that opened the door to governments taking private property for “public purpose,” even if that means economic revitalization. Legislators have already passed a law that prevents government officials from condemning property for economic development or private use, although supporters of the amendment say the amendment would be more permanent than a statutory restriction.

“Institutionalizing it in the constitution prevents the legislature from backsliding on this later as they would quite possibly be

inclined to do as public opinion moves on to other issues,” said Somin. “In the short run, that part of the amendment would change very little, but it would entrench this against future change by the legislature, which I think is very important.”

The language of the amendment goes beyond codifying the existing prohibition against taking private land for public use. It also creates a new way for landowners to seek damages from local governments if they can prove in court that they have lost access or profits. That concerns local government leaders who are worried that the new limitations might dramatically increase the cost of public-works projects while inflicting unintended consequences on unsus-

pecting property owners.

“There may be a perverse incentive now to look at residential property rather than commercial properties when jurisdictions might be looking at eminent domain said state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31). “This compensation for lost profits is going to be a complicating factor.”

THE POLITICS of eminent domain are not strictly partisan, although Republicans seem united in their support of the amendment. State Sen. George Barker (D-39) voted for the amendment last year in an effort to strip out language adding the ability of property owners to seek interest on top of the loss of profits and loss of access. This year, he voted against the bill, which he says he opposed all along.

“It’s nowhere near as bad as the proposal that came out of committee last year,” said Barker in an interview earlier this year. “But it still has very significant negative consequences in terms of cost, and it’s also something that would be very difficult to change.”

The amendment has not received much attention this year, and many voters may be hearing about it for the first time when they enter the polls on Election Day. Some of the Democratic sample ballots are encouraging voters to reject the amendment, but many say the threat of eminent domain could be enough to turn the tide in favor of the initiative.

“I can imagine why Democrats in Northern Virginia wouldn’t be as keen on the amendment as folks in other parts of the state because one can imagine eminent domain being used more because of all the development in Northern Virginia,” said Kyle Kondick, analyst for the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “I’d be surprised if it didn’t pass because when given the opportunity to limit eminent domain, voters would probably decide to do that.”

If the amendment is successful, members of the General Assembly will have to pass another bill outlining what would constitute a loss of profits and a loss of access.

The Passover Amendment

Amendment would give General Assembly more flexibility.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
Gazette Packet

Every year, the Virginia General Assembly convenes several weeks after the session to react to the governor’s vetoes. The “veto session” frequently conflicts with Passover — the Jewish festival that commemorates the flight of the ancient Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. That posed a problem for former Del. David Englin (D-45). Should he remain true to his religion and skip the important legislative session. Or should he remain true to his constituents?

“During my first year in the General Assembly, the reconvened session fell on Passover,” said Englin, who now lives in California. “That’s when I learned that the Virginia constitution gives the General Assembly zero flexibility over the date of the reconvened session, which

happens after every regular session.”

The state constitution stipulates that the General Assembly must convene on the sixth Wednesday after the session. Because of the way the calendar falls, that frequently coincides with Passover. For Jews, the conflict creates a difficult decision — one that had Jews such as Englin and state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) working on one of Judaism’s most important holidays.

“For Jews, it’s an important holiday,” said Ebbin. “And every member of the General Assembly should be able to practice their religion.”

Because the language at issue is in the text of the constitution, the only way to create flexibility is by creating another constitutional amendment. That’s what will be before voters this November. The language on the ballot won’t say anything about Passover, though. Instead, it will present voters with a question about whether the constitution should be amended to allow the Gen-

eral Assembly to delay the veto session by a week.

“The fate of the commonwealth will not rise or fall with this amendment,” said Englin. “However, voters should support it because it makes sense to give the General Assembly a small amount of flexibility over its own calendar to deconflict with important events, without allowing so much wiggle room that people could play politics with the schedule.”

The amendment has no organized opposition, and passed the General Assembly overwhelmingly. It’s received very little attention, though. Many voters remain unaware that it’s even on the ballot.

“The way I explained it at the Fairfax County Democratic Committee when they asked me to explain it to them, I said it’s one view but if you really hate Jews just vote no,” joked Del. Scott Surovell (D-44).

Candidates: How Best To Educate Students with Disabilities

From Page 1

funded. The two incumbents running for reelection in District A and District B defended the idea and how it's been implemented.

"I believe inclusion is properly staffed," said Marc Williams, who was first elected in 2008. "We will certainly, in the next budget process, have the opportunity to see if it needs to be calibrated."

"It takes time for teachers to become comfortable with this and become expert at it," said Helen Morris, who was first elected in 2009. "But I believe we are on the right path."

WHEN ASKED ABOUT the reason for the declining scores, several of the candidates were critical of the current School Board. Some suggested that cutting the number of special education teachers was a mistake, even if the population of students with disabilities has decreased by 260 students in the last four years. Others say current members have simply not been listening.

"I think our current School Board has made a practice of not listening to parents," said Heath Wells, candidate in District B. "And I think that's one of the reasons why we are having problems with our scores."

The school system currently has about 1,500 special education students, which costs taxpayers about \$24 million a year to educate. That's about 285 positions. Earlier this year, School Board members considered a proposal that would have reduced the number of special education teachers while increasing the number of paraprofessionals, a move that some candidates said might be a mistake.

"If you talk to the teachers, they'll tell you they are stretched too thin," said Justin Keating, candidate in District B. "There are plenty of ways that more resources for special ed, whether it be teachers or supplies

and technology, can also be used in a lot of ways to benefit the general population."

FAILING TEST SCORES has been a problem for city schools for years, although the No Child Left Behind Law has made the deficiencies more transparent. A 2008 review of the school system by the Virginia Department of Education found six areas where Alexandria City Public Schools was not meeting the needs of its special-education population. That was also the conclusion of an audit conducted by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents. Administrators say they are working to implement recommendations outlined in the audits, but some of the candidates say progress has been too slow.

"[Superintendent of Schools Morton] Sherman and the board has been able to get away with this because there hasn't been enough focus on it," said Bill Campbell, candidate in District A. "If I'm on the board, they won't be able to do that."

But creating a new focus for special education may prove to be a challenging task for the next School Board. The division has a goal of including 80 percent of students during 80 percent of the school day. Meanwhile, funding is tight and special education is already one of the most expensive areas of the budget. Nevertheless, several of the candidates said they would push for more funding.

"I want to put the specialist back in special education," said Michael Brookbank, candidate in District A. "That means you are going to have new hires, and you are going to have to have more special ed teachers and full-time employees who are directly addressing this issue."

MOST OF THE CANDIDATES support the program of inclusion, although several were critical of how it's been implemented. Recent changes to funding for special edu-

DECLINING TEST SCORES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
ENGLISH			
division	69 percent	51 percent	52 percent
state	73 percent	67 percent	66 percent
MATH			
division	64 percent	50 percent	27 percent
state	73 percent	66 percent	40 percent
WRITING			
division	59 percent	59 percent	52 percent
state	62 percent	62 percent	61 percent
HISTORY			
division	69 percent	48 percent	45 percent
state	72 percent	61 percent	61 percent
SCIENCE			
division	59 percent	55 percent	51 percent
state	71 percent	70 percent	70 percent

Source: Virginia Department of Education

cation, for example, were seen by many as the wrong course of action. Several said that the next School Board had to use the budget process to make sure that inclusion was properly funded to fully realize the vision.

"Inclusion was working great the first year they introduced it because a lot of the teachers understood it and it worked really well. The second year it's underfunded, and the third year they changed the program and it's nonexistent," said Karen Graf, candidate in District A. "So yeah, you can sit there and tout the philosophy, but what you do matters and they are not doing it well."

"They have been mainstreaming a lot of children into regular classrooms, taking them out of supported services and so that's going to create issues where the numbers do get lowered because they don't have those support systems," added Joyce Rawlings, candidate in District A. "You're putting more children in mainstream without the proper supports in those classrooms."

Several candidates called for a district-wide needs assessment to determine which schools needed the most help so that resources could be properly channeled.

"I know that there are a lot of special education teachers in Alexandria who are stretched way too thin right now," said Kelly Carmichael Booz, candidate in District B. "And it's really incumbent on the principals and the administration to say we need to get more resources into the school."

Many of the candidates praised the autism program at John Adams Elementary School, saying it was a model that other school systems should follow. Ultimately, though test scores show that special-education students continue to fall behind. That's an issue that will fall on the shoulders of the next School Board, which will have at least six new members next year.

"I wish there were a silver bullet, but there's not," said Kapsis. "In the end, it comes down to having strong leadership in the classroom."

Candidates in Contested School Board Races

District A

♦ **Bill Campbell, 50:** A native of Fairmont, W.V., Campbell has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from West Virginia University and a master's degree in paralegal studies from Georgetown University. He is currently a project engineer for the Department of Defense. He has two boys in middle school, both of whom attend George Washington Middle School and a daughter who graduated T.C. Williams High School in 2010. He votes in the Durant precinct.

♦ **Karen Graf, 41:** A native of San Francisco, Graf has a bachelor's degree in English literature from California State University, Chico, and a master's degree in technical communications from Northeastern University in Boston. She is currently a stay-at-home mother, and she is a former technical writer and a previous manager of writers and editors. She has two boys at Mount Vernon

Community School and a daughter who will be attending Kindergarten at Mount Vernon next year. Graf votes at the Mount Vernon precinct.

♦ **Stephanie Kapsis, 29:** A native of Washington, D.C., Kapsis was raised in McLean and has a bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University and a master's degree in teaching from Pace University. She has been a classroom teacher and a director at Teach for America. Kapsis votes at the George Washington School precinct.

♦ **Helen Morris, 46:** A native of Kingston, Penn., Morris was raised in Binghamton, N.Y. She has a bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Michigan and a graduate degree in early Irish language and literature from University College Dublin. She is currently a freelance project manager in education policy issues and a stay-at-home mother. Morris votes at the Durant Center precinct.

♦ **Joyce Rawlings, 62:** A native of Washington, D.C., Rawlings attended classes at Northern Virginia Community College. She is currently a program co-

ordinator for the Family Resource Learning Center. She had three children graduate from T.C. Williams High School in 1985, 1987 and 1996. She votes at the Cora Kelly precinct.

♦ **Heath Wells, 43:** A native of Kettering, Ohio, Wells has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Military Institute and a juris doctorate from American University. He is currently an Army attorney, and his wife is pregnant with a child that Wells says will likely attend Jefferson-Houston School. He votes at the Durant Center precinct.

District B

♦ **Kelly Carmichael Booz, 33:** A native of Minneapolis, Booz has a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in women's studies at Carleton College in Minnesota. She also has a master's degree in social foundations in education from the University of Virginia. Booz is currently the director of civic education at the Center for the

Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier. She is currently pregnant with a child that will join Alexandria City Public Schools in 2018. Booz votes at the Maury precinct.

♦ **Michael Brookbank, 65:** A native of High Point, N.C., Brookbank was raised in Columbus, Ga. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in business administration from George Mason University. Brookbank is retired from the U.S. Navy, and he is currently a certified financial planner. He has twin boys enrolled at MacArthur Elementary School. Brookbank votes at Beth El Temple precinct.

♦ **Chyrell Bucksell, 28:** A native of Washington, D.C., Bucksell was raised in Alexandria and graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 2001. She attended classes at Northern Virginia Community College, and she is currently a patient service coordinator for a vascular care practice. She has two children in Alexandria City Public Schools, one at Jefferson-Houston School and one at Tucker Elementary School. Bucksell

votes at the James K. Polk School.

♦ **Justin Keating, 37:** A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Keating has a bachelor's degree in political science from SUNY College at Fredonia and a juris doctorate from George Washington University. He is currently a lawyer representing labor unions and pension funds. His older son will start Kindergarten next year, probably at Maury Elementary School. Keating votes at the Maury precinct.

♦ **Marc Williams, 53:** A native of Versailles, Ky., Williams has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of the South and a juris doctorate from the University of Virginia. He is currently part of IBM's governmental programs group, where he is responsible for global intellectual property. He has a son who graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 2012, a son at T.C. Williams and a daughter who is a student at George Washington Middle School. He votes at the George Mason School precinct.

Pumpkin Purveyor for Charity

2012 Living Legend of Alexandria Wendy McGann John.

BY MAX ROTERMUND

It all began almost 20 years ago when Immanuel Church on the Hill (ICOH) at Quaker Lane and Seminary Road received an offer of pumpkins, initially a quarter-truck load, to be sold by the church with the proceeds to be shared with the program that grew the pumpkins on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico. Five women took on the challenge. The vestry approved and dedicated all proceeds to charity. That was a fateful decision. It allowed the ICOH Pumpkin Patch to become the second most successful patch among the more than 1,200 patches run by churches across the nation. It is probable that many of the Pumpkin Patch's diverse customers would be less likely to buy pumpkins were the profits to remain at the church.

Wendy John was one of these women. But as things typically evolve in voluntary organizations, John's activism soon put her in charge of the program. Her charismatic, smiling leadership, hidden behind the Pumpkin Lady's apron, slowly increased sales from that quarter-truck load to five truck loads in October 2011 at the Patch. The tale of ever-increasing sales from 10,000 pounds to almost 200,000 pounds (100 tons) last fall is an example of pure business success. How does one sell 100 tons of pumpkins in less than one month?

It was the first Sunday morning in October 2011 at Immanuel Church on the Hill on Seminary Road. Parishioners arrived for what has become known as the Mass on the Grass, a service held on the church grounds. They wore work-in-the-garden clothes to the service. In front of the church stood two semi-trailers, their back doors open awaiting the parishioners. After the service, they unloaded some 80,000 pounds of pumpkins in two or three hours. So began the annual fall rite of the ICOH Pumpkin Patch. This rite of fall has been performed for 20 years and will be repeated this year.

Over the years, John added other mer-

chandise to be sold at the Patch. Part of the logic of adding other goods to be sold was the realization that the proceeds would go 100 percent to charities. Furthermore, the anticipation of more than just pumpkins would draw repeat customers to the patch. To make this part of the enterprise viable, John encouraged parishioners to make and provide craft items, cookies, cupcakes breads and soups. A few years ago, one parishioner began making Apple Crisps to be sold. The arrival of the Crisps has become a major event at the Patch. Early customers always ask when the delicious pies will arrive. They buy all that are made, over 500 last year. An assembly line of parishioners now prepares the Apple Crisps.

Parishioners contribute well over 1,000 hours to make the patch a success. The 1,000 hours refers to the number of person-hours needed just to staff the Patch while it is open to the public. Uncounted are the many more hours that go into management of the Patch, making goodies, and coordination of the volunteers. An intense publicity effort of placing press releases in regional newspapers, the Internet, on storefronts and signs on lawns has resulted in the Patch becoming an annual event for people who live far from Alexandria. News editors accept the releases because they know the charitable focus of the Patch.

Most of the parishioner-volunteers, of all ages, have never held sales positions, thus requiring prompting and encouragement to make the Patch experience as pleasurable as possible for its customers and the volunteers. Volunteers gain from the many social interactions that occur at the Patch. Customers, even repeat ones, are encouraged to buy through the reminder that "it is all for charity." Visitors to the Patch also are told that the Navajo tribe benefits from the sales. Families with children and camera in tow are told that the volunteers will be glad to take photographs of the kids and their parents — no charge. This total effort is designed to draw people of all ways of life to the Patch, not just members of ICOH and not just Alexandrians.

Where does the money go? First, the funds are split with those who provide the pumpkins at no charge to the Patch. The remainder goes to charities, mostly local groups. Approximately \$500,000 has been

Living Legends: The Project

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

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

To nominate a Legend, visit AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Nina Tisara, 703-625-2330. Nomination deadline is Nov. 15.



Photo by NINA TISARA

Wendy McGann John, Immanuel Church on the Hill's Pumpkin Lady.

donated to charities over the last dozen years. This year's installment is double that which was donated a decade ago. What happens to the few leftover pumpkins? A large-animal rescue shelter down Interstate 95 picks them up to feed their animals. The Patch is a no-waste operation.

The ICOH Pumpkin Patch is a wonderful example of people coming together to do good work, a lot of it, under excellent leadership, to great effect. This year is also a milestone in John's career as the Pumpkin Lady. She has initiated planning for her second retirement, a task almost as large as running the Patch.

John's personal history matches that of many Alexandrians. Born and raised somewhere else, Boston in her case, she was educated at Smith College (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) and the University of Texas School of Law. Forty years ago, women were still an exception in law schools. She then spent a career working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the General Counsel representing the Forest Service. Married for 40 years, and counting, she has two married sons, one a U.S. Air Force officer and the other, a published author.^o

Her successes in both professional and family life speak to her entrepreneurial spark. Her drive and charisma reflect her background and put the Patch on the road to success as a major contributor to life in Alexandria. She is a Living Legend.

Alexandria Campaign On Adolescent Pregnancy Receives HHS Grant

The Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy was awarded a three-year Personal Responsibility Education Program grant for \$290,494 per year from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families to provide evidence-based prevention programs that address teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections with up to 800 at-risk youth.

The partners in the project include: Capital Youth Empowerment, Northern Virginia Aids Ministry, Community Lodgings and T.C. Williams High School's Graduation, Reality, and Dual-Role Skills (GRADS) class. The project includes movement, meditation and nutrition components based on current research on adolescent brain development.

For more information about the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy, visit www.KeepIt360.org

Be Part of Children's Gazette Packet

Call for student artwork and writing; deadline Dec. 3.

During the last week of each year, The Gazette Packet devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The annual Children's Gazette Packet is a tradition of well over a decade, and we begin getting inquiries from teachers and parents about submitting artwork and writing almost as soon as summer is over.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Monday, Dec. 3.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most

EDITORIALS

looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is the best or worst thing that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette Packet in the Alexandria Gazette Packet to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Gazette Packet, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Dec. 3. The Children's Gazette Packet will publish the week of Dec. 27, 2012.

Halloween Parties, SoberRide

Halloween is now as much of an adult party as a children's festival. Along with the Fourth of July, the holiday period including New Year's Eve and a few other dates, Halloween stands

out as a holiday connected to an increase in drinking and driving.

If you will be out celebrating with alcohol, you can plan ahead. Assign a designated driver. Celebrate at home. Take public transportation. But if these plans fall through, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) Halloween SoberRide program provides a safety net.

For six hours from 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31 until 4 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 1, SoberRide serves as a way to keep impaired drivers off the road. During this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home.

Sponsors of this year's Halloween SoberRide offering include: Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Diageo, Giant, MillerCoors, Red Top Cab of Arlington, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 55,694 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. For more information visit www.wrap.org

Last Call

Letters to the editor from local residents about the upcoming election should be received by Friday, Oct. 26 to be considered for publication. Letters on candidates, bond questions, election procedure or any other local, election related topics are welcome and encouraged. Ideal letters will be about 200 words and convey opinion with civility. Send letters to smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

— MARY KIMM,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS

Transparency on Potomac Yard

To the Editor:

In response to the Oct. 18 letters to the editor by Mr. Hertel and Mr. Van Horn about the Potomac Yard Metrorail station, I want to set the record straight. I want to reassure the public that the city has been — and will continue to be — open and transparent in its Potomac Yard Metrorail Station planning. First, City Council has not chosen a final site for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station. In 2010, during a very public, nearly two-year process, a preliminary station site was identified after some two dozen public meetings, including those of a very large citizen and stakeholder advisory group (which included the Na-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



Photo by LOUISE KRAFFT/Gazette Packet

Snapshot 4:30 p.m., Oct. 23: Founders Park dock.

Measuring Success in Alexandria City Public Schools

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN
Superintendent of Schools



COMMENTARY

Learning, leadership, and liberty are important outcomes in education. When I speak to parents, community members, and business leaders, I often ask how they measure success. Most people measure the success of schools by test scores; after all, schools must be accountable for student achievement. So how do we measure success in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)?

I recently posed this question to the community: "If public education is so important to our democracy, how are we doing?" As we enter the final days before the 2012 presidential election, focused on a democratic society, we find a teachable moment – an opportune time to reflect and maintain momentum. Through consistent learning and strong leadership; our students will gain liberty as empowered citizens who will contribute in insightful ways to our global society. This is what we strive to achieve for our students and how we will measure

success.

I was asked in an interview earlier this year, why is it so important for ACPS to close the academic achievement gap? My answer: "Closing the achievement gap is a civil rights issue. We must not have different levels of achievement among our students. Beyond obvious, necessary, and stirring responses such as the civil rights focus, closing the achievement gap has implications for our economy and our democracy. Our country's future is dependent on a citizenry which is literate and productive."

ACPS is no different from the rest of the country in our responsibility to reduce and eliminate the achievement gap. The impact of not eliminating the achievement gap impacts individuals, our democracy, and our economy. This is important work and a great responsibility shared by all educators.

So how do we measure success? T.C. Williams High School is the largest high school in Virginia with more than 3,000 students on two campuses. Two years ago it was

given the PLA (Persistently Lowest Achieving) school designation. One year after receiving the designation, T.C. Williams had the highest state assessment results ever. Two years after receiving the designation, our high school is fully accredited.

Our foundational and guiding transformation document is labeled "Common Sense." There is no magic bullet or golden handbook on the shelf. We have created a simple ACPS Learning Model with three parts: Curriculum, Instruction, and Relationships.

We believe that what goes on in the classroom has an impact on every student. Our focus has been on supporting our teachers, creating a new curriculum, and ensuring that our schools are safe and caring places for students.

Our ABC formula (Achievement, Building on our strengths, Caring and Continuous improvements) has produced high impact schools such as Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, and Technology and William Ramsay Elementary School. Both schools serve populations that are diverse with approximately 84 percent of the students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Both schools have made impressive gains across all grade levels in reading, and

fifth-grade math at Cora Kelly results proved nothing short of phenomenal — bucking the trend of lower math scores in the wake of new state assessments.

I continue to believe the challenge we are addressing right here in ACPS is one our country must address. We are the face of America. That is why we continue to advocate for the success of each and every student. That is why we continue to work towards closing the achievement gap. That is why we continue to applaud Jefferson-Houston School for the progress made in School Reading Inventory (SRI), School Math Inventory (SMI) and Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) scores. That is why we identified Jefferson-Houston as a priority school in August and advocated for a conditional accreditation status for the school in recognition of demonstrated achievement and a clear action plan for increased achievement.

The commitment to educating the children of our democracy remains our priority. Through learning and leadership our students will gain liberty in life. We will continue to measure success both in the achievement and growth of our students. We will continue to celebrate each success. We will continue to rely on your support.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Page 10

tional Park Service).

Second, in City Council's subsequent adoption of the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan, it was made clear in the text of the plan document that the future environmental review process would determine how the final Potomac Yard Metrorail station site decision to select a locally preferred alternative would be made. The environmental review process, which is prescribed by the federal National Environmental Policy Act, is being carefully followed. This process is thoroughly evaluating the environmental and socioeconomic

impacts of the three station local alternatives, as well as the no-build alternative. The city will hold public hearings in the first part of 2013 as it deliberates the selection of a locally preferred alternative.

Finally, in regard to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to Metrorail station developer contributions, (which was negotiated between the city staff and developer) the full text of that MOU was publicly available and subject to public hearing in June 2010 before the City Council approved it. It has been on the city's web site for over two years. The

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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LETTERS

From Page 11

developers agreed in the MOU to contribute \$49 million if the station is built adjacent to North Potomac Yard, but if the station is built elsewhere (that is, not adjacent to North Potomac Yard) then it benefits the developers far less and they are not willing to contribute. If that occurs, then the amount of square feet allowed to be built in North Potomac Yard drops by 3.8 million square feet, because a transit connection that is not adjacent to North Potomac Yard would not be used by as many future North Potomac Yard residents and workers.

Those are the facts. I would urge those interested in the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station planning and environmental review process to visit alexandriava.gov/PotomacYard and www.potomacyardmetro.com to learn more.

Kerry Donley
Vice Mayor

Sticker Shock To Save Lives

To the Editor:

Young people in the City of Alexandria have a number of ways they can obtain alcohol illegally. Sometimes parents purchase beer and other alcohol products for their teens and turn a blind-eye to parties in their homes where alcohol is available. Other times, an older sibling, friend or even a stranger purchases beer, wine coolers or other alcoholic beverages for minors.

The penalties for providing alcoholic beverages to minors are significant. In 2011, a new Virginia law increased the liability for so-called "social hosts" — adults whose actions — or even failure to act — result in underage drinking. However, the real damage falls on our young people whose safety, health and bright futures are put at risk when they drink.

I know firsthand about the risks and the devastating consequences when adults purchase alcohol for underage youth. On Dec. 3, 2004, a 27-year-old man purchased two cases of beer for my 16-year-old step-daughter, Lauren Grace Sausville. She brought the beer to a friend's house whose father was out of town; an unsupervised, underage party. While there, Lauren drank a few beers and four shots of vodka before leaving for another party. Lauren had only had her driver's license for three weeks. She was following a friend to the party and going 55 mph on a 35 mph street when she came upon her friend waiting for her at a stop sign. She was an inexperienced driver and very drunk so she over-reacted and hit an embankment and flipped her dad's SUV onto its side and smashed into the right rear bumper of her friend's Mazda. The roof crushed in on her and killed her instantly. Lauren's BAC was a .13 when it was finally taken, as it took over an hour to cut her out of the car. Her spinal fluid was a .17 so she may have been as much as a .20. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says that a driver with a BAC of .15 or higher is 300 times more likely to be killed in a drunk driving crash. Lauren

became a statistic that night. But she is certainly not alone. Too many young people are losing their lives and leaving behind devastated families and friends because of the overwhelming number of adults who just don't get it.

On Saturday, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m., I will join the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, Virginia ABC, the Alexandria Department of Recreation and Cultural Activities, the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as we launch Alexandria's 2012 Sticker Shock Campaign.

To help prevent underage drinking, teams of youth and adults will place red STOP stickers on multipacks of beer, wine coolers and other alcohol products in over 60 participating stores throughout the City of Alexandria. Sticker Shock is designed to make adults stop and think twice about purchasing alcohol for minors. Working together, we hope to send a shock wave with the message that it's not OK — and it's against the law — to purchase or give alcoholic beverages to underage youth. Together, we can change the statistics and save lives.

MADD Volunteer Speaker and Victim Advocate

Pored Not Poured

To the Editor:

Thank you for publishing my letter in Gazette Packet [Oct. 18] with the headline, "Obvious Choice." I'm grateful for the opportunity to let my opinions be known to the many readers of the Gazette Packet.

I wrote the word "pored" in the sentence, "... I pored over the ways...", which, in my dictionary means, "to read studiously or attentively." The only word that someone changed in my letter is "pored" which became "poured." I really didn't "pour" over the ways to maximize my earning power and my retirement, I "pored" over the ways.

Marianne Anderson
Alexandria

Editor's Note: The error was mine.

Anti-Status-Quo Thinking

To the Editor:

Your reporter Michael Pope continues to make a basic factual error about the city-approved waterfront plan.

Pope states once again in his Oct. 18 front-page article that the plan would triple the allowable density on the three waterfront redevelopment sites. This is incorrect.

Even before the plan was approved, the owners of three development properties had rights almost as great as those approved under the plan. To be sure, the plan does allow more density, but the amount is very modest.

To say it another way, even before the waterfront plan's approval, the owners of the Cummings-Turner properties could have legally built a multi-story luxury condo building of almost the same size as the ho-

A Lesson in the Virginia Way

BY HARRY M. COVERT

I have suggested on several occasions that candidates and their professional minions take oaths "to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." And do so in public. This would certainly test the "honesty and veracity" of them all.



The day came when Mr. Holton, in tow of several rookie political workers, barged into the newspaper office where few if any Republicans ever appeared. He stopped at each desk where dutiful scribes clicked away on their Royal manual typewriters writing copy for the next day's paper.

COVERT MATTERS

Naturally, I don't include the political campaigners and current office holders of Alexandria, the city on the "Patowmack" River, a few miles from Mount Vernon where the boy George Washington said he could not tell a lie after chopping down a cherry tree. He didn't get into the whiskey business until later in life and it's a popular adjunct today to keeping the landmark financially stable.

Spelling changed in 1931 from the 18th century Patowmack to Potomac. The original name of the 405-mile waterway comes from the Algongian Indian tribe that lived in the vicinity of Fredericksburg.

I know it's difficult for the elected to keep any and all of their promises, pledges and the winks and/or nods up-and-down streets and venues throughout the city limits. But, I do know of a Virginia governor who kept his promise and the impression has remained for over 40 years.

Virginia voters began to wean themselves from a Democratic dominance in the late 1960s. Those who had been conservative Democrats merely moved into the Republican category and Mills E. Godwin Jr., the man from Chuckatuck, was the Commonwealth's 60th governor and a lifelong conservative Democrat, served with distinction from Jan. 15, 1966 to Jan. 17, 1970.

Republicans saw the opportunity and nominated a Roanoker, A. Linwood Holton Jr., and he worked the state tirelessly. In those days local GOP parties usually met in a telephone booth. Holton led the statewide charge and found many citizens who dared to flee from their former political persuasions.

I was on the phone with some politicians when the candidate stopped by my station. I hung-up the device and stood up to meet the man. He was polite, all smiles and said he enjoyed coming to the newspaper office. While shaking hands out of the blue, I asked for an exclusive interview if and when he was elected.

He agreed instantly. His handlers, gulped and smiled. My colleagues all laughed and suggested it would never happen. The campaigners left the office on to another session somewhere.

Mr. Holton became Virginia's 61st chief executive on Jan. 17, 1970 and distinguished himself during his four-year term. Unfortunately he couldn't succeed him and his predecessor became his successor as a Republican in January 1978.

The day came and this young reporter called Governor Holton's office asking for the exclusive. His secretary immediately passed me off to the press secretary who politely said the exclusive one-on-one chat was not possible. Reason being the state's political press corps would not like it.

I exclaimed that His Excellency had promised when he was campaigning. The press secretary put the phone down and was gone for about 10 minutes. The governor had not forgotten his promise and honored it. Within a few weeks, I was in his office, my old-fashioned tape recorder purring and me taking notes rapidly.

Governor Holton celebrated his 89th birthday on Sept. 21. His son-in-law Tim Kaine served as Virginia's 70th governor from 2006 to 2010.

Former Governor Kaine, a Democrat, and former Governor George Allen, the 67th, a Republican, are currently embroiled in a U. S. Senate campaign.

Holton, loyal in his word to journalists, is also devoted to his family.

tel they recently proposed for the site.

Pope characterizes the current Democratic City Council as representing the status quo. This too is incorrect.

The status quo on the waterfront is one in which semi-private enclaves of luxury homes and private office buildings dominate, with public activity relatively limited. If the anti-waterfront plan candidates take control and roll back the plan, this status quo will be reinforced, because the most probable outcome is development in which more homes for well-to-do people are built and public activity is limited.

Mayor Bill Euille and the Democratic City Council candidates have rejected this position based on narrow self-interest and have argued instead that the waterfront is for all

Alexandrians and should have more public activities. This is the kind of anti-status-quo thinking that we need in this city.

Bill Hendrickson
Alexandria

Editor's Note: The article states "The zoning change would almost triple density allowed at three sites on the waterfront compared to what's there now." The existing square footage is 301,687. Current zoning with SUP allows 647,449 square feet. Settlement agreement allows 744,105 square feet. The Waterfront Plan proposes 806,485 square feet.

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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OPINION

Senior Law Day: Alexandria for a Lifetime

BY MARYANNE BEATTY

On Saturday, Oct. 13, more than 150 people participated in the second annual Senior Law Day Program sponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and the Alexandria Bar Association at the First Baptist Church in Alexandria. Attendees were able to connect with local experts and service providers to learn about the legal, financial, and life care issues fac-



SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

ing seniors in our community and how important it is for seniors and their families to plan ahead.

Panelists first used a hypothetical case study, "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," to highlight the need to consider a wide range of issues, including financial planning, long-term care in-

surance, Medicare coverage, in-home care and continuing care communities.

The second half of the morning focused on "Planning to Stay Ahead of the Curve" and reminded everyone of the need to execute some basic documents: a current will, medical directive, and a power of attorney. There was even some frank conversation about the ins and outs of Medicare and Medicaid.

This important program would not have been possible with the help of our organiz-

ers, sponsors and the terrific panels of experts.

Senior Services of Alexandria is grateful to Barbara Anderson, Esq., principal of the Life & Estate Planning Law Center, PLLC, who worked tirelessly with the Alexandria Bar Association to organize and plan the event. SSA is also grateful to our many generous sponsors who include the Alexandria Bar Foundation; Christine Balance and the Fountains at Washington House; Craig Stewart with Bernstein Global Wealth Management; Colleen Ryan Mallon at Goodwin House; A.D. Gray, KOVA Contractors; Bar-

SEE SENIOR LAW DAY, PAGE 14

I'm Phillip Norris - Your Alexandria Neighbor



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OPINION

Senior Law Day

From Page 13
bara Anderson and Natalie Page Esqs., Life & Estate Planning Law Center; Eileen Spinella at Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; Deborah Matthews, Esq. Law Office of Deborah Matthews; Ellen Cleary and David Mucciari with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; Julie Parks and Mary Ann Schaffer, Esqs., Parks & Schaffer, PLLC; Robert Calhoun, Gordon Peyton and Gant Redmon, Esqs., Redmon, Payton and Braswell, LLP; Lonnie Rich, Esq., Rich Rosenthal Manitta Dzubin & Kroger, LLP; Thomas West, Signature Estate & Investment Advisors, LLC; Deena Lane, Sunrise Senior Living of Alexandria; Mitch Opalski, Synergy Home Care; Andre Chowansky, TD Bank; Donna Shaw, Woodbine Rehabilitation and Health Care, and to Derek Lymus from Comcast.

We also give a hearty thank you to our speakers and presenters for their insight and providing important information on a variety of topics that everyone needs to know before making these important life decisions. We thank: Vanessa Rosengart Bishop, a geriatric care manager and found of

Elder Care Consultants, Inc.; Robert Bullock, Esq., principal of the Elder & Disability Law Center; Steve Gurney, publisher of the Guide to Retirement Living Sourcebook; Colleen Ryan Mallon, corporate director of marketing for Goodwin House; Deborah Matthews, Esq. of the Law Office of Deborah Matthews; Mitch Opalski, principal of Synergy Home Care; Natalie Page, Esq. of the Life & Estate Planning Law Center, PLLC, and Tom West of Signature Estate & Investment Advisors, LLC.

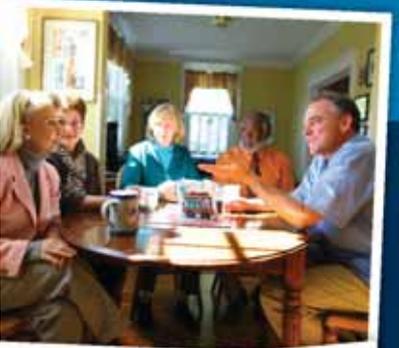
To receive copies of Senior Law Day handouts, call 703-836-4414. SSA will post audience questions and answers as well as Comcast's broadcast of Senior Law Day to our website at www.seniorservicesalex.org. The next discussion: Caregiver Support: Helping those who care for seniors will take place from 9:30 am – noon on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House at 323 South Fairfax Street in Alexandria. To register for this session and to view SSA's 2012-2013 speaker series schedule, visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414.

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Dense Breast Tissue Should Not Be Ignored

New "Patient Inform" Law

BY DAVID C. WEINTRITT,
MD, FACS

Director Breast Care Institute
Mount Vernon Hospital



Women in Virginia are becoming more aware of a health issue that can come to light during their annual mammograms. Thanks to the efforts of a committed group of breast cancer advocates that included a local breast cancer survivor, this July Virginia became the third state in our country to mandate that facilities and physician offices performing mammography services notify patients when dense breast tissue is found. In these cases, patients should receive a letter saying they may have dense breast tissue and their referring physicians will receive a report with their full mammography results.

What is Dense Breast Tissue?

Breast density is determined by the relative proportion of glandular and connective tissue to fatty tissue in the breast. It is commonly reported as a percentage with anything over 50 percent considered dense. Women with greater than 75 percent breast density have an even higher risk and should

be offered other studies to supplement their mammogram.

Why It's Important

Dense breast tissue can make cancer and other abnormalities more difficult to detect and increase the likelihood some issues will be entirely missed. While not

a common occurrence, a small percentage of women have been diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer after years of clear mammograms because their cancer was not discovered in dense breast tissue.

This type of tissue may even be a precursor to cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, women who have a high percentage of dense breast tissue have a higher risk of breast cancer than women of similar age who have little or no dense tissue in their breasts.

Breast density is not based on family history and cannot be determined by look and feel of the breast. This makes mammograms incredibly important in identifying patients who are at risk. Approximately 75 percent of women in their 40s have dense breasts. This percentage typically decreases with age - with 54 percent of women in their 50s and 42 percent of women in their 60s having dense breasts. Overall, breast density decreased

approximately 2 percent per year with the greatest drop occurring at menopause.

Patient Strategies

While the new patient letter does not offer options or clarity on how to deal with a diagnosis of dense breast tissue, there are several steps a patient can take to learn more.

First, a patient should schedule a follow-up appointment with her referring physician. During the visit, she should discuss potential increased risks and whether additional screening is needed.

Ultrasound is a readily available and reliable imaging method to screen patients with increased density. It does not emit radiation and can generate clear images of dense breast tissue, making it a great adjunct to mammograms in high-risk patients. Ultrasound technology is improving all the time and unlike other forms of breast imaging, it is becoming less expensive and, therefore, more available. It also is the only test that can be used real time in conjunction with a clinical exam to explore dense tissue. No radiation means patients can be screened at younger ages, during pregnancy and more frequently if needed.

Mammography for women with dense breast tissue is very important with 3D mammograms (also known as tomosynthesis) now the latest and most advanced technique. 3D mammography

improves the ability to image dense tissue and is capable of finding cancers at an earlier stage. Inova Mount Vernon Hospital implemented 3D mammography earlier this month and is the first and only Inova facility to offer this technique.

When other risk factors for breast cancer are present, an MRI should also be considered. While expensive and often difficult to have approved by insurance, MRI in patients who are documented to have a higher lifetime risk of breast cancer is a valuable tool.

Additional Resources

For patients interested in conducting additional research, I recommend visiting websites for the National Cancer Institutes (www.cancer.gov) and a nonprofit organization dedicated to the density issue called Are You Dense (www.areyoudense.org).

For years, increased breast density has been recognized as a challenge in screening patients for breast cancer. Now that we know the full impact of dense tissue, we have to change our view of patients with dense tissue from that of frustration to a call to action.

Every woman who has a mammogram needs a discussion about their breast density and a screening process that is customized to their needs. It can be a fairly involved process for some, but we need to be using the right tools for the right patients to get the best results.

LETTERS

Artistic Judgment

To the Editor:

I am writing to register my protest at the recent decision by Alexandria's Public Art Committee to disregard the recommendation, made by the stakeholders group, to award the sculpture commission for the Contraband and Freedmen's Cemetery to Edward Dwight and to give the commission to Mario Chiodo instead.

I would urge the council to revoke this decision. Dwight's design offers a moving depiction of men and women who have endured the injustices and hardships of slavery and still carry themselves with great dignity. Their stalwart courage moves the viewer to compassion and respect. Dwight's design is a fitting memorial to the men, women, and children buried in the cemetery.

In my judgment Chiodo's design reduces to abstractions the suffering and endurance of actual men, women, and children. He employs overused symbols — a thorn and a rose — in a design which strikes me as theatrical and overwrought. It seems to me that Chiodo's clichéd symbols cheapen the ex-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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LETTERS

From Page 15

perience of those buried in the cemetery, where Dwight's design embodies their dignity and courage.

According to the Oct. 18 issue of the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the committee rejected Dwight's work because he had "broken the rules" and included a religious symbol. Dwight says that the committee never contacted him about their objections, that the symbols on the sculpture's base include two that might be a reference to God but are mostly secular symbols used by African slaves, and that to separate their religion from these slaves makes no sense.

Dwight's sculpture is so clearly the superior work; I hope that the committee can find a way to work with the artist to fulfill the recommendations of the Shareholders Group while meeting requirements (for instance, about religious symbols) that the city may need to enforce.

I offer this critique as a working artist who has completed several public sculptures commission, lived in the city of Alexandria for almost 40 years and taught art in the city for almost 20. I would be happy to testify

about this before the council.

**Margaret (Peggy) Adams
Parker**
Artist

New Voice For the City

To the Editor:

As an 88-year-old woman and a resident of Alexandria for the past 55 years, I am deeply concerned about the future of Alexandria. I applaud a particular City Council candidate who is focused on maintaining a livable, family-friendly Alexandria.

An excellent candidate, Allison Silberberg, is adding a new voice to that effort. I remember the days when Alexandria was a city of family-friendly neighborhoods. My husband, Bob, and I raised a family in Rosemont, and there was no greater place to do that — good schools, playgrounds and parks, great neighbors and reliable city services.

No doubt, changes are inevitable in Alexandria, and some must be encouraged, such as better transportation. Yet it's important that we all keep in mind one common goal — a city that caters to the sta-

bility and growth of Alexandria's families and neighborhoods.

Allison wants to preserve the best of family-friendly Alexandria. This includes good schools, parks and social services. She envisions a "people's waterfront" with a small, permanent band shell in Oronoco Bay Park for cultural events and gatherings to enrich our community; a CCC-like beautification jobs initiative; and public-private partnerships for historic preservation.

Allison has over 20 years' experience in the nonprofit sector, where she has worked with many community activists and groups who have accomplished much for struggling populations throughout our area.

She is wisely seeking to maintain our affordable housing, which helps maintain the city's working and diverse population. As chair of the city's Economic Opportunities Commission, she serves as an advocate for the most vulnerable, focusing mainly on affordable housing and job creation for all Alexandrians. She will work towards early childhood education and apprenticeship programs for young people to help with jobs and

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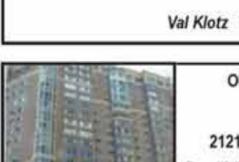
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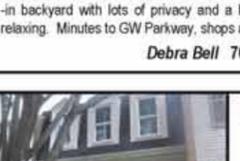
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The Great Pumpkin Rises

Oh how the Wanderer loves Halloween around Old Town! Children in costumes delighting in candy. Shops decked out, still pushing the visions of Christmas aside for one more week. Children just above the legal drinking age celebrating in costume with as much enthusiasm as trick-or-treaters. Enjoy the last bits of warm weather, the happy hues of autumn. Suddenly it will be winter, more trick than treat.

Talk of the Town

Photos by Jane Hughes



A CONTESSA'S GARDEN & GIFT

1906 Mount Vernon Avenue, 703.548.1882, contessas.wordpress.com

A delightful selection of autumnal inspirations and whimsical Halloween decorations.



A



E THE WHY NOT SHOP

200 King Street, 703.548.4420

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F FIREHOOK BAKERY

105 South Union Street, 703.519.8021, firehook.com

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B HOORAY FOR BOOKS

1555 King Street, 703.548.4092, hooray4books.com

Halloween books from cute for little ones to scarier fare for bigger kids.



D KAUBREY FLOWERS

1404 King Street, 703.548.9808, kaubreyflowers.com

Behind the always festive window display you will find the sophisticated side of Halloween and beautiful floral designs inspired by the fiery pallet of Autumn.



C THE SUGAR CUBE

1218 King Street, 703.548.2868, sugarcubesweets.com

Cast a sugary spell with potions and ingredients with sinister names and sweet intentions.



G THE CHRISTMAS ATTIC

125 South Union Street, 703.548.2829

The second favorite holiday here is Halloween. If you are decorating or looking for a gift you will certainly find something in this frightening selection.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ghoulish Halloween Cooking

Spooktacular ideas for making halloween treats with children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
Gazette Packet

Looking to add a bit of sugary fright to Halloween? From swamp juice and mummy pizza to haunted gingerbread houses and spider cupcakes, local culinary experts say ideas for frightful treats abound.

"Halloween is really a kids' holiday. It's fun and there are lots of ways to incorporate the holiday into cooking," said Holly Utt, director of operations for Tiny Chefs cooking school with classes in Potomac, Alexandria, McLean, Oakton, Springfield and Arlington.

Susan Hemphill, manager of Just Cakes in Bethesda, suggests adding a bit of spook to a traditional gingerbread house. "You can use gingerbread houses, but prepare icing and dye it black, orange or purple," she said. "Instead of using candy canes and gumdrops, use things like candy corns and licorice ropes candy in Halloween colors like black and oranges." Hemphill is offering a haunted house decorating class for children on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Just Cakes.

"Halloween is really a kids' holiday. It's fun and there are lots of ways to incorporate the holiday into cooking."

— Holly Utt, Tiny Chefs

Christine Wisniewski, an instructor at Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, believes in moderating sweets on the most candied holiday of the year. "Given that Halloween has become synonymous with sugar-overload, I like to approach homemade Halloween treats with a 'less is more' approach," she said. "I am not a huge fan of cupcakes with heaps of too-sweet, neon-colored icing. I like to go light on the frosting or skip it all together [and instead use] a light glaze of dark chocolate ganache embellished with decorations made from melted white chocolate. White chocolate spider webs atop dark chocolate glazed cupcakes look great."

Utt believes that cooking classes can be educational while still maintaining a spooky spirit. A few of her tiny chefs made a pretzel-based snack called Scarecrow Mix recently. "We had an interesting discussion about why it is called scarecrow mix," said Utt. "We talked about how scarecrows have different parts that are put together. The pretzels could be the straw and they were trying to match the different parts with what could be the part

of a scarecrow."

On Oct. 27, Tiny Chefs is offering a Halloween-themed cooking class for children at the Falls Church Community Center. "We'll make spooky treats galore, like Pizza Mummies, Edible Spiders & Swamp Juice to wash it all down," said Utt.



Photo courtesy of Christine Wisniewski

From ghost cookies to spider web treats, local culinary experts say options for homemade Halloween treats are plentiful.

Creating Edible Spider Web Decorations

"First, find a very basic spider web image to serve as a template, or draw one yourself. Line a sheet pan with parchment or wax paper and slip the template under the paper. You should still be able to see the design. Melt 2 cups of white chocolate chips in the microwave for 30 seconds. Stir chips and continue heating in 10 second increments stirring after each interval, until chocolate is melted and smooth. Pour chocolate into a piping bag with a small pastry tip, or a small re-sealable bag. Snip off an 1/8" of an inch off the corner of the bag. Slowly trace over the

spider web design with the white chocolate, making sure you connect all of the lines. Move the template and repeat with the remaining melted chocolate. Chill chocolate spider webs until firm. Gently pry spider webs off parchment and use them to decorate cupcakes. Piping requires a little bit of manual dexterity, so this project is best for older kids. Once you've got the hang of it, don't limit yourself to small spider webs. One large web atop a dark chocolate cake makes a striking decoration."

— CHRISTINE WISNEWSKI

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 25

Ghosts and Folklore. 7 p.m. Alexandria is one of the most haunted cities in the country. Michael Lee Pope (author of Ghosts of Alexandria) and JJ Smith (author of Haunted Alexandria and Northern Virginia) join Betty Ward of Footsteps to the Past to share stories of the Female Stranger, Swope House and Ramsay House. A coffee and dessert reception follows the stories. Those who dare may take a short ghost walk at the end of this event. Admission \$10. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Call 703-548-0035.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 25-27

Steel Magnolias. Group Therapy Productions presents Robert Harling's comedy-drama Steel Magnolias at the Convergence Sanctuary 1801 N. Quaker Ln. All proceeds from the show will benefit Empowered Women International. Hours are 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25 & 26, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Oct. 27. (Tickets/suggested donations are \$20. Tickets may be purchased by emailing gt.productions9@gmail.com.)

OCT. 25-28

Fall Haul Extended Hours Sale. Twig Thrift Shop located at 106 North Columbus St. holds its Fall Haul Extended Hours Sale. In addition to regular store hours from

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the shop will be open extended evening hours on Thursday, Oct. 25, and Friday, Oct. 26, from 5-8 p.m., regular Saturday hours 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and extended hours on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 1-4 p.m.. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Call 703-683-5544 or visit www.thetwig.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 26

Autumn Carnival. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fort Hunt Elementary School's PTA will be hosting the Autumn Carnival. The event will feature free carnival games/bingo, crafts and other surprises. Food will be available for purchase and costumes can be worn. Parents, staff and middle/high school students will be serving as volunteers for this community event. The PTA is providing a bus for the Creekside Community. Contact Liz Maurer at elm.1028@gmail.com.

OCT. 26-27

T.C. Williams Drama Department Presents "The Island of Dr. Moreau." 7:30 p.m. Adapted by Robert Kaulzlaric, based on the novel by H.G. Wells, The play follows a shipwrecked Londoner who lands on the island of a scientist whose animal experiments create human-like beasts. The play confronts not only the ethical issues, but the very nature of humanity. Tickets available at the door and are \$5 for ACPS students/employees and senior citizens; \$10 for adults.

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Choreographers Collaboration

Project Fall Concert. 7 p.m. Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12-17, kids under 12 free. "Standing Room Only" is a modern dance concert created specifically for the Athenaeum gallery space to allow the audience to see the dances and Athenaeum artwork from multiple perspectives. 201 Prince St. Call 703-683-2070.

Birchmere Shows. 7:30 p.m. Special guests for Tom Paxton's 75th birthday celebration show to include Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxers, Debi Smith, Robin Bullock and more. Visit <http://www.cathymarcy.com> or <http://debismith.com/> or www.robinbullock.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Spooky Saturdays at the Athenaeum. 1-2 p.m. Eerie Origami. Free. Recommended for children 6-9 years old. (The Athenaeum is located at 201 Prince St. Visit www.nvfaa.org.)

Trick or Treat with the Boo-tiques. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Ghouls and goblins, witches and wizards of all ages will be trick or treating with the Old Town Boutique District this Halloween. 35 member stores will be handing out treats — and maybe some tricks.

Funeral & Ghost Tour. 6-9 p.m. Step back in time and be a part of this historic funeral and learn about mourning practices in early America. Admission is \$15 including a ghost tour of Old Town, during which participants will visit the candlelit



Photo Contributed

MetroStage Yard Sale

Costumes, props and household goods are just some of the items that will be available at the first MetroStage Theatre yard sale. Stop by Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and shop for bargains and holiday gifts including MetroStage mugs and folk art prints of Old Town. Learn more about the upcoming season of plays that includes the traditional MetroStage holiday show "A Broadway Christmas Carol," which will run Nov. 15-Dec. 23. Included in the sale are a set of six dining chairs from "Glimpses of the Moon," globes and maps from "Lonely Planet" and other show memorabilia. 1201 N. Royal St. (parking lot entrance on Third Street). Call 703-548-9044.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24

HALLOWEEN TREAT



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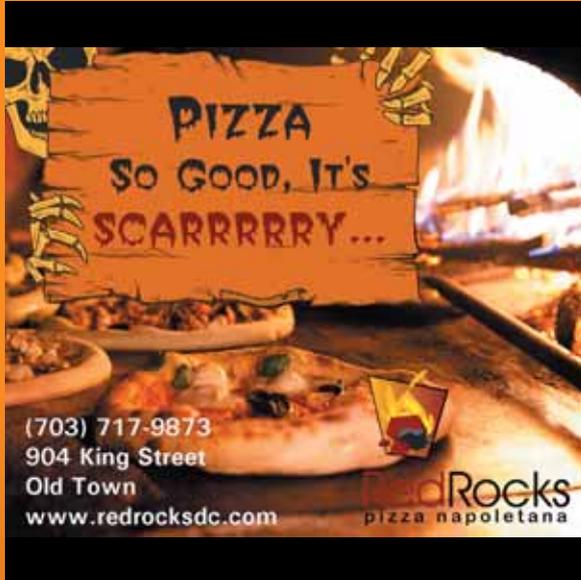
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ENTERTAINMENT



The ladies in Truvy's beauty parlor react to the news about Annelle's past. From right: Tricia O'Neill-Politte (Clairee), Rachel Rose Gracy (Annelle), Janette Moman (Truvy), Suzanne Martin (M'Lynn) and Mary Lou Bruno (Ouiser).

'Steel Magnolias' Women Helping Women

Group Therapy Productions presents Robert Harling's comedy-drama "Steel Magnolias." All proceeds from the show will benefit Empowered Women International. "Steel Magnolias" focuses on the camaraderie of six southern women who talk, gossip, and harangue each other through the best of times and comfort and repair one another through the worst. The play is alternately hilarious and touching with six female characters that are delicate as magnolias yet as strong as steel.

Performances will be at the Convergence Sanctuary, 1801 N. Quaker Lane on Thursday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 27, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 (suggested donation). No one will be turned away, pay what you can to support Empowered Women International. General admission. Cash or check only. Tickets may be purchased from any cast member or by email at gt.productions9@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Watercolor, Collagraph Exhibit At Alexandria Black History Museum

The Alexandria Black History Museum will open an exhibition of watercolors and collagraph prints titled "African Encounters: Coast to Coast" beginning Nov. 2. Through this exhibition, artist Kathleen Stafford explores the landscape, architecture, and people of Africa, providing a kaleidoscope of variety and color for the eye. This exhibition is free and open to the public. The exhibition will close on Jan. 24, 2013.

Painting and printmaking in Africa for about 20 years, Kathleen Stafford has been enriched by working with African artists and by her immersion in African cultures from one side of the continent to the other.

She currently resides in Khartoum, Sudan, one of the most ethnically diverse countries on the continent. From the stunning monuments of Cairo, the regal ceremonies crowning the village chief in the Ivory Coast, the fleeting expression of the kora maker in the Gambia, or the pos-

ture of the "Obioma," itinerant tailor in Lagos, Nigeria — Kathleen has cataloged them all in her watercolors and prints.

Stafford's paintings and prints have been acquired by American and foreign embassies, museums, centers of art and culture, and private collectors around the world (<http://kathleenstafford.wordpress.com/exhibitions/>.) Her work will be featured in an Africa Green Conference in Lagos, Nigeria in 2013.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe St. in Alexandria's Parker-Gray Historic District and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org for more information.



CALENDAR

From Page 22

Carlyle House to view the coffin and pay respects to surviving family members. At 9 p.m., return to Carlyle House to escort John Carlyle's body to the Old Presbyterian Meeting House and visit his lantern-lit grave. Call 703-683-3451 to purchase ticket. Reservations are recommended. Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.

Book Signing. 2-4 p.m. Lela Lane, a resident of Alexandria, will be available to sign copies of her book, *Bloodlines: The Ancestry*, at Grounded Coffee Shop, 6919 Telegraph Rd.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/OCT 27-28

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mount Vernon welcomes the autumn season with Fall Harvest Family Days. The entire family will enjoy autumn activities including horse-drawn wagon rides, wheat treading in the 16-sided barn, a straw bale maze, early-American games and demonstrations. In addition to meeting "George Washington," visitors can also learn 18th-century dance steps! Potomac River sightseeing cruises are half-price while supplies last. Fall Harvest Family Days is included with admission to the estate this weekend: \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children 6-11; free for children under 5. Visit www.MountVernon.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 28

QuinTango Cabaret. 5-8 p.m. Admission: \$25 + \$25 dinner. Proceeds from this event support QuinTango's work in Alexandria Public Schools, with StringTango classes for 5th graders and dance workshops for all ages. Carlyle Club, 411 John

Carlyle St. Call 703- 548-6811
Time Capsule Tour. Thomas Dolby's first U.S. full-band tour since the release of his critically hailed *A Map of the Floating City*. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

"Carmina Burana and Choral Dances." 4 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. Tickets are available at www.newdominion.org or at the door. \$30 (general admission), \$25 for seniors, and \$5 for students and children.

Mad Science. 2-3:40 p.m. Come to the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum (located at 107 South Fairfax St.) to explore where real science and mad science collide. Tours start every 20 minutes, featuring historic medicines with surprising side effects. Admission is \$6 per person ages 5 and up. Reservations recommended at www.apothecarymuseum.org. Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups are welcome (program completes the Brownie Home Scientist badge). Come in costume-mad scientist/sci-fi encouraged-and receive a special take-home goodie. Call 703-746-3852.

Annual Halloween Dog Walk. 1 p.m. The Dog Park shop on King Street is organizing the popular Halloween Dog Walk. Trick-or-treating dogs and their humans are invited to stop by the Dog Park for a map and bag and then visit participating businesses for more treats. Free. The Dog Park, 705 King St. Call 703-888-2818.

Concert. 5 p.m. Words&Music,

Inc. presents A Celebration of All Hallow's Eve featuring Schumann's *Spanisches Liederspiel* and other musical treats for Halloween. The concert will take place at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Ticket prices are \$25 for adult and \$18 for students and seniors. 20 percent discount will be offered for members of the military and their families. Visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

THROUGH OCT. 28

Homage. Free exhibition including "In the Garden" by Luisa Mesa. Target Gallery's "Homage: Past Influences." At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Play: "And Then There Were None." 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21 and 28. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children and seniors. Tickets and information are available online at www.acctonline.org. Call 703-660-2611 Aldersgate, United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd.

2nd Annual "Taste of Fair Trade." Ten Thousand Villages, located at 915 King St., will celebrate Fair Trade month with its second annual "Taste of Fair Trade." Call 703-684-1435 or visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com Scheduled Tasting:

❖ Oct. 27-28: Sample wines from South America and South Africa.

OCT. 29 THROUGH NOV. 4

Art Exhibition. *Día de los Muertos: The Art of Remembrance - Exhibition & Celebration.* There will be a Costume and Dance Party on

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 25

ENTERTAINMENT

From Page 23

Friday, Nov. 2, 8-11 p.m. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at door, or two for \$35. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/dayofthedeath.

TUESDAY/OCT. 30

Poetry Presentation. 10:30 a.m. Join the "Tuesdays at Two" writing group showcasing talented local writers and poets. Free and open to the public. Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd. Call 703-765-4573 to reserve a seat.

Doggie Happy Howl-o-ween

Costume Contest. Registration 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; contest begins at 6 p.m. Jackson 20 and Kimpton's Hotel Monaco Alexandria host their annual Doggie Happy Howl-o-ween Costume Contest. Local pets and their human companions can model their Halloween finest while competing for prizes in a contest in the outdoor courtyard. Open to the public. Prizes will be awarded. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, for a limited number of entries. Spectators are welcome. Event will be held in the restaurant's courtyard; use the Royal Street entrance. Admission is TBD. At Jackson 20 Restaurant, 480 King St. Call 703-842-2790.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/OCT. 30-31

Roaring 20s Halloween Soiree.

5:30-8 p.m. Party like the Fitzgeralds at this Roaring 20s-themed Halloween Soiree at historic Two-Nineteen Restaurant and Basin Street Lounge. Attendees are encouraged to arrive in 20s inspired dress to enjoy popular 1920s gourmet cuisine by Chef Ryan Ross and specialty cocktails. Live blues music, premium cigars, and a charity underground poker tournament are also featured at this event (proceeds to benefit the D.C. Central Kitchen). Visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/org/2778794346>.

THROUGH OCT. 31

"SKYSCAPE." Paintings of the sky landscape, by Maremi Hooff Andreozzi runs 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Tuesdays at Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, call 703-768-2525. Visit www.maremi.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 1

6th Annual Alexandria Film Festival.

The festival brings high-quality short and feature length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels and arts presentations to Alexandria. Presented by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts from Nov. 1-4. Call 703-746-5592

FRIDAY/NOV. 2

Día de los Muertos Costume & Dance Party.

8-11 p.m. Presentation of the 4th annual Day of the Dead extravaganza featuring an exhibition of artist-made altars and a festive Costume & Dance Party. Admission: Advance \$15; Door: \$20 or two for \$35 (Tickets \$10 each with a student ID). Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565.

Drumathon. 4 p.m. Join Good Shepherd Housing and the Hollin Hall Senior Center to help raise funds and awareness for the homeless. Each drumbeat can help Good Shepherd Housing reach the goal of

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 26



T.C. Williams students (from left): Sam Davies, Sam Hanoura, Andrew Pickup, Stephanie Slaven, and Ray Lauchu rehearse their roles as half-human creatures in "The Island of Dr. Moreau."

'The Island of Dr. Moreau' at TC

T.C. Williams Drama Department presents "The Island of Dr. Moreau" adapted by Robert Kauzlaric; based on the novel by H.G. Wells. Wells' science fiction tale follows a shipwrecked Londoner who lands on the island of a scientist whose animal experiments create human-like beasts. The play confronts not only the ethical issues, but the very nature of humanity. Chilling, gory, and thought-provoking, this is the perfect show for the Halloween season. Oct. 26 and 27, Nov. 2 and 3, all shows at 7:30pm. Tickets available at the door. ACPS Students/Employees and Senior Citizens, \$5; adults-\$10.



Choreographers Collaboration

"Standing Room Only" is a modern dance concert created specifically for the Athenaeum gallery space to encourage the audience to see the dances and Athenaeum artwork from different perspectives. Saturday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street. \$10 adults, \$5 ages 12-17, free under 12. Visit www.ccpdance or call 703-548-0035.

Día de los Muertos at Target

Target Gallery at The Torpedo Factory Art Center presents "Día de los Muertos: The Art of Remembrance," an exhibition of artist-made Altar installations and Day of the Dead inspired artwork made by local and regional artists, which will adorn the main hall of the art center from Oct. 29 through Nov. 4. Gabe and Scarlett Pons of PONSOP served as the jurors for this exhibition, which was open to local and regional artists. First, second, and third place awards will be announced at our festive Costume & Dance Party on Friday, Nov. 2 from 8-11 p.m.

Selected artists include last year's Best in Show winner Blair Dobbins, as well as last year's 2nd place winner Torpedo Factory Artist Lisa Schumaier.

Join in the celebration on Friday, Nov. 2 from 8 to 11 p.m. with a festive Costume & Dance Party featuring live music by The Torches, a costume contest, DIY mini-altars and more. Costume contest judges are Eric Nelson from Artfully Chocolate, Louise Kraft from the Alexandria Gazette, and the Art League's Assistant Gallery Director Megan Fox.

Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door; \$10 for students with student IDs. Purchase five advance tickets or more and get them each for \$10. Call 703-838-4565, ext. 2 or email events@torpedofactory.org to purchase tickets. Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/dayofthedeath

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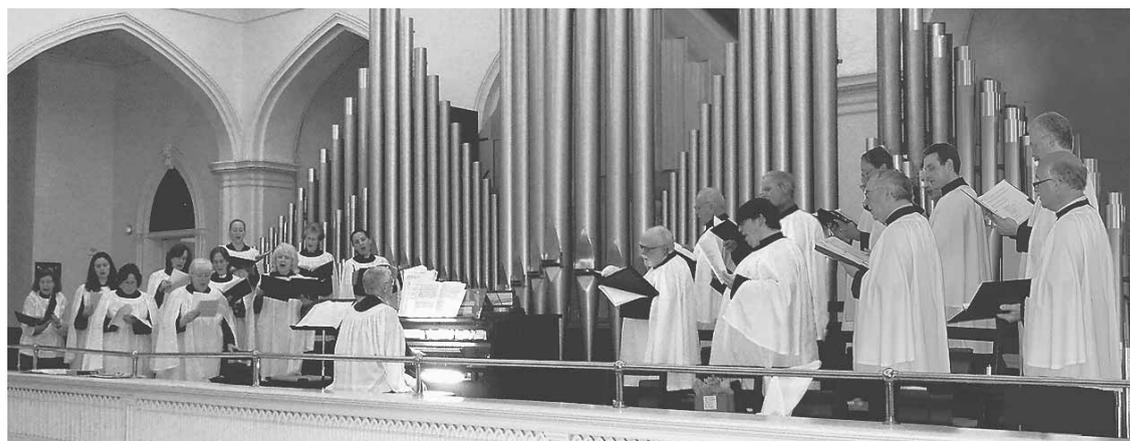
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SPECIAL THANKS TO **Alexandria Gazette Packet**



Evensong at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the adult choir in the All Saints' Day Choral Evensong on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m. Candles will be available to light in memory of loved ones who have died. Music is by Victoria, Wood, Stanford, and Alain. Reception for all attendees will follow. This is a free event and open to the public, with a freewill offering optional. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

CALENDAR

From Page 25

4,000 participants in Help the Homeless events, earning a bonus of \$50,000 for our work in preventing and ending homelessness. The event will take place at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd.

Audition. 6-9 p.m. Aldersgate Church Community Theater will be holding auditions for "Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr." Children ages 8-18. Visit www.acctonline.org.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS/NOV. 2-17

Port City Playhouse. 8 p.m. Alexandria's award-winning theatre company continues its 2012-13 season with the regional community theatre premiere of *The Soul Collector*. There will be a performance on Tuesday, Nov. 13 too. Saturday matinees will be available on Nov. 10 & 17 at 2 p.m. Port City Playhouse performs at The Lab at Convergence, located at 1819 N. Quaker Ln. General admission tickets are \$14-18. Visit portcityplayhouse.org.

THROUGH NOV. 2

Death Comes to Carlyle House. To commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the death of John Carlyle, Carlyle House presents an exhibit on the mourning practices of 18th-century Virginia through the experience of the Carlyle household. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. from Tuesday through Saturday, noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission: \$5/adults, \$3/children, Free for members. Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Call 703-549-2997.

NOV. 2 THROUGH 25

Photography exhibition: "Telling Images." Opening reception is Nov. 2, 7-10 p.m. See photographic techniques and interpretations that tell a story without words. Call 703-960-3873, email jldtiff@cox.net or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Church-wide Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The public is welcome to come and shop. Baked goods and lunch also available for sale. At Cameron United Methodist Church located at 3130 Franconia Rd. Rain or Shine. If you want to be a seller, contact Marilyn by Oct. 22 at 703-765-6817 to purchase a table for \$20.

More Halloween Fun

The **Old Town Boutique District**, a marketing cooperative of 30 Alexandria boutiques, will be celebrating Halloween with its 4th annual Trick or Treating event on Saturday, Oct. 27. Children (and adults) of all ages are invited to visit participating boutiques to receive special tricks or treats.

All of the participating OTBD stores will offer treats. Some may also offer family friendly tricks. Halloween costumes are encouraged. Tricks and treats will be available during the day and during store hours.

To identify participating OTBD stores, a special "Trick or Treat with the Boutiques" poster will be displayed in all participating stores, which include: Apple Seed, Bellacara, Bishop Boutique, Bloomers, Current Boutique, Diva, European Country Living, Fibre Space, Gossypia, Hooray for Books, Hysteria, La Cuisine, Lawrence Miller & Co, Little Monogram Shop, Lou Lou, Mint Condition, Monday's Child, Mystique Jewelers, Olio Tasting Room, Pacers, Periwinkle, Pink & Brown, Pretty People, Red Barn Mercantile, Stuart Nordin, The Christmas Attic, The Dog Park, The Shoe Hive, The Spice and Tea Exchange, The Sugar Cube, Today's Cargo, Walker Home, and Zoe Boutique.

To learn more about the Old Town Boutique District, visit www.OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com.

Halloween has officially gone to the dogs with the **Doggie Happy Howl-o-ween Costume Contest** on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at Hotel Monaco Alexandria Courtyard of Jackson 20 Restaurant. Local pets and their human companions are expected to turn out in droves for this popular pet costume contest, which has become an annual tradition in Old Town Alexandria. Cheered on by spectators and a panel of judges, up to 50 contestants will strut down the catwalk in the outdoor courtyard, modeling their Halloween finest.

- Prizes will be awarded for:
- * The Most Political Pooch
 - * The Most Glamorous Get-Up
 - * The Best Dressed Couple (pet/owner costume combo)
 - * The "Top Dog" Award (best overall costume)

During the evening's festivities, guests can purchase Halloween-themed cocktails and light bites from Jackson 20 restaurant, while complimentary doggie treats and fresh water bowls will be available for all canine friends.

This year, the costume contest will be limited to 50 entrants. Once this limit is reached, registration will be closed. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Contest registration runs from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Contest begins at 6 p.m. Winners will be announced at 7 p.m.

The event will be held in the Jackson 20 Restaurant courtyard, use the Royal Street entrance. Call 703-549-6080 or visit www.monaco-alexandria.com or www.jackson20.com. Open to the public with a \$10 registration fee for all participants, and a \$10 suggested door donation for non-participants. Registration fees and door donations will benefit the AWLA.

Movie: Courageous. 3 p.m. The movie will be shown in the fellowship hall of Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8600 Plymouth Dr. Refreshments will be served.

Audition. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Aldersgate Church Community Theater will be holding auditions for "Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr." Children ages 8-18. Visit www.acctonline.org.

NOV. 3 THROUGH DEC. 2

Free Art Exhibition. This juried photography exhibition — open to all artists nationally and internationally—explores the theme of upheaval in our personal lives and throughout the world. A reception on Nov. 8, from 6-8 p.m. occurs during

2nd Thursday Art Night and features a talk by juror Brie Castell at 7 p.m. Target Gallery (Studio 2), 105 North Union St. Call 703-838-4565, x4 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

THROUGH NOV. 4

Pulse4Artists - "4 Ways Of Color" 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Gallery West, 1213 King St. The opening reception will be Saturday, Oct. 13 from 5-7 p.m. Call 703-549-6006 Visit www.Pulse4Artists.com.

Exhibition of 2D and 3D Artwork. Featuring ceramic artist Daiva Balkus and photographer Ruth Ann Lowery. At Gallery West, located at 1213 King St. Visit www.gallery-west.info.



Living Legends of Alexandria

Call for Nominations
Deadline: November 15

Who do you know whose vision and energy has improved life in Alexandria? Living Legends of Alexandria is seeking nominations in order to recognize Alexandria's Living Legends.

There are two nomination categories:

- (1) Those who have contributed at least one tangible improvement to the quality of the city's life that would likely be missing without this person's vision and energy.
- (2) Those demonstrating exemplary service to the city over ten years or more, especially service on Boards, Commissions, Committees or Service Organizations that improve the quality of life in Alexandria.

Those currently running for or holding political office are not eligible for consideration. The contributions of City employees must be beyond the responsibilities of their jobs.

See www.AlexandriaLegends.com or call 703-625-2330 for a nomination form. Send your nominations no later than November 15th to

AlexandriaLegends@NinaTisara.com (email preferred) or Living Legends, P.O. Box 10485, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

Living Legends Founding Media Sponsor

Old Town

LET'S TOAST OUR TOWN - 'Towners, this isn't your mother's party do we're touting here today. No siree. The one I have in mind begs you to show up. It promises to please. It sings. It swings. It's sooo 21st century. It's for a noble notable cause and it's coming up just around the corner — Nov. 10 to be precise. Stay tuned.

Ever heard of "Toasting Our Town," sponsored as a clever and effective fund-raiser for the Historic Alexandria Foundation? You will. It's actually been a player on the local preservation and restoration scene for a few years. But now it can say it deserves to play with the big boys.

"Toasting" was conceived as a substitute for the HAF's mega fundraiser via its annual Antiques Show and preview gala.

While some of us old-timers might argue that nothing could replace or replicate the HAF antiques do — as well as the thousands of dollars for historic preservation it raised each year — this new kid on the block is sure trying.

"Toast" in its purist form is really a big silent auction-fueled cocktail party — but talk about gaining traction in the highly-competitive world of fund-raising, this party sizzles.

Let's start with the folks who make this gala happen. Co-chairs are Mason and Clark Bavin and Ashley and Lawrence O'Connor. Leaders of the worker bees backing them up are Mia and Tim Bass, Julianne and Tim Belevetz, Catherine and Richard Bolton, Morgan Delaney, Charlotte and John Grzebien, Amy and David Heiden, Mary and Ed Heiden, Carrie Heiden, Osborne Mackie,

Anna and Greg May, Patricia and Latane Montague, Karen and Bill Sauers, Sue and Graham Setliff, Beverly and John Stinson, Hartley and Kevin Wensing, and Katie and Hack Wiegmann.

Venue for the Toast is the venerable Atheneaeum, one of Old Town's Greek Revival treasures at 201 Prince St., running from 7 to 9 p.m. And for \$75 per person your tummies can partake of goodies including a wonderful line-up of wines and mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres. Old Town's "Grape and Bean" has selected a smashing line-up of wine.

The best line in all of what I've told you to date is that proceeds from the event benefit the Historic Alexandria Preservation Fund. Another spiffy feature of the evening is that wines can be ordered for pick up or delivery by the bottle or case. Let me add that the featured silent auction aspect of the evening offers a treasure trove of imaginative auction items — such as two Redskins tickets, a historic house history by Ruth Lincoln Kay, a private tour of the National Portrait Gallery, a formal dinner at an Old Town historic home, restaurant gift certificates, a round of Golf at Belle Haven Country and much more.

To buy tickets online or for sponsoring opportunities dial in www.historicalexandriafoundation.org. The HAF is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

See you there, 'Towners. No autographs, please.

— BOB FELDKAMP

John P Hightower Jr.

John P Hightower Jr., 79, of Salem died on Friday, Oct. 19, 2012. His beloved wife Tina preceded him in death.

He leaves behind with saddened hearts his children Paul Hightower of Pittsburgh, Pa., Ann Hightower of Salem, Mary and Andy Freund of Stockbridge, Ga. and Susan Hightower Ford of Salem; grandchildren KJ and Jason Ford, Jordan Hightower and Scott, Kevin, Amy, Paige and Julie Freund; brothers and sisters in law Bob and Angela Miller of Salem, Mike and Nancy Covolo of Omaha, Neb.; and Joe and Jackie Covolo of Midlothian, along with many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

John retired to Salem from Alexandria after 40 years of service with the federal government.

He was a dedicated alumnus of Old Dominion University and treasurer of the Roanoke Chapter of the AARP Poppy also was an ardent supporter of his grandchildren's athletic team and activities.

Visitation was Monday, Oct. 22 at John M. Oakey's and Son Funeral Home in Salem. A funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, Oct. 23 at Our Lady of Nazareth Catholic Church in Roanoke, Monsignor Joseph Lehman officiated.

Burial followed at Sherwood Memorial Park in Salem. An online guestbook is available by visiting www.johnmoakey.com

Sanchez To Address Local NACCP Banquet

The Alexandria, Virginia Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is hosting its 79th Annual Membership and Awards Banquet, themed "Your Power, Your Decision - Vote", on Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Holiday Inn & Suites Alexandria - Historic District, 625 First Street, Alexandria. Reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by banquet dinner and live entertainment at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker is Sonia Sanchez — poet, activist, and scholar. Sanchez was the Laura Carnell Professor of English and Women's Studies at Temple University. She is the recipient of both the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award. Sanchez is the author of 16 books.

Tickets are \$75 per person and may be purchased online at www.naacpalexandriava.org.

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LETTERS

From Page 16

self-sufficiency; she is an advocate for the homeless, including adolescents without guardians.

Allison has lived in historic Parkfairfax for the past 20 years, and she stood with us to fight against the Hot Lanes and other unwelcome intrusions to our community, including the gas line intended to be built alongside Charles Barrett Elementary School.

There is a reason that Allison has an extensive "brigade" of volunteers campaigning for her — we are inspired not only by her words but by her accomplishments, leadership, sense of mission and can-do spirit.

I believe that Allison's hard work and longtime commitment to public service shows us how she would serve on City Council. She will be a tremendous asset to our city's future as she strives to maintain our livable, family-friendly community.

Ruth T. Woods
Alexandria

Vision of The City

To the Editor:

Over the past two years, a large number of Alexandria's residents have become actively involved in the city's development. Today, the Vision of the City in the 2010 City Council Strategic Plan is demonstrated to be without integrity; and the city short on the ability to plan or implement without major error (BRAC) or deliberate ignorance (Waterfront). What are the main elements of the council's Vision of the City: Diverse - Historic - Beautiful and Unique Neighborhoods - Urban Villages - Great Community. It is a challenge to the imagination to believe that this vision remains a top priority for City Hall.

This election for City Council gives Alexandria city residents the most timely and best opportunity to tip the scale, reestablish balance in city government, and make sure that this Vision of the City becomes a reality. That is why all of us, regardless of party from across the City of Alexandria, are signing below to show our strong support for Bob Wood for City Council.

Bob Wood brings the most credible, relevant, and reliable understanding and experience in managing complex projects and diverse groups than any other candidate for City Council. Starting with his belief that what he owes his constituents is first and foremost: respect for all citizens - excellent performance - service - economy in public spending - and trust, as the best measure of how the city treats its people.

Mr. Wood's credentials are outstanding when weighed against any other city council candidate's resume. His active participation on the Mayor's Waterfront Workgroup, a response to citizens' rejection of the initial plan, demonstrated his clear respect for the group's purpose, as well as realistic expectations of city staff; he co-authored the final report. Beginning as a student at T.C. Williams High School and

continuing throughout a career that included West Point, University of Chicago Business School, a Virginia state commission to keep jobs here, and leading a program to educate tomorrow's leaders, Bob Wood's performance has been continually recognized and rewarded. Bob Wood served our Army for 36 years in major hotspots around the world yet still found time to contribute to the communities he lived in, e.g. as school board member and economics professor. Bob combines the economic understanding of business school with the practical management of large scale, complex organizations, and now his own small business. Finally, one of Bob Wood's most outstanding characteristics is the level of trust he inspires in all who work with him.

In walking the streets of Alexandria as a first time candidate, Bob Wood has generated more goodwill and volunteered expressions of hope for change at City Hall than might be imagined. When set against his competitors for City Council in four debates he has been the only candidate time and again applauded for his informed, intelligent and clear remarks. This stands in direct contrast to how most other candidates have performed. Because when you look carefully at their track record or their resume, they fall far short of Bob Wood — and what Alexandria must have today to achieve the 2010 Vision of the City: diversity, beauty, uniqueness, and great community.

Having Bob Wood on City Council will bring us unmatched experience, leadership, and ability to bring us together again. Alexandria and its children deserve that Vision of the City — and this means turning the ballot over on election day, filling in the box next to "John R. 'Bob' Wood" and putting him on City Council. It won't take long to look at what some others have to offer, we did ... and we've decided to vote for Bob Wood for City Council.

Guy Bourn, North Old Town;
Cristine Sanchez Canete, Arlandria;
Dave Cavanaugh, West End Alexandria;
Miriam Ellsworth, North Old Town;
Gerald Fauth, Federal Hill;
Donald and Gail Ledwig, Central Alexandria;
Robert Pringle, Old Town;
Kurt and Courtney Schlieter, Rosemont;
William Stuebner, Old Town

Don't Forget BRAC Issue

To the Editor:

Alexandrians will soon be going to the polls to cast their votes for both federal and local candidates. As they prepare to do so, my fellow Alexandrians should be mindful of what happened the last time we had an all-Democrat city council — the West End got an enormous BRAC building while the City Council stood by mutely. I strongly believe that Alexandria is best served by having a City Council with a mix of Republicans, Democrats, and even Independents, rather than being controlled by a single

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

CLASSIFIED

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ZONE 3 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

ZONE 3: • ALEXANDRIA
• MOUNT VERNON

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Caboose Bakery LLC trading as Caboose Cafe & Bakery 1125 Queen Street Alexandria VA 22314
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a beer and wine on premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Meskerem Kifle (President) Rhoda Worku (Vice President)
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

25 Sales & Auctions

The Legendary Twig Thrift Shop mounts "Fall Haul Extended Hours Sale", Oct 25th - 28th. Shop early and often for upscale items of exceptional value. Fantastic buys on women's wear, men's wear, furs, vintage clothing, formal wear, wedding gowns, jewelry, home decor & more!
Sale hours: Oct 25th, 5-8pm; Oct 26th, 9:30am-2:30pm & 5-8pm; Oct 27th, 10:00am-4pm, and Sunday, Oct 28th, 1-4pm. Store location: 106 N. Columbus St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Tel: (703)683-5544 Website: <http://www.thetwig.org>

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Henry Porter Goble, 88, of Alexandria, Virginia, formerly of Taylorsville NC, died Monday, October 15, 2012 in Alexandria, Virginia. He was born October 22, 1923 in Alexander County, son of the late Robert Lee and Hattie Burke Goble.
Mr. Goble was a retired brick layer contractor and owned several Masonry companies. He also was a US Army World War II veteran where he served under General Patton's tank corp. and fought in Normandy as well as other battles, and was awarded the Purple Heart and numerous other medals.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Hessie Gant Goble, brothers, J.C. and Robert Goble; sisters, Louise Howell and Rachel Sigmon.

Survivors include his son, Jimmy Goble of Alexandria, Virginia; a sister, Alice Bowman and husband, Haven of Taylorsville; nephew, Steve Sigmon of Hickory; cousin and guardian, Sarah Ann Tammaro of Maryland, and several other nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 am Friday, October 19, 2012 in the Taylorsville Cemetery. The Rev. Bill Smith will officiate. Military Burial Honors will be accorded by DAV Chapter # 84 of Taylorsville. The family will receive friends from 10:00 until 10:30 am Friday at Adams Funeral Home.

Condolences may be sent to the Goble family at www.adamsfunerals.com.

Adams Funeral Home and Cremation service is assisting the Goble family.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot from Oct. 15 to Nov. 20, 2012 to elect the President Elect, three seats on the Board of Directors, and three seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 3, 2013. Information about proxy ballots is available at www.asco.org. Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for casting at a meeting held on Nov. 26, 2012, 8:30-9:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22318. Members with questions can email ASCOelection@asco.org or call 571-483-1316.

26 Antiques

We pay top \$ for antique furniture and mid-century Danish/modern teak furniture, STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, jewelry and costume jewelry, paintings/art glass/clocks. Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790. Email: theschefers@cox.net

28 Yard Sales

Estate/Yard Sale, Sat. 10/20 8:00 AM - Noon; 8311 Crown Ct Rd, Alex

29 Misc. for Sale

Sidewalk sale, 10/27 9AM-1PM 412 S. Lee ST. Alex, VA Crystal, copper, pottery, pics

102 Instruction

Looking to start the school year strong? Tutoring is available in the Northern Virginia area! Dean's List College Graduate with 7 years of Experience. Accounting/Finance Degree. All grade levels, specializing in Math, English, Spanish. Call Hal @ (703)864-6616. Tutoring rate is \$50/hr. Mention this ad and receive 20% off your first session!

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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LETTERS

From Page 29

party. A diversity of views in the council increases the likelihood that issues will be more thoroughly vetted before they are decided — or ignored.

I know that moving the local elections to November was expressly designed to produce an all-Democrat City Council but, in my judgment, that outcome would be a serious mistake. In fact, I personally think that the Democrats who sat on the City Council when the BRAC issue was in play, some of whom are now trying to get back on the council, don't deserve a single vote from the West End — they certainly won't get mine — but I will leave that decision to my friends and neighbors in the West End. I just know how unhappy I am each time I see a hulking BRAC building overshadowing all of Seminary Valley and realize that this facility could and should have been placed in another part of Alexandria that was readily accessible to mass transit and far less residential in nature. If the City Council had at least tried but failed to achieve this alternative outcome, I would feel better than I do now. But the record shows that they didn't even try. Shall we see what another all-Democrat City Council will bring us? I hope not.

Henry R. Desmarais
Alexandria

Schools Heading In Right Direction

To the Editor:

School Board elections are in danger of being overlooked (quite literally: make sure you turn over the ballot to see the school board candidates on the reverse side) during this election with so many offices on the ballot. I would like to highlight one of the District B candidates: Marc Williams.

Marc is running for his second full term on the School Board and I urge my district B neighbors to vote for him. He, with his fellow board members, has put student academic achievement first, created a strategic plan that won the Magna award from the American School Board Journal, instituted a K-12 curriculum that promotes higher-level thinking, supported the successful transformation of T.C. Williams from “persistently lowest achieving” to our current first-time ever accreditation, and demonstrated fiscal prudence by lowering the cost per pupil by 12 percent in the last four years.

Marc listens to citizens and has been very helpful to the community. He has a great grasp of the details and many documents that come with running our school system. I have seen him in action at School Board meetings and he is able to really question school staff and challenge them when necessary.

Marc is the only District B candidate with kids who have been at T.C. and this is indeed valuable experience. Currently 3,200 students are at T.C. and as a high school parent I want to make sure that someone on the board has first-hand knowledge from the family perspective.

I have been actively engaged as a parent and volunteer in our public schools since 1996. I can attest that right now things in ACPS are the best I've ever seen them. We still have room for improvement but the level of rigor and the quality of the teachers has gone up, student academic achievement is on the rise, and families are happy. There has been a lot of teacher turnover at TC in the past two years and we are now attracting uniformly great teachers using best practices. I don't hear people complaining about burned-out teachers at TC anymore; at back to school night this year parents were buzzing about how happy their kids are and how impressive the faculty is. We've always had some great teachers at TC, but now I hear parents saying: “I can't believe that my kid likes all of his teachers.”

In each of the three school board districts only one incumbent is running so we are guaranteed to have six new people. While it's always important to elect new public officials with fresh ideas and perspectives, I hope that the three incumbents — Marc Williams, Helen Morris (District A), and Ronnie Campbell (District C) — are re-elected to provide some institutional memory and continuity during the transition to the new board.

Priscilla Goodwin
Alexandria

City Deserves Better

To the Editor:

Justin Wilson was attacked as being a machine drone and a immature simpleton in numerous letters to the editor in local newspapers shortly after he won a seat on City Council in the 2007 special election. These attacks occurred before he had cast his first vote or even attended his first City Council meeting. I thought such attacks were unfair and inappropriate. I publicly defended Wilson in this publication and other media.

I had high hopes that Wilson would bring new blood to a City Council occupied by professional politicians devoid of new ideas and disconnected from the needs and aspirations of our community. I had hoped he would make the most of the unique opportunity provided to him by us voters. So what did Wilson's record show during the short time he was on the City Council?

❖ Wilson raised our taxes at every opportunity

❖ Wilson attacked legitimate businesses extending loans to the economically disadvantaged

❖ Wilson, a so-called transportation expert, supported the BRAC, making the daily commute more challenging for thousands.

Perhaps worst of all, days after Alexandrians voted him out of office, he led the charge with a handful of professional politicians to subvert our election process. His cynical ploy to combine our local elections with national elections stabs at the heart of Alexandria Democracy and traditions. Wilson pushed this anti-democratic measure through the lame duck City Council

over the intense objections of nonpartisan civic associations, such as The Alexandria League of Women Voters, and an overwhelming majority of the Alexandrians who took time out of their busy schedules to confront this injustice. Fellow Democrats Vice Mayor Del Pepper and former City Councilman Ludwig Gaines voted against this cynical ploy to game the elections. Vice Mayor Pepper stated, “This is not what I call good government.” (The Alexandria Gazette Packet covered the story: <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2009/061709/Alexandria.pdf>)

Now, Wilson has reinforced his spend-thrift ways by repeatedly insisting at recent debates that the city should take your tax dollars to pay for babysitters. Wilson also is a strong supporter of the ultra expensive street car system intended to plow through the heart of Alexandria, disrupting traffic for months, if not years, upending years of historic preservation; and costing untold hundreds of millions of your dollars.

Alexandria deserves better, real change for a dynamic future.

Bud Miller
Alexandria

Long Service To Community

To the Editor:

In his opening remarks in the second mayoral debate Andrew Macdonald stated that life in Alexandria had worsened under Mayor Euille's leadership, but it would only be fair to examine his own record.

Mr. Macdonald has a history of indecisive, political allegiance and perseverance. In the 2000 election he ran for Council as an independent and lost. In 2003 he joined the Democratic Committee, ran as a Democrat and won. He served his full term. In 2006 he again ran as a Democrat but in an attempt to become vice mayor allowed the Republicans to include his name in Republican ads. He prevailed — winning the most votes to become vice mayor. In early May of 2007, he abruptly resigned his seat for “personal reasons” having served slightly less than one-third of his three-year term.

Macdonald resigned from the Democratic Committee to run as an Independent for Mayor. He went before the Republican Committee to ask for their support. His consistent mantra at debates, speeches, etc. is a two-trick pony: lack of planning and no control of development. He complains about people not listening to his message, portraying himself as the expert on several issues, even to the point of telling us that we should accept his assessment of the city's financial condition rather than Moody's triple bond rating of the city.

Mayor Euille has made more attempts to make us one city than any mayor I can remember in my 38-years living and teaching in the city. When Mr. Macdonald decided to include education matters in his lack of planning mantra, accusing the mayor of not planning ahead in the need for more school buildings he entered a debate he should fear to tread. In my 30-year teaching career in the city schools I was never aware of Mr.

Macdonald's concern for public education. He lived not far from me in Old Town and went to private schools. Through the years I've attended many, many hearings in support of public education and fair salaries for teachers. I don't remember his presence at any of these hearings except for his short time on council.

Before serving as the Mayor, Bill Euille served for 10 years on the School Board. He attended segregated elementary schools and later the new desegregated T. C. Williams High School where he excelled in academics, played in the band and made many close friends in the desegregated, combined student population. He has walked the walk not just talked the talk. His experience on the School Board makes him very qualified to know who's responsible for operating the school system. He has always supported public schools, teachers and necessary funding. The Mayor has used his knowledge, his personal wealth and his long service to the community to help many young people get an education.

I stand with Mayor Euille. He has my respect, my support and my vote.

Hazel Rigby

Making a Difference

To the Editor:

I've known Allison Silberberg for more than 30 years. I wish I could say we're only 31, but it seems like yesterday when Allison and I used to live in the same dormitory at American University. We'd have fun conversations going back and forth to campus while we were both pursuing our undergraduate degrees in international studies. During late nights when I worked as a desk receptionist in the dorm, Allison used to stop by and chat while we'd eagerly await the delivery of fresh Krispy Kreme donuts!

Allison went on to accomplish great things with her many talents and has dedicated her life to helping others. From serving as founder/executive director of Lights, Camera, Action!, where she mentored youth in Anacostia, to her leadership of Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Commission where she established the organization's annual public service day, “All Hands on Deck,” and led the makeover of the Alexandria Community Shelter, Allison never stops thinking about what can be done to help our community's most vulnerable citizens. She has an uncanny ability to listen, take action and circle around to make sure what she's doing is having impact.

Throughout her life, Allison has proven she's a passionate advocate for affordable housing and job creation. She has effectively applied her strong communications skills to achieving what many can only dream of, such as writing the highly acclaimed book, “Visionaries In Our Midst,” a fabulous book that profiles everyday individuals making a difference in their local communities. It's not surprising Allison authored a book about community heroes, as she in fact is one herself in Alexandria.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 33

TC Defense Experiencing Late-Season Surge

Titans beat Annandale to keep alive slim playoff hopes.

BY JON ROETMAN
Gazette Packet

TC. Williams defensive lineman Jeremiah Clarke busts through the Annandale pass protection in the second quarter and sacks Atoms quarterback Joe Birmingham on fourth down. In the third quarter, junior defensive back Rashawn Jackson intercepts a pass and returns it 64 yards for a Titans touchdown. Later, senior defensive back Tim Garvin gets in on the action, scooping up a fumble and taking it 33 yards to the house.

This was the kind of defensive effort T.C. Williams head football coach Dennis Randolph envisioned the Titans producing earlier in the season. Now, the team is hoping it's not too little, too late.

T.C. Williams defeated Annandale, 52-7, on Oct. 20 at Parker Gray Stadium. The Titans defense came up big during its homecoming game, holding a second consecutive opponent to only one touchdown. One week after defeating West Springfield, 24-7, TC improved to 3-5 and held onto its slim playoff hopes with a lopsided victory against the Atoms, who dropped to 1-7.

"Defensively, the last two weeks, we've turned it up a notch," Randolph said. "We're playing the way I expected us to play against Westfield, Robinson, Lake Braddock, South County [and] Woodson. That changes the whole dynamic of the game when you

know you're going to play defense."

After shutting out Wakefield in the season opener, TC allowed an average of more than 40 points per game during losses to Westfield (55), Robinson (40), South County (60), Lake Braddock (21) and Woodson (28). The last two weeks, TC has surrendered just seven points per contest. Defensive coordinator Avery Williams said the Titans are finally starting to execute.

They're also making plays. TC has 11 sacks in the last two weeks, including four from Clarke, who stands 6 feet 5 and weighs 250 pounds. Jackson made his presence felt in the Titan secondary, recording 11 tackles to go with his pick-six.

"He's an outstanding player," Williams said about Jackson. "He's one of our top athletes, as well as one of our top football players. He was injured early on in the season, he's just now really getting back 100 percent and now he's showing his playmaking ability."

Junior linebacker Kevin Perry had a team-high 12 tackles against Annandale, and seniors Isaiah Bunch and Marcus Streeter each had one sack.

TC also experienced plenty of success on the offensive side of the ball. Running back Dealo Robertson carried 26 times for 218 yards and two touchdowns, giving him 433 yards and three scores in the last two weeks. Despite missing a game due to a rib injury, Robertson has rushed for 1,017



T.C. Williams defenders Kyreem Walton (27) and Rashawn Jackson (7) close in on an Annandale ball carrier during the Titans' 52-7 homecoming victory on Oct. 20.

yards and nine touchdowns with two games remaining.

"Dealo's been able to run the ball extremely well lately," Randolph said. "When you can run the ball and don't have to throw it, then it makes your passing game much more effective."

"Effective" is certainly one way to describe the Titans' passing game against the Atoms. Quarterback Alec Grosser completed 16 of 22 passes for 231 yards and three touchdowns. He connected with 6-foot-2 senior receiver Julius Cooper six times for 124 yards and two scores.

Cooper is in his second season playing receiver. He showed his

athleticism against Annandale, out-jumping an opponent to make a catch and later breaking a tackle to score a touchdown.

"I've definitely seen him grow up," Grosser said about Cooper. "He's a playmaker now."

Landon Moss, who has battled an ankle injury, caught three passes for 46 yards and a touchdown. He has 45 receptions for 551 yards and eight touchdowns this season.

TC will close the regular season with a pair of road games. The Titans will take on Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26 and face West Potomac on Nov. 2. TC will likely have to win both games and receive some help from other teams in order to make the playoffs. The TC football program hasn't reached the playoffs in 21 years.

"Every game is our game," Jackson said. "... We've got to win it and we have a chance to make it."



T.C. Williams running back Dealo Robertson rushed for 218 yards and two touchdowns against Annandale on Oct. 20.

SSSAS Girls' Capture Seminary Cup

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes fall girls' teams captured the 5th Annual Seminary Hill Cup by defeating Episcopal in six of 10 events on Oct. 20. It was the Saints' second consecutive Cup victory.

The Saints defeated Episcopal in JV field hockey (5-0), JV soccer (7-0), JV volleyball (2-1), varsity soccer (3-1), varsity field hockey (3-0) and varsity volleyball (3-2). SSSAS captured five of nine events before pulling out a tightly-contested varsity volleyball match (25-22, 13-25, 26-24, 19-25, 16-14) to secure the Cup.

Episcopal won JV tennis (5-2), JV cross country, varsity cross country and varsity tennis (5-2).



Senior middle hitter Leah Joseph and the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes volleyball team defeated Episcopal, 3-2, on Oct. 20. The victory helped the Saints fall girls' teams beat the Maroon in six of 10 events that day and capture the Seminary Hill Cup.

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Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

THROUGH OCT. 31

Thanksgiving 'Fit for Food'

Challenge is to walk/run/hop/ship/jump 150,000 steps during the month of October and to donate at least one food basket to the Shelter. Our goal is to donate 100 food baskets. Participants can increase their food donation opportunities by asking their friends and family to sponsor them in their fitness journey by donating food items for each fitness milestone they achieve (e.g. each day of 5,000 steps or more donate 5 food items, each 1,000 steps over 150,000 in the month donate an additional food item, etc.). Prizes will be awarded for the most steps for the month and a bonus award will be granted to the participant that donates the most food baskets, regardless of the number of steps achieved. \$15 participation fee. To sign up, e-mail contact@fitnessontherun.net by Sept. 21.

October is ALIVE! at Reunions.

During the month of October, Reunions, a specialty shop of distinctive antiques, home furnishings, gifts and accessories, is donating 5 percent of its proceeds to ALIVE! (Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically). In addition to contributing sales proceeds from its October sales, Reunions is also encouraging customers to donate canned goods at the shop for ALIVE!'s food pantry. So get a jump on your holiday shopping! Reunions blend of unique merchandise changes daily so there's always something new to see. Reunions is located in the Fairlington Centre Shopping Center

between N. Quaker Lane and Kenwood Avenue. Visit them at www.reunionsva.com. To find out more about ALIVE! Visit www.alive-inc.org.

Donation.

Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota will donate \$50 toward the 2012 Walk to Fight Breast Cancer in the City of Alexandria for every new and used vehicle sold throughout the month of October. The dealership will donate \$15 for every "Like" it receives on its Facebook page.

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Free Mammogram. To celebrate the growing awareness around breast cancer, this free screening is available to all women over 40 who have a physician order. At Inova Imaging Center, Mark Center, 4320 Seminary RD. Registration required. Call 571-423-5400.

Bus Tour. 10:30-11:30 a.m. A bus tour to celebrate October as "Housing America Month." Please board the bus by 10:15 a.m. Meet at 600 N. Fairfax St., in the rear of building. Seating is limited to the first 37. RSVP by calling 703-549-7115 Ext. 231. Visit www.arha.us.

Yoga Class. 12-2 p.m. Master class flowing with intelligence, passion, and truth with special guest teacher Yogi 'J' Miles. A master flow class for all levels. Register online. Cost: \$35 prior to 10/25 or \$45 thereafter. Visit www.532Yoga.com or email suzanne@532Yoga.com, or call 703-209-0049. 532Yoga, 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100.

Yoga Class. 3-5 p.m. Acro Yoga. Bring a partner or partner up when you get here. With special guest teacher Yogi 'J' Miles. All levels. Cost \$40 prior to 10/25, \$50 thereafter. Visit www.532Yoga.com or email

suzanne@532Yoga.com, or call 703-209-0049. 532Yoga, 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100.

SUNDAY/OCT. 28

The 2nd Annual Haiti Micah Project Race for the Kids. 2 p.m. The one-mile cross country walk/run and 5K run will be held on the grounds of Episcopal High School. All proceeds will go toward a new vocational program being developed for older adolescents in Mirebalais, Haiti. Prizes will be awarded. Families are welcome and costumes are encouraged. Children can participate in face painting, moon bounce, 100-yard tot trot, 10-yard trike event, rope pull and decorating a pumpkin. Visit <http://racedctiming.com> to register. Donations are welcome.

MONDAY/OCT. 29

Mayoral Candidate Debate. 7-8 p.m. followed by the City Council debate. At George Washington Middle School Auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave.

TUESDAY/OCT. 30

Free Medicare Seminar. noon. Seniors with all sorts of healthcare and insurance questions will get answers at a free seminar presented by Capital Caring and Synergy Homecare in the 10th floor Sky Room of The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave. South. Learn about community resources, how to communicate with healthcare professionals, how to navigate the Medicare maze and much more. The public is welcome

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 34

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LETTERS

From Page 30

Allison is exactly the kind of leader Alexandria needs on our City Council. She's smart, funny, thoughtful, considerate, kind, compassionate, and downright authentic with boundless energy. She never stops thinking about what can be done to make Alexandria a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

In an era when far too few women hold public office, Allison is "a voice of reason," as our beloved former Mayor/State Sen. Patsy Ticer has called her. On Alexandria City Council, she will make a big difference for our

community's children, families, senior citizens, and hard-working women and men. She's been endorsed by teachers, Alexandria's Committee of Police Local 5, Alexandria's Virginia Labor Federation AFL-CIO, Virginia Partisans - PAC of the LGBT Democrats of Virginia, EMILY's List, and a long list of trusted and respected political leaders across the region.

Alexandria needs Allison Silberberg on our City Council. Please vote for Allison on Nov. 6.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera

Eileen Cassidy Rivera served on the School Board of Alexandria City Public Schools (2006-09).

Write

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

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| The Diener School | National Child Research Center |
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| The Frost School | Oakland School |
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PEOPLE



Photos by JEANNE THEISMANN/Gazette Packet

Washington Redskins great Dexter Manley presented the Athletes of the Month awards Oct. 16 at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting at the Old Dominion Boat Club. Pictured are Redskins historian and author Mike Richman, Darius Manora (SSSA football), Stephanie Lin (BIHS girls tennis), Manley, Jaden Thrash (85lb American Division, Alexandria Titans Youth Football) and club president Jeff Murphy.

Hog Wild Manley presents ASC Athlete of the Month awards.

Former Washington Redskins defensive end Dexter Manley was on hand Oct. 16 to present the Alexandria Sportsman's Club Athlete of the Month Awards at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

Honored for their athleticism as well as scholastic achievements were Darius Manora, a senior football player for St. Stephen's and St Agnes, Bishop Ireton freshman girls tennis player Stephanie Lin and Jaden Thrash of the Alexandria Titans Youth Football program.

Manley, a 1986 Pro Bowl selection nicknamed "the

Secretary of Defense," was joined by Redskins historian and author Mike Richman for an evening of Redskins reminiscing and food provided by Hard Times Café.

"Dexter Manley is one of my all-time favorite players," said Renee Cardone of the two-time Super Bowl champion. "It is so exciting to be here and actually meet him."

For more information on the Alexandria Sportsman's Club, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Bring the kids for some pumpkin painting, hay ride tours, food, and entertainment!

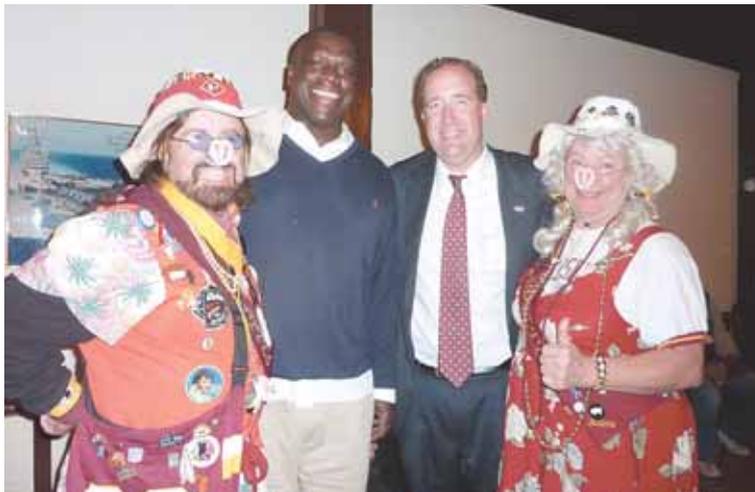
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During this event, Virginia Paving Company will be recognized for their recent acceptance into the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP).



Former Washington Redskins defensive end Dexter Manley and City Councilman Frank Fannon are joined by two "Hogs" fans at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club Redskins Night Oct. 16.



Alexandria's Renee Cardone poses for a photograph with Dexter Manley following his presentation to the Sportsman's Club Oct. 16.

BULLETIN BOARD

From Page 32

with advance reservations to Christine Ballance at 703-845-5017.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

Alexandria Commission for Women - Executive Committee.
8 a.m. Caboose Café, 2419 Mt.

Vernon Avenue. Contact Lisa Baker, 703-746-5030.

NOV. 1-30

Training Courses. The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes

offer a two-year certification, a choice of free digital or affordable print materials, and digital refreshers. Classes range from \$70-\$110 and will be held Monday through Saturday, dependent upon the participant's choice. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in the area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS.



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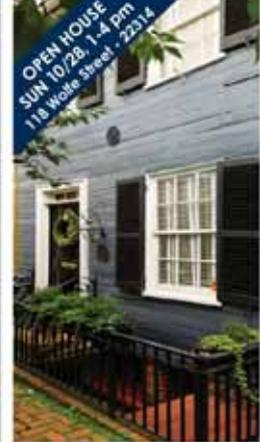
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