

A crowd gathers for the dedication of the Kelley Cares Miracle Field Nov. 17 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Play Ball

Kelley Cares Miracle Field dedicated for athletes with special needs.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The t-shirts being handed out by volunteers said it all: “A miracle happened in Alexandria, Virginia on November 17, 2102” as the new Kelley Cares Miracle Field was dedicated and officially opened for play.

“This is literally a field of dreams,” said Mayor Bill Euille. “This dedication is a beginning and would not have been achieved without the participation of an entire community that is inclusive of everyone, no matter what your challenges are.”

The Miracle Field in Alexandria will be called the Kelley Cares Miracle Field in honor of the Kelley Cares Foundation and its ongoing support of the



Department of Sports and Recreation director Mac Slover tears up at the dedication of the Kelley Cares Miracle Field Nov. 17 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

Bill Rivers and Mac Slover react with appreciation to the baseball gloves signed by Miracle League participants. Rivers and Slover spearheaded the efforts to build the field for individuals with special needs.

therapeutic recreation programs in the city. The organization is named for Kelley Swanson, a volunteer with the city’s therapeutic recreation department who died within weeks of graduating from T.C. Williams High School in 2005.

“Kelley Swanson chose to dedicate her life to people with special needs,” said U.S. Rep.

SEE DEDICATING, PAGE 30

New Direction For Schools?

Seven new School Board members augur change.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The past few years have been chaotic at the Beauregard Street headquarters of the Alexandria City Public School system, which has struggled to cope with failing test scores as a parade of administrators have come and gone. The drama reached a crescendo earlier in March when an accountants’ report blasted the

budget office for having a “dysfunctional environment,” prompting Vice Mayor Kerry Donley to call for the resignation of Superintendent Morton Sherman.

Now Sherman is about to get a new boss — seven new School Board members. Unlike the current School Board members, who rushed to defend the superintendent, the newly elected School Board members may take a more critical tone when they are sworn in next year.

“He either has to change or leave,” said Bill Campbell, who was elected to District A. “We’ve got to have the attitude that we are all working together for the

SEE SEVEN, PAGE 26

Chairman Moran To Step Down

Brian Moran endorses Charniele Herring to succeed him as state leader of Democratic Party.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia, Brian Moran couldn’t have had a better year. He delivered Virginia’s 13 electoral votes to Barack Obama, and he helped former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine beat back a strong challenge from former Republican Gov. George

Allen. Now Moran says it’s time to step aside and let new leadership take over the party.

“To be frank,” said Moran. “I need a job.”

Moran is the younger brother of U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) and a former member of the House of Delegates, where he represented the West End of Alexandria and

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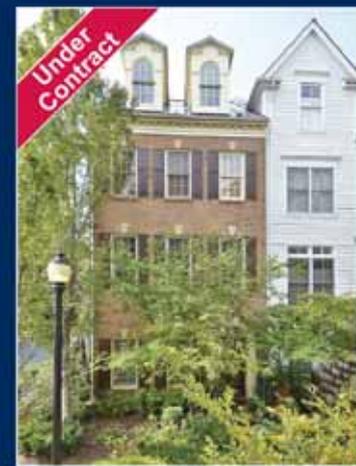
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A Lump of Bricks

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? King Street Gardens Park Foundation chairman **Rodger Digilio** has an idea — buy a brick. In the first group of sales, which ended last year, the foundation raised about \$6,000 for the city to help pay for lighting, signage, irrigation and new plantings.

“It’s a great way of supporting the park and the city,” Digilio said during Saturday’s public hearing. “I like to urge people to give them to grandchildren.”

“Is that similar to getting coal in your stocking,” asked Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**. “

“That was unkind,” Digilio responded. “But I’ll forgive you for your years of service.”

“I couldn’t resist,” Donley responded

“Is it true that you’re not coming back in the spring?” Digilio asked Donley, who did not run for reelection this year.

“It’s true,” responded the lame duck vice mayor.

A Bunch of Hot Air

Look! Up in the sky. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No. It’s a balloon, part of a process to help determine the location of the new Metro station at Potomac Yard.

“It’s to help us visualize the exact height of each location,” said **Sandra Marks**, acting deputy director for the Department of Transportation and Environmental Sciences. “This is a process that’s often used with cell towers.”

Balloon testing is scheduled between Nov. 19 and Dec. 7. During the tests, specialized balloons will be used so photographs and video images can be obtained of each of the alternative station locations. Balloons may be visible above the George Washington Memorial Parkway for about an hour. The idea is to get a better sense of where the station will be visible.

“The Park Service is obviously interested to see if it will be visible from the parkway,” said Marks. “So the tests will determine if the station will be visible from a number of locations.”

The tests are part of an environmental impact survey, which will help members of the Alexandria City Council determine one of three potential sites. Members of the next City Council will be making a final recommendation as early as this spring. City officials say they are looking at a number of factors, including funding, scenic easement, wetland degradation and noise.

Package Precautions

Are you expecting package deliveries this holiday season? If so, the Alexandria Police Department has a few helpful hints for the season, which traditionally sees a spike in package thefts from doorsteps and front porches during daytime hours. Between Nov. 1, 2010 and Jan. 15, 2011, for example, the police logged 12 package thefts. Last year during the same time period there were 17 package thefts.°

Police officials recommend the following precautions:

Consider having packages delivered to another location, where someone is more likely to be present during delivery such as a workplace or a family member’s home.

Encourage family, neighbors and friends to pick up delivered packages as soon as possible after they are dropped off on your doorstep.

Track deliveries online and try to meet the arrival of the package.

Leave special instructions for where to deliver the packages, preferably out of sight from the road.

Consider having any valuable items insured.

Request a signature confirmation of delivery.°

Always lock your doors and windows when leaving your home, even if just for a few hours.

Be neighborly, and take a moment to get to know your neighbors.

Most importantly, report any suspicious activity or persons in your neighborhood immediately by calling 911 for emergencies or 703-746-4444 for non-emergencies.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY LISA BORGES

Walkers from the Westminster Presbyterian Church pose for a photo at the Ice House.

Walking To Support ALIVE! House

The second annual East End Congregations Walk supported ALIVE! House in the 25th Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program was held on Nov. 4. Participating congregations were: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Immanuel Church on the Hill, Washington Street United Methodist and the Church of God and Saints of Christ Sixteenth Tabernacle. Each contingent left their own building and walked to ALIVE! House. Director Nicole Goodman guided the visitors on a tour of the building and explained the program which helps residents move from homelessness to permanent housing. Walk Coordinator Nataki MacMurray encouraged the walkers to meet each other and enjoy some refreshments before starting their homeward trek.



Members of the congregation at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Anna, Charlotte, Patrick and Margaret Rizzi, Jennifer Gladieux and Larry Williams arrive at the ALIVE! House after the afternoon walk.



PHOTO BY LISA BORGES

Walk Coordinator Nataki MacMurray greets walkers from Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Church of God and Saints of Christ Sixteenth Tabernacle Pastor James Parker was joined by church members Charlene Blount, Lanette and Mikaila Jones and Suzanne Arnold and walk coordinator Nataki MacMurray in the 2nd annual East End Congregation Walk.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET

Sustainability in Action Annual conference offers ways students can act to improve environment.



Chris Jordan, environmental activist, shows students an image of 2 million plastic bottles used in the U.S. every five minutes.

BY YUHAN XU
GAZETTE PACKET

What is the most environmentally destructive thing most of us do in our lives?" environmental activist Chris Jordan asked students at last week's Students for Sustainability Conference.

"It's eating meat. Seventy percent of all the green that is grown in the U.S. goes to feed cattle so that we can eat meat. If you take that green, you can feed 800 million people which is almost all the people in the world who lack food," he said.

About 150 students from 21 high schools and middle schools in the D.C. area, Baltimore and Richmond, along with 33 students visiting from Asia who were traveling with the East-West Exchange Center in American schools, participated in the fifth annual Students for Sustainability Conference (S4S) hosted by St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School on Thursday, Nov. 13. The conference was a day of education and discussion where

students learned to make a difference for environmental sustainability in their schools, communities and in their own countries.

As the keynote speaker, Jordan used photos to show the impact of people's behaviors on the environment.

"There is an interesting phenomenon that all we see is the waste we create and our family creates," said Jordan. "We never get to see the collective waste we all create together. Every day we read these numbers — 210 billion plastic bottles we used in the U.S. last year, 130 million cellphones in the U.S. thrown out every year, 925 million people in the world right now who are starving — these numbers are far far beyond the ability of human minds to comprehend."

To enable people to comprehend those abstract numbers, one of Jordan's projects is taking pictures of a small amount of everything, such as cellphones recycled at one facility. Then he stitches them together by using Photoshop, and creates an image to show what 130 million cellphones look like. He also showed students pictures of 1.14 million brown paper bags used in the U.S. every hour, 2 million plastic bottles consumed every five minutes in the U.S.

"Shocking, right?" Jordan said. "When we really feel something, that's when we act. That's why I create these images that illustrate the statistics of the mass consumption. This process allows me to raise an issue I'm really interested in: the relationship between the individual and the collective. If you take one of those bottles, no one will notice the difference. Every single individual does make a difference if we do them collec

SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE 23

PHOTOS BY YUHAN XU/GAZETTE PACKET

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Brian Kane, JK-12 sustainability coordinator at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, gives an opening speech.

NEWS

JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



Salvation Army board chairman Walter Clarke (back, second from right), joins volunteers from American Legion Post 24 in Market Square Nov. 17 as part of the annual Red Kettle Campaign. Pictured are: (back) Jim Glassman, Henry Dorton, John Bordner, Jim Lindsay, Clarke and Eric Eide. In front are Mark, Lisa and Caroline Lindsay.

Hope for the Holidays

Salvation Army campaign to run through Dec. 24.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The familiar sound of the Salvation Army bell is again being heard as volunteers take to the streets of Alexandria for the 2012 Red Kettle campaign.

“Donations received in the Red Kettles make a huge difference in the lives of many,” said Alexandria Salvation Army board Chairman Walter Clarke. “It does not matter how small or large your donation — it is greatly appreciated.”

This year’s campaign officially kicked off Nov. 9 and will run citywide through Dec. 22 with a special

Christmas Eve kettle set up at Market Square. Every dollar received in an Alexandria kettle remains in the community to support local programs and services.

Citing a 15 percent increase in need for services, the Salvation Army is asking donors to consider additional giving when contributing to this year’s Red Kettle campaign.

“I encourage everyone to consider additional giving this year to help us respond to the increase in need in our community,” Clarke said. “Your donation will support services including the Emergency Disaster Services mobilizing canteens, which feed and hydrate first responders and survivors during disasters, and many other programs which are all made possible because of your generous donations.”

For more information, call 703-836-2427 or visit www.salvationarmynca.org/alexandria.

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NEWS

Deputies Deliver Thanksgiving Meals

Community Relations Deputy Valarie Wright delivered several boxes of nonperishable canned and dry goods to ALIVE!'s food program as part of an annual Alexandria Sheriff's Office tradition.

Wright led a month-long drive among staff who donated food, such as canned tuna and meat, jars of peanut butter, boxes of pancake mix, and breakfast cereals, as well as cash that was used to purchase more food. Then Wright delivered several boxes of food to Beth Campbell, a volunteer with ALIVE!'s food program that aids almost 1,000 families in need who are referred by local social service agencies and member congregations. ALIVE! (Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization of volunteers from more than 40 religious congregations and the community working together to help those in need in Alexandria.

Later in the afternoon, Wright and Deputy George Burnham assisted in Project Thanksgiving, an area-wide effort to provide families in need with complete Thanksgiving dinners. Wright and Burnham went to IBM in Gaithersburg to pick up 35 Thanksgiving dinners with turkeys and all the fixings and then delivered them to Hopkins House, an Alexan-



Deputy George Burnham delivers a box of turkeys, donated by IBM, to Hopkins House.

dria charity that will share them with families in need.

On Tuesday, Nov. 20, Chief Deputy Tony DiCesare was scheduled to pick up eight additional dinners at Lockheed Martin in Manassas and deliver them to Hopkins House. Both IBM and Lockheed Martin provide the funds to purchase the dinners and their employees arrange for the food purchases and meal coordination.

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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Officials pose for a photo with volunteers after Dominion Virginia Power presented a check for \$20,000 to the Assistance League of Northern Virginia.

Weekend Food for Kids Expands

Dominion Power donates \$20,000 to Assistance League program.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Dominion Virginia Power presented a check for \$20,000 Oct. 18 to the Assistance League of Northern Virginia to expand the Weekend Food for Kids program to Alexandria's Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.

"This partnership means a lot to us," said Cora Kelly principal Brandon Davis. "We are the second highest poverty school in Alexandria but also one of the highest achieving. Poverty should not be a barrier to learning for our kids."

More than 60 Dominion Virginia Power volunteers joined Assistance League members at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center to pack 1,240 supplementary food bags for students living in poverty, including 320 students at Cora Kelly.

"So many children out there tell their teachers they are hungry," said Assistance League president Linda Shilts, who accepted the grant from Dominion Virginia Power vice-president Rodney Blevins. "We are grateful to Dominion for allowing us to expand our



Bags of food await distribution through the Weekend Food for Kids program.

program to feed even more children in need."

Weekend Food for Kids prepares bags of nutritious food for at-risk students living in poverty at four Northern Virginia Title I schools. The additional grant allowed the Assistance League to serve its fourth school, Cora Kelly, and provide weekend food to 80 percent of those children eligible for free and reduced price meals.

"The government can't do everything for everyone, so these partnerships are important," said Mayor Bill Euille in thanking the volunteers. "What you do is vital."

For more information, visit www.northernvirginiaassistanceleague.org.



Assistance League representative Pat Thompson, left, gives instructions to volunteers ready to pack weekend food bags for students in need. The event kicked off Oct. 18 at the Cora Kelley Recreation Center.



Dominion Power employees Brandon Smith and Matt Moore pack meals for at-risk students during the Weekend Food for Kids kick off at Cora Kelly.

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NEWS

Radioactive Debate

Upcoming General Assembly session to feature effort to lift ban on uranium mining.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The uranium deposits under the farmlands of Pittsylvania County are miles away from Northern Virginia, but the debate about what happens there is shaping up to be one of the hottest issues of the upcoming General Assembly session. In the last year, Chatham-based Virginia Uranium, Inc., has invested more than \$52,000 in campaign contributions across the commonwealth as part of a lobbying effort to persuade legislators to tap the largest undeveloped uranium deposit in the nation.

"I told them I would take their money, but that I haven't made up my mind," said state Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36), who received \$1,000 from Virginia Uranium. "There seems to be more people that are lobbying for it. I am certain that the environmentalists will weigh in against it, but they haven't started doing that yet."

A recent study by the George Mason Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University concluded that overturning the longstanding ban on uranium mining in Virginia would bring more than \$1 million to Pittsylvania County, adding about 2 percent to the county's revenue base. The study concluded net fiscal benefit would be equivalent to a reduction of 4 cents on the tax rate. Virginia Uranium financed the study with a \$147,000 contribution to

the George Mason University Foundation.

"They certainly didn't tell us what to say," said Stephen Fuller, director of the eCenter for Regional Analysis. "Although they did edit our work a bit when we had some misspellings."

For supporters of uranium mining, the financial analysis makes a strong case for helping a part of Virginia that's struggling to emerge from the global economic crisis. Statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show the unemployment rate in Pittsylvania is 6.7 percent, which is higher than the statewide average of 5.6 percent.

"I don't disagree with the fact that this portion of the state needs economic development," said Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45). "But I also think that folks shouldn't have to sacrifice the health of their water or the long-term health of their community for jobs."

FOR MORE THAN 30 years, Virginia has banned uranium mining in the commonwealth. Last year, Virginia Uranium tried to overturn that ban to begin mining a vast resource in Pittsylvania County, a southside community that borders North Carolina. But Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell intervened, asking legislators to take no action in 2012. Instead, the governor initiated a study of the issue by a newly created multi-agency state workgroup including secretaries of Natural Resources, Commerce and

SEE LEGISLATORS, PAGE 9

Uranium Money

Chatham-based Virginia Uranium, Inc., has invested more than \$52,000 this year in campaign contributions across Virginia:

- \$7,500 to the Republican Campaign Committee for House of Delegates
- \$5,000 to the Virginia Republican Senate Caucus
- \$5,000 to the Majority Leader PAC
- \$5,000 to Dominion Leadership Trust
- \$5,000 to Sen. Ryan McDougle (R-4)
- \$2,500 to Del. Todd Gilbert (R-15)
- \$2,500 to the Democratic Party Commonwealth Victory Fund
- \$2,500 to Del. Jackson Miller (R-50)
- \$2,500 to Del. Onzlee Ware (D-11)
- \$2,500 Del. Greg Habeeb (R-8)
- \$1,500 for Del. Steven Landes (R-25)
- \$1,000 for Del. Jimmie Massie (R-72)
- \$1,000 for Del. Dickie Bell (R-20)
- \$1,000 for Del. Mike Watson (R-93)
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- \$500 for Del. Ben Cline (R-24)
- \$500 for Del. Jeion Ward (D-92)
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- \$500 for Del. Algie Howell (D-90)



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

2012 Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Business Award recipients posed for a photo after the presentation on Monday night at the Schlesinger Center with Chamber Chairman Andrew Palmieri and Chamber President John Long. The awardees are, from left, Roger Parks of American Advertising Distributors of Northern Virginia for Small Business of the Year, Executive Director John Porter and Chair of the Board Gene Steuerle of the Alexandria Community Trust for Association/Non-profit of the Year, Business Leader of the Year Cathal Armstrong, Anthony Pryor of Marstel-Day LLC for Environmentally Friendly Business of the Year, Robert Shea of Grant Thornton LLP for Overall Business of the Year and Philip Honaker Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union and Philip Honaker for Medium Business of the Year.

Armstrong Hailed as Leader of Year

Chamber honors chef, local businesses.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

He was 21 years old when he left his home in Ireland to take on a summer job at Murphy's Restaurant in Washington. But the luck of the Irish was on Cathal Armstrong's side when he got his green card in the 1990 lottery and ended up staying in the area, becoming one of the most celebrated chefs in the nation.

"Looking back, making the move was scarier for my mother than it was for me," said Armstrong, who was honored Nov. 13 by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as the 2012 Business Leader of the Year. "I was too naïve to realize all that could go wrong or that I could fail. But you have to have faith in what you are doing and be a risk taker to be successful."

Held at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, the annual business awards paid tribute to outstanding business in several categories, including Association/Nonprofit of the Year, Eco-Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Medium Business of the Year and Overall Business of the Year.

"This is a great honor," said Armstrong, whose restaurants include The Majestic, Eammon's A Dublin Chipper, Virtue Feed and Grain, Society Fair, PX, Bar TNT and the flagship Restaurant Eve. "When you become an entrepreneur, you take on a certain level of responsibility. It's not just about making as much



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), left, congratulates chef Cathal Armstrong.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

money as you can."

Armstrong was selected for the chamber's top business award recipient for his dedication and exemplary leadership as co-owner of The Eat Good Food Group, an Alexandria-based restaurant group created by Armstrong and his wife and business partner Meshelle.

"Being a good leader means leading by example," Armstrong said. "You have to care about those in the community less fortunate than you are."

Other Business Award recipients recognized at the event include: Association/Non-Profit Business of the Year - ACT for Alexandria; Eco-Business of the Year - Marstel Day, LLC; Small Business of the Year - American Advertising Distributors of North America; Medium Business of the Year - Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union; Overall Business of the Year - Grant Thornton LLP

"There isn't another country in the world where someone like me could be as successful as I've been," Armstrong said in accepting his award. "This city is my adopted hometown and Meshelle and I try to honor Alexandria in everything we do."



Christmas Attic's Cheri Hennessey and Fay Carter.



Meschelle and Cathal Armstrong bask in smiles at the reception following the Alexandria Chamber Business Awards.



Chamber of Commerce chair-elect John Renner and Fran Redmon.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN

Legislators To Consider Lifting Ban on Uranium Mining

FROM PAGE 8

Trade and Health and Human Resources. "Public safety must be the primary factor in the ultimate determination as to whether to proceed with uranium mining," McDonnell said in a written statement. "While uranium mining could mean the creation of high-paying jobs for our citizens, a boost for the important nuclear power industry, increased economic development for the region and the generation of significant tax revenue for the entire commonwealth, we must prudently study the issue to ensure that such mining would not impair the health of our people or the condition of the environment."

Environmental groups have been critical of uranium mining because of concerns over a radioactive byproduct known as "tailings,"

a sand-like substance left over after the uranium is milled. Some legislators say they are concerned that the radioactive byproduct could flow downstream into the Hampton Roads area. That means Pittsylvania County could see the economic benefits while the Hampton Roads area has to deal with the pollution.

"I don't want to sell the public health at any price," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). "We should be serious about other kinds of economic development besides dirty energy."

THE BAN WAS originally enacted in 1982, although supporters say technological advances have made the practice of mining for uranium much safer than it used to be. One idea under discussion involves bury-

ing the tailings where they found, which could prevent the radioactive material from travelling downstream. Ultimately, though, the debate this year will be about overturning the ban. If that happens, the details about how the mining process would work would be dealt with in a future session.

"Contrary to popular belief, the vote — if we have it this year — is not whether to mine uranium or not," said Del. David Albo (R-42). "It's to lift the ban so they can present plans on how they are going to do it."

Legislators say they have been lobbied heavily on the issue, and they expect the debate to be one of the hottest issues in the upcoming session. Virginia Uranium has 19 lobbyists registered from five different firms, an indication that the company is

eager to present their case as forcefully as possible.

An analysis from the Virginia Public Access Project shows that 15 percent of the company's campaign contributions have gone to Democrats while 84 percent of donations have gone to Republicans.

"Democrats have a tendency to be more opposed to it because of the possible environmental effects, but there are also Republicans who are not exactly robust in their support of it for the same reason," said Geoff Skelley. "So far, the environmental concerns have outweighed the possible economic benefits, but that could obviously change if the lobbying efforts have some effect."

The governor's uranium working group is scheduled to present its findings to the Coal and Energy Commission on Dec. 1.

Police Investigate Attempted Robbery at Bank of America

Alexandria Police are investigating an attempted bank robbery that occurred at the Bank of America, located at 600 N. Washington St. Around 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 14, a woman entered the bank and

gave the teller a note demanding money. The teller backed away from the window and the suspect fled the bank. She was last seen on foot heading eastbound on Pendleton Street. No one was injured.

The suspect is described as a

black female, approximately 5'5" with a medium build. She was wearing jeans, a dark jacket with a navy blue and gray scarf wrapped around her head and sunglasses.

Anyone recognizing the suspect from the surveillance photos or

with additional information about the robbery is asked to call Detective Sean Casey at 703-746-6853 or the Criminal Investigations Section of the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6711.

Detectives said witnesses can remain anonymous.



Bank robbery suspect

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

Be Part of Children's Gazette Packet

Deadline approaches for special edition.

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.

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, plus

the name of the school and name of teacher. 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 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

EDITORIAL

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 to 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balance Learning With Socializing

To the Editor:

Reading "Closing the Gap: School Board Candidates Offer Perspectives on Failing Scores for Students with Disabilities" [Gazette Packet, Oct. 25] made me think of a boy I went to school with named David (name has been changed). David and I both went to Charles Barrett Elementary School and continued with the ACPS school system through high school. David was learning-disabled and in elementary school his tantrums were legendary.

David and I shared a few classes in Charles Barrett and he had a tendency to get overwhelmed which always seemed to result in a seizure or a tantrum. Looking back I realize these classes were inclusion classes. I think part of the reason David was so frustrated, was that he couldn't keep up. The rest of the class, for the most part, was just worried about learning the stuff we needed to know in order to pass the test. David however, had a lot more than that to worry about. He was being socialized into a class that he maybe wasn't prepared for.

Although it's easy to see how inclusion classes can serve a valuable purpose in preparing learning-disabled students for the real world, it seems that 80 percent of the school day spent in inclusion classes may do more harm than good. Learning disabled students, like all students, need and benefit from the social skills we learn in school that aren't necessarily a part of the curriculum. However,

learning-disabled students, with pass rates as low as 27 percent in some subjects, aren't going to make it to graduation on social skills alone. I don't think inclusion classes should be eliminated, but maybe reducing the amount of time per day in these classes from 80 percent to 50 percent would be beneficial. That way these students can receive the specialized attention they need to pass standardized tests without giving up the real world social skills they will need after graduation.

Madeline Darr
Alexandria

What's Next?

To the Editor:

The first public meeting to kick-off "What's Next Alexandria", the city's ambitious campaign to drive more citizens to a web-based engagement process and to help restore trust between the city and its residents was probably a wash. It was a tentative start that was buoyed along by John Porter and a healthy embedding of city staff and political operatives, but as it unfolded the general feeling was déjà vu all over again ... beginning with the infamous sticky dots.

The "What's Next" campaign was launched using a dedicated website to poll citizens and ask how they now engage with the city on vital issues. This poll and its results did not establish a starting point that must be neutral, inclusive, demographically representative of the city of Alexandria, and statistically valid ... a place we could all trust. As it was, our expert commentator, Mr. Lomax, had

to warn us that what the city collected was a "poll not a survey", which seemed to imply that it was more political than unbiased. That makes sense. This particular poll was self-selected, non-representative, and constructed to ensure

pre-determined answers. In contrast a neutral, unbiased survey would have used a number of professional research methods to provide an impartial place for everyone to start fresh. Even our other

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15



Snapshot

A crane lowers the Market Square holiday tree on Thursday morning, Nov. 15. The annual city tree lighting ceremony will be held at 7p.m. on Nov. 23 in Market Square.

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OPINION

Caregivers: The Selfless Citizens

BY JANET BARNETT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The National Family Caregivers Association announced that November is National Caregivers Month, and Senior Services of Alexandria salutes all the loving people who care so tenderly for their loved ones. The caregivers are husbands, wives, daughters, sons, other relatives and friends. All, who most likely have full-time jobs and a host of responsibilities themselves, lovingly take on this duty. Too, we salute the professional caregivers who care for complete strangers, but do so while maintaining respect for the recipient and preserving his or her dignity. These good people are unsung heroes who do not seek praise and glory, but the community should never ignore their hard work.

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

It is important to recognize that the need to provide care giving to the elderly who can no longer care for themselves can affect anyone at any time. Daily lives suddenly change. And, sad, but true, none of us likes to think about becoming the one needing to receive care from a family member or professional. What if we need help dressing, and with personal hygiene, or cooking or just moving around in our homes? It can be a big surprise when the tables turn. Yet, it is something to think about and think about seriously.

Senior Services of Alexandria is devoted to helping others and it is appropriate for us to recognize the good and kind people who are known as “caregivers” but who are selfless people.

Senior Service of Alexandria is also actively involved in providing home care referrals for families and individuals who need care-giving assistance. Through our Resource Center, we work with individuals, families, professional caregivers and caregiver companies to match the right person with the senior. We refer only those caregivers, whom we would choose for our own loved ones, after a series of interviews, background checks and reference checks.

It was President Bill Clinton who recognized November as the month to honor caregivers in 1994. Such people are to be remembered and honored for their dedicated work.

President Obama has issued a proclamation this month honoring all caregivers. “I encourage all Americans to pay tribute to those who provide for the health and well-being of their family members, friends and neighbors.”

On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Senior Services of Alexandria, we salute America’s caregivers in general and those in Alexandria in particular, true super stars all.

Janet Barnett is executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria.



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School Admissions: Interviews and Teacher Recommendations

Admissions officers at local independent schools offer insight into the process.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Mark Fischer sat with his parents in the plush reception area of one of the region's elite independent schools, biting his fingernails and tapping his left foot while waiting to speak with an admissions officer for the interview portion of his application.

"Yeah, I'm a little nervous," he said. Admissions directors say the interview is a chance for both students and their parents to get to know the schools and for the school to become familiar with the applicants. But what do admissions teams want to learn from interviews with applicants and their families?

"We really just want to get to know you better and hear what you have to say about your school year and thoughts for next year," said Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid at The Madeira School in McLean.

"We like to see that the student is curious

about life, what he or she is interested in and what they are passionate about," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

COMPETITION TO GET INTO independent schools can be fierce — some school admissions teams accept only one out of every 10 applicants — so parents may wonder if they should hire education consultants or coaches to help their children prepare for interviews.

Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association, says it's not worth it: "A school is trying to get ... an understanding of who that student really is," he said. "They'll try to get past any planned or scripted answers."

Richard Moss of The Heights School in Potomac agrees. "It is often easy to tell when a student is not interested based on their knowledge of the school and the reasons for wanting to attend," he said. "The interview with the parents is important because you get a sense of the kinds of people you're going to be working with. We want to make

sure our parents are on board with what our instructors are trying to do."

Admissions directors say parents often ask how their families should prepare for interviews. "This is an opportunity to soul search about why they are interested in the school," said Moss, adding he notices a lot about a prospective student during an interview. "Does a student present well? Does he look sharp? Does he have a firm handshake? Does he thank you for having him? Does he look alive and engaged? Does he mumble?"

Sklarow says that while students should not over-prepare, they should know what to expect. "Every school is not looking for the same kind of student. Every school is not looking for the same answer. They are trying to figure out whether that student fits the personality of the school. They want to know if this is a student who will find friendships within the school and fit into the school community."

WHAT ROLE do the teacher recommendations play in admissions decisions? "Teacher recommendations give us a broader perspective on student effort and attitude, and often provide us with a different perspective than what the application alone might show," Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington.

"Families would be surprised by the thoughtful and insightful comments most teachers make on the recommendations," Miller said. "Trust the teachers. They have your child's best interest at heart."

Charlotte Nelsen, director of admission for the Potomac School in McLean said, "Potomac School takes a particular interest in the current teacher's recommendation for the applicant. We recognize a teacher has known the student far longer than we have."

Some experts say that reports from a student's current instructors can raise red flags as well. "Teacher recommendations can shed light on the difficult aspects of a student's personality that you don't see on a report card," said Moss. "Report cards don't necessarily tell you how hard a student is working, how generous he is or what his true abilities are."

"We realize that teacher recommendations are subjective, but they are important," Moss continued. "If a student is required, for example, to get a recommendation from a current English teacher and they have a terrible relationship with that teacher ... they should ... ask the previous year's English teacher to write a supplementary recommendation, just so they can balance out the negative one. The one thing you don't want to do is get a bad recommendation and say, 'Well this is a horrible teacher who doesn't like my son.'"



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6 ALEXANDER ST	4	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,550,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	OLD TOWN	
717 PUTNAM PL	6	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,330,000	Detached	0.25	22302	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK	
105 MONROE AVE W	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,215,000	Detached	0.12	22301	ROSEMONT AREA	
411 HENRY ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,160,000	Townhouse	0.05	22314	OLD TOWN VILLAGE	
24 MASONIC VIEW AVE E	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.11	22301	ROSEMONT PARK	
602 LEE ST S	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$964,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	POMMANDER	
209 JEFFERSON ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$920,000	Townhouse	0.04	22314	OLD TOWN	
708 PITT ST S	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$902,000	Townhouse	0.05	22314	YATES GARDENS	
1 NELSON AVE E	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	Detached	0.15	22301	DEL RAY	
822 WATER PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$865,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	RIVERGATE	
109 MAPLE ST W	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$845,000	Detached	0.14	22301	ROSEMONT	
1121 WYTHE ST	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$840,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	BRADDOCK LOFTS	
512 HILLTOP TER	4	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$837,500	Detached	0.13	22301	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK	
337 FAYETTE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$835,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	OLD TOWN VILLAGE	
625 ROYAL ST S	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN	
37 BELLEFONTE AVE E	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$799,900	Detached	0.20	22301	DEL RAY	
411 PITT ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$795,000	Townhouse	0.05	22314	OLD TOWN	
4208 ORMOND AVE	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$775,000	Detached	0.39	22304	VAUXCLEUSE	
229 ALFRED ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$769,900	Townhouse	0.04	22314	OLD TOWN	
600 SOUTH VIEW TER	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$749,900	Detached	0.22	22301	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK	
15 CUSTIS AVE W	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.13	22301	ROSECREST	
415 PITT ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$715,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	CHATHAM SQUARE	
1609 OAKCREST DR	4	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$694,000	Detached	0.16	22302	DYES OAKCREST	
309 COLUMBUS ST S	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$689,900	Townhouse	0.05	22314	BURGESS SQUARE	
127 MONCURE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$651,000	Detached	0.12	22314	GLENMORE	
523 BELLVUE PL	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	PITT ST STATION	
23 BRADDOCK RD E	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$635,000	Duplex	0.13	22301	ROSEMONT PARK	
1316 IVANHOE ST	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$635,000	Detached	0.24	22304	SEMINARY HILLS	
5261 BESSLEY PL	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$620,000	Townhouse	0.04	22304	CAMERON STATION	
8 PHOENIX MILL PL	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Townhouse	0.05	22304	BATTERY HEIGHTS	
261 MEDLOCK LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$600,000	Townhouse	0.02	22304	CAMERON STATION	
1721 DOGWOOD DR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$590,000	Townhouse	0.05	22302	OAKCREST	
2901 VALLEY DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$580,000	Detached	0.21	22302	BEVERLEY ESTATES	
1106 QUINCY ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$580,000	Detached	0.17	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS	
385 LIVERMORE LN	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$579,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION	
635 PUTNAM PL	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$576,000	Detached	0.22	22302	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK	
5056 GRIMM DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$560,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION	
1206 POWHATAN ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$554,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	WESTOVER	
432 NELSON AVE E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$549,000	Townhouse	0.05	22301	BIRDIE MAY MASON	
705 AVON PL	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$547,900	Townhouse	0.03	22314	MT VERNON CONST CO	
433 MOUNT VERNON AVE	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$542,720	Townhouse	0.03	22301	ROSEMONT	
419 DEL RAY AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$534,000	Duplex	0.07	22301	DEL RAY	
910 POWHATAN ST #206N	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$531,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	900 N WASHINGTON ST CONDOS	
1600 PRINCE ST #303	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	1600 PRINCE STREET	
493 OWEN ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Detached	0.19	22304	SEMINARY VALLEY	
1212 POWHATAN ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	WESTOVER	
3111/2 BELLEFONTE AVE	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$517,000	Duplex	0.07	22301	RIVER TERRACE	
205 ADAMS AVE	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$515,000	Duplex	0.05	22301	TEMPLE PARK	
5314 ECHOLS AVE	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$515,000	Townhouse	0.05	22311	SEMINARY PARK	
1029 PITT ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$507,500	Townhouse		22314	WATERGATE OF ALEXANDRIA	
412 STANTON PL	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$507,000	Townhouse	0.05	22304	EDSALL RD T/H	
900 WASHINGTON ST N #304E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$491,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	900 N WASHINGTON ST CONDOS	
4672 STRATHBLANE PL	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Detached	0.19	22304	SEMINARY VALLEY	
2602 COMMONWEALTH AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$471,000	Detached	0.03	22305	MOUNT IDA	
2925 HICKORY ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$470,000	Townhouse	0.04	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE	
731 COLUMBUS ST S	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$470,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	OLD TOWN	
2937 LANDOVER ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$465,000	Townhouse	0.06	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE	
488 NAYLOR PL	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$463,000	Detached	0.18	22304	SEMINARY VALLEY	
2317 EARLY ST N	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$460,000	Detached	0.18	22302	BRAD LEE HOMES	
406 ROYAL ST S	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	OLD TOWN	
220 GUTHRIE AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$459,000	Townhouse	0.04	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE	
517 CUSTIS AVE E	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$457,500	Townhouse	0.05	22301	DEL RAY	
1739 CLIFF ST	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$449,900	Townhouse		22301	CLIFF GARDENS	
1723 CLIFF ST N #1723	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$449,900	Townhouse		22301	CLIFF GARDENS	
947 HARRISON CIR	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$445,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	SUMMERS GROVE	
3867 EISENHOWER AVE	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$444,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE	
4500 PEACOCK AVE	7	5	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Detached	0.23	22304	BELLE WOOD	
309 HOLLAND LN #320	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	ROYALTON	
507 N. WEST ST	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$437,550	Townhouse	0.03	22314	OLD TOWN	
505 OWEN ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$437,000	Detached	0.19	22304	SEMINARY VALLEY	
309 HOLLAND LN #120	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	THE ROYALTON	
309 HOLLAND LN #211	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$434,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	THE ROYALTON	
491 CAMERON STATION BLVD#19	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$427,000	Townhouse		22304	CAMERON STATION	
144 INGLE PL	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$425,500	Townhouse	0.05	22304	DUKE STREET SQUARE	
545 BRADDOCK RD E #608	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$422,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	COLECROFT	
112 GORDON ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$415,000	Detached	0.12	22304	DALECREST	
5406 WYCKLOW CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$409,900	Townhouse	0.03	22304	HOLLAND TOWNE	
1110 ARCHER CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$407,500	Detached	0.40	22312	LINCOLNIA HILLS	
657 ARMISTEAD ST N #79	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$407,000	Townhouse		22312	BEAUREGARD HEIGHTS	
5108 ENGLISH TER #101	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$405,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22304	CAMERON STATION	
395 PICKETT ST S #50	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$405,000	Townhouse		22304	TOWNES OF HILLWOOD	
514 GLENDALE AVE E	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.05	22301	DEL RAY	
5116 DONOVAN DR #408	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$388,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22304	CARLTON PLACE	
181 REED AVE E #104	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$384,650	Garden 1-4 Floors		22305	PRESTON	
99 S JENKINS ST	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$382,500	Detached	0.15	22304	TARLETON	
2703 BRYAN PL	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$381,000	Detached	0.19	22302	ALBERT V BRYAN PROP	
2151 JAMIESON AVE #2111	1	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$380,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22314	CARLYLE TOWERS	
400 CAMERON STATION BLVD#132	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$379,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22304	CAMERON STATION	
41 REED AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$375,000	Detached	0.15	22305	BEAUMONT	
3838 JAY AVE #209	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$365,000	Townhouse		22302	FAIRLINGTON TOWNE	
3812 KELLER AVE #152	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$358,000	Townhouse		22302	FAIRLINGTON TOWNE	
4950 BRENNAN PARK DR #101	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$355,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22304	MAIN STREET	
400 CAMERON STATION BLVD#G16	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22304	CAMERON STATION	
23SOUTH FRENCH ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.14	22304	DUKE GARDENS	
281 PICKETT ST S #402	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$334,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		22304	HILLWOOD	
5411 WYCKLOW CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.04	22304	HOLLAND TOWNE	
4221 VERMONT AVE	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$322,500	Semi-Detached	0.08	22304	DUKE GARDENS	
2921 LANDOVER ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.06	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE	
520 JOHN CARLYLE ST #233	0	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$316,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	CONDOS AT CARLYLE SQUARE	
1405 ABINGDON DR E #5	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	HARBOR TERRACE	
3101 HAMPTON DR N #911	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22302	NORTHAMPTON PLACE	
4551 STRUTFIELD LN #4403	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22311	PALAZZO AT PARK CENTER	
47 UNDERWOOD PL	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$296,600	Townhouse	0.11	22304	WAKEFIELD	
3210 RAVENSWORTH PL#844-32	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$294,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22302	PARKFAIRFAX	
4550 STRUTFIELD LN #2116	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22311	PALAZZO AT PARK CENTER	

Thanks to this light fixture, a foundation was dug to a new home.



This used light fixture was donated to the ReStore.

It was purchased at the ReStore for \$35 to help refurbish a kitchen.

This \$35 will go toward digging a foundation for a home for a family in need in Northern Virginia.

Habitat for Humanity
of Northern Virginia

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The TC Transformation Story: Past, Present and Future

By DR. MORTON SHERMAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Many have long believed the excellence of T.C. Williams to be a fact. However, in March 2010, our community received a very different message from the U.S. and Virginia departments of education. Referring to end-of-course Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments from the 2007-09 school years, the U.S. Department of Education designated T.C. Williams High School as a Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) school, among the lowest 5 percent of Title I eligible schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The PLA designation confirmed that TC never made Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind criteria implemented in 2002, and that the school has been among the lowest-performing schools in the state for several years.

Given our intense efforts, we are well on our way to fulfilling the promise and potential of this remarkable school.

Acting on the mandate to develop an improvement model for TC, the Alexandria City School Board in June 2010 approved the TC Transformation Model, uniquely developed to meet the needs of our high school. Working with staff, parents, students and administrators, I asked the state to allow us to create our own External Lead Part-

ner approach to ensure that as much funding as possible from the Federal School Improvement Grant would go to hiring staff at our high school. We are the only school division given permission to use this model, which enabled us to direct

more than \$1.6 million per year for three years directly to staff. The Virginia Department of Education's Dr. Kathleen Smith, director of the Office School Improvement, praised our work when she wrote, on June 2, 2010, "We ... agree that you are going to have a national model! Thanks for your dedication."

Dr. Smith's accolades refer to a report developed by Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) executive staff during an intense time in the spring of 2010. Similar to the way we undertook several projects in the early years of my service to ACPS, we chose to get to the work as quickly as possible rather than spend the 2010-11 school year just planning a model of transformation. We agreed that the core of the proposals rests on the implementation of two key areas:

1. Individual Achievement Plans (IAPs)

in English and Mathematics

2. Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) designed to connect certified staff evaluation and professional development with student achievement

The approved grant supports the two core parts of the model and also supports monitoring of student progress, developing support services and ongoing funding for the required component of external lead partners. This money enabled us to lower the counselor/student ratio, reduce English and mathematics teachers' schedules to four classes each and encourage support programs such as writing and math centers, a summer college essay writing course, dual college/high school credit courses and online courses

As we begin our third year of transformation, we clearly have turned the corner. The culture has changed at TC. Many successes are directly related to the transformation model:

- ❖ Advanced Placement participation and scores are the highest ever.
- ❖ SAT scores have improved.
- ❖ Graduation rates have improved.
- ❖ Dropout rates have declined.
- ❖ SOL scores are higher.
- ❖ A new curriculum is in its second year of implementation.
- ❖ Online course participation has increased 500 percent.

❖ Dual credit course participation has increased 300 percent.

❖ Parents have access to their students' grades through an parents' online portal.

❖ Our new International Academy and TC Satellite Campus are helping meet the needs of our traditionally underserved students.

❖ TC has (as do all our schools) a School Education Plan with metrics and targets.

During the past two years, the Transformation Steering Committee has met regularly, state reports have been filed monthly, quarterly reports have been presented to the School Board, and the staff, students and parents have been involved with surveys and other forms of feedback. Our goal is to create a sustainable model that meets the needs of all of our students. The report by Hanover Research will become part of our decision making as we begin the budget process for the 2013-14 school year and as we recognize the end of federal TC School Improvement Grant funding in June 2013. While the transformation model reacted to an imperative, it also provided an opportunity for TC to move beyond the levels that created the narrow PLA designation.

We are grateful this holiday season for the exceptional leadership of Principal Suzanne Maxey, for the can do attitude of the TC staff and for the exceptional support of our parents and community.

Lessons for Serving and Governing

An inaugural column.

This is the first in a series of columns, coordinated by former council member Lonnie Rich, that will also include other past city leaders writing on governance and politics.

By LONNIE C. RICH

We have just had a City Council election. We have two new members (Silberberg and Chapman) and two newish members (Lovain and Wilson) as well as three experienced members returning to the Council (Euille, Pepper and Smedberg). Congratulations to each of you on your victory. And thank you to every person who ran — putting yourself before the public is valuable to the discourse and the choices you allowed the voting public to have.

Having served for nine years on the council, and now having been off council longer than I was on it, I have some observations, mostly to our new members, but to the others as well.

First, I know what a heady experience an election is — you have an awesome opportunity to persuade your colleagues and the public on subjects important to you and the com-

munity. You each want to make a difference. You also have a relentlessly daunting responsibility in that your public duties will never be done; there is no rest from the obligation to educate yourself about the next 15 complex issues and to discern your own position on these (many of which you may have little or no interest). Initially, you will want to absorb all the information yourself and make all your own decisions; but at some point you will realize that there are not enough hours in the day, and you will come to rely on certain colleagues, staff or friends on whose lead you will trust for guidance on many issues. Quickly identify those people you trust.

Second, remember that you were elected by the people, not your council colleagues, who probably did not vote for you, even though you are all of the same party. Nonetheless, if you want to serve those who did vote for you, then never forget that your colleagues are critical to your being able to accomplish what you believe is important. Each of you should build alliances with every other member of council — not permanent or exclusive alliances — but a matrix of overlapping alliances. You will be with one group on one issue and another group on another issue. Every member, regardless of how distant he or she may seem to you, will be an ally

at some point on some issue. Try to build permanent goodwill with each member and have no permanent adversaries. When possible, talk with your colleagues in advance. I am saying all this because, even though I enjoyed being happy contrarian — a "lone wolf" doing what I wanted in any moment — I could have been more effective if I had built better alliances in advance. Just making speeches to your colleagues in council meetings will not advance your goals.

Third, and this is something I learned from David Speck, what you ran on is important, mostly during the election and for some short time thereafter. Soon you will be facing new challenges — ones that none of you will have anticipated; and they will be hard issues. We elect people not just for their "platforms" or their ideological foundations, but for their judgment and character. We are counting on you to think through and deal with totally unanticipated issues and then to sort out the policy choices in the context of a messy, democratic process.

Lonnie C. Rich served on the Alexandria City Council from 1991 to 2000. He is a law partner in Rich Rosenthal Brincefield Manitta Dzubin & Kroeger, LLP.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

outside expert, Ms. Lukensmeyer, while making an excellent presentation focused on national politics, offered some hope. Her brief description of how New York City used a demographically representative group of citizens to create a new public engagement dynamic by using on-the-spot response tools, offered a dramatic contrast to this session ... and hope.

What the poll can tell us? First, respondents use different media sources about equally to get information about the city: electronic/remote (31.8 percent), general media (34.3 percent) and person to person (31.3 percent). This is not surprising given the complex nature of human decision-making on complicated issues. The most important way to engage the community was to invite them into the planning process early enough to identify issues important to them — cited by 82 percent. This was weighted by 78 percent saying it was important to "make it clear throughout the planning process how community input is shaping plan recommendations." People would be most likely to attend a community meeting if: held at a convenient time (78 percent), clear how my input would be used (70 percent), and had "ample opportunity for public input" (63 percent). And those who responded were slightly older than the Alexandria demographic.

What we still don't know for certain is the need for increased web-based engagement, because the poll was structured so that answers to this critical question were a biased response, induced by the previous question. Nearly half of respondents "weren't sure" how else they could engage with the city after reacting to the exhaustive list of current participation options that they were asked in the previous question. These options ranged from "the local PTA" to "voting in elections." This uncertainty was used

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 28



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NEW HOME

5211 Polk Ave
\$1,085,000
Just Completed - Grand Opening!

Best of both worlds-new home size and amenities combined with "in-town convenience". Spacious new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hardwood flrs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and 2 oversize 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price!

JUST LISTED

4002 Belle Rive Terr
\$798,500
Classic Colonial Near River!

Unique opportunity to purchase river view home in prestigious Belle Rive for under \$800K! Fabulous custom all-brick colonial on cul-de-sac with stunning views of Potomac River! Gorgeous kitchen featuring all SS appliances, farmhouse sink and carrera marble counters. Hdwrd flrs and plantation shutters abound. Recently finished walk out lower lvl. New Pella doors.

JUST LISTED

6405 E. 14th Street
\$735,000
Minutes From Old Town!

Uniquely attractive property tastefully updated combining the best of modern amenities while preserving the character of the original home. Many fab features include: distinctive courtyard setting w/stone patio, hdwd flrs, updated gourmet kit w/granite counters, "Viking" range & custom cabs. Four large BRs, MBR with private bath. Prime location off GW Pkwy, mins to Old Town. Truly special property. **OPEN SUN 11/18, 1-4!** GW Pky S; R-Belle Haven; L-Potoma

NEW HOME

8313 Mount Vernon Hwy
\$789,000
Brand New! Amazing Price!

Brand new home opportunity in prime Mt. Vernon location by Wakefield Homes. Custom home with many modern amenities and upgrades. Features include: expanded master bedroom suite, front porch, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 2 car garage. Fabulous new home amenities combined with convenience of a prime Mt. Vernon location.

OVER VIEW

1250 S. Washington St
Porto Vecchio #824
\$599,000
Best Value!

Spacious residence with breathtaking panoramic river views from every major room. Special features include: glass walled great room, luxury MBR, marble foyer, & bright white kit. Elevated views of bridge & National Harbor. Unique opportunity-typically units with similar combination of views & elevation cost thousands more!

CONTRACT!

9317 Old Mansion Rd
\$859,000
Stunning Colonial in Riverfront Community!

Classic colonial tastefully expanded and landscaped. One of area's most distinctive properties! Fab features: 3 fin levels, expanded custom kitchen opening to sunroom and elevated stone terrace overlooking garden. MBR with dual granite vanities, separate shower & whirlpool tub. 4BR, 3.5BA, 2FP and 2 car garage. Community path to river access.

CONTRACT!

3618 Old Vernon Ct
\$839,000
Stately Columned Colonial!

Fabulous opportunity! Spacious 5BR Colonial with updated modern floor plan. Numerous features include: high ceilings, 3 finished levels, stunning master suite, custom built-ins and oversize two car garage. Prime location on large, fenced lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Nothing like it on market at close to this price.

8614 Camden St
\$525,000
Spacious Contemporary! One Level Living!

One of Stratford's largest contemporary models featuring striking open floor plan with 4-5 bedrooms & exceptionally large room sizes. Numerous updates include roof, thermal windows, water heater & electrical. Features include large deck with hot tub, private rear deck & covered parking.

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"The Giving Tree"

The Long & Foster "Giving Tree" program began 22 years ago by the Agents of the Alexandria Old Town office. This program is our way of giving back to the Alexandria Community. Each year the Alexandria Public Schools are requested to identify a number of families in their system that are in great need and a Holiday Wish List is provided for each child. Contributions consist of toys, games, books, and monetary donations to provide food vouchers for the family. With your help, we can give these CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES A GREAT HOLIDAY.

Your donations to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated.

Please make your checks payable to "The L&F Giving Tree"

Please stop by our office OR contact/email: Janice Allen or Bill Jourdan, 703/683-0400 400 King Street ~ Alexandria, VA 22314

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Immediate occupancy available in this recently renovated building including 3 levels, 7 individual offices plus reception area and a large lower open finished level. A half bath and small kit with sink and dishwasher are on the top level. 5 deeded parking spaces plus more M-F by agreement. Walk to King St Metro. *Owner/agent*

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

\$1,399,000
Alexandria
"GRACIOUS SPACE"

Over 4,000 sq ft in this expanded brick center hall Colonial, sited on 3/4 acre lot, in much sought after Chapel Hill. 4BR/4.5BA, deck, sunroom, family room, formal living/dining rooms; and 2 fireplaces make this home ideal for entertaining and comfort.

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708

\$799,900
Alexandria
GRACIOUS LIVING

Move right in! Pristine, spacious 3 level Colonial with top quality finishes offers 4BR/3.5BA, formal living and dining rooms, au-pair suite, 2 fireplaces and off-street parking. Prime location. Welcome home!

www.homesbykatalin.com
Katalin Melamed 703.819.9787

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$879,000
Hollin Hall Knolls 8115 YORKTOWN

NEW PRICE . . . ONLY 2 LEFT of these luxury 5BR /4.5BA homes with all the upgrades and options - gourmet kitchen with all SS, center island, granite and breakfast area. Built by Long Homes of VA located in heart of Mt. Vernon. Easy access to GW Parkway, shopping, bike trails, swimming and more.

www.thebendergroup.net
Randy Bender 703.906.1749

OPEN HOUSE 1 - 4!
\$419,900
Springfield 6308 MILLWOOD CIRCLE

Fabulous brick 3 level, 3BR/2 full plus 2 half BA townhome in sought after super convenient location.

Huge kitchen with bay window, hardwoods on main level, sunny deck, large master suite with cathedral ceiling, lower level rec room with wet bar and fireplace. Updated and move in ready!

Candace Johnson 757.705.1997

\$530,000
Alex / Parker Grey "GORGEOUS"

This gorgeous home was gutted and redone with quality workmanship and an eye to perfection. Home boasts 3BR/2FBA and 3 finished levels plus: hardwood, granite, custom cabinetry, ceramic tile, recessed lighting, moldings and fenced yards. Off street parking plus sit between King & Braddock Metros.

Marcy Covarrubias 703.772.6569

\$749,000
Alexandria South "ARCHITECT DESIGNED"

Exceptionally beautiful home in Hollin Hills worthy of Architectural Digest! This light-filled contemporary home has 4BR/2.5BA, eat-in kitchen and separate dining room, a living room with wood-burning fireplace and a comfortable family room. The lovely 1/3 acre landscaped open yard is a gardener's paradise. For more information, please call me.

Annalise Smith 703.505.2533

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$230,000
Alexandria South 7520 SNOWPEA CT, #M

Top floor unit. New carpet, new paint, newer furnace, newer W/D. Kitchen features oak cabinets with Corian countertop. Pantry. Great roommate setup. Vaulted ceilings. Living room with gas fireplace. Sunroom. Assigned parking. Low fees. Pool and tot lots. Close to shopping, schools, and EZ commute/minutes to Huntington Metro and Old Town.

www.brianandjerry.com
Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$585,000
Alexandria / Old Town 424 ST ASAPH ST

NEW PRICE! Look up as you enter this contemporary townhome's open 2-story living room and . . . travel over a suspended bridge that connects the 2BRs. The kitchen is totally remodeled with new stainless steel appliances, granite counters and cabinets plus brick floors that lead to a private enclosed patio. This is a treat . . . come and see! 2BR/1.5BA.

Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460

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PEOPLE



From left: Members of the Board of Lady Managers Judy Doering, Lynda West and President Cynthia Puskar at the silent auction at its 140th anniversary celebration. Doering and Puskar served as silent auction co-chairs while West coordinated reservations and tickets.



From left: Friends Anita Turk, Helene Schrott and Elaine Rosenberg have known each other since they were "Alexandrians in the old days," and have been coming to the annual event for many years.



Ruth Bridges and Canda Banks Smith, both members of the Board of Lady Managers members and longtime friends, served punch. Bridges said her favorite part of the event is "Seeing old friends and meeting new people."

PHOTOS BY CHELSEA H. BRYAN/GAZETTE PACKET

Board of Lady Managers Celebrates 140 Years

Old and new friends enjoy day of food, shopping and fashion to benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital.

BY CHELSEA H. BRYAN
GAZETTE PACKET

I don't know if you've heard, but . . . [Inova Alexandria Hospital] was rated fourth out of 159 hospitals in the D.C. area," said Cynthia Puskar, president of the Board of Lady Managers, in her opening remarks at the organization's 140th anniversary celebration luncheon, silent auction and fashion show on Friday, Nov. 9 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center.

The group of women on the Board of Lady Managers, much like the group of "charitably disposed" women, as their first president, Julia Johns, put it, are hard workers and women of faith who put a lot of sweat into their annual production, which raises money for Inova. Puskar was hoping the day's funds raised would amount to \$20,000.

THE BOARD OF LADY MANAGERS pledged to supply nine anesthesia machines over eight years to Inova Alexandria hospital, "but we're way ahead of schedule," said Puskar with a laugh at the silent auction preceding the luncheon. She leaned in to her friends and fellow board members Judy Doering and Lynda West and they ran some numbers. "We've raised \$256,000 so far this year," said Puskar.

West, the treasurer, added, "Our goal for the end of the year is \$376,000."

The Board of Lady Managers was celebrating 140 years of dedication.

"Thirteen, 14 years ago, we thought about changing the name," said Past President Diane G. Argerson. "The Board of Lady



Sheila Raho, right, brought her niece Angelo Oh, a professional golfer belonging to the Ladies Professional Golf Association, to the Board of Lady Managers of Inova Alexandria Hospital's 31st Annual Fashion Show, Luncheon and Silent Auction.

Managers,' we said. 'What does that mean?' But we've kept it, because we're very traditional. A lot of things have changed over the years, but not the dedication and enthusiasm of the women." She added, "No one tells you no here. And we're trying to get new members to come in."



Alice Sabbagh and her daughter Maha paused from examining a scarf to pose together. "Every year we come, every year," said Alice Sabbagh. "We come to support the hospital. Bonnie [Nasr], on the committee, invited us," added Maha.



This vintage, framed embroidered rural winter scene, set in a Pennsylvania landscape, was among the items in the silent auction. The starting bidding price on the picture was \$35.

Argerson explained how the Board of Lady Managers membership process works. "The requirements are that you are a member of a house of worship in the Alexandria area; and a letter from the rabbi or the priest stating not necessarily that you're in good standing, but that you're a hard worker . . ."



Mary Ann Fischer and Kathy Giesey stand beside a piece called "Willow Tree," which Fischer bid on with enthusiasm. The two met in 1971 as neighbors in Alexandria and Giesey, who now lives in Maryland, came to visit for the event.



Board of Lady Managers First Vice President Ruth Corlett and past President Diane G. Argerson. Corlett served as the event chair while Argerson arranged centerpieces, favors and the event photography.

said Argerson.

The friends of the Board of Lady Managers came out in droves as well. Ladies Professional Golf Association golfer Angela Oh came with her aunt, Sheila Raho. "I think it's a great event," said Oh. "It's fun with the silent auction."

Friends Anita Turk, Helene Schrott and Elaine Rosenberg have been coming "Forever," said Turk. "We've come ever year for — we can't even tell."

Others were excited about making new friends, like Mary Kankam and Caesar Oluwole, tailors of Aflame, Inc., a sewing school specializing in dresses, embroidery, men's tailoring, and curtains and drapes, who came sporting their own fashions. "We just read about it in the newspaper and we came," said Kankam. "It was a good cause."

Alice Sabbagh and her daughter Maha, who go to Inova when they need to see the doctor, enjoy the day annually. "Every year we come, every year," said Alice Sabbagh. "We come to support the hospital. Bonnie [Nasr], on the committee, invited us," added Maha.

Ruth Corlett, event chair, said, "My favorite part of the day is seeing the people's smiles and accomplishing the goal."

ENTERTAINMENT

A Magical Time of Year

Magicians to entertain children with free show Dec. 5 while helping the Alexandria branch of the Salvation Army.

BY AMBER HEALY
GAZETTE PACKET

There's something special about the holiday season, between the sparkling lights, frosted windows, endless baked goodies and the wonder that anything is possible.

That same feeling of awe makes it the perfect time of year for a magic show, and that's precisely the sentiment that led Ring 50, the local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, to host a magic show for area children.

"We started this last year when we wanted to do something to give back to the community, not just hold a children's magic show," said Daniel Selnick, the club's president.

WITH MORE THAN 100 magicians in the group, Ring 50 decided to feature different magicians this year, and the interest was huge, Selnick said. Some are working magicians whose weekends are filled with children's birthday parties and other events, while others

are hobbyists who don't get the opportunity to perform as often. Each will take the stage in the cafeteria

at Bishop Ireton High School for a 15-minute performance, with another magician serving as emcee for the event keeping the

kids entertained between sets.

This year's emcee is Arlington resident Arnold Fuoco, who said his job is to keep the children focused without losing their interest in what's going on.

"There were so many kids last year," Fuoco remembers. He worked the show last year as a videographer and was eager to help out again this year, in a larger capacity.

He intends to do some "vanishes and productions" during his in-between-acts performances, making things disappear or appear out of seeming nothingness.

A magician for 20 years, Fuoco said he got his first magic set as a Christmas present when he was a little boy, and the fascination grew. But, like the other magicians also admitted, magic took a backseat to school, work and families, never fully disappearing from their interests.

"When I got into my 50s, I went into Al's Magic Shop in D.C., looking to buy tricks for a child," he said. "That got me hooked again."

Fuoco said performing during the holidays makes the show more fun, the magic more real.

"Christmas is wonderment," he said. "Magic is wonderment."

That's a sentiment shared by this year's magicians as well.

Spread Some Cheer

Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians will be offering their holiday magic show Wednesday, Dec. 5, at Bishop Ireton High School, located at 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, from 7-8:15 p.m. A donation of a new toy or canned food item is suggested for admission, but no one will be turned away. Donations will benefit the Alexandria branch of the Salvation Army.

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 21

Santa Claus. 9:30 - 11 a.m. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club will feature Kevin Rawlings, who will be in costume as he portrays Santa Claus during the Civil War Years of the 1860s. Free. Public invited. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call Ann Connell at 703-360-4979.

National Thanksgiving Turkey Welcoming Ceremony. 3 p.m. Immediately following President Obama's "pardon" of the National Thanksgiving Turkey, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens will welcome the turkey with a ceremony featuring a trumpet fanfare and proclamation read by Washington's farm manager, "James Anderson." The turkey will arrive to the front of the Mansion in a horse-drawn carriage guided by staff dressed in 18th-century

costumes for the ceremony. The turkey will be on display for visitors during "Christmas at Mount Vernon," a daily program that takes place Nov. 23 through Jan. 6. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

FRIDAY/NOV. 23

Alexandria Black Friday Sale and Festivities. 6 a.m. and all day. Following in the tradition of Black Friday kicking off the holiday shopping season, local retailers will open early on Black Friday offering once-a-year deals to lure shoppers to Old Town Alexandria. Stay for the city's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. Call 703-746-3301 or visit www.alexandriava.com.

Bike Ride. 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee November informal community bike ride will be an escape from Black Friday. This winter ride will be take place at Mt Vernon trail. Meet outside Firehook bakery, 430 S Washington St. Bring a bicycle and water. RSVP

recommended. Contact Jonathan Krall at jonathan@jonathankrall.net.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 23-24

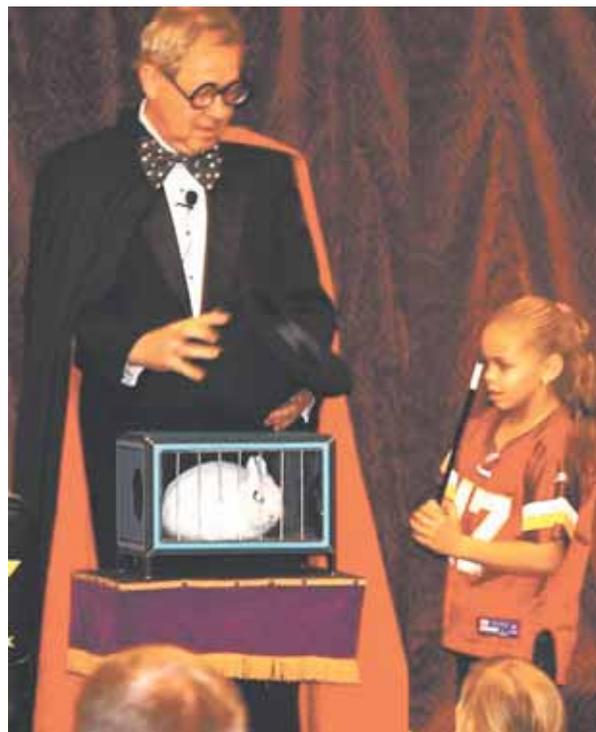
The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad at the Birchmere. \$35. Visit www.seldomscene.com or www.drybranchfiresquad.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 23-25

St. Aidan's Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Freshly-cut Fraser Fir Trees & wreaths from North Carolina. For parents with children in local public elementary schools, give back 10 percent to the PTA of any choice. Hot cider, cookies, and music will be offered. At St Aidan's Episcopal Church at 8531 Riverside Road. Call 703-360-4220 or visit www.staidanepiscopal.com.

Historic Candlelight Tours. 5-8 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21



A magician known as Capt. Token displays his magical abilities

Hugh Turley, a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 50 club, performs during last year's holiday magic show.

Theo Rushin, one of this year's performers, said he got into magic as a child and returned to it at the urging of his wife in recent years. In Ring 50, he works with children who are interested in becoming magicians or just looking to learn a few tricks to impress their friends.

Performing for children is his favorite, because "children simply accept what you're doing as being magic," whereas older children or adults might spend more time trying to figure out how a particular trick works.

As an added feature, Rushin, who lives in Gaithersburg, said he won't be speaking during his routine, but while he's silent, there will be a soundtrack to create a world into which the audience can watch the tricks unfold.

"I'll tell the story of a kid so excited for Christmas that he wakes up at night to see what he got," and tries to figure out his gifts by shaking or looking at boxes, he said.

Kevin McGuire, who performs as "The

Amazing Kevin," served as the emcee last year and had such a good time, he couldn't resist taking on a bigger role this year.

He's incorporating the holiday theme into his set, using candy cane wands and a Santa Claus hat among other props.

Performing in front of children "is a euphoria. It's so energizing. That's what drives me to do the magic I do. Kids are so into it, they really believe this can happen," he said.

McGuire, the vice president of the club and a Stafford resident, said magic never gets old or stale for him.

"You can do a trick 100 times, and then there's that one time you do it and it's even better than it's been in the past," he said. "That makes it all even better."

Drew Owen, whose stage name is Professor Fizzwiffle, said he started putting together this character when his children became interested in the Harry Potter books.

"Professor Fizzwiffle is a goofy guy who

SEE RING 50, PAGE 22



The recently opened Bucket List on South Royal Street will participate in Alexandria's annual Black Friday.

Black Friday Beckons

More than 50 retailers in Alexandria will participate in the third annual Black Friday promotion in Old Town. Participating stores will offer 30 percent discounts from 6 to 8 a.m., 20 percent from 8 to 10 a.m., and 10 percent starting at 10 a.m. Additional shops will be offering sales and special promotions throughout the day. All parking fees in city-owned garages and at parking meters will be waived and the free King Street Trolley will begin operating at 6 a.m. Visit www.blackfridayalexandria.com.



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ENTERTAINMENT

MetroStage artistic director Carolyn Griffin, left, celebrates the opening of "A Broadway Christmas Carol" Nov. 18 with cast members Michael Sharp, Jacob Kidder, Russell Sunday and Tracey Stephens.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

What the Dickens?

MetroStage continues "Broadway Christmas Carol" tradition.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Oh come, all ye faithful fans of musical theater. For the third year running, MetroStage is staging the wickedly funny "A Broadway Christmas Carol," an irreverent musical take on the classic novel by Charles Dickens.

"We're so glad MetroStage brought this Christmas show back," said Becky Mahood, who attended the Nov. 18 performance with her husband Adron Krekeler. "I missed it last year and it is truly one of the funniest shows I have ever seen. The Broadway songs added a tremendous amount of humor."

A parody of the oft-told Dickens tale, the shameless Broadway spoof follows Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Through the inventive work of creator Kathy Feininger, Scrooge is shown the error of his miserly ways through the songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim.

Feininger uses Broadway's finest to lampoon the holiday classic, cleverly creating lyrics for more than 30 musical numbers. A talented cast of three takes on the multitude of characters with various backgrounds and personalities.

Reprising the central role of Scrooge is Helen Hayes award-winner Michael Sharp, who also acts as director and choreographer. A versatile performer, Sharp is better than ever as he brings his strong vocals and expert comedic timing to the vaudevillian musical numbers.

"I have a great time performing this role," Sharp said. "I have fun when I am out there

and if you don't have a good time on stage, the audience won't have a good time."

New to this year's cast is Russell Sunday as The Man Who Isn't Scrooge. Sunday tackles the roles of Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's nephew Fred, the Ghost of Christmas Past and even Tiny Tim with uproarious aplomb.

Tracey Stephens is back as The Woman Who Isn't Scrooge, playing the ghost of Jacob Marley, the Ghost of Christmas Present, Mrs. Cratchit, Scrooge's fiancé and the woman seeking holiday donations for the poor.

The exceptionally gifted Sunday and Stephens tackle the demanding character and split-second costume changes with astonishing ease while Sharp brings tenderness and vulnerability to the villainous Scrooge. All three have voices that soar throughout the challenging score of Broadway melodies.

Central to the acting performances is the

on-stage musical accompaniment by musical director Jacob Kidder, who dons a Phantom of the Opera mask to serve as the Ghost of Christmas Fu-

"You really have to see it to believe it."

— Audience member Susan Kellom

ture.

With dozens of inside jokes aimed at theater buffs, part of the fun of "A Broadway Christmas Carol" is recognizing the songs Feininger has transformed for the show.

"I can't believe the imagination that goes into making Broadway songs fit into the Dickens theme," said audience member Susan Kellom. "It makes you laugh so hard, you really have to see it to believe it."

There is no better way to kick off the holiday season than with "A Broadway Christmas Carol." The inside Broadway references are clever enough for the theatre cognoscenti but thoroughly entertaining for anyone looking for a lively alternative to traditional holiday entertainment.

"A Broadway Christmas Carol" is playing through Dec. 23 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music, and characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily), or through MountVernon.org. Admission is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000 or 703-799-8697 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

NOV. 23 THROUGH DEC. 9

Old Town Boutique District's Window Wonderland. Come out to Old Town Alexandria and view the festive Window Wonderland of holiday lights and decorations on display at our local boutiques. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Visit oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

NOV. 23 THROUGH JAN. 6

Christmas at Mount Vernon. Visitors will get a glimpse of how the Washingtons might have decorated and entertained during the holiday season. Tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion and learn how the Washingtons celebrated Christmas. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin, the resident camel. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 24

Holiday Open House. At Contessa's Home and Garden, 1906 Mount Vernon Ave. Kick-off the Holiday season with new gifts, live tree and seasonal decorative items. Refreshments will be served. Receive

20 percent off entire purchase 4-6 p.m. Visit www.contessas.wordpress.com or call 703-548-1882.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m.

Explore the exciting world around us with some of our favorite stories and songs. Ages 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books is located at 1555 King Street. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

NOV. 24 THROUGH DEC. 23

Santa Claus is Coming to Old Town. Santa and Mrs. Claus are back in Old Town Alexandria to take pictures with children every Saturday and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The cost for pictures is \$15 for a 5 x 7 print. Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except for Dec. 1 (Scottish Walk Parade day) when hours are 1-5 p.m.; Sundays, noon-5 p.m. At Bike and Roll Alexandria, One Wales Alley. Call 703-501-6289 or visit oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 25

Duncan Sheik. 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit www.duncansheik.com/. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Birchmere Show. 7:30 p.m. Courier to open for Duncan Sheik 'Sunset Sessions Tour.' The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Coffee + Critique + Conversation. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Photographers and art enthusiasts of all levels are invited to engage in friendly dialogue and share their portfolios, projects,

ideas, and questions. Multiple Exposures Gallery (Studio 312), 105 North Union St. Call 703-683-2205 or visit

www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

Photos with Santa Claus. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Join Alexandria Firefighters & Paramedics for photos with Santa Claus at Firehouse 201 at 317 Prince St. A \$10 donation includes photograph with Santa in front of the historic 1863 "Champion" Steam Engine in one of Alexandria's oldest operating firehouses' as well as a credit for one medium resolution digital image or one 4x6 print. All images taken are available to view online and reprints are affordably priced starting at \$2.99 for a 4x6. Proceeds benefit the Helping Hands Relief Fund and the Alexandria Fire Department Children's Holiday Toy Drive. Visit http://local2141.smugmug.com.

THROUGH NOV. 25

"Photographers at the Factory Invitational Exhibit." Juried by LensWork founder and editor, Brooks Jensen. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays 12-9 p.m. The opening reception is on Nov. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. At Multiple Exposures Gallery located at 105 N. Union St. #312. Call 703 683-2205. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

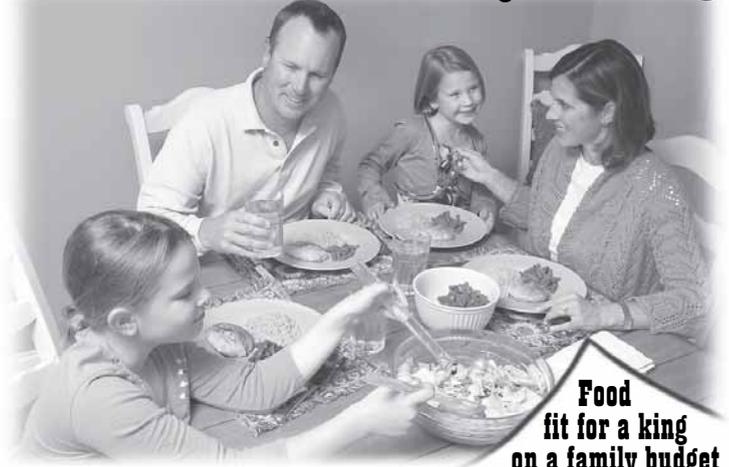
Photography exhibition: "Telling Images." See photographic techniques and interpretations that tell a story without words. Call 703-960-3873, email jldiffitt@cox.net or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 26

James Fortune & Jessica Reedy 'Celebrate Christmas.' 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit jessicareedymusic.com/.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/NOV. 27

Graham Parker & The Rumour Reunion. 7:30 p.m. At the Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$35. Visit <http://www.grahamparker.net>. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Open House. 6-9 p.m. Free. Join the Torpedo Factory Art Center's artists for the annual Holiday Open House. Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts while enjoying sweets and savories from Bread & Chocolate. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 29-30

Will Downing. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$69.50. Visit www.willdowning.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 29-DEC. 1

The Nutcracker. West Potomac Academy and Alexandria Community Dance present their fourth annual joint performance of The Nutcracker, at West Potomac High School at 6500 Quander Road. Thursday, Nov. 29, at 5 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults in advance, or \$12 for students and \$15 for adults at the door. Visit www.Alexandriadance.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Craft Sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church will hold a "Made By The Bell" Christmas Boutique on Nov. 30, from 3-7 p.m. and on Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs. Call 703-360-9546.

Free Concert. 8 p.m. Enjoy an evening of music for Clarinet at The Lyceum located at 201 S. Washington St. This free concert is offered as a public service. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Book Signing. 6:30 p.m. Jordan Jacobs will be signing his book, "Samantha Sutton and the Labyrinth of Lies." Hooray for Books is located at 1555 King Street. Call 703-548-4092 or visit hooray4books.com.

THROUGH NOV. 30

Art Exhibition. The Gallery at Convergence presents "pittura e parole" ("Paintings and Words"), a solo exhibition from artist, Lynne Elizabeth Heiser. A portion of all sales benefit Convergence programs including Artist's Way, Convergence Shared Artists Studios, and the Lab All Ages. Opening reception on Oct. 6 from 7-9 p.m. Email Lynne@in2itCreative.com or call 703-915-0917 to RSVP. Call 703-998-6260 or visit www.convergenceccf.net.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 30-DEC. 1

Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. On Dec. 1, more than 100 Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans will parade through the streets of Old Town. They'll be joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds of every description. The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., partners with the Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria to host the annual parade. Other events of the weekend include A Christmas Marketplace and A Taste of Scotland, both on Nov. 30, and the Campagna Center's Holiday Designer Tour of Homes on Dec. 1. Free for parade and marketplace; \$100 Taste of Scotland (general admission); \$35 Designer Tour of Homes. Call 703-549-0111 or visit scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Dinner Theater. Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Featuring seasonal favorites in caroling and choral masterpiece sets; a light hearted musical play starring the one and only "Jack In The Box"; plus a delicious dinner served by your singing Harmonizer waiters. Reserved table seating. Adults \$30, children \$15, seniors \$25. Purchase tickets at www.harmonizers.org. Venue: First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St. Call 571-969-1377 or visit www.harmonizers.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 30-DEC. 2

Del Ray Artisans' 17th annual Holiday Market. Handmade work from local artists plus bake sale. Reception is on Friday, from 6-9 p.m. The hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on

Sunday. Visit TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket.

Artfête Weekend. Open house and holiday party celebrate expansion of Madison Annex. Ceramic and jewelry sales continue throughout the weekend. Artfête holiday party is on Friday, Nov. 30, 6-9 p.m. Ceramic sale is noon-9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday. Jewelry sale is noon-9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-2323.

NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 16

The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol." 8 p.m. Ring in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com for showtimes or to purchase tickets.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. At sundown, Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront, led by Alexandria's fireboat Vigilant and Washington, D.C.'s fireboat John Glenn. Call 703-746-3301 or visit www.alexandriava.com.

Barbershop Harmony Concert. 1 p.m. Free. Celebrate the holiday season with the Harmony Heritage Singers. All are welcome. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call 703-765-4779 or email brandtron@verizon.net.

Holiday Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Alexandria Unit 24, The American Legion Auxiliary, is having a holiday craft fair in Gadsby's Tavern located at 400 Cameron St., featuring 20 crafters of wide variety and homemade baked goods.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. Chris Smither at The Birchmere located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$25. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 1-16

Historic Candlelight Tours. 5-8 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Admission is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000 or 703-799-8697 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

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The Fireworks are Back!

Ring 50's Magic Show Returns

FROM PAGE 19

has magical powers and doesn't always know how to control them," Owen said. "He keeps trying to salvage a trick that's going wrong, and the kids will help save the day."

He hinted that there will be a "special secret magician" that will appear during his performance, but in keeping with the Magician's Code, he couldn't divulge who that guest might be.

Owen said it's "important that magic looks good. If you get people involved in the story, they're more willing to believe in the magic."

The Falls Church resident, who is new to the club, said the club is optimistic they'll have a bigger and better show than last year, when nearly 100 children were in attendance.

"This is just magic and fun stuff, to make the kids laugh," he said.

He got his start in magic when he was a child and

saw a magician on TV. "I remember thinking that if I had magical powers like that, I could use magic to wash the dishes and make my bed," like Mickey Mouse does, to great comedic trouble, in the Sorcerer's Apprentice from the classic film Fantasia.

THE FINAL MAGICIAN of the night is the only one who does magic as his full-time job, putting on somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 shows a year.

Louis Meyer, an Alexandria resident, uses puppets in his act. "The puppets perform tricks too," he said, adding that children start the show knowing the puppets — an English sheepdog named Woof and Chico, a mind-reading monkey — are puppets, "but by the end they come up and ask to pet my animals. They think they're real."

But at Christmastime, children are already ready for unexpected things to happen, he said. "They're super excited. They see everything as magic. Unbelievable things happen at Christmastime," he said.



The auditorium of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School - Upper Campus is packed with students and teachers on Nov. 13.



Chevy Volt electric car is exhibited at the school.

PHOTOS BY YUHAN XU/GAZETTE PACKET

Conference Offers Ways To Improve Environment

FROM PAGE 4
tively."

Jordan also showed students a film he made at Midway Atoll, where he witnessed plastics and trash inside the stomachs of thousands of dead baby albatrosses. These baby birds are fed by their parents who mistake the floating trash for food as they forage over the polluted Pacific Ocean.

"I felt so sad for those birds," said Nouchee Bee, a junior high student visiting from Laos. "I was crying when I saw that film. I learned how to protect environment from that speech."

Has Gunewen, a biology teacher from Singapore, felt the same way. "It was very moving. It taught us how to minimize waste. We need to think globally, not just think about our own country. I will bring this idea to my class, and teach my students how to protect the Earth."

After the conference, students experienced 13 breakout sessions where they were

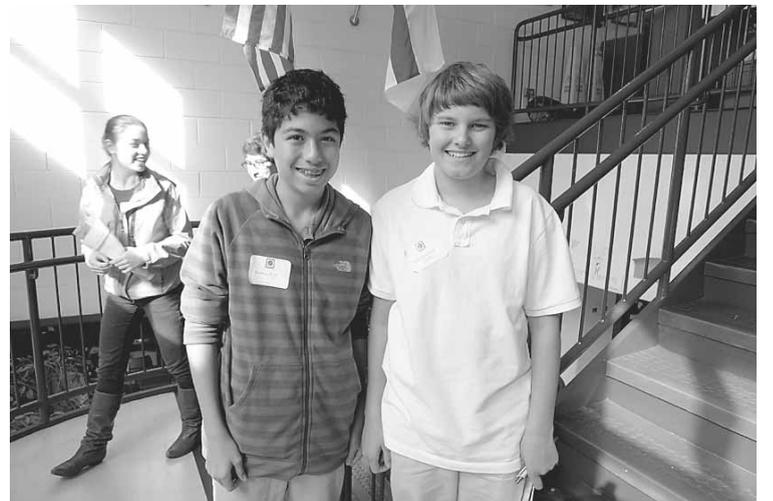
taught to make a wind turbine to generate electricity, learned why safe drinking water matters for children in Africa, how technology can connect with nature, and explored two kinds of electric cars.

"I'm interested in learning about those environmental organizations," said Matthew McCormaca, an 8th-grader who just joined the Greenpeace session. "The speech is very inspirational. What strikes me is how much waste we create every year. It's just astounding. I'll try to recycle more and stop using wasteful things."

In the afternoon, students attended the Green Forum, where they worked in teams to weigh in on environmental issues during a fun competition for prizes.

"This is our fifth year of hosting S4S Conference," said Linda Stratton, director of communications at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. "It's grown every year. Environmental sustainability is a big part of our school culture and a part of our curriculum.

Eighth-graders Nathan Pugh (left) and Matthew McCormaca go to breakout sessions.



We're really trying to encourage our students not only to be aware of different environmental issues, but to be educated and to take action. And so this conference is a great way for our students to get involved,

take the leadership role, host other schools, host other students to our campus to show them what we're doing here and expose them to all different facets of environmental sustainability."



At National Convention

Robert H. Miller (left) of Alexandria recently attended the 32nd Biennial National Convention of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) at Reno-Sparks, Nev., as a delegate representing Alexandria Chapter 232. William F. Martin (right), Region X vice president, Bumpass, Va., and national officers were reelected by acclamation. Delegates also voted to adopt revised Bylaws and Standing Rules for the Association. Also, delegates voted to set a new national goal of raising \$11 million for Alzheimer's research by 2014. As of Aug. 31, \$9.9 million had been raised.

Synagogue Celebrates 10 Years with Rabbi

Beth El Hebrew Congregation at 3830 Seminary Road in Alexandria, hosted a gala on Saturday evening, Nov. 17, to honor Rabbi Brett Isserow on his 10th anniversary as rabbi for the congregation. The gala included a reception and catered dinner with dancing and was held at Beth El.

Isserow is native to Johannesburg, South Africa where he practiced as a chartered accountant. In 1987, he came to the rabbinate and the U.S. at the same time, meeting his wife at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

He spent 11 years as an associate rabbi in Atlanta, Ga. before he and Beth El Hebrew Congregation found



Rabbi Brett Isserow

count myself most fortunate to be surrounded by good and decent people who truly want to make this a kehilla kedosha, a holy community, for whom Jewish values take on real meaning. One only has to walk into the building to get a sense of its warmth and depth."

Linda Waller, president of Beth El said, "We have been so fortunate to have Rabbi Isserow as our spiritual leader. He exemplifies derech eretz, the right way, and through his quiet leadership has greatly strengthened our congregation."

Isserow is a member of the Ethics Committee of Inova Alexandria Hospital and president of the mid-Atlantic Conference of American Rabbis' Board. He also is involved in a number of other interfaith and Jewish organizations.

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Fairfax Water
NOTICE OF WATER RATE Public Hearing

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2013, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,050†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.20†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$41 to \$44.
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$16 to \$17.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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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.

21 Announcements

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Fairfax Water
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$143.4 million budget for calendar year 2013¹.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2013 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m.
A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$143.4 million in 2013. Water sales are expected to provide \$124.6 million. Approximately \$18.8 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2012	2013
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$46,473	\$48,367
Power and Utilities	11,345	11,686
Chemicals	6,694	7,968
Fuel	916	960
Postage	547	460
Insurance	1,300	1,107
Supplies and Materials	3,976	4,233
Contractual Services	8,749	8,657
Professional Services	1,656	1,902
Other	2,005	2,285
Sub-Total	83,661	87,625
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,559)	(9,613)
Total	74,102	78,012

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$39,374,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$14,068,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

Seven New School Board Members Augur Change

FROM PAGE 1

good of the children, and that all of our contributions are critically important and I'm not sure that's been consistent with the way Mort has done things here in Alexandria."

When Sherman's contract was under consideration last year, some parents criticized the superintendent for having a hard-charging leadership style that didn't involve enough communication. When he reorganized the middle schools, for example, some parents said they felt left out of the loop as changes were approved and implemented. More recently, some parents at Jefferson-Houston School say they were not consulted before administrators began pushing an effort to extend the school day. The current School Board members extended Sherman's contract through 2015, although now the superintendent will have to deal with a different set of personalities.

"I think it's going to be very different," said Pat Hennig, a former School Board member who is returning to represent District C. "There will be accountability, and there will be transparency. The board will be in charge."

NEW SCHOOL BOARD members will have to face a host of issues, everything from addressing failing test scores at T.C.



Superintendent Morton Sherman waits for members of the Alexandria School Board to call a special executive session to consider his future back in March.

Williams High School and Jefferson-Houston to dealing with a potentially constrained budget environment created by the fiscal cliff. Perhaps no issue is more vexing than the capacity crunch currently experienced at schools throughout the city. Classrooms are reaching capacity, and school leaders are going to have to find a way to handle the record number of students enrolling in city schools each year.

"Modular units need to be a temporary solution," said Kelly Carmichael Booz, who was elected to represent District B. "We will

be looking at expanding schools and building new schools in the next couple of years, but as the more immediate fix, we do need to be looking into modular units to make sure that there's enough space for all the students that we currently have."

Unlike previous years, the new School Board will inherit a budget process that's already under way. That's because the election of board members took place in November for the first time this year. In the past, election of School Board members took place in May. But when Democrats lost

two seats on the Alexandria City Council in 2009, the lame-duck members of the all-Democratic City Council moved local elections to November 2012, when record number of Democrats were expected at the polls.

"We could be looking at budget problems depending on what goes on with the federal government," said Justin Keating, who was elected to represent District B. "That could be something that my new colleagues and I have to deal with."

ANOTHER ISSUE the next School Board may have to confront is the construction of six new tennis courts. Students in Alexandria currently have to travel to other school divisions to practice because Alexandria City Public Schools doesn't have the size or the capacity to handle the needs. That means that many students have to leave school early and miss classes. So the school system is planning to build new tennis courts at T.C. Williams or Chinquapin Recreation Center, although the exact configuration is still a matter of debate.

"Personally, I think the more ideal plan would be in front facing King Street," said Ronnie Campbell, one of two current members who will be returning to the School Board to represent District C. "It's easy access to the school and the parking lot is right there. If people want to walk to the meets, the sidewalk is right there."

Moran Endorses Herring To Succeed Him as State Leader

FROM PAGE 1

the Skyline community in Fairfax County. He abruptly resigned that seat in December 2008 to launch an ill-fated campaign for governor, prompting a last-minute special election in January 2009. That race was so close that Republican Joe Murray asked for a recount, but Charniele Herring eventually emerged as the winner. Now, Herring is the leading contender to take Moran's place yet again — this time as chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

"I endorsed Charniele in that race," said Moran. "And now I'm endorsing her again."

HERRING WAS BORN in the Dominican Republic while her father was stationed there in the Army, and she led a difficult life before entering politics. She was homeless during part of her high school years, when she was raised by a single mother struggling to make ends meet. She has a bachelor of arts in economics from George

Mason University and a juris doctorate from Catholic University. She is a trial lawyer, and her home precinct is the Ramsay Recreation Center. When asked about the upcoming election for governor, Herring said the Democratic Party needs to build on the success of 2012.

"Virginia is a left-leaning state, actually, not a right-leaning state. So I think the votes are there," said Herring. "The issues that the Democrats care about, the voters care about. So it's just about making sure they have a good grassroots operation."

Alexandria has been a traditional seat of power for the party, and several leaders have come from the city. Vice Mayor Kerry Donley is a former chairman of the state party, and he said he thought Herring would be an excellent choice to lead the party.

"First off, it's always great to have someone from Northern Virginia and Alexandria," said Donley. "But I think it would also mark the first time we've had an African-American woman as the chair of the party."



Brian Moran congratulates Charniele Herring the night she narrowly beat Republican Joe Murray in a special election for the 46th District of the House of Delegates.

BULLETIN BOARD

THROUGH DEC. 24

Food Drive: Harvest Mondays. Every Monday during the holiday season, shoppers at Ten Thousand Villages will receive 15 percent off an item of their choice for every non-perishable food item they bring in. Benefiting organizations include Christ House and ALIVE!. Signs are posted inside the store advising customers of the food banks' "most wanted" items, such as

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

peanut butter, tuna, macaroni and cheese boxes, canned vegetables, etc. Ten Thousand Villages is located at 915 King St. Call 703-684-1435 or visit alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 23

Black Friday Adoption. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) is hosting a Black Friday Adoption Special for homeless

animals at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. Adopters will be able to name their own adoption fee for all animals ages 6 months and older. The minimum adoption fee required is \$10 and adopters are encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation to the AWLA to help them continue to care for the region's homeless animals and match them with loving families. The adoption event will take place at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue

in Alexandria, and potential adopters are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.AlexandriaAnimals.org/BlackFriday.

MONDAY/NOV. 26

"New Pathways to Health: What Options Do We Have Beyond Traditional Medicine?" Featuring Eleonora Gafton, faculty member, professional chef, nutrition and

integrative health. At the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Reception starts at 6:30 p.m., dinner begins at 6:45 p.m. \$28 for members with reservations by Tuesday, Nov. 20; \$33 for those with no reservations after deadline; \$33 for non-members with reservations by Nov. 20; \$38 after deadline; \$43 without reservations. Dinner reservations required. Contact Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or agendaalexandria@aol.com.

ODBC Rowers Finish Fall Season Near Top

The men and women of the Old Dominion Boat Club Select Crew team wrapped up the 2012 fall rowing season this past weekend with appearances at two of the premier races in the area and the nation — the Head of the Occoquan Regatta just south of Washington, and the Head of the Hooch Regatta in Chattanooga, Tenn.

At the Head of the Occoquan, the ODBC Women's Junior 8 "A" boat turned in another strong performance, coming in 4th out of 27 boats with a time of 18:17.40, which was just 18 seconds behind TBC Racing, which finished in first place.

Members of the Junior 8 "A" boat include coxswain Rosa Procaccino and rowers Gabriella Salcedo, Rachael Vannatta, Nadia Magallon, Katie Pickup, Rebecca Gehring, Caroline Olsson, Maeve Bradley and Kate Arnold.

Also contributing to the ODBC effort this past weekend and throughout the fall rowing season were the members of the ODBC Women's Junior 8 "B" boat, including: coxswain Kathrina Policarpio and rowers Kyra McClary, Claire Embrey, Allyson Emblom, Jazmin Calderon, Natasha Magallon, Taylor Sanders, Maura Nakahata, and Roxet Romero. The ODBC Women were guided this season by Head Coach Steve Weir and Assistant Coach Pat Marquardt.

At the Head of the Hooch, the ODBC Men came away with two top 10 finishes against a large and very challenging field. The Men's Junior 4 — with Mark Comey at Coxswain and Madison Weitekamp, Greg Montenegro, Chris Porter and Carter Weitekamp manning the oars — came in 9th out of 75 boats in their race, finishing with a time of 17:13.4, less than 30 seconds behind winner Miami Rowing Club.

The ODBC Men's Youth 2 — with oarsmen Madison Weitekamp and Greg Montenegro powering the craft — also had a strong showing in Chattanooga, coming in seventh place out of 28 boats with a time of 19:36.6, just over 60 seconds behind the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coxswain Mark Comey and rower Chris Porter, shown here on the Potomac earlier this fall, helped lead the ODBC Men's Junior 4 to a top 10 showing at the Head of the Hooch Regatta in Chattanooga, Tenn., in early November. Against a very competitive field of crews from around the country, the ODBC Men finished 9th out of 75 boats.

boat from the St. Louis Rowing Club, which came in first.

Also making a strong contribution for the ODBC Men this past weekend and throughout the season were Jason Filios, Dru Hodges, Ripley Carroll, Chris Dobson, and Ray Rhatican, who rowed on the Men's Junior 8 and helped power the boat in some very competitive races this fall.

The ODBC Men were guided this fall by Head Coach Jaime Rubini and assistant coach Lexey Hearing. Other members of the ODBC Men's Select Crew include Jason Filios, Dru Hodges, Ripley Carroll, Chris Dobson, and Ray Rhatican.

ODBC Select Crew is sponsored by the Alexandria Crew Boosters in conjunction with the Old Dominion Boat Club. Rowers this fall were drawn from such schools as T.C. Williams, West Potomac, Georgetown Visitation and McLean.

Wagner Wins Figure Skating Gold

Ashley Wagner, the reigning U.S. and Four Continents champion, won gold last week at 2012 Trophee Eric Bompard as part of the 2012 International Skating Union Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series. Wagner, attended West Potomac High School and represents the Skating Club of Wilmington, trains in Aliso Viejo, Calif., and is coached



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alexandria native Ashley Wagner recently won at 2012 Trophee Eric Bompard.

by John Nicks and Philip Mills.

Fresh off her first Grand Prix title at 2012 Hilton HHonors Skate America earlier this fall, Wagner finished the week with 190.63 points and became the first U.S. woman to

win multiple Grand Prix titles in a single season since Sasha Cohen in 2003. After placing second in the short program, Wagner performed a flawless free skate to music from "Samson and Delilah," which featured six triple jumps and received positive grades of execution on 11 of her 12 elements.

With two gold-medal wins this season, Wagner has qualified for the 2012 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final, set for Dec. 6-9, in Sochi, Russia, home of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

Thorne Earns Volleyball Honors

St. Mary's College senior volleyball player Dani Thorne, a 2009 T.C. Williams graduate, was named to the All-Capital Athletic Conference second team on Nov. 7.

The 5-foot-9 setter ranked fifth in the conference in assist average with 5.24. She was fourth on the team with 244 digs and 28 service aces. She was a four-year letterwinner for the Seahawks, who in 2012 advanced to the conference tournament semifinals for the first time since 2008.

Thorne was a three-sport athlete at T.C. Williams, playing volleyball, basketball and soccer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bishop Ireton senior rowers Lyndsay Martini, left, and Allison Lee each signed college commitment letters last week. Martini will attend the University of Virginia and Lee is heading to Boston College.

Fitness on the Run and Friends Raise More Than \$5,000

Funds will feed more than 70 families for Thanksgiving.

Fitness on the Run, a fitness studio in Old Town Alexandria, chose to benefit the Carpenter's Shelter in its Thanksgiving fitness and food donation challenge, "Fit for Food." Through this effort, it raised more than \$5,000 in cash/food donations to aid the Carpenter's Shelter in its annual distribution of Thanksgiving meals. In addition to encouraging giving within the community, the "Fit for Food" Challenge is designed to keep people "fit" for the holidays, encouraging participants

to walk/run/hop/skip/jump at least 150,000 steps during the month of October and to donate at least one food basket with a monetary value of \$75 to the Shelter.

Winners and Prizes:
 ♦ 1st Place - Most Steps - One free personal training session: Eli Rakis (450,346 steps).
 ♦ 2nd Place - 2nd Most Steps - Two free healthy meals: Rita Foss (365,575 steps).
 ♦ 3rd Place - 3rd Most Steps - Box of FOuR Bars: Eliza Jacobs (327,064 steps).
 ♦ Greatest Number of Donated Food Baskets = One free personal training session: Holly Currier
 ♦ Most Steps in One Day - Fitness on the Run shirt: Glenn Anderson (26,711).

From left: Denise Dick, co-owner, Fitness on the Run; Courtney Bishop, constituent relationship officer, Carpenter's Shelter, and Adrien Cotton, co-owner, Fitness on the Run.



NEIGHBORHOODS

Taylor Run

MANY-TALENTED RECTOR

The Rev. Martha Wallace, Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Russell Road, contributes to her parish in many different ways. At the church bazaar Saturday the tasty chili was made completely by the Rector. She also has energized the service, written a monthly newsletter, and instituted many

activities for children and young people.

The bake sale at the bazaar was an immense success, having raised \$1000 in just the first hour. Moyna Ratliff's table of beautiful linens brought in \$420 for the church. The quilt at the silent auction attracted many bids. One charming young person was Bayley Moore, 6 years old, proudly wearing her Tai Kwan Do white uniform and displaying her beginner's white

belt.

CALLAHAN RETIRES

Gudrun Callahan told me that after 48 years as athletic director at St. Agnes School, and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, she has retired. "Forty-eight years was enough," she said.

Working at the bazaar as they have for many years were Dottie Gibson, Jean Seddon, Judy Carlson, Bob and Betty Coombs,

and Nancy Dupree. Mary Ann Frank was the hard-working chairman of the bazaar. This was the 45th year that the church women have organized the bazaar to help the church.

AWARD FOR TOMMY

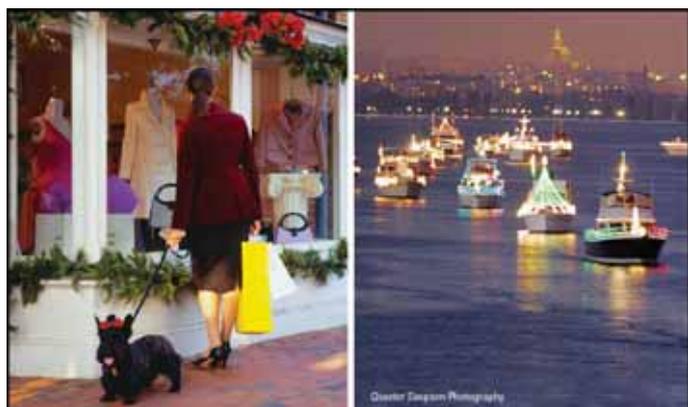
Our neighbor Mary Kelly is proud of son Tommy who was awarded Catholic Athletes for Christ High School Award. The award is given for commitment to

sportsmanship and to their faith.

A REAL CANTOR

It was fascinating to learn that the beautiful voice floating over the entire production of "Cantorial" at the Little Theater of Alexandria, belongs to an actual cantor, Rick Flint, a name everybody can remember.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT



SHOP, DINE & CELEBRATE

On Alexandria's Historic Main Streets

Enjoy our independently owned shops and national retailers. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. And stroll our decorated and illuminated main streets. To find unique holiday shopping and memorable events, or to make restaurant reservations, go to VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

- Nov. 23 - Jan. 6 **Christmas at Mount Vernon**
- Nov. 23 **Alexandria Black Friday Sale**
- Nov. 23 **City of Alexandria Holiday Tree Lighting**
- Nov. 24 - Dec. 16 **Mount Vernon by Candlelight**
- Nov. 24 - Dec. 23 **Santa Claus is Coming to Old Town**
- Nov. 29 **Torpedo Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House**
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 16 **Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market**
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 16 **Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol"**
- Nov. 30 **A Christmas Marketplace**
- Dec. 1 **42nd Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**
- Dec. 1 **Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights**
- Dec. 7 **Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray**

Visit us online for a complete calendar of events and sign up for our free Access Alexandria e-newsletter.
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Fall Park Clean-up Day a Success

The Del Ray Dog Owner's Group held its Fall Clean-up and Tree Planting Day at the Simpson Dog Park on Nov. 4. Twenty Del Ray residents and park users volunteered their time to clean-up, spruce-up, and plant a Weeping Willow in the park. Del Ray landscaping company Personal Touch Landscaping, headed by Steve Jackson, delivered the Weeping Willow and donated four hours of its time towards the effort. City maintenance staff brought in truckloads of bluestone gravel and assisted the volunteers as they worked to maintain and improve the fenced dog park. The highlight of the event was the dedication of a memorial bench in remembrance of Arthur W. Tucker, a long time dog park user who died unexpectedly in July. Members of Tucker's family and park volunteers gathered around the new bench and read the memorial plaque affixed to it: "In memory of our good friend Arthur W. Tucker."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 15

by the city to justify this effort. Critically, we seem to be heading into this web-based forum with no idea how many Alexandrians have access to computers, a key constraint on how effective this could be ... or how equitable if limited by income or language.

It is difficult to determine whether the decision to launch "What's Next Alexandria" has already been made and is rolling forward as a thinly disguised educational campaign, or whether it is the best efforts of a small group of people determined to make a new start. Examining the project "process" it's easy to believe the former. First, we start by explor-

ing civic engagement principles, move to creating an engagement framework and toolbox, then end up with exploring and confirming participating residents' understanding of planning principles. After being confirmed there comes "Next Steps" where the project steps off into an orange box about signing up for eNews on the city web site.

If we want to move to a more fruitful, less contentious civil discourse we need to start with a neutral base of relevant information about how residents of the city make complex decisions about their town. This information needs to be gathered by research professionals and presented in a politi-

cally neutral setting to a representative group of citizens of Alexandria. This is the best way to begin to establish mutual trust. Clearly, this opening session was not a total waste of time and money, but it did showcase why public relations, political theatre, and gaming has failed to engender respect from citizens. We need a credible, well-respected, neutral and outside third party to lead this effort. Whether or not city officials have the courage and integrity to make that decision is something only they can answer. It would be the ultimate power play.

Kathryn Papp
Alexandria

OBITUARIES

Joyce Graham Henderson

Joyce Graham Henderson, most recently of Ripton, Vt. died in Burlington, Vt. early on Friday, Nov. 2, 2012 at the age of 60. She was born in Arlington, Va., the daughter of Donald Graham Henderson and Alaine Marsh Henderson, longtime residents of Alexandria, Va; her father worked for the federal government, rising to the level of Assistant Chief of Staff for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the 1970s. With the notable exception of a year in London during the swinging mid-'60s, Joyce grew up in Alexandria, and attended Charles Barrett, Thomas Jefferson and finally T.C. Williams High School, from which she graduated as a member of the Class of 1969. She has friends and extended family across the state of Virginia.

Joyce received her A.B. in History with honors from Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. She pursued graduate work in public administration at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and the Washington Public Affairs Center. After an internship with the U.S. Department of State and a stint at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, Joyce worked as an editor and staff associate in Washington, D.C. for Trans-World News Service and the American Association for Engineering Education. She continued to work as a free-lance writer, editor, and indexer for major scholarly presses throughout her life.

From 1979-1982 Joyce served as project officer at Appropriate Technology International, managing economic development projects in Africa and the South Pacific: she had primary responsibilities for all operations in Kenya, and shared responsibility for projects in Fiji, Malawi, Swaziland, and Vanuatu. This

was work of which she was particularly and deservedly proud. From 1982-1984 she lived in Cairo, Egypt, working for Chemonics International's Basic Village Services Project, and edited a volume of the United Nations' comprehensive development study of the Sinai.

For the past 27 years, Joyce and her husband William B. Pierce owned and operated the Chipman Inn in Ripton, Vt. She was Ripton's Assistant Town Clerk, and served several terms on the Regional Planning Commission.

Joyce loved people, and served as an inspiration for many as she battled lung cancer and other adversities with grace, optimism, and determination. She was a voracious reader, with a special love of historical novels and mysteries as well as literary classics. She was adept at all sorts of board games and word puzzles, composing as well as solving crosswords. She was also a skilled needlewoman — knitting sweaters, crocheting socks, and creating needlepoint pillows. She was an amateur photographer, painter, calligrapher, and musician, and a lover of cats. Joyce spoke some Arabic and Swahili as well as French; she lived for a time in England, France, and Italy, loved to travel, and had many friends around the world as well as close to home.

She is survived by Bill, her husband of 30 years, as well as by her brother Geoffrey R. Henderson of Arlington, Va. and her sister Diana E. Henderson of Boston, Mass.

A memorial service in Joyce's honor will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 1 at the Sanderson/Ducharme funeral home in Middlebury, Vt.

Evelyn Virginia Bird Linton

Evelyn Virginia Bird Linton, 90, died Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012. She was known as "Polly" to her Texas relatives and friends; and as "Birdie" to her friends and relatives in Virginia. She was the fourth born of 16 children.

Funeral will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, at Benchmark Baptist Fellowship, Fredericksburg with burial at the Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation in honor of Evelyn Linton to Benchmark Baptist Fellowship.

Evelyn was born in Fort Worth, Texas on May 17, 1922. In 1940, she moved to Washington, D.C. She met and married Kirk Louis Linton in 1944. In 1985, they moved to Fredericksburg, Va. after her husband's retirement from the RF&P Railroad. She returned to Texas in 1988.

Evelyn worked at the Library of Congress cafeteria, at the Pentagon's Railroad Department during the early years of World War II, as secretary of the Great Meadows Little League baseball league in Mount Vernon for 19 years, as secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Mount Vernon Volunteer Fire Department for over 25 years and as secretary of the Great Meadows Civic Association during the 1950's. She was a talented porcelain painter, winning over 50 prize ribbons at the local county fairs in Virginia between 1971 and 1985. As a lifetime member, she served as secretary of the Mount Vernon Porcelain Guild.

Evelyn, a born again Christian, was baptized at the Haltom City Church of Christ in Texas.

Survivors include two sons: Kenneth E. Linton of Bedford, of Texas and Terry L. Linton, of Fredericksburg, Va.; two brothers; five sisters; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

New Deputies

Six new Alexandria deputy sheriffs were sworn in at the Alexandria courthouse on Friday, Nov. 16. From left: Deputy Jessica Duenas, Deputy Joseph Bowman, Deputy Christopher



Boucher, Deputy Steven Shillingburg, Deputy Patrick Crossey, Clerk of the Circuit Court Edward Semonian who administered the oath of office, Deputy Richard Garcia (obscured) and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne who issued them their stars and credentials. The new deputies will begin training at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center before attending the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy next year.

NEWS BRIEF

Run for Shelter Raises \$30,000

On Saturday Nov. 17, Carpenter's Shelter hosted the second annual Run for Shelter 5K/10K + Fun Run sponsored by MRIS. Eight hundred and fifty runners participated in the race, raising more than \$30,000 for Northern Virginia's largest homeless shelter.

Josef Tessema won the 5K race with a time of 14:29, Hirut Beyene was the first woman to the finish 5K race with a time of 17:29. Dereje Tadesse won the 10K race with a time of 30:41, Woynishet Abebe was the first woman to finish

the 10K race with a time of 35:32.

The 3rd annual Run for Shelter will be held Nov. 23, 2013. For more information, visit www.runforshelter10k.com or tweet @Run4Shelter10k.

Carpenter's Shelter provides shelter, guidance, education and advocacy for homeless individuals and families who seek sustainable independence and stability. Carpenter's Shelter opened its doors 1988, and serves more than 1,000 homeless and formerly homeless individuals every year.



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ALEXANDRIAGAZETTE 5.12

Dedicating Kelley Cares Miracle Field

FROM PAGE 1

Jim Moran (D-8). “The miracle of making this field a reality is the legacy of Kelley and her family and friends.”

A Miracle Field is a rubberized surface baseball diamond that provides individuals with special needs a safe environment to play outdoor sports. Set up like a baseball diamond, the field is a shorter than regulation fields with 110 feet down each foul line. The entire surface is a rubberized compound including the outfield and facilitates the use of wheelchairs and walkers.

“The Kelley Cares Foundation epitomizes the goodness in people,” said Miracle League of Alexandria board chair Bill Rivers. “Without their support and the contribution of every single dollar from our corporate sponsors to individuals, we would not have been able to build this field.”

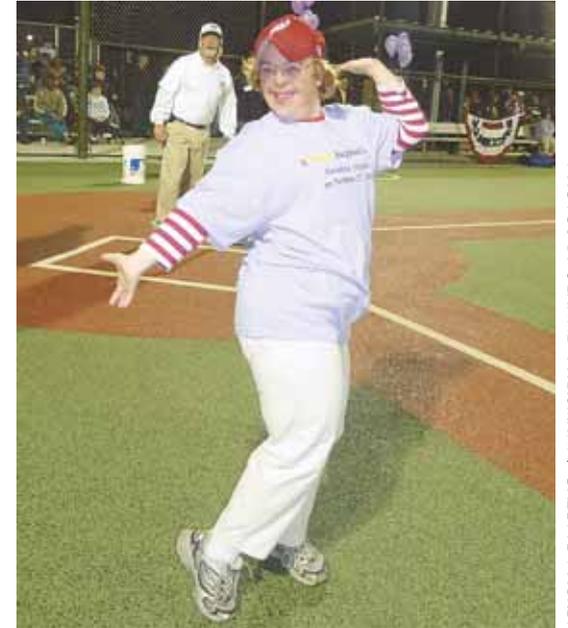
While the field’s primary use will be for play by the city’s Miracle League baseball teams, Rivers said that its purpose goes beyond sports.

“Our field has been created as more of a destination for our special needs individuals than just a playing field,” Rivers said. “There is a welcoming plaza in front of the field with shaded picnic tables, a Wall of Fame recognizing many of our donors and a surrounding garden of plants with sensory and tactile features that appeal to our players. There are benches surrounding the field for people to relax on, as well as two sets of bleachers for fans.”

The field was the result of a joint public/private partnership between the city and the Miracle League of Alexandria. The city contributed \$285,000; the MLA raised \$150,000 in cash; and the construction firms of Lane Construction, Virginia Paving, R. E. Lee Electrical, Musco Lighting, Hercules Fences and Simpson Development donated approximately \$150,000 in services while building the field. Cash donations ranged from \$2 to Jack Taylor’s \$20,000 and the Kelley Cares Foundation’s \$40,000 from.

“This has been an incredible opportunity to work with a true dream team,” said foundation director Lindsey Swanson and sister to Kelley. “This field will enhance the lives of therapeutic rec participants for years to come.”

There are currently about 35 players in the Miracle League with ages ranging from 8 to the mid-’50s. With the completion of the field, Rivers expects the program to expand to upwards of 200 players. Therapeutic Recreation programs will have priority use of



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Miracle League participant Ellen Hawkins celebrates after scoring a run in the first demonstration game played on the new Kelley Cares Miracle Field.

the field, but other groups, including seniors for kickball or softball or youth for T-ball games, will also have access to the field.

“The field is an example of what can be done by willing partners who want to help those who need a little more than others,” Rivers said.

The Miracle League is a national organization headquartered in Georgia that encourages people with special needs to participate in outdoor sports, particularly baseball. With about 200 chapters throughout the country, players have the opportunity to field, bat and run the bases with every hit being a home run. No score is kept and an effort is made to have all fielders touch the ball during play. Volunteers (or Angels in the Outfield) help the players both field and run.

“Kelley spent her life making everyone feel wanted and needed,” Moran said. “She is the inspiration for this field and the miracle that this community has brought about. Kelley Swanson lives on in this field.”

For more information, visit www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com. For information about the Kelley Cares Foundation, visit www.kelleycares.org.



Washington Nationals Racing President Teddy Roosevelt poses for a photo with therapeutic recreation director Jackie Person and Sesi Atiase.



Therapeutic recreation staff member Brenda Holloway, second from right, poses with Omega Psi Phi fraternity members Kyle Hill, Melvin Stalligs and Tellas Minor. The fraternity provided free concessions to participants and their families during the Miracle League season.



Virginian Paving’s Dave Horton with wife Kelly and son Will. Virginian Paving and Lane Construction donated more than \$150,000 in construction services to the project.



Miracle League adult participants Valery Davenport and Miss Vendetta celebrate following the dedication of the new field.



Miracle League player Valery Davenport celebrates the new field with Angels in the Outfield volunteer John Bordner.

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA



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complements this light-filled 19th C. four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath residence with gracious formal rooms, up-to-date eat-in kitchen with adjacent family room, rec room and deep professionally landscaped garden on an almost 6,000-SF lot. Nice built-ins, wood floors, four fireplaces, and skylights add to the period ambiance yet offer metropolitan conveniences.

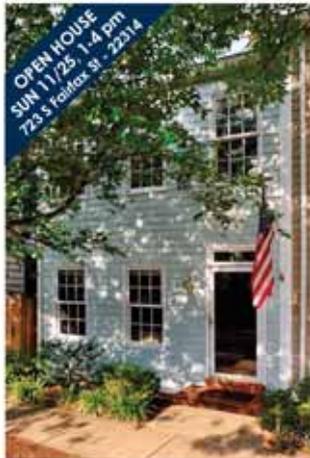
Carol Cleary

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www.CarolCleary.com
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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$1,185,000



Cosmopolitan Living

This bright, sunny townhouse in the southeast quadrant offers two fireplaces, hardwood floors, a kitchen-family room combination with an adjoining sunroom. Glass doors open to a private fenced rear yard shaded by mature trees. This inviting house features more than 3,000 square feet of living space including a marvelous master suite with a balcony overlooking the tree tops plus there are three more bedrooms, updated baths, and skylights. Walk to the park, gourmet grocery, shops and restaurants from this prime location.

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in Alexandria, is this charming three-bedroom home. Let your imagination run wild with the possibilities and make this your own. Rarely can you find this amount of space within the city limits. It truly is a sanctuary within minutes of all the amenities that this area offers.

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ALEXANDRIA/BRADDOCK HEIGHTS

\$643,900



Welcome Home

You'll find upgrades on all levels of this three-bedroom, two-and-one-half-bath Colonial, as well as a fully-fenced back yard. Leave the car in the garage and walk tree-lined streets to parks, tennis courts, Metro bus stops, and George Mason Elementary. Just blocks from the shops and eateries of Fairlington. Close-in location means an easy commute.

Betty Mallon

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www.BettyMallon.com
MLS ID# AX7945828



ALEXANDRIA/CAMERON STATION

\$449,000



Open Floor Plan

This sunny, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath condo has large windows and a floor plan that is made for today's lifestyle. The main floor is open but has distinct rooms and the family and dining rooms share a cozy fireplace. The spacious kitchen has an island, Corian counters, pantry and gas stove. It has a one-car driveway and all the great Cameron Station amenities!

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com
MLS ID# AX7961752



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\$340,000



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