For the second year in a row, the afterschool program Casa Chirilagua was the top winner April 17 in Spring2Action, a 24-hour online giving day sponsored by ACT for Alexandria and ACTion Alexandria. Dubbed Alexandria’s Giving Day, Spring2Action raised nearly $660,000 for 97 local charities, led by Casa Chirilagua, which raised $51,433. In second place was the RunningBrooke Fund ($36,823), followed by the Alexandria Soccer Association ($32,112).

Now in its third year, 5,872 individual donors participated in Spring2Action, with ACT and 17 other nonprofits donating 5 percent of funds raised to The Boston Foundation’s Marathon Day 2013 Fund to provide support for mental health, See Residents Spring2Action. Page 16

Alexandria is about to hit the roof, literally. According to a new report by the Alexandria Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, the city is on track to exceed its debt ceiling — with or without the massive borrowing needed to finance the new Potomac Yard Metro. Even when taking the $194 million project off the books, the city still has a massive amount of uncertainty about everything from the waterfront plan and the Beauregard redevelopment to federal demands on the sewer system and regional plans for transit corridors.

“There’s always some degree of uncertainty when dealing with anything in the future,” said Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks. “The real issue with the debt isn’t the amount of the debt, it’s the fiscal impact of the debt service.”

Members of the committee are raising red flags about the city’s borrowing. In a strongly worded section outlining recommendations for the future, committee members caution that additional borrowing would “adversely impact” the city’s bond rating and “significantly deteriorate the city’s performance relative to its debt policy guidelines.”

Newly elected School Board members clash over teacher raises.

Superintendent Morton Sherman proposed a 2 percent across-the-board salary increase, a move that would cost about $3.6 million and pad the bank accounts of everyone from the senior administrator in the corner office to the math coach who works with teachers. Newly elected School Board member Chris Lewis proposed an alternative, a full step increase for teachers awarded halfway through the year that would cost about $3 million this year. Although a majority of six members approved the amendment Lewis proposed to the superintendent’s budget, two members voted against it and one abstained.

“The problem with this is we will be starting the year $2.4 million in the hole next year,” said Pat Hennig, one of the two who voted against it and one abstained.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Listing</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Town Alexandria</td>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
<td><strong>Elegant Queen's Row Townhome</strong>&lt;br&gt;Elegant, unique, spacious, in the heart of Old Town. Newly remodeled. &quot;Live like royalty in your own&quot; with four bedrooms and four baths. Heated swimming pool, five-car garage, private parking.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Town Alexandria</td>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
<td><strong>Surprising Mid-19th C. Townhouse</strong>&lt;br&gt;A remarkable renovation of this spacious townhouse has produced a light-filled, two-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath residence with gracious rooms, an elevator, a roof deck, and private parking.</td>
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<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$1,195,000</td>
<td><strong>Historic Gem</strong>&lt;br&gt;Historic gem on every street. The living room is a convert to a bedroom. The main floor has a formal dining room, kitchen, a study, and a bedroom. The second floor has three bedrooms, one full and two half baths.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Town Alexandria</td>
<td>$1,325,000</td>
<td><strong>River Views &amp; A Main Level Master!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Updated and ready to move in. The main level has a living room with fireplace, a dining room, a kitchen, a study, and a master bedroom with en-suite bath. The second level has two bedrooms and a full bath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$675,000</td>
<td><strong>Complete Quality Renovation!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Updated to the nth detail. A new kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a breakfast bar. The main level has a living room, dining room, and a deck. The second floor has three bedrooms and two baths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$56,490</td>
<td><strong>Cameron Station</strong>&lt;br&gt;Three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath townhouse. Sunny, open floor plan. Kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a breakfast bar. The main level has a living room, dining room, and a half bathroom. The second floor has a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$234,000</td>
<td><strong>The Pointe at Park Center</strong>&lt;br&gt;Spacious, modern, and updated. Includes a large living room with fireplace, a gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom, and a second bedroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Town Alexandria</td>
<td>$1,525,000</td>
<td><strong>Distinguished 1940 Residence</strong>&lt;br&gt;Located in the heart of Old Town, this home features four large bedrooms, two and a half baths, and a private roof deck. The home is filled with natural light and offers a perfect blend of historic charm and modern amenities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>$819,000</td>
<td><strong>Alexandria/Fairfax</strong>&lt;br&gt;Stunning, updated townhome with three bedrooms, two and a half baths, and a two-car garage. The home features a modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances, a large living room, and a private roof deck.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Laurels for the Laureate

Once upon a midnight dreary, while Alexandria Poet Laureate Amy Young pondered weak and weary:

Yes, that time has arrived. Young has reached the end of her time as the city’s chief official wordsmith, a term limit imposed on the position since it was created back in 2006. Earlier this month, City Council members officially designated Nikki Giovanni as the city’s newest poet laureate. That means that the outgoing poet’s time in the sun has drawn to a close.

But Young is using her final hours to rage against the dying of the light.

After City Council members presented her with a proclamation honoring her service, Young presented elected officials with a bound volume of poems collected as part of her Mapping Alexandria in Poems and Pictures initiative — known by the acronym MAPP. The project includes about 80 poems, a compilation that includes spots from across the city. After receiving her official proclamation, Young read one of her favorites — a brief composition by Hammond eighth grade student Dawit Haile titled “North Imboden Street”.

“The wind was blowing right across my street,” the poem explained. “The wind was blowing so hard there was no sign of heat.”

When Young was finished, Mayor Bill Euille designated Vice Mayor and author Allison Silberberg to lead the City Council’s poetry writing efforts. The mayor said that he expected all the elected leaders and senior staff to make additions to the Alexandria oeuvre. “They are due by budget adoption night, May 6,” the mayor ordered. “You can even write it on the budget, if you like.”

Governing in Circles

Governing Alexandria may be a rat race, but at least it’s one that has the opportunity to raise money for charity.

Next month, Alexandria will host the city’s first Relay for Life — a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society that dates back to 1986. Organizers of the inaugural Alexandria relay plan to convene at 2 p.m., on May 18 at George Washington Middle School and relay up and down the Mount Vernon Avenue corridor. Organizers hope to raise about $40,000, a goal they’re already halfway toward achieving.

During Tuesday night’s City Council meeting, the mayor designated Councilman Justin Wilson and Councilman Paul Smedberg to lead the City Council team. There’s only one problem — council members will be at City Hall on May 18 for a public hearing. “We’re going to be going in circles here,” quipped Wilson.

Fidler in the Park

For more than a decade, Danielle Fidler served on the Alexandria Policy Commission as a member, vice chairwoman and ultimately chairwoman. Now she can add a new feather in the cap, winner of the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award.

Last week, Alexandria Renew Enterprises and the Environmental Policy Commission named Fidler of the annual award, named in honor of the late Ellen Pickering — a legendary Alexandria environmental leader who served briefly as a member of City Council in the late 1970s. The award was presented during the city’s official Earth Day celebration at Ben Brenman Park last weekend. Fittingly, a tree will be planted in Fidler’s honor.

Capital Transparency

What are the city’s capital spending priorities for the coming decade? Members of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee say city leaders could do a better job explaining.

One of the recommendations in the committee’s 32-page annual report is that city leaders list all projects in the Capital Improvement Plan by priority rank and “a transparent justification.” Members also suggested that council members consider requiring each department or agency to provide a cost-benefit analysis for projects. “It is difficult to track projects from year to year, as some are eliminated and others are merged,” the report concludes.

“Better explanation of transit and transportation projects would be helpful, including the reasons and justifications of the projects and costs.” — Michael Lee Pope
Inaugural Tours
At Ivy Hill Cemetery

By Michael McMorrow
Gazette Packet

Saturday, April 20, saw the first annual public tours of Ivy Hill Cemetery, located on King Street not far from Janney’s Lane.

Organized by a ninth-generation native of Alexandria, Lucy Burke Goddin, visitors were met at graveside by interpreters in period garb who offered introductions to the selected “permanent residents.”

“Reminding our neighbors of an overlooked local treasure of history in a beautiful natural setting” is the way Goddin explained the purpose of the tour.

The entombed celebrities included: Confederate spy and graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary (Frank Stringfellow), member of the WWII French Resistance (Simonne Michenon), German rocket engineer (Wernher von Braun) and builder of Alexandria’s first water system, the reservoir of which still can be seen atop Shuter’s Hill (Robert French Roberts).

A number of plans are being considered by the Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society.

More
For complete details on the cemetery, its history and events, see http://ivyhill.org.

Nathan Ritter talks about a Confederate spy.
Serving Up ‘Passion for Food’
Award-winning chef heads Del Ray sushi bar.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The tension was palpable. Only two chefs remained in the Hatsume Festival Master Chef competition in Delray Beach, Fla. Like the popular Iron Chef television show it was based on, competitors had one hour to prepare an appetizer, entrée and dessert using one common ingredient, in this case ginger.

When the hour was up, a self-taught chef from Thailand, Saran “Peter” Kannasute, served up his future work space at the soon-to-open Sushi Bar in Del Ray.

Sushi chef Saran “Peter” Kannasute shows off his future work space at the soon-to-open Sushi Bar in Del Ray.
Institute to Honor Emerging Black Leaders

By Courtney M. McSwain

On Tuesday, May 7, the Virginia Leadership Institute (VLI) will hold its “Top 10 Under 40” awards, to honor 10 of the region’s rising young African-American leaders in business, community involvement and politics. According to Krysta Jones, the founder and president of VLI, the event will help raise the profile of achievements made by black young professionals in Northern Virginia. “I just think it’s amazing that we have this opportunity to really bring this out,” Jones said in an interview prior to the awards. “It’s amazing to think about the achievements we are making, and I think it says a lot about what we’re able to do in the future if we just keep at it.”

Founded in 2006, VLI’s primary mission is to increase the number of blacks serving in elected offices across Virginia to 500 by 2026. According to Jones, events like the “Top 10 Under 40” awards help showcase the diversity of leadership within Northern Virginia and increase name recognition for individuals who have what it takes to run for office some day. “We want to bring attention to leaders and the organizations that they are a part of,” Jones said.

Award winners were selected based on their professional achievements and community involvement by a selection committee. All of the selected honorees have been residents of Northern Virginia for at least five years. Alexandria honorees include:

❖ Councilman John Taylor Chapman, an after-school specialist and Alexandria native who was elected to the Alexandria City Council in November 2012. Chapman has served as the vice Chair of the Alexandria Youth Policy Commission, president of the NAACP-Alexandria chapter, board member for Volunteer Alexandria and board member for the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria.

❖ Ryane LeCesne, the director of the Scholars Academy for Emerging Scholars Program (ESP), an Alexandria-based 14-month academic and leadership preparatory program for low- and moderate-income students.

The VLI “Top 10 Under 40” awards will be held on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Kora Restaurant at 2250 Crystal Drive, Arlington, and tickets can be purchased for $15 by visiting www.virginialead.org or calling 703-969-9647.

People

Lee Stewart, a senior at Episcopal High School, was presented the Community Service Award by the Rotary Club of Alexandria at the club’s weekly luncheon April 16 at Belle Haven Country Club.

A life-long Alexandrian, Stewart was recognized for her leadership with Martha’s Table as well as her fundraising efforts to support EHS’s partner school in Kenya. Additionally, she spearheaded fundraising efforts to build a partner school building in Palto, Haiti.

In addition to her studies and community service work, Stewart is a three-season varsity athlete in field hockey, winter track and lacrosse. She has committed to play lacrosse next year at the University of Albany - SUNY.

Lee Stewart, a senior at Episcopal High School, thanks Ray Petniunas and the Rotary Club of Alexandria after receiving the Community Service Award April 16 at Belle Haven Country Club.

Rotary Honors Lee Stewart

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GW Parkway Classic
Amid heightened security, runners honor Boston, Laboy.

By Jeanne Theismann

In the wake of the recent terror attacks at the Boston Marathon, security was stepped up April 21 as more than 6,000 runners took to the streets of Alexandria in the 29th annual GW Parkway Classic.

“I definitely felt safe,” said race veteran Courtney Brown. “I had no concerns at all about running the race.”

SWAT teams, K-9 patrols and a Mobil Command Unit were dispatched along the 10-mile course, which began at Mount Vernon and ended in Old Town at Oronoco Bay Park.

A moment of silence was observed at the start of the race to remember the victims of the Boston attacks. Additionally, the last mile of the race was lined with first responders in honor of wounded Alexandria police officer Peter Laboy, who was shot in the head during a routine traffic stop Feb. 27.

“I definitely noticed a lot more police dogs and security this year,” said Ronnette Thompson. “But it was a beautiful day for the race and the supporters along the course were amazing.”

No incidents were reported at the race, which was won by Charlottesville resident Seth Hutchinson, 29, with a time of 50:56. Arlington’s Shannon Miller, 28, was the top female finisher at 1:01:05. In the 5K race, John Schroeder, 25, (16:32) and Claire Hallisey, 30, (17:40) were the top male and female finishers.

In addition to the increased security, trash cans along the route were sealed and a “no spectator zone” was established at the finish line. Many runners and spectators wore Boston colors and sporting gear and memorial blue and yellow ribbons.

Top Alexandria finishers in Sunday’s race included Bishop Ireton Cross Country coach Brad Byrnes, 33, who finished second in the men’s 5K race with a time of 17:58. Third place went to BI junior Michael LeGrande, 16, with a time of 18:11.

In the 10-mile race, Alexandria’s top female finishers were Laura O’Hara, 33, who finished second overall with a time of 1:02:33, and Lisa Thomas, 32, who finished fourth in 1:04:05. Nine-year-old Anna Banovc finished first in the 10 and under category and Tiffany Carter, 13, took first in the 11-14 age group.

Sponsored by Pacers Running stores, the race served as the host for the BAE Systems MacArthur Cup, a team competition for active duty military personnel, and was a benefit for the Boys & Girls Club of Alexandria.

For complete race results, visit www.runpacers.com.
**Business Matters**

**Adult Sushi**

Del Ray is known as the place where Main Street still exists. Now it’s also a place where adults can eat sushi without the threat of hearing a crying baby.

Next month, Mount Vernon Avenue will add its newest restaurant to the long list of dining establishments. Known as The Sushi Bar, the latest addition will be adults only. That’s right, nobody under 18 will be admitted.

“We’re not making it 18 and over because it’s sushi,” said owner Bill Blackburn, who owns the place along with “Mango” Mike Anderson. “We are making it 18 and over because it’s a lounge.”

Blackburn said the age restriction was driven more by the size of the room, which is less than 2,000 square feet, and the concept, which includes a sake bar and a sushi bar along with low-slung lounge-style seating. He said he heard from lots of people in Del Ray who are eager to ditch the kids for a while. Then again, he said, he’s also heard from people who are unhappy about the restriction.

“There’s quite a few folks here who are very upset about this decision, to which I can understand,” said Blackburn. “But we think of this as kind of like adult swim at your local pool.”

**Sur La Old Town**

The old CVS at King and Royal has been closed for more than two years as landlord EastBanc waited and waited for the right tenant. New retail-size windows were even installed.

“There were some big name prospects that were looking at it and passed on it,” said Val Hinsey, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. “The landlord wanted to get the building in shape, and he was in no rush to do a deal with somebody who wasn’t solid.”

Now the wait is over. Gourmet retailer Sur La Table plans to open a new store at the location, which is in the heart of Old Town directly across the street from Market Square. The store will have about 12,000 square feet of the building, which also includes a real-estate office. The retailer sells high-end cookware and gourmet items, everything from oven mitts to margarita glasses. And the business also plans to offer classes at the location, as it does at the nearby Pentagon City location.

“We think it will be a nice addition to Old Town,” said Hawkins. “It’s well known, and it’s got a great product.”

**Athenaeum Asks for Your Vote**

Do you love the Athenaeum? If the answer is yes, executive director Catherine Aselford is asking for your vote.

This week, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced that the Athenaeum has been selected as one of 24 sites in the Washington Metropolitan area to compete for $1 million in preservation funds.

“Please spread the word,” said Aselford. “Retweet our tweets. Share our Facebook posts.”

Next Sunday, May 5, the Athenaeum will be having an open house with a handful of local celebrities. Visitors can see the building and learn about the history of the iconic structure, which was originally built in 1851 as the Old Dominion Bank. Its stately Greek columns have graced the corner of Prince and South Lee Street for more than 150 years, as the use of the building changed from an exchange of securities in shape, and he was in no rush to do a deal with somebody who wasn’t solid.”

The Athenaeum will be having an open house on Saturday, April 27, with the introduction of a special anniversary product.

“It’s been a great five years and quite a thrill for me to serve so many customers who have become my good friends,” said veteran butcher and shop owner Steve Gatward.

He has taken his knowledge of herbs and spices to introduce the Del Ray “Anniversary Sausage”, blended with mild flavors and a hint of heat — in honor of his business’s local community and its “main street” — Mount Vernon Avenue.

The Del Ray “Anniversary Sausage” will be featured and showcased on Saturday, April 27, through Friday, May 3.

Gatward sells pasture-fed, free range and hormone-free meat, poultry and pork products at his shop, located at 2403 Mount Vernon Avenue, along with butter and eggs from Amish farm country, and fresh milk from Trickling Springs Creamery (http://www.tricklingspringscreamery.com) in Pennsylvania.

Customers can call Gatward at “Let’s Meat On The Avenue” at 703-836-6328, or visit him online, at www.letsmeatontheavenue.com.

**Farina Promoted to Regional Role**

Kim Farina has assumed the role of regional vice president at Weichert, Realtors. Farina will be responsible for the management and growth of eight Weichert sales offices that are located in Montgomery and Prince George counties in Maryland, as well as the District of Columbia.

Farina began her career as a sales associate with Weichert in 1993, after which she quickly became one of the company’s top producers. In 2005, she was promoted to the sales manager position in Weichert’s Burke, Va., office, where under her leadership the office grew and consistently met or exceeded goals. Following her success at Burke, Farina was then appointed as sales manager of the Alexandria/Old Town office in 2007, where under her guidance the office was consistently recognized as one of Weichert’s most profitable sales offices.

Her successful management of the Alexandria/Old Town office earned her the distinction of being selected as the region’s Manager of the Year for each of the last six years. In addition to her regional responsibilities, Farina will also be the managing broker for the Bethesda/Chevy Chase, Md., sales office.

For more information about Weichert, Realtors, visit www.weichert.com.

**Business**

**Butcher Shop Celebrates 5 Years**

Owner to introduce Del Ray “Anniversary Sausage.”

Let’s Meat On The Avenue,” an English-styled butcher shop in Del Ray, will celebrate its five years in business on Saturday, April 27, with the introduction of a special anniversary product.

“It’s been a great five years and quite a thrill for me to serve so many customers who have become my good friends,” said veteran butcher and shop owner Steve Gatward.

He has taken his knowledge of herbs and spices to introduce the Del Ray “Anniversary Sausage”, blended with mild flavors and a hint of heat — in honor of his business’s local community and its “main street” — Mount Vernon Avenue.

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For more information about Weichert, Realtors, visit www.weichert.com.

**Taylor Run**

**KEIRA MORAN**

Our neighbor Keira Moran has decided to accept a scholarship to the music industries program at the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music. 1, 243 musicians entered videos of their performing original music to Frost. Fifty of those students were called down to audition; Keira was one of the 12 who were chosen for the program. The school awarded Keira the Presidential Scholarship for Academic Excellence and the Coral Gables music grant. Keira’s second CD has not yet been released; she performed three songs from that at the audition.

After the audition, Keira performed one of her new songs, “Fude Away,” at the Frost contemporary music forum, becoming the first high school student ever invited to that event. Keira’s song “Wonder Girl” became the most requested song on radio programs all over the country when it was released.

Berkeley College of Music and NYU’s Clive Davis School of Recorded Music both also offered Keira scholarships.

**FUTURE PERFORMANCES**

Keira will perform live here before she leaves for Miami. She will appear at the Mattie Miracle Family Festival on May 19 at St. Stephen’s School. She will also perform with the Spin Doctors at Celebrate Fairfax on June 9 2:30 p.m.
OBITUARIES

David S. Cammack

David Shoemaker Cammack, 85 of Alexandria, died peacefully on Sunday, April 7, 2013. Born on Dec. 4, 1927 in Washington D. C., he was the son of John Edmund Cammack and Martha Louise Newman Cammack. He is predeceased by his brothers John and William and is survived by his brothers Thomas and Robert as well as 10 nieces and nephews and 16 grand nieces and grand nephews. Known as a leading authority of the life of Preston Tucker and the Tucker Automobile Corporation, David spent the last 40 years collecting Tucker cars, parts and memorabilia. His Tucker collection will be donated to the AACA Museum in Hershey Pennsylvania. A short video of David discussing Tucker and his cars made by Smithsonian Magazine can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeCgFeadUY4

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on April 18, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Dennis Kleinmann as the celebrant. Intermment will be private. Those desiring may memorial contributions in David’s name to the AACA Museum (161 Museum Drive, Hershey, PA 17033), The Tucker Club of America, Inc. (6859 Salem Ridge Road, Aurora, IN 47001-9244) or St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Kay Kinsey

Kay Cecile Kinsey died early Monday morning, April 22, 2013, after a long illness. Kay was born in Greenville, S.C., on Dec 19, 1937. Parents John William and Margaret Logue Kinsey and sister Peggy Kinsey Clark predeceased her. Kay grew up in Greensboro, N.C. She loved school and by the fifth grade, she knew that she wanted to be a math teacher. Kay attended The Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, now UNCG, where she received a degree in Mathematics in 1960. While in college, Kay played the viola in the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.

After graduation Kay began her teaching career in the Greensboro City Public Schools. In 1964, she moved to Alexandria, where she taught 7th grade math at Parker Gray Middle School and George Washington Junior High School. In 1978, Kay began her partnership with Juanita Elletta. After her retirement in 1993, she continued her love of numbers as a tax preparer for H & R Block. Kay was an active member of the Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, the Alexandria Retired Teachers Association, and All Saints Episcopal Church, where she was an usher, greeter, and member of the team that volunteered at Carpenter's Shelter. Kay cherished her family and spent many summers and most holidays with them. She always enjoyed attending her Logue and Kinsey family reunions. Her friends were many and diverse. She enjoyed traveling, antiquing, camping, bowling, photography, coin collecting, informal group singing (especially gospel hymns and “old timey” music), she loved spending time with family and friends at her vacation home, “After Math,” at Bryce Resort. Kay will be remembered for her marvelous sense of humor and quick wit, her consistency, loyalty, integrity and dedication, her capacity to accept others without judging them, and her unfailing love for family and friends.

Kay is survived by her partner, Juanita, her nephews Jamie and John Clark, her niece Margaret Logue Gib, their spouses and children, and Kay’s cousins and their families. Longtime friends, Anne Thomas and Loretta Kuhn and many others will treasure her memory.

A memorial service will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 3421 Franconia Rd Alexandria, on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to All Saints Episcopal Church. Online condolences may be sent to cunninghamfuneralhome.net.

Irene M. Collier

Irene Byrne M A C D r e w (Prendergast) Collier, of Washington, D.C., died on March 11, 2013, in Richland, Wash., at the age of 73, of natural causes related to dementia and juvenile diabetes.

Irene was married in 1961 to John J. Prendergast of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., with whom she raised five children, in Alexandria, where she enjoyed working as a real estate agent for Hubbard-Dale and Golubin & Warwick.

Her second husband, Robert M. Collier, of Buncledy Co. Westford, Ireland, whom she married in 1989, died in 2002. Charismatic, entrepreneurial of spirit, and possessing a sharp sense of humor, Irene loved Ireland, the land of her forebears, and lived there in Co. Cork, where she ran a B&B, a guesthouse, an American-style deli in Cork, where she ran a B&B, a

Irene Byrne Collier and 10 nieces and nephews.

Irene was married in 1961 to John J. Prendergast of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., with whom she raised five children, in Alexandria, where she enjoyed working as a real estate agent for Hubbard-Dale and Golubin & Warwick.

Her second husband, Robert M. Collier, of Buncledy Co. Westford, Ireland, whom she married in 1989, died in 2002. Charismatic, entrepreneurial of spirit, and possessing a sharp sense of humor, Irene loved Ireland, the land of her forebears, and lived there in Co. Cork, where she ran a B&B, a guesthouse, an American-style deli in Cork, where she ran a B&B, a

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Connection Guide to Parks Wins ‘Best in Show’

Investigative reporting, in depth coverage, education writing, photography, art, design, sports, garner Virginia Press Association honors.

The Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards at the Virginia Press Association’s annual Spring convention, announced on Saturday, April 20, in Norfolk.

The Connection project, Insiders Guide to the Parks of Fairfax County, published in our Newcomers and Community Guides, won a top honor of Best in Show for Art. The project also won first place for informational graphics. Spearheaded and researched by Jean Card, who also designed the pages, with photography by Craig Sterbutzel and map design by Laurence Foong, Insiders Guide to the Parks led judges to say: “This is check-full of information. It probably leaves readers with no unanswered questions. Colors and typography work well together. The down-page photo and text wrap features are nice touches.”

A multi-part series on immigration spearheaded by Victoria Ross won first place for in-depth or investigative writing. The Connection devoted multiple pages in multiple editions for multiple weeks to exhaustive reporting on immigration. “This entry stood out above the rest in this category,” said judges of Ross’s work. “The author portrayed an excellent mix of data and human stories in covering all of the facets of this topic. It was obvious she spent a great deal of time working on this in-depth series. This was extremely comprehensive, well rounded and objective. This was not just reports, numbers and data but a terrific compil-ation of human stories clearly written and experiences challenges and a great deal of hope.” See the entire immigration package at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/.

Alexandra Gazette Packet reporters took all three awards for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division, one circulation category above the Connection projects. Nicholas Horrocks won first place, In-depth or investigative reporting, for a multi-part series on Potomac Yard. “Great reporting job and extremely thorough,” said judges. “Well organized with great sidebars, from the Native American to the EPA angles. Writing is smooth and easy.”

Montie Martin, Alexandra Gazette Packet, won second place also for In-depth or investigative reporting for Guns From the South. Montie was commended for “very well reported, thorough piece on the issue. Easy to read; organization flows well. Good quotes.”

Jean Card, won third place in the same category, for Looking Behind the Numbers. “Well written, well researched, a tremendous job,” said judges.

Kenneth Louie won first place for Column Writing. Judge’s comment: “An exceptionally well-written, friendly, down-home writing style. The best of the group from the newspapers.”


Nikki Cheshire, an intern for the Great Falls Connection, garnered a first place award for her dramatic breaking news photo, a helicopt-er rescue at Great Falls Park. See the award winning photo at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for public safety writing in the Centre View and second place for public safety writing in the Fairfax Connection. Judges said: “Although the cases featured in these entries were sensational, which made them interesting in and of them-selves, the writer maintained the read-ers’ interest by her excellent storytelling ability. The stories not only conveyed facts but also emotion. The coverage was comprehensive and thorough with no questions left unanswered.”

Alex McVeigh won first place for Education Writing, first published in the Oak Hill-Herndon Connection. Photographer Deb Cobb won first place for an online slide show of coverage of daily pa-trols on the water in the Mount Vernon Gazette. See it at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/gazette/2012/jun/2/78210/.

Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South.

Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, Alexandra Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, “Pulaski High Memory: 77 Years of Experience.”

Nicholas Horrocks, Alexandra Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard hearings.


Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Jeanne Theismann, Alexandra Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story, Memorial Day.

Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo, Santiago Valdez.

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandra Gazette Packet: Headline Writing.


Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing.

Second Place Winners

Monica Martin, Alexandra Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South.

Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; Page Design.

Bennie Hobbs, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing.

Louie Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Graduation 2012.

Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard hearings.

Third Place Winners

Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Page Design.

Laurence Foong, Fairfax Connection: Headline Writing; Column Writing.


Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; Live editorials about education.

Louise Krafft, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Writing.

Louise Krafft, Alexandra Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay, Celebrating the Irish.


Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Jeanne Theismann, Alexandra Gazette Packet: Special Sections or Special Editions: Great Falls,.

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Opinion

Join Fight Against Alcohol and Substance Abuse

By Emma West
And Cassie Cowart
Juniors at T.C. Williams
SAPCA Club Members

Spring has finally arrived and the school year is entering its last few months. High school seniors around the country are already looking forward to prom and the final summer before starting college or a career. At graduation parents and teachers will speak of the bright future awaiting these seniors and the wonderful experiences and opportunities that lie ahead.

Unfortunately, our youth are not invincible nor are they resistant to the harsh realities of the world. Alcohol abuse is a very real and serious problem at T.C. Williams High School, especially around graduation. Even seemingly insignificant amounts of alcohol can seriously impair judgment, leading to cognitive impairment as well as to further risk of adult alcohol dependency. Teenagers who abuse alcohol are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependencies in adulthood. Even seemingly insignificant amounts of alcohol can seriously impede academic and career potential.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SAPCA) has supported a number of measures to address teen alcohol use. As April is Alcohol Awareness Month, the SAPCA Club we founded at T.C. Williams hopes to raise awareness of the serious implications of alcohol use by launching its Alcohol Prevention Campaign at the high school with special activities during lunch time.

In addition, annually, SAPCA organizes project “Sticker Shock” in Alexandria, where teams of volunteers place “STOP” stickers throughout Alexandria stores, reminding customers of the consequences of purchasing alcohol for minors.

With the help of SAPCA and Del. Charniele Herring, the new language increases adult liability by changing the knowledge requirement from “knowing” the drinker is under 21 to “having reason to know the drinker is under 21.”

Alcohol abuse is a very real epidemic in our community. It is imperative that all Alexandrians join SAPCA in taking a stand against underage substance use and abuse and help all members of the graduating class of 2013 to realize their bright futures.
Celebrating Creative Spirit, Sharing Experiences

By Mary Anne Weber
Chair of the Anti-Stigma HOPE Campaign of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria

For the third year in a row, Alexandria will celebrate the connection between the creative spirit and mental health by displaying the art works of people whose lives have been affected by mental illness, substance abuse disorders or intellectual disabilities. Some of these works of art are playful, some stark, some beautiful, and some so sad and disturbing, they stop the viewer in his or her tracks. Through their pieces, these artists are sharing not only their hopes and dreams, but their pain, fear and their own personal stories. The telling of their stories is just part of what should be a community conversation about mental health and the often long and bumpy road to recovery.

You will get the chance to see and hear these stories at the opening reception Thursday, May 9, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The artists will be there along with their works ready to engage the viewer in conversation. The storytelling will continue with Storyteller Auntie Oye, master drummer Joseph Ngwa, drummer Yerone Sanders and dancer Diane Freeman as they interact with the audience through storytelling, dance and drumming in a performance beginning at 6:30 p.m.

In a written statement Vera Oye, founder of the Palaver Hut Inc., notes “In my African culture, storytelling is a participatory experience between the teller and listeners. I lost my community in Liberia to the horrors of civil war in 1990. The creative power of storytelling and dance allowed me to share my culture and heritage with the residents of metropolitan Washington, D.C."

She described the transformative power of storyteller saying: “Help to motivate and empower individuals to perform and share their stories. My greatest achievement to date has been traveling to Australia and interacting with Australia’s indigenous people. Sharing our oral traditions through stories took us on each other’s journeys."

“Now, more than ever, that sharing of experience, that conversation, needs to be heard as the Internet, the airwaves and even newspapers spread misinformation, hysteria and a portrait of those with mental illness as dangerous, out of control and incurable. Not true. Not even close. The math is simple. In one year there are about 31,000 deaths due to guns in this country; About a thousand are by the police, 20,000 suicides and 10,000 listed as homicides. In 2012, 151 of those homicides were committed by a mass murderer. That includes the deaths at Newtown. Even if all of those mass murderers could be considered mentally ill, and there is no proof of that, they account for only a very small percentage of the murderers in this country. Killing is more often fueled by too much alcohol, domestic violence, drug trafficking and other crime related violence. Those who have been diagnosed with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators, just as they are victims of stigma which prevents from getting treatment, getting employed and getting on with their lives.

Mental disorders are very common in the United States. In any given year, one in four adults have a mental disorder. The most common is anxiety with 18.1 percent of adults experiencing it. That is followed by a major depressive disorder, substance use disorders, bipolar disorder, eating disorders and rarest, schizophrenia. Prevention, early intervention and treatment can lessen the impact of these illnesses and recovery is possible. The sooner a person is diagnosed and receives the proper treatment, the sooner he or she is on the way to recovery. Mental illness, intellectual disabilities and substance abuse disorders are serious impairments to a person’s daily life as serious, real and biological as severe asthma, diabetes, heart disease or many other chronic diseases. Just as with any other chronic disease, those untreated get worse and more disabled as time goes by. Not intervening, not providing treatment increases disability and the chance of a premature death. Those with serious mental illnesses have a life expectancy 25 years less than those who are healthy.

The upcoming art exhibit showcases serious thought, deep reflection and the work of people who have something to say. But someone needs to be there to hear it and continue the conversation. They should not have the fate of those 19th and early 20th century outsider artists whose works were not even known until they died and their rooms and closets were cleaned out. No one thought they might have something to say and the talent to do it well.

For those who cannot make the reception or want a second viewing, the art will be up at the Lee Center until the end of the year. Then it will be moved to the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St.

Celebrating Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day

There will be a Fun Fair in celebration of Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, Saturday, May 11, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Tenants Union Center, 1108 Jefferson Drive, Alexandria. Then it will be moved to the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St.

By Sarah Drexler
Program Coordinator, SSA’s Friendly Visitor Program

Senior Services of Alexandria’s Friendly Visitors Program is in full swing providing companionship to more than 30 Alexandria seniors. The program, which was officially launched, in October 2012 has taken off and the number of matches is increasing daily.

Senior Services of Alexandria partnered with AARP to get the word out about the program and the need for volunteers to become Friendly Visitors. The response from SSA’s ‘Friendly Visitors Spread Good Cheer to City’s Seniors’

Our great community was overwhelmed and we couldn’t be more pleased.

We are reaching seniors from every corner of Alexandria.

Prospective Friendly Visitor volunteers receive one-on-one training and undergo a background check prior to meeting their potential match.

The Friendly Visitor and their paired meet weekly to talk, play games, and share common interests.

SSA works with area assisted-living and nursing homes in the area, including Envoy of Alexandria, The Hermittage at Woodbridge, The Fountains at Washington House, and Woodbine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

We also working with the City of Alexandria’s Division of Aging and Adult Services to identify seniors who may be interested in having a regular visitor.

SSA has also connected with seniors from the Annie B. Rose House, Clardige House, as well as seniors living in their own homes in the community.

At the first quarterly gathering, current Friendly Visitors shared their experiences about the joy and fulfillment they get from the program.

“Just listening to stories about their incredible lives is so rewarding, and it makes them feel really good that someone is interested in listening to them,” said one of the volunteers.

They also shared activities they do when volunteering: reading articles in a magazine to discuss at their next visit, talking about current events or just taking a stroll.

If you’d like to become a Friendly Visitor or know a senior who would benefit from the program, please call Senior Services of Alexandria at 703 836 4414, ext. 20 or email volunteer@seniorsservicesalex.org.

It’s a great feeling knowing that your visit is the highlight of a person’s day, and we think that you just might feel that it is the highlight of your day too.

Celebrating Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day

There will be a Fun Fair in celebration of Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, Saturday, May 11, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Tenants Union Center, 1108 Jefferson Drive, Alexandria.

This community forum will feature an update on mental health issues, services, and needs in Northern Virginia. Also attending will be other state elected officials and representatives from area Community Services Boards (Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax-Falls Church). Care will be provided for children ages 4 and up by advance registration to Donielle.Marshall@alexandriava.gov. For more information about the forum, contact Donielle Marshall@alexandriava.gov.

Mental Health Forum On Children and Youth

A Mental Health Forum on Children and Youth, hosted by Donielle Marshall, will be held Saturday, May 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lee Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson Drive, Alexandria.

This community forum will feature an update on the mental health bills at this year’s General Assembly as well as panel discussions on mental health issues, services, and needs in Northern Virginia. Also attending will be other state elected officials and representatives from area Community Services Boards (Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax-Falls Church).

Childcare will be provided for children ages 4 and up by advance registration to Donielle.Marshall@alexandriava.gov. For more information about the forum, contact Donielle Marshall@alexandriava.gov.

Caitrin Rhoads is a senior whose major is international affairs. James Dressing is a senior whose major is management.
FALL IN LOVE
with Old Town Commons

Discover Smart City Living at EYA’s newest neighborhood in Old Town Alexandria. Old Town Commons is just steps to historic King Street, Braddock Road Metro, and the waterfront. These new homes offer spacious open floor plans with gourmet kitchens and reserved parking.

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Prices subject to change without notice.
By Arthur E. Schmalz

Novelist Paul Auster wrote that the best one can do in life is to “leave the world a little better than you found it.” On June 30, after 10 years as the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria’s Executive Director Susan Yowell will leave the organization a lot better than when she arrived a decade ago.

During her tenure, SFA’s annual scholarship awards to TC Williams students more than tripled, growing from about $279,000 in 2003 to $920,000 in 2012. Over the same period, the size of SFA’s General Fund awards to students grew from $1,000 to $2,500 per year. Annual contributions to SFA followed a similar trajectory, increasing from approximately $400,000 in 2003, to $1 million in 2012.

These are impressive accomplishments, but SFA does more than just provide financial aid. Since 2005, U.Va.’s Virginia’s College Advising Corps has placed a recent college graduate in SFA’s office at T.C. Williams to help students and their families navigate the sometimes complicated and confusing process to qualify for financial aid from other sources. On Ms. Yowell’s watch, SFA’s two signature events have also expanded and improved. The organization’s Spring Gala has become one of the city’s most popular and successful fundraising events. In addition to a number of refinements that have made the gala more fun and lively, the SFA introduced a new car raffle in 2008, courtesy of Jack Taylor’s Alexandria Toyota. As a result, the event, which barely broke even in 2003, netted more than $330,000 last year to support need-based scholarships.

SFA’s other major event, the Fall Telethon, has evolved, too. In 2010, the organization added a social media fundraising campaign called “Clash of the T.C. Titans.” The Clash is a friendly alumni challenge in which past graduates can show their Titan Pride by providing financial support to help fellow Titans succeed. This initiative now accounts for nearly a quarter of the Telethon’s earnings. Although Ms. Yowell will miss her job, she’s ready to depart after 10 years at the helm. “I’ve loved every day as executive director, but I want to pursue some things that I haven’t been able to do while working full time for the Fund,” she said. “SFA is in great shape organizationally. We have a clear mission, a loyal donor and volunteer base, and a committed board of trustees. I am confident that the Fund will continue to grow and support Alexandria students,” Ms. Yowell added.

The search for Ms. Yowell’s successor is currently underway. The job listing and application for the director position was posted April 12 on the Alexandria City Public Schools employment website, http://www.acps.k12.va.us/hr/recruit. In addition to a competitive salary, the position includes a full benefits package. Interested applicants should apply without delay.

“If the board of trustees looks forward to finding an executive director who loves this city, has a passion for helping students pursue their dreams of higher education, and is committed to furthering the Fund’s mission,” said Cathy Puskar, a 1985 graduate of T.C. Williams and the current chair of SFA’s board of trustees. For more information about the Scholarship Fund, please visit www.alexscholarshipfund.org.
Calling all Inova Alex Babies

By Christine Candio, RN, FACHE
CEO, Inova Alexandria Hospital

Are you an Alex baby? Were you, your children, or grandchildren born at Inova Alexandria Hospital? If so, we want you to celebrate with us at our first-ever Alex Baby Reunion/Mother’s Day Celebration at Inova Alexandria Hospital on Saturday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held on the grounds just outside the hospital, rain or shine.

We have planned a fun, free day for the whole family, including a light lunch, a free family photo session, and kid-friendly activities like face painting, a magician, and other entertainment. It’s our way of saying “Thank You" to the many moms who chose Inova Alexandria Hospital to share in one of the most important events in their lives — the birth of their child.

For over 140 years, Inova Alexandria Hospital has been helping families welcome their babies to the world. In that time, our maternity services have grown and adapted to meet the needs of the community we serve. Along the way, we made important contributions to the field of obstetrics that hospitals and healthcare providers still widely use today. For example, in 1953 Inova Alexandria was the first hospital on the East Coast to institute the use of epidural anesthesia in childbirth. And, in 1978, we opened the first “birthing room” where labor, delivery, and recovery could occur in the same room, which improved comfort and continuity of care for laboring women and promoted immediate mother/baby bonding after delivery.

Today, Inova Alexandria Hospital Birthing Center remains one of the area’s most sought-after maternity services with nearly 4,000 deliveries each year. That is testimony to our highly skilled team of board-certified private practice obstetricians, nurse-midwives, perinatologists, neonatologists, anesthesiologists, and nurses who provide the high-tech care our patients expect with the personalized touch that sets us above the rest. It’s also thanks to the services we offer to ensure the best possible outcome for expectant moms and their babies, including:

❖ Specialized care — for mothers whose pregnancies are considered high-risk — by perinatologists at our Inova Brock Family Antenatal Testing Center, which also offers pre-pregnancy genetic counseling and testing.
❖ Round-the-clock care for premature or special needs newborns in our Level III Charlotte and Walter Jones Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
❖ A Lactation Center, women’s store, and board-certified lactation consultants who offer private, in-patient consultations on breastfeeding and continued support once mom and baby have returned home.
❖ Personal birthing plans.

I hope you will join us May 4 as we honor our “Alex Babies” and thank the many moms who launched their Mother’s Day legacy at Inova Alexandria Hospital. Learn more, register, and send us your baby photos at www.inova.org/alexbaby.
Residents Spring2Action For Local Charities

From Page 1

community convening and victim and first responder support services.

"Spring2ACTion proves once again that everyone can be a philanthropist," said ACT Executive Director John Porter. "Every donation counts from $10 to $10,000. These dollars are changing lives in our community." Participating nonprofits were eligible to win up to $30,000 in additional grants and prizes, including up to $5,000 for the nonprofit with the most donors. Once again, Casa Chirilagua topped the leaderboard with 539 individual donors, followed by the Alexandria Soccer Association (407 donors) and Empowered Women International (399 donors).

In Del Ray, it was a fight to the finish as the Alexandria Police Foundation edged out The Animal Welfare League for a $500 bonus donated by "Mango" Mike Anderson and Bill Blackburn of Holy Cow and Pork Barrel BBQ restaurants.

"They won by two burgers," said Anderson, whose restaurants donated $.25 to the charity of the diner's choice for every burger or sandwich sold during Spring2Action. "Those quarters add up and made a difference."

The event was presented by the Bruhn-Morris Foundation with the Mason Hirst Foundation providing $20,000 in matching grants to selected nonprofits.

The $659,591 raised this year is more than double the $319,000 raised in 2012 and six times the $104,000 raised in 2011. "When we all pitch in and give together, we can do more," Porter said. "Everyone was a winner on April 17. It was a great day to be an Alexandrian."

For a complete list of winners and sponsors, visit www.Spring2ACTion.org.

Kelly Andreae and Courtney Bishop raise funds for Carpenter's Shelter in front of Holy Cow restaurant in Del Ray. The organization raised $14,355 in 24 hours.

Celebrating Alex Babies!

Inova Alexandria Hospital is planning the largest Mother's Day party ever and we want all our Alex Babies to come celebrate!

Alex Baby Reunion – A Mother’s Day Celebration
May 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Inova Alexandria Hospital
4320 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

Light lunch • free family photo session
Kid-friendly activities - Face painting, balloon animals and a magician

Registrations are requested, visit inova.org/alexababy
or call 1.855.MYINOVA (1.855.694.6682).

Are you an Alex Baby? Tell us your story!
Submit your Alex Baby story and picture:
- facebook.com/InovaAlexandriaHospital
- email to socialmedia@inova.org
- tag your Twitter or Instagram photos with #alexbaby

Inova Alexandria Hospital
Some Real Estate

Sustained low interest rates and rising prices have energized the marketplace.

_Tim Peterson_
_Gazette Packet_

The local real estate market is thriving, with Realtors reporting multiple offers on homes in some areas and dwindling inventory of homes for sale. At least two things are contributing to this change in the market.

First, interest rates have been in the basement: Freddie Mac reported a 30-year mortgage rate of 3.57 percent for March this year, as opposed to 3.95 percent in March 2012 and 4.84 percent in 2011 (for reference, March 2005 was 5.93 percent).

Second, home prices are rising: RealEstate Business Intelligence reported a 10.23 percent increase in average sold price in Fairfax County between February 2012 and 2013. Even though inventory is shrinking across the county, distressed sales (foreclosures and short sales) are a smaller part of the market.

On the whole, everyone has warm fuzzies about the market.

“It’s as healthy as it’s ever been,” said Dane Work, an associate broker with Re/Max Preferred Properties in Fairfax. “Everything is a hot potato. The whole market is red hot, white hot.”

**Home Sales**

In March 2013, 189 Alexandria homes sold between $3,200,000-$111,000. This week’s list represents those homes sold in the $3,200,000-$455,000 range.

For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Alexandria Gazette Packet ❖ April 25 - May 1, 2013 ❖ 21

WHY THE DWINDLING SUPPLY? There are several factors, according to Hanweck, which result in people hanging on to their properties. Among them is a gradual increase in the number of retirees in this area who choose to stay in their homes. Another is people simply waiting to see how high prices will rise. There are also more instances of business investors buying properties to rent.

But none of this should dissuade anyone from jumping into the real estate market right now, Hanweck said. “Sell. Sell and buy.”

“If you want to move, sell now, buy now.

Buying six months ago would be even better, buying a year ago would’ve been even better. But buy. Over the next year, two years, it’s going to be a good market. After that we’re going to see federal government cuts actually start to impact.”

“I’m incredibly optimistic,” said Work. “I have been for about a year and a half. It makes me look like a saint. The writing was on the wall for some of this.

“It’s such a great opportunity for the end user, for occupants,” he continued. “Everybody’s got to live somewhere. Now is the time to lock in on something and secure it.”

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Real Estate

Time To Buy

From Page 20

Hanweck came to GMU in 1985 after spending nearly two decades in the research division at the Federal Reserve Board. Today in addition to teaching MBA finance courses, he is also associate dean for graduate programs.

The professor has seen real estate go through cycle after cycle over the decades. “It really just took time to allow housing prices to get on a path of rising, at a rate they had in the past,” he said.

“When I first came here in 1968, the thought was housing prices should always go up ten percent a year.

That was a rule. And in fact they did for some time,” Hanweck said. “Now we’ve hit a plateau,” said Hanweck, “to where we probably should take off and start having price rises between 4 and 6 percent a year, on average, for residential properties. Once we hit that, and that’s been happening now for several years, prices are high enough — after they had fallen in 2005 and 2006 — that people are willing to buy and sell. Enough time has passed.”

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Alexandria Gazette Packet ❖ April 25 - May 1, 2013 ❖ 21
ENTERTAINMENT

‘Six Degrees of Separation’ at Port City

By Jeanne Theisman Gazette Packet

Kevin Bacon is nowhere to be found. Instead, it’s Sidney Poitier that brings together friends and strangers in “Six Degrees of Separation,” now playing at Port City Playhouse.

The popular “six degrees of separation” theory explores the premise that everyone in the world is connected to everyone else by a chain of no more than six acquaintances, and Port City Playhouse brings playwright John Guare’s smart dialogue to life in a thoughtfully-executed production that showcases a stellar ensemble cast.

“Everyone enjoys playing the ‘Kevin Bacon’ game,” said Director Mary Ayala-Bush following the opening night performance April 19. “This play is a wonderful mélange of people’s relationships, their function and dysfunction and how all these people are searching for different types of acceptance.”

The 1990 play was inspired by the real-life story of David Hampton, a con man who managed to convince a number of people in the 1980s that he was the son of actor Sidney Poitier. Several of Guare’s friends were caught up in the swindle and he based his fictional characters on their experience.

“Six Degrees” opens with the affluent Flan (Chuck Leonard) and Ouisa (Dana Gattuso) attempting to get Geoffrey (Cal Whitehurst) to invest in a Cezanne painting when a young man shows up at their 5th Avenue condo.

Claiming to be a Harvard classmate of their children, Paul (Chaz Pando) is bleeding and says he has just been robbed. Charming and charismatic, he regales everyone with tales of hisscreen legend father, who he says will be arriving the next day. But before then, he needs money and a place to stay.

But all is not what it seems, despite Paul knowing the intimate details of Flan and Ouisa’s life.

Following his breakout performance in "Six Degrees of Separation," Pando returns in the tour de force role of Paul, an effortless and manipulative con artist without a conscience. His theatrical counterpart is Gattuso, who gives a stirring performance as Ouisa tries to make sense of Paul’s behavior.

The bench of talent runs deep as Ayala-Bush brings to life a group of coddled, confused New Yorkers. Leonard masters the snarky wit of Flan while Jennifer McClean and Jon Poole are annoyingly fun as the victims’ spoiled offspring. Kyle McGruther and Marcus Anderson give touching performances as sexually conflicted young men.

Produced by Frank Pasqualino with costumes by the award-winning team of Kit Sibley and Jean Schlichting, Ayala-Bush masterfully augments Guare’s script with Port City’s first in-the-round production.

In the hands of the capable Port City Playhouse theater company, “Six Degrees of Separation” is a sharp, funny and often poignant look at the causes and consequences of con artistry.

“Six Degrees of Separation” is playing now through May 4 at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. For tickets or more information, visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

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

ONGOING

Spring Classes. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-3250.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, April 28 see “Turn on Your Masters” at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The artists pay homage to, praise, critique or dish the artists who have influenced them. Free. Visit www.thodelrayartisans.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, April 28 see “Trash Talk” at Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit focuses on everyday common objects that are reclaimed, recycled and transformed into art. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays through the end of April. Designed for walkers through 36 months and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gaddy’s historic ballroom. Gaddy’s Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gaddystavern.org.

Art Exhibit. See Multiple Exposures Gallery “Dual Show” by Eric Johnson and Susan Meyers through Sunday.

See Calendar, Page 23

Green Fair

Goats, chicks, gardening, and green products will be featured at the spring Green Fair on Sunday, April 28, 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. A representative of the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture will discuss Arcadia’s four-acre demonstration farm on the historic grounds of Woodlawn Estate that provides a sustainable model of agriculture and its mobile vegetable truck that serves urban low-income areas. Features of the Spring Green Fair especially for children include baby goats from Alexandria’s Frog Pond Early Learning Center and chicks from Moose Manor Farms of Poolesville, Md. — a representative will provide information on locally grown pasture-raised chickens and explain the difference between store-bought eggs and locally farmed fresh eggs. Environmentally friendly household products will be available for purchase and an “Eco-Nice” table will distribute information on free environmentally safe disposal methods for household items like paint, batteries, and an upcoming large-scale shredding programs. Admission is free and children are welcome. For more information email greensanctuary@mvuc.org.

Dana Gattuso is socialite Ouisa at Port City Playhouse.

Chaz Pando as con artist Paul in “Six Degrees of Separation.”

Chuck Leonard as Flan and Chaz Pando as Paul.

Members of the cast and crew of “Six Degrees of Separation” celebrate April 19 following opening night at Port City Playhouse.
Art Exhibit. Through May 1. Local artist Nicholas Aman attempts to express the compelling nature of the Pacific coast through his solo exhibition, "Pacific Pulse," at Alexandria’s ArtSpace 109 Gallery, 109 N. Fairfax St. The gallery hours are: Tuesday through Friday noon-5 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays noon-5 p.m.


Walking Tour. Saturdays in May. 9 a.m., take a three-hour walking tour of Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby’s Tavern museum, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Carlyle House. Meet at Carlyle House, 614 Oronoco St., and ends at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. $25/person. $30/volunteers and friends group members of the four sites. Tickets at www.historicalalexandria.org or 703-746-4242.

Art Exhibit. Through Tuesday, June 25. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at River Farm Gardens, East Blvd. Come see "Elegance of Spring." Distillery Open. George Washington’s Distillery and Gristmill open through Oct. 1. $17/adult, $8/child, 5 and under are free.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington Street. Open daily through September, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia’s decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See also Robert E. Lee’s hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the compelling stories of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time, through their own words, as well as in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is $2. Visit wwwalexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions to hone your figure drawing skills. Just drop-in with your supplies to draw our live models. Fee: $8-12. View the calendar: www.thedellrayartisans.org.

Student Design Competition. Come see Woodlawn transformed from a historic house museum into a comfortable and stylish home for 21st century living. Through June 16. $20. Call 703-780-4000.


Art Exhibit. Helen Dillley Barasulo has a show of 39 watercolor and collage paintings at Goodwin House, 4800 Fillmore Ave. It is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. until May 21.

The American Horticultural Society’s River Farm headquarters will re-open to the public on Monday, April 29. The 25-acre gardens and grounds have been closed since January for renovations. Visitors are once again welcome to enjoy panoramic views of the Potomac River, play in the popular Children’s Garden, check out what’s growing in the Edible Discovery Garden, wander through the Andre Braham Meadow, or relax in one of the many sunny and shady nooks around the grounds. Call 703-768-5700 or visit www.ahs.org.

THURSDAY/APR. 25

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Making Mosaics - The Math and Art of Mosaic Making. Classes are $25 each or $200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Shrewsbury Hall Ext. Call 703-201-1250.

Garden Stroll and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour some of the glorious demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will

26th Annual Titan Expo

T.C. Williams High School will host a community fun fair to raise money for the Larry Trice PTSA/SCA Scholarships. This year’s T. C. Titan Expo offers games, food, live music, a full court press, moon bounce, car bash and book sale. Each year, the Larry Trice PTSA/SCA Scholarships are awarded to T. C. Williams students who are interested in pursuing post-secondary education, particularly in the technical and education fields. Sunday, May 5, 1-5 p.m. at 3330 King St. on the field in front of parking garage. Admission is free, but 50-cent tickets sold or games, activities and food.

3rd Annual Community Open House

Sunday, April 28, 2013 • 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet ❖ April 25 - May 1, 2013 ❖ 23
entertainment

From Page 23

Parody of the horror genre. This production is recommended for mature audiences only. Tickets are $12 and available at the door.

April 25 through June 2

Theater Performance. MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., presents “Ghost-Writer.” Performances are Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are $45-$55; $25/student. Visit www.metrostage.org or 703-548-9044 for tickets.

Friday/April 26

Junior Brown. $25. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Basic Gardening: Easy Makeover Tips. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This ‘Do-over’ class will help determine your needs to create a garden that matches personal style. $10. Visit www.greenspring.org or call 703-642-5173 to register.

Ballet Performance. 6:30 p.m. Come see the Virginia Ballet Company’s working stage rehearsal of the Don Quixote ballet at the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Tickets are $10 plus a $2 fee per each ticket. Visit www.virginiaballetcompany.org or call 703-249-8227.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Port City Playhouse, Alexandria’s award-winning theatre company, is pleased to conclude its 2012-13 season with “Six Degrees of Separation” by John Guare. General admission tickets are $18 for adults, $16 for seniors, military and students, and $14 for groups of ten or more.

Poetry Performance. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Shelly Bell performs slam poetry. Free.

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at The Mount Vernon Theatre. Watch “The Wiz.” $12/adults; $10/student, senior. Reservations can be made at 703-619-3259.

Theater Performance. West Potomac High’s Beyond the Page Theatre Company will present “The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein” 7 p.m. Based on the 1974 film of the same name, the production is a parody of the horror genre. This production is recommended for mature audiences only. Tickets are $12 and available at the door.

Saturday/April 27

Colonial Fun Day. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8600 Plymouth Church. Enjoy a pie baking contest, games, food, pony rides, raffle and more. Proceeds benefit the preschool. Free. 703-360-4370.

Workshop: Container Garden for Shade. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Add beautiful color and texture to a shady garden, patio or porch with a container that thrives in the shade. $35 per person plus $25 for supplies. Call 703-642-5173 to register and pay fee.

Ballet Performance. Performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Come see the Virginia Ballet Company perform the full-length Don Quixote Ballet at the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Adults/$30; children, students and seniors/$20, plus a $3 fee per each ticket. Visit www.virginiaballetcompany.org or call 703-249-8227.

Community-wide Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Mount Zephyr community of Mount Vernon (from Richmond Highway/Route 1 turn on Mohawk Lane at the traffic light at the South County Government Center, then turn right — at the second street — on to Richmond Avenue). Free. E-mail Ron Walker at pres.orrernad@gmail.com or call 703-360-0651.

Walking Tour. 2 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Learn more about the Civil War history of Fort Ward and the defenses of Washington on a soldier-led walking tour of the historic fort. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Literary Fiesta. 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Celebrate El Dia de los Ninos with music, stories and free books. All ages welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

Search and Rescue Dog Association. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn what to do if you get lost in the woods. All ages. Free. 703-746-1702.

Gary Lloyd Storyteller. 2 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. All ages. Free. 703-746-1705.

Global Tea Testing. 2 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road.

April 29

Entertainment
‘Ghost-Writer’ at MetroStage

By Carolyn Griffin
MetroStage, Producing Artistic Director

MetroStage opens “Ghost-Writer” this week, and we are looking forward to this exceptional play by a very popular contemporary playwright, Michael Hollinger, with one of our favorite directors and three of DC’s finest actors. It is a play about the act (or art) of creation, always an intriguing topic, with a little mystery, history and touch of a love story mixed in. A literary figure dictating his latest novel to his typist, drops dead, yet the typist continues typing to complete the novel much to the consternation of his (jealous) wife, his publisher and the public. Interestingly, playwright Hollinger is a violinist turned playwright so there is always an element of music to his plays. There is a rhythm to the typewriter that is an integral part of the story.

Since this is the final show of the season, a little retrospective is in order. The greatest strength of our work is the artistic integrity and value of the theatre experience that we offer our patrons. First and foremost, I choose plays and musicals that I believe have value — they are always enriching due to an exceptional use of language and/or music by the playwright and composer. They are on some level academic/historic/illuminating, and they are also always entertaining, which is a fundamental reason why patrons choose to go to theatre. The season opened with “Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris,” a renowned collection of songs that cover all aspects of the human condition. The piece, which originated in the late 1960s, has a huge following committed to Brel’s work, and our production took the words and music and the joy and despair encountered in our lives and reflected in the songs to new levels, ending on a message of hope. Artistically it was all that I had imagined it could be, receiving six Helen Hayes nominations and three Awards.

“A Broadway Christmas Carol” was an entertaining alternative to the traditional “Christmas Carol,” and patrons loved having this new tradition to look forward to. Our world premiere of “Ladies Swing the Blues a jazz fable” was a tremendous success, paying tribute to the contribution of alto sax player Charlie Parker as told through the music and lives of Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, and Peggy Lee and, of course, Parker himself. As a world premiere it contributed to the development of the work that included both new arrangements of standards and original music with always the possibility that there will be other productions to follow. “Ghost-Writer” completes the season with “a little gem” of a play that meets all our criteria of exceptional use of language, great roles for actors, and an interesting historic context while at the same time touching on universal themes of creativity and, of course, love.

In sum, the shows this season were based on important historic periods, emphasizing the diversity of our world and the humanity that holds it together. By choosing these themes and producing this work in the intimacy of our 130-seat theatre, we offer memorable theatre experiences using this art form for the highest purpose possible.

Calendar

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Enjoy teas from all around the world while learning about cultures and traditions. Register by calling 703-746-1771.
Tour. 1 p.m. starting at the Friendship Firehouse, 109 South Alfred St. Learn about Alexandria’s firefighting history. Tickets are $6 for adults and $4 for youth ages 10 to 17. Advanced reservations required. Call 703-746-4994.
Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Ln. Port City Playhouse, Alexandria’s award-winning theatre company, is pleased to conclude its 2012-13 season with “Six Degrees of Separation” by John Guare. General admission tickets are $18 for adults, $16 for seniors, military and students, and $14 for groups of ten or more.

Tour. 1 p.m. at The Mount Vernon Theater. Watch “The Wil.” $12/adult; $10/student, senior. Reservations can be made at 703-419-3250.
Native Plant Sale in Parkfairfax. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in D.C. metro area hosts a record 16 vendors from 4 states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade in historic Parkfairfax, 3601 Valley Drive. 571-232-0375 or www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org.
Theater Performance. West Potomac High’s Beyond the Page Theatre Company will present “The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein” at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Based on the 1974 film of the same name, the production is a parody of the horror genre. This production is recommended for mature audiences only. Tickets are $12 and available at the door.
Tour. 1 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 109 S. Alfred St. Learn about three major fires, the techniques used to fight them and the five volunteer companies of the early city. $6/adult; $4/youth ages 10-17. Reservations required, 703-746-4994.

SUNDAY/APR. 28
Boney James. $55. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.
Carpenter’s Cook-Off. Noon-3 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

See Calendar, Page 2G

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ENTERTAINMENT

From Page 24

Vernon Ave. Taste samples of food from chefs around the area. There will be a live auction, music, and more. $350/adults; $150/child. 6-9 p.m. Buy entrance with Food & The Beast and entrance to the cook-off. Proceeds benefit Carpenter’s Shelter. Visit www.carpenterscoolkff.com or call 703-642-1673.

Flowers in Fashion. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Hear the history of personal adornment with flowers and interconnections between botany, garden aesthetics and clothing design. View fabulous floral motifs in fashion to see how their shapes and meanings have inspired designers through the ages. For people 13 and older. $28. Call 703-642-1773 to register.

Ballet Performance. 2 p.m. Come see the Virginia Ballet Company perform the full-length Don Quixote Ballet at the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Adults $10; children, students and seniors $20. plus a $3 fee per each ticket. Visit www.virginiaballetcompany.org or call 703-249-8227.

Music. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Listen to music by the Mike Gillispie jazz quartet. Free. 703-746-1702.

Fair. 12-30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 9909 Windmill Lane. Games, baby, birds, gardening and green products will be featured at the Spring Green Fair. Free. Email greensanctuary@mvrc.org.

Flash Mob. 1-4 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dress in Civil War attire and participate in a flash mob. Free.

THROUGH APRIL 28

Exhibit. “Artistic Don IV” will be on exhibit at Green Spring Horticultural Center Gallery, 4603 Green Spring Road. Works by watercolor artist Carolyn Grosse and photographer Stephen Gavarecki are featured in a joint show. Paintings range from realistic to abstract; photographs include his window series and moody landscapes. Free. Visit www.greenspring.org or 703-642-3175.

MUSIC

Sunday, April 28, 2013

Bridal Gown. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn how to choose the most flattering dress. Free. 703-746-1702.

APRIL THROUGH JUNE 23

Exhibit. “Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists” at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Hours at the Historic House are Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. and at the Horticulture Center are Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday noon-4:30 p.m. Visit potomacvalleywatercolorists.org.

THROUGH APRIL 30

New Items on View. See the suite George Washington likely wore during his inauguration at Federal Hall at Mount Vernon Estate until April 30. Also on view until March 31 is the first draft of his first inaugural address. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 1

Jazz. Fourplay will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. $55. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Acoustic Performance. Hayes Carll performs at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Come see The Nocturnals perform scapelike music. Free. Call for ticket information. 703-746-1705.

Dance. 7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 110 N. Union St. Jane Franklin Dance will perform “Green Fits Menthol” both inside and outside the theater. Free. Donations suggested. 703-933-1111.

Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The NOVA community chorus, jazz ensemble and Alexandria band will perform. Free. Box parking is $4. 703-845-6252.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

Music. John Hodgman performs at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. $25. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Port City Playhouse, Alexandria’s award-winning theatre company, is pleased to conclude its 2012-13 season with “Six Degrees of Separation” by John Guare. General admission tickets are $18 for adults, $14 for seniors, military and students, and $14 for groups of ten or more.

Dance. 7:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. SpringFling vintage dance party– with the Swing Band of the Alexandria Citizen Band. $15.

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at The Mount Vernon Theatre. Watch “The Wiz.” $12/adult, $10/student, senior. Rehearsals can be made at 703-619-3259.

Musical Extravaganza. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, 3001 Beauregard St. The 150-voice combined chorus of the Northern Virginia Chorale and NOVA Alexandria Choir, accompanied by the NOVA Annandale Symphony orchestra, present a Masterworks concert of favorite choral works by Verdi and Wagner and more. $15/adult, $10/student, $5/children under 12 free. Tickets at www.northernvirginiauniorale.org or 703-239-2180.

Concert. The United States Air Force Band will perform folk music at 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-6558.

MAY 3-7


FRIDAY/SUNDAY/MAY 3-12

Art Exhibit. 7-10 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Thirteen T. Williams High School students selected as this year’s National Art Honor Society inductions will show their work.

FRIDAY/MAY 3-THURSDAY/JUNE 6

Art Exhibit. See “The Death of Fear,” an ink and pencil exhibit by Nelson Gutierrez. Visit www.bhnv.com or 703-549-7500.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Music. Howie Day performs at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. $25. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Reception. 3-6 p.m. Attend the Bethany House of Northern Virginia’s second annual Garden of Light Reception, located at the Holiday Inn & Suites rooftop patio, 625 1st St. The event will feature refreshments, live music and a silent auction. Tickets are $55 per person, and will directly benefit victims of abuse served through BHVN’s Family Assistance Program. Visit www.bhvms.org or call 703-658-9500.

Workshop. 9-10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Workshop on creating garden containers led by Green Spring’s staff. $35 per person. Call 703-642-5173 to register. Pay $20 supply fee by May 1.


Concert. 8-10 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Come see “May be Time for Jazz.”

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Port City Playhouse, Alexandria’s award-winning theatre company, is pleased to conclude its 2012-13 season with “Six Degrees of Separation” by John Guare. General admission tickets are $18 for adults, $14 for seniors, military and students, and $14 for groups of ten or more.

Concert. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Chuch, 8511 Riverside Rd. Come see Tom Prasada-Rao perform. $18/ general admission, $15/advance. Visit www.focumuse.org.

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at The Mount Vernon Theatre. Watch “The Wiz.” $12/adult, $10/student, senior. Rehearsals can be made at 703-619-3259.

Bowties & Belles. 4-7:30 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club. Watch the Kentucky Derby while enjoying a raffle, live and silent auction, music and more. $180/patron ticket includes parking and a private bourbon tasting. $80/individual. All proceeds benefit the Campagna Center. Visit www.campagnacenter.org to purchase tickets. Reception. 3-6 p.m. Enjoy the Holiday Inn and Suites rooftop patio, 625 1st St. Come meet the artists for the Bethany House Of Northern Virginia’s “Garden of Light” art exhibit. Visit www.bhnv.com or call 703-658-9500.

BBQ. St. Luke’s Church will host its annual Carney’s Johns BBQ, featuring North Carolina-style pulled pork, house-made sauces, grilled chicken, hot dogs, beans and cole slaw. Food is available for eating under the tent or carry-out. Proceeds benefit church programs and community outreach. 703-765-4342.

MAY 4 THROUGH JUNE 2


SATURDAY/SUNDAY/MAY 4-5

Celebration. George Washington’s Mount Vernon presents “Eating with more than 150 years of historic preservation with a weekend of activities, tours and a heady lineup of behind-the-scenes tours led by the archaeology, preservation and collections staff.

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‘Pacific Pulse’

Nicholas Aman attempts to express the nature of the Pacific coast through his solo exhibition, Pacific Pulse, at Alexandria’s Artspac 109 Gallery, will be on display through May 11. Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Friday noon-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday noon-5 p.m.
Burke Brownfeld

Founders Park Threatened

To the Editor:

High-rise development on this waterfront parcel was staved off in 1979 as the result of concerted efforts by nearby residents and Ellen Pickering, among others. Since that time Founders Park Community Association (FPCA) members have been proactive stewards of this very popular and highly used city park. Each year, as a participant in the state’s Adopt-a-Park initiative, the Association ploughs earned program funds back into the park for upgrades and ascetic improvements, such as wrought-iron fencing for the flowerbeds.

Largely through FPCA efforts, this park contains a volleyball court and a large dog exercise area, while the rest is open, inviting and available to many: all Alexandria residents and tourists from around the world. It was decided early on that the park would remain passive so as many family-size gatherings as possible could share this space. It would not be available for events, such as the large Red Cross Festival, originally held there, whose damage closed the park for many days while it was being repaired.

Now apparently some on city staff think it would be a good idea to change this policy—a policy that has been so successful—and allow events. This is wrong, and it speaks to a slippery slope that will forever change the bucolic greenway of this park to a noisy and crowded place with attendant problems.

These events would take up too much park space outside the dog exercise area and would be completely out of the southern lawn, green refuge. This goes against good public policy that shows how important it is for urban areas to provide safe and unreserved havens for its residents and visitors. While there might be good intentions behind this proposed change, it should be dismissed because of many unintended consequences, including parking shortage, street congestion, public servants diverted to patrol large event groups, sod and sprinkler damage, etc.

All this said, the important message here is that we residents of Alexandria must protect not just Founders Park, but all our city parks because they are scarce and valuable resources.

Linda Couture
Alexandria

Defending Dog Park

To the Editor:

A correction to the April 18 Letter to Editor, “Protect the Park” from small special events.

The Dog Exercise Area in Founders Park is not the north half of Founders Park. The dog park is a quarter acre of the 5-acre riverfront park located in the northwest park corner near N. Union and Oronooco streets.

The author states special events will monopolize the park, keeping it from public use.

This is untrue. The park will remain open to the public for activities— the designated area for special events is the southern lawn of the park. Worse, the author attacks the dog park as being oversized, uninviting to park users and unfriendly to young families to scare off any possibility of a special events proposal by the city’s Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs being approved.

Why is it that people tend to rationalize their viewpoint with incorrect information?

The Founders Park Community Association adopted the park years ago but it seems some of their members want to keep the park to themselves. They forget it is a public park for all to enjoy be it a dog romp, a volleyball game, a family picnic on the riverfront or possibly a small special event enforced by the capable RPAC special events staff.

The Founders Park Dog Exercise Area is one of 18 dog parks in the city, a recreation component recognized by City Council, maintained by the RPAC and the city-recognized Founders Dog Park.com, a 501(c), not-for-profit Virginia state organization via City Volunteer Maintenance Agreement. The FDPC has raised and donated funds and materials valued over $30,000 to the city’s Living Landscape Fund to maintain and improve Founders Dog Park with donated trees, selected benches, turf improvement contributions and a select ADA water fountain to be installed in the upcoming months.

The group also sponsors a monthly litter and waste collection of the entire 5-acre park every third Saturday at 9 a.m.—all are welcome and bring your dog. The dog park users are good neighbors that use and care for the park 24/7/365.

Cathleen Curtin R.A, AIA
City of Alexandria Beautification Commission, Co-Chair
FoundersDogPark.com, President

Police Ignore Multiple Calls

To the Editor:

All day and night on Sunday April 21, a car on the 300 block of Wythe had its alarm blaring and lights flashing until almost midnight.

Hundreds of residents in the north end of Alexandria could not sleep. The police did nothing to stop the noise despite numerous residents calling multiple times.

We now know what it feels like to live in a third world country where you are helpless to stop a nuisance and the local authorities ignore you.

We have written to Mayor Euille to investigate. But he doesn’t live in the north end anymore.

Mrs. Herbert Harmon
Alexandria

How City Counts Parking Spaces

To the Editor:

As the City Council moves forward with plans for waterfront development and considers other issues that impact resident parking, such as allowing for food trucks, I feel compelled to reiterate the parking concerns residents have in Old Town.

A few weeks ago, I was surprised when my husband received a parking ticket on the corner of Prince Street and S. Lee Street. He was parked four feet from the crosswalk, and was within a foot parallel to the curb, so I wasn’t sure why he received the ticket. Imagine my surprise when I looked up the city code cited on the ticket and found that in Alexandria, it is illegal to park within 15 feet of an intersection.

There are several problems with this ordinance, the least of which being that it is randomly enforced (after all the time we have lived in Old Town and parked in similar spots, this is the first and only time we have been ticketed). There is no signage to this effect so how are visitors to know about this law, particularly when you see cars parked up to crosswalks on nearly every corner in Old Town? Also, there are numerous locations with “No Parking From Here to Corner” signs throughout Old Town that are within 15 feet of an intersection, which mislead residents and visitors to think that absent a sign, it is OK to park up to the crosswalk line.

Troubled by this issue, I decided to look at the 2012 Old Town Area Parking Study to see if it took this city law into account when it surveyed numbers of parking spaces (and subsequently concluded that there is sufficient parking in Old Town for residents). No methodology was outlined in the final report of the study, so I reached out to the city’s Transportation Planning Division for a clarification. After a couple of rounds of emails, the city essentially confirmed that the study included “illegal” parking spaces in inventory counts (the email response in
Great Job Opportunity!  
The high volume Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant (George Washington's Mount Vernon) is seeking Wait Staff. Food Servers & Hostess staff. Free meals, uniforms, parking, and flexible scheduling. Email: MVemail@MountVernon.org

Director of Nursing  
Paul Spring Retirement Community is seeking candidates for the position of Director of Nursing. We are looking for an individual who enjoys responsibility and possesses strong management, communication skills and the ability to oversee and manage the nursing department.

Minimum Qualifications:  
• Current Virginia license as a Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse.  
• Minimum of two years nursing experience, preferably in a long-term care setting.  
• Basic computer skills, including e-mail and Word.  
• Ability to be on call during nights, weekends, and emergencies.  
• Must be compassionate, caring and enjoy working with seniors and their families. If you enjoy managing people, team building, and making a difference in the lives of your staff and residents, we would love to talk with you about this position. Experience in long-term care and management is preferred.

This full-time position offers a competitive salary along with a complete benefit package including health, dental, and life insurance, paid time off, and 401k plan. For consideration, please complete our online application at WWW.WRNJ.COM. Applicants will need resume and salary requirements. Paul Spring Retirement Community is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements
Award-winning Chef To Head Del Ray’s Sushi Bar

From Page 5

presented the judges with an array of ginger-inspired dishes: a lobster seaweed wrap in a light ginger sauce for starters; an entree that blended sticky rice, barbecued eel and foie gras; and a ginger smoothie with an Asian fruit dish for dessert.

Then the wait began for Kannasute, who advanced to the finals by defeating then-governor Jeb Bush’s personal chef.

“It was an exciting competition to be a part of,” said Kannasute, who was eventually declared the winner in the prestigious competition. “It helped fuel my passion for competitive cooking.

That was seven years ago and Kannasute, now 33, has since moved to Northern Virginia and will take on the role of master chef at the new Sushi Bar restaurant slated to open on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

The restaurant, still waiting on some equipment, is hoping to open in early May.

“We didn’t make this decision in a vacuum,” Anderson said. “We’ll only do dinner for now to allow him time with his family and to adjust to his change in lifestyle.”

Kannasute, who trained with Japanese Iron Chef Hiroyuki Sakai, is excited to make his Alexandria debut.

“I keep hearing what a great community Del Ray is,” Kannasute said. “I’m really looking forward to being a part of it.”

Urban League Presents Annual Scholarship Awards

Morgan Lataillade of T.C. Williams High School; Beatrice Williams of C.D. Hylton High School, Zoel Stackhouse of Forest Park High School, Gabriela Alvarez of Dominion High School, Kristian Welch of Tascara High School, N’Dri N’Cho of Washington-Lee High School, Javier Mery of Potomac Falls High School, Tyrone Simpson of South County Secondary School, Nathaniel Smith of Lake Braddock Secondary School, and Osasenaga Aghayere of South Lakes High School were honored with $5,000 scholarships at the 23rd annual Northern Virginia Urban League Community Service Scholarship Awards Dinner on Friday, April 19, at the McLean Hilton in Tysons Corner.

In addition to the student scholarships, two additional awards were given to:

The Boeing Company for outstanding leadership in science, technology, engineering, math and to Dr. Randall Pinkett, president and CEO of BCT Partners. Pinkett received the Trailblazer STEM Award.

The Northern Virginia Urban League Annual Scholarship Program provides academic awards in the amount of $5,000 each to African-American, Hispanic and/or Native American high school seniors from Alexandria, Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William, and Fairfax County public or private schools.

People

Award-winning Chef To Head Del Ray’s Sushi Bar

“The Sushi Bar in Del Ray will feature dishes by award-winning chef Saran “Peter” Kannasute.

Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

“I love to cook and am passionate about food,” said Kannasute, most recently of Sushi Rock in Arlington. “I was drawn to Japanese food for its flavor and artistry. It’s much more creative than Thai food.”

The official name of the Sushi Bar, located between Holy Cow and Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray, is actually the Japanese kanji symbol for “dream.”

“The symbol doesn’t have anything to do with sushi,” said owner “Mango” Mike Anderson. “We liked how that particular Japanese symbol looked and chose it for the restaurant.”

The Sushi Bar will be the final installment of three restaurants opened by Anderson and partner Bill Blackburn in Del Ray.

“Our three restaurants concept didn’t change much from the original plan,” Anderson said. “We were always going to have a BBQ place and always going to be doing sushi. We changed horses on the Asian fusion concept by listening to customers who told us that Del Ray needed a great burger place.”

Anderson said it was important to get the others up and running first in order to concentrate properly on finding the right sushi chef.

“A lot of sushi chefs are on the reclusive side but Peter is very outgoing and social,” said Anderson. “He likes the interaction with customers so we’re going to let him take the chopsticks and run with them.”

“The Sushi Bar will be about 1,900 square feet of restaurant space in Del Ray and the Sushi Bar is about 1,900 square feet.

“We didn’t think the adults-only concept was a big deal,” Anderson said. “But people here are proud of their support for local businesses and some felt offended and shunned. That was not our intent.”

Blackburn noted that there is 100,000 square feet of restaurant space in Del Ray and the Sushi Bar is about 1,900 square feet.

“I keep hearing what a great community Del Ray is,” Kannasute said. “I’m really looking forward to being a part of it.”

Peter has a newborn less than a week old as well as 1-year old at home,” Anderson said. “We’ll only do dinner for now to allow him time with his family and to adjust to his change in lifestyle.”

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TC Freshman Girls Make Clean Sweep at Noxontown

The T.C. Williams' girls' freshman 8 crew team made it a clean sweep at the Noxontown Regatta this past weekend, winning their third and final race on the Middletown, Del., race course to follow-up on victories in their two other appearances there this year.

The Titan rowers earned their final victory in convincing fashion, putting on a charge over the last 500 meters of the 1,500 meter course to take the lead and cross the finish line with a time of 5:47.14. This was less than five seconds behind runner-up Washington-Lee.

While the T.C. Williams freshman and varsity girls' rowing teams were competing at the Noxontown Regatta in Delaware, the T.C. boys were competing at the Smokey Jacobs Regatta at Occoquan. Leading the way for the T.C. Boys was the varsity 4, who came in third in their race with a time of 6:04.55.

Also coming in third was the T.C. Williams' boys' second 8, who crossed the finish line with a time of 5:47.14. This was less than five seconds behind runner-up Lake Braddock.

It was also notable because the Second 8 rowers usually compete as a Lightweight boat, meaning they were "racing up" at the Occoquan and were competing against rowers who were larger in size. Strong performances at Occoquan were also turned in by the T.C. Williams' boys' freshman 8, who placed second in the morning heat and went on to capture third place in the afternoon final, and the T.C. boys' novice 4, who also captured third place in their race in the afternoon.

In addition to the boys, the T.C. Williams girls also raced two boats at the Smokey Jacobs Regatta, including the girls' junior 4, whose first place finish in their race was nullified due to a penalty, and the girls' novice 8, who won their morning race against five other boats with a time of 4:14.70, nearly three seconds faster than runner-up Lake Braddock.

Members of the novice 8 include coxswain Amanda Eisenhour and rowers Olivia Anthony, Jessica Mellon, Lily Warden, Katie Murphy, Sierra Arnold, Reed Kenny, Cobie Johnson, and Emily De-Bodene. The T.C. novice girls are guided by Coaches Matt Given and Cathy Hott.

The T.C. Williams crew team will compete next on Saturday, April 27, at the Charlie Butt Regatta in Georgetown. On Sunday, the team puts down its oars for the day and picks up sponges for the annual T.C. Crew Car Wash fundraiser, which will be held from 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the lower parking lot at Minnie Howard. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to help pay for new launches, motors, radios and other safety equipment that was purchased during the off season.

For more information on T.C. crew and this Sunday's car wash fundraiser, visit their website at www.tcwcrew.org or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alexandria.crewboosters.

TC Freshman Girls Make Clean Sweep at Noxontown

The T.C. Williams girls' freshman 8 made it a clean sweep this past weekend by winning their final race on Noxontown Pond, following up on two other victories on the race course earlier this spring. Members of the Titan frosh 8, shown here after the race with coach Patrick Marquardt, include (from left) Maggie Chamberlain, Tasha Magallon, Amelia Bender, Sarah Scroggs, Hannah Posson, LeeAnn Richards, Harper Jensen, Giulia Pastore and Abby Prall.

T.C. Williams Baseball Falls from First Place

Titans shut out by struggling Annandale.

By Jon Roetman

Gazette Packet

The T.C. Williams baseball team climbed to the top of the Patriot District standings with a 5-3 victory against defending state champion Lake Braddock on April 17. After losing to South County the following day, the Titans received a lesson from Annandale on Monday.

The Titans, a team strong enough to beat perennial powers Lake Braddock, South County and West Springfield, are looking for their first trip to the Northern Region tournament since 2009. The Titans lost to South County, 10-8.

Blair said the Titans are learning how to deal with success. This season, TC has beaten perennial powers Lake Braddock, South County and West Springfield.

It's been a combination of a year-long process," Blair said about the Titans' success. "The kids have been working hard all year long."
Letters

From Page 27

dictated that unless there was a “No Parking From Here to Corner” sign, parking spaces were counted up to intersections). So for the purposes of ticketing residents and visitors, you cannot park within 15 feet of an intersection in Old Town, but for a parking study to determine whether there is sufficient parking in Old Town it is acceptable to park within 15 feet of an intersection unless there is a sign posted to the contrary? Does anyone else see a huge problem with this?

I hate to say it, but this does not give me a lot of faith in the city as we embark upon waterfront redevelopment projects. Old Town needs a real parking study. Parking is already a huge problem in Old Town, and it will only get worse as redevelopment moves forward. I hope the City Council and parking planners do the right thing, and I encourage all Old Town residents to join me in urging them to do so.

Katherine Viar
Alexandria

Losing Pools

To the Editor:
Drip, drip, drip — that’s the sound of Alexandria’s pools going down the drain. Lee — closed. Ewald — closed. Colasanto — closed. Warwick — proposed to close in just over two months. That leaves Old Town and Chinquapin as the only two major public pools in the city — and those will be gone in 5 to 10 years. Why? Because hardly any money has been spent on new pools in the last 20 years (the only exception is the postage stamp of a pool at Houston). There is a lot of discussion during this budget process about the problems caused by deferred capital investment by previous City Councils. You need look no further than the pool situation to see that.

The Seaport City — surrounded by water on all sides — Cameron Run, Four Mile Run, the Potomac River — will not be able to provide swimming lessons to its residents in the near future. To see the need for people knowing how to swim, just look at the name of the Houston pool — the Memorial Pool — honoring several Alexandrians that drowned over the years.

To make matters worse, $9 million in future money for fixing the pools was taken out of the 2014 budget. What’s going to happen? We are fortunate to have a City Council that understands the situation. They required the city to provide funding estimates for deferred capital projects. That includes up to $30 million for new pools in the city. But even that has a catch — the council has to vote for a tax increase to get that money.

Pools are one of the few recreation activities that all age levels can enjoy — from 3 months old to 103 years old. You don’t
and DASH to shame. For example, the planned eight stations for Del Ray and Carlyle have a capital cost about equal to a single DASH bus.

Myth: CaBi funding could be redirected to non-transportation uses. Fact: CaBi capital and operating costs come from transportation-specific local, state or federal funds.

Jonathan Kral
Secretary
Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Myths about Bikeshare
To the Editor:
I am writing in response to recent letters criticizing the Capital Bikeshare (CaBi) program in the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Myths about CaBi seem to be spreading and I’d like to set the record straight.

Myth: Bicycling is frivolous — walking is just as good. Fact: Bicycling takes 1/4 of the energy of walking the same distance, and is typically 2-3 times faster.

This is why people who have discovered bicycling like it so much and do it so much. The 240 stations in the D.C./Arlington/Alexandria CaBi system move almost as many people daily as the DASH bus system. Surveys show that CaBi stations increase sales at nearby businesses.

Myth: People who already own bicycles won’t use CaBi. Fact: CaBi speeds up the last mile from the transit station to the home or office. As a result, people who use CaBi with transit arrive faster than people who simply use transit.

Further, studies show increased bike sales in cities that have bikeshare. Myth: CaBi could operate at no cost, just like Citibike in New York. Fact: New York’s Citibike was only able to obtain a major sponsor because CaBi, the largest bikeshare system in the USA, was very successful. Because Citibike is still under construction, is it hardly an example for us to follow. CaBi is a proven success and Citibike is an experiment that has not yet begun — not the other way around.

Myth: CaBi is expensive. Fact: No public transportation system pays for itself.

Roads, sidewalks, buses, and rail only exist because we support them with property, income and other general taxes. In terms of capital and operating costs per person moved, CaBi puts Metro and DASH to shame. For example, the planned eight stations for Del Ray and Carlyle have a capital cost about equal to a single DASH bus.

Myth: CaBi funding could be redirected to non-transportation uses. Fact: CaBi capital and operating costs come from transportation-specific local, state or federal funds.

Jonathan Kral
Secretary
Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Ideal of Equality
To the Editor:
The Boy Scouts are among the many organizations that help make Alexandria such a fine place to live and grow.

Civic, religious, and educational organizations sponsor troops across the city, some dating far back in the century since Scout ing began. Alexandria troops old and new are active, growing, and instilling lessons in friendship, survival, love of nature, citizenship, and more. On equality, however, Scouting is lagging behind other institutions, American business, and society as a whole.

Next month the BSA national council will finally vote on a proposed policy stating that “no youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone.”

This would be a welcome and long overdue change, without which many more parents refuse to consider letting their boys join. As an Eagle Scout and a Scouting parent and volunteer, I very much hope that BSA will take this important step toward espousing the ideal of equality taught and cherished by Scouts and the Scouting movement as a whole.

Tom Tyler
Alexandria

Prescription for Danger
DROP OFF UNUSED MEDICATIONS ON APRIL 27 10am—2pm

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNUSED AND EXPIRED MEDICATIONS ON APRIL 27, 10am-2pm!

Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Avenue
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Alexandria Gazette Packet ❖ April 25 - May 1, 2013 ❖ 33
Alexandria Set To Exceed Debt Ceiling

From Page 1

have gradually inched upwards in recent years, leading to a situation in which Alexandria leaders are facing a future with an unprecedented level of debt.

“This trend is evident regardless of whether the Potomac Yard Metrorail is included in the calculation, meaning that the city’s debt ratios ... are worsening,” the report concludes. “For the FY2014 budget, BFAAC observes that some of the metrics are now hitting the limits without the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station included.”

Spending items that remain off the books include borrowing associated with the waterfront plan, the Beauregard redevelopment, potential federal mandates on upgrading the combined sewer system and the six new schools planned by Alexandria City Public Schools. That’s a load of uncertainty for the city. Nevertheless, members of the committee are recommending that City Council members avoid raising debt policy targets and limits.

“I don’t think the idea should be dismissed so lightly,” said Councilman Tim Lovain, a former chairman of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. “It doesn’t look right to have guidelines that are due to be exceeded without bothering the bond houses.”

The report cautions that additional borrowing would “adversely impact” the city’s bond rating, which currently receives the highest rating from two of the three New York City bond-rating agencies. The report comes at a time when City Council members are putting together changes to City Manager Rashad Young’s proposed operating budget, which council members are currently considering. In the next few days, council members will be submitting potential additions and deletions that will be debated as the deadline closes in for fiscal year 2014. “We need to increase the amount of current operating funding that is going to our capital budget,” said Councilman Justin Wilson, a former member of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. “The more money we put in today and tomorrow and the day after, it’s less money we need to borrow.”

Even when the cost of building the Potomac Yard Metrorail station is removed from the calculation, Alexandria is on track to exceed debt policy benchmarks in two separate categories — debt as a percent of real property assessed value and debt as a percent of personal income. Members of the committee noted that this is the first time BFAAC has observed this trend, a phenomenon that city leaders say is no cause for alarm.

“To the degree at which that it’s been exceeded in this current (capital improvement plan) is not a serious problem,” said Jinks. “Now do we have challenges left that we are going to have to figure out our next step?” Absurdly right.”

When the cost of the new metro station is added to the books, the city will exceed debt policy benchmarks in all three categories for the first time. That means Alexandria is about to open the books on a new fiscal chapter. For now, members of BFAAC are raising some red flags for members of the City Council to consider during the upcoming budget deliberations.

“Their job is to be Cassandra on fiscal issues, and that’s good,” said Lovain. “They raise warning signs so that council is paying attention.”

School Board Members Clash over Raises for Teachers

From Page 1

against the measure. “My concern is the impression we may have left as far as being concerned about spending public funds.”

Step increases are a way to award longevity, awarding higher pay to employees who have moved up the pay scale by staying at Alexandria City Public Schools long enough to move to the next salary level. The amendment Lewis proposed during the final budget session last week would replace Sherman’s across-the-board increase with a full step increase that would be effective midway through the 2013-2014 school year. Budget officials said that would cost about $5.2 million, a price that Lewis said may be too much to handle this year.

“I know it’s not everything we probably want to give,” said Lewis. “But under the fiscal constraints we are under, it would cost us half the amount.”

SCHOOL BOARD members approved an operating budget of $227 million, a 4 percent increase compared to last year. Board members are asking City Council for a $185 million appropriation, which is a 3 percent increase compared to last year. Although School Board members have voted for a budget, their work is not finished. They’ll have to reconvene after City Council approves a budget and finalize the document, which could still see significant changes.

“We respect the fiscal challenges of the City Council, and we are pleased to provide a budget that is within the targets set by the mayor, council and city manager,” said School Board Chairwoman Karen Graf in a written statement. “Having taken office in January, the School Board carefully considered the comments and input from the principals, community members and staff over the past two months.”

The budget includes new reading textbooks for elementary school students and new social studies textbooks for middle school students. It also funds the Family and Community Engagement Centers popularly known as FACE, a program so popular that the threat of reduced funding prompted dozens of parents to stage a revolt during one School Board meeting. One part of the budget that has received scrutiny in recent years is the amount of money spent on consultants, a part of the budget known as “purchased services.” Newly elected School Board member Bill Campbell said he would like to see a reduction of the $6.8 million budget purchased services to pay for a step increase for the entire school year rather than kicking in halfway through.

“I think we have historically had too many consultants come in and provide training to make us feel good without providing any sustained value,” said Campbell. “We need to get away from that.”

SCHOOL OFFICIALS are trying to balance the books in a difficult environment, when revenues are constrained and enrollment trends continue to spike. Projections call for enrollment to increase by about 600 students in the coming year, pushing the total student population to just under 14,000. Although the cost of living in Alexandria is higher than many other areas in the region, the percentage of public students who live in poverty is the highest in Northern Virginia — 56 percent.

“The core of this budget is an ongoing commitment to support our students through excellence in the classroom,” said School Board member and parent of two Bill Sherman in a written statement. “The addition of ELL teachers, counselors, preschool teachers and related support services maintains our beliefs and continues our improvement through direct and focused instruction.”

Now the action moves to City Hall, where members of the Alexandria City Council will have the final say about how much money is transferred to the school system. Although the division has other sources of revenue from the state and federal government, money from the city constitutes the lion’s share of the funding. That means School Board members and parents will by lobbying City Council members in the next few weeks, although some board members say they fear the existing division could be used as a wedge to justify reducing the city appropriation.

“We’re hoping that we’ve made our case, and we’ve explained our position on things, and hopefully they’ll be supportive,” said Campbell, the longest-serving School Board member. “That’s democracy.”