

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



**Amy Ramirez takes aim with her pie and prepares to throw.**



**Rasheed Crenshaw braces for impact as he poses as the target in the crème pie throwing booth.**

## Faces Full of Fun

*The green at T.C. Williams High School was full of fun and games, music and books as the annual Titan Expo got underway on Sunday afternoon, May 5. All proceeds from the annual fair support the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.*



**Gabriela Knutsen and Abby Drexler take turns making cones at the T.C. Williams sophomore Titan Expo booth.**



**At the Human Slot Machine game, Reel Mustafa, Razaen Adam and Betty Tesfriam talk with prospective players.**

## Esten Concert Raises \$22,000

**A night of songs, jokes and nostalgia in Old Town benefits T.C. Williams grads.**

BY CHELSEA H. BRYAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Durant Arts Center multipurpose room rarely gets as glamorous as it did on Friday night, May 3, when The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria ushered Charles “Chip” Esten onto its brightly lit stage.

The “Nashville” star, who plays Deacon Claybourne on the hit series, informed the audience of Alexandrians that though he would be whoever they

wanted him to be that night at autograph time — Deacon, Charles or Chip — he was the boy they knew. “It’s Chip not Charles. It’s Puskar,” said the star as he walked on.

In hometown fashion, Esten opened with “Back Home,” noting it was also the first song his character Deacon Claybourne sang on the ABC show.

Esten punctuated his set list — equal parts tongue-in-cheek country songs, “Nashville” hits and co-writ

SEE ESTEN CONCERT, PAGE 28

## Historic Tax Increase

**After ousting two Republicans, all Democratic council hikes tax rate four cents.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria City Council unanimously supported a historic four-cent hike in the tax rate this week, raising the average residential property tax bill \$314 to \$4,888. The \$624.8 million budget is \$37 million more than last year, including \$6.1 million more for schools and an extra \$1 million to pay down the debt. The four-cent increase in the tax rate

### REGIONAL TAX RATES

- ❖ Alexandria City Council members increased the tax rate 4 cents from \$0.998 for every \$100 of assessed value to \$1.038 for every \$100 of assessed value.
- ❖ Arlington County Board members increased the tax rate 3.5 cents from \$0.971 for every \$100 of assessed value to \$1.006 for every \$100 of assessed value.
- ❖ Fairfax County Board of Supervisors increased the tax rate 1 cent from \$1.085 for every \$100 of assessed value to \$1.075 for every \$100 of assessed value.

— from \$0.998 for every \$100 of assessed value to \$1.038 for every \$100 of assessed value — is

SEE 4 CENTS, PAGE 25

## Reconsidering Reorganization

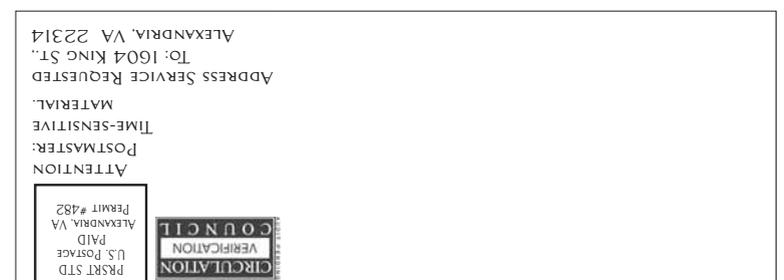
**School Board asks superintendent to re-evaluate four years of middle school data.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

When students arrived at Hammond Middle School for the first day of classes in the fall of 2009, they were stepping into three different schools: Hammond 1, Hammond 2 and Hammond 3. Across town, students at George Washington

Middle School were entering GW1 and GW2. Suddenly, Alexandria had five middle schools instead of two — a reorganization that Superintendent Morton Sherman promised would create a closer relationship between administrators and students.

SEE MIDDLE SCHOOL, PAGE 29



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## Another Explosive Debate

When he left Alexandria to head to Florida, former City Manager Jim Hartmann said his biggest regret during his time in office was failing to notify City Council members of the ethanol transloading facility on the West End until weeks after the operation began. That led to an unsuccessful court challenge that cost taxpayers half a million dollars in legal fees. Now city officials are facing a new crisis on the West End. This week, Alexandria leaders learned from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality that Norfolk Southern is at it again. The railroad wants to double the ethanol transloading operations at the facility on the West End, a process that involves moving the class 3 hazardous material from rail cars to tanker trucks. "Alexandria has longstanding concerns about the operations at this facility, and is strongly opposed to any increased operations," said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille in a written statement. "Also, it is difficult to accept that the City learned of this proposed change from VDEQ and not from Norfolk Southern." Currently, the railroad can offload 14 tanker cars a day. Now they want to offload 30 cars a day, an increase which triggers a permit for air quality. Neighbors in Cameron Station aren't sure what to think about the ongoing dispute between the city and the railroad, which is regulated by federal officials. "Maybe if we hadn't taken them to court four years ago, the relationship would be a little bit better," said Don Buch, president of the Cameron Station Civic Association. "It doesn't sound like we are any better prepared to know what to do than we were four years ago."

## Bright Idea

Year after year, Councilwoman Del Pepper wages an unsuccessful battle to persuade her colleagues to fund keeping the holiday lights lit all year round on King Street. Pepper frames the issue as an economic development tool, setting a memorable scene for visitors.

"I like to call them business-development lights," said Pepper. "There's nothing frivolous about them."

It's a losing battle — or at least it has been year after year, as her colleagues have denied the funding request. This year the lights went dark on April 15.

"If you haven't noticed it's really dark out there now," said King Street jeweler David Martin. "I see shadows walking down the street, and I used to see faces and happy people. Now I don't see any of that because it's difficult to see them in the dark." Now Pepper and Martin are joining forces to fill the gap. City officials say they are willing to keep the lights on until June if Pepper and Martin can raise some of the money needed to fund the extra months. Martin says he's already raised about half the amount, and now that city leaders have struck a deal he can start spreading the word to raise enough money for next year. He says keeping King Street bright would be good for business and good for the city.

"When I sell things in my store, I turn the lights on when I get here and I don't turn them all off when I leave. Who can imagine turning the lights off to sell a city?"

## Pedestrian Fatality

Nobody knows why a 4-year-old boy ran into traffic on the 6300 block of Stevenson Avenue Saturday morning. Whatever the reason, it was a split-second decision that ended in tragedy. The child died after being struck by a Jeep, and the mother was sent to the hospital with what police called "non-life threatening injuries."

Police say the accident happened at 11 a.m. Saturday morning on a part of Stevenson that had no crosswalk. The boy was taken to INOVA Fairfax Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Police say the driver of the vehicle, an 84-year-old man, stayed at the scene. Police have yet to identify the boy or his mother. "Investigators are still waiting to talk with the mother," said Jody Donaldson, spokesman for the Alexandria Police Department. "So we haven't identified them."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

# NEWS



The Police Memorial at Waterfront Park bears the names of Alexandria police officers and sheriff deputies who have died in the line of duty.



Ken Howard, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Police Chief Earl Cook place a wreath at the Police Memorial in Waterfront Park May 6.

PHOTOS COURTESY APD

# Honoring Those Who Serve

## Ceremony pays tribute to fallen officers.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Dozens of active duty and retired law enforcement personnel joined Chief of Police Earl Cook and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne as they placed a wreath at the Police Memorial in Waterfront Park May 6 to pay tribute to Alexandria police officers and sheriff's deputies who have died in the line of duty.

Cook read each of the 16 names inscribed on the memorial, dating back to Constable Elijah Chenault, who was the first reported officer killed in the city in



Ford

1823, and ending with Corporal Charles W. Hill, who was slain in March of 1989.

As part of National Police Week 2013, the name of Alexandria Police Sergeant Morton Ford will be unveiled on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during a candlelight vigil ceremony May 13.

A 26-year APD veteran, Ford died June 18, 2011 from health complications related to a gunshot wound suffered in the line of duty.

Other Police Week events include the Officer Down Memorial Page 5K run, the Police Unity Tour Arrival and Wreath Laying ceremony and National Peace Officers Memorial Day Service on the West Front Lawn of the Capitol.

For complete details about National Police Week 2013, visit [www.policeweek.org/schedule.html](http://www.policeweek.org/schedule.html).

# Another Vision for Landmark Mall

## Public listens to revitalization effort, again.

By CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The old adage, "The more things change, the more they stay the same," was on public display Wednesday night, May 1, at Landmark Mall when the latest iteration of a proposed revitalization was submitted to public scrutiny and comment. Even the public comments, written and spoken, echoed past sentiments.

In spring of 2004 Mayor William D. Euille announced the possibility of a major "renaissance of the West End" during a press conference in the mall's center court. "My campaign slogan was One Alexandria," Euille said at the time as he touted the mall's revitalization as a major pillar of that slogan.

At that same meeting, Maura Feaheny of General Growth Properties, owners of the mall at that time, said, "Although our plans are still very fluid, we hope to get underway by 2007 with completion by 2009." Instead General Growth hit turbulent financial waters and their vision was consumed by the down spi-



John Simon, executive vice president, Howard Hughes Corporation, details plans for the revitalization of Landmark Mall.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/GAZETTE PACKET

ral of that fiscal whirlpool.

Four years later, Alexandria's new Planning and Zoning Director Faroll Hamer expressed renewed optimism about the rebirth of Landmark Mall. "I see this plan as a new opportunity. This is an opportunity to do something better. This is a chance to take something already built and make it better," she said at yet another public meeting concerning the mall's resuscitation.

Now, five and one half years later, the city and Howard Hughes Corporation, the new owners of the mall, have unveiled another plan for the mall's future. It again calls for a combination of retail, commercial and residential development that would transform the existing enclosed mall into an open air urbanized venue

bookended by Sears and Macy's.

"Both Sears and Macy's have agreed to allow Hughes to submit their proposal to the city and move ahead with their plan," said Gwen Wright, division chief, Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning. "This is a major change from the past," she said.

Those plans will go before the city Planning Commission and then City Council in June, according to Wright.

SEE PUBLIC COMMENTS, PAGE 30

# PEOPLE



**Robert Sprague of PCI Communications accepts the Business Philanthropist of the Year Award.**



**David Speck and Marcia Neuhaus Speck are presented with this year's Legacy of Giving and Service Award from Andrew Blair and Gene Steuerle at the ACT Generations of Giving Gala May 2 at the Patent and Trade Office.**



**U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, Bryan Porter, Bonnie Porter and Councilman Justin Wilson.**

## Spring for Alexandria 2013

### Serving the community.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

For three days, thousands of Alexandrians came together for the 6th Annual Spring for Alexandria, a citywide weekend of events that focuses on giving and service throughout the community.

Co-sponsored by ACT for Alexandria, Volunteer Alexandria, the Alexandria Jaycees and the City of Alexandria, the series of events kicked off May 2 with the ACT Generations of Giving Gala at the U.S. Patent and Trade Office.

More than 300 people turned out for the nautical-themed gala that honored David Speck and Marcia Neuhaus Speck with the Legacy of Giving and Service Award.

May 3 began with 225 community leaders attending Volunteer Alexandria's Business Philanthropy Summit breakfast at First

Baptist Church.

Honored were PCI Communications as the Philanthropy Business of the Year, Bonnie Baxley of Community Lodgings as Nonprofit Leader of the Year and Allison Cryor DiNardo as Board Leader of the Year.

Following the breakfast more than 500 volunteers participated in Community Service Day, donating time at sites across the city performing necessary upkeep and repairs.

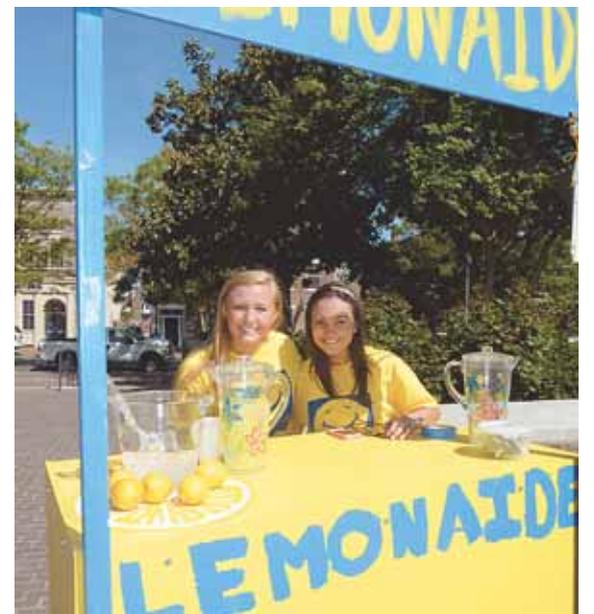
The weekend wrapped up May 4 with the Jaycee-sponsored Alexandria Gives Day at First Baptist Church.

Throughout the three-day event, the all-youth run Kids Helping Kids organization hosted lemonade stands throughout the city, culminating with Lemonaide Day on May 4 with all proceeds going to The Fund for Alexandria's Child and Casa Chirilagua. See [www.springforalexandria.org](http://www.springforalexandria.org).

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET



**Bonnie Baxley is presented with the Nonprofit Leader of the Year Award by Joe Shumard.**



**St. Stephen's and St. Agnes students Sarah Shaw, 17, and Katarina Williams, 18, volunteer at the Lemonaide stand in Market Square.**



**Sally and Digger Harper with Alexandria Seaport Foundation executive director Mari Lou Livingood.**



**Former governor Jim Gilmore with ACT executive director John Porter.**



**Alexandria resident Alison Starling of ABC7 News emcees the ACT Gala.**



**Old Town residents Don and Anne Kelly.**



**Nonprofit Board Leader of the Year Allison Cryor DiNardo with Lyles Carr and Heather Jelks.**



**Paul Friedman, Councilman John Chapman and John Bordner.**

# Sengel Honored SAR presents Law Enforcement award.

The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel for his distinguished career enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sengel was presented the award April 27 in a ceremony at Belle Haven Country Club. He has served as a prosecutor in Alexandria since 1979 and was first elected Commonwealth's Attorney in 1997.

In addition to leading the city's Commonwealth's Attorney's office, Sengel was appointed by the Governor of Virginia to serve on the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission and the Virginia Forensic Science Board, which he chaired for two terms. He currently serves on the board of the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, the state agency which provides training to Virginia prosecutors. He also serves the community as a board member of the Center for Alexandria's Children and a member of the Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board.

A resident of Alexandria since 1960, he is a graduate of T.C. Williams High School. He has a B.A. from Williams College and a J.D. from the University of



Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel, second from right, receives the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal April 27 from the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Pictured from left: Scott B. Stephens, co-chair, Public Service and Heroism Awards; Col. Jack T. Pitzer, Ph.D., CPPO, co-chair; S. Randolph Sengel, Commonwealth's Attorney; and Michael Elston, Esq., chapter president.

Virginia Law School. He also attended the Yale Divinity School.

The award read in part: "Mr. Sengel's outstanding service to his community and state represent the finest traditions of the legal profession and the law enforcement community, and he brings great credit to himself, the City of Alexandria, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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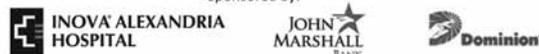
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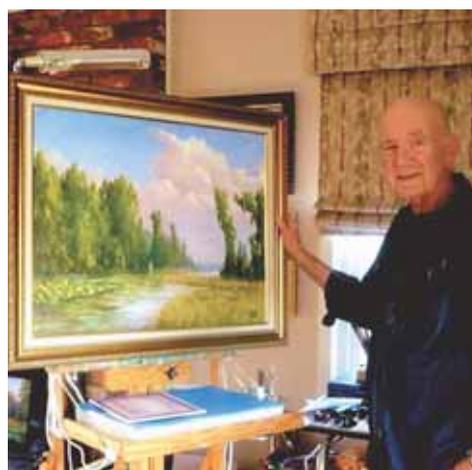
**2013 Public Safety Valor Awards Ceremony & Luncheon**

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Sponsorships for both events are still available. For more information, visit [www.alexchamber.com](http://www.alexchamber.com) or email [jay@alexchamber.com](mailto:jay@alexchamber.com)

# MOTHER'S DAY



**Emergent artist Donald Rogich poses with a landscape work of the scenic George Washington parkway near Alexandria. Price points for work by local artists can range from \$100 to \$500, and are a heartfelt present for mom.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF DONALD ROGICH

## Emergent Art for Mom

### Suggesting gifts for Mother's Day.

BY MONTIE MARTIN  
 GAZETTE PACKET

Emergent art can make a cherished gift for mom this Mother's Day, yet finding the right tone or subject can be difficult. According to a trio of emergent Alexandria artists, landscape paintings make for thoughtful gifts as they bring to mind powerful connections to previous experiences.

"Landscapes are popular with everybody, they evoke an emotion," said Biruta Kelly, an Alexandria-based emergent artist. "If someone has an interest in a particular place that would be a good present."

A large variety of landscape paintings makes finding that special place for mom all the easier, and the prices for emergent works

mean they are readily accessible. Price points for work by local and emergent artists can range between \$100 and \$500 depending on the size and scale.

"Local art is much more reasonably priced, so much of professional art is out of reach for most individuals," said Donald Rogich, an Alexandria-based emergent artist. "A landscape painting makes a lovely gift, it becomes a conversation piece, especially if you have a connection with the place."

The style of a work is also something to consider, whether it be photo-realistic or something flushed and abstract. The most important part, however, is that a work matches a personality.

"It's so important for people to own at least a single piece of original art," said Judy Heiser, and Alexandria-based emergent artist. "When I walk into someone's home and they are collecting, it reaches into the culture, it's creative and fresh, you see someone's personal style."



### LES ARTISTES LOCALE

PLEIN AIR OIL PAINTERS

Biruta Kelly is a graduate of Boston University and George Washington University Law School. Biruta spent most of her career as an attorney in private practice in Washington, D.C., and now is engaged in artistic endeavors. She studied art in college and in a variety of programs offered in the D.C. area, primarily at the Art League of Alexandria.

In recent years, she has focused on plein air and landscape painting, frequently using her travels as the inspiration. Biruta also is a sculptor, most often modeling the human figure. Biruta and her husband live in Alexandria, Virginia.

While working professionally as an engineer, Don painted almost all of his life as a hobby. Since retiring over a decade ago, painting went from a pastime to a passion, a totally absorbing act of creation which brings him joy and brings joy. By extensive study with a number of the instructors at the Alexandria Art League, Don has improved and matured his art and now regularly displays and sells his work.

When he first started painting landscapes, choosing a subject was difficult. Now Don finds almost anything paintable; he feels there are great subjects all around us and we just need to be able to see them. He paints to illuminate the beauty he sees for others to appreciate. Don works almost exclusively with oils in plein air and from photos in a style characterized as realistic impressionism. Larger works are created using stretched linen canvas; smaller works are done on canvas panels.

Initially from the western coastline, now living in Alexandria, Heiser's art is inspired by her world travels. She studied dance, theatre arts, film, IT communications in California, Johns Hopkins, and studies at the Concordia Design College and the Art League. Heiser combines her experiences and a variety of modes and mediums in her work and is mostly known for her "abstract expressionism" and "abstract realism".

Heiser delves into the dichotomies and the delicate balance of life. She draws from nature which provide a provocative outcome intended to stimulate the senses and imagination. The interactions of her color palette are designed to provide an escape from reality, further evoking serenity and joy. Her creations are reflections of life's milestones, struggles, adventures, and triumphs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BIRUTA KELLY

**A collection of landscapes by Alexandria artists Biruta Kelly, Donald Rogich and Judy Heiser. The trio met at Valley Farm in Mount Vernon, and held a successful show with work on display at local coffee shops. The work is comprised of landscapes, and styles range from photo realistic to more abstract works.**

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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Hossien Garakyaraghi and Ahmed Loghmanian, center back, gather for an Old Town Masterpieces employee photo May 7. The landmark Oriental rug store will be closing its doors May 31 after 35 years in business on King Street.**

# Changes Under Foot

## Old Town Masterpieces closing after 35 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**hey grew up together in Iran, and in 1971, Ahmed Loghmanian and Hossien Garakyaraghi made the move to America to study at George Washington University. But it wasn't long before the pull of the family business back home beckoned them to open Old Town Masterpieces, a landmark Oriental rug store closing its doors after 35 years in business.

"I think he met George Washington," Loghmanian said in jest to Garakyaraghi, his lifelong friend and brother-in-law. "That's how long we've been here."

First opened at 1632 King St. in 1978, Old Town Masterpieces was forced to relocate when its original building was torn down as part of the redevelopment of Upper King Street.

"King Street was dangerous when we first came here," Loghmanian said. "It seems like we've seen every change in Alexandria since the beginning."

A longtime fixture at the corner of King and Alfred streets, Old Town Masterpieces quickly became the go-to place for designers and residents from throughout the region when it came to Oriental rugs.

"We have family in the carpet business in Hamburg, Germany, which is the international hub for Persian and Oriental rugs in Europe and the U.S.," said Loghmanian, a third-generation rug importer. "That is why we were always able to get the best for our customers."

But after 35 years, the partners have decided it's time to close up shop.

"It's time for us to retire," Loghmanian said. "We still have some business dealings in real estate but that will be easier to handle in retirement."

Loghmanian said the store will close its doors at



**Ahmed Loghmanian and Hossien Garakyaraghi stand outside Old Town Masterpieces, the Oriental rug store they founded together 35 years ago. The King Street store will be closing at the end of May.**

the end of May and the retail store White House Black Market will open in the space sometime over the summer.

"We want to thank our Alexandria and D.C. customers for supporting us for so many years," Garakyaraghi said. "I hope in our final weeks we will have a chance to say goodbye to everyone who helped make us a success."

Old Town Masterpieces is located at 903 King St. For more information call 703-836-9028.

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## OBITUARIES

### David Edward Jacobs, Jr.

David Edward Jacobs, Jr. of Boca Raton, Fla., formerly of Alexandria, died Feb. 10, 2013 surrounded by his loving wife and family members. He was the beloved husband of Alva Jacobs and the devoted father of a daughter, Barbara Jacobs Evans.



Both before and after WW II, Ed was employed by Western Electric (Lucent Technologies/AT&T) retiring in 1983 after 43 years with the company. In 1980 Ed graduated with an associate's degree from Northern Virginia Community College.

Ed was born in Alexandria on Dec. 15, 1921 to Catherine Fegan Jacobs and David Edward Jacobs, Sr. of 412 South Pitt St., Alexandria, where he lived until 1942. On Oct. 4, 1942 he married Mary Alva McNey of Washington, D.C.

In 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the South Pacific for 3 and a half years during WW II. He was attached to the 3rd Marine Division during the war, and served on Guam, Bougainville, Guadalcanal and New Zealand.

Ed was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Alexandria, from birth until 2013. He served as an altar boy and attended St. Mary's Primary School and the Brothers' School for junior high. He attended his last three years of high school at George Washington High in Alexandria, graduating in 1941.

Ed and his wife, Alva, lived at 710 Chetworth Place, Alexandria, for 50 years where he was an avid woodcarver and topiary artist. His topiary landscaping was featured in the Washington Post in July 1992 and he received several Alexandria Beautification awards for his topiary work. His yard and topiary were on the Alexandria Garden Circuit tours.

Ed is survived by his wife, Alva, of over 70 years; daughter, Barbara and her husband, Richard; grandchildren, Thomas Evans and Wende Bardfeld; and six great-grandchildren, Hayden, Garrett, and Jenna Evans and Jaxon, Landon, and Holdyn Bardfeld.

Funeral service will be conducted at the gravesite in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Alexandria at a yet-to-be determined date. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

### John W. Merck

John W. Merck died on March 9, 2013, at age 87. Friends are invited to funeral services at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, in the Memorial Chapel, Ft. Myer, Arlington, followed by military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.



John, his wife, Carolyn, and their family made their home in Old Town, Alexandria for over 40 years. He grew up on a farm in South Carolina and attended The Citadel before joining the Army Air Corps during WWII. As an Air Force fighter pilot he was stationed on Okinawa and in Tokyo. After seven years of active duty, he remained an Active Reserve Pilot, retiring in 1973 as Lt. Colonel.

John received his BA and MA from the University of Georgia where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a Ph.D. in demography and statistics from Duke University in 1960. At the USAF Human Resources Research Laboratory in San Antonio, Texas, he was a research statistician and com-

puter scientist from 1956 to 1967. He then joined the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, Calif., as director of USAF Manpower Studies. In 1970 he moved to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget where,

over the next 20 years, he held the positions of Senior Economic Analyst, Chief of the Veterans Affairs Branch, and Deputy Associate Director for Government Operations. In 1994 he retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs as Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Analysis. John's professional passion was designing large computer systems; he relaxed with cycling, golf, reading, classical music, and crossword puzzles.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; three children, John Merck Jr., Rebecca Merck Coplon, and Geoffrey Merck; a brother, and three grandsons.

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# NEWS



Mac Slover explains the display of items that were buried in a time capsule at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.



Valery Davenport shows off his Miracle League awareness bracelet on Opening Day at the new Kelley Cares Miracle Field.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

## Play Ball! Miracle League opens 2013 season.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Miracle League of Alexandria began its 2013 season April 27 with a ceremony at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field that included the dedication of a time capsule that was buried with mementos depicting the history of the site and building of the field.

"This has been an incredible journey," said Mac Slover, director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Alexandria. "There's a real history here, not only to the location of the field but to the dedication it took to get the new Miracle Field built."

Construction on the synthetic turf field, developed specifically for use by special needs athletes, was completed last fall on the grounds of the Nannie J.

Lee Recreation Center following a two-year fundraising campaign.

"We're excited to finally have our Miracle League season begin play on the Miracle Field," said Slover, who added that buddy volunteers are still needed for this season's games. "We encourage more special need athletes of all ages to come out and join us."

Miracle Field awareness bracelets were distributed to participants and their families to mark the Opening Day festivities.

"Look! Look," said Miracle League player Valery Davenport as he showed off his bracelet. "This is so exciting. I love playing here."

For more information on how to participate or volunteer with the Miracle League, visit [www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com](http://www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com).

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## Some Limits, More Disclosure

Virginia does not benefit from elected officials being awash in cash donations and gifts.

It seems prescient now. Virginia's "corruption risk report card" in March 2012 ranked the state 47 out of 50, with an overall grade of "F." That's "F" for failing, mostly because Virginia is one of four states that place no limits on political contributions at all.

Virginia got a failing grade for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the Commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud, as we said last year. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and gifts with some reporting loopholes is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as recent news about state elected officials and gifts well demonstrate. It could be better for businesses to have some limits as well.

The National Conference of State Legislatures [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org) summarizes how states handle contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits. These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited. In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political

parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total in a four-year election cycle. You don't have corporations and CEOs giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

From 2009-2013, Dominion has made \$2,838,506 in political contributions to candidates and committees, 58 percent of it to Republicans, 39 percent to Democrats, according to the Virginia Public Access Project [www.vpap.org](http://www.vpap.org).

In 2012, Pepco donated \$2,000 to Friends of Martin O'Malley, Maryland's governor, \$10,000 to the state Democratic committee and \$5,000 to the state Republican committee.

In 2013, Pepco's total contributions currently reported are \$2,000.

In 2013, Dominion Resources' total contributions currently reported are \$450,000.

In 2010, Pepco donated \$4,000 each to Friends of O'Malley and Friends of Anthony Brown, his running mate. In 2008, Pepco donated \$10,000 to state Democratic committee and \$10,000 to the state Republican committee. (Pepco contributions are according to the Maryland Campaign Finance Reporting System.)

Dominion donated \$52,500 to McDonnell's campaign and another \$50,000 to his inaugural committee. Dominion also gave \$80,000 to the campaign of state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D), \$26,500 to Ken Plum (D) for delegate, \$25,000 to Mark Sickles (D) for delegate, \$18,500 to

EDITORIAL

Toddy Puller (D) for Senate, \$17,000 to Mark Herring (D) for Senate, \$14,157 to Tim Hugo (R) for delegate, \$12,000 to Tom Rust (R) for delegate and \$11,000 to Janet Howell (D) for Senate, just to cover some of the larger, local contributions.

Does it matter? Given the history of power outages, it's unlikely anyone would want to trade service from Dominion for service from Pepco.

Gifts are another question. In Virginia, even if an official does violate the very limited rules on gifts, the code states that "Violations of this subdivision shall not be subject to criminal law penalties."

Call us naive, but we would have bet that neither Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli nor Gov. Bob McDonnell would be susceptible to taking gifts under dubious circumstances, yet both are in the news for having failed to report gifts totaling tens of thousands of dollars. McDonnell says disclosure of gifts to his immediate family members are not required. Cuccinelli says he forgot about some gifts he received.

The State Integrity Investigation is "designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right." See <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

Virginia's access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by "lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed, limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications," according to the report.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Raising Healthy Children with Healthy Minds

BY MARY ANNE WEBER

CHAIR OF THE ANTI-STIGMA HOPE CAMPAIGN OF A PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHIER ALEXANDRIA

Back in 2011 President Obama announced the creation of a National Prevention Strategy, a comprehensive country-wide plan to increase the number of Americans who are healthy, both mentally and physically at every step of their lives. In the wake of Newtown, a new discussion erupted over mental health and the need to improve services.

That was wonderful news to advocates, families and those with mental illnesses themselves. But it soon became obvious that in many circles what political leaders were talking about was not more and better services that would guarantee good mental health for everyone, but putting people away without due process, in other words a return to those past practices that destroyed people's minds and lives as well as their families.

It hasn't happened yet, but if we loosened the safeguards and removed the civil rights of anyone deemed mentally ill, we would quickly find out that the difficult wife or laudanum-soaked mother of an Arthur Conan Doyle plot was not just a favorite twist of the Victorian novel, but a reality. It was very easy until the mid-20th century to get rid of the misbehaving teen-age girl, the aging wife or the difficult mother this way. I use the feminine because it was women who were most often put away. Children, born to these women, also remained in the asylums, often for their entire lives because they were obviously tainted. Not exactly what we should be striving for in the 21st century.

Mental Health is not the absence of disease, but a part of overall good health. It is the ability of an individual to know who they are, to be able to develop into the best person they can be and to make the decisions that are the best for them. To grow up to be a whole individual, self-directed and able to take responsibility for his or her actions, a child needs, not

### Mental Health Forum On Children and Youth

A Mental Health Forum on Children and Youth, hosted by Del. Rob Krupicka, 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 state Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Scott Surovell and representatives from area Community Services Boards (Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax-Falls Church) and the Alexandria Public Schools. Childcare will be provided for children ages 4 and up by advance registration to [Donielle.Marshall@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Donielle.Marshall@alexandriava.gov). For more information about the forum, contact [Donielle.Marshall@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Donielle.Marshall@alexandriava.gov).

only adequate, food, clothing and shelter but appropriate accessible medical care, a family that gives unconditional love, and opportunities for education, recreation and the chance to do meaningful work.

SEE HEALTHY MINDS, PAGE 25

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# ME & MY MOM



Jenny Krese of Alexandria enjoys the spirit of the Christmas season with daughter, Elle, and son, Chip, on the dock of the Inn at Perry Cabin in St. Michaels, Md.



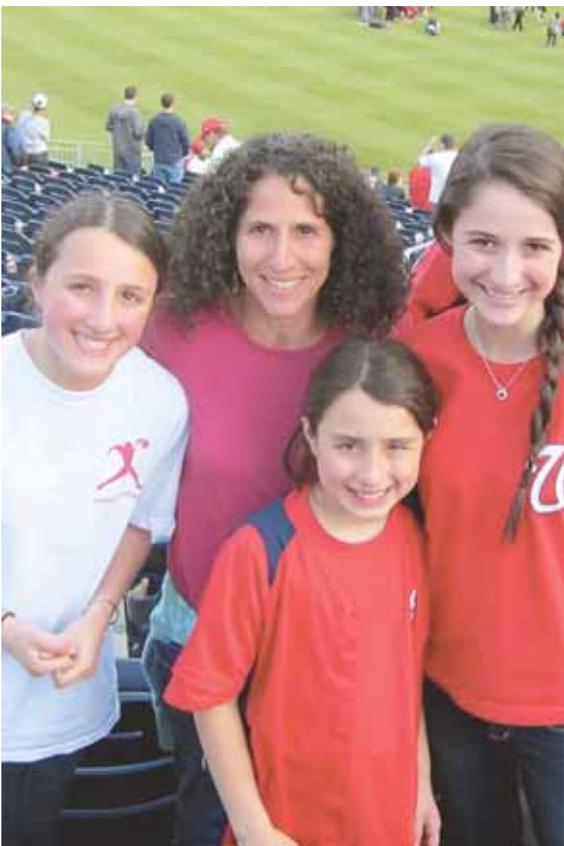
Spending a spring afternoon with mom at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Photo taken at the rotunda on the main floor. Photo submitted by: Kamalani, Mariah and Leilani Soriano.



Ann Montgomery and her daughter Rebecca getting ready for Easter brunch.



A Day at Mount Vernon: Amy Fazackerley and sons Andrew, Miles and Cade.



Julie Denton with her daughters, Alyssa, Gracie and Willa, at a Washington Nationals game.



Baby Jack Vaughn Behrens and Mommy, Ashley McNeff Behrens. He is 9 weeks old. Happy, healthy and smiling lots!



McClain Brooks, 9, of Alexandria, with her mother Allison Priebe Brooks and grandmother Florence McClain Priebe of Springfield, at the Annual Lilly Pulitzer Mother Daughter Fashion Show and Tea at The Fairmont Washington, DC.

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# LETTERS

## Unnecessary Legal Expense

To the Editor:

Hooray for whistleblowers at City Hall! They point out how our taxpayer money can be protected/used more effectively. Their initiative should not be confused with insubordination and punished. If their claims are mistaken, their supervisors should easily be able to show them their errors.

I was very disappointed to read in the April 18-24 Gazette Packet that City Attorney James Banks said he will appeal the March 8 court ruling against the city and in favor of whistleblower Henry Lewis. Because a panel of seven jurors agreed with Lewis that he was improperly fired for pointing out that the city was not taking adequate safeguards against fraud during construction of the new Alexandria Police Department headquarters, and the city attorney should already have used his best arguments during that hearing, I wonder what new arguments he plans to use to win at the next level.

If Mr. Banks believes that "a reasonable person would conclude that that there was not a reasonable belief in fraud," does he think the seven jurors were unreasonable? Mr. Banks is the outlier. Of course, we taxpayers — and I hope council and the mayor — remember all too well the recent instances of financial chicanery at City Hall. Does Mr. Banks believe it could never happen again?

Mr. Lewis' zeal in protecting the taxpayers' interests were described in the newspaper article as ensuring that the contractor filed all the necessary paperwork and that the construction firm was not billing the city for materials that had not been purchased.

I want employees to do so. Surely such due diligence is what everyone, especially supervisors, should expect. Good for Mr. Lewis for persisting, despite the attempt of senior city officials to stop him. Mr. Lewis should get a taxpayers' hero recognition. He certainly has my thanks, gratitude and admiration for his persistence.

Roy Shannon, an attorney in a separate case against the city, remarked "It seems like they (city officials) have decided that they only need to follow the rules when they want to."

These instances are causes for serious concern. I hope council and the mayor will take appropriate action and set those senior city officials straight. Perhaps they are the ones who should be dismissed.

Extensive litigation should not be necessary in a well-run city. I regret spending taxpayer funds for unwise purposes.

The budget already provides more than half a million dollars for litigation — which I'd like to spend fixing our many streets in poor condition, etc. Mr. Banks needs to allocate our taxpayer resources wisely and not pursue cases that he seems to have little hope of winning and should not win. I see no need to add taxpayers' funds to the city's general litigation budget for purposes such

as dogging Mr. Lewis. Mr. Banks has not made his case and his pursuit of injustice is a costly embarrassment.

**Ellen Latane Tabb**  
Alexandria

## Unintended Consequences

To the Editor:

There is an old adage that says that you should never enact a law you don't intend to enforce. Well that's exactly what our august council has done with their approval of a pilot program disallowing all left hand turns at the Union and King street intersection.

No one, and I mean no one, is obeying the many new "No Left Turn" signs posted not only at the Union/King intersection but also on the unit block of King and at the Lee and King intersection.

What this means is that all of the camera collected data at a number of other intersections will be totally invalid when deciding whether or not to make this pilot program permanent.

All of this has resulted because the council did not direct the Police Department to put an officer at the King/Union intersection to stand out in the middle of the intersection to direct traffic during the peak traffic hours on Friday and Saturday nights. If not a uniformed police officer, then how about a sheriff's deputy, traffic enforcer or



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Snapshot

**Turner Brennan, 18, of Oakland Terrace, caught a snakehead May 1 in a pond at Belle Haven Country Club.**

even one of our school traffic guards? Does five hours on Friday night and five hours on Saturday night seem so unreasonable?

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

**GOLD WORKS**  
by David Martin

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Sherry York

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# The Astonishing 'Motor 8'

BY HARRY M. COVERT

In less than two weeks, May 20 to be exact, the final segment in the brutal and senseless shooting of an Alexandria police officer gets under way in the city's Franklin P. Backus Courthouse.

Officer Peter Laboy was shot in the head on routine daytime duty, suffering a catastrophic brain injury, on Feb. 27. This story has resonated around the Commonwealth and throughout the nation and generated thousands of prayers on his behalf.

## COVERT MATTERS

The word "miraculous" has been the description of doctors, nurses, well-wishers and print and broadcast media for his recovery. The outpouring of support for the injured veteran police officer seems unprecedented and his well-being in speaking and walking is nothing short of astonishing.

There is much more progress to be made but Officer Laboy seems well on his way.

The 17-year veteran police officer is known as "Motor 8" in his motorcycle unit. He is a beloved family man with four sons and nurse wife and has served distinctively in the police department. His resume includes tenure as a detective, a crash investigator and is a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team.

Laboy is also known as "Superman," his favorite superhero.

On May 20, charges of malicious assault to a law enforcement officer and use of a firearm in a felony assault by the alleged shooter Kashif Bashir will be presented to the Alexandria Circuit Court grand jury.

Bashir, a 27-year-old Prince William County resident, only has had traffic charges in the past. He was cited for failing to obey traffic signal in 2007, speeding in 2009, failing to pay attention while driving in 2012 and failing to obey a highway sign in November 2012.

Bashir was unshackled and without leg irons as he sat impassively during the April 11 preliminary hearing in Alexandria General District Court. Security was heavy with some 10 sheriff's deputies on duty and a large presence of uniformed motorcycle officers.

His family members sat somberly during the three-and-a-half hour proceedings. They appeared frightened, alone and did not



comment to the heavy media contingent.

The story of the day belonged to the prosecutors where the job of Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter was to present probable cause that Bashir was the shooter of Officer Laboy. He was joined by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Molly Sullivan.

Porter's assignments are cases involving homicides, firearm offenses, assaults on police officers and are vice and narcotics case supervisor. Sullivan handles vehicular manslaughter and maiming cases, hit and run and arsons.

Porter brought up police witnesses and a state forensic scientist to describe the shooting and how the alleged shooter, Bashir, raced down the George Washington Parkway and then on Fort Hunt Road where he was nabbed by a Fairfax County police officer.

It was not a pleasure to recall the incidents of that fateful day. Suzanne Laboy listened to the charges, too.

Bashir's public defenders — Emily Beckman and Stephanie Snyder — heard the charges, made notes and also questioned the witnesses. They didn't call any witnesses on behalf of their client and Chief Judge Becky J. Moore certified the charges to the grand jury. Without comment, deputies removed Bashir from the courtroom back to jail to await the grand jury.

Of course, this story isn't over. No reason for the shooting was attributed to Bashir in the hearing. There may be one but that may be learned in Circuit Court.

Whether Officer Laboy appears either in court or in court as a witness certainly depends on his physical progress.

The annual Alexandria Police and Sheriff's Memorial Service will be held May 9 at First Baptist Church. It has a special meaning this year as Police Week gets under way May 12. Law enforcement personnel will take time to remember their special calling. It would be exceptional if Peter Laboy is able to attend, too.

Meanwhile, the young man charged with pulling the trigger of a .9mm will be sitting in an isolated jail cell awaiting his fate, considering the consequences.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Snapshot

**10:11 a.m., May 4: The Big Flea Sale at Mount Vernon Community School, Oxford Avenue in Del Ray. The annual fund-raising flea market raised \$35,000 for the Mount Vernon Community School PTA. This is the most money the event has raised since it began in 2007. The sale is organized and staffed by parent volunteers, who began planning this year's market last August. Mount Vernon Village Shopping Center donated warehouse space in which the PTA collected donations all fall and winter. The PTA also opened those doors to shoppers, and raised \$20,000 before May.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

Last Friday night at 7 p.m. a cop was to be found at the Union/King corner.

The Traffic and Parking Board saw through this folly, however they had to consider it after it was passed by the council; the cart before the horse again. Council needs to start assessing the unintended consequences of its actions before acting in such a slipshod manner.

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## A City's Priorities

To the Editor:

A front-page story in a recent Gazette Packet recalled that T.C. Williams High School, the multi-million-dollar citadel of learning on upper King Street, has been described as a "persistently lower achieving school."

An ad in the same edition urged readers to protest the city's decision to bleed its library budget in order to fund Bikeshare. It is irresistible to conclude that the performance of the city's main high school and the frailty of its commitment to a vibrant library system are somehow connected.

After all, Alexandria is a community where no bookseller can survive, where the main library is an expensive architectural eyesore starved of books, and the riverfront and its long history have been handed over to developers, whose priorities are well known. In such a community, one would expect that building calves and thighs would be more important than building

minds. Strong is good, of course, but so is smart.

If the city, in the form of the council, really believes Bikeshare is worth doing, it should find a way to do it without gaffing a struggling, but essential, library system.

**Carl A. Posey**  
Alexandria

## Home-Grown Candidates

To the Editor:

I would like to make all Alexandrians aware of two dedicated, home-grown candidates running for constitutional offices in Alexandria — Dana Lawhorne for Sheriff and Bryan Porter for Commonwealth's Attorney. They represent the very best of bright, dedicated, and effective Democratic candidates, and I am pleased to support both of them.

Dana Lawhorne is the incumbent Sheriff, having been elected in 2005. Dana was born and raised in Alexandria and attended our public schools. Since his graduation from T.C. Williams High School, Dana has served in public safety positions, 27 years as an Alexandria Police Officer before serving as our Sheriff for the past 7 years.

In my opinion, Dana's crown-jewel achievement is his leadership in taking the Sheriff's Office to a high-visibility position in our Alexandria community. Before his election, Sheriff's Deputies were mostly seen only if you went to the Courthouse, or jail, or serving court papers. Now they participate in numerous community events,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Presidential Scholar

**St. Stephens & St. Agnes student Douglas Maags has been recognized as one of the 141 high school seniors nationwide selected for the 49th class of the U.S. Presidential Scholars by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects honored scholars annually based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals. The 2013 ceremony will be held June 16, when each honoree will receive a Presidential Scholar Medallion. Since 1983, each Presidential Scholar has been offered the opportunity to name his or her most influential teacher. Maggs selected Vonnique Van Way of St. Stephens & St. Agnes School.**



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

...serving needy residents, educating people about the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office, and assisting in emergencies like the recurring flooding at the foot of King Street.

Dana also shows leadership in forging a close bond with the police department and other public-serving Alexandria departments. As an insider for part of his tenure, I observed the Sheriff's Office transform from a disorganized, poorly-managed department into a highly efficient, well-managed, and effective one.

He has increased the Sheriff's budget for staff training and necessary equipment, while saving the Alexandria taxpayer money in the process.

Bryan Porter was also born and raised in Alexandria. Bryan is a product of our public schools, where his father served for 20 years as the principal of T.C. Williams high school. In 1995, Bryan began his career in law enforcement as a police officer. As he served with the Alexandria Police Department on the night shift, he attended George Mason School of Law where he graduated in 2001. It was then that Bryan joined the Commonwealth's Attorney's office as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney under Randy Sengel, the current Commonwealth's Attorney. When Randy announced his retirement earlier this year, he endorsed Bryan for the position.

While a prosecutor, Bryan has tried over 40 jury trials involving some of the most serious offenses in Alexandria, such as murders, carjackings, and gang offenses. While busy trying cases, Bryan taught thousands of law enforcement officers about the law. He was invited to teach constitutional law at the National District Attorney's Association Drug Prosecution Seminar this year. Bryan also won the 2013 Von Schuch Award, which is given yearly to Virginia's most distinguished assistant Commonwealth's Attorney by the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys.

Bryan intends to continue the community-oriented approach of his predecessor. He believes that the safety of our community is paramount, while treating victims of crime with compassion, and serious offenders with appropriate punishment.

For their entire adult lives, Dana and Bryan have brought their passion and dedicated service to their work for this community every day. They deserve our support and vote this November.

**Jack Powers**  
Alexandria

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For more than half a century, families have said "Grace is the place for my child."

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**Tuesday, May 21st**  
**11:00-12:00**

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10 am - 1 pm

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10 am, **Rocknoceros**  
12 pm, **Cathy Bollinger**  
Admission is free. Rain or shine.

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**OPEN SUN JUST LISTED**

4326 Adrienne Dr  
\$590,000  
**Fabulous Southwood - Your own Private Park!**  
 Spacious four bedroom Colonial in unique 1.17 acre park like wooded setting just off G.W. Parkway in premier Mt. Vernon location. Special features include 3 levels, updated kitchen, main level family room with fireplace, walkout lower level, magnificent rear deck overlooks gorgeous wooded grounds. Exceptional privacy with 1.17 acre lot backs to acres and acres of wooded parkland. OPEN SUN 5/12, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; R-Southwood to corner of Adrienne Drive.

**OPEN SUN JUST LISTED**

2305 Creek Dr  
\$735,000  
**Huge Colonial - Prime Stratford Location!**  
 Unique opportunity-huge Colonial overlooks creek in Stratford for remarkably reasonable price! Features include large room sizes, updated kitchen & baths, main level family room, five large bedrooms, master suite with sunroom, finished lower level with full walkout, hardwood floors, 2 car garage and many recent improvements. Large deck overlooks gorgeous grounds backing to small tidal creek. Super value! OPEN SUN 5/12, 1-4! GW Pkwy S; R-Stratford; L-Camden; L-Creek Dr.

**JUST LISTED**

9443 Mount Vernon Cir  
\$985,000  
**Williamsburg Classic!**  
 Custom home by master builder Gene Cullinane captures the ambiance of Colonial Williamsburg and Old Town Alex. Spacious \_\_\_ sq ft home in prime location in area's premier water front community. Special features include: imposing entry, high ceilings, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail. 4BRs, 3.5BAs & oversized 2 car garage. Gorgeous grounds enhanced by distinctive courtyard entry. Rare opportunity to own a Cullinane original.

**JUST LISTED**

4605 Dolphin Ln  
\$698,500  
**Spacious Creekside Home!**  
 Dock your kayak or canoe in your own back yard! Exceptionally spacious four level home on gorgeous half acre grounds backing to tidal creek leading to Potomac River. Special features include: bright open floor plan, hardwood floors, main level office, eat-in kitchen, family room with fireplace, 4 BRs, 3.5BAs, and oversized 2 car garage. New floating dock. Huge potential—3 nearby homes recently sold in the \$1.1mil range!

4004 Belle Rive Terrace  
\$1,299,000  
**Master Piece-Near River!**  
 Must see-one of area's most spectacular properties! Top quality renovation resulting in almost 8000 sq ft of updated elegance. Features include grand room sizes, high ceilings, custom trim detail, refinished hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths. 5BR, 4.5BA. Main level living room, dining room, family room and library. Walk out lower level rec room, media area & wine closet. Multi-tiered decks with hot tub capitalize on privacy of grounds. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac near river in premier Belle Rive.

**NEW PRICE**

4721 Tarpon Ln  
\$879,000  
**Unbelievable Waterfront Price!**  
 Just in time for Summer Fun! \*Your own waterfront with private dock-just mins from Old Town! \*Recently dredged canal provides easy access to open waters of Potomac-a privilege typically reserved for \$1,000,000+ homeowner! \*3 Fin levels! \*Exceptionally bright, open fir plan! \*Stunning sunroom addition! \*5 BRs including water view master suite! \*Gourmet kitchen!

**SOLD!**

5211 Polk Ave  
\$1,085,000  
**Seller Offering Closing Cost Credit up to \$15K!!**  
 Best of both worlds-new home size and amenities combined with "in-town convenience". Spacious new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hardwood flrs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and oversized 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price!

**NEW HOME**

8313 Mount Vernon Hwy  
\$699,000  
**Brand New Home at Used Home Price!**  
 Be the first to call this property home. Special features include: high ceilings, open floor plan, gourmet eat-in kitchen with gas cooktop, custom cabinets and granite, family room with fireplace open to kitchen. Stunning master suite with huge walk-in closet and luxury bath. Thermal windows & upgraded insulation. 2 car garage. No detail has been overlooked.

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FIRST time on market! Fabulous expanded one level beauty with walk-out lower level. Lot slopes gently to Little Hunting Creek. Water views from 8 rooms and several decks. 5BR / 4 FULL BAs! Over 4,000 sq ft! Lap pool! Freshly painted! Hardwood floors! 2 docks! Wonderful Wessynton neighborhood.

**Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343**

**\$ 2,850,000**  
 Janneys Lane  
**"EXTRAORDINARY PROPERTY"**

Exclusive home and large guest house with a combined sf of app 7,000sf. Highlights include: gourmet kitchen, mahogany library, screened porch, heated pool, professional landscaping, 3 car garage. Main house has 3/4BR and 3.55 BA. Guest house has 3BR/3BA.

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841**

**\$ 3,900,000**  
 Old Town  
**"MAGNIFICENT"**

Renovated historic home with more than 5,300 square feet plus detached carriage house. 6BR / 4.5BA, gourmet kitchen, exquisite master suite with custom dressing room/closet. Professionally landscaped private grounds. The new carriage house has luxury apartment, additional parking court, gated entry and a prime location.

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
**\$ 1,060,000**  
 Annandale  
**8309 UPPER SPRING LN**

Sited on a sloping 5 acre overlooking parkland and creek, this 8 year old home features an open and airy floor plan. It has all the upgrades of upper bracket homes including 6,700 Sq ft, 5BR/4BA/2HBA, 2 gas fireplaces and a 3-car garage. Located within minutes of I-495, Fairfax Hospital and numerous shopping centers.

**Mary Bourke 703.906.5825**

**\$ 399,000**  
 Alexandria  
**"NEW LISTING"**

There is nothing left to update in this beautiful 1BR/1.5BA home at Carlyle Towers. Beautiful Mirage hardwoods in living and dining rooms. Marble foyer and powder room. Kitchen is updated with backsplash, granite, brand new hardwoods and has plenty of storage plus an eat-in area. Crown molding, ceramic and granite shower in master, and new carpet in bedroom.

**Catherine Foltz@longandfoster.com**  
**Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914**

**\$ 234,500**  
 Alex / ParkFairfax  
**"THE PRICE IS RIGHT"**

Ready for your magic touch! This spacious 1BR Garfield model has just been painted thru-out! And the hardwood have been beautifully refinished! Many windows provide good light and views of pretty landscaped open area. Priced so you can make the improvements that you want! W/D and dishwasher in unit! Recently replaced heating/cooling equipment!

**Judy Pisciotta 703.405.4485**

**\$ 279,000**  
 Alexandria  
**"HISTORIC PIED-A-TERRER . . ."**

Circa 1812, in the heart of Old Town featuring renovated kitchen and bath plus custom paint. Original refinished pine floors and wood-burning fireplace. Oversized eat-in kitchen with exposed beams. Just one block from shops and restaurants on King St. Also within walking distance to King St Metro, Whole foods and PTO. Too charming to miss!

**Val Klotz 703.303.9744**

**\$ 205,000**  
 Alex. / Belle View  
**"ENJOYABLE LIFESTYLE"**

Located minutes from shopping, the Library, the Rec Center, the bike path and the GW Parkway. Freshly painted with new windows, carpeting, kitchen cabinets and stainless appliances. Quiet top floor location. Laundry and extra storage in building. Lovely tree lined area with lots of parking. 1BR/1BA

**Teddy Marchant 703.402.0501**

**\$ 950,000**  
 North Arlington / Bellevue Forest  
**"BACKS TO TREES"**

Large all brick rambler with finished walk-out lower level and lots of privacy. Kitchen has breakfast room. Wonderful deck off first level. Lower level 5th bedroom has private bath, great for au-pair or in-laws. 2 fireplaces. Hardwood floors. 4/5BR - 3BA. Located off Spout Run.

**Gary Ansley 202.288.7946**

**\$ 624,500**  
 Alex. / Stratford Lndg  
**"MOVE RIGHT IN!"**

Welcome to this fabulous center hall Colonial featuring a beautiful ML Master suite. Updated open kitchen has SSA and opens to family room with skylight. Huge dining room with wood-burning fireplace and French doors to screened in porch. All baths freshly updated. 2nd Master on UL. Hardwood floors. Finished basement. Easy to GW Parkway. 4BR/3.5BA. I live here, I work here, I SELL HERE!

**Meg Tracy 703.864.3978**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 875,000**  
 Alexandria / Old Town  
**615 TIVOLI PASSAGE WAY**

PRIME LOCATION. Spacious 4 level townhome is located in Partners Landing. There 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car garage, hardwood floors and much more. Walk to the Braddock Metro, Traders Joe's, and just a few blocks to the Potomac river. Enjoy Spring evenings, grilling on the rear deck.

**Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441**

**Alex. / Porto Vecchio**  
**"WATERFRONT LIVING"**

#106 -\$650,000, 2BR/2.5BA A 10! Spacious, open with walls of windows. Beautifully renovated with elegant appointments, custom kitchen /bath. Huge terrace with river views. #324-\$582,000, 2BR/2.5BA Million dollar river view but needs personal touch and renovation to make it yours. Sunrises and view of National Harbor.

**Pat Tierney 703.850.5630**  
**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619**

\*Source: Information based on data supplied by MRIS and its member Association (s) of REALTORS, who are not responsible for its accuracy. Does not reflect all activity in the marketplace. January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012. Information contained in this report is deemed reliable but not guaranteed, should be independently verified, and does not constitute an opinion of MRIS or Long and Foster Real Estate Inc. ©2013 All rights reserved.

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# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

IN MARCH 2013, 189 ALEXANDRIA HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$3,200,000-\$111,000 AND 108 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,325,000-\$56,820 IN THE MOUNT VERNON AREA.

## Alexandria & Mount Vernon Top Sales in March 2013



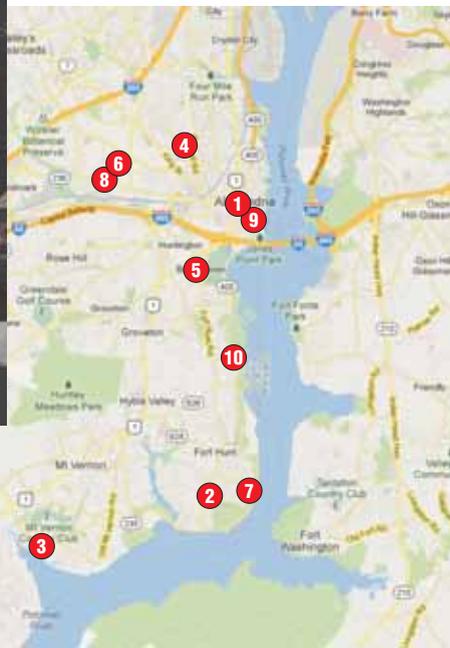
**1** 811 Prince Street, Alexandria — \$3,200,000



**2** 8728 Plymouth Road, Mount Vernon — \$1,325,000



**7** 8701 Eaglebrook Court, Alexandria — \$995,000



© Google Map data



**9** 411 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria — \$975,000



**4** 403 Lloyds Lane, Alexandria — \$1,150,000



**10** 7215 Regent Drive, Mount Vernon — \$940,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 811 PRINCE ST	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$3,200,000	Townhouse	0.14	22314	OLD TOWN		03/29/13
<b>2</b> 8728 PLYMOUTH RD	6	5	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,325,000	Detached	0.52	22308	PLYMOUTH HAVEN		03/15/13
<b>3</b> 5101 BURKE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,235,000	Detached	1.26	22309	MT VERNON TERRACE		03/29/13
<b>4</b> 403 LLOYDS LN	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.40	22302	LLOYD'S LANE		03/22/13
<b>5</b> 6104 EDGEWOOD TER	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,120,000	Detached	0.19	22307	BELLE HAVEN		03/22/13
<b>6</b> 4108 GARLAND ST	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,005,000	Detached	0.24	22304	SEMINARY RIDGE		03/29/13
<b>7</b> 8701 EAGLEBROOK CT	5	4	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$995,000	Detached	0.54	22308	WAYNEWOOD		03/29/13
<b>8</b> 4016 TANEY	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$980,377	Detached	0.25	22304	QUAKER PARK ESTATES		03/15/13
<b>9</b> 411 S. FAIRFAX ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$975,000	Detached	0.04	22314	OLD TOWN		03/01/13
<b>10</b> 7215 REGENT DR	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$940,000	Detached	0.34	22307	VILLAMAY		03/29/13

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# The Latest Trends in Kitchen Decor

Designers reveal noteworthy trends and new products for kitchens.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

From textured backsplashes to a return of retro design and hands-free faucets, the National Kitchen & Bath Association just unveiled the latest in kitchen design.

Two local interior designers recently spent time scouting the trends at the association's 2013 Kitchen & Bath Industry Show in New Orleans. Megan Padilla and Tina Geiger Keppler, of Aidan Design in Bethesda, Md., got a first-hand look at cutting-edge trends ranging from the re-emergence of nostalgia-inducing Formica in bold patterns to engineered stone counter tops that could pass for their natural counterparts.

Padilla and Keppler believe that many consumers will be interested in new cabinets with sliding doors. The appeal, they say, is that without traditional hinged doors, such cabinets will take up less space, something especially important in tiny kitchens.

When it comes to counter surfaces, engineered stones with finishes that bear a striking resemblance to their natural counterparts are in demand.

"Consumers are using engineered stone for easy maintenance," said Padilla. "They are as durable and stain-resistant as granites without the required sealing. For the person [who] wants the look of stone without the maintenance, it's a great choice. We also use engineered stones when we want a solid color or more consistent look."

Keppler adds, "I have had many clients interested in the Caesarstone that looks like marble or limestone. They resemble these natural products while not having the staining problems associated with marble and limestone. They are also antimicrobial, which is very popular."

From tiles to cabinetry, incorporating textured materials into kitchen design is a trend that's also on the rise. "We've seen a great deal of interest in textured laminates in more contemporary designs," said Padilla, who incorporated both textured laminate cabinets and a hand-carved tile backsplash into a recent remodel of a contemporary kitchen. "In more traditional designs, we're using textured tiles to bring greater depth to tone-on-tone color palettes."

Look for pops of bright colors like orange, yellow,



PHOTO BY DAVID PHILLIPICH

Designers from Aidan Design, who created this Alexandria kitchen, spent time scouting the most current trends at the 2013 Kitchen & Bath Industry Show.

blue and green in kitchen décor. "One recent project we completed paired white cabinets and a 'leathered' black granite countertops with bright orange wall paint to showcase a retro pottery collection," said Padilla.

**FINALLY, IMAGINE** turning on your kitchen faucet without using your raw-chicken-contaminated hands. Hands-free technology is already available to private homeowners, but Padilla and Keppler offer a caveat: "I do see this becoming a popular product in the future, but not immediately," said Keppler. "Right now it feels like the kinks have not yet been worked out and it is still in the novelty stage. [M]any of the ... models that we saw ran on batteries. The issue with batteries will definitely become old."

Padilla agrees that the concept has promise, but remains skeptical. "Varying sensitivities means that any touch can activate the flow of water. [For example,] switching from full flow to spray could turn off water in the middle of clean up," she said. "It's a fantastic concept for the kitchen when hands are so often dirty with things you don't want touching the food you are preparing. Think raw meats."

The designers say they uncovered a few unexpected trends as well. "The biggest surprise at the show was Formica," said Padilla. "They did a great job of making their colorful, retro patterns relevant again. They are so fun that you immediately start thinking about projects you could use them in, like craft rooms, homework stations or kids rooms."

**"Consumers are using engineered stone for easy maintenance. They are as durable and stain-resistant as granites — without the required sealing."**  
— Megan Padilla, Aidan Design

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# Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Suggestions for honoring Mom on her special day.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**M**other's Day is less than a week away. For some, choosing the perfect gift for Mom can be a nerve-wracking exercise. If you're still looking for the perfect present, local style gurus offer suggestions that they say will please even the most discerning of women.

For stylish mothers, Allison Priebe Brooks of Queen Bee Designs in Alexandria, recommends the sentimentality of matching parent-child jewelry: "It is fun to match or coordinate fashions with your child, especially on Mother's Day," she said. "You can do that with dresses or bold prints, but you can also do it with your jewelry. Little girls love to dress up and match their mothers, and jewelry is one thing that just about always fits and it can be passed down from generation to generation."

A spa day at home will give exhausted moms a chance to unwind, says Courtney

Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Treat Mom to a spa day at home [with] a new line bath line from The Charleston Soap Chef [which includes] lotion, hand and body wash, body butter and sugar scrub. We've been encouraging customers to put a few pieces together and pamper Mom without having to go to a spa."

Hand creams by Pre de Provence, rich in shea butter and available in crisp scents like lavender and verbena, are luxurious choices, said Angela Phelps, of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "Every woman can use a good hand crème in her purse," she said.

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, said, "Perfumes, lotions and candles from lines including Lollia, Tocca and Niven Morgan are a luxurious treat for moms.

For those thinking ahead to summer, O'Shields suggests a brightly hued tote bag. "Scout bags are the perfect accessory for summer at the beach, baseball games and every day." She also suggests colorful handbags, wallets and tech accessories.

**MOMS WITH SOPHISTICATED** palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass. "For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift," said Thomas. "They are all hand-painted by a local artist and are available in a variety of colors and de-



Allison Priebe Brooks, of Queen Bee Designs in Alexandria, recommends color-coordinated, mother-daughter jewelry and clothing on Mother's Day.

PHOTO COURTESY OF QUEEN BEE DESIGNS

signs."

For moms who love jewelry, O'Shields suggests putting a ring on it — or even a bracelet. "Jewelry ranging from bangles and charm bracelets ... are great for Mother's Day." For a personal touch, she adds, "Engraved monogrammed charms and necklaces with children's initials are a special way to give Mom jewelry that reminds her of family. Precious Metal Prints include a kit for making a fingerprint mold that is then mailed to the artisan to transfer to a charm."

Epicureans with a penchant for entertaining would relish a cookbook line called "The Gathering of Friends," says Thomas. "It ... comes in five volumes, complete with table-setting ideas, shopping lists and beautiful photography. They are more than your typical cookbook."

Another idea for mothers who enjoy all things culinary: kitchen accessories. "If mom still has dishtowels from 40 years ago, why not swap them out for some new

ones?" said Phelps of Le Village Marche. "I love ... vibrantly colored French towels from Jean Vier. Coming from the Basque region and made of 100 percent cotton jacquard, these oversized tea towels [32 inches by 23 inches] are beautifully and delicately woven. They can be machine-washed and dry wonderfully with no need for ironing."

For moms who enjoy photographing their offspring, O'Shields recommends the book "Photographing Your Children: A Handbook of Style and Instruction" by Jen Altman.

And for displaying those photographs, Thomas said, "We [have] ... frames ... that all have a sentimental words and saying and are a step beyond the traditional frame. They also have 'memory magnets' with a clip to attach a picture ... great for hanging pictures, notes and favorite art."

O'Shields said, "Picture frames make a wonderful gift and they are even more special when you take the time to have a picture printed and include it in the frame."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Troubadour Searching for 'Tomorrowland'

Before hitting the road with Bob Dylan and friends, Ryan Bingham takes his own show for a test drive.

BY AMBER HEALY  
GAZETTE PACKET

At the end of the night, Ryan Bingham's looking for a shot of Jameson and a slide for his guitar.

Ten years into his career, the 32-year-old blues/Americana rocker is enjoying a busy spring, appearing recently on the Jimmy Kimmel show and playing at the star-maker South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas.

Bingham, who will play at the Birchmere in Alexandria on Friday night, has a distinctive rasp to his voice, earned from his early days playing in "dive bars and little clubs" while driving around in a "beat up old Suburban."

The audiences in those bars and clubs often weren't there for music, making him sing louder to try to be heard over the crowds, Bingham said.

He's been compared to Steve Earle and Tom Waits, men known for voices that sound like their vocal chords have been assaulted with gravel and who are old enough to be Bingham's father.

"I guess I blew my voice out every night," Bingham chuckled.

The raspy tone is easy to pick out on the series of "bootleg" videos he's posted on

Youtube ([youtube.com/user/ryanbingham](http://youtube.com/user/ryanbingham)), including a recent addition, a cover of David Bowie's "Man Who Sold the World."

Of course, even if he's not quite a household name yet, Bingham's got some heavy metal in his collection: an Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe for his song, "The Weary Kind," from the 2010 movie "Crazy Heart." And that's in addition to four albums since 2007.

"I can't complain at all," Bingham said.

Right now, he's in the early stages of a solo tour in support of his most recent album, "Tomorrowland," a tour which will feature a show at the Jefferson Theater in Charlottesville the night after he comes to Alexandria, before joining up on the Americanarama Festival Music with Wilco, My Morning Jacket and Bob Dylan.

"I have no idea how that happened," Bingham laughed. "It's been in the works for a while. We just got the call one day and got invited to go."



### Details

Ryan Bingham will play the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, on Friday night, with The Wild Feathers. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are available for \$25 at [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

**Ryan Bingham brings his rock/country/Americana sounds to the Birchmere Friday night.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA AXSTER

And if any of the bands asked him to join in for a song or two?

"I'm always down to jam," he said.

The audience at a typical Ryan Bingham show is a cross-section of music fans, he said.

"There've been a few shows in my life where there's a group of cowboys, a group of hipster kids, some older folks, some families with kids," Bingham said. "I play songs for all kinds of people."

There's a little rock 'n roll, a little country, a little bluegrass, a little folk, and while Bingham doesn't have a favorite song to play, he does have a favorite way to end the evening.

He likes to pick up one of his guitars and grab a slide, typically a cylindrical

piece of glass or metal that's pressed against and, well, slid down the strings of a guitar to create a distinct sound. Slides have a lot of character, Bingham said.

"I like it because it's dirty," he laughed. "It's got a great dirty sound. Toward the end of the night, I like a shot of whiskey and turn the [darn] speakers up to 12 and grab a slide."

### CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

#### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit.** Through May 11. Local artist Nicholaus 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.

**Art Exhibit.** 7-10 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Thirteen T.C. Williams High School students selected as this year's National Art Honor Society inductees will show their work through Sunday, May 12.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Ode to Hundertwasser" at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. See works from local artists inspired by paintings by Austrian painter Hundertwasser. Through May 19. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Art Exhibit.** Helen Dilley Barsalou 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.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sunday, May 26,

Thursday, Friday and Sunday noon-4 p.m.; Saturday 1-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. See works by Mary Margaret Pipkin. Free. Visit [www.mmpipkin.com](http://www.mmpipkin.com).

**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. Meets at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., and ends at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. \$25/person; \$20/volunteers and friends group members of the four sites. Tickets at [www.historicalalexandria.org](http://www.historicalalexandria.org) or 703-746-4242.

**Ceramics Exhibition.** Through Sunday, June 2 at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Come to an exhibition of non-functional ceramic artwork. Free. For more information, go to [www.torpedofactory.org/target](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target).

**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. through Sunday, June 2. Tickets are \$45-\$55; \$25/student. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) or 703-548-9044 for tickets.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sunday, June 16, see artwork by Sandy LeBrun-Evans and Danny Conant at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.

Free. Hours are Thursdays from noon-9 p.m., all other days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

#### THURSDAY/MAY 9

**Garden Stroll and Tea.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour some of the gardens with a master gardener docent who will tell stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea served in our 1784 historic house. \$28. Call 703-914-7987 to register.

**Art Reception.** 5-8 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Come to the reception for the "Art Uniting People" exhibit. Free. For more visit [www.healthieralexandria.org/antistigma](http://www.healthieralexandria.org/antistigma).

**Reception.** 6-8 p.m. Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Come to a reception for the "Beyond Function" art exhibition and meet some of the featured artists. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/target](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target).

**Tour.** 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Travel to Wilmington, Del. and tour Mt. Cuba's native plant gardens in the morning and spend the afternoon at Winterthur with a house tour and a tram tour of the grounds and gardens. \$120 per person. Register on-line at [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) or

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22



PHOTO COURTESY OF APD

### Laboy Fundraiser

**The Old Dominion Boat Club, at 1 King St., will hold a fundraiser in honor of Alexandria Police Officer Peter Laboy, May 11 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. A limited number of tickets are available to the public at the Boat Club or Chadwick's Restaurant for \$60 per person and includes food and drinks. Music by the Joe Chiocca Band. Call 703-836-1900.**

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see Beth Hart perform. \$25.

**Concert.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Second Thursday music concert with a Songwriters Association of Washington artist. \$10.

**Final Show.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. See the final show in the 2013 season of "In Her Words" presented by Liberated Muse Arts Group and the Alexandria Public Library system. Free. Visit [www.inherwordstour.com](http://www.inherwordstour.com).

**Music.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Hear music by Walmisley, Archer Ayleward and more. Donations of non-perishable foods will be accepted. 703-549-3312.

**Memorial Service.** Noon-1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. Sheriff Lawhorne and the Sheriff's Office will join the Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Retired Police, Fire and Sheriff Association at the annual Alexandria Police and Sheriff Memorial Service, as they honor the memory of their fallen comrades.

**Mother Goose Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories, activities and more. Limited to 25 children. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library,

2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Little One-Ders.** 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Story Time.** 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children age 3-6 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1704.

**Second Thursday Old Town.** 6-9 p.m. at areas around Old Town, with headquarters at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Some locations have free admission, some might charge. Enjoy music, spot the dot contests, best "dot" costume prizes and more. Visit [www.secondthursdayoldtown.com](http://www.secondthursdayoldtown.com).

**Second Thursday Old Town.** 6-9 p.m. in Old Town. Pop art with a dash of surrealism is the inspiration for the evening, with interactive art activities, prizes, shopping and live music. Some locations are free. Visit [secondthursdayoldtown.com](http://secondthursdayoldtown.com).

## FRIDAY/MAY 10

### Gardening Demonstration:

**Hosts.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master Gardeners show you how to care for and make the most of this great plant in your garden. \$10 per person. Register on-line at [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

**Neighborhood Social.** 4-7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Neighbors are invited to stop by the Athenaeum,

check out the exhibit and socialize. Free.

**Concert.** The Wild Feathers and Ryan Bingham will perform at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Music Performance.** The United States Air Force Band will perform a free concert at 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Visit [www.usafbnd.af.mil](http://www.usafbnd.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

**Tour.** 11 a.m. starts at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Take a tour of Old Town Boutique District and receive insider's tips from the owners. Visit [www.ACVA.eventbrite.com](http://www.ACVA.eventbrite.com) for reservations.

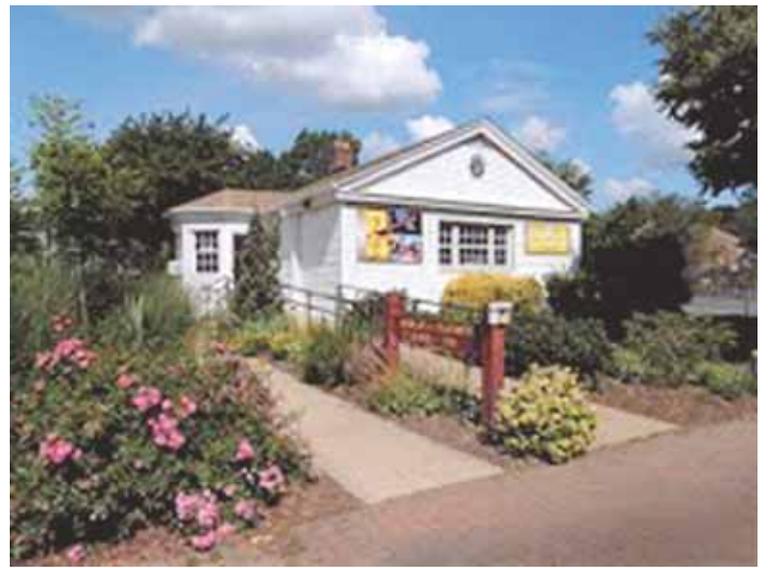
**Tour.** Noon. Learn about the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., with a tour led by CEO Eric Wallner. Visit [www.ACVA.eventbrite.com](http://www.ACVA.eventbrite.com) for reservations.

## SATURDAY/MAY 11

**Music.** Gary Taylor performs at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$35. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500.

**Gardening Demonstration.** 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Horticulturalist Karen Rexrode shows you colorful shrubs and evergreens to anchor your mixed border for year round beauty. \$18 per person. Register on-line at [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Opening Reception.** 3-5 p.m. see "The Death of Fear," an ink and pencil exhibit by Nelson Gutierrez at the Schlesinger Center, 3001 N.



## Del Ray Artisans Fundraiser

"Artworks For Good" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery: May 17-June 1. Opening Reception: Friday, May 17, 7-10pm. During the Closing/ Fundraiser/ Benefit reception on Saturday, June 1, 7-10 p.m., proceeds are split between the American Cancer Society in honor of arts patron Becky Arnold and Del Ray Artisans gallery at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301. Tickets to the benefit reception are \$10. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/benefit](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/benefit).

Beaugard St. Free.

**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.

**Benefit.** The 12th annual Child and Family Network Centers' benefit will take place at the home of Marnie and

John Repetti. The event will feature a silent auction, food and drink from Susan Gage Catering, and will be a festive night in one of Alexandria's beautiful, newly renovated homes. For more information or to donate, contact Joanna Zumhagen, Development Associate, at 703-836-0214 or [jzumhagen@cfnc-online.org](mailto:jzumhagen@cfnc-online.org).

**Baba Jamal.** 10 a.m. at Burke Library,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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## Celebrating Moms

Where: The Holiday Inn Alexandria SW    When: Sunday, May 12th

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- Cucumber and Watercress Soup
- Italian Wedding Soup (with Meatballs)

**Entrées**

- Grilled Atlantic Salmon with Dill Cream
- Maryland Crab cakes w/ Cocktail & Remoulade Sauce
- Apricot Glazed Ham
- Breast of Chicken Stuffed with Black Beans with Pesto Sauce
- Linguini with Shrimp and Tomato Cream Sauce
- Green Onion & Hash Brown Quiche

**Carving Station**

- Herb Roasted Turkey w/ Pan Gravy & Cranberry Relish
- Prime Rib with Au Jus & Horseradish Cream

**Waffles & Omelets**

- Belgian Waffles, Omelets & Eggs Made To Order

**Sides**

- Pork & Turkey Sausage Links
- Crisp Sliced Bacon
- Asparagus & Peppers with lemon Aioli
- Fingerling Potatoes with Green Beans
- Blended Wild Rice Pilaf

**Salads**

- Seasonal Fruit & Cheese Display w/Gourmet Crackers & Flatbreads
- Greek Salad
- Roasted Garlic Potato Salad
- Spinach & Strawberry Salad
- Fresh Baked Breads, Bagels & Rolls

**Kids' Corner**

- Mini Corn Dogs
- Fried Chicken
- Homemade Macaroni & Cheese
- Shoestring French Fries

**Desserts**

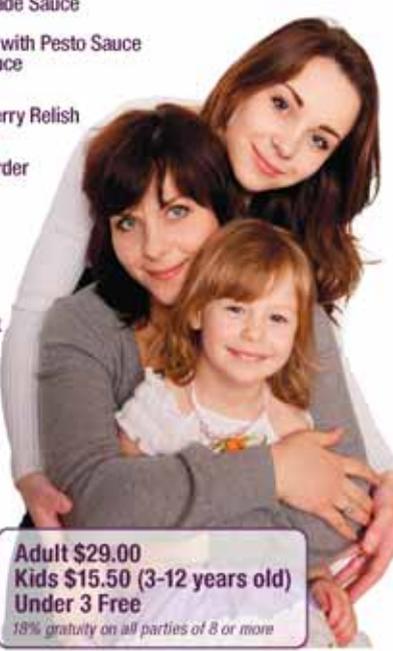
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# ENTERTAINMENT

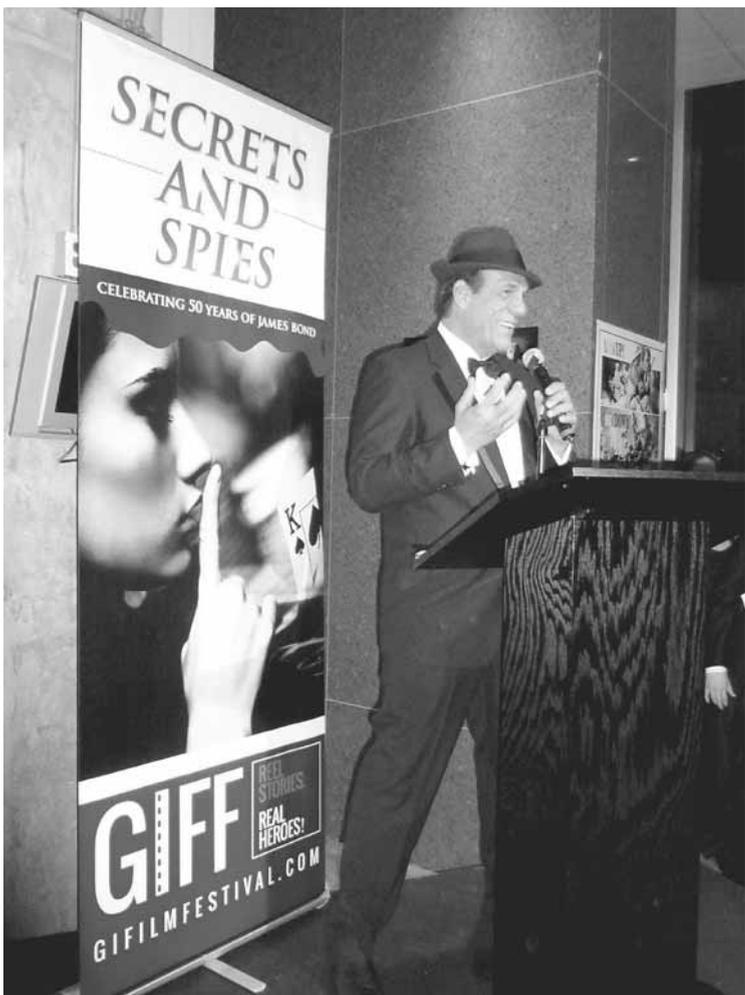


PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION

**Actor Robert Davi, who played drug lord Franz Sanchez in the 1989 James Bond film "Licence to Kill," speaks at the GI Film Festival opening night gala May 6 at Signature Theatre. The festival runs through May 12 with more than 50 films highlighting the service and stories of America's military forces. For a complete listing of films, locations and show times, visit [www.GIFilmFestival.com](http://www.GIFilmFestival.com).**

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

4701 Seminary Road. Storyteller Baba Jamal Korman will offer stories from the African cultures. All ages. Free. 703-746-1704.

**Saturday Stories.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702.

**Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Join the founders of Blessed Coffee for a coffee ceremony demonstration and coffee tasting. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Saturday Matinee.** 1 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Watch "Foreign Letters," a film about the bonds of friendship. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Mother's Day Tea Party.** 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy a Fancy Nancy tea party story time. Fancy dress encouraged, but not required. Registration required, 703-746-1702.

**Russkie Musikanti.** 3 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. See performers on authentic Russian instruments while wearing traditional Russian costumes. All ages. Free. 703-746-1704.

**Jazz Extravaganza.** 6:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Celebrate Mother's Day with jazz music by musicians from T.C. Williams High School and Francis C. Hammond Middle School. Free. 703-746-5552.

**Tour.** 10:30 a.m. starts at the gazebo in

Alexandria's African-American Heritage Park, corner of Holland Lane and Jamieson Avenue. Led by historian C.R. Gibbs. Visit [www.ACVA.eventbrite.com](http://www.ACVA.eventbrite.com) for reservations.

### SUNDAY/MAY 12

**Mother's Day with Mother's Finest.** 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Tea Party.** 1 p.m.-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about some of the remarkable mothers who raised children in the historic house from the 1780s to the 1960s. \$28 adult/\$18 children under 12. Call 703-941-7987 for reservations.

**Mother's Day Tea.** Seatings at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. While sipping a special blend of spring teas from Tea and Spice Exchange of Alexandria, guests will enjoy a menu of finger sandwiches, scones, and banana or lemon tea bread. There will also be a special Mother's Day dessert spread including petite fours, cheesecake with strawberries and powdered shortbread tea cookies. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 703-549-2997, or emailing [carlyle@nvrpa.org](mailto:carlyle@nvrpa.org). \$27 per person. Carlyle House will also be offering free tours on Mother's Day for all mothers and grandmothers, noon-4 p.m., cost is \$5 for other adults and \$3 for children (ages 5-12).

**Capital Wind Symphony Concert.** 4

## GI Film Festival

The GI Film Festival announces its line-up for this year's festival running May 6-12 in the DC Metro area. The festival unites members of Congress and military leaders with Hollywood stars to honor veterans and servicemembers through film and television.

The seventh annual premier military film festival will feature 50 independent films. Red carpet parties and exclusive embassy events will take place throughout the festival. Fifty films spanning the Civil War era to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be shown at various locations including the AMC Shirlington Theater in Arlington, the AMC Hoffman Theater in Alexandria, and the U.S. Navy Memorial Theater in DC.

**Wounded Warrior Appreciation Night**—Held on Thursday, May 9, at AMC Hoffman in Alexandria, will feature a primetime film screening and an appearance by special guest, actor Mykelti Williamson. Perhaps best known for his portrayal of Bubba Gump in *Forrest Gump*, Williamson has starred in numerous films, including *Heat*, *Con-Air* and *Lucky Number Slevin*. He will also star in Fox's upcoming new military drama *Wild Blue*.

**Friday Night Red Carpet Event with Actor and Military Veteran Mark Valley**—Mark Valley of Boston Legal and Body of Proof fame will receive GIFF's inaugural "Veterans in Entertainment" award on Friday, May 10 at the AMC Shirlington Theater. This event will also feature a "first look" screening of Ron Maxwell's new Civil War epic *Copperhead*.

Visit [giffilmfestival.com](http://giffilmfestival.com) for a full schedule of events and tickets. Tickets range in price from \$12 for movie tickets to \$50 for a film premiere and reception. Military discounts are available. Tickets for the "Secrets and Spies" gala are \$135 per person (\$250 per couple).

p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Hear music by composer John Williams including "Harry Potter" and "Superman." \$15/adult advance or \$20 at the door; \$10/student, senior advance or \$15 at the door. Visit [www.capitalwindsymphony.org](http://www.capitalwindsymphony.org).

**Spring Open House.** 1-4 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy mini cupcakes by Occasionally Cake while browsing artwork, hear live music and enjoy a craft. New cupcake flavors each hour. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

### MONDAY/MAY 13

**Spanish Story Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories in Spanish. Free. 703-46-1705.

**Little One-Ders.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Baby Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to 11 months can hear stories and more. Sign up half-hour before it begins. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Baby Rhyme Time.** 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free. 703-746-1702.

**Read, Sing & Play Baby.** 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

**Liberty's Promise.** 6:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24

**TUESDAY, MAY 14 at 7:30PM**

*National Chamber Players*  
present

**Sergei Prokofiev**  
*Peter and the Wolf, Op. 67*

Arranged by David Matthews

**Ennio Morricone**  
*Gabriel's Oboe*

Arranged by Craig Hella Johnson

**Aaron Copland**  
*Quiet City*

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ADMISSION**



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## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 23

Youth age 15-21 can learn about Liberty's Promise, a program that supports young immigrants. Free.  
**Let's Talk Books.** 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Discuss "Listening is an Act of Love" by Dave Isay. Free. 703-746-1703.  
**Interfaith Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Read nonfiction works that strive to find common ground through recognizing and celebrating common values. Free. Call 703-746-1743 for title.

### TUESDAY/MAY 14

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Rd. The National Chamber Players perform Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, Morricone's Gabriel's Oboe and Copland's Quiet City. Free. Visit [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org) or call 703-933-4135.

**Stories and Songs.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age 2-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Tuesday Tots.** 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1704.

**Baby Rhyme Time.** 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Handmade Storybooks.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children can hear a story and then create a book to take home. Free. Call 703-746-1705 to register.

**Paws to Read.** 5:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1705.

**Event.** Chocolate with the Park Sisters at 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Taste samples of chocolate while listening to the Park sisters speak about their lives as children of Korean immigrants. Free. 703-746-1702.

**Game Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12 can play with their friends. Free. 703-746-1702.

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 15

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear music by Asleep at the Wheel and Amelia White. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Presentation.** 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Larry Brindza will give a presentation on the life and migration of the monarch butterfly. Free. 703-768-2525. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) and [www.foppr.org](http://www.foppr.org).

**Square Dancing.** 7:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. All ages, all abilities, couples, singles and families welcome. Free. 703-573-8378.

**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age 2-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Animal Shelter Visit.** 3:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children in ages K-5 can learn about animals, their habits, care and training. Animals usually come along for a visit. 703-746-1704.

**Tae Kwon Do Demonstration.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501

## National Chamber Players

The National Chamber Players will perform Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. at Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W Braddock Road. The program will include: Sergei Prokofiev, Peter and the Wolf, narrated by Gideon Pollach; Ennio Morricone, Gabriel's Oboe, with the EHS choirs; and Aaron Copland, Quiet City. For this performance the musicians are: Thomas Cupples, trumpet; Abigail Evans, viola; Joel Fuller, violin; Jauvon Gilliam, timpani; Aaron Goldman, flute; Erich Heckscher, bassoon; James Lee, cello; Teri Lee, violin; Eugene Mondie, clarinet; James Nickel, french horn; Charles Nilles, bass; and Nicholas Stovall, oboe. The National Chamber Players are members of the National Symphony Orchestra and other musicians from the metropolitan area and beyond. All are friends and colleagues who come together, under the leadership of artistic director James Lee, around a shared musical sensibility, and a desire to play together for the joy of it. Founded in 2004, the National Chamber Players have been in residence at Episcopal High School ever since, performing four concerts a year in Pendleton Hall. Their programming is innovative and eclectic, including a variety of chamber music, and has included dance and multimedia elements. The concert is free, no tickets are required. Visit [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org), email [vdp@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:vdp@episcopalhighschool.org), or call 703-933-4135.

Commonwealth Ave. All ages can watch a demonstration and get questions answered. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Discuss "Listening is an Act of Love" by Dave Isay. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1702.

### THURSDAY/MAY 16

**Mother Goose Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Little One-Ders.** 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Paws to Read.** 5:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1702 x5.

**Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 3-6 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1704.

**Writing Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Practice writing about yourself and loved ones. Bring a notebook and a pen. Free. 703-746-1702.

### FRIDAY/MAY 17

**Wine Festival.** 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon. Learn about the history of wine in Virginia and Mount Vernon, while sampling wine from 16 Virginia wineries among other activities. \$38. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) to purchase tickets.

**Opening Reception.** 7-10 p.m. see "Artworks for Good" at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Call 703-838-4827 or visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

**Music Performance.** 8-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. Randy "Windtalker" Motz will perform, with proceeds from the

performance benefiting Futures for Children. Visit [stelmoscoffee.pub.com](http://stelmoscoffee.pub.com).

**Casino Night Fundraiser.** 6:30-10:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Enjoy dancing, games and more. \$35/advance; \$40/door.

### SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Civil War 150th Concert.** 7 p.m. featuring the Federal City Brass Band. Honor Armed Forces Day at an evening performance of songs from the Civil War era in the Fort Ward Park amphitheatre. The Federal City Brass Band recreates the sound and appearance of a regular U.S. Army regimental brass band of the 1860s. Visit <http://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar>.

**Exhibition.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Spring Garden Day with a plant sale and more. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more information.

**Charity Day.** Old Town Boutique District is holding its 3rd annual Old Town Boutique District's Boutiques Give Back Charity Day during retail store hours. Visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com).

**Book Signing.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Olio Tasting Room, 1223 King St. Chef Jenn Crovato will sign copies of her book "Olive Oil, Sea Salt & Pepper."

**Concert.** 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall. The finale of the 2012-2013 ASO season. \$5/youth; tickets start at \$10 for students and \$40 for adults. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

**Handmade Storybooks.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children can hear a story and then create a book to take home. Free. Call 703-746-1702 to register.

**Saturday Stories.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702.

**Scrapbooking Workshop.** 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn introductory techniques. Receive a journal and basic supplies. Call 703-746-1728 to register.

**Tae Kwon Do Demonstration.** 3:30 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. All ages can watch a demonstration and get questions answered. Free. 703-746-1704.

### THROUGH MAY 18

**Diaper Drive.** Donated diapers can be loose from an open pack or part of a sealed pack. Financial donations are also accepted at [www.facebook.com/DiaperDrive2013](http://www.facebook.com/DiaperDrive2013). Drop off at Occasionally Cake, 207 King St., and be entered in to win a Mommy and Me cupcake decorating class. Visit [www.occasionallycake.com](http://www.occasionallycake.com).

# All Democratic Council Hikes Tax Rate by 4 Cents

FROM PAGE 1

the largest tax increase in recent memory.

“That is not something that any of us on this dais are certainly proud of,” said Mayor Bill Euille. “But we worked within the perimeters that we are dealing with.”

When Democrats on the City Council raised taxes back in 2009, Republicans were able to seize the moment and use the issue to help unseat two incumbent members. Then Democrats changed the rules, moving the city elections from a few weeks after the budget vote to November, when a record number of Democrats were expected at the polls to support the incumbent president. Now the two Democrats who lost in 2009 have returned, and the newly installed council members have approved a historic tax increase.

**“This is a perfect example of what happens when you have a one party government.”**

— Former Republican City Councilman Frank Fannon

“This is a perfect example of what happens when you have a one party government,” said former City Councilman Frank Fannon, one of the recently ousted Republicans. “It’s a clear sign to the taxpayers of Alexandria that saving them money is not a priority of this council.”

**DURING A MONDAY** night session at City Hall, members of the all-Democratic council said raising taxes on Alexandria property owners was necessary to fund long-neglected capital needs of the city such as filling potholes and expanding the Chinquapin aquatics center. They also restored several cuts proposed by City Manager Rashad Young, including cuts to everything from the Warwick Pool and library hours to gang prevention and car-seat installation. The new

tax rate will raise the average residential property tax bill \$314 to \$4,885.

“This is a very large tax increase at a very difficult time for our residents,” said Councilman Justin Wilson. “This should be the tax rate that we assume is going to be for the foreseeable future.”

One of the highlights of the budget approved this week is the increased investment in the city’s capital improvement program, which funds about \$1.23 billion worth of projects over the next decade. Several council members said the city’s capital spending has been neglected for years, leaving many projects unfunded — until now. One of the leading drivers of the need for capital spending is the public school system, where Superintendent Morton Sherman is calling for four new schools that will serve Kindergarten through the eighth grade.

Although he requested \$18 million for capital spending this year, he was pleased that council members funded the School Board’s request of \$14 million rather than the city manager’s proposal of \$10 million.

“I think it would have been very hard to deal with what the city manager was proposing,” said Sherman after the final budget work session Monday night. “I think we’re in good shape.”

**IN ADDITION** to higher tax bills, Alexandria citizens will also be hit with a number of new fees — from increased parking fees and fire prevention permit fees to higher impound service charges and mulch delivery fees. Vendors at the Market Square farmers market will be hit with yet another fee

increase to rent a stall, the second increase in the last five years.

“Some vendors will have to drop out because they can’t afford these hikes,” said Lynn Julia Pendlebury Colby, a pottery vendor. “And we still haven’t received an accounting of what the market expenses are.”

The budget season began back in February, when Young proposed a \$626.6 million budget that was balanced with a tax rate of \$1.053 for every \$100 of assessed value. In March, council members advertised a rate of \$1.038 — setting a maximum rate al-

lowed under the law. Elected officials made some modifications to the city manager’s budget, adding back some of the reductions even though some members raised concerns about lingering concerns about future capital spending needs.

Council members provided an additional \$6.97 million for capital projects.

“We’re essentially tying the city manager’s hands moving forward by adding things back into the operating budget,” said Smedberg. “We need to look at becoming a leaner, more efficient operation, making strategic changes.”

**“That is not something that any of us on this dais are certainly proud of.”**

— Mayor Bill Euille



PHOTO BY AMY BERTSCH

**Helping Hands** Sheriff Dana Lawhorne thanks the Helping Hands team for cleaning up trash along the path near the railroad overpass in Rosemont on May 3 as part of Spring for Alexandria.

# How To Raise Healthy Children with Healthy Minds

FROM PAGE 10

Mental illness on the other hand is a medical condition that disrupts a person’s thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and affects daily functioning. In this country, in any given year, one in four persons will experience a mental illness. The most common is anxiety. Only a few on the other hand develop the most serious mental illnesses and only a very small percentage of those become violent toward others. The good news is that recovery is possible even for those with the most serious mental illnesses. But to get a chance to recover, a person needs to know they need help and have access to the services they need.

The biggest barrier to getting those services is stigma. The World Health Organization, based in Geneva noted in 2004 “The stigma, discrimination and human rights violations that individuals and families affected by mental disorders suffer are intense and pervasive. Effective prevention can do

a lot to alter these perceptions and hence change the way mental disorders are looked upon by society.”

That prevention begins with education. Everyone needs to know what the signs and symptoms of mental illness, developmental delays and behavioral problems are. They need to know what they can and cannot do and need to understand that no one is exempt. There is a very American fantasy that if a person follows all the rules and does everything they are supposed to for good health, nothing bad can happen to them or their families. So there is no need to know or understand mental health issues.

But that isn’t true. Everyone is touched by trauma, unexpected and unexplained. Violence can be on the television news or the Internet but it can also be a violent accident just ahead of you on the highway, or an inexplicable shooting in the store you visited the day before or a fire in the house next door. Everyone experiences serious

family illness or death, not to mention job loss, divorce or an unplanned move.

That’s why parents and grandparents and anyone who works with children should come to the forum on Children And Youth mental health on Saturday, May, 18 at the Lee Center. Learn from delegates Rob Krupicka, Scott Surovell and state Sen. Adam Ebbin, about the legislation that passed during this year’s legislative session, legislation that will improve the mental health of children and college students. Also learn what still needs to be done. You will receive an explanation of Mental Health First Aid for Youth, a new program being offered in Alexandria to all those involved with children, a program that was funded thanks to Krupicka. Neely Hughey and Jocelyn Mitchell, staff from the Alexandria Community Services Board will explain the program. Thomas Wallace, bureau chief of Children’s Behavioral Healthcare Services at the Arlington Community Services Board and Pounch Zeraat, a substance abuse coun-

selor from the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board will explain their programs and discuss what is available for youth and children. Terry Wright, lead social worker at the Alexandria Public Schools will also speak.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. with light snacks provided. The discussion will begin at noon. Childcare is available for ages 4 and up. For childcare reservations, email donielle.marshall@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-3523.

The Lee Center is at 1108 Jefferson Street in Alexandria and those attending should go to the main entrance. Ample parking is available behind the building.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Alexandria CSB, the Friends of the Alexandria Health Center, Alexandria’s Anti-Stigma HOPE Campaign, NAMI of Northern Virginia, the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Therapeutic Recreation Program and the Department of Community and Human Services.

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### Part-Time Admin Asst.

Consulting firm in Old Town Alex seeking part-time admin asst. Responsibilities include: word processing, answering phones, filing, database mgmt, research. Word and Excel 2010 knowledge required. Hours MWF 12-5. Casual dress. Email resume and salary requirements to info@revparintl.com.

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**Legal Notices**



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-102 (LEVY AND RATE) of Article I (TAX ON SALES OF CIGARETTES) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance increases the City's cigarette tax rate from \$0.80 to \$1.00 per pack.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

**Legal Notices**

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

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**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
The Family Court of Alexandria, VA requests the presence of Mrs. Heydi Mercedes Barrios Gomez on June 21, 2013 at 10:00 am to discuss custody of their daughter.

**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to members of the NY nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that the 2013 ASCO Annual Business Meeting will be held on June 3, 2013, 12:00-1:00 PM (Central Standard Time) at the Hyatt McCormick Place, Regency Ballroom, 2233 South Martin L. King Drive, Chicago, IL 6061. Members with questions can call 571-483-1316.

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**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Osteria Mazzano, LLC trading as Osteria Mazzano, 6361 Walker Lane, Suite 140, Alexandria, VA 22310. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed beverage, Beer and Wine on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Elena Maria Chantal Pouchelon, manager  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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**28 Yard Sales**

**Community Yard Sale**  
Williamsburg Manor and the Manors at Mount Vernon near Stratford Elementary just off Collingwood and Riverside are having a Community Yard Sale at many of the 100 houses in the two neighborhoods on Saturday 11 May 2013 from 8am-1pm. Everything from furniture, toys, clothes, yard equipment, computers, beds, tools, small appliances and much more. Come prepared to buy! Contact Boots Barnes at boots.barnes1@verizon.net with questions.

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**Fairfax Water**

**FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY Notice of Public Hearing**

Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Easements Necessary for Public Purposes by Eminent Domain or Other Means  
**May 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**

The Fairfax County Water Authority will hold a public hearing pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1903 on **at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013**, to receive public comments on a proposed Resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements necessary for the improvement and expansion of Fairfax Water's water system infrastructure adjacent to sections of the Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) in Fairfax County. The improvement and expansion is required to provide adequate capacity to serve existing and future customers. The necessary easements are to be located across several parcels of land adjacent to U.S. Route 1, more particularly described as Fairfax County Tax Map Parcels 083-3-01-0037, 083-3-01-0038, 083-3-01-0040, 083-3-01-0041, 083-3-08-B, 093-1-01-0019, 093-1-01-0025, 093-1-16-0013, 092-2-18-06-0001A, and 093-1-18A-0001. Following the public hearing, the Water Authority Board may vote on or after June 6, 2013, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

The proposed Resolution and other related information can be viewed at Fairfax Water's Website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>.

**The public hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.** Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed resolution should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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## Valley Night Life

A quiet stretch of Eisenhower Avenue is about to get a new lease on life — nightlife, to be exact.

City officials are currently examining an administrative special-use permit for a new restaurant that would be called Birch Cafe. It would be located at 2850 Eisenhower Ave. at the Alexandria Tech Center, which is near the intersection with Telegraph Road. The restaurant would be located in a vacant space that used to be K.T. Cafe, which closed several months ago. The application requests longer hours, the ability to sell alcohol and approval for live acoustic music. “On weekends, there is no food service in the area other than the Hoffman complex,” said **Donald Simpson**, attorney for the applicant. “But west of Telegraph Road until you get out near Van Dorn.”

The application is being considered for administrative approval, which means that City Council members will not be considering it. Simpson says he hopes the permit will be approved in the next three weeks so the new restaurant can open in August. By expanding the hours, allowing alcohol and approving the request for live music, Simpson said, city officials can finally create some nightlife in Eisenhower Valley.

“Right now, there’s no food service after 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. because it all shuts down,” said Simpson. “They are looking to create an atmosphere and a cafe that would be available after working hours.”

## Market Mystery

Hold your wallets, vendors. The Alexandria City Council is hitting you up for more money.

This week, elected officials approved a fee increase for vendors at the farmers market in Market Square, which has been in continuous operation since 1753 — the oldest continuously operating farmers market in America. The move will increase the current fee of \$30 a month to \$45 a month for permanent vendors. The vote also increases the rate for temporary vendors from \$10 a week to \$25 a week. The rate was last increased in May 2009, when City Council approved doubling the fee for permanent vendors from \$15 a month to \$30 a month. The fee for temporary vendors also doubled at that time from \$5 a week to \$10 a week.

“Each year over the last four years vendor fee revenue collected has been less than the expenditures incurred to operate the market,” wrote City Manager **Rashad Young** in a memo outlining the new fee schedule. “The result is that the city has to absorb an average annual deficit of approximately \$20,000 in order to continue to administer the market.”

For pottery vendor **Lynn Julia Pendlebury Colby**, that raised an important question: How much does it cost to operate the market and how is the money spent? After submitting a Freedom of Information Act request, Colby says she is still in the dark about why the city needs the extra money. “The vendors have been denied access to a detailed accounting of the market’s expenses,” she wrote in a letter to council members. “We have no way to assess whether these drastic increases are necessary or not.”

## Taxing the Ether

Should Virginia collect sales taxes when customers shop online?

That’s a debate currently erupting across the river in Washington D.C., where Congress is considering legislation known as the Marketplace Fairness Act. The bill passed the U.S. Senate this week on a vote of 69 to 27. “This bill is particularly important for Virginia’s infrastructure,” said U.S. Sen. **Tim Kaine** (D) in a written statement following the vote. “Merchants across our commonwealth play by the rules and collect sales tax but big internet retailers have been shielded from that same responsibility.”

At issue is an estimated \$253 million in revenue for Virginia. Republican Gov. **Bob McDonnell** also supports the bill, issuing a written statement this week explaining that he believes the effort would level the playing field between sales by online companies and traditional brick-and-mortar retailers. “This legislation will not enact a new tax,” said the governor. “Rather, it represents a fairer way to collect revenues which consumers under existing law are currently required to declare on their income tax filings.”

Virginians are currently supposed to estimate their online purchases and pay sales tax when filing income tax returns. But that almost never happens, leading state and federal officials scrambling to create a new approach.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

# Esten Concert Raises \$22,000

FROM PAGE 1

ten ballads — with one-liners: “You can’t even sort of understand what this show has meant to me,” he said. “Gettin’ to play the Grand Ole Opry, the Bluebird ... if you had told me growing up I was gonna play the Durant Center multipurpose room, I would not have believed you.”

His set list unfolded to reveal standout titles such as, “Pour Four More Por Favor” and “One More Time” (another drinking song referencing shots), although the mood turned wistful in recently co-written songs like “Dancing All Around It” and “I’m Still Waiting On Her.”

In “Dancing All Around It” Esten drew out a bittersweet ballad. A sweet, romantic scene in the first verse changes tone entirely in the second verse. “We were dancing all around it, we didn’t notice the last note sounded. We kept holding on, even though the song’s gone,” sang Esten in the first verse. On the way to the second, the image of a dancing couple took on new meaning: “I wish we could’ve stayed right there on that floor. We’re not the people in the picture anymore. We’re always dancing all around it, losing each other for so long. We kept holding on, even though the song is gone ... we both keep holding on.”

At one point an enthusiastic member of the 200-person crowd called out a question. “Tell us what it was like doing that steamy scene with Rayna,” yelled a fan, referring to the “Nashville” episode aired Wednesday, May 1, in which characters Deacon and longtime friend/former girlfriend Rayna share a romantic scene.

Esten wasn’t interested in the drama, though, and laughed but didn’t respond. He was there for the cause of raising scholarship money and for all the people he knew and loved, he said.

Following the concert, a “Deacon Claybourne” guitar pick and a guitar signed by Esten, Hayden Panettiere (Juliette), Sam Palladio (Gunnar), Clare Bowen (Scarlett), Jonathan Jackson (Avery) and Lennon and Maisey Stella (Rayna’s daughters Maddie and Daphne) were auctioned off for a joint total of \$3,700 — \$200 of which came from Esten’s Rosemont neighbor Suzanne Rathlev in exchange for a guitar pick. Jen Walker of McEneaney Associates, a Del Ray Realtor, contributed the other \$3,500 to the fund in exchange for the guitar.

Even Esten’s former assistant principal while at



Jen Walker inspects “the ‘Nashville’ guitar,” as Charles Esten calls it, while he adds his signature.

PHOTO BY ASHLEY PURDY

T.C. Williams, John Porter, paid a high dollar for swag, winning a Titans sweater with his \$120 bid.

Cathy Puskar, chair of the board of trustees for the fund, ushered her brother off the auctioning stage and again into the limelight, this time for photos, as a line of women waiting to smile beside him snaked around the room. Following the photo op, Esten sat for autographs.

“He was very gracious,” said Puskar after the event. “Everyone got their turn.”

Puskar dedicates a large amount of time to the evening’s cause. “The scholarship fund is great because you know exactly where the money is going,” she said. “You know when you give a dollar where it’s going ... and the more diverse Alexandria becomes, the more we are able to support [first generation] college students.”

The event proceeds chalked up to \$22,000, an equivalent of almost nine scholarships at \$2,500 per student. Puskar said the concert supplemented the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria budget with its annual gala, which raised over \$275,000 this year, as well as Clash of the T.C. Titans social media drive, which is currently in progress. To see the campaign in motion and to donate, go to <http://www.alexscholarshipfund.org/clash/>.

The next event for the fund will be their 18th Annual Telethon, slated for Sunday, Oct. 28, from 4-9 p.m. at T.C. Williams with an online and television broadcast scheduled for Channels 69 and 71 and [www.AlexScholarshipFund.org](http://www.AlexScholarshipFund.org).

## A Word with Chip After the Show

In an interview Esten answered questions raised by the audience.

**Q:** With a stable, fulfilling marriage of 20 years, what is your thinking as you approach the romantic aspects of the show?

**CE:** “It’s funny because if I’m fighting with Teddy — and I’ve known Eric [Close, who plays Teddy] for years and we’ve been friends and it’s just as acted and pantomimed with him as it is with Connie [Rayna] and Hayden [Juliette]. Everything I know about being romantic is from [wife Patty Esten]. Those scenes are not ... they’re both wonderful, great professional actresses and they’re professional in that realm.”

Esten has been married 20 years to his wife and is quick to acknowledge and emphasize how his marriage has shaped his career positively.

“My wife is and has been everything to me since I met her. It’s been particularly wonderful that she’s been there every step of the way. She was with me in the middle of the night in college helping pack up frat gear after a party [laughs]. We went to London together [for the musical “Buddy”]. She worked a good job while I was not having any real acting work, just scraping together. I’m so blessed in that arena.”

**Q:** What was going through your head while you were up there on stage?

**CE:** “The night had a looseness to it. So far I don’t tour around playing shows like that. I’d love to get to play more in the future. ... It’s funny because mostly you’re just sitting in front of a room of so many people I know and love and I could never put on any airs.”

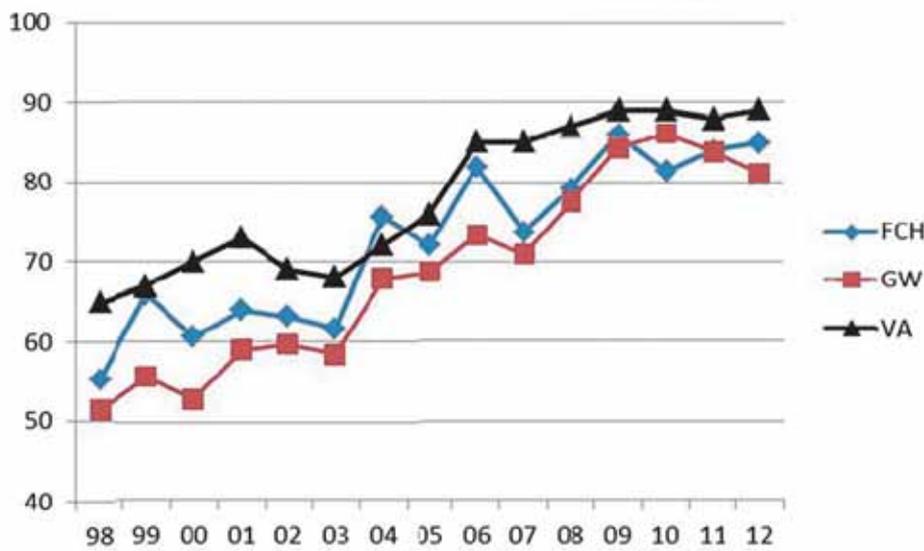
**Q:** The audience was divided on the

question of whether you’re similar or totally different than Deacon. Do you want to weigh in?

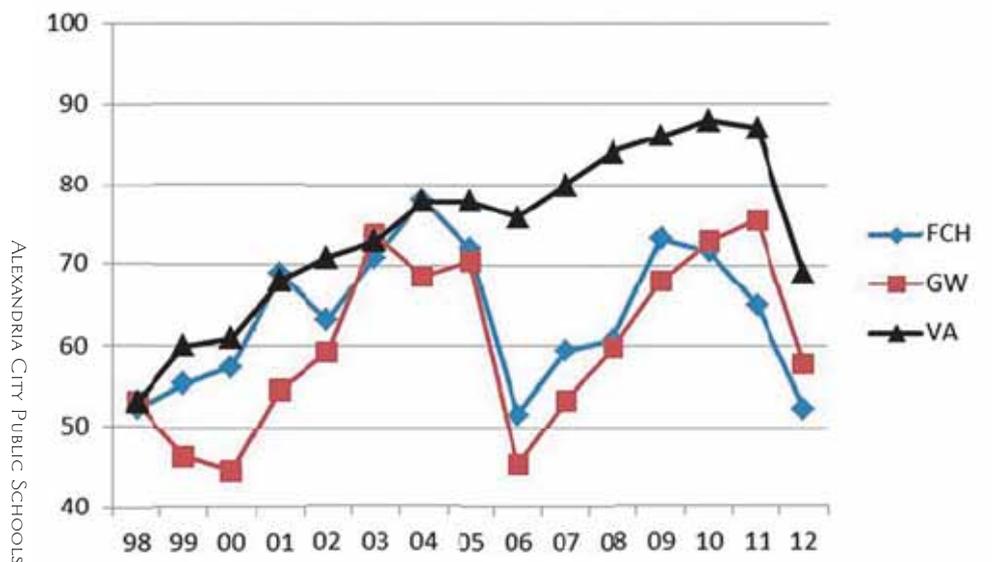
**CE:** “[Laughing] I can see that, I can see that ... Deacon’s general demeanor when he’s in a good place, his demeanor, his sense of humor. He’s got a lot of good people in his life, people who love him, and so do I. But he’s got that dark side. I’m there but for the grace of God. I’m fortunate that I am not an alcoholic or addicted to drugs in the way that he is. Also, Deacon’s had some life experiences ... I’ve been particularly fortunate to have a wonderful life.”

**Q:** You’re doing a lot of co-writing lately. Have you gotten to write with any of your co-stars?

**CE:** “No, actually I haven’t yet, though Clare [Bowen, who plays Scarlett] and I have talked about writing an awful lot. I’d love to get a chance to write with her.”



Reading Pass Rates



Math Pass Rates

# Superintendent To Report on Middle School Data

FROM PAGE 1

“I think it was a lot better before the reorganization,” said Leslie York, parent of two students at Hammond. “In my opinion, it’s a bad idea to mix sixth graders with seventh graders and eighth graders because the older kids are a bad influence.”

The move to reorganize two buildings into five schools came at a time when the school system was in the midst of a major transformation. Sherman, who had only been in the position for a year, was cleaning house at the central administration headquarters and installing a new group of leaders. Now the five middle schools each have their own administrative structure, which supporters say offers a smaller learning environment that allows for a personalized education and one-on-one interaction.

“I would say it’s been a big success,” said Kellie Souza, parent at George Washington Middle School. “The principal and the staff know all of the students by name and know the parents.”

**ONE OF THE CHANGES** that took place in the flurry of activity in 2009 was that the middle schools applied for federal money under Title One of the No Child Left Behind Law. Although the previous practice had been to limit the money — and punishment for failing to meet minimum standards — to elementary schools, Sherman expanded the program into the middle schools. That brought in about \$1 million a year.

“This is a decision that was made to provide the middle schools with resources to support higher academic achievement for at-risk students,” said Margaret Byess, the school division’s budget director at the time. “That’s the purpose of Title One.”

Byess later left the school division after an independent accountant declared the budget office suffered from a “dysfunctional environment.” Vice Mayor Kerry Donley called for the superintendent to step down, but School Board members stood by the superintendent. Since that time, three of

Hammond<sup>1</sup> 97-98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>3</sup>

Eng/Rdg	55.3	66.0	60.7	64.0	63.2	61.7	75.6	72.0	81.9	73.7	79.2	86.0	81.3	84.0	84.9
Eng/Wrt	54.9	66.8	73.4	69.2	72.6	65.3	75.7	68.8	89.5	79.2	83.1	82.0	89.9	81.0	83.0
History	24.4	40.9	42.6	51.8	80.1	78.5	-	-	85.0	81.9	87.3	87.6	86.8	83.6	85.0
Math	52.2	55.4	57.4	68.8	63.2	71.0	78.2	72.0	51.6	59.4	60.8	73.3	71.7	65.1	52.4
Science	51.6	70.6	72.2	79.4	77.9	69.3	82.4	74.3	84.1	81.4	81.8	86.4	88.4	86.1	87.2

GW<sup>1</sup> 97-98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11<sup>2</sup> 12<sup>3</sup>

Eng/Rdg	51.4	55.7	52.9	59.1	59.7	58.5	67.9	68.7	73.4	70.9	77.5	84.3	86.1	83.8	81.1
Eng/Wrt	52.6	57.6	67.8	62.6	72.2	60.0	78.5	68.1	86.1	70.2	81.1	82.9	90.7	88.6	86.9
History	28.0	39.0	37.4	36.5	71.2	70.6	-	-	63.9	67.2	67.8	74.2	82.8	76.8	76.3
Math	53.0	46.3	44.6	54.7	59.2	73.8	68.6	70.5	45.3	53.3	59.7	68.0	73.0	75.6	57.9
Science	55.5	70.6	59.0	70.6	73.4	78.2	88.4	82.7	70.5	75.3	79.4	81.2	88.4	87.8	81.9

<sup>1</sup> From 1998 to 2005, spring testing results were reported for the Standards of Learning (SOL) for English, mathematics, history/social science and science for grades 3, 5 and 8, as well as for end-of-course tests. However beginning in 2006, SOL results were reported as combined results — of all assessments in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, and end-of-course tests for fall, spring and summer.

<sup>2</sup> Revised SOL history assessments were first implemented in 2011 to reflect the new and more rigorous Standards of Learning.

<sup>3</sup> Revised SOL math assessments were first implemented in 2012 to reflect the new and more rigorous Standards of Learning.

five middle schools have been accredited with warning and two of the five principals have announced they are leaving — one is stepping down after his first year on the job and another is retiring.

“We have a not seen sustained positive achievement gains since the split,” said School Board member Bill Campbell. “I believe that the best opportunity for consistent achievement at the middle-school level is single schools with strong leaders.”

**CAMPBELL WOULD** like to see a drastic reorganization of the school system that would transform George Washington Middle School back into a high school, which it was from 1935 to 1971. That plan would also convert the proposed Jefferson-Houston School to be a middle school instead of a facility that would serve Kindergarten through the eighth grade, transform Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center into a middle school and acquire the Nannie J. Lee Center from the city to convert it back to an elementary school.

“Of course, all of this would require significant redistricting of the school boundaries,” said Campbell. “It would be a hell of a lot cheaper, and it would set us up for the next 50 years.”

So far, School Board members have made no decisions about what should happen

with the reorganization. During a meeting late last month, board members asked the superintendent for a report outlining the promise and pitfalls of the reorganization. No proposal has been submitted to undo the reorganization, and members say the upcoming personnel changes at the school offer an ideal time to evaluate the change and see if the data support it.

“The small learning environment provides a better opportunity to know the kids,” said Sherman in an interview at City Hall this week. “We lose kids in middle school, and the best way to stop the dropout rate is to focus personal attention at the middle school level.”

**THIS WEEK**, Sherman sent board members a preliminary report detailing test data over the last 15 years. Most of the lowest scores on the chart are at the early end, when the school system was under a different administration. The vast majority of the highest scores came after the 2009 reorganization, a point that the superintendent said underscored the success of the move to split the middle schools and personalize instruction.

“The middle schools are on a good path,” said Sherman. “Progress is being made.”

Later this week, Sherman said, he will be sending board members a more complete

report that will detail the individual performance at the five middle schools rather than lumping them together the way the preliminary report does. Elected officials say they are eager to get a complete snapshot of the test results from the schools so they can make an informed decision about whether or not the reorganization has met the expectations that were outlined when the superintendent took action four years ago.

“I’m tired of hearing about climate when we don’t have achievement,” said School Board member Pat Hennig. “If I want to hear about climate I’ll call Bob Ryan.”

**SINCE THE SCHOOL BOARD** asked the superintendent to compile data and report back to the elected officials last month, parents across the city have been buzzing about the possibility that the middle schools will be changed back from five to two. Board members were adamant that no such plan is under consideration, and that they are simply looking at test scores at this point.

“Right now it’s just an idea, and there are no plans,” said Karen McManis, president of the George Washington Middle School PTA. “But we’ve all seen ideas that become plans very quickly in this city, and that’s created some concern among parents.”

# Girls' Rule at Ted Phoenix

## T.C. Williams girls' freshman 8 win state championship

The T.C. Williams girls' freshman 8 crew team won the Ted Phoenix Trophy on Saturday, May 4, as the fastest boat in Virginia, capping a day that not only saw the frosh 8 remain unbeaten for the season, but saw other Titan girls capture a silver and two bronze medals in three other races, as well.

The trophy and medals came at the Ted Phoenix Regatta, an annual event that is raced on the Occoquan Reservoir 15 miles south of Alexandria and serves as the championship for freshman and novice boats in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The freshman girls' victory came in the last race of the day and after they had already won their morning heat.

The frosh 8 crossed the finish line with a time of 5:17.10, eight seconds faster than their time in the morning and over four seconds faster than runner-up Yorktown. Members of the girls' freshman 8 include coxswain Maggie Chamberlain and rowers Natasha Magallon, Harper Jensen, Amelia Bender, Giulia Pastore, Hannah Posson, Abby Prall, Sarah Scroggs and LeeAnn Richards. The freshman girls are guided by Coach Patrick Marquardt.

Also bringing home a medal at the championship this past weekend was the T.C. Williams girls' fourth 8, who captured the silver by finishing in second place in their race with a time of 6:00.83. Members of the fourth 8 include coxswain Sadie Frymiar and rowers Annisa Ashraf, Deeba Rassuli, Eva Cardona Lopez, Ella Benbow, Dilma



With Coach Patrick Marquardt standing at their side, members of the T.C. Williams girls' freshman 8 hoist the Ted Phoenix Trophy above their heads after winning the Virginia State championship on May 4.

Mejia, Cecilia Fernandez, Tori Cook and Akie Kadota. The fourth 8 is guided by Coach Cara Donley.

Winning the bronze medal were the T.C. Williams girls' novice 8, who crossed the finish line in their race with a time of 5:48.12, and the T.C. girls' third 8, who captured third place with a time of 5:37.82. Members of the novice 8 include: coxswain Amanda Eisenhower and rowers Olivia, Jessica Mellon, Lily Warden, Katie Murphy,

Sierra Arnold, Reed Kenny, Cobie Johnson and Emily De-Bodene. The novice 8 is guided by Coach Matt Given.

Members of the third 8 include coxswain Brooke Teferra and rowers Maria Justiniano, Caileigh Pattisall, Annette Koroma, Katherine Campbell, Ariel Grippio, Brianna Smith, Valerie Hernandez and Priya Vohra. The third 8 is guided by Marquardt, who added to his medal collection by winning the bronze.

The T.C. Williams freshman and novice boys also competed in the championship this past Saturday. Although their boats fell out of the medal hunt, the Titan boys turned in strong performances against a field that as a whole was very competitive for the day.

Leading the way for the boys was the novice 4, who captured second place in their morning heat to advance to the final, where they just missed earning a medal, coming in fourth. In another solid performance, the boys' novice 8 "A" boat finished with a time of 5:26.23 in their morning heat, which was good enough for third place but just off the pace needed to qualify for the final.

Other Titan boats competing in the Ted Phoenix Regatta were the T.C. boys' freshman 8 and novice boys' "B" boat, each of whom performed well in their individual contests and all of whom demonstrated real progress and fortitude throughout the season. The T.C. freshman boys were guided by Coach Matt Holland, while the novice boys were guided by coaches Katie Bond, Stephanie Patton and Audrey Shankles.

The T.C. Williams crew team will compete next in the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship for upper boats, which will be held at Occoquan once again this coming Saturday, May 11. The T.C. crew team is guided by Boys' Head Coach Pete Stramese and Girls' Head Coach Mercedes Kiss. For the complete schedule and more information about T.C. Williams Crew, visit [www.tcwcrew.org](http://www.tcwcrew.org) or [www.facebook.com/alexandria.crewboosters](http://www.facebook.com/alexandria.crewboosters).

## Public Comments on Latest Vision for Landmark Mall

FROM PAGE 3

Her explanation that Sears and Macy's have agreed to allow Hughes Corporation to move ahead is a vital element of the planning/development process. Both Sears and Macy's own the land on which they are situated. The only portion of the site controlled by Hughes is the center section of the mall and all three owners must be in concurrence with any proposed plans. Wright emphasized that fact and noted that this was a major shift in previous revitalization efforts.

But, this multiple ownership is not uncommon in the world of shopping centers, said John Simon, executive vice president, Howard Hughes Corporation, during his presentation to the audience assembled at the mall for the Community Meeting. "Many regional shopping centers are not under

single ownership," he said.

"We as developers can only control the middle portion of Landmark. But, the three of us have agreed that none of us can do anything unless all three of us agree on the plans," he said.

As with any business agreement between various entities there are also a myriad details and quid pro quos to be satisfied as Simon noted. "We are now trying to finalize our business agreements (with Sears and Macy's)," he said.

He explained that HH Corp. had considered two different plans for the mall. One included residential development on the north side and the other did not. It was the former that was highlighted during the hour-long plan viewing period Wednesday night that sought citizen comments, writ-

ten and verbal, prior to the corporate and city presentations.

**THE OVERALL DESIGN** plan calls for two streets to flow through the center mall area lined by retail and restaurant establishments. There would also be an 800-seat theater/restaurant complex that would allow matrons to enjoy a full dinner and drinks while viewing movies.

The two one-way streets, one in and one out, would provide access to a parking garage at the end opposite Duke Street. That area would also encompass a variety of residential buildings. There would be a roundabout on the Duke street side of the complex, according to Simon's presentation.

"We are talking to three different theater operators and several residential develop-

ers who are interested in the project," Simon said. He also noted that the present entrances to Van Dorn and Duke streets will not change. Simon was quick to quash any speculation that this was a done deal or that it was on the immediate horizon. "I don't want to indicate this will all happen in the next year or two. Hopefully we will be able to begin demolition in the spring of 2014 and open a portion in the spring of 2015," he said. In response to several questions concerning plans for transportation initiatives pertaining to the mall development, Wright said that "no contributions to transportation needs have been discussed at this time." However, she added, "It is anticipated that when the overall development takes place then such transportation contributions will be discussed."

### BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

#### ABSENTEE VOTING OPENS

On Tuesday June 11, there will be a **Democratic Primary** for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Absentee voting for the primary began Friday, April 26. Many Alexandria voters are eligible to vote

absentee, but relatively few take advantage of this option. Qualifying circumstances: commute and work for 11 of the 13 hours the polls are open; caregiver for a confined family member; unable to go to the polls in person on Election Day because of an illness or disability; or will be absent from Alexandria on Election Day because of personal business, work, school, or vacation. To learn more about these, and other circumstances

in which absentee voting is an appropriate option, visit [alexandriava.gov/Elections](http://alexandriava.gov/Elections) and click on "Absentee Voting," or call 703-746-4050.

#### THURSDAY/MAY 9

**Homebuyer Training Seminar.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Advanced registration requested. Visit [www.homeseminar.org](http://www.homeseminar.org) for more.

#### FRIDAY/MAY 10

**Dress selection.** Any northern Virginia-area student can select a formal dress and accessories from 3:30-6 p.m. at T.C. Williams, 3330 King St. Students will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Free. E-mail [eleanor.muse@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:eleanor.muse@acps.k12.va.us) for questions or to volunteer.

#### SATURDAY/MAY 11

**Dress selection.** Any northern Virginia-area student can select a formal dress and accessories from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at T.C. Williams, 3330 King St. Students will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Free. E-mail [eleanor.muse@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:eleanor.muse@acps.k12.va.us) for questions or to volunteer.

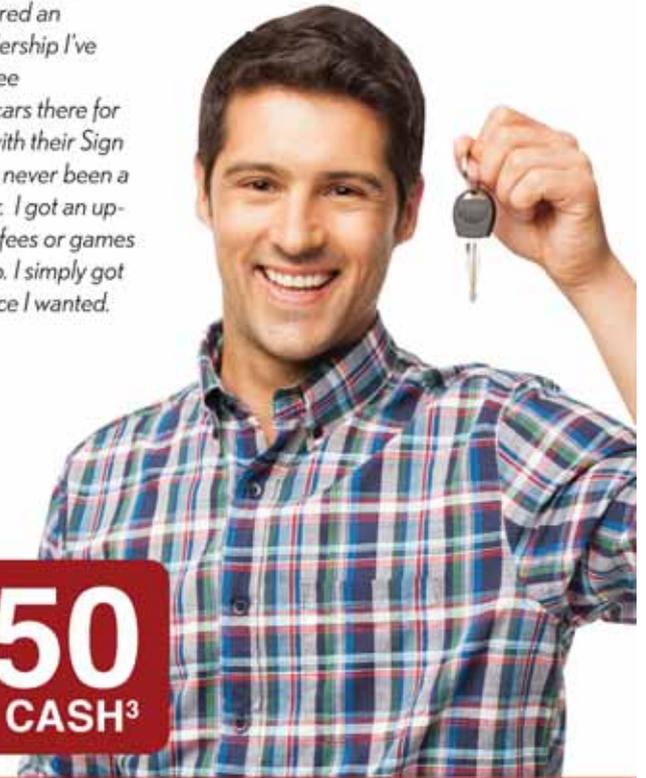
**Alexandria Archaeological Commission Site Tour.** 11 a.m. Jones Point Park Contact Francine Bromberg, 703-746-4399.



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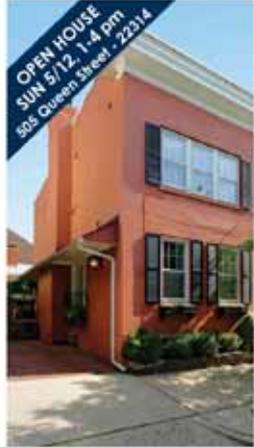
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**18th Century Charm**



exudes throughout this exceptional, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath, semi-detached townhouse with well-proportioned formal rooms, recent kitchen and baths, engaging family room with fireplace, three additional fireplaces, sparkling wood floors and a charming garden that becomes another room in warmer weather. MLS# AX8052496

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