



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/GAZETTE PACKET

Back to School

Crossing guard Mary Brown stands at her post helping students get to their first day of class at Mount Vernon Community School. Due to their modified school calendars, Mount Vernon Community School and Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School began the new school year on Aug. 1.



Jamie Ramirez and her children Kayle and Dennis were among the many families eagerly waiting for school to begin.



The Matney family take a last back-to-school photo before the bell rings and everyone goes inside.

‘Sir, Are You Conscious?’

911 call played as part of dramatic preliminary hearing in Craig Patterson case.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Craig Patterson sat stonefaced in a green jumpsuit as his voice boomed from speakers in the courtroom. Commonwealth’s Attorney Randy Sengel pressed a few buttons on his laptop computer, and the 911 call began playing a key piece of evidence in the case against the 44-year-old Arlington County sheriff’s deputy who shot and killed Julian Dawkins, a 22-year-old Alexandria man.

“I had a young man pull a knife on me, and I shot him,” Patterson told the dispatcher in a crisp and



Craig Patterson

formal tone. “He’s lying on the ground, face down.”

At that point, the dispatcher asked Patterson if the man was conscious.

“Sir, are you conscious?” Patterson asked.

When that part of the recording was broadcast in the packed courtroom, family and friends of Dawkins reacted with shock and

SEE SENDEL, PAGE 22

Defense of Marriage?

Candidates for attorney general take different approaches to constitutional ban on gay marriage.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia’s next attorney general will have to stand in a courtroom and make a decision about whether or not the commonwealth’s constitutional ban on marriage should be defended. Republican candidate Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26) has been clear about his support for the

amendment and his intention to provide a vigorous defense of marriage. Democratic candidate Sen. Mark Herring (D-33), on the other hand, has yet to take a position on whether or not he will defend the amendment if elected.

“He’s taking a look at the case,” said Kevin O’Holleran, campaign manager for the Herring campaign. “He’s going to work with his

SEE DIFFERENT, PAGE 22

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Vital Records

Anyone who's ever spent five minutes researching their genealogy knows the importance of death records. They include a gold mine of information about maiden names, places of birth and surviving relatives. That's why the Alexandria history community went into red alert this week when they learned Every-Wheatley Funeral Home was planning to destroy funeral records dating back to 1846.

"I am confident that either Alexandria's library system or the Alexandria Black History Museum will be willing to accept all legal liability for the sensitive data in those records in order to permanently stop the destruction of them and allow for them to be transferred," Alexandria Historical Society board member **Paul Friedman** wrote in a letter to the funeral home this week.

Leaders at the Alexandria library system say funeral homes in other jurisdictions have offered their records to public archives. And Alexandria's history has a particular importance in the history of Virginia as well as the early days of the District of Columbia. The records are also significant because they include African-American genealogical data that is often difficult to track down. Officials at the funeral home's corporate headquarters say they are concerned about security of Social Security numbers and health information privacy.

"They are concerned about their legal requirements regarding the privacy of the documents," said Friedman. "I expect and hope that will be easily resolved."

Courtroom Collapse

It's a good thing that lawyers have to pass the bar because sitting in the spectator seats at the Alexandria courthouse could be hazardous to their health.

This week, during a high-profile hearing in General District Courtroom Two, a bench along the eastern wall of the courthouse suddenly collapsed, sending several people tumbling to the ground and turning heads during a tense moment in a preliminary hearing for a murder trial. Rattled spectators helped the fallen to their feet and sheriff's deputies secured the scene. Officials from the Department of General Services are investigating how the 1980 bench could have given way so suddenly and so dramatically.

Commonwealth's Attorney **Randy Sengel** said he had never seen something like that happen at the courthouse. "One bench in 30 years," said Sengel. "That's not a bad track record."

New Discussion

Although the St. James Group has withdrawn its proposal to create a massive new sports complex in Alexandria, the discussion about using public land for private gain has opened a new conversation about recreational opportunities for children and adults in the city. "We need a dedicated group of stakeholders involving business, government and citizens to figure out what is needed, much as we did about 10 years ago regarding open space in the city," said **Bill Dickinson**, former chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority. "We should do this on a regional basis given some recreation needs can only be met outside city limits and some of these assets are regional in scope."

Outlook: Stable

Good news for Alexandria. The city no longer has a "negative" outlook. This week, Moody's Investor Service upgraded the city's credit rating from "negative" to "stable." The move comes after the United States government's AAA rating was improved to "stable" last month. Alexandria was one of 37 local governments and four states that were elevated to "stable."

Back in 2011, when Moody's placed the U.S. government on "negative" outlook the rating agency revised the outlooks of some AAA-rated municipal issuers to "negative" to reflect their close economic, financial and capital markets linkages to the federal government.

That was the bad news. The good news is that the same conditions that returned the United States government to "stable" also reduced Alexandria's exposure to risk.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

Joseph Hensley Park was developed in part with federal money from the Land and Water Conservation Act, which means it was protected from development despite a determination last week from the city attorney.

Hensley Proposal Withdrawn

City attorney gave green light to using public land for private gain without reviewing all documents.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Recently unearthed documents from city and state archives show Joseph Hensley Park is protected by the Land and Water Conservation Act, which financed development of the city-owned property in the late 1970s. As a result, the St. James Group announced this week that it's "disappointed to announce" that it will be withdrawing its proposal to use public land for private gain. The developments come a week after City Attorney James Banks concluded that the Land and Water Conservation Act funding from the 1970s "no impediment" to entering into a 40-year lease with the developer.

"We did not miss anything," said Banks. "What happened was we based the conclusion on the evidence that was in front of us, and we continued to search the records."

Even after Banks made his determination giving the green light to develop the city park, state officials at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation said they were still trying to track down documents to determine how and where a 1977 grant was allocated. The search concluded that a 1977 grant assisted the city with the acquisition of a property known as the Lynch tract. That means the developer did, in fact, face an impediment despite what the city manager said last week.

"The requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act constitute a barrier of sufficient magnitude to the development of Hensley Park that [the St. James Group] has determined that the best course of action is to pursue other locations for its proposed sports and entertainment complex," according to a written statement issued Tuesday night.

EVER SINCE the St. James Group first submitted its unsolicited bid to the city last month, the proposal has been a polarizing topic. Some parents loved the idea of having a world-class sports complex with an Olympic-size pool and international squash courts. Advocates for open space worried that city officials were willing to hand over one of the city's crown

jewels. Caught in the middle were elected officials responsible for making decisions based on legal analysis from the city attorney.

"We have to have a city attorney who does the work and does the job," said Jack Sullivan, who lives in Seminary Hill. "The guy seems to only want to sue our citizens and doesn't do the job he's been sent to do."

When the Board of Zoning Appeals ruled in favor of a group of citizens challenging the waterfront plan, Banks appealed the ruling. He later concluded that the board did not need legal representation in court, a determination that many critics of the waterfront plan said was unacceptable. Now that Banks has revised his opinion about Hensley Park, critics of city government say the management of City Hall has serious problems that must be addressed.

"The city attorney engages in wishful thinking and decides things the way he wants them to be rather than researching all the law and precedents," said Katy Cannady, a frequent critic of City Hall. "That gets you mistakes, and it gets you sued."

"We did not miss anything. What happened was we based the conclusion on the evidence that was in front of us, and we continued to search the records."

— City Attorney James Banks

BANKS SAID part of the problem was the inaccessible nature of the documents and the changing landscape of the environment. When the land was originally acquired using the power of eminent domain in the 1970s, it was known as the Lynch tract because the city paid \$580,000 to Edwin Lynch, who was acting as a trustee for a partnership known as Vernon M. Lynch and Sons. Then it was

part of Cameron Run Park. It didn't become known as Hensley Park until after Joseph Hensley, the long-time director of the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, retired in 1987. Meanwhile, the construction of Eisenhower Avenue added a challenge to comparing modern maps to the 1970s-era maps.

"The records in city archives are not maintained on site, and therefore it takes some time to recover those documents in a form in which they can be read, digested and analyzed," said Banks. "I provided analysis based on the information that we had in front of us, and we continued to search the records."

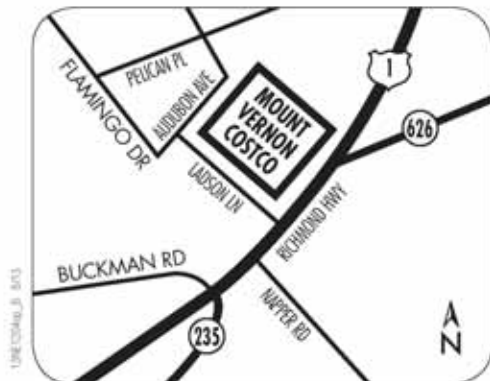
Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg said she's glad public land was not used for private gain, adding that the changing legal analysis on Hensley Park should be an opportunity to have a conversation about better management.

"This is a teachable moment for the city and staff, for all of us, to ensure that we have all the facts before we speak and not rush to judgement," said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. "We need to hold ourselves accountable."

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Tavern Day

Visitors dress up in their best period clothing as they participate in a free dance lesson teaching them how to dance like George Washington as part of Tavern Day, Aug. 3, at Gadsby's Tavern Museum.



Dancing master-caller Corky Palmer teaches visitors how to dance like George Washington.



Victoria King enjoys the festivities of Tavern Day.



Margaret Morgan and Gema Gonzauz clap their hands as they participate in a 17th century dance lesson.



Malu Polansla fans her face during a 17th century dance lesson.

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Hangover Issue

When he campaigned for governor four years ago, Republican **Bob McDonnell** promised he would privatize the state-owned liquor monopoly. Then he got elected and had to face the General Assembly, where Democrats feared losing revenue and Republicans were wary of the demon alcohol. The effort failed and McDonnell moved on to trying to fix the state's transportation problems.

Now, another candidate is raising the issue — Libertarian candidate **Robert Sarvis**. The candidate was in Charlottesville this week to launch an initiative challenging the law-enforcement role of the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control in the wake of community outrage over a University of Virginia student who spent a night in jail after state agents mistook a case of sparkling water for beer. Sarvis is calling for law-enforcement powers to be shifted from state regulators to local law-enforcement agencies. "When you get a regulatory agency that also has its own enforcement arm, you get a very sort of narrow-minded mentality," said Sarvis. "When you give enforcement to a more professional police force, the enforcement agency has to actually determine what the best use of their resources are."

Sarvis is also calling for the state-owned monopoly of liquor sales to end. "I think a third-party governor actually has more opportunity to get certain types of things done," said University of Virginia Center for Politics analyst **Geoff Skelley**. He says Sarvis is unlikely to win but has an opportunity to contribute to the debate.

"If the argument is made strongly by Sarvis, maybe people could actually pay attention to it and be, like, yea that's an interesting idea," said Skelley. "But even when there's a good reason to talk about a policy issue like police power and who should hold it, I think it will just get swallowed up."

Gimmick Session

The race for governor is awash in scandal and intrigue as the FBI investigates Republicans and the SEC investigates Democrats. Meanwhile, talk on the campaign trail has turned to ethics reform. Some are calling for a \$100 cap for gifts to elected leaders. Others are calling for gifts to family members to be included in financial disclosure forms. Caught in the middle are legislators who won't convene again until January.

That's why Republican Attorney General **Ken Cuccinelli** is calling for a special session to address the issue of ethics reform before the next election. But his efforts were rebuffed by Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell, who said he would not call legislators for a special session on ethics reform.

"I'm disappointed because I believe Virginians want solutions right now, not sometime down the road," said Cuccinelli in a written statement. "The citizens of Virginia would appreciate our responsiveness to their concerns related to trust in their own state government."

Needless to say, Democrats are skeptical. "It's a gimmick," said state Sen. **Adam Ebbin** (D-30). "If Cuccinelli was serious about ethics reform, he would start by returning the gifts he received from **Jonnie Williams** and Star Scientific."

Cuccinelli says he has no plans to return the \$18,000 in gifts he received from Williams, a wealthy businessman who showered the governor and his family with gifts while he was fighting a tax bill. "There are some bells you can't unring," Cuccinelli told reporters last week.

Mark Your Calendar

The governor may not be running for reelection, but he'll be barnstorming the state this week to celebrate his administration's track record. Starting on Friday, McDonnell will be hitting the road for a tour which organizers are calling "This Commonwealth of Opportunity." The roadshow will feature stops from Roanoke to Bristol and will culminate in Alexandria on Friday Aug. 15.

"It may be hard to remember," said University of Mary Washington professor **Stephen Farnsworth**. "But before this scandal hit, McDonnell was considered one of the most successful governors of the modern era."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/GAZETTE PACKET

Grand Opening

H&M opened its new location at 614 King St. on July 25. The grand opening offered discounts, face painting, refreshments and other activities for children. The 22,000-square-foot space offers clothing for men and women of all ages

BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos encouraged.

The **Fountains at Washington House's** Medicare-certified skilled nursing center, known as The Springs, has earned the highest five-star quality rating and four-star overall rating from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, according to Connie Haworth, executive director of the Alexandria retirement community. The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Avenue, is one of 32 communities operated by Watermark Retirement Communities. For more information, visit www.watermarkcommunities.com or call 703-845-5000.

Key promotions and new hires at **Unwined**, located in Bradlee and Belle View Shopping Centers: **John Spina**, general manager, King Street; **Holly Rocco Feraci**, marketing director; **Savannah Brown**, wine associate; and David Grabosky, wine associate and craft beer specialist. Title changes: **Renée Lorraine**, senior buyer and general manager, Belle View; **Suzanne Ruscio**, assistant manager, Belle View; and **Nick Borek**, assistant manager, King Street.

Six of **Bean, Kinney & Korman's** attorneys were recently selected for inclusion in the 2013 Virginia Super Lawyers listing. The attorneys were recognized for their distinguished legal work in five different practice areas. These attorneys are: **Raighne C. Delaney**, Business Litigation; **Timothy R. Hughes**, Construction Litigation; **Jonathan C. Kinney**, Land Use/Zoning; **James W. Korman**, Family Law; **James R. Schroll**, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights; and **Sara Leiner Schuler**, Family Law.

Rooftop Chimney Sweeps, LTD celebrates 35 years of business in Au-

gust.

Worldwide Speakers Group has acquired the Richmond, Va.-based Arnett & Associates.

Acme Mid-Century + Modern is opening a boutique vintage and modern home furnishings shop in the atrium of the historic Crilley Warehouse. Visit www.acmemidcentury.com.

Story Store Media, a video production company, has signed a three-year lease for the mezzanine level of 2001 Mount Vernon Ave. Story Store Media has called the Del Ray home for more than two years, but has expanded to accommodate business growth.

Tonya L. McCray is **Alexandria Transit Company's** new director of finance and administration. McCray will be responsible for overseeing the finance and accounting functions and the coordination of those functions with the city's systems. McCray has more than 15 years of experience in the finance and accounting profession. Contact DASH at 703-746-DASH (3274) or visit www.dashbus.com.

The **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board** approved, for future sale, the Royal Street bus barn located between Royal Street and North Pitt Street in Old Town. The Alexandria facility will be replaced by a new WMATA bus garage located in Fairfax County. WMATA plans to issue a solicitation in the fall of 2013 for sale of the Royal Street site upon groundbreaking of the new Fairfax bus garage. The community will have opportunity to provide public input to the redevelopment of the bus barn site through the city's development review process, which will culminate in a set of City Planning Commission and City Council land use discussions. Call 703-888-7166 or contact Dirk Geratz at

dirk.geratz@alexandria.gov.

Sport Clips Haircuts opened a new location in Mount Vernon Plaza, 7732B Richmond Highway. The national company specializes in precision haircuts, shampoo, styling and neck and shoulder massage for men. Sports Clips is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit www.haircutmenalexandriava.com.

The Women's Center at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria Campus has received a \$17,000 donation from the Fairfax County's Office of Public Private Partnerships. The donation will allow the center to provide students with financial help such as tuition assistance, books and emergency funds. Additionally, the partnership will help the center provide better access to community services and resources for struggling students, including those who face domestic, dating and sexual violence.

The Torpedo Factory Art Center is welcoming Shai Chu to its staff as the new event rental coordinator. Shai has a background in customer service, events management and marketing, most recently working for the online company Razoo.

Newly appointed Head Bartender **Dean Feddaoui** is taking creative approaches to his new cocktail menu at **Jackson 20**. His cocktail includes flash-smoked Jack Daniels, Old Fashion bitters, Sweet Vermouth and is garnished with lemon peel.

The **Association of Pool & Spa Professionals** has appointed **Richard Gottwald** as president and CEO and a member of the board of directors. Gottwald brings more than 26 years of

SEE BUSINESS NOTES, PAGE 8
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PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/CAZETTE PACKET

Dog Adoption Event

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria hosted a Dogs Day adoption event at the Athenaeum gallery on Saturday, Aug. 3. Jenniffer Sherrill smiles as she admires Nuggett, one of three dogs up for adoption.



Inside the Athenaeum gallery, guests can view portraits titled the "Dog Days Show" by artist Kathleen Ewings. The exhibit is on display until Sept. 1.



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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

OPINION

White House Bound

BY KATHARINE DIXON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REBUILDING TOGETHER
ALEXANDRIA



as possible when the President was traveling. Having first worked while JFK was in office, he remembers the Kennedys as

While studying diesel engines at school in Spartanburg, S.C., in 1954, Thomas* received the highest class grade — which came with the promise of getting to serve in the White House. And though the Army's promise never came to fruition, Thomas and his two best buddies (who happened to receive the next two highest grades) did get to accompany a group of scientists at the North Pole for experimental work.

COMMENTARY

Every day, Thomas, using a bulldozer, pulled sleds with engines on them across the ice caps to wherever testing was taking place that day. Temperatures on the caps ranged from -69 to a balmy 40 degrees in the summer. Some days, during white outs, no one could see anything past a few inches in front of them — the snow was just blowing too hard and too fast. Because this severe cold took so much energy out of him, he was allowed one and a half rations at mealtime, and sometimes even got to eat steak when his captain, who loved steak and eggs, shared a meal with them.

After leaving the Army, Thomas actually got to work at the White House as an employee of an independently contracted construction company. He recalls working around the Presidents' schedules, trying to complete as much work

very easy people with whom to get along, the First Lady especially. She gave Thomas and his coworkers pictures of the First Family before she vacated the White House.

Thomas recalls LBJ as being not as understanding about White House construction work, always asking his crew, "When you gon' be done, you dirty people?" But at least Thomas had made it to the White House.

Having lived in his own white house in Alexandria for nearly 50 years, Thomas used to be his home's "independent contractor." But now, in his 80s, Thomas relies on volunteer organizations like Rebuilding Together, to assist him with home maintenance.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is an award-winning, non-profit organization dedicated to repairing and revitalizing homes at no charge for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans, and families. To date, in-kind donations of labor and materials have resulted in \$6.3 million worth of value on more than 1,600 projects. If you would like to apply, volunteer or donate, visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.

* It is Rebuilding Together Alexandria's policy to not disclose full names.

BUSINESS NOTES

FROM PAGE 6

relevant association experience to his new role, having previously served as executive vice president of the International Sign Association.

Dominion Dental Services Inc. has been selected by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as a regional dental carrier for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program. Dominion becomes one of 10 carriers participating in the program that makes dental benefits available to federal employees, retirees and their families. Dominion will be the only Dental HMO plan offered in the FEDVIP program.

Alexandria City residents, **Susanna and Maria McPhilomy**, recently opened an English school, **Forum Intensive English Center**, in Old Town Alexandria that offers English language training to local immigrants in the D.C. metro area. The McPhilomys have experienced the challenges of immigration first hand, as both are of Armenian descent and immigrated to the U.S. in the

mid-1990s. Knowing that English is the key to success in this country, the mother and daughter duo decided to combine Susanna's 37 years of teaching experience with Maria's communications background and tap into the international market of the D.C. area. Classes start in the beginning and middle of each month and are offered three times a day in the morning, afternoon and evenings and weekend classes are available as well. Forum is located near King Street and Braddock Road metro stations off of the blue and yellow lines. More information can be found at www.forumenglishcenter.com.

Moody's Investor Service has upgraded the City of Alexandria's credit rating outlook from "negative" to "stable" as a result of also moving the U.S. government's 'AAA' rating to a "stable" outlook on July 18. Alexandria was one of 37 local governments and four states that were elevated to "stable." Standard and Poor's Rating Services, another major credit rating agency, continues to maintain its 'AAA' credit rating for the city.

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BY LOU COOK

Born in 1943 in Greenville, Texas, Richard E. Merritt grew up in the Bellaire section of Houston and attended Austin College in Sherman, also in Texas, where he earned a B.A. in psychology. He joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer in India. He was assigned to community development as an extension officer helping to improve crop yields.

"Ironically I grew up in an urban environment," he said. "But there were problems with developing agriculture and teaching Indian farmers to develop confidence in new development projects, primarily wheat and sorghum. With these we hoped to show a significant difference in crop production." Merritt was posted in Gujarat Province in western India on the Arabian Sea helping people find and obtain resources and purchase seed. The experience changed his life.

"You make of it what you will, and I tried to open myself up as much as I could," he said. "I came out a much better person. It taught me so many values and traits: patience, tolerance, confidence, independence, empathy."

India also taught him one of Gandhi's guiding principles: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

ON HIS RETURN, Merritt studied international relations and law at Tufts University but decided against a foreign service career. Instead he became a research associate at the National Legislative Conference, a trade association that represents the interests of state legislative bodies. He served from 1972 to 1975.

Then came a role as staff director for human resources at the National Conference of State Legislatures from 1975 to 1980. From 1980 to 1996 he was director of the Intergovernmental Health Policy Project at George Washington University. He then spent 10 years as director of the Forum for State Health Policy Leadership with the National Conference of State Legislatures.

He lived in Arlington for almost 17 years and moved to Alexandria 18 years ago. Throughout his career Merritt has been a community volunteer and served on a number of boards, including the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern Virginia, Hospice of Northern Virginia and Inova Health Systems. He is chair of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission, as well as chair of the Clean and Smoke Free Air Coalition of Alexandria, which is part of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria.

Former Alexandria City Councilmember Mel Bergheim said Merritt is "always on top of the subject."



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Richard Merritt's Peace Corps experience taught him one of Gandhi's guiding principles: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Merritt said, "I only agree to chair a group if people will help in actually doing a job, such as improving respiratory health for children and youth, improving tobacco control efforts, helping to check the increase in child obesity, and increasing access to preventative care for physical, oral, mental health and primary care."

HE INTENDS to spotlight those issues in his current positions as chair of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission and chair of the Alexandria Coalition on Clean and Smoke-Free Air.

"We are attempting to motivate smokers to quit and have put up signs in parks, playgrounds and bus shelters with information on where to find confidential information on quitting," he said. "We hope Alexandria will be the most smoke-free city of its size in America by the end of 2015."

Dr. Stephen Haering, director of the Alexandria Health Department, said, "Richard's work has been dependable and tireless. He is a dogged advocate, concerned about Alexandria's vulnerable populations: children, the elderly, the economically disadvantaged and socially isolated." Haering sees these characteristics as determinants of individual health. "There is a growing body of evidence showing their negative effects on an individual's well-being."

"I joke that while I'm working on organization, administration and policy development advocacy Richard is actually doing public health," Haering said. When it was time to post quit-smoking signs in playgrounds and parks, volunteers were scarce.

Merritt drove Haering around Alexandria to post the signs. You don't get more "boots on the ground" than that.

Arlene Hewitt, who serves on two public health committees with Merritt, describes him as "one of the most extraordinarily dedicated citizens in Alexandria. He goes to the nth degree to pull everything together. Dick is an icon and example to all."

MERRITT is a Washington Nationals fan and participates in fantasy baseball. He is also an antique appraiser, specializing in early American furniture. He is accredited as an antique furniture appraiser by two national professional appraiser associations.

Living Legends: The Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts; Club Managers Association of America; Goodwin House, Inc.; McLaughlin Ryder Investments; Renner & Company, CPA, P.C.; the Rotary Club of Alexandria; and SunTrust Bank.

This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Legends@AlexandriaLegends.com.

He has taken a special interest in 18th-century Philadelphia furniture and is currently writing an article on a very early Philadelphia cabinetmaker.

He has worked with all the major auction companies in area. He takes assignments that interest him, mainly about furniture from 18th-century Philadelphia. He seeks to see and understand private collections and has found some exceptional ones, even right around the corner.

"About two years ago, I had an appraisal at a big estate right in heart of Old Town. I walked into the house and felt a chill running up my spine." Among other treasures he found a set of six very early Queen Anne side chairs. Merritt said it is unusual to find that many in a set still together.

However, he will not neglect his public service. "I intend to remain active in helping improve the health and well-being of our wonderful community by emphasizing prevention and early intervention in city policies and programs. The city was recently honored for the fifth year in a row as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in America. In receiving the award the mayor said he wants to see Alexandria become number one in that category. I think that's a terrific vision, and I'd like to play a role in making that come about."

Alexandria Academy Accepting Applications

The Alexandria City Academy (formerly Citizens Academy) is now accepting applications for its fall session. The 9-week program begins on Thursday, Sept. 12. The deadline to apply is Friday, Aug. 16 at 5 p.m. The city offers the 9-week City Academy program to provide residents with an opportunity to gain exposure and learn about city government through first-hand experiences with a range of government functions, services, activities and issues.

Classes will take place on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at various locations throughout the city. The program is open to city residents ages 18 and over, and

to business owners within the city limits. Class size is limited to approximately 20 students. To request an application, visit alexandriava.gov/CityAcademy, call 703-746-4317 to have one faxed, or pick up a copy at City Hall, 301 King St., Room 1900. Completed applications may be submitted four ways:

- ❖ Hand-delivered to 301 King St., Room 1900
- ❖ By mail to 301 King St., Room 1900
- ❖ By fax to 703-838-6426
- ❖ By completing an online application.

For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/CityAcademy, or contact Elaine Scott at 703.746.4317 or elaine.scott@alexandriava.gov.

OPINION

Issues That Matter

Mental health services discussion gives insight into real differences between candidates.

It came as somewhat of a relief to have the candidates for governor in Virginia, Ken Cuccinelli (R) and Terry McAuliffe (D), discuss an actual issue that matters to many Virginia families this week at a forum on mental health issues.

While press coverage of Cuccinelli and McAuliffe might lead one to believe that they are two similar, ethically challenged candidates, in fact they differ dramatically in their views about key issues affecting Virginia.

EDITORIALS

Money is critical to providing appropriate mental health services. So is access to health insurance that covers treatment for mental illness.

Virginia has an opportunity to expand health care for poor residents, with the bill paid by the federal government. Virginians are already paying the taxes that fund the expansion of Medicaid in other states. This would provide coverage for individuals with income up to \$14,856 — \$30,656 for a family of four.

Cuccinelli opposes expanding Medicaid; McAuliffe supports it. Virginia stands to lose more than \$9.2 billion in federal funds over the first five years if it opts out of Medicaid expansion to individuals and families with incomes up to 133 percent of the poverty level.

It's a travesty that legislators engaged in partisan grandstanding could get to decide that as

many as 400,000 Virginians would not get access to health coverage.

Beyond Gifts and Disclosure

It's unlikely that there will be a special session of the General Assembly to address "holes" in Virginia's disclosure laws. No doubt some changes to rules on gifts to candidates and officials and their families will emerge from the next session of the Virginia General Assembly, which begins in January.

Virginia is one of only a few states with no limits on campaign contributions and little oversight on campaign spending, setting the stage for abuses beyond gifts, shopping sprees, etc.

Reform should move beyond gifts and into genuine campaign finance reform.

Share Wisdom, Second Request

Our Insider's Edition Newcomers and Community Guides, will publish the last week of August. Thank you to the many people who have sent in contributions for publication. We are still seeking more input.

What tips do you have for someone getting to know your community? Do you have a favorite park? What sites in your community do you take visitors to see? We're hoping to share the places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities your neighbors might not know about.

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations,

clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com. Send in your Insider's Tips by Friday, Aug. 16. For information on advertising, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too Many Trees Destroyed

To the Editor:

No more trees. When the Jefferson Houston School Project was first begun, there were a lot of people who

wanted the trees to stay, all the trees. These were people that attended the school and residents of the community.

Several months ago during a storm, a tree on West Street fell becoming entangled in the overhead electrical wires. This tree was determined to actually be rotting

and hollow from the inside out. Upon inspection by city staff and the school developer, it was determined that most if not all of the trees along West Street were suffering the same problem. The tree that had fallen was replaced by a young tree. Since then as construction began all the trees including the small young tree were removed. We were told that they would be putting the electrical wires underground, therefore they needed to remove all of the trees.

Well, if the wires will be underground, why couldn't they have left some of the trees? And, now that the trees are gone, why do they need to put the wires underground? This is not the way the rest of the block is, nor the opposite side of West Street.

Since then, the developer has removed more trees along Cameron Street. Three in front of the head start building, and there are more marked down Cameron Street and into the parking lot by the Olde Towne Pool. People have fought to keep the trees.

The developer and school officials have decided that eight of the existing trees should be allowed to stay along Cameron Street. While out walking with a friend, we investigated what other trees

have been marked for destruction or removal. The trees that are along the parking lot by the pool, and into the alleyway are strong, well established trees. There are many birds and other wildlife that live in the alley, they live in the trees. Why are the developer and the city removing such well established trees?

Two of the trees are at the back corner of the pool, they are not big trees yet, but they are right next to the fence and building structure. The new driveway that will be built does not need to destroy our total existing grounds.

We are being so inconvenienced by this development, do they really need to destroy everything in the name of progress? They have taken away our basketball court; they have blocked any way of walking through the block. They have destroyed the playground that had been used by all the children in the neighborhood; they have taken away two basketball courts, all with the promise of replacing them in the next year or so.

In the meantime, our children have basically nowhere on the block to play. One can see they have reassembled some of the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24



Senior Information Corners Expand

Senior Services of Alexandria is partnering with the city's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities to set up Senior Information Corners in Recreation Centers around town. These corners are stocked with information on a range of topics, including senior activities, health tips, caregiver guides and notices about upcoming events geared to seniors and their loved ones. Senior Information Corners are now in Charles Houston, Mount Vernon, Nannie J. Lee and William Ramsay Recreation Centers and may also be found in all four Alexandria public libraries. Above are: Mary Lee Anderson, SSA's acting executive director; Hannah Drexler, SSA intern, and Harold Little, director of William Ramsay Recreation Center.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria.

Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-917-6480 or by email to

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

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PEOPLE



Happy 90th

Eve Capps' 90th birthday party was held at the home of Susan and Scott Oswald on South Lee Street in Old Town. Neighbors and friends gathered to give her a memorable birthday party on Saturday, Aug. 3.

PHOTO BY
TIFFANY ANSELMO

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Oh, What a Night National Night Out celebrates 30 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Thousands of residents turned out across the city Aug. 6 as Alexandria celebrated the 30th anniversary of National Night Out, a program designed to promote neighborhood spirit and law enforcement-community partnerships in the fight against crime.

“We have a great turnout this year,” said West End resident Bill Jones as he grilled hamburgers at the Canterbury Square celebration, one of 35 that took place across the city. “This is a great chance to meet our neighbors and get to know our law enforcement personnel. More people should do it.”

A collaboration between local police departments and community organizers, National Night Out began as a simple display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils. The event has evolved into block parties and cookouts and an opportunity for local officials and law enforcement personnel to meet with residents of civic groups and neighborhood organizations.

“I appreciate the opportunity provided by our law enforcement partners to help spread the message of fire prevention and life safety to the community,” said Fire Chief Adam Thiel during a visit to the West Old Town Citizens Association event at the Helen Miller/Bernard Hunter playground. “And it’s a great way to promote community spirit.”



APD officer Steve Escobar and K-9 Gracie visit with Roberto Ortiz, 11, Eduardo Rivas, 12, and Kevin Granados, 9, during National Night Out.



Capt. Doug Schuler with daughter Amanda at the Del Ray Citizens Association festivities.



Lucia Addington, 2, gets her face painted by Barbara Scheeler at the West Old Town Citizens Association celebration of National Night Out.



Bill Jones, a resident of Canterbury Square since 1966, grills hamburgers during National Night Out.



Lt. Melissa Josiah deputizes Sol Griffith, 3, with a Sheriff's Department sticker badge.



Sheriff's Department representatives gather for a photo during National Night Out. Pictured are Chief Wendy Webb, Lt. Deborah Vaughn, Chaplain Myron Contee (with daughter and granddaughters) and Mondre Kornegay.



Firefighter Tom Robinson gives Michael Olson, 2, a look inside an AFD fire truck during the West Old Town Citizens Association celebration of National Night Out Aug. 6.



Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) talks with National Night Out attendees at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center field.

Lt. Brian de Souza shows 2-year-old Andrew Devlin and his mother Anastasia the controls of a Sheriff's department motorcycle.



Deputy Kevin Truesdale, Sgt. Mike Neebe and Deputy Joseph Runquist at the Canterbury Square celebration of National Night Out.

PHOTOS BY
JEANNE THEISMANN
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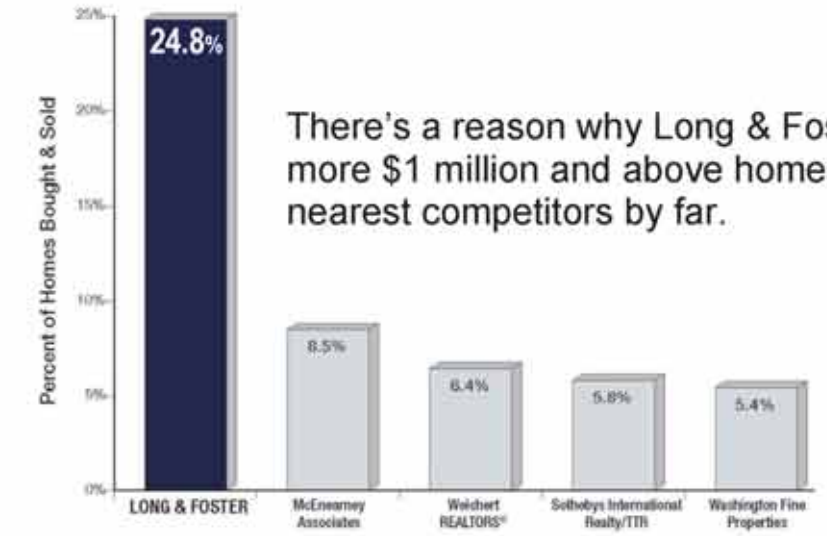
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 Cute 1924 bungalow has lots of rehab and expansion potential for someone that loves renovating! 2-levels, 3BR/1BA, front porch, walk-out rear entrance, fully fenced yard, driveway parking, and close to Metro bus and commuter rail. As-is condition!
Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764

\$ 359,000
South Kings Station "HUNTINGTON METRO"
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Derick Hammond 703.519.0184

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
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Parker Gray Historic District 907 PENDLETON ST
 • Deceptively wide and charming semi-detached 3BR townhouse
 • Spacious Living room with separate Dining room
 • Beautiful Hardwood's throughout
 • 1 car garage
 • Blocks to Metro and shopping
Martine Imer & Alexander Imer 703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465

\$ 750,000
Arlington "NEW PRICE!"
 Located in desirable Douglas Park, this 7BR/4BA on 3 levels is bright and airy and has hardwood, huge master with Jacuzzi, finished basement, private deck, 2-car garage, shed, fully fenced landscaped backyard. Close to Shirlington, shops, restaurants, 395 and Washington, DC.
Manfredy Lopez 571.277.0601

\$ 899,000
Alexandria "COMMERCIAL!"
 Immediate occupancy available in this recently renovated building including 3 levels, 7 individual offices plus reception area and a large lower open finished level. A half bath and small kit with sink and dishwasher are on the top level. 5 deeded parking spaces plus more M-F by agreement. Walk to King St Metro. Owner/agent
Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

RENTALS

1600 Prince St #412 \$1,900
 1600 Prince St Mid-Rise 1BR / 1BA
 NaToya Joshua 703.518.7990

5646 Ridge View Dr \$2,200
 Loftridge Townhouse 3BR / 2.5BA 1 Fireplace 1 Assigned Pkg
 Rich Ragan 703.307.5891

1259 S Washington St \$2,600
 Porto Vecchio Mid-Rise 1BR / 1 BA w Den Fireplace 1 Garage
 Mary Taylor & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630

7755 Tara Heights Pl \$2,900
 Tara Heights Detached 4BR / 2BA 1 Fireplace 2 Garage
 Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012

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ENTERTAINMENT

Wickedly Witty

LTA brings "Avenue Q" to life.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

They sing, they dance and — OMG — they even have sex. They're the potty-mouthed puppets (and their human counterparts) of "Avenue Q," the Tony Award-winning musical now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Conceived by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, who wrote the music and lyrics, "Avenue Q" is a coming-of-age satire on the anxieties of young adulthood. Mixing risqué material with Sesame Street-like puppets, the 2003 Best Musical on Broadway is bringing local audiences to its feet.

"I've seen 'Avenue Q' on Broadway and in London and this LTA cast is every bit as good," said theater veteran Roland Branford Gomez following the Aug. 4 performance. "The talent on this stage is truly remarkable."

At the center of "Avenue Q" are Princeton, a recent English grad, and Kate Monster, a kindergarten teaching assistant. In trying to find their purpose in life, both are abetted by a menagerie of neighbors that includes monsters, puppets, slackers and Gary Coleman. Yes, that Gary Coleman.

Directed by Frank Shutts II, the entire cast is incredibly solid with equally impressive puppet work.

Sean Garcia, as both Princeton and Rod, is especially adept at making his puppets spring to life with his animated, inspired movements. He deftly switches between vocal characterizations for Princeton and Rod, the uptight, closeted Republican.

Along with Garcia, Kristina Hopkins as



The LTA cast of the musical "Avenue Q," which runs through Aug. 17.

Kate Monster is a force to be reckoned with and together they lead a cast that is blindingly synchronized and talented.

Alexandria's own Matt Liptake, a recent transplant from Rochester, N.Y., makes his LTA debut and provides a trio of non-stop entertaining antics as Nicky, Trekkie Monster the porn addict and one of the hilarious Bad Idea Bears.

Sultry Claire O'Brien sizzles as Lucy the Slut with Stephanie Gaia Chu as the haranguing but hilarious social worker Christmas Eve.

Rounding out the robust cast are James Hotsko Jr. as Brian, Aerika Saxe as Gary Coleman and Charlene Sloan as Mrs. Thistlewat and one of the Bad Idea Bears.

Shutts' choreography is as impressive as his directing. What could have been confusing — several actors having not one but two puppets on their hands at various times — comes off seamlessly and is a testament to the effort he and the LTA cast and crew put into preparing for the show.

With set design by MYKE, costumes by Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley and lighting by Ken and Patti Crowley, Shutts has assembled an award-winning team to bring a wickedly witty night of theater to the LTA stage.

"The set looks awesome," said Shutts prior to the show's opening. "LTA usually knocks the tech out of the park and they've done it again with this show."

With a delightfully devilish but politically incorrect score featuring songs like "It Sucks to Be Me," "Everyone's a Little Bit Racist" and "The Internet is for Porn," this is not a show for younger audiences. For everyone else, the laughter is loud and often at "Avenue Q," one of the best productions to be seen on the LTA stage.

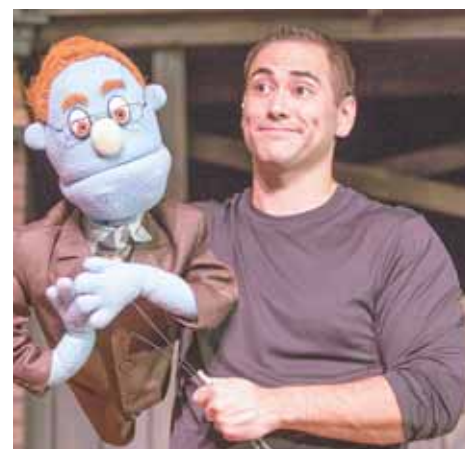
"Avenue Q" is playing through Aug. 17 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Due to increased demand, additional shows have been added on Aug. 11 and 13. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.



Stephanie Gaia Chu as Christmas Eve with Kate Monster (puppet).



Lucy the Slut (puppet), Claire O'Brien, Princeton (puppet), and Sean Garcia



Rod (puppet) and Sean Garcia

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Summer Classes. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

National Park and Recreation Month: Open Play Days and Nights. Through Aug. 18. Tuesday and Thursday 6-9 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park Field, 4800 Brenman Park Drive and at Four Mile Run Soccer Field, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays noon-5 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, Four Mile Run Soccer Field and Witter Fields, 2700 Witter Drive. Call 703-746-5402 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.

Art Exhibit. Noon-4:30 p.m. at the Green Spring Garden Historic House,

4603 Green Spring Road. Grace Rooney's watercolor paintings on display through Aug. 25. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org.

Art Class. Running through Saturday, Aug. 31, classes meet 9:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Bring toddlers or preschoolers for guided exploration of clay, paint, collage, drawing and building in a supported studio environment. Classes held at Art At The Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Register online at www.artatthecenter.com.

Visiting Artists. Through Saturday, Aug. 31, the Visiting Artist Program is a professional development opportunity for emerging and experienced visual artists from all over the country and provides an opportunity for visitors to interact with a rotating group of visual artists. Torpedo Factory located at 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Guests who visit George Washington's Mount Vernon and the International

Spy Museum will be able to take advantage of **Operation: George Washington** and save 50 percent off the ticket purchase at their second destination. To redeem the offer, guests must present their receipt for admission or ticket stub from one site when purchasing their ticket to the second site. Both Mount Vernon and the International Spy Museum will honor receipts and tickets throughout August. Visit www.MountVernon.org.

Dog Days Dog Show. July 18-Sept. 1 in the Athenaeum Gallery. The show includes a variety of photographs about dogdom, portraits are also included. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-683-5058.

Art Exhibit. Aug. 3- Sept. 1, at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. The exhibit is "Radio Sebastian: You, Me, and the Void". An opening reception for the exhibit will be held Aug. 8, 6-8 p.m. in the gallery. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target or call 703-838-4565.

Distillery Open. George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill open through Oct. 1. \$17/adult, \$8/child, 5 and under are free.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Open daily through September, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this time, as well as period photographs and collections items. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call

703-746-4994.

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

The **West End Farmers Market** will run Sundays from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. through November. Located at Ben Brenman Park, browse food, crafts and more. Visit www.westendfarmersmarket.org. This **exhibit at Fort Ward**, located at 4301 W. Braddock Road, features objects from the museum collection, to tell this story of the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria. Free. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 12-5 p.m. Visit www.fortwaRoad.org or call 703-746-4848.

Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria

'Daughter of the Struggle'

MetroStage play recounts Civil Rights movement.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi joined comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory at Alexandria's MetroStage theater Aug. 1 for a performance of "Daughter of the Struggle," a one-woman show by Gregory's daughter Ayanna.

"There are so many stories to be told about Dick Gregory's impact on the Civil Rights movement," Pelosi said following the sold out performance. "I am so grateful to him for making us and America stronger."

"Daughter of the Struggle" is an autobiographical performance that uses music and intimate narratives to tell the story of Dick Gregory and his wife Lillian's involvement in the Civil Rights movement through the eyes of the Gregory family.

"I was there," Dick Gregory told the audience after the show. "I was with [Martin Luther] King 50 years ago in Washington and we stood our ground, but not with a gun or with anger."

Dick Gregory recounted many stories of his work alongside King and other civil rights activists, some of which are recounted by Ayanna Gregory in her performance.



Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, second from left, congratulates Ayanna Gregory following her performance of "Daughter of the Struggle" at MetroStage Aug. 1 With them are MetroStage artistic director Carolyn Griffin, comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory and his wife Lillian.

"When my father saw the show for the first time, it really moved him," Ayanna Gregory said. "That's when it hit him that Martin [Luther King] and Medgar [Evers] never got a chance to hear their children talk about the impact their lives had on their families."

MetroStage will be presenting an encore performance of "Daughter of the Struggle" for one night only Aug. 10. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

African American Activists Exhibition. Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

The Marshall House Incident Exhibition at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street.

Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Summer Youth Programs. Metro Fine Arts Center 6450 Landsdowne Centre Drive. Classes start July 8. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metrofinearts.com.

Gallery. Through Aug. 5 at the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Fantasy of the Real," a solo show. Call 703-683-1780 or visit

www.theartleague.org.

Book a Librarian. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St, for help with research or to better understand the library's databases and resources. Make an appointment by calling 703-746-1751.

Computer Tutoring. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Individual assistance from a librarian. Call 703-746-1751.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. The exhibit features seven Del Ray Artisans following their own theme and inspirations to create their own artwork. The gallery is free and open to the public. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Art Exhibit. Through Sept. 2, see "Shapes" and "scapes" at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. An opening reception for both exhibits is planned for Aug. 8, 6:30-8 p.m.. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Mobile Market. Thursdays through October, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Landmark Mall parking lot on the Duke Street side. The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture Mobile Market is a refurbished school bus offering produce, meat, eggs and more from small farmers and food artisans within 100 miles of the area. EBT cards and WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers accepted. Visit arcadiafood.org.

Friday Affair Market. 12-4 p.m. at historic Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane. Purchase baked goods, treats, flowers and crafts from local vendors. Held July 26, Aug. 9 and the first and third Fridays of every month through December. Call 202-256-5332.

Encore Chorale. Mondays 10:30 a.m.-noon at the George Washington

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Potomac Pirate Cruise
During this 40 minute cruise, children of all ages will be entertained with music and tales of piracy on the Potomac River. This cruise will also feature Alexandria's historic seaport and it's landmarks.

Ask about private birthday parties on the PIRATE CRUISE!

AUGUST 24TH AT 11 AM

Reservations are highly recommended. Please go to our website www.potomacriverboatco.com to reserve tickets for you and your mates. Boarding will begin 15 minutes prior to the tour.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fun for all!

TCHOUPITOULAS
Fine Furnishings and Interior Design

Join us for our Monthly Second Friday
Grand Fête de la Maison!

Tradition with a Twist

Friday, August 9th, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Sip on fabulous champagne and nibble on the best bites from **Grape + Bean**, while you view our gorgeous inventory!
210 N. Lee Street ~ Alexandria ~ 703-299-0145
All are welcome! • Bring your friends, family and colleagues!
This is an amazing event!
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R.S.V.P. at GrandFetedelaMaison.Eventbrite.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

Metro Club After-School Program. Beginning Sept. 9 and running through June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents a new after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs offered will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run after school on Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. MetroClub offers MetroRide buses so students can be transported from certain area schools. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

SUMMER CAMPS

The **American Backstage Company** is offering a variety of summer classes and workshops, many which are free. Located at 5380 Eisenhower Ave. Visit www.americanbackstage.com for a full listing.

August Art Explorers. Aug. 2-23, every Friday, 9:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Bring toddlers or preschoolers for guided exploration of clay, paint, collage, drawing and building in a supported studio environment. Visit www.artatthecenter.org.

The **Little Theatre of Alexandria** is offering a new camp for children ages 5-7 from Aug. 12-16. Children are able to learn about the world of acting by participating in movement games, improv activities and performances of skits. Full or half day sessions available. Call 703-683-5778 ext. 2 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3-SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

Art Gallery. Radio Sebastian: You, Me, and the Void. Reception is Thursday 6-8 p.m. Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. www.torpedofactory.org/target.

AUG. 7-SEPT. 2

Art Exhibit. At the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The annual August landscape exhibit "Scapes" features a variety of artwork from all media, inspired by the environment. Juried by Elizabeth Klimek. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, Aug. 8 from 6:30-8 p.m. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 8

Performance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Joe Peck and Friends with featured artist Mercedes Mill. All tickets are \$10 and available online and at the door. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Doggie Happy Hour. 4-7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Bring your dogs for an evening in the Athenaeum garden. Lemonade and milkbones provided. Free. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

Movies at Martha. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults and teens age 13 and up can enjoy a movie. Call for title. 703-768-6700.

Night Time Tales. 7 p.m. at John

Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 3-5 can listen to stories. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Twilight Concert. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Concert by Jason Paul Curtis & Swing Lab. Free. 703-746-5592.

AUG. 8-SEPT. 2

Art Exhibit. At the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. "Shapes" features sculptures, forms and structures by Art League artists. Juried by Laura Roulet. The opening reception will be held Thursday, Aug. 8, 6:30-8 p.m. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 9

Lori Williams. Opening for Jose' James at The Birchmere 3701 Mt Vernon Ave. Tickets on sale now. Visit <http://lorijazz.com/> or www.Birchmere.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 9-10

Summer Sidewalk Sale. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The sale includes books, exhibit catalogs, games, toys and DVDs. After visiting the sale, see the exhibitions within the museum's galleries. Proceeds go to museum programming. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

<call> Tuesday-Thursday/Aug. 9-11 **Theatre.** 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Arts on the Horizon presents "Under the Canopy" an interactive theatre performance designed for children 0-2 years old. \$3. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 10

Workshop 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Green Spring staff shares casting and painting techniques for decorating the home and garden. Program registration is \$45. Supply registration is \$20 and is due by Aug. 7. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to create a tabletop terrarium from begonia enthusiast Johanna Zinn. Container, plants, soil and care instructions provided. Registration is \$45. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

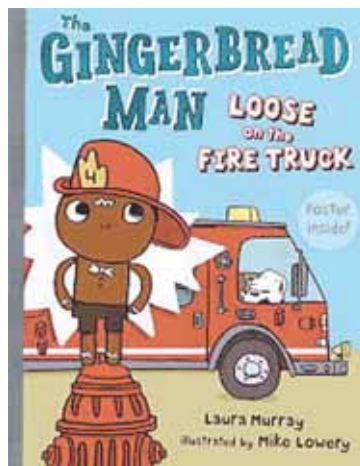
Book Sale. 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center. Find items for all ages. 703-339-4610.

I Dig Sign Language. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children of all ages can enjoy songs and games introducing basic American Sign Language. Free. 703-768-6700.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

28th Annual Ballyshanners Irish Festival. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park in Old Town Alexandria. A day full of Irish culture provided by the Ballyshanners features musical groups, dancers and vendors of authentic Irish foods and crafts. All proceeds go to pay the cost of Alexandria's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Visit <http://www.ballyshanners.org/festival/index.htm>.

Free Meditation Workshop. 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn breathing technique and



Laura Murray

Story Time at Friendship Firehouse

Friendship Firehouse debuts its new Summertime Story Time Saturday, Aug. 10 at 11 a.m. with children's book author Laura Murray. Murray will read her new book "The Ginger Bread Man: Loose on the Fire Truck." Following the reading, children may enjoy a tour of the Friendship Firehouse Museum, participate in a fire bucket brigade race and ring the firehouse fire bell. The program, intended for children ages 6 and up, is conducted in partnership with Hooray for Books. Copies of Murray's book will be available for purchase at the museum, located at 107 S. Alfred St.

more. Free. 703-746-1704.

How to Succeed at Iced Coffee. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how to make iced coffee and sample what is created. Reservations recommended, 703-746-1703.

Jane Austen Ball. 8 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern 134 N. Royal Street. This evening in the 1790s will feature a variety of English country dances in the historic ballroom, live music, and iced refreshments. After-5 dress encouraged. Visit www.shop.alexandria.gov or www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. David Majerowicz opens for Marty Stuart. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 10-11

4th Annual Alexandria Sidewalk Sale. New this year, the sale is over two days in two neighborhoods, Old Town and Del Ray with more than 55 shops offering clearance deals, promotions and product demos. Parking is free at meters and city-owned garages. More details at ShopLocalAlexandria.com and VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 11

Family Days at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Families can partake in tours by Junior Docents. The Museum is also offering a look at the newly restored Ice Well, which allows visitors to experience the science and history that goes along with the making of ice cream. \$5 for adults; \$3 for children age 5-12. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Film. 2 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The Summer Fun Sunday Film Fest presents "Enchanted." Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

EOD Warrior Foundation BBQ Festival. 2-8 p.m. at the American Legion/Gadsby's Tavern Complex, 400 Cameron St. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Warrior

Foundation honors wounded and fallen EOD warriors and their families. Festivities include live music by Red Star. \$20; all proceeds go to charity. Call 540-554-4550 or email info@eodwarriorfoundation.org.

Concert. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Pianists Sylvia Hong and Michael Rector will perform. Presented by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. Free. Call 703-799-8229 or visit www.wmpamusic.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 12

Baby Lap Sits. 1:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Literacy programs for parents and babies. Ages birth through 12 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Film Series. 2 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Watch a political drama that takes a behind-the-scenes look at John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. Free. 703-746-1704.

Make it and Take it for Teens. 4 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Teens age 13-17 can explore what's "beneath the surface" when creating a craft. Free. 703-768-6700.

Books and Ideas. 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague" by Geraldine Brooks. Free. 703-765-3645.

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.

Let's Talk Books. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Discuss "I Only Say This Because I Love You: How the Way We Talk Can Make or Break Family Relationships Throughout Our Lives" by Deborah Tannen. Free. 703-746-1703.

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

A to Zoo Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 3-5 with

an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

All Creatures Great and Small. 2:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can meet local animals from the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

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.

Writing Triage. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Get a resume or writing project reviewed and get suggestions on how to improve it. Free. 703-746-1742 to register.

Second Tuesday Book Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Beach Music" by Pat Conroy. Free. Visit secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com or 703-339-4610.

Evening Book Group. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can discuss "The Boy in the Suitcase" by Lene Kaaberbol. Free. 703-768-6700.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performance by George Duke. Tickets on sale July 12. Visit www.birchmere.com or www.georgeduke.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 14

Rising Words, Rising Images. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. For teens ages 12-18. Free. 703-765-3645.

I Dig Dinosaurs. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories and songs about dinosaurs. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Fun for 2's and 3's. 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for ages 2 and 3 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Hitch 22" by Christopher Hitchens. Free. 703-339-4610.

Spanish Story Time. 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All abilities and all levels can join in for stories. Free. 703-746-1702.

Hitchcock Film Series. 6:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Watch a movie and then discuss it at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. Free. 703-746-1705.

Cool Yoga. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Maureen Clyne of Prasada Yoga offers, outdoor yoga classes at 1900 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Open to all skill levels. Free. Call 703-967-8884 or visit www.prasadayoga.com.

Book Signing. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Mike Maggio discusses and signs his novel "In the Valley of Granite and Steel." Call 703-746-1751 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/AUG. 14-15

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Justin Hayward, with opening act Mike Dawes. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 15

Garden Stroll & Tea. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the gardens and hear stories of Green Spring past and present followed by afternoon tea in the 1784 historic house. Registration is \$29. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Yappy Hour. 5:30 p.m. Artfully

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Chocolate, 506 John Carlye Street. Artfully Chocolate has teamed up with pet care company Paw'k Ave to create happy hours with a twist. Call 703-575-8686 or visit www.pawk-ave.com.

Movie Matinee for Children. 4 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children in grades K-8 can watch a movie. Free. 703-746-1783.

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

Film Series. 6 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Watch "Argo." Free. 703-746-1704.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

Great Books Discussion Group. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1702.

Martha's Poetry Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Discuss the poetry of Natasha Trethewey. Free. 703-768-6700.

Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Call for title. Free. 703-971-0010.

FRIDAY/AUG. 16

Andy Poxon. Opening for JD McPherson at The Birchmere 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Tickets on sale now. Visit www.andypoxon.com/ or www.birchmere.com.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Mount Vernon Swing Band, conducted by Owen Hammett, provides live music. Open to the community. \$4. Call 703-765-4573, TTY 711.

The Dixie Melody Boys. 7:30 p.m. Mount Calvary Community Church, 6731 Beulah St., Alexandria. After earning Grammy nominations for its four-part harmonies, the Gospel quartet brings them to a local stage. Visit www.mountcalvary.cc and www.dixiemelodyboys.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 17

Auditions for the Washington School of Ballet. The Washington Ballet, 3515 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Ages 4-5 will audition 10-11 a.m., ages 6-7 11:15-12:15, and ages 8-10 12:30-2 p.m. in the England Studio. Ages 11-13 10-11:30 a.m. at the Phillips Studio. All other ages will audition at 12-1:30 p.m. in Phillips Studio. Audition fee is \$30 and registration is required. Visit www.washingtonballet.org or call 202-362-3606.

Board Gaming with Wargame Wake. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can play a variety of games. Beginners welcome. Join an existing game or bring your own board. Free. 703-746-1702.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to Chester, a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Music and Movin' with Miss Susan. 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children up to age 5 can enjoy sings, music and more. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Justin Trawick opens for Edwin McCain. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

India Independence Day Celebration. 1-5 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. The store is offering henna tattoos and Indian food and drink. Handwork by artisans in India will be on display. Call 703-684-1435 or visit

www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 18

Pride and Prejudice Celebration 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" turns 200. Celebrate and discuss the novel. Reservations are \$29. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Back Alley Blues Boys. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The local band will play an acoustic set of blues, folk and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

Chamber Music. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Washington's Camerata, Baroque music for traverso flute and baroque guitar. Presented by Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. Free. Call 703-799-8229 or visit www.wmpamusic.org.

Concert. 5-8 p.m. at JV's Restaurant, 6666 Arlington Blvd. Alexandria's Fuse Box will perform. Tickets are on sale now. Visit jvrestaurant.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 19

Early Words. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy songs and stories. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Baby Lap Sits. 1:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Literacy programs for parents and babies. Ages birth through 12 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Make it and Take it for Teens. 4 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 8-12 can "dig" into reading with craft projects. Free. 703-768-6700.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/AUG. 19-23

The Big Meow Half Day Camp. 9 a.m.-noon at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A camp inspired by Elizabeth Spire's book "The Big Meow" teaches about movement, creativity, problem solving and story telling. For ages 5-7. \$150 for the week. Call 703-933-1111 or visit www.janefranklin.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 20

Fun for 2s and 3s. 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for ages 2 and 3 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Scientist and author Lou Massa discusses his time interviewing Nobel Prize winners and the importance of their work. Call 703-746-1751 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Craft Night. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. All skill levels can bring their own supplies and get help with their knitting, crochet or sewing project, or just come for the conversation. Free. 703-746-1703.

Evening Storytime. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 1-5 can wear pajamas and enjoy stories about bedtime. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Harambee Readers. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can discuss "My Long Trip Home" by Mark Whitaker. Free. 703-765-3645.

DJ Swing Dance. 9-10:30 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlye St. Enjoy this DJ swing dance with TK the DJ playing hits from the 1930s-50s. Free. Call 703-548-5953.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 21

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at

John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Family Night. 6-8 p.m. Hosted by Alexandria city public schools at TC Williams High School, 3330 King St. Register at www.acps.k12.va.us.

Cool Yoga. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Maureen Clyne of Prasada Yoga offers, outdoor yoga classes at 1900 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Open to all skill levels. Free. Call 703-967-8884 or visit www.prasadayoga.com.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Discuss "In the Garden of Beasts" by Erik Larson. Free. 703-746-1705.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Blues band Johnny and the Headhunters performs. \$10. Call 703-751-8900.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Elephant Day. At Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. For the third annual Elephant Day, the store offers 20 percent off all elephant items, as well as elephant themed snacks. 15% of sales for the day will be donated to the International Elephant Foundation to help protect elephants in Africa and Asia. Call 703-684-1435 or visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

World Short Story Discussion. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road Free. Call for title. 703-746-1704.

Evening Story Time. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Ages 1-5 can enjoy stories. Free. 703-768-6700.

Night Time Tales. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for ages 3-5 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

FRIDAY/AUG. 23

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. CD Release Show for Olivia and the Mates. \$29.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 23-25

Theatre Performance. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd. Metropolitan Performing Arts Theatre's ensemble presents "Fame: the Musical." \$20. Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.metro-theatre.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

VietFest. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Celebrate the Vietnamese culture through art, food, history and entertainment. \$5/advance; \$7/onsite; free to people wearing full Vietnamese dress. Visit www.VietFest.com or 540-497-1661.

Grave-Marking Ceremony. 10 a.m. at the Peake Family Cemetery in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 8115 Fordson Rd. Hosted by the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the ceremony will honor Revolutionary War patriots Humphrey Peake Sr. and Lt. William Peake. The ceremony includes the presentation of colors by the SAR Color Guard and brief discussion of the lives of the Peakes. Open to the public. Visit www.gwsar.org.

Art Material Market. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street. Artists from all over are invited to buy, sell, or trade their new or gently used art supplies, tools, materials, and ephemera. Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565 ext. 5.

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WELLBEING

If You Are What You Eat, Eat Well

Local nutritionist turns personal challenge into book and health and nutrition practice.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When Teri Cochrane's son was 18 months old, he was diagnosed with asthma and placed on a variety of medications, including steroids. Less than two years later, doctors warned the Reston mother that he would have frequent seizures, would never have a normal childhood and would never grow taller than 5 feet 4 inches. When Cochrane's daughter was born three years later, she also suffered from health problems, including chronic, severe abdominal pain.

"I went to great doctors in the area, but there wasn't an effort to find out why they were sick," said Cochrane. "It was always, 'Give them this medicine.'"

Cochrane was unwilling to accept constant medication without knowing the root cause of her children's illnesses, however.



PHOTO BY KRISTEN ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Madeleine, Teri, Doug and William Cochrane. When Teri Cochrane's children were young, doctors told her their illnesses would prevent them from having normal childhoods. She credits improved nutrition with their health and well-being, an issue she discusses in her book, "Restorative Recipes: A Mindful Path to the Essential You."

Making it her life's mission to find healing alternatives, she began doing her own research to find nutritional solutions.

"We found a pediatrician who was familiar with alternative medicine and we started our son on his healing path," said Cochrane. "The doctor said 'Don't eat this,' but he didn't tell me what we could eat. It took a lot of effort and a lot of tears to determine how to feed my family in a different way. Fifteen years ago, the term gluten-free wasn't on anyone's radar."

Cochrane left her corporate career after 20 years and returned to school to study nutrition, herbology and holistic methods of healing. She started her own nutrition and wellness practice called Healing Paths, Nutrition and Wellness Counseling, and has written a book called "Restorative Recipes: A Mindful Path to the Essential You."

HER CLIENTS RANGE from infants to adults. Cochrane's approach is tailored for each individual, focusing on specific health concerns and how they can be addressed through improved nutrition and natural supplements. She addresses ailments including allergies, hormonal imbalances, headaches, gastrointestinal upsets, meno

SEE EAT WELL, PAGE 23

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5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)
Sunday
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm

Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, followed by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass en Español

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SSSAS Graduate Sargent to Pitch for Penn

Alexis Sargent, a 2013 St. Stephen's & St. Agnes graduate, was a four-year force in the pitcher's circle for the Saints softball program. She struck out more than 1,000 batters during her high school career and was a three-time VISAA Division I first-team all-state selection.

Along with personal accolades, Sargent's efforts led to team success. In 2010, the Saints finished in a three-way tie for first place during the ISL regular season and went on to win the ISL tournament championship. In 2012, the Saints won ISL regular-season and tournament titles.

Sargent will continue her softball career at the University of Pennsylvania and study at the institution's Wharton School of business.

Q: What made Penn the right fit for you?

Sargent: After a lot of thinking, Penn was the right fit for me because I was able to focus on my future success as an adult and play the sport I love. Penn offers huge academic and athletic opportunities that are perfect for a student-athlete like myself, and a spot in the Wharton business school is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I could not pass up.

Q: Any word on playing time as a freshman?

Sargent: The only guarantee my coach makes with respect to playing time is that if you are one of the top nine batters, she will find a spot for you in the lineup. After all, you can't win if you don't score! I believe there will be a lot of competition for



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexis Sargent.

playing time at every position on the field, but as a competitor, I expect nothing less. Competition throughout the team makes every individual better.

Q: Will you exclusively be a pitcher?

Sargent: I plan to both pitch and play first, but my playing time depends on how I'm hitting and if I am truly competitive at both positions.

Q: What is your favorite memory of playing softball at SSSAS?

Sargent: My favorite SSSAS softball memory would have to be overcoming the adversity we faced my freshman year to win

the ISL championship against Maret (to whom we had lost against earlier in the season in a 14-inning pitcher's duel).

Q: What is the top speed one of your pitches has been clocked?

Sargent: The top speed I've been clocked at is 63 mph.

Q: You wore No. 00 in high school. Why that number?

Sargent: I've worn 00 since I was 12 years old. I joined a new team, but someone already had my number (2). I had no idea what number I wanted until my new coach informed me that he did not allow anyone to have the numbers 1, 99, and 00. I knew then that I wanted 00 because it was unique.

Until then, I didn't even know you could wear that number in softball! He made an exception for me, and that season I fell in love with 00 and haven't changed numbers since.

Q: What is your home town?

Sargent: I grew up in South East D.C., and when I decided to go to high school at St. Stephen's, my family and I moved to Alexandria. I consider them both to be home.

Q: If you could go back and change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?

Sargent: If I could change one thing about my high school career, I would have spent way more time in the weight room. I can only imagine how much stronger and better I would be today if I spent my previous seasons and offseasons in the weight room

improving my game. Starting from freshman year, boys are encouraged to go lift. But it was not until this summer that I became serious about getting stronger. I'm seeing the difference in my game already and only wish I had started earlier.

Q: At what age did you start playing softball? When did you realize playing college softball was a possibility for you?

Sargent: I began playing T-ball at 4 years old and continued to move up the ranks in baseball until I was 8. A family friend suggested I try softball since my co-ed baseball opportunities would soon end. Once I picked up a softball I knew it was the sport for me. So I guess you could say I've been around the sport my whole life.

I didn't realize college softball was a possibility for me until I was about 12 years old. I had always played with older kids until then, so I was generally smaller and less talented and never felt as though I was good enough to compete at the collegiate level. When I began playing with kids my own age, my views changed completely. I became determined to make it to the collegiate level.

Q: What is your favorite hobby outside of softball?

Sargent: I used to love competing in Tae Kwon Do! I earned my second-degree black belt in sixth grade. Unfortunately, I had to stop competing so that I could focus on my academics and softball. Now I spend my free time outside of softball with my family since I am gone so frequently.

— JON ROETMAN

Aces Finish with Best Season

The Alexandria Aces concluded their best season in six years of existence with a second-place finish in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League regular-season standings and a trip to the playoffs.

The Aces finished the regular season with a 27-17 record, three games behind the first-place Bethesda Big Train. Alexandria's previous best record was its 20-21 mark from last season.

After a first-round bye in the playoffs, the Aces defeated the Rockville Express 6-2 on July 31 in the second round of the double-elimination tournament. Alexandria's season ended on Aug. 2 after the Aces lost to the eventual champion Baltimore Redbirds, 7-5, and the Big Train, 5-4.

Aces pitcher Colin Milon finished tied for third in the league with five regular-season wins. He also won his postseason start, giving him a final record of 6-1 with 44



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/GAZETTE PACKET

Dylan Swetman and the Alexandria Aces finished second in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League regular-season standings.

strikeouts and a 1.60 ERA in 48 innings pitched.

Alexandria was led by first-year manager David DeSilva.



COURTESY PHOTO

End of Summer Crew Season

Sculler Angelo Leitner-Wise makes his way up the Potomac during the Blue Plains Sprints on Aug. 3. Last year, it was the students who beat the coaches at the Blue Plains Sprints. This year, the coaches got their revenge by winning the final race at the annual event, which marks the traditional end of the Alexandria Summer Crew season and was held this past Saturday at the Dee Campbell Boat-house in Old Town.

More than 120 adult and student rowers and coxswains competed in this year's contest.

Sengel Plays 911 Call in Preliminary Hearing

FROM PAGE 1

surprise. After the hearing, they said they couldn't believe how matter-of-the-fact he was about killing a 22-year-old man with a promising future and hordes of friends.

"He had no remorse," said Gwen Pratt-Miller, mother of Dawkins, in a brief press conference after the hearing. "The 911 call showed that even more to me."

THE DISPUTE between Patterson and Dawkins erupted shortly after midnight on May 22, the night of a party celebrating Dawkins' cousin, Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, who had just been signed to the Washington Mystics. Testimony from several witnesses described a verbal confrontation between the two men, who were apparently engaged in a heated conversation.

"I live around here," Dawkins said to Patterson, according to testimony.

"Well I've been around here longer than you," Patterson responded.

Dawkins tried to end the conversation, according to an eyewitness who watched the confrontation from her bedroom window. But Patterson was insistent. He left the scene vowing to come back. Then, according to several eyewitnesses, he returned with a pistol, handcuffs and a badge from the Arlington County Sheriff's Office.

"I heard a pop," said Sharonda Brown, who lives near the scene of the shooting. "Then I realized it was Julian lying on the ground."

IN THE MOST emotional testimony of the hearing, Brown explained how she threw on some clothing and raced downstairs in time to see the aftermath of the shooting. As she approached the man, who was face down on the ground, she realized it was Julian Dawkins — a close friend and neighbor. She got there just in time to hear him take his last breath, and then expel a long and steady exhale. Patterson was walking away from the scene.

"He pulled the latch on the gate," she testified. "Then he walked out of the yard as if nothing had happened."

Brown broke down in tears as she spoke about the last moments of the life of Julian Dawkins. The courtroom, which was standing-room-only, included many spectators who were overcome with emotion by this point in the hearing. Later in the hearing, a bench in the spectator section broke and sent several people tumbling to the ground. The hearing resumed, and a team of three defense attorneys tried to paint a picture of an intoxicated Dawkins chasing Patterson with a knife after a game of dice.

"Does anybody ever have dice games here," asked defense attorney Christopher Leibig.

"I had a young man pull a knife on me, and I shot him. He's lying on the ground, face down."

— Craig Patterson on the 911 call

"No," responded Reginald White, who lives near the shooting.

PATTERSON DOES NOT dispute the fact he shot Dawkins, a fact clearly established by the 911 call introduced into evidence this week. The real debate that will be presented at trial is whether or not Patterson was acting in self defense. According to an Alexandria Police Department officer who photographed the corpse, Dawkins had a knife but it was not in a position indicating it had been open during the final confrontation.

"It was clipped to the outer portion of his jeans pocket," said Officer Judy Taylor. "It appeared to be closed."

Defense attorneys called one witness to the stand during the hearing. He testified that he saw Dawkins chasing Patterson, an indication that the defense team will be trying to present evidence that Dawkins was the aggressor in the confrontation. The defense also presented evidence that Patterson's shirt had some kind of stain on it, potential evidence that he was roughed up during a physical confrontation.

"It does appear that Mr. Dawkins was chasing Mr. Patterson," defense attorney Joe

King told the judge. "He had a knife, and Patterson knew that at the time."

THE CASE shocked the Lynhaven neighborhood when the shooting happened, especially after the Alexandria Police Department waited a full week before bringing charges against the off-duty law-enforcement officer and arresting him in Spotsylvania County. Police and prosecutors say Patterson's job had no bearing on the investigation, although friends at the funeral were skeptical.

"I cannot deny that when you have someone of authority who is involved in an event like this, it does change the circumstance in terms of how it's viewed," said Police Chief Earl Cook during a press conference earlier this year. "But it does not change the process in terms of how we investigate."

Many of the friends who attended the funeral first met Dawkins at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, where he was frequently selected as the captain of the basketball of teams. His love for the game earned him a spot on the junior varsity team at T.C. Williams High School, where he graduated in 2009. His outgoing personality and sense of leadership made him a popular student, one who had a wide circle of friends.

"Life is too short. Let's not hold grudges," the mayor told mourning friends and relatives during the funeral. "Live each day to its fullest, and forgive those who have created harm."

Different Approaches to Constitutional Ban on Gay Marriage

FROM PAGE 1

attorney general staff and make sure that they do what they feel is appropriate in this circumstance."

Last week, the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia and the Lambda Legal filed a federal lawsuit in the Western District of Virginia at Harrisonburg challenging the amendment. Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican incumbent currently running for governor, has vowed to defend the amendment in court. But he will no longer be the attorney general by the time the suit is before a judge. Meanwhile, the Obenshain campaign jumped on Herring's lack of position as a political weakness that demonstrates inconsistency.

"Senator Obenshain and Senator Herring both voted for Virginia's marriage amendment, both clearly at the time believing that it was constitutional," said Paul Logan, communications director for the Obenshain campaign. "Senator Obenshain has said consistently that as attorney general, he will defend Virginia's laws against any challenges, whether he agrees with the policy behind the laws or not."

THE FEDERAL LAWSUIT was filed last week on behalf of a Staunton couple and a Winchester couple who have been denied marriage licenses. The complaint says constitutional prohibition against gay marriage,



Sen. Mark Herring (D-33)



Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26)

which was approved by Virginia voters in 2006, sends a message lesbians, gay men and their children are second-class citizens.

"I know of too many couples who have left the state due to a lack of the protections now offered to our neighbors in the District of Columbia and Maryland," said Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). "With a total of 13 states and D.C. offering equality to couples, Virginia is at a competitive and economic disadvantage."

The Staunton plaintiffs are Joanne Harris, 37, and Jessica Duff, 33, who have been together since 2006. They have a four-year-old son, Jabari. The Winchester plaintiffs are Christy Berghoff, 34, and Victoria Kidd, also 34, who have been together almost a decade. They have an eight-month-old

daughter, Lydia. Advocates for gay marriage view the case as an ideal test of the constitutionality of prohibiting gays and lesbians from participating in the institution of marriage.

"Every day that same-sex couples in Virginia are denied the freedom to marry, the government sends a message that they are second class citizens," said Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, executive director off the ACLU of Virginia.

HERRING FINDS himself in a precarious political position. On one hand, the amendment is very unpopular with the Democratic base he needs to win a statewide election so announcing that he intends to defend the prohibition in court would be a losing proposition. On the other hand, announcing that he will selectively defend Virginia's laws might be a difficult sell on the campaign trail.

"For Senator Herring, it's really a lose-lose

situation," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor with the University of Mary Washington. "When people elect an

"When people elect an attorney general, they want to hear the candidate say that he will defend the law. But there may be political advantages to saying that this is a law that, if elected, he would not support."

— Kevin O'Holleran, campaign manager for state Sen. Mark Herring

attorney general, they want to hear the candidate say that he will defend the law. But there may be political advantages to saying that this is a law that, if elected, he would not support."

Republicans, on the other hand, find themselves on solid ground. Polls show that most Republican voters support the prohibition against gay marriage. "Virginia has followed the traditional definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman for more than 400 years and Virginians voted overwhelmingly to add this traditional definition to their constitution," said Brian Gottstein, spokesman for the attorney general. "Consistent with the duties of the attorney general, this office will continue to defend challenges to the constitution and the laws of Virginia."



Teri Cochrane

PHOTOS BY LINDSAY BENSON GARRETT



“Restorative Recipes: A Mindful Path to the Essential You,” written by Reston-based nutritionist Teri Cochrane is filled with healthful recipes that she says can help heal one’s body.

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To Live Well, Eat Well

FROM PAGE 20

pausal symptoms, cancer and depression.

“Our counseling includes plans for insulin insensitivity, irritable bowel syndrome, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease, ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and other chronic and autoimmune conditions,” said Cochrane.

“Food is our medicine,” she continued. “But we’ve lost sight of our food. If you’re eating fast food or food out of a package, you’re not eating real food.”

Nurse Practitioner Laura Evan, who holds a doctorate in nursing practice and is an assistant professor in the Nurse Practitioner Program at the George Mason University School of Nursing in Fairfax, agrees that eliminating processed foods can improve health.

“Avoid trans fats,” she said. “These are modified fats found in processed foods. Avoid salt. It’s a flavor enhancer [and] encourages the body to hold on to water and can increase [blood pressure] in certain patients.”

Cochrane approaches each client as an individual. “Each person has their own signature biochemistry, and that tells me what they need for their body,” said Cochrane. “You have to eliminate certain foods and then reintroduce them after waiting a period of time between each introduction.”

She also offers meal plans and provides cooking and shopping guidelines for balanced nutrition that will meet individual health needs. She even takes clients on grocery store tours to demystify the new shopping process.

“It took me a lot of effort and a lot of tears to determine how to feed my family in a different way. Fifteen years ago, the term gluten-free wasn’t on anyone’s radar.”

— Teri Cochrane, author and nutritionist

ALEXANDRIA RESIDENT Tamara Kieffer is one Cochrane’s patients. “I have had migraines for many years ... and wanted to get off some of the medication and explore a homeopathic approach,” she said. “It is a process and it gets frustrating because you want results right away. I got off gluten and cut out nitrates and nitrites, which meant giving up processed deli meat and hotdogs.”

Once she began to see improvements in her health, Kieffer became motivated. “It is hard to cut things out of your diet, especially sugar, which was the last thing to go, but as soon as I did, my brain fog cleared and I felt so much better.” She says honey and dates work well as sweeteners.

Kieffer stresses that changing her diet was a long and difficult process, but says the pay-off was well

worth the sacrifice. “My migraines are much improved. I am not off my meds entirely, but I was able to reduce them and now they work 90 percent of the time. Before it was much less.”

Chronic abdominal issues have plagued Judy Clayton, of Arlington, for most of her life. “From constipation to endometriosis and internal scarring from multiple surgeries, I’ve had chronic pain [since childhood],” she said, adding that she also suffered from high blood pressure.

“When Teri tested me, it showed that I was dairy lactose intolerant, and was allergic to mold, like those found in mushrooms and peanut butter,” Clayton said.

Clayton, who is 66, thought making the recommended dietary changes would be difficult, but she was wrong.

Her new diet includes a myriad of foods like beef, chicken, goat milk products and grain-like foods such as quinoa. “I thought I was going to miss bread and potato chips, but I don’t,” she said. “I think that my body is getting more nutrients so I don’t crave the foods I used to eat. I’ve also lost 18 pounds and feel like a whole new person.”

Bethesda, Md.-based acupuncturist Ausra Kaminskas, who was a medical doctor in her native Lithuania, said, “I heard her giving a talk, and then I started referring my patients to Teri when Western medicine wasn’t helping. Her work made a huge difference in their health. Her experience is amazing and her knowledge is profound, but apart from the knowledge, she has a professional intuition.”

WHILE COCHRANE IS PROUD to have turned her personal research into a source to help others, she is especially proud of the health and well-being of her two children. Today, her 15-year-old daughter Madeleine is a ballet dancer in an elite professional program. Her son William is 19 years old and is 5-foot-11-inches tall. He is attending the University of Virginia on a full scholarship.

“He is fit and no longer on medication,” said Cochrane. “He was prom king, on the varsity swim team and a junior Olympic champion in karate.”

She’s also grateful for their health. “I could pay it forward and provide a service. I went back to school to gain knowledge to help other families.”

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

playground equipment in front of the current building along Cameron Street; this leaves very little space for the children to run and play. Jefferson-Houston did not have summer school in the current building, nor did they allow a summer program all due to construction. How are we supposed to feel safe and secure for our children when they have to attend this building in the fall? They have a whole school year they will have to attend during construction. The new building is set to be open for use in the fall of 2014. The construction will continue as once the new building opens, they will have to demolish the current building and build a new field, a new play area. How did anyone let this get so out of control?

Save our existing trees, keep the wildlife that lives in them safe. They have destroyed enough of our trees.

Bea Porter
Alexandria

Need To Move Forward Safely

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter "Challenging Cyclists" that appeared in the Alexandria Gazette Packet [July 11]. As a member of the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, I agree that we in Alexandria should

emulate Copenhagen in our efforts to encourage healthful bicycling. I also agree that our roads, sidewalks, and off-road paths should be designed to give cyclists and pedestrians separate lanes, so as to reduce conflicts. These practices have been adopted in other American cities, which have installed protected bicycle lanes and off-road paths with separately-marked walking and riding lanes. Such designs have proven extremely popular with the public and are being proposed for Alexandria under our Complete Streets program.

The only open question, it would seem, is how can we realize this vision. In the short term, it makes sense to allow people to ride bicycles on sidewalks simply because so many of our streets, such as Duke Street and Seminary Road, are so dangerous. It also makes sense for all of us, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, to support the Complete Streets program so as to reduce these conflicts.

As we do so, it is important to recognize that the increased number of people riding bicycles inherently leads to conflicts and surprises, especially for people who have gotten used to the idea that the car is king. Increased bicycling on our streets requires all of us to look for bicycles, not just cars, before crossing the streets. We all need to better understand safe driving and cycling practices, such as right-of-way rules, so as to avoid conflicts at intersections.

What is not needed is the sort

of finger-pointing that calls cyclists out for rolling stops while giving drivers a free pass on speeding. In response to recent public statements expressing concern over pedestrian/cyclist near-misses, we at BPAC asked our police liaison for information on crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists. In the past three years, the most dangerous intersections were West Glebe and Mount Vernon Avenue, Henry and King streets, Patrick and Prince streets, and Diagonal and Daingerfield roads. Each had four such crashes, all involving motor vehicles.

The task before us is to set aside the finger-pointing over a predicted (and unrealized) rash of cyclists on sidewalks, and to instead properly focus on public safety. We should therefore redouble efforts to re-stripe and rebuild our streets to safely accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, not just cars.

The fact is that few cyclists like to ride on the sidewalk, but will do so if they feel they need to. This is especially true of parents riding with children. As the testimony before the City Council showed, parents will accept a ticket from the police for sidewalk riding rather than put their children in danger.

These parents, like the City Council, are making the right call to move our city safely forward. Let us all follow their example.

Jonathan Krall
Secretary, Alexandria BPAC



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN OEHLER

Thanks, Officers

The Oehlers, Queens, Shannons, Pickards and Rices all participated in a fundraiser for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria on Saturday with a makeshift neighborhood lemonade stand on Duke Street. An Alexandria police officer stopped by, followed by several more officers, chatting with the youngsters and donating to the cause. The children were impressed and wanted to let the officers know their efforts and kindness were much appreciated. More than \$60 was collected for the Animal Welfare League.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

encouraged to stay informed about upcoming meetings. Call 703-461-4666.

family and community engagement center's annual Back to School Night at T.C. Williams High School.

services will be open. Call 703-323-3000 or visit nvcc.edu.

MONDAY-THURSDAY/AUG. 5-8

Registration Open. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for its 2013 Youth Academy, a four-day program in August for ages 11 to 17. Participants will learn about the Sheriff's Office by meeting deputies, observing tactical and K-9 demonstrations, touring the Detention Center and Courthouse, and other related activities. The Youth Academy runs 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office, 2003 Mill Road. Registration is free and lunch will be provided. In some cases, transportation may be available. Space is limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis. Call Deputy Valarie Wright at 703-746-5017 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff.

MONDAY/AUG. 12

Mentoring. 6 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Alexandria Mentoring Partnership is holding an information session to teach how to become a mentor. RSVP, or if you are unable to attend but still interested, contact mentoring@alexandria.gov or 703-746-4496.

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

Boat Tour. 7:30 a.m. at City Marina, 0 Cameron St. The Waterfront Commission offers a DC waterfront boat tour. Call 703-746-5504.

Meeting. 2 p.m. at the Station at Potomac Yard, 650 Maskell St. Regular meeting of Potomac Station Condo Unit Owners Association. Call 703-746-4990.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 14

Committee Meeting. 8 a.m. The Facility Capacity Needs Analysis Subcommittee will meet at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Room 348A. The City and Alexandria City Public Schools are jointly developing a long-range educational facilities plan to improve facilities planning, accommodate the growing student population, and enhance educational programs and services. The public is invited to all meetings of the work group and is

Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission.

8 a.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street. Contact Lance Mallamo at 703-746-4554.

Blood Drive. 2-8 p.m. at Alexandria Chapter House, 123 N. Alfred St. Donors are encouraged to give all summer long, but especially near key summer holidays when donations decline. From May 23 to Sept. 9, donors, recipients and blood drive coordinators will be asked to share their inspirational videos and personal messages about how their lives have been touched. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at B3 Solutions, 901 N. Pitt Street. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

Committee on Persons with Disabilities Meeting. 7 p.m. in Room 2000 in City Hall, 301 King Street. Contact Mike Hatfield at 703-746-3148.

THURSDAY/AUG. 15

Back to School Supply Drive. The Alexandria Transit Store, 1775 C Duke Street. Passengers who bring new and unopened school supplies will receive a free ride on the DASH bus system. All donations will be distributed to students at the ACPS

FRIDAY/AUG. 16

Application Deadline. 5 p.m. The Alexandria City Academy (formerly Citizens Academy) is now accepting applications for its fall session. The nine-week program begins on Thursday, Sept. 12. The City offers City Academy program to provide residents with an opportunity to learn about City government through first-hand experiences with a wide range of government functions, services, activities and issues. Visit www.alexandria.gov/cityacademy or call 703-746-4317.

SATURDAY/AUG. 17

Church-Wide Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Vendor tables available for \$25, seller keeps all profits. Entire community welcome. Call 571-332-8056 or email gwenlinton@aol.com.

Saturday Registration Hours. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at all Northern Virginia Community College campuses. Students can prepare for the upcoming semester by speaking with counselors, registering for courses, purchasing books and receiving information on financial aid services. Student services centers, testing centers, business offices, bookstores, parking offices and student ID

SUNDAY/AUG. 18

Prospective Member Brunch. 10:30 a.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Families of all ages are invited to enjoy brunch and meet the rabbi, school directors, and current leaders of the congregation. Children will be entertained with crafts. Free. Visit www.bethelhebrew.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 19

Alexandria Housing Development Meeting. 6 p.m. at Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, 801 N. Pitt St. Contact Mildrilyn Davis at 703-746-4990.

George Washington Birthday Committee Meeting. 7 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Contact Cheryl Lawrence at 703-746-5419.

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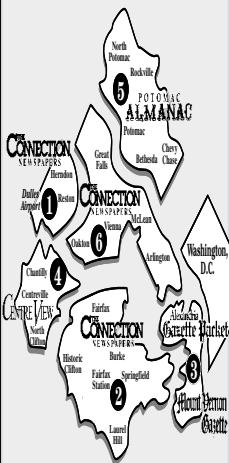
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Legal Notices Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, 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.	Legal Notices LEGAL NOTICE Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows: Title: RFQ#00000362, Request for Qualifications for Public Safety Center West Wing Renovation General Contractor. Date and Time RFQ Opens: August 29, 2013, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time Pre-Bid Conference: None	3 RE for Rent Furnished Studio Apartment/Condo in Old Town Includes utilities/cable Avail August 11, call Jim (571) 278-0153	25 Sales & Auctions Quality Furniture & More ESTATE TAG MOVING SALE 8/10-11 SAT SUN 930a-430p 3154 Mary Etta Ln Herndon	26 Antiques We pay top \$ for antique furniture and mid-century Danish/modern teak furniture, STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, jewelry and costume jewelry, paintings/art glass/clocks. Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790. Email:theschefer@cox.net	101 Computers HDI COMPUTER SOLUTIONS JENNIFER SMITH ♦ Serving the Area Since 1995 ➤ Speed up Slow Computers ➤ Troubleshooting ➤ Virus Removal ➤ Computer Setup (571) 265-2038 ♦ jsmithhdi@aol.com	101 Computers
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21 Announcements ABINGDON, VA- Zita Marie Witte Pojeta, BSN, a retired O.R. Nurse, age 70, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 in the comfort of her home.	21 Announcements A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22309, with Reverend Thomas P. Ferguson officiating.	21 Announcements Those wishing to express sympathy online and obtain further information may do so by visiting www.farrisfuneralservice.com and signing the online guestbook.	21 Announcements The family of Zita Marie Witte Pojeta is being cared for by Farris Funeral Service and Crematory, 427 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210 (276-623-2700).
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102 Instruction Reading for Success! Time-tested, results-proven program for kindergarten and first grade students Has your child had difficulty acquiring reading skills during Kindergarten/1st grade? Use the next 60 days of summer to increase their reading skills in just 12 hour per day, before they get back in school. Time-tested and results-proven material is used for 12 hour per day 5 days a week, to get them on a 1st/2nd grade reading level at the end of the program. Call 703-360-3363 or email annsvern@gmail.com to set up an appointment. All sessions done in my home in the Waynewood/Fort Hunt area.	102 Instruction NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PRELIMINARY BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Administrative (J) Building located at 1500 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA. The preliminary budget is available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com and during regular business hours at the above address. Copies will be made available upon request - phone (703) 549-3381 ext. 2260. August 1st and September 5th Alexandria Renew Enterprises BY: William Dickinson Secretary - Treasurer
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The Mount Vernon Gazette
Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
Title: ITB#00000365, Combined Sewer Overflow (CS) Diversion Structure at King and West Streets
Bid Opening Date and Time: August 20, 2013, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time
Pre-Bid Conference: A pre bid conference will be held on August 9, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Procurement Conference Room located at 100 N Pitt St, Alexandria, VA 22314.
For general inquiries contact John Soderberg, Sr. Contracts Consultant at 703.746.4397.
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

OBITUARY
Josephine D. Steele
October 8, 1915 – July 29, 2013
Josephine Dinkins Steele (Jo) passed away on July 29, 2013, at Goodwin House, Alexandria, VA. Born Marie Josephine Dinkins in Yadkin County, NC, she grew up with her mother and 4 brothers and 1 sister, all of whom preceded her in death. She graduated from Yadkinville High School and Harbargers Business School in Raleigh, NC. Married to James F. Steele on February 19, 1938, she moved with her husband and children to Alexandria, VA, in March 1947. She spent 29 years working in the Public School Administration Office of Alexandria, retiring in 1980.
She traveled extensively with friends, visiting numerous European countries, Mexico, Canada, and Australia. She was an avid reader and loved crossword puzzles.
Her husband preceded her in death in May 1997. She is survived by her 3 sons, James F. Steele of Southern Pines, NC; Cary B. Steele of The Villages, FL; and Richard C. Steele of Alexandria. She is also survived by 6 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.
The family would like to thank the staff, and particularly the medical/nursing staff, of Goodwin House for the excellent care she received. The family is being assisted by Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home and Crematory of Alexandria. Online condolences may be made at www.everlywheatleyfuneralhome.com. A memorial service will be held at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302, on Saturday, August 17, 2013, at 11 AM with interment to follow at Mount Comfort Cemetery. The family will receive friends 1 hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions may be made to Goodwin House in Alexandria, The Salvation Army, or The Carpenters Shelter in memory of Josephine D. Steele.

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703.851.4250
www.YourAtHomeTeam.com
MLS# AX8137820



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Stately brick colonial on large corner lot facing Masonic Temple in popular George Washington Park. This elegant three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home has quality updates including custom kitchen, plantation shutters, new windows, freshly painted, gleaming hardwoods, & more. Relax & enjoy the view from the large screened porch. Minutes to Metro & Old Town.

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