



When It Rains, It Stinks

Even small amounts of precipitation dumps raw sewage into the Potomac River.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Don't believe the signs city officials have posted at the four outfall spots that dump raw sewage into the Potomac River. The truth is much worse.

The signs say rainfalls that are "heavy" or "long" will result in raw sewage overflowing from the city's treatment plant directly into the river. But a new permit application to state officials paints a different picture. According to information submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, one of the outfalls is triggered with as much as 0.03 inches of rain.

"I don't think anybody was aware of the extent of this problem."

— Jack Sullivan

"The system cannot carry anything more than a slight drizzle," said Bill Skraback, deputy director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

City officials are in the midst of applying for a permit to allow Alexandria to continue dumping raw sewage into the Hunting Creek while a Long



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

The outflow next to the Residence Inn on Duke Street overflows after about 0.16 inches of precipitation. That happens about 28 times a year for an average of eight hours at a time.

Term Control Plan is created. A draft permit now under consideration kicks the can down the road until 2032. But critics say the city has been dumping its human waste into the river too long, and that the time for action is now. They say city officials should take action now before the Environmental Protection Agency forces Alexandria

to take action, as it has already done in the District of Columbia and a number of other cities.

"Take a look at what's happening across the country," said Bill Dickinson, a member of the Sanitation Authority. "Why would we be exempt?"

Four Points of Discharge

- ❖ **Pendleton Street Outfall:** Located at the east end of Pendleton Street, the minimum rainfall for overflow here is 0.06 inches. It overflows about 28 times a year, dumping about 35.21 million gallons into the Potomac River.
- ❖ **Royal Street Outfall:** Located at the south end of Royal Street, the minimum rainfall for an overflow here is 0.21 inches. It overflows about 25 times a year, dumping about 31.27 million gallons into the Potomac River.
- ❖ **West Street Outfall:** Located under Duke Street at the crossing of Hoof's Run, the minimum rainfall for an overflow here is 0.03 inches. It overflows about 58 times a year, dumping about 36.67 million gallons into the Potomac River.
- ❖ **Hoof's Run Outfall:** Located about 50 meters south of Duke Street, the minimum rainfall for overflow here is 0.16 inches. It overflows about 28 times a year, dumping about 9.63 million gallons into the Potomac River.

THE PROBLEM has long festered under the streets of Alexandria, which installed a cutting-edge sewer system in the 1900s. Instead of throwing raw sewage into the alleys of Old Town, residents were able to combine the wastewater with rainfall in pipes under the streets. Now Alexandria has a legacy problem. Along with Lynchburg and Richmond, Alexandria must now figure a way to fix its combined sewer system. "Every time you flush your toilet in Old Town, it could end up in Dyke Marsh as untreated sewage," said Glenda Booth, president of Friends of Dyke Marsh.

The permit application reveals that more than 100 million gallons of overflow are

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Should Jefferson-Houston Become a Charter School?

Alexandria's failing school is in crossfire of political debate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Politicians love to talk about failing schools. As an abstract concept, they are an

easy target. But when an actual school is identified as a failing school, the reality become a bit more complicated.

That's the situation Jefferson-Houston School finds itself in as

the parents and teachers prepare for the coming school year. Test scores have been so low for so long at the school that state leaders are about to seize control from the local school division, which has been unable to increase test scores to an acceptable level for the last decade. Now Republican candidate for governor Ken Cuccinelli is outlining new proposals for failing schools such as Jefferson-Houston.

"It's not good enough if the children who live in the right zip code are excelling in the classroom and moving on to college and graduate schools while families trapped within a low income community have a mediocre education at best and a failing school at worst," said Cuccinelli during an event this

week in Richmond. "We need to implement an education plan based on the idea that every Virginia child deserves a high-quality education — no matter where they live."

The solution, according to Cuccinelli, is to provide parents with more options. If elected, Cuccinelli said, he would work to enact legislation that would authorize a majority of parents whose children attend a failing school to petition for one of four reforms.

One would be to simply close the school and send the students to a higher performing institution. Another option would be to change the leadership at the school. The Republican candidate also supports tax credits that would allow parents at failing schools to send their children to private schools. But the option that's already been discussed for Jefferson-Houston would be to transform it into a charter school — one of the possi

SEE SCHOOL PAGE 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli unveils his education agenda at Maggie Walker Governor's School in Richmond.

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When Opportunity Knocks

Embattled Republican Gov. **Bob McDonnell** is on the road this week as part of a tour he is calling “This Commonwealth of Opportunity,” an effort to promote the accomplishments of his administration during the governor’s final few months in office. The tour comes as McDonnell has come under intense scrutiny about loans and gifts from a wealthy Virginia businessman and political supporter. The tour began last week in southwest Virginia, then moved to Hampton Roads earlier this week and is headed to Alexandria. On Thursday, McDonnell is scheduled to appear at T.C. Williams High School for a forum about failing schools.

“Our children deserve the best schools and an excellent education,” said School Board Chairwoman **Karen Graf** in a statement Monday announcing the Thursday event. “Our School Board believes that local control is the best way to achieve this goal, even when this work is met with great challenges.”

Some Democrats were frustrated that school leaders would allow an Alexandria school to be used by the governor for what many consider a political event aimed at repairing his tarnished image. Others expressed frustration that the event was announced with so little advance notice, giving only three days for parents to schedule time off work for a morning event at the high school. School Board members say the event will offer an opportunity for school leaders to push back against the governor’s effort to take over Jefferson-Houston School, which will be removed from the Alexandria City Public School system next year when the Opportunity Educational Institution is expected to assume control.

“This could backfire for the governor,” said **Bill Campbell**. “I think you’re going to see some interesting back and forth.”

Declining Value of Hensley

The controversial unsolicited bid to lease one of the city’s most used public space for private profit may have been withdrawn, but new information from City Hall shows the deal may have been a bargain for the developer. According to a report from the Finance Department, the value of Hensley Park decreased in value from \$23.1 million to \$14.5 million in the last year — a drop in value that could have influenced negotiations for the 40-year lease.

So what explains the sudden change?

According to Finance Director **Laura Triggs**, the real-estate assessor’s office recently conducted valuation reviews of all open space in Alexandria. The goal was to make sure property values reflected the value of current zoning. City officials wanted to underscore that the drop in value of land at Hensley Park was before Alexandria leaders received the unsolicited proposal from the St. James Group.

“These valuations are done periodically, but not necessarily each year because of their tax exempt status,” said Triggs in an email. “The city assessor, with the time allowed between annual valuation cycles, concentrated the majority of time and resources on taxable revenue generating parcels.”

This year, for example, city officials began reviewing the city’s tax-exempt inventory beginning with vacant land primarily zoned for public open space. Normally, Triggs explained, these properties have very little development potential.

“Since value is predicated on use, it was only right they adjust these values to a level commensurate with the underlying zoning,” said Triggs.

Patterson Indicted

This week, an Alexandria grand jury charged Arlington County sheriff’s deputy **Craig Patterson** with murder. On Monday, members of the grand jury returned an indictment charging Patterson with one count of murder and one count of the use of a firearm in the commission of murder. The grand jury indictment follows the preliminary hearing last week in General District Court, where several witnesses testified about the night Alexandria resident **Julian Dawkins** was murdered and prosecutors played audio of the 911 call in which Patterson says he shot the young man after being confronted with a knife.

“The maximum penalties for these offenses are life for murder, and a mandatory three years for the firearm charge,” said Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney **Bryan Porter** in a written statement.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



The Celtic Rhythm School of Dance from Leesburg performed a traditional Irish dance routine during the 28th annual Ballyshaners Irish Festival at Waterfront Park on Saturday, Aug. 10.



Jaime Hertog ties a colorful wrap around Grace Keefe as she tries on different wraps during the annual Ballyshaners Irish Festival.



Collages of family pictures are on display the Stanton’s Heraldry and Custom Collages tent during the annual festival.



Erick Hauser feeds his dog Haley a treat as they stop at Waterfront Park.

PHOTOS BY
LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/
GAZETTE PACKET



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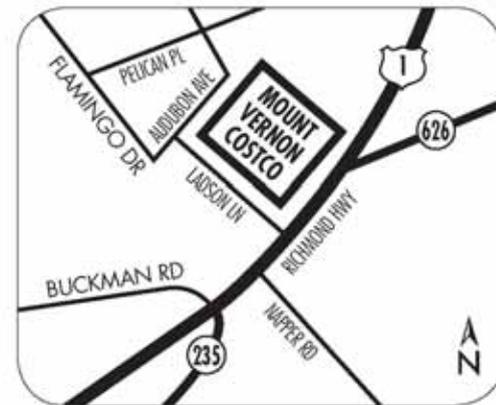
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NEWS



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Cheers

Following a presentation to the Rotary Club of Alexandria Aug. 6, Port City Brewing Company founder Bill Butcher, second from right, passed out samples of the limited edition Derecho Common beer. Producing the only local craft beer now available at Nationals Park, the Alexandria brewery will release its next seasonal beer, the Ocktoberfest, over Labor Day weekend. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com.

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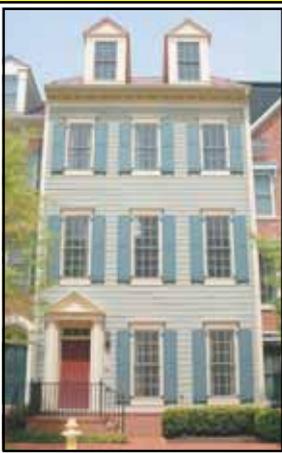


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NEWS

Seeking 'Presents 4 Pets'

Campaign to aid four local animal charities.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Residents of the region have the opportunity to help non-profit animal rescue organizations, thanks to the Presents 4 Pets Campaign. This multiple location, annual pet supplies drive is sponsored by the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS).

Alexandria-based Becky's Pet Care, Incorporated, a professional dog walking and pet sitting company which is a part of NAPPS, teamed up with the Presents 4 Pets Campaign, which launched on July 15. This is the second year Becky's Pet Care has helped to organize the project.

The joint goal for the project is to raise \$2,500 and 1,000 pounds of supplies for four local charities: Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART), King Street Cats (KSC) and Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA).

"The project started in mid-July and it runs through Nov. 10 for us," said Becky's marketing manager Kym Laird. "At that time, we will make our final collections from all the places we have boxes set up and we will distribute to all the benefiting shelters."

Becky's Pet Care employees are pleased to give back to non-profit organizations devoted to caring for and finding forever homes for rescued animals. "NAPPS started as a way to bring awareness to shelter and rescue pets, so we could give back to all the volunteers," Laird said. "All of this is non-profit. This is great for Becky's because we are so connected. We are getting supplies over to those volunteers who are always working tirelessly for the animals."

She said Becky's Pet Care, which has been in business for 14 years, and all of NAPPS, purposely made the program easy for Northern Virginia residents to access.

"There are boxes all over Northern Virginia — in Woodbridge, Falls Church, Reston, Arlington and Alexandria," Laird said. "We service this entire area, [from Prince William County to Arlington,] as well and we want it to be easy to drop off anything."

Angela Meyers, Becky's Pet Care marketing director, said they have been doing more than setting up

boxes to aid in the drives. The marketing department is responsible for spreading the word of the campaign with press releases, event notices and on various social media sites.

"We also create partnerships with other pet companies to have many donation collection sites throughout all of Northern Virginia," Meyers said.

She added that her department has also organized Restaurant Night events through September to November at various Glory Days and Joe's Pizza and Pasta Place restaurants throughout the area. On the nights of these events, Glory Days and Joe's Place will be contributing 10 percent of all bills to Presents 4 Pets.

Laird said she is confident that NAPPS will reach its goal this year, for a multitude of reasons.

"I feel really positive about it because I know that last year we got a much later start and it is

nice to have all that time and all the locations," Laird said. "After distributing the boxes, we already had one location call to say the box was full. We also had a few clients mail in gift cards for the drive."

Meyers said she not only believes the campaign will reach the goal, but will collect far beyond the target.

"This year has started off quite strong," Meyers said. "We are excited and strongly believe this year's final donation will be at least two to three times as much as last year's."

She also added that the Restaurant Nights will be a major factor in surpassing the campaign's money goal. Laird said she has a personal connection to King Street Cats, so she knows all that goes into maintaining such an organization.

"One of the shelters we are working with, King Street Cats, is where I got my cat," Laird said, "so I know that this organization's costs are endless."

While Presents 4 Pets is well on its way this year, Laird said they still have a long way to go. She said needed supplies include pet food, leashes, cat litter, cleaning supplies, and money or office supply store gift cards for the maintaining of shelter offices.

For more information, visit Becky's Pet Care, Incorporated's official page: <http://www.beckyspetcare.com/presents-for-pets/>.



A box at Becky's Pet Care in Alexandria for the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters' Presents 4 Pets Campaign.

Shop Donates Cookies To Support Troops

Occasionally Cake of Alexandria helped celebrate Independence Day by making 750 cookies for the USO-Metro Firecracker 5K at Reston Town Center in Reston. Star-shaped cookies were a treat for the USO-Metro runners. "I had a grandfather and uncle that served in the military, and so I know the importance of organizations like the USO ... we were honored to help out and be a part of their 4th of July 5K," said Sabrina Campbell, owner of Occasionally Cake in Old Town. Visit www.occasionallycake.com.



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Granny Smith Commission

For the last two decades, voters have been frustrated by the Standards of Learning — known as the SOLs — because of concern that classes are designed to teach to the test. And politicians have taken notice. This week, Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli proposed a potential solution.

“Our first step will be to convene what we are calling an Apples Commission made up of academics, parents, principals, leaders, educators and students to review and recommend changes to Virginia’s SOLs,” Cuccinelli said during a press conference in Richmond. “Ensuring that students think critically while also meeting certain standards are not mutually exclusive goals.”

The deadline for the commission would be November 2014, when members would make a series of proposals designed to shift attention to student knowledge and problem solving rather than rote memorization. Critics say Cuccinelli is rehashing a familiar debate and that the State Board of Education has been working on reforming the SOLs for years. “In politics you have to be careful not to get enamored with the idea that someone is going to ask someone to sit around the table and that somehow constitutes bold leadership,” said Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45). “I don’t think Cuccinelli is breaking any new ground. He’s essentially joining a conversation that’s been going on for a long time.”

Aborted Regulations

Earlier this year, the Virginia Board of Health approved strict new regulations that require abortion clinics to meet hospital construction standards. The Falls Church Healthcare Center responded by filing a lawsuit. Republican candidate for attorney general Mark Obenshain says he will defend the new regulations, a series of standards he voted for requiring everything from awnings to large doorways. “As attorney for the commonwealth of Virginia, our job is to represent our client, my client, the commonwealth of Virginia, under the existing law and to defend the existing laws and I would do that unflinchingly,” said Obenshain. “Just like being a private practice attorney, I can’t decide which laws I like and which ones I don’t like in representing them.”

But the Democrat in that race, state Sen. Mark Herring, says he is not yet sure if he will defend the regulations. Last week, Herring said he was not sure whether or not he will defend the constitutional prohibition against gay marriage. That means voters may have to decide which candidate to vote for without any sense of what the Democrat would do about abortion and gay rights, two of the hottest social issues on the campaign trail.

“I have serious concerns about the very tortured advice that the attorney general gave in intimidating the Board of Health into adopting regulations that they initially disagreed with,” said Herring. “I don’t think the attorney general should be defending laws that are patently unconstitutional or where the process by which they were adopted violated the law.”

Equal Time

Do women in Virginia get equal pay for equal work? That’s a question at the center of the campaign for lieutenant governor as the rival campaigns take shots at each other. The back-and-forth was sparked by comments E.W. Jackson made on a Tea Party website back in May, when the Republican suggested that equal pay measures add nothing to the dignity and equality of women.

“Ralph Northam knows that women across our commonwealth drive Virginia’s economic success,” said Northam Campaign spokesman Grant Herring in a written statement. “They deserve equal pay for their work, but in E.W. Jackson’s Virginia they don’t.”

It didn’t take long for Jackson’s campaign to return fire. “While Ralph Northam may try to talk a good game on issues he feels are vital to the people of the commonwealth, his record in the Virginia Senate, or lack thereof, tells a different story,” said Jackson in a written statement. “What Northam currently calls ‘commonsense legislation’ is something he has not taken the time to address by sponsoring a single relevant bill during his five years in the Virginia Senate. Instead, Northam’s record is one of standing against better health standards for women’s clinics and for an extreme social agenda that does nothing to put Virginians back to work.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTOS BY JOHN NAPOLITANO

Sons of the American Legion Post 24 Commander Frank Tobin, third from right, presents a check for \$22,701 to EOD Wounded Warriors Foundation representatives Aug. 11 following a fundraiser at Gadsby’s Tavern. Pictured are Matthew Higgins, foundation executive director Nicole Motsek, Jamie Mizerak, David Woodbury, event co-chair Doug Coleman, Christina Brown and Anna Coleman.

No Warrior Left Behind

\$22,000 raised for EOD wounded warriors.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 200 people turned out Aug. 11 for the first annual Sons of the American Legion Post 24 EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Wounded Warrior Foundation fundraiser, raising \$22,701 for troops wounded during the disarming and disposal of improvised explosive devices.

“The Sons of the American Legion in Alexandria put on such an incredible event for us,” said Jamie Mizerak, social media and events coordinator for the EOD Wounded Warrior Foundation. “It’s amazing how much money was raised and I am excited to see it progress as it becomes an annual event.”

The EOD Warrior Foundation serves the EOD community by providing assistance to active-duty wounded, injured or ill EOD warriors, wounded EOD veterans and families of fallen EOD warriors. The organization also maintains the EOD Memorial Wall in honor of fallen EOD troops.

“This was not a typical American Legion function,” said SAL Post 24 Commander Frank Tobin. “It was a team effort with the entire Alexandria community coming out to support our veterans and our

very generous sponsors stepping up to make this a success.”

Local sponsors included Potomac Riverboat Company, King Street Blues, Port City Brewing Company, Hotel Monaco, Pork Barrell BBQ/Holy Cow, The Sushi Place, Theismann’s, Overwood, Old Town Theater and First Night Alexandria.

Bombs known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are responsible for the majority of injuries and fatalities on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan and EOD technicians are considered to have one of the most dangerous occupations in the military.

“Part of our American Legion values includes caring for veterans and their families,” Tobin said. “Some of these heroes came to our event and anyone who had a chance to speak with them would agree that this particular group of veterans is an especially worthy cause.”

Tobin intends to make the EOD fundraiser an annual event.

“I hope that everyone who supported us will be back again next year,” Tobin said. “We were able to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and community and bring visibility to the great things we can do as an American Legion family.”

For more information on the EOD Wounded Warrior Foundation, visit www.eodwarriorfoundation.org.



Alexandria-based Red Star performs at a fundraiser for the EOD Wounded Warrior Foundation Aug. 11 at Gadsby’s Tavern. Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Post 24, the event raised more than \$22,000.



Air Force Col. Jim “Chili” Lindsay, co-chair of the event, visits with Marine Staff Sgt. Timothy Brown, who lost both legs and an arm in an IED blast in Afghanistan in February 2011.

Geocaching Diversifies

Urbanites embracing new game.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
GAZETTE PACKET

Geoaching usually has been portrayed as some one with hiking boots and a walking staff gazing afar from a hilltop in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Not so anymore.

Substantial numbers of those joining the sport are placing and hunting for caches in urban settings, and that includes Northern Virginia.

Geocaching is the electronic age blend of a scavenger hunt and orienteering. The U.S. military was ordered to cease jamming satellite navigation signals in May 2000. An unforeseen by-product turns out to be the game of geocaching.

Scavenging games have been around for ages because everyone likes to hunt for treasure. Players receive a list of items and a deadline. The one returning within an allotted time with the greatest number of listed items wins. Orienteering involves use of a map and compass. A series of compass directions, very precisely followed, leads from point-to-point-to-point to the final target site. Running the course in the shortest time determines the winner.

“Geocaching brings families together because it is a fun activity for all ages.”

— Dave Prebeck

Now add GPS, the Global Positioning System. Some portions of the military's navigational system had been available for civilian use since the 1980s. On May 1, 2000, the President issued a directive which meant “that civilian users of GPS will be able to pinpoint locations up to 10 times more accurately than they do now.”

Portable GPS units could lock in on a location within 15 to 30 feet. It took one week for an engineer in Oregon to connect the concepts of GPS and treasure hunt. He placed a bucket in a wooded area near his home. It contained a logbook and some trinkets for exchange with finders. Posting geographic coordinates via the Internet, he announced a single rule: “Get some stuff, leave some stuff.” It was called The Great American GPS Stash Hunt.

In short order, the game went international. There are over 2 million hidden “caches” and more than 5 million “cachiers” world-wide. Those figures for the Commonwealth of Virginia are “about 15,000” and “several thousand,” respectively. Northern Virginia is peppered with caches; for example,



Dave Prebeck, NOVAGO leader.



A family searches for a cache.



A variety of cache containers.



Helen Wirka and Susan Hellman of Carlyle House.

it is estimated that several hundred are hidden within 5 miles of the intersection of Glebe Road and Columbia Pike in Arlington. Locations range from mountains to the seashore and from public parks to lamp-posts in urban settings. Each listed cache on the central register appears with a “difficulty level” and a “terrain level,” allowing players to select the right searches for their individual interests and physical conditions. Many “smart phones” have a GPS application, so buying a separate, portable GPS unit is no longer necessary.

Dave Prebeck, a leader of NOVAGO, cannot hide his pleasure at how the sport has grown over the last few years. He adds “there always is room for more cachiers. That is why we hold so many of the free ‘Geocaching 101’ classes across the area.” His employment involves quite a bit of travel abroad, and Prebeck says that finding or hiding a cache is becoming easier every day as people in more than a hundred countries discover the game.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION is very encouraging. Young people have no fear of electronic devices (unlike some of their seniors), Prebeck observes. Recognition in the form of a Boy Scout or Girl Scout badge leads many to the sport.

There are a number of benefits to geocaching. A search can be combined with a hike or long walk into beautiful natural areas, Prebeck said. “Virginia has many

wonderful natural locations.” Urban and neighborhood hunts also involve exercise, but are more convenient and less time-consuming. Regardless of location, some participants simply like the mental challenges of solving complicated “puzzle searches,” he said. Of great importance, Prebeck added, “Geocaching brings families together because it is a fun activity for all ages.” Grouping people into pairs and trios can teach teamwork, so the sport has found its way into company and agency employee training programs.

Chris Gaida of Alexandria admits he is not much a disciple of the game; he has not worked in classes offered by NOVAGO. He has, however, participated in “trash out” forays where cachiers remove rubbish from parks and other locations. To Gaida, a major benefit is learning the history of wherever a search leads, which in his case includes the City of Alexandria. Caching also holds opportunities to display a sly sense of humor. He tells of a cache placed in the Del Ray neighborhood: A “puzzle hunt” keyed to the famed musician Jim Morrison who attended school nearby.

Herndon's Ron Staley also cites learning more of historical events as a positive factor. His example centers on the grave of Laura Ratcliffe, a female Confederate spy buried not far from his home. As to the technical and recordkeeping aspects of geocaching, Staley finds little difference when comparing it with birding

Curious?

Read “The Geocaching Handbook” (2d ed. 2011) by Layne Cameron (Falcon Guides, Guilford, Conn.). Several public libraries hold a copy, as well as other books on the topic.

Consult the web page of Northern Virginia Geocaching Organization (NOVAGO) at www.novago.org.

Follow the link in NOVAGO's webpage to the authoritative clearinghouse of information at www.geocaching.com. Free registration makes you a cachier.

Attend one of NOVAGO's free classes titled “Geocaching 101.” They are offered throughout the year and ordinarily meet in a public location, such as a library. The entire game is explained, and operation of a GPS unit is taught.

(birdwatching).

Apart from finding and hiding things, cachiers socialize. According to Prebeck, cachiers love to tell stories of successful searches. They also enjoy relating how and why they camouflaged the target containers, the clever places in which caches were hidden and the reasons behind selection of the trinkets left for trade. Get-togethers are informal and include potluck dinners, cook-outs and competitive meets.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has been involved with geocaching for about five years according to Ken Moss, a founder of NOVAGO. Carlyle House, a unit of that Authority next to Alexandria City Hall, holds a long-term cache that he hid.

Moss notes that original emphasis was on caches in natural settings, usually coupled with hiking. Presently, he endorses a balance in locations through growth of “urban-style hides.” Moss is quick to add that gaming in established neighborhoods requires a greater sense of responsibility on the part of cachiers; trespassing is to be avoided and permission of property owners is encouraged.

Manager Susan Hellman and curator Helen Wirka at Carlyle House say that cachiers do hunt there, but the numbers are not large. This is surprising in light of a Federal program begun three years ago. The National Park Service created the “Star Spangled Banner Geotrail” as part of the bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812. Carlyle House was selected as one of the trail locations.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET

On Federal Dollars in Virginia

State's role as one of the biggest "takers."

We received some emails and phone calls about the expansion of Medicaid in response to last week's editorial ["Issues That Matter," Gazette Packet, Aug. 8]. Many asserted that Virginia should not accept federal dollars for its residents without health insur-

ance in order to help control federal spending. Virginia already receives more federal money per capita than any other state except Alaska. Virginia received \$136 billion in federal funds in 2010, more than \$17,000 from the feds per capita, and paid \$2,807 per capita in federal income taxes. (Data from Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2010 by State and County from the Census Bureau, analyzed by 247wallst.com) Two examples: \$1.3 billion in federal trans-

portation money came to Virginia. Virginia was on the receiving end of more than \$5,000 per capita in defense spending. Do the people (who almost certainly have their own health insurance) who think that we should turn away federal money to expand Medicaid think we should lobby to reduce defense and transportation spending in Virginia to help control federal spending?

— MARY KIMM.
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How Far School Has Fallen

To the Editor:

Former school board chairman Arthur Peabody has recently argued that Jefferson-Houston School is actually a success, and that state education officials were using too rigid numerical measures in evaluating educational progress. He was basically rehashing the arguments made last October to the Virginia Board of Education, when Superintendent Morton Sherman and former board chairman Sheryl Gorsuch were unsuccessful in seeking a pass on accreditation for the troubled school. Their arguments were not convincing to par-

ents or the community then and they aren't convincing now. According to the Virginia Department of Education, in 2012-2013 some 93 percent of Virginia schools (1,716 in total) were fully accredited. This included a number of Title 1 schools and even some with 100 percent of the students receiving free and reduced meals (FARM). (The figure Mr. Peabody cites for Jefferson-Houston is 73 percent FARM.) Less than one percent of Virginia schools were denied accreditation as Jefferson-Houston was. It is preposterous to argue that the state's regulatory benchmarks are unfair when so many schools across the state make the grade, including those with similar demographics. Like others who have volunteered or been recruited to defend Dr. Sherman, Mr. Peabody

blurs the history of the school's accreditation efforts by sweeping under the rug past compliance with the state's standards. It's time to set forth the facts once again for the record. SOL tests are administered near the end of one academic year and the results are used to determine status for the following academic year. For example, tests administered during academic year 2012-2013 will determine status for the 2013-2014 year.

According to documents prepared for the October 2012 state board meeting, Jefferson-Houston was classified as provisionally accredited/needs improvement in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, a classification that does not include areas of warning. This was two years after Rebecca Perry was hired as superintendent in June 2001 and three years after the disastrous 1999 redistricting.

From 2004-2005 through 2006-2007 Jefferson-Houston was accredited but with warning in several subject areas. However, with each passing year there were fewer subject areas meriting warning. By 2007-2008 the school was conditionally accredited. Then, based on tests administered in the spring of 2008 shortly after Ms. Perry departed, the school was fully accredited for academic year 2008-2009 with no warnings in any academic areas. Her tenure saw a solid record of improvement leading to accreditation.

Contrast this with the school's history under Dr. Sherman, who was hired in June 2008 and arrived in Alexandria at the start of the school year in the fall of 2008. In tests administered during the spring of 2009, the school's status for academic year 2009-2010 slipped back to accredited with warning. With each passing year more subject areas of warning were added, and finally the school was denied accreditation altogether in 2012-2013 when four areas of warning were identified (English, mathematics, history, and science).

The accreditation history of the school can be found on VDOE's Web site by using the link <http://tinyurl.com/k7o5eld>

Perhaps Mr. Peabody, who was then on the school board, has forgotten that in an Aug. 29, 2008 letter to the Jefferson-Houston community, the newly-arrived Dr. Sherman expressed pleasure not only at Jefferson-Houston's recent accreditation by the state but also because the school made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The letter can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/k32syms>

It's fascinating and also sad how the school

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com
@MichaelLeePope

Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

Louise Krafft
Photographer
lkrafft@connectionnewspapers.com

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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

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Steven Mauren
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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
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Proclamation for Day of Non-Violence

Mayor William Euille recently became the 13th elected official to declare Aug. 22, 2013 as a Day of Non-Violence. Black Women for Positive Change, a national, civic, volunteer organization is calling for a National Summit on Nonviolence and Day of Non-Violence in collaboration with faith-based leaders, national organizations, elected officials and community leaders. The Day of Non-Violence will be held in conjunction with a National Summit on Non-Violence in observance of the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's historic March on Washington. The full-day summit will begin with a Youth Summit from 9 a.m.-noon; followed by a National Summit from 1-5 p.m. at the Metropolitan AME Church, 1518 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. For more information contact Black Women for Positive Change at Bkwomen4poschange@gmail.com or Bernadette Tolson at 202-997-0655.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

has now arrived at this inexplicable place.

Leslie Zupan

Past President, West Old Town
Citizens Association
Alexandria

A Helping Hand Not a Hand-out

To the Editor:

The last four years of my life I have been a resident of the public housing development known as Hopkins-Tancil Court or "The Berg." I'm also a parent of Jefferson-Houston children. I'm a published author, an advocate for housing and children with special needs, workshop facilitator, motivational speaker, fourth-generation college graduate and many other "titles." I listed some of my accomplishments because none of those "titles" prevented me from experiencing financial hardships as a mother of four children. I'm writing this letter along with Sheryl Bell who has been a tireless advocate in front of City Council for housing, special needs children, and daycare providers. I'm like many women who live across

this city who do an amazing job as single mothers while working on rebuilding our financial, and professional lives.

The digital divide is a reality and the lack of one basic computer in a house plays a major role with civic engagement and our professional lives. Many families do not own one personal computer in their household. Many families are not even able to keep the phone on consistently, because if you have to choose between "extras" like unexpected medicine for a sick child, a bus ride to the school about your child, food, and so on ... then of course as a parent you let the phone bill go by the way-side. I have experienced how you can miss out on phone calls about employment, emails about employment, emails about what is happening with ACPS, emails about different city initiatives, allowing the children to do extra work on the computer after-school, or for some parents checking their child's grades online.

If it wasn't for certain people in this city a growing group of public housing residents and low-income women wouldn't have been able to attend as many School Board meetings on rainy nights (with our children in tow), Hous-

ing Meetings, taking our children and training them to speak publicly at these meetings, having literacy initiatives in our homes, attending town halls with neighborhood children, GW's "It Takes a Village" parent group, feeding neighborhood children, What's Next Alexandria, attending Jefferson-Houston PTA meetings and other civic engagement activities. If it wasn't for those people who have assisted us by filling in the gaps by providing bookbag drives, or buying a child shoes for the winter season, we would be even further behind.

This is what we are supposed to do like any other parent but it is challenging in my community to get mothers to come out when you can't reach them via the internet or the phone because both are off. It is challenging to get a mother to think about another "meeting" and she is overwhelmed with gas/electric bills because she is unable to find steady work. The Housing Authority is mandated to provide certain efforts to assist residents with complete self-sufficiency. It is called the HUD Section 3 program, to promote residents to obtain their own businesses and employment. I publicly asked for numbers on how many residents have been

hired and the numbers they gave out were unacceptable. This is supposed to be public information anyway. No one is looking for a hand out but like anyone else in life sometimes you need people to assist you on this journey called life. My goal along with Sheryl Bell is to ensure that we leave many Alexandria families in a better place than when we arrived. What is the point of me living in public housing if I leave it exactly the same as when I arrived. We are going to secure different partners who would like to provide a computer to a family with a year's worth of internet service for at least eight different low-income residents across the city.

Let's make this a livable city for all. The children, the city government, the school system, and the parents would really appreciate it!

**Nisa Harper and
Sheryl Bell**
Concerned Alexandria
Advocates

Keep Public In Public Parks

To the Editor:

As a man dedicated to public

service and parks, Bill Dickinson, formerly head of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, almost single handedly — and thankfully — saved Hensley Park from privatization. However, this does not mean it can't happen again tomorrow, and there may be no legal clause to stop it. Here's why.

During this year's budget process, which was notable for scrubbing public services out of the picture, the city did three things that set the stage for an "unsolicited" bid to build a long term, privately operated complex on park land.

First, the open space land acquisition goals were declared as met, meaning our minimum requirements for parkland and other kinds of open space have been fulfilled. The city took this action independently, without community comment on a public good vital to residents' well-being. Second, the city eliminated the open space budget category, even though this had operated effectively to acquire land and as a source of emergency funds. Third, parkland was devalued 38 percent compared to the prior year, in effect making the City of Alexandria a highly attrac-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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OPINION

A Call To End Prohibition Again

BY HARRY M. COVERT

News that Rob Krupicka was strategizing about making pot, the funny stuff, legal in the Commonwealth caught me off guard. I could only think of one word: Piffle.

It's great to come up with new ideas, especially those for the betterment of communities. Frankly, I was going to use this space to castigate the Californian-come Virginian who has parlayed his membership on Alexandria's City Council to the Richmond House of Delegates from the 45th Delegate District.

It takes a lot of intestinal fortitude, just plain guts, and chutzpah, for an elected official to jump into what many would call an abnormal conversation in the Old Dominion.

No doubt about it, lots of citizens throughout Northern Virginia, have given up smoking traditional cigarettes, especially those legally and taxably manufactured in the state. Remember the slogans LSMFT (Lucky Strike means fine tobacco," "I'd Walk a mile for a Camel," "Call for Philip Morris.") Let's face it, it's practically a criminal act for anyone to light up anywhere these days.

Just think of the tobacco farmers who have suffered, who lost their farms and have had to turn to other venues.

Delegate Krupicka forced me do some serious research on the marijuana matter. Lots of people, again throughout Northern Virginia of high and low estates, and elsewhere, feel as though the illegal use of marijuana is reminiscent of the days of Prohibition. No booze, no taxable drinking, except in such patriotic private facilities reserved for military veterans, politicians and civilian watering holes up and down the avenues in Alexandria, Old Town, Arlington, Fairfax, etcetera, etcetera and etcetera.

Creative citizens did learn once how to develop fancy clubs like literary societies, those named for animals, obviously all for charitable purposes.

The Honorable Mr. Krupicka told a local chapter of the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws, known as NORML, it was probably easier for him as a politician to kick open the door to lessen-



COVERT MATTERS

ing criminal penalties for pot than other "lawmakers" around the state. He's probably right on this.

I don't hear any such talk by the gubernatorial candidates who are knocking each other around like bowling pins. It'll be coming in other elections.

The wedge is there. Lots of educators, politicians, judicial leaders and medical doctors and nurses privately hold the idea that the time

is approaching to stop drug dealers from cashing in on such drug sales. They've taxed the tobacco business to death. The same may be coming for pot purveyors.

Even on the national front, they're promoting the idea that too many young people are jailed in federal and state prisons for simply buying, selling and smoking the weed. They say jails are for seriously bad criminals and not those who need the evanescent clouds.

Several states and an adjoining federal city now allow "grass" for medicinal purposes.

So the idea now may come for law enforcers to ticket violators similar to speeders. That will certainly lower the jail populations, cut the costs of jail services and maybe reduce the need for more courts, judges and lawyers.

Who knows what other positives there may be. Mr. Krupicka also counseled his audience to "soften them up" (their neighbors and politicians). He volunteered to reserve a room in the Virginia State Capitol for a NORML reception and legislative day. Now that will be something to cover, what a day that will be.

There's no doubt as to the kingpins of bootlegging from the roaring '20s. It's still a popular business in various mountainous counties of Virginia. Who are the high-powered drug dealers locally? Most avoid the spotlight but enjoy those little rooms in area jails.

Maybe marijuana will go the way of tobacco, taxed to death and, just like the lotteries and casinos, be used for education and "smoking rooms" in public schools.

Hmmm!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

...tive place for cheap land and at a time when interest rates remain at historic lows. Without asking residents, the city eliminated "open space", and parks were suddenly on the market.

In the exploratory stages of any development project of magnitude and complexity, the managing partners and their potential big investors test the waters. Indeed, this is what the St. James Group LLC, by its own admission, did. They examined the vast source of available land in the region, at the same time putting out feelers to city officials. In a deal of this type, potential investors need assurance of success. One might believe that the City of Alexandria's city officials, in some way, provided reassurance. However, any investment manager knows that public property, especially highly valued park land in a densely built city, oper-

ates under a different set of rules for disposition than privately held land. The fact is the policy the city was and is operating under, the 2009 Real Estate Disposition rule, precludes even considering selling publicly owned land that is not surplus.

The city has set the stage. They could give a "go" during the early exploratory phase, and then insert the bid into the city governance process, while seeming to proceed cautiously and with the appearance of "fair play." This meant the 2009 policy they are operating under (requested by Justin Wilson, Tim Lovain and Paul Smedberg and reviewed by Mayor Euille and Del Pepper) had to be removed from any deal making involving parks. In the case of the St. James proposal it was replaced by a one-page document. The key difference between the two was that the 2009 policy made it clear that only

"surplus" city land was to be considered for unsolicited bids. The city confirmed that parks are not "surplus" land. So the one page guide for "unsolicited" bids was tailored to the St. James Group's bid, and in continuing, it contradicts the also standing 2009 policy, which can be found very easily on the city's General Services' web page.

The 2009 Real Estate Disposition Policy is well-considered and clearly written. The majority of sitting elected officials requested it, are familiar with it, and should favor it. While we shouldn't turn aside good opportunities, the city needs to bring offers to residents at the earliest stages of conversation; otherwise, bids appear aided and abetted by the city of Alexandria's elected officials. More like a hostile takeover than a good

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

option. Public parks are for all people. City residents need to decide their purpose before the stage is set, and the players play.

Kathryn Papp
Alexandria

Questionable Economic Harm

To the Editor:

Last week Michael Lee Pope wrote an interesting article about the candidates for attorney general and whether they would defend Virginia's Marriage Amendment in court if elected.

In the article Pope quoted 30th District State Sen. Adam Ebbin, who claimed that by banning same-sex marriage "Virginia is at a competitive and economic disadvantage." It would be interesting to know what undergirded Ebbin's reasoning, because it conflicts with strong evidence to the contrary.

CNBC's 2012 report on America's "Top States for Business" listed Virginia at number 3, well ahead of every state that currently recognizes gay marriage. Indeed, in the top 10 of that list every state either had a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage or laws that do basically the same.

Having had a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage since 2006 has

yet to show any evidence of deterring Virginia's economic standing, which continues to be one of the best in the nation. There is a reason why thousands more Marylanders move here than Virginians to Maryland.

For Ebbin to say what he said is likely due to a belief in the common claim that same-sex marriage benefits the economy, a claim built on dubious reasoning. According to many who believe this, gay marriage would help the economy by providing a boom to businesses geared towards weddings like catering. Yet this would happen with or without gay marriage; all that would be required are more weddings. Permitting incestuous marriages could provide the same benefit.

Furthermore, since when has a thriving advanced developed world economy ever been driven solely by having more wedding receptions or divorce lawyers?

Ebbin should not be the sole person blamed for advocating such a position. Fact is Ebbin is a victim of his environment, an environment that does little to fact check claims in favor of gay rights. As a result, Ebbin likely has never been exposed to CNBC's report or at least an argument using such evidence against the gay-marriage-as-economic-boom theory.

It is my hope that both attorney generals defend the laws of the Commonwealth in court regardless of whether or not they agree with them. Further, I hope whatever

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

positions the two candidates have involve some consideration of arguments from sources contrary to their respective worldviews.

Michael Gryboski

Making Decision Without All Facts

To the Editor:

I am stunned after reading that we have a city attorney who makes legal decisions before he has all the facts.

This lack of attention to detail might explain why the office has a less than stellar record of actually wining cases. Or maybe he just wants to please the City Council by producing legal opinions that match what they want to do. Bill Euille and others on the council were in favor of handing over public property to this venture so perhaps he felt compelled to produce a result that was consistent which their wishes.

Regardless, I believe we need an investigation of this situation to determine whether or not anyone in the city was involved with this outside group before this “unso-

licited proposal” was presented to the city.

We need to know how our public officials interact with the business community and what this means for Alexandria. This will require direction from the council — their action or lack of action will tell us much about how much importance they place on ethical behavior in government.

Micheline Eyraud

Accountability For Bicyclists

To the Editor:

Chris Hubbard’s “Cars, not bicycles, are the problem” letter [Gazette Packet, Aug. 1] is historically amnesiac. Has he forgotten the 19th Century Good Roads Movement www.roadswere-notbuiltforcars.com/the-petition-that-paved-america/ where bicyclists and “automobilists” (as then they were known) joined forces to get government to sink obscene amounts of tax money into good roads for their exclusive use? Having succeeded in putting taxpayers on the hook for constructing and maintaining these “good roads”, they now are wrangling

among themselves over dividing the spoils (road space in this instance).

As one who has never owned an automobile, nor had a motor vehicle driver’s license in decades, let me assure Chris that, from a pedestrian perspective, cars and bicycles both are the problem. As a pedestrian, I have an interest in good sidewalks free from vehicle traffic (including bicycles) — especially on a bidirectional sidewalk narrower than a one-way on-street bicycle lane.

I do not have any interest in the “good roads” the bicyclists and their “automobilist” allies, in the 19th Century lingo of the Good Roads Movement foisted on the taxpayer. Cobblestone streets are perfectly fine for me, so long as there are smooth brick crosswalks. Few street-building materials are more effective at “traffic calming” than cobblestone, which lasts longer than asphalt and thereby saves millions in taxpayer funds. Cobblestone would be feasible, even today, for most residential side streets, but for the political influence bicyclists and motorists maintain over all levels of government.

Cars weigh a lot more and can go a lot faster than bicycles, but

have license plates which can be traced if an accident occurs, whereas bicycles have no accountability mechanism to identify the bicyclist or hold him/her accountable after an accident. This lack of accountability explains many bicyclists’ insouciant disregard of traffic laws. Bicyclists, and the city hall crowd which politically carries water for them, even resist requiring registering their bicycles, despite voluntary registries’ acknowledged inadequacy.

So effective is their influence that attaching a license plate to hold bicyclists accountable isn’t even under political consideration. Behind city hall’s diversionary bicycle registration rhetoric about “inefficient” and “outdated” registration rules, lies bicyclists’ abject abhorrence of any accountability while on the road. Do they and city hall believe waiving accountability by looking the other way when bicyclists blaze through stop signs is a strategy to encourage more people to bicycle?

Instead of repealing Alexandria’s registration requirement, why not instead require bicycles be registered with the National Bicycle Registry?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Donate, Ride Free

DASH is partnering with Alexandria City Public Schools and Community Partners for Children for the annual back-to-school supply drive. The school supplies will be distributed to students at the ACPs Family and Community Engagement Center’s annual Back to School Family Night at T.C. Williams High School.

On Thursday, Aug. 15, passengers who bring new, unopened school supplies (i.e. backpacks, notebooks, lunchboxes, etc.) will receive a free ride on the DASH bus system. Passengers are requested to place their donation in the special blue bags located at the front of the DASH bus.

The Alexandria Transit Store located at 1775 C Duke St. in Alexandria is also a collection site for the school supply drive. Should riders wish to make additional donations, there is a collection box at that location until Aug. 16.

COOKIE IS MISSING!!!



She was last seen at home in Stratford Landing early Saturday morning (Aug 3rd).

Pictured above, she is an 8-year old tortie-point Himalayan cat, weighing about 8 pounds. Cookie is a beloved member of our family and is greatly missed. If you have any information about her, please call Susan or Ken at **703-780-3140**. Reward for safe return. Thank you!!

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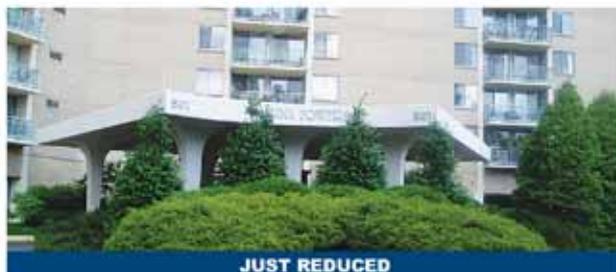
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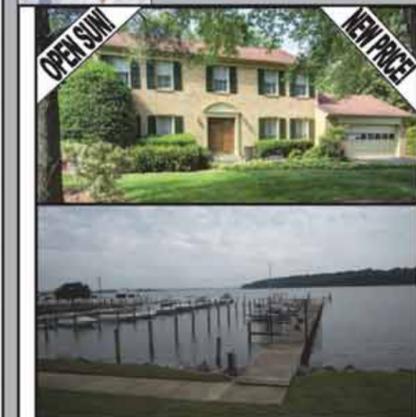


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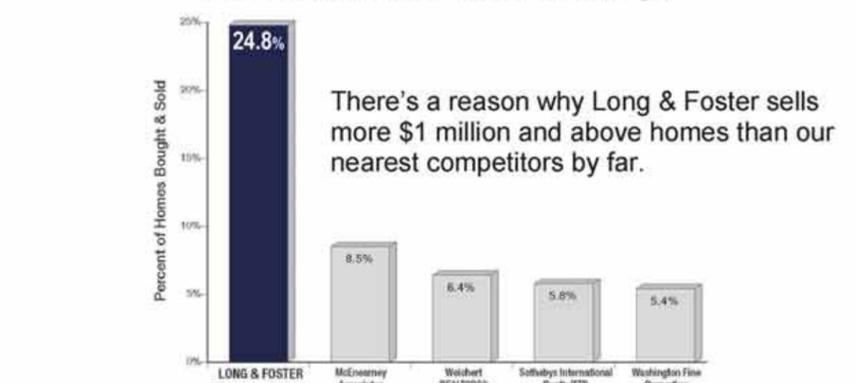


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National Park and Recreation Month: Open Play Days and Nights. Through Aug. 18. Tuesday and Thursday 6-9 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park Field, 4800 Brenman Park Drive and at Four Mile Run Soccer Field, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 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. Through Sunday, 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. Through Sunday, 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.

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.

Paisano's Pizza is going to "Share the Pie" with the Boys and Girls Clubs of greater Washington. For all

customers who mention "BGC" when placing an order, Paisano's will donate 10 percent of their purchase price to help support the organization. The fundraiser goes until Sept. 15. In Alexandria, Paisano's has locations at 269 S. Van Dorn St. and 6937A Telegraph Road. Visit www.pizzapaisanos.com.

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 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.fortwaRoad.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



"Untitled One," Mixed Media on Paper, by Mei Mei Chang

'Voyage in Tangible Space'

A mixed media exhibition by Mei Mei Chang, "Voyage in Tangible Space," will be on display from Friday, Sept. 6 through Sunday, Oct. 6, in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, located in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. The opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7, 4-6 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4p.m. Monday-Friday and during performances. The Fisher Art Gallery is located on the upper level of the Schlesinger Center, and is named for local artist, the late Margaret "Peggy" Fisher and her husband, Joseph Fisher. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

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.

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 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

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.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3-SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

Art Gallery. Radio Sebastian: You, Me, and the Void. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 at 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.

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 for more information.

SATURDAY/AUG. 17

Auditions for the Washington School of Ballet. The Washington Ballet, 3515 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Ages 4-5 will audition 10-11 a.m. in the England Studio. Ages 6-7 will audition 11:15-12:15 in the England Studio. Ages 8-10 will audition 12:30-2 p.m. in the England Studio. Ages 11-13 will audition from 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.

Demonstration. 11 a.m. at Del Ray Variety, 203 E. Custis Ave. Enjoy live canning demonstration with tips and recipes. RSVP at canningparty.eventbrite.com.

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.

SATURDAY/AUG. 17

Marine Chamber Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Conducted by Maj. Jason K. Fettig, concert highlights include Vittorio Giannini's Prelude and Fugue for String Orchestra. Free. 202-433-4011 or www.marineband.usmc.mil.

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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

Aug. 23-Sept. 1, 2013

Alexandria restaurant week

Make Reservations Online and See Menus Too!



Alexandria restaurant week

August 23
September 1
2013

Restaurant Week



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SOCIETY FAIR



Restaurant Week! August 23 - September 1 is Alexandria Restaurant Week! The Fair is featuring a 3-course Prix Fixe dinner for \$35 - your choice of starter (Summer Panzanella Salad or Green Curry Mussels), entrée (Braised Pork or Shrimp Ravioli) and a slice of cake!



The end of summer is approaching - it's time to end the season with one last BBQ bash! BBQ Bag: Smoked Pork Ribs, Kielbasa, Potato Salad, Summer Slaw, Honey Corn Bread, Goopy Butter Cake, a bottle of wine, & more!

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

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.wmpmusic.org.

Concert. 5-8 p.m. at JV's Restaurant, 6666 Arlington Blvd. Alexandria's Fuse Box will be performing. Tickets are on sale now. Visit www.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 Carlyle 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.ten-thousandvillages.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. Children ages 1-5 can enjoy stories. Free. 703-768-6700.

Night Time Tales. 7 p.m. at John



Fall Art Classes

Registration is now open for fall classes. Art at the Center is located at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Early bird discounts through Aug. 30. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 3-5 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Week. More than 50 restaurants throughout Alexandria offer a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two. To browse the list of restaurants participating, visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com or 703-746-3301.

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. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 23-SEPT. 1
Alexandria Summer Restaurant

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.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it be lost.

—Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832)

ENTERTAINMENT

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 grave-marking ceremony will honor Revolutionary War patriots Humphrey Peake Sr. and Lieutenant 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 public attendance. 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.

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.

Free Meditation Workshop. 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn breathing technique and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

Concert. Johnny Lappen at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 24-25

Begonia Show and Sale Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday, 2-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Potomac Branch of the American Begonia Society sponsors the annual display and sale various begonia species. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Kitten Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at King Street Cats, 25 Dove S. Cuddle some kittens and find a new best friend. This is a two day event, everyone is welcome. Visit www.kingstreetcats.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 25

VietFest. 11 a.m.-6 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.

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.

Film. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1702.

Gospel Singers in Concert. 4 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7730 Fordson Road. Carter Gospel Singers will be celebrating 44 years of singing ministry. Original Carter Chorus Singers will also be featured at the service. Call 571-659-9165.

MONDAY/AUG. 26

Biography Book Club. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 1015 N. Quincy St.

Free. Call for title. 703-746-1743.

TUESDAY/AUG. 27

Craft Night Social. 5-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans. Bring unfinished projects that are in progress and be social with other creative individuals. \$8 DRA members / \$10 non-members. Register: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/craft.

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.

Martha's Mystery Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can discuss "Field Gray, a Bernie Gunther Novel" by Philip Kerr. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 28

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.

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. Jide Familoni discusses and signs his novel "Losing My Religion." Call 703-746-1751 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

THURSDAY/AUG. 29

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.

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

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

Martha's Family Movie. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. All ages can watch a film based on a children's classic book. Free. Registration required. 703-768-6700.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Theater, 815 King St. Caravan of Thieves and the Funhouse perform. \$20. Call 703-544-5315 or visit www.oldtowntheater1914.com.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 29-31

Theatre Performance. 7:30 p.m. 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.

FRIDAY/AUG. 30

Annual Big Chalk Draw. 8-10 a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Join in a morning of chalk drawing in the parking lot. Free, everyone welcome. Art at the Center will also be collecting new school supplies and backpacks for children in the community. Visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Three Dog Night. At The Birchmere 3701 Mt Vernon Ave. Tickets on sale now for \$69.50. Visit www.threedognight.com or www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 31

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see The Outlaws perform. \$35. visit www.outlawsmusic.com. Robyn Ludwick will open.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at The

Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Violinist Benjamin Scott will perform music by Beethoven, Ravel and more. Visit www.wmpamusic.org/free or 703-799-8229.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6-SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Art Exhibit. See "Voyage in Tangible Space" by Mei Mei Chang at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. It is a mixed media exhibit. Free. Visit <http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html> for more information.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet local artists and hear live music. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/artmarket for more.

Alexandria King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Old Town Alexandria, 480 King St. Free and open to the public. Email Info@ArtFestival.com or call 561-746-6615.

Family Dig Day. At Alexandria Archaeology 105 N. Union Street Learn and assist City archaeologists as they examine soil and artifacts gathered from a real dig. The day begins with a lesson on the history and archaeology of Shuter's Hill and continues with a tour and an opportunity to sift through excavated soil in search of artifacts. \$5; children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment provided. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Archaeology.

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. see and meet Mei Mei Chang, the artist of "Voyage in Tangible Space" at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Visit <http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html> for more information.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

Alexandria King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Old Town Alexandria, 480 King St. Free and open to the public. Email Info@ArtFestival.com or call 561-746-6615.

"Bounty of the Bay" Party. 6-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. All-you-can-eat feast of summer favorites like a Chesapeake crab boil, oysters, fried clams, red potatoes, summer corn and cole slaw. \$45 inclusive of tax and gratuity. Visit jackson20.com or call 703-842-2790.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-15

Fair Trade Oriental Rug Event. Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St., will present hundreds of rugs from Bunyaad, a fair trade company that works with Pakistani artisans to produce hand-knotted rugs from their villages. Ten Thousand Villages will hold a one-hour introduction to the event on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. Registration encouraged. Call 703-684-1435 or visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performance by Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun, as well as the Daryl Davis Band. Tickets on sale July 12. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Annual Community Fun Fair. 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Events include free health screenings, zumba and nutrition classes, vendors, game trucks, food and more. Vendor and sponsorship opportunity still available. Call 703-360-9450.

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PEOPLE



E. Hunt Burke with former Gov. George Allen and Gant Redmon.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Chamber of Commerce board chair John Renner, United Way Worldwide COO Joe Haggerty, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, Christopher Reddick, Burke & Herbert CEO E. Hunt Burke, Walter Clarke, John Brand, Mayor Bill Euille and Chamber of Commerce CEO John Long gather July 17 at the United Way headquarters for a reception for new businesses.

Chamber Reaches Out to Local Leaders

Euille, Burke welcome new area businesses.

Burke & Herbert Chairman and CEO E. Hunt Burke joined Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille July 17 at a reception for business leaders hosted by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Held at the Old Town headquarters of United Way Worldwide, local community leaders gathered to give businesses new to the community an opportunity to meet with dignitaries including Euille, vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and former Virginia governor George Allen.

Chamber of Commerce board chair John Renner and Chamber CEO John Long joined Burke and Euille in welcoming the attendees and extolling the advantages of doing business in Alexandria.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Maria Ciarrocchi organizes name tags for the reception.



Claudette McBeth, Stephanie Landrum and Andrew Palmieri



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/GAZETTE PACKET

Annual Alexandria Sidewalk Sale

Julianne Woehrle greets visitors as they walk by Why Not? during the 4th Annual Alexandria Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, Aug. 10.



Customers look through a rack of clothing outside Zoe Boutique.



Customers check out a variety of items on display outside Lou Lou Boutique.

Even Little Rain Pushes Raw Sewage into River

FROM PAGE 1

released into Hunting Creek each year at four points in Old Town. That's a mix that includes a vast majority of rainwater mixed with a smaller percentage of raw sewage. City officials estimate that about 10 million gallons of untreated wastewater are discharged into the creek each year, a volume that's shocking to many who have long viewed the city as a leader in environmental sustainability.

"The way this has been presented to the public has been to minimize the number of events and the amount of crap we are tossing into the Potomac," said Jack Sullivan, who lives in Seminary Hill. "I don't think anybody was aware of the extent of this problem."

IN RECENT YEARS, federal officials have

been closing in on cities that have outdated combined sewer systems, which mix raw sewage with rainwater and dump the excess into nearby rivers. So far, all the attention has been focused on large cities such as Philadelphia and New York. The District of Columbia is spending about \$1.5 billion to construct 10 miles of underground holding tunnels to store the combination of sewage and rainwater until the treatment plant has the capacity to handle it. Eventually, federal officials will force Alexandria to take action.

"Every time you flush your toilet in Old Town, it could end up in Dyke Marsh as untreated sewage."

— Glenda Booth, president of Friends of Dyke Marsh

"That's the sword of Damocles hanging over the head of Alexandria," said Peter Pennington, former chairman of the Environmental Policy Commission. "Everyone is wondering when the EPA is going to make the same demand to Alexandria City Hall."

One option would be digging into 540 acres of Old Town streets to physically separate untreated wastewater from stormwater runoff. That would be the most expensive solution, estimated at \$200 million to \$300 million. A more likely option for city officials is build-

ing the same kind of underground storage units that the District of Columbia is constructing, which would cost anywhere from \$100 million to \$200 million. For now, though, city leaders don't have a plan for how they are going to clean up the mess. And they are hoping the state grants a permit that allows the city to extend the deadline 32 years.

"It is simply unacceptable to allow any amount of untreated sewage to enter the waterways from the city of Alexandria or any source in the 21st century," wrote Booth in a letter to city officials this week. "While the permit application and the (Long Term Control Plan) contain mitigation projects and practices to reduce the amount of combined sewer outflows, they do not contain plans that would lead to eliminating the discharge of untreated sewage."

Should Jefferson-Houston Become a Charter School?

FROM PAGE 1

bilities under consideration by the Opportunity Education Institution. Critics say parents deserve a role, but allowing them to force the creation of a charter school or firing a school's leadership team might be going too far.

"Parents aren't education experts, typically," said Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45). "They are not trained teachers. They are not trained school administrators. There are a lot of complexity to running a school that doesn't always play out well in translation."

IN VIRGINIA, charter schools are few and far between because of how the law works. For a charter to be created, members of the local school board must agree to hand over

tax dollars that would otherwise be under the control of the local school division. As a result, no charter schools have ever been

"If the community wanted a charter school, there's no reason we couldn't manage that here in Alexandria rather than some board appointed by the governor."

— School Board member Bill Campbell

created in Northern Virginia. Advocates for charter schools say that's a problem, one that Cuccinelli's proposal could remedy.

"Our tax dollars are going to Jefferson-Houston, but we're not having any success," said Vicki Vasquez, a Republican who fo-

cused an unsuccessful campaign for the House of Delegates on a platform of promoting charter schools. "So let's take those dollars and put it into an effort where you would get parental involvement and faculty involvement."

For parents at Jefferson-Houston the conversation about charter schools isn't an abstract political debate about which candidate is elected governor. It's a real-life problem at a school that has failed to meet accreditation standards 10 out of the last 11 years. Many parents say that leaders at Alexandria City Public Schools have already had their chance to fix the problem, and that they have failed again and again.

"I think it's a good idea for new people to step in and take over," said Bea Porter, whose grandson attends the school. "The local school system has failed Jefferson-

Houston for too long."

CHARTER SCHOOLS have the ability to work independently of the local school division, which means a charter school at Jefferson-Houston might be able to have longer hours or a different curriculum than the rest of the public schools in the city. Critics say that Jefferson-Houston already had longer hours than other schools and a curriculum designed to help improve failing test scores. Although the Alexandria School Board has talked about the possibility of creating a charter for the school, no action has taken place in that direction.

"Creating a charter school at Jefferson-Houston is certainly on the table," said School Board member Bill Campbell. "If the community wanted a charter school, there's no reason we couldn't manage that here in Alexandria rather than some board appointed by the governor."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

CALL FOR ART

Young At Art. Open to all metropolitan area residents, age 55 and older. Artists must deliver, pick up art and leave the art in the exhibit until the end of the show on Jan. 22, 2014. Visit seniorservicesalex.org for more.

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 the 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

Back-to-School Backpack Drive. 10

a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe St. Drop off supplies that will be given to low-income students and aid in preparing them for the school year. Monetary donations accepted. For a list of items needed or to make a donation, contact Renette Noel at community@nvulypn.org.

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

Presentation. 2 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The Long Range Educational Facilities Plan Work Group offers a presentation and discussion of the recent growth in enrollment in Alexandria City Public Schools. "Recent Growth in Alexandria's School Enrollment: The New Normal?" will outline the rapid growth and discuss the challenges it presents, including

classrooms filled past capacity and budget problems. Open to the public. Call 703-461-4666.

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.

THROUGH SUNDAY/AUG. 18

Cat Adoption. All fees for adult cats will be waived. Browse alexandriaanimals.org to find the perfect adult cat. They are located at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave.

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.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 21

Back to School Family Night. 6-8 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Enjoy a light dinner, free school supplies, resource fair, family photo opportunities and more. RSVP 703-824-6865.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Comment Deadline. The following request for administrative special use permit has been received. Special use permit #2013-0016 4746 Eisenhower Ave. (parking lot at 4740 Eisenhower Ave.) - Shared Parking Administrative Special Use Permit for approval of a request for shared parking arrangement for an existing church; zoned OCM (100) / office commercial medium. In accordance with section 11-500 of the zoning ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning and Zoning. If you have any comments regarding

the proposal above, please contact Planning and Zoning staff at 703-746-4666 no later than August 22, 2013.

MONDAY/AUG. 26

D.C. Waterfront Boat Tour. 7:30 a.m. at City Marina, 0 Cameron St. This tour is put on by the Waterfront Commission. Contact Jack Browand at jack.browand@alexandria.gov or call 703-746-5504.

TUESDAY/AUG. 27

Rehearsals Start. 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Join the NOVA Community Chorus. Join by registering for this one-credit class, fee waived for seniors. E-mail mwhitmore@nvcc.edu or 703-845-6097.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

City Managers Breakfast. 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Enjoy a full breakfast while

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 24

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 23

learning about what is coming to the Valley. City Manager Rashid Young will be there. This event is free for all members and \$25 for all non-members. Visit www.eisenhowerpartnership.org.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Back-to-School Drive. Through Aug. 19. Donate new backpacks and school supplies to any of the donation boxes in the area, send gift cards to the FACE Center, T.C. Williams High School Room A123, 3330 King St. or volunteer to sort supplies on Tuesday, Aug. 20. Visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/face-centers>.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 3-21

Free Admission. The Old Town Pool will be free for City residents. Hours are Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-noon and 4-7:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 21 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/pools for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 4

Speaker and Forum. 10 a.m. at the Ernest Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia present Dr. Robert Sutter in a discussion of China's economic, political and social status in today's world. Free. Call 703-938-5655 or email salex50@yahoo.com

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Health Screening. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Global Health College, 25 S. Quaker Lane. Women over the age of 40 can get a mammogram screening. Free for those who meet financial eligibility, otherwise insurance will cover the screening. 202-741-3252 to make an appointment.

MONDAY/SEPT. 9

Democratic Committee Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Minnie Howard School auditorium, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Bring canned foods for ALIVE. There will be door prizes. 703-549-3367.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-15

Annual Rug Event. Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King Street. More than 300 rugs will be on display and available for purchase from Bunyaad, a company that works with artisans in Pakistan. Call 703-684-1435 or visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com.

THROUGH SEPT. 20

Collection Starts Earlier. To avoid the heat of spring and summer, refuse and recycling collection shifts to 'warm weather hours' and pickup operations will begin an hour earlier. All refuse and recycling materials should be placed for collection prior to 6 a.m. Visit alexandriava.gov/SolidWaste.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

Children's Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Browse clothing, toys, maternity wear and other items. Become a seller by calling 703-329-9327.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Children's Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-noon at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Browse clothing, toys, maternity wear and other items. Become a seller by calling 703-329-9327.

FRIDAY/DEC. 20

Deadline. The 2014 Kluge Young Composers Competition provides an opportunity for young composers in Virginia to develop their talents. The winning composition, selected by Maestro Kluge himself, will premiere at an ASO performance. The 2014 Kluge Young Composers Competition is open to any composer 18 or younger who resides in Virginia. Compositions should be five to seven minutes in length and should use standard orchestra instrumentation and normal doublings. Submissions must be received by Dec. 20. For details on how to enter, visit www.alexsym.org/kluge-young-composers-competition.

ONGOING

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' 2013 Fall Program Guide is now available. The program guide highlights City classes, programs, activities and special events occurring September through December 2013. Registration for fall classes and activities begins at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 21 for City residents, and Friday, Aug. 23 for non-residents. Individuals who did not subscribe can download a free copy by visiting alexandriava.gov/recreation or pick up a printed copy. Visit alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703-746-4343. To register for classes, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation and click the WebTrac icon.

The Groveton High School class of 1964 is looking for contact information for as many classmates as possible. The planning for the 50th reunion is underway, however only a small number of people have been contacted. Groveton graduates of '64 interested in attending next September's reunion should email contact information to GHS64@verizon.net.

Preschool Registration. Register now for free ACPs preschool for eligible 4-year-old children. The program runs from 8 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Sept. 5 2013, through June 18, 2014. Contact Citywide Early Childhood Programs Coordinator Stacey Joyner at 703-578-0293.

English as a Second Language Class. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Tuesdays and Thursdays, all levels 10 a.m.-noon, intermediate workshop 3-5 p.m. All classes free. Call the information desk, 703-746-1702, ext. 3.

Police Citizens Academy. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. taking place at the Police Department's headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Avenue, in the community room. This is a 10-week class that provides an opportunity for residents to learn about various aspects of the Police Department. Classes are a combination of lecture and interactive activities, topics include patrol operations, gangs, crime preventions, and more. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/police or email Virginia.obranovich@alexandriava.gov. Registration ends Aug. 1.

The Talking Book Service at Alexandria Library will now operate Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Patrons may also reach the service by calling 703-746-1760 or emailing talkingbooks@alexandria.lib.va.us.

Amazon.com supporting Alexandria Libraries. The city of Alexandria can now support its local library when purchasing from Amazon.com through the Alexandria Library website. Alexandria Library introduces the "Buy It Now" feature, allowing anyone to purchase any item—not just books—through its website with a simple click of a button, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the library.

The Fall 2013 Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Program Guide is available online Aug. 2. In conjunction with the City of Alexandria's Eco-City Initiative, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities reduced the number of printed programs and will no longer be mail them to all area homes. The guide will include a comprehensive list of fall programs and will be available online at alexandriava.gov/recreation, at City Hall and in City recreation centers and public libraries. Subscribe to the guide by July 25 to receive a copy in the mail. Subscriptions are free. Call 703-746-4343.

Foreclosure Prevention Clinics. Noon at the Office of Housing, 421 King Street, Suite 200. The clinics will be held weekly starting July 16, and will offer both group and individual counseling sessions to assist homeowners who are experiencing financial difficulties. Call 202-667-7006.

Digital Magazines. Patrons of Alexandria Library will have unlimited access to read digital magazines, which can be viewed on most Internet-enabled devices inside or outside of the library. Accessible through www.rbdigital.com/alexandriava/zinio.

Eligible low income households can now use their SNAP benefits to buy local foods at the **Old Town Farmers' Market.** SNAP customers are able to use their electronic benefits transfer cards to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and other eligible food products at the market. The Old Town Farmer's Market is located on King Street between N. Royal and N. Fairfax Streets, and is open on Saturdays, year round from 7 a.m. to noon.

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the
City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located
at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in
possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment,
money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid
claim to the property should file a claim to the property with
reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold,
destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to
<http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the
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Talented TC Williams Looking To Snap Playoff Drought

Titans return nine starters on defense, led by two committed to UNC.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

During an interview after a recent T.C. Williams football practice, defensive standouts Jeremiah Clarke and Malik Carney jokingly switched names while introducing themselves to a reporter.

With Clarke and Carney having committed to play for the University of North Carolina, any attempts to mask their on-field identity during the season will also likely fail.

Clarke, a 6-foot-5, 280-pound defensive tackle, and Carney, a 6-foot-3, 205-pound linebacker, are the leaders of a T.C. Williams defense that returns nine starters, and each figures to be on the minds of opposing coaches.

“[Carney] is a very versatile athlete,” TC defensive coordinator Avery Williams said. “He can play defensive end, he can play the middle of the defense, he can even drop back in the secondary, he has that ability. ... [Clarke is] obviously one of the most explosive defensive tackles in the area. He has tremendous speed, outstanding quickness and brings great leadership up front. ... He’s doing a great job motivating the rest of the guys.”

Factor in a group of playmakers on offense, improvement through offseason conditioning, and confidence built from a season-ending four-

“Everybody’s looking for us to do big things this year, so we can’t let our city down and our school down.”

— T.C. Williams senior Rashawn Jackson

game winning streak in 2012 and the Titans believe they have what it takes to snap the program’s 22-year playoff drought.

“Our expectations are,” Clarke said, “if we’re not in the playoffs, that’s a letdown.”

TC has come close to ending the streak in recent seasons but hasn’t gotten over the hump. In 2009, the Titans needed a home win against Lee in the regular season finale to reach the postseason, but came up short. In 2010, TC posted a 6-4 record, its first winning season since 1995, but it wasn’t enough to get in. After a 3-7



Senior linebacker Malik Carney is committed to the University of North Carolina.



Junior Darius Holland has a chance to start at quarterback for T.C. Williams.

season in 2011, TC returned to .500 in 2012, finishing 5-5 after closing the regular season on a four-game winning streak.

T.C. Williams, which captured state championships in 1971, 1984 and 1987, hasn’t seen the playoffs in more than two decades. However, Clarke said members of this year’s team, who weren’t even born the last time the Titans were in the postseason, don’t worry about battling history.

“You know what has happened and you sort of, not just forget about it, but you push it to the side and focus on the now,” Clarke said. “The 22 years is there, but that’s really just for media. We don’t care about how long it’s been since [we’ve] been to the playoffs, we’re focused on getting there. ... It’s really not lingering over our heads.”

After a 1-5 start last season, the Titans regrouped and finished strong — something they hope will carry over into this season.

“Last year, we were 5-5, a couple power points from making the playoffs,” Carney said. “Going into the second half of that season, we started rolling and clicking and we just want that momentum to keep going.”

Clarke and Carney aren’t the only talented athletes on the TC defense. Senior linebacker Kevin Perry and senior defensive tackle Michael Gray should also be difference-makers in the Titans’ base 4-3 scheme. Senior Kyreem Walton is a defensive end.

Senior Rashawn Jackson is a four-year starter in the secondary. Williams said Jackson is the team’s top cover corner, but he will likely play safety this season. Senior Tyrice Henry returns at free safety and senior Philip Tyler is a talented cornerback.

“We’re looking for a big year,” Williams said. “With the talent that we have, we should have a big year.”

On offense, TC will have to replace three-year starting quarterback Alec Grosser, who was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 11th round of the 2013 Major League Baseball draft. Six-foot-2 junior Darius Holland has a chance to be the Titans’ next quarterback, but he’ll have to beat out fellow junior Sam Deen for the position. Head coach Dennis Randolph said each quarterback throws the ball well, but Holland has the advantage when it comes to running with the ball. Neither quarterback has any varsity experience.

“Whoever the quarterback is,” Randolph said, “they’re going to be surrounded by kids that have a lot of talent.”

Carney is the team’s top running back. Seniors Lamont Whiteside, Tyler and Jack-

son could also see carries. Junior Terry Jordan and senior Timmy Rattanaphone are threats at receiver.

Clarke and White are the tackles on the offensive line. Senior RJ Thorne is the center.

T.C. Williams will play in 6A North’s Conference 7 after the VHSL’s six-class realignment. The conference is composed of seven of the eight members of the former Patriot District. Lee joined 5A North’s Conference 13.

The Titans will host a scrimmage against Herndon at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15. TC will open the regular season on the road against Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 30.

“Everybody’s looking for us to do big things this year,” Jackson said, “so we can’t let our city down and our school down.”

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Bridget Thompson has been selected to receive a \$1,500 college scholarship from the Military Children Program. Thompson took part in various school and community activities including environmental club, cross country, swimming, and band. She plans to attend The College of William and Mary.

Madelyn Zeigler has been selected to receive a \$1,500 college scholarship from the Military Children Program. Zeigler took part in many school and community activities such as lacrosse, swimming, American Red Cross, and the National Honor Society. She plans to attend UNC at Chapel Hill.

Glancy Rosales of T.C. Williams High School accepted an honors scholarship awarded by Northern Virginia Community College.

Gabrielle Sakellarides graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with a degree of doctor of osteopathic medicine May 25.

Maxwell Moomba was named to the 2013 spring president’s and dean’s lists at Lincoln University

Stephen Kuhn graduated from the University of Delaware.

Jacqueline Beckwith and **Kelly McGrath** were placed on the deans’ commendation list for the spring 2013 semester at Gettysburg College.

Cheryl Olechnowicz has been placed on the Gettysburg College dean’s honor list for the spring 2013 semester.

Kathleen Ansel has earned a place on the dean’s list for the spring semester at Bard College at Simon’s

Rock. Ansel completed 10th grade at T C Williams High School before leaving to attend early college.

Grace Goodwin, an art and history major, and **Spencer Brooks**, an international relations major were both recipients of the dean’s award for academic excellence during the 2013 spring term at Colgate University.

SPORTS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Alexandria Rugby's summer youth rugby program.

Local Rugby Players Compete at States

Alexandria Rugby's summer youth rugby program scored well at the state tournament again this year. Held in Marshall, Va., on July 27-28, more than 100 Alexandria youths competed on 11 teams in both touch and tackle rugby and brought home some awards, including another championship for the club.

Rugby Virginia, the state-based organization that governs youth and high school rugby in Virginia, hosts the annual tournament to culminate the summer rugby season. As an official activity of the Commonwealth Games program, the Rugby Virginia Youth and High School Championship Tournament attracts dozens of teams from 16 clubs from all around the state.

Alexandria's participation in the tournament was by far the largest of any club involved. On the touch rugby side, which is open to boys and girls ages 6 to 12, Alexandria entered three teams at both the U7 and U9 levels, two teams at U11 and one team at the U13 level. For tackle, played by 11-14 year olds, Alexandria combined with Fort Hunt Youth Rugby to enter one

team at both the U13 and U15 levels. Only one other club entered even a single second team and that was at the U11 touch level.

On the tackle side, Alexandria's U9 team under the direction of Scott Boggess won the championship against a well-disciplined team from Prince William County. Coach Keith Bloom's U13's, made up of many of last year's U11 champions, finished in second

place, losing the final to Springfield Youth Club. The U11s and U7s took third and fourth places in their divisions, respectively.

With tackle, the Alexandria/Ft Hunt U15 squad finished in third place while a young U13s team finished a very respectable fourth in their division.

More information about the club and its programs can be found at www.AlexandriaRugby.org.





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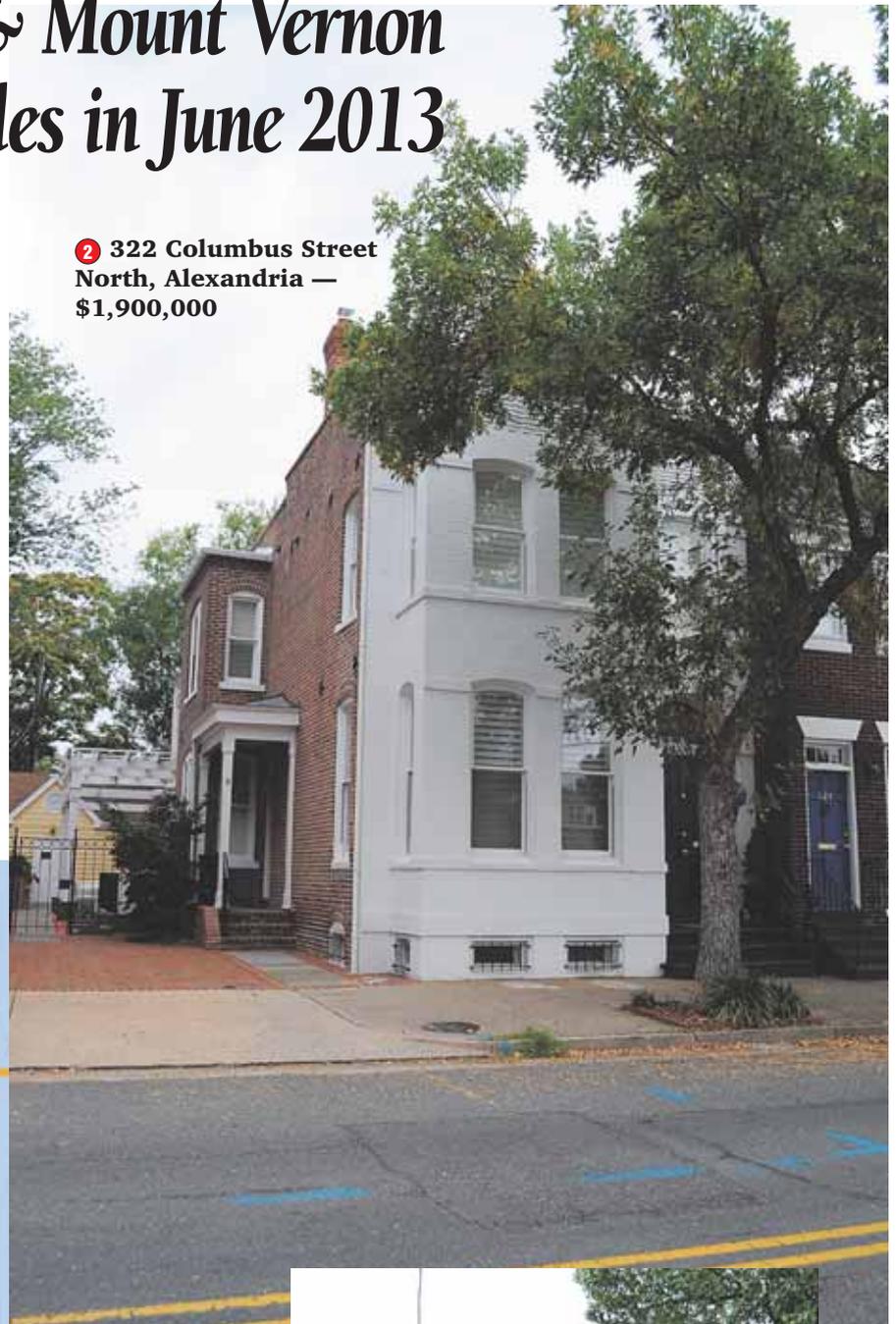
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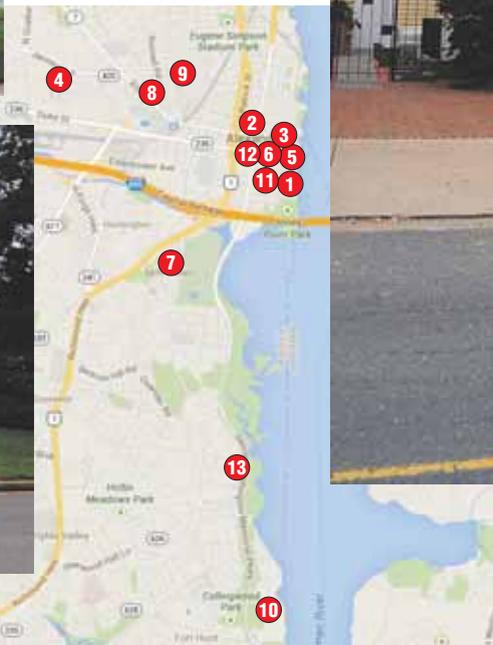


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Ready for Back To School?

Local designers offer tips for creating functional and stylish homework spaces.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Summer will soon come to an end, and children everywhere will be heading back to school and coming home with homework. To keep students engaged and excited, some local designers offer suggestions for creating a space so fun and inviting that your children will want to hang out there — even if that means doing homework.

When embarking on the task of creating a homework space, choosing a location is one of the first considerations.

Bill Millholland, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. in Bethesda, Md., said, “There are two schools of thought: One is to have the ‘homework space’ in a public area, ... so that a parent can be involved in the activity. The other school places more emphasis on teaching personal responsibility.”

According to Jean P. Freeman, associate professor of Interior Design at Marymount University in Arlington, homework space should be “away from television, but near an adult for any questions that need to be answered. It should be quiet for concentration, but having a window where the child can look up and out at the world is soothing.”

Evelyn Nicely, president of Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, said, “A design option is the designated computer or desk area, typically found on the perimeter of the kitchen, so school work is kept out of the way. But the most popular homework space we design is at the island. This casual seating appeals to children and gives them a stylish, yet functional, open space to do their work without isolating them.”

Arlington resident Christie Doebel, lead designer at Sun Design Inc., which has offices in both Burke and McLean, says she gets frequent requests for a space that allows for multitasking. “Very often we are looking to create the kind of environment where a parent can make dinner while still rehearsing words for the spelling bee.”

ONCE A SPACE IS CHOSEN, it’s time to select the fixtures that will fill the space. Good indoor lighting with a window for sunlight is essential, said designers. Freeman said the most obvious components of a homework space are electrical outlets, a Wi-Fi connection and a comfortable, adjustable chair.

Designers suggest investing in a chair that fits your child’s needs. “Don’t use dad’s old chair ... or pull a chair from the dining room table,” said Deborah Wiener, owner of Designing Solutions in Silver Spring, Md. “If the back of the chair hits the back of their head, it is too tall. If their feet are dangling, the chair is too big. One of the many reasons kids tire when doing homework is that they don’t get back support. ... It’s a mistake to skimp on a chair.”

“The chair should support the student’s back and posture, and adjust to the growing needs of the student,” added Freeman. “There should be an adequate



PHOTOS COURTESY WENTWORTH, INC.

Bruce Wentworth of Wentworth, Inc. says a simple counter top with bookcases that includes a work surface for laptops, printers and scanners, like the one in this Alexandria home, is a desirable homework space.

work surface to accommodate books, computer, writing pad and task lighting, [as well as] storage.”

Lisa Magee, project designer at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., adds, “A place with upright seating — no swivel chairs or recliners — is best for learning. Good lighting ... helps children stay focused on their work and also keeps them alert.”

Centreville resident Liz Lee, a senior designer at Sun Design Inc., encourages parents to ensure that the homework area has “functional types of storage, [such as] file cabinets, baskets for crayons [and] scissors, so all of the supplies they need are right there.”

Bruce Wentworth, president of Wentworth, Inc. in Chevy Chase, Md., said, “A simple counter top with bookcases is very practical. A large work surface for laptops, printers and scanners is desirable, and grommets help hide the cords below the work surface.” Wentworth also suggests adding custom-built drawers and filing cabinets to homework spaces.

Arlington resident Allie Mann, project manager, Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., said “A fun or personalized calendar to teach time management,” she said. “Along those lines, have a clock nearby.”

Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda, Md., said, “One thing I always love to incorporate is a custom tack board. We choose a fun fabric that the children help pick out and then have [it] sized to fit specific workspace.”

WHEN DESIGNING A SPACE that is both functional and stylish, Moira Gannon Denson, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University, suggests using the elements and principles of design — color, shape, pattern and scale — to set the tone. This will allow the space to evolve as the child grows, she says: “Save the TV characters and cartoons for the stickers [for] their notebooks. ... Too much ‘trending’ can mean replacing in a year.”

When creating a space that is appealing to both children and their parents, Doebel does suggest teamwork, however. “It’s fun when a kid gets involved in the design process,” she said. “They are drawn to contrast and comfort [like] bold, bright colors [and] soft, warm surfaces. They are always honest about what they see and how they feel.”

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Under the Big Top with Therapeutic Recreation

The City of Alexandria's Therapeutic Recreation Program celebrated the completion of its summer camp programs with their Annual Family Day Production on Friday, Aug. 2.

The circus came to the Kauffman Auditorium as the Teenie Weenie Toddler Campers (ages 3-5) and Camp Kaleidoscope (ages 6-14) dazzled the audience with amazing acrobats, dancing elephants, courageous clowns and magical magicians.

Therapeutic Recreation Programs are designed to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and facilitate the development

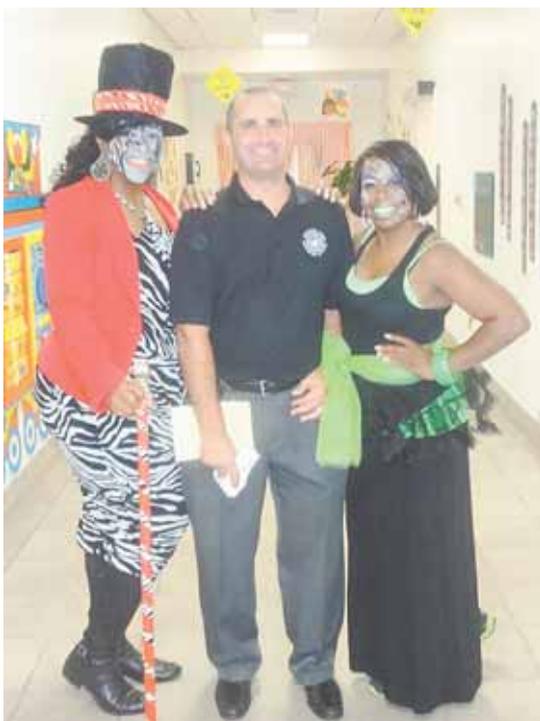
of leisure and recreation skills, socialization, independence, and overall quality of life. Programs include After School Programs, Aquatics, Sensory, Kids Day-Out, Winter and Spring Break Camps, Summer Camps, Miracle League Baseball, and Adult Programs.

Opportunities to volunteer with the Therapeutic Recreation Program are available. Individuals and groups can help on a one-day project or assist on an ongoing basis.

For more information about Therapeutic Recreation programs or volunteering, contact the Therapeutic Recreation office at 703-746-5422.



Therapeutic Recreation staff and "Under the Big Top" participants gather for a group photo.



Jackie Person (Therapeutic Recreation director), Joseph Petrella (division chief) and Brenda Holloway (Therapeutic Recreation assistant director)

PHOTOS BY
SHAKAYLA FARMER
AND
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Courageous Clown - John (participant)



Therapeutic Recreation's Shenika Farmer, Jackie Person, Brenda Holloway and Jamie Aylor.



Clown in Charge: Monique Tyler (Therapeutic Recreation staff)



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(1) DUE AT SIGNING INCLUDES DOWN PAYMENT (COROLLA: \$1,999; CAMRY: \$2,499; RAV4: \$2,999), FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT, \$499 PROCESSING FEE AND NO SECURITY DEPOSIT. NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY. TAX, REGISTRATION AND INSURANCES ARE EXTRA. CUSTOMER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSIVE WEAR AND EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGES OF \$0.15 PER MILE IN EXCESS OF AGREEMENT'S MILES (COROLLA/RAV4: 36,000 MILES; CAMRY: 24,000 MILES). OFFER AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT TO QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. (2) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS. OFFERS FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$16.67 PER \$1,000 BORROWED. (3) PURCHASERS CAN RECEIVE UP TO \$2,750 CASH BACK FROM TOYOTA OR CAN APPLY CASH BACK TO DOWN PAYMENT. AMOUNT VARIES PER MODEL. (4) BASED ON BLACK BOOK TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. (5) COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET. SEE PARTICIPATING DEALER FOR COMPLETE PLAN DETAILS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ALASKA. (6) COLLEGE GRAD AND MILITARY REBATE AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT THRU TFS. ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN ACTIVE DUTY STATUS IN U.S. MILITARY TO RECEIVE REBATE. (7) 2012 OR 2013 EPA-ESTIMATED MILEAGE. ACTUAL MILEAGE MAY VARY. (8) CUSTOMERS CAN RECEIVE A \$500 INCENTIVE FROM TOYOTA UPON LEASING A NEW 2013 RAV4 AND TRADING IN A TOYOTA VEHICLE. (9) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (†) FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (††) 160 POINT QUALITY ASSURANCE INSPECTION ON ALL CPO VEHICLES FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THROUGH TFS. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$17.05 PER \$1,000 BORROWED. ONE INCENTIVE PER TRANSACTION. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 9/31/13.



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ALEXANDRIA/QUAKER HILL \$949,999



Quintessential Quaker Hill
Bright and beautiful. Main level for entertaining with formal living and dining rooms. Family room is adjacent to the updated kitchen which includes stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops. Walkout to a deck and fully fenced backyard area. Three bedrooms up and a fourth on the lower level with a full bath, makes for an ideal space for guests.

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.thegoodhartgroup.com



ALEXANDRIA/DEL RAY \$699,900



Del Ray Charmer
Great space with lots to offer in this three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home. Warm hardwood floors, an updated kitchen overlooks the large family room. Living room has a wood-burning fireplace, enjoy the light filled sunroom and separate dining room. Partially finished basement waiting for your special touches. Driveway and detached garage. Walk to "The Avenue" in Del Ray.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,395,000

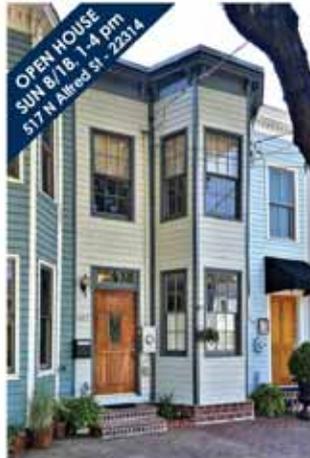


Tell Everyone About...
This beautiful, rare, two-level, architecturally unique, luxurious end unit feels like a single-family home. More than \$300,000 in improvements in 2007. Exquisitely maintained, this three-bedroom, award-winning Old Town Village, 2780+ square foot townhome features two courtyards and a two-car garage, a rarity in historic Old Town. Shown by appointment.

Mary Farrell
703.969.5522
www.choosemary.com
MLS ID# AX8156833



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$668,000



Classic and Chic
This elegant, updated townhome has a desirable Old Town address. The main level is perfect for entertaining with wood floors, living room fireplace and convenient half-bath. The spacious dining room is open to the high-end kitchen. Upstairs are two master suites and a sunny open space, perfect for an office or TV lounge. There's even private parking!

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com
MLS ID# AX8143814



ALEXANDRIA \$959,900



Model Beautiful!
Light and bright end unit by EYA homes. All the bells and whistles with more than \$100,000 in upgrades! Three bedrooms, three and one half baths, hardwood floors on main and upper levels, gourmet kitchen, upgraded baths, security and sound systems. Indoor/outdoor fireplace, two-car garage, LEED certified!

Christine Morgan
202.549.3001
www.morganrealtor.com
MLS ID# AX8121385



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA \$579,000

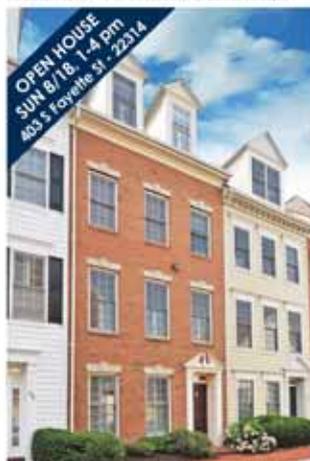


College Park
Spotlessly renovated from top to bottom, this home is a keeper! Three bedrooms, two full baths. Dynamic kitchen, fit for a chef. Huge finished basement with adjacent storage, laundry room. Private and large backyard, perfect for play and entertaining. Walk to King Street Metro, shopping, restaurants and schools. Minutes to the Beltway!

Pam Cornelio
571.236.4398
www.PamCornelio.com
MLS ID# AX8154930



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$860,000



Old Town Village Old Town Charm
Exceptional house with exceptional amenities. This home is spacious, light-filled and beautiful! Just steps to the community clubhouse/pool, this brick townhome has it all: three bedrooms, two and a half baths, den/office, updated kitchen, gas fireplace, custom built-ins, updated marble master bath, entertaining deck plus garage parking, and so much more.

Mary Farrell
703.969.5522
www.choosemary.com
MLS ID# AX8154808



ALEXANDRIA \$525,000



Beautiful Belle Haven on the Green
Wonderful townhouse in Belle Haven on the Green has many fabulous features - two master suites, elegant living room with a fireplace, a cozy den, an inviting dining room, and updated kitchen, and a lovely deck and garden - ALL in a fabulous location!

Mason Montague Bavin
703.338.6007
www.MasonBavin.com
MLS ID# FX8106496



ARLINGTON \$375,000



Convenient Condo
Welcome home to the largest floor plan in The Arlington. This sunny three-bedroom, two-bath condo offers an updated kitchen and a main level master bedroom suite. There's new carpet and hardwoods throughout and a fenced patio. The community features a pool and tennis courts. It's close to 395, Shirlington and more!

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com
MLS ID# AR8147383



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