

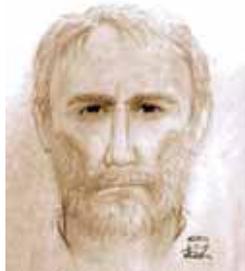


# Happyland on Edge

## Alexandria police investigate possibility of a serial killer.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The late Ellen Pickering used to call North Ridge “Happyland,” a quiet suburban stretch of the city where neighbors knew each other and the most shocking crime that happens is when someone’s car is broken into. But that sense of tranquilly was shattered last week, when music teacher Ruthanne Lodato was shot and killed in Braddock Heights when a balding man with a grey beard knocked on the door. Another unidentified woman was also shot, although she survived and is now helping police track down the killer.



**The suspect in the Ladato murder is described as an older white male, balding with gray hair and a full beard. He was last seen wearing tan outerwear, possibly a jacket or work coat.**

be concerned.”

Many neighbors say the most unsettling part of the murder is the pattern of unsolved murders, particularly of prominent people. A decade ago, Nancy Dunning was shot and



Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook speaks to the North Ridge Citizens Association.

killed at her home in the middle of the day. Then, last year, Ron Kirby was shot and killed at his home in the middle of the day. Dunning was married to then-sheriff Jim Dunning, and the crime was never solved. Kirby was director of transportation planning for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Labato was also a prominent member of the community, leading many neighbors to worry that a serial killer is on the loose.

“I feel safe in a general regard, but I’m also cautious because although we live in a great city we have some very strange crimes,” said Ruth Brannigan, who lives in Del Ray. “I see friends of mine who have glass doors, and I’m concerned for them.”

**DURING A MEETING** of the North Ridge Citizens Association, Cook updated neighbors on the status of the case. But he re-

vealed little new information. One of the questions was about what kind of similarities might exist between the Kirby murder and the Ladato murder. What kind of gun was used? Were similar bullets found at the crime scene? Did Kirby and Ladato have any kind of relationship to each other? Cook said his detectives were investigating these questions. But he was quick to add that they would not be sharing that information with the public.

“If and when we find out about that, I can’t reveal it to you,” said Cook. “We have to be very careful with the information that we have because it is evidence, and if we discuss that outside of that realm then we can actually harm our ability to prosecute that case in the future.”

Police records show 10 unsolved murders in Alexandria over the last decade. Most were found with gunshot wounds. One was

an infant. Some were from Maryland or Pennsylvania. Others had lived in Alexandria for years. One died of trauma to the head and abdomen after being assaulted by several suspects in Arlandria. Because Kirby and Lodato were prominent members of the community, though, many people were immediately reminded of the Dunning murder.

“I don’t answer the door unless I know who it is. Absolutely not,” said Susan Aubuchon, who lives in North Ridge. “It’s a different day for us here. I would have answered the door for a stranger until now.”

**THE COMPOSITE IMAGE** released by police Friday night shows an older white male, balding with gray hair and a full beard. Within the first 24 hours, Cook said, detectives received more than 300 tips as

SEE POLICE, PAGE 3

# Community Mourns Loss of Ruthanne Giammittorio Lodato

## Funeral services set for Saturday.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

When John and Debbi Kelly decided it was time for their two young children to study music, there was no question that their neighbor on Ridge Road would be the family’s piano teacher. What they didn’t realize was just how much that teacher would become a part of their lives — and their living room.

“Ruthanne was very particular about pianos,” John Kelly said of Ruthanne Lodato. “When we de-

ecided to buy one for our home, Ruthanne insisted that our piano meet her standards. She went so far as to find one at an estate sale, bid on the piano for us, purchase it, and have it moved into our house while we were on vacation. I still smile every time I see it and think of what she went through to be sure our piano met with her approval.”

The Kellys have lived on Ridge Road for 15 years, relative newcomers compared to Lodato, who was the glue that held the neighborhood together.

“Ruthanne spent virtually her entire life here,” Kelly said. “Whenever anyone moved in, she was always the first person to welcome them to the neighborhood. Because of Ruthanne, we were al-



Ruthanne Giammittorio Lodato at her daughter Gina’s wedding.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ready a close knit neighborhood and are pulling together even more since last week.”

Lodato, a beloved music teacher for more than 30 years, was killed last week after being shot by a stranger who knocked on her door around 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 6.

“The neighbors have all been affected by this,” Kelly said. “But one thing we’ve all come to real-

ize is that because of Ruthanne, we are used to being drawn together. We are not inclined to run away.”

Born June 20, 1954, Ruthanne Giammittorio Ludato attended St. Rita’s Catholic School and St. Mary’s Academy before studying music at Catholic University. She was a longtime parishioner at

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 28

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## Parting Gift

With only a few days to go before he leaves Alexandria for his new job in the **Terry McAuliffe** administration, Fire Chief **Adam Thiel** appeared before City Council members for a final farewell. Councilman **John Taylor Chapman** praised Thiel for being one of the first city officials to take to Twitter. Mayor **Bill Euille** asked Thiel for his secret on remaining so youthful looking. And Councilwoman **Paul Smedberg** brought up a lingering concern of Councilwoman **Del Pepper**, who lives in a high-rise condominium building on Duke Street.

"I don't think you ever delivered a ladder truck," joked Smedberg. "So your record isn't that stellar." In politics, just like show business, timing is everything. So the soon-to-be-former fire chief chose that moment to announce that yes, in fact, the city had recently purchased a firetruck with an extended ladder that could rescue residents of high-rise buildings. Pepper was pleased to hear this, but she was concerned that the ladder might not be long enough to rescue her and her husband.

"It's nine stories," announced Thiel.

"I live on the ninth floor," said Pepper. "So that's perfect!"

## Charter Questions

Members of the Virginia General Assembly are poised to approve a charter change city officials describe as a "clean up" measure, changing the charter to reflect the council's decision to abandon the longtime tradition of holding springtime elections in 2009. Republicans opposed the move as a cynical effort to piggyback on record turnout for President Barack Obama. Democrats said they wanted more people to participate. "It caused a lot of consternation," said **Bernie Caton**, the city's legislative director.

State Sen. **Mark Obenshain** (R-26) questioned how the city could have already conducted a November election if the charter had never been changed to move it from May. But Caton explained that the General Assembly passed a law in 2000 that allowed localities to move from May to November by passing an ordinance.

"That's how we did it," he concluded.

The Senate approved the charter change with an unanimous vote.

## Green Streets

Many people have heard of complete streets, a concept that includes opening up streets to pedestrians and bicyclists. The concept has recently created a firestorm on King Street, where city officials want to remove 27 parking spaces to create a bike lane. Now Councilman **Tim Lovain** is hoping City Council members will support the creation of Green Streets.

"Complete Streets is a little more fine tuned, and people already have the idea," said Lovain. "But Green Streets is still evolving, and people are trying out different things."

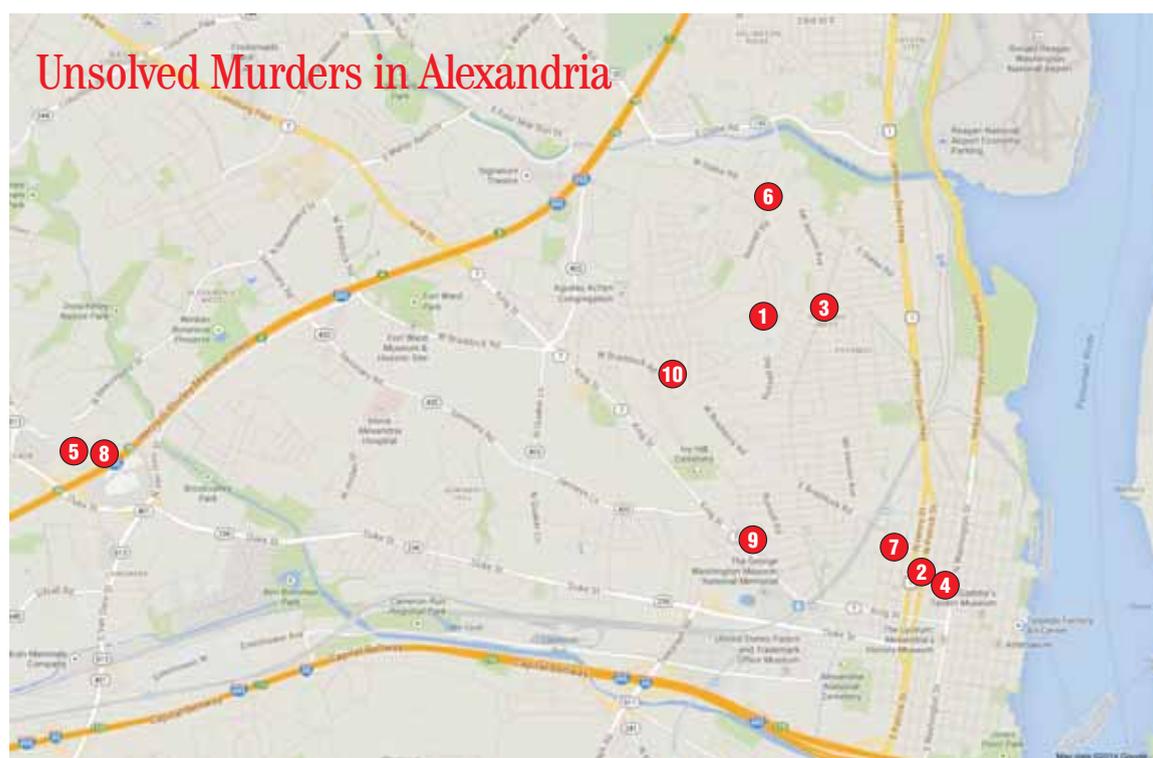
The idea is to take the concept of environmental sustainability on the road, literally. Lovain says Alexandria should consider a draft policy statement to support initiatives such as permeable pavement and rain gardens. "I'm hoping we'll take a look at this, and adopt a version of our own," said Lovain.

## Falling Tax Revenue

Tax revenues are down across a number of categories, causing concern among budget officials who are required to balance the books. If things keep heading south, city officials might have to take drastic measures. "If revenues continue to fall short of estimates, it may be necessary to make up any additional shortfalls with expenditure reductions," wrote City Manager **Rashad Young** in a memo to City Council members.

Business tax collections are down 40 percent, in part because a major retailer received a refund earlier this year. Budget officials say the tax information is proprietary, so they can't say which retailer or divulge the circumstances. But it's certainly a hit. Recordation tax revenues are down 25 percent, partially because of the struggling commercial property market. Transient lodging tax revenues are down 13 percent, partially because of decreased occupancy and lower room rates across the city. "The decreases have affected all Northern Virginia jurisdictions and are probably related to sequestration and to the government shutdown in October," Young said.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



	NAME	DATE	LOCATION	ADetails
1	Nancy Dunning	Dec. 5, 2003	214 West Mount Ida Avenue	Dunning was the wife of then-Sheriff Jim Dunning. Police say she was targeted.
2	David Murphy	Dec. 7, 2005	420 North Patrick Street	Murphy was the brother of Greg Murphy, who killed an 8-year-old boy in Del Ray.
3	Bethlehem Ayele	Oct. 26, 2006	intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue	Ayele testified for prosecutors in a federal drug conspiracy case.
4	Darnell Brown	Sept. 22, 2007	400 block of North Columbus Street	Brown was found bleeding in the street, suffering from a gunshot wound.
5	Devin Bustamante	Oct. 17, 2007	5800 Quantrell Avenue	Devin, a two-month-old child, died of a head injury.
6	Jose Cruz	Oct. 21, 2007	3800 Executive Avenue	Cruz was assaulted by several suspects. The medical examiner determined he died of trauma to the head and abdomen.
7	Michael Horton	June 18, 2009	600 block of North Payne Street	Horton was found lying on the ground suffering from trauma to the upper body.
8	Bradley Bostick	July 25, 2013	401 North Armistead Street	Bostick was found with a gunshot wound to the upper body.
9	Ron Kirby	Nov. 11, 2013	200 block of Elm Street	Kirby was director of transportation planning at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.
10	Ruthanne Lodato	Feb. 6, 2014	2400 block of Ridge Road Drive	Lodato was shot by an unknown man who appeared on the doorstep.

## Police Investigate Lodato Murder

FROM PAGE 1

sociated with the image. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation are working with Alexandria police officials to help sort through the tips. Virginia State Police helped Alexandria detectives collect forensic evidence inside the home on the day of the murder, and detectives in neighboring jurisdictions are helping track down tips throughout the region. This week, more than 80 recruits from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy were in the neighborhood to help track down any additional evidence. Even Mayor Bill Euille is helping with the investigation. "I carry the profile myself in my pocket, and when I see folks I take it out and look at it. I actually

walk up to them and look them over," said Euille. "I hope I catch the person."

Until a suspect is arrested, many neighbors say, they will feel a sense of dread every time they hear a knock at the door. Police officials are urging people not to open their door for strangers. Streets that are usually crowded with people walking their dogs have become deserted. A new sense of uneasiness has settled in Alexandria, where many residents fear that another unsolved murder may be on the horizon.

"It's a little eerie to be home alone, day or night," said Lauren Elizabeth Smith, who lives near the Labato crime scene. "When it gets quiet, it's unsettling."



## For Inclusive Playground

The Miracle League of Alexandria and the Kelley Cares Foundation presents a \$25,000 check from CVS Caremark during the Alexandria City Council Tuesday night. The grant will support the creation of the community's first inclusive playground which will allow children with and without disabilities to learn and play together. The playground will be located at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

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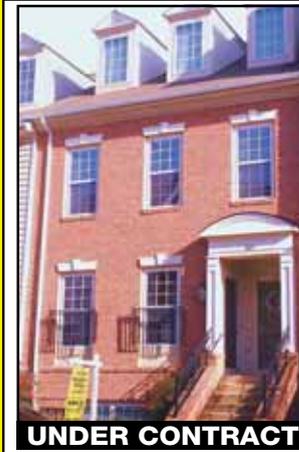
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**326 N. Payne St.** Cute As A Button! Fantastic 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 level, patio, 2-car off-street parking. UPDATED kitchen w/ granite, cherry, stainless. Hardwood floors. Fresh new baths. Exposed brick. Pristine. Walk to 2 Metros and heart of Old Town—easy! *Julie Hall 703-786-3634*



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**Old Town \$849,000**  
**727 N. Fayette St.** Wonderful City Views! Sun-drenched end unit 4-level brick loft TH with soaring ceilings, open floor plan, hardwood floors & two gas fireplaces & two-car attached garage. Spectacular renovated gourmet kitchen featuring a huge center island, Sub-Zero, Viking, Wolf appliances, and wine bar. New MBA, California Closets, wired for sound & security. Rooftop Terrace with city views! Best N.W. location only 2 blocks to Braddock Metro. *Alexis Bogdan 703-965-6556*



**Alexandria \$529,000**  
**6903 Lamp Post Ln.** Close To Metro! This 5 BR/3 BA detached home on private drive in Stonybrooke is the definition of perfection! Upgrades galore including hardwood floors, remodeled baths, fresh paint, new carpet & more. Spectacular kitchen w/premium maple cabinetry, granite, SS appliances & ceramic tile. *Erika Carroll 703-568-7376*



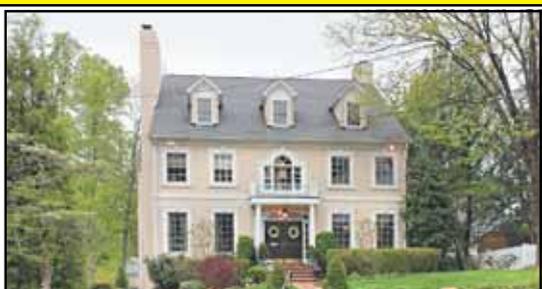
**Beverly Hills \$775,000**

**3207 Old Dominion Blvd.** Spring Beauty! Move in before the flowers bloom! All the work's been done! New: Chef's kitchen, attractive baths, energy-efficient windows & furnace. Generous Rooms & cozy fireplaces. Big patio for outdoor living. Ample storage + garage! Minutes to D.C., Del Ray & Old Town. *Sue Feintheil 703-819-1964*



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**Alexandria \$990,000**  
**8271 Media Street.** Must See! Stunning, new construction in Sunny View area of Alexandria. 6 Bedrooms, 5.5 Baths, 5,200 sq feet of living space. Huge 3rd level bonus room with Media suite built in. 2 master bdrms; gourmet kitchen, all state-of-the-art with granite and KitchenAid. Lovely neighborhood. Short distance to Mount Vernon High School and G.W. Pkwy. *Leslie Atkinson 703-967-1471*



**Belle Haven \$1,799,000**  
**2106 Wakefield Court.** Fabulous 6 bedroom, 3.5+.5 bath center hall Colonial with 5 fireplaces, 4 finished levels and attached 2-car garage. Ideal for entertaining with elegant foyer, exquisite mouldings & architectural details throughout. Amazing Chef's kitchen with breakfast room & adjoining family room. Spacious Owner's Suite with New luxurious bath. Walk-out lower level recreation room & game room. Lovely yard with deck & patio. *Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



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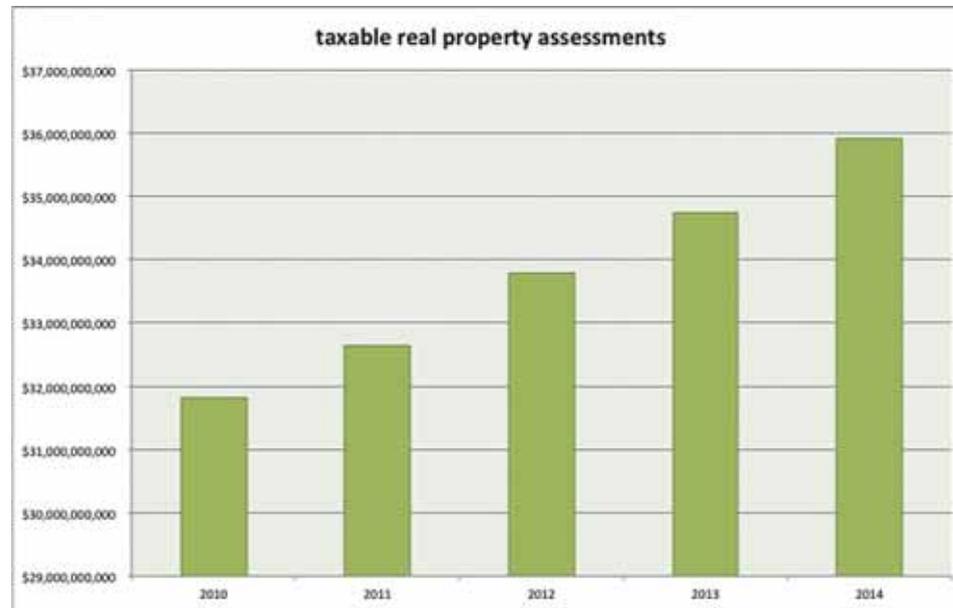
# Assessing Alexandria Residential properties increase 5 percent; commercial properties increase 2 percent.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**H**omeowners across Alexandria will be receiving their annual Valentine from City Hall this week, an assessment of their property that will be used to issue a tax bill later this year. The annual ritual of mailing assessments is the beginning of the budget cycle, which will conclude in May when the Alexandria City Council sets a tax rate. Residential properties increased 4.8 percent, and commercial properties increased 1.98 percent. Currently, the tax rate is \$1.038 for every \$100 of assessed value.

“Growing is good, and beating the rate of inflation is extra good,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. “So I think all of those are positive signs.”

Last year, property assessments grew 2.8 percent. Despite that increase, members of the Alexandria City Council added 4 cents to the tax rate — the largest tax-rate increase in recent memory. The tax hike, which was unanimously approved by the all-Democratic members of the council, increased the average residential property tax bill by more than \$300. Council members explained that they were approving higher taxes to balance the books without cutting



services.

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

**RIISING TAXES** have been a growing concern in Alexandria in recent years. Now, in the wake of the global financial crisis, many are arguing restraint. Back in 2009, when

the all-Democratic members of the City Council raised taxes, Republicans were able to seize the moment and unseat two Democrats. Now some believe the time might be right for another challenge, although the next election won't be until 2015.

“It was a shrewd political move raising taxes so far away from an election,” said Frank Fannon, a Republican former council member. “I would hope the City Council

members will see this as an opportunity to lower taxes.”

This year, according to city financial records, Alexandria is adding more than \$1 billion to its tax base. Most of the growth was in the residential properties, especially multi-family residential units. The commercial property sector is a bit more sluggish, growing at only 2 percent.

“The market for large commercial property owners used to be dominated by federal contractors,” said Shafroth. “So if you're a federal contractor, you're probably not thinking about expanding right now. You're thinking there's a risk of another shutdown.”

**THE ASSESSMENTS** show a city in transition. One of the largest decreases, for example, was the category of property owned by public-service corporations. That's because the coal-fired power plant owned by GenOn has now been reclassified, a victory for a city that fought to close the polluting property for many years. Another development that changed some of the numbers was the sale of Hunting Pointe Apartments, which had been owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation during construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Now that it's been sold, the waterfront land is

SEE CITY PROPERTY, PAGE 7

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Wilson "Bill" Livingood, shown with President Barack Obama upon his 2011 retirement as Sergeant-at-Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives, will be the keynote speaker at the Feb. 17 Friendship Veterans Firehouse Association Breakfast.

## Livingood To Keynote Firehouse Breakfast

Former Sergeant-at-Arms for U.S. House of Representatives will kick off Parade Day celebrations.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Wilson "Bill" Livingood, Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives for 17 years until his retirement in 2011, will deliver the keynote address at the Friendship Veterans Firehouse Association annual breakfast to kick off the citywide series of events celebrating George Washington's birthday on Feb. 17.

Livingood, a 33-year veteran of the U.S. Secret Service, was the first person to serve in the position with a significant law enforcement background; the position was historically filled by a political appointee.

"They didn't ask me any political questions," said Livingood, a 1961 graduate and class president of Michigan State University, upon his appointment.

Best known to Americans as the man who stands at the chamber door and proclaims, "Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States" as the president enters to deliver his State of the Union address, the Sergeant-at-Arms is charged with the security of members, their staff and all visitors to the House of Representatives.

"Bill Livingood served the House during the most challenging times faced by anyone who has ever held this demanding position," said

Speaker John Boehner in a statement upon Livingood's retirement. Boehner went on to cite the 1998 shootings of two Capitol Police officers, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the anthrax mailings and the shooting of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.), which initiated a new scrutiny of member safety.

A distinguished Secret Service veteran with three decades of experience in field operations, inspection and protective services, Livingood was the last agent on active duty when President Kennedy was assassinated. The recipient of many merit awards, his personal highlight was advancing President Nixon's historic trip to China.

"It was almost like being on another planet," he recalled in an interview with his alma mater. "China hadn't seen an American in 25 years. We couldn't walk anywhere (without getting mobbed)."

The annual breakfast meeting, scheduled for 9 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 901 N. Fairfax St. in Old Town, serves as the first public introduction to the 2014 Living Legends of Alexandria and will include the presentation of the Rev. Ben Lynt Distinguished Service Award.

Tickets for the three-course breakfast are \$30. For more information, contact Friendship secretary-treasurer Bill Kehoe at KehoeFD@aol.com.

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# NEWS



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

## Alternative Designs

**T.C. Williams High School seniors present two alternative designs for the future of land currently occupied by a coal-fired power plant. One plan was to build a science center with solar panels laboratories. The other idea was to construct a sports center with recreational opportunities and public space. From left, the students are Jerry Wallman, Janet Johnston, Lyric Bolen, Toavina Ratolojanahary, Jean Makori, Adnan Amer, Alex Nwogu and Christian Contreras.**

## City Property Assessments Rise

FROM PAGE 5

no longer tax exempt.

“Unimproved land remains a scarce commodity in the city of Alexandria,” Young concluded. “There has been activity in

apartment land with several significant land sales.

Of particular interest are a number of multifamily land transfers and a few in-fill residential lot sales.”

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# OPINION

## On Mental Health

While the General Assembly is making progress in fixing some of the egregious shortcomings of the way Virginia provides emergency services to people in mental health crisis, many fewer people are receiving mental health services in Northern Virginia.

State Sen. Creigh Deeds' son died of suicide late last year after the limitations in both the law and local communication resulted in him being released while still in the midst of crisis.

Deeds reports the progress on the bill that has passed the State Senate: "The omnibus bill will require subjects be held up to 24 hours under an emergency custody order, create a database of available psychiatric beds, and ensure people in need of hospitalization cannot be 'streeted' by establishing state hospitals as providers of last resort."

These are important steps.

Services to people with mental illness are provided on the local level by community services boards, and in Fairfax County in particular, those services have been dramatically cut back.

Reporter Michael Pope reports this week that since 2009, the number of people receiving

mental health services in Fairfax County has declined by 39 percent. Alcohol and drug service have dropped 43 percent. Services for those with intellectual disability have declined 39 percent.

Officials quoted cite the recession and declining property tax revenues in explaining the reductions, along with some changes in the way services are counted.

No matter how services are counted, there is no question that they have been reduced significantly during a recession, a time when research shows the need for mental health services and alcohol and drug services actually increases.

### EDITORIAL

In Arlington, the number of people who receive mental health services has declined by 6 percent. The number of people who receive substance abuse services has decreased by 13 percent.

"Stresses associated with rising unemployment, poverty and social insecurity will lead to upward trends in many national suicide rates, as well as to less readily charted increases in the prevalence of psychiatric illness, alcohol-related disorders and illicit drug use," according to a 2011 overview study on economic recession and mental health cited by the Na-

tional Institutes of Health. "At the same time, mental health services are being cut back as part of government austerity programs. Budget cuts will thus affect psychiatric services adversely just when economic stressors are raising the levels of need and demand in affected populations."

As for blaming the budget, it's hard to see from raw numbers why the most vulnerable should be suffering.

In 2009, before the effects of the recession, Fairfax County's budget expenditures were \$5.36 billion.

The adopted 2014 budget calls for expenditures of \$6.75 billion.

"Proactive fiscal and social policies could, however, help to mitigate the health consequences of recession," the overview study reports. "Economic mental health care could best be achieved, not by decimating services but by planning and deploying these to meet the needs of defined area populations."

Elected officials and others in county government who have signed off on a set of priorities that punishes the most vulnerable populations have some moral accounting to do.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ACPS CIP Charade

To the Editor:

Alexandrians should be skeptical of the 2015-2024 Capital Improvement Program budget approved by the Alexandria School Board on Feb. 6. The board proposes to spend over \$18 million of taxpayer money to fund the school system's constantly changing capital priorities and the rationale is often questionable.

Having followed the budget process since Alexandria City Public Schools Interim Superintendent Alvin Crawley proposed his CIP budget on Dec. 5, 2013, I have not seen evidence of a well thought out long-term capital program or a meaningful review by the School Board. This was not a surprise given that the board's Facilities Committee was disestablished

in 2008 and their Budget Advisory Committee — analogous to the city's Budget and Financial Affairs Advisory Committee — has only four members, far short of the 12 called for in board policy.

The 29 written questions posed by five board members and the associated staff responses read more like a softball game than an elected body carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities. The public work sessions were much the same.

The following are just three examples of why I am skeptical of the proposed CIP.

School buses (10 new buses - \$890,000)

The interim superintendent's Dec. 5 proposal states, "The average life expectancy of a conventional school bus is dependent on mileage, maintenance, and repairs, but is recommended to be 12 to 15 years for the conventional school

bus. An alternative recommendation is replacement at over 250,000 miles." Similar language is found in prior years' CIP budget documents.

When Board Member Marc Williams asked in writing how many buses "are beyond their recommended useful life" the ACPS Director of Transportation responded, "The Virginia Department of Education recommends replacement of school buses when they reach 10 years old." When justifying the school bus and vehicle line item at the Jan. 14 CIP work session the director of educational facilities said, "These school buses you know, hundreds of thousands of miles on them and they do need to be replaced."

With a Freedom of Information Act request I obtained documentation of 105 active ACPS school buses. Four buses are listed as year 1999 and three year 2000 — 15 and 14 years old. The highest mileage bus — a 1999 model — has 143,000 miles.

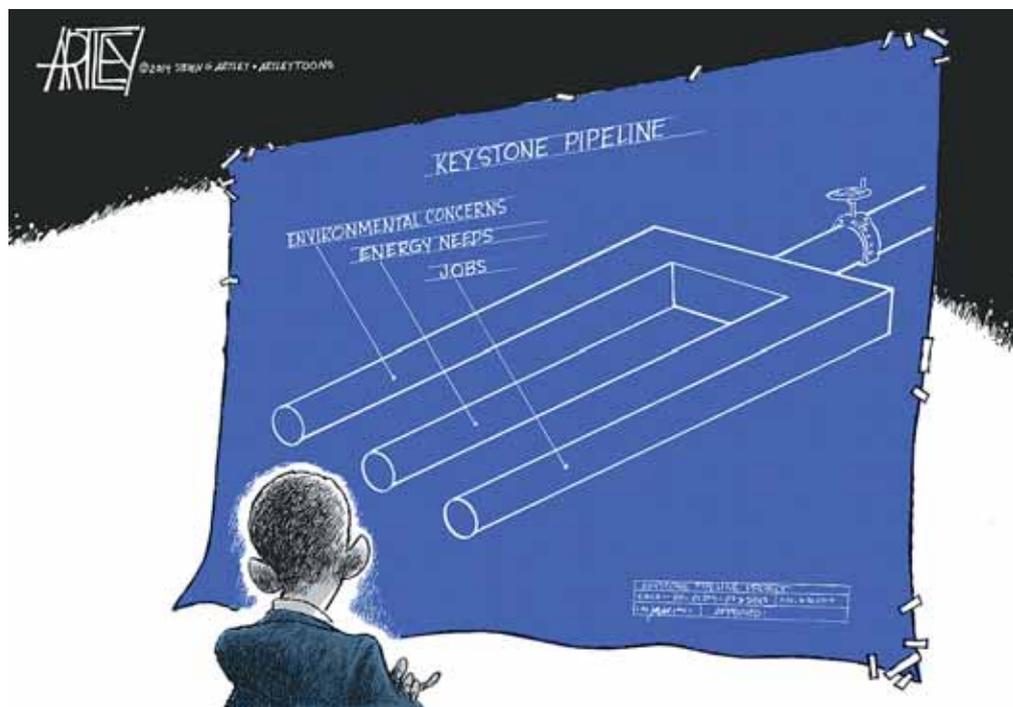
So what is the ACPS criterion for replacing buses? Why has it suddenly shifted? Does the School Board really know the condition of their fleet? How much of the proposed \$890,000 expenditure is truly essential?

Rowing Facility (Building Envelope Repairs - \$420,000)

This project has been deferred from prior years due to lack of funds. In justifying the repairs to the wooden siding of the rowing facility in the 2015 budget the director of educational facilities said the building "takes a big beating being on the water. As an old Navy guy you know salt water — that kind of environment is a lot more corrosive than it is as you go further inland. So that's why I worry about the siding."

Really? Salt-water damage on the Upper Potomac River? No board member questioned this. Sea level must be rising much faster than

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



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# OPINION

## From Two Perspectives

FROM THE STUDENT,  
MJ GREENTREE

I have been working with my tutor from Wright to Read for almost a year. Each week, Ms. Anne Marie and I work on a variety of projects that require reading. The types of books I like to read are chapter and educational books. When we read, we try to find out the morals of the story to help understand what I am reading and that makes me want to read more. I enjoy reading a lot, because now I understand the words and what they mean. I learned to pronounce words better than before.

I also like the fun projects that we do. We work on interesting science experiments like making a plaster volcano where I read the instructions and learned about volcanoes. We also use iPhone apps to play word games which are really fun.

The special things I have done with my tutor are going on field trips like the air and space museum to meet other kids in the program and talk to them. I also like the award ceremony at the summer picnic, because we played games and got to have lunch with my tutor.

I have advanced my reading level in school a lot and that makes me feel proud. In the beginning of 3rd grade, I could not read. I am now in 4th grade and I am reading a lot better because of the Wright to Read program. My teacher complimented me on how much better I am at reading. I like having Ms. Anne Marie as my tutor because she is fun and unique.

### LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10  
I thought.

Parker-Gray Stadium Press Box (Replacement - \$70,000)

This item received considerable attention in last year's budget process and was not funded. There is no debate that the press box at T. C. Williams' Parker-Gray Stadium is unsafe and needs to be replaced before it is used again.

I was astonished to listen to statements by ACPS staff at the Jan. 14 work session that the press box was used this past football season in spite of their belief that its mere presence posed a threat to human life. The director of educational facilities volunteered, "I think we took a huge, all capitals, underline, bold, italicized risk using the press box."

This begs the question of why this press box is still standing. What is the real condition of the structure? What does it take to make a decision in ACPS to remove a hazard? What is ACPS' and the city's potential exposure for negligence?

The public has been led to believe that things have changed in the ACPS facilities and CIP program. I believe they have. They have gotten worse and now more than ever warrant greater public oversight. Unfortu-



AnneMarie and MJ at holiday party.

I think Ms. Anne Marie deserves the mentor of the month award, because she brings cools stuff to explore and learn about, and I get to earn prizes for my reading achievement. She is a good tutor in general. What I like the most about Ms. Anne Marie is that we just don't read, she helps me learn in a fun way.

My friends are missing out on so much by not being in the program. The Wright to Read program is so much fun and I really recommend it. I am reading chapter books like this (snap!)

FROM THE MENTOR,  
ANNE MARIE DINARDO

I look forward to spending time with my mentee MJ each week. This program has changed my life. I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with MJ and see him advance in his reading. MJ is very enthusiastic and excited about learning. It's a lot of fun working with him and I have learned a lot too!

*The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP) was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. There are 11 professionally managed programs in the partnership that need adult mentors. To learn more about AMP, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring)*

nately, if the public involvement in the 2015-2024 budget process so far is an indicator, this is probably wishful thinking.

**Scott Newsham**

Former Member Alexandria City School Board (2006-2009), chair of Facilities Committee (2006-2008)

## Speak Up To Save Park

To the Editor:

It appears that few Alexandrians are aware of the drastic changes planned for Chinguapin Park and Recreation Center. There is \$17.5M in the city budget for 2014-2018 to build an indoor 50m Olympic size swimming pool at Chinguapin, while keeping the existing pool for recreational use. The structure for the new pool is to be connected to the present building in some way. A feasibility study begins this month to determine where and how to do this.

A large chunk of the park has been set aside for the new pool and pool parking. Even though the Parks Department does not yet know how much of this space is actually needed, it is proceeding with plans to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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# Generations of Families To Be Honored at Gala

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM MANAGER  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria's Generation to Generation Gala — highlighting families in Alexandria whose dedication and passion for giving back to the community are passed down from generation to generation — will take place on Saturday, March 29 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. This year's honorees — Patty and Kate Moran and Lonnie Rich, Marcia Call and Sara Rich — have had significant impact in every sector of the Alexandria community including city government, business, education and cultural enrichment.

"This year's honorees exemplify the spirit of service and caring that makes our city such a wonderful place for all generations," said SSA's Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson.

Patty and Kate Moran both have a heartfelt dedication to the Del Ray Community, T.C. Williams High School and the children of Alexandria. Patty, now administrative assistant to T.C. Williams Principal Suzanne Maxey is well-known for her annual volunteer work with Alexandria events such as

the Turkey Trot, the Titan Expo, the Alexandria Scholarship Fund, Art on the Avenue, and the newly created Relay for Life. She has also been active in Community Partners for Children, the Warwick Village Citizens Association and Volunteer Alexandria.

Kate Moran began volunteering with her mother, Patty, and her aunt, Nancy Dunning. The founder of the Kate Moran Band and the kids' band Rainbow Roc, employed during the day by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education, Kate donates her time and expertise to the community through coordinating events and fundraising — and especially through donating her musical talents — in support of the arts, music, kids, pets, staying fit, and helping those dealing with disabilities and fighting debilitating illness. Among her many local accomplishments, she co-founded the Del Ray Music Festival.

The Rich/Call family also has a deep commitment to Alexandria, civic affairs, and education. This dedication has spread as far as Brooklyn, N.Y., Africa and now Belgium. For over 30 years, Lonnie Rich, a partner with Rich Rosenthal Brincefield Manitta Dzubin & Kroeger, LLP, has been heavily involved in the political, civic and community affairs of the city. In addition to serving three terms as a member of City Council, he served as chairman of the Alexan-

dria Chamber of Commerce and the Campagna Center. Lonnie has been active in many Alexandria civic organizations and commissions working on issues from economics and planning to human rights and women's rights.

Profiting from the examples set by her parents (Lonnie Rich and Sally Reams), Sara Rich began her civic activism in middle school and has continued in a career of giving back ever since. After college, Sara began teaching at The American School of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). While teaching in Kinshasa, she decided to pursue her interest in connecting international teachers with Congolese educators. She then moved to Goma in North Kivu, DRC, where she learned Swahili in order to explore the potential of collaboration between international and local teachers. After a year working with a few schools in Goma, Sara left the Congo and co-founded EduCorps with her stepmother Marcia Call and Murutamanga Kabahita. Sara currently teaches history in Belgium.

Marcia Call, CEO of the corporate recruiting firm TalentFront, is passionate about the power of individuals to make a difference. For two years in the early '80s, Marcia served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire, now the DRC, working as a public health volunteer. She lived in a village where she

taught basic hygiene and nutrition in Swahili to a rural population of about 10,000. For the next 30 years, Marcia's spent her time in nonprofit and for-profit business management, spending the last 15 years in human capital management. As president/CEO of EduCorps, Marcia recently traveled to Rwanda and Congo to develop the infrastructure for a series of programs to launch in August of 2014.

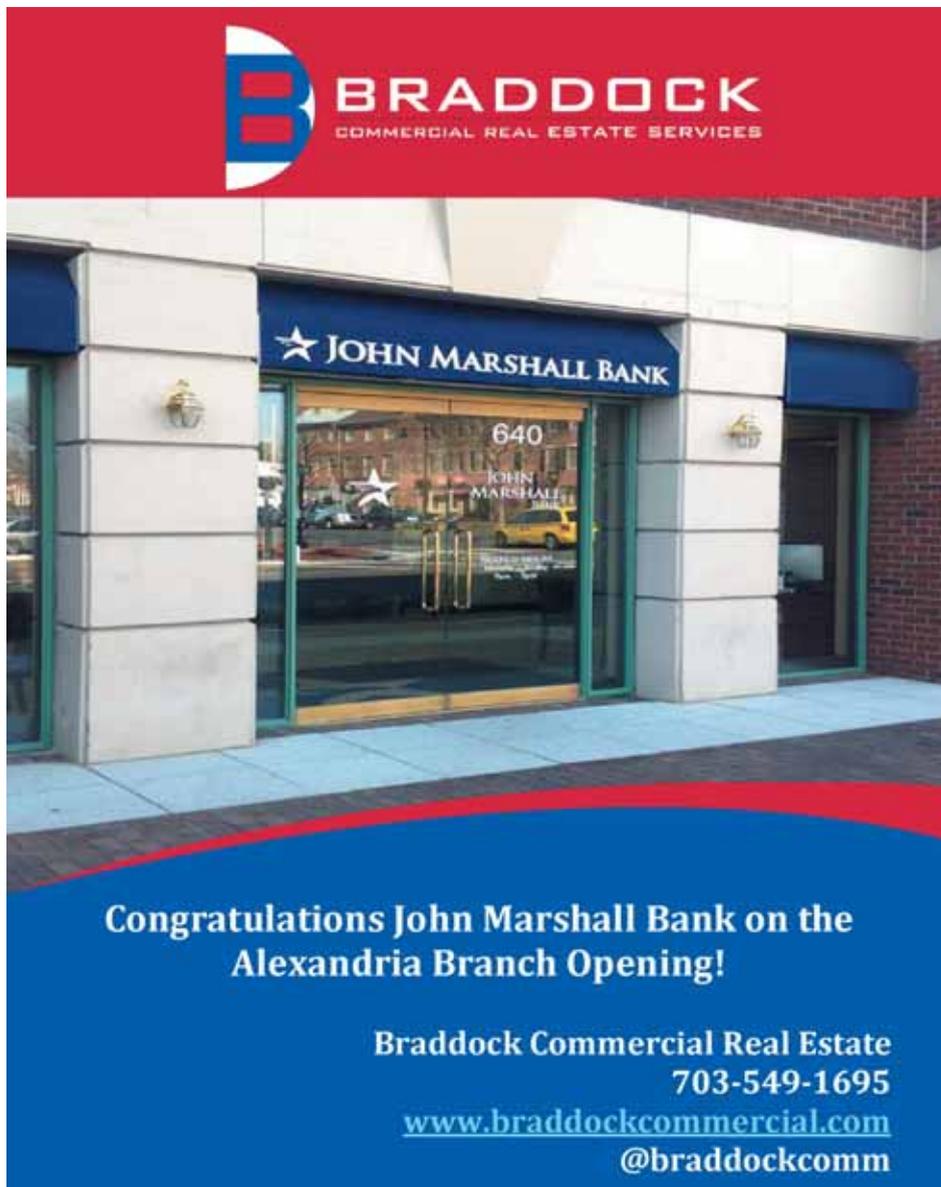
Senior Services is pleased to honor the Moran and Rich/Call families and to have Jen Walker — the Realtor for Del Ray and beyond as the presenting sponsor of this year's gala.

If you would like information or to sponsor the event, please call 703-836-4414, ext. 14 or go to [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org). Tickets will go on sale in mid-February.

Senior Services of Alexandria provides services and programs that help foster Alexandria seniors' independence and self-sufficiency, enabling them to age with dignity.

## Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue.  
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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

“improve” Chinguapin Park as part of a citywide Park Plan. The glory of Chinguapin Park is the broad open green space dotted with big, beautiful trees. It is a serene, pastoral oasis and is unique in Alexandria. The tennis courts, the basketball court, children’s playground, picnic pavilion and dog run are now located inconspicuously around the edge of the park. The “improvement” plan moves them onto the middle of the green space. Much of the rest of the green space is carved up by paved walking paths, connecting paths and entrance plazas. The pool expansion and thoughtless park planning threaten to turn this green oasis into a busy activities hub and destroy the character of the Park. See the plan (pages 35-48) at: [www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/parks/CitywideParksImprovementPlan\\_PressRelease.pdf](http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/parks/CitywideParksImprovementPlan_PressRelease.pdf)

A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 20 at City Hall by the Park and Recreation Commission, who has to endorse the plan before it goes further. Alexandrians who love the beauty of Chinguapin Park will have to speak up to save it.

**Andrew Findlay**  
Alexandria

## Tree Light Fund Reaches Goal

To the Editor:

I am very pleased to announce that the tree lights on King Street will remain on this next coming spring as we have matched the contingency Council, led by Del Pepper, set aside to use for this purpose. They set aside \$13,500. We had to match 1/2 of that by early in March 2014 to keep the lights on through June 2014.

All of the money has been deposited with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

So, if you are one of these that made the contribution, please come to one of the following events to claim your place in history.

The donors are: Frank Fannon, George Seghers from The Masonic Memorial, Ann Dorman with First Night, Andrew Palmerie, Lynn Hampton, Franco Landini with Landini Brothers Restaurant and Fish Market, The Enchanted Florest, Walker Real Estate, Hard Times Cafe, The Creamery, David Baker, Joan Renner, Maginniss & DelNinni Architects, Don Simpson, John Porter with ACT for Alexandria, and citizens: Phil Hollywood, Randall Larrimore, Helen Sullivan-Kumar, Phillip Holly-

wood, and Lana Slack, P. N Clopper, John and Elizabeth Chimento, Joseph Resende, Margaret Wholler, C.R. Hollywood, Council Del Pepper, Seaport Properties, William Moyer, Council Timothy Lovain, Sara Pearson, John Norton, The Lamplighter, Medieval Maddness, King’s Jewelry, Rock It Grill, Charles Hulfish, Gant Redmon, and David Martin with Gold Works USA.

This comes to \$6750 now collected.

Hopefully, this week, we will present the money to the city at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Business After hours reception at BB&T Bank, 1901 M. Vernon Ave., Thursday at 5:30 til 7 p.m.

And then it will be done more officially and ceremonially at City Hall Council session Saturday, Feb. 22, in the morning sometime near 9:30 a.m.

**David Martin**  
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## Safer for All Users

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the “Neighborhood” “Taylor Run” item in the Feb. 6 edition of The Alexandria Gazette Packet. I am a resident of Alexandria, living in the affected area — my home is one block off the at-issue stretch of King Street. I use this part of King Street as an automobile driver, a bicycle commuter, and a pedestrian, frequently walking to the King Street Metro Station or to Old Town. I am concerned that the city may miss the opportunity to make this stretch of King Street safer for all users.

The city’s professional staff recommended the at-issue compromise plan for King Street — which was vetted by a civil engineering firm — after several meetings with residents and after making numerous changes to address their concerns.

Starting in the 1980s, I commuted by bicycle from my home in the affected neighborhood to my job in D.C. for several years. I again began commuting to my job in D.C. by bicycle three years ago. When I do not commute by bicycle, I walk down King Street to the Metro Station. So I have a long-term, personal

perspective on this issue.

Bike lanes and shared lanes along this stretch of King Street will make it safer for vehicle drivers, bicycle riders, and pedestrians by separating vehicles, bikes and pedestrians and, where vehicles and bikes share the lane, signaling to drivers to expect the presence of bicycles. Bike lanes and shared lanes have a proven traffic calming (i.e., slowing) effect — and this stretch of King Street is a 25-mile-per-hour zone, which vehicles frequently exceed. Bike lanes and shared lanes help vehicle drivers know what to expect, causing them to slow down. In addition, bike and shared lanes on King Street will get bicyclists off of the sidewalks. When walking down this stretch of King Street, I have frequently been startled by bicyclists suddenly appearing on the sidewalk behind me and have felt physically threatened. Also, on portions of this area of King Street, the sidewalk is right next to the vehicular traffic, and in addition to the fast-moving traffic being very close, in rainy weather, passing vehicles splash water onto pedestrians walking down to the Metro Station. The buffer of a bike lane will provide needed separation between vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

I have personally witnessed the changes that bike and shared lanes make. For example, my commute today along Commonwealth Avenue is vastly improved with bike and shared lanes compared to what it was like in the 1980s, when there were no bike lanes and no designated shared lanes. The vehicular traffic along Commonwealth was faster, and I frequently was yelled at by drivers, and even on one occasion was hit by food a driver threw at me.

The proposed changes to King Street will make this route safer for all users.

**Sue D. Gunter**  
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

## The Music Plays On

*Dedicated to Ruthann Lodato*

Do not stand and weep at her grave  
Tho’ tears fall down our cheeks in a hush  
As come the memories that we save  
Flowing through us in a rush  
As we say our good-byes and wave  
All the songs from our music together still play  
I only wish I could be brave  
As the most beautiful person passed today,  
You left us wonderful memories  
Your music is still our guide  
And though we cannot see you  
You’re always at our side

— ANA CARINA MURPHY  
GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FEB. 6, 2014

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sweet inspiration for

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---

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These articles were prepared by the George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution ([www.gwsar.org](http://www.gwsar.org)), who will be a participant in the George Washington Birthday Parade and events on Feb. 17. See [www.washingtonbirthday.net](http://www.washingtonbirthday.net).

# George Washington Started a World War

Few individuals in history can be said to have caused a world war; however, George Washington could lay claim to being one of them. In 1753 the French alliance with Indian tribes in the Ohio region had become a serious threat to the British colonies, especially Virginia.

Royal Governor Robert Dinwiddie, under orders from England, sent a letter to the French commander of the region, ordering him to leave the territory. He assigned the task of delivering the missive to militia Major George Washington. This sensitive mission was fraught with danger. It was critical not only that the letter reach the French commander, but also that Washington return with a full report of his observations and assessment of the situation. Washington succeeded in making the delivery and reported the French commander's rejection of the British demand. He also delivered detailed maps of the region and intelligence on the extent of the French occupation of the region. He urged Dinwiddie to build a fort at the confluence of the Ohio and Allegheny rivers. Within days, the governor sent a force to build the fort. Thus he unwittingly took the first step toward an

all out war.

In 1754, Dinwiddie appointed Washington a lieutenant colonel and sent him with 160 men to reinforce the colonial post at what is now Pittsburgh, Pa. Before Washington could get there, it was occupied by the French who renamed it Fort Duquesne. Washington moved within about 40 miles of the French position and built a defensive position which he called Fort Necessity. From this base, he attacked a reconnoitering French force, killing 10 French soldiers, including their commander, and capturing 21 prisoners with a loss of only one of his own men. It was his first trial by battle.

Retaliating for this incident, the French descended on Fort Necessity in full force. After an all-day fight, Washington surrendered to their superior numbers. Unfortunately for Washington, he could not speak or read French and his interpreter's supposed ability was very limited. Thus the French were able to insert language into the surrender agreement that included a confession that Washington deliberately attacked a peace delegation and killed the emissary. This charge was untrue, but the surrender document had George Washington's signature on it. Washington

## Celebrating George Washington

### SATURDAY/FEB. 15

#### George Washington's Birthday

**Celebration.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. There will be a hoeecake judging contest and samples given out while supplies last, enjoy a dancing demonstration, stories, and more. Everything is included in admission \$18/adult; \$9/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 16

#### George Washington's Birthday

**Celebration.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. There will be a hoeecake judging contest and samples given out while supplies last, enjoy a dancing demonstration, stories, and more. Everything is included in

admission \$18/adult; \$9/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

#### Revolutionary War Re-enactment.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Park. Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) for more.

**Walk with Washington.** 2 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Tour some of the sites associated with George Washington. Free. 703-746-3301.

### MONDAY/FEB. 17

**George Washington Birthday Parade.** 1-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. This year's parade grand marshal is Pamela Cressey, the first city archaeologist of Alexandria. Free.

was permitted to lead his men back to Virginia where his efforts were deemed valiant and courageous. The press in both London and Paris portrayed Washington as a hero despite his surrender.

Almost two years later, the French used Washington's 1754 attack as grounds for a declaration of war on the British and to

drum up popular support for their action. Americans refer to the ensuing conflict as the French and Indian War, but Europeans call it the Seven Years War. It became a world war encompassing North America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

# George Washington: Master of Guile and Deceit

The oft told legend is that George Washington could not tell a lie. The reality is that General Washington proved to be a master of guile and deceit. These qualities are among the principle reasons America won the War of Independence.

When asked about spies in the American Revolution, most Americans may recall Nathan Hale, caught spying in 1776 by the British and hanged. He was a 19-year-old Yale graduate who volunteered to go behind British lines in New York and report on the army. He uttered the famous line "I regret that I have only one life to give my country." Without a doubt he was very courageous, but those that have read in detail about this case have learned he was a real amateur in the game. Although he was able to gather a lot of intelligence, he put it in his boot and stopped off at a tavern for a drink while enroute to home. He was spotted and arrested with the goods on him.

On the other hand, there was George Washington, a true espionage professional, who masterminded highly successful spy networks. The Spy Museum in Washington,

D.C. has a featured display on what is characterized as the greatest and most professional spy ring of the Revolutionary War, "The Culper Spy Ring." This particular ring of spies was established in 1778 under the orders of Gen. George Washington and operated until the end of the war. It was given the mission of spying on the British army and reporting on troop movements, positions, fortifications and plans in the New York area. The ring continued to operate until the end of the war in 1783. The spies used elaborate codes and aliases as well as dead drops and invisible ink in the course of their activities. They provided a continuous stream of intelligence and are viewed today as the most successful spy operation by either side during the war. They have also been attributed with playing a key role in uncovering Benedict Arnold's treasonous activities.

The Culper spy ring was only one of the many spy networks operated by Washington. He personally directed a number of secret agents and double-agents. He preferred to provide instructions directly to his

agents and to debrief them personally. He believed this better ensured no misunderstandings and allowed him a better assessment of the value of the intelligence he received. His intelligence gathering was also matched by the misinformation he let out to the British to keep them off balance. All this clandestine work proved critical to the winning of the Revolutionary War.

The famous crossing of the Delaware and successful attack on Trenton was preceded by successful spying on the regiment of Hessian mercenaries that occupied the town. Washington's spy established positions, routine, pickets, and other important information about the enemy.

At the same time the spy planted misinformation on the state of the American army that lulled the Hessians into a lax state. Washington's attack on the day after Christmas thus succeeded in killing the Hessian commanding officer and capturing their entire force.

During the British occupation of Philadelphia in 1777, Washington directed one of his agents to allow phony muster lists that

overstated many times the actual strength of American army at Valley Forge; in fact the army was in a desperate condition. The British Commander, General Howe, recognized Washington's handwriting so he accepted the numbers as authentic and did not move to attack. At the same time Washington's agents kept him armed with details of British strength and intentions.

Another major espionage success involved keeping the British military commander, Sir Henry Clinton, bottled up in New York rather than aiding General Cornwallis at Yorktown. When Washington, along with the French, marched his army south to Yorktown, he had planted a host of misinformation implying the forces were maneuvering to attack New York. By the time Clinton realized Washington's real intention, it was too late for him to reinforce Cornwallis. The British defeat at Yorktown effectively ended the war for victory for the American colonies.

It is provident for Americans today that the old tale of Washington's unwillingness to tell a lie was not always true.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/FEB. 13

#### Post-employment Benefits (OPEB)

**Trust Board.** 8 a.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Steven Bland, [steven.bland@alexandriava.gov](mailto:steven.bland@alexandriava.gov), 703-746-3886.

#### Alexandria Works! Coalition

**Meeting.** 10 a.m. JobLink, 1900 Beaugard St. Contact Dennis McKinney, 703-746-5874.

**Program.** 1:30-3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Chet Avery will discuss ways on maximizing access to information. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1762.

**Commission on Aging.** 4 p.m. Human Services Building, 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave. Contact Debbie Ludington, 703-746-5692.

#### Waterfront Commission — Marina

**Committee.** 5 p.m. City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Jack Browand, [jack.browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jack.browand@alexandriava.gov), 703-746-5504.

**Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing.** 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Peter Leiber, 703-746-4666.

#### Alexandria Beautification

**Commission.** 7:30 p.m. Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron St. Contact Judy Lo, 703-

746-5940.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 14

#### Hopkins House Annual Awards Luncheon.

Noon at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Enjoy live music and more while community awards will be awarded. \$75/person and proceeds benefit the Hopkins House Children's Scholarship Fund. Visit [www.hopkinshouse.org](http://www.hopkinshouse.org).

#### City Council Legislative

**Subcommittee.** 5 p.m. City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Contact 703-746-4550.

**Family Fun Night.** 6-8 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Enjoy water activities, playing on the racquetball courts and more. \$4/resident; \$8/nonresident. Contact Ralph Baird at 703-746-5435 or email [ralph.baird@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ralph.baird@alexandriava.gov).

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 25

# HISTORY

## Washington's Military Credentials

In 1755, amid the French and Indian War, Major General Edward Braddock came to Alexandria as commander in chief of the British forces in North America. His immediate objective was capturing the French stronghold at Ft. Duquesne (now Pittsburgh). He left Alexandria with about 2,000 British regulars, 700 colonial militiamen, and a long train of supplies.

Having heard of Colonel Washington's excellent abilities, General Braddock invited him to become his special aide. Washington became the senior militia officer as Braddock's forces proceeded westward on what is now Braddock Road. After reaching the wilderness around Cumberland, Md., the army began building a road, now US Route 40. This undertaking slowed their progress, and Braddock feared the French would reinforce Ft. Duquesne before he could reach it. Adopting Washington's suggestion, he left the wagons behind with one of the two British regiments and pushed ahead with about two-thirds of his force. On July 9, 1755, while crossing the Monongahela River, he was met by about 900 Indians led by French and Canadian soldiers.

Accustomed only to European tactics, Braddock was surprised by the ambush, although Washington and others had tried to warn him and take precaution. The British regulars, unable to respond appropriately to the attack, were brutally cut down. Although very ill, Washington was at Braddock's side during the attack. As other

officers fell, Washington's role in the battle increased. He had two horses shot from under him, and four bullets went through his clothes, but he was unharmed.

The Colonial Militia under Washington broke their columns, fought "Indian Style" and suffered proportionately fewer losses. While the Indians stopped to scalp and gather trophies, the remaining Redcoats and Militia under Washington joined the rear guard and retreated safely to Ft. Cumberland. The battle's results were horrendous: the British lost 977 killed or wounded of 1,475 men, including 63 of the 89 officers. Braddock was mortally wounded; however, Washington's role in saving the remaining army elevated him in public esteem.

Colonel Dunbar, who commanded the rear of Braddock's army that had not participated in the battle, withdrew his men to Philadelphia.

Thus the entire border was at the mercy of French and Indian raids. Responding to the crisis, Gov. Dinwiddie authorized raising a regiment of 1,000 men under Colonel George Washington as commander in chief of all Virginia forces. This commission was the response to the general opinion that his actions evinced his military leadership and other estimable qualities. He was only a 23-year-old officer, but his actions had solidified his military credentials. His continued service during that war later made him the logical choice to lead the American Revolutionary Army.

## Founding Father for St. Mary's Catholic Church and Cemetery

After securing American independence, many of General Washington's staff from the Continental Army moved to Alexandria to be near their old commander. One of Washington's closest friends was his Aide de Camp, Col. John Fitzgerald, who served with him throughout the Revolutionary War. In his own right, he played a prominent role during the war. He was also a prominent citizen of Alexandria who was elected and served as its mayor 1786-7.

Washington and Fitzgerald remained close friends in the years following the war and Washington's retirement from the Presidency. What is not generally known is that Washington played a role as a founding father of St. Mary's Catholic Church and cemetery, the oldest Catholic parish and cemetery in Virginia. In 1795, Fitzgerald with the help of Washington founded the St. Mary's Church, along with the cemetery. St. Mary's is still located at the original site at 310 South Royal St. and the cemetery occupies an oblong plot between Royal and Washington streets, bounded on the north by St. Mary's School and on the south by the Interstate I-95 approach to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. It is enclosed by a wrought iron and brick fence with a gate at the north end at Washington Street indicating a "1795" date. There is a plaque at

the church which states:

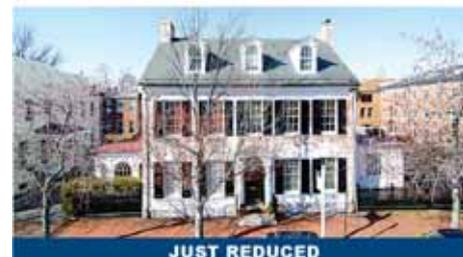
In grateful acknowledgement of their aid in establishing this church the three trees to the north of this stone have been dedicated as follows to General George Washington as subscriber to the building, Colonel John Fitzgerald, his favorite aide de camp, as the collector of the building fund, Colonel Robert Hoove, mayor of Alexandria, as the donor of the acre of land.

Fitzgerald died on Dec. 16, 1799. Although reported as having been buried at St. Mary's cemetery, the better evidence suggests he was buried across the Potomac River on property he owned in Maryland.

A few years ago the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution marked the grave of Private Lawrence Hurdle who died in 1848 at the age of 98. Full honors were provided, including a color guard. Two of the church parish priests participated in the ceremony. There is a brass plaque and commemorating marker at his grave in the Hurdle family plot that cites his service in the American Revolution. Members of the Hurdle family attended the program and remain members of the church.

Several other Revolutionary War soldiers are known to be buried in the cemetery. Unfortunately, the early records of burial

SEE FOUNDER OF, PAGE 25



**JUST REDUCED**  
**Old Town** \$2,495,000  
 711 Princess Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Rich in architectural detail, this grand 6-9BR home is one of Old Town's finest properties. Magnificent woodwork, 4 fps, pine floors, gorgeous garden & 5 off-street parking spaces.  
 Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



**OPEN SUN 1-4PM**  
**Plymouth Haven** \$1,550,000  
 8700 Plymouth Road, Alexandria, VA 22308  
 Beautiful new 4 lvl home on 1/2 acre in Plymouth Haven. New construction, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 2CG. Walk to schools and parks. Easy commute to Old Town or DC.  
 Michelle Mitchell 703-587-2140



**OPEN SUN 1-4PM**  
**Old Town** \$975,000  
 218 Fairfax Street N, Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Fabulous Historic Townhouse in the Heart of Old Town. This 2BR/Den with 2.5BA features Updated Gourmet Kitchen w Granite, SS, & Private Walled Garden.  
 Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



**Braddock Heights** \$895,000  
 2505 Central Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22302  
 Only a short stroll to George Mason Elementary School, this lovely 4BR + 3.5BA brick colonial offers 1st fl kitch/family addition opening onto fabulous outdoor entertaining area.  
 Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156/Beth Mazzanti 703-470-2489



**NEW LISTINGS**  
**Old Town** \$875,000  
 206 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Significant Morris Hepburn historic rowhouse. 2BR + Library/Guest BR, 2.5BAs, living room dual fireplaces, updated Eat-In Kitchen with Breakfast Bar, separate DR, so much more!  
 Jolee Rubin 703-548-0697



**NEW LISTINGS**  
**Alexandria House** \$825,000  
 400 Madison St 1108, Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Water, water everywhere! Corner 3BR converted to large Master w/ sit room & pvt bath. BR2 w/ BA2 in hall. Marble foyer w arches. ESIK. 2CG. www.AH1108.com for photos. Views!  
 Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



**OPEN SUN 1-4PM**  
**Mason Hill** \$779,900  
 1722 Hollinwood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307  
 Beautiful Center Hall Colonial in Mason Hill. This home has been updated inside & out. Enjoy a chef's gourmet kitchen & dining room, deck & patio, 2CG.  
 Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



**NEW LISTINGS**  
**Marina Towers** \$699,900  
 501 Slaters Lane 1101, Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Stunning Waterfront Condo on the Potomac! Custom 2BR + den/ZBA, gourmet kitchen w/ sleek finishes & limestone floors. Garage parking, on bike path in Old Town with pool.  
 Eloise Brantley 703-408-4887

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**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

**4821 Stillwell Ave**  
 \$529,500  
**Curb Appeal Galore!**  
 Character abounds in this fabulous Cap Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated. Many fabulous features include: 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificent half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland. **OPEN SUN 2/16, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-second Old Mill; R-Buckner; R-Stillwell.**

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

**4200 Ferry Landing Rd**  
 \$698,500  
**Spacious Colonial- Shows Like Model!**  
 Unique opportunity! This gorgeous 4BR Colonial is in impeccable condition, located on large lot and is loaded with upgrades. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Fab features: main level study and family room, large kitchen, breakfast area, finished LL, sumptuous master suite, stunning Brazilian Cherry floors, "Andersen" thermal windows, and 2 car garage. Property provides unique combination of size, condition and prime location. **OPEN SUN 2/16, 1-4. GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing.**

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

**8888 McNair Dr**  
 \$749,500  
**Five Bedroom Colonial- Prime Location!**  
 Stately three level Colonial in gorgeous setting on spacious landscaped lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in heart of Mt. Vernon. Property is exceptionally well maintained with many updates. Special features include main level library, open kitchen and family room, hardwood floors, 5BRs, luxury master suite with sitting room. Thermal windows and 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks gorgeous fenced grounds. Super value! **OPEN SUN 2/16, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mill; L-McNair.**

**OPEN SUN**

**9412 Old Mount Vernon Rd**  
**Craftsman Masterpiece!**  
 \$1,198,950  
 Former model by Wakefield Homes loaded with options and upgrades. Many fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, three finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage. Gorgeous location on elevated lot with extensive landscaping and custom stonework. Priced thousands below current price list. **OPEN SUN 2/16, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mount Vernon Rd to house on Right.**

**OPEN SUN**

**8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd**  
 \$859,000  
**Large Home- Totally Updated!**  
 One of a kind compound consisting of a luxurious 5645 sq ft home and a totally remodeled and updated 2BR cottage. Ideal situation for home office or extended family. New home has everything including 6BR, 7BA, custom kitchen open to family room, large living and dining rooms, main level study, stunning master suite, finished lower level and 3 car garage. Most home & lot for \$\$ in Mt. Vernon! **OPEN SUN 2/16, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mount Vernon Road.**

**JUST LISTED**

**9309 Reef Ct**  
 \$645,000  
**Three Level Colonial- Near River!**  
 Exceptionally attractive property on magnificent half acre grounds fronting quiet cul-de-sac in one of area's premier neighborhoods. Special features include: 3LVL, 4BR, 2.5BA, family room with fireplace off kitchen, gorgeous stained hardwood floors, economical gas heat and hot water, and oversized 2 car garage. Major upgrades include thermal windows and glass doors. Unique opportunity!

**CONTRACT**

**9009 Captains Row**  
 \$665,000  
**Great Opportunity!**

**9410 Coral Ln**  
 \$649,500  
**Yacht Haven- Near River!**

**JUST LISTED** **SOLD!**

**1938 Shiver Dr**  
 \$625,000  
**Totally Updated!**

**4325 Adrienne Dr**  
 \$598,950  
**Southwood Gem!**

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**Christie's International Real Estate Network vs. Sotheby's**

NUMBER OF SALES ASSOCIATES*	NUMBER OF OFFICES*
CHRISTIE'S: 25,185	CHRISTIE'S: 920
SOtheby's® INTERNATIONAL REALTY: 17,600	SOtheby's® INTERNATIONAL REALTY: 650

Source: Sotheby's International Realty Press Release, December 2012; Christie's International Real Estate Network, January 2012. \*in select areas

**CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE** **LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE EXTRAORDINARY PROPERTIES**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 255,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**6927 MARY CAROLINE CIR. #C**  
 2BR/2BA condo. Updated kitchen, baths, flooring, light fixtures and the list goes on... Plenty of parking.  
 Manchester Lakes amenities plus shopping / eateries / movies. Near Ft. Belvoir, Metro, I-495, and minutes to Old Town and DC.  
**Inderjeet Jumani 703.472.8804**

**\$ 274,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**"LOCATION"**  
 Located in the North End of Old Town, this 1BR/1BA is just a short walk to shops, restaurants and groceries. Updates in 2014 include refinished hardwoods, paint range, refrigerator, dishwasher, and bath. Newer cabinets. All this plus mere minutes to Reagan National Airport and DC. 2 blocks from the Potomac River hike/bike path.  
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**\$ 619,900**  
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**"CHARMING CAPE COD"**  
 • Expanded upper level  
 • Open floor plan  
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 • 2 master suites  
 • Large flat lot  
 • Cellar offers amazing storage  
 • New deck  
 • Off-street parking  
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**\$ 224,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**"SHOWS BEAUTIFULLY"**  
 Pristine 1BR facing courtyard - in popular community - many updates, upgrades: recently refinished wood floors, new stove, granite countertops, newer heating/cooling unit and more! Washer/Dryer in unit - on-site exercise room, outdoor pool, tennis management, plenty of parking! Low condo fees. one stop-light to GW Pkwy.  
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**\$ 1,280,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**"RARE OPPORTUNITY"**  
 • Beautifully updated 3 units multifamily townhouse  
 • MAIN LEVEL - 2 units - a brand new 1BR / 1 BA plus a lovely studio with exposed brick and high ceilings  
 • TOP UNIT - 2BR / 2BA with living room, separate dining room, gourmet kitchen and den  
**Martine & Alexander Irmr 703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465**

**\$ 1,650,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**"ELEGANT CIRCA 1860 TH"**  
 • Open floor plan  
 • Drenched in light  
 • Hardwood floors throughout  
 • Gourmet kitchen with family room  
 • 2 separate basements  
 • 2 off-street parking  
 • Double lot (2,880 sq ft - #520 and #522)  
 • 2 fireplaces  
**Martine & Alexander Irmr 703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 378,500**  
**Arlington**  
**1320 WAYNE ST**  
 PRICE REDUCED! Seller wants contract for this cozy 1BR/1BA with fireplace just steps from Metro, popular bistros, shops, movies, Trader Joe's and more. Large and spacious unit with crown moldings, MB has walk-in closet, 1 covered/secure garage space, pool and gym.  
**Bill Porter@LNF.com 703.409.0555**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 575,000**  
**Alex / Waywood**  
**8407 FORT HUNT RD**  
 Popular Waywood neighborhood, walk to schools, park, pool. Well maintained 2 level home with large carpet ready for move in! 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, large lower level with bonus room and family room.  
**D'Antonio Realty Group www.waynewoodrealtors.com Anita D'Antonio & Elke Kohler 202.460.1809 or 703.967.7633**

**\$ 1,059,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**"SEMINARY RIDGE"**  
 Sited on a quiet cul-de-sac, an expanded and renovated Colonial by builder with \$200K+ of quality upgrades. Gourmet kitchen, wet bar, laundry area, formal living and dining rooms, family room with wood-burning fireplace and half bath plus office area on ML. 4BRs and 2 spa-like baths on UL. Finished LL has vast living space. 2nd kitchen area and full bath. 2 car garage with hi-tech flooring tiles.  
**Michael Manuel 703.615.6317**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 749,000**  
**Hollin Hills**  
**1944 MARTHAS RD**  
 Come see this wonderful and spacious 1 level Mid-Century Contemporary. Walls of windows and 5 skylights contribute to lots of light and beautiful views. The house boasts 4/5BRs, lovely hardwood floors, a wood-burning fireplace, eat-in kitchen, great storage space and a separate laundry room. Easy access to Old Town, airport and DC.  
**Annelise Smith 703.505.2533**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 775,000**  
**Alexandria City**  
**315 VASSAR RD**  
 Spacious 4BR/4BA split level has over 3,000 sq ft, wood floors, main level au-pair/in-law suite with private entrance, family room with fireplace off kitchen, full walk-out LL and incredible storage. Home has been well-maintained and awaits your updates. Walk to MacArthur School!  
**Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433 Emily Capelli 703.472.1282**

**RENTALS**

**6631 Wakefield Dr #817 \$1,250**  
 River Towers Hi-Rise 2BR / 1.5BA  
 Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

**1706 Abingdon Dr #101 \$1,250**  
 Potomack Crossing Garden 1BR / 1BA  
 Brad Kintz 703.629.0103

**3104 Wellington Rd \$1,950**  
 ParkFairfax Townhouse 2BR / 1BA  
 Elke Kohler 703.967.7633

**320 S West St #105 \$3,150**  
 Duke Condominium Garden 2BR / 2BA 1 Garage & 1 Assigned  
 Don Hatley, Jr. 202.329.6818

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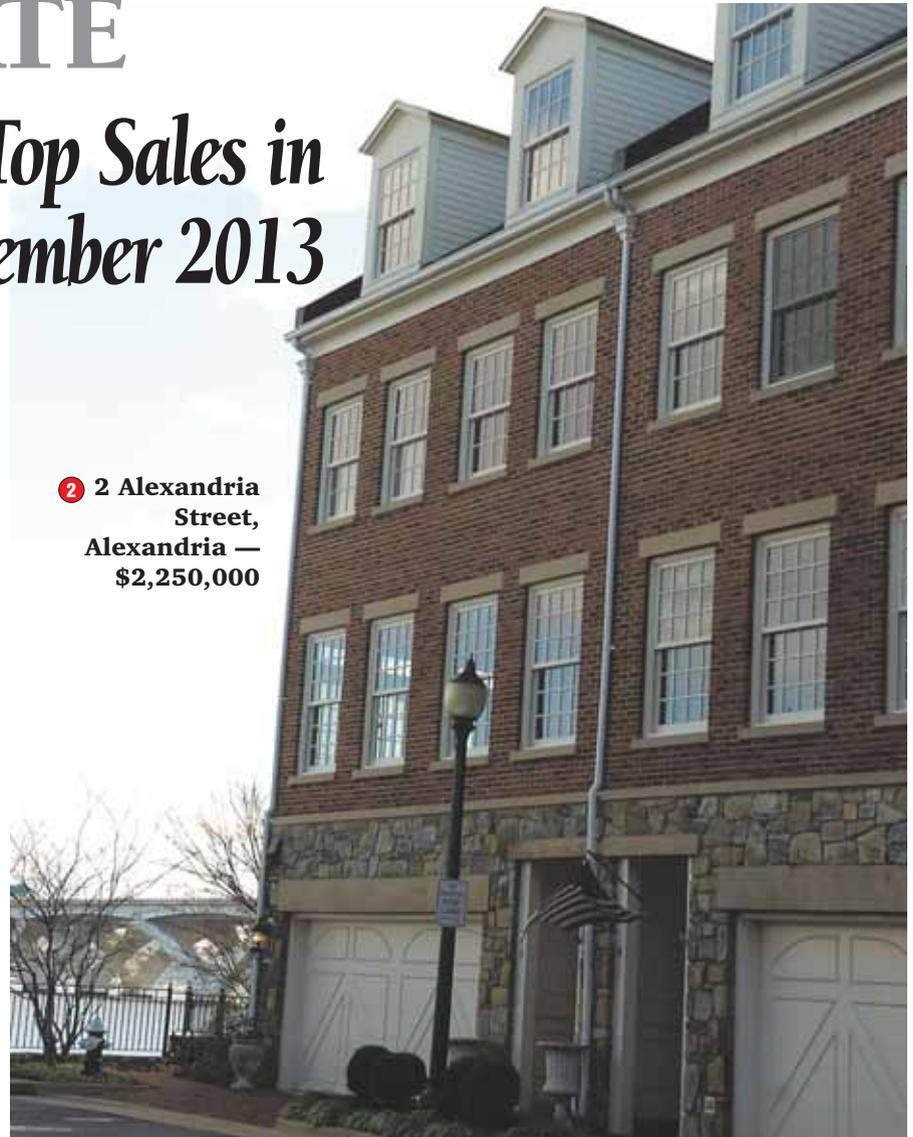
# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

## Alexandria & Mount Vernon Top Sales in November and December 2013



**2** 2 Alexandria Street, Alexandria — \$2,250,000



**9** 414 Alexandria Avenue East, Alexandria — \$1,310,212

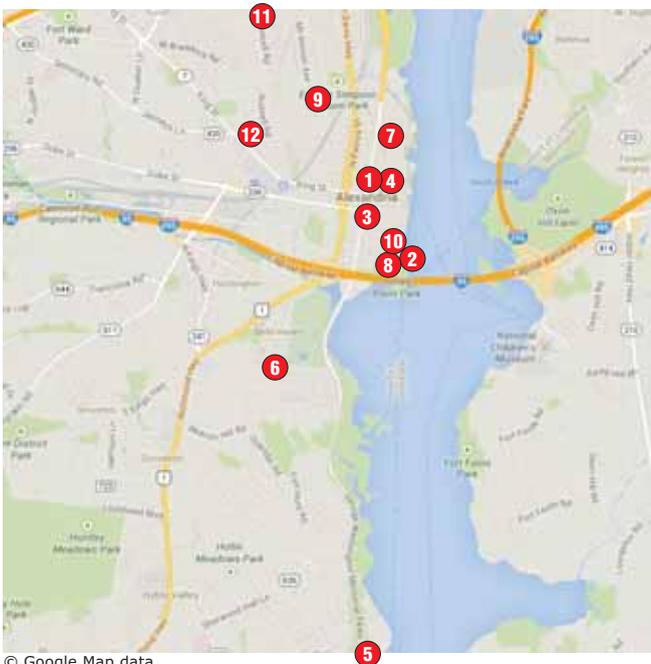


**11** 2805 Russell Road, Alexandria — \$1,255,000



**12** 308 Masonic View Avenue, Alexandria — \$1,210,000

**10** 711 Union Street South, Alexandria — \$1,375,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 212 SAINT ASAPH ST	5	..	4	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,800,000	Detached	0.17	22314	OLD TOWN	11/25/13
2 2 ALEXANDER ST	3	..	3	..	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,250,000	Semi-Detached	0.04	22314	FORDS LANDING	11/30/13
3 317 SAINT ASAPH ST S	5	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,000,000	Detached	0.14	22314	OLD TOWN	11/21/13
4 221 ROYAL ST N	4	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,950,000	Townhouse	0.08	22314	OLD TOWN	12/06/13
5 8108 BOULEVARD DRE	5	..	4	..	1	MOUNT VERNON	\$1,750,000	Detached	0.99	22308	WELLINGTON	12/19/13
6 1911 WINDSOR RD	5	..	6	..	2	MOUNT VERNON	\$1,657,500	Detached	0.48	22307	BELLE HAVEN	12/30/13
7 400 MADISON ST #2206	3	..	2	..	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,525,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22314	ALEXANDRIA HOUSE	12/16/13
8 724 UNION ST S	3	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,375,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	FORDS LANDING	12/31/13
9 414 ALEXANDRIA E	5	..	4	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,310,212	Detached	0.15	22301	DEL RAY	11/01/13
10 711 UNION ST S	4	..	4	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,300,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	BACKYARD BOATS	11/15/13
11 2805 RUSSELL RD	5	..	4	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,255,000	Detached	0.23	22305	DEL RAY	11/20/13
12 308 MASONIC VIEW AVE	4	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.24	22301	ROSEMONT	11/20/13

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# Home Design: What the Pros Know

**A look inside the homes of some of the area's top builders.**

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**emodeling industry professionals spend their days helping clients create dream homes, adding quartzite counter tops and outdoor, stacked stone fireplaces, turning ideas and photos into functional, chic living spaces.

But what about their homes? What materials do they choose for themselves? How do they make the most of their living spaces? Three local professionals from BOWA Builders, Inc. opened their doors and shared the secrets of their renovations.

When principal and owner George Hodges-Fulton and his wife, Alexandra, decided to remodel the galley kitchen in their Reston home, they decided to expand and change the flow of traffic, keeping the safety of their 6- and 10-year-old daughters in mind.

"We wanted to open the house up more," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We took out a wall between kitchen and the dining room."

Alexandra Hodges-Fulton, a serious cook, added, "The sink and the stove were across from each other. Now the sink and the stove are next to each other, so I don't have to walk across the kitchen carrying hot pasta."

Plus, the new farmhouse sink is custom-made from honed granite. "I originally wanted soapstone, but over time that can scratch," she said.

The new kitchen also includes additional counter space. "I have more prep space," she said. "And everything I need is within arm's reach."

When it came to choosing finishes, "everything came from wanting to work with the [existing maple] floor," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We wanted to choose classic colors that weren't going to go out of style."

"I spent a huge amount of time looking at pictures of kitchens," said Alexandra



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOWA BUILDERS, INC.

**Steve Kirstein, principal at BOWA Builders, Inc. turned what he called "a big wasted space" into a mudroom complete with a cubby and drawer for each child.**

Hodges-Fulton. "We added white Carrara marble countertops. ... We added a marble backsplash in a black, white and grey circular mosaic. That's the thing that everybody comments on when they come into the kitchen."

The project took a mere five weeks to complete. "Everything happened perfectly," added George Hodges-Fulton. "Having on-site supervision and knowing the end goal helped."

He says that having undergone his own renovation project, he now has additional insight when advising clients. "It makes a significant difference," he said. "We can say 'In my house I did this.' or 'I did this wrong in my house, so you might consider this.'"

When principal and owner Steve Kirstein first moved into his Potomac, Md., home with his wife and three children, he spotted several missed design opportunities. "We needed some of the spaces to do different things," said Kirstein. "We wanted a family gathering space and a display space upstairs."

The home had a two-story foyer, which Kirstein saw as the perfect location for a second floor family room. He added "flooring, sheetrock walls, built-in bookcases and display cases. Now it's a gathering space for the family upstairs and we still have a dramatic foyer downstairs."

Next, Kirstein turned what he called, "a big wasted space" adjacent to the garage into a mudroom. "We put a cubby and drawer for each child and a bench for taking off shoes. We added a half wall across from the cubbies so you can't see all of the cleats and lacrosse sticks all over the floor. We also added a powder room."

Kirstein also transformed his backyard into an oasis. "We added a pool and entertaining area," he said. "We redid every finish in the house."

I liked those small touches because they were simple and easy and changed the way the house looked."

Founder, cochairman and owner Josh Baker grew up in Great Falls and when it came time to raise his family, he remained

there. He even built a custom home where he plans to live long-term. "A lot of planning went into the future," said Baker. "The concept behind it was we would create a fun space for our children that their children could eventually enjoy."

He advises his clients to similarly plan ahead and think about how their needs might evolve. "To make it a long-term home is to not think about just what you need now, but what you might need in the future," he said. "We designed a guest suite on the first floor with the idea that my wife and I could live on one floor once we're empty nesters." There is enough space for friends and extended family.

Baker said each time he and his wife updated the house, they did so judiciously. "We made smart decisions about small things that make a big difference. For example, we changed tiles to make it up-to-date without a huge remodel," he said.

Baker's experience as a builder helped him decide on the room sizes and layout of the house. "In terms of design, a lot of our house has a focus on lines of sight, informality and lots of light. ... On our first floor, there are no partition walls in the common area."

The rooms in the house are generous and comfortable and space was used wisely, Baker said. "We focused on the feeling and functionality of the room rather than the size of the room," he said. "None of the rooms are oversized, but they are functional."

Wise use of space is another lesson he shares with clients. "At one time, bedrooms with sitting rooms were very popular," said Baker. "But ... a lot of our clients don't use them so we're repurposing those spaces. In our master bedroom, for example, we focused on walk-in closets. Even our master bathroom is spacious, but it is not vast."

The Bakers designed their outdoor landscape to accommodate their penchant for relaxed entertaining. "We're informal folks," said Baker. "We like to entertain, so we developed our landscaping to include an expansive entertaining area and a swimming pool. We have a lot of outdoor parties. We can accommodate a large group in our yard as well."

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## Fuse Box Lights Up the Wammie Awards

Five teenagers from Alexandria nominated for Best New Artist at this year's Wammie awards.

BY AMBER HEALY  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**mong the eight acts up for new artist of the year at this year's Washington Area Music Association Wammie Awards, most won't have to worry about getting up for high school the next morning.

Fuse Box, five musicians — seniors and juniors at St. Stephens & St. Agnes and T.C. Williams high schools in Alexandria and Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. — who discovered their love of music at a young age, have been playing together in some form or another for several years, and as a fully-fledged band for nearly four years.

But ask them the first song they learned to play, and it's music that predates them by decades.

For bassist Augustus "Auggie" Koch, it was either "Just Got Paid" by ZZ Top or "Twist and Shout" by the Beatles. Luis Milburn, the band's rhythm guitarist, learned the classic rock staple "Smoke on the Water," by Deep Purple, the rest of the band nodding in acknowledgment that most people teach themselves the six opening notes when first picking up a guitar. Keyboardist and rhythm guitarist Perry Connor first learned Cream's "Sunshine of Your Love."

The battle for most embarrassing first song learned comes down to singer and drummer Kent Jenkins, and lead guitarist Ian Lloyd. Jenkins learned the song "Five Fat Turkeys Are We," which he performed as an audition piece for a role in "Ragtime" (he got the part). Lloyd learned the newest song among the group, Paolo Nutini's "New Shoes."

For the five teenagers, classic rock from the '60s and '70s is the foundation upon which they've built their band and from which their original compositions are inspired.

Led Zeppelin is "probably the most influential band for us," Jenkins said.

"I remember being in Luis' basement lis-



**Fuse Box, a band from Alexandria, is one of eight bands up for Best New Artist at the Washington Area Music Association's annual Wammie awards this week. From left are Perry Connor, Luis Milburn, Ian Lloyd, Kent Jenkins and Augustus "Auggie" Koch.**

tening to the 'Mothership' album, and that's when we decided to start a band," Koch said.

Fuse Box started playing covers, including a lengthy list of classic rock covers like Led Zeppelin's "Houses of the Holy" to Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" and Jimi Hendrix's "Fire," but are evolving into writing their own songs and playing more of them in their live sets.

"I for one prefer, and I think I speak for all of us, to play our own songs," Lloyd said. "It's an expression of our musical interests."

Playing covers was a necessity when they were first starting out, but the ratio is starting, slowly to tilt, Jenkins said. Being young and not having as much life experience yet, that might restrain the ability to write autobiographical songs, but it's something he, and the rest of the band, look forward to trying out in the future.

Their EP, "The Fuse Box EP" contains six original songs and was submitted by the band for consideration in the Best Rock Song category in this year's Wammies. But instead, they are in the running, with eight other bands, for best new artists.

When they got the news a few weeks ago, they were blown away, the five musicians agreed. It was fully unexpected, but a complete thrill.

"I had to jump back," Connor said.

"It was amazing," Milburn added.

"It's a nice label to put on things," Koch said, like how actors can be billed as Oscar-nominated or musicians can be touted as Grammy nominated. It's a nod of quality.

While winning would be extraordinary for them — they'll find out Feb. 16, being nominated is enough to make them even more excited to keep performing.

"We're going to keep making music, keep playing. We want to keep writing songs," Milburn said. Now that some of the band

members have college applications out of the way, that frees up some school time for band work. Already the band practices, faithfully, once or twice a week.

Milburn and Lloyd are also interested in behind-the-scenes work, becoming "amateur sound engineers" in the process, Milburn said.

They're also eager to get back into the studio, but will have to write a few more songs first.

The members of Fuse Box are excited to

see where the future takes them, regardless of what that might sound like. As they're growing up and expanding their musical interests and tastes, it's a great mystery and adventure what their sound will be like next month, or next year.

"I think we've already evolved a little," Koch said.

"If we can blend things together, I think it's worth a try," Connor said.

The songs yet to be written will be "an expression of our creativity, an expression of our development, for who we are as artists," Jenkins said.

"For each of us, it's a different thing."

"It can't feel forced," Lloyd added.

There's one thing the band is certain of: Their

families have their backs. Each of them went to great lengths detailing the amount of time and energy their parents and teachers have spent encouraging them, supporting them, doing the less thrilling work like writing press releases and fliers for gigs and embracing their dream of being musicians.

"Look at everything we do and there's a parent behind us," Milburn said.

### Details

Just ahead of the Wammie Awards, Fuse Box will perform at DC Productions' show and video shoot — 4 the Love of Rock. Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m.-2 p.m. at 2375 Lewis Avenue, Rockville, Md. \$10. Call 301-672-8007.

For more information on Fuse Box and to hear some of their songs, visit [www.fuseboxband.net](http://www.fuseboxband.net).

### CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit.** See a solo photographic exhibit "Darkness Visible" by Timothy Hyde at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union

St. Runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 16. Hyde's photography examines the mysteries hidden in the shadows. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Theater Performance.** Arts on the Horizon presents "Under the Canopy," a 20-minute interactive, nonverbal show for children up to age 4. Performances are Feb. 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21, 23 at 10:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$5/

person. Visit [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) for tickets. They can be purchased at the door.

**Celebrate Black History Month.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Through Feb. 28 at Mount Vernon Estate. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated

the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. A wreathlaying and presentation occurs daily at the slave memorial site throughout the month of February. Black History Month activities are included in admission: adults, \$18; senior citizens, \$17; children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$9; and children under age 5, free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) or 703-780-

2000.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Reincarnations" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features art from salvaged items, art from encyclopedias and more. Free. Runs through March 2. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Frances Gallardo: Meteorology" through March 2 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo

# ENTERTAINMENT

Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/target](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target).

**Art Exhibit.** See "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints by Chantilly resident Peter Toth in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs through March 16. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html).

**Art Exhibit.** See Katie Rrunnerstrom's drawings and paintings through March 16 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The show reflects her exploration of several areas of science such as mycology and the study of jellyfish. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

**Theater Performance.** See "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., through March 16. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets may be ordered by calling 1-800-494-8497 or online at [boxofficeickets.com](http://boxofficeickets.com). For group sales and information call the theatre at 703-548-9044. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "7th and H Streets, NW: The Hidden Refrain of Inner City DC" by Fred Zafran at Multiple Exposures Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Feb. 18-March 30. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/) for more.

**Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition.** At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23. 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](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or call 703-746-4994.

**Art Exhibit.** "Portraits of Pop Culture art exhibit will be on display at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see artists' interpretation of pop culture, featuring compelling cartoons, lampoons and caricatures of celebrities, politicians, pundits and other pop figures. Show runs March 7-30. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** "Women Legends of Alexandria: 2007-2013" art exhibit will be on display at Prudential PenFed Realty, 300 N. Washington St., suite 100. The exhibit will showcase portraits from the Living Legends of Alexandria project with selected works from the Del Ray Artisans. Show runs March 3-June 27. Hours are Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**New Exhibit.** Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington's design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, "Gardens & Groves: George Washington's Landscape" at Mount Vernon opening Feb. 22 through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington's landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Metro Club After-School Program.** Through June, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an 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 will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Just drop-in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

**Photography Workshop.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

**Dance Classes.** Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, #4, will hold adult classes starting in February. Ten percent of the fees will be donated to American Heart Association. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org) or 703-339-0444 for a schedule.

## CONTEST

**Spotlight on Pet Adoptions.** From Jan. 27 to Feb.14, ACTION Alexandria is holding a photo contest for animal lovers in Alexandria. Participants are asked to post a photo of their adopted pet on ACTION with a short description of their pet. All contest participants are encouraged to sign up to be a Social Media Animal Ambassador for an animal who has been in either King Street Cats or the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria for a longer period of time. To participate visit [actionalexandria.org](http://actionalexandria.org).

## TICKETS NOW ON SALE

**Attics and Alleys Tour.** Tickets are now on sale for the Attics and Alleys tour, a three-hour walking tour featuring rarely seen spaces of four sites — the Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Carlyle House. Tours will be offered every Saturday in May from 9 a.m.-noon. \$35/peron. Reservations required. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 13

**Reception.** 6-8 p.m., curator talk with Laura Roulet at 7 p.m. at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/target](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target) for more.

**Book Making Celebration.** 6 p.m. at Jefferson Houston School, 1501 Cameron St. Parents and children can create their own family history book.

**Second Thursday Music.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Singer/guitarist Bill Thomas performs with Larry Tapper on harmonica. \$10/door or in advance. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Steve Earle will perform. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 14

**Music Performance.** 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Alexandria Harmonizers will perform. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Benefit.** 3-7 p.m. at Ten Thousand

Villages, 915 King St. Browse chocolate, coffee, candles, jewelry and more. A percentage of sales will be donated to the Fair Trade Alexandria campaign. Visit [www.fairtradecampaigns.org](http://www.fairtradecampaigns.org).

**Valentine Tea.** 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children age 3 and up can sample different teas, sweets and make a valentine for someone special. There will also be music to dance to. \$15. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or 703-642-5173.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jake Armerding will open for Eddie from Ohio. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Teen Production.** 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See MVCCT's production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." \$12. Visit [mvctt.org](http://mvctt.org) for more.

**Speed Dating.** 8 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Enjoy art viewing, conversation, goodie bags and more. Must be 21 and older. \$5/person. RSVP by 5 p.m. day of. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**George Washington's Birthnight Banquet and Ball.** 5:30-11 p.m., with the ball to open at 9 p.m. in the ballroom at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. The re-creation celebrates the famous party held for Washington's birthday and includes dinner, dancing, desserts, character re-enactors and more. \$120/person or \$50/ball only. Ticket options for dining in a room or at the same table with the Washingtons. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

**Teen Production.** 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See MVCCT's production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." \$12. Visit [mvctt.org](http://mvctt.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jake Armerding will open for Eddie from Ohio. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Author Discussion.** 10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria Archaeology, 105 N. Union St., #327. Meet authors Char McCargo Bah, Christa Watters, Audrey P. Davis, Gwendolyn Brown-Henderson and James E. Henson Sr. for a discussion of their new book. Experience the narratives of Alexandria's African Americans who helped to shape not only their hometown but also the world around them. Free.

**George Washington's Birthday Celebration.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. There will be a hoecake judging contest and samples given out while supplies last, enjoy a dancing demonstration, stories, and more. Everything is included in admission \$18/adult; \$9/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Kim Allen Kluge presents "To Be Passionate," featuring works by Gershwin, Wagner, Debussy and more. \$5/18 and under; \$10/student; \$20+ adult. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/) for tickets or 703-548-0885.

**Show.** 6 p.m.-2 a.m. at 2375 Lewis Ave., Rockville. Fuse Box will be one of the bands that performs in "4 the Love of Rock." \$10/person or \$20/BYOB per person. Visit

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# ENTERTAINMENT

[www.facebook.com/events/213767218814762/](http://www.facebook.com/events/213767218814762/) for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 16

**George Washington Classic 10K or 2K Fun Run.** 8 a.m. at Eisenhower Ave. \$40/10K; \$10/2K. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) to register.

**George Washington's Birthday Celebration.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. There will be a hoecake judging contest and samples given out while supplies last, enjoy a dancing demonstration, stories, and more. Everything is included in admission \$18/adult; \$9/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Revolutionary War Re-enactment.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Park. Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) for more.

**George Washington Goes to the Theatre.** 2 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Enjoy a community play reading of "Cato" by Joseph Addison, George Washington's favorite play. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) for more.

**Downton Abbey Tours.** 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The current owner of Highclere Castle, the real world castle where Downton Abbey is filmed, is a direct descendent of the original owner of Lee-Fendall House. The tour will compare similarities between people and places within the world of the television series and those of Lee-Fendall House and also include the rarely seen servant's wing and kitchen area. \$5/advance; \$7/day of. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or 703-548-1789 for tickets.

**Madeira Tasting with President Washington.** 3 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Taste four Madeira wines (George Washington's favorite drink) and get insight into their production plus food pairings. \$45. Visit

[www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) for more.

**Teen Production.** 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See MVCCT's production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." \$12. Visit [mvcct.org](http://mvcct.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Kim Allen Kluge presents "To Be Passionate," featuring works by Gershwin, Wagner, Debussy and more. \$5/18 and under; \$10/student; \$20+ adult. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/) for tickets or 703-548-0885.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform Rachmaninoff and more. Pre-concert discussion at 2:15 p.m. \$20/adult; free for children 18 and under. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or 703-799-8229.

**Documentary.** 6:30 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Watch a free documentary of "Dark Side of Chocolate." Visit [www.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com) or [www.darksideofchocolate.org](http://www.darksideofchocolate.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Singer-songwriters Julie Clark and Lara Herscovitch will perform. \$18/general; \$15/advance or member. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or 703-380-3151.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jake Armerding will open for Eddie from Ohio. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Walk with Washington.** 2 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Tour some of the sites associated with George Washington. Free. 703-746-3301.

## MONDAY/FEB. 17

**President's Day Celebration.** Alexandria resident Bill Young will portray a gentleman named William from Virginia's colonial days and discuss life on the nearby Mount Vernon plantation. Located Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living Community, 3709 Shannons Green Way. Visit

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Share the Love: Adopt a New Family Member

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will be holding a Valentine's Day Adoption Event, Friday, Feb. 14, from 1-8 p.m. The AWLA has many different types of pets available for adoption, featuring dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets and guinea pigs. A select number of adoptable animals will have their adoption fees waived for the event as part of the Adopt It Forward program.

All adopted animals will go home with a gift bag. Every animal adopted from the AWLA is spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated. Normal adoption guidelines will apply. Consider bringing the whole family to pick out a pet.

The AWLA also invites those who are not currently able to adopt to share some "Valentine's Day Love" with the animals this Valentine's Day. Many small animals will be available and would love to get some special attention. There will be homemade treats and Valentine's candy for all visitors.

Call 703-746 4774 or visit [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF AWLA

**Dash**

[www.springhillsmountvernon.com](http://www.springhillsmountvernon.com) or call 703-650-0779.

**George Washington's Birthday Celebration.** Enjoy free admission at Mount Vernon Estate in honor of George Washington's birthday. From 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. There will be a traditional wreathlaying at 10 a.m., followed by patriotic music and military performances. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Breakfast and Meeting.** 9-10:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, this annual tradition at the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria Hotel features "George Washington's" first appearance of the day, plus an address by a distinguished speaker and breakfast. Tickets: \$30. Ticket information at [www.friendshipfire.net](http://www.friendshipfire.net) or at 703-751-6416.

**Tomb Ceremony.** From 11 a.m.-noon Colonial military and civilians honor the soldiers of the Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) for more.

**Open House.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St. Free admission. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse](http://www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse) or call 703-838-3891.

**Historic Alexandria Open Houses.** Times vary. Admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Carlyle House, Christ Church, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) for more.

**George Washington Birthday Parade.** 1-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. This year's Parade Grand Marshal is Pamela Cressey, the first City Archaeologist of Alexandria. Free.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 18

**Special Tour.** 1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Take a special tour of the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington. Included in admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) or 703-780-2000.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

**Summer Camp Fair.** 5:30-8 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. More than 60 exhibitors will represent a wide range of day and overnight camps for children of all ages. There will be art, academics, sports, engineering, special needs and more. Free. Pizza available for

purchase. Visit [www.acps.k12.va.us/ptac/summer-camp-fair.php](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/ptac/summer-camp-fair.php).

**Square Dance Lessons.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. All ages can enjoy dancing taught by Boomerangs Square Dance Teaching Council. Free. Visit [www.boomerangsquare.org](http://www.boomerangsquare.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The United States Air Force Symphony Orchestra will perform. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**African Jewelry Making.** 5:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Rec Center, 905 Wythe St. Families can learn about the history of African jewelry while create their own piece.

**Lecture Series.** 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. "Excavations at the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery and the Concept of the Proper Coffin in the Mid-19th Century" is the topic.

**Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. The sixth-graders will perform "Burgundy on Broadway: Heroes and Legends," a musical revue that spans "Spamalot" to "Footloose" to "Hercules." \$5/person; \$1/child at the door.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 21

**Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. The sixth-graders will perform "Burgundy on Broadway: Heroes and Legends," a musical revue that spans "Spamalot" to "Footloose" to "Hercules." \$5/person; \$1/child at the door.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**Show.** Max Major will perform his show "THINK: An Evening of Mind Reading and Magic." Major uses a combination of magic, mind-reading, psychology, hypnosis, and suggestion to demonstrate the untapped powers of the mind. At Old Town Theater, 815 King St. \$32/general; \$49/VIP. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) for tickets and times.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Wedding Open House.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kimpton's Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Couples can tour the hotel and see the ballroom, courtyard and guest rooms, taste food, meet with wedding professionals and vendors and more. Raffle prizes will be drawn throughout the day. Couples can RSVP to [weddings@monaco-alexandria.com](mailto:weddings@monaco-alexandria.com)

[www.monaco-alexandria.com](http://www.monaco-alexandria.com) or [www.jackson20.com](http://www.jackson20.com) for more.

**Walk with Washington.** 2 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Tour some of the sites associated with George Washington. Free. 703-746-3301.

**Downton Abbey Tours.** 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The current owner of Highclere Castle, the real world castle where Downton Abbey is filmed, is a direct descendant of the original owner of Lee-Fendall House. The tour will compare similarities between people and places within the world of the television series and those of Lee-Fendall House and also include the rarely seen servant's wing and kitchen area. \$5/advance; \$7/day of. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org) or 703-548-1789 for tickets.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear chamber music of Brahms and Beethoven. \$10 suggested donation. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum) or call 703-838-4994.

**Dance Performance.** 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. See "I Missed It" by Jane Franklin Dance Company. \$20. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or 703-933-1111.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 25

**Swing Dance.** 9-10:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Dance to music by Shannon Gunn and the Bullettes. \$10. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) or 703-359-9882.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

**Book Making Celebration.** 6:30 p.m. at Cora Kelly STEM School, 3600 Commonwealth Ave. Parents and children can create their own family history book.

**Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. "Archaeology of the War of 1812: From Barney's Flotilla to Bladensburg." Presented by the Office of Historic Alexandria and Alexandria Historical Society.

**DJ Dance Party.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Swing dance to music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s and more. \$6. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) or 703-359-9882.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 27

**Benefit.** 6-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 S. Union St. Portion of the proceeds benefit the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. Hear live music by Molly Winston duo. Visit [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://www.alexandriaseaport.org) for more.

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

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

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**Kim Allen Kluge will conduct from the piano at the ASO's Valentine's weekend performances, when "Rhapsody for Lily" will debut.**

# Inspired: 'Rhapsody for Lily'

BY KIM ALLEN KLUGE  
MUSIC DIRECTOR,  
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A friend recently shared with me, "When a child is born you celebrate not only the birth of the child, but also the birth of father and mother." The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's upcoming Valentine's Day themed concerts on Feb. 15 and 16 at the Rachel M Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center are extraordinary concerts for me, and extra-personal ones, as I conduct these programs as a new father, and will be premiering an original work composed by me and my wife Kathryn, inspired by the birth of our child.

For these Valentine's concerts I have also programmed our most often requested symphonic "love music" including music from Prokofiev's "Romeo & Juliet," Wagner's "Tristan & Isolde," Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun," and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," where I will be performing double-duty as pianist and conductor.

As composers, Kathryn and I tried to imagine and musically illustrate what our daughter Lily was hearing from the womb in our composition, "Rhapsody for Lily." Music inspired by children certainly exists but to my knowledge "Rhapsody for Lily" is the first instance of music inspired "from the womb." The idea for our piece came to us from Lily's ultrasounds. Kathryn and I were completely enthralled by the primal and otherworldly sounds emanating from the womb. We were utterly fascinated and captivated by this wondrously exotic, mysterious and powerful "music."

In "Rhapsody for Lily" we conjure the astonishing range and sheer musicality of this magical "amniotic fluid music" — sometimes gently swooshing, other-times quite thunderous indeed, like a mighty ocean. At times the music is very fast ("molto allegro") and loud ("fortissimo") like Lily's own heartbeat in the ultrasounds. In "Rhapsody for Lily" one can also hear and feel the omnipresent, relentless and comforting beat of Kathryn's heart.

Throughout the pregnancy Kathryn and I were absolutely delighted to learn just how much Lily could hear from the mysterious "world without" and

her ability to recognize and differentiate between different music and melodies, even months before being born. Lily was able to discern voices, especially the sound of her mother's voice. To familiarize Lily with my voice I would nightly lay close to her head and serenade her. I would also do nightly "dramatic readings." ("Frog and Toad" was one of Lily's favorites. She would immediately stop kicking and delight in the adventures of her beloved imaginary friends.)

Lily has had a very special relationship to the piano from the very beginning. Daily she would hear Kathryn's piano students but she seemed to respond most when Kathryn played and sang. Sometimes Lily heard the music of past masters — she liked tempestuous Beethoven and appassionato Chopin — but Lily seemed most enamored when Kathryn would improvise her own music at the piano. Kathryn has an extraordinary gift for melody (not surprising — Kathryn's middle name is Foster, named after her paternal ancestor, the legendary Stephen Foster, America's first great tune-smith.) Her voice is a lyric coloratura — a fancy way of saying it is high, light and flexible, with the purity of a boy soprano.

So Kathryn's engaging piano melodies and the "boys choir" sound of her voice are suggested throughout "Rhapsody for Lily." These elements not only underscore the visceral relationship between mother and child but also the very genesis behind the naming of Lily Katarina YungAe Kluge. Katarina is my nickname for Kathryn (because we were married in Italy) and YungAe (which means "Flower of Love") is my deceased mother's name. Kathryn and I wanted to give Lily a name that honored several generations of the remarkable women in her lineage.

The entire piece has a hypnotic "underwater" quality to it. Perhaps most mesmerizing and comforting of all are the sounds that we imagine Lily perceiving from the "world without" — her mother's voice and piano music — muffled, mysterious, beckoning...

Lily was born just two hours past Christmas — the most precious Christmas gift ever. "Rhapsody for Lily" was composed with much love and affection, and Kathryn and I are so pleased to present this gift to you as a musical Valentine at these love-inspired Valentine's weekend concerts.

See you at the concerts.

## MAESTRO MUSINGS

## Details

See the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or 703-548-0885.

## AT THE LIBRARY

**Beatley Library**, 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1702.  
**Duncan Library**, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Call 703-746-1705.  
**Burke Branch Library**, 4701 Seminary Road. Call 703-746-1704.  
**Barrett Branch Library**, 717 Queen St. Call 703-746-1703.  
Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

### ONGOING

**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.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 13

**Make a Valentine.** All day at Barrett Branch Library. All ages can make a valentine for a friend or loved one. Free.

**Mother Goose Story Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.

**Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free.

**Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free.

**Little One-Ders.** 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.

**Story Time.** 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.

**Blockbuster Thursday.** 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library. Call for title. Free.

**Knit Nite.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Students in grade 4-12 can learn to knit and complete projects under the guidance of experienced knitters. Free.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 3-7 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 14

**Make a Valentine.** All day at Barrett Branch Library. All ages can make a valentine for a friend or loved one. Free.

**Homeschool Game Hour.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Branch Library. Educational game time for homeschool children ages 5-10. Free.

**Classic Film Series.** 2 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Watch "Some Like it Hot." Free.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**President's Day Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library. Families can enjoy a special story time to honor past presidents. Free.

**Saturday Stories.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free.

**President's Day Jeopardy.** 3 p.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can try their luck at answering questions about presidents. Free. Prizes will be awarded.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 16

**Winter Olympics Film Screening.** 2 p.m. at Beatley Library. Watch three movies that celebrate the Winter Olympics. Call for titles.

### MONDAY/FEB. 17

**Libraries Closed.** All day.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 18

**Stories and Songs.** 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.

**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.

**Tuesday Tots.** 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free.

**Baby Rhyme Time.** 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.

**Game Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 8-12 can play games against friends or meet new people to play against. Free.

**Craft Night.** 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Learn how to knit, crochet or sew or get help with a project. Beginners welcome. Must bring own supplies. Free.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required.

**Baby Rhythm & Rhyme Time.** 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 0-18 months can enjoy music, movement and more. Free.

**Afternoon Book Discussion.** 2 p.m. at Burke Library. Discuss "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Free.

**Board Game Fun.** 3 p.m. at Duncan Library. Free. School-age children can play board games.

**Paws to Read.** 5:30 p.m. at Burke Library. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required. Call 703-746-1773 or e-mail [mmcguire@alexandria.lib.va.us](mailto:mmcguire@alexandria.lib.va.us) to register for a 15min slot.

**Author Talk.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Richard Sheres will discuss and sign his book "Ingersoll." Free.

**Family Story & Craft Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy stories and a craft. Free.

**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Duncan Library. Discuss "The Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year" by Dave Von Drehle. Free.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**Mother Goose Story Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.

**Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free.

**Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free.

**Little One-Ders.** 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.

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

## HISTORY

# George Washington: Whiskey Distiller

One of the little realized facts about George Washington was that in many ways he was a renaissance man. From our history books we know him as the Father of our Country; for his military leadership in the war for independence and as our first President. What is often less remembered, however, is that he also was a surveyor, experimental farmer, and overall innovator that included being a whiskey distiller.

Washington found ways during the colonial period to break the planters' dependence on British business agents who controlled the price paid for tobacco and who supplied all the merchandise from the colonies to Europe. The agents' control had the effect of keeping planters land rich and money poor. Although appearing to have an elegant lifestyle, the colonial planters were kept deeply in debt to these agents.

Washington calculated he could break the system that was strangling him by shifting his farm from tobacco to growing food for the local market. In the 1760s he re-directed his efforts to planting more grains, primarily wheat and corn. The switch to grains gave Washington a dependable cash crop, something tobacco did not

provide.

In 1769, George Washington built a gristmill to turn his corn and grain crops into flour, rye, oats, and cornmeal. He also began developing revenue by grinding grain for neighboring farmers. But he found that trade in the grains was limited by the fact they would spoil if sent over long distances. There was one grain-related product, however, that was of great commercial value and traveled well without spoiling: distilled spirits, such as corn and rye whiskey. So Washington built a distillery next to his gristmill and developed a local trade in whiskey. In its day, it was the largest distillery in America.

George Washington's Gristmill was dismantled in the 1850s. In 1932, the Commonwealth of Virginia constructed a replica of it after extensive archaeological efforts uncovered the foundation of the original mill. Virginia operated the mill until 1997 when it was transferred to Mount Vernon Association that, after five years of renovation, returned the mill and distillery to operational status. George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill is opened to the public where it is today — at 5513 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria.

## Founder of St. Mary's

FROM PAGE 5

plots are missing. Alexandria historian Michael Miller in his book "Burials in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery 1799-1983" identified the first known burial at the new cemetery as Caven Boa who died Aug. 20, 1799. He was a member of the Corps of Artillery and was buried by full military honors. His grave site is among those unknown.

Local historian Wesley E. Pippenger in his "Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria" identified known revolutionary soldiers buried at St. Mary's that included

Hurdle. Two other identified were Francis Ignatius Hagen who died in 1830 at age 76, and Pierre La Croix who died in 1830 at the age 88. La Croix served in the French and Indian War under Gen. Montcalm and later in the Revolutionary War under Gen. Montgomery.

This historic cemetery includes the graves of many other soldiers from other wars. For example there are more than 40 soldiers from the Civil War buried there. It is thus a reminder of Alexandria's importance in the history and development of the United States.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 15

**Deadline.** The Alexandria City Academy (formerly Citizen Academy) is accepting applications for the nine-week program which begins Thursday, March 13. To request an application, visit [alexandriava.gov/CityAcademy](http://alexandriava.gov/CityAcademy), call 703-746-4317.

**SATURDAY/FEB. 15**

**"Alexandrians Have a Heart"**

**Drive.** 9 am.-1 p.m. in the parking

lot at 225 S. Henry St. 5th Annual Valentine's weekend clothing and canned food drive to help throughout the community.

**Town Hall Meeting.** 10 a.m.-noon at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. State Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Rob Krupicka will discuss the current legislative session in the Virginia General Assembly. Free and open to public, no RSVP required. Email [DelegateKrupicka@gmail.com](mailto:DelegateKrupicka@gmail.com) or call 804-698-1045.

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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 7-700 (Allowance for increases in floor area ratio, density and height and reductions in required off-street parking as incentive for provision of low-and-moderate income housing) of Article VII (Supplemental Zone Regulations) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2013-0013 (A).

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2013-0013(A) approved by the City Council on January 25, 2014 to amend the affordable housing bonus density program.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES), Chapter 8 (Parking and Traffic Regulation), and Title 1 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 4 (Stopping, Standing and Parking) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance: (a) amends Section 5-7-74 to remove sunset language and clarify the rights of non-resident property owners to apply for certain parking permits; (b) amends Section 5-8-92 to correctly identify certain metered block faces; (c) amends Section 5-8-93, -96 and -97 and Section 10-4-25 to account for the implementation of a "pay by phone" or other technology based parking payment system; and (d) deletes Section 10-4-32 regarding tourist parking permits.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING to name the relocated City playground at Buchanan Park the Leatrice Byrd Playground at Buchanan Park.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

### Request for proposal

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Request for Proposals No. 00000421: Title: Dental and Optional Vision Insurance Plans

RFP Closing Date and Time: March 7, 2014, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference: February 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., prevailing local time at City Hall, 301 King Street, Suite 2000, Alexandria, VA 22314.

For general inquiries contact Jason Soltis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4299.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

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## OPINION

# Making a Difference in Haiti

BY ALICIA HUGHES

Haiti is a naturally beautiful paradise nestled amongst the irony of extreme squalor and abject poverty. Much of its natural beauty has been destroyed by self-imposed deforestation that only intensified after the earthquake of 2010.

Four years later, with the camera lights shut off and ink dry from the pages of news articles that inspired us to care, still hobbling along is a complex and ragged Haiti, where life-changing aid did not get to the people most in need.

Upon leaving the Port au Prince airport, one is immediately met with an environmentally unfriendly smog-infested Haiti filled with masses of poor, proud Christian people — hopeful and helpless at the same time. There are still tent cities and shanty towns. Traffic and transportation systems are primitive. The only form of public transport is the tap-tap, a non-government funded vividly colored and decorated, dusty pick-up truck that treks up and down dirt roads and pothole-filled, crowd-infested streets that flood when it rains due to poor irrigation and hand-dug ditches. On the outskirts of the city, men, women and children can be seen bathing in dirty watered ditches, because some water is better than no water at all. While there are the haves, there are far more have-nots. Homes with no lights, no electricity, and no running water are commonplace for have-nots fortunate to have a home at all.

But even in Haiti, education is the great equalizer. Somehow, children all over the country are dressed in clean uniforms and presented for grade and high school daily. Students are disciplined and attentive in class, because they respect teachers and understand the opportunity to learn is a privilege. College students often take four or more tap-taps and awaken and start their journeys as early as 5 a.m. to get to class. Again, education is a privilege.

Approximately 70 percent of working age citizens in Haiti are unemployed. Of the remaining 30 percent who do have jobs, the minimum wage a lot of them receive is \$5/day or \$100/month, which equates to \$1,200/year. A college education is roughly \$1,000-\$2,000/year per student, which puts college out of reach for most families.

Washington, D.C. spends approximately \$18,667 per year per student and Arlington, approximately \$18,675 for a public school education. What we spend on just one grade student here could fund a full year of university studies for a graduating senior class in Haiti. I learned first-hand working with a 35-year old non-profit in Haiti, Double Harvest.

Double Harvest Haiti has a community church, a top of the line medical clinic and employs more than 800 Haitians, teaching them sustainability and agricultural harvesting techniques. Most important to me, Double Harvest Haiti provides an education to more than 500 students annually and has existed for only the past 20 years. See <http://www.doubleharvest.org/where/haiti/school>.

I was privileged to spend quality time with the 18 members of the graduating class of 2013 at the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Students at the Double Harvest School in Haiti.

Double Harvest School last year. Today, 12 of the Class of 2013's 18 graduating seniors are college freshmen in Port au Prince. Their majors include accounting, engineering, medicine, law and public affairs. All are first generation college students poised to substantially improve the well-being of their families. The excitement is daunting and now, the Class of 2014 has 35 students. The seemingly helpless have again become hopeful.

Education is the human rights issue of this generation. I wholeheartedly ascribe to the Chinese proverb "give a man to fish he eats for a day, teach a man to fish he eats for a lifetime." College education, especially in a place like Haiti, enables one to eat for life and feed his/her family.

As we approach Valentine's Day this Black History Month, I am fortunate to be joined by a cast of everyday and influential philanthropic friends and current/former elected officials to encourage once again, "Hearts for Haiti." Our hearts extend past partisanship to people. We believe, in the words of Max Lucado, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." We are hosting a fund and awareness raiser on Thursday, Feb. 20, at the 201 Lounge on Capitol Hill at 5:30 p.m. to fund

spring semester tuition for these 12 first generation college students.

Please join us by going online to [www.doubleharvest.org](http://www.doubleharvest.org) and donating according to your own heart's desire. Please note your contribution for "Haiti college tuition" in the comments section. Your contributions are tax-deductible. We have a suggested minimum contribution for our event of \$30/person, and all revenue generated goes to tuition.

*Alicia Hughes is a former Alexandria City Councilwoman and Miss Black USA '99 through USA Metroplex Pageant Systems, Inc. She is a graduate of Texas Southern University and the University of Miami School of Law where she was a Miami Scholar for Public Interest. She is an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow, a Delegate to the American Council on Young Political Leaders and a University of Virginia Sorensen Institute Fellow.*

# TC Girls' Basketball Remains Undefeated in 2014

**Titans continue winning after New Year's resolution.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he T.C. Williams girls' basketball team was too talented to have a 4-5 record. Head coach Kesha Walton saw the team's high-end potential, but inconsistent play hampered the Titans during the 2013 portion of their schedule. With the team gathered in the locker room after a practice in early January, Walton set a lofty goal for the defending Patriot District champions as they prepared for the remainder of the season.

T.C. Williams' New Year's resolution: no losing during the 2014 portion of the regular season.

Six weeks later, T.C. Williams wrapped up its regular season with a 64-47 victory at Annandale on Tuesday. Angie Schedler led the Titans with 19 points and nine rebounds. Rejoice Spivey, seemingly capable of getting to the rim whenever she pleased, scored 18 points. Tykera Carter chipped in 17, including 10 in the first quarter.

But this wasn't just any win. This victory meant the Titans concluded the regular season having played to their potential. T.C. Williams extended its winning streak to 13 games and remained undefeated in 2014.

"Tonight was just very special because it was the end of our regular season," Walton said. "We set a goal and I'm just ecstatic that my girls just worked hard and achieved the goal. That let us know what they're capable of."

T.C. Williams is led by the talented four-some of senior guards Carter and Schedler, junior guard Spivey and junior post Grace Peterson, though Peterson missed Tuesday's game with an ankle injury. Early in the sea-



**Angie Schedler led the T.C. Williams girls' basketball team with 19 points and nine rebounds during a 64-47 victory over Annandale on Feb. 11.**

son, the Titans struggled with chemistry — a problem they worked to fix.

"It definitely feels great because if you would have seen us in the beginning, we were a little out of sync," Carter said. "It took a lot of hard work, practice, communicating, hanging out to really get things down, and it just shows how important that stuff really is in basketball, being together all the time."

It feels great that we came together, especially at the right time."

Schedler said she could tell things had turned around for the Titans on Jan. 11 when they defeated a North Point team that entered the contest with a 9-0 record.

"For me, it's great because it's my senior year and I'm so excited to know we're 13-0 in 2014," Schedler said. "... [W]e're still hungry to win the conference."

T.C. Williams sits atop the Conference 7 standings with an 11-1 record, with its lone

defeat coming against West Springfield. The Spartans are second at 10-1 and are scheduled to conclude their regular season on the road against Woodson on Friday, Feb. 14. If the teams finish tied, a coin flip will determine the No. 1 seed, which receives a first-round bye in the conference tournament.

While T.C. Williams will have to tend to other business first, Carter said the Titans want to face West Springfield again.

"I'm definitely looking forward to it because we want to play the best competition," she said. "We're tied for No. 1 so I think this will really show who is the No. 1 team in the conference if we go up against them again."

However, Spivey said last year's tournament showed the Titans they have to be ready for anything. T.C. Williams faced Woodson, not West Springfield, in the district championship game after Woodson upset West Springfield in the semifinals.



**Rejoice Spivey and the T.C. Williams girls' basketball team improved to 13-0 in 2014 with a win over Annandale on Tuesday.**

"Expect the unexpected," Spivey said. "Because we definitely expected something different last year."

T.C. Williams will have to wait until next week for an opportunity to extend its winning streak.

If the Titans end up as the No. 2 seed, they will play in the first round of the conference tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 18. If the Titans get the top seed, their next game will be in the semifinals on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

"Our issue has been consistency," Walton said. "We play the top team one night and we play unbelievable. Then we play a team that's not as talented, and then we play down. I saw [our ability] in spurts, so [the resolution] was more of me setting the goal, but I actually did believe it in my heart that if I could get these girls to play at a consistent level, we could make a little bit of noise here."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## To the Naval Academy

**Bishop Ireton senior Hudson Sullivan on Feb. 5 signed a national letter of intent to play football at the Naval Academy. Sullivan was a standout linebacker for the Cardinals, but missed part of his senior season due to a leg injury. "We are extremely proud of Hudson," Ireton Director of Athletics Bill Simmons said. "Not only was he the heart and soul of our team last fall, he is an all-around great young man; academically, athletically and character-wise. The Naval Academy demands a special type of student-athlete; Hudson is up to the challenge."**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## UNC Bound

**T.C. Williams seniors Jeremiah Clarke, left, and Malik Carney on Feb. 5 signed national letters of intent to play football at the University of North Carolina. Clarke was a two-way lineman for the Titans and will play on the defensive line at UNC. Carney was a running back and first-team all-state linebacker for T.C. and will play linebacker for the Tar Heels. The duo helped T.C. Williams reach the playoffs for the first time since 1990.**

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PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

**A tribute to music teacher Ruthanne Lodato at the corner of Braddock and Scroggins roads.**

**Ruthanne Lodato, second from right, with her husband Norman, daughters Lucia, Gina and Carmen, and son-in-law Christian Pelusi.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Community Mourns Loss of Lodato

FROM PAGE 1

Blessed Sacrament Church, where she played the piano and organ and taught at the adjacent Blessed Sacrament School and Early Childhood Center.

"Ruthanne was so much more than just being the victim of a crime," said Blessed Sacrament parishioner Julie Lineberry. "Her loss transcends that, at least for our parish family."

Tributes to Lodato, who also taught at Music Together, are being posted from around the world in a guestbook on the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home website:

"Over the years I spent as Ruthanne's student, I not only learned about piano, but also about patience, humour and the benefits of hard work and lots of practice. Ruthanne was a wonderful woman who will be greatly missed." Emily Snapp Faragasso - Oakura, New Zealand

"Some of my greatest memories with my daughter were during the three years we spent in Ruthanne's Music Together class. And as my daughter has continued to love and participate in musical activities, I have often thought of Ruthanne and credited her with giving my daughter the gift of music and the joy of singing." Tiffany Fox - Mill Valley, CA

Former Gov. Bob McDonnell was a classmate of Lodato's husband Norman at Bishop Ireton High School and left this message:

"Normy, all your old Ireton friends are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Ruthanne. There are events in life that defy logic and reflect evil. You

had a beautiful and talented partner who gave the gift of music to countless people and was greatly loved. The pain that you and your three children must feel is great. I have prayed for you and your family that God will somehow touch you and comfort you with his abundant grace and healing touch as human words are totally inadequate. All of your friends from Ireton are here to love and support you in any way if you need us. Holding you up in God's mercy. Your friend. Bob McDonnell."

Lodato leaves behind her husband, Norman Lodato, and three daughters: Lucia Lodato, Gina Pelusi (Christian), and Carmen Lodato. She is also survived by her mother Mary Lucy Giammittorio and several siblings. "The Lodatos were the family we looked up to before we started our own family," Kelly said. "They were the first ones to come to our aid if we had a sickness in our family and the first to celebrate joyous moments with us. We always knew we were there for each other. We're going to miss that."

Visitation will be held Friday, Feb. 14 at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 Braddock Road, from 5 to 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held the following morning, Feb. 15, also at Blessed Sacrament Church, at 10 a.m. The interment service will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to ALIVE! in memory of Ruthanne Lodato and will be designated for the ALIVE! Child Development Center and ALIVE! House for women and children. ALIVE! 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302.

## Caroline Stackhouse Weiner Dies

### School counselor dies at 32.

Caroline Stackhouse Weiner, the school counselor at St. Bernadette School in Springfield, died unexpectedly on Feb. 4 at her home in Alexandria. She was 32 years old and wife to Justin Matthew Weiner and the mother of sons Brock, 5 and Cullen, 2; and 3-week-old daughter Caroline.

The Bishop Ireton High School graduate is also survived by her parents, Peter and Carol Stackhouse; brothers, Chad, John "Jed" and Graham Stackhouse; sisters, Claire Bartick, Anne Colby, Elizabeth "Liddy" and Mary Tyler Stackhouse.

In a letter to parents, Principal Michael Kelleher wrote, "It is with

indescribable sadness, yet with hope of the resurrection, that I share with you the sudden death of our school counselor Mrs. Caroline Stackhouse Weiner. Mrs. Stackhouse pioneered our school counseling program. She worked tirelessly to listen, advocate and support the children in our school. She loved our school, our students and our team of teachers. Her unforeseen passing comes as a shock to all of us. We do not know the cause at this time."

A viewing was held Feb. 10 at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home and a Mass of Christian Burial was offered Feb. 11 at Blessed Sacrament Church with interment at Ivy Hill Cemetery.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Caroline Stackhouse Weiner, shown with sons Brock and Cullen.**

Memorial contributions can be made to ProLife Across America, P.O. Box 18669, Minneapolis, MN 55418 or [prolifecrossamerica.org/donate](http://prolifecrossamerica.org/donate).

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

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# A Killer on the Loose

BY HARRY M. COVERT

**N**o one wants to consider that a serial killer is running loose in Alexandria, particularly in the genteel and vibrant area known as Del Ray.

In the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse, there hangs a framed photograph of the late James N. Colasanto, a well-liked municipal court judge, now General District Court.

He was respected but when he ruled against a complainant involving a neighborhood dog case — a Chihuahua, no less — the loser, a former Pentagon clerk, walked up to his home on a Saturday morning, knocked on the door and shot him with a .357 magnum pistol while his young son watched.

Judge Colasanto was rushed to the hospital where he died a few days later on Nov. 26, 1970. The killer reported his crime to a television reporter but used the revolver on himself as police and fire personnel raced to his house.

That incident has remained on the minds of Alexandrians.

Last week's shooting in North Ridge serves up more fear and angst among the citizenry while police make every effort to calm the city. This is probably just as difficult as finding the killer.

I have great respect for the city's judiciary, the sheriff's office and police department. Each and every member of these departments are not only good citizens but outstanding in their profession. Consider, too, those retired judges at all levels and others.

The death of Ruthanne Lodato and shoot-

ing injury of a second person in the home, still unidentified by police and for good reason, is absolutely alarming. Mrs. Lodato was a beloved and accomplished wife and mother and music teacher who loved her family, students and her hometown.

This horrific event follows the Nov. 28 murder of Dr. Ronald Kirby, 69, a recently married government planner at his home on Elm Street in Rosemont.

Police are still searching for his killer. The decade old murder of Nancy Dunning remains unsolved and constantly a conversation piece. She was killed in her home on Dec. 4, 2003 on West Mt Ida Street.

There has been no lack of detectives working on the Dunning case. Investigators from the FBI, and Virginia State police have assisted Alexandria police. A team of retired detectives has also probed the murder.

It's quite obvious for residents to be concerned for their safety. Police along with the mayor and other officials have been busy attempting to allay fears. That's a tough job. People have to remain alert everywhere.

No one wants to seriously consider that the same guy has been haunting the community for a decade. But they have to and must, no matter how unpleasant.

The 1970 assassination of Judge Colasanto isn't included in the latest tragedy but remains a strong reminder that security is everyone's business from the Dunning case to Dr. Kirby to Mrs. Lodato.

In the meantime, this is no time to panic. The serious business of good police work is well underway, no stone is being left unturned 24/7.

COVERT  
MATTERS

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

## Business As Usual

To the Editor:

At City Council's meeting on Saturday, Jan. 25, council voted to uphold the resolutions for "What's Next Alexandria Civic Engagement" process and use these "tools" in order to foster better communication between city hall and Alexandria residents. At the end of this discussion after the vote was taken, Planning & Zoning Director Farroll Hamer stated that she and other staff members from the city manager's office had really learned a lot about civic engagement. What? You've got to be kidding me. If Ms. Hamer and other members of the city manager's office including City Manager Rashad Young don't already know what to do regarding communication, transparency, openness between citizens and staff, then they need to find another job. Alexandria taxpayers paid over \$100,000 to learn these very elementary tools that Mr. Young referred to at the Federation Meeting on Jan. 29. All of these folks have worked in the public sector and it is insulting to citizens that city staff believes we citizens are unable to make fundamental decisions and senior staff members need to be trained in these very basic tools of engagement.

One of the most important things that did come from the four meetings for civic engagement was that citizens from various

neighborhoods throughout Alexandria bonded together and now see how city hall is pushing their own personal agendas. Think the Waterfront Plan, BRAC-133, Beaugard Small Area Plan, proposed metro at Potomac Yard, bike lanes on upper King Street and finally, most important, Mayor Euille, City Manager Young and City Attorney Banks threatening the use of eminent domain in order to gain property from the boat club for the Waterfront Plan.

What's more important? Civic engagement or the fact that the city manager's budget for 2014-2015 has \$500,000,000 of unfunded obligations and \$657,000,000 in operating deficit for the next 10 years. I'll go with the proposed budget issues. It is time for Mayor Euille and all members of the council to instruct Mr. Young to stop spending so much money and get our financial house in order before Alexandria becomes another Detroit. Further, it is just as important for Mayor Euille and all members of the council to instruct Mr. Young that it is time to tell his senior staff members that they need to eliminate the many boards, commissions and advisory groups that continue to be set up, in particular, those advisory groups that Ms. Hamer, director of Planning & Zoning seems to believe make for good planning. Until Mr. Young is advised to do these things, it will be business as usual at city hall.

**Annabelle Fisher**/Alexandria  
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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.  
-William Van Horne

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### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements

## Obituary

### Margaret "Ann" Fitzgerald

On, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, surrounded by her loving family. Ann is survived by her 4 children, Karen (Joseph) Rogers, Jacquelyn (Robert) Alexander, Mary Ann Hull, & John F. (Suzette) Fitzgerald, Jr; 9 grandchildren & 8 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Kay (William) Mellinger, & brother, Thomas A. (Ginger) Rutherford. Ann was an active member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter NSDAR, Manassas, VA, and she continued a line of family membership in the First Baptist Church of Alexandria that spans from 1837 to present.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd. Alexandria, VA. A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria, VA, with a viewing to occur from 10-11 a.m. Interment will follow at Old Presbyterian Cemetery in Alexandria, VA.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ann's name to the First Baptist Church, King Street, Alexandria. Flowers & a guest registry may be found at [www.everlyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.everlyfuneralhomes.com).

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### 21 Announcements

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Sealed bids for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:  
Title: Invitation to Bid No. 00000398, Industrial Tub Grinder (ITB)  
ITB Opening Date & Time: February 27, 2014 at 3 p.m., prevailing local time  
Pre-Bid Conference: Not Applicable  
For general inquiries contact Darryl Jackson, Contract Specialist II at 703-746-4298.  
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

### Legal Notices

### 21 Announcements

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

#### ABC Publishing Notice

Medbistro Inc. Trading as Bistro du Soleil, 1504 King St. Alexandria, Va. 22314-2717. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Samir Labriny, President Note: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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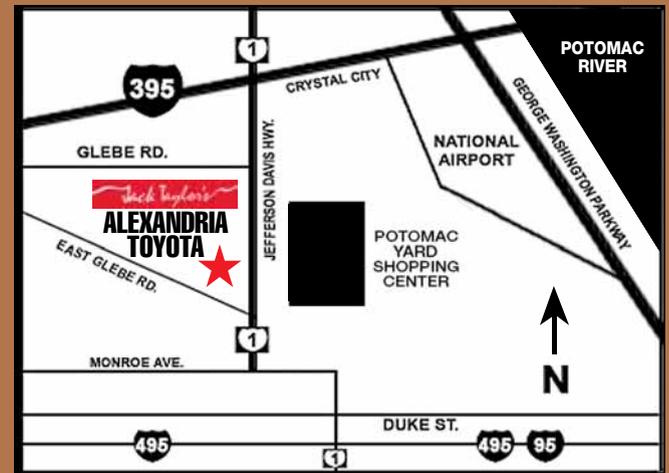
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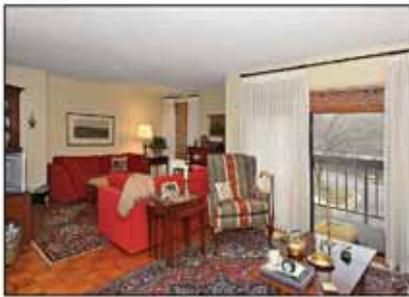
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