



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Musicians with the Alexandria Pipes and Drums tune their instruments and play at the foot of King Street on Saturday afternoon.

Tartan Day Festival in Old Town

For the first time, the National Capital Tartan Day Committee (NCTDC) hosted the annual Tartan Day festival at Waterfront Park on Saturday, April 5. Visitors to the park were treated to clan displays and vendors of Scottish merchandise along with pipers, fiddlers and dancers. The local chapter of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS), partnered with NCTDC on this event. Ralph Wallace (of SAMS as well as of NCTDC) took the lead this year on organizing the festival, with assistance from James Morrison and Douglas Brooks.

Chelle Fulk tunes her fiddle before the Devil's Tailors performance.



Chris Lindsay begins a set with the Devil's Tailors at the Tartan Day festival.



Members of the Clan Henderson Society gather at the annual Tartan Day festival in Alexandria: Russ, Sandy and Mark Henderson, Kim Lamb, Pat and Rex Maddox and Helene O'Connor.

Budget Firestorm

Proposal would save \$2.2 million by moving Engine 204 to the West End.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

One of City Manager Rashad Young's budget proposals has created a firestorm at City Hall, where council members are considering a plan that would move Engine 204 from the city's Powhatan Park headquarters on Second Street to the newly created fire station in the 5200 block of Eisenhower Avenue. City leaders say the proposal would not close Station 204, although it would leave it with only a ladder truck and emergency

medical staff.

"Relocating Engine 204 permits the city to better balance fire apparatus throughout the city response area and to improve fire response capabilities to those areas where calls for service are most prevalent," wrote Young in a memorandum explaining the proposal.

But residents are concerned their health and safety would be put at risk.

"There's a great deal of concern about this, especially considering a lot more development down here

SEE PROPOSAL, PAGE 30

Leveraging the Golden Years

Is Alexandria about to balance the budget on the backs of seniors?

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Closing the budget gap this year could mean putting the squeeze on seniors, reducing a tax relief program that helps seniors pay real-estate taxes and elimination of the Senior Taxi program that helps them get to doctors appointments. City Manager Rashad Young's budget included both of those proposals, creating a pushback among people to advocate on behalf of the elderly.

proposal is the reduction in tax relief for seniors and people with disabilities. Young's proposal would save \$1.3 million by cutting the program from \$3.3 million to \$2 million, a 40 percent reduction in a program aimed at helping some of the city's most vulnerable residents. To accomplish the reduction, city leaders plan to deny tax relief to those who have assets worth more than \$500,000. Critics say that would create problems for many people in a city where the average assess-

Perhaps the most controversial

SEE SENIORS, PAGE 30

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Endless Summer

Ever since members of the Alexandria City Council approved last year's budget, the fate of the Warwick Pool has been up in the air. The city manager suggested closing the pool last year, although council members scraped together enough money to keep it open last summer. Now council members have once again approved another summer at Warwick Pool, scraping together \$75,000 to keep the pool open again this summer.

"Summer is upon us. The flowers are starting to bloom, and people are thrilled that winter has gone," said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. "I'm definitely in favor of doing anything we can to open it on time for this summer."

The pool was originally constructed in 1958 and was transferred to the city by Warwick Investors in 1978. The 25-year pool features a diving well, a separate wading pool, a bathhouse and a community room. One consultant's study suggested that the pool be converted to a seasonal sprayground with a new year-round community building for \$2.45 million. But many neighborhood residents say they would like to see the pool renovated for future use. City officials say bringing the pool up to current aquatic standards would require about \$800,000.

"There are clearly trade-offs," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "This potentially means something in the West End gets cut off."

Keeping the pool open for the summers of 2015 and 2016 would require an additional \$48,000. But council members can tread that water later. For now, elected officials will be sailing into uncharted territory — trying to figure out an aquatics plan for the city that will keep residents in all parts of the city awash in recreational pools. Do they want to renovate the existing pool, create a sprayground or go in some other direction?

"We need to come to some kind of resolution on this," said Mayor Bill Euille.

Are You an Eco-Citizen?

This Earth Day, city officials want Alexandria residents to look at themselves in the mirror and ask a question: "Are You an Eco-Citizen?" That's the theme of this year's Earth Day celebration, which is scheduled for April 26.

"That was our way of engaging everybody in the city," said Jennifer Hovis, chairwoman of the Earth Day Planning Committee.

The centerpiece of the celebration will be the upcycling showcase, where Alexandria City Public Schools students will interpret their ideas about Earth Day through literature, fashion, visual arts and performing arts. That will feature clothing made of recycled materials.

"We have about 50 exhibitors this year, about a dozen of whom are brand new to the event," said Hovis. "So we keep attracting new people every year."

Councilman Justin Wilson said he was particularly pleased that the school system has taken such a strong interest in Earth Day and in environmental sustainability. After presenting a proclamation about Earth Day, Wilson explained that his household has benefited from the school system's focus on ways families can become more green.

"My son comes home every day to lecture me about something he's picked up at school that we should be doing at home," said Wilson. "So we do a great job educating our families via the kids."

Frozen Assets

The numbers for the holiday season are in, and they're not jolly. Alexandria Chief Financial Officer Laura Triggs says the retail sales tax revenues for December show a 2 percent decline compared to the previous year. She added that January recovered a little bit, and the receipts for February will not be available until later this month.

"If you think about what February looked like, we're not expecting any particularly good news," said Triggs. "It snowed, and we had a lot of people staying home from a sales tax perspective." City streets were not the only thing covered in snow this year. City records show the admissions tax is down 13 percent compared to last year. That's a loss of about \$80,000. Budget officials say one reason for the decline is the popularity of "Les Miserables." Moviegoers flocked to the theaters to see it and a number of other popular movies last year. By comparison, this year's admissions tax receipts are nothing to sing about. "This is partly due to a strong movie season that resulted in high box office receipts during fall of 2012," wrote City Manager Rashad Young, "and is probably also related to the cold and snowy weather in recent months which kept potential moviegoers at home."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Towncrier Ben Fiore-Walker announces the launch of the newest water taxi service from Alexandria to the National Mall on Friday morning, April 4, at the City Dock. To Fiore-Walker's right are owner and CEO of the Potomac Riverboat Company Willem Polak and Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association President and CEO Patricia Washington.

New Water Taxi Service Launched

The Potomac Riverboat Co. offers all-new water taxi services from Old Town Alexandria directly to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Beginning April 4, passengers can board the Miss Sophie for a 30-minute cruise, departing from the Alexandria City Marina and docking at the Potomac River side of the National Mall near the intersection of West Basin and Ohio Drive, steps from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the Tidal Basin and a Capital Bikeshare sta-

tion. Tickets are \$28 round-trip or \$14 one-way for adults; children are \$16 round-trip or \$8 one-way.

The new water taxi joins Potomac Riverboat Co.'s existing cruises which include Georgetown and National Harbor water taxis, the Washington Monuments Cruise, Mount Vernon Cruise, Baseball Boat to Washington Nationals games and dog-friendly Canine Cruise. For more information visit www.potomacriverboatco.com or call 703-684-0580

A Metered Debate

Should parking meter hours be extended from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

City officials say extending the hours of parking meters from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Old Town and Carlyle will generate

about half a million dollars every year and help create some turnover in parking spaces. But critics say the budget proposal could harm businesses who want customers to linger after dinner and make a few purchases.

"We need to be doing everything we can to help our businesses. And my impression from talking to business owners is that this will hurt business."

— Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg

help our businesses," said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. "And my impression from talking to business owners is that this will hurt business."

At issue is a budget proposal by City Manager Rashad Young that would raise about \$500,000 in new revenues from the extended hours. Young also estimates an additional \$200,000 in parking fines in the upcoming year. Transportation and Environmental Services Director Rich Baier said extending the hours would help drive motorists seeking a long-term parking spot into a garage instead of hogging up an on-street spot.

"One of our goals is to turn those spaces over for shorter-term people on-street and longer-term in the garages," said Baier. "And one of the ways to do that is to extend the meter hours until a little bit later at night."

THE EFFORT to extend hours for parking meters dates back

to 2010, when the Old Town Area Parking Study recommended that the city extend on-street

SEE PROPOSAL, PAGE 5

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Alexandria **\$599,000**
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Alexandria **\$990,000**
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Proposal Would Extend Meter Hours

FROM PAGE 3

parking meter hours of operation into the evening. The study, which was prepared by consultant Kimley-Horn and Associates, said freeing up on-street parking in the evenings was more attractive than paying for off-street parking.

“Extending the meter hours will improve off-street parking utilization,” the study concluded. “This modification also has the potential to reduce the attractiveness of curb parking in high demand areas for employees and business owners.”

Current parking meter rates in Old Town are \$1.75 an hour between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. In Carlyle, the parking meter hours end at 5 p.m. and there are no hours on Saturday and Sunday. The proposal would extend the hours to 9 p.m. in both locations and add Saturday parking meter hours in Carlyle. Baier said that many people look for empty spaces toward the end of the designated meter hours in an effort to position themselves for the rest of the night.

“They pull in there. They pay for part of an hour, and then they’re there for the rest of the night,” said Baier. “That’s consuming parking that really should be turning over.”

THE KING STREET Retail Strategy Study found that the average stay along the main commercial corridor to be about an hour



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Should the hours of this parking meter be extended from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.?

and a half. As a result, Baier said, city leaders feel it’s important that diners seeking a parking spot to eat dinner are not crowded out by motorists who have positioned themselves to park the rest of the night for free.

“It just is not a very good use of a very expensive asset,” said Baier. “We want people who are parking for three or four hours to park off the street.”

Mayor Bill Euille said he’s heard from one particular business owner in Carlyle who calls him several times a month to complain about inadequate parking. He said he hopes adding Saturday parking hours in Carlyle will prevent people from monopolizing spaces all week-end.

“That should help the problem a lot of businesses over there are having,” said Euille.

ARHA Adopts Non-Smoking Policy

The Board of Commissioners of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) unanimously approved a resolution calling for a Non-Smoking Policy for all ARHA residents at its meeting last month. When fully implemented in late Spring 2015, the new policy will cover approximately 3,000 residents.

Results of a survey of smoking prevalence and attitudes on smoking at ARHA indicate that approximately 33 percent of adult residents are smokers. This is consistent with rates reported by a few other housing authorities, but higher than the 19-21 percent rate of adult smoking among those who do not live in affordable housing.

More than 430 housing authorities nationwide have adopted smoke free policies of one kind or another. ARHA’s action makes it only the third housing authority in the Commonwealth of Virginia to take such action — Portsmouth and Chesapeake are the other two — and the first in Northern Virginia to do so.

Efforts are underway — supported by a grant from the Alexandria City Council — to provide affordable, comprehensive smoking cessation services to ARHA residents. Services include:

- ❖ Free group cessation counseling classes
- ❖ Access to a primary care provider who can assess their smoking behavior
- ❖ Referral for individual behavioral health counselors, and prescribe FDA-approved therapies and medications where appropriate.



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A Head for Numbers, a Heart for People

For Richard Allyn
“Rick” Glassco,
volunteering
started early.

BY MARY ANNE WEBER

The two volunteer positions not-for-profits find hardest to fill are those of recording secretary and treasurer so it is not surprising that once ALIVE! (Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically!) tapped Richard Glassco for the position of treasurer, he has remained in the position for 23 years. During that time ALIVE!, which was founded in 1969, has grown from an all-volunteer organization to one with volunteers from about 40 faith communities, a \$1.3 million budget and about 14 employees.

It is a complex operation and Glassco has broken the budget into three fully-developed components. The child development center at First Christian Church is a preschool program for low income parents who pay on a sliding scale fee. The ALIVE! Shelter for homeless women and children provides housing for longer periods than at a regular shelter. The Family Assistance division provides monetary assistance for medicine, rent and utility payments as well as emergency food deliveries and the last Saturday of the month program which distributes food from three sites. In addition, the organization collects furniture and housewares for people in need.

He is proud of the fact that they keep administrative costs low. As part of his work as treasurer he writes all the checks to landlords, utility companies, medical providers and providers of services to various ALIVE! programs. He also acts as bookkeeper, recording all income and expenses by program and category. He makes quarterly reports in all three areas and comes up with an annual budget, “a big deal,” he said. His wife Sarah noted that he gives these reports in a way people can understand and added that the amount of work involved has grown tremendously over the 23 years.

GLASSCO GREW UP volunteering. His father was a Presbyterian minister in Ohio and from childhood he was involved in church works and in scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout which “makes a big deal of service projects,” he said. After he graduated from college in 1976, he moved to Alexandria, where his parents had already moved, and joined Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, where he has been a member for 34 years. Immanuel was one of the original founding churches for ALIVE! and he was recruited by activist Danie Bradford to join ALIVE! as church representative. He

“I am not intimidated by dealing with numbers.”

— Richard Glassco



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY
© AlexandriaLegends.com

Richard Allyn “Rick” Glassco’s love of mathematics led to his career with computers, his involvement with ALIVE! as treasurer, and his mentoring of children sharing both his love of numbers and his skills.

later became vice president and president before taking on the role of treasurer.

“I am not intimidated by dealing with numbers,” he said. “I can be really useful,” whether that usefulness is setting up more and more sophisticated spreadsheets on the computer “a natural for me” or planning budgets of over \$1.3 million a year.

He has been just as active at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill as a vestry member in charge of worship, a choir member for 30 years, a Sunday School teacher and a frequent worker at Immanuel’s famous yearly pumpkin patch.

His membership in choir was a natural choice because he has been singing all his life and learning a variety of musical instruments. He started with piano and took up clarinet, tenor sax, the Celtic harp, recorders and dabbled with the bagpipe.

HE AND HIS WIFE Sarah met at a Scottish Country Dancing group in Alexandria where he discovered she was as interested in music as he and said “we enjoy making music together.” They got married in St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria in 1980 and there was Scottish country dancing at their wedding. His interest in Scottish dancing began when he saw a demonstration at the

He and his wife Sarah moved to the Seminary Valley in 1984 where they brought up three daughters which led both of them to get involved in the world of children. He became chair of the T.C. Williams Band Boosters and chair of the T.C. Williams Drama Boosters. His interest in music led him to be a chorus member of the Washington Christmas Revels in 2009, 2011 and 2012 and a cast member of the Gospel of Mary in 2009.

Where does he find the time to hold down a demanding job and do all this? “I watch zero television,” he said chuckling. “Zero sports which leaves me out of the conversation.” In a more serious vein, he said he has had a hard time saying no and that he has “never known another way of getting along.”

And he even finds time to just relax, canoeing and kayaking at Dykes Marsh near the Belle Haven Marina, on Cameron Run and Hunting Creek, along with other nearby bodies of water.

WHILE GLASSCO believes his faith inspires his volunteering, he also believes in getting involved in local politics which he feels is very consistent with the idea of service and working with the community. His political involvement grew out of his conviction

and is another way of helping people.

“I believe the party I support is much better for poor people,” he said, leading to his involvement in voter registration drives and canvassing for the recent gubernatorial race and the past two presidential races.

Glassco will continue to donate his time and considerable talents in various ways throughout the Alexandria community he is committed to making a better place to live and thrive. Whether he is balancing the books for ALIVE!, singing in the church choir or teaching middle schoolers the joys of mathematics, he will be making a difference.

Living Legends: The 2014 Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria.

The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Alexandria Toyota, Club Managers Association of America, Goodwin House, Inc., Gregg & Monica Murphy on behalf of Senior Services of Alexandria, Linda Hafer and Nina Tisara.

This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year.

For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Legends@AlexandriaLegends.com.



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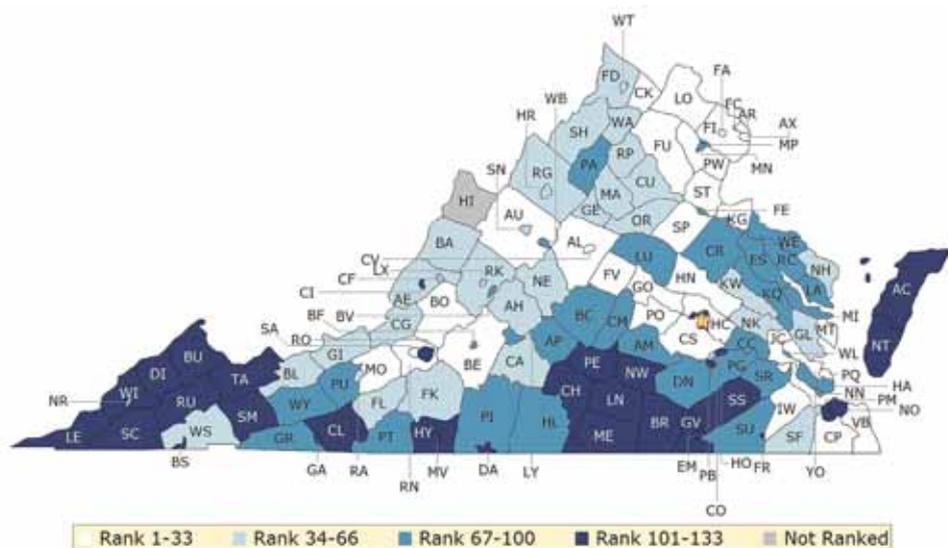
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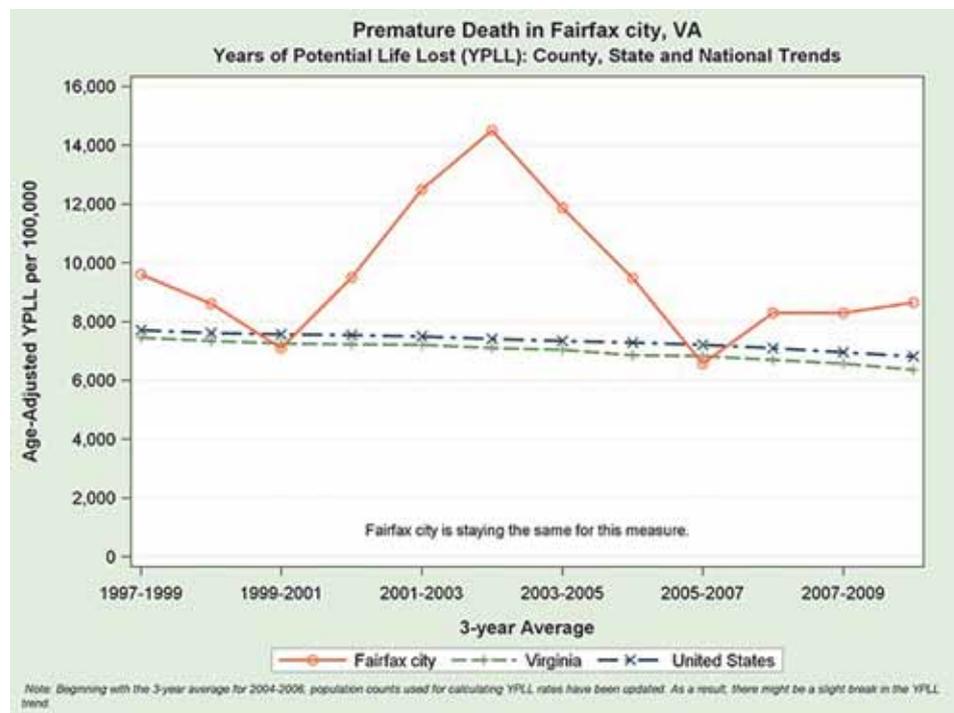
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COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

A map of Virginia rates health factors, including everything from high-school graduation rates and obesity to smoking and unemployment.



COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Premature death in Fairfax City is calculated by looking at years of life lost before age 75 per 100,000 people, but health officials in Fairfax City say the data is flawed.

How Healthy Is This Neighborhood?

New study reveals some parts of Northern Virginia are healthier than others.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria has the lowest rates of smoking in Northern Virginia, but it also has the highest rates of excessive drinking. Fairfax City has the highest rates of physical inactivity, although Fairfax County enjoys one of the lowest rates of premature death. Manassas City has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in Northern Virginia. Arlington County has the highest rates of physical activity and therefore the lowest rates of obesity.

Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin. "It's a way to think about what we can do collectively to improve these areas."

The annual rankings measure everything from high-school graduation rates and obesity to smoking and unemployment. The goal is to reveal a snapshot of how health is influenced by where people live. Organizers say the point is to help communities have a discussion about how they can use the data to make changes. Even when the numbers are good — low obesity rates in Arlington and Alexandria, for example — that doesn't mean a community should become complacent.

"That's still one out of five people who are obese," said Van Dijk. "So while it's encouraging, I don't think we have a lot to celebrate there."

SOME OF THE STATISTICS are controversial, especially in Fairfax City. For example, one of the data points in the report measures premature death. That's a figures calculated by looking at years of life lost before age 75 per 100,000 people. According to the report, Fairfax City has the highest rate of premature death in Northern Virginia at 8,652 years lost.

That's the highest rate in Northern Virginia, and one of the highest rates in Virginia. But is it accurate?

"The data on which the rankings are based is inaccurate for several reasons," said Louise Armitage, human services coordinator for Fairfax City in an email. "The main reason for the erroneous data is that the state health department continues to uti-

lize ZIP code to assign jurisdiction of residency even though ZIP codes are not discrete to the city or to the county."

Armitage says an audit of deaths in Fairfax City shows serious irregularities. In 2008, for example, one audit showed 276 out of 417 recorded deaths in Fairfax City over a four-year period were actually city residents. As a result, only 34 percent of deaths that are reported to have taken place in Fairfax City actually happened in Fairfax County. Because of the small size of Fairfax City and the frequent confusion with Fairfax County, many of the statistics can be problematic. Armitage says she has raised these concerns with the researchers who compiled the report, who say they are hoping to refine the data in the future to make it better.

"I don't have any problems with her assessment," said Amanda Jovaag, an associate researcher with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "That seems perfectly reasonable to me."

NORTHERN VIRGINIA fares well overall when compared to the rest of the commonwealth. The top three healthiest jurisdictions are in Northern Virginia: Loudoun County, Fairfax County and Arlington County. The top 10 includes Alexandria and Manassas Park City. Health officials warn that the statistics can be misleading, though, and that people should not become complacent.

"Many of us who work in human services get concerned when we sort of pat ourselves on the back and say, 'Oh look, our percentages are so low. Isn't that wonderful?'" said Marlene Blum, a member of the Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board. "We are an affluent community, and we're a highly educated community. But not everybody is doing well."

Some of the health concerns in Northern Virginia are emblematic of the kinds of problems in other communities in America that have well-educated people. For example, Alexandria has the second-lowest number of people who smoke cigarettes in Virginia overall and the lowest number of smokers for Northern Virginia. But it has the sixth highest rate of excessive drinking in Virginia and the highest rate of excessive drinking in Northern Virginia.

"Better educated people often drink but don't smoke. Cocktails are more acceptable than cigarettes."

— Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin

"Better educated people often drink but don't smoke," said Van Dijk. "Cocktails are more acceptable than cigarettes."

SOMETIMES THE NUMBERS show trends in combination. For example, Manassas City has the highest rate of children who live in poverty in Northern Virginia. It also has the highest teen birth rate per 1,000 female population. Researchers say these two data points speak to each other.

There's probably some linkage there," said Van Dijk. "We know that if mom has a baby as a teenager, the likelihood that child will be raised in poverty will be much higher."

"This is an annual checkup of your community's health. It's a way to think about what we can do collectively to improve these areas."

— Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin

These are some of the findings of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

"This is an annual checkup of your community's health," said Julie

OBITUARY

Mary Jacobs



Mary Alva McNey Jacobs, of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Alexandria and Washington, D.C. died March 16, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband of more than 70 years, David Edward Jacobs, Jr. She was the devoted mother of one daughter, Barbara.

Alva was born in Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1923 to Mary Irene Bartels and Walter Alexander McNey. She attended Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C. graduating in 1941. Alva married David Edward Jacobs on Oct. 4, 1942. She worked at the Department of Justice during WWII while her husband was wartime in the South Pacific. In 1946 Alva and her

husband welcomed a baby girl and she became a full time stay-at-home mother.

Alva and her husband lived at 710 Chetworth Place, Alexandria for 50 years. During this time Alva did art and crewel work.

Alva is survived by a sister, Irene Bergman of Rockville, Md.; daughter Barbara J. Evans and her husband Richard of Boynton Beach, Fla.; grandchildren Thomas Evans and Wende Bardfeld; and six great-grandchildren, Hayden, Garrett, and Jenna Evans, and Jaxon, Landon, and Holdyn Bardfeld, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Funeral service will be conducted at the grave site in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Alexandria on June 7, 2014 at 11 a.m. Donations may be made to Hospice of the Palm Beaches, Fla.

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OPINION

Connection Papers Win Awards

Reporting, photography, design and editorial cartoons commended at annual Virginia Press Association meeting.

“Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing concrete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.”

That was what the judge said when awarding first place for In-depth or investigative reporting to Michael Lee Pope in the Arlington Connection.

The Virginia Press Association announced its press awards for 2013 at the annual meeting on Saturday, April 5, in Richmond.

Pope also won first place for education writing, for business and financial writing, and awards for health, science and environmental writing and for government writing. Stories appeared in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and the Connection papers.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for general news writing for her coverage of a proposed traffic measure in Centreville. “Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong,” wrote judges.

Jeanne Theismann won first place for public safety writing and for public service writing in the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

Connection Newspapers won first place for information graphics for the 2013 Insiders Guide to Fairfax County Parks, designed by Jean Card with photos by Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel.

First place for special sections went to the Connection’s HomeLifeStyle pullout.

Victoria Ross won for feature series/continuing coverage for coverage of foster care. Judges note: “Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The

stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.”

Ross also won for personal service writing for her coverage of “digital legacy,” and control of one’s online content after death.

Cartoonist Steve Artley began cartooning for the Alexandria Gazette Packet in December 2013, with only three cartoons in the year, but two of them won awards. His cartoon on the threatened use of eminent domain in the City of Alexandria drew this comment from the judge: “One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little touches which push the entry even higher.”

Alex McVeigh won an award for investigative or in-depth reporting in Great Falls. Donna Manz won for her feature stories in Vienna.

The annual Insiders/Newcomers edition of the Alexandria Gazette Packet won third place for special edition, including work by Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner and Jean Card.

Editorials written by Mary Kimm won second and third place awards.

For a complete list, see www.connectionnewspapers.com

Winners

FIRST PLACE

First Place for Investigative Reporting, Uncovering Secret Government. Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection — Judge’s comment: Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing con-



Michael Lee Pope



Steve Artley



Bonnie Hobbs



Victoria Ross



Jean Card



Mary Kimm

crete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.

First Place for Education writing. Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Alexandria Education Dollars. Judge’s comment: This is by far the best entry in the contest. Michael Lee Pope wrote several strong articles on the cost of administration in his market. He did a very nice job of making a numbers story interesting.

First Place for Business and Financial writing. Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette — Judge’s comment: The story about car title loans offers an interesting look at this industry, which is proliferating due to a change in state law. Kudos for looking at how much the industry contributes to state legislators’ political campaigns. Business taxes — is it fair to charge higher rates for certain professions? Pope provides a balanced look at the pros and cons. The story on a transit study covers the debate over urban vs. rural development in Mount Vernon. Pope combines thorough reporting with competent writing.

First Place for Public Safety Writing, Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge’s comment: Creative, compelling ledes.

First Place for General News Writing, Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View — Judge’s comment: The creative lede pushed this one over the top.

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 14



STEVEN C. ARTLEY/GAZETTE/PACKET

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OPINION

Start the Conversation

BY JANET BARNETT



Barnett

bara Anderson, former president of Senior Services of Alexandria. She encourages seniors to take control of their future by planning now for how they want their lives to look at age 65, 75, 85 and beyond. She tells seniors to talk to their children, a trusted relative, friend or a professional

about their wishes while they can, instead of having their future decided by someone else should an aging crisis arise.

"I really hated to move from my home, but I knew I needed to downsize because I didn't want my children to do it for me," said longtime Alexandria resident Molly Abraham. "I was able to choose what I wanted to get rid of or keep, and I made my own choices. I also made plans for my living situation and prepared for aging issues that can happen."

Let's mark our calendars for Wednesday, April 16 as the day to start the conversation and plan ahead. Imagine how good you will feel after completing your plan knowing you are in charge.

Among the local organizations that can help with this planning are Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org and the City of Alexandria's Division on Aging and Adult Services, 703-736-5999, www.alexandriava.gov/aging. Each can provide resources and referrals to assist those ready to commit to planning their futures and participating in National Healthcare Decisions Day.

Janet Barnett is the former executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria and currently community relations manager for Synergy HomeCare.

April 16 has been designated as National Healthcare Decisions Day by national, state and community organizations. This special day was established to encourage adults of all ages to plan ahead for a health care crisis. This is also a great day to focus on how you can prepare yourself and your loved ones to face the decisions that will confront us all as we age.

Many seniors don't like to think of "end of life," and shudder at the thought of downsizing, writing a will, moving to a small one-level home or into assisted living or an intermediate independent living community. Ignoring these issues only makes life more difficult. We all need to plan for the eventuality of illness, of needing hospital stays or help with daily chores and driving. Completing a form for advanced health care directives and who should make decisions when you cannot is critical. Whether it's planning your funeral or memorial service, purchasing burial plots, or deciding who will be the executor of your estate, you should make your wishes known now and specify who will make these decisions if you can't. Do you want extreme measure taken to keep you alive in the event of major damage or cognitive loss? All these factors and many more can become burdensome to your survivors. Now is the time to take action on these important chores. Your survivors will have enough grief. Don't add to their difficulty by leaving your wishes unclear.

"Start the conversation," says elder attorney Bar-

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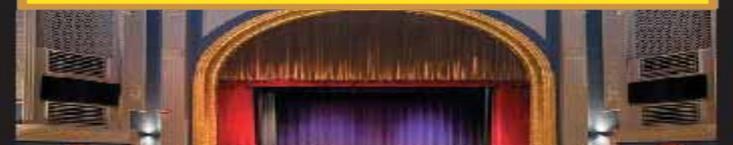
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LETTERS

Waterfront Course Correction Needed

To the Editor:

What is our goal for Alexandria? To be attractive to upper-income retirees? Or make Alexandria a place where talented young people want to live and raise a family? Judging from recent waterfront discussions, it's the former — affluent seniors. The best research available, however, says if you want to lock in future prosperity, go for young families.

Don't get me wrong. Waterfront development is coming along reasonably well, and I compliment leadership on its work. It's just that we need a course correction to make sure we're heading where we want to go and don't drift into a dead-zone of older seasonal residents whose memories and priorities are elsewhere.

The word "families" appears only once in the 31-page "Goals" section of the Waterfront Small Area Plan. No mention of "children" at all. Fortunately "history" appears 22 times, is a key focus of the plan, and provides one way to get families and kids on the waterfront, aware of its history and environmental importance, and better yet, on the river itself learning what the river really is.

What's the course needed correction? Refocus on Alexandria's maritime history and boat building arts in hands-on ways. Create places where people can see wood-

work artists actually building traditional boats and even spend time on the river in one of the boats. Develop memories and priorities in which Alexandria is first. Rather than yet another trendy restaurant, provide a place for the Alexandria Seaport Foundation to properly do what it already does so well and where it could do so much more for children and families.

The waterfront planners understood this. "The Plan recommends continuing the Seaport Foundation's current activities in The Strand area, as well as exploring how the Seaport Foundation's boat building activities could be part of a multifaceted engagement with Alexandria's shipbuilding past, along with outdoor display of boats and boatbuilding, 'living history' programs onboard historic ships, and other creative approaches to involve the public."

Foundation's boatbuilders have constructed many stunning, traditional wooden boats, including three Potomac River dory boats (one 42', and two 30') and, most recently, a 28' whaleboat built for Mystic Seaport's restoration of the historic whaling ship Charles W. Morgan. The Foundation's Potomac River dory boats and other smaller craft should be used to enjoy the river, appreciate its environmental importance, and educate families and children about Alexandria's maritime past.

The Foundation's main boatbuilding shop is located in 8200 square feet of space in Robinson Terminal South, which will be

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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Virginia Press Association Awards

FROM PAGE 6

Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong.

First Place for Personal Service Writing. Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: Each story is an interesting and vivid snapshot of the deceased with good use of quotes and anecdote to bring the subject's personality to life and also convey why he or she was valued in the community. It is hard to write about someone who has died in a way that is upbeat and positive, but this writer has achieved this.

First Place for Informational Graphics for Insiders Guide to the Parks, Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel, Mount Vernon Gazette — Informational graphics: Fairfax County parks.

First Place for HomeLifeStyle, Mary Kimm, Laurence Foong, Geovani Flores, Marilyn Campbell, John Byrd, Tim Peterson and Jean Card, The Vienna/Oakton Connection — Specialty pages or sections: Judge's comment: Clean design and easy to read. Choice of fonts work well together.

OTHER AWARDS:

Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations — Eminent Domain. Judge's comment: One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little touches which push the entry even higher.

In-depth, investigative reporting, Alex McVeigh, Great Falls Connection — Judge's comment: Great work continuing to follow an important environmental story that had the potential for far-reaching impacts. These articles also do a good job explaining the nature of the underground contamination

and, in understandable terms, the geology behind the way they spread.

Alexandria Gazette Packet, Insiders/Newcomers Guide. Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner, Jean Card, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: A good package of information for newcomers. A good array of photos of community members.

Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Good solid stories on interesting subjects. A lot of good historical background adds significantly to the sterilization story. The lead on the chicken story was very good.

Government Writing, Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: We preach to our reporters to follow the money. Michael Lee Pope does great job of following the money trail to great news stories. Continue to keep them honest.

Feature Series/Continuing Story. Victoria Ross, The Burke Connection — Feature series or continuing story. Judge's comment: Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.

Personal Service Writing, Victoria Ross, The Fairfax Connection . Judge's comment: Good job using the individual story and relating it to the wider issue. Would have liked more follow-up details about whether the social media companies are complying with the law and what the parents found on the son's social media sites.

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Column writing. Judge's comment: These columns were well written and informative as well as entertaining.

Editorial writing. Mary Kimm, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Editorial writing. Judge's comment: Very well done. Writer does an outstanding job presenting the paper's stance on the issues of the day.

Editorial writing. Mary Kimm, The Fairfax Connection — Judge's comment: These editorials were articulate and to the point.

Education writing: Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Concise, well put thoughts.

Page Design, Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette — Judge's comment: Good job taking something that can be boring and hard to follow and making it interesting and easy to navigate.

Cartoon, Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations. Judge's comment: The shackles of the tea party! Ol' Ebenezer Elephant will be surely listening for the chimes of the hour after this ghost appeared before the foot of his bed. Fantastic work all the way around.

Feature photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Summer Fun. Judge's comment: Sweet found moment.

Feature writing portfolio Donna Manz, Vienna/Oakton Connection — Feature writing portfolio. Judge's comment: Powerful ledes (and a great one for the 'puppies' story) and captivating narratives. Well-informed and well-written.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

T.C. Williams High School students toured an operating room at Inova Alexandria Hospital on Friday, March 21, as part of the Claude Moore Surgical Tech Scholars program.

Preparing Students for OR Jobs

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO, RN, FACHE
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL



If you've ever played that classic board game, "The Game of Life," you're familiar with the game's first important life choice: College Path or Career Path. No doubt, a similar choice is on the minds of upcoming seniors at Alexandria's T.C. Williams High School as they finalize their choices for next year's classes. For those choosing to pursue the career path first, they have a new course option called the Claude Moore Surgical Tech Scholars Program.

Created as a joint venture between Alexandria City Public Schools, Inova Alexandria Hospital and the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, the Surgical Tech program resulted from a very real need to fill healthcare jobs in this specialty right now, while also preparing a pool of qualified applicants to meet future demand.

Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that employment for surgical technologists will likely increase 30 percent by 2022, which they note, is much faster than average for all occupations. Employment researchers attribute this increase to the growing medical and surgical needs of an aging population coupled with enhanced surgical techniques.

So what does a surgical technologist do? As an integral part of the operating room (OR) team, the surgical technologist prepares the operating room, arranges equipment and instruments, ensures that the OR environment remains sterile and assists doctors and nurses throughout the surgery, including passing instruments to the surgeon or nurses as necessary. It is a demanding yet highly rewarding job with opportunity for advancement.

The Claude Moore Surgical Tech pro-

gram at T.C. Williams prepares students for jobs in this field with a two-year course of study, starting in a student's senior year. With grant money from Inova and

Claude Moore, ACPS designed the curriculum and outfitted several classrooms and labs with the equipment and instruments used by surgical technologists. The first year involves intensive academic coursework taught by the program's three registered nurses. During the second year, students log required clinical hours at Inova Alexandria Hospital under the direction of our Department of Perioperative Services.

Upon completion of the two-year program, students will have the education and clinical rotation hours needed for certification as a surgical technologist. They will have also gained a network of professional connections among Inova Alexandria Hospital's OR team. Our Human Resources staff will encourage these graduates to apply for open surgical technologist positions within the hospital or elsewhere in Inova Health System.

As our inaugural class of Claude Moore Surgical Tech Scholars concludes their first year of academic study this June, we are proud to be part of the solution for educating students to fill the jobs we know will be there when they graduate.

And we hope this course inspires and excites them to pursue a career in healthcare.

Given the success of similar Claude Moore health education programs throughout Northern Virginia, I'm certain the Surgical Tech program will be a winning solution for all involved.

Learn more about the Claude Moore Surgical Tech Program at inova.org, search "surgical tech."

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 11, 2014, and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.)

Send photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Readers can also submit poetry, poetry about mothers and photos celebrating mothers directly through our website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

redeveloped under the new waterfront. For Alexandria to stay on course and keep the Seaport Foundation on the waterfront, where should the main shop go? If enabling young people to get to know the river first-hand is a priority, a location with access to Orinoco Bay would be ideal.

The Seaport Foundation is a national treasure that will attract many visitors, but more importantly, it's a way to help young Alexandrians see living history and understand our maritime past.

Robert H. Dugger
Alexandria

Proposal's Effect On Fire Safety?

To the Editor:

We, the presidents of the NorthEast Citizens' Association and the North Old Town Independent Citizens Association, are writing to express the deep concern of many of our members over the budget proposal to remove Fire Engine 204 from Station 204. The city manager has proposed that rather than keep in the budget firefighter positions needed to staff

Station 210, the needed firefighter positions from 204 will be transferred to 210. Fire Engine 204 itself would otherwise not need to be moved; in recent years, the city purchased a full fleet of new engines.

City Budget documents candidly admit that this action will increase response times on the city's East Side. The plan to move the Engine and its crew can also be expected to cause ripple effects throughout the surrounding neighborhoods, since the fire response system will be spread more thinly. In fire and other emergency situations, seconds count. Therefore, many residents of the area served by Engine 204 and beyond realistically fear a significant loss in protection if this proposal is adopted. They are also dismayed to learn that the removal of Engine 204 is to occur before the city does a comprehensive study of the deployment of equipment and personnel in relation to call volume, call types, and other factors. The city manager says this study will not be completed until FY 2016, after Engine 204 is moved.

Also surprising to area residents is that this proposal comes at a time when the north and northeast parts of Alexandria are experiencing a substantial increase in residential and commercial development. Combining this increase in the number of new residents and structures needing fire protection with the existing large number of older structures that lack modern fire suppression and are thus more apt to suffer rapid and disastrous destruction due to fire, makes this proposal more puzzling.

Finally, we have recently discovered that the area in which Engine 204 currently resides is plagued by substandard water pressure, significantly lower than on the West End, making the immediate availability of the pumping power of multiple fire engines critical here.

We understand the financial problems facing the city and appreciate the difficulty in balancing the budget. However, public safety is the highest priority of governments at all levels. All sectors of Alexandria deserve fire and EMS protection that meet or exceed national standards, which this budget appears not to do.

We urge the City Council to revise this budget so that all Alexandrians can feel secure that their lives and property are protected. This can occur only when

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

JACKI SORENSEN'S FITNESS CLASSES

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April 23 - 6:30 pm

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

all sectors of the city receive protection equal to the highest standard.

Mary Jane Kramer, President,
NorthEast Citizens' Association

Tom Soapes, President, North Old
Town Independent Citizens Association

Mixed Messages To Seniors

To the Editor:

In 2012, the City Council unanimously approved the city's strategic plan on aging. The plan supports the goal of most older Alexandria residents to age in place, in their homes and in the community they love.

The city manager's proposed budget threatens to undermine the ability of many residents to stay in the city. The budget calls for termination of Senior Taxi; imposition of steep cuts in property tax relief for older or disabled homeowners; and termination of JobLink's program providing employment assistance for older job seekers.

The City Council should reconsider the proposal to eliminate Senior Taxi, which provides discounted transportation to medical appointments and other services for seniors with low and modest incomes. Without the program, which is now in its 46th year, many of our friends and neighbors will not be able to obtain the care they need.

The City Council should reject the budget cuts that would deprive 400 current recipients of the real estate tax relief program for lower-income seniors and those with disabilities. Many recipients are long-time residents who have contributed significantly to the city's economy and have paid real estate taxes for many years. The tax burden will force them to choose between paying their taxes, filling their prescriptions — or leaving their homes.

The city should retain the Older Worker Employment Specialist at JobLink to help unemployed seniors find gainful employment. In addition, the Commission on Aging has identified a shortfall of \$36,000 in funding to provide guardians for eight residents who are living in dire circumstances.

Alexandria has always been a community that cares about its seniors and takes great pride in being able to help those in need. The final budget adopted by the City Council should reflect our shared commitment to its older residents, particularly those with limited financial resources.

Jane King, Chair,
Alexandria Commission on Aging
Robert Eiffert, Chair, Advocacy
Committee, Commission on Aging

Who's Looking Out For Taxpayers?

To the Editor:

Its budget time again in Alexandria and based on [City Manager] Mr. Young's proposed budget items, once again he continues to leave Alexandria loaded with debt while continuing to raise his salary and those of his staff, cutting 33 positions and

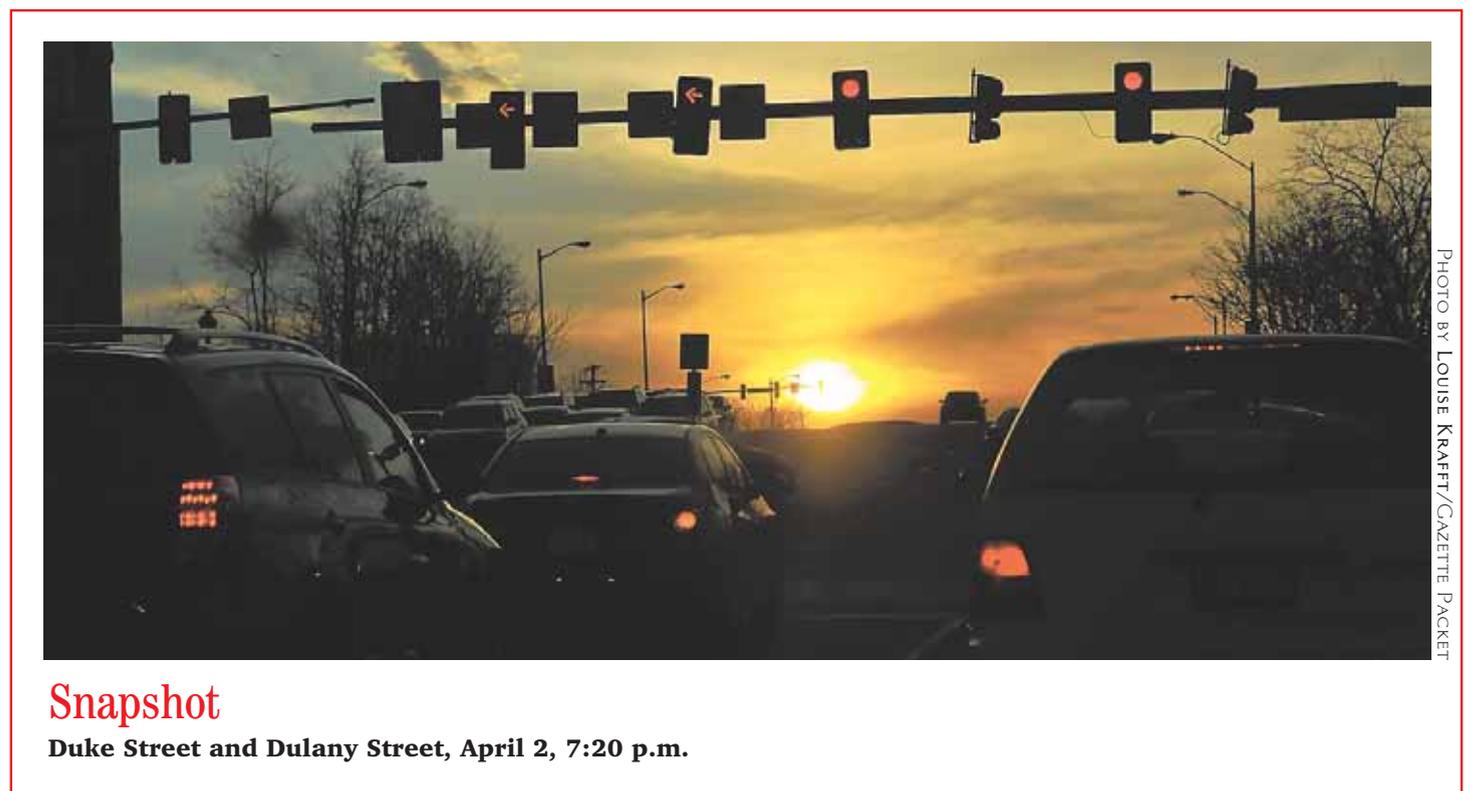


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot

Duke Street and Dulany Street, April 2, 7:20 p.m.

just "moving the deck chairs" around as it relates to staff reductions, but no eliminations along with a much higher real estate tax initially proposed due to high debt limit and City Council's inability to say "no" to anything. As such, here are some of my questions/suggestions for Mayor Euille and all members of the council to consider and/or ask Mr. Young before adopting this budget.

❖ Step increases for Mr. Young and his staff. Mr. Young is requesting a 6.6 percent increase in pay for himself and a 3.5 percent increase for his staff. (See chart below.) That would bring his salary up to \$260,000-plus. It must be noted that primary care physicians who have been practicing for 20-30 years only earn \$230,000, have much more education and work long hours which cannot compare to Mr. Young's proposed salary increase for himself. Since his arrival in Alexandria, our elected officials continually state we have to pay "good money" in order to get good managers. One can only blink their eyes in amazement. No one in the City Manager's office should receive a raise and its time for him to start eliminating positions that are no longer needed. The City Manager's Office is now looking like central office for Alexandria City Public Schools.

❖ AHDC - This is another housing group that was given a \$14 million loan for start up costs in 2011. Have they paid any of this loan back? If not, why not? If so, how much has been paid back?

❖ AEDP - Once again the city/Alexandria taxpayers continue to fund this group with large sums of money, yet the Alexandria Economic Development Corp. has still not proven they are bringing businesses into Alexandria. Granted the National Science Foundation is coming to town, but this was a group effort and not solely done by AEDP. With the huge tax breaks given to the National Science Group, there is a major loss in commercial property tax along with the city receiving no real estate taxes from BRAC-133. AEDP needs to find outside business partners and/or grants in order for

them to operate independent of taxpayer dollars.

❖ Parking tickets: In 2013 the city collected \$3,696,673 and Mr. Young's 2014 budget assumes the city will receive \$3.9 million. All of this money goes into the general fund, rather than going to the police budget. Isn't it time for our elected officials to start thinking outside of the box and put these funds towards the police budget? Further, the city is planning to add more red light cameras in other parts of Alexandria. The city already has three of these cameras and they are certainly a financial boom for Alexandria. Citizens can now appeal their parking tickets in court and many of our circuit court judges are concerned about the increase in their time having to sit during this appeal process. Wouldn't it be a better fit if the city could find some retired judges who won't need that much money, if any, and they could act as Administrative Law Judges and be seated to hear parking ticket appeals? This would then allow the circuit court judges to spend time doing what they do.

❖ Women's Commission: This commis-

sion has been moved into the office of Human Services and its director has been on the payroll for years with a salary of over \$100,000. It is now time for this position to be eliminated and not have its director moved into another position.

❖ CIP projects. Mr. Young is only proposing an increase in CIP projects for a year. However, this is not acceptable since most CIP projects need to be considered for at least 10 years and planning department has presented a document showing CIP projects for the next 10 years. Time to question why Mr. Young is only looking for a one year CIP and how much it will cost to view CIP projects for 5-10 years.

❖ Parks & Rec: Mr. Young is proposing to eliminate about 20-plus positions in this department. Mayor and members of council need to ask Mr. Young how many staff from this department will be needed to cover the 12-14 events the city will be sponsoring and the cost savings involved. Closing some rec centers might be appropriate in order to save some money, but eliminat-

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City Manager's Office Salary Summary

Name	Title	FY 2013 Salary	FY 2014 Current Salary	% Increase	\$Increase	Notes
Rose Boyd	Special Asst. to the CM	\$149,652	\$154,625	3.3%	\$4,973	Top of Scale Adjustment (2.3% of Salary)
Debra Collins	Deputy City Manager	\$157,646	\$162,884	3.3%	\$5,239	Merit Step Increase
Michele Evans	Deputy City Manager	\$164,981	\$170,463	3.3%	\$5,482	Top of Scale Adjustment (2.3% of Salary)
Jerome Fletcher	Special Asst. to the CM	\$109,824	\$113,474	3.3%	\$3,649	Merit Step Increase
Sean Garrick	Assistant to the City Manager	N/A	\$73,918	N/A	N/A	Started in FY 2014
Tom Gates	Chief of Staff / Deputy City Manager	\$165,700	\$171,207	3.3%	\$5,506	Merit Step Increase Plus 10% Chief of Staff Pay
Mark Jinks	Deputy City Manager	\$164,981	\$170,463	3.3%	\$5,482	Top of Scale Adjustment (2.3% of Salary)
Rashad Young	City Manager	\$247,449	\$263,870	6.6%	\$16,420	Merit Step Increase
Totals		\$1,160,233	\$1,280,903	3.8%	\$46,752	

Footnotes

* FY 14 merits and salary adjustments were effective July 1, 2013

* There is no executive summary giving everyone a 5 percent increase, the proposed FY 15 budget contains an average merit of 3.2 percent for the entire organization

* 1 percent increase for all employees for VRS

As of 3-26-14.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

ing staff needed for events certainly doesn't seem reasonable. Will there be enough staff from Parks & Rec to cover these events?

❖ ACPS: Once again, ACPS is asking for more money than the city is planning to allocate. The school budget requests are always the highest budget item each and every year. It is time to say "no" to ACPS until they can get their financial house in order.

ACPS new superintendent needs to show that he is eliminating staff in central office along with clear data that school enrollment is and will be increasing. I understand that the only thing mayor/council can do regarding ACPS is funding. However, ACPS must show its data and the need for more money. This school district is small compared to Arlington and other districts with similar population numbers and its budget request should be reduced.

What is certainly clear from his budget is that Mr. Young is making sure to protect himself and his staff with major salary increases that are completely out of line wherein they have not proven they deserve a raise yet worth the six figure salaries they now receive.

These are tough financial times, but one would never know that in Alexandria wherein Mr. Young's budget focuses only on salary increases for himself and his staff, eliminating 33 jobs that are done by low-middle level employees and not looking to eliminate programs/staff but rather moving staff around to other jobs.

Do our elected officials have the courage to act like true stewards for Alexandria as it relates to finances? They took an oath of office related to their fiduciary responsibilities.

Will our elected leaders stop "bleeding" taxpayers for more tax dollars until they get their house in order? Are there any members of the council and city manager's office who have ever run a business wherein they not only need to make a profit, but look at how much money is being spent and not getting a return for these expenditures?

So many questions, yet are we going to see another proposed budget adopted wherein our elected officials have no sense of how to manage money, have experience in running their own business and have lost the fact that this is not the private sector but public service wherein senior staff, city

manager and his staff see how much money they can make working for the City of Alexandria.

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

What Happened To Democracy?

To the Editor:

I've always wondered what happens when Democrats control a democracy.

Alexandria is great petri dish to make this observation. Not only is it full of Democrats, it's full the best kind: government employees. Alexandria is awash with them. Understandably, their proclivity is to turn to government for leadership, solutions and redress. To this mindset, the government is not the servant; it's the master.

And last month, our local master conquered. It vanquished the Old Town Boat Club. The city used police state threats and \$5 million of our money to crush a venerable organization composed of private citizens. The city coveted their club property. Now, it appears what never belonged to the city is nearly in its hand.

Unless the Democratic Party in our city rejiggers the way in which City Council and the mayor are elected, there is nothing to restrain the city government. Our local Democratic Party has succeeded beyond its wildest dreams. It has fashioned a voting regime that insulates its nominees from opposition.

By changing the date on which our local city council and mayor are elected to coincide with national elections and by preventing communities from electing its own representatives, the Democratic Party has ensured that whomever its Party stalwarts select will be elected to office.

Hard to believe that a political party whose elixir is social justice took these steps. They suppress minority voices and marginalize views contrary to those espoused by the Democratic Party. Not very democratic at all; more like Dear Leader.

But back at water's edge, unless I missed it, the waterfront our city leaders are intent on giving us — whether we want it or not — has neither shape nor price; just design concepts and cost estimates.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 29



JUST REDUCED
Old Town \$1,095,000
610 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Circa 1810, this lovely 4BR/2.5BA free-standing home offers easy 2-level living in the heart of Old Town. Original floors, fireplace, 26 windows & a fabulous walled courtyard.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



NEW LISTING
Manors at Mt Vernon \$899,000
2408 Lakeshire Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308
Immaculate 4BR/3.5BA center hall colonial in Stratford Landing district. Tons of upgrades, gourmet kitchen, cul de sac.
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



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Old Town Gateway \$749,000
956 Washington Street N, Alexandria, VA 22314
Perfect location in OT! Almost 2000 sq. ft. 3BR/3.5BA, 2 osp, gas fp, and more! Walk to Trader Joe's, new Harris Teeter, restaurants, Giant, metro. Move in ready, just for you!
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Mt. Vernon Grove \$825,000
9300 Maybrook Place, Alexandria, VA 22309
Stunning 5BR/3.5BA Colonial in Mount Vernon. With beautiful upgrades throughout, you must see this beautiful, expanded colonial with 2CG, sauna, gourmet kitchen & more!
Rachel Carter 703-851-4207



NEW LISTING
Belle Haven On The Green \$515,000
1918 Duffield Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307
Absolutely lovely 2BR/2.5BA, 2 hl brick TH w/GAR, den, formal LR, DN, wood burn FP, HDWDs, inviting deck overlooking flowering garden. Mins to metro, Old Town Alex & 195/495.
Edward Pagett 703-518-6161



NEW LISTING
Grove At Huntley Meadows \$464,950
7694 Audubon Meadow Way, Alexandria, VA 22306
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The York Group 703-409-3377



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Heidi Burkhardt 703-217-6009



NEW LISTING
Pointe At Park Center \$225,000
3313 Wyndham Circle 1211, Alexandria, VA 22302
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Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562

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—Chief Seattle (1788-1866) Suquamish/Duwamish chief

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OPEN SUN

WATERFRONT



OPEN SUN

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- * Main level master suite
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- * Bulkhead, private dock with power lift
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OPEN SUN 4/13, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; R-Forest Haven; R-Dolphin Ln.

WATERFRONT



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OPEN SUN

JUST LISTED



5013 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
\$979,500

Stunning New Luxury Home!
 Absolutely nothing comparable for under \$1 Million. Just completed luxury home designed on the "Great Room" concept. Incredibly wide open main level with high ceilings and many windows provides bright, airy atmosphere. Other features: 3 luxuriously finished levels, 5 full baths, hardwood floors and stunning master suite! Gorgeous setting on level 1/2 acre lot. **OPEN SUN 4/13 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Patton; L-service road.**



OPEN SUN



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Alexandria / Liberty Row
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Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460



\$ 1,295,000
Alexandria / Old Town
609 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET

Enviably set Old Town near the park and within walking distance to the river/restaurants, this large townhouse was custom built from the foundation up in 1978 with lovely accents thru-out. With almost 4,000 sq ft. of living space, the home boasts 4 levels / 5BR / 3.5 Baths, and a fully finished Lower Level. The Lower level has a featuring a family room with wood-burning fireplace and an office / study also has a full bathroom making it possible to use as a mother-in-law suite. The house, light and bright thru-out even has a staircase with a skylight. A chef's kitchen with antique beams and an island work space opens onto a brick deck overlooking a huge spectacular garden. Al fresco dining anyone?




Norma Gants 703.408.2560

\$ 1,100,000
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225 NORTH ROYAL STREET

139 years young, this gorgeous, semi-detached, end-unit Victorian townhome is rich in period details and has been masterfully updated to accommodate modern living. Featuring 3 levels, 3 spacious bedrooms (one en-suite), and 2.5 baths. Kitchen has custom white cabinets, stainless / white panel refrigerator plus tiled back splash, table space and egress to a lovely private brick patio and garden. The living room offers bright light and a gas fireplace with an architectural surround and brick hearth. Separate dining room has built-in china cabinets. Gleaming hardwood floors thru-out, 12 foot ceilings, and working transoms. Lower level family room also has wonderful built-in shelving and bench, plus ample storage.




Bette Gorman, CRS 703.585.2235
Betsy Gorman 703.861.4825

\$ 855,000
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Sheila Kolb 703.201.2334

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\$ 875,000
Alexandria / Portners Landing
620 PITT STREET

An all brick classic near historic district, Potomac River, Metro, gourmet markets, coffee bars, restaurants and specialty shops. Wonderful enclave with easy access to DC and Reagan Airport. A traditional 4 level townhome, 3 en-suite bedrooms and one half-bath, wood floors thru-out, den/library and cook's kitchen with new granite, JennAir appliances and breakfast nook. Chair railing and crown molding thru-out. 9 foot ceilings. Storage. 2 garage parking spaces. Low HOA fee.




Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

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- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Business and financial writing: •Car Title Loans
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Public safety writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, **Laurence Foong**, **Geovani Flores**, **Marilyn Campbell**, **John Byrd**, **Tim Peterson** and **Jean Card**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Specialty pages or sections: •HomeLifeStyle
- ❖ **Jean Card**, **Laurence Foong**, **Renee Ruggles** and **Craig Sterbutzel**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational graphics: •Fairfax County parks



Second Place Winners

- ❖ **Steven Mauren**, **Jeanne Theismann**, **John Bordner**, **Jean Card**, **Geovani Flores** and **Laurence Foong**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Special sections or special editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.
- ❖ **Jean Card**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Page design.



Michael Lee Pope



Bonnie Hobbs



Jeanne Theismann



Jean Card



Steven Mauren



Laurence Foong



Geovani Flores



Marilyn Campbell



Steve Artley



John Bordner



Victoria Ross



Mary Kimm



Louise Krafft



Alex McVeigh



John Byrd



Tim Peterson



Renee Ruggles



Craig Sterbutzel

- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Alex McVeigh**, *Great Falls Connection* – In-depth or investigative reporting.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Health, science and environmental writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Government writing.

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Steve Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.

- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Burke Connection* – Feature series or continuing story.
- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Fairfax Connection* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Column writing.



Louise Krafft, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.

Third Place Winners

- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Fairfax Connection* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Louise Krafft**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.
- ❖ **Donna Manz**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Feature writing portfolio.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Education writing.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt Returns to Lee-Fendall House

The Lee-Fendall House 15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt returns to Alexandria April 18-20. Once again, the museum's garden will be filled with hundreds of colorful toy-filled Easter eggs. Other activities include games, crafts, refreshments, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter Egg. The Hunt schedule is Friday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 19, at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 20 at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. All children 12 and younger are eligible to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Older children and adults are welcome to enjoy all our other activities. Tickets are for sale through the museum's website at www.leafendallhouse.org. Tickets are \$12 for children aged 0-12, and \$5 for all others.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. See "REVOLUTION: Art and Technology" art exhibit through April 27 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists explore their relationship with technology in computer-created art, digitally manipulated art, art made from electronic parts, mixed-media pieces expressing feelings about technology, and more. Hours are Thursdays noon-6 p.m.; Friday & Saturday noon-9 p.m.; Sunday noon-6 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

Sculpture Exhibit. Through Sunday, April 27 at Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, located in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. See Edmond Nassa's "Innermost Evocations." His website <http://edmondnassa.com/showcases> some of his work. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

Art Exhibit. May 2-June 8 at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Meditations on the Boundless, an exhibit of acrylic paintings on yupo paper by Arlington artist Kimberly DiNatale. Opening reception Saturday, May 3, 4-6 p.m. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

Art Exhibit. See "LOULOU DI Flower/To Flower" at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The exhibit explores the natural process of flowering and its metaphorical context through object making and installation. Free. The exhibit runs through May 4. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

Art Exhibit. "Sound of Butterfly," a solo exhibition of new work by

Soomin Ham, a photographer and multimedia artist. Through May 11 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Studio 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. except Thursdays, 1-9 p.m. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Art Exhibit. See "Spirit of Place: Dyke Marsh," an exhibition of photography by Anthony Peritore and sculptural works by Megan Peritore through May 18 in the Crossroads Gallery, located in Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church. Free.

Theatre One-Man Shows. Through May 25, two shows will be performed in repertory at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. The Thousandth Night by Carol Wolf and starring Marcus Kyd, and Underneath the Lintel by Glen Berger starring Paul Morella will be performed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 or 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets \$50 (students \$25) at 800-494-8497 or www.boxofficetickets.com. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

Children's Theater. Arts on the Horizon presents "Sunny and Licorice" at The Lab at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Show is 30 minutes and best for ages 2-5. Performances are 10:30 a.m. May 30, June 4-6 and June 11-13; and 10 and 11:30 a.m. May 31, June 7 and June 14. \$8 tickets, purchase online or at the door. At each show the group will collect non-perishable food and canned good for Community Lodgings. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org/sunny-and-licorice or call 703-967-0437.

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 Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-noon. \$35/peron. Reservations

MetroStage Presents 'The Thousandth Night'

One-man show about an actor defending his life in Nazi-occupied France.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

MetroStage is presenting the one-man show, "The Thousandth Night" now through May 18. The play stars Marcus Kyd as a quick-thinking comic actor in a traveling company of players who are stuck in Paris during the occupation of France. He is facing his deportation for "propagating subversive material," so in his last effort to save his life, he performs his show for the last people (the audience) who may have his fate in their hands.

"Guy tells the gendarmes a series of stories, to be sure, but his own story is the backbone of the entire play," said Kyd who plays 36 different characters using various hats and scarves from his trunk.

John Vreeke, the director, said Guy's company of actors perform a specific 1942 ironic satiric slant to the language of the "Arabian Nights" stories in order to entertain their audiences at a cafe. "Guy attempts to demonstrate how these stories really are innocent and not subversive as the SS accuses," he said.

"As he pleads for his life, he describes his own complicit behavior and finally evolves his own moral center," said Vreeke.

Playwright Carol Wolf, who wrote the play in 1992, has written 40 plays in 30 productions on five continents. She said after several years of research on the Nazi occupation of Europe for an earlier play, the experience left her fascinated by how people responded to being under occupation by a foreign army.

"In a play, the playwright subjects the characters to extraordinary pressures over a period of time, to see what happens to them," she said. "It is like designing an alchemical experiment, where the play dictates the vessel, the heat, and the pressure. The audience follows along on that ride through their empathy with the characters."

Kyd said the biggest challenge for an actor is to make the bigger story clear: "There are little plays within the play, which also must be clear."

Vreeke said since the audience has a large role in this play as the French police who do not have the means or the will to help Guy escape, "the audience will get a stronger sense of what it meant to live in that horrible time and place."



PHOTO BY CHRIS BANKS

Marcus Kyd stars in "The Thousandth Night" at Metro Stage through May 18.

When the unsolicited script arrived on her desk 20 years ago, producer Carolyn Griffin knew it was the perfect play for MetroStage. "It involves the audience as characters in the play, which works so well in an intimate space, fully engaging them with humor, increasingly with a hint of sarcasm and ultimately shocking them out of their reverie when the reality of the situation asserts itself," said Griffin.

She added that "The Thousandth Night" is everything you want a theatrical event to accomplish: to engage, entertain, and finally, touch the audience on an emotional, unforgettable level — "that is the potential of The Thousandth Night."

Kyd hopes the audience will leave more curious about the world and about themselves: "There are many questions in here about how we choose to live our lives, about love and loss, and anger, and forgiveness. It is a marvelous microcosm for human souls."

❖ MetroStage is presenting "The Thousandth Night" now through May 18. Tickets are \$50. Show times are Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7 p.m. "Underneath the Lintel" is currently showing on the same stage on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. MetroStage is at 1201 N. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call 703-548-9044. Visit www.metrostage.org.

required. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Spy Program at Mount Vernon. 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through June 1. Learn about spying during the Revolutionary War, including concealment codes, invisible ink and double agents. Self-guided programs with map provided. Free with admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/spy.

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 through June 27. Hours are Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit

www.thedelrayartisans.org for more. **Doggy Happy Hours.** 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Thursdays during the summer. Free, drinks sold separately. Treats and water for dogs, with pet boutique and service vendors. Portions of proceeds benefit People. Animals. Love. Visit www.Monaco-Alexandria.com/alexandria-hotel/doggy-happy.

ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday, April 16, 7pm

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hour.html.

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 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 for more.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Songwriter's Showcase. Every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Features a different Songwriter's Association of Washington artist each week. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com for tickets.

George Washington's Mount Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon

request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria - a \$26 added value. Learn more at PresPassport.Monticello.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Children's Theatre Camp. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre spring break camp April 14-18. Visit <http://mvtct.org/camps.php> for more.

Art at the Center spring classes are now open for registration. The spring session runs April 21-May 30. Visit www.artatthecenter.org or call 703-201-1250.

Pre-School Studio. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. June 9-19, Mondays-Thursdays children ages 4-6 attend for explorations of clay, collage, drawing and painting as well as creativity, problem solving, collaboration and fun. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Youth Summer Classes. Beginning Monday, July 7, Metropolitan School of the Arts offers pre-professional summer dance, music theater and acting camps, as well as a wide variety of youth summer camps where students can explore and learn many facets of the performing and visual arts. Visit, www.metropolitanarts.org.

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.

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 for a schedule.

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

Theater Camp. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold sessions starting June 30 to Aug. 22. There are two-week sessions with morning, afternoon or all day sessions, and one-week sessions that go all day. To register, visit www.mvtct.org.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FUN

Cherry Blossom Food Tour. On Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m., take a guided tour of Alexandria, exploring the architecture, while pausing in locally-owned eateries to sample cherry-centric dishes and learn about cherry blossom history. \$49/person. Runs March 22-April 12. Visit www.dcmetrofoodtours.com/

2014 Spring Benefit Saturday, May 3rd, 2014

CFNC would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have enabled us to change the lives of disadvantaged children across Alexandria over the last thirty years.

We invite you to help us continue our work with a special celebration that includes cocktails, fabulous cuisine, and an exciting silent auction.

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Inquiries, Please call: 703-836-0214 or

Email: LCarter@CFNC-online.org



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Benefit Committee: Janet Gartlan and Marnie Repetti

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SPECIAL THANKS TO **Alexandria Gazette Packet** FOR ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.

Profiles of Courage

Private August Perault Pierce, 1930

August Pierce was born August 21, 1898 in New London, Conn. He joined the Navy in 1917, during World War I, and served until 1924. On Jan. 6, 1930, he became an Alexandria police officer.



On Sept. 7, 1930, Pierce was on patrol searching for a suspect wanted for a number of robberies throughout that night. Around 4:30 a.m., he observed a man near Four Mile Run matching the suspect's description. He asked a passing citizen to follow him before driving away, but when the citizen arrived, Pierce and a second man were on the ground. Both men were taken to Alexandria Hospital where Pierce was pronounced dead. The second man, shot multiple times, was still alive.

An investigation revealed that Pierce had confronted the suspect and a struggle ensued. When the suspect displayed a gun, Pierce fired his weapon, striking the suspect. The suspect returned fire multiple times, hitting Pierce in the chest and severing his aorta. He was 32 years old.

Help the Alexandria Police Foundation honor Private Pierce and other officers killed in the line of duty by supporting the **Alexandria Police Fallen Officers Memorial**. To donate, mail a check to:

Alexandria Police Foundation
3600 Wheeler Avenue, Suite 118
Alexandria, VA 22304.

Donate online at www.AlexandriaPoliceFoundation.org/Memorial.



Special thanks to:
Alexandria Gazette Packet

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ENTERTAINMENT

cherry_blossom_food_tour.html for more.

Blossoms by Bike River Ride. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m., enjoy a three-hour bike tour along the Mount Vernon Trail, into DC and around the tidal basin to see the blossoms up close. Runs March 22-April 13. \$40/person age 13 and older. Visit www.bikethesites.com/tours for reservations.

Cherry Blossom Boat Tour. Departing Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. at Cameron and Union Streets. Take a boat cruise and view the blossoms along the river. Runs March 29-April 13. \$26/adult; \$14/child age 2-11. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/blossoms2014.php to register.

THURSDAY/APRIL 10

Trunk Show Kickoff. 7 p.m., at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade retailer on King Street in Old Town Alexandria, is hosting its second annual Fair Trade clothing trunk show through Monday, April 14. Visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com, www.matatraders.com, www.symbolologyclothing.com, or call 703-684-1435.

Documentary Screening. 7 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School auditorium, 3330 King St. "Autism: The Musical" screening to mark Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. The film follows five children with autism who create and perform a live musical. Light refreshments available 6:30-7 p.m. For information or to RSVP call 703-820-4997.

Second Thursday Music. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Glimpses, a local band featuring

singer/songwriter Mercedes Mill and multi-instrumentalist and producer Matthew Leonard, accompanied by percussionist Jim Gormley. \$10 admission. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Nature Presentation. 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society hosts the presentation, "Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve: Restoring a Primeval Wilderness in the DC Area." Call 703-642-5173.

Concert. 8 p.m., at The Lyceum 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band-Members of the Air Force Strings will perform an evening of string music. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or call 202-767-5658.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

Plants, Food, and Art Market. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The American Horticultural Society will be holding its annual Spring Garden Market at its River Farm. Call 703-768-5700 or visit www.ahs.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

Plants, Food, and Art Market. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The American Horticultural Society will be holding its annual Spring Garden Market at its River Farm. Call 703-768-5700 or visit www.ahs.org.

Round Table Discussion. 10 a.m.-noon at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Discuss "Using Technology to Promote Art." Free, but donations encouraged. Register at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Animal Presentation. 11 a.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815 1/2 King St. "Under the Sea," presentations by marine biologists. Visit

www.theoldtowntheater.com or call 703-549-1025.

Firefighting History Walking

Tours. 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Explore Alexandria's firefighting history through a tour. For people age 10 and older. \$6/adults; \$4/age 10-17. Reservations required, www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse or 703-746-4994.

Book Signing. 1-5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Alexandria Fort Belvoir, 6055 Richmond Highway. Author Wendy Marie Withers signs copies of her book "Adventures of My Brother's Keeper."

Blues Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815 1/2 King St. The Nighthawks, WSG Fatty Lumpkin & The Love Hogs and Ron Holloway. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com or call 703-549-1025.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 12-13

Historic Ship Tour. Noon-5 p.m. at the pier at Alexandria Marina, 201 N. Union St. The Schooner Virginia, a tall ship recreation of the Virginia Pilot Association's last pure sailing vessel, on the first stop of its 2014 tour. Deck tours. Visit www.SchoonerVirginia.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 13

Easter Egg Hunt. 1 p.m. at Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living, 3709 Shannons Green Way. Bring a basket to collect eggs. There will also be arts and crafts and photos with the Easter Bunny. Refreshments provided for all guests. Free, reservations requested. Call 703-780-7100 or visit www.springhillsmountvernon.com.



PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

MVCCT Spring Break Camp

The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold a Spring Break Camp April 14-18. The theatre program will focus on education and development in five general areas: physical development/kinesthetic skills; artistic development/drama and theater skills; mental development/thinking skills; personal development/intra-personal skills; and social development/interpersonal skills. A final showcase will be performed on the last day of camp. Theatre camp is a great way to develop many skills while having fun and making friends. For more information or to sign up for Spring Break Camp, visit <http://mvcct.org/camps.php>.



Alexandria Police Fallen Officers Memorial

Help the Alexandria Police Foundation honor the 18 officers killed in the line of duty by supporting the **Alexandria Police Fallen Officers Memorial**. Join the growing list of more than 150 individuals and organizations who have already supported the memorial including:

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Commonwealth One	Alexandria Gazette Packet
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To donate, mail a check to:
Alexandria Police Foundation
 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Suite 118 • Alexandria, VA 22304

Or donate online at www.AlexandriaPoliceFoundation.org/Memorial.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Presentation. 2-3 p.m., at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Geocaching Organization will present an overview of geocaching, a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us, or call 703-746-1702.

Folk Concert. 7 p.m., at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St.. Focus Music presents folk singer David Mallett, with Thomas Gunn. \$25, \$20 for advance sales and members. Visit www.focusmusic.org/concerts_alexandria.php, www.davidmallett.com, or www.thomasgunnn.com, or call 703-380-3151.

MONDAY/APRIL 14

The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba. Come with or without a partner. Beginner (7-7:45 lesson) and advanced (7:45-8:30 lesson) dancers welcome. Practice 8:30-9 p.m. \$15 per lesson. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear vibraphonist Gary Burton and pianist Makoto Ozone perform. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/APRIL 15

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3800 W Braddock Road. The National Chamber Players, with special guest artist Nurit Bar-Josef, will perform Paganini's Duet for violin and bassoon, Igor Frolov's Divertimento for two violins and piano, and Mozart's Quintet in A Major for clarinet and strings. Free. Call 703-933-4135 or visit www.episcopalhighschool.org.

Music and Poetry Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Joan Osborne in support of her eighth studio album, Love and Hate. Visit www.birchmere.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Civil War Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Dr. Charles P. Poland, Jr. presents "The Endless Debate over What Caused the Civil War." Free, no reservations required. Visit www.historicalalexandria.org or call 703-746-4554.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Model Railroad Club. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The club presents

"Island Railroad Operations in Hawaii, Bermuda and Ireland" with film clips and light refreshments. Free.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Lily Costner opens for Kevin Costner & Modern West. \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets. Visit www.kevincostner.com.

Band Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The U.S. Air Force Band plays A Quartet Celebration; Clarinet Quartet vs. Tuba Quartet. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Easter Egg Hunt. 3:30 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Children 12 or younger are eligible to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Older children and adults are welcome to enjoy all other activities. \$12 for children aged 0-12, \$5 for others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Third Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Refreshments provided. \$4. Visit www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org/eventsprograms.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Civil War Sesquicentennial Event. 8 a.m. in the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Grant Takes Command of the Union Army, Battles Lee at The Wilderness, Spotsylvania. Contact dhakenson@cox.net or call 703-971-4984.

Easter Egg Hunt. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street. Children 12 or younger are eligible to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Older children and adults are welcome to enjoy other activities. \$12 for children aged 0-12, and \$5 for all others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association hosts lessons 6:30-7:30 p.m., dancing 7:30-10 p.m. with DJ. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Liz Longley will open for Johnnyswim. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Cleve

Francis and his large band perform country, folk, blues, light rock and jazz. \$42. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000. Visit www.clevefrancis.com.

Swing Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815 1/2 King St. The Natty Beaux. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com or call 703-549-1025.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Spring Book Sale. 4-8:30 p.m. at the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. \$1 for paperbacks, \$3 for hardbacks, kids books for less. Members only preview, membership at door \$10. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Film Screening. 6:30 p.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815-1/2 King St. Screening of "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," with cocktail reception, exhibition of clothing worn on the film set and a pre-screening film discussion. Tickets \$45+, benefiting American Wounded Warriors and British Help for Heroes. Cisit <https://shop.alexandriava.gov> or www.theoldtowntheater.com, or call 703-746-4242 or 703-549-1025.

String Quartet Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The U.S. Air Force Band chamber players present an evening of music for string quartet, featuring music by Olivier Messiaen. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. \$1 for paperbacks, \$3 for hardbacks, kids books for less. Open to general public. Visit alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Middle School Play. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Middle School Auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre." Tickets \$5, cash and check only. Concessions available. Call 703-706-4500.

Magic Show. 7:30 p.m., Bishop Ireton High School theater, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Visit <http://magi-whirl.org>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Herb and Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Celebrate spring with the Friends of Carlyle House's Annual Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. Free. Admission for the House tour is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12 years old, free for children 4 and under or free with your Alexandria Garden Day ticket. Visit www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park for more.

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PEOPLE

Alexandria's Kathy Beynette Debuts Children's Book

“When I’m Not Myself” also offers insight into book production process.

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria painter Kathy DeZarn Beynette’s second children’s book, “When I’m Not Myself,” was released worldwide in March.

“When I’m Not Myself” combines Beynette’s colorful illustrations with her creative poetic verses to teach children about the connections between themselves and the Animal Kingdom.

“I hope children are entertained first and foremost, but I also hope they will be able to see themselves in these animals and understand the animal kingdom and themselves a little better. In addition, I hope that they can understand a little of the creative process,” she said.

The book is available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, local bookstores, and through the publisher’s website at



www.pomegranate.com.

Because she identifies with animals and feels empathy for them, a lot of her work is inspired by animals including her first children’s book, “When Your Porcupine Feels Prickly.”

What sets “When I’m Not Myself” apart from other children’s books is that it gives children a simplified glimpse into the publication and editing process.

Each of the book’s 48 pages contains Beynette’s original drawing and poem of a particular animal on one page and then a colored painting along with the edited text on the next page.

Educators can use the book to “show their students that the drafting and editing process happens in real life and it is not just something the teacher makes them do.”

In addition, the rhyme schemes are an excellent way for children to learn to read.

“Sometimes it’s easier for children to hear a universal truth if it is spoken about an animal than applying it to themselves. I think that’s why a lot of children’s books incorporate animals,” she said.

After her first children’s book, she wanted to try doing a children’s book with just drawings. Then she began thinking about

whether children would love them. She redid the book with paintings. Her editor decided that it would “would be really helpful and unique for children to see the process of a drawing becoming a painting.”

“Children can see the editing process even at this level,” she said.

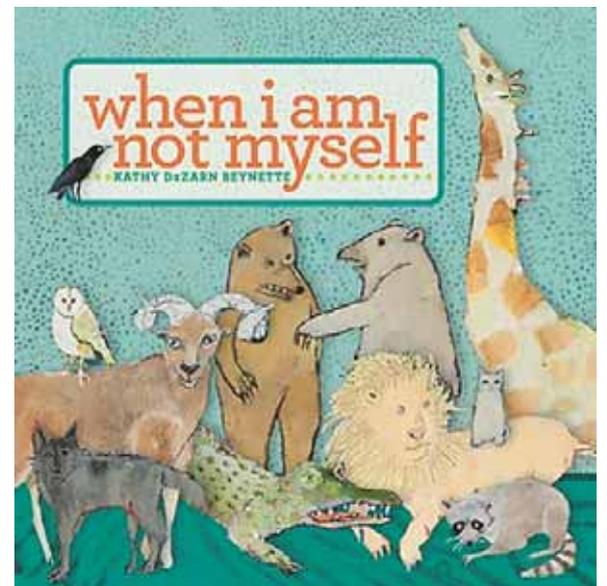
Overall, the creative process to produce “When I’m Not Myself” took her about 2 and a half years.

Beynette has been writing since the age of 7. In the sixth grade, she often wrote “steamy” romantic poems for the girls in her class and was paid .25 cents. One of her first jobs after college was as a theatre reviewer for a local magazine.

Throughout her artistic career, she has flirted with other art forms outside of painting such as calligraphy and embroidery. Beynette also incorporates a lot of everyday material such as window screen mesh, cheese cloths, and sticks into her artwork.

Her favorite children’s books include “Charlotte’s Web” by E. B. White and “Pippi Longstocking” by Astrid Lindgren.

Beynette was raised in and lives in the



Alexandria part of Fairfax County with her husband and two cats Edith and Willie. She is a full time artist and spends a majority of her time in her studio (studio 5) at the Torpedo Factory on Union Street. In her spare time, she also enjoys knitting, Zumba, running and of course reading.

Beynette has a BA in English from American University and a master’s degree in creative writing and literature from George Mason University.

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Local Designer Honored Alexandria tastemaker blends a variety of styles.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Old Town Alexandria-based interior designer Anna Kucera has a knack for helping her clients turn their fanciful ideas in to concrete realities.

“Getting to know my clients and looking for areas where I can create solutions for them is the first place I begin,” said Kucera, who lives in the Belle Haven section of Alexandria. “I purposely don’t ascribe to a signature style because my design philosophy is to interpret a client’s aesthetic preferences and help them bring their style to life. By guiding them to experience their surroundings in a new way, what they love about their home is enhanced.”

Kucera was honored for that talent recently when she received a 2014 Best of Houzz award for customer satisfaction. Clients who know her say

“I purposely don’t ascribe to a signature style because my design philosophy is to interpret a client’s aesthetic preferences and help them bring their style to life.”

— Anna Kucera



PHOTOS BY LORA MOFFE

Alexandria-based interior designer Anna Kucera received a 2014 Best of Houzz award for customer satisfaction.

the award is well deserved.

Kucera designed several rooms in the Alexandria home of Susan McLeod. “Anna’s integrity is evident in everything she does, from her family, faith friends and most importantly her works. Her ethics seem to be the foundation from where everything else is built,” said McLeod. “It is nice as a homeowner to be able to trust a designer. She’s easy to communicate with and listens very well. If she doesn’t understand a vision that I’m trying to get across to her, she asks the right questions to be able to get out of you what you like and what you don’t like. Anna designed window treatments, selected paint colors, wall paper, helped with fabrics for upholstery and made carpet selections.”

Kucera, who has a master of fine arts in interior design from The George Washington University, applied her design ideology to the living room of a home in Mount Vernon. “My client grew up in Williamsburg, Va., and had several lovely traditional pieces of furniture given by her mother that she wanted to incorporate into her new home,” said Kucera. “While my client’s aesthetic is steeped in traditional style, she and her husband sought a current look for their young family. We blended the traditional furniture forms with a fresh color palette incorporating a variety of texture and pattern.”

The designer used whimsical accessories, “pops of unexpected color and personal photos” to design a space that reflects the family who lives there.”

In Old Town Alexandria, Kucera redesigned a master bedroom for a client who wanted to create an elegant space without compromising comfort. “My client requested a sophisticated, yet comfortable retreat in her master bedroom. She longed for a space that is soothing and feminine,” said Kucera. “The room has a vaulted ceiling and lovely natural light. To accentuate the high ceilings and beautiful windows, I designed a bed canopy and corresponding drapery panels.”



Interior designer Anna Kucera helped a client blend traditional furniture from her mother with a fresh color palette that incorporated a variety of texture and pattern in her Mount Vernon home.

Kucera used window treatments to help create ambiance. “Beneath the drapery panels are translucent natural woven shades, which diffuse the intensity of sunlight while still allowing light to flood the room during the day,” she said. “The drapery panels may be closed for both privacy and light control.”

Chic accessories make the room a comfortable retreat. “Swing-arm lamps are mounted above the bed for bedtime reading. In the corner of the room is an upholstered rocker with an ottoman, which offers an additional cozy spot for reading and relaxation.”

Julie Duke, of Alexandria, is another satisfied customer. She met Kucera shortly after the 2011 earthquake rocked the Washington, D.C. region. “My house was severely damaged ...including collapsed ceilings and buckling floors,” said Duke. “Anna came in and helped me negotiate not only the reconstruction of my home, but then once the

Spring Home Spruce Up

“A refresh of art and accessories is a great way to welcome spring into your home. Think color and brightness. For example, swap out your sofa pillows for ones with an unexpected color. Place small bud vases throughout your home and as blossoms appear around your yard, simply place one here and there. Display your children or grandchildren’s colorful art in a prominent place. Change the arrangement on your mantel or dining table by adding spring green candles and a bowl of pebbles with moss.”

— ANNA KUCERA

construction aspect was done, we set about redecorating room by room. It was a two-year process. She was so professional, listened so well with regard to my taste and worked with the existing things in my home that were salvageable.”

Kucera may appreciate the award and her clients’ praise, but, she says, “The best compliment to my work is when a client hears ... a friend [say], ‘This is so you!’”



Interior designer Anna Kucera created a master bedroom for a client who wanted to create an elegant space without comprising comfort.



When designing this living room for an Mount Vernon family, designer Anna Kucera used whimsical accessories and pops of unexpected color.

Maintaining a Viable and Diverse Community

Public and private sectors must work together to secure the resources critical to working families and at-risk individuals in our community.

The following letter to Alexandria City Council concerning housing and human services budget recommendations from the Alexandria Budget Advocacy Coalition for Housing and Human Services is shared with the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

As you consider the FY 2015 proposed city budget, we urge you to make additional and needed investments in housing, health and human services programs. These recommendations were developed through a collaborative process of nonprofit housing developers, human service providers, and advocacy organizations identifying community needs and then making recommendations for the FY 2015 budget. Our organizations work daily with many vulnerable families who live and work in Alexandria. It will take both the public and private sectors, working together, to secure the resources critical to these working families and at-risk individuals in our community. We believe that strategic public investments in housing and human services can leverage significant amounts of private capital to provide an excellent return on the city's investment to maintain a viable and diverse community. The guiding principles that informed our decisions are as follows:

- ❖ No one recommendation takes priority over the others;
- ❖ Each recommendation funds a program that is an essential component of a system of housing and services that offers individuals and families in need the optimum chances for success;
- ❖ These recommendations support a wide spectrum of households along the housing continuum;
- ❖ No funding for new initiatives is requested. Instead, these recommendations fund coordinated efforts between housing and service providers to deliver critical safety net supports with maximum efficiency and adoption of best practices.

Our recommendations are as follows:

HEALTHY AND THRIVING RESIDENTS

Rental Subsidy Program: We support the City Manager's addition of \$240,000 for Senior/Disabled Rent Relief in the proposed budget. The current budget for rent relief is \$272,177, and has not changed since FY2007. This program supports approximately 80 households annually who are income-eligible elderly or disabled renters. The maximum subsidy will be capped at \$500/month, serving households that earn no more than \$25,600 annually. This funding will provide support for approximately 30 additional households.

Homeless Prevention Services: We request an addition of \$100,000 for Homeless Prevention Services in the proposed budget. This program has expended approximately \$293,000 YTD, and prevented 206 people from becoming homeless. While length of time for assistance varies, the average shel-

ter costs for individuals are approximately \$3,800 per person compared to the average subsidy for homeless prevention of \$1,400 per person. Keeping families and individuals in their homes is clearly of greater benefit, and more cost effective. However, this program has run out of funding, and can no longer be strategic for providing prevention services. Therefore we urge additional funding for this program in FY2015.

Disposition of the Aspen and Grayson Properties: Two city-owned or city-financed properties used as transitional housing for eight CSB clients and clients dealing with substance abuse are no longer in use for those purposes, and the disposition of the properties is uncertain. As noted in the Housing Master Plan, "there is an unmet need of 795 affordable housing units for persons with disabilities in Alexandria, and locating residential programs for CSB clients and/or homeless individuals is a community challenge." Currently, however, there is neighborhood acceptance for these two facilities. As a result, we urge the Council to direct the City Manager and appropriate staff to work with nonprofits in the community to continue their use for residential programs focused on these hard-to-serve populations.

Alexandria Fund for Human Services: We respectfully request that the funding for the Alexandria Fund for Human Services (AFHS) for FY2015 be restored to the FY2014 level, increasing the City Manager's proposed budget by \$111,829. A 5.5 percent decrease, following six consecutive years of level funding by the city, is a significant cut. City funds strengthen the ability of the nonprofit community to leverage private resources, in-kind donations, and volunteer hours from private citizens, the faith community, the business community, and foundations. This loss of funds will have a significant negative impact on programs delivered by our nonprofit organizations and, more importantly, those who are most vulnerable in our community.

JobLink Employment Services: We note the reduction in funding for employment services for adults through JobLink. Employment training and job placement are critical to the success of families and individuals to thrive and achieve greater self-sufficiency. However, this program was not helpful for many of the households we serve. We urge the city to support employment programs that address the challenges of very low income persons with high barriers to employment—language skills, life skills, basic educational deficiencies, criminal histories, etc. Initiatives that engage potential employers and community colleges with nonprofit organizations offer the best opportunities to train residents in the life and professional skills they need and place them in jobs. We would welcome the

opportunity to work with city staff to explore new opportunities to address this goal.

LIVABLE, GREEN AND PROSPERING CITY

Homeownership

We support the City Manager's addition of \$214,000 for five additional loans to low and moderate income Alexandria residents, noting that this is an increase above the four loans made in the last fiscal year. A key provision of the Housing Master Plan is to "provide and support affordable and workforce home purchase opportunities for Alexandria residents and workers." We hope that a way can be found to support a housing counselor, either by the city or outsourced to a third party. This homeownership education involving all aspects of home purchase and financing is critical to successful homeownership by reducing the incidence of delinquent mortgage payments or foreclosures.

Affordable Housing and the Adopted Goal of 2,000 newly committed units by 2025

Securing decent, affordable housing in Alexandria remains one of the greatest challenges for low and moderate income households, many of whom are employed full-time. Consider the following statistics from the Housing Master Plan:

- ❖ Over 6,000 market affordable rental units lost from 2000–2010;
- ❖ Over 12,000 affordable ownership units lost to increased property values in the same period;
- ❖ The analysis of future housing needs shows a net deficit of approximately 15,000 units by 2030 for households earning at or below 60 percent of the area median income;
- ❖ The shortage of units in all bedroom sizes for households earning at or below 30 percent of area median income is approximately 3,500 units.

We applaud the Council's unanimous approval of the Housing Master Plan, and adoption of the goal to preserve or build 2,000 units by 2025. Securing 800 units of committed affordable housing at Beauregard was a significant accomplishment, but given the tremendous documented need for housing that is affordable, we urge the Council not to include these units—which were committed in 2012—in the 2000 unit goal beginning in FY2015.

To support new construction or preservation of affordable rental housing, we urge City Council to consider a long-term, annual investment in housing which can leverage private funding to meet housing goals. The proposed FY15 Office of Housing budget provides a total of \$3.4 million available to develop or preserve new affordable rental housing, and increase the city's committed affordable housing stock. This breaks down into the following categories:

- ❖ Housing Trust Fund: \$2,135,000

- ❖ Federal funding: \$833,980 (HOME funds)

- ❖ General fund: \$490,000 (.06 cents of real estate tax)

The majority of Housing Trust Fund monies is one time carryover funding from FY14, and 25 percent of this \$3.4 million allocation is federal funding which is declining. We appreciate the continued commitment of the .06 cents of the real estate tax, and would urge allocation of additional funding in FY2016 as federal dollars continue to shrink. As affordable housing developers seek opportunities in the city, they will need an annual, reliable source of public funding to leverage their financing and bridge the gap to provide rents to moderate income households. The proposed funding for FY2015 is barely adequate for a 50-unit development, and would not support additional development opportunities.

This coalition appreciates the significant budget challenges for FY2015, and thanks you for your commitment to address our concerns for those in our community who are homeless, elderly or disabled, or simply low and moderate income workers who struggle to keep up with the cost of living in Alexandria. We stand ready to work with you to maintain the critical safety net of services and make the city a safe and prosperous place for all Alexandrians, regardless of income or ability.

AHC, Inc, **Walter Webdale**, President and CEO; Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Commission, **Dipti Pidikiti-Smith**, Chair; Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, **Daniel Abramson**, Chairman of the Board; Alexandria NAACP, **LaDonna Sanders**, President; Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, **Michael O'Rourke**, Executive Director; ALIVE!, **Ken Naser**, Executive Director and Ellen Brown, Board President; Carpenter's Shelter, **Lisette Bishins**, Executive Director; Community Lodgings, **Lynn Thomas**, Executive Director; Friends of Guest House, **Kari Galloway**, Executive Director; Governing Board for the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, **Pam Michell** and **Lisette Bishins**, co-chairs; Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, **Jon Smoot**, Executive Director; K.I. Services, Inc, **Yvonne Williams**, Executive Director; New Hope Housing, **Pam Michell**, Executive Director; Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, **Michelle Krockner**, Executive Director; Northern Virginia Family Service, **Mary Agee**, President and CEO; Rebuilding Together Alexandria, **Katharine Dixon**, President and CEO and **Donald Holley**, Chairman of the Board; and Wesley Housing Development Corporation, **Shelley Murphy**, President and CEO

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 17

When both finally materialize, it won't be the taxpaying citizens who decide either question: it will be those placed in office by Democratic Party apparatchik who select our office holders in their political primary. It's democracy all right, but democracy shamefully writ small.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Outlandish Property Taxes

To the Editor:

Why is it that our property taxes have risen 135 percent since the year 2000? That's an average increase of 7 percent every year. Yet we are consistently told by our council that the numerous new building developments they have ravaged upon us will create a tax base that will in turn give the citizens a break on their property taxes. That's just pure baloney, as who is paying for the entire associated infrastructure. Obviously the developers aren't; we are. Therefore the taxes generated by the city's numerous overdevelopment programs are being spent in other areas and are not being returned to us as tax rebates.

Take for example the city manager's proposed budget for FY 2015? The new pay schedule proposed by the city manager for his own office tells you a lot. It seems that three of his assistants have reached their maximum pay (or reached the top step in grade); however the manager has now created his own scale called the "Top of Scale Adjustment" which equates to an increase of 2.3 percent of salary. In real terms this means that all three will receive about a \$5,000 raise. Three other members of his staff will also receive between \$4,000 to \$5,000 raises. The city manager himself however tops the Richter Scale by giving himself a raise of \$16,420 resulting in a salary of \$263,870 or a 6.6 percent increase. This is not only bizarre, it's above the pale. A \$16,420 raise for doing what? This manager has isolated himself from the community by appointing a chief of staff and a number of other go-fers. In a poor economy

this is what our city officials are doing to help the community? The council needs to reject all these pay raises and start paying attention to where city funds should be spent. A good place to start is on our public safety, especially by not moving assets out of firehouse 204 on Powhatan Street to the new firehouse 210 on Eisenhower Street.

Even with the generation of all our revenues primarily through property taxes, the city is looking at a deficit of \$35 million in the FY 2015 budget. The real question then is how does the manager intend to balance the books? If you are a senior who has a house assessed over \$575,000 and even if you make less than \$40,000 you will pay the full property tax on that property. That means that if you bought your house many years ago at a lower price and now your house is assessed at \$600,000 you will pay the full tax of \$6,000. This initiative will save the city about \$1.3 million. In addition, the Senior's Taxi Program is a candidate for elimination because it will save \$164,000. Attempting to balance the budget on the backs of our seniors and public safety is nothing short of an underhanded financial management strategy. Oh, by the way, it is also recommended that we pay parking meter fees up till 9 p.m. which means another \$3.50 for those two extra hours of parking.

Now that the Boat Club negotiations are almost over it means that the city will owe the club \$5 million to move to the new Prince Street location. Additionally, the city bought the Beachcomber and one third of Chadwick's parking lot for \$2.5 million out of the open space fund. Those funds have to be returned to that open space fund. It means that it will cost the taxpayers \$7.5 million for that move. That equates to at least an additional 2 cent raise on our property taxes if council opts to fund it that way.

The end product of all this is that we the citizenry will continue to pay outlandish property taxes at the expense of funding a financially healthy city workforce who continually fail to listen to our concerns on most of the major issues facing us. It's time for a change.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Civil War Recruiting Day

Reenactors portraying soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, Company K, set up camp recently at Fort Ward Park for "Recruiting Day." The soldiers drilled on the green in front of the museum and answered questions about the unit and reenacting to visitors.

Reenactors from the 3rd U.S. Infantry, Company K, stand at ease in front of the gates at Fort Ward Park: Brian Briones, Jason Eckhart and Neil Burke.



A sample of tools and supplies that a U.S. Army surgeon would have worked with during the Civil War.

Brian Schwatka portrays surgeon 1st Lieutenant John Shaw Billing USA.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 10

Legislative Wrap Up. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Huntington Community Center, 5751 Liberty Drive. Del. Rob Krupicka will discuss this legislative session and the ongoing budget process. Visit <http://krupicka.ngpvanhost.com> for more.

THROUGH FRIDAY/APRIL 11

Clothing Drive. AIA's Women in Architecture Committee is collecting gently used women's professional attire for Dress for Success, a nonprofit organization that helps disadvantaged women. Visit www.aianova.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

Electronics Recycling. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, 400 Fontaine St. Electronics recycling in partnership with Service Source, including . Call 202-255-8905 or 703-953-4228. Visit www.keepitgreen.org.

Luncheon. The Alexandria chapter of Nu Xi Zeta will host the 7th annual Spring Luncheon entitled "Upholding Tradition, Investing in Our Youth" at 11 a.m. at Army Navy Country Club. The Nu Xi Zeta Foundation will recognize the Community Service Award recipient, the Campagna Center; Man of the Year, Glenn Hopkins; and Woman of the Year,

Jaspen Boothe; and the scholarship awardees. To purchase tickets, visit www.nuxizetahavefoundation.org.
Candidate Forum. 4-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Candidate forum for 8th Congressional District sponsored by Alexandria NAACP. Visit www.fairfaxnaacp.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 15

Business Development Roundtable. Noon-1 p.m. "Brainstorm Your Business" with Alexandria Small Business Development Center. Feedback for five businesses present at the roundtable. No registration required. Contact gflanagan@alexandriasbdc.org, call 703-778-1292 or visit www.alexandriasbdc.org.

Book Launch. 5-6 p.m. at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400. Reception with Ray Sidney-Smith, author of "SoLoMo Success: Social Media,

Local and Mobile Marketing Small Business Strategy Explained." Refreshments provided. Call 703-778-1292 or visit www.alexandriasbdc.org.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15-16

Social Media Counseling. Appointments at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400. 45-minute sessions for Alexandria businesses with Ray Sidney-Smith of W3 Consulting. Email Gloria.Flanagan@alexandriasbdc.org for availability at gflanagan@alexandriasbdc.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Discussion Series. 1-3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. "So You Think You're Covered: Evaluating Your Long-Term-Care Plans." Get guidance in how to evaluate long-term care insurance to see if it covers what you think it does, and if it doesn't, what you can do about it. Free. Reservations recommended, 703-

231-0824.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Crowne Plaza Old Town, 901 N Fairfax St. Thirty-six public safety personnel will be recognized at the 2014 Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Valor Awards Luncheon. Visit www.alexchamber.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Deadline for Proposals. 5 p.m. The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts is accepting proposals for the temporary placement or experience of art in public spaces in the City of Alexandria through the Special Opportunity Grant program. Artists and artist teams can apply for grants up to \$5,000. To attend the workshop via webinar, register in advance by email to cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

Proposal Would Save \$2.2 Million by Moving Engine 204

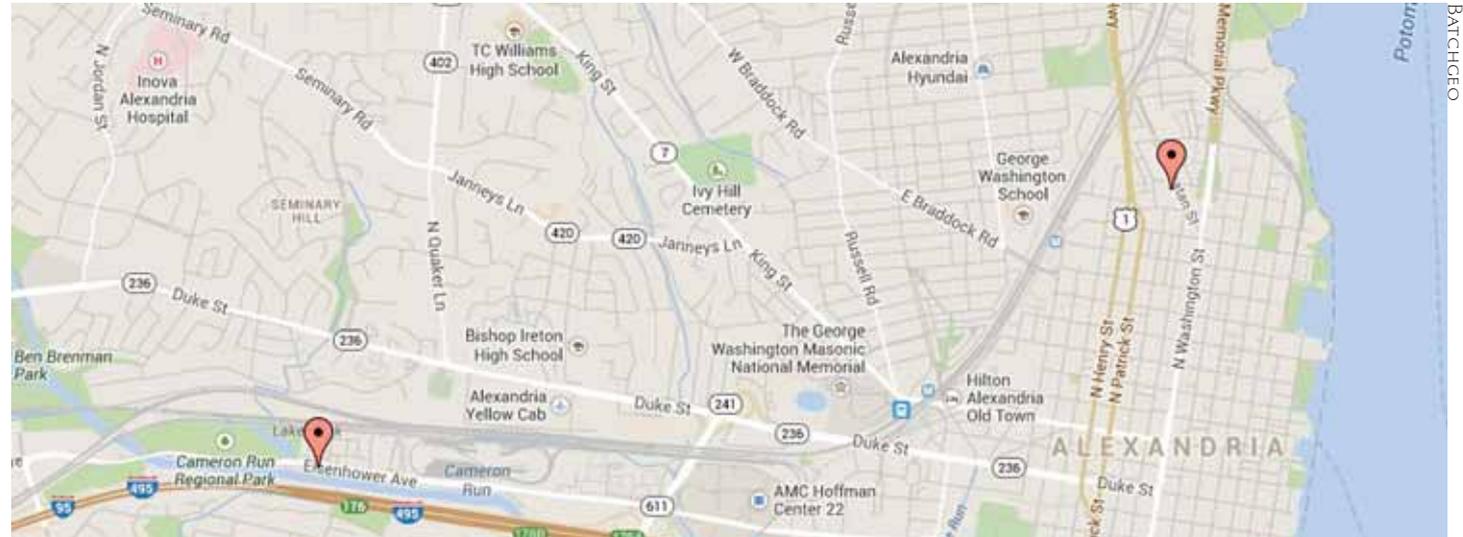
FROM PAGE 1

on the waterfront,” said Yvonne Weight Callahan, president of the Old Town Civic Association. “The idea that a fire engine could respond by leaving the West End to come down east during any type of rush hour is really truly frightening.”

THE COUNCIL has a number of choices. It could accept the city manager’s proposal, which would save about \$2.2 million compared to hiring a staff of 10 new employees and purchasing equipment for them. Or it could leave the newly created Station 210 closed for the short term. Or council members could find \$2.2 million — \$91,000 for equipment, \$780,000 for salaries and \$1.3 million in overtime costs driven by minimum staffing requirements.

“While these trade-offs are not ideal,” wrote Councilman Justin Wilson in an email to supporters, “they are the recommendation of our acting fire chief to utilize a limited supply of resources to protect the entire city.”

Acting Fire Chief Andrew Snead recommended moving an engine unit that had a consistently low number of calls for service to an area where existing fire engines have a high volume of calls for service. City records show Station 204 has received an average of 24 fire calls over the last three years, one of the lowest in the city. Because response times are longer than city officials say they should be, leaders at the fire department say



City officials want to move Engine 204 from the fire station on the east to the new fire station on the west.

the time is right to take action now.

“The proposed redeployment of Engine 204 is a recognition that our service delivery model requires reassessment of apparatus to balance fire apparatus throughout the entire response area and to improve fire response capabilities to those areas where calls for service are most prevalent,” said Young.

Incidents in Station 204	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
emergency medical service	1,042	998	939
false alarms and false calls	171	172	187
good intent calls	157	156	124
service calls	145	143	119
rescue suppression	25	29	40
hazardous conditions	29	36	32
structure, vehicle and outside fires	28	20	23
technical rescue	1	2	4
HazMat	9	3	3
overpressure, ruptures, explosion, overheating	4	0	1
severe weather and natural disasters	0	4	1
other type of incidents	1	0	1
total	1,612	1,563	1,474

ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Will City Balance the Budget on Backs of Seniors?

FROM PAGE 1

ment for a single-family home is almost \$680,000.

“We all know individuals who are house rich and cash poor,” said Robert Eiffert, a member of the Alexandria Commission on Aging. “We believe these changes will cause real hardship to older residents and those with disabilities who could be forced from their homes due to these cuts.”

Members of the commission are suggesting a cap of \$700,000 instead of \$500,000, which would be above the average single-family home assessment. It also suggests that the cap be indexed to the average rate of change in real-estate property values. This year, for example, the assessments grew by more than 4 percent. Creating an index would prevent seniors from being forced out of the tax-relief program at the whim of the real-estate market. Now commission members are urging council members to incorporate these changes when they vote on a final budget in May.

“We urge you to reject or significantly modify these changes to the tax relief program to keep Alexandria a livable community for all ages,” said Eiffert.

THE SENIOR TAXI program was established more than 25 years ago to provide taxi rides to city residents age 60 and older. Trips are permitted to the grocery store and medical appointments within city limits as well medical appointments up to five miles outside city limits. City officials say eliminating the program would save about

“We believe these changes will cause real hardship to older residents and those with disabilities who could be forced from their homes due to these cuts.”

— Robert Eiffert of the Alexandria Commission on Aging

\$164,000, although it would be somewhat offset by continuation of a Department of Community and Human Services group bus senior transportation system and the Department of Transportation paratransit system. But critics are challenging the city manager’s explanation that those programs

will be able to handle the demand.

“This assumption is flat out wrong,” said Jane King, chairwoman of the Commission on Aging. “Most current users are not eligible for DOT, which in fact tends to be more costly to the city than senior taxi.”

King said riders in the DOT program must be certified by a physician as unable to ride a bus system because of disability. Furthermore, she said, the Division on Aging buses provide group transportation but not for individual appointments. King also expressed concern about guardianship legal fees for incapacitated seniors. She asked council members to add \$36,000 to make sure the eight clients who are currently on a waiting list get the help they need.

“Our community has few legal resources to address the help needed by low-income seniors who are unable to manage their own health, safety and financial affairs due to mental or physical disability,” said King. “Most have no family or other resources to call upon.”

ADVOCATES FOR SENIORS are also concerned about the proposed termination of JobLink support for older residents seeking employment. King said these job searches are often so difficult they are “brutal,” adding that since the program

launched 29 percent of clients have found permanent employment.

“This program allows these people to remain in our community as contributing workers and tax-paying citizens,” said King.

City officials point to one of the budget proposals they say would help seniors, a plan to increase senior rent relief by \$240,000. Councilman Paul Smedberg asked Young to consider adding time restrictions on when a lease must be acquired to qualify for the program, an effort to make sure people don’t move to Alexandria specifically to take advantage of the program. The city manager responded that 90 percent of the renters in the program have lived in Alexandria for more than one year, and that the average length of residency in the city was 31 years. Young added that if council members create a one-year residency requirement some exemptions should be created for those who are homeless and those who are current recipients with less than one-year residency.

“Those individuals would be allowed to continue in the program to prevent unnecessary and costlier homeless prevention services in the event they cannot afford the rent without the subsidy,” wrote Young in a budget memorandum.

SPORTS

SSSA Girls' Lacrosse Trounces Rival Episcopal

Saints undefeated despite graduation of multiple All-Americans.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

How does a program respond to the graduation of multiple All-Americans, including one of the most prolific goal-scorers in high school lacrosse history?

If that program is St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, led by legendary coach Kathy Jenkins, it just plugs in some new athletes and keeps on winning.

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team defeated rival Episcopal 17-3 on Tuesday at Episcopal High School. Ten different players scored at least one goal for the Saints, who improved their record to 14-0.

Junior midfielder Ellie Majure and senior midfielder Olivia Mikkelsen each scored four goals for the Saints. Majure leads the Washington, D.C.-metro area with 60 goals, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

"She has very quick hands and feet," Jenkins said. "Watch her hands, her hands are so quick. She sees [the field] really well and she likes to score."

While it's nothing new for the Saints to have a standout goal-scorer, having someone other than Carly Reed at the top of the list is a change of pace. Reed, now a freshman on the University of North Carolina women's team, finished her four-year SSSA career with 475 goals, which would be a national record according to the National Federation of State High School Associations. With Reed now in college, the Saints feature a more balanced offensive attack.

"We like to have seven or eight scorers," said Jenkins, who has won more than 600 games in nearly 40 years of coaching. "Last year, people all went after Carly. We'd rather

Ellie Majure (34) is the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team's leading goal scorer this season.

have it more spread out. ... We're still trying to run the same things and we're just feeling like more people are being given opportunities to score. Carly liked the ball in her stick and she was really good at getting open."

Senior midfielder Sophie Davidson scored two goals against Episcopal on Tuesday. Junior attacker Haley Mullen, sophomore attacker Ellie Carson, junior attacker Abby Bailey, junior defender Kendall Swenson, freshman midfielder Caroline Wiseman, sophomore midfielder Anna Pusey and sophomore attacker Mattern Burnett each scored one goal against the Maroon.

The Saints have also been strong defensively, thanks in part to University of Southern California-bound goalkeeper Gussie Johns.

"She's just such a leader, but she's also an athlete," Jenkins said about Johns. "... Her athletic ability, her game knowledge, her understanding of the game, her coaching from behind in the goal [make her a strong goalkeeper]."

Johns said she when she was younger she wanted to become a goalie to follow in the footsteps of her older brother, Bo.

"I think being athletic in the goal helps me," Johns said. "I think it brings something else to the position that not a lot of people are able to."

I think the position is changing a lot. They can go out for ground balls or help on



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

the defense or help on the ride."

The Saints have continued winning despite the graduation of All-Americans Reed, attacker Besser Dyson (University of Virginia), defender Wyatt Whitley (Virginia) and midfielder Margaret Tucker Fogarty (James Madison). Last season, St. Stephen's finished 28-1, winning ISL and state championships. This year, the Saints are undefeated midway through the season.

"It's something I'd like to do," Johns said of going undefeated. "It's a great feat to go undefeated, but it's not something always on the top of my mind."

The Saints will travel to face Flint Hill at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, and will host Collegiate School at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, April 11.

Ellie Carson and the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team defeated Episcopal 17-3 on Tuesday.



Titans Divide and Conquer TC crew dominates in separate events.

"Divide and conquer" is a term not usually associated with the sport of rowing. Yet in races this past Saturday in Virginia and Delaware, that is exactly what the boys and girls of the T.C. Williams crew team achieved.

First, the boys: competing in a scrimmage at Bull Run Marina against the crew from Westfield High School, the Titan oarsmen won 17 out of the 18 events that they raced. Head boys' coach Pete Stramese stressed not to read too much into the results — that the scrimmage was for practice purposes only and that the final seats and boat line-ups are not yet set. Still, he said, he was generally satisfied by the results.

"Our guys know what they have to do," Stramese said. "It all comes down to hard work, and being smart and disciplined in our approach. We're fortunate to have a core group of seniors who are providing leadership in this regard. The challenge now is to stay focused and keep improving from week to week."

On the girls' side, the Titans returned to St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Del., for the second week in a row to compete in the Noxontown Regatta. When they raced at St. Andrew's on March 29, the T.C. girls dominated the field, finishing in first or second place in every race they entered. This past Saturday, the Titans repeated that feat,

winning four out of the six events raced on the day, and coming in second in the other two.

The girls' third varsity 8 sprinted down the 1,500-meter course with a time of 6:01.9, five seconds faster than the runner-up boat from Walt Whitman High School. Members of the third varsity 8 include: coxswain Kathrina Policarpio and rowers Caleigh Pattisall, Alyssa Forbes, Annette Koroma, Kate Arnold, Valerie Hernandez, Emily Dickson, Lynn Stevens, and Priya Vohra. The third varsity is guided by coach Jane Turner.

The girls' varsity 4 crossed the finish line with a time of 6:38.9, nearly 20 seconds

faster than runner-up St. Andrew's. Members of the varsity 4 include: coxswain Policarpio and rowers Lynn Stevens, Kate Arnold, Alexis Judd, and Julet Roque. The varsity 4 is also guided by Coach Turner.

The girls' freshman 8 won their race for the second week in a row with a time of 5:53.4, over 10 seconds faster than the second-place boat from Bethesda-Chevy Chase. Members of the freshman 8 include: coxswain Elizabeth Roda and rowers Anissa Ashraf, Olivia Anthony, Reed Kenny, Caroline Hill, Lauren Kelly, Fatima Chavez, Cobie Johnson, and Jessica Mellon. The

SEE TC CREW, PAGE 31

SPORTS

TC Crew

FROM PAGE 31

Freshman 8 are guided by T.C. girls' head coach Patrick Marquardt.

The girls' novice 8 "A" boat was also victorious for a second consecutive week by finishing with a time of 6:35.4, nearly 11 seconds faster than the runner-up boat from Walt Whitman. Members of the novice 8 "A" boat include: coxswain Andi Scroggs and rowers Cleo Lewis, Kirsten Emblom, Grace Vannatta, Grace Hogan, Rachel Sedehi, Holly Garrett, Hope Parson and Meredith Lemke. The novice girls are guided by coach Cara Donley.

The T.C. Williams girls' varsity 8 came in second at Noxontown this past weekend. On March 29, the varsity 8 captured the St. Andrew's Cup by winning their race with a one-second victory over the St. Andrew's girls' crew. This past Saturday, the battle continued but the results were flipped, with St. Andrew's winning the race and the Titan girls crossing the finish line less than one second behind. Also coming in second at Noxontown was the T.C. Williams second varsity 8, who also had a hard-fought race against their counterparts from St. Andrew's and finished with a time of 5:40.7.

"It's hard not to be pleased with these results," Marquardt said. "We have fared well against some very tough opponents these past two weeks. But we also know that each week is different. Conditions change and the competition keeps getting better. We've got to get better, too. If we keep working like we have, I'm confident we will."

The Titans take to the water next Saturday at the Darrell Winslow Regatta on the Occoquan Reservoir.



PHOTO BY CORRIN REID/GAZETTE PACKET

First Place

Quinn Davis, 6 years old, with family friend Jennifer Catton at the annual Alexandria Invitational Cheerleading Competition on Saturday, April 5. A member of the Mount Vernon Tigers, Youth Level 2, she finished first place. She and her family reside in Del Ray. A variety of rec centers and clubs at different age levels (Pee Wee Level 1, Youth Level 1, Youth Level 2, Junior Level 1 and Junior Level 2) competed with cheerleading routines.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

Sunday

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

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Paul Spring Retirement Community in Alexandria, Virginia has an immediate opening for our Business Office Manager. This position encompasses a variety of administrative, bookkeeping, and HR duties to support the management of our community of active seniors. Ongoing duties include preparing management reports, A/P and A/R tasks, maintaining accurate resident account information, HR generalist duties including processing new employee documents, maintaining personnel files, and preparation of employee timekeeping data for payroll processing.

This position requires a minimum level of education of an Associate Degree in Accounting or related financial field along with proficiency using Word, Excel, and Access. The ability to communicate in English is also a requirement. This position requires excellent customer service and organizational skills. Must have or be willing to become a notary.

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Victoria Guarneros Hernandez (Age 93)
"Mami"

On April 6, 2014 at her home in Alexandria, VA after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Born in Puebla, Mexico, she moved to Alexandria, VA in 1996 to live with her daughter and her family. Mami was known for being very generous; loved music and dancing; was an environmentalist before it was fashionable; and was an excellent fashion designer and tailor, making intricate articles of clothing to include her daughter's wedding dress. She enjoyed gazing at the stars and pointing out constellations to her grandchildren, in fact, she knew the constellations so well that her grandson asked if Mami was an Astrologist. She attended the Alexandria Adult Daycare Center for ten years and will be remembered as being the most cheerful individual there. Mami struggled with Alzheimer's disease for the past 18 years and was one of four families featured in a PBS special on Alzheimer's disease. She was devoted to her faith and extremely faithful to her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Armando Hernandez. Mami is survived by her loving children, Guadalupe Silva-Krause, Teresa, Arturo, and Patricia Hernandez; eleven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and her siblings, Abraham Guarneros and Raquel Morales; as well as her faithful companion, Perilita. Family and friends may gather on Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, April 11, 2014 at 11 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. A guest register may be found at www.everlywheatleyfuneralhome.com

21 Announcements

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OBITUARY
Mable LaVelle Cox Baird, 88,
daughter of the late Roger Prior Cox and Annie Rollings Cox, died Saturday, April 5, 2014, at Riverside Regional Medical Center after a brief illness. Mable was born July 18, 1925 in Sussex Co. and graduated from Newport News High School in June 1943 and Hampton Roads Business College in 1944. A lifelong dedicated Methodist, she was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Newport News where she was a member of the Jane Waters Circle of the United Methodist Women and a beloved member of the chancel choir until her recent illness. Mable began her professional career as a secretary for the Newport News Chamber of Commerce. Then she served as secretary for the District Superintendents of the Alexandria and Peninsula District offices of the United Methodist Church for more than thirty years. Mable loved her participation in the Business and Professiona Women's Club for many years, serving in various local and state offices. Her passion for genealogy led to her membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy for over 45 years. She was most recently a member of the Isle of Wight Chapter #699 in Smithfield, Va., where she held many different offices, including Past President. Mable was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 46 years, Marion Sims Baird, Jr., and a brother, Roger Cox. Survivors include a brother-in-law, Horace Baird, of Colonial Heights; sister-in-law Marjorie Baird of Surry; two nieces, Alice Baird Curtis and her husband, Barry, of Colonial Heights, June Baird Edwards and her husband, Jerry of Midlothian; a great niece, Kimberly Curtis of Charlottesville; two great nephews, Wesley Edwards of Richmond, and Jeffrey Edwards of Blacksburg; numerous cousins, including Barbara Francis, her husband, Cliff, Dr. Ruth Cox; and a devoted friend, Marilyn Curtin. The family will receive friends from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, 2014 at Peninsula Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 12 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at First United Methodist Church, 10246 Warwick Blvd., Newport News. Burial will follow in Peninsula Memorial Park. A reception will be held at the church following interment. Expressions of sympathy may be made to First United Methodist Church of the American Cancer Society. Peninsula Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Liquidating entire contents. Asian Art Collection: framed prints, bone & faux ivory carvings, 4 ft bone tusks, scrolls, vases, swords, much more, Lots of decorative items: fancy clocks, brass, fancy copper pots, antique trunks & typewriters, crystal, stamp collection etc. King bdrm set (cane) 6 pcs \$375, 2 pc beige sofas, solid wood bkcases, desks, kitchen ware, etc., Old photography equipment, tripods. ALL must be sold. LOW prices CASH Only

21 Announcements

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Paul D. Camp Community College in Franklin, VA is currently recruiting for
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This position will ensure that the mission and educational objectives of the College are attained through its Nursing and Allied Health Programs; provide strategic leadership for planning, development, assessment, evaluation, administration and continuous improvement of curriculum and instruction. A detailed job description and directions on applying can be found on the Paul D. Camp Community College web site (www.pdccc.edu/employment). Application packets should be e-mailed to jobs@pdccc.edu. For further information contact Human Resources at 757-569-6708.

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21 Announcements

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URGENT NEWS IF YOU USED TESTOSTERONE HEART ATTACK or STROKE?
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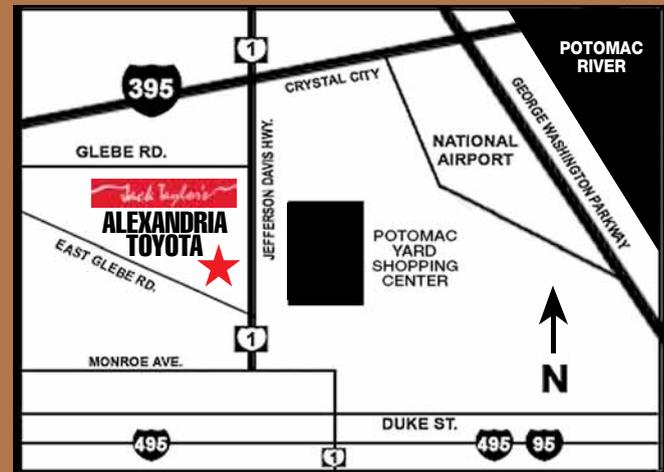
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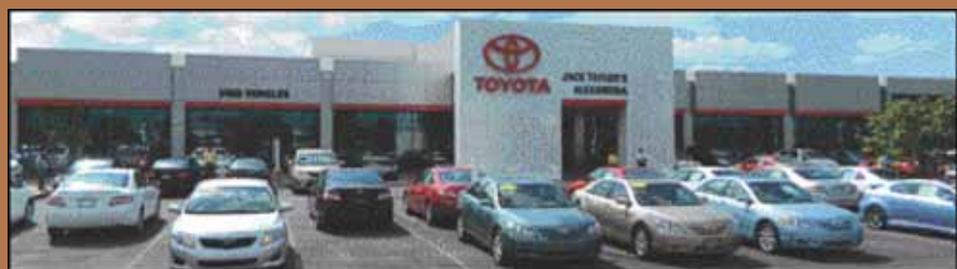


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<p>OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$5⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</small></p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>VARIABLE DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99 \$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99 \$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99 \$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99 \$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>\$79⁹⁵</p> <p><small>PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR</small></p> <p>Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.</p> <p>INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE SPRING DETAIL SPECIAL</p> <p>\$119⁹⁵</p> <p>Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior.</p> <p><small>Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.</small></p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BRAKE SPECIAL</p> <p>\$99⁹⁵</p> <p>PADS</p> <p>Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.</p> <p>MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</p> <p><small>DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE</p> <p>\$159⁹⁹</p> <p><small>Synthetic \$10 More</small></p> <p>Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/13. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BASIC MINOR SERVICE</p> <p>PERFORMED EVERY 5,000 MILES OR 6 MONTHS WHICHEVER COMES FIRST</p> <p>\$69⁰⁰</p> <p><small>2003 & NEWER Synthetic \$10 More</small></p> <p>Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, inspect brakes, top off under hood fluids, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE DETAIL SPECIALS</p> <p>\$39⁹⁵ Wash & Vacuum</p> <p>\$139⁹⁵ Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning</p> <p>\$295⁹⁵ Full premium detail</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE VENTILATION SPECIAL</p> <p>\$79⁹⁵</p> <p>Includes: Clean condenser fins, check A/C performance, inspect drive belts for tension/wear and replace cabin air filter.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</p> <p>\$139⁹⁵</p> <p><small>INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION</small></p> <p>Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.</p> <p><small>Does not apply to hybrid batteries.</small></p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR \$1⁰⁰</p> <p><small>TIRE CENTER</small></p> <p>GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE HEADLIGHT RESTORATION SPECIAL</p> <p>\$89⁹⁵</p> <p>Plastic lenses can yellow with age, reducing the vehicle's market value. Headlight brightness & the overall safety during nighttime driving. The headlight lens restoration from us allows you to shine and restore headlights to like-new conditions.</p> <p><small>Before After</small></p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
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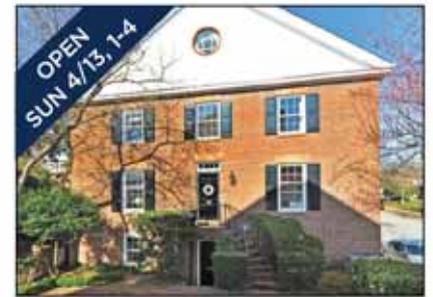
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Hardwood floors, a cheery sunroom & lovely built-ins all add charm to this brick, 3-bedroom, 2-bath Jefferson Park home. The large dining room easily holds a table for ten. Spacious, fenced backyard & private driveway. 606 W Windsor Ave. MLS# AX8310462

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At their 2014 Generation to Generation Gala, SSA honored Patty Moran and her daughter Kate; Lonnie Rich and Marcia Call, and his daughter Sarah, who lives in Belgium.

Pictured left to right: Kate Moran, Mary Lee Anderson (Director, SSA), Patty Moran, Mayor Bill Euille (guest), Gregg Murphy (Chair, SSA BOD), Lonnie Rich, Mattie Rich, Marcia Call, Meg Rich (guest). Photographer: Wayne Hulehan.



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2-bedroom, 2-bath, 1100 SF, glass enclosed sunroom, garage parking, extra storage, pool, fitness, 2 blocks to Metro, shopping, Whole Foods, and more. Private tennis, dog park, 24/7 front desk, rooftop outdoor area. Bring your offers! MLS# AX8311043

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Beautifully renovated townhouse in exceptional condition. 2 large master bedrooms with 3.5 full renovated baths. Gourmet kitchen with granite. Large family room with fireplace walks out to a flagstone patio. 2 assigned parking spaces. Easy access to I495.

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Alexandria \$689,900

Center hall Colonial with four bedrooms, two and a half baths, two-car garage. Many updates. Just painted, hardwood floors re-finished, new carpet, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room. A Must See! MLS# FX8307597

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Alexandria \$639,000

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