



Members of the Universal Lodge #1 celebrate their 170th anniversary in Alexandria. Pictured are: Councilmember John Chapman, McArthur Myers, Police Chief Earl Cook, Worshipful Master Jamie Flores, Past Deputy District Grand Master Richard Williams, Past Master Al-Hadid Rollins, Lorenzo Myers and Past Master Tom Robinson.

Universal # 1 Lodge Honored

Celebrating its 170th anniversary, members of the Universal #1 Lodge gathered in City Hall council chambers on Tuesday evening, Feb. 10, to receive a proclamation. The Lodge began as the Prince Hall Free Masonry on Feb. 5, 1845 in what was then Alexandria, D.C. It was created by three seaman, William Dudley, Sandy Bryant and Benjamin Crier who had been initiated Masons at the St. George Lodge #32 Liverpool, England. They settled in Alexandria in 1838 and became members of Social Lodge #7 of Washington, D.C.

The lodge began to function on Aug. 26, 1845 with George Sims as Worshipful Master. Charter members included Ephraim Bancroft, Dennis Bourbon, Pete Costin, Edward Evans, James Evans, Richard Garrett, Joseph L. Gibson, Alfred Hamilton, the Rev. Robert H. Robinson (P.G.M.), and George Sims.

Universal Lodge held regular meetings on the second floor of a house at 424 S. Royal St. in a section of Alexandria known as Hayti.



In celebration of its 170th Anniversary and its continued service to the City of Alexandria, Councilmember John Chapman reads the official City Proclamation honoring Universal #1 Lodge. Pictured with Chapman are Lodge members McArthur Meyers and Police Chief Earl Cook.

New Orleans On the Potomac

Analyzing how best to handle flooding along the waterfront.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria has set a flood mitigation system as the top priority for its new Waterfront plans, but one local engineer has said that the city's plans are creating more problems than they'll solve.

The current plan is to install a bulkhead six feet above the Potomac's water level at key points along the waterfront, particularly at the foot of King Street and various parks. The bulkhead will be topped by a walkway that will run all along the waterfront. The core problem with this design is that any time the water level floods in excess of six feet, that water that flows over the top of the barrier will be stuck on the other side. To counter this, the city has proposed the installation of two or three pumping stations and a piping network to push the water back into the Potomac.

Tony Kupersmith, a local engineer with a specialty in water-related architecture and a resident of Old Town, has become a recurring sight at the city's meetings on the new flood mitigation plan.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Current water levels at Waterfront Park.

According to Kupersmith, the project budget has gone out of control and is absurdly overcomplicated.

"They've created a drainage area all along South Union Street," said Kupersmith. "With the walkway, they're building a levee. We're creating a New Orleans on the Potomac."

In chapter 7 of the city's 2010 Evaluation and Recommendation of Mitigation Measures, the cost of the construction of the elevated walkway would be \$5 million with

SEE HOW BEST. PAGE 3

City Manager Presents Disheartening Property Assessment

Slow-growing tax base to affect city budget.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

While the city's residential tax base shows modest growth, acting City Manager Mark Jinks says the commercial sector has remained stagnant.

At the Feb. 10 City Council meeting, Jinks presented the 2015 Real Property Assessment.

"While the assessments were up, it was very modest on the residential side and flat on the commercial side," said Jinks, who noted

that this is consistent with regional commercial growth problems. According to Jinks, the March 3 budget will reflect that impact.

This year, the city's real property tax base increased 3.5 percent, or \$1.25 billion. While the residential tax base rose by 4.33 percent, the commercial sector only increased by 2.37 percent. This rate of growth is consistent with the previous year. In 2014, the real property tax base increased by 3.3 percent and by 2.8 percent.

Particularly hard hit in commercial real estate were hotels, in

which Alexandria saw a 13.27 percent decline. The closure of Hawthorne Suites, Washington Suites, and the Holiday Inn has been a grim indicator of the hotel business in Alexandria. City Staff expressed hopes that the new hotel at the corner of Dangerfield and Prince street, as well hotel construction anticipated with the arrival of the National Science Foundation, can help turn that trend around.

According to a report by Stephen Fuller from the George Mason University Center for Regional

Analysis, jobs decreased in Northern Virginia by 21,800 (5.6 percent) between 2010 and 2013. Average payroll for the remaining jobs decreased by \$2.4 billion.

"The regional economy has gone from one of the fastest growing to the second slowest," said Acting

Deputy City Manager Nelsie Birch. "The jobs added back on are less weighty than the earnings lost."

One of the other effects of economic slowdown has been a decrease in spending. While the City Manager's office was reviewing

SEE SLOW GROWING. PAGE 5





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How Best To Handle Flooding?

FROM PAGE 1

an additional \$1 million for annual maintenance costs. The city also predicted a benefit of \$14 million for the nearby waterfront structures and businesses. As part of the 2010 report, the city performed a benefit-cost analysis on various flood mitigation plans. In these studies, a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) measures the net benefit of a project compared to that project's cost. A BCR of 1 of one would be perfectly even, while a BCR of 0.5 would have twice as many costs as the project would yield in benefits. The elevated walkway has a BCR of 2.43 for King Street and the waterfront commercial area, which was higher than the 2.41 BCR for the waterfront commercial area with the flood proofing, though not as high as the 6.33 BCR for King Street. In the city's benefit-cost analysis at the time, the elevated walkway seemed to be the most cost effective means of flood mitigation.

However, in 2013 the city hired The Olin Studio, a landscape architecture firm, to design the waterfront bulkheads. The cost of the project then rose from \$6 million to \$33 million. In a later benefit-cost analysis, the BCR fell to .45. Even a new estimate later only managed to raise the BCR to .9, which means the project's costs outweigh its benefits.

Emily Baker, acting deputy city manager, said that the main benefits of the city's waterfront flood plan can't be measured in a cost-benefit analysis.

"We're looking at intangible things," said Baker, "like media setting up on King Street and capturing footage of the flooding."

But according to Celso Ferreira, an assistant professor of civil, environmental and infrastructure engineering at George Mason University, the argument that the benefits can't be measured doesn't hold water.

"In engineering, you're always looking for cost-benefit... It becomes tricky, but intangible?" Ferreira said. "People study those things, this is not new. We've been putting big dams in places and removing towns, people study that kind of stuff, that's why we have alternatives."

The city has not taken another benefit-cost analysis since the .9 BCR score, and according to Baker there are no plans to. The purpose of the tests were to secure federal funding, which requires a BCR score of at least 1.0, which the waterfront flood mitigation plan now does not qualify for.

"We're still exploring opportunities for state and federal grants," said Baker, "but none are secured at present."

SOME OF THE ADDITIONS, like the wetwell to collect the storm water runoff being pumped back into the Potomac, were expected cost increases. Others, like the addition of a \$4.26 million wooden deck that juts out over the water, city staff had a harder time justifying. Not only would the wooden deck likely suffer damage over time from the waves against the bulkhead, but it would also turn the area beneath the deck into a trap for trash. Baker said the wooden deck was ostensibly proposed as a means of getting visitors closer to the water, but

also added that the city is continuing to work on the final design of the walkway, meaning that some of the less cost-effective aspects of the project could be removed as plans move forward.

Even the \$14 million in benefits provided in benefits to the surrounding businesses has come into question. According to Baker, the flood bulkhead and pumping system would allow the Mai Thai Restaurant and businesses like Starbucks along South Union Street to continue operating unimpeded by flood conditions. However,

Kupersmith and Ferreira both criticized the idea that those stores and restaurants would be doing much business in conditions that would cause extensive flooding.

The only way Ferreira said he could see businesses being substantially affected by flooding would be water damage to the properties. According to the businesses, in recent years, flooding hasn't really been a problem.

"Flooding hasn't really happened, not in the past few years," said Matt Irby, an assistant manager at Mai Thai Restaurant. "People come in and talk about it, rumors mostly, but lately it's not something that's really affected us."

At the Starbucks next door, the shift supervisor Robert Christopher said the last flooding they encountered was in 2003. The only other time that water, in any way, impeded operations was three years ago when there was some water on the street but he said it did minimal damage to the store.

For some business owners, the biggest relief the flood mitigation would offer is the relief from media coverage Baker cited as one of the intangible benefits.

"The only flooding we see is the flood of stupid tv reporters," said Robert Lorensen from the Virginia Shop. "It kills business."

Lorensen, who's worked at the store since 2001, says he's only seen three instances that could really be classified as flooding. According to Lorensen, the real problem businesses face is the television news crews that show up at every high tide.

Another one of Kupersmith's primary concerns centered on the proposed pumping stations that would take the water ponded behind the walkway and pump it back into the Potomac. These pumping stations are located immediately behind the bulkhead in the new flood basin, meaning that if water did go over the six foot barrier, the pumping stations would be the first places flooded.

In theory, this shouldn't be a problem. According to Ferreira, if the water pumps



Current waterfront park and 2010 concept rendering of the park with an elevated walkway.



Map of Alexandria's flood levels

are strong enough, they will be able to effectively remove the flood waters back into the basin, but Ferreira also noted that if the pumps don't work, Alexandria is looking at a disaster. Ferreira noted that New Orleans' levies are not dissimilar to the system Alexandria is looking to implement.

"This is exactly like New Orleans, only [that city] is on a larger scale," said Ferreira. "Everything looks great... if it works. Once it fails, it just fills up."

Kupersmith also noted that there could be environmental concerns that would put the pumping system in violation of Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations. The DEQ regulations stipulate that any water that is ponded or contained is considered contaminated and must be treated before it can be pumped back into the Potomac, which happens both in the wet well where the water is stored underground before it can be pumped, and in the flood basin itself. Baker has said that the city has considered applying a sand filter to the system, which would be a minimal cost.

Kupersmith's alternative plan is simpler and is similar to the city's original flood proofing plan, but Baker and the city staff say it is not as feasible as it sounds. Instead of building a 6-foot bulkhead, Kupersmith proposes a 4-foot bulkhead with a gradual incline to 4 feet and 5 inches, meaning any floods under that measurement would flow back into the Potomac without being ponded or needing to be treated. Above that measurement, pumping the water would be an issue, but Kupersmith points out that it would be an issue under either plan, and this one doesn't pond the water: allowing the storm water to run back into the Potomac.

The 2010 report said the city had re-

viewed the gravity system but, based on a survey analysis of existing buildings, unless the threshold of Starbucks and Mai Thai were raised there would not be substantial flood protection.

THERE ARE no current flood control measures on the Alexandria waterfront. The end of King Street is 2 feet above the water level. According to Baker, at high tide the water routinely spills over the top of the bulkhead.

"It even comes up to the intersection of [King Street] and [South Union Street] a handful of times," said Baker. "People expect it, we put some barricades out. When we expect it to be higher, we supply sandbags to the businesses."

Baker acknowledged that while the businesses might benefit from flood protection, the main interest is in protecting the public open space.

But Ferreira said the city should not rule out the possibility of the no-build option. Other cities around the world have waterfronts just like Alexandria. The business and the community just learn to deal with the occasional flood as a part of life.

"To avoid a complete flood is very expensive," said Ferreira. "Maybe the way to go is the Dutch take on these things, which is 'maybe let's just live with the water.' This thing of putting huge walls in and getting the water out, maybe that's OK, but if the water is low most of the time, just prepare for it when it gets high. Maybe there are places where we can afford to get it wet. If there's a hurricane coming, you don't need to have places for tourists to sit in the sunshine."

Ultimately, Ferreira said, all the engineers connected with a project can do is propose options and look at solutions. The ultimate choice rests with City Council.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Love Brews

Couple hopes to start city's first beer garden.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

If everything goes according to plan, one Alexandria couple's hobby will soon become the city's newest beer hot spot. After a year of planning, Ryan and Sarah Schradin are finally kicking off their kickstarter campaign to open "Good Beer," a beer garden and gastropub (a restaurant that serves high-end beer and food). It started with a simple premise.

"I love good beer," said Ryan Schradin. "My wife does too."

Pending approval by the local association and property owners, the couple plans to open Good Beer in the courtyard between Duke Street and Reinekers Lane. The goal for Good Beer is to create a relaxed and family friendly atmosphere that offers the best nation-wide selection of beers that the Schradins can find.

They met on New Year's Day in 2004. She was living in Washington D.C. and went with some friends to New York to see the ball drop in Times Square. Ryan Schradin, meanwhile, was living in New Jersey and was visiting the city with his friend, who happened to be one of Sarah's friend's boyfriend. Their friends set them up afterwards, and eventually the two went on a first date trip to Philadelphia, where they spent the whole day seeing city landmarks and visiting a comedy club. For their second date, Ryan Schradin hired a driver to pick up the two of them and drive them to a hockey game, except the driver was actually just a friend of his and he wanted to impress her. The two continued to date and in 2006, when Ryan Schradin was laid off from a public relations firm in Manhattan. He moved down to Columbia Heights to be closer to her, and in 2009 the two were married.

The genesis of Good Beer started with a joke. From time to time, Ryan Schradin

would cook big Italian style meals for Sarah and all of their friends, where everyone kept joking that he should open a restaurant.

"People tell you something enough, for long enough, it starts to sink in that 'maybe this isn't a really stupid idea,'" Ryan Schradin said. "It's a stupid idea, but it's not a really stupid idea."

This concept only deepened when the newly married couple began their "beer tourism" trips. While the two of them enjoyed beer individually, as a couple these trips turned that interest into a passion. When they'd return home from trips to California or the mid-west, they'd always return with samples.

"It translated into [beer] tastings with friends," said Sarah Schradin. "He likes to share his passion for beer with others. He'll find something different and he'll be like 'oh you've got to try this.' Or he'll talk to someone and they'll say they don't really enjoy beer, but he'll say 'oh, you should try this one then.' He's doing this with his chiropractor right now."

The couple continued taking trips all

"We're excited about Virginia's beer community. It's huge. People are winning national awards right in our back yard. This is a great time to love craft beer."

— Ryan Schradin

along the California coast, wine country, shipping wines and beers that they encountered back home. As the collection grew, the two began to realize that there was no way they could drink it alone.

"We decided we'd have a few friends over," said Ryan Schradin. "I'll cook some food, and we'll just pick out a couple of bottles and have a beer tasting. Everybody loved it, and we did themed nights. The first



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Ryan and Sarah Schradin at the potential site for their dream beer garden.

one was Stouts and Porters, the second one was all Belgian themed. When everyone really loved it and it was a lot of fun, that was when it really started clicking. We were squeezing them into our tiny little house and serving them all these different rare beers and good foods. We were so excited by the reaction to it that we started thinking about how we do this for a living."

They couldn't identify a single moment where they decided to open Good Beer, it was a gradual process. The two started visiting some of the larger breweries in Michigan, now looking at the tasting rooms from a business perspective. According to Ryan Schradin, Good Beer will feel like a tasting room, but not just for one brewery.

"We're going to select and curate the best 35 beers at any given time," said Ryan Schradin. "We have a couple of buddies who are coming in to work with us who already have connections into a lot of the different beer distributors; who keep tabs on what's coming up from local breweries across the country."

One of their goals is to have any beer available at the bar to also be available to sell at retail prices. While there are several in D.C. and one in Arlington, Alexandria currently has no beer gardens. But with Port City Brewery right down the street, Ryan

Schradin thinks there's really no better place for a beer garden.

"We're big fans of craft beers and we're really excited about the way the industry has progressed and the way variety has grown. We're excited about Virginia's beer community. It's huge. People are winning national awards right in our back yard. This is a great time to love craft beer."

The serious design process began in July 2014 when they registered their trademark and began working out the details of the project. Currently, the couple is negotiating over the lease to the site they're hoping to use. Next, they'll seek city approval to open by fall of 2015 to avoid opening in winter. The plans to open in 2015 are ambitious, and the two have already hit a few frustrating obstacles.

"Opening a business is very difficult because you wind up in a circle," said Ryan Schradin. "We're thinking of renting a space, and then they ask what you can afford for the build-out, which we won't know until we know how much money we can get. You wind up in these vicious circles to get the information you need."

The Alexandria Small Business Development Center has helped the couple with their accounting. They have received support from private investors, are working on a bank loan, and launched a kickstarter page on Feb. 10. The kickstarter aims for \$50,000, which would mostly be applied towards appliances and day-to-day necessities of operating a beer garden. A lot of the money, though, is a personal investment by the couple.

So far, finding financing has been the most difficult part of the process. Stress over money can be a big problem for a small family, but Sarah Schradin says they diffuse that tension by keeping it focused on the process rather than each other. Most of their expressions of frustration are venting, but they still say they'd rather be active and moving forward on a project like this than sitting around, bored.

"There are frustrating moments and you do hit roadblocks where you run into walls," said Ryan Schradin. "We're a support system for each other and we split up tasks based on what we're good at. She's a really good numbers person... I'm a communication person; I work with vendors, get price quotes, and reach out to media. We're there to support each other as we get frustrated."

A promotional advertisement for Balducci's Food Lovers Market. The background is dark with a large, stylized 'B' logo on the left. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says 'BALDUCCI'S FOOD LOVERS MARKET'. Below that, it says 'Saturday, February 14th, 2015'. The main headline is 'Valentine's Day WINE & FOOD EVENT' in a large, yellow, serif font. Below the headline, it says 'WINE TASTINGS: 2-5pm • FOOD TASTINGS: 12-5pm'. At the bottom, it lists the locations: 'ALEXANDRIA, VA - ph: 703.549.1138 • McLean, VA - ph: 703.448.3828 • Bethesda, MD - ph: 301.564.3100'. On the right side, there is a circular graphic that says 'SAVE 25%' and a banner that says 'MIX & MATCH 12 BOTTLES OR MORE'. The bottom right corner features an image of two glasses of wine, one white and one red, with a bowl of strawberries and red roses.

Slow Growing Tax Base

FROM PAGE 1
taxable sales from businesses, they found that while the number of sales has grown, profits from those sales have declined by 1 percent. Overall, with the loss of higher wage jobs, the region has lost \$1 billion in spending power.

The news on job growth in Alexandria was mixed. Private sectors jobs in the highest paying class, professional and technical, were still the highest growth area.

However, the fastest growing area in terms of job growth was the food service industry. The most job losses were in construction, which has lost 1,300 jobs in Alexandria since 2008.

In response, the City Council said that the focus should be on diversifying Alexandria's economic base. Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, presiding over the meeting while

Mayor William Euille was in Richmond, said that success stories like Alexandria's Port City brewery should be the model for future growth.

"Cities can build an atmosphere that encourages business," said Silberberg. She specifically cited Dallas, Texas, which survives energy market downturns because of its more diversified economy where other cities, like Houston, are more heavily impacted. For Alexandria, Silberberg said the city needs to capitalize on the arrival of the National Science Foundation to launch the city's scientific industry.

Also on Feb. 10, assessment notices were mailed to property owners to reflect updated market values as of Jan. 1, 2015. The tax rate, applied based on the Jan. 1 assessment value, is scheduled to be set by the City Council on May 7.

Deadline Nears on Commission's Awards

The Alexandria Commission for Women seeks nominations of women who have made exceptional contributions to the City of Alexandria for its 35th Annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet. In addition to recognizing community leaders, this year's event will commemorate the 40th

Anniversary of the Alexandria Sexual Assault Center and will take place on Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m. at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All nominations must be submitted to the Department of Community and Human Services by the close of business on Friday, Feb. 20.



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PEOPLE

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BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Sweetie Pie, the black cat of unidentified origin, pads across the green- and beige-tiled floor to the Romance Section in the last aisle. Red, black and yellow covers mix on the shelves and popular titles jump out. "These are our romance books," says Ken Mahnken, pointing to shelves of newly rearranged paperback books. He owns Already Read Books with his wife of 12 years, Diane Wilson.

Wilson and Mahnken started the bookstore on West Duke Street 10 years ago. He had been a computer programmer with Time-Warner Cable for 20 years and she was a reading and English teacher.

PEOPLE AT WORK

"We needed a break," Mahnken said. Now in addition to helping run the bookstore, Wilson teaches English at

NOVA a couple of times a week and takes classes. "Like painting and air conditioning," she said.

"I choose the books mostly by experience," Wilson said. "I can tell what we need, books that sell really well." And she likes books that are a little quirky. "My favorite thing is scouting for weird books, off the beaten path titles, like 'Building the Golden Gate Bridge.'" She had a surprise "that looked like it had experienced an encounter with a car. I looked online and the price was \$350. It was a Civil War book."

Mahnken joined in: "We all know about the big battles but there were a lot of little-known skirmishes and this was about one that took place at Little River Turnpike."

Mahnken walked to the front of the store and pulled down a maroon book with gold trim from the top shelf. It was wrapped in plastic. This is an 1823 book called "The Life of a Soldier." The price tag read \$699.

"Can I help you?" A first-time customer enters the door and is directed to the foreign language section where he is searching for a couple of books for his Russian wife. "I'm trying to learn more," he said.

They also have a number of regular customers who come in weekly, and "we have the most interesting conversations," Wilson said.

"We have one person who stops by every two months on work travel. And another who is here from Germany three times a year," said Mahnken. His wife elaborates, "the man is looking for Peanuts books because he is a collector." A young couple walks in and starts with the sci-fi aisle just inside the door. "We're just browsing," he said. Mahnken says his favorite books are fantasy and sometimes a crime series or Civil War books.



Diane Wilson and Ken Mahnken investigate the Romance Section of the bookstore as they reorganize the 20,000-25,000 books on the verticals throughout the aisles.

Wilson interjects that she prefers non-fiction books on things like mapmaking and "I'm reading a book about the Amish. A lot of things catch my eye. I like good vs. evil." They say that the young crowd like vintage books, think they're neat. "In particular philosophy books, and they're hard to get."

Mahnken walks through aisles stacked high with boxes of books back to the corner where he is part way finished with binding "Jewels of Masonic Oratory." "This one is ready to hinge." He will glue the binding and after it dries drill holes in it and sew it. "A lot of book binding is hurry up and wait." Mahnken said people bring in all kinds of things to bind — "could be a collection of comic books, a thesis, or a book of your father's poems." He learned binding from Wilson. "She worked with stained glass so she has a knack for it." He said they also repair books which is different than binding. "There was one book that I had to sew three times and finally used .40 mm thread and doubled it and was able to get it back in. Most of them drive me crazy."

"Curious George," "French in 10 Minutes" and "The Trumpet of the Swan" are scattered in front of the counter where Wilson sits to help customers with questions and check out the sales. She explains they are in the process of reorganizing the entire bookstore. Wilson said, "This is a busy time of the year because of the political changeover. 'I think it was the House, when the old people are out. People bring in their books before they leave town and we issue them store credit.'"

Mahnken added, "We have about 24,000-25,000 books on the verticals. That doesn't count the piles and our back room is full." Mahnken heads for the front door with another box of books.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



Ken Mahnken prepares a book for the binding process that he says is different for every book. Some take a couple of days and others a couple of weeks.

Top Firefighter To Keynote Breakfast

Friendship Firehouse event kicks
off Parade Day celebrations.

U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell Jr. will be the keynote speaker at the annual Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association breakfast Feb. 16 to kick off the citywide George Washington Birthday Parade day celebrations.

A former president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Mitchell spent more than 33 years working in the fire service industry before assuming his present position in December of 2011. In his current role he is responsible for managing the U.S. Fire Administration and the programs and training activities at the National Emergency Training Center.

"All of my life experiences to date have helped prepare me for this position, at least to begin," Mitchell said at the time of his appointment. "I've worked at the city, county, state and federal levels and held positions in nonprofit organizations at those levels as well. All that experience has helped me gain a perspective of how the fire service operates and what the issues are. Now I have a platform I can build on."

Mitchell retired as the Fire Chief and Assistant Director of Disaster Emergency Services for the City of Pasadena, Calif., Fire Department, where he served from 1998 until 2004. Before becoming Fire Chief in Pasadena, Mitchell served as Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager in the City of Monrovia, Calif., for seven years. In previous years he served as a member of the International Fire Service Training Association Executive Board, the International Association of Firefighters Hazardous Materials Advisory Board, the IAFC President's Council, the IAFC Foundation Board, the IAFC/IAFF Labor/Management

Initiative Facilitator Team, the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Advisory Committee and presided over several fire service organizations, including: the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association, the League of California Cities Fire Chiefs and the Foothill Fire Chiefs. He has also been an Advocate for the National Fallen Firefighters' Everyone Goes Home Program, an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Fire Chief Magazine.

Mitchell has an associate of science degree in fire science from Long Beach City College, a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of San Francisco and a master of public administration degree from California State University at Northridge.

He is a past recipient of the IAFC President's Award for Service. In 2012 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters Black Chief Officers Committee. Most recently, Mitchell was inducted into the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievements as a leader in fire safety at the local and national level and for his service as the nation's top fire chief.

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association Breakfast will be held at the Hotel Monaco at 9 a.m. For tickets or more information, email Bill Kehoe at kehoefd@aol.com or visit www.friendshipfire.net.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Ernie Mitchell

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herring Named Finalist

Del. Charniele Herring has been named as one of six finalists for the EMILY's List Gabrielle Gifford Rising Star Award. Herring is the only nominee in the South or Mid-Atlantic regions.

EMILY's List is a national organization dedicated to electing pro-choice Democratic women from

Congress to local and state office.

Once a homeless teen, Herring became an advocate for education, housing, and laws to keep families safe, and prioritizes these issues while fighting against the extreme legislation like the forced ultrasound bill.

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OPINION

Not the First or Only Time

Secrecy around police shootings has been a problem for at least a decade.

The official position of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the need for changes in policy after the shooting of John Geer by police in Springfield in August of 2013 appears to be that this is the first time police policies have been a problem:

"Policies for handling police-involved incidents, which served us well for decades, were inadequate in this complicated situation."

Police-involved shootings have resulted in excruciating obfuscation and delay by Fairfax County Police dating back more than a decade. In this editorial, we refer to two high-profile cases, but these are not the only cases where police secrecy had caused incalculable pain to families while damaging the credibility of the police and other county officials. And this issue is not limited to Fairfax County. Alexandria and Arlington use similar approaches to limit public access to information.

Most Northern Virginia residents think very highly of their police. We are very safe here. People understand that sometimes mistakes happen, that sometimes force is needed, and that sometimes police will exercise deadly force. What they are unlikely to accept is secrecy that shrouds mistakes, and failure to take responsibility for explaining events of deadly force.

We'll quote the father of David Masters who wrote a letter to the Mount Vernon Gazette (a Connection Newspaper) in June, 2013, two months before John Geer was shot:

"I am the father of David Masters. David was shot to death by a Fairfax County police officer on Nov. 13, 2009 while sitting in his truck at a stop at the intersection of Route 1 and Fort Hunt Road. I don't know any more about the circumstances of this grim fatality now than

EDITORIAL

I did then and now, as then, the records of this tragedy are not available to anyone outside the police department. The officer who shot my son was ultimately and I must say secretly fired by the then police chief, David Rohrer. But even that was done without any admission of culpability by anyone in the county. ... I don't understand why the Virginia Freedom of Information Act gives blanket exemption to police matters. ... As it is now, the police department can, and seemingly does, operate in a culture of complete autonomy without fear that its actions will be held up to any kind of scrutiny."

The Connection reported in 2006 about the accidental shooting of an unarmed Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr. during his arrest on gambling charges:

"With red-rimmed eyes and her voice crackling, Anita Culosi expressed outrage Thursday evening [March 30, 2006] that a Fairfax County police officer will not be charged with a crime for accidentally killing her 37-year-old son. 'My son is laying in a cemetery,' she said, surrounded by family members holding framed pictures of her son. 'That man pulled a trigger and shot my son dead.'"

Anita Culosi's son, Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr., was accidentally shot to death by a Fairfax County SWAT team officer on Jan. 24 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse. He had been under investigation for illegal sports gambling for the previous three months, accepting at least \$28,000 in bets from an undercover Fairfax County detective.

In July, 2012, more than a year before John Geer was shot and killed, a group of citizens identified four cases, including Masters and Culosi, where police secrecy continued to block questions about shooting deaths. Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability characterized

"questionable circumstances" around the shootings, noted that no one, including the families of the deceased victims, had been able to obtain a police incident report despite the fact that the four cases are closed.

CCPA Executive Director Nicholas Beltrante sent letters asking for the release of documents, "to find out what happened in the shooting deaths, why deadly force was used instead of a taser gun or beanbag gun, and to find out if police misconduct took place."

Beltrante said: "Our letters will highlight to the public the importance of amending the Virginia FOIA to require the release of police incident reports, and the value of improving police accountability by creating an independent police citizen oversight panel made up of Fairfax county citizens Unnecessary use of deadly force by the police, if it is occurring, will undermine the integrity and confidence of the public in our police and our elected officials."

The revelations about the shooting of John Geer as a result of a civil lawsuit seriously undermine the credibility of the investigation process.

Aside from the officer who shot Geer, four other officers on the scene told investigators that same day that they were shocked by the shot that killed Geer and thought the shooting was unnecessary. (One officer described his first reaction: "WTF.") There was no weapon in view, although Geer was a gun owner and had a holstered gun nearby. Geer made great effort to be predictable in his actions, asking permission to scratch his nose, otherwise keeping his hands up on the doorframe.

But a day after the shooting, police released the following update:

"The preliminary investigation indicates that when officers arrived on the scene, they were met by an individual who displayed what appeared to be a weapon in a threatening manner and was subsequently shot."

And last month, before the statements of the other officers were released, the police released this update with the name of the officer:

"Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home, displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them. Officers, including a trained negotiator, attempted to peacefully resolve the situation. They spoke with Geer for more than 30 minutes as he stood in the doorway of his home. When Geer began lowering his hands at one point during the negotiations, PFC Adam Torres fired a single shot that struck Geer."

But investigators knew that the negotiator had not seen Geer holding a weapon.

We don't agree with this statement by Bulova: "The Board of Supervisors has taken the steps needed to ensure its policies allow for justice to be fairly and swiftly served."

This is not an isolated case. The Board of Supervisors must demand transparency from the police.

— MARY KIMM

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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

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

Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



LETTERS

What Do Seniors Need?

To the Editor:

In the debate over the proposed Woodbine expansion, I have heard some say that Alexandria “needs” a proposed memory care facility to be located on a small lot adjacent to the current Woodbine Nursing Home in the 2800 block of King Street. If by “need,” we are referring to a necessity or something we can’t live without, I respectfully disagree.

The developer’s case that more nursing home beds and specifically more memory care beds are “needed” is based on estimates that the population over 60 years of age will grow by 32 percent between 2012 and 2030. This figure tells us nothing about projected “need” for memory care. Woodbine, already one of the largest nursing homes in the state, wants to add a very lucrative commercial facility that will garner high revenues of \$6 million or so annually for 66 residents. They say the “need” justifies rezoning of a residential area and many special use exceptions.

The argument that this project provides benefit in affordable housing is worth careful scrutiny. Although the applicant recently dropped the trigger of 95 percent capacity, the two subsidized beds would require each such subsidized occupant to pay \$56,000 a year. Is this affordable housing?

Some contend that this parcel was designated “institutional use” decades ago and that this justifies rezoning without an Amendment to the Master Plan, without impartial studies of traffic and other infrastructure impacts — including effects on adjacent historic Ivy Hill Cemetery. A note of caution: no one on the city staff can tell you how much institutional use land exists in the city. Although they cite previous cases as precedents, they “promise” that this will

not open the door for permissive rezoning elsewhere. Really?

But do we need it here? The Virginia Department of Health, which is charged with determining whether there is a need for nursing home beds in Virginia, has determined that there is no need for new nursing home beds in Northern Virginia and that use rates for these beds has been declining in recent years. There are plenty of commercially zoned areas in the city where a facility such as this could be built without endangering the residential neighborhoods, aggravating an already dangerous traffic situation, eliminating green space and historic trees, and major rezoning.

I strongly question the logic that a growing senior population in and of itself constitutes a “need” for more nursing home beds in a particular location, or even within the city boundaries. Most of us routinely go to medical appointments in nearby jurisdictions if the best care is there for us.

In Alexandria, we do not live on an island where we must have one of every type of facility to survive. We live in an interconnected metropolitan area where we can pick and choose. I don’t buy the notion that rezoning and special exceptions are justified on the basis of an ill-defined “need.” I would prefer a fair and free market of approaches, ideas and services, rather than permissive rezoning in the name of “seniors.” I would prefer a community that keeps its promises to preserve residential neighborhoods that enhance the networks of cooperation among residents, cherishes green space and walking areas, and protects citizens from dangerous traffic and excessive noise. That is what seniors need.

Martha Harris
Alexandria

AGENDA ALEXANDRIA

Taking A Look At Issues
Without Taking Sides



Down the Hatch: Alexandria's Luscious Libations

Alexandria's spirited history



Bill Butcher
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An Alexandrian Treasure

To the Editor:

A Gazette Packet article several months ago (Oct. 30, 2014) described Ivy Hill as a “destination.” As one who daily walks the cemetery, I heartily agree. It is indeed a destination and not just in the ultimate sense, but a place where many of us contemporary Alexandrians regularly venture for the nature, history, culture, community, and inspiration that the cemetery affords.

A walk through Ivy Hill is never the same, no matter how many times one goes. The seasons, the weather, and the time of day so alter the light, temperature, cloud cover, and flora that the landscape seems different every time.

As one pays closer attention to the cemetery, a sense of discovery recurs. Residents range from those born in 18th-century England (and a good number whose long-ago tombstone messages have been effaced by time) to friends laid to rest last week. In between the distant past and recent times are the tombs of those who fought in the Civil War, World War I and II, Vietnam, as well as subsequent conflicts. And gracing the cemetery’s entrance is a memorial dedicated to the departed men and women of the Alexandria Fire Department.

Evidence of Alexandria’s evolving demographics, the cemetery’s older markers reflect a mostly Anglo-Saxon community, while in newer sections gravestones honor family members of diverse heritages, among them Portuguese (“Pai, tiveste um lugar no céu”); Italian (“il nostro Francesco . . . forte, fidele, e risoluto”), Hispanic (“Madre, estás en manos de Dios”), German (“unsere Oma”), Polish, Chinese, and Korean.

Well-known Alexandrian families are represented — Burke, Lyles, Cockrell, Spicer,



In the older sections of Ivy Hill, the Victorian-era statuary is reminiscent of that found in cemeteries throughout Europe.

Simpson, and Everly — as is one of the original rocket scientists, Wernher Von Braun, whose bronze marker serves as a startling *tempus fugit* reminder of my having rented him a car in the late 1960s while working at Hertz Autovermietung in Frankfurt, Germany. I am further reminded of the passage of time when reflecting that when I walked the cemetery decades ago all the names were strangers, whereas today many are of fondly remembered neighbors — Elmore, Jackson, Wheatley et alia.

Enhancing the natural beauty of the cemetery are the gravestones’ moving Biblical and poetic messages; the humble but lovely statuary alongside more elaborate examples worthy of Paris’s Père Lachaise; and the humor of one who declares he has “Gone Fishin’” and of another who departs with a

word: zoning.

The property at hand is a 1.31-acre parcel of land that is currently zoned R8 for residential zoning. Previously, the planning and zoning office concluded that the property was acceptable for three single-family houses and denied the request for a developer to place four on the property. The current owner of this property — who also owns Woodbine — bought the property in recent years and set to work lobbying the city to change the zoning to allow an assisted living facility to be constructed there, which would have required the property to be rezoned to apartment house zoning. When he realized that effort would be unsuccessful, he changed course and went for a zoning change of RB — which is high-density residential zoning — in order to construct a 75,000-square-foot building on this property that — to reiterate — the city had previously concluded was only large enough for three single family houses. In addition to a zoning change, the owner must also obtain a special use permit (SUP) in order to put the structure into the definition of what would be considered R8.

Cities have zoning plans in place for a reason. These plans can bring structure and flow that makes sense to the long-term aes-



A walk in winter through Ivy Hill instills a sense of peace and repose.

heartfelt “Hail to the Redskins!”

The cemetery could, in fact, serve as a veritable laboratory for research that would help better understand our city’s evolution. In addition to the ethnic contributions of various cultures over time, a study, say, of life expectancy pre- and post-penicillin and after other modern medical advances could prove enlightening.

But mostly, Ivy Hill is a collective expression of everlasting love. Families have added stone benches on which to sit and remember cherished ones. Infants are touchingly gathered together in a dedicated space adorned with endearing stone angels, rabbits, and squirrels. One gravestone vows true love (“*in inniger Liebe*”). On another “Papa” is described as “forever in our thoughts, eternally in our hearts.” And a husband and wife, who died days apart in 1880, are declared “united in life, and in their death they were not divided.”



The gravestone of Wernher von Braun, one of the original rocket scientists, evokes Psalm 19.1: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

Thus, in those and countless other ways, Ivy Hill is an Alexandria treasure, one that enables us to partake of the enduring, enriching bonds of individuals, families, and community.

Judy Navarro
Alexandria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opposition Based on Zoning

To the Editor:

There have been various views presented recently about the proposed memory care facility on the property that sits between Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare and Ivy Hill Cemetery. As someone who lives very close to that property, I would like to offer a perspective on the matter — and to separate fact from emotion. First and foremost, I wish to make abundantly clear that opposition to this proposed structure has nothing to do with a lack of compassion for senior care in our city. We are a neighborhood composed of doctors, nurses, a professional working for a nonprofit that serves the senior population, a health care law and policy attorney, a physician’s assistant, a physical therapist, a former advocate for developmentally disabled folks, and many other individuals who care for and about all of the citizens in this area. Several of us are caring for — or have recently cared for — a close family member with Alzheimer’s or other types of dementia. And many of us are seniors ourselves.

Our opposition can be summed up in one

thetic, safety, traffic, noise, transit, parking, and other considerations that impact the daily realities of living in the city. Years later, one can always tell a well-planned city from one that is not. Does Alexandria want to be a city that simply reacts to the profit motives of a developer — versus driving the change that represents what is best for the city in the long term?

If there is a “dire and urgent” need for memory care in Alexandria — and there may well be (though no one has referenced an empirical study that so states) — and if current facilities located within the Alexandria City limits cannot accommodate the need, then it sounds like the City of Alexandria might want to look at existing parcels of land already zoned for such use. I offer a couple of options: the former Jefferson Hospital on King Street or the Eisenhower Avenue corridor. Just imagine: We could take care of many more people with memory care issues on a broader scale, located on a campus large enough to accommodate their needs.

We feel that we have a right to ask the decision makers in the city to examine the consequences of this precedent-setting zoning issue. What accompanies the zoning change are matters like safety, traffic, park-

ing, storm water drainage, wastewater drainage, noise and light. As stewards of this neighborhood, we are simply doing our job by insisting that the city address these important issues and not sweep them under the carpet before it takes a residential property, changes the zoning to allow this for-profit commercial structure, and then moves on to the next item on the docket. The neighbors are the ones left to deal with the “aftermath.”

Sean Drumheller
Alexandria

Support ATC Budget

To the Editor:

The Alexandria City Public School budget is currently being deliberated and the Superintendent’s budget calls for cuts to the Community Partners program from which the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC) funding is drawn. Cuts to the ATC budget would limit the number of schools, volunteers and ultimately children who benefit from this program. As a third-year volunteer with the Alexandria Tutoring Consor-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

OPINION

Legislative Update

BY ROB KRUPICKA
STATE DELEGATE (D-45)



hire the quality care they need.

Last Thursday, the House of Delegates took a giant step back towards regressive, dangerous environmental policy for Virginia. Two resolutions, HJ608 and HJ666, passed the House this week declaring Virginia's opposition to proposed Environmental Protection Agency emission guidelines. A delegate from the majority party stood on the House floor and gave a speech denouncing climate change and denying any link between human-created pollution and the effects on our environment. This dangerous rhetoric goes against the consensus of the scientific community and puts Virginia at risk.

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Recurrent flooding, water pollution and rising sea levels are already impacting Virginians across the state and will only get worse if we don't address them now. The House of Delegate's refusal to acknowledge the damage to our environment caused by carbon dioxide emissions are motivated by self-interest to protect our declining coal industry.

This shouldn't be a partisan issue. Protecting the environment and dealing with the effects of climate change on our state needs to be a top priority in the General Assembly.

This past week, I was very happy to have two of my bills pass in the House chamber. HB1867 passed the House unanimously last Tuesday. It is a bill to amend the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act to ensure tenants can have mold quickly removed from their living space. It requires landlords to promptly remove mold in accordance with the requirements for visible mold remediation and to provide written information related to the remediation of mold.

The second bill, HB1868, passed 97-1 and is a consumer protection bill. The bill prohibits any person or company who is not licensed as a home care organization from advertising or marketing themselves as a home care organization. These companies provide basic help with household chores and activities for seniors and disabled Virginians. With the increasing number of elderly in the United States, home care agencies have been on the rise. These agencies provide staff for the elderly who require light assistance in the home with activities such as house cleaning, transportation to doctor's appointments and a reminder to take medications. This bill will help protect seniors and ensure they are able to confidently

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10
tium (ATC) Book Buddies program, I would like to acknowledge the ATC for the high quality of this early literacy program. The time I spend working with my young reader is richly rewarding for me, and I can tell by his progress that

he benefits from our time together. Moreover, it is gratifying to know that among the children in the ATC programs who were reading below grade level at the beginning of the year, over 80 percent were reading at or above benchmark levels

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24



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Legacies of Two Presidents

BY ELLEN LATANE TABB

Our February celebration's official name is the George Washington Birthday Holiday, not Presidents Day. Although some people include both Washington and Lincoln among our best Presidents, Washington's contributions are far more admirable. Sadly, even here in his hometown, many know relatively little about his achievements and are mistaken about Lincoln's.

COMMENTARY

They came to office in very different ways. Washington, known for integrity and honor, was elected unanimously by his peers who knew him well. Everyone believed he was the only person capable of succeeding in the office and unifying the country because the states had long had difficulty cooperating and disagreed sharply. He did not want the Presidency, but accepted it from a sense of duty. By contrast, Lincoln was not even on the ballot in any Southern state for lack of support. He prevailed in a field of four by a little less than 40 percent of votes cast.

Washington helped create a new country composed of 13 distinct states based on a model new in world history: the ideals of freedom and individual responsibility, rather than a shared heritage, language, religion, etc. Knowing the vote to bring this new country into effect under the Constitution would be close, Washington used his prestige to win delegates' votes. Upon its adoption, the legitimate government existing under the Articles of Confederation was peacefully overturned; no individuals or groups were intimidated or jailed in the process (a historical first not accomplished elsewhere since then).

Knowing what he did as President would set a precedent, Washington carefully adhered to Constitutional requirements. He successfully mediated between strong and differing opinions in his cabinet, especially those of Jefferson and Hamilton. Washington's leadership united peoples with very different heritages, values, interests and cultures — even languages. He kept our country out of war despite provocation and the urgings of influential politicians and handed over power willingly and peacefully to his successor, thereby winning the praise of England's King George III who noted he could have been a king and held power for his lifetime. Washington's legacy included laying the foundation for our country's continued unity, peace and prosperity.

Lincoln declared that he wanted to preserve the union; however, during the 1860 campaign, Southerners said they would secede (their legal right) if he were elected. Had he really wanted to preserve the union, he could have withdrawn; there were three other solid candidates. His leadership provoked the disintegration of the union.

Not content to be President of fewer states, he wanted power over all, and sought reelection despite his unpopularity even in the North (he was elected when the North's war fortunes changed just before the election). When his theme of unity failed (draft riots, etc.), he changed the war's putative purpose

to freeing the slaves. Although there were four slave states still in the union, but he did not try to make those slaves free; the only ones included in the Emancipation Proclamation were those "in the rebellious territories" where he had no control. Lincoln realized the Proclamation was a violation of the Constitution and doubted its legality. In the Northern cities, it resulted in more draft and race riots. Citizens blaming the Blacks for the war hunted them down to kill them. William Lloyd Garrison's newspaper offices were burned; abolition was unpopular. Thus Lincoln brought turmoil everywhere. Abroad, the proclamation was recognized as only a propaganda document.

The slaves were freed after his death with the passage of the 13th Amendment (the only Constitutional way). Thus Lincoln did not accomplish what the history books have consistently reported as one of his greatest achievements. Left largely unsaid too is that he wanted all the Blacks to return to Africa and thought the two races could never live together in harmony.

Lincoln deliberately and repeatedly violated the Constitution in many other ways. For example, he imprisoned all members of the Maryland legislature for the duration of the War because he feared what they might do. When the Supreme Court ruled against his suspension of habeas corpus, he ordered federal marshals to imprison the octogenarian Chief Justice (they refused). He jailed more than 300 newspaper editors and many other private citizens who publically disagreed with his policies, including the grandson of Francis Scott Key in (ironically) Fort McHenry. In short, he warred against his countrymen in both North and South.

At his death, Washington was universally mourned. In life he had been acclaimed one of the greatest men who ever lived; his name is universally synonymous with "liberator" and "hero." Lincoln was killed by a man who proclaimed "Sic semper tyrannis!" (Thus always to tyrants!) while in a theater on Good Friday, a very holy day for Christians and in a place whose entertainment was considered questionable. He left a country maimed by war, a weak successor, and men in charge who would continue bitter vengeance upon the South which resulted in decades of social and economic disorder and sectional ill-will. (He himself had declared that he would never pardon Jefferson Davis — so much for "with malice toward none"). He vastly increased the power of the federal government to the detriment of the states, which became vassals of Washington. This change in their relative power is embedded in our language; "The United States of America" was a plural noun before the war, but became singular after it.

Washington created a new and stronger union peacefully. Lincoln destroyed that union by violence, and the resulting repercussions continue. Washington is surely one of the greatest heroes in world history. Aren't we proud that he is an Alexandrian by choice? Shouldn't we seek to know more about him and emulate his character and example?



Proclamation for George

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Councilmember Paul Smedberg presented members of the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee with an official proclamation on Tuesday evening, Feb. 10, in the City Council Chambers. They are (from left): American Legion representative Henry Dorton, Mike Turner of the Military Officers Association of America, George Washington Masonic National Memorial communications director Shawn Eyer, Danny Smith, Ellen Tabb, Joe Shumard and Smedberg.

Addressing Health, Crime

CHARNIELE HERRING
STATE DELEGATE (D-46)



This year I am proud to have sponsored several bi-partisan initiatives to make Virginia safer for our communities and families. I serve on the Virginia State Crime Commission, the House Courts of Justice Committee, and the Governor's Taskforce on Heroin and Prescription Drugs. Through my service, I have the good fortune of working with community stakeholders and law enforcement to craft meaningful legislation that will address several significant issues that Virginia faces — illegal cigarette trafficking through organized crime rings and deaths caused by addiction to opioid based prescription drugs and heroin.

COMMENTARY

With respect to illegal cigarette trafficking, Virginia is a main source for smuggling operations wherein vast quantities are trafficked to northern states for large profits by organized crime rings. According to a study by Altria, 23 percent of the cigarettes sold in New York City hail from Virginia. As a result of the trafficking, Virginia is losing significant tax revenue and, in several instances, it has been observed that some of the traffickers have direct links to terrorist organizations. That is why, working with the Crime Commission and federal and state authorities, I have filed House Bill 1807 lowering the felony threshold for contraband and fraudulent purchase of cigarettes. In addition to the current criminal penalties, this bill imposes civil penalties for us-

ing forged business license and/or invalid sales and use tax exemption certificates for purchases.

As it has been reported, opioid abuse often begins with an addiction to prescription pills such as oxycodone and Percocet. The number of heroin overdose deaths in the Commonwealth more than doubled between 2011 and 2013.

The state had 213 fatal heroin overdoses in 2013 and nearly the same in 2014. Fairfax and Prince William counties have the highest overall numbers. There is also a very serious problem with overdoses from prescription opioids. In 2013, 468 people died of prescription opioid overdoses. While the Governor's Taskforce is still meeting to deal with this issue, one proposal that I am championing — and pleased to report has passed the House of Delegates, will include pharmacists in the Prescription Monitoring Program. Beyond just reporting what medications are dispensed, HB 1841 will ensure that pharmacists are able to see prescription information in the PMR which will be another tool in combating prescription abuse and doctor-shopping.

Keeping our communities safe is not a partisan goal, it is a bi-partisan priority. My bills are part of this larger effort to deal with these very serious issues that we are facing both in Virginia and across the country. I look forward to continuing to work to decrease addictions and limit the distribution of drugs and cigarettes within legal bounds.

Charniele Herring (D-46) represents Alexandria City in the Virginia General Assembly and serves as the House Minority Whip. For more information, visit www.charnieleherring.com or on twitter @c_herring.

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\$100,000 price reduction! Views of the water on 3 levels of amazing 4 level end brick townhome in heart of Old Town, w/gourmet kitchen, open floor plan. Enjoy the Old Town lifestyle. \$1,199,000
Bonnie Rivkin CBmove.com/AX8496964



Alexandria 211 Longview Drive, Alexandria, VA
Just listed, this beautifully maintained 4 BR + 2 1/2 + 1/2 BA colonial offers spacious room sizes, fp, totally updated kitchen & baths plus fully finished lower level. \$895,000
Donnan C. Wintermute CBmove.com/AX8548090

Coldwell Banker is pleased to welcome these fine real estate professionals to our Alexandria office...

Bob and Nicole Hamilton
Please feel free to contact them at their new office: 703-518-8300



Del Ray 215 E. Bellefonte Ave, Alexandria, VA
Two - 2 BR self-contained rental units in the heart of Del Ray. Easy access to shops, restaurants & Braddock Metro. Freshly renovated, generous yard and 6-7 car parking. \$858,899
Charles York CBmove.com/AX8425511



Northampton 6022 Masondale Road, Alexandria, VA
Stunning 5 year old home w/numerous builder upgrades, high ceilings, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, master suite w/gas FP & walk-in closets, front porch, deck & 2-car garage. \$824,900
Karen Leonard CBmove.com/FX8546765



OPEN SUN 2-4 PM Mason Hill 1607 Mason Hill Dr., Alexandria, VA
Beautiful Custom Contemporary in Mason Hill. Five Bedrooms on Upper Level, Hardwood Floors, Large Light-Filled Rooms, 2-Car Garage, Landscaped Lot. \$824,900
Greg Doherty CBmove.com/FX8488807



Old Town 309 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA
Circa 1840, this wonderfully charming 2 BR + 1 1/2 BA clapboard townhome boasts original floors, 2 fps & finished LL. Only a short stroll to Old Town's finest shops & restaurants. \$749,000
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McLean/Great Falls 816 Towlston Road, McLean, VA
\$200k price reduction; lives like Great Falls, located in McLean, right off G-town Pike; over 2 acres on a private lane, center hall colonial w/over 6,000 sq. ft., 5 BR, 4.5 BA. \$1,450,000
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Coldwell Banker is proud to be a supporter of Mount Vernon...and is a Silver Sponsor of the 2015 Birthnight Supper and Ball.



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LONG & FOSTER'S HISTORIC OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA OFFICE is proud to support the **ANNUAL GEORGE WASHINGTON CLASSIC 10K RACE and 2K WALK** scheduled for **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**. The race starts at 8:00 AM with awards presented at 10:30 AM and is a flat course that starts and finishes at the **Patent and Trademark Office**. For more information about all of the **George Washington Birthday Events** as well as the Race, go to www.washingtonbirthday.net/events



Catherine Parker 703.627.5688
ALEXANDRIA \$ 350,000 www.7226StoverCt.com
3 level townhouse backs to woods with great year round views off large decks. Walk-out LL and fenced back yard. Large gourmet kitchen with gas cooktop, double ovens, deep drawers, etc. Vaulted ceiling in both UL, BRs and Spa bath downstairs is your retreat.



318 N COLUMBUS ST / OLD TOWN \$ 1,200,000 **Martha Deal 703.622.6797**
Charming 1900 Victorian all-brick townhome. 3 BR / 2.5 BA. Updated kitchen, sparkling heart of pine flooring, rich paneling, skylights, stained glass. 2 fireplaces, custom built-ins, 10' ceilings with crown and dental moldings. Private walled English garden and 2-car garage.



Pat Tierney 703.850.5630 & Mary Taylor 703.785.5619
ALEX. / Porto Vecchio \$ 695,000 & \$ 785,000
BOTH UNITS OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! #722 Enjoy beautiful sunrises and smashing bridge/river view. Elegant and total remodel of 2 BR. #710 2 BR / library with private location has panoramic vista of golf course and river. Priced well under recent comps.



Randy Bender 703.906.1749
ALEXANDRIA / PINECREST \$ 399,000
Great opportunity to own in well located and sought after community surrounded by the Pinecrest Public Golf Course. The 2 BR / 3.5 BA home has been updated with new hardwoods, new granite, ceramic tile in baths, custom paint inside and deck, new fans, carpet + more!



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343
ALEXANDRIA / Mt Vernon \$ 634,900 **OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4**
8401 PORTER LN Charming Stratford Landing home updated by long-time owners. 5 BR / 3 BA. Family room addition make this Grammercy model special. 1st floor MBR / BA. Hardwood! Carpet! Partially finished walk-up basement. Close to ES, park, swim club.



Debra Davis 703.447.7271
ALEXANDRIA / Mt Vernon \$ 524,900
NEW LISTING! Four bedroom Colonial in beautiful Stratford Landing. Not-to-be-missed value — your dream home at a dramatically reduced price. Short drive to Old Town, 495, Metro, airport. Bike path and creek nearby. FX8550757



Brenda Jourdan 703.472.0406
ALEXANDRIA / River Towers \$ 199,000
2 BR / 1.5 BA condo - move right in to this freshly painted and updated unit near GW Parkway, Metro bus, shopping Old Town and Huntington Metro. Complex has pool, tennis, garden plots, ample parking and backs to a wildlife sanctuary.



Martha Martin 703.298.9364
ALEXANDRIA \$ 415,000
Lovely cottage on 5 acre lot. Beautiful wood floors, SS appliances, family room wall of windows, separate laundry, basement storage, huge fenced yard with shed. Amazing location: minutes to 495, 395.5, HOV, 2 Metros, Ft Belvoir, Wegmans coming soon.



Julia Martin 703.850.5543
ALEXANDRIA / Hollin Hills \$ 771,750
The Jewel in the Crown - this home was custom designed by architect Thomas L. Kerns, FAIA to fit this location. The design features details that incorporate the views and flow both inside and out. 1 natural light provides lovely warmth thru-out. Truly one of a kind 4 BR / 2.5 BA.



Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144
ARLINGTON / Fairlington \$ 392,000
Largest Clarendon model - 3 story - 2BR / 2BA, 1,500 sq ft with full attic (could be 4th level). Priced under tax assessment! Open kitchen, cherry cabinets, Corian and nice deck. 1 stop light to DC, with-in walking distance to Shirlington restaurants.



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Presented in the charming and historic city of Alexandria, this traditional-style residence is a perfect blend of function and elegance. This beautiful Key Drive home has undergone well-planned renovations and expansion to allow for comfort and convenience at every level. A dramatic living room with two-story fieldstone fireplace simply takes your breath away. The custom kitchen features every convenience a chef could want. Watch the meals being prepared in the oversized sunlit breakfast room. There is nothing builder-grade in this custom home; it features only high-quality building materials and systems. Offered at \$1,709,000.



Michael Lekas 703.927.9895
ALEXANDRIA / Cameron Station \$ 859,900
Cambridge model end townhome boasts 3 BR / 3.5 BA, 2-car garage, craftsmanship and upgrades. Oversized rooms have French doors, Palladian windows, architectural details and high ceilings. Enjoy the expansive brick deck and private patio. www.mikelekas.com



Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764
ALEXANDRIA \$ 549,000
Updated 4 level / 2 BR / 2 BA updated townhouse in excellent location. Hardwoods on 3 levels, carpet on LL. Wood-burning fireplace. Kitchen has SS appliances. Updated bath with linen closet and W/D. Garage parking and more. www.brianandjerry.com



Marcy Bates 703.606.7605 & Laura Dunkel 703.217.8971
ALEXANDRIA / Mt Vernon \$ 595,000 **OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4**
7802 MIDDAY LN Not your average split! Four levels, 4 BR / 3 BA with screened porch. Fourth bedroom with sitting room. Updated bathrooms and kitchen. Tons of storage!



Marcy Bates 703.606.7605 & Laura Dunkel 703.217.8971
ALEXANDRIA / Yacht Haven \$ 599,900
Versatile 3 BR / 3 BA home offers designer touches / custom features including light airy kitchen, walk-in pantry, skylights, custom Ft doors leading to large deck and patio. Large living space with gas fireplace and refinished hardwoods. 1/2 acre - steps to Mt Vernon Yacht Club.



Marcy Bates 703.606.7605 & Laura Dunkel 703.217.8971
ALEXANDRIA \$ 745,000 **OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4**
1737 CRESTWOOD DR Expanded Cape Cod with 3/4 BR / 3.5 BA. Large master bedroom, master bath and walk-in closet. Excellent location! One light to DC!



Marcy Bates 703.606.7605 & Laura Dunkel 703.217.8971
ALEXANDRIA / Wellington \$ 1,475,000
Gorgeous new 6 BR / 5.5 BA Craftsman-style home in Wellington just steps from GW Parkway. Master suites on main and upper levels, finished basement, 9 ft ceilings throughout, gourmet kitchen and garage space for 4 cars! Maintenance-free exterior.



Marcy Bates 703.606.7605 & Laura Dunkel 703.217.8971
ALEXANDRIA \$ 329,000
Lovely 3 BR / 2 BA condo featuring large balcony with gorgeous water view! Main level front entry. Brand new front load washer/dryer. Countless amenities with fitness center, pool, trails and party room. Minutes to Van Dorn Metro and Kingstowne shopping and dining.

RENTALS
4862 Eisenhower Ave #263 \$1,500
Exchange at Van Dorn Garden 1BR / 1BA 1 Assigned Pkg
Bill Porter 703.409.0555
6602 10th St #B-1 \$1,800
Belle View Condominiums Garden 2BR / 1BA
Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264
3399 Stafford St \$2,000
Fairlington Meadows Townhouse 1BR / 2BA 1 Assigned Pkg
Norma Stratton 703.966.0756



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Alexandria REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE GAZETTE

December, 2014 Top Sales

- 1 601 Fairfax Street North #305 — \$3,495,000
- 2 601 Fairfax Street North #401 — \$3,495,000



5 22 Wolfe Street — \$2,250,000



7 222 Fairfax Street — \$1,950,000



3 209 Fairfax Street South — \$3,483,000



8 827 Rivergate Place — \$1,685,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 601 FAIRFAX ST N #305	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$3,495,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	.....	22314	THE ORONOCO	12/15/14	
2 601 FAIRFAX ST N #401	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$3,495,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	.....	22314	THE ORONOCO	12/15/14	
3 209 FAIRFAX ST S	6	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$3,483,000	Semi-Detached	0.12	.....	22314	OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA	12/12/14
4 1001 JANNEYS LN	6	6	2	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$2,820,000	Detached	1.25	.....	22302	JANNEYS LANE	12/08/14
5 22 WOLFE ST	5	5	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$2,250,000	Townhouse	.....	22314	HARBORSIDE	12/01/14	
6 438 SUMMERS DR	5	5	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,996,193	Detached	0.38	.....	22301	ROSEMONT	12/22/14
7 222 FAIRFAX ST	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,950,000	Detached	0.10	.....	22314	OLD TOWN	12/10/14
8 827 RIVERGATE PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,685,000	Semi-Detached	0.04	.....	22314	RIVERGATE	12/12/14
9 600 JANNEYS LN	6	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,600,000	Detached	1.00	.....	22302	JANNEYS LANE	12/19/14
10 710 POTOMAC ST	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,400,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	BACKYARD BOATS	12/19/14

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Home LifeStyle



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBORAH AND LENNY MANARIN

Husband and wife real estate team Deborah and Lenny Manarin of the Arlington office of McEneaney Associates Inc, have a combined total of more than 65 years of experience in the real estate industry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIE AND DAMON NICHOLAS

Husband and wife real estate team Debbie and Damon Nicholas met while they were students at the University of Virginia.

Work Together, Stay Together

Local couples offer advice about keeping a relationship healthy at home and on the job.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Going into business with one's spouse can bring both joy and challenges. As Valentine's Day approaches, three local husband and wife real estate partners share their experiences and offer advice to other couples.

Min and Jimmy O'Burns of Long and Foster in Reston, have been in business together for 15 years. The two met when they were neighbors with identical condos. They started dating after six months "and have been joined at the hip ever since," according to Min O'Burns.

"I burned out on selling new homes and wanted to join Jimmy," Min O'Burns, who originally worked for a builder, continued. "I had to convince him that I would be an asset rather than a ball and chain. Pretty soon we became what is our motto, 'The power of two.'"

Working as a team allows them to spend a significant amount of time together. "It's not suited for everyone," said Min O'Burns, adding that the nature of real estate makes it ideal for couples, with flexible appointments and the ability to enjoy lunch together. "You both need to be of the same kind of mindset. You have to have the same work ethic and diligence."

Understanding your own personality as well as your spouse's is key to working together successfully as a married couple. "You have to identify each other's strengths and figure out who's good at what," said Min O'Burns. "The two of us together make a pretty good team."

"Jimmy is a strong negotiator and strategist," she continued. "I'm a good writer, I'm organized and I'm good at marketing. I'm also a little bit of a hand holder."

"We still enjoy it after all the years we've been in business together. In my mind there is no downside," added Jimmy O'Burns. "We're serious about our business and we think that business should come with a little bit of humor."

Deborah and Lenny Manarin of the Arlington office of McEneaney Associates Inc, Realtors, have been married for 10 years. They met through their work in the real estate business. In fact, Deborah, an Alexandria native, has 25 years of experience and Lenny more than 40.

"We tell clients 'You're paying one commission, but you're getting the experience and knowledge of two people,'" said Deborah Manarin.

She added that one big asset of working with a spouse is a shared knowledge of the industry. "We both understand the business and the stresses of dealing with people 24-7. Each of us is a good sounding board for the other on issues you're dealing with," Deborah Manarin.

Debbie and Damon Nicholas of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Fairfax met as students at the University of Virginia and have been married for 32 years.

Debbie was a real estate agent and Damon was a full-time federal employee when they had their first child, who was born with severe disabilities. Two other sons quickly followed.

"We found ourselves going to two to three doctor's appointments per week," said Debbie Nicholas.

After a promotion took away all of Damon Nicholas' flexibility, he switched to real estate full time. The move meant Debbie Nicholas could stay home, Damon could go to doctors' appointments and they could get more involved at school. The couple also developed a Special Olympics program at Willow Springs Elementary School in Fairfax and coached their younger sons in youth leagues.

Working together offers both pleasures and challenges.

"It's difficult and easy at the same time," said Damon Nicholas. "It's difficult to shut off work at times because we have a passion for helping our clients and we love what we do. The good news is that we see each other a lot more than other couples. And we like each other so that's good."

The Nicholas' three sons are now adults. In 2013, their middle son joined their real estate team.

Debbie and Damon Nicholas offer simple advice to other couples considering going into business together.

"It's always important to respect your spouse," said Debbie Nicholas. "Above all we want to demonstrate to people that we love each other and respect each other. Working together is not something that you commit to if you can't respect each other in public and in private."

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Cactus, Succulents 25% off	Bulk Mulch \$19.99 cu. yd. FREE FILL
Fragrant, blooming Citrus Plants 10% Off	Cravens Nursery & Pottery 9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia 2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50. 1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro) 703-573-5025 Open 7 days a week Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Monday 6:30 pm Mass (Español)	(en Español); 6:30 pm
Saturday Evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)	Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
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	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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ENTERTAINMENT

Bringing the Nation's First President to Life

Historical actor Dean Malissa talks about the challenges in portraying the nation's most famous founding father.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
GAZETTE PACKET

George Washington was a confident man. And so is the man who portrays him at Mount Vernon Estate. And the similarities don't end there.

"It's a fairly graceless age," said Dean Malissa, the only sanctioned George Washington historical actor on-site, regarding the 21st century. In speaking with him, you can picture the original General Washington making just such an observation about our time.

In fact, Mount Vernon Estate has released a series of videos that feature Malissa in just such a scenario: the 21st century. We get to follow General Washington as he marvels at modern transportation without the benefit of a horse and as he orders coffee from Starbucks with a "fellow's" iPhone and is surprised that the beverage is not served in a glass.

If you haven't checked out the videos yet, do yourself a favor and go to Mount Vernon's website and watch them.

A particular highlight is seeing the man himself try to master the Segway and bellow "I say, charge!" as he leads the way or notice a modern soldier's braces as "jewelry on your teeth." The episodes are a hilarious and delightful interpretation of

our times through the eyes of the founding father.

While watching the webisodes, it's clear that Malissa has done his homework, not only about the nation's first president, but also the times that he lived in. He speaks in a particular Tidewater Virginia accent and is well versed in the time period, dress and mannerisms of the general.

Malissa has a historical tailor, a military tailor outside of Boston and a historical seamstress in Philadelphia, where he lives. He relies on these resources to maintain the historical wear he employs for his characterization.

He is quick to point out that they are not costumes, "they are historical clothes," he emphasizes strongly. Dry cleaning bills are often around \$275.

"I own everything myself," he explained.

The clothing is incorporated in his many appearances, not just at Mount Vernon, but also at other historical sites, movies, and special appearances. It takes several garments to authenticate the first president of the United States. There are three different types of clothing: military in nature, presidential civilian clothing and farmer's garb.

Depending on the nature of the event, Malissa will dress in his meticulously maintained selection for the occasion.



PHOTO BY VERONICA BRUNO/GAZETTE PACKET

Dean Malissa addressing the many tourists and visitors with a rousing speech on July 4th of last year at Mount Vernon.

CONNECTING WITH THE PUBLIC is also the highlight of the job for him. Malissa enjoys the many moments when he can bring the general alive for a captive audience.

"People get to have discourse directly with Washington," said the internationally acclaimed actor. "I'm often surprised by how many foreigners know his story."

He also has high regard for the man he personifies and it shows. "There is a universal regard for Washington. In almost every country around the world, there is something named after the man."

In fact, if you google "George Washing-

ton Street" you will get over 12,000,000 hits, which also includes links to restaurants, housing, libraries, and many other public facilities.

But there is a difference in connecting him to a modern audience. Manners and speech were more formal, especially in public. "I have to make sure I'm not too standoffish, as the general would have been. But he was different in public as he was among his intimate, personal circle," said Malissa. It's a delicate balance portraying the man and being a storyteller to a modern audience. "I have to make sure there are 'wow' moments, I have to entertain them."

If you watch the second webisode of Washington trying to purchase an Amtrak ticket from Washington, D.C. to New York City, you will see him politely dispute with the gentleman next to him about the correct travel time between the two.

The gentleman tells him that the ticket machine is accurate in its estimate of under three hours. Malissa, as Washington, marvels at this and points out that it takes 36 hours to travel from New York to Albany by steamboat.

Malissa also enjoys conversing with an audience of children who have done their homework about the man. "I enjoy children having read about him.... when they ask for clarification." One of his favorite questions asked was "what was it liked to be a loyal British subject one day and then be a rebel?"

Least favorite part of the job?

"Posing for photographs." He doesn't mind some, but it can become tedious when having to pose for 1,500 in one day.

Having interpreted Washington for almost a decade, Malissa also has a warm rapport with the character actor who portrays Martha Washington at Mount Vernon, Mary Wiseman. "She's a consummate professional... she's a dear friend. We have the greatest fun. We give each other knowing looks, sometimes when we're sharing the same thought. We're aligned," he said.

Details

Dean Malissa will be on hand throughout the weekend for the President's Day activities at Mount Vernon Estates. Admission is free on the Monday holiday. Visit www.mountvernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

He will also be appearing at the George Washington Birthnight Banquet and Ball at Gadsby's Tavern, for the first time, along side Mary Wiseman's Martha.

Or you can watch him interact with the Madame Tussaud version of the other president being celebrated on the holiday, Lincoln, with hilarious results, in the online webisode series "George's Big Day Out," viewable on the www.mountvernon.org. They are simply not to be missed. Four parts of the series have been unveiled, with the fifth coming out on the presidential holiday.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

"Beyond the Board" Art Exhibit.

Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans' presents "Beyond the Board." A portion of artists' sales go to the PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/ for more.

Exhibition "Unearthed |

Unleashed." Through Feb. 22, in the Athenaeum Gallery 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An exhibition of the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent. Gessner's mixed media

sculptures reference a variety of natural forms. Kent's minimal works with thickly applied paint and wax appear to be a reflection on organic elements and artifacts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Mount Vernon Celebrates Black

History Month. Through February at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Throughout the month, a daily Slave Life at Mount Vernon Tour explores the lives and contributions of the slaves who lived at Mount Vernon at 11:30 a.m. The tour will conclude with a wreath laying at the Slave Memorial site. Black History Month activities are included in admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

"Bessie's Blues." Through March 15 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. "Bessie's Blues," features

Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, TC Carson and a cast of actors and musicians who will tell the story of Bessie Smith through a musical odyssey of the blues. William Knowles is music director. Performances are Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. \$55-60. Visit www.metrostage.org or call 800-494-8497.

"Front and Back." Through March 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. second Thursday of the month at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Artists' imagination plays with Items that are different front vs back; right vs left; top vs bottom; inside vs outside; right side up vs up side down; positive space vs negative space. Anything that has two or more sides can be used to show two different visuals. Free admission. See www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com 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. Owners of 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.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm.

Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk

has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Summer of Smiles. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time

ENTERTAINMENT

(residents only) and classic camps. The guide has an index listing camps by week offered and age group. Registration opens Wednesday, March 18 for City of Alexandria residents and Friday, March 20 for nonresidents. Interested participants may register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

Tavern Toddlers. Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join other families with toddlers (walkers through 36 months) to have fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern or call 703-746-4242.

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.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring 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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Reception & Gallery Talk. 6-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Gallery Talk with Juror Jeff Huntington at 7 p.m. Back by popular demand, "In the Flesh 5" is an examination of contemporary figurative art. This all-media exhibition features the work of 18 artists, all of whom express the human form in unique and thought-provoking ways. Visit torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Meet & Greet: Justin Raphael Roykovich. 6-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, Studio 12, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Post-Graduate Residency is a competitive program that provides meaningful support to recent, promising MFA graduates for three to four months in partnership with accredited MFA programs in the region and the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Stop by Studio 12 on Second Thursday to meet the first resident, Justin Raphael Roykovich. Visit torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Second Thursday Live. 7 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. "The Course of True Love Ne'er Did Run Smooth" — Shakespeare's unhappy love scenes. Just in time for St. Valentine's Day: A reminder that dysfunctional love is eternal. DC-area theatre actors will read scenes of love and discord. Dessert reception follows the reading. \$15. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Andrew O'Day. 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit

George Washington's Birthday

Locations, dates and costs vary. Find event information at www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

♦ **George Washington Birthday Parade** – Feb. 16, 1-3 p.m. The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. With nearly 3,500 participants, this community parade honors one of the city's favorite sons. Free.

♦ **18th Century Dance Classes** — 7:30-9:30 p.m. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 14, learn 18th century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets: \$12 per class or \$30 for series.

♦ **Walking with Washington tours** – Sundays in February, 2-3 p.m. Walk in George Washington's footsteps through his hometown, historic Alexandria, and view some of the sites connected to the General, like where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Free.

♦ **George Washington's Birthnight Banquet & Ball** – Feb. 14, 5:30-11 p.m. Don dancing shoes for this famous celebration of Washington's Birthday at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. \$125 for banquet and ball; \$50 for ball only. Advance reservations required.

♦ **Madeira Tasting with President Washington** – Feb. 15, 3-5 p.m. Delight in Madeira wines (George Washington's favorite drink) and insight into their production plus food pairings. \$45.

♦ **George Washington Classic 10-K Race and 2-K Fun Run** – Feb. 16, 8 a.m. Dash through this certified course through Eisenhower Valley. Prizes, t-shirts and refreshments will be provided. All proceeds benefit the historic celebration. \$40 for 10-K; \$10 for 2-K.

♦ **Historic Alexandria Open Houses** – Feb. 16, times vary. Admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Carlyle House, Christ Church, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum.

♦ **Breakfast and Meeting of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association** – Feb. 16, 9-10:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, this annual tradition at the Hotel Monaco features "George Washington's" first appearance of the day, plus an address by a speaker and breakfast. \$30. Ticket information at www.friendshipfire.net or at 703-751-6416.

♦ **Revolutionary War Reenactment at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site** – Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish at 2 p.m. between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. Free.

♦ **Tomb Ceremony** – Feb. 17, 11 a.m.-noon. Colonial military and civilians honor the soldiers of the Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Free.



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FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Eric Benet. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

The Beverly Hillbillies. 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

FRIDAY-MONDAY/FEB. 13-16

George Washington's Masonic Apron on View. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. This Masonic apron was made in France and is believed to have been presented to George Washington at Mount Vernon in 1784 by the Marquis de Lafayette, a former general and close friend of Washington's, who was also a Freemason. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13-SUNDAY/MARCH 29

"In and of the Land." 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land" is a two person exhibition of recent work in paintings by Clive Pates and ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery for more.

FEB. 13-MAY 25

Nine Paintings from John Chapman. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington's biography are on view. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

21st Annual SOUPer Saturday. 9 a.m.-noon at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more than 20 years, the potters at the

Torpedo Factory Art Center have pulled together to raise money for United Community Ministries in Hybla Valley. Purchase a handmade soup bowl for \$20, fill it with soup from Chart House, and enjoy at a table in our waterfront entry or second floor hall. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/21st-annual-souper-saturday/ for more.

Food & Wine Tasting. noon-5 p.m. at 600 Franklin St., Alexandria. Balducci's introduces shoppers to their own wines — Sauvignon Blanc from the Curico Valley in Chile; Chardonnay from California; and a reserve bottling of Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley. Food tastings begin at noon; wine tastings begin at 1 p.m. Call 703-549-6611 or visit www.balducci.com for more.

"Blues Babies." 12:30-2 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of live music interwoven with multi-media and storytelling, exploring the modernization of the Blues and its influence upon Jazz, Gospel, Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll, Soul, Soul Blues, and other related music genre. Free. Call 703-746-4356.

Opening Reception and Gallery Talk. 2-4 p.m. at Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery in The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land," paintings by Clive Pates and Ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates, a two-person exhibition of recent work in painting and ceramics that relates on multiple levels – the relationship of the artists, the source material of a common landscape, and a harmony of color and abstract form. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery for more.

Burlesque-A-Pades in Loveland. 6 p.m. doors, 7:30 p.m. show, at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. In this Valentine's Day production, Burlesque-A-Pades is serving up an evening jam packed with entertainment, including among others, award winning Burlesque Queen Angie Pontani. Full dinner and cocktail service is offered at the show plus learn more about the rich history of burlesque in American Theater with a pop up museum exhibit that will be featured in the lobby. Visit www.birchmere.com.

The Beverly Hillbillies. 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

Andrew O'Day. 8-11 p.m., at John

Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.

Dare to Follow Your Heart. 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film "Sense and Sensibility." The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1" and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Visit www.alexsym.org/ or call 703-548-0885.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 14-15

Celebrate Washington's Birthday. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All weekend guests will be encouraged to create birthday greetings for George Washington which will be shared with "General Washington." Included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$18; children 6-11, \$9; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

- ❖ 9 a.m.-noon — Join "General Washington" for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff (while supplies last)
- ❖ 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. — A wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington
- ❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world
- ❖ 1:45 p.m. — Take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18th-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.
- ❖ 2 p.m. — After the dancing ends, reenactors gather with visitors to share selected stories

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

Magic: The Gathering Tournament. 2 p.m. in the Great Hall of John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Registration starts at 1 p.m. The 1st-4th Prizes are gift certificates to John Strongbow's Tavern. The 5th-8th Prizes: Packs of Fate Reforged prizes will be based on attendance. This event will be unsanctioned. Entry fee is \$35. Participants should pre-register by calling John Strongbow's Tavern at 703-329-3075. Visit www.medievalmadness.com for more.

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King Street,

Please make reservations early for Valentine's Day

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ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. It lasts 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

The Beverly Hillbillies. 3 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

Dare to Follow Your Heart. 3:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film "Sense and Sensibility." The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1" and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Visit www.alexsym.org/ or call 703-548-0885.

MONDAY/FEB. 16

- George Washington's Birthday.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Free admission to George Washington's home and burial site. "General Washington" is on the grounds to greet visitors and receive birthday wishes all day. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.
- ❖ 10 a.m. — Traditional wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's Tomb
 - ❖ 11:15 a.m. — Patriotic music and military performances on the Bowling Green
 - ❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world
 - ❖ 1:45 p.m. — Visitors may take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18th-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.
 - ❖ 2 p.m. — Re-enactors gather with visitors to share selected stories
 - ❖ 3 p.m. — A second wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington

TUESDAY/FEB. 17

History to Life. 12:45 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In honor of George Washington's birthday, learn how the citizens of Alexandria would celebrate his birthday in the late 1790s. Includes opportunity to wear reproduction clothing and a period dance lesson. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Bob Hume & Martha Capone. 7-9 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.

FRIDAY/FEB. 20

Andrew O'Day. 8 - 11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Dinner and Silent and Live Auctions. 3 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Enjoy the afternoon and evening with a silent auction at 3 p.m., followed by a wine bar at 5 p.m., a potluck dinner at 5:30 and a live auction at 6:45. Bring a dish to share. All proceeds will

benefit the church. Contact Kelly Campbell at moonbeam610@gmail.com for more information. Visit mvuc.org/ for more.

Benefit Concert. 7 p.m. in the Meeting House at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Emma's Revolution headlines a benefit concert for the Katie Tyson Fund for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Visit mvuc.org/ for more.

The Hooligans. 9-11 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.

FEB. 21-MAY 31

"Paws 'N Claws for Art." Run through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle's Fur-Vor project community-based student-recycled dog art. Reception: Friday, February 27, 7-9pm. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

SUNDAY/FEB. 22

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King St., Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301

Gallery Talk, Symbiosis and Tension, 3 p.m. in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Artists Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent explain their process, inspiration, and how their friendship played a role in the creation of the works in the show. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Lenten Evensong. 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Arlington's Tina Chancey will play early musical instruments, including the rebec, vielle, kamenj, viol, and lyra viol. Her performance will be followed by a Lenten Choral Evensong service at St. Paul's Old Town, directed by Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster, and will feature music by English composer Henry Purcell. Free. Donations will go to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. Call 703-549-3312 for more.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Agenda: Alexandria Dinner. 6:45 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Agenda: Alexandria presents "Down the Hatch: Alexandria's Luscious Libations" with Steve Bashore, manager of Historic Trades at Mount Vernon; Bill Butcher, founder, Port City Brewery; and Todd Thrasher, sommelier and liquid savant, Eat Good Food Group. Dinner catered by Bittersweet Catering at 6:45 (\$32-\$42); program only at 7:15 (members free; nonmembers \$5). Reservations required. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

THROUGH FEB. 26

African Drumming For Families. 6:30-8 p.m. Various dates and locations. African drumming is a fun way for the whole family to honor Black History Month. With a range of African djembe drums along with other traditional instruments and dancing. A light dinner, childcare and interpreter services provided free. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/face-centers/ for details.



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MidAtlantic Erg Sprints Yields New World Record

1,700 athletes compete.

A new world record in the half marathon by Olympic gold medalist Esther Lofgren capped the competition at the 2015 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, hosted by T.C. Williams High School on Jan. 31.

More than 1,700 athletes from 130 teams in 14 states competed, making this the world's second largest indoor rowing competition and the largest for high school athletes. For Alexandria, athletes from T.C. Williams, Bishop Ireton, and St. Stephens & St. Agnes Schools competed, with Bishop Ireton winning a group award as the top Washington metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association team, sharing the honors with Walt Whitman High School crew.

During the event, Lofgren, 2012 Olympic gold medalist and eight-time member of the U.S. National Rowing Team, shattered the world record for the half marathon, posting a time of 1 hour, 20 minutes and 12 seconds, beating a 2003 record by three minutes.

In a short ceremony mid-day, organizers commemorated the 30th anniversary of the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, which has been held at T.C. Williams every year since January of 1986. Past Alexandria Crew Boosters presidents Paul Bea and Dan Shipp, along with former TC crew coach Mike Penn, recounted the history of the event, which started in the TC gymnasium with a handful of competitors as a way to motivate row-



Bishop Ireton crew team members Eileen Gaffney and Matt Perham catch up in the hallway after checking the posted schedules.

ers to stay in shape during the off-season. The original bicycle-wheel erg rowing machine used during that event, on display for the ceremony, was a reminder of how far the sport has come. The ceremony highlighted the contributions of the many coaches who coax top performances out of their athletes. It included top U.S. national rowers Lofgren and Yohann Rigogne who threw T-shirts to participants.

The MidAtlantic Erg Sprints presented medals for individual performances and trophies for consolidated performances. This year, McLean High School crew club won the trophy for the top high school rowing team, as well as the top Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association team. The Bishop Ireton High School rowing team and Walt Whitman High School shared first place honors as the top Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association team. The MedStar NRH Paralympic Sport Club dominated the top fitness club team



Thousands of spectators, rowers, coaches, volunteers and vendors filled the gym and the hallways at TC Williams on Jan. 31 for the 30th annual Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints. On the right is W.T. Woodson rower Jack Ning.

category. Great Bridge High School grabbed the top Eastern Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association team honors, and the Annapolis Junior Rowing Association took the Baltimore-Annapolis Junior Rowing team title.

In terms of individual performances, Bishop Ireton High School earned six individual gold and silver medals. Gold medal recipients were Carla Penn-Vega (junior women 500-meter sprint championship lightweight), Isabel Shirron (junior coxswains women 500M lightweight), and Stephen Sisel (junior coxswains men 500M lightweight); the BI silver medalists were

Evan Ferree (junior - age 18-19 - men 2000M), Brandon Hutchinson (junior 500M sprint lightweight), and Kimmy Kim (junior women 500M sprint championship lightweight). Three TC students grabbed silver medals: senior Kyra McClary (junior - age 17 - lightweight women 2000M), junior Amelia Bender (junior - age 17 - women 2000M) and sophomore Isabel Montenegro (Junior - age 16 - women's 1500M and junior women 500M sprint championship). Alexandria Community Rowing competitors took home seven gold medals, including

SEE ERG SPRINTS, PAGE 25

TC Gymnast Lager Qualifies for Regionals in All-Around

Titans place third one year after winning Conference 7 championship.

The graduation of Holland Cathey proved too much to overcome for the T.C. Williams gymnastics team.

Last season, the first complete Titans gymnastics team in three decades won the Conference 7 championship, led by then-senior Cathey, who won the all-around title. This year, T.C. Williams once again entered the conference meet with enough gymnasts (four) to produce a team score, but the Titans placed third and missed out on one of the conference's two regional berths.

South County won its first conference title with a score of 135.175 on Feb. 4 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Lake Braddock finished runner-up (134.95), followed by T.C. Williams (132.15), Woodson (116.2), West Springfield (113.125), West Potomac (112.225) and Annandale (11.225).



T.C. Williams gymnasts Cailyn Lager, left, Grace Girard and head coach Pete Novgrod are seen during the Conference 7 championship meet on Feb. 4 at Lake Braddock.

While TC failed to qualify for regionals as a team, the three returning members from last year's championship group each qualified as individuals.

Sophomore gymnast Cailyn Lager placed third in the all-around (35.225), earning one of the conference's four all-around berths. She placed third on bars (8.45), fourth on beam (8.75), tied for third on floor (9.025) and tied for fourth on vault

(9). TC seniors Jordan Mambert and Grace Girard qualified in multiple events (top eight). Mambert placed second on bars (8.825), sixth on floor (8.975) and tied for fourth on vault (9). Girard placed second on beam (8.825) and tied for eighth on bars (7.9).

South County sophomore Collea Burgess won the all-around with a score of 36.05, followed by Lake Braddock's Jordan Clark

(35.575), Lager and West Springfield's Abbie Levine (35.125).

TC's Mambert finished fifth in the all-around with a score of 34.775.

The 6A North region meet was scheduled for Feb. 11, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

The state meet is scheduled for Feb. 20-21 at Patriot High School.

— JON ROETMAN

Hometown Hero NFL's Thomas to visit Sportsman's Club Feb. 17.

BY KEVIN MCCANDLISH
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria native Ratcliff Thomas, a University of Maryland standout who went on to play in the National Football League for the Indianapolis Colts, will return to his home turf Feb. 17 as the guest of honor at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club's monthly meeting.

Thomas's career in sports began at the Charles Houston Recreation Center where, as an 8-year-old, he took part in the football and basketball leagues that pit Charles Houston against other Alexandria recreation centers.

"It was very competitive," said Thomas. "Ramsey, Mt. Vernon, the Lee center; we all competed against each other, and that's really where I started getting my competitive edge. There was a lot of pride at stake." This instilled in Thomas a desire to achieve success for any program he joined.

When he arrived at T.C. Williams High School, stars from the famed 1971 state championship team were often on hand to remind the squad of what Titan Pride truly meant.

"Our mindset was not only to win games, but be dominant," Thomas said. "That was passed down generation to generation and

we knew we had to get it back."

Titans Football coach Glenn Furman once recalled Thomas as someone who "would play wherever you wanted him to. He could play two-way every game."

Yet as a McDonald's All-American nominee in basketball, his continued career on the gridiron was far from a foregone conclusion. He initially seemed set for a basketball scholarship offered by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, but instead opted to spend a post-graduate year at Hargrave Military Academy.

The experience imparted renewed discipline and rededicated study habits. He had already garnered attention from many Atlantic Coast Conference schools while in Alexandria. National powerhouses such as Miami, UCLA and Wisconsin began to vie for his commitment as well. He knew, however, that his heart remained closer to home.

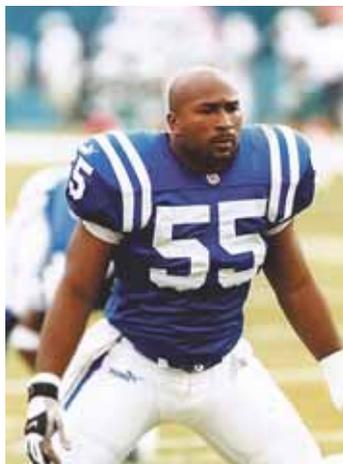


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ratcliff Thomas, an Alexandria native and NFL alumni, will be the guest of honor at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting Feb. 17 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

When the University of Maryland Football Program came calling, Thomas saw an opportunity to make an early and significant impact. He arrived at preseason camp to find he was listed out of position as the 7th string Defensive End.

"I knew right then that I had to prove myself," Thomas recalled. "I had a chip on my shoulder, but I didn't say anything. I kept working ... By the first game, I was a starting linebacker."

The Maryland football program also provided an excellent weightlifting program and Thomas saw his statistics — he led the team in tackles three

out of four years — and physicality grow. It soon became a question not of "if," but when he would rise to the National Football League.

A shoulder injury in his senior year affected his draft position. Undeterred by the setback, Thomas found his way to the Indianapolis Colts through free agency. Hark-

ening back to his Titan days, he at times played just about every defensive and special teams position for the Colts. He found a knack for producing his best efforts when playing the best competition.

After his final NFL season ended in 2001, he returned home to the city where it all started. When his No. 29 football jersey was retired in 2000, he fittingly proclaimed that "once you're a Titan, you're always a Titan." This proverb proved unflinchingly true when he signed on as a linebackers coach in the 2000's, much in the way the legends of the 1971 team served as a mentor to him.

The Old Dominion Boat Club, 1 King St., will host the Alexandria Sportsman's Club's monthly meeting honoring Thomas for all of his contributions and inspiration to the city. A fellowship happy hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. with ceremonies and the Student-Athlete of the month award presentation taking place at 7:15 p.m. Free and open to the public, visit alexandriavasports.org.

"Our mindset was not only to win games, but be dominant."

— Ratcliff Thomas

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

FEBRUARY

- 2/4/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
- 2/4/2015 Wellbeing – National Children's Dental Health Month
- 2/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle
- 2/11/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
- Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16
- 2/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
- 2/25/2015 Pet Connection Pullout

MARCH

- 3/4/2015 Wellbeing
- 3/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
- 3/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
- 3/25/2015 Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
- FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

APRIL

- 4/1/2015 Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
- Easter Sunday is April 5
- 4/8/2015 HomeLifeStyle
- 4/15/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
- 4/22/2015 Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
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Special Thanks to the Mount Vernon Gazette, Alexandria Gazette Packet

OPINION

Legislating Against Discrimination

BY ADAM P. EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

I passed several bills last week that would advance equality for women, gay and lesbian married couples, and LGBT state employees.

My resolution to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment (the ERA, SJ216), was approved 20-18 by the Senate on Feb. 5.

The passage of the ERA would bring the U.S. Constitution into conformity with Virginia's values. We are one of five states

COMMENTARY

that prohibit gender discrimination in our state Constitution but have not yet approved the ratification of the federal amendment.

SJ216 would add Virginia to the majority of states supporting the addition of the ERA to the U.S. Constitution. The language would explicitly guarantee that women and men are citizens of equal standing under federal and state law. This is an important distinction to make when it comes to protecting the legal advances that have been made in the area of women's rights over the last 50 years. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia clearly articulated his opinion about gender equality when he stated "the Constitution does not require discrimi-



nation on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't."

The ERA would guarantee equal pay for equal work. This is an economic issue impacting many Virginia fami-

lies. The money that comes into a household helps the whole family, and when women are being discriminated against in the workplace, it affects everyone.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision last fall to let stand the 4th Circuit Court's decision allowing same-sex marriage in Virginia, there are 65 sections in our code that need to be changed in order to accommodate married gay and lesbian couples. On Feb. 3, my bill (SB1211) passed the full Senate with bipartisan support.

This legislation clarifies that all lawfully married spouses are included under Virginia law. This is important when dealing with legal issues involving child custody, inheritance, power of attorney, and taxes because lawyers and accountants must be able to properly advise and serve their clients.

My bill prohibiting discrimination against LGBT public employees (SB1181) was combined with legislation sponsored by Sen.

Don McEachin (D-Henrico) and passed the Senate on Feb. 3.

A recent study by the UCLA Williams Institute found that 21 percent of LGBT respondents reported unfair treatment by an employer in hiring, pay or promotions. When transgender people were asked the same question separately, an astounding 80 percent of workers reported having experienced harassment or other mistreatment at work.

Nondiscrimination also makes economic sense. Currently 21 state governments have nondiscrimination policies including neighboring D.C. and Maryland. Without nondiscrimination protections, Virginia's state and local agencies as well as our colleges and universities are at a competitive disadvantage to effectively recruit and retain top talent.

Governor McAuliffe has called for Virginia to be open and welcoming to all businesses and workers, a sentiment shared by overwhelming majorities of Virginia citizens and businesses.

According to recent polling, 87 percent of Virginians support public nondiscrimination protections. In the private sector, 88 percent of Fortune 500 Companies already have nondiscrimination policies in place. Adopting such a policy for public employ-

ees would put the state in line with America's leading companies.

For decades Virginia's Governors have issued executive orders forbidding discrimination for state employees. However, only Governors Warner, Kaine and McAuliffe have included sexual orientation and gender identity in those orders. We need to codify this policy into law once and for all so that it will not be at the whim of each future Governor whether state employees are afforded these protections.

Discrimination is wrong regardless of what form it takes. It is a fundamental American value that individuals should be judged on their talents, not on their gender or who they love.

I will be holding two Town Hall Meetings this Saturday, Feb. 14. The first will be from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Mount Vernon Government Center with Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Scott Surovell; the second will be from 2:30-4 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Old Town Alexandria with Del. Rob Krupicka.

Please take my online survey at www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey. You can also email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov. I am active on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign. You can sign up for my weekly email updates at www.AdamEbbin.com.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

by the end of the year. Having sound reading skills is a major factor in academic achievement and a key to annual yearly progress.

As a tutor I feel as though I receive more than sufficient instruction and teaching tools to ensure that the time I spend with my first grade "buddy" is productive and beneficial. Based on an approach developed at the Curry School of Education of the University of Virginia, I am given a lesson plan for each 30-60 minute session. The lesson plan is tailored to the needs of the individual student and comes with appropriate books and word games to carry out the session's objectives. At the end of the session, I take a few minutes to jot down for the Book Buddies coordinator my observations regarding the student's progress, any stumbling blocks he might have encountered and his successes during the session. This feedback guides the coordinator in preparing the next plan. I find the Book Buddies coordinator to be accessible and only too willing to help when I feel the need to consult with her. She is a very valuable resource. While I am pleased to be able to give back to the community in such a meaningful way, even more satisfying is the knowledge that my contribution makes a difference in a student's achieving grade level reading skills as opposed to feeling forever behind and frustrated in school. Last year, just after we had given out gift books to our students at the end of the year, I spotted a child proudly sharing his books with a group of his classmates — a heartwarming example of how books and reading can increase not only educational but also so-

cial capital in our schools. I encourage anyone who loves children who might be looking for a way to volunteer to consider an investment in the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, a program that pays great dividends. And I urge the School Board and the superintendent to fully fund the Community Partners budget.

Kristin Langlykke
Alexandria

School Board Irresponsibility

To the Editor:

Our City of Alexandria possesses an inferiority complex, no matter what the city does, it just can't measure up to the National Harbor and Clarendon. Since 2008 as the National Harbor site rose above the the Potomac the city has become obsessed to compete with Clarendon and National Harbor. Look at our masterpieces — the Bracc, Jefferson Houston, and T.C. Williams are all testaments to our ability to compete with those neighbors on cost and glitter. The city has become obsessed with growth and development and has fallen victim to the spend and debt scenario. Currently the city's method is about revenue generation through real estate. However our revenues are being squeezed because our tax dollars are being used inappropriately by the School Board who has no agenda but their agenda to add and delete and move funds from project to project

Examples of our wasteful ways would include the construction of TC tennis courts — that mountain of dirt that now exists was

budgeted at \$642,000 including lights. In reality the hard costs for such a project is \$1,200,000. How could the School Board miss so badly on this cost issue? It is almost 50 percent off. In addition these courts serve but 30 J.V. and Varsity tennis players during the three months of spring. The cost structure works out to be \$40,000 per player. We budget \$17,500 per student at the high school, so how does this group demand such a premium? Don't get me wrong — I love tennis but what about the academic issues and dilapidated schools? We have other courts — they are never used — I get it that they are not perfect — but neither is our scholastic achievement so where is the priority here? That money could have been used for renovation projects, repairing a school roof that was deleted by the School Board, buying books, instruments, hiring teachers, repairing playgrounds The entire School Board double faulted on this project all except Pat Hennig she aced it and voted No for tennis courts.

What about the lights for T.C Williams High School: A \$4.1 million project to light the field when an alternative option exists in the Eisenhower area and can be done for \$3.5 million less. Wait why are we promoting football anyway, it's a dying sport. Have you heard about the issue of concussions? During every play, every game, every practice, heads collide with a force equal to running into a brick wall headfirst at 35 mph. Football causes permanent brain injury. Playing football is dangerous — to invest \$4.1 million or more to light T.C. stadium is unimaginable and irresponsible. These funds need to be passed on to the schools and the neighborhoods, the main constitu-

ents of the City Council and School Board. A youthful brain is fragile, not fully mature, more susceptible to trauma and injury. Playing football is dangerous, it can harm your children.

With elections less than 10 months away you need to be thinking about the representative changes necessary to bring about fiscal responsibility.

Mary Lou Gormley/Alexandria

All Should Be Welcome

To the Editor:

Regarding the Feb. 5 article "Separate, But Equal:" I understand the economic incentive spurring the developer, AHC, Inc., to strive to make the market-priced portion of the proposed housing complex desirable: sales.

There are ways the company can accomplish that goal including: a rooftop garden, a building designed to have very fast internet connections or a gym in the market priced building. No problem.

I object to the city supporting in any way — such as through a loan — any project that would allow an outdoors amenity in a complex to be restricted based on income. Whether AHC proceeds with the pool idea or stops that and uses the space for a putt putt, a landscaped water garden, whatever ... if it's on the complex grounds it must be open to all. No child of working class or poor parents should grow up in a community that says "your kind isn't welcome here."

Pat Rizzuto/Alexandria



Rowers' progress in the 2000 meter sprint is illustrated on the flat screens through-out the gym.

Erg Sprints

FROM PAGE 22

Lori Criado (master - age 30-39 - women 30-Minute Row), Peter Heimberg and Brian Fisher (senior - age 40-49 - men 3-minute crash, double slide), Sarah Henry (open women 500M sprint championship), Jaime Rubini (veteran - age 60-64 - men 2000M), and Brenda Simonen (senior - age 40-49 - women 2000M race).

Other stars of the day were the adaptive rowers. Dammy Onafeko of the Capital Rowing Club powered to victory in the Adaptive Physically Disabled (Legs/Trunk/Arms) category. Rowers from Athletes Without Borders, MedStar NRH Paralympic Sports Club, and Capital Adaptive Rowing Program participated. Tom Darling, director of Para-Rowing at US Rowing, introduced the program and participants. Darling, a rower himself, won his category again this year, following up on his world record-breaking performance at the 2014 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints. Eighty-seven-year old rower William Brownlee, the oldest competitor, won his event.

The MidAtlantic Erg Sprints were hosted by the Alexandria Crew Boosters, the Alexandria City Public Schools, and T.C. Williams High School. More than 250 local volunteers staffed the event.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Submit at least two weeks before event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Low Vision Program. 1:30-3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Low Vision Resource Group, hosted by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington, presents guest speaker Paul D'Addario, past president of Northern Virginia Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired and a local vision loss advocate. To register, call 703-746-1762.

Community Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room, City Hall, 301 King St. The City of Alexandria will host a public information meeting to initiate the conceptual design process for bulkhead replacement and shoreline improvements at Windmill Hill Park, 501 S. Union St. Contact Tony Gammon at anthony.gammon@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4155.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Hopkins House Fundraiser. Noon at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, in Alexandria. ABC7/WJLA-TV News Anchor, Leon Harris, will host the event, and the Boys & Girls Choir of Harlem Alumni Ensemble will provide the entertainment. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Hopkins House Children's Scholarship Fund. Open to the public. \$75, online or at the door. Visit www.HopkinsHouse.org for more.

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703-582-3709
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Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton
Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

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

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Olea Restaurant Inc. trading
as Olea Restaurant, 703 King
St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The
above establishment is apply-
ing to the VIRGINIA DEPART-
MENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEV-
ERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for
a Mixed Beverage on Prem-
ises license to sell or manufac-
ture alcoholic beverages. Ste-
phan Fogleman, President
NOTE: Objections to the iss-
uance of this license must be
submitted to ABC no later than
30 days from the publishing
date of the first of two required
newspaper legal notices. Ob-
jections should be registered
at www.abc.virginia.gov or
800-552-3200

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Las Veguitas, Inc trading as
Dollar Plus & Market, 2253
Huntington Avenue, Alexan-
dria, VA 22303. The above es-
tablishment is applying to the
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL(ABC) for a Wine
and Beer off Premises license
to sell or manufacture alcohol-
ic beverages. Martha Santos,
President
NOTE: Objections to the iss-
uance of this license must be
submitted to ABC no later than
30 days from the publishing
date of the first of two required
newspaper legal notices.
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LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of
section 4-1-16 of the code of
the City of Alexandria, the
Alexandria Police Department
located at 3600 Wheeler Ave-
nue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is
now in possession of un-
claimed bicycles, mopeds,
lawn equipment, money,
scooters, and other items. All
persons having valid claim to
the property should file a claim
to the property with reason-
able proof of ownership or the
items will be sold, destroyed,
converted or donated. For a
complete listing go to
<http://alexandriava.gov/police/>
and contact the Police Prop-
erty Section at (703) 746-6709.

One man
with courage
makes a
majority.
-Andrew Jackson

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
F. Roberta Ballenger, 72
On February 6, 2015 in Alexandria, VA. She is survived by her devoted husband of 54 years Frank Lee Ballenger III of Alexandria, VA, her loving son Geoffrey Franklin Hunter Ballenger and his wife Melissa Jane Ballenger and her grandson's John Franklin Ballenger and James Hunter Ballenger, of Moorestown, NJ. She is also survived by her sister Evelyn Pierpoint Runaldue and her nephew Jeremy Michael Runaldue, of Alexandria, VA. Services are private and will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Roberta's name to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-01-04**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for the replacement of the Generator at TCW Minnie Howard Campus. Sealed Proposals with the notation ITB # 15-01-04 Pizza will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, February 27, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals.
All questions must be submitted before 1:00 p.m., February 20, 2014. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No ITB may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.
Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
Senior Buyer

26 Antiques

26 Antiques

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Call 703-371-1765

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-02-01**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Video Production Services. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-02-01 Environmental Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, February 16, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php> No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Max Cameron Johnson
December 24, 1926 - January 27, 2015
Max Cameron Johnson, formerly of Alexandria, Virginia passed away January 27, 2015 at Applewood Living Center, Longmont, CO. He was 88 years old.
He was born December 24, 1926 in Norfolk, Virginia. Max moved to Roanoke, VA where he was raised and attended school. He went on to graduate from Virginia Southern College. Max enlisted in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of an Airborne unit. He was honorably discharged from active duty on December 6, 1946. He then served with the Ready Reserves at Langley AFB until February 22, 1963.
He married Anna Johnston in 1954 and they made their home in Alexandria, VA. He moved to Longmont in 2011, following the death of Anna on December 22, 2010, to be close to his family.
Max was a Special Agent for the United States Department of the Treasury, retiring in 1984. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Max volunteered his time as a tax preparer and at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. He was a Civil War buff and enjoyed growing Bonsai trees, classical music, writing poetry, bird-watching and swimming.
He is survived by his sister Gayle Jeffreys of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, sister-in-law Sue Loper of Niwot, CO and several nieces and nephews.
A Celebration of Life will be held on from 12:30-2:30pm, Sunday, February 22, 2015 at The Chinquapin Rec Center, 3210 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Cremation entrusted to Ahlberg Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Longmont, CO. Memorial contributions may be made to Franklin County (Virginia) Historical Society, Rocky Mount, VA or the Men's Home, Alexandria, VA and sent in c/o Ahlberg Funeral Chapel, 326 Terry St., Longmont, CO 80501. Visit www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com to share condolences.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Reach across Virginia
with this ad!
No other media offers
the audience of loyal,
local, repeat readers
you'll reach through
community newspapers!

71% of American adults have used a newspaper, a newspaper website and/or a newspaper mobile source in the past 30 days. (Scarborough Research 2012)

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Virginia
PRESS
Services

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LIFETIME METAL ROOFING
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45 Year Warranty
Financing Available
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Local Contractor

12 MONTHS SAME AS CASH!
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21 Announcements

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71% of Americans have used a newspaper, a newspaper website and/or a newspaper mobile source in the past 30 days. (Scarborough Research 2012)

Make sure they're reading about you!

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PRESS
Services

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Reserve your family vacation today!

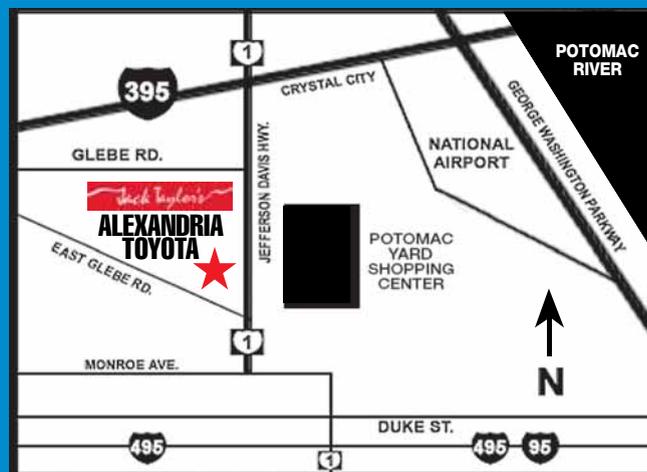
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Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.

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Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

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**WE WILL
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whichever comes first, you and your new Toyota will be covered.

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**Roadside Assistance does not include parts and fluids. Valid only in the Continental United States and Alaska. 1-800-444-4195.

Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or can apply to down payment. Excludes plug-in models. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 2/16/2015.

Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 2/16/2015.



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www.WendySantantonio.com



Alexandria \$824,000

Light and airy, this 4-bedroom, 3-bath, cul-de-sac home in Beverley Hills has around 2,400 SF of living space. It is set on almost 1/4 acre of land with a beautiful backyard. Wood floors and lovely master suite. 3801 Moore Place.

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

www.LizLuke.com



Old Town Alexandria \$440,000

Renovated historic, 1-bedroom plus den. Rare two-level condo with two exits. Bright north facing with high ceilings, wood floors, wood-burning fireplace and bookshelves. One parking space. Common gardens. Low fee. 603 Queen Street #5.

Barbara Cousens & Jud Burke

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www.BarbaraCousens.com



Alexandria \$325,000

Renovated bath and kitchen in this incredibly light-filled and convenient home in ParkFairfax. Welcoming front porch to watch the world go by. Washer/dryer located upstairs! Minutes to 395, walk to shopping, stores and Shirlington. Lots of amenities, pools, tennis courts. Easy parking.

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Alexandria \$198,000

Walk to Metro! Spacious and updated condo with balcony offers expansive views of the Potomac River. High-end wood floors, custom window treatments and updated lighting throughout. Updated bathroom. Abundant parking and amenities for Hunting Creek Club residents.

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www.DonnaCramer.com



Old Town Alexandria \$1,398,000

With Southern exposure, this end townhouse in Fords Landing offers 2,993 SF of renovated living space. A spacious living room features gas fireplace, tall windows, hardwood floors. New open kitchen with Viking stainless appliances, adjoins family room. Luxurious master suite, renovated bath with oversize shower, double vanities and expansive wardrobe closets.

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www.BabsBeckwith.com



Sizzy Zimmerman

703.998.9779

www.BBZgroup.com

Old Town Alexandria \$899,000

Impeccable, light-filled end unit townhouse in prestigious Old Town waterfront community. Turn key ready with neutral decor, luxurious millwork and high-end kitchen. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3 fireplaces, 2 garage parking spaces. Unbeatable location, walkable to all of Old Town. 15 Wilkes Street.



Alexandria \$499,900

This Warwick Village home is perfect for those who enjoy walking to Del Ray restaurants, parks and events! Updated kitchen and baths. Wood floors on main and upper levels. The finished basement has new carpet. Tons of storage throughout and large deck for entertaining. 2925 Mosby Street.

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

www.LizLuke.com