

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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MARCH 12, 2015



The town crier Ben Fiorre Walker announces the approach of the annual parade to the crowd gathered on King Street on Saturday, March 7.



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and his wife Megan arrive in the antique car that received best in show for the 2015 car competition.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

St. Patrick's Day Parade



President of the Ballyshaners Rick Regan and treasurer Patrick Sims take their places to greet the dignitaries as they arrive to review the parade from the stands.



Chairman Emeritus of the Ballyshaners Pat Troy and Bernadette Troy arrive at the reviewing stand for the annual parade.



2014 Washington D.C. Rose of Tralee Allison Wetterau.



Christopher and Jude Vigil walk with the group from the NOVA Mobile Vet.



Grand Marshal Laureen O'Neill-James waves to the crowd.

National Honor

Ana Bonilla-Galdamez named National Social Worker of the Year.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

When Tammy Cavoos graduates from the University of Virginia, she says it will be because Ana Bonilla-Galdamez got her there. Cavoos is one of the students Bonilla-Galdamez, a social worker in Alexandria Public Schools, has helped push through economic and social barriers. Because of her work with students like Cavoos, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has selected Al-

exandria Social Worker Bonilla-Galdamez at the recipient of its 2014 National Social Worker of the Year.

"Overwhelming, I felt so honored, but more importantly it's an opportunity to shine a spotlight on school social work," said Bonilla-Galdamez.

It's been a long road for Bonilla-Galdamez, whose experience in the United States started when her parents told her that they were leaving their home in El Salvador for a Christmas vacation.

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 22

Hunting Potholes

If residents call, city will fix them.

How To Help

Call Click Connect hotline at 703-756-4357 to report potholes.

As many Alexandrians would likely attest, 2015's February was the coldest the city has faced since 1979. Over the winter, Alexandria received 18 inches of snow, higher than the 15 inch average, which has also left Alexandria with larger than average potholes.

According to Jeffrey DuVal, acting deputy director for the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, the city is transitioning away from their snowy weather recovery mode into pothole repair. DuVal said the city will have four or five internal and externally contracted crews repairing potholes around the city in segmented zones.

DuVal acknowledged that 2014 was the snowiest March in the city's history, but said his department had to weigh the potential risk of another snowstorm against the immediate danger posed to

city transportation by potholes.

The department has an \$836,000 annual budget for snow and ice removal.

The Fiscal Year 2015 budget allocated \$5.2 million to repaving and resurfacing Alexandria's roads this spring, while the proposed 2016 budget raises that funding to \$5.6 million.

DuVal asked that citizens who encounter potholes to contact the city through the Call Click Connect hotline at 703-756-4357, and DuVal said the city would hopefully have the potholes fixed within 48 hours.

"We know [the potholes] are out there, and we're working as hard as we can to get to them," said DuVal. "The best thing the public can do is call in and report them so we spend less time hunting for potholes and more time fixing them."

— VERNON MILES

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Hearing on Proposed Budget

City Council will hold a special public hearing to discuss the proposed \$647.9 million operating budget and \$815 million All Funds budget. The hearing is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Monday, March 16, in the City Council chambers in City Hall. A public hearing on the real property tax rate will be held on April 21 at 7 p.m. and budget adoption is scheduled for May 7.

Zombie Apocalypse Survivors

The mayor welcomed Rick Grimes and others from the AMC show "The Walking Dead" to the city. Grimes entered the city on March 1 and has expressed an interest in joining local law enforcement. In the show, based on a comic series by Robert Kirkman, Alexandria is a safe-zone relatively protected from apocalyptic horrors.

"We welcome them and are pleased and proud to have them in our historic city," said Mayor William Euille. "We wish them the best of luck and we hope they stay safe."

— VERNON MILES

Salute to Women Awards

Eleven women will be recognized for their accomplishments in civic life at the Alexandria's Commission for Women's 35th Annual Salute to Women Awards.

The 2015 awardees, who were selected by an independent committee appointed by the commission, are: LaDonna Sanders (Rising Star Award), Ginny Hill-Obravovich (Making a Difference Award), Valarie Wright (Women's Health and Safety Advocate Award), Brooksie Koopman (Susan Lowell Butler Lifetime Achievement Award), Cynthia Anderson (Maguerite Payez Leadership Award), Lorraine Friedman (Youth Community Services Award-Adult), Zauhirah Tipu (Youth Community Services Award-Youth), Suzanne Maxey (Marian Van Landingham Legislation and Public Policy Award), Joan Singer (Donna Bergheim Cultural Affairs Award), Ashley McNeff Behrens (Leadership in Business and Career Development Award) and the late Laurie Meyer (Vola Lawson Award).

The Salute to Women Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 26, at the Patent and Trade Office, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria. The reception begins at 6 p.m. and the awards ceremony is at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$65 per person.

Visit Salute to Women at www.alexandriava.gov/dchs/info/default.aspx?id=82658 or contact Melissa Villacorta at 703-746-3132 or Melissa.villacorta@alexandriava.gov for details or to purchase tickets. Proceeds of the Banquet benefit the Alexandria Sexual Assault Center.



PHOTO BY SAIT SERKAN GURBUZ/GAZETTE PACKET

Farewell to Winter?

People enjoy a snowball fight at John Carlyle Square Park on Thursday, March 5.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/GAZETTE PACKET

Sympatico students rehearse with instructors Emily Klug and Asif Majid, ASO's education program director.

ASO Music Program Expanding

Daily instruction programs at John Adams Elementary gets new name along with added students and classes.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
GAZETTE PACKET

Details

To learn the latest about the program, visit <http://asosympatico.wordpress.com>. To donate, contact ASO at www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885. The ASO Sympatico concert at the Torpedo Factory will take place on March 12 at 6 p.m. at 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

The music instruction program at John Adams Elementary just keeps growing. And it now has a new name to go along with the expanded curriculum, "ASO Sympatico."

The education program is a year-round music curriculum developed by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) for John Adams. Inspired by the El Sistema approach to classical music, the ASO integrated the programming in partnership with Alexandria City Public Schools. Music instruction takes place before and after school and provides a more enriching alternative to daycare for students while their parents are working several jobs.

Emily Klug, one of the ensemble instructors, spoke about the impact the musical education has had on one of the children, one in particular: "He wasn't very confident in speaking." After just a few months of joining the program, his mother approached Klug one day and marveled at how much his confidence had grown and how his speech had improved.

First launched last fall, the ensemble consisted of a few groups, but has since doubled in size and expanded to include more after-school instruction. Asif Majid, ASO's education program director, said, "Other Sistema programs have become flash-in-the-pan moments." The program at John Adams is a growing, expanding curriculum that has added a choir in addition to the expanded bucket bands and strings and keyboard ensembles.



Ronal Butler, ASO's chairman of the board, looks on as the ensemble members perform for their school last fall.

"We have lots of room to grow, and we hope to expand our current offerings and add ensembles as the program gains momentum and public funding," said Majid.

Besides daily instruction, Sympatico students have had the opportunity to perform in front of a public audience, their peers in school concerts, and even

on a professional level with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra itself at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall last year.

There will be a concert at the Torpedo Factory Art Center on March 12 at 6 p.m., as part of Torpedo's Second Thursday Night Art Night. This concert is open and free to the public and several pieces developed over the course of the workshop will be performed. The concert will repeat for the John Adams student body on the Friday afterwards.

Lindsey Serrao, director of Sympatico's Strings at Sunrise ensemble, is particularly excited about the upcoming activities: "We are so fortunate to have this partnership at John Adams. Sympatico has increased my students' ability to express themselves, be creative, and demonstrate self-confidence. Through Sympatico, we are creating a music family at John Adams."

Through Sympatico, we are creating a music family at John Adams."

Congressman in the Classroom After student inquiry, Beyer visits T.C. Williams High School.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams High School student Peter Eckel quietly confided that when he wrote the email to his congressman's office, it was originally as a joke. It was a spur of the moment decision when Eckel was working on a government class assignment and couldn't figure out what committees U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) was serving on. He'd titled the email "Come talk to AP Gov class" and, in addition to the assignment requirements, included a brief appeal for career advice. He hadn't expected a response, and certainly didn't expect Beyer to show up at T.C. Williams High School on March 10 to give his class and other students a brief explanation of life in Congress and answered their questions.

Beyer spoke to the students briefly about running a campaign, which he encouraged each of them to do at least once in their lives.

"Get your slogan down to a short message, one word if you can," said Beyer. "Proven, Principled, and Progressive" was our message. It's three words, but it's memorable."

He also mentioned that the campaign

looked at Alexandria's voters and ranked them on a scale of 1 – 100, with 100 being more active and involved, particularly more likely to vote for Beyer in the primary, and 1 being unlikely to vote at all. The campaign focused on the voters closer to 100 on their scale and worked down towards 1. Once he'd won the primary, Beyer said he wasn't particularly concerned about the general election.

"As long as I didn't do something stupid, like do drugs or drive drunk, I should have been OK," said Beyer. Because of this, Beyer said he was able to run an election without having to resort to saying anything negative about his opponents.

Beyer asked the students what they believed the most emails he'd received from people in his district were about. Some speculated it might be the Keystone Pipeline, or Iran, but Beyer said most of the emails he gets are from citizens asking that the Grey Wolf be kept on the endangered species list. It's an issue Beyer is in support of, and one that sparked the controversial statement from U.S. Rep. Don Young from Alaska that, "If I introduced [Grey Wolves] in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

Beyer told the students he had three priorities in office.

- ❖ Minimum wage increase,
- ❖ Climate change legislation,
- ❖ Women's economic empowerment, meaning equal pay and maternity leave.

Answering student questions concerning Iran, Beyer said he believed that there is no military solution to stopping Iran from gaining access to nuclear weapons.

Any military action, Beyer warned, would set the program back by two years at most and only reinforce Iran's perception that the weapons are vital to their national defense. Beyer put his faith in a framework agreement with Iran, which would limit the amount of uranium Iran has access to and would force the country to allow International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of its facilities.

Answering Eckel's original question, Beyer clarified that he serves on the Natural Resources and the Science, Space, and Technology committees.

Andrew Orzel, Eckel's government teacher, said he was as surprised as Eckel at Beyer's response, but also expressed pride at the detail of the questions asked by the students. Orzel said he's never had a Congressman address one of his classes and was happy that this was a newly elected representative to give the class a fresh perspective of life on Capitol Hill.



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer addressing TC Williams students.

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET



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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vice mayor Allison Silberberg, standing center left, addresses attendees at the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast March 10 at the Hotel Monaco. Next to her is chamber government relations committee chairman Dak Hardwick.

Chamber Hosts Legislative Breakfast

Officials discuss top state, local issues.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce hosted members of City Council and the Virginia General Assembly at its annual Legislative Breakfast March 10 at the Hotel Monaco.

City representatives participating in the event, which was presented by Dominion Power, were Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and council members John Chapman, Del Pepper, Paul Smedberg and Justin Wilson. Virginia state senators George Barker, Adam Ebbin and Del. Charniele Her-ring were also in attendance.

The state delegation discussed the recently concluded General Assembly session, with each representative highlighting what they consider the most significant results from that session. High on each of their lists was workforce development and its impact on the Northern Virginia region.

City Council members cited several issues they felt were significant in the current council session including the Metro at Potomac Yard, parking, the waterfront and the development of Landmark Mall.

The chamber used the occasion to announce that it will host a mayoral debate sometime in May. Information will be posted on the chamber's website as it becomes available. www.alexchamber.com

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Let It Snow

Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night keeps Liz Garcia from the completion of her appointed rounds March 5 as Alexandria was blanketed with nearly 6 inches of snow during a late winter storm that forced the closing of city schools and offices. "I'll be glad when I finish up today," Garcia said as she completed her route in Old Town. "But it could be worse. We could be in Boston."

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#651

Matching Students, Tutors

Building Better Futures at TC.

BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The bell rings at 3:15 pm, reverberating off the hallways. School is out at T.C. Williams High School, and a few students start filtering into the library for tutoring assistance under the Building Better Futures (BBF) program supported since its inception in 2003 by the Campagna Center. This program is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays after school for an hour and a half with mostly volunteer tutors. The students pay a \$20 program fee, and after that the tutoring and career counseling services are free.



Marianne Hetzer

In addition to organizing the after-school tutoring, Marianne Hetzer, director of the BBF program is available during the lunch break from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. She does unofficial advising and mentoring on SAT prep, college applications, resumes, essays or "just plain encouragement." She describes the BBF program as offering supplemental assistance to students that fall into one or more of three categories: recent immigrants, low-income and/or first generation college hopefuls.

"Yassar, what can I help you with today?" Hetzer, is pairing up students with tutors. Here comes John. "Psychology? Well that isn't really a specific subject we tutor. What are you studying?" "The answer is, "Nature vs. nurture." Hetzer thinks a minute and sends John to a liberal arts specialist. She says, "we have math tutors and liberal arts-based specialists.

The tutors are scientists and they are very flexible." A new volunteer tutor walks up to join the students standing around waiting for assignments. "This is what I ask a volunteer to do," Hetzer explains the process.

The new volunteer, Karysa Murray, says her company has a partnership with the school and she is a former reading teacher. "My specialty is bio." Karysa heads off to a table with her yellow card with English in bold letters and is soon joined by Yulia



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Marianne Hetzer looks around for a math tutor to help Kendall Walker with pre-calc tutoring.

Ekubezghi and Ferina Mohammed. Mohammed asks for the SAT materials and Hertzler sends her "over there, that whole wall."

"We hope the students come twice a week. That is ideal, but some of them are able to come only once a week," she said.

They must bring their work with them, their notes and assignments. "Sometimes they ask for the same tutor. Ideally they create a relationship," she said.

The capacity of the program is 40 students per day. They average about 30. Hetzer said the school is so rich with opportunities that some students do another activity or club first and then come here for tutoring and take the late 5:30 p.m. bus home. Others come right away and take the 4:30 p.m. bus.

She looks up with a smile. "Hi Kendall. Your mom tells me you might want to work on history and pre-calc today." A shadow creeps across the student's face. "O.K. Guess it's just pre-calc today."

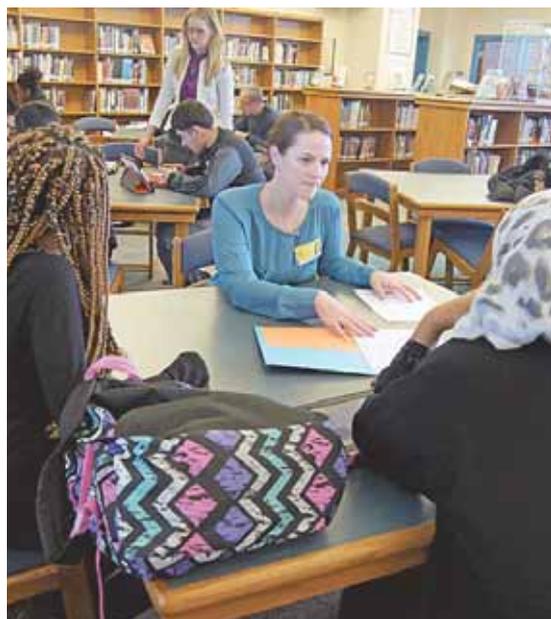
Richard Morton, a tutor for 7-8 years and on the board of the Campagna Center sits at his table waiting for students who need English assistance. "It is extremely rewarding. The students appreciate it, and I think it makes a significant difference." Sometimes students come back and show him a paper that got a really good grade.

Hetzer joins in remembering Amir last year who was registered in the International Academy at TC. He was determined from the beginning that he was not going to take four years to graduate. "He attended every tutoring session, had outside help from his

SEE MATCHING. PAGE 21



Richard Morton assists John Changthom with math. Morton has been a volunteer tutor for the BBF program for 7-8 years and is on the Board of the Campagna Center which sponsors this program.



Karysa Murray, a first-time tutor helps Ferina Mohammed and Yulia Ekubezghi with English in the Building Better Futures program at T.C. Williams.

New York Bound

Negro Ensemble Company selects local playwright.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE
SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET



Dilworth

Alexandria resident and playwright McKenna Dilworth will be one step closer to realizing some of her biggest dreams on Sunday, March 29. Her dramatic work was selected to be performed as part of Negro Ensemble Company's (NEC) dramatic live reading fundraiser, "NEC's Year of the Woman: 2015 Reading Series." Two of Dilworth's plays will be presented to an interactive audience at the Signature Theatre in New York City.

The difference between the presentation of Dilworth's play and the productions that most people think of seeing in New York City is that with Dilworth's, all the audience members will be allowed to critique and offer feedback.

"The reading series is an opportunity for the NEC to listen to new works and works in progress that have not yet been produced," Dilworth said. "So the audience gets the opportunity to give feedback to the playwright. We edit accordingly, and do whatever we want with it. The audience gets to see the life of a play before it is produced."

New Jersey City University theater professor Anderson Johnson will direct the performers of Dilworth's plays. Dilworth herself will also be directing the same ensemble in a pre-reading performance piece.

What makes this opportunity a true prize for her is that some of the spectator-critics will be professionals. Charles Weldon, the NEC artistic director, and Lehman College professor Susan Watson Turner will host a feedback session with Dilworth.

"The best thing about it is that we have a talk back," Karen Brown, executive director of the NEC, said. "That is where we have really noted theater professionals who will give the playwright's feedback on their work."

Dilworth, a former teacher with both Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Alexandria City Public Schools, said she is excited for the opportunity to launch herself as an

emerging playwright in New York City.

"Now that I am at the end of my resi-

dency, I am about to have my work read in New York," Dilworth said. "I am really hoping people will come and support me. Everyone watching can submit feedback in open form."

The Negro Ensemble Company produces shows with African American themes. Based in New York City, it has been in business for almost 50 years. From Broadway to Hollywood, the NEC's past and present actors and directors include some household names.

"We have been producing theatrical productions for 48 years now, since 1967," Brown said. "We have alumni that include Denzel Washington, Samuel L. Jackson and Glen Turnman. We have everybody except James Earl Jones and Morgan Freeman."

Dilworth grew up admiring both the plays and actors that NEC produced. When Dilworth's mother started a theater in her hometown of Gary, Ind., she put on a play written by NEC founder Douglas Turner Ward.

"It is my honor that the NEC has selected my work," Dilworth said. "The first play I wrote was fashioned after Douglas Turner Ward's work. He has been my main motivation. I was in the audience watching my mom put on his play, and that was my inspiration. I thought, 'I want to write satire.'"

This is the second year the NEC has presented a dramatic live reading submission opportunity to the general public. This year, Dilworth and Ntozake Shange, were selected among hundreds of playwright submissions. Playwrights JE Franklin and Sabura Rashid will also be part of the reading series.

"We have an annual reading series and this year we are celebrating contributions of African female playwrights to the

SEE ON HER WAY. PAGE 21

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First Shots Fired in Mayoral Race

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

With campaigns kicking off in late February and early March, the mayoral election season has begun in Alexandria. Currently, the three-way race for the Democratic primary includes incumbent Mayor William Euille facing former

Mayor Kerry Donley and current Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg.

"There are challenges facing the city, like the never-ending attempt to find new revenues through our tax base," said Euille. "We want to continue to move in that direction and be innovative. The office market and the commercial sector have gone down and we can't continue to wait for more commercial

office to come." Euille cited affordable housing as one of his major concerns for the city and cited 64 new affordable housing units planned in the Potomac Yard development as one of his most recent accomplishments. While Euille said raising taxes to pay for more affordable housing was on the table, he said his belief is that this budget season will not require a tax rate increase.

The tax base has already become a major focus of Donley's campaign.

"We need to move away from heavily taxed residential areas," said Donley. "We need to invest in our streets and sidewalks and ensure we have a vibrant Alexandria waterfront. Those are my broad goals, but the real tough job is coming up with an implementation plan given our revenue base."

Donley attacked what he saw as passive stewardship of the city.

"The mayor has to take a more active role," said Donley. "I'd like to see the mayor position reinstated back to the economic development partnership. The mayor used to sit on that partnership. I think if we're serious about ex-



Euille



Donley



Silberberg

panding our tax base, the mayor needs to be more critically involved there.

Additionally, Donley said a lack of leadership has been evident in the delays facing major city projects.

"We've got a stagnant economy right now," said Donley. "We can sit back and see what happens, or we can roll up our sleeves and take some broad initiatives. The biggest thing we can do is get the Potomac Yard Metro station under construction. That project is two and a half years behind schedule."

For Silberberg, the city's growth is pivotal, but she said the mayor needed to be careful not to overrun Alexandria's existing culture.

"We need to grow our commercial tax base but in a way that keeps our quality of life in mind," said Silberberg. "We need a wise course of action with concern to

our debt and I will always vote to protect historic district."

Silberberg said, as mayor, her focus would be on seeking a broad range of revenue streams for major projects.

"We have to be extremely aggressive in seeking grants from the state and the federal government," said Silberberg. "We shouldn't give up on that. Somehow money appeared for the Silver Line: we should work towards that. The state assigned \$60 million for the streetcar which didn't happen. This is important for all of our jurisdictions. I'm concerned that the Blue Line on the metro has been cut back, in part because of the Silver Line. I'm for the Silver Line, but we shouldn't take a hit. Now, it's like a cattle car [on the Blue Line]. It's crushing. People are clamoring to get on and we should be doing better as a city."

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OPINION

Small Step on Long Road to Ethics Reform

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



COMMENTARY

Virginians deserve to know that their leaders are ethical and honest, both from their actions and the rules that govern those actions. For the second year in a row, the General Assembly has taken a small step in the right direction, but our Commonwealth needs real and substantive change.

Elected office is a sacred trust — and when politicians abuse that trust, they corrode the foundation of our democracy. Unfortunately, the past few years have been extremely corrosive. Former Governor Bob McDonnell faces two years in prison for public corruption. Former Delegate Phil Hamilton is serving a nine-and-a-half-year sentence for bribery and extortion. Over the last two years, federal investigations have become all too common — and while those investigations have not always led to charges, the events that provoked them

still leave a bad taste in voters' mouths.

It's little wonder, then, that faith in state government is so low. In a survey taken shortly after the McDonnell conviction, Roanoke College found that 74 percent of Virginians believed the former governor's illegal actions were "fairly typical behavior for elected officials." Another survey found that almost two-thirds of Virginians deem our political culture to be, at best, only "somewhat honest and ethical."

Virginians have every reason to feel disappointed. This crisis of faith was brought on by a few bad actors, but their choices affect us all. Most legislators have done nothing wrong, but that does not change our responsibility to fix things. That means we must pass meaningful ethics reform.

For two years, the General Assembly has promised to do exactly that — and for two

years, we've come up short. Last year's bill made progress by capping certain gifts, significantly tightening disclosure requirements, and establishing a permanent ethics advisory council, but we should have done much more. On the Senate floor, I offered 14 amendments to strengthen the legislation; most of these were rejected, and I left Richmond determined to try again in 2015.

In some ways, 2015 has been a better year. We did make important changes — but in several respects, the 2015 ethics omnibus bill will actually move us backwards. The legislation imposes a flat \$100 cap on the value of gifts that lobbyists can give to officials. That new limit applies not just to politicians, but to members of their families, as well; it also ends a blanket exemption for "intangible" gifts like travel. But while last year's bill capped the aggregate value of gifts, this year's version merely caps the value of any single gift. In that

SEE ETHICS, PAGE 12

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's One Alexandria

To the Editor:

Frankly I am tired of reading the letters to the editors in the local newspapers each week dragging myself through all the "City Council does nothing right" screeds. The point is, City Council has been very responsive to the citizens' needs. Council regularly faces hostile crowds seeking specific outcomes favorable to them, but do not recognize the overall needs of Alexandria's citizens and the urban center we have become. Recently Alexandria downtown was recognized as one of the top 10 downtowns in the country, quite an urban statement.

Let me be specific. Recently several letters to the editors about council's decision regarding the memory care facility on King Street

were very negative. I live just off of King Street, just east of this facility and testified at both the Planning Commission and City Council in favor of the facility. Both made the right decision (except for one councilperson). Zoning codes, like laws, are purposely written to create a framework, but must be somewhat flexible to meet unforeseen future changes in the community. In this case the underlying zoning was "industrial." The 1992 Master Plan covering this area could not know exactly what the needs of the community would be in 2015 and beyond.

Therefore, council and planning wisely agreed to change the zoning to accommodate this important facility. All Alexandrians are better for it.

The impact on the neighborhood was judged not to be as extravagant as witnesses testified.

This also is correct. The argument I have read lately was that it was a zoning issue not a memory care facility issue,

that the vote "was being spun to appear as if it were to help seniors."

The facility is intended to and will benefit seniors. The zoning was altered to accommodate the memory care facility, not the opposite.

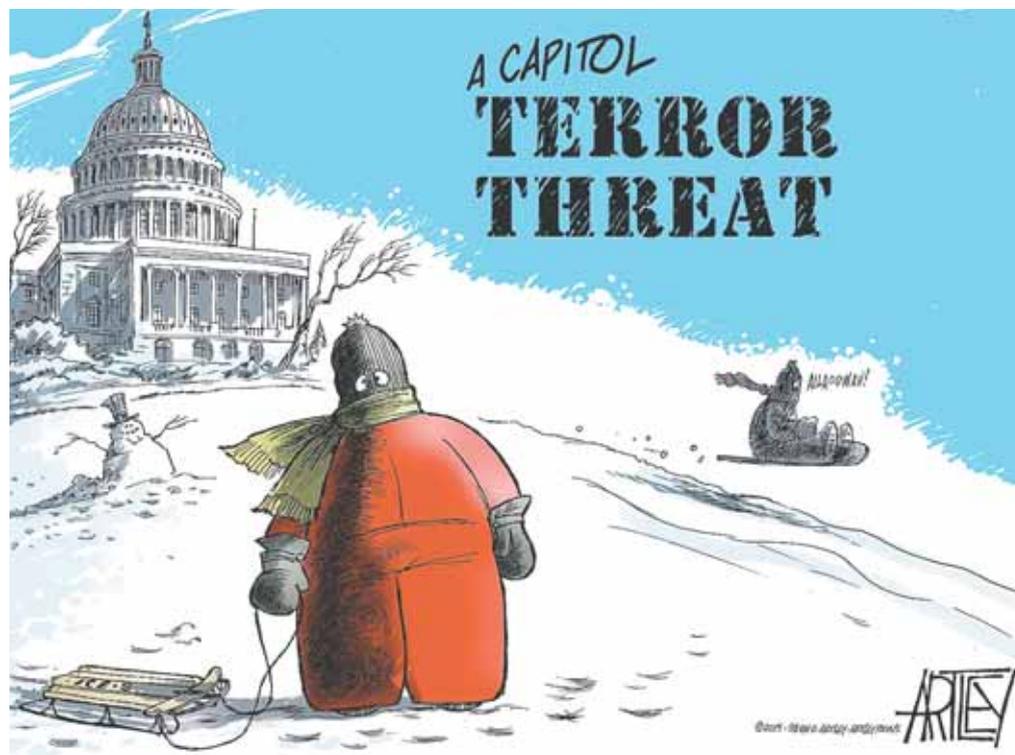
On occasion council is faced with a decision between what is good for a neighborhood, and what is good for the city as a whole. These decisions are not trivial or easy. My opinion is that council has done a good job

in making those decisions, and has extended every effort to hear and digest all of the citizens arguments related to those issues. Council always listens to the negatives presented often by the Not in my Back

Yard crowd, or NIMBYs. Traditionally those in favor of an issue do not come to testify on the other side of an argument because they feel city staff and the proponent do this. I am not saying that NIMBYs don't

have valid points, they do. But those arguments need to be considered as part of a discussion on the larger issues facing the entire city. There were significant changes to the design of the facility to accommodate the neighbors before the vote. City Council members looked at all the issues and came to the best decision. In my judgment our council does this well.

Another issue raised in the letters was a suggestion that that we need to alter the current "at large" representation to a "ward system." Alexandria is 15 square miles with a population of 150,000. There are six council members (one being the vice-mayor) and the mayor. As Mayor Euille says: "One Alexandria." The "at large" system works best for this community to foster "One Alexandria." If you want "NIMBY on steroids", install a ward system. Our councilmembers must represent all Alexandria



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

and make decisions for the whole of the city.

Also mentioned was that council has “put us a half billion dollars in debt and mortgaged our future.” Of course. The city uses the proceeds from debt to build infrastructure for current citizen’s needs and for the future. Municipal debt is issued to build schools, public safety buildings, parks, infrastructures that last for generations. We pay some of that in cash today, and let future citizens pay for their share. So this “mortgage” is an investment. Should we be concerned about the city’s debt? Yes. But our debt load is not out of bounds. The credit rating agencies still feel we are within our means, and rate us AAA accordingly. Also, the city has taken advantage of a very low interest rate environment where the amortized debt payments are significantly lower than when debt was issued 20 years ago.

This brings up my final point. The largest source for city revenues is residential and commercial property taxes. Alexandria is out of balance. A 50/50 balance has been a city goal since 1994. The current split is approximately

60/40. Proponents of commercial growth in Alexandria do not say “yes” to anything developers propose. The development must be needed and fit in with the “personality” of Alexandria. The point is, Alexandria is no longer a bedroom community.

We are faced with urbanization pressures. To reject the idea that we are an urban community is a disservice to those that live here now. We need commercial growth to help alleviate increases in residential taxes.

Smart growth is the necessary vision for our city’s leaders to affect what Alexandria citizen’s need. Opponents of commercial growth love to reference history. I guess they forgot that Alexandria was founded as a commercial hub.

Dennis Auld
Alexandria

Business As Usual?

To the Editor:

So you want to be elected/re-elected to Alexandria Council and Mayor. I would like to suggest some of the qualifications needed in order to be “hired for these jobs.”

1. Must have side bar conversations with one or two of your colleagues while citizens are speaking, showing complete disrespect to citizens who take the time to attend meetings and have their voices heard.

2. Must stand up for eminent domain, no matter what the proposed development project.

3. Pretend you are listening when citizens speak with alternative suggestions for development proposals even though you know how you’re going to vote. Think BSAP/BRAC/Waterfront/Metro Stop at Potomac Yard/lights at T.C. Williams.

4. Must state that you have concerns about an issue and feel it’s not a good project, but go ahead and vote for it anyway, Think Alzheimer’s Unit proposal next to Woodbine Nursing Home. The only person who understood the danger of this re-zoning was Vice Mayor Silberberg, who voted “No.” In some respects we can compare Vice Mayor Silberberg to Arlington County Supervisor Libby Garvey who was the only member of Arlington’s County Board to oppose the Columbia Pike Street Car and voted against her fellow

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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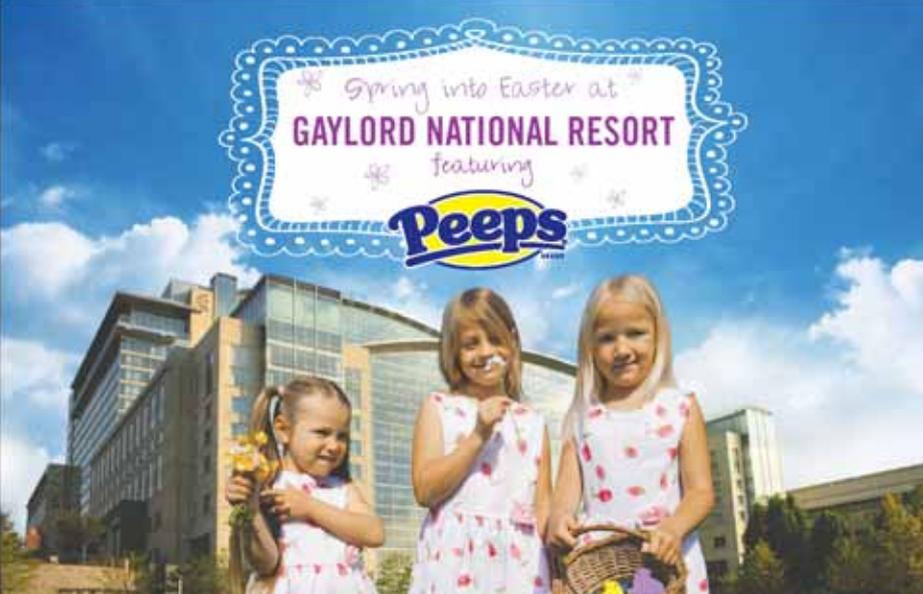
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OPINION

Ethics Reform?

FROM PAGE 10

sense, we're actually loosening the requirements and removing a safeguard we passed just 12 months ago.

Similarly, the bill reconstitutes last year's ethics advisory council along new, slightly stronger lines — but it also removes non-legislative "citizen" members who would have brought an outsider's critical eye to the standards set for elected officials.

Overall, the bill is a classic example of "two steps forward, one step back." It does not offer the kind of major reform Virginians expect.

It didn't have to be this way. Had the General Assembly chosen a different path, we could easily have enacted real change. At the start of session, I and other Democrats called for tough new reforms; my bill SB1289, for instance, would have given us a truly independent ethics commission with real investigative and enforcement powers. Unfortunately, these good ideas did not survive the many legislative edits and rewrites this bill experienced, resulting in a final

omnibus bill that was very different than most of the bills that were combined to create it in the first place.

Still, there is one last hope this year for real progress. Governor McAuliffe has been a strong and consistent advocate for real reform. The governor could still offer judicious amendments to address the bill's many shortcomings. If he does, I will be urging my colleagues to support those changes when we reconvene in April.

If the job is still not completed when we adjourn, I have every intention of continuing this fight next year. Virginians need to have confidence in their leaders. Politicians need to honor the wishes of those they represent. I plan to keep working on ethics reform until both of those standards are met.

I am active on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign. I can also be reached by email at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

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Long & Foster Old Town Historic District Office 703.683.0400
400 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314



OBITUARIES

Mary Ellen Feeney

Mary Ellen Feeney, a fourth generation Alexandrian, passed away peacefully March 9, 2015, in her home of 64 years on Richmond Lane. She was 89.

Born Nov. 26, 1925 to Francis H. Fannon and Dorothy Knight

Fannon, Feeney was the granddaughter of Thomas J. Fannon, a former vice mayor of Alexandria and founder in 1885 of T.J. Fannon & Sons at the corner of Duke and Henry streets in Old Town.

Feeney graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1942 and attended St. Mary's Catholic Church in Old Town. A member of Belle Haven Country Club, she was an avid golf and tennis enthusiast.

Feeney was preceded in death by her beloved husband William R. (Bill) Feeney. She is survived by and was a loving mother to their five children: Dorothy Ellen Arehart, William R. Feeney, Jr., Barbara Lynn Sprott, James Francis Feeney and Gail Feeney-Coyle. She also leaves behind five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Feeney is the sister of Francis H. Fannon III, Dorothy Markham and the late T.J. Fannon. Visitation will be held Monday, March 16, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. with 7 p.m. prayers at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road. A funeral Mass will take place at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 309 S. Royal St. A reception celebrating Feeney's life will be held immediately following at St. Mary's Lyceum, 313 Duke St.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Christ House Emergency Shelter, 131 S. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314 or Capital Caring, 2900 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Mary Ellen Feeney

Claire Louise Gregory

Claire Gregory, a passionate defender of human rights, longtime Alexandria resident and ardent Cubs fan, died Jan. 21, 2015 at the age of 54. She was born in Winfield, Ill. to the late Cecily and William Gregory. Claire attended Smith College and after her junior year she earned a summer internship in the Carter White House. She graduated Cum Laude with a degree in government, and went to work for the Department of Energy, Office of Hearings and Appeals in Washington D.C. as a legal and financial analyst.

Claire was awarded a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia, School of Law with Order of the Coif honors. Claire's legal career was singularly focused on ensuring people were treated fairly and received the full protection of the law. As a trial attorney for the Office of the Attorney General for the State of New Hampshire, she advocated for the people of New Hampshire in civil matters before administrative agencies, state and federal courts. At the U.S. Department of Justice as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Civil Rights Division, Claire brought suits to stop employment discrimination, and worked tirelessly to establish anti-discrimination and sexual harassment policies. She promoted consumer protection, improvement of public health and advocated against false advertising at Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. In her adopted home of Alexandria, Claire gave generously of her time and skill as a member of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission. She connected with the elderly as a regular volunteer with Meals on Wheels and showed her commitment to education as a reading tutor for elementary-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

age students in the Alexandria public schools. Claire helped the homeless through her commitment to Carpenter Shelter and the Lazarus Ministry.

She was a long-time, active member of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Daughters of the King, an Episcopal women's order that ministers through prayer, service and evangelism. Claire was a generous and devoted friend, always ready to give care and kindness when needed. Although serious in purpose, she loved to be silly and have fun. Services were held Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Claire was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Robert W. Gregory, and dear friend Douglas L. Thurman of Alexandria. She is survived by her sister, Margaret C. Gregory and husband Harry Titus, of Raleigh, N.C., and many friends.

Donations in Claire's memory may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Maurice Bernard Silverman

Born June 17, 1923, at 1424 Crotona Park East, Bronx, N.Y., to Roumanian immigrants Meyer and Bessie Itzkowitz Silverman, Maurice Bernard Silverman died March 4, 2015. He grew up in Bridge-



port, Conn., where his father, a bench jeweler to the trade, operated the Royal Jewellery Shop, at 77 Plaza, until his death in 1949. Maurice's mother moved to Washington D.C., where her son employed her in the antique shop he opened in 1958 and has run continuously. It is now Silverman Galleries Antiques & Antique Jewelry in Alexandria. A survivor of childhood polio, in high school and beyond he was a naturalist and protege of Aretus A. Saunders.

Concealing his medical history, he enlisted in the U.S. Army at the outbreak of World War II and qualified for a program that sent him to the Virginia Military Institute. He set up and ran medical dispensaries at prisoner of war camps housing German and Italian soldiers throughout Virginia. He completed an undergraduate and master's degree in psychology at the George Washington University, Washington, D.C., and was employed as a scientific abstracter at the Library of Congress. He taught fencing, practiced hypnotism, and was an avid chess player and swimmer.

In 1958, from his second floor desk at the Library of Congress, he spied a storefront for rent, scrubbed off the "Fortunes Told" sign left by the palm reader who was the previous tenant, and opened the antiques shop he has now run continuously for 57 years. The shop's original name, Capitol Hill Antiques, changed to Silverman Galleries when Maurice and the shop moved to Virginia upon expansion of the Library of Congress — the Madison Building of which now stands at the shop's original location.

By the early 1970s Maurice and the shop were in old town Alexandria, where he was joined in 1981 by his partner for 33 years in love and life, learning and business, his wife Angela, who will continue running Silverman Galleries Antiques & Antique Jewelry, according to Maurice's wishes.

Through changing times, Maurice had continued to run the shop "hands-on," personally selecting and researching early and historical antiques and several centuries of antique jewelry. He continued to be active in the shop through January 2015, making new friends and enjoying return visits from decades and generations of private and institutional clients. Maurice is also cherished among many friends as a creative, inventive cook, host and enthusiastic dinner companion, whose wide-ranging interests and original mind have enlivened everyone around him.

Besides his wife, Angela Silverman, survivors include his sister Edith Block and nephew C. Joel Block, both of Iselin, N.J., and niece Shelli Block of Rockville, Md.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

FEB. 1-APRIL 15

Free Tax Preparation. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. For taxpayers with low and middle income. All ages, with special attention to seniors. Federal and Virginia tax returns prepared and electronically filed by IRS-certified volunteers. Tax questions can be answered. Bring your photo ID(s), Social Security Card(s), tax documents, and your prior year tax return.

Free Tax Preparation. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon; Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The City of Alexandria is offering free tax preparation to qualifying residents. Taxpayers are eligible if their income is below approximately \$35,000 for individuals and \$53,000 for families. Volunteers from Community Tax Aid, Inc. will ensure that taxpayers apply for all applicable credits and deductions. The following documentation is required: Social Security cards for each family member; a photo ID for the taxpayer(s); dependents' income documents; W-2 forms and other income records such as Social Security, bank interest or SSI; receipts or records for

expenses such as child care and education; Form 1095-A if you purchased health insurance through the marketplace; and if possible, a copy of last year's tax return. People will be seen on a first come, first served basis. For further information, to request a disability accommodation or to receive materials in an alternative format, contact Esperita Bullard at 703-746-6070.

COMMUNITY INPUT WANTED

Call.Click.Connect. is designed to allow community members to submit service requests, report problems, search for information, or find contact information by either calling a dedicated HELP line or accessing the Call.Click.Connect. website. Continue to check the Call.Click.Connect. Usability and Outreach project page at alexandriava.gov/82564 for updated locations and times. Upcoming opportunities to provide input:

- ❖ Ellen Coolidge Burke Library - Thursday, March 12, 6-8 p.m.
- ❖ Chinquapin Recreation Center - Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.-noon
- ❖ James Duncan Library - Wednesday, March 18, 7-9 p.m.
- ❖ Kate Waller Barrett Library - Tuesday, March 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ❖ Cora Kelly Recreation Center - Saturday, March 28, 9-11 a.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Parent Education. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. at Ladrey High Rise, 300 Wythe St. or Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. at Brookside Center, 601 Four Mile Run Road. Join the FACE Center, Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia and a network of other providers to learn how to ensure a child's academic success and quality of life. Free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-824-6865 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Fire and Police Officers Pension Plan Board Meet. 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Kadira Coley, kadira.coley@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3879.

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

Acquisition Policy Survey Results. 5:30-7 p.m. at Grant Thornton, LLP, 333 John Carlyle St. The Professional Services Council (PSC) and Grant Thornton, LLP have conducted a biennial Acquisition Policy Survey and will reveal the results. \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members. Call 703-837-4400.

Budget Work Session: Comp/Revenue/5 Yr Model. 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St.

Planning Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will host a public meeting to review and provide input on a draft park plan and plan alternatives for the section of Mount Jefferson Park & Greenway between Raymond Avenue and Route 1. The City is working in conjunction with the Oakville Triangle/Route 1 Corridor planning process to develop a plan for that section of the park. A copy of the draft plan and plan alternatives is available at the Mt. Jefferson Park and Greenway Planning Site. Contact Laura Durham at laura.durham@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5493.

Parking Standards for New Development Projects. 7 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Brandi Collins, brandi.collins@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3854.

Alexandria Beautification Commission. 7:30 p.m. at Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron St. Contact Judy Lo, 703-746-5940.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

City Council Public Hearing. 9:30 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Jackie Henderson, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4550.

Inside the Police Academy

Local police officers, deputy sheriffs gain perspective at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

One of the doors in the regional law enforcement training academy opens to the view of a run-down apartment interior. The door next to it opens to a one-room bar. Down the hall there's an elementary school classroom and a makeshift office space.

When the empty rooms are populated by local actors who begin to play out the crimes police officers are expected to deal with, these rooms become portals into the daily operations of Northern Virginia law enforcement.

The Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy in Ashburn trains police officers and sheriff's deputies from 17 member agencies across the area including Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Those organizations fund the academy proportionally based on their "sworn strength," the amount of law enforcement personnel in those organizations.

Going through the academy follows a background investigation as well as physical and psychological testing. Sheriff's deputies attending the program attend for six

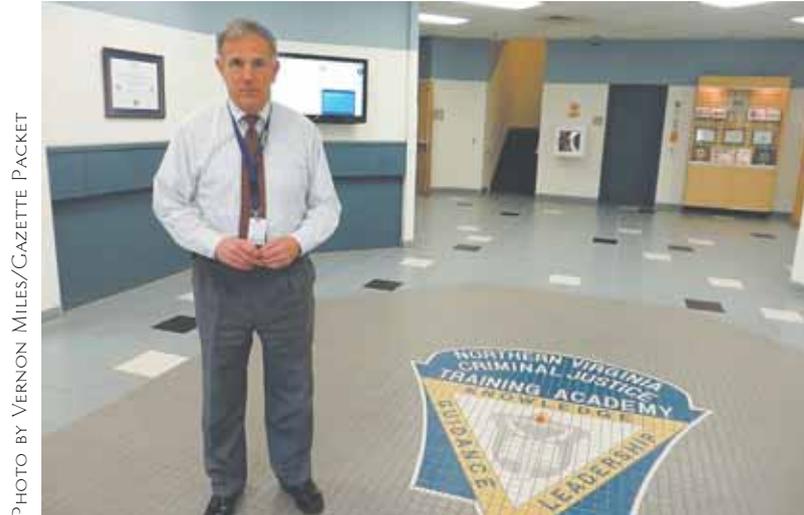


PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

months, arriving one month before police for specialized training. Many of the attending law enforcement personnel also attend their own department's specialized training before or after their time at the academy. For Alexandria Sheriff's Deputy Phillip Leger, it's a little bit of both.

Leger is the newest deputy at Alexandria's Sheriff's Department. Hired in January of 2014, Leger did four sessions of field training before he went to the academy and has been back working at the city's detention

center since. Leger's originally from Boston, and says his accent is the most common thing people around the detention facility notice. That, or the thick scar running across his neck where he was stabbed in a fight. In Boston, Leger worked in a juvenile transitional home. His aunt, Captain Dorothy Pope, has worked in the Alexandria Sheriff's Department for 17 years.

Leger said he went to the academy with a basic idea of what it was going to be like, but said those ideas weren't particularly

NVCJTA Deputy Director Thomas Fitzpatrick at the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy.

accurate. Some of that, he said, could possibly be attributed to the fact that he was the only attendee from the Alexandria Sheriff's Department, a fluke that he says turned out all right because it meant he only had to worry about getting himself through the course.

Steve Yanda, an officer with the Arlington Police Department, attended the academy in June of 2014 and said he didn't really have any idea of what to expect before he went in.

"It was different than anything I'd ever done before," said Yanda. "I didn't have any prior law experience or military. I didn't really know what to expect going in."

The program's deputy director, Thomas Fitzpatrick, has been at the academy since 2006 and worked as a police officer in Montgomery County, Md., for 30 years before that. Fitzpatrick also noted that, while diversity in law enforcement has grown since he started in 1974, police and sheriffs still need to work towards the gender and racial diversity reflective of the communities they serve.

In his time at the academy, Fitzpatrick says the biggest change he's seen has been the change in technology.

SEE INSIDE. PAGE 26

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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrating Persian New Year

The Nowruz Festival will be held March 15 at John Carlyle Square Park in Alexandria.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

Following 3,000 years of customs and traditions, the colorful Nowruz Festival — the Persian New Year celebration — will be held Sunday, March 15 at the John Carlyle Square Park near the King Street Metro in Alexandria. For the past three years, the family-oriented festival was held at the Reston Town Center and had 20,000 visitors along Market Street.

Nowruz, which normally falls in early Spring, is when Persian-Americans will join locally to celebrate the new year. There will be 55 vendors offering traditional and exotic foods as well as jewelry, artwork, crafts, and other traditional Persian products. A main stage will be set up that provides entertainment with 60 musicians, dancers, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players.

“The Nowruz Festival is celebrating the Persian New Year but it is also celebrating birth and life and rebirth,” said organizer Shohreh Asemi. “Anybody can come and share the celebration with us and learn about Nowruz, and enjoy entertainment, music and be part of this wonderful atmosphere of love and fun and entertainment.”

The Nowruz Festival is a family-friendly, fun celebration that celebrates life, love and good will. Of all the Persian national festivals, the New Year celebrations are at once the most important and the most colorful.

The venue provides a fun place for people to celebrate with family and friends, to taste Persian food and enjoy traditional and modern Persian entertainment. Among the traditions, is a ceremonial table called the

cloth of seven dishes (each one beginning with the Persian letter Sin). The symbolic dishes consist of Sabzeh or sprouts, usually wheat or lentil, representing rebirth. Another is Samanu or a sweet, creamy pudding. Another is Seer, which is garlic in Persian, which represents medicine.

In addition to attracting people from Virginia, Maryland and the District, this year, organizers hope to attract international guests from other countries that celebrate Nowruz, including Turkey, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, among others.

This year’s goal is to share the Nowruz Festival with both Persians and non-Persians. The event sends out positive messages, like celebrating earth, spring time, love and peace to the community. Planners want to bring different musicians and dancers from other countries that celebrate Nowruz, as well as new musicians that offer more variety to the festival. They also want to bring different historical and costumed characters from Persia (like Haji Firuz, a traditional herald of Nowruz dressed in a red costume and tambourine) that will interact with the crowd.

The Nowruz Festival will be held Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the John Carlyle Square Park, located at 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. For details, contact organizer Shohreh Asemi, at 202-369-1515 or visit www.nowruzfestival.org.

The Nowruz Festival, which celebrates the Persian New Year, will be held Sunday, March 15 at John Carlyle Square Park in Alexandria.



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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

“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.

“Considering Harm.” Through Saturday, March 21 at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Artist Pamela Flynn presents an exhibition titled “Considering Harm.” This art project focuses on the issue of gun violence and bringing awareness to our community. Visit www.ourconvergence.org or www.pamelaflynnart.com for more.

“In and of the Land.” Through Sunday, March 29, 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.

March 150. Through Sunday, March 22 in the Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The exhibition will feature 200+ works of original art by local arts, all created on 10” square panels and sold for \$150 each, until the night of the Art Party on March 20, when all the work is discounted to \$100. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/march-150/ for more.

“Four.” Through Sunday, March 29 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery, Studio 319, at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory gallery presents “Four,” featuring photographer Julie

Patrick, mixed media artist Kara Hammond, painter Jill Finsen and painting/mixed media artist Barbara Muth. TAG will present a new show each month. Visit torpedofactory.org.

“DREAM ON!” Runs through Sunday, March 29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Local area artists use any media to explore and express their dreams in the “DREAM ON!” exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery. Using their imaginations, artists interpret their dreams—from weird to wonderful, scary to surreal. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

“Reconstructing the Landscape.” Through April 6 at The Art League, Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. “Reconstructing the Landscape” features large-scale abstract paintings by Claudia Cappelle. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Show. Through May 3 at Cove, 805 King St., Alexandria. Cove will

partner with ArtSee to open the doors of their Alexandria location for a reception featuring the work of Alexandria artist, Pete McCutchen. The work on display shares McCutchen’s “Geometrics” series. Visit cove.is for more.

“Paws ‘N Claws for Art.” Runs 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. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Second Thursday Music.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. 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.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps.

Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a favorite story with dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and reception for family and friends. Tiny Dancers is a program designed for ages 2-12, featuring a performance

based ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater curriculum. The Alexandria studio is located at 621 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com for more.

Art League Spring Classes.

Registration is open for the Spring Term of fine art classes at The Art League School. The Spring Term begins the week of April 6, with more than 200 classes and 50 workshops to choose from. Classes are available for ages 5-adult for all skill levels. Browse course catalog and register at www.theartleague.org/school/search_browse.php.

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 (residents only) and classic camps. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

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.

MARCH 11-29

Blossom's Rainbow. Runs through Sunday, March 29. 10:30 am. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Wednesdays-Fridays and Sundays. In the show, a painter's brush sets a young cherry blossom's world into motion. Best for children

ages 2-5 and their families. Arts on the Horizon is a theatre company that produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families in Northern Virginia and the DC metro area. \$8, tickets online or at the door on the day of the performance. Box office: 703-967-0437. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Opening Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League, Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. "Reconstructing the Landscape" features large-scale abstract paintings by Claudia Cappelle. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Using Native Plants. 7-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will host a talk on painting and preserving native American plants as well as medicinal uses. Eileen Malone-Brown is author and illustrator of "American Botanical Paintings: Native Plants of the Mid Atlantic." Free. Call 703-642-5173.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum History Museum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Concert will perform, featuring an Irish Celebration with Celtic Aire. Free. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center &

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*Jeff Davis Highway near Bluemont Avenue
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Dominion Virginia Power is committed to continually enhancing and improving reliability for our customers. We will be making repairs to several underground fiber lines at the intersection of Bluemont Avenue and Jeff Davis Highway in Alexandria, Virginia over the next several weeks.

The revised start date of the project is March 15, 2015 and will continue through the end of April 2015. Work will impact the center of the northbound lanes of Jeff Davis Highway near Bluemont Avenue and will be conducted Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 pm - 4:30 am. There will be temporary lane detours surrounding each work site.

We are working with the city of Alexandria and VDOT as we plan our work activities and schedules to minimize disruption for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

We appreciate your patience as we complete this important project in your area. If you have any questions, please visit our website at www.dom.com, key word: *Route1*, to find a map which illustrates the work locations or contact our Transmission team at powerline@dom.com or (888) 291-0190, Monday - Friday, 7:00 am - 5:00 pm.

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Five Glorious Days to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 12 – Perfect Pint Contest
Pour a perfect pint! Starts at 5 p.m. Followed by live music.

Friday, March 13 – Weekend Kickoff
Live music starts at 9 p.m.

Saturday, March 14 – Music & Dancing
Live music starts at noon. Boyle School of Irish Dance at 4 p.m.

Monday, March 16 – St. Patrick's Day Eve
Live music starts at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
Doors open at 9 a.m. Live music starts at 10 a.m.

Boyle School of Irish Dance throughout the day. No cover charge!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages on Friday evenings. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the 'Aqua Challenge' floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Admission, \$4 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 13-14

“Legally Blonde: The Musical.” 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. When sorority queen Elle is dumped by her boyfriend, she earns acceptance to Harvard Law School and follows him there to win him back. Once there, she discovers she has more legal savvy than she ever imagined, and she can use her newfound legal knowledge to help others. \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or call 703-212-2950 for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 13-15

“Bye Bye Birdie.” Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Rock and roll heart throb Conrad Birdie comes to Sweet Apple, Ohio, to bestow his #1 fan with a goodbye kiss before entering the Army. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvccct.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Fireside Tea. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireside tea with light refreshments as “Martha Washington” shares memories of her and the General's life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War, and at Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$20 for youth and \$30 for adults.

Spring Modern Dance Concert. 7 p.m. at BalletNova's Fredgren Studio Theatre, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. The Choreographers Collaboration Project, a modern dance company based in Alexandria, presents their Spring Modern Dance Concert. This concert will feature CCP dancers and CCP's youth dancers performing new work and repertory. \$10 adults, \$5 ages 12-17 and under 12 free. Visit www.ccpdance.org, email cpdance@gmail.com or call 703-683-2070.

Concert. 7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 North Quaker Ln. Richmond-based SusanGreenbaum, whose song “Virginia the Home of my Heart” was considered by the Virginia General Assembly to be the state song, will perform alongside Wilmington (DE)-based John Flynn. \$15 in advance. \$18 at the door. Visit www.focusmusic.org/venue_alexandria.php.

Pajama Party. 7-10 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. A fun-filled evening to celebrate the “DREAM ON” exhibit at Del Ray Artisans; with raffles and prizes. Free to those who wear pajamas; \$5 each for those who don't. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

Saxophone Concert. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Washington Saxophone Quartet performs music of Bach, Debussy, Duke Ellington and more. \$10-\$20. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

Concert and Gala. 8 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. In celebration of their 45th season, the Alexandria Choral Society presents Joseph Haydn's “The Creation,” with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, and featuring Samantha

Anthony, soprano; Brian Thorsett, tenor; and Justin Wilson, baritone. Followed by a gala and silent auction. \$25/adult; \$20/senior and military; \$15/student; free for 13 and younger. \$5 more at the door. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Buffalo Soldiers History Lesson. 2-3:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club will give a presentation on the history of the Buffalo Soldiers. Free. Call 703-746-1751.

Barbershop Chorus Concert. 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The 40-member Harmony Heritage Singers present a program of traditional, patriotic, and popular songs. Musical fun for all ages. No admission fee. Offering taken for United Community Ministries. Call Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779 or brandtron@verizon.net.

Presidential Salon. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. “President James Madison” will discuss the peace treaty of Ghent of 1815 in the context of his own time. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. Visit <http://shop.alexandriava.gov> or call 703-746-4242.

National Men's Chorus Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. The National Men's Chorus will perform a “potpourri” of favorites. Director Thomas Beveridge has chosen romantic songs by Felix Mendelssohn and Franz Schubert, and two original compositions by the American composer, Vincent Persichetti, and more. \$20. Free for students and children. Go to Visit www.nationalmenschorus.org or call 202-244-7191 for tickets.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Celtic Tradition Lecture. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn about how Celtic traditions have penetrated American culture. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

“MAPS.” Through April 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 18 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The artists' imagination plays with physical features such as cities, roads, rivers, mountains, geographical borders, etc. that are represented by diagramming on maps of land and sea. Whether for self or gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. Free admission. Visit www.Potomacfiberarts-gallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

Museum Lesson. 12:45 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Learn how museums store, care for and treat an object in order to preserve it for generations to come. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

History and Genealogy. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Learn about military, land, and Congressional records related to the War of 1812 in the National Archives. Jonathan Webb Deiss presents a talk entitled “The War of 1812, Bounty Land, and Your Ancestors.” The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society sponsors this free event. Call 703-768-4101 or visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Author Event. 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin

Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club has scheduled local author Michael Lee Pope, who will be talking about his latest book, “Wicked Northern Virginia.” He will bring copies of his books for purchase. Free, public invited. Call 703-360-4979 or email annconnell@verizon.net for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

“A Breath of Spring.” 6-8 p.m. at Artfully Chocolates, 506 John Carlyle Drive, Alexandria. Art Exhibit and reception featuring the art of Alexandria artists Eric Nelson and Nancy Ziegler with complimentary appetizers and chocolates and wines available for purchase. Door prizes for the first 50 guests. Free, open to the public. Call 703-346-8699 or email lindsay.hutter17@gmail.com.

Living Legends. 6 p.m. at Patent and Trademark Office Madison Building, 600 Dulany St. Attend an exhibition of “Living Legends of Alexandria,” an ongoing photo-documentary project about the city. Tickets are \$45 through March 12; \$50 through March 17; \$55 at the door. Visit www.alexandrialegends.com.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum History Museum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. The United States Air Force Band-Brass Quintet presents a concert of music for Brass Quintet. Free. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Opening Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Join tonalist painter Kevin Fitzgerald for the opening reception of his annual solo exhibit. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

Washington's Irish. 7-9 p.m. at in the Robert H. and Clarice Smith Auditorium, Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, George Washington's Mount Vernon invites guests to explore the history related to the Irish during the Revolutionary War with a performance by Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones. A reception featuring Irish food will take place in the Vaughn Lobby following this performance and cultural music discussion. \$75 per person. Visit mountvernon.org/irish for tickets.

March 150 Art Party. 7-11 p.m. in the Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Target Gallery is raising money for special exhibitions and outreach programming with the 5th Annual Exhibition Fundraiser, March 150. \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. The exhibition will feature 200+ works of original art by local artists, all created on 10" square panels and sold for \$150 each, until the night of the Art Party on March 20, when all the work is discounted to \$100. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/march-150/ for more.

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

Swing Dancing. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd. Local band leader Owen Hammett will direct the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Tickets are \$4 at the door. Call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 20-22

“Bye Bye Birdie.” Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Rock and roll heart throb Conrad Birdie comes to Sweet Apple, Ohio, to

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ENTERTAINMENT

bestow his #1 fan with a goodbye kiss before entering the Army. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvctt.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Firehouse Museum Tour. 11 a.m.-noon at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St. Families are invited for an in depth tour of the Friendship firehouse. Attendees will also learn about firehouse procedures and equipment. \$5 for adults, \$4 ages 10-17. See www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Studio Recital. 3-4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Andrew Wilson Trumpet Studio Recital: Andrew Wilson and students (trumpet) and Karin Firsov (piano), perform works by Scarlatti, Sousa, Sachse, Mouret, and Barker. Free. Call 202-258-0822.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Lesson, 6:30 p.m.; dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Tom Rush. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Folk singer Tom Rush will perform. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Wonders of Science. 1-4 p.m. at The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax St.,

Old Town, Alexandria. The Apothecary Museum hosts a day of 18th-century natural and medical science exploration and demonstrations. Discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used – and if they worked. This hour-long program includes a tour of the museum, with new groups beginning every 30 minutes. Recommended for 3rd grade and older. \$6, children and adults. Reservations recommended, space is limited. Visit www.apothecarymuseum.org or call 703-746-3852.

Book Talk. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Join Garrett Peck and Portner's Brewhouse for a beer-and-book double header to celebrate Garrett's sixth book, "Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C.: The Civil War and America's Great Poet." After the book talk, Peck will lead a short walking tour of the historic Andrew Wales Brewery sites in Old Town. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Future Visions: Dystopia vs. Utopia. 2-4 p.m. at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Will the future will look more like The Hunger Games or Star Trek? Join in to celebrate all of the books and movies that show the range of possible futures. Trivia, crafts, music, prizes, and more. Costumes encouraged. Ages 9 and up. Call 703-746-1751 for more.

Winter Warmer Tea with Rebecca Ramsay Reese. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St., Alexandria. Sip a special blend of tea from Gadsby's Tavern Museum, "take" a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, and eat period-inspired delicacies, both

sweet and savory, with your 21st-century friends. A historic guest who will be visit during each tea. \$35 per person all inclusive. Reservations are required. To make reservations and purchase tickets, call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov. Ticket also includes a tour at 2:15 or 2:45 prior to the tea.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Ballroom Dance Class. Beginning class 7-7:45 p.m., advanced class 7:45-8:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Gary Stephens teaches the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Admission is \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998.

TUESDAY/MARCH 24-MAY 31

"Intricacies" Exhibit. Various Times at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Ln. Artist-Photographer Nina Tisara unveils her "Intricacies" exhibit, a collection of mosaics. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

SWAN Day. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Poet Shelly Bell will host an evening of poetry, dance, music and the visual arts by women artists. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Air Force Band Concert. 8 p.m. at Lyceum History Museum, 201 S Washington St. The United States Air Force Band-Woodwind Quintet and Chamber Trio offer a public concert. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil.

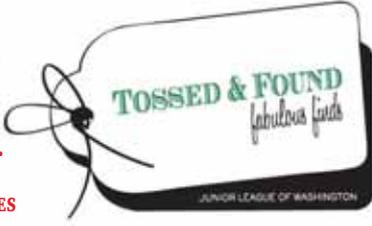
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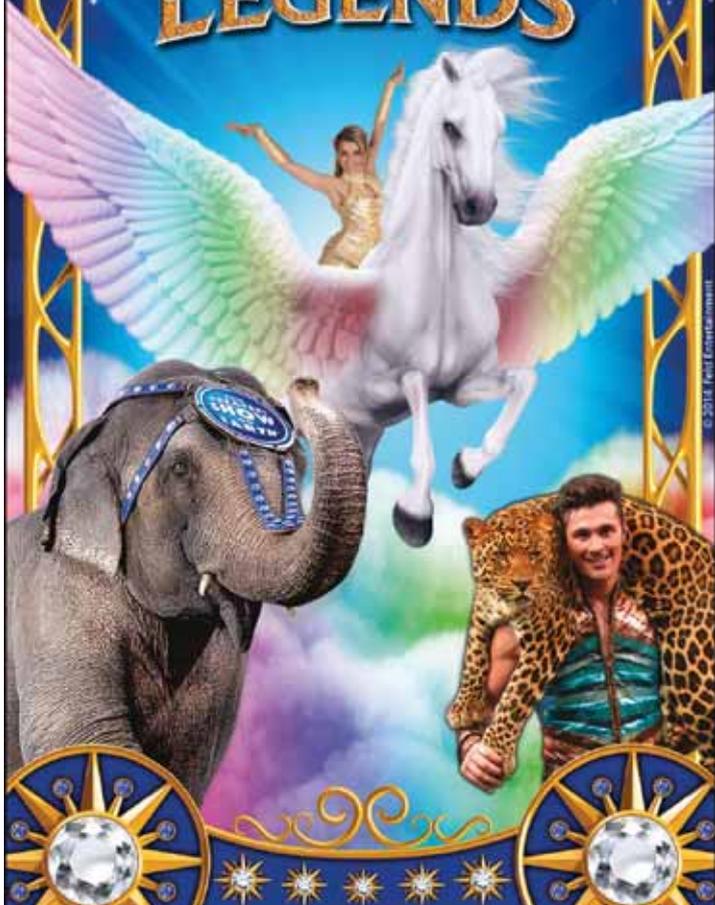
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Thomas Pandolfi, Accompanist

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Fresh from our hit performance at The Birchmere, we are pleased to return with a program of classic men's chorus and glee club favorites. Included are German romantic songs, two songs by the famous 20th century composer Vincent Persichetti, songs of the sea, songs by Stephen Foster, and a selection of Irish and Irish-

American songs. We will also present a solo performance by our world-famous pianist and accompanist, Thomas Pandolfi.

While you have your calendar out, mark the date May 24 at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Memorial Day Celebration at Saint Luke Catholic Church in McLean.

Tickets at the door: Adults \$20, Students and Children Free
Call 202-244-7191 or www.nationalmenschorus.org for more details

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Democrats on the County Board. Both Ms. Silberberg and Ms. Garvey proved that they had the courage to vote "No."

5. Budget issues. Continue to tell Alexandria residents that we have major financing problems for the past several years with a decrease in commercial tax base, increase in ACPS budget along with increase in property taxes for homeowners to handle next year's \$31 million deficit. Whine and complain that you want to do what's best for all Alexandria citizens, but vote to keep too many assistant city managers on board wherein the city manager's office only needs 1-2 assistants. Remember, we do have department heads managing their departments.

6. Must have served on the Alexandria City Council for at least 18-plus years not knowing when its time to step down. Think Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) from my home state who knew it was time for her to retire.

7. Continue to fund non-profit housing groups with major loans. Think ADHC wherein the council gave them a \$14 million loan (taxpayer monies) several years ago and monies have not yet started to be repaid. At least ARHA, Alexandria's Housing Authority have paid back all of their loans and recently presented Mayor/Council with a check for \$700,000.

8. Pretend you like renters. Use Affordable Housing talking points as your cover to let renters know you want us to remain in Alexandria. The new apartment developments that have sprung up start with an efficiency rent of \$1,500. "Affordable Housing" refers to folks earning at least \$50,000-plus a year.

9. Continue to have taxpayers pay six figure salaries to Alexandria Development Economic Partnership senior staff who are tasked with increasing business development to Alexandria. They have failed completely in their mission. If they have been successful, then our commercial tax base wouldn't be in the tank.

Clearly, this year's election for mayor and council are important and hopefully Alexandria voters will see the need to elect folks who understand financing and are fiscally responsible; understand where planning developments can continue in Alexandria; keep small businesses growing; importance of a regional transportation plan and true accountability and transparency. Granted Alexandria is a "Democratic" town, but the demographics are clearly changing and citizens who have rarely been involved with city politics are now

speaking out due to whatever developments impact their neighborhoods. This is positive and it's time for some changes to occur. Isn't this what are current elected officials have been planning for various neighborhoods throughout Alexandria without really listening to neighbors concerns and dictating what city hall wants rather than listening to citizens' alternative suggestions? Bring on term limits or district elections for City Council and an appointed School Board.

So, let the games begin. It's election time and the question is: Are our current elected officials up to the task of being re-elected or will it be business as usual?

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Taking Control

To the Editor:

Several months ago I wrote an article in this publication asking "Who are the constituents of our law making body, the City Council?" I stated it was not the elderly who are leaving the city because they cannot afford to live here, nor the schools whose infrastructure and academics have been neglected nor the neighborhoods who have been stressed by city demands and broken promises but rather the developers who benefit and feed upon the city's insatiable appetite for development and revenue even if that development is at the expense of a neighborhood. The developers are the main and possibly the only constituent of the city. How clairvoyant that statement was as I watched the final vote of the Woodbine debacle play out.

The BRAC, the broken promises at T.C. Williams, the upheaval at the waterfront, the eminent domain at the boat club and the deception of the tennis lights at T.C. Williams shattered the sanctity of the neighborhood and the purpose of our votes. To be successful in the future, the neighborhoods must reinvent how we communicate. We must go beyond the civic associations. We need a unified body of citizens not individual civic associations if we are to stand up and influence the governing body of our city.

Civic associations are wonderful vehicles for uniting neighbors, dispensing local information, discussing local issues indigenous to the neighborhood but they bear no power, no clout for city-wide issues like the waterfront, the BRAC and zoning issues. While individual neighborhoods can be proactive, their value and opinions in a crisis are often considered self

serving. My message to you is that civic associations need to unite for the common cause. If it affects Rosemont then it affects Seminary Hill, Old Towne and the West End as well. The idea of "not in my neighborhood" cannot apply any more — it will not win the vote. The City Council counts clicks — Yes/No; letters and speeches are informative but they register one click for a letter and zero clicks for a speech on the record. We are losing the battle. We are getting pushed around. You can have the greatest organized neighborhood, complete with attorneys, health professionals and eloquent speakers and you can still lose 6-1 as happened at Woodbine because in the end this was perceived as a neighborhood issue not a city issue.

I will not dare leave you without a solution. There are a group of talented and dedicated individuals developing a website that will bring the Alexandria community together like never before. The name of the website is AlexandriaCares. It will feature links to City Council and School Board — as well city-wide links and information, current issues will be one click away. It will be the most advanced citizen social media site in the city. Phone calls can be made to citizens and governing bodies concerning important issues. It is an attempt to inform, educate and unite our city as never before with just a click of your computer. We will take polls on city issues and send them to council and school board — as such they will have the opinions in numbers with no alternative but to vote for the sensible majority. We will be able to get the word out on projects and city issues; we can then discuss the issues and take a unified stance on issues of importance.

I believe that this website will be a game changer for the citizens of Alexandria. It will serve to unite all communities, to open a constant forum for discussion, to share information and allow the citizens to voice their opinions on projects, so acceptance and rejection by the City Council can be fully realized with real numbers and not behind closed doors in the council chamber. There will be no more done deals before the vote. The council and school board will vote for the citizen majority as was their mandate upon election. The website is coming very soon; the exact date will be circulated to the citizens. Finally, we the citizens of Alexandria as a voting body will have leveled the playing field.

William A. Goff
Alexandria

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PEOPLE

On Her Way to New York Stage

FROM PAGE 6

ater,” Brown said. “One of the things we tried to do was select new works written by innovative new playwrights. We had a ton of submissions and McKenya was selected.”

The NEC benefits in many ways by hosting the dramatic live Readings. Not only is the four-week event a fundraiser, but it is also a way for the theater company to look for potential new productions to pursue. Where the script solicitation called for unproduced, full-length plays, McKenya’s two one-act plays were each compelling enough to fit the bill.

“We solicited scripts online, looking for African American female playwrights,” Brown said. “They had to be unproduced, full-length plays. McKenya’s work included two one-act plays, which worked as a presentation. The qualifications were that you could not be produced or well-known. We were looking for raw talent.”

The works were selected by a selection panel of five respectable figures in the theater community. It was comprised of Brown, one playwright, an NEC director, and two NEC actors. Franklin’s and Rashid’s productions, “Miss N’victas” and “Paradigm Shift,” also unproduced, will be performed March 15 and March 22, respectively. The last selected writer, Shange, will see her play, “A Photograph: Lovers in Motion,” performed on April 12. On March 29, Dilworth’s two one-act plays, “Contemporary Scenes of Old Age Ills” and “Kul’cha” will be performed. She said both of her plays deal with the plight of “marginalized and voiceless” African American women in society today.

“When I submitted the play, I could not decide which one to submit so I submitted two,” Dilworth said. “When I was selected, they said they wanted to do both because, essentially, they are both one acts. In the first, ‘Contemporary Scenes of Age Old Ills,’ we are exploring race and sexism through the perspective of the ‘other’ with a reverse minstrel staging written as a satire.”

Her second play, “Kul’cha,” has been on her radar for less time, so it is less developed than “Contemporary Ills.” She began writing it while living in New York City as a way to cope with the stress of living in the bustling city and not being able to thrive in the art world at the time.

Matching Students with Tutors

FROM PAGE 6

tutor, first year got all A’s, took algebra on-line in the summer and this year is in pre-calc. He is a real success story.”

Bert walks up to the desk. “O.K. Hang tight — is anybody a physics guy?”

A table in the back is spread with construction paper and scissors. “Today a few students are making Valentines for the residents of Woodbine Nursing Home down the street.” A student asks Hetzer to help with the message on her red heart. Hetzer assists by sounding out the words. H-H-H is for Hope. “We do a lot of community service projects as part of the program.”

Hetzer has been with the BBF program for three

“The main character is a woman, Mama Joe,” Dilworth said. “She is a strong female and the women are empowered and they are the ones driving the action of the play. This one is about what is important to us and how we maintain our dignity while we are trying to achieve our dreams.”

Dilworth is particularly excited to receive notes on “Kul’cha” because it is not as close to completion as “Contemporary Ills.”

“For ‘Kul’cha’ specifically, I want to take feedback and complete it because it is going to be a full-length play,” Dilworth said. “I am hoping I can secure some type of writing residency or grant where I can just focus on that play and get a theater to commit to producing it.”

Dilworth will be coming full circle when she sets foot in New York City to receive noteworthy criticism on “Contemporary Ills.” As a New York City resident in 2008, she said she worked hard to get people to read her play with no success.

“I began that play in 2008 when I just had moved to New York,” Dilworth said. “It was a horrible failed attempt and I literally could not pay people to read my play. Once it was selected, it completed a nice seven-year cycle. It is some kind of validation.”

Dilworth is ready to conquer New York City, and then whatever city’s theater circuit will next pursue her work. First, though, she will be producing T.C. Williams High School’s 2015 spring musical, “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.”

Dilworth, who has a long list of achievements and a number of academic accolades, is currently a doctoral candidate in the University of Phoenix’s School of Advanced Studies, pursuing a degree in organizational management and leadership. She said she hopes to be done with her doctorate next year so that she can devote her time fully to playwriting. This whole process has made her excited for the opportunity to immerse herself in her craft.

“It feels like all of a sudden, but then I think back on it, and it has been years in the making,” Dilworth said. “I want to remain humble and grateful.”

To purchase tickets for any of the Sunday night dramatic live readings in this series, please visit www.necinc.org. Dilworth is also offering travel packages for those who would like to come see the plays. Contact her at 202-352-4864.

years. The first year she was a site director at T.C. Williams.

The second year she was with the college leadership program, an enrichment piece of BBL. Last year she became interim director for the whole BBF program and is now director. Before coming to BBF she was a professional volunteer for 10 years. And before that a director of contracts for defense contractors. “I’ve done three chunks of stuff.”

She said there are some challenges: “Last Tuesday was interesting. We had six more tutors than we needed for the number of students, but today is the opposite.” She looks around the room. Students are bent over their work and everyone has found a tu-

“I am hoping I can secure some type of writing residency or grant where I can just focus on that play and get a theater to commit to producing it.”

— McKenya Dilworth

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Mass Schedule

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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

4/29/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/29/2015Mother’s Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

MAY

5/6/2015.....McLean Day Pullout

5/6/2015.....Mother’s Day Dining & Gifts II

5/6/2015.....Wellbeing
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5/13/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

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Local Educator Chosen as National Social Worker of the Year

FROM PAGE 1

“There’s an ideal of the United States,” said Bonilla-Galdamez. “But when you get here, it’s not what you were told.”

Bonilla-Galdamez said she internalized the same anger many immigrants to the United States feel. In her middle school and high school experience, Bonilla-Galdamez says she frequently ran into trouble, skipping classes and sometimes getting into fights. According to Bonilla-Galdamez, many young immigrants in Alexandria’s public schools face similar difficulties adjusting to life in culturally unfamiliar schools.

According to the proposed 2016 school budget, 28.3 percent of students in Alexandria Public Schools receive English Language Learner’s services, the largest of any school division in Northern Virginia. Alexandria’s school culture can be as isolating as it is diverse, and Bonilla-Galdamez said this sense of isolation from their peers drives many young immigrants towards gangs.

“Kids want to feel like a part of something,” said Bonilla-Galdamez.

Bonilla-Galdamez’s solution was to bring students at the Minnie Howard campus of T.C Williams High School together in after-school programs to help them identify a passion. For instance, one student ran into trouble with law enforcement for graffiti. Instead of punishing that habit, Bonilla-Galdamez said the key is to focus that into something productive, like getting them involved in making the art for school events. Another student ran into trouble for fighting, he was an enforcer for one of the school gangs, so she made him in charge of peacefully making sure everyone came to the school assemblies.

“These tasks make them feel important,” said Bonilla-Galdamez. “If you can find their passion, you can get them into something positive.”

However, four years ago, Bonilla-Galdamez said she was continually frustrated when she’d encounter students who were entering 9th grade and were already deep into gang culture. Bonilla-Galdamez moved to Charles Barrett Elementary and continued her after-school work, pushing students towards social integration.



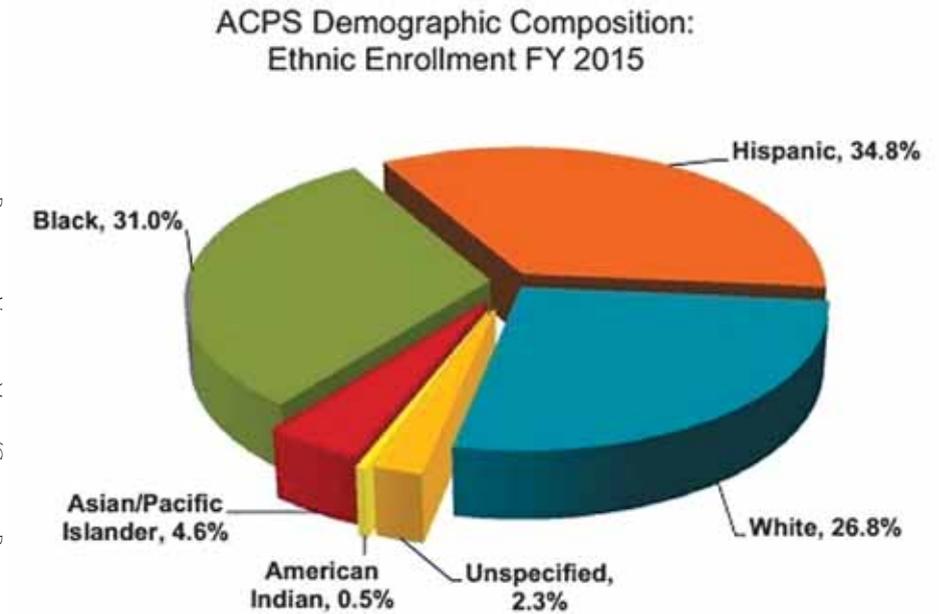
PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Ana Bonilla-Galdamez with guidance checklist for parents.

Bonilla-Galdamez was also responsible for a mentorship program to help expose students to career opportunities. The organizations started with 12 mentors, and today has 52. The program pairs students with adult mentors, many from education or law enforcement. Recent trips included a visit to Motley Fool’s Alexandria headquarters to participate in a physics experiment and to tour the office. The program also takes students to college, even at an elementary school age, so they can be exposed to that as a possibility.

“We don’t have a lot of financial support,” said Bonilla-Galdamez. “It’s a good program, it works, but it would be great to have more funding for things like that, or like a bus trip to Georgetown.”

“The mentoring program, parent support groups and other initiatives that Ms. Bonilla-Galdamez has brought to our school has allowed us to better support the needs of our students outside of school,” said Seth Kennard, principal of Charles Barrett Elementary. “We have been able to develop closer relationships with all members of our school community as well as with city agencies like the police department and sheriff’s office. As a result of her work our students are may able to come to school ready to



Ethnic demographics of Alexandria Public Schools

learn, and parents are more comfortable working with teachers and staff to support their children.”

Bonilla-Galdamez’s emphasis on exposure to college was one of the primary factors in Cavozos’ decision to attend a four-year university. Cavozos was in 9th grade when she met Bonilla-Galdamez. Cavozos came from a single family household and says her family was basically homeless and Cavozos was taken out of the school system. Bonilla-Galdamez fought to get Cavozos back into school and told her just to focus on grades, not to worry about the rest of it. As Bonilla-Galdamez continued helping her, Cavozos turned around and tried to repay her debt by helping to tutor younger children. While in high school, Cavozos says Bonilla-Galdamez came into one of her classes and pulled her out to ask her about plans for the future. Bonilla-Galdamez encouraged Cavozos to attend a four-year college, and eventually convinced her to attend Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) after she graduated from T.C. Williams. Cavozos says Bonilla-Galdamez is the reason she graduated high school.

After Cavozos transferred from NOVA to the University of Virginia (UVA), Cavozos said she began questioning her future. She knew her family also needed her support at home and considered dropping out, but Bonilla-Galdamez visited her at UVA and made sure Cavozos understood the importance of staying in school. Cavozos was the first in her family to graduate from high school and will soon be the first to graduate from college.

But Bonilla-Galdamez says the responsi-

bility of getting children invested in education can’t rest with social workers alone.

“Our job is not to be the [student’s] savior, parents make the difference,” said Bonilla-Galdamez, but said schools’ handling of parental involvement can be a hindrance. “We need to educate parents and make them form relationships with their children. Parents have to set rules with positive and negative consequences Parents want to be involved, but they need after-

noon programs or morning programs.”

Bonilla-Galdamez also expressed a hope that PTAs, rather than just addressing the general school population, could have branches that would address the needs of individual communities. According to Bonilla-Galdamez, many parents, especially minority parents, can feel that their voices are lost in the school-wide discussions.

Social workers in public schools face a few ethical dilemmas.

First, Bonilla-Galdamez says she has to speak with students about confidentiality, and to make sure they know that anything they say that could put someone in danger is not confidential. Bonilla-Galdamez says she’s sometimes had to testify in court about something a student said, but she said most students she encounters in these situations understand that she’s just doing her job.

“The dichotomy between being a trusted resource for students and families while simultaneously enforcing attendance policies and neglect investigations is certainly a challenge for anyone,” said Kennard. “Ana is able to be highly effective at both through her relationship building and presence.”

The awards ceremony will be held Thursday, April 30, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.



A sketch of Ana Bonilla-Galdamez by a former student.

Enrollment of ELL Students WABE Guide Data FY 2015	
Division	Percent of Total Enrollment
Alexandria City	27.7%
Arlington County	16.4%
Fairfax County	17.2%
Loudoun County	9.4%
Prince William County	15.8%

Regional English Language Learners enrollment

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Grace Girard tied for 13th on beam with a score of 9.125 during the VHSL individual state meet on March 8 at Patriot High School.

TC Trio Competes at State Gymnastics Meet

Three members of the T.C. Williams gymnastics team received the opportunity to compete in the VHSL individual state meet as alternates on March 8 at Patriot High School.

Grace Girard (beam), Cailyn Lager (vault, beam) and Jordan Mambert (bars) competed at states Sunday. Girard had the best finish of the trio, tying for 13th on beam with a score of 9.125.

"I found out I had a spot to compete about two weeks ago," Girard wrote in an email. "I was surprised and slightly overwhelmed at first because I had stopped practicing my high school [beam] routine (which is different from my club routine) since I thought the season was over. However, I was still very excited and honored that I was given the chance to compete and represent T.C.

"I was very proud of my beam routine ... I am happy with what I did."

Lager finished 19th on vault (9.3) and tied for 30th on beam (8.525). Mambert finished 31st on bars (8.4).

Fairfax senior Rachel Barborek won the all-around title with a score of 38.7, including first-place

finishes on bars, beam and floor. Barborek became the second Fairfax County gymnast to win the all-around state title since 2002, and the first since 2010.

Hickory's Haley Cole finished second in the all-around (38.3), including a first-place finish on vault. Marshall's Morgan Stahl placed third in the all-around (37.625), Cox's Mary Munitz was fourth (37.35) and Washington-Lee's Sophie Hatcher placed fifth (37.325).

Girard and Mambert are seniors and competed for T.C. Williams for the final time. Lager is a sophomore.

During her freshman year, Girard was the only member of the Titans gymnastics team. In the next two years, three of Girard's club (Arlington Aerials) teammates joined Girard in competing in high school gymnastics, giving T.C. Williams a complete team for the first time since the early 1980s. The Titans responded by winning the 2014 Conference 7 championship, led by then-senior Holland Cathey.

"The moment I will remember

SEE TRIO, PAGE 24



City of Alexandria FISCAL YEAR 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET



A summary of the City of Alexandria's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget is set out below.

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget for the City of Alexandria. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Persons wishing to speak on the proposed budget may sign up prior to the public hearing by calling the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550. Presenters are requested to provide a copy of their text to the City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

Persons with disabilities who wish to request an accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550 (TTY/TDD (703) 838-5056) prior to March 16, 2015, if possible.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2016

	General Fund PROPOSED FY 2016 (1)	All Funds PROPOSED FY 2016 (2)	FY 2016 Capital Improvements (3)
City Council	\$524,191	\$524,191	
City Manager	\$2,363,914	\$2,363,914	
City Attorney	\$2,824,383	\$2,824,383	
City Clerk and Clerk of Council	\$429,442	\$429,442	
18 th Circuit Court	\$1,613,398	\$1,613,398	\$60,000
18 th General District Court	\$143,176	\$143,176	\$160,000
Clerk of Courts	\$1,650,792	\$1,700,792	
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$2,945,158	\$3,208,331	
Court Service Unit	\$1,454,515	\$1,579,496	
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court	\$78,452	\$78,452	
Law Library	\$0	\$54,346	
Other Criminal and Justice Services	\$3,361,815	\$3,545,992	\$134,085
Registrar of Voters	\$1,332,439	\$1,332,439	
Sheriff	\$30,463,546	\$31,507,090	\$1,005,000
Finance	\$13,356,917	\$14,170,036	\$615,000
General Services	\$13,969,528	\$14,174,528	\$4,478,000
Human Rights	\$717,020	\$763,246	
Information Technology Services	\$9,769,154	\$10,173,447	\$3,065,000
Internal Audit	\$302,895	\$302,895	
Management and Budget	\$1,297,704	\$1,297,704	
Non-Departmental - Debt Service	\$63,994,774	\$63,994,774	
Non-Departmental - Contingent Reserve	\$134,474	\$134,474	
Non-Departmental - Insurance, Memberships, Other	\$8,610,936	\$9,610,936	
Human Resources	\$3,653,561	\$3,653,561	
Office of Communications & Public Information	\$1,281,348	\$1,281,348	
Performance and Accountability	\$558,348	\$558,348	
Fire	\$45,741,217	\$47,113,490	\$2,887,000
Code Administration	\$120,000	\$9,577,387	\$1,750,000
Emergency Communications	\$7,162,801	\$7,162,801	
Police	\$58,640,508	\$60,861,008	\$1,500,000
Alexandria Health Department	\$6,538,990	\$6,563,505	
Community and Human Services	\$50,103,974	\$88,978,891	\$203,000
Other Health Activities	\$1,765,350	\$1,765,350	
Housing	\$2,448,606	\$3,478,653	
Economic Development Activities	\$5,327,670	\$5,327,670	
Project Implementation	\$1,994,596	\$3,303,455	\$1,500,000
Planning and Zoning	\$5,348,364	\$5,677,628	
Historic Alexandria	\$2,838,542	\$3,688,290	\$495,000
Library	\$6,676,977	\$7,113,605	\$267,000
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities	\$21,339,954	\$22,357,638	\$15,602,652
Transit Subsidies	\$23,016,923	\$55,535,923	\$12,410,000
Transportation and Environmental Services	\$28,111,648	\$47,615,976	\$27,059,229
Other Educational Activities	\$11,877	\$11,877	\$340,241
Schools	\$197,811,472	\$251,838,526	\$44,308,279
Cash Capital	\$16,025,541	\$16,025,541	
GRAND TOTAL	\$647,856,892	\$815,017,952	\$117,839,486

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City's website (alexandriava.gov/budget) or visit City Hall, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3400, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PROPERTY TAXES

The proposed budget includes no increase to the existing property tax rate of \$1.043 per \$100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that City Council will set the maximum tax rate to be advertised at its March 17, 2015, meeting at 8:00 pm in the City Council Chambers and that Council may not adopt a rate that exceeds this tax rate, but may adopt an equal or lesser tax rate. The proposed budget includes no change in the current motor vehicle personal property tax rate of \$5.00 per \$100 of assessed value. All other personal property tax rates, including vehicles specially equipped to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$3.55 per \$100 of assessed value; machinery and tools, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.50 per \$100 of assessed value and privately owned boats and water craft that are used for recreational purposes only which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, are unchanged. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for affordable housing and to support existing debt service related to affordable housing is 0.6 cents.

SPORTS

TC Boys Track Wins States

The T.C. Williams boys' indoor track team won the state championship on Monday and Tuesday at the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton.

The Titans produced a score of 70, followed by Western Branch (58), Grassfield (57) and Lake Braddock (51).

TC's Noah Lyles and Josephus Lyles placed first and second, respectively, in the 55-meter dash, finishing with times of 6.27 and 6.28 seconds.

Noah Lyles also won the 300 state title (33.93) and Josephus Lyles won the 500 (1:04.6).

The T.C. Williams boys' 4x400 relay team (Mahlique Booth, Josephus Lyles, Isaih Clarke, Noah Lyles) also won a state title, turning in a time of 3:23.65.

Anteneh Girma finished runner-up in the 3200 (9:28.75) for the Titans. Booth finished second in the long jump (22-8).

The T.C. Williams girls' team placed fifth with a score of 29, Western Branch won the state title with a score of 130.

TC's Alexis Foreman won the state shot put title with a throw of 41-11 1/2.

Trio Competes

FROM PAGE 23

most is from [the Conference 7 meet in] 2014," Girard wrote. "The anticipation of hearing our name, TC Williams, announced as the first-place team was exhilarating. I will never forget the excitement, joy, and pride that had grown since the beginning of my high school career."

The individual state meet was originally scheduled for Feb. 21, but was postponed three times due to inclement weather concerns.

In All-Star Game

Senior Ice Hockey Captain, Ryan Scott, represented the Bishop Ireton Cardinals at the 2015 Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League (NVSHL) All-Star Game on Feb. 18 at the Ashburn Ice House. He was selected by the league coaches as the sole Cardinal at the game which featured the 46 best high school hockey players from the 21 teams in the league across Northern Virginia. Ryan earned his spot in the game by finishing 3rd overall in league scoring with 21 goals and 19 assists for 40 points in 10 regular season games. Ryan also participated in last year's All-Star game along with then fellow Ireton teammate, Stephen Gerke.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Bishop Ireton Ice Hockey captain Ryan Scott

The Bishop Ireton Ice Hockey team finished the season with a 3-7 record but were within one win in their last game of a playoff berth.

Ryan also played his travel hockey for the Northern Virginia Ice Dogs, which plays out of the Mt. Vernon Rec center, culminating last season with a Bronze medal at the 2014 USA Hockey National Championships.

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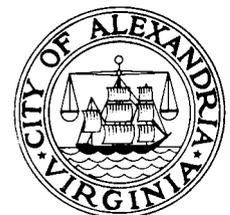
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TAKE NOTICE

Notice for Proposed Precinct and Polling Place Changes: Charles Houston Recreation Center (new precinct and polling place) and replacing the St. James Church polling place with the Hermitage.

On March 14, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., the Alexandria City Council will hold a public hearing in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 301 King Street, to consider an ordinance to make two precinct changes effective with the June 9, 2015 Primary Election. The first change would establish Charles Houston Recreation Center (905 Wythe St.) as a new precinct and polling place and the second change would replace the St. James Church (5000 Echols Avenue) polling place with the Hermitage (5000 Fairbanks Ave).

A copy of the full text of the ordinance and a map with the proposed changes is on file with the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, Room 2300, City Hall, 301 King Street. This notice is advertised pursuant to Va. Code Sec. 24-2.306.

For information, please call (703) 746-4550.

Jacqueline M. Henderson
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

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Hon'ble Civil Judge Senior Division Pune at Pune
Maharashtra State (Modak Court)

Mr. Ramsinh Khimji Asher - Applicant

Notice is given hereby under the Indian succession Act 1956 section 372 to court about the deceased Shigeko Mori Asher who died on 21/11/2012 to get the succession certificate for Rs. 45,18,398.76

Who have any objection to the application he/she can appear before the court on the date 31/3/2015 at about 11:00 am self or through their counsior.

Date 7/3/2015 By order Superintendent, Civil Court, Pune (Maharashtra State)

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Notice of Public Hearing

The Alexandria Community Services Board is holding a public hearing to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, intellectual disability or a substance dependency, and on the proposed Plan of Services (Performance Contract), available at www.alexandriava.gov/dchs. The hearing will be Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. at 720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. To sign up to speak or to send comments, call 703.746.3523 or email Donielle Marshall. Comments can also be faxed to 703.838.5070.

10 Storage 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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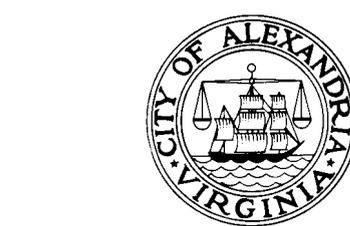
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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, March 14, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES) by changing the St. James Church Election District to the Hermitage Election District and establishing the Charles Houston Election District for the June 9, 2015 primary and thereafter.

As a result of redevelopment, St. James will no longer be available as a polling place, and the Electoral Board has secured permission to return to the Hermitage, which has served as a polling place in the past. A new precinct in the Charles Houston area is critical to accommodate current voters and absorb future growth resulting from new development near the Braddock Metro, and redevelopment of several existing properties.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), Chapter 4 (STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance: (1) repeals the prohibition against displaying a vehicle for purposes of sale within the public right-of-way; and (2) renumbers the remaining sections.

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the estimated maximum amount of \$29,000,000; and providing for reimbursement to the City of Alexandria from bond proceeds.

The proposed ordinance authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds for various city and school capital projects in the estimated maximum amount of \$29,000,000.

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

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Norfolk, VA



Robert Daniel Kelly (66) passed away peacefully on February 28, 2015, surrounded by his wife and children at The Memory Center in Virginia Beach, VA. He was born in Memphis, TN, the son of Captain John Curtis Kelly (USN) and Betty Brown Kelly. Bob attended George Mason High School in Falls Church and graduated from George Washington High School (Class of 1966) in Alexandria. He graduated from Hampden Sydney College in 1970 and received his MS from American University in 1976. Following graduation from Hampden Sydney, Bob joined the Arlington County Police Force, rising from motorcycle officer to Detective. He was well known for playing basketball and football in the Arlington County Recreation Department league and also amateur boxing – advancing to runner-up in the Heavyweight Division in the Golden Gloves. He also served in the 116th Infantry Regiment of the Virginia Army National Guard in Manassas, VA. He was an entrepreneur and established LynMar Construction Company and, later, Summit Consulting Services. Indicators of his impact can be found throughout the DC area, including the original Pentagon Child Care Center. Born into an aviator's family, Bob earned his private pilot's license. Volunteer time was spent with the Rotary Club and the Old Dominion Boat Club of Alexandria. Upon his move to the Norfolk area in 2008, he joined the Rotary Club of Norfolk. Bob is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 47 years, Marie "Sis" Patrick Kelly of Norfolk, his children Robert "Rob" Daniel Kelly, Jr. (Lisa), Kathleen Kelly Sharp (Kevin) and Patrick Curtis Kelly (Shannon) and 9 grandchildren (Colin, Emma, Nolan, Sarah, Kelly, Curt, Hank, John and Joseph). While he was predeceased by his beloved parents and sister, Kathy, and he is also survived by his siblings Michael, Jerry, Tom and Tish. His children, grandchildren, 14 nieces and nephews and 12 grandnieces and nephews will always cherish the memories, pictures and stories that will keep his spirit alive. Bob Kelly is considered by many to be the gold standard for his fierce love of family, staunch work ethic and deep friendships. A funeral mass will be held at 12:00pm on March 13, 2015 at The Basilica of St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, 232 Chapel Street, Norfolk, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Cure Alzheimer's Fund (Alzheimer's Disease Research Foundation) 34 Washington St., #200, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481 or via their website at www.curealz.org. Please share your condolences with the family at www.FamilyChoiceFunerals.com

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Adey Abeba, Inc trading as Tseydey Restaurant, 672 S. Pickett St. Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer/Mixed Beverage Restaurant on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Seifu Tessema, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Friday, March 20th at 12pm

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

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INFORMATIONAL ADVERTISEMENT: The information presented is not intended to be legal advice. The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on an advertisement. The lawyer responsible for the content of this ad is Adam Pulaski.

Inside the Police Academy

FROM PAGE 15

"The use of computers in cars has really grown," said Fitzpatrick, "and social media has really come to the forefront, and we still grapple with how to address that ... It's good as far as getting information out ... but rumors are generated and that's not always a good thing for everyone concerned."

Fitzpatrick says the authority of being in law enforcement comes with a great degree of accountability.

"Once you put the uniform and the nameplate on, you are accountable, and everything you do should be legal and ethical," said Fitzpatrick. "What we preach is that you should be transparent and you should expect to justify what you do We should be held more accountable than any other operation The days of withholding information or not providing a full account of a situation are long gone, and they should be."

This theme of transparency, however, is not universal.

Fairfax County Police Department has continually refused to release any information on the 2013 shooting of Springfield resident John Greer. Fitzpatrick said he didn't want to comment directly on the case as he didn't know the specifics and said there are often legal and personnel issues associated with releasing the names of police officers involved in a fatal shooting.

"I understand the point of view of the family," said Fitzpatrick, "that is a very difficult situation for everybody involved."

According to Fitzpatrick, diffusing a situation can start off as simply as saying "I understand why you're angry."

"The main thing is: if you can take the time to explain to people why you did some-

thing, for the most part, they're going to calm down," said Fitzpatrick. "The key is taking that time to do that."

But it takes a conscious effort; one Fitzpatrick says he struggled with as a police officer.

"Everyone has a different personality, some people have a quicker fuse," said Fitzpatrick. "I had a bad temper and had to make an effort to maintain composure."

Leger said maintaining patience and focus are two key elements to working in the detention facility, two he still struggles with sometimes.

"It's easy to fall into a routine," said Leger, "but you have to constantly remember where you are and remain professional."

As soon as a deputy loses confidence, Leger says, the inmates take notice. One of the most consistent strains on that patience and focus are what Leger calls the "constant mind games" played by the inmates.

"It's expected," said Leger, saying that the sheriff's part of training at the academy helps young law enforcement officers learn how to deal with this. "Most of it's people looking for extras. Not even what they need or want, they just want to say that they got it."

Since Leger's gotten back from the academy, he says his training at the academy has changed his outlook on the facility.

"It's the same routine, being here, but you look at it differently," said Leger. "You come back with more confidence. Pre-academy you're still in the early stages of training. Now there's more responsibility, which I welcome and I've been looking forward to."

After he completes his last phase of field training, Leger will be able to work at the courthouse as well as other parts of the detention facility.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Milestone for Folk Music

To the Editor:

Focus Alexandria is one of the many arts providers in Alexandria that fly under the radar screen. Since 2002, Focus Alexandria has been producing folk and acoustic music shows in the city. This coming Saturday night, Focus Alexandria will be presenting its 100th show, featuring John Flynn and Susan Greenbaum.

For the first 12 years in Alexandria, Focus Alexandria operated at the Church of the Resurrection. Since this past fall, we have been at the Church of St. Clement. Focusmusic is an independent nonprofit organization that operates three other venues in the D.C. metro area (in Falls Church, Mount Vernon and Rockville). Its vision is to provide affordable and accessible live folk and acoustic music every night of the week.

Alexandria used to be a center of such music, with The Tiffany Tavern and Cates hosting that kind of music and with the Birchmere, when it was located at 3901 Mount Vernon, regularly featuring it. The Birchmere is a great club, but when it ex-

panded, it necessarily broadened the music it books, and folk and acoustic music no longer fills their schedule.

Focusmusic stepped in to fill that void and keep the historic role of Alexandria as a center for folk and acoustic music.

This Saturday's performers are among the best on the east coast. Susan Greenbaum's song Virginia the Home of my Heart was considered by the Virginia General Assembly to be the state song. This Richmond-based performer's music is receiving significant national airplay on Americana, folk and country stations. Wilmington (Del.)-based John Flynn's songs call us together as they speak for the wounded, the weary, and the afflicted; for the prisoner, the soldier, and all the forgotten ones who walk unseen in our midst. He carries on the traditions of Pete Seeger and Phil Ochs.

The Alexandria City Council has been invited to share in this milestone and so far, Councilman John Chapman has positively RSVP'd. Join us at 7 p.m. to help us celebrate this milestone. Tickets and more information are at http://focusmusic.org/venue_alexandria.php.

Herb Cooper-Levy
Alexandria

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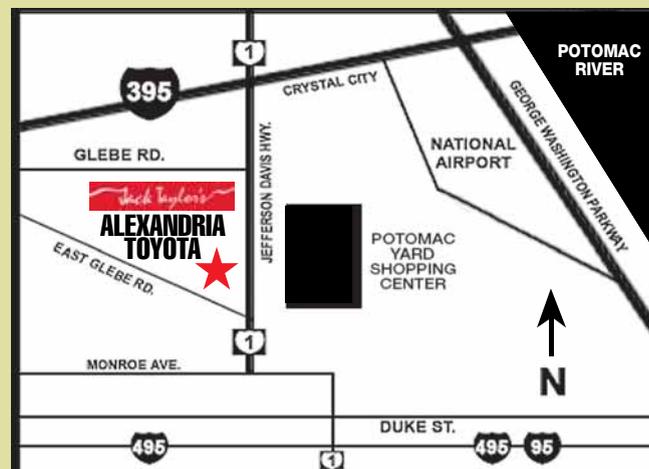
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Software Engineer/.Net (Teh 218) w/Master's in Com. Apps, Comp. Sci., Engg (any), Techn. or rlted & 1 yr of exp to design, dvlp, implement various web apps & SQL Server dvlpmt using SQL Server, ASP.Net, C#, AJAX Pro, AJAX.NET, XML, Web services, Visual Studio.NET, ADO.NET, Share Point Services, JavaScript, VB Script, IIS & XML. Perform SQL server admin tasks & write stored procedures, Triggers, Users defined function & fine tuning.
Senior Software Engineer/Java (Teh 219) w/Bachelor's in Comp Sci, Analytical Sci (any), Engg (any), Tech or rlted & 5 yrs of exp to perform software installations & upgrades to JAVA, J2EE app servers running on diff operating sys (LINUX, UNIX and Windows). Supports the J2EE app servers WebLogic, JBoss & Oracle Appl. server (OAS). Monitors & tunes the sys using mentoring tools to achieve optimum perf levels. Recommend changes to procedures which result in operational optimization.
SAP BW/ BEX Developer (Teh 220) w/Master's in Comp Apps, Comp Sci, Engg (any), Tech or rlted & 1 yr of exp to lead all aspects of delivery of reporting solutions including bus reqmts, analysis, solution design, sys config & dvlpmt, testing, & solution deployment. Create reports using BEx Query Designer, BEx Report Designer, BEx Web Application Designer. Config & programming in the SAP BW environment, including testing & implementation. Publish & maintain BI reports on SAP Portal.
IT Project Manager (Teh 221) w/Master's in Comp Science, Engg (any), Tech or rlted & 1 yr of exp to plan, initiate, & mng IT projects. Mng project execution to ensure adherence to budget, schedule & scope. Bus req gathering, app design, data modeling, dvlpmt, implementation & testing of client/server app.
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www.BarbaraCousens.com



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This crisp brick townhouse built in 1960 seamlessly blends with the neighboring historical homes and features a renovated kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 renovated baths, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors plus a garage! Walking distance to restaurants and shops. 813 Duke St.

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Luxury Apartments Popping Up

Renters want resort-like amenities and access to transportation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

After a long, hard day at work, Jordan Coleman comes home to a large apartment with modern amenities, including a 24-hour concierge, ample living space, a state-of-the-art fitness center and a pool. The apartment features high-end appliances and finishes as well as an open, flowing layout and large walk-in closets. Coleman – a lawyer and Capitol Hill staffer – shares the pricey rent with a friend. The complex is owned by Avalon, which has properties in Arlington, Fairfax, Herndon, Falls Church, Tysons Corner and Vienna, Virginia, as well as Bethesda, Maryland, and Washington.

The demand for high-end apartments in the Washington, D.C., area is high, with rents soaring over the \$7,000 mark. There are some who say the luxurious living spaces and carefree lifestyles are worth the extra money.

“There are two kinds of people who would be inclined to spend that kind of money in

the luxury rental market,” said David Freishtat, who teaches in the Masters in Real Estate Development program at the University of Maryland and practices law in Potomac, Md. “First there are fairly successful, young people who buddy up and share an apartment with two or three friends. They can afford to spend 35-40 percent of take home pay in housing. They don’t spend much on food because they don’t have a family to feed,” he said.

“Empty-nesters who’ve sold their homes and decided to downsize are also inclined to rent high-end apartments. If they bought their house 20-30 years ago and sold it recently, they’re flush with cash,” said Freishtat. “They might be looking to buy a house in Florida or Arizona where there’s no income tax, but for the year and a half until they make that decision they’re going to live in a nice apartment because they’ve always lived in a nice house so they’re adaptable to those kinds of apartments.”

“The trade off in these buildings is that they are in great neighborhoods,” said Coleman. “They’re new construction and



PHOTO COURTESY OF KETTLER

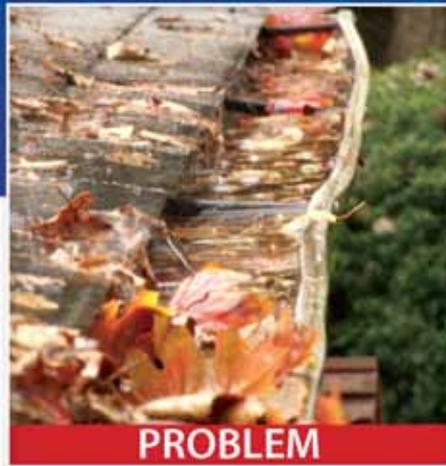
Luxury apartment communities like the Gramercy at Metropolitan Park in Arlington offer easy access to public transportation and close proximity to restaurants and shops.

the layout is like you’re living in the suburbs, but with the convenience of living in the city. There are kitchens, bathrooms, living spaces are fluid and the closets are ridiculously large.”

ONE OF THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS is Reston Town Center in Reston, Va., with restaurants and shops and public transportation.

SEE NORTHERN VIRGINIA, PAGE 3

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HomeLifeStyle

All Over Northern Virginia

FROM PAGE 2

tation. A new, luxury apartment building will have 360 apartments with easy access to such a lifestyle.

The Harrison at Reston Town Center is now open, promising 28,000 square feet of luxury, resort-style living, and an easy trip to downtown Washington, D.C. for work or play.

At The Harrison, where rent runs from just under \$2,000 to as high as \$6,650 a month, residents are offered such amenities as a culinary demonstration kitchen; a private dining room for wine tastings; a gaming area that offers pool, shuffleboard, chess, and card tables, a massage room, a spin studio and a 24-hour gym with state-of-the-art equipment. The pet-friendly property even caters to four-legged friends with a dog park and pet spa.

“People now want to simplify their lives,” said Karen A. Kossow, Vice President of Marketing, Community Realty Company, Inc. which provides leasing and management services for The Harrison. “They want an opportunity for a healthy and enriched lifestyle. For example, with the fitness center and lounge area, there are opportunities for socialization. You can keep your pet here, and there’s even a place to walk your dog or give it a shower. If you work from home there are offices with a printer and fax and conference rooms where you can hold a meeting. These things just make your life easier and simpler and give you more time to enjoy life.”

Also at Reston Town Center is The Metropolitan, owned by Kettler, a real estate development firm based in McLean, Va., and which manages apartments throughout Northern Virginia. Residents at some of the firm’s properties pay more than \$7,000 a month for features such as 17-foot ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, wood flooring and ceramic tile bathrooms.

Kettler is also putting the finishing touches on The Acadia, a 411-unit, high-rise luxury apartment building in the Metropolitan Park section of Arlington, Va., and plans to begin leasing units this spring. In October, the firm will begin construction on m.flats Crystal City. It will be Kettler’s sixth property in the Pentagon-Crystal City neighborhood in Arlington.

“Our m.flats apartments are meeting a growing demand for living spaces within walking distance of work, shops and entertainment,” Robert C. Kettler, chairman and chief executive officer of Kettler, said in a statement. “Many young people are forming families later in life. As a result, they not only want to enjoy the vibrancy of city life, but live in an apartment that has many conveniences and



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENAISSANCE CENTRO

Easy access to public transportation and close proximity to restaurants and shops attract residents to luxury apartments communities like The Harrison at Reston Town Center in Reston.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KETTLER

Luxury apartment communities like Midtown Alexandria Station offer amenities that help simplify life for busy professionals and empty nesters alike.

amenities.”

At Bent Tree in Centreville, Va., managed by Lincoln Property Company, high-end

units include cathedral ceilings, walk-in closets, lighted tennis courts, racquetball courts, a resort-style swimming pool, a

cyber café, a fitness center, bike trails, barbeque and picnic areas and a spacious club house where people can hang out.

Proximity to transportation is another bonus, said Jeremy Feldman of Bent Tree. “You have the Fairfax Connector and we’re near the Metro.”

Luxury apartments that offer residents access to public transportation are doing well. Twenty percent of the units in The Harrison have already been rented, even before its grand opening.

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213 South Royal Street



217 Gibbon Street



519 South Lee Street



508 South Fairfax Street



212 Prince Street



214 Prince Street

Alexandria Celebrates Virginia Garden Week

Old Town Alexandria was in 1946 the third city in the country to create a historic district to preserve its downtown. Today it has 4,000 buildings with a historic designation, according to the garden tour information.

The Virginia Historic Garden Tour on April 18 is a walking tour in Old Town including five row houses with courtyard gardens in this preserved area, and refreshments at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

In addition to the private properties featured, the tour ticket allows access to The Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, George Mason's Gunston Hall and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. The tour is hosted by The Garden Club of Alexandria and Hunting Creek Garden Club.

The Virginia Historic Garden Tour is an 8-day event that stretches across the Commonwealth. Each spring visitors are welcomed to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks. This event provides the opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Details

Virginia Historic Garden Week celebration comes to the Alexandria area April 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$45 per person, \$25 for single-site tickets. Tickets may be purchased on tour day at any of the homes and at the Alexandria Visitors Center. Advance Tickets are \$40 at the Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. or www.vagardenweek.org. In conjunction with the garden tour:

◆ **Annual Garden Day Herb and Plant Sale** at The Carlyle House, 121 North Fairfax Street. Culinary and decorative herbs and plants from Mount Vernon and Layng and Company available for purchase. Representatives from the

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic gardens, and provide graduate level research fellowships for building comprehensive and ongoing records of historic gardens and landscapes in the Commonwealth, and support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.

For a complete list of tours, see www.vagardenweek.org. All descriptions from Virginia Historic Garden Week.

213 South Royal Street

This Federal-style house was probably built by Thomas Davy, a merchant, around 1834. The house has a more modest history than many of its regal neighbors on Royal, Duke and Prince Streets, though its rooms are rich with the history of the sail makers, coopers, china merchants and other tradesmen listed in the city's 1850 census as residing on the block. By 1850, two separate families lived on the property: Davy, his wife Susan and their daughter Louisa; and James Lugenbille, a physician, his wife Martha and their daughter Emma, as well as Thomas Crook, an unmarried clerk. Well into the 20th century, the house was still used as a multi-family residence and fell into disrepair. Previous owners undertook major renovations in the 1990s and were able to keep much of the original trim and

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, the Virginia Native Plant Society, among others will be on site to offer guidance. Wares by local artisans and crafters, performances by area musicians and living historians, and 18th-century games and activities for children throughout the day. Proceeds benefit Carlyle House's collections and Garden Guild.

◆ **Marketplace at the Athenaeum**, 201 Prince Street. Featuring hand-picked purveyors selling beautiful and unique items. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

◆ **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**, 228 South Pitt Street. Light refreshments served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

some of the original hardwood floors. The garden is shaded by a magnificent red oak that was planted soon after the Civil War and is one of the largest trees in the area today. Hydrangeas, camellias, rhododendron, crepe myrtles and wisteria decorate the garden and provide a special place for small children to play. The current owners (the wife is an interior designer) have added artistic and youthful touches to the interior while still maintaining its history.

212 Prince Street, Garden Only

Behind 212 Prince Street, the house on the left side of the "Double Dwelling" at 212-214 Prince Street, is a lovely garden. The current owners, who have lived at 212 for 12 years, completed an extensive renovation of the rear garden in 2008, adding a goldfish pond, a heated swimming pool with a whirlpool on the side, and enlarging the "pool house" in the back corner of the lot. Originally built as one of the first rental properties in Alexandria, the house was transferred to the daughter of the original builder, William Hartshorne, in 1794. She was married to Mordecai Miller, a prosperous Quaker merchant, who leased the property to a commercial bakery in 1811. When renovating the pool house at the back of the lot, the current owners uncovered a brick-lined cistern under the house, which appears to have been used as the oven for the bakery. The curved edge of the cistern is visible outside the pool house.

214 Prince Street

The lot was first purchased by William Hartshorne in 1774 upon his arrival in Alexandria from Philadelphia. After the Revolutionary War, Hartshorne abandoned his idea to build a personal residence there and instead built an investment property for merchants and renters in 1786. The home (along with 212 Prince Street) is collectively referred to as the "Double Dwelling House"

and was a single property until 1916. Originally Hartshorne designed the dwellings for merchants and others who used the first floor as shops or offices and lived with their families above. Original hardwood floors remain throughout the house. Sometime before 1885, the first-floor central stairs were relocated to the back of the existing house beyond the current dining room. There were additional fireplaces added in the 1940s or 1950s. The current owners have remodeled the kitchen and bathrooms, added the backyard lap pool and finished the attic space. In addition, they created an intimate courtyard feeling with copper planters atop the walls and urns on the upper deck for year-round seasonal plantings. Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Sopko

519 South Lee Street

Built around 1800 as a two-story frame house by Alexander Veitch, the home was sold to George Noble Lyles in 1803. The original house had one bedroom and was confined to the footprint of the existing living room, kitchen and dining room areas. The heavy brass lockset on the living room closet is from the original entry door. A rear addition was added by 1921. Additions made in 1942 include the living room fireplace, a kitchen and a screened porch. The current owners completed extensive renovations in 2006. The screened porch was enclosed to become a dining room. Its Palladian arched windows echo the arches of the former porch. A family room was added to the side and the back garden was converted into a walled courtyard. A focal point of the patio is the unique wall plaque depicting John Tradescant (1608-1662), gardener to King Charles II, who was famous for bringing numerous plant species to England, including many from America. The home enjoys a beautiful vista of the Lee Street Park and Potomac River.

508 South Fairfax Street

This restored carriage house has an interesting history. Its nucleus was built in 1801-07 as a horse stable. By 1852 it had evolved into a handsome brick carriage house of "fair dimension." Remodeled in 1874, the building was owned by a wealthy banker and his wife, a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson, and was further converted to living quarters in 1848. At the front gates a delightful scene unfolds, from ornamental hornbeams along the left wall to a front pergola draped with clematis. Walk along the front path and into the entrance hall. The dining room is the center of the house and the glass doors bring the lush side garden inside. The living room with its cozy fireplace looks out at the pergola. Beyond the kitchen is the original carriage house with a yellow-hued den and library beyond. Follow brick walkways through gardens filled with spirea, autumn fern, hellebores, peonies and heuchera. A female goddess sculpture from Bali creates a focal point in the midst of ferns. There is a bronze Peter Beard sculpture on oak plinth surrounded by perennial geraniums.

217 Gibbon Street

This historic residence, built in 1790, is purported to be the home of Robert Fulton while he secured a patent for his steamboat. The brick, detached house still has the original dentil moldings on the exterior. Other historic features include the wide-wood floors, interior moldings, window glass, and the original mechanical doorbell, restored by the current owners. Earlier owners added the built-in cabinetry in the living room, which includes antique art and furniture inherited from the owner's English family, mixed with more contemporary furnishings. The French doors at the back of the dining room were installed in 1902. The doors are said to be from the White House, reclaimed after a renovation under President

Theodore Roosevelt. A British potting table converted to a dining table and contemporary compacted-paper art create a bright and inviting dining experience. The renovated kitchen has slate flooring and exposed brick walls. The dining room and kitchen both open onto a brick-walled garden with climbing hydrangea, established crepe myrtles and dogwoods, and plantings of hellebores, azaleas, ferns and daffodils. The garden's rear gate exits on to an original cobblestone alley.



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

The self-drive garden tour in Fairfax Station and Clifton in Fairfax County features four private homes with gardens and two stables in all.

Clifton and Fairfax Station, Tuesday, April 21

Wooded hills, wildlife and elegant equestrian estates describe Clifton-Fairfax Station. The Clifton Historic District, registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark, was a Civil War railroad stop and is filled with shops, memorable restaurants and restored homes. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, tended to soldiers after the Battle of Second Manassas at St. Mary's Church and the historic Fairfax Station, now a Railroad Museum. Advance Ticket Sales: \$30 www.vagardenweek.org.



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Home Improvements Earn Awards

Four Sun Design remodeling projects named Washington-area “Contractor of the Year” winners.

BY JOHN BYRD

It’s been a good year for Sun Design Remodeling.

In January, the full-service design/build remodeler won four “Contractor of the Year” awards from the Washington, D.C. chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). Then, in February, an already locally-honored gourmet kitchen was named category best (“kitchen above \$150k”) in the 10-state southeastern region.

Winning projects include: a rear elevation poolside recreation solution; a French Country gourmet kitchen (the southeastern regional winner); an open kitchen plan in a traditional interior style; and a lower-level build-out to designed for use by three generations.

French Country Kitchen Is Local and Regional COTY winner: Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000

For Dr. Rick Layfield and his wife Kelly Layfield, the search for their dream kitchen started shortly after they purchased their 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom home in Clifton eight years ago.

“The kitchen suite was a primary selling point,” Kelly Layfield said of the 400-square-foot room.

But she found the rear of the house dark and dated. Sightlines to the children’s backyard play areas were not well-aligned. And there was a visually obstructive bulkhead over the primary food preparation zone.

Also, the pentagon-shaped food preparation island and dining counter wasn’t well suited for in-kitchen dining. And the corner breakfast area was cramped — making it hard to access a door to the back porch which used to be a pathway to the family’s outdoor grill.

Fortunately, Kelly Layfield’s first meeting with designer John Benson was productive from the start. He proposed a rectangular food preparation island with a granite surface, parallel with the two corners of the cook’s work zones.

Benson also helped Layfield explore the lighter, more textured hues she had been seeking: marble subway tile wall covering; surfaces in Granite Bianco Antico; white cabinets with glass facings; and an oven backsplash in a white quatrefoil tiling. The coffers, likewise, are delineated in a white and grey duotone.

“This is just the balance I was looking for,” Layfield said. “It feels like home.”



PHOTO BY BRYAN BURRIS

With its private entrance, fully operative kitchenette and dining table for four, the new lower level allows Tina’s mother, Kay, to host bridge parties for friends independent of any other household activities.



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

BEST RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN: Sun Design’s winning kitchen solution takes full advantage of a 13’ cathedral ceiling with a two-level window wall. Owner Melynda Britt says the space is much better organized, yet more accessible — perfect for entertaining.

Open Floorplan Defines Casual But Elegant Kitchen Residential Kitchen; \$80k to \$120k; COTY Honorable Mention

Steve and Melynda Britt’s four-bedroom colonial in Vienna offered considerable charms when the couple purchased it 10 years ago.

There was a nicely finished library and living room, a formal dining room and a sizable family room in the back half of the house with a 13-foot cathedral ceiling framing a lovely view of mature landscaping.

For Melynda Britt, the larger goal was a kitchen footprint that offered an efficient work space — integrated with the surrounding great room.

“Since the emphasis was on a more intelligent use of limited square footage,” Sun Design’s Durosco said, “we thought custom-built-ins would help create better coordi-

nated work zones.”

Critiquing the kitchen now, Britt is amazed at how much more effectively the solution works on several fronts: The food preparation island protects the cook’s work triangle, and is positioned for easy service to the family room; the beverage station, an effective space divider, is accessible from both the breakfast area and family room; the coffee bar is situated between doors leading to the dining room and the breakfast room, out of the chef’s way; the kitchen’s mosaic tile flooring has been replaced by a refinished hardwood flooring.

“We can now comfortably entertain 20-25 guests,” Britt said. “Better yet, the space is really warm and comfortable.”

Finished Lower Level Offers Multi-Gen Family Solution COTY Honorable Mention

Eric Park and his wife Tina, both physicians, were already quite busy 10 years ago when they purchased a 3,400-square-foot two-level neo-colonial in Falls Church.

“Our plan all along was to create a family home,” Tina Park said. “We saw the lower level eventually playing a part in our daily lives, but were only using it for storage. It wasn’t until my mother began regularly helping us with the girls that we began looking at the house more closely.”

At first Park’s mother, Kay, would stay in the guest room, but gradually everyone started looking at ways to increase available privacy.

It’s at this point that Sun Design Remodeling enters the story.

“A basement conversion is challenging,” said Sun Design’s Liz Lee-Sint, who guided the Park project from concept to completion, “especially when it’s going to be mainstreamed with the rest of the house.”

For Kay, the top priority was a suite with all the features of independent living, including a private entrance, a comfortable master suite and a fully functional kitchenette with dining for four.

On a separate note, the Parks envisioned a 195-square-foot family fitness center and a children’s play zone with custom built-ins.

Describing the finished décor as “modern Asian contemporary,” Tina Park stressed simple lines, soft tones and open visuals.

“It’s really the nicest place in the house now,” Park said. “And it satisfies so many different needs that it’s become our main gathering place.”

House and grounds reconciliation judged this year’s best Exterior Solution/COTY Grand award winner

As Monte Zaben tells it, the rear elevation to his 8,300-square-foot colonial in Fredericksburg was so sun-exposed it was uncomfortable sitting by the pool he had just installed the year before.

After researching several options, however, he stumbled on Sun Design’s portfolio of indoor-outdoor solutions, and set up a meeting.

Combining an extended radius that steps down to the pool with vaulted entrance way, the structure’s architecture is welcoming.

Tapered craftsman-style piers support a seam metal roof. Inside, three distinct activity zones flow together: an open-air lounge; a cozy poolside vista with a pair of wicker chairs; and an outdoor kitchen equipped with a traditional grill, a power burner and refrigerators. A second level grilling deck is now, likewise, under roof.

Happy with the outcome, Zaben said he enjoys the outdoor kitchen so much he was out grilling one of his specialties this past January. “We make regular use of the outdoor space on just about every seasonable day,” he adds. “It’s very much a part of our lives now.”

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. He can be reached at byrdmatx@gmail.com.

His and Hers: Special Spaces

Addition pulls together styles and overcomes challenges.

BY JOHN BYRD

Details

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.fosterm.com

On the face of it, adding a two-level structure to a 30-year-old brick house is not especially difficult. Essentially, Vienna homeowners Al Dobson and his wife Joan Davanzo each have a pet project — a spacious first level garage to house sport cars, motorcycles and '60s rock for him; a lovely sunroom comprised of floor-to-ceiling window walls for her.

Knock out the existing screen porch; slightly expand the footprint for the garage; sun room goes on top embracing the rear deck and pool; and, Bingo, it's done.

Yet as anyone who has lived in the Fairfax County for a while knows, no project is without complications, and add to this the problems of an unlevel grade, set-back restrictions, strict rules on structures with lots of glass and the owner's desire to preserve all the surrounding trees, and suddenly there are the makings of an intricate engineering challenge — the sort of brain-buster most contractors wouldn't attempt to unravel.

That's how it all started with this deceptively understated Vienna addition: several contractors told Dobson and Davanzo they couldn't have the amount of glass in the sunroom they were looking for; county rules regarding glass and where it can be positioned are rigorously enforced; and then, too, the glass must be "braced" to resist winds that otherwise might cause it to implode — a requirement which inevitably reduces sightlines.

"County rules on glass in new construction have been in place for over a decade," said David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions, the contractor the couple hired to execute the project. "Because of some tricky complications, a lot of contractors stay out of the sunroom arena — so it's become somewhat specialized."

What several contractors plainly told Joan Davanzo, nevertheless, was that her dream project — as she envisioned it — simply couldn't be built.

"We were told the windows couldn't be as low to the floor, nor as close to the corner as we wanted," Davanzo said. "Since I had particularly liked the openness of the old screen porch the sunroom was to replace, this was discouraging."

By contrast, Davanzo said, Foster began addressing the project's technical hurdles from the first meeting.

"His experience was palpable," said Al Dobson, 70, who has had several previous encounters with remodelers. "The first consideration — which he pointed out im-

mediately — was how to develop a site plan that would satisfy the county, but also give us a sustainable result that allows the aesthetic effects we were seeking."

Part of the assignment would also entail a plan for preserving mature trees on the property's eastern side.

THE GARAGE, which would house Dobson's collectible motorized vehicles, needed a footprint of some 400 square feet, the contractor determined; the sunroom, one level up, would be plenty spacious at slightly over 200 square feet. Hence, Foster's "stacked" pyramidal design not only satisfies family "use" requirements, but also allows the "growing room" needed for an entire grove of mature trees bordering the property's perimeter.

The plan was, of course, partly predicated on lowering the lot's existing grade some five feet, enough to carve out a foundation for the garage and create driveway access.

The foundation also figures prominently in an innovative engineering solution that gives the couple the amount of glass they had been seeking in the sunroom.

To meet the county's wind-bracing requirements, Foster and team designed a narrow-gauge, all-steel framework for the sunroom's many large glass panels which is anchored all the way down to the concrete foundation itself.

Though not visible to the naked eye, the infrastructure allowed designers to extend windows to within a few feet of the floor and mere inches from the corner of the room.

"Our dogs can even look out the windows," Joan Davanzo said. "The design gives us a really a stunning view in all directions."

But, surely, a nearly all-glass room must be quite cold in the winter?

"All the windows are Low-E Argon-filled double pane — state of the art thermal resistance," Foster said.

To reinforce the comforting insularity, however, the contractor applied thermally-resistant spray foam behind the wall sur-



Al Dobson and his new spacious garage to house his sport car, motorcycles and '60s rock memorabilia.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The sun porch solution emphasizes views. Windows are insulated and wind-resistant.

faces — and drilled holes in the steel columns to accommodate an added infusion.

"It's all about creating a tight structure," Foster said. "That's what keeps outside temperatures out."

On the other hand, the sunroom feature Davanzo most appreciates this time of year is how fluidly it opens to spring's balmy breezes. All the windows are casement-style which can be independently adjusted to let in cross breezes. Overhead, two skylights open electronically — and individually. The skylights are also equipped with electric blinds and rain sensors.

The room's interior design scheme, which Davanzo developed in conjunction with Foster, reflects a number of favored owner lifestyle preferences. The golden duotone teakwood floor — comprised of a framed rectangular perimeter traversed with diagonal slats — is a pattern the couple came upon in their travels in Italy. The tongue-and-groove ceiling and warm sea-foam green wall color, likewise, were chosen to

highlight a verdant visual continuum that recalls childhood adventures in the country.

The new sunroom is accessible through an adjacent family room separated by three French doors which Davanzo mostly leaves open.

"This is where I spend most of my time when I'm at home," she said.

For Al Dobson, the favored hang-out now is his "man cave" garage which houses a Corvette, his Italian motorcycle and a sound system that plays choice sounds of the '50s and '60s.

A racing enthusiast who participates in time trials at Summit Point, Dobson wanted a room that speaks to his passion for motor sports. Underfoot, PVC tiles in an iconic checkerboard pattern set the tone for a private retreat decorated with '60s movie posters and other period memorabilia.

"It's a really peaceful spot to just relax," Dobson said. "That's what this process was always for, so I'm glad we pursued it."

Alexandria REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY HAL VERNON/THE GAZETTE

- 1 601 Fairfax Street North #405 — \$2,700,000
- 3 601 Fairfax Street North #409 — \$2,250,000

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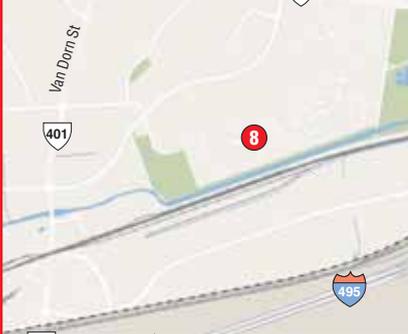
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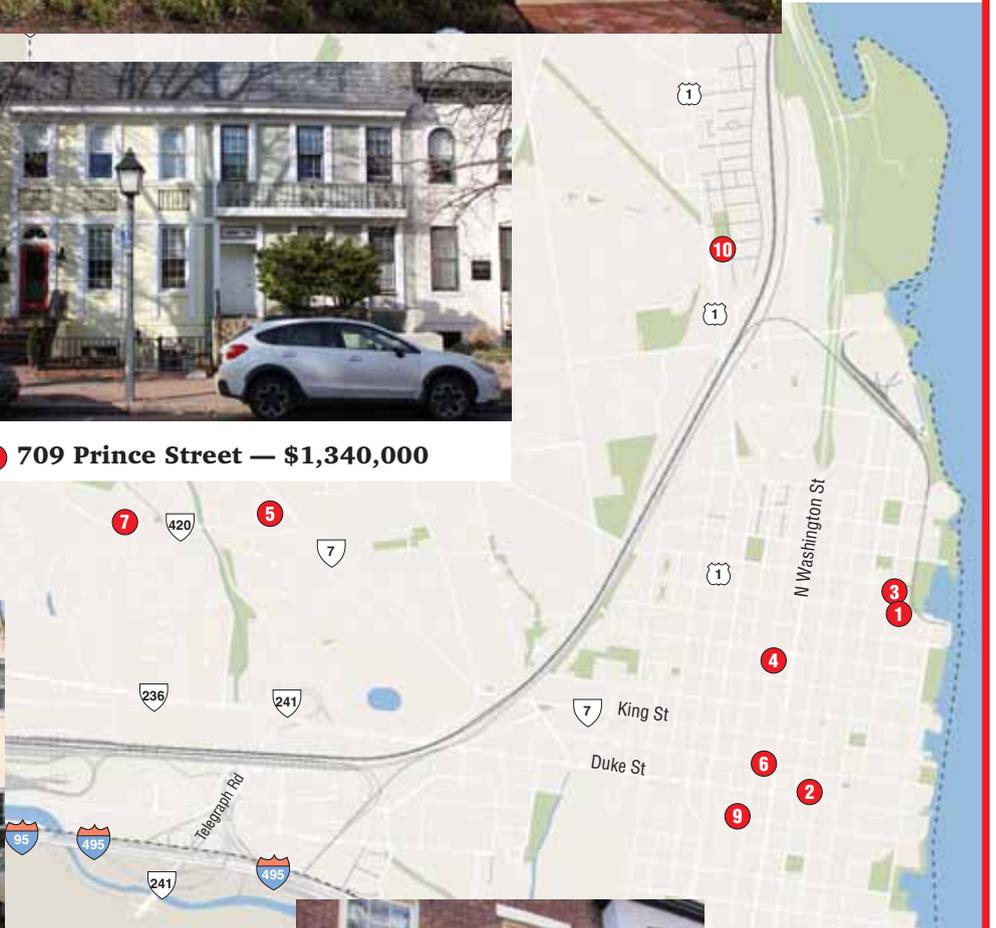
4 323 Columbus Street North — \$1,693,700



6 709 Prince Street — \$1,340,000



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3 601 FAIRFAX ST N #409	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,750,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	22314	THE ORONOCO	01/29/15		
4 323 COLUMBUS ST N	4	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,693,700	Townhouse	0.04	22314	OLD TOWN	01/30/15	
5 503 IVY CIR	4	2	3	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,465,000	Detached	0.24	22302	IVY HILL	01/30/15	
6 709 PRINCE ST	5	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,340,000	Townhouse	0.05	22314	OLD TOWN	01/12/15	
7 951 JANNEYS LN	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.33	22302	WALLESTON	01/09/15	
8 357 CAMERON STATION BLVD	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,105,000	Detached	0.10	22304	CAMERON STATION	01/15/15	
9 805 WOLFE ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$995,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	BURGES SQUARE	01/15/15	
10 2016 MAIN LINE BLVD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$970,665	Townhouse	0.10	22301	POTOMAC YARD	01/16/15	

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