

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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APRIL 23, 2015



Battle of Robinson Terminal South Ends

City Council approval yields compromises midst unyielding opposition.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

In a 5-1 vote, the City Council approved EYA's redevelopment of Robinson Terminal South. In many ways, the City Council public hearing on April 18 was largely a repeat of the April 9 Planning Commission and a number of committee hearings before that. Many of the same voices from the audience voiced the same concerns or showed the same support. Following prolonged discussions with city staff around compromises between the city and the developer, members of the City Council expressed some lingering concerns and made a few final changes to the agreement.

There was also a small amount of backlash regarding EYA's compromise with the city to bring compacted dirt to the site via barge rather than truck. In a letter to the City Council on behalf of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, President and CEO John Long and Chairman Walter Clarke expressed strong approval for the site, but said that for future developments, the city should consider using the truck haul-route used during the construction of the Woodrow Wilson bridge rather than con-



Concept rendering of the new Robinson South development.

tinue to use barging.

In previous meetings, local citizens with boats in nearby docks expressed concerns regarding silt build up as a result from barging. Brian Buzzell, a local citizen and business owner, said barging would have an impact on the marina just south of the dock, though he still expressed his support for the EYA project.

Major topics of discussion for the public and the council involved parking and the design of the buildings. Zoning Ordinances would require EYA to build 123 parking spaces for the multi-family residential units and 19 visitor spaces, 142 parking spaces in total. Part of the development special use permit for the site would allow EYA to build 132 spaces.

In the public comment, Buzzell also referred to parking as "the elephant in the room," a phrase that would be brought up again several times throughout the public hearing on the topic.

"No one has solved this problem in Old Town and it is not fair to the applicant to burden [EYA] with the solution," said Buzzell. "The issue should be addressed within the broader context of a comprehensive plan."

While one citizen quoted "if you build it, they will come" from 1989 film "Field of Dreams" as a commentary on the site's potential revitalization of the waterfront, Susan Savitch asked the City Council to remember the end of the film.

"[In 'Field of Dreams'] you see thousands and thousands of cars coming to a cornfield to park and the thing they were looking at was a baseball field," said Savitch. "Those numbers and that ratio is what we need to keep in mind here. We're not going to build a baseball field, obviously, but we need parking for the folks who come to the waterfront."

Townsend "Van" Van Fleet, president of the Old Town Civic Association, asked the City Council not to approve the parking re-

SEE COUNCIL APPROVES, PAGE 3

Plaque Recalls Education Before Desegregation



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

From left: Anthony Chang, senior director of Asset Management for Washington REIT; Alvin Crawley, superintendent of schools; Karen Graf, chair of the Alexandria City School Board; William Euille, mayor of Alexandria; Lovell Lee, former president of the Parker-Gray High School Alumni Association; Alice Thompson, president of the Parker-Gray High School Alumni Association; Aubrey Davis, director of the Black History Museum; and Brenda LaVere Elliott, chair of the 1964 Parker-Gray Reunion.

Alumni and city officials gathered on April 16 for the unveiling of a plaque outside the Alexandria City Public Schools' Central Office commemorating Parker-Gray High School. Parker-Gray High School, which once stood where the Central Office does today, served Alexandria's African-American students before desegregation in 1965. It became a middle school before closing in 1979.

"Every time African Americans have fought for education, it's been a struggle," said Audrey Davis, director of the Alexandria Black History Museum. "But we've

persevered. Everyone here is the legacy of Parker-Gray High School."

The plaque and event were sponsored by Washington Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), which discovered an older version of the plaque attached to a building on Wythe Street, near the original site of the school. However, researchers discovered that information on the plaque was inaccurate, so a new plaque was created. On June 12 and 13, the last Parker-Gray High School graduating class will be hosting a 50th reunion at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center.

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Remembering Lincoln

On the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the students in the Lyles-Crouch After School Theater program presented an original play “Abraham Lincoln: And Now He Belongs to the Ages.”

The drama, based on the last two weeks of the life of Abraham Lincoln, was written by music and drama instructor Debra Kay Robinson Lindsay and her husband Ronald A. Lindsay. The students held two performances on April 15 in the school auditorium at the Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy. Leading up to the performances, Debra Lindsay accompanied the students on field trips to Ford’s Theater and the Peterson House, the Lincoln Memorial and Dr. Mudd’s Farm in Clinton, Md.

On Sunday April 12, the students attended a performance of “Music in the Life of President Lincoln” at Northern Virginia Community College’s Ernst Center given by the Virginia Chamber Orchestra. A reception followed the concert with the students in costume engaging the guests in conversation about their upcoming roles in the performances at school.



Mary Todd Lincoln (Alyse Krieger) cries for help as her husband lays mortally wounded in the theater.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET



President Abraham Lincoln (Penelope Gallagher) delivers his final speech at the North Portico of the White House on April 11, 1865.



John Wilkes Booth (Nelsa Tientore) goes over his plan with Lewis Powell (Louann Schropp), David Herold (Alexandra Oswald), George Azelrodt (Leah Devendorf) and Mary Suratt (Grace Williams).

Council Approves Robinson South Development

FROM PAGE 1

duction and not to allow residents of the development to obtain District One parking stickers, which would allow them to park on the nearby roads.

For Bert Ely, co-chair of the Friends of the Alexandria Waterfront, parking at the new Robinson Terminal South development is ground zero for the impending parking nightmare facing Old Town.

“The situation will only get worse as development continues and visitors increase, residents increase, and supply of parking shrinks due to closure of parking lot on Strand,” said Ely referring to the lot being repurposed for the recently approved Old Dominion Boat Club. “The only solution is that each new site must provide sufficient on street parking to meet peak parking demand generated by that project regardless of what drives that demand ... If staff believes on-site parking for the Robinson Terminal South project is sufficient, then staff should have no objection to barring Robinson Terminal South residents from obtaining District One parking permits.”

Yon Lambert, director of Parking and Transportation and Environmental Services, said that preventing taxpayers and residents of District One from receiving the same treatment as the rest of the citizens was establishing bad policy, and noted that on-street parking was necessary in case residents, for any reason, could not access the garage. But City Council didn’t agree.

“But ... they do have access to the garage,” said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. “We already have a [parking] problem. We do, and it’s going to get much worse. We want the warehouses to go, that’s clear as day, but what we put its place and how we accommodate new residents and those who live here for decades ... is a quality of life issue. Parking is an issue. We can study it but we also have to use common sense.”

The council voted to allow greater flex-

ibility in how garage spaces were assigned, but also voted to ban District One parking permits from residents of the South Robinson Terminal until the council receives a recommendation from the Old Town Area Parking Study.

“I see a lot of checks and balances, and I see a lot of foresight regarding problems that may exist,” said Councilwoman Del Pepper. “But there is no doubt in my mind that if we don’t treat this area as a separate area and not allow parking permits, you’re going to have every guest, every visitor, every nanny, every worker occupying the neighborhoods around. It will just happen that way. You have to have those parking permits denied.”

The design of the project also came under fire, and received support, from members of the public and the City Council.

Katy Cannady reflected on a trip to Inverness, Scotland, in 2005, when a cab driver lamented that the town had torn down a Victorian building to erect a glass-walled structure by the lake. “I told him they do that where I live too,” said Cannady.

Continuing the City Council public hearing’s European tour, Hank Savitch noted that Paris would not permit a development like this building in its historic district.

Van Fleet argued that the design, mass, and scale were the “the real elephants in the room.”

“The proposed design is not appropriate for the Old Town historic waterfront,” said Van Fleet. “Viewing the three monolithic buildings from the river or the bridge will seriously detract from the current charm of the riverscape, visibly highlighting the fact that this development has no relevance or connectivity to anything in the old and historic district.”

Silberberg expressed agreement with public criticism of the project’s design, comparing the glass waterfront to a building from

Los Angeles.

“The connection to the buildings around it is not what I had hoped,” said Silberberg. “This design doesn’t really seem to fit here. It doesn’t fit in and it’s not to scale [with the neighborhood]. We just had a boat club design come in here that does reflect, far more, the historic district than this. Getting rid of the warehouses is excellent, but what we replace it with has to fit in and be to scale.”

City Councilman John Chapman expressed disappointment with the flat roofs, which he said conflicts with nearby buildings, and felt that the warehouse feel was too much of a nod to the past. Pepper wasn’t ecstatic regarding the glass facing the waterfront, but was happy about brick walls on the rest of the property.

Others in the public and the council were more pleased with the design.

“This is a city that’s reason for being is as an active commercial waterfront, and I think it’s grand that the City Council has gone forward with bringing activity back to the waterfront,” said Robert Atkinson. “I do have a concern that there’s some feeling that we should freeze Alexandria architecturally ... I think it’s incumbent on every generation, over time, to have cities that grow and evolve.”

“The face to the water is the opportunity to push the envelope from the architectural perspective,” said City Councilman Justin Wilson. “There’s not a city in the world that’s built the same architecture through thousands of years, the architecture evolves as you move forward. Ultimately, you want to advance the face of architecture in the city, and the face to the waterfront does that.”

City Councilman Tim Lovain took a moment to express sympathy for the architects being alternatively told by the council that their design is too modern and not modern enough.

“I feel sorry for the architects who have to build something on the waterfront,” said Lovain. “People want something that’s evocative but not imitative. The vice-mayor talked about something being a cousin of existing buildings but not a sibling. Evocation is in the eye of the beholder. In general, I think the end result is excellent. It transitions well with the neighborhoods ... and the waterfront side is innovative and attractive.”

Ultimately, Mayor William Euille said he was satisfied with the design. Euille reflected on a time, when he was growing up in Alexandria, that the waterfront wasn’t where it is today. The children played on train tracks and Old Town was lined with warehouses.

“The picture up here, that’s nice, but it’s an artist’s rendition,” said Euille. “It may have been what it looked like in the 1700s or 1800s. That’s great, I’d love to restore all that, but believe me, our waterfront did not look like that picture ... Am I pleased with 100 percent of what’s being proposed ... no, but it’s better than what we have today. I’d rather have something than to continue to have boarded up, dilapidated warehouses and vacant lots. Like any and everything else, we’ll find ways to embrace what will be there, and we’ll reflect in three, five, or maybe 10 years from now and say ‘wow, what a wonderful job’. Or we’ll say ‘hey, who were those crazy folks?’ But at 65 I’ll be gone by then.”

While residents of the redeveloped Robinson Terminal South not receiving District One parking stickers is a loss for EYA, Jonathan Rak, an attorney representing EYA, said the overall approval still marked a success.

“It’s a process solution,” said Rak. “Not everyone gets everything they want, including the applicant, but we think it’s an excellent result that’s benefited from all this extensive input.”



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

THURSDAY/APRIL 23

Hiring Event. 10 a.m. at City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center, 1900 N Beauregard St., Suite 300. Metro Staffing is holding an orientation and interview session for child care substitutes. Free to attend. RSVP at www.alexandriawdc.eventbrite.com.

MONDAY/APRIL 27

"Is Alexandria's Hotel Boom a Boon or a Bust?"

Dinner is at 6:45 p.m., the program begins at 7:15 at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Agenda: Alexandria presents a catered dinner and forum to discuss hotels in Alexandria. Tickets for dinner are \$32 for members; \$37 for nonmembers. Program only is free for members; \$5 for nonmembers. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089, or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Project Discovery Walkathon. Project Discovery Walkathon. 8 a.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W Braddock Road. Proceeds benefit the local empowerment and college preparation program. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/ProjectDiscovery.

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

"Caring Together." 1-9 p.m. at FCPA Virginia Hills Center, 6500 Diana Lane. NEXUS 2015 Conference will focus on strategies for keeping children healthy and happy. Community, government and education leaders will discuss ways to do this. Conference is free. Call 703-660-2327.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 2

Book Sale. Thursday 10 a.m.-6:45 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at The Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Shop used books at the Friends of the Duncan Library Spring Book Sale. Free to attend. Visit www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org.

THROUGH MAY 1

Donations Needed. Drop off your donations of good, quality used books (no encyclopedias, computer books older than 2012, or telephone books) at Chiquapin Recreation Center, 3210 King St., or 3820 Fort Worth Avenue. See www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/expo.php.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Standoff

An attempt to serve a warrant on the evening of April 21 to a local resident who refused to open his door took a dramatic turn when the sounds of a weapon inside the apartment sparked a seven-hour standoff that closed the 2100 block of Jamieson Avenue to foot and vehicle traffic. Police surrounded the building and set up a mobile command center nearby. The incident was resolved peacefully around 4 a.m. and the suspect was brought into custody.



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Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

PEOPLE

Spring Warms into Hot Market

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It is spring and the real estate market is hot. Mary Moran puts her access card in the lock box, uses her own personal code, opens the front door and walks into the hallway. According to Mary Moran, Realtor for Long & Foster, in the spring the market picks up because of weather. Houses look better, snow is gone and they are easier to show. And part of it is that everyone thinks the spring market is the best time so it is built in. She has worked in real estate for two years based in Arlington but with properties in the metropolitan area. She says she grew up for 22 years in Del Ray. "That's when my father was mayor of Alexandria." Previously she was head of human resources for the NFL Player's Association.

PEOPLE AT WORK

Moran walks through the living room to the large kitchen with windows overlooking the park. She is showing a \$1.699 million house in North Arlington. "Do you like these unusual oriental lights," she asks the client. "They did a lot of traveling and have some interesting things." She says In the 22207 zip code homes average over \$1 million with multiple listings over \$2 million. "The 22301 zip code in Del Ray where I grew up is also very hot for home sales."

Although she points out when she lived there they had Mackey's Barber Shop "where I got my hair cut, a comic book store and the Mandarin Inn where we got a treat to eat out once in a while." Today Del Ray is a treasure trove of boutique shops and restaurants and salons and festivals. "That has had a major impact on property values there." Moran says in this aggressive market there is a lot of pressure to forgo contingencies when there are multiple offers so people are going in without home inspections. "That's where the Realtor comes in; I think the client should know that this can cause problems." Homes often sell in less than a week.

She said she thinks what sells a house is "all about location in this area." For instance, people may be looking for a walk to the metro or a specific school or a short commute. "Also I can't underestimate the importance of having it uber-clean, and it does make a difference how old it is. A lot of people now are looking for brand new." She points out the large glass window in the sunroom overlooking a small local park with a winding creek, which is a "huge" feature. "It is private and very serene with the back-



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Mary Moran, Realtor for Long & Foster, says this is her favorite room in the house she is currently showing a client. The walls are covered with maps of the places the family has sailed.

yard patio looking out over the trees and small bridge."

In addition, large closets are very popular as she opened a door and pointed to three shelves of shoes lined neatly against the wall. She said, "I have a house in Great Falls with dual closets the size of a house. Also people love big garages but now they have to be able to accommodate an SUV." Other trends today are walk-in pantries, and decked-out mud-rooms are popular, also free-standing fake claw foot tubs in the bathroom. The open room concept is very much in demand although she says "it's not for everyone. I have one client who doesn't like this because she doesn't like to have everyone in her kitchen while she's cooking." She said when you are showing a house you try to take out the personal things in the house so the client can envision himself living in it. For instance, "I had a house where the master bathroom had blown up black and white pictures of nudes, of the owner I think. " Moran added, "You risk turning off some people."

Moran works seven days a week. During the week, she drops her youngest off at school and then arrives to begin returning emails, checking new listings, approving some ad copy and prepping for some showings. Then she goes to showings followed by preparation of documents, more emails, and waiting to hear from clients about to put in an offer. Tuesday is the weekly staff meeting followed by Broker's Opens, a way to see a slew of listings in a short period of time.

"Not to sound too hokey, but I was raised to believe in the power of home ownership," she said. "Realtors often get a bad rap, but when we do our jobs right we serve a critical role in building and maintaining a healthy economy — and in helping people realize that American dream."



Mary Moran points out a feature of this property — a small, neighborhood park with a creek and tiny bridge adjacent to the house.

OBITUARIES

Boyakin Old Bird

Boyakin Old Bird died at his home at Westminster Canterbury of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, Va., on April 17, 2015.

Mr. Bird was born in Selma, La. and lived his adult life in Virginia (Alexandria, Tappahannock, and Winchester).

He was a graduate of Selma High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Louisiana Tech University. He was then employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at their Research and Development Laboratories, Fort Belvoir, for 33 years. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. On his retirement he was awarded a Superior Performance Award.

Mr. Bird was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, Winchester and had been very active at Episcopal churches in Alexandria and Tappahannock serving on the church vestries in many capacities including Senior Warden and head of the Every Member Canvas several times. He was the first Licensed Lay Reader and Diocesan Congregational Keyman at Emmanuel Church, Alexandria.

He is survived by his wife Helen M. Bird (they had just celebrated their 69th anniversary this month). He is also survived by two daughters: Sara

Bird Bicking and husband David of Winchester, Va., and Catherine Bird of Fredericksburg, Va. There

are four grandchildren: Jennifer Wright Hodge and husband John of Virginia Beach, Va.; Cristen Mason Spencer and husband Keith of Roanoke, Va.; Matthew Wright of Hickory, N.C.; and Sara Rebecca Mason Starkey and husband Jason of Fredericksburg, Va. There are also two step grandchildren: Alice Kathryn Schain and husband Jeremy of Winchester, Va.; and Nathan Bicking and wife Misty of Martinsburg, W.Va. There are also seven great grandchildren and five step great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, Winchester, Va., at 1 p.m. on Saturday April 25, 2015 with the Rev. Webster Gibson and the Rev. Bridget Coffey celebrating. Interment will be at the Christ Church Columbarium immediately following the service in the church. There will be a reception in the Tilford Room of Christ Church.

Memorials may be made to Christ Church 114 West Boscawen St., Winchester, VA 22601, or to The Westminster Canterbury Fellowship Fund,



Peter Smolka

Peter Henry Smolka, of Alexandria, was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1919. He was a third-generation patent attorney, a linguist who knew seven languages, and man of broad interests.

He studied chemistry consecutively at the Charles University in Prague, the University of Geneva, Trinity College in Dublin, and in 1942 earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He earned his law degree at Rutgers University. After four years of research related to the Manhattan Project during World War II, he worked for 15 years in the patent and licensing departments of what is now the

ExxonMobil Corporation. Finally, in 1961 he became a partner in the patent

law firm of Burns, Doane, Swecker and Mathis (now Buchanan, Ingersoll, & Rooney) in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria where he practiced law until his retirement in his 80s. He was fond of family, friends, travel, books and art. His wife of 67 years, Marjorie Timmins Smolka, predeceased him in 2011. He is survived by daughters Alice Close, Beatrice Russell, Gerry Smolka, and Ellen Smolka as well as nine grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.



OBITUARY

Thomas Richard Downs

Commander Tom R. Downs, USN, Ret., 91, a 57-year resident of Alexandria, who was the first Trustee Emeritus of the Alexandria Symphony, dating from the early 1990s, died on Friday, Jan. 2, 2015. A burial service with full military honors will be held Friday, May 8, 9 a.m. at Old Post Chapel, Fort Myers.

His nearly 30-year association with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra came after his military retirement from over 30 year's service in the U.S. Navy. For many years he was vice president in charge of ASO's Concert Arrangement's which included running the front of the house, greeting subscribers — most by name. Over the years, some began to call him "Mr. Symphony," especially the young school children who might later see him on the streets.

Through the support arm of the Symphony, SOLA (Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria) he assisted in introducing the orchestra for the Children's Concerts for many years reaching over 8,000 during the spring. He was a force behind many of SOLA's fundraising projects, including yard sales, auctions, assisting his late wife in her organizing day tours to historic places, and promoting peanut sales. His own specialty for bake sales was his "famous" zucchini bread — 100 loaves in most Decembers. In 2001, he received the first, and only-time-given, SOLA Volunteer of the Decade Award.

Commander Downs was born in Bath County, Ky., to the late Dell and Dixie Boaz Downs. The history



of both families' goes back to pre-Revolutionary times in Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina.

His father was a county "marshall" and maintained the prison and the courthouse. These early experiences became the source of a series of articles, "Mostly Tommy," concerning his antics with the courthouse judges and jail trustees.

He was a prolific writer of stories for military papers under the head, "Take Five ...," a non-fiction book, about Vietnam, "Tomorrow's My Day Off," (published in parts in a Navy professional magazine); other short stories, novellas, and longer novels, one-act plays, and radio scripts about the Navy. He always drew on personal experiences gained in the many places he travelled in the military and the unusual circumstances in which he sometimes found himself.

In 1930, the family moved to Middletown, Ohio, where he attended public schools, graduating with honors, in 1940. He began working in the accounting department of a local manufacturing firm while attending the University of Cincinnati in the evenings. In 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and rose very rapidly, becoming one of the youngest Chief Petty Officers ever in the service — barely 21.

World War II service took him to England, preparatory to the landings in France, where he subsequently worked in planning operations with the Free French Forces, while on the staff of the U.S. Naval Forces France; then after VE Day he was transferred

SEE DOWNS, PAGE 8

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OBITUARY

Downs

FROM PAGE 7

to an amphibious vessel in the Pacific.

After release to inactive duty in 1946, Commander Downs completed a B.S. degree at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and worked for a contractor associated with the Atomic Energy Commission, while earning an M.A. degree from Miami during the summers.

He was recalled to active duty early in the Korean War period and served on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, in Norfolk, Va., and followed this service in the occupational forces of Germany on the staff of the Commander U.S. Forces Europe.

While in Germany, the National Sojourners honored him with its Americanism Service Award for off-duty teaching activities with adult Germans at the State Department's America House, being a conduit in the gathering of children's clothing from American families and distributing them to needy local children.

The next 20 years of Naval service took him aboard ship (in the Mediterranean and Caribbean), to various logistics activities at the Naval Gun Factory, the Bureau of Naval Weapons, and the staff of the Secretary of Defense in International Security Affairs.

During this time he earned two additional master's degrees, M.B.A. and M.S. from the George Washington University, and began graduate teaching off-campus, in the evenings, at government installations, this lasting off and on for 10 years.

After retirement, he earned a Ph.D. in management from Pacific Western University. His dissertation was a Case Study Compendium of Management Fundamentals, Practices and Philosophy told through 63 original case studies.

In 1960s he served as a military advisor in the Republic of China, and later during the Vietnam War, he helped operate the port of

DaNang, in charge of 5,000 U.S. and Vietnamese personnel.

When he retired from the Navy at the Naval Research and Development Center in Maryland, he was awarded the Navy Meritorious Service Medal. By the end of his career, he had earned 18 different decorations, three of them twice-earned, and four Vietnam Campaign stars. He also held four awards from the Republic of China. While in Taipei, Taiwan, he taught English to high school students on weekends.

During his lifetime, Commander Downs did substantial volunteer service regardless of the country where he was stationed, including his home area of Alexandria — church boards, Boy Scout badge monitor, GWU Alumni Governing Board, PTA's and Father's clubs, scholarship efforts for many students, and voluntary college-level tutoring. His alma mater, Miami University, honored him in 1969 with its Bishop Medal for 22 years of world community service.

His love of the arts, in general, kept him in the Washington area since 1958, having come here from Norfolk, where he still maintained a vacation home until his death. The nearness of the bay and the ocean served as a constant reminder of his service time.

His wife of 41 years, Juliane Hudson Downs, preceded him in death in 1998. He is survived by his daughter Susan Downs Smouse and her husband Ted, of Austin, Texas, and his son Richard Warren Downs and his wife Dubis Irene, of Alexandria; and three grandchildren, Juliane Castle Smouse, Bryce Hudson Downs, and Daniella Dixie Downs.

The family received friends on Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to SOLA, the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria, <http://www.alexsym.org/support/donate/>. Additional information can be found at www.everlywheatley.com.

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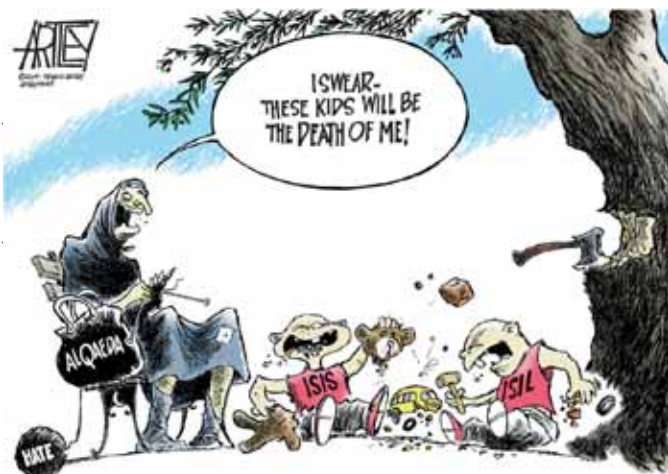


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OPINION



Artley First Place cartoon: "I swear these kids



Artley Third Place cartoon: Pope Sisyphus



Steve Artley



Michael Pope



Jeanne Theismann

Gazette Packet, Connection Win Awards

On Saturday, April 18, a group of journalists from the Connection Newspapers traveled to Roanoke for the annual Virginia Press Association event to collect awards for business reporting, government writing, writing about health, science and the environment, feature writing, sports writing, column writing, obituaries, cartoons, entertainment pages and writing, public safety writing, editorial pages and writing, page design, informational graphics and more.

EDITORIAL

A look at the themes of some winning entries gives some insight into the mission at the Connection: to tell stories of significance, using reporting, data and analysis while getting to the heart of why the issues matter in local lives. In a time that we, like all newspapers, are functioning with reduced resources, it helps affirm that the effort can make a difference.

Bonnie Hobbs won for ongoing coverage of a family's efforts to provide the best life for a son they call "not special needs, but a special person," and a second award for coverage of issues related to affordable housing and homelessness.

Judges call Michael Pope's business reporting "first-rate, data-driven reporting and analy-

sis on important issues." Stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are called "well-researched, clearly written and engaging. The use of real-live people high up in stories to illustrate makes for very compelling material."

Vernon Miles won for breaking news coverage of Arlington's first same sex marriage, being "on the scene of a local event that has local, statewide and national significance. ... The story is multi-sourced; has a strong lead that gives readers a sense of the scene; places the event in historic context; and captures the celebratory feel of the event."

On Pope government reporting: "Rather than regurgitating official statements, the reporter tells people's stories to illuminate the consequences of government decisions. This represents a model for all government reporting."

On Marilyn Campbell's reporting for Wellbeing: "These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term."

Even in recreation and entertainment, our mission is to provide our readers with the information they need to have fun, and our annual update to the "Insiders Guide to the Parks," brainchild of Jean Card, is designed to do that.

What are we missing? We rely on our read-

ers to let us know. We invite your story ideas, your tips, your letters to the editor, calendar listings, photos of mothers for Mother's Day and fathers for Fathers Day, and more. Visit www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on "contact us," or email editors@

connectionnewspapers.com

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Winners

Truncated list, for a complete list, see www.connectionnewspapers.com

Steven G. Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations, First Place. Editorial Cartoon: Sept. 25, 2014, Al Qaeda, ISIS and ISIL "I swear these kids will be the death of me." Also third place for Editorial Cartoon: Pope Sisyphus, Nov. 20, 2014

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Personal Service Writing, Obituaries, First Place. 'I Wanted A Better Life.' Civil Rights pioneer Nelson Greene dies at 100; The Bean Counter: Hard Times' Jim Parker dies at 69; F. William "Bill" Bauers: WWII pilot was honored by French government. Judge's comments: These stories provide a glimpse inside the lives of people who have played significant roles in their communities. The writing is engaging and well-researched. And the stories serve as an example to others of how to live a life of purpose.

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Column Writing, Entertainment, First Place. 'Curtain Up!' "Gypsy," Signature Theatre; 'Ella' Has Scatitute, Metro Stage; It's All Relative "Three Sistahs" returns to MetroStage. Judge's comments: Ms. Theismann's entertainment columns demonstrate a breadth of knowledge that gives her opinions a ring of authority and authenticity. Though I live nowhere near her area, I found it easy to be influenced by her writing and to wish that I had the opportunity to attend some of the events she talked about. All three examples are nicely written.

Jean Card, Jeanne Theismann, Steve Hibbard, Louise Krafft and Kara Coleman, First Place. Alexandria Gazette Packet — Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages.

Jean Card, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Page Design, Second Place. Judge's comments: Good photos, nice layout, lots of information and easy to consume.

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Headline Writing, Second Place. License to Chill (Storm closes schools, city government.)

Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Public Safety Writing, Third Place. Happyland on Edge; Manhunt Ends in Tragedy; The Safeway Four.

Steven Mauren, Mary Kimm, Steve Artley, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Editorial Pages, Third Place.



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

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

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



LETTERS

A Fresh Approach

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, June 9, citizens will have the opportunity to elect the Democratic Party's candidate to be the next Mayor of Alexandria. There are three choices: incumbent Mayor Bill Euille, Former Mayor Kerry Donley, and Vice-Mayor Allison Silberberg.

In my view, Vice-Mayor Silberberg stands head and shoulders above the others:

❖ She is the only candidate to make an effort to learn the concerns of residents across the city, by hosting Saturday morning coffee hours at a variety of venues and by attending meetings of civic organizations throughout Alexandria.

❖ She is the only candidate to earn the endorsement of former state Sen. Patsy Ticer as "a voice of reason."

❖ She is not beholden to special interest groups.

❖ She has the courage of her convictions; all too often, hers is the sole dissenting vote on a controversial issue.

❖ She appears to be the only one of the three candidates who truly

understands the value of Alexandria's unique perspective on the history of our nation and that this is essential to the attractiveness and quality of life of our city.

In marked contrast, the current and former mayor appear to have pursued a strategy of divisiveness, imposing on different areas of the city one unwanted and ugly development after another. Remember when BRAC-133 was supposed to be located near a Metro stop? And what about the polarization engendered during heated battles over the controversial waterfront development plan, which persists to this day? Then there were the bullying tactics Mayor Euille used to force the Old Dominion Boat Club to move out of its historic location at the foot of King Street. And there was the Beauregard Avenue "Corridor C" redevelopment, and the Potomac Yard Metro controversy, and on and on. The most recent egregious examples are the nationally telecast embarrassment of constructing a fire station without allocating sufficient funds to provide staff for it and the ridiculous idea of selling our historic City Hall.

If either Mayor Euille or former Mayor Donley is elected as the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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OPINION

Legislature Upholds Governor's Vetoes

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



Last week, members of the General Assembly returned to Richmond for the 2015 veto session — the annual wrap-up that concludes our legislative cycle. We voted on the governor's vetoes and amendments to bills that were passed in January and February. We made progress in many ways — but I believe we missed opportunities to strengthen our ethics laws, protect Virginians' privacy, and at long last close the health care coverage gap.

The legislature upheld all 17 of Governor McAuliffe's vetoes, stopping bills that would have undercut gun safety, limited ballot access, and restricted the ability of working people to earn a decent wage.

Back in February, the General Assembly approved a bill proposing broad changes to Virginia's ethics and transparency rules. As I said at the time, that measure left "much work undone." Among its many problems, it would have loosened restrictions on the gifts public officials are able to accept from lobbyists and other interested parties. Current law imposes a \$250 annual cap on gifts from any one giver; as originally passed, this year's ethics bill would have replaced that cumulative cap with a \$100 single-gift ceiling, opening the door to unlimited \$99 gifts.

Governor McAuliffe offered amendments to restore the cumulative cap at the new \$100 level; I was proud to support that change, and it will soon become law. Unfortunately, my colleagues rejected other important amendments — including one that would have empowered our ethics council to randomly inspect officials' disclosure forms. In the wake of former Governor McDonnell's conviction, lawmakers need to take ethical responsibilities seriously. Virginians deserve to have confidence in their leaders' integrity, and I believe that our actions this year fall short of what is needed.

I am also concerned with the fates of several bills intended to protect Virginians' privacy. New technologies have made it easier than ever for government to monitor ordinary citizens, and the General Assembly worked to address that possibility. We passed bills that would limit warrantless use of drones and prevent long-term storage of unnecessary data from license plate readers. Law enforcement professionals can and should use new technologies in their efforts to serve and protect our Commonwealth, but we need clear and sensible ground rules to govern that use.

The General Assembly rejected amendments that

would have weakened these bills by allowing greatly expanded use of warrantless drones and enabling license plate data to be kept for 60 days. While those amendments were well-intentioned, I felt that they conflicted with Virginians' fundamental right to privacy. Now that they

have failed, both bills are back on the governor's desk, and he must decide whether to veto them or sign them without his amendments. I hope he will remember the virtues of a cautious approach. If we enact these safeguards now, they can always be loosened later on; if we do nothing, it may be difficult to pass similar protections in years to come — even if experience proves them necessary.

Unexpectedly, there was one bill that the General Assembly did not need to revisit. In ordinary years, legislators would have voted on Gov. McAuliffe's amendments to Virginia's two-year budget.

This year, though, the governor approved a spending plan without seeking changes.

Both parties were able to agree upon important new initiatives, including pay raises for teachers, state police, and other public employees; expanded access to health care for certain uninsured Virginians; and new funding for economic development, homelessness prevention, and school breakfast pilot programs to help low-income students.

To be clear, the budget is far from perfect. Notably, it fails to close our health care coverage gap, something that I believe is sorely needed. Right now, an estimated 400,000 Virginians — most of whom are in working families — earn too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid, but too little to receive the subsidies and tax credits that help middle class families buy insurance on Virginia's health exchange. We could easily fix that — at a net savings to the state — by drawing down billions of federal tax dollars that we already pay, and will continue to pay.

Still, with Republican majorities in both chambers, the General Assembly had little hope of closing the coverage gap this year. Under those circumstances, the budget we passed was a compromise. I am hopeful that better opportunities will arise after this year's elections, and I aim to keep working on the coverage gap — along with ethics and privacy issues — when the legislature convenes next year.

You can email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov or find me on Twitter @AdamEbbin or Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign.

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

COMMENTARY

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Democratic candidate for Mayor of Alexandria, we can be absolutely certain that more of the same will continue. Isn't it time for the city to try a fresh approach? In my opinion, Allison Silberberg is the only candidate who has the potential to be a candidate for all of Alexandria. Let's give her the opportunity to show what she can do.

Hugh M. Van Horn
Alexandria

Rationale of 'Preferred Site?'

To the Editor:

The City of Alexandria is going to choose its newest "potential income generator," the Potomac Yard Metro Station. Just two choices merit consideration if the city chooses to continue with the Metro Station proposal. The "preferred site" lies on a scenic easement and government parkland (both of which were created to secure the picturesque perspective shed of the George Washington Memorial Parkway), while the alternate is situated on the site that was initially proposed for it more

than 20 years back. However, there are three main issues with the "preferred site," since it is more distant than people think, more costly, and more destructive than the alternate.

Despite the fact that the Metro Station viability study makes an impassioned plea to put the station on the scenic easement and federal government parkland, the proposed stations are separated by less than 900 feet when measured from the center of one station to the other, which is about the separation of three city blocks in Old Town. Additionally, the city made an actual scale model to show how the stations would look. However, you cannot put the two stations in the model at the same time, because they literally overlap. This is an interesting observation, since the study asserts that one site (the more expensive one) is more attractive due to its capacity to create density, while the other site (on the grounds that it is "too far away") does not, inferring that the target travelers (the millennials) can't walk less than three Old Town City blocks.

The more costly station is also at a greater distance from the hypothetical Potomac Yards center than has been proposed since it



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Meet our 2015 Portraits of Success



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American University, 2004

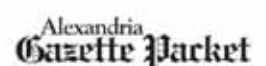


Diller Matthews III
T.C. Williams Class of 2001
B.A., Political Science
James Madison University, 2004



Crystal Vanison-Robinson
T.C. Williams Class of 1996
B.A., English, Va. Commonwealth University, 2004
M.Ed, Regent University, in progress

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email community 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

Art Exhibit. Through April 25 during gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, The Associates Gallery, studio 319, 105 North Union. Ceramics artist Bev Andrews, painter Ann Noel, mixed media artist Gail Spencer Saour and fine arts photographer Jo Ann Tooley will present work for an exhibit titled “Layers.” Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

“The Island.” Throught April 26 at various times at MetroStage, 1201 N Royal St. “The Island” is set on Robben Island in South Africa where two political prisoners labor during the day and perform “Antigone” by night. Visit www.metrostage.com.

“Art and Story.” Through April 26 at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Del Ray Artisans presents artworks illustrating the power of art and story. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW for more.

“Attics and Alleys.” Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at various locations. Guests are invited to take a walking tour through historic sites like Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, The Apothecary Museum and the Carlyle House in honor of National Preservation Month. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

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.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 3 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Two new exhibits will be on display at the Multiple Exposures Gallery by artists Susan Meyers and Colleen Henderson. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

“COMPARTMENTALIZED.” Through

May 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday 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, 5000 Dawes Ave. The exhibit, featuring Lang’s assemblages of photography, digital photomontage, and found objects will be on display. Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com.

“The Latin Beat.” Through May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. The Potomac Fiber Art Gallery will display an exhibition of Central and South American jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. Free. See www.torpedofactory.org.

Nine Paintings from John Chapman. Through May 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington’s biography are on view. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

“Paws ‘N Claws for Art.” Runs through May 31 at Volia 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 for more.

Art Exhibit. Through May 31 at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. “Rara Avis” is an exhibition of bird-centric works of Beverly Ress, Langley Spurlock and Martin Tarrat in the Athenaeum Gallery. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Eunsook Lee: “Dispersed Family.” Through May 31 during Gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 North Union St. Eunsook Lee’s exhibit of black light threads sealed and laminated alongside images and other materials will be on display.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish are The Honey Dewdrops

Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.com.

“Intricacies” Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 31 at various times at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Artist-Photographer Nina Tisara unveils her “Intricacies” exhibit, a collection of mosaics. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

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

George Washington’s Mount Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello and James Madison’s Montpelier to expand the “Presidents Passport,” Virginia’s premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year’s program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria’s “Key to the City” pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria—a \$26 added value. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org for more.

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

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

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the

parking lot at the park’s entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

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 Summer Camps.

Registration for Summer Art Camp 2015 is now open. Art Camps run Monday to Friday, June 22-Aug. 21. Camps are available for ages 5 and older, with morning, afternoon, or all day options. Subjects include: drawing, cartooning, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, fiber arts, clay animation, and Basic Art Camp (a new medium each day). \$155-\$345. Visit www.theartleague.org/content/art_camp for more.

Encore Choral Summer Choral

Institutes. Encore Summer Choral Institute at Washington College in Chestertown MD runs from June 14-18 and Encore Summer Choral Institute at Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua, NY from from Aug.30-Sept. 4. Sponsored by Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation’s largest choral singing program for adults 55 and older, the institutes attract adult students from all over the country, at all levels of vocal experience, for a week of intensive choral music study. For information and pricing, call 301-261-5747, email info@encorecreativity.org or visit www.encorecreativity.org.

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 23

“Coming Back to the Hoop.” 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Film Festival hosts a screening of “Coming Back to the Hoop” about a woman who returns to competitive basketball after a 40 year hiatus. Free. Visit www.alexandriafilm.org.

“The Mad Wooing.” 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate Shakespeare’s birthday with a staged reading of Kimberley Lynne’s new play, “The Mad Wooing.” Admission is \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Alexandria Sesquicentennial

‘MIX’ is an Adventure in Multimedia



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

“Untitled” by Kathryn Avila Reyes is comprised of least two different kinds of media

The “MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media” exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. will run May 1-31. “MIX” is an effort of Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts, a local craft store, to create an exhibit that explores the mixed media art movement, which requires the use of two or more mediums. The exhibit will include art made of paper, graphite, jewelry, found objects and more. The “MIX” Opening reception is Friday, May 1 from 7-9 p.m. There will be prizes for guests in “mix and do-not-match” attire. Del Ray Artisans will also host a free “Mini-MIX-Art Make & Take” on May 7, 6-9 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Stephen Smith will present a lecture on varied perspectives on Abraham Lincoln's life. Free. Visit www.alexandria.gov/historic.

APRIL 23-MAY 2

"The Addams Family." Various times at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac will present their production of the popular Addams Family franchise. Tickets are \$10-35. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 24

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & 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. \$4 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280 for more.

Art Product Demonstrations. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Art League, 105 N Union St. A representative of Winsor & Newton will be giving demonstrations of watercolor and oil paints. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 24-25

"Into The Woods Junior." 7 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Middle School students take on the Stephen

'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee'

On May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., Mount Vernon High School students will perform the musical comedy "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The school is at 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road. Tickets are \$5-10. See mvhs.theatrearts.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sondheim Musical with adaptations for a younger audience and actors. \$5. Call 571-218-0951.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 Quaker Lane. Fifteen vendors will be selling native plants, shrubs and more. Free to visit. Visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

Raptor Rapture. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Belle Haven Park. See live raptors up close in celebration of Earth Day. Free. Call 703-765-5233.

"La Fille Mal Gardee." 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial Theater, 101 Callahan Drive. The students of the Metropolitan School of the Arts will perform their spring concert. \$10; \$7 for children 9 and younger. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org/tickets.

"Mothers, Daughters, and Special Friends." 1 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. A children's tour will precede an

afternoon tea with a program on colonial living. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$15 for children under 12. Contact Helen Parker at 703-497-5927 or helenandjeffp@verizon.net.

"If You Lived During Slavery." 2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Participants will experience the house from the perspective of its enslaved inhabitants, exploring the differences between slavery in cities and on plantations. \$7 in advance, \$10 day of. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Scholarship Fund Gala. 6 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria will host, "A Splendid, Fabulous Affair," featuring an open cocktail bar and music. Previous awardees will be recognized for their achievements. Tickets are \$275. Visit www.alexscholarshipfund.org.

"With Strings Attached." 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. Attend a concert of Mozart Weber, Bach & Jazz performed by Anders

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

ENTERTAINMENT

'Art on the Rocks' Delivers Exhibit-Inspired Cocktails and Appetizer Pairings

The Art League of Alexandria has challenged mixologists from six local restaurants to concoct cocktails inspired by art work chosen from the League's gallery, and an accompanying appetizer. On Friday, May 1 from 7-9 p.m., Chadwicks, Virtue Feed & Grain, Mason Social, Columbia Firehouse, GBD Fried Chicken & Donuts, and Red Rocks Neapolitan Bistro will compete for votes from guests based on the best/most creative pairing. The winner will be crowned by a panel of experts with representatives from places like Catoctin Creek Distillery and Green Hat Distillery. Tickets are \$55. The Art League is located at 105 N Union St. Visit www.theartleague.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Last year's participants sampling drinks crafted by local mixologists

Lundegard, Terry Guidetti, and the Cherry Blossom String Quartet. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. Visit www.calssicalsaxophonist.com.

Live Music: Bodeans. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Honor By August opens. \$29.50. Visit www.bodeans.com, honorbyaugust.com or www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Concerts at St. Luke's. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Violinist Marissa Regni and organist Wes McCune will perform Bach, Franck, Handel and more. \$20, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students and teachers. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

APRIL 25-MAY 26

Historic Plant and Garden Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Trees, shrubs and plants that have been grown in the Mount Vernon greenhouse will be on sale. No admission required to visit the gift shop. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

APRIL 25-MAY 16

"The Odd Couple." Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sundays. The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The LTA presents a twist on the traditional comedy with female characters. Tickets start at \$19. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 26

Carpenter's Shelter Cook-Off. 12-3 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue. A fundraiser for Carpenter's Shelter, a local nonprofit. Guests will find area restaurants competing for awards. Adult tickets are \$50, child tickets are \$15, and VIP tickets are \$75. Tickets are on sale until Friday, April 24. Visit www.carpentershelter.org.

"Mosaic" Opening Reception. 2-4:30 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Eleven artists are celebrating the launch of a group exhibit. Find more than a dozen works of art and a dozen different desserts. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.com.

"All About Music." 7-9 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. Five local musicians will perform to raise funds for the Lombardi Cancer Center. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.uniquefoundationinc.com.

APRIL 26-MAY 3

"Mosaic" Exhibit. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. The Tag Gallery Presents its first all-member show. Free to attend. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 28

Exhibition and Reception. 1-3 p.m. at

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A exhibit of work by senior artists from Arts for the Aging programs will be displayed. Free. Email brose@aftaarts.org to RSVP.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

The Robust Walkathon. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive. Dr. Dan Kulund will get older citizens moving with low-intensity exercises. Suggested donation, \$10. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org/robust-walkathon-wednesday-april-29.

War. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. American funk band famous for songs like "Low Rider" and "Cisco Kid" will perform. Tickets are \$55. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

Poem in Your Pocket Day. 6:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. DASHing Words in Motion contest winners will recite their poems. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Witness to War & Reunion. 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. This spring lecture series looks at the end of the Civil War, and its aftermath. "Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867," by Leslie Rowland, University of Maryland. \$5. Seating is limited, make reservations in person, at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4994.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 2

Book Sale. Thursday 10 a.m.-6:45 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at The Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Shop used books at the Friends of the Duncan Library Spring Book Sale. Free to attend. Visit www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org.

MAY 1-31

"MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media." DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists mix two or more mediums for this exhibition collaboration between Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts. See www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 1

Taste of Cinco de Mayo. 6:30 p.m. at Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Food sponsors include South Austin Grill, Los Toltecos and Dos Amigos. The Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble will perform as well as Latin jazz band Ocho de Bastos. Individual tickets are \$5 and family tickets are \$15 in advance, \$10 and \$20 at the door. Visit www.alexandria.gov/webtrac.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. During the "MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media" reception, curators Karen Schmitz (Del Ray Artisans) and Judy Gula (Artistic Artifacts) will give several

awards for MIX masterpieces and award prizes for best dressed guests in "MIX & Do Not Match" attire. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Art on the Rocks. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League, Inc, 105 N. Union St. Local mixologists with create cocktails and appetizers based on a piece of art. Tickets are \$45-55. Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-2

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School presents musical comedy of six students vying for a spelling championship. Tickets are \$5-10. Visit www.mvhstheatrearts.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of the area's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. Free. Visit www.pohick.org.

"Secrets of the Paper Garden." 2-5 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. Learn how to make flowers out of Italian papers. \$35 for members, \$45 for nonmembers, plus a \$15 supplies fee. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Joan & Joni Tribute. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Allison Shapira & Kipyn Martin with Adrianna Naomi will perform a tribute to folk singers Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-3

Revolutionary War Encampment. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt Vernon. View reenactments, attend lectures, and learn more about military techniques from the time of the Revolutionary War. Admission is included in the cost of a general admission ticket. Adult tickets are \$17, youth tickets 6-11 are \$9, children younger than 6 are free and senior tickets are \$16. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

Titan Expo. 1-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The Titan Expo is a community event featuring carnival games, inflatables, bake sale, bingo, car bash, large used book sale, and music by local musicians. Free. Call 703-824-6800.

Gallery Talk. 3 p.m. at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Artist Beverly Ress discusses her work. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. at Rachel M.Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center,

4915 East Campus Drive. New Dominion Chorale will present a program of Gilbert and Sullivan and Classic Musical Theater to close its 24th season. General admission is \$30, \$25 for seniors; \$5 students and children; \$20 for groups of 10 or more. Visit www.newdominion.org.

MONDAY/MAY 4

"Gadsby's Tavern" Book Signing and Lecture. 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N Royal St. Gretchen Bulova's new book, "Gadsby's Tavern" is hitting shelves and the Tavern is celebrating with a book signing and lecture. Admission is \$10 for Gadsby's Tavern Museum members and \$12 for nonmembers. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

TUESDAY/MAY 5

Tuesday Morning Stroll. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E Monroe St. Residents are invited to visit the garden, receive free seed packets and have their gardening questions answered by experts. Free. Contact carol_kilroy@comcast.net for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 7

Mini-MIX-Art Make & Take Workshop. 6-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts, a local arts and crafts store, will offer workshops and classes for anyone interested in mixed media. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This outdoor market will feature the work of more than 25 artists. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.com.

The Honey Dewdrops with Buzz Peele. 7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Folk singers Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish will perform alongside Buzz Peele. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focumusic.org.

Spring Concert. 8 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 10

Mother's Day Tea. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N Fairfax St. Lounge at the Magnolia Terrace with catered food and learn the "Language of the Fan." Tickets are \$30. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

Mother's Day Open House. 1-4 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St. Learn the history of the fire house and have your picture taken by the in-house photographer. Free for mothers and families. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Mother's Day Tours. 1-5 p.m. at The Stabler Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 107 S Fairfax St. The Museum is offering free tours to mothers. Admission is \$5 for other adults, and \$3 for children aged 5-12. Visit www.apothecarymuseum.org.

MONDAY/MAY 11

Community Barbeque Bash. 6-8:30 p.m. at The Waterfront Market & Cafe, 7 King St. ACT for Alexandria is hosting a barbeque. Tickets start are \$35 for children, \$50 for adults. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/community-barbeque-bash-tickets-15734049967.

MAY 11-JUNE 14

"In My Neighborhood." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Studio 18. Resident artists will display work based on their neighborhoods and local colors. Admission is free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 12

Annual Excellence in Aging Awards. 6 p.m. at Vola Lawson Hall, 301 King St. Individuals will be recognized based on outstanding service to senior citizens in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/aging.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

is measured from the staircase that leads to the bridge to the Metro (which is very long), rather than from the station itself. This creates an illusion of closer proximity than is really the case. A straight-line estimation from the Target Store “bulls eye” to the midpoint of the two stations reveals only a 500-foot difference, which is less than two Old Town City blocks. When the expensive station is touted as being within a quarter mile of Potomac Yards, in reality, only the staircase to the Metro bridge is (barely) within a quarter mile. Also, in walking time and separation, the more costly station is really further from the proposed developments (including those areas destined to be the first to be built) since it is much further east from Potomac Yard than the less expensive one (it is practically all the way on the George Washington Memorial Parkway).

This is a significant issue, since the expenses of building the stations are not equivalent. Even with a good deal of optimism, the annual debt servicing cost for the more expensive, read “preferred one,” will be almost \$14million or over \$5 million more expensive than the other. So, in order to present the more costly station as being more alluring, the study expects that it will create more density than the less expensive one (without any real basis to do so), and that the developer will pay more for that site, but the developer is now pulling back from this aspect of the “expensive” proposal.

Finally, the more expensive, station will create a wholesale destruction of the view shed of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The required longer bridge has minimum height requirements that (with its location and length) will make it a significant intrusion on scenic vistas from the George Washington Memorial Parkway. So, does it make sense for Alexandria to incur greater risk, pay higher debt servicing costs, and destroy its cultural and scenic heritage for less than 900 feet (or is it really 500 feet) ? Even worse is the suggestion that having a Metro Station at the Alexandria City Court House is too far for the City Hall to feel any effect. This situation reminds me of an old fairy tale, whereby a ruler is walking down the street naked, smiling and waving, but only a small child says that the emperor has no clothes! In the case of the city’s rationale for the more expensive station, the city “has no clothes.” They do not have a valid justification for proceeding with the more expensive station.

Poul Hertel
Alexandria

Waterfront: Ample Public Input

To the Editor:

Kathryn Papp’s April 16 letter to the editor “No Longer 2006” perpetuates many incorrect and misleading statements about

the city’s Waterfront Small Area Plan.

The plan was not devised in 2006 by a “small, very small, group of mostly non-elected men,” as Papp states, but during a series of over 100 community meetings held between 2010 and 2012. When significant objections to the draft plan were raised by some members of the public, City Council halted adoption of the plan in June 2011 so that it could be reworked by a citizen group that included representatives both in support of and opposed to the draft plan. Through this process elements of the plan addressing parks, development, architecture, and parking were improved prior to its adoption by council in January 2012.

Far from creating a “21st century tourist center,” the plan will replace industrial blight with high-quality, mixed-use development, including a significant amount of new residential. The plan supports numerous community objectives, including additional open space, the creation of a continuous pedestrian pathway along waterfront, and flood mitigation. The plan balances new areas of economic vitality with quiet places for contemplating the water. Implementation of the plan will complement and enhance connections between the Old and Historic District and the Potomac River.

The plan provides a blueprint for encouraging redevelopment of the last vestiges of the city’s industrial waterfront, but leaves many of the specific decisions about uses and architecture for consideration as individual development proposals move for-

ward. That’s how consideration of the Carr Hotel, Old Dominion Boat Club, and the two Robinson Terminal sites have proceeded, with detailed reviews by the Waterfront Commission, Board of Architectural Review, Planning Commission, and City Council. Each of these venues has afforded ample public input into the city’s decision-making process.

One may object to the waterfront planning decisions reached by fellow citizens, but concocting falsehoods about the plan and its origins does not serve the community’s interests.

Nate Macek
Alexandria

Greatest Show On Earth

To the Editor:

It’s finally here — the augur of the rites of spring — the greatest show on earth, well no, not the circus, well maybe, but I was thinking of the final budget vote due this week. During the next several days we will set the measures of funding to the city by the City Council. During this time period the City Council and School Board will move money, find money, to satisfy these irresponsible financial actions of the past year. Add and Delete are your clue words in this process and with no chance of a quick fix, the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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SPORTS



T.C. Williams junior Chase Larsen scored a goal during the Titans' 12-11 loss to Mount Vernon.



T.C. Williams senior Reece Belcher scored four goals during Tuesday's game against Mount Vernon.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Majors: Comeback Win over Titans

Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse improves to 5-1, TC falls to 3-7.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Following Monday's weather-related postponement of their scheduled contest against West Potomac, members of the Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse team took the field for Tuesday's matchup with T.C. Williams having gone 11 days since their last game.

"It kind of put us back almost into hibernation waiting on tonight," Mount Vernon senior Louis Martin said, "even though knowing it was going to be a big game like this, we couldn't start off fast."

While the Majors were hibernating, the Titans scored the game's first five goals and led 7-1 early in the second quarter.

But once Mount Vernon awoke from its slumber, the Majors staged a dramatic comeback and continued the successful start to their 2015 season.

Greg Smith's goal with 17 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter gave the Majors their first lead of the night and Mount Vernon held on for a 12-11 victory over the Titans on April 21 at T.C. Williams High School's Minnie Howard campus.

Mount Vernon, a member of 5A's Conference 13,

improved to 5-1 with its first win over a 6A opponent this season.

"Every game that we play, we're always getting beat first," said first-year Mount Vernon head coach Dan Convery, who coached the junior varsity for eight seasons. "We're used to coming from behind. [Seven] goals to one is a tough comeback, but the guys kept it together, kept their composure and never gave up. "What a great win."

Mount Vernon tied the score five times in the second half but didn't take the lead until Smith's goal in the final minute. Martin assisted Smith's game-winning.

Smith and Martin each scored five goals.

"We've been playing together since we were freshmen," Smith said. "We know where we're going to be. Everybody on the field knows what's happening. It wasn't a designed play, we just do it in practice [and] we do it in a game."

Smith scored two goals in the second quarter and three in the fourth quarter.

"Greg is great on the crease," Convery said. "He's got that quick stick and he knows what he's doing."

While Martin assisted the game-winning goal, it was the senior's play in the first half that helped the Majors climb out of an early hole.

Martin scored the Majors' first goal late in the opening quarter, snapping a 5-0 Titan run. He scored three goals in the second quarter, helping Mount Vernon

SEE TITANS FALL, PAGE 19

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SPORTS

Titans Fall to 3-7

FROM PAGE 18

cut the T.C. Williams lead to 7-6 at half-time.

Martin's fifth goal tied the score at 11 with 2:08 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"Louis is definitely one of my favorite players that I've ever coached," Convery said. "Every team knows who he is and how to stop him, and they can't stop him."

Ricky Dobson and David Gibbs each scored one goal for Mount Vernon.

"I've been looking forward to this game for the whole season," Smith said. "... We know some of the [T.C. Williams] players and on Twitter they talk, we talk, so actually beating them and making them stop talking, it means a lot."

T.C. WILLIAMS (3-7) entered the contest having won back-to-back games against Bishop Ireton and Stuart. The Titans came out strong and led 7-1 after Chase Larsen's goal with 10:36 remaining in the second quarter, but things started to unravel for the home team.

"[We] lost momentum, and we started getting down on ourselves," T.C. Williams senior Reece Belcher said. "... The last two games were pretty close and we had won them, so we were kind of coming into this game thinking we could really take it to

them and we didn't play up to our potential."

Belcher, who will play college lacrosse at Syracuse, led the Titans with four goals.

Senior attackmen Adin Mengel scored three goals for T.C. Williams.

"[Mengel] provides a lot of stability on the attack end, so we can possess the ball," T.C. Williams head coach Mike Mulherin said. "I felt like they played pretty aggressive against him tonight and he had a bunch of pipe shots that didn't go our way."

Senior midfielders Remy Johnson and Mohamed Khaled and sophomore midfielder Samuel Zang each scored a goal for the Titans.

Mount Vernon faced West Potomac on Wednesday, after The Gazette's deadline. The Majors will host Hayfield at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 24.

Convery said "I don't see us getting stopped in the conference." Martin is confident, as well.

"I feel like, as a team, we're capable [of winning] the big one," Martin said. "That's just a matter of us putting in the hard work, us putting in the time."

T.C. Williams will travel to face West Springfield at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 24. The Titans are looking to qualify for the regional tournament for the first time since 2011.

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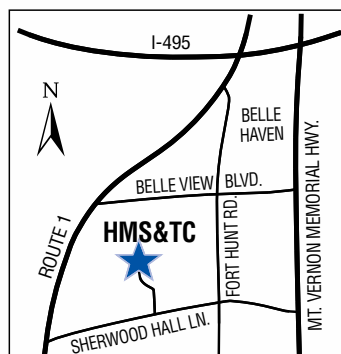
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-04-09

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Telecomm Audit & Consultant Services. Minimum experience required for any firm submitting a response to this RFP, and for providing the services therein, is three (3) years.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-04-09 Telecomm Audit & Consultant Services, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 7, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8043, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Sharon T. Lewis
Director of Procurement & General Services

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-04-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Online Tutoring Services. Minimum experience required for any firm submitting a response to this RFP, and for providing the services therein, is three (3) years. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-04-01 Online Tutoring Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 19, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8043, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals. All questions must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS website. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Sharon T. Lewis
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

101 Computers

101 Computers

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-03-09
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Real Estate Brokerage Services. Minimum experience required for any firm submitting a response to this RFP, and for providing the services therein, is three (3) years. Sealed Proposals with the notation, RFP# 15-03-09 Real Estate Brokerage Services, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 20, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8043, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals. All questions must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS website. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
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21 Announcements

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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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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 17

group will be hard pressed to reconcile the spending spree which is about to erupt.

You know about the infrastructure issue due to a total lack of school maintenance for as long as anyone can remember. I am not sure if it was the leaking roof, the buckets the closet classrooms, the lack of HVAC in the summer or was it the several evacuations of Hammond this winter due to gas leaks in the school that led to the city's epiphany to begin this project. What was it going to take for the city to do this maintenance, a disaster? I must update you on the current figures for infrastructure repair: total cost \$716.2 million, \$441 million for modernization, \$144 million for capacity modernization and hallelujah \$130.6 million for maintenance. This is an astonishing example of gross mismanagement — no it's more than that — it's criminal negligence depriving these children of a chance at advancement at the expense of the city's developer constituents. Who is responsible? Who holds the money? The council and school board are responsible.

As word got out that things were rapidly plummeting, the School Board chair decided it would be better not to use numbers in this budget process. No really it was suggested that the public not be allowed to see the numbers attached to these projects and therefore there would be no estimates and no cost overruns. How do you make a budget without numbers? This is a blatant attempt by the School Board to hide numbers in order to fund their pet projects — may I refer you to the tennis lights at T.C. Williams, the \$1.2 million deception.

You are most likely aware that there are debt ratios established by the City Council in 1987 to ensure the long term affordability and sustainability of the CIP budget, a means of forced constraint. Current ratios are all above target and just below limit levels. The additional debt generated by the CIP budget complete with a \$712 million infrastructure price tag would blow through these ratios jeopardizing our bond rating and ballooning our debt and require a complete reassessment of our ratios.

As I sat through the meetings last week there was no happiness in council, school board nor in citizen land, just blank stares. Our representatives have failed us again — failed one of their most important constituents the children who attend our schools. The city talks about revenue growth and attracting business; I maintain that if the schools are excellent and achievement-oriented, blessed with modern infrastructure, businesses will follow and prosperity will flow. I believe a change in leadership is needed. I have a strong sense that the citizenry recognizes this as well.

William Goff
Alexandria

Hal Hardaway
Alexandria

Which Yesterday?

To the Editor:

On Saturday, April 18, Mayor Euille voiced his support for the plans offered by EYA at the Robinson Terminal South site along the waterfront. He claimed to offer a “historical” perspective of the waterfront

based on his own life in the city — a short 65 years. Among other things, he recalled playing on the mid-20th century industrial areas along the waterfront, and then called out the mural on the south wall of council chambers, saying that it may reflect what the waterfront looked like in the 1700s or 1800s, but is not what it was when he was playing there. He argued that this 20th century industrial past was not what he wanted to see in the design, and that what was offered is better than what is there now and what was there when he was a child. He was happy enough with what he saw from the developer. In effect, the mayor argued that those opposed to the submitted designs are saying they want the waterfront he knew in the recent past. That's not the case, nor is it really the choice before us. It's disingenuous to argue so. As Vice Mayor Silberberg put it, the waterfront should reflect its past, but need not replicate what the mayor knew. She pointed out that she certainly was not supporting returning to the waterfront look of the mayor's childhood. Instead, she wants a waterfront that embraces the city's and country's heritage and relates to the Old and Historic District setting. The choice is not about whether the design is better than the 1950s, its about what is the best design to embrace Alexandria's past and that of the nation.

Mayor Euille added that at 65 he won't be here to hear the judgment of the next generations — “I'll be gone by then,” he says. He need not wait that long. The council made a bad decision and one which will destroy an opportunity to create a waterfront Alexandrians can point to as their own — not something that, as the vice mayor pointed out, belongs at Landmark or elsewhere and anywhere. Good enough isn't good enough.

In truth, the lithograph the mayor pointed to, and then said he'd “love to restore all that” if it was possible, is actually a better example of what what we should aspire to than the 20th century industrial look he claimed on Saturday to oppose. The image, printed by Charles Magnus in 1863 in New York, is recognized as one of the most accurate non-photographic depictions of an American “city” during that era, down to the individual structures. It captures Alexandria's heritage, and offers design ideas more compelling than the developer's. Even if you look at the portion of the print depicting what is now the Robinson Terminal South site, the true “historic” waterfront (not of the mayor's 1950s) was far less dense than what we are now offered. If the mayor meant what he said on Saturday about restoring the 1860s waterfront look the print reflects, we could do much worse, and it appears we probably will.

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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By e-mail:

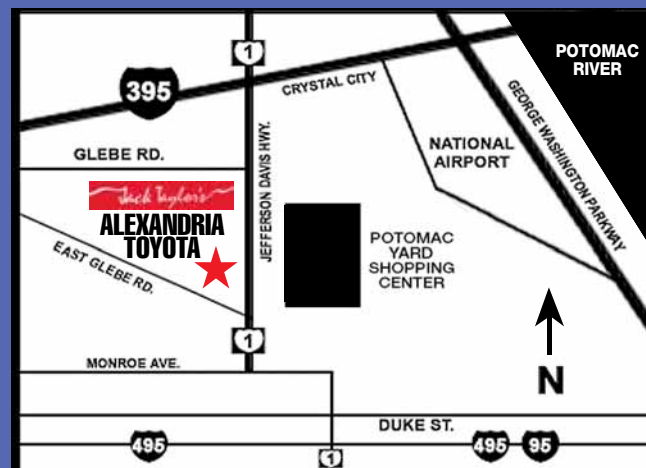
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3. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or can apply to down payment. Excludes plug-in models. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 4/30/2015.

4. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 4/30/2015.

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Alexandria \$699,900

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571.228.5790
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Alexandria \$674,000

Stellar location! Gleaming wood floors and built-ins provide classic charm, and the bath and kitchen are updated. The sunroom would make a great office or playroom. Light-filled family room is the heart of this home. Deck and fenced yard. 1210 W Braddock Rd.

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Alexandria \$749,000

Gorgeous two level home sited on a large private lot. Classic in design with sweeping views and wonderful natural light. Three bedrooms plus a den and fabulous storage under the one of a kind carport in Hollin Hills. 2110 Whiteoaks Drive

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This gorgeous renovated home features a beautiful addition & sits on an over-sized lot. Great entertaining spaces, spectacular master suite, a lovely kitchen, a fabulous screened porch, finished rec room & a sparkling pool that beckons. 1127 Priscilla Lane

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Alexandria \$420,000

3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhouse features functionality with class. Updated appliances & spacious master suite. Walk-out basement with wood-burning fireplace & full bath. Huge upper deck; lower-level platform deck; fully fenced backyard. 6616 Briarleigh Way

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Wilton Woods \$835,000

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Jane Manstorf
571.276.8116
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Alexandria \$848,000

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Rosemont \$549,700

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Alexandria \$665,000

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Brenda Gail Brown
703.819.8406
BrendaGail.com

2015 Spring Real Estate & New Homes

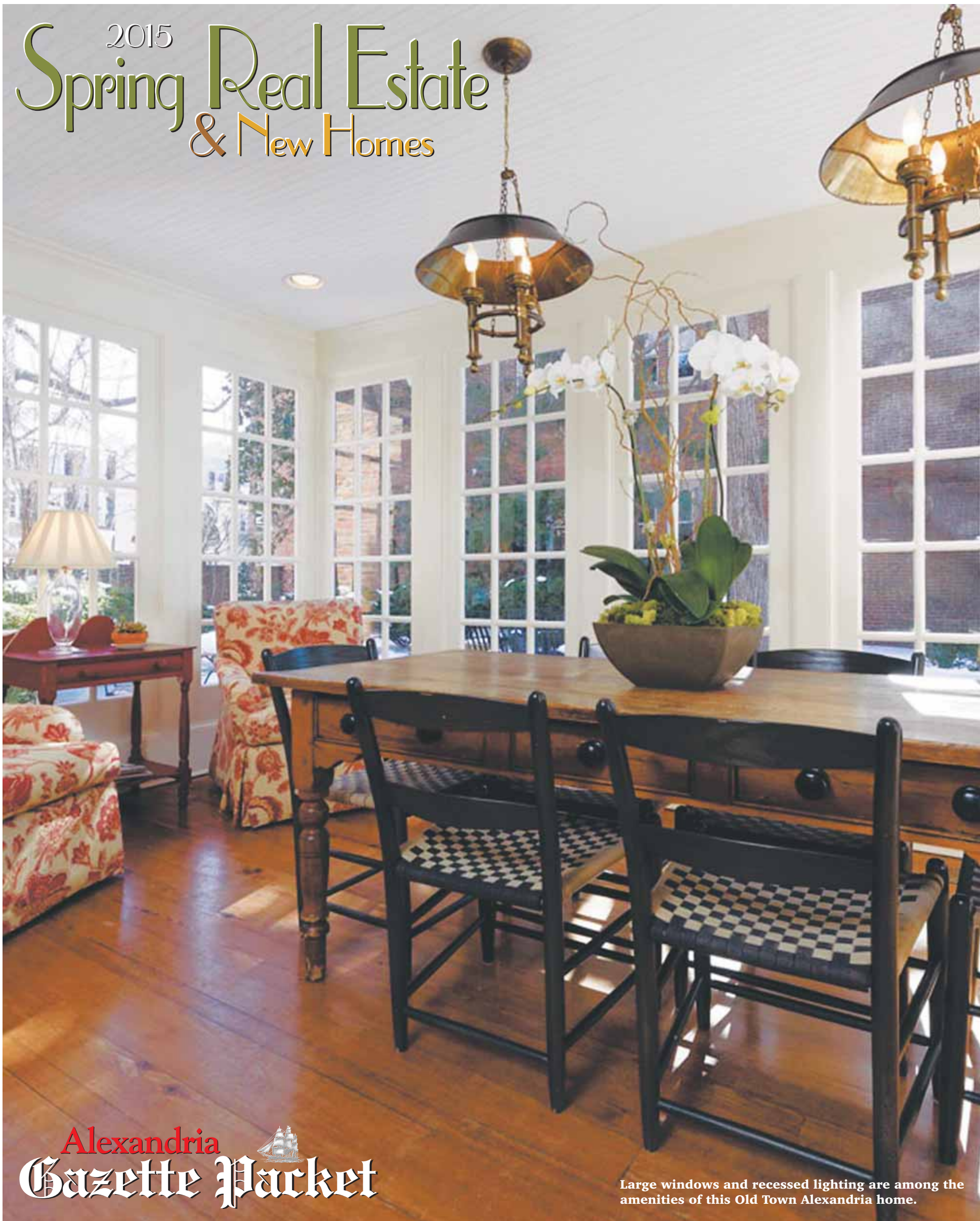


PHOTO BY BOB NAROD

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Large windows and recessed lighting are among the amenities of this Old Town Alexandria home.

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•Formal LR w/French Doors opening to Front Elevation •Three Generous BRs & Two beautifully Remodeled Baths on Main Level

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7300 Burtonwood Drive, Alexandria



7214 Valon Court, Alexandria



7413 Park Terrace Drive, Alexandria

Spring Real Estate & New Homes

Alexandria Real Estate Agent Gets Top Honor

Allison Goodhart selected as one of REALTOR Magazine's '30 under 30' for 2015

A local, young professional has joined ranks of the real estate elite.

Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group at McEneaney Associates, Inc. in Alexandria was selected as one of REALTOR Magazine's "30 under 30" for 2015. Chosen from a pool of close to 400 nominees from around the country, the finalists were judged on community service, work ethic and commitment to their clients.

"The most special and surprising part of the experience has been all of the well-wishes I have received from clients, friends, my fellow agents here at McEneaney and other agents in the area ...," said Goodhart, an Alexandria native. "It is wonderful to see your hard work recognized at a national level, but what means the most is the local support."

Goodhart is director of sales for the Goodhart Group, which her parents, Sue and Marty Goodhart, founded more than 20 years ago. Clients say the fact that Allison has held various positions in the firm, ranging from receptionist to lead agent, gives her credibility.

Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group at McEneaney Associates, Inc. was selected as one of REALTOR Magazine's "30 under 30" for 2015.



McEneaney Associates, Inc.

"Allison ensured my husband and I understood every part of the ... process from seeing the newest listings as soon as they hit the market to explaining the different tactics and options we had at our disposal during the offer phase," said Molly Gannon, a first-time home buyer.

Goodhart volunteers with organizations like the Center for Alexandria's Children, The Fund for Alexandria's Child, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and St. Coletta of Greater Washington.

A graduate of Dickinson College, Goodhart became a licensed Realtor in 2005. She and other finalists will be profiled in the May-June 2015 issue of REALTOR Magazine.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

50 Shades of Gray in Home Decorating

Creating interior design through simplicity.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE PACKET

"Gray is a new hot color, the neutral color in today's main stream. It is the new beige," said to Gayle Yoxtheimer, interior design specialist. She said another trend is less of everything: "You remember the '80s when people had a lot of tassels and bows and large florals?"

She said that removing the psychological baggage creates a simpler, more serene, peaceful atmosphere. This carries over to art objects where fewer is better. Another trend is color blocking: "For instance, a plain sofa would have pillows with accent colors with no pattern. And orange is back, along with shag carpets but frisée, a different shorter version that you can get your

SEE 50 SHADES, PAGE 7

Gayle Yoxtheimer, interior design specialist, points to the gray, geometric glass tiles backsplashing the kitchen counter and matching the fireplace in this "shades of gray" themed house.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Renovating the Historic House

Expert Murray Bonnitt says be prepared for extra and unexpected delays and expenses when renovating a historic property.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Renovating a historic home is a labor of love and can be a test of real patience.

Do you think renovating your own modern home is a challenge? Try one from the 19th century.

With so many homes in the region from the 18th, 19th, and early 20th century, a significant commitment to maintaining them comes with a desire to make them compatible for our time. According to the Department of Historic Resources, there are over 140,000 historic buildings and structures that have been identified since 1966. Virginia is in the top 10 for registered resources and has the most listed historic districts in the nation surveyed annually. According to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' "Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan," the number of registered Virginia historical landmarks has surged since 2001.

With so many identified historic properties, what factors should be considered when attempting to restore such a property while preserving its historic integrity?

Murray Bonnitt, owner of Bonnitt Builders in Alexandria, has worked on many of these properties and explained some of the extensive procedures that go into a typical project.

"Work on historic properties is just more tedious. You don't have a clean slate to work from within historic buildings, so the projects are going to be more challenging."

A renovation of this type can become a real labor of love with many challenges along the way. It's important to manage these expectations. Bonnitt recommends lots of communication. "I find that a face to face meeting with the clients early on, to set expectations, and then weekly or bi-weekly to help manage those expectations, is the best policy."

Communicating is important especially since you will probably be dealing with more than the usual number of contractors. You may need to also hire historical consultants and undertake additional research. Bonnitt said why this makes such a difference.

"A historic preservation specialist might identify a significant artifact that others overlooked or didn't think of any significance. If a significant item can be protected



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BONNITT BUILDERS

One of the many design projects Bonnitt Builders has worked on.

and remain during the construction process, then it will stay. Often times an item will need to be refurbished, and we will remove them and take them to our shop, make the repairs, and keep it until it's time to reinstall it."

But there are difficult decisions along the way as well. "If a significant item is damaged and beyond repair, then we will remove it and replicate it at our shop." Unlike a custom-built, modern home, the closest you get to working with a "clean slate" with a historic property is gutting out the inside completely and as Bonnitt explained, "we typically gut everything shy of any significant architectural artifact. This is the one chance to bring everything up to date. Gutting an historic building is as close you can get to creating a clean slate, so removing antiquated plumbing, electrical and heating and cooling systems is more efficient in the long run."

Some of the most difficult decisions include what to remove and what should be retained as a historical artifact or functional structure. Helping in these decisions are historical records of the structures. There are several resources to turn to in your research efforts including the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Many historic property records can be viewed at the Department of Historic Resources; Library of Virginia; and the Virginia Historical Society. Knowing a home's history and physical conditions is integral to the preservation process and can illuminate your decisions to stabilize and restore the modernization process.

Getting these tactical changes approved

only adds to the stress. Murray Bonnitt explained the preservation requirements process. "We do a lot of work in conjunction with the Virginia DHR, which has stringent requirements which have to be met in order for property owners to qualify for tax credits. In Old Town Alexandria, everything needs to go through the Alexandria Board of Architecture Review (Alexandria BAR). "Any changes to virtually every square inch of a building can be seen from the public right of way, must be approved by the BAR."

And the approval process can be quite extensive.

"I remember being at a BAR hearing once where the Board debated the merits of a certain type of screen door a resident wanted to install on their house, longer than they debated the changes we were proposing to the exterior of an 8,000-square-foot building. We were approved at the hearing, whereas the homeowner's item was deferred until the next meeting while he sought to find a door more in keeping with the architectural styles in Old Town."

On projects that require Virginia Department of Historic Resources approval to qualify for tax credits, the process can be even more tedious, as that body has to sign off on anything you want to do to the exterior and interior of the building. Virtually all phases of construction and installation of finishes must be approved, and thoroughly documented, for the DHR, in order for tax credits to be issued," said Bonnitt.

The cost saving in tax credits can be substantial (sometimes as much as 25 percent of the construction costs) since historic home renovation budgets are often ex-

Details

The Alexandria Board of Architecture Review meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm (except for August). There are seven board members, including five citizen and two architect. Each serves a three-year term.

Find links to aid in historic research here:

<http://alexandriava.gov/historic/info/default.aspx?id=28182>

ceeded. As Bonnitt recalled, "One of my clients once told friends of his that he gave me an unlimited budget on a project and I managed to exceed it! I would say that the possibility of exceeding a budget on a historical renovations is higher than on new construction because of all the unforeseen issues that will invariably pop up during the renovation."

This is why many experts recommend building in a contingency fund in the overall budget to with the inevitable surprises that spring up when undertaking a historic restoration.

There are several conditions that often cause project delays as well. According to Bonnitt, "usually the great delays come if there is an unforeseen structural issue, or if what has been designed is in conflict with unforeseen existing conditions."

Often those unforeseen conditions are discovered when getting behind the walls and discovering rot, structural damage, and toxic substances that now need to be built into the schedule and the budget.

When it comes to a historic home renovation, homeowners should prepare for the unexpected.

**Alexandria
Gazette Packet**

**Spring Real Estate
& New Homes**

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Historic Home on the Market

18th-Century Shreve House for sale.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

After stepping through the handmade, mahogany front door of a home nestled in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, visitors might feel as though they'd been transported back to the late 1700s, the period during which this Virginia home was built.

Known as the Shreve House, the home was constructed by shipping merchant Benjamin Shreve, a Quaker and abolitionist. During the Civil War, it was used as barracks by wounded soldiers and was occupied by escaped slaves. Today, it has an archaeological designation from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The home is currently on the market and has "gracious rooms and high ceilings," said Babs Beckwith of McEneaney Associates, Inc., one of the listing agents.

Expanded in 1854 and periodically updated by each occupant, the Shreve House is steeped in both modern luxuries and preserved historic integrity. Period details like five wood-burning fireplaces and some of the original moldings and hardwood floors have been maintained and married with modern conveniences like an intercom system and outdoor lighting.

"Inside is a gracious entryway with 10-foot ceilings leading into a glorious ... living room with six large windows overlooking the garden," said listing agent Sue Goodhart of McEneaney Associates, Inc. "A lovely glass-enclosed breakfast nook is off the kitchen."

The 11-room home has five bedrooms and four full bathrooms, a family room on each floor and a space above the garage that can be used as an office or family room.

Goodhart says the current owners, a family with three children, upgraded the home, renovating the existing kitchen and bathrooms and adding two additional lavatories. "They restored light fixtures, hand painted the walls, widened the entry into the dining room ... and rebuilt the chimneys," she said. "They also installed a copper roof, relandscaped the garden and added an irrigation system."

The Shreve House sits on a large double lot and has two off-street parking spaces. It is located at 307 South Saint Asaph Street and is for sale at \$3.995 million.

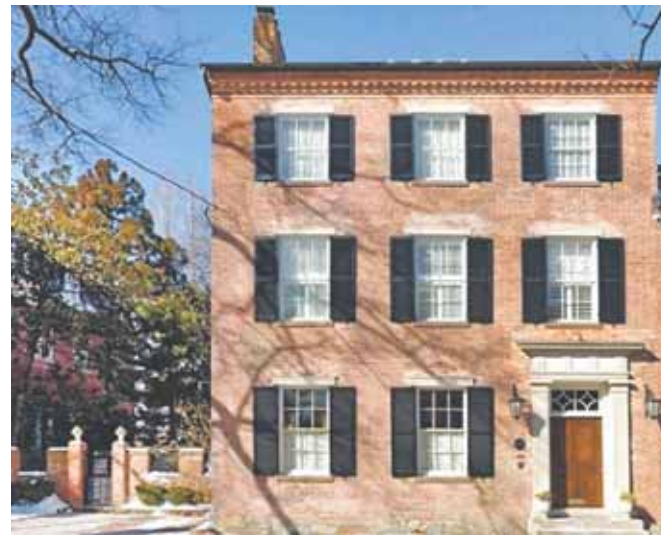


PHOTO BY BOB NAROD

The Shreve House in Old Town Alexandria has a handmade, mahogany front door and was once owned by a prominent Quaker family. During the Civil War, it was used as barracks by wounded soldiers and was occupied by escaped slaves.



PHOTO BY BOB NAROD

Large windows and recessed lighting are among the amenities of this Old Town Alexandria home.



PHOTO BY BOB NAROD

Period details like five wood-burning fireplaces and some of the original moldings and hardwood floors have been maintained and married with modern conveniences like an intercom system and outdoor lighting.

Caroline Beane, Vice President of Landscape Designs, reminds Janice Curtin it was 15 years ago when she planted the cherry blossom tree in the Curtin's backyard. Beane said when she started working on their yard in 1995 it was a swamp with dense trees.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Transformation: from Swamp to Gorgeous Design

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE PACKET

In 1995 when I first started working on this yard, it was basically a swamp with dense trees growing straight up because they had nowhere to go."

Caroline Beane of Landscape Designs, Inc. has seen landscaping needs for this acre on Bishop Lane in Alexandria change with the addition to the house, the need for more entertainment space and an expanded patio and the addition barrier protection to alleviate noise created by the high school in back.

Janice Curtin adds, "we need to keep our two grandchildren happy. I'm putting a swing set over there on the side."

"We did this in stages, starting with drainage," said Janice Curtin, owner of the property with her husband David. "See that fake creek with a bridge going over it and a hidden sump pump?" She vividly remembers the next step when Beane strategically chose the trees to be taken out and marked them in white.

"Then I hired some tree guys to come and take them down," Curtin says. "The first truck got stuck, then the next truck got stuck and when they finally took down the trees one of them fell over a power line and took out the electricity in the whole neighborhood."

Beane says when she starts a job she has a free consultation with the client where they tell her what they are interested in. She looks at the space. "I ask a number of questions like are there children that need a play space? Do they have animals that might eat poisonous plants? What is their idea about use of pesticides? How much do they entertain and for what size groups?"

Also it is important to know if they are planning to stay in the house for a while or are fixing it up to sell. "Things like hot tubs and swimming pools take a lot of maintenance and don't bring back your return." Then she walks the yard, does the measurements, draws up a plan and discusses it with them. She and Janet Gaskins, who started Landscape Designs 27 years ago, personally oversee the design, installation and maintenance projects.

She says when she is designing the area she considers balance of scale of the house to the yard, orientation of the house-do you need shade?

"Like in this yard you need big plants for scale." Sometimes a client just has to have something that is not likely to grow well in their soil and sun conditions. "I always advise them, but I do what they want." She adds there is a lot of marine clay in this area and it expands when wet and contracts when dry so it can shift your foundation. It makes a difference, in what you can do."

Today Beane is doing cleanup and Janice says, "my driveway needs attention because it is green with grass growing through the stones. Beane tells her foreman Eric Martin to take off the bluestone on the driveway and it will be reused in the backyard. He will install filter fabric to keep the grass from growing back and put in smaller pieces of bluestone. "This job will take two days; sometimes they take two weeks."

Beane says they do mostly residential properties, especially in the Alexandria and Arlington areas but sometimes they do some commercial maintenance.

Beane started at the University of Maryland Extension Service as the first female horticultural agent in the State of Maryland. Then on to another residential garden center, owned her own nursery for a while and was chair of the Horticultural Department at then Charles County Community College. But this all started as a little kid when her mother encouraged her to work in the yard. "My mother was a pointer — put that over there; I did it all."

In high school she worked at a local nursery and when she decided to attend college, her grandmother was very proud until she found out "I planned to major in horticulture. She was very upset, said it wasn't ladylike. Women could be a teacher, nurse or missionary."

Beane commented that today, people are looking for outdoor kitchens and fireplaces as well as water features that "hardly anyone was doing 10 years ago." She adds that a lot of people don't have big yards so they are trying to use space in the most efficient way. It is an expansion of the house. They are also asking for no maintenance yards.

"Years ago people were interested in gardening, but today they have no time."

She says if you are trying to sell, good landscaping is important to add to a home's curb appeal. "If the outside is cool, people will think the inside is cool, too, so it sets them off in a good pattern and absolutely helps sell the house."



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3 608 Oronoco Street — \$1,749,000



2 601 Fairfax Street North #209 — \$1,825,000



6 323 Washington Street North — \$1,212,450



1 607 Cameron Street — \$4,020,000



10 212 Royal Street North — \$1,115,501

4 505 Prince Street — \$1,400,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 607 CAMERON ST	5	..	5	.	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$4,020,000	Townhouse ..	0.23	22314	OLD TOWN	02/25/15
2 601 FAIRFAX ST N #209	2	..	2	.	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,825,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	22314	THE ORONOCO	02/02/15
3 608 ORONOCO ST	4	..	4	.	2	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,749,000	Detached	0.12	22314	OLD TOWN	02/27/15
4 505 PRINCE ST	3	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,400,000	Townhouse ..	0.05	22314	OLD TOWN	02/13/15
5 1110 TRINITY DR	5	..	4	.	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,395,000	Detached	0.18	22314	COLLEGE PARK	02/18/15
6 323 WASHINGTON ST N	3	..	2	.	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,212,450	Detached	0.07	22314	HISTORIC OLD TOWN	02/13/15
7 3739 TAFT AVE	5	..	4	.	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,189,856	Detached	0.23	22304	DELTA	02/04/15
8 89 ARELL CT	4	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.28	22304	QUAKER RIDGE	02/26/15
9 1 WINDSOR AVE	5	..	4	.	0	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,135,000	Detached	0.18	22301	ROSECREST	02/12/15
10 212 ROYAL STN	3	..	2	.	2	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,115,501	Semi-Detached	0.05	22314	PITT MEWS	02/11/15

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50 Shades of Gray in Home Decorating

FROM PAGE 2

vacuum in.” Yoxtheimer said that colors come and go but with a different twist. Faux painting is out.

Every client is different according to Yoxtheimer and that is what has kept her consulting for the past 46 years since she got degrees in textile chemistry at the New York School of Design.

“All clients have a different mix and offer a challenge for my creativity,” she said.

When she enters a new house, ideas come to her but then she looks into the client’s eyes. One of her current clients has a contemporary style. She also happens to have gray eyes and wanted “new and fresh ideas.”

The couple’s townhouse is being done entirely in gray from the walls to the color on the newly-installed hardwood floors and the tiny geometric glass tiles lining the side of the fireplace and matching the backsplash in the kitchen.

Her client, Deborah Coleman in North Arlington calls it “50 shades of gray.” Accent colors of orange, turquoise and mustard yellow are used for the pillows and throws. The upstairs shower has a wall of waterfall tiles in shades of gray with a square shower head, a ceiling rain head which is a new age gentle sunflower shower, and contemporary silver drawer handles to replace the brass.

“It’s all about the details,” Yoxtheimer said.

The economy has definitely affected the busi-

ness of design consulting because many people cut back on major projects when their resources are fewer, Yoxtheimer said. “But you can do a lot with painting, and removing things can make a big difference, just reduce the load of small items.”

Yoxtheimer recalls she had a client who was stuck in the ‘80s with floral everywhere and she loved hydrangeas, both in her house here and Cape Cod. “But when I talked to her and worked with her we stepped back and removed things and cleaned up. By the time we were finished we were left with her beautiful things and it was sleek and serene.”

Yoxtheimer said when she was in school she saw students who could draw a perfect room and put furniture in it. But she said she starts “by reviewing your cherished things, the items you already have or have inherited and look at them with new and fresh ideas.” Then she suggests getting rid of the clutter and supplements the items with shopping.

This current client has a closet full of things that she has bought that “we’ll sort through later and decide whether to keep them and where to put them. Taste is more than money and I work within the client’s budget. I know where to find some good pieces at reasonable prices.”



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

The theme of gray, the new beige” in home decorating is carried out in the waterfall tiles in the upstairs shower.

Decorating trends partly follow fashion according to Yoxtheimer. “Look at how people dress today; it’s simpler.”

Another influence is lifestyle. In this part of the country people get rid of the living room, and houses are built with the great room because of the busy lifestyles. “People want to feed their kids at the kitchen bar quickly before soccer. And with late work schedules, they don’t see the kids as much as they’d like so they want them close by instead of the old family room in the basement,” she said.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Roberto Melgar from M&M Floors puts test stains on the hardwood floors to match the walls.



PHOTO GALLERY!

“Me and My Mom”

To honor Mom on Mother’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Alexandria Gazette Packet will publish them in our Mother’s Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what’s going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
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 and Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association Editorial Contests**

First Place Winners

Steven G. Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Cartoon. Judge's comments: Smart and insightful.

Bonnie Hobbs, *Centre View* – Feature Series or Continuing Story. Judge's comments: Clear and concise writing with a good flow. Journalist captured the emotion of the event and engaged the reader well.

Michael Lee Pope, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Business and Financial Writing. Judge's comments: First-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues. Fine work.

Michael Lee Pope, *McLean Connection* – Health, Science and Environmental Writing. Judge's comments: Michael Lee Pope's stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are well-researched, clearly written and engaging. His use of real-live people high up in his stories to illustrate his findings makes for very compelling material. He seems quite capable of turning some of these topics into a book. If he does, I'll read it.

Jon Roetman, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Sports Writing Portfolio. Judge's comments: Strong and clear writing and excellent storytelling helps game stories feel more like features. Excellent work.

Victoria Ross, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Government Writing. Judge's comments: An engaging look at a lobbyist who fights for the little guy; an entertaining story on a political candidate, helping readers put the upcoming election into context; one of the better budgeting stories I've seen lately that helps readers understand how the county's budgeting process is going to cost them more money. The supporting sidebars help bring the message home.

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal Service Writing, Obituaries. Judge's comments: These stories provide a glimpse inside the lives of people who have played significant roles in their communities. The writing is engaging and well-researched. And the stories serve as an example to others of how to live a life of purpose.

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Column Writing, Entertainment. Judge's comments: Ms. Theismann's entertainment columns demonstrate a breadth of knowledge that gives her opinions a ring of authority and authenticity.



Steve Artley



Bonnie Hobbs



Michael Lee Pope



Jon Roetman



Victoria Ross



Jeanne Theismann



Jean Card



Steve Hibbard



Louise Krafft



Joan Brady



Veronica Bruno



Vernon Miles



Marilyn Campbell



Mary Kimm



Steven Mauren



Geovani Flores



Laurence Foong



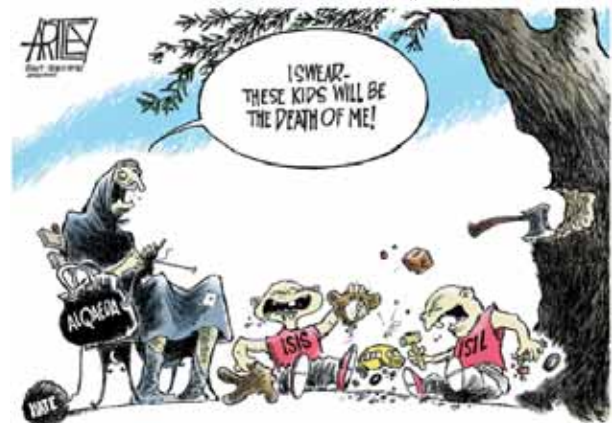
Renee Ruggles



Ken Moore

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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Though I live nowhere near her area, I found it easy to be influenced by her writing and to wish that I had the opportunity to attend some of the events she talked about. All three examples are nicely written.

Jean Card, Jeanne Theismann, Steve Hibbard, Louise Krafft and Kara Coleman, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages. Judge's comments: Good balance. Front page article has good detail and info.

Second Place Winners

Joan Brady, *Great Falls Connection* – Column Writing.

Veronica Bruno, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Feature Story Writing.

Jean Card, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Page Design.

Vernon Miles, *Arlington Connection* – Breaking News Writing.

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Headline Writing.

Third Place Winners

Steven G. Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Cartoon.

Marilyn Campbell, *Chantilly Connection* – Health, Science and Environmental Writing.

Bonnie Hobbs, *Fairfax Connection* – Personal Service Writing.

Mary Kimm, *McLean Connection* – Editorial Writing.

Michael Lee Pope, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Public Safety Writing.

Steven Mauren, Mary Kimm, Steve Artley, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Pages.

Jean Card, Renee Ruggles and Laurence Foong, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational Graphics.

The *Potomac Almanac* participates in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and while 2014 award-winners there will not be fully announced until May 1, 2015, we do know that Ken Moore and Marilyn Campbell are winners.

PARKS AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MAJOR PARKS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

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