Ramsey Reconsidered

Rebuilding the strained “special relationship.”

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

Rezoning a piece of property without having an approved plan — for what will replace it — is highly unusual, but it doesn’t mean the City Council won’t do it.

At the March 8 City Council work session with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), the mayor and City Council members emphasized that, if they approved the rezoning of Ramsey Homes at the upcoming March 12 public hearing, it’s only because of the city’s “special relationship” with ARHA.

The work session was part of a recent string of surprises surrounding the redevelopment of Ramsey Homes. When the proposal to demolish the existing four homes was denied by the Board of Architectural Review in April of 2015, the decision was appealed and later reversed by the City Council in September. The project proposed by ARHA would be a 52-unit mixed income rental property.

Remembering Dorothy Evans Turner

Public housing, Civil Rights activist dies at 87.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

To her friends, she was affectionately known as “Peaches.” But the tender moniker belied the fierce, unyielding spirit of Dorothy Turner, a descendant of one of Alexandria’s oldest African American families, public housing, Civil Rights activist dies at 87.

Dorothy Turner, who was named a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2012 for her community activism, died March 3 at the age of 87.
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A Salute to Service
Senior Services of Alexandria gala set for March 12.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

It was Thomas Jefferson who said that “every human being feels pleasure in doing good to another,” and the willingness of Alexandrians to serve others is often cited as what sets the community apart from others. On March 12, Senior Services of Alexandria will hold its annual Generation to Generation Gala to honor individuals who have been creating change for their neighbors and community through service.

This year’s gala will recognize two Alexandria families for their long-term commitment to giving back in the local community: Sue Goodhart and her daughter Allison Goodhart DuShuttle; and Kitty Porterfield and her son Mike Porterfield and his daughters Keely and Kirby. H. Arthur Sauer will also present its inaugural special Service Award to H. Arthur Sauer in recognition of his commitment to service and leadership in Alexandria.

“We are honored to pay tribute to this year’s Generation to Generation honorees,” said Mary Lee Anderson, SSA’s executive director. “They epitomize the Alexandria spirit of giving back and the importance of making a difference in the local community.”

SUE GOODHART AND ALLISON GOODHART DuSHUTTLE
The Goodhart family has been a mainstay of the Alexandria community giving back in both their professional and personal lives. Sue Goodhart and Allison Goodhart DuShuttle are members of McNeearney Associates Realtors’ Goodhart Group. In 2008, they were named the Small Business Philanthropist of the Year by the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau. Sue Goodhart is active in several local charities including president of the board of directors of St. Coletta’s of Greater Washington, a member of the board of directors and Supporting Friends of the Campagna Center and a long-time advisor for The Fund for Alexandria’s Child, as well as many other philanthropic involvements.

Allison Goodhart DuShuttle is the co-chair of the Advisory Council for The Fund for Alexandria’s Child and an active member of the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center.

THE PORTERFIELD FAMILY
The Porterfield family has been giving back to the community since they moved to Alexandria in 1963. Kitty Porterfield was instrumental in founding the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, becoming its first executive director. She has been involved in a number of nonprofit boards and task forces related to education and youth issues. Most notably, she served as the chair of the Northern Virginia Community College Board, NOVA’s College Fund Board of Trustees and is currently chair of the board of the Northern Virginia Literacy Council.

Mike Porterfield is a principal of Tartan Properties, a family-owned Alexandria commercial real estate brokerage firm. He is chair of the Small Business Development Center, past chairman of the board of trustees for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and past member of the board of directors for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Mike’s daughters Keely and Kirby Porterfield’s volunteering efforts include participating in the Arlington Street People’s Association Shoebox Sunday project and coaching Alexandria youth soccer.

H. ARTHUR SAUER
H. Arthur Sauer, recipient of the SSA Service Award, has also made a volunteering a priority. During his federal government career, Sauer joined Westminster Presbyterian Church and volunteered with the So Others May Eat (SOME) program before heading off to work. After retirement, volunteering became his full-time job and passion. Currently, he serves as Westminster’s volunteer coordinator of Member Involvement and actively participates in the Westminster Tutoring Program, the Bag Lunch Program, Rebuilding Together Alexandria and numerous church mission programs. He served as a board member of Senior Services of Alexandria for over 10 years, including several years as treasurer, and currently continues to serve on SSA’s finance committee.

The SSA Generation to Generation gala will be held March 12 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, from 6 to 11 p.m. For more information about this year’s gala and its honorees, call Senior Services at 703-836-4414 or visit www.seniorservicesalex.org to sponsor the event or purchase tickets.

What’s Needed To Succeed
In Alexandria
Small business owners offer suggestions.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

It might not sound like much for the average Alexandrian, but a zoning community meeting could be the first step towards making Alexandria a better home for small businesses. On March 19, the city will host a Small Business Zoning Community Meeting starting at 10 a.m. in the Sister Cities room at City Hall.

“Planning staff have proposed amendments to zoning ordinance,” said Stephanie Landrum, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. “This is something the city did four years ago, and the results have been fantastic from first updates. They realized that perhaps these were older, holdover rules and regulations that didn’t necessarily apply to modern businesses.”

The city revised some of the restrictive rules and regulations in the special use permitting (SUP) process, like requiring a restrictive special use permit for gyms or yoga studios opening in industrial areas for fear that the noise and smell from the gyms might bother the industrial neighbors. Another major change was that outdoor dining in certain parts of the city no longer required an SUP, only that they had to meet certain criteria and be approved by the planning director.

With the new meeting upcoming, many business owners around Alexandria weighed in on what could be done to help improve small business development in the city. The proposed changes range from specific policy goals to broader shifts in the mindset of the city.

For business owners like
interested in a career in real estate? pre-licensing courses are available soon. call managing broker, mark ackermann, at 703-888-5100 for further information.
What City Can Do To Help Businesses Succeed

Jody Manor, owner of Bittersweet Catering Cafe & Baker, and Danielle Romanetti, owner of Fibre Space, reform should start with ensuring balance in city decisions.

“Commercial activity is what pays our bills,” said Manor. “If we want good safety and public [infrastructure], we need commercial activity. You can’t have a city that’s just geared towards residential. It’s about finding a balance.”

Romanetti noted that most small time business owners don’t have the same time availability to attend City Council and Planning Commission meetings as other members of the public do. While council and commission members say they are not swayed by the amount of speakers in a room in favor or against an item, Romanetti says the perception among the business community is that it does have an impact.

“We need to set up a system where the voice [of businesses] is heard,” said Romanetti, “not a contest of who can get the most people [to city hall].”

SUP PROCESS

Part of reforming business regulation in the city, Manor says, starts with changing the Special Use Permit (SUP) process. Restaurant owners are not only responsible for working through the paperwork, but also for notifying all adjacent properties and affected parties.

“The restaurant approval process is arduous,” said Manor. “It gives the impression that Alexandria is not an easy place to do business.”

Rob Krupicka, co-owner of the Alexandria and Arlington branches of Sugar Shack, said that there’s a lot working against businesses in Northern Virginia, but the smoother the city can make the application process, the better. Sugar Shack recently opened a new location in Arlington, and the experience gave Krupicka some insight on where the permitting process succeeds and fails between jurisdictions.

“Alexandria has a few more things that are automated, which is helpful,” said Krupicka. “In Arlington, you’re expected to show up in person more. The Arlington process takes a little more time out of the day. Both are very exacting in what they expect and want to see, and the staff in both places try to work with you and help make sure you know what’s going on. The Alexandria process, I’d argue overall, is a bit more business friendly. It’s a bit more flexible and more accommodating.”

Krupicka said he’d like to see the city build on its online resources for businesses. "The biggest thing for an entrepreneur, especially a small business person, is to give us the ability to do most of this stuff online, to file it all online, and pay for it all online, and to minimize how frequently we have to step into an office. That lets us do more at night or in the morning.”

For a small business owner, Krupicka streamlining the SUP process is critical.

“The more jurisdictions can make their systems and processes easier to save time, the better,” said Krupicka. “Less complicated and more automated lead to better things for entrepreneurs.”

PARKING

Other problems that affect the city, like parking issues and a lack of affordable housing, can also often impact businesses. Romanetti says many of her customers avoid coming to the city at certain times because they’re told parking is nearly impossible. But Romanetti served on the Old Town Area Parking Study, which found that many of Old Town’s parking garages sit vacant even when the streets are full. The problem, which Romanetti says the city needs to work to address, is proper signage guiding traffic to the available parking.

“Alexandria has a few more things that are automated, which is helpful,” said Romanetti, “we have a parking perception problem.”

HOUSING

For business owners looking to hire

See How To, Page 9
Getting Back on Track

By Shirley L. Ruhe

S

omething’s always happening at FireFlies on
Mount Vernon. It might be Pick a Pasta Night on
Tuesday. Build Your Own Omelet or Quiche
Brunch on Sunday, live comedy on Monday Burger
Night, local musicians on the weekend or children
dancing on the stage when it’s not otherwise occu-
pied. Marylisa Lichens, owner with her husband Dan,
says, “We wanted it to be a place where families could
bring their children and have dinner a couple of times
a week. We wanted it to become an
extension of the neighborhood.”

Lichens said they bought this restaur-
ant 13 years ago. She had grown up
in this area and her grandparents lived just
down the street. At the time the neighborhood
was missing pizza so they decided it needed a pizza
place. It turned out to be true because the night they
opened there was a line out the door and down the
block. “It took over three hours to get a pizza, and I
came out of everything.”

In the beginning she and her husband were their
own cooks but as time went on they had to move
more into the ownership role. Five years ago they
moved to the Shenandoah Valley with their two chil-
dren. They hired a general manager and learned to
be absentee owners. She says that turned out to be a
nearly fatal mistake. “I was coming in once a week
but it was hard not being here to make sure things
happened the way I wanted.” She adds, “I started to
see things not matching up.” The prices went up,
the menu changed, and the customers fell off. “I think
the general manager tried but our vision wasn’t con-
current. We got lost. Customers were asking, ‘Who is
FireFlies and we were asking ourselves ‘Who is
FireFlies?’”

Once the puzzle started to come together last year,
she decided it was best not to have another general
manager and that she would have to spend more
time at the restaurant to restore it to the original
vision. For a while she was driving the 1.5 hours from
the Shenandoah Valley on Friday and going back
home Monday. Since her parents still live nearby, she
has a place to stay. Now she is at the restaurant Sun-
day-Tuesday.

She said they are starting to get back to where
they want to be but they are still fighting last year’s
perception. “But we are making progress. I see the
tides shifting.” Lichens says she and her husband met
in culinary school in Hyde Park, N.Y. But they didn’t
want to get into fine dining; they wanted a casual
restaurant where people can kick back and have a
good time. “We have never wanted this to be cutting
ever; never got into the foaming craze.”

Lichens says the most popular choice is the burger
“hands down. It is simple, and it is the best burger
around anywhere.” She points to a picture on the
wall. “I wrote to the White House and invited Presi-
dent Obama to come and he did. I told him times
were difficult, and it would be nice if he stopped by.
One day in June 2014 with 15 minutes notice he
surprised me and walked in.” She said she couldn’t
believe it that she wasn’t at the restaurant that day.
But she talked to President Obama on the phone
while driving in on 66 as fast as she could to get there.
Unfortunately she missed him but she did get a pic-
ture. Lichens said the President ordered an Executive
burger but changed out the mayo for Dijon mustard,
the American cheese for white cheddar and ordered
no onion.

Her favorite is also the burger, but “I put our sloppy
joe mixture on top and add pico gallo and sour cream.
Maybe some day I’ll add that to the menu.”

Lichen jumps on the bar if needed to shake a mean
martini or if they are short staffed she still cooks.
“Sometimes I’m rolling silverware or drawing a PBR
(Pabst Blue Ribbon) on tap for a customer. We have
some dedicated followers and this is the only place
in Alexandria with PBR on tap. I’m known as a per-
son who gets things done.” She says she now has a
new bar manager, Daniel, who is her right hand man.
“We make a good team. He has vision. I focus on the
efforts day to day.”

Currently she has a cool, diverse staff including
an actor and a psychologist. “We have fun. We all
tinker — things like getting the beer batter just right
on the fish and chips. One of the employees wanted
to try her donut recipe and it was really good.”

Lichens says she gauges her success by talking to the
regulars. This has been their watering hole for 13
years. “It’s been rough and rocky but people are
coming back.”

Marylisa Lichens pulls a pizza from the 630 degree oven at FireFlies. The restaur-
ant began as a pizza place 13 years ago but the favorite “hands down” is currently
the burger, enjoyed by President Obama a couple of years ago.

Marylisa Lichens says, in addition to managing the restaurant, she does what-
ever is needed: behind the pizza oven, wrapping silver, and making a mean
martini or pouring a PBR for some of the reviews. She is co-owner of FireFlies on
Mount Vernon with her husband Dan.

‘Boots & Bling’ Supports Children

The event, co-chaired by Kathrynn Martin and Jessica Richardson, included live mu-
sic, signature cocktails and a raffle highlighted by a signed electric guitar from Alexanderas’s
own Charles Esten, the star of

the TV series, “Nashville.”

Among the more than 220 attendees at the Westen-
themied event, which raised more than $120,000 for the
center, were Mayor Allison Silberberg, former U.S. Rep.
Jim Moran, and City Council-
man Justin Wilson. Many local
business leaders supported the
effort as well, including Eliza-
abeth Todd of The Shoe Hive,
former board member Donnie
Simpson of Simpson Develop-
ment, Alison Teer of The Scout
Guide Alexandria, and The
Goodhart Group.

Deborah Warren and
Deputy City Manager
Debra Collins.

From left are Donnie Simpson, former U.S. Rep. Jim
Moran, Deborah Warren, Jay Kimmitt, Emily Jones,
Bob Jones, and Carol Kimmitt.

Micklem, Dorrance Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Micklem of Alexandria announce the
marriage of their daughter, Karie Elizabeth, to William Lloyd
Dorrance, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Dorrance of Hershey, Pa.
Karie and William, both 26, live in New York City.

The bride-to-be is an account executive at VaynerMedia, a digi-
tal advertising agency, while the groom-to-be works as a man-
ger of internal audit at the National Football League.

The couple met at Washington and Lee University in Lexing-
ton, Va., as members of the Class of 2011 but developed their
initial friendship while studying abroad in Madrid, Spain, in
the winter of 2010. They will be married by the Rev. Dr. Robert R.
Laha, Jr, on April 16, 2016, at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in
Alexandria.
ALEXANDRIA $3,800,000 | 212 S Fairfax Street
One of the finest and most historic homes in Old Town. This stately four level townhouse is sited on two lots with towering trees and tranquil gardens. This exceptional property offers a grand foyer, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, tall ceilings and exquisite moldings.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9105

OLD TOWN $1,500,000 | 426 N Union St
Sold. Overlooking Founders Park and the Potomac River. This fabulous townhouse featured a gourmet kitchen, living room with 11 ft ceilings, fireplace with custom built-in bookcases, and separate dining room. Master bedroom suite with river views and luxurious master bathroom. Sunny and bright rear patio.
CINDY GOLUBIN +1 202 437 3861
COURTNEY GOLUBIN +1 703 989 1873

BELLE HAVEN $1,395,000 | 2210 Belle Haven Road
Open Sunday 2-4: Sited on a large corner lot in one of Belle Haven’s quietest and most secluded locations, this beautiful home has so much to offer. Gracious formal rooms, totally renovated kitchen and baths, first-floor family room with a wet bar, screened porch, garage, and lovely fenced lot.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9105

WOODLAND PARK $997,775 | 327 Woodland Lane
Contemporary waterfront home on 3/4 acre lot. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and over 3,300 square feet with large windows throughout. Gorgeous back deck with water views. Separate apartment and 2 car garage.
PHILLIS PATTERSON +1 703 310 6201

TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY IS PLEASED TO WELCOME GLENN E. LEWIS TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM.

WOODSTONE $899,000 | 7001 Green Spring Lane
Coming Soon! Luxuriously updated and perfectly maintained home on cul-de-sac in northern neighborhood. High-end finishes include spectacular baths & kitchen remodels, all with custom cabinetry, designer lighting and custom fixtures.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183

MOUNT VERNON $899,000 | 9334 Old Mansion Road
Gorgeous Potomac River views from this third of an acre lot in an established Mount Vernon neighborhood adjacent to existing multi-million dollar homes. Or purchase with a custom 5,000 square foot home for $1,450,000.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183

OVERLOOK $899,000 | 5223 Winter View Drive
Breathtaking remodel and exceptionally maintained, 4,000+ square foot patio home with main level master suite. Stunning floor plan with oversized windows, walkout basement, large deck and patio. Overlook is a beautiful, quiet community with walking trails, clubhouse, pool, tennis and gate house. Conveniently located close to DC, Pentagon and more.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183

BELLE HAVEN $849,000 | 6212 Tally Ho Lane
This light-filled home offers comfortable living with its open floor plan and entertainer's space. 5 BR, 4 BA. Lower level game room, bathroom, storage, and laundry. Updated kitchen opens to sunny family room, overlooking expansive patio with built-in grill and food prep station. Minutes to Old Town, the river and DC.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9105
SHARON WILDERBERG +1 703 597 0374

BELLE HAVEN $750,000 | 6028 Fort Hunt Road
Charming home located right across from Belle Haven Country Club. Spacious rooms, hardwood floors, recently updated kitchen, cozy library, lower level family room, and private brick patio overlooking a lovely fenced lot.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106

PHILLIPS PARK, DC $3,950,000 | 2101 Foxhall Road NW
This residence was designed by Ehrenvail Architects and newly built by Mike Zantinger & Associates. The property showcases luxurious finishes, spa baths, open kitchen and family room, high ceilings, and formal public rooms.
MICHAEL RANKIN +1 202 271 3344

SOUTHWOOD $695,000 | 4310 Southwood Drive
Lovely brick colonial on a wonderful, 32-acre lot in the Southwood community. Spacious kitchen, beautiful living room and dining room, 4 large bedrooms, family room with fireplace, hardwood floors.
The BARKER TEAM +1 703 928 8384

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News

Filling the Street in Celebration of St. Patrick’s Day

The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

Alexandria Police lead a column of law enforcement and military services in the parade.

Parade-goers Colleen and John Bett.

Police, pets, politicians and more parade along King Street on Saturday, March 5 in celebration of Saint Patrick’s Day.

Kena Shriners perform routines in miniature cars.

The Alexandria Fire Department makes its way down the parade route.

St. Patrick blesses the crowd and the reviewing stand.
How To Succeed
FROM PAGE 5

Alexandrians in their store, a lack of medium cost housing options is a major hurdle. At a meeting with Mayor Allison Silberberg on Feb. 16, hosted the Del Ray Business Association, several local business leaders said that a lack of affordable or even moderately priced housing was hurting stores’ ability to hire from inside the city.

“It makes it harder to hire local,” said Christine Ponzi, owner of St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub. “No one can afford to live here.”

“As an investor, it’s killing rents in this area,” said Bobi Bomar, a local Realtor. “For the $3,000 or $4,000 market, there’s nothing to rent. The market is stagnant. We need more affordable condos instead of rental.”

SPECIAL EVENTS
One of the things that brings visitors to Alexandria businesses are special activities, like the annual Scottish or St. Patrick’s Day Parades. Manor and Romanetti both noted that the city’s limitation on waterfront park events hurts businesses’ ability to maintain a vibrant cultural scene.

The current policy dictates that only one event with 500 people can be held in a waterfront park, and another event cannot be held in the park the following week without special approval from the council.

CHILD CARE
In the upcoming community meeting, Landrum says she expects staff will also reconsider regulations on private education establishments in the city, particularly for young children, following the success of the Bright Horizons early education program in the Carlyle neighborhood. Landrum says the current number of students allowed in a program is lower than it could be.

“This is an opportunity to see what works and find a way to increase the threshold of students,” said Landrum.

What changes are approved in the community meeting, and how and when they’re implemented, remain to be seen. In the meantime, Krupicka noted that while there’s a lot the city can be doing to help small businesses, the business owners need to meet the city halfway. Krupicka said it’s important for potential business owners to meet with City Council members and various commission and board members.

“Make sure you’ve gone in when you’re not at a last minute crunch,” said Krupicka. “That’s really helpful. The smartest thing we did was communicating with the city well before we needed anything. A lot of the things small business gets mad at government about is preventable if you give the government enough of a notification in advance. Government doesn’t move that quickly, and you can be frustrated about that, but it doesn’t help your business. It takes what it takes.”
In a word: Barbaric.

Bringing Back the Electric Chair

Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick’s Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty’s Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick’s Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1–800–200–TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a $30 fare), safe way home. For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

Ramsey Homes Deserve Better

To the Editor:

I am a neighbor of Ramsey Homes, and am one of the signers of the protest petition. Over 75 properties nearby to Ramsey were represented in the petition; this is not an example of a few individuals protesting a redevelopment proposal. I am writing to articulate the concerns of many of the neighbors of Ramsey, and to make clear our objections to the current proposal.

1) There is near unanimous support in the neighborhood for affordable housing, and increased density on the site.
2) We are appalled at the current condition of Ramsey and strongly urge ARHA to immediately address the living conditions at the site.
3) ARHA, a government agency, has told one neighbor that to accommodate the proposed project they should cede a portion of his property to the right of way. We believe that a property owner’s rights should be protected.
4) Over 100 calendar days passed between Oct. 13, when ARHA stopped evaluating alternative development options, and Jan. 21, when pro formas evaluating each option were released to city staff and the public. The pro formas contained multiple errors and omissions, and were released in a manner that provided the public little opportunity for evaluation.
5) We urge ARHA and the city to continue to evaluate all options, including those that are more appropriate to the density of the neighborhood. Many neighbors would easily support a project with 30-40 units of affordable housing and adequate parking.
6) We strongly urge City Council to follow precedent and consider the Master Plan Amendment, Rezoning, and Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) together at a later date. We believe that the attorney’s request to separate Rezoning from the DSUP is a deliberate attempt to limit the effectiveness of the property owners’ petition.

In closing, I commend Mayor Silverberg and Councilman Smedberg for their votes to deny the Rezoning on Feb. 20. ARHA had asked for a deferral on the DSUP; therefore the vote on Feb. 20 did not delay increased affordable housing at Ramsey. In the face of very vocal opposition, the mayor is working diligently to find compromise that increases affordable housing on the site, recognizes preservationists’ calls for retention of one building, and addresses the concerns of the neighboring property owners. Mayor Silverberg should be commended for making good choices on behalf of the entire community.

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I am a neighbor of Ramsey Homes, and am one of the signers of the protest petition. Over 75 properties nearby to Ramsey were represented in the petition; this is not an example of a few individuals protesting a redevelopment proposal. I am writing to articulate the concerns of many of the neighbors of Ramsey, and to make clear our objections to the current proposal.

1) There is near unanimous support in the neighborhood for affordable housing, and increased density on the site.
2) We are appalled at the current condition of Ramsey and strongly urge ARHA to immediately address the living conditions at the site.
3) ARHA, a government agency, has told one neighbor that to accommodate the proposed project they should cede a portion of his property to the right of way. We believe that a property owner’s rights should be protected.
4) Over 100 calendar days passed between Oct. 13, when ARHA stopped evaluating alternative development options, and Jan. 21, when pro formas evaluating each option were released to city staff and the public. The pro formas contained multiple errors and omissions, and were released in a manner that provided the public little opportunity for evaluation.
5) We urge ARHA and the city to continue to evaluate all options, including those that are more appropriate to the density of the neighborhood. Many neighbors would easily support a project with 30-40 units of affordable housing and adequate parking.
6) We strongly urge City Council to follow precedent and consider the Master Plan Amendment, Rezoning, and Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) together at a later date. We believe that the attorney’s request to separate Rezoning from the DSUP is a deliberate attempt to limit the effectiveness of the property owners’ petition.

In closing, I commend Mayor Silverberg and Councilman Smedberg for their votes to deny the Rezoning on Feb. 20. ARHA had asked for a deferral on the DSUP; therefore the vote on Feb. 20 did not delay increased affordable housing at Ramsey. In the face of very vocal opposition, the mayor is working diligently to find compromise that increases affordable housing on the site, recognizes preservationists’ calls for retention of one building, and addresses the concerns of the neighboring property owners. Mayor Silverberg should be commended for making good choices on behalf of the entire community.

— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

To the Editor:

In a word: Barbaric.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty’s Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick’s Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1–800–200–TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a $30 fare), safe way home. For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

Ramsey Homes Deserve Better

To the Editor:

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Hallowing Point River Estates  5909 River Drive, Lorton VA
Come for the views, stay for the resort lifestyle. Mason Neck Luxury custom Home w/7,600 sf direct Potomac River waterfront, Panoramic views, gentle slope waterfront elevation, brand new dock! $2,150,000
Susan Gray Chambers  703-203-9900 MLS # FX8632686

Springfield Farms  6807 Springfield Drive, Lorton VA
This 5 acre horse farm includes a 5 BR + 3 BA residence + riding ring, 5 barns, tack room, feed room, hay round + indoor heated pool! A great value at $1,195,000
Donnan C. Wintermute  703-608-6968 MLS # FX8725005

Old Town  419 Wolfe Street, Alexandria VA
Circa 1820, this charming 3 BR + 2 1/2 BA clapboard TH is located in the heart of the highly sought-after southeast quadrant. Bright & sunny rooms, 3 fps, original floors & easy parking! $1,095,000
Donnan C. Wintermute  703-608-6968 MLS # AX8755141

Jefferson Park  403 Fontaine Street, Alexandria VA
Huge Price Reduction! Amazing value, tons of curb appeal, space, 2-story addition, updated kitchen, 3 baths, "cocktail" pool. 3 br, hardwoods, meticulously cared for! $1,000,000
Bonnie Rivkin  703-598-7788 MLS # AX9563533

Manors at Mount Vernon  8307 Centerbrook Place, Alexandria VA
Reduced! Fantastic Value for center hall colonial, 4 br, 4.5 ba, fin. basement, hardwoods, gourmet kitchen, 2-car gar., over 3,000 sq ft! Great central location! $919,000
Bonnie Rivkin  703-598-7788 MLS # FX8760765

Harbor View Waterfront  10821 Greene Drive, Lorton VA
Price Reduction! Great Waterfront home on Navigable Water. Elegant & classic architectural detail throughout. Enjoy a private tranquil setting with views and flowing floor plan! $699,900
Susan Gray Chambers  703-203-9900 MLS # FX8748474

The Woodlands  8129 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA
Luxurious 1-owner home in Mount Vernon area. Easy commute on G.W. Parkway. 5 br, 4.5 ba, open floor plan, double tiered deck backs to woods, gourmet kitchen. Appraised @ $950K  $849,000
Peter Rickert  703-508-9081 MLS# FX8769051

Stratford on the Potomac  8408 Brewster Drive, Alexandria VA
Exquisitely maintained & renovated contemporary split-foyer home boasting cathedral ceilings, 4 br, 3 ba (incl spa-like master), renovated kitchen & exceptional touches throughout! $569,000
Heidi Burkhardt  703-217-6009 MLS # FX9572355

Parkfairfax  1563 Mount Eagle Place, Alexandria VA
2 br, 1 ba End unit home with privacy & refinished hardwoods. Updated top to bottom including new electrical, Solid concrete construction. Commuter buses throughout the neighborhood. $319,900
Ann-Marie Grotticelli  703-501-4092 MLS # FX8748474

Riverton Condo  500 Washford Lane # 3333, Alexandria VA
Top level condo, move-in ready in Old Town! Updated, new flooring, great location! Easy commuting! $319,000
Tracy Vitali  904-505-1874 MLS # AX9564706

Coldwell Banker Congratulates the #1 Team in Virginia for 2015

Wintermute & Associates
Donnan C. Wintermute
Peter Wintermute
Ellis Duncan
Beth Mazzanti
Barbara Carney

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Focus on Family

By Katharine Dixon
President Rebuilding Together Alexandria

Family is a central focus for Tamir, who lives with his wife and two teenage children in Alexandria. He was laid off in the fall and started working as an Uber driver to make ends meet while he seeks a new job. Making matters worse, his refrigerator broke the week before Thanksgiving. With money tight, he did not know how he was going to replace it.

Then he learned about Rebuilding Together Alexandria, which works to preserve housing affordability and revitalize the Alexandria community by providing free home repairs. With the help of our donors, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, is able to offer emergency home repair services to homeowner’s in need.

In this case, we replaced Tamir’s refrigerator, enabling him and his wife to cook and host Thanksgiving dinner for their children and his wife’s family from Connecticut. He was relieved and grateful as Thanksgiving is extremely important for Tamir, “It is my favorite holiday. Everyone celebrates it here, all ethnicities, and all religions.”

Originally from Egypt, he has lived in Alexandria for many years. “It is beautiful. I love Alexandria,” he said. When he is able to get back on his feet, he would love to help his brother move here and start a new life. First though, he believes that it’s important to be happy and thankful at home and that this stability affects the rest of your life beyond the home.

While Tamir continues to search for a new job, his home requires more upgrades to keep his family safe and secure.

That’s why Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers will be replacing bathroom faucets, installing closet doors, repairing outside fencing, and installing a CO2 alarm on April 30 during National Rebuilding Day.

On this national day of service, more than 800 Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers will spread out around the city and help neighbors with repairs and upgrades to their homes. The work is fun but also important as more low-income homeowners struggle to maintain their homes. It’s also an important way we as neighbors can help each other while revitalizing our community.

With Rebuilding Together as a partner, Tamir can focus on making a better living for his family, starting with getting a better job, ideally in the government. Then he can help his brother. If you know someone like Tamir who could benefit from our services, all 703-836-1021 or visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet
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See Letters. Page 13
True Grit

By Jane Hess Collins
Community Lodgings Communications/ Volunteer Coordinator

Letters to the Editor

Visory Group called for more than “community values” to be brought to bear on the discussion; it called for new ideas as well. Here’s two I’m proposing for their consideration.

First, let’s donate the Appomattox statue on South Washington Street to the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opens its doors in September of this year. It would be a very appropriate “resting place” for our Confederate soldier and it would be only a few Metro stops away for those who care to visit and remember. Second, in an unmistakable nod to “diversity” and “inclusion” over “history,” let’s rename every street sign within the city to “diversity” and “inclusion” over “history.”

Two Poor Teachers

By Leslie Zupan
Alexandria

An MOU is the only tool that the city has to ensure accountability and cooperation from the notoriously recalcitrant ARHA, which regularly places its collective hand in Alexandria taxpayers’ pockets for loans and bailouts. Is this because Mr. Wilson and Chapman, as the council’s work group delegates, do not wish to hold ARHA accountable? They were both members of council last fall when they voted to override the BAR decision on demolition while calling for the public housing authority to find compromise, yet they and the ARHA board allowed CEO Roy Priest to take no-hostages, hang-tough attitude toward council by resubmitting the same application again five months later.

Finally, it is clear that ARHA has no consistent long-term plan for sustainability. It was ARHA who let Ramsey Homes deteriorate through neglect. The emperor has no clothes, and ARHA has no consistent business model. Its building configurations and the split between market-rate and subsidized units changes with every project. Neighbors are told that off-siting is simply impossible, yet ARHA’s strategic plan calls for scattering units from Hopkins-Tancil. Mr. Priest has yet to explain why 53 units at Ramsay Homes is the only magical number that will make the project competitive for tax credits, contrary to the findings of the city’s own tax-credit consultant. And when the city retained an expert to investigate construction costs, they found ARHA had overestimated.

The city needs to reconvene the former Economic Sustainability Task Force to analyze ARHA and determine both its long-term viability and the city’s potential liability. On the very night of the controversial Feb. 20 council vote, a robbery occurred on West Street by the Adkins project, followed a week later by gunshots heard by the police who now regularly camp out in the Post Office parking lot and a robbery near Old Town Commons.

With two unsolved murders at Adkins and pointed criticisms made by ARHA residents over safety and upkeep at the packed community meeting that followed, the question is whether ARHA is really serving its tenants or the politicians.
Governor’s First Vetoes and Ongoing Supreme Court Battle

By Adam P. Ebbin  
State Senator (D-30)

T he 2016 General Assembly will be wrapping up its work this week, and of the more than 3,200 bills and resolutions that were introduced, over 1,350 pieces of legislation have passed both chambers. Those bills are now on their way to Governor McAuliffe’s desk, who has 7 or 30 days to act on them depending on how close to the end of session they passed. The Governor has approved many of these measures but he has also issued vetoes for a handful of bills that he believes are unnecessary or unconstitutional.

One notable piece of legislation is the Governor vetoed SB21, which would require the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to receive approval from the General Assembly before submitting a Virginia-specific plan to comply with the federal Clean Power Plan (CPP).

The CPP is an historic and important step in combating climate change by establishing standards to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. It will put into place the first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants which account for nearly 40 percent of the carbon pollution produced nationally.

The CPP goes hand in hand with efforts in the development of renewables, stronger fuel economy standards, and increased energy efficiency that seek to address climate change, as well as provide improvements in air and water quality that have more immediate local effects. In his veto statement, the Governor noted that federal law gives authority to the executive rather than legislative branch in developing plans to comply with CPP, adding that SB21 “constitutes legislative participation in a purely executive process.” Senate Democrats were successful in sustaining the veto so SB21 will remain law.

A prolonged fight has been brewing since the summer regarding Governor McAuliffe’s nomination of Jane Roush to the Virginia Supreme Court, and last week it came to a head. Justice Roush, who is unquestionably qualified to serve on the Supreme Court, has handled many tough cases including the D.C. sniper trial, and the Republican House Courts of Justice Committee chairman had originally recommended her for this position. However, House and Senate Republicans were offended that the Governor exercised his constitutional authority to appoint her without their permission, and they have repeatedly attempted to block her nomination and replace her with their own candidate. Though Senate Republicans have a narrow 21-19 majority, there has been a stalemate so far this session because one of their freshman members bravely refused to go along with his party’s plan to unseat Justice Roush. Her interim appointment has now expired and there was a renewed push this week to confirm her for a full term; unfortunately that effort fell short in the House of Delegates.

Leaving one of the seven seats on our state’s highest court vacant has major ramifications in terms of its ability to execute its constitutional responsibilities, and I hope we will reconsider and elect Justice Roush to a full 12-year term so our judiciary can be at full strength.

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

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Careful About History

To the Editor:

At the Feb. 8 public hearing of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, a speaker said that George Mason IV of Gunston Hall had deeded four slaves and put their heads on display upon the chimneys of City Hall.

The speaker did not indicate why this was done nor did he offer substantiation of this gristy claim which was out of character for George Washington’s close friend Mason was relevant to the business of the Ad Hoc Group on Confederate memorials and street names.

However, I noted at the end of the Feb. 8 meeting, a number of people in the back of the room who had not addressed the Ad Hoc Group complained that the city had done a poor job of presenting Black history and that problem needed correction. All of us need to be careful to present our history correctly, especially regarding little-known facts.

Ellen Latane Tabb  
Alexandria

Stick to Braddock Plans

To the Editor:

How curious! Twenty-two of the existing affordable housing units adjacent to the Alfred Street Baptist Church will be demolished so the church can expand its sanctuary.

In another forum Councilman John Taylor Chapman demanded the city violate two of its plans rather than forgo loss. Where will the displaced residents likely go? “The Braddock Gateway project will add 74 new affordable housing units to the city. One of the other projects coming up for ADHC is the possible redevelopment of Alexandria’s Carpenter Shelter, a homeless housing shelter in the Braddock neighborhood. The redeveloped Shelter would add 100 units.”

From the city and ARHA’s 2008 MOU: “Whereas, the city desires … an affordable housing unit that will add 74 new affordable housing units to the city. The redeveloped Shelter would add 100 units.”

From the city and ARHA’s 2008 MOU: “Whereas, the city desires … an affordable strategy that addresses affordable housing throughout the city.” In fact the city continues its Jim Crow politics. A disgruntled Braddock neighborhood now expects a higher concentration of such housing, not the area plan’s planned reduction. The 2008 MOU was written in conjunction with the city’s 2008 Glebe Park bailout.

From the city and ARHA’s 2008 MOU: “Whereas, since the 1970s, the policy of the city and ARHA has been … de-concentration by scattered site replacements …”. The city is reluctant to scatter public housing. In fact affordable housing, when combined with the existing stock of public housing, is an ever-increasing mass of concentrated mayhem. ARHA Redevelopment Group members Chapman and Wilson should hold ARHA to account.

Also from the city and ARHA’s 2008 MOU: “The goals, objectives and performance measures and overall agency management plan shall reflect ARHA’s current planned and future schedules for housing unit physical inspection and maintenance …”.

As someone has already asked, “Why does Chapman, a member of council, tolerate ARHA’s disregard for maintenance?”

Increase neighborhood density, spot zone and a gutless group runs the show. A church agreeably expands and ARHA pays cash for its $4 million office building. Dare we discuss opportunity costs, profit margins and repeated cash shortfall? ARHA’s Janu- ary 2016 board minutes state: “The major reason the need for reserves was higher than anticipated is because there was a three-month delay in the Central Office Cost Center collecting office rents for 401 Wythe St.” ARHA CEO Roy Priest also serves as the board of directors secretary-treasurer. Conflict of interest is defined how? Finally from the city and ARHA’s 2008 MOU: “The city’s Planning and Zoning staff shall use its best efforts …”. Staff is engaged in process. They know to ARHA, ignoring the fact that Braddock’s newly created voting precinct rejected the former mayor.

Counselman Semberg may feel regret, but his Feb. 20 votes were spot on. His colleagues are driven by cause, not due diligence. We agree the discussion is about people, not buildings only. That said taxpayers are being ignored.

Both the Braddock Road Small Area Plan and the Braddock East Plan should be implemented as approved in 2008.

Charles Conway  
Alexandria

Insightful Article

To the Editor:

This article [“Reynes Shares Something Sweet,” March 3, Gazette Packet] provides wonderful insight on the beauty of passion, hard work, and interdependence in one’s own community. In today’s thriving, modern society, especially in a city like Alexandria, there is more isolation between people and there is a lack of appreciation for the contributions made to keep the society running.

Our world strives on interdependence and unfortunately in our highly individualistic world, we have become estranged from the holistic view that we rely on each other to live. Moreover, with most goods, it is common to see a lack of passion and complete alienation from the process of production because there is a sense of creating products for people you don’t know.

I appreciate Julie Reyne’s story of her aspiration to build a business involving a creation of her very own. The writer does an excellent job at describing the “behind-the-scenes” look at the creation of her stuffed dates, including all person’s involved in the process. This allows the reader (especially those who are familiar with Reyne’s product) and future customers to gain an appreciation for the creator (the supplier) and the line of production. Additionally, it’s wonderful to read about someone in our community who loves putting passion into their own product.

B. Victoria Acosta  
James Madison University  
Alexandria
Countdown to Gadsby’s Ball

By Nancy Kegan Smith
Gadsby’s Tavern
Museum Society Board

The top 10 things about Gadsby’s Tavern that you may not know and why you should go to its Best Bib & Tucker Ball:

1. Gadsby boasts one of the last remaining urban ice wells in the area. It preserved ice harvested from the river in the winter. The ice well could hold up to 68 tons of ice, which is equivalent to the weight of 14 adult African elephants. The recent renovation of the ice well has won three architectural design awards.

2. The City Tavern (part of the Gadsby complex we know today) was the 5-star hotel of the 18th century in Alexandria. The hotels amenities included a “large stock of good old liquors,” the services of a washerwoman, and — for only 20 cents in 1801 — clean sheets.

3. The buildings have seen visits from six Presidents including founding fathers George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe, and President Trump; three First Ladies including Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford, and Rosalynn Carter; and one Pope — Pope John Paul II.

4. George Washington partied like it was 1999 – really 1799 (and 1798) – at his Birthnight Ball held at the City Tavern. He said in his diary, “Went up to Alexandria to the celebration of my birth day. Many manoeuvres were performed by the Uniform Corps and an elegant Ball & Supper at Night.”

5. Thomas Jefferson celebrated his inauguration as president in the historic ballroom in 1801 and was regaled with 16 toasts throughout the night. The newspaper said, “...style and elegance with which it was furnished, at so short a notice, reflect the highest credit on the taste and industry of Mr. Gadsby.”

6. The variety of entertainments found at the establishment had no bounds. Citizens and guests took in acrobatic displays, danced ‘til the wee hours of the morning, learned about the stars through an eidouranion, viewed a manuscript of a map of Virginia, and bought tickets to see a live bison.

7. The building’s most famous ghost story – the Tale of the Female Stranger – inspired Port City Brewery’s Long Black Veil beer. The tale of the Female Stranger is about a woman who arrived in Alexandria by ship in October of 1816. Having become ill, she was taken to the finest tavern in town – Gadsby’s Tavern – and was given a room, a doctor and two nurses to care for her. Her identity, however, was kept a mystery. Days passed by and her condition worsened. On the 14th, she died at the age of 23. She is buried at St. Paul’s Cemetery and a table-top tomb bears the inscription “In the memory of the Female Stranger ...”

8. Revolutionary War hero the Marquis de Lafayette was entertained at the City Tavern during his tour of the United States in 1824. Lafayette was greeted along his parade route by hundreds of spectators and women waving handkerchiefs from the open windows of neighboring buildings.

9. The Museum runs a unique Junior Docent program which engages children grades 4-6 in giving tours and sharing the history of the museum with others. Over the course of 7 years, 74 children have come through the program. One of their many fun hands-on activities with the public is to make and serve period-inspired ice cream.

10. Mr. Gadsby was known for his lavish events and that tradition continues today. Do not miss your opportunity to attend one of Alexandria’s social events of the year — The Gadsby’s Tavern Museum Society’s Best Bib and Tucker Ball. The Society introduced the annual Best Bib & Tucker Ball to raise money for preservation, restoration and educational and cultural programs for Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. The term Best Bib and Tucker means one’s best clothes and was first used in 1747. On March 19 from 7 to 10 p.m., New Orleans comes to Alexandria as this year’s theme is Mardi Gras. Dance or listen to Doc Scantlin and their Imperial Palms Orchestra who will play in the historic Ballroom and the restaurant, eat gumbo, enjoy Alligator Juice, and bid on some one-of-a-kind Silent Auction items such as a necklace by New Orleans jeweler Mignon Faget. To add to the fun there will also be a fortune teller/tarot card reader giving free readings of your fortune. Tickets for this wonderful evening are $150 per person and can be purchased at www.gadsbytavernmuseum.us. It is not often that one can partake of a truly historic setting with so much merriment, food and libation, and at the same time support a worthy cause. The Gadsby’s Tavern Museum Society cordially invites you and hopes to see you at our Mardi Gras Ball.
Wedges of lemon, squares of unsalted butter, curly green onion slivers, low country gravy and blackened shrimp sit mise en place in the prep kitchen at The Majestic on King Street. Lisa Marie Frantz, executive chef at The Majestic, is preparing shrimp and grits made to order for each customer. “This is one of the customer favorites,” she says, “along with the fried chicken and what goes with it, Martha’s buttermilk biscuits. I brine the chicken 24 hours in a mixture of lemon, garlic, peppercorns and the house homemade stone ground mustard.”

Frantz turns on the burner under a well-worn pan. “Till toss in a little olive oil and put in the shrimp for 2-3 minutes to get them a little color.” She adds a splash of white wine and flips the shrimp in the air as the flames shoot up around the pan. Frantz takes a pinch of salt and rubs it through her fingers. “I season a little as I go along, but there’s already a lot of seasoning in the other ingredients in the recipe.”

A tomato compote has been slowly cooking for 30-40 minutes. Frantz adds a couple of spoonfuls to the shrimp. Next comes what she says is “the base of the dish,” the low country gravy that has been made with broth from the shrimp shells, mirepoix (celery, onion and carrots), fresh herbs, bay leaves, a touch of sherry and a little flour to make a roux and thicken it.

Frantz turns on the burner under a second small skillet to get it hot for the grits. “I use Anson Mills heirloom grits. Grits can grow in the South, I know a little about them, something to bite on. My father is a farmer and I went up the South to the Carolinas, a lot of land. But my sister is a vegetarian and found my sweet spot.” In 2007 she went to the University of Virginia in Farming and made a move to the food world. Frantz comments that the trend in “farm to table” is the way to go. “We’re moving to some vegetarian dishes without advertising it as vegetarian. I like to showcase one ingredient. When the ingredients are the best, why advertise it?”

Frantz graduated in graphic design but realized it was a hobby. “I was interested in cooking but I’d never worked in a restaurant. I didn’t have any confidence.” But she said with help of family and friends she went to Le Cordon Bleu in Arizona and, “I found my sweet spot.” In 2007 she went to work in a professional kitchen for the first time. When they asked her what she wanted to do, she said, “work the grill. I thought it would be exciting being on the line.” He told her she would fail miserably. “In 3-4 months I was a sous chef. I found I have a talent.” She has been at Majestic for nine months, coming from Brickside in Bethesda and Founding Fathers previous to that. Frantz said no one in her family ever worked in a restaurant but her father was a butcher. “Maybe somehow in the blood line I got it.”

The shrimp come off the heat and the rest of the dish is finished with curly green onion wedges, curly onion slivers, low country gravy and blackened shrimp—ingredients for shrimp and grits, one of the customer favorites at The Majestic on King Street. Below, she adds the shrimp to a hot pan with a little oil and cooks them a couple of minutes to get some color but not long enough to make them cooked in cream, salt, butter and a little chicken broth.

Photos by Shirley Ruhe/Gazette Packet

Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz lines up the lemon wedges, curly onion slivers, squares of butter, parsley and blackened shrimp—ingredients for shrimp and grits, one of the customer favorites at The Majestic on King Street. Below, she adds the shrimp to a hot pan with a little oil and cooks them a couple of minutes to get some color but not long enough to make them cooked in cream, salt, butter and a little chicken broth.

Anson heirloom grits are heated on a burner next to the shrimp. Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz says everyone has their own favorite version of grits. These have some texture to them and a little bite. They have been cooked in cream, salt, butter and a little chicken broth.
March 20, gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The two-week exhibition will feature more than 150 square panels created by more than 100 regional artists, nearly 30 of whom are affiliated with the Torpedo Factory. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.


Art Exhibit: “Contradictions.” Through March 26, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Working in the medium of encaustic Julia Driskievic paints, prunts and constructs three-dimensional objects with bold colors embedding crystals, pearls or even metals. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “March Melée.” Through March 27, 12-6 p.m. Thursday, 12-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This exhibit features artists’ “boldest and wackiest art.” Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows.

“Ancient Art of Movement.” On Saturday, March 19, The West Potomac Band is host a one-hour workshop to expand the body’s strength and flexibility. Movements are designed to help with physical limitations. The workshop is for ages 50 and above. Carmen Shippy, a retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is $48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservations necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/


Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen’s Cemetery. Through March, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen’s Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria’s citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.lee-fendallhouse.org.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Anthrology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriamuseumology.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

“Speak, Sister.” 7-10 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Local actors will read from diaries and letters of women, Harriet Jacobs, Isabel Emerson and Anne Frobel, who lived in Alexandria during the Civil War, and bluegrass band Dead Men’s Hollow will play songs of the Civil War. Tickets are $20. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13


Through March, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 210 N. Royal St. Explore the “Aqua Challenge” floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are $4. Visit www.shop.alexandriavir.gov.


Le Refuge was rated #1 in Alexandria on TripAdvisor. Thank you for your continued support.

Le Refuge

Restaurant

Winter Specials

• Split Pea Soup
• Beef Wellington
• Rack of Lamb
• Bouillabaisse
• Dover Sole
• Coq au Vin
• Cassoulet
• Shad Roe

Le Refuge Restaurant

127 N. Washington St., Alexandria • 703-548-4661
Smoke-Free Restaurant
www.lerefugealexandria.com

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Spaghetti Dinner: Rising Hope Food Pantry. 5-8 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. St. Luke’s Episcopal Church is holding a spaghetti dinner to support Rising Hope’s Food Pantry and two other food programs in the community. Tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for children 12 and under, and $30 for families. Call 703-298-5987 for more.

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chiriquiquin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes on the “Aqua Challenge” floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are $4. Visit www.shop.alexandriavir.gov.

Ladies Night Out: Painting Van Gogh Style. 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Tickets are $45. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosisaiz.com, or visit www.metamorphosisaiz.com/mama/classes.

MARCH 11-APRIL 10

All City High School Visual Art Exhibition. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Convergence presents the “All-Arms, Harriet Jacobs Art Exhibit,” a joint effort between Bishop Ireton High School, Episcopal High School, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School, and T.C. Williams High School. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative
**Hank’s Pasta Bar Arrives in Old Town**

Newcomer has already gained solid following.

By Hope Nelson

North Old Town has a new hotspot in the neighborhood. Hank’s Pasta Bar, the kid sister to Hank’s Oyster Bar on King Street, has taken the area by storm since opening about five weeks ago. From the two fully booked soft openings to a recent Monday night that found the dining room out of space for the evening by 7 p.m., it’s clear that residents have a hankering for pasta. And Hank’s stands at the ready to accommodate.

Hank’s offers 13 varieties of pasta in-house, says Hank’s Sabrina Zahid. “There’s a pasta machine, but a big majority of them are hand-cut,” including the lasagna and the ravioli, Zahid added.

A good deal of the work is done by “our in-house pasta mama,” Mirabella Salamanca, Zahid said. “She comes in early, she has a break in the evening, but we’re pretty much cranking out fresh pasta all day.”

And a quick survey of the menu proves that Salamanca and the rest of the team — helmed by Chef Jamie Leeds — are indeed hard at work. A perusal of the pasta dishes turns into a mini-Italian lesson that is apt to send some diners dashing for their iPhones to look up unfamiliar names while the waiter’s back is turned. Paccheri. Malfalde. Bucatini. Mezzalune. There’s an option for you, no matter what you’re looking for.

If you’d like to get a taste of where it all started, if you’d like to try Jamie’s Favorite Linguine With White Clam Sauce. A top seller, it harkens back to before the pasta bar had come into being and Leeds found himself at an Italian restaurant in Dupont Circle with pasta on the brain. Spying linguine with white clam sauce on the menu and remembering about enjoying that same meal with her father, Hank, she ordered it only to learn it was sold out for the evening. The restaurant’s chef, Nicolas Flores, learned of Leeds’ plight and went out to purchase fresh clams to make for her that evening, saving the day — and cementing a partnership.

“They met over a bowl of linguine with white clam sauce,” Zahid said, and the rest was history.

Among other must-try dishes: The mezzalune, a thin, airy pillow-like pasta stuffed with winter greens and ricotta and nestled in a creamy sauce. Or enjoy a plate of simple elegance with the spaghetti all’olio, a hearty helping of spaghetti tossed in olive oil, garlic, and shaved bottarga.

Oftentimes, restaurant desserts are better left untouched; the sweet treat is often overshadowed by the meal itself. But Hank’s panna cotta is a thing of beauty. Creamy, custardy and rich, it’s not so overwhelming that you and a partner couldn’t polish one off with aplomb. Pair it with an espresso or an after-dinner libation and you’ve got the perfect end to a wonderful evening.

While dinner is proving a popular occasion at Hank’s, the restaurant isn’t prepared to stay dark during the day for much longer. Weekday lunches will begin March 14, Zahid says, and weekend brunch will be soon to follow that.

“We’re definitely going to keep a good number of the pastas on the menu for lunch,” Zahid said, adding that the kitchen has some “fun stuff” in the works for brunch as well, including some new bloody Mary recipes for the cocktail menu.

**THE MEZZALUNE PASTA DISH.**

**Details**

**HANK’S PASTA BAR**

Address: 600 Montgomery St., Alexandria

Hours: 4-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 4-10 p.m. Sunday.

Hidden gem: The lamb chops. “Those are really, really delicious. I think people are definitely more apt to order pasta, but I’ve gotta tell you, those are some of the best lamb chops I’ve ever had,” says Hank’s Sabrina Zahid.
SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Talent Hunt, 12-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8135 Old Mount Vernon Road. Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. of Alexandria hosts a talent hunt for high school with a $400 first place prize. Free. Email talenthunt5s@gmail.com.


Her Story: Women in Action for Conservation, 1-3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies. “...in their natural setting.” Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

Evening Woodcock Walk, 5-45 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see the female. $6 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 14

Pi Day, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. at Pizzaria Paradiso, 124 King St. On Pi Day, Veloce will host a fundraising drive for DC Central Kitchen, while all Pizzaria Paradiso locations will charge $3.14 for a draft beer with the purchase of a pizza. Terrapin Rye Cubed will be available at Old Town. Visit www.eatyourpizza.com.

The Music of Ralph Vaughan Williams, 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Lane. In collaboration with the Amadeus Orchestra, the Fairfax Choral Society Adult Symphonic Chorus, Youth Concert Choir, and Women of the Master Singers present “Quintessentially British.” Tickets $20-$45, $5 discount if purchased in advance. Student tickets are $10. Visit www.fairfaxchordsociety.org.

Wounded Warrior Bowl-O-Rama, Fort Myers Bowling Center, 224 McNair Road, Fort Myers. Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. of Alexandria hosts an event benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project. Tickets are $20. Visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

The Architecture of Carlyle House: Behind the Scenes Tour, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 1211 N. Quaker Lane. Learn about the architectural history of the only stone mansion in Alexandria. Tickets for the general public are $10; $5 for friends of Carlyle House. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

Organ Recital, 2-4 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Join Virginia Bronze for a variety of baroque compositions. Tickets are $5-$10. Visit www.valbronz.org for more.

MARCH 15-APRIL 10

Art Exhibit: “Art into Fashion/ Fashion into Art” 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Fiber artists explore art inspired by fashion designers and fashionable wearables inspired by artists. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 15

Creative Exploration Open Studio, 10-11:30 a.m. at Congregation, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple watercolor techniques and doodle designs with your child. Tickets are $30 for parent/caregiver and child. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosiaace.com, or visit www.metamorphosiaace.com/mama/classes.

Reenactment: Another Way to Share Your Genealogy, 1-3 p.m. at the Masonic National Memorial, 1700 Shenandoah Road. Charles Belfield’s family has lived on the same Virginia farm since 1700. Watch him reenact his genealogical story. Free. Visit www.meta:morphosiaace.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Campagna Center Toast to Golf, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6223 Fort Hunt Road. For almost two decades, The Campagna Center has ushered in spring with its annual Toast to Fashion. Tickets are $60 in advance, $65 at the door. Visit www.campagnacenter.org for more.

THURSDAY/FRIDAY/MARCH 17-18

Women’s Golf Meeting, 2-4 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landshower Center Drive. The Greendale Women’s Golf Association (GWGA), an 18-hole league that plays once a week on Thursday mornings is meeting with current members and potential new members to discuss the upcoming golf season. Free. Visit www.gwga.wordpress.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

March150 Exhibition Art Party, 7-10 p.m at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The two-week exhibition will feature more than 150 square panels created by more than 100 regional artists, nearly 30 of whom are affiliated with the Torpedo Factory. During the Art Party, work is priced at $100. Guests have an opportunity to mingle with other art enthusiasts and meet many of the artists who have contributed to the show. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Community Dance, 7-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance to live music provided by the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Tickets are $4. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

Organ Recital, 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, 3777 Seminary Road. Virginia Theological Seminary invites the community to an organ recital by Matthew Krawczely. A discussion group (GWGA), an 18-hole league that plays once a week on Thursday mornings is meeting with current members and potential new members to discuss the upcoming golf season. Free. Visit www.vts.edu/chapel for more.

Concert, 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 Braddock Road. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be played in a musical setting for choir and organ by Frank Lizzi. The Adult Choir will sing with Ann Carney, organist. Free. 703-998-6100 or church@blessedsacrament.org for more.

Bottle Rockets, 8-10 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. St. Louis based Bottle Rockets.
**ENTERTAINMENT**


**ROCKETS**

Rockets recently released a new album South Broadway Athletic Club. Tickets are $29.50. Visit www.burchmore.com for more.

**THURSDAY/SUNDAY, MARCH 17-20**

**Spring Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Charles E. Bentley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. All books are $3 or less, unless specifically marked. Hardbacks, paperbacks, children’s books and audio-visual items. All proceeds, $8 Bag Sale on Sunday. Call 703-746-1702.

**MARCH 17-APRIL 24**

Georgia Nassikas: “Oils and Encaustics.” Thursday, Friday, Sunday 12-4 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. In her oil and wax paintings, artist Georgia Nassikas explores the intersection of the abstract and the representational. She focuses on the elemental lines, shapes, and colors at the core of nature. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20**


**SUNDAY/MARCH 20**

**Rare Hat Making Workshop.** 1-3 p.m. at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The workshop fee is $10 for members, $15 for non-members, plus a $5 supply fee. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

**TUESDAY/MARCH 22**

**Managing and Maintaining the Vegetable Garden.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 10000 Government Center Pkwy. The workshop fee is $10 for members, $15 for non-members, plus a $5 supply fee. Visit www.mgnv.org.
Del Ray Artisans exhibit features artist with special needs.

Her Artwork Captures Vibrancy of Life

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
Gazette Packet

ike most children, Yasmine Iskander liked to color with crayons. And like most moth-
ers, Silvia Sagari was proud of everything her daughter created. But four years ago, when someone suggested to Sagari that Yasmine genuinely had talent, she took notice. Because Yasmine is not like most children.

“Yasmine has a complex medical history,” Sagari said of her 19-year-old only child. “Among other things, she is deaf and has intellectual disabilities. But when she is painting, she comes alive.”

A chance meeting with John Bordner, the vice president of the Del Ray Artisans, led to Yasmine entering one of her paintings in DRA’s latest exhibit, March Melee. Her work was accepted and Yasmine and her family attended the March 4 opening re-
ception at the Nicolas A. Colosanto Center.

“When Silvia showed me some pictures of Yasmine’s work on her phone, I thought ‘Wow! What color, what vi-
brancy, what life,’ Bordner said. “I thought the theme of March Me-
lee exactly described Yasmine’s work — just a riot of color and cheer so I encouraged her to submit one of her paintings. This was a very competi-
tive show but I am not at all surprised that one of her pieces was accepted.”

Yasmine’s painting, “The Volcano,” was not only accepted, it was awarded one of only four Curators Awards.

“I’m very excited to be here tonight,” said Yasmine as she mingled among the crowd. “I love art. It makes me happy and when I paint, I feel it in my heart.”

Yasmine said that most of her ideas just “pop into my head.”

“My make art because it is fun and creative,” Yasmine said. “Art is something that is always new …. there is always something I can learn and I like to learn new things.”

Yasmine Iskander puts the finishing touches on a painting.

The March Melee exhibit runs through March 27 at the Del Ray Artisans Nicolas Ave. For more information, call 703-838-4827 or visit www.ThelDelRayArtisans.org.

Exhibit curator Joshua Oliveira, right, talks with Yasmine Iskander about her work as Magdi Iskander and Tristann Brown look on.

Yasmine, a senior at McLean High School, has undergone 25 surgeries, including five procedures on her heart and three on her brain.

“I am so proud of her,” said Yasmine’s fa-
ther Magdi Iskander. “She is always so full of kindness — she wins the Good Samari-
tan award every year at school. To me, she is the face of God on earth.”

Yasmine continues to take classes and hopes to enter more shows with the Del Ray Artisans.

“DRA is not in the business of creating art,” Bordner said. “We’re here to create opportunities, hope, joy. It humbles me to see the kind of excitement and joy that being here tonight has sparked in Yasmine.”

The March Melee exhibit runs through March 27 at the Del Ray Artisans Nicolas A. Colosanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information, call 703-838-4827 or visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Artists Yasmine Iskander, center, stands with her parents Silvia Sagari and Magdi Iskander at the opening reception of the March Melee exhibit at Del Ray Artisans.

‘Cherry Challenge’ Winners

T he George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee announced the winners of the eighth annual “Cherry Challenge.” The Cherry Challenge took place between Jan. 28 and Feb. 11 in 53 Alexandria restaurants. It featured cherry-inspired dishes, appetizers, drinks, and desserts created by the restaurant chefs. Some of the restaurants have competed in the past, but there were many restaurants new to the competition this year.

The winners:

❖ Entree — Tempo, www.temperorestaurant.com/
❖ Dessert — Taverna Cretekou, www.tavernacretekou.com/
❖ Appetizer — Sonoma Cellar, www.mysonomacellar.com/
❖ Beverage — Chadwick’s, www.chadwicksrestaurants.com/
❖ Joe Shumard, organizer of the George Washington Birthday Celebration; Carolyn Dyro, manager of The Hour; Trae Lamond, Chadwick’s owner; and Danny Smith, director of the Cherry Challenge, recognize Chadwick’s for winning Best Beverage again this year with “Sweet Lips,” created by Woods Morrison.

❖ Printing of the more than 2,000 ballots submitted was sponsored by Dale Digital Printing.

Each person who ordered the dish or menu item was supplied with a ballot so that they could judge the menu item on taste, presentation and creativity. Scoring was done by rating both the num-
ber of ballots submitted, and how each dish rated in the palates of the citizens who ordered the items. The winning restaur-
ants will receive a certificate and will be honored at a special reception. For more information about the George Washing-
ton Birthday Celebration, visit www.washingtonbirthday.net.
Sports

The Bishop Ireton cheerleading team qualified for nationals and competed in the Christian Cheerleaders of America’s national competition last weekend in Winston Salem, N.C. The Cardinals took first place in the medium varsity division. They also had the highest score out of any division at nationals and they received the coveted 2016 national grand champion trophy for beating roughly all 65 teams in the varsity division. Bishop Ireton coach Angela Hope-Eskew was also recognized for being inducted and the CCA’s Coaches Hall of Fame.

TC Boys’ Track Finishes State Runner-Up

The T.C. Williams boys’ indoor track and field team finished second at the state meet Feb. 26-27 in Hampton.

The Titans finished with a score of 69, three points behind champion Western Branch.

TC’s Josephus Lyles (6.21) and Noah Lyles (6.24) finished 1-2 in the 55-meter dash. Noah won the 300 state title (33.89), with Josephus coming in second (34.35). Josephus Lyles also finished runner-up in the 500 (1:03.36). Noah Lyles took second in the high jump (6-8).

The T.C. Williams girls’ team finished sixth with a score of 27. Western Branch won the team title (76.5).

BI Girls’ Lax To Host Visitation

The two-time defending VISAA champion Bishop Ireton girls’ lacrosse team will open the 2016 season with a home game against Georgetown Visitation at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15.

The Cardinals are ranked No. 8 nationally in the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine preseason poll. Georgetown Visitation is ranked No. 25.

SSSAS Girls’ Lax Ranked No. 4 in National Poll

The St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes girls’ lacrosse team is ranked No. 4 in the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine preseason national poll. The Saints open the regular season on at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 15 with a road game against St. Mary’s Parish Annapolis. The Saints’ first home game is March 30 against Agnes Irwin School.

School Notes

Kayla Duperrouzel and the Bishop Ireton girls’ lacrosse team will host Georgetown Visitation at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15.

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Samerawit Adagish of Alexandria has been placed on the president’s list in recognition of academic excellence during the fall 2015 semester at New River Community College (Dublin, Va.).

Aginita Kote has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Graceland University (Lamoni, Iowa).

LaToya Russell was one of three College of Education and Human Development doctoral students accepted into Georgia State University’s inaugural class of Final Year Fellows.

Allison Love was named to the president’s list at The State University of New York at Potsdam (Potsdam, N.Y.). Love is majoring in geology.

Mallory Gerndt was named to the dean’s list for the fall 2015 semester at Newberry College (Newberry, S.C.).

Francesca Orfila has received the National Italian American Foundation Lido Civic Club Matching Scholarship. Orfila attends The College of William and Mary and is pursuing a degree in anthropology and classical archaeology.

Heather Pearson of Alexandria was named to Susquehanna University’s (Selinsgrove, Pa.) dean’s list for the fall 2015 semester. Pearson, an earth and environmental sciences major in the class of 2018, is a 2014 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and the daughter of David and Theresa Pearson.

Joshua Thorne of Alexandria was named to the 2015 fall dean’s list at the University of Mount Union (Alliance, Ohio).

Hriday Kamshatti of Alexandria earned the distinction of faculty honors for fall 2015 at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, Ga.).

University of Rhode Island (Kingston, R.I.) student Tyrone Jenkins of Alexandria, recently completed a fall 2015 internship with Dcsoa Tides. Jenkins is majoring in sociology.

Lynn Stevens of Alexandria was awarded dean’s list academic honors for the fall 2015 semester at St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

Kami Richter studied abroad at Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand through Fort Lewis College (Durango, Co.) during fall 2015. Richter’s current major is anthropology.

Belen A. Rogers earned dean’s list honors for the fall 2015 semester at Mount St. Mary’s University ( Emmitsburg, Md.). Rogers is the daughter of Robert Rogers and Rocio Mendoza-Bal.

Dustin Cassell and James Serfass graduated from Frostburg State University (Frostburg, Md.) in December. Cassell, earned a Master of Business Administration degree in management. Serfass earned a Master of Science degree in recreation and parks management.

Khaliha Karefa-Kargbo of Alexandria, the daughter of Karefa Kargbo of Freetown, Sierra Leone and Emernica Karefa-Kargbo of Alexandria, has been named to Randolph-Macon Academy’s president’s list for the second quarter of the 2015-16 school year. The freshman at Randolph-Macon Academy has also been named “Cadet of the Quarter” for the second quarter of the 2015-16 school year.
I

in June, the Alexandria Aces will be starting its ninth season in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League giving college players from all over the nation the opportunity to boost their careers and, if they do really well, launch themselves on a path towards the big leagues.

Kyle Zimmer, a top prospect who may be on the Kansas City Royals roster this season, played for the Aces.

Returning to the lead the team is David DeSilva who is in his fifth year with the Alexandria Aces and his fourth as the Head Coach.

In his first season as Head Coach in 2013, DeSilva led the Aces to a team-best 27-17 record in the regular season, earning the number two seed in the CRCBL playoffs. There the team earned its first ever playoff victory. In 2014, the team finished tied for fourth in the league with a 23-17 record, again making the playoffs but falling just short of a championship title.

Last season, the Aces finished with a 19-21 record and just one game shy of the postseason. After only three seasons, DeSilva holds the all-time wins record as well as highest winning percentage in Aces organizational history.

Tuesday, June 7, is Opening Day. The Aces face the Gaithersburg Giants at 7 p.m. at Frank Mann Field, located behind Cora Kelly School. It will be the first of 20 regular season games.

Tickets are $5 per person and $3 for children. As a non-profit, the Aces accept donations. This year, its goal is to get 900 supporters to donate $9 each in honor of its ninth season. To donate, just come to a game.

The Aces are also looking for hosts to house a player at their home. If interested, contact Don Dinan at don@alexandriaaces.org.

Hosts sought to help house players.

 Alexandria Aces To Begin 9th Season

Traffic

Parking Lot Renovation. The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities will renovate the parking lot in Four Mile Run Park at Mount Vernon Avenue. The parking lot will be closed during construction. Park and soccer field users may use the parking lot at the Conservation Center located at 4109 Mount Vernon Avenue.

Parking is available on Mount Vernon Avenue, between the Four Mile Run Bridge and 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit http://1.usa.gov/1UQq87W for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 10
Meet the City Manager, 8-10 a.m. at Stanford University, 2900 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. City Manager Mark Jinks will present highlights from the proposed City budget and discuss topics of importance to those who work, live or invest on the Eisenhower Avenue corridor. Q&A period follows presentation. A continental breakfast will be available for attendees. Free, but registration is required. Visit eisenhowerpartnership.org/event-2108535 to register.

Motorcoach Task Force Meeting, 7-9 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, in the Multipurpose Room. The City of Alexandria is reconvening its Motorcoach Task Force, to provide input on motorcoach management strategies, including motorcoach parking and loading/unloading locations. Visit alexandriava.gov/MotorcoachTaskForce, or email patrick.reed@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4147 to join the Motorcoach Task Force email list.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR
Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MARCH

APRIL
4/6/2016...........Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout Easter Sunday is March 27
4/13/2016............Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
4/20/2016..................A+ Camps & Schools
4/27/2016...............A+ Camps & Schools Pullout
4/27/2016..................Mother’s Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

MAY
5/4/2016..................McLean Day Pullout
5/4/2016..................Mother’s Day Dining & Gifts II
5/4/2016..................Wellbeing
Mother’s Day is May 8
5/11/2016...................HomeLifeStyle
5/18/2016................A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.
NOTICE OF DISOLUTION & NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF PROCEEDINGS TO DETERMINE THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETs

Code of VA. § 13.1-746.15

In the Circuit Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the County of Alexandria, Virginia.

To all persons interested, and all who may claim against the Corporation, and to all persons interested without further notice to the claimant.

The Corporation hereby gives notice to all persons interested in any claim against the Corporation, other than a claim against the Corporation in connection with the winding up of the business and affairs of the Corporation as of the date of the filing of the certificate of dissolution, as hereinbefore provided.

All claims must be presented to the Corporation in writing and must contain sufficient information reasonably to inform the Corporation or successor entity of the identity of the claimant and the substance of the claim.

1. All claims must be presented to the Corporation in writing and must contain sufficient information reasonably to inform the Corporation or successor entity of the identity of the claimant and the substance of the claim.

2. The mailing address to which such a claim must be sent is Inge’s Properties, Inc. c/o Robert B. Nelson, Esq., 119 N. Henry Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

3. The date by which such a claim must be received by the Corporation or its successor entity is May 1, 2016.

4. Any claim that is not received by May 1, 2016 will not be evaluated for payment at this time.

5. The Corporation may make distributions to other claimants or persons interested without further notice to the claimant.

6. Any further claim shall be barred unless a proceeding to enforce such claim is commenced by the later of the expiration of the statute of limitations or three years after the date of the publication of this notice.

Robert B. Nelson, Secretary Pro Tempore, Inge’s Properties, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF DISOLUTION

In the City of Alexandria, Virginia, on March 10, 2016. Pursuant to the filing of the certificate of dissolution, the Corporation hereby gives notice to all persons interested in any claim against the Corporation, other than a claim against the Corporation in connection with the winding up of the business and affairs of the Corporation as of the date of the filing of the certificate of dissolution, as hereinbefore provided.

Inge’s Properties Inc. (the “Corporation”), a Virginian corporation, was formed on May 10, 2016. Pursuant to the filing of the certificate of dissolution, the Corporation hereby gives notice to all persons interested in any claim against the Corporation, other than a claim against the Corporation in connection with the winding up of the business and affairs of the Corporation as of the date of the filing of the certificate of dissolution, as hereinbefore provided.

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Robert B. Nelson, Secretary Pro Tempore, Inge’s Properties, Inc.
Eileen’s
CLEANING
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City Council meets with ARHA leadership at the March 8 work session.

City Council asked ARHA to find a way to preserve at least one of the existing buildings for historic preservation. However, the city staff report on the project said that after research began on alternative options, ARHA shut the discussion down.

“Unfortunately, after some productive initial collaboration, ARHA's board directed its staff not to participate further in exploring and creating the various development options and instead elected to proceed with the three-story, 53-unit proposal previously provided for concept review.”

When the project returned to the City Council in February, ARHA asked the city to approve the rezoning and the master plan amendment, but asked for a deferral on the project's development special use permit. Due to a protest motion filed by neighbors, much of the discussion at the work session centered around trying to make sure ARHA keeps its word on the project. If a project were approved for rezoning and with a master plan amendment without a definitive plan for the future of the property, some on the council expressed concern that ARHA would not be bound to redevelop the property the way they say they plan to.

Immediately after the meeting, the ARHA board approved resolution 613, a joint City-ARHA work plan. The resolution calls for ARHA staff to cooperate with city staff on the development of the site and that any results must be completed in accordance with the joint work plan.

Though he reversed his earlier vote against the redevelopment, Smedberg still expressed misgivings about the implications for the development process.

“Now expectation [will be] that development partners are expected to get zoning without having a plan in place,” said Smedberg.

“This should not set a precedent to other developers that this is what we're doing,” said Silberberg, “but given your mission and our shared commitment to it, and given that we're working so collaboratively on this, that I'm willing to make an exception to that rule… It sends a signal that we want to work together. The relationship with ARHA that goes back decades, [sometimes] not having the best relationship, but I just want us all to move forward.”

Remembering Dorothy Evans Turner

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When Peggy Delinois Hamilton relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and began working full-time after spending eight years as an at-home mother of two children, childcare was one of her top concerns. She decided that a live-in au pair was the best choice for her family.

“I like the live-in because I don’t have to worry about issues with transportation on the caretaker’s part,” said Hamilton. “I don’t have to worry about them having competing obligations.”

Finding and keeping a live-in nanny in a competitive childcare market can be a high stakes game. To lure and retain experienced, nurturing caregivers, many families shell out as much as $100,000 to create stylishly appointed living space for their au pairs. From kitchens with marble countertops and stainless steel appliances to bathrooms with luxury showerheads and rich wood cabinetry, local designers create living quarters so enchanting and thoughtfully designed that a nanny wouldn’t dream of leaving.

“If you’re a live-in nanny, you want your own space. In fact, nannies won’t take a job from a family that won’t provide it,” said Jackie Wood-Gobuluk, owner of Metropolitan Nannies in Herndon, Virginia.

The spaces most often used for nanny suites are the lower level or attic, says Christopher Dietz of Dietz Development. “We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house,” he said. “We don’t do Formica or IKEA cabinets. We generally use granite, marble or Silestone. You don’t want people to say, ‘Wow, we can tell you really cut corners on this space.’”

Maintaining a continuity in quality while being budget conscious requires judicious planning. “We may splurge on custom window treatments and a bedskirt and save on things like furniture using retail pieces,” said Marika Meyer, principal of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda.

When an Arlington, Va. family enlisted architect J.P. Ward of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. to design an au pair suite for their home, they wanted him to maintain continuity in both color and materials. “We used a higher end tile and materials that blended with the rest of the house,” said Ward. “It turned out to be like a high-end studio apartment that you could get high rent for.”

The au pair’s space has a separate entrance, something that offers privacy to both the nanny and the family. “We made it so that the au pair has an independent way of coming in and so they’re not working 24 hours a day,” said Ward.

Contractors say the cost of adding a nanny suite can range from $5,000 on a property where there is an existing bathroom and space for a bedroom to more than $100,000 on properties where plumbing must be installed or an small addition is required. “(A) bathroom is the biggest expense because of the plumbing,” said Ward.

“We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house.”

— Christopher Dietz,
Dietz Development

Because such an addition requires a significant investment, Kai Tong of Hopkins and Porter Construction in Potomac, Md. encourages clients to think long term. “One of the most important and useful realizations

See Nanny Suite. Page 4

The colors of this au pair suite bathroom are similar to those used in the rest of the house.
Nanny Suites Add Value

when considering nanny suites is that, unlike your kitchen or bath or bedroom, the nanny suite will only be a nanny suite for a finite amount of time in your lives,” he said. “As your children grow, the nanny will move on, and the nanny suite is destined to become something else.”

In the Washington, D.C. area, adding an au pair suite to one’s home can make a property more appealing. “Particularly in neighborhoods with lots of young, affluent families, nanny suites are a popular, although not essential, amenity,” said David DeSantis, Partner and Managing Broker of TTR Sotheby’s International Realty. “Ideally these suites are somewhat separated from the family sleeping quarters and have their own entrance so the nanny can come and go freely.”

A nanny suite can offer a good return on investment. “The fact that it could be used as a nanny suite is a plus, but it’s the same sort of thing as an in-law suite. It offers the ability for multigenerational living with some level of privacy,” said David Howell, Executive Vice President and CIO of McEnearney Associates in McLean. “Because these suites are pretty uncommon in this area, it’s a real draw for those who really need one.”

Having a nanny suite, particularly one with high-end amenities, can increase a property’s value. “I would say that they may make a difference in price from 5 to 10 percent as they ... would count as an additional bedroom,” said Nancy Itteilag, of Long and Foster Christie’s International Real Estate.

Ann Dozier Michael, an Alexandria-based associate broker with McEnearney Associates, has a current listing that includes a nanny suite. “When you have a property listed that can serve the various needs of buyers, then that will add value because you have a larger buying pool,” she said.