



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Dougi Rylei carries the Scots4Tots mascot, Nessie, the Loch Ness monster in Saturday's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Attracts Crowds

The rain held off and Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker walked down King Street on Saturday, March 3, proclaiming that the parade was coming. Fiore-Walker was followed by the Alexandria Police Motor Squad and seven divisions of pipe bands, Irish dancers, dogs, military units, public safety units, local business floats, cub scouts, the Kena Shriners and the Notre Dame Alumni Band to name a few. The sidewalks along King Street swelled with spectators of the annual parade. More photos, pages 8-9.

What Recession?

Bucking national trend, Northern Virginia governments have record employment and record spending.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As local governments across America are laying off firefighters and teachers, governments in Northern Virginia are experiencing record levels of spending and an all-time-high number of employees. Budgets now under consideration in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria are higher than they've ever been. Experts say the trend is driven by the region's ties to

the federal government, which have traditionally insulated the region from downturns in the market. It's also a reflection of a grow-

ing population and an increasing number of students in public school.

"When you have the best economy in the country, people move here," said Stephen Fuller, director of the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. "Northern Virginia has been pretty hot — not like it used to be but compared to the rest of the country, it's doing just fine."

A look at the past decade shows that spending levels rose dramatically along with the real-estate market.

When that bubble burst, local governments across America fell on hard times. Even now, years after

SEE NOVA, PAGE 3

"You can only have so many children in a building. Many of our elementary schools are at that limit."

— Tammy Ignacio, chief administrative officer, Alexandria City Public Schools

Democrats Crowd City Council Field

Twelve candidates have announced and one more is likely to join.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As the campaign season heats up, the Democratic field is getting more crowded. Four new candidates gave their first pitch to members of the Alexandria Democratic Com-

mittee Monday night. And another candidate, Michael Hepburn, said he was likely to announce.

That brings the grand total to 13 candidates seeking six slots on the Alexandria City Council. Although some were bracing for an August primary, recent action from the

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 33

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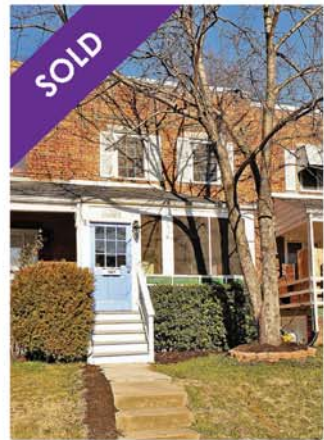
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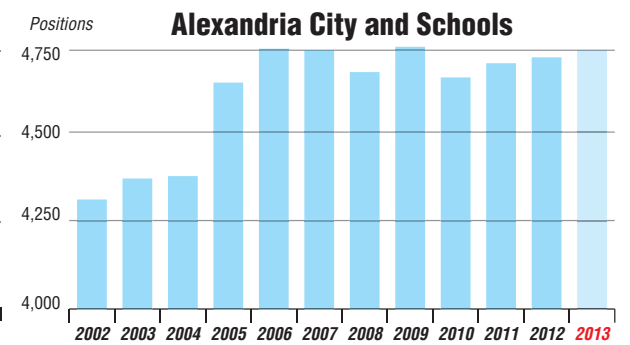
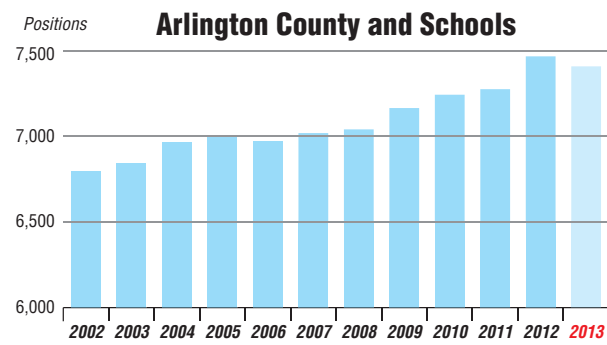
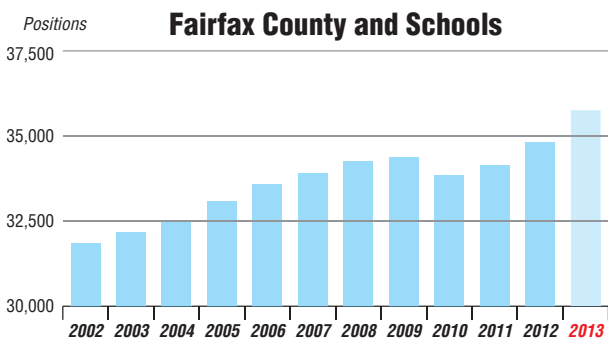
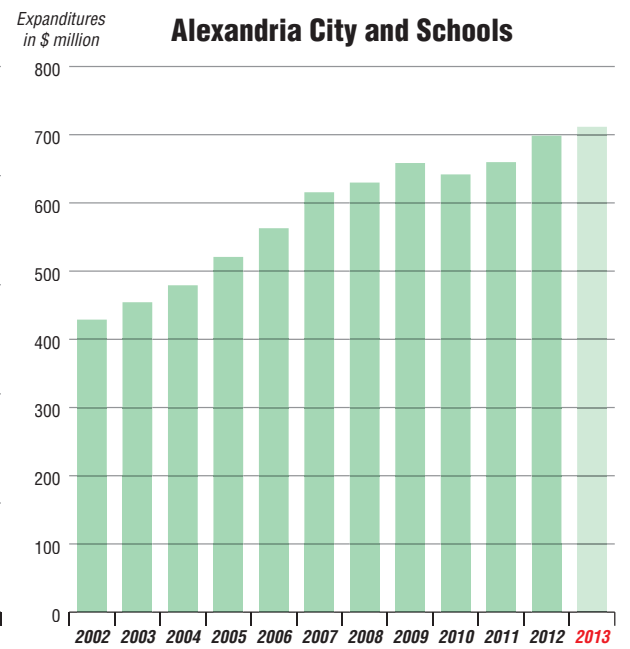
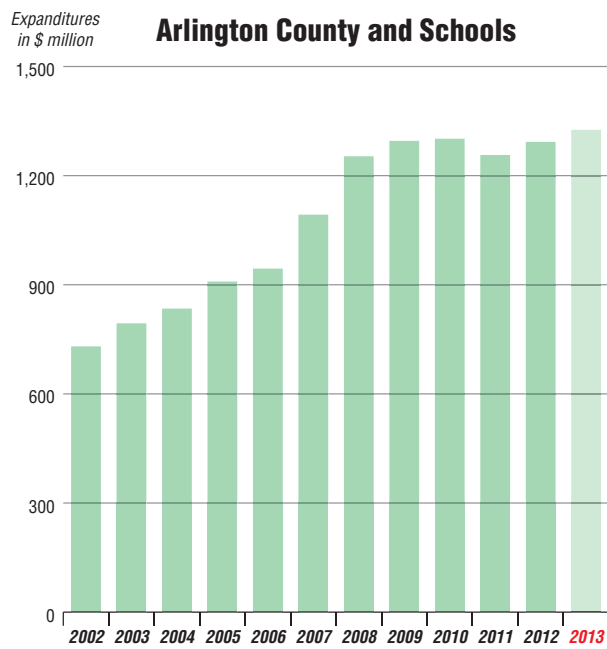
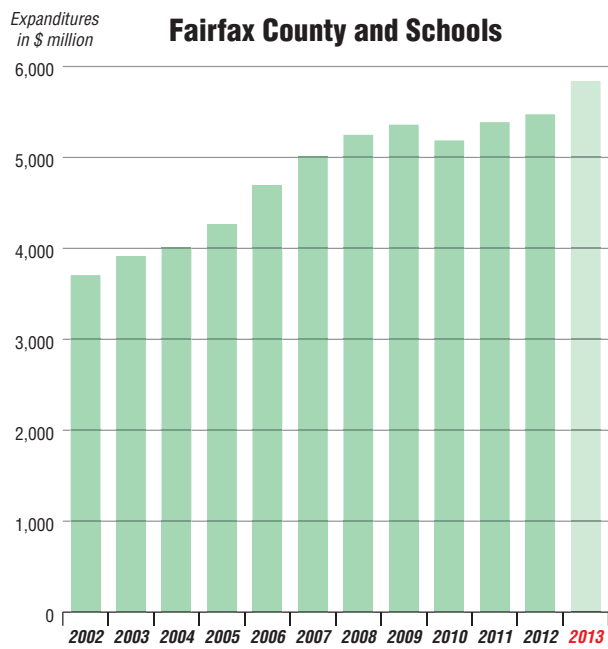
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Northern Virginia Governments Buck National Trend

FROM PAGE 1

the recession technically came to an end, statistics from the Commerce Department show local governments have become a drag on growth. But Northern Virginia belies this trend, in some ways acting as a counterbalance to it.

At least for now.

Because the economic health of the region is so closely tied to the fate of the federal government, any changes to federal spending could have dramatic consequences in Northern Virginia. One scenario that has many local governments worried involves the Government Control Act. That was the legislation that ended the debt-ceiling crisis last year by creating a super-committee that failed to reach an agreement in November. That could mean dramatic reductions in discretionary spending early next year.

"You're not going to gain the savings you need by cutting an aircraft carrier, so you're going to have to cut employees and salaries — the things you need to gain the savings next year, which is required by the law," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. "For federal agencies, that means disproportionate elimination of positions."

OVER THE LAST two years, local governments across America have cut about half a million jobs. Since the federal government started recording local government jobs in 1955, the statistic declined in only six of those years. The first three were the beginning of the Ronald Reagan administration.

And the second three are the beginning of the Barack Obama administration. In the last three years, government employment is down 2.6 percent. In the last 12 months alone, the government sector lost 276,000 jobs.

Contrast those numbers with Northern Virginia. In the last three years, Fairfax County has added about 1,400 jobs. Arlington and Alexandria have added more than 200 jobs. Budget officials say that growth has been built on the strength of the real-estate market.

"We only had one negative year," said Richard Stephenson, budget director in Arlington County. "Because our tax base remains stable, we were able to continue the funding of programs that our population wanted. So we didn't go in and make dramatic cuts to services."

And yet the budgets in local jurisdictions don't always reflect that growth. Libraries and parks, in particular have seen major cuts in all the municipalities. In Fairfax County alone, for example, almost \$5 million has been slashed from the library budget over the last four years. And even now that revenues are growing again, County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed budget for fiscal year 2013 suggests cutting another \$860,000 from the library system.

"We've had to make some pretty draconian cuts to the library system, and it's one of our most used facilities," said Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth. "A lot of constituents really use the library and they're feeling that pinch."

PART OF THE STORY of growth in Northern Virginia in recent years has been tied to the growth in the federal government, especially the growth in defense spending as a result of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Government contracts to Northern Virginia businesses such as Northrop Grumman have been a cash cow for years, pumping money and jobs into the region. Census records indicate the Fairfax County population grew 12 percent in the last decade. Arlington grew 10 percent, and Alexandria grew 9 percent. Nowhere has that growth been more challenging than in the public school systems, which are pushing the limits of enrollment to the point that school administrators are closely monitoring the fire code.

"You can only have so many children in a building," said Tammy Ignacio, chief administrative officer for Alexandria City Public Schools. "Many of our elementary schools are at that limit."

In the last five years, Fairfax County Public Schools has added 15,000 new students and currently has the largest Kindergarten class ever. And more students are expected next year. Much of that growth is from students who live in poverty and speak English as a second language. Because those students cost more to educate, school administrators are seeing budget demands increase at a time when the rest of the country is cutting back.

"We see a lot of immigrant families arriving to Fairfax County in search of a better life, and we see the economy continue to have an impact on our families," said Bar-

bara Hunter, spokeswoman for the county school system. "Thus, we see more kids who are falling below the poverty line."

WHEN THE GREAT RECESSION hit in late 2008, local governments in Northern Virginia responded by imposing hiring freezes and scaling back services. That may seem like an obvious response, but the federal government offered a 7 percent cost-of-living increases at a time when none of the jurisdictions in Northern Virginia were making any cost-of-living adjustments.

"They tightened up early," said Fuller. "They were cutting stuff in 2009 that a lot of people were still waiting and talking about, Maryland particularly was still giving salary raises where they stopped doing that in Virginia."

The story behind the growing expenditures and government employees couldn't have happened anywhere else. Unlike jurisdictions across America, local governments in Northern Virginia have benefited from a growing tax base and an increasing population. That means more money for services at a time when other municipalities are laying off employees and cutting back on programs. But it also means that other sources of revenue have become increasingly reliant on an economy that's still considered by many to be a cash cow.

"The cost of providing services have continued to keep pace with inflation since the Great Recession hit," said Shafroth. "Meanwhile, the federal government and the state have eliminated a number of services. Guess who gets to pick up the tab?"

Young Addresses WEBA Gathering

City Manager and now West End resident Rashad Young was the featured guest at the West End Business Association's monthly Business Over Breakfast meeting March 7 at the Washington Suites Hotel.

"From Day One it's been fast and furious for me trying to learn the community and issues," Young said to the more than 50 people who attended the event. "Most of my time has been spent putting together a budget but I can report that we are in the early stages of conversation regarding the redevelopment of Landmark Mall."

Young answered several questions from the crowd, which focused on issues most affecting the West End of the city, including Landmark Mall, the Beauregard Small Area Plan and the Interstate 395 HOV lanes.

Attendee Linda Vitello inadvertently drew laughs from the crowd when she raised the issue of the Streetcar Coalition.

"It began with a group of citizens," said Vitello, who explained how the coalition began. "There's always a group of citizens."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Rodger Digilio, Melinda Sigel and City Manager Rashad Young.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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6111 Vernon Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

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6102 Edgewood Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

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3625 Drews Court Alexandria, VA 22309

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street parking spaces! ~ \$1,695,000

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

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Erika Carroll
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Bobi Bomar & Gretchen Wilkinson
703-927-2213



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801 Duke Street
Christine Garner
703-587-4855



Old Town/Fords Landing **\$1,749,000**
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Christine Garner **703-587-4855**



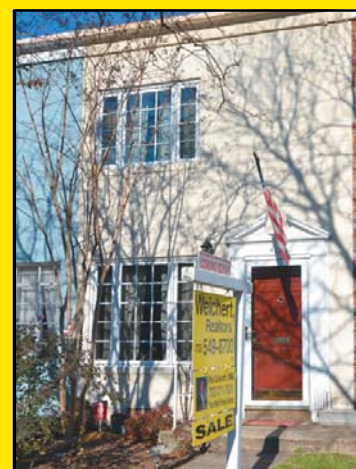
Alexandria **\$299,900**
3 BR, 2 BA beautiful condo with many updates including granite counters and ceramic tile floor in kitchen. Appliances are all less than two years old. Great Master bdrm w/two walk-in closets, private bath w/soaking tub, separate shower and double sink. Open floor plan with a totally private balcony that backs to the woods.
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Seeing Red

Members of the Alexandria City Council were seeing red Monday night, literally. Members of the Alexandria Government Employees Association were wearing red T-shirts proclaiming "A.G.E.A. is listening." The shirts featured a cartoon head with a hand held up to a cartoon ear. Members say they are indeed listening, although Monday night was their opportunity to speak.

"Stop balancing the budget on our backs," said **Richard Estes**, president of the association. "This is unacceptable."

The government employees said it's been six years since they have received a cost-of-living increase, putting them at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring jurisdictions. City Manager **Rashad Young** proposed budget does not include a cost-of-living increase, but it does include merit-based bonuses for those who qualify. City employees say those increases are eaten up by increased healthcare costs. Fiscal year 2013 is the final year of a multi-year plan to phase in a 20 percent minimum employee contribution for healthcare premiums. The proposal also includes eliminating the two lowest steps and adding an additional step to the top of the schedule.

Government employees and their supporters say it's time for some kind of increase to their compensation.

"If it weren't for them, this city couldn't function for five seconds," said **Barbara Ellsworth**, who described herself as an "ordinary taxpayer" in Alexandria. "They need a cost-of-living increase this year."

Elimination Disputed

For the last 15 years, the Urban League of Northern Virginia has operated a program aimed at helping children in trouble — matching them up with mentors, finding community service opportunities and exposing them to after-school programs. Now that effort is in jeopardy. As part of his proposed budget for fiscal year 2013, City Manager **Rashad Young** has suggested eliminating the program. Currently, the program costs \$104,509 a year and serves 85 at-risk children.

"Those youth needing these types of services could self-refer to other city and community programs," explains the section of the budget proposing the elimination of the program.

Many beg to differ. During a public hearing on the budget this week, several speakers spoke out against the elimination of the youth-development program. One of the speakers was former Urban League executive director **Lavern Chatman**. She said she understood that the city manager wanted to prioritize public safety in the short term, but she suggested that eliminating youth-development programs could imperil public safety in the long run.

"These are the kids that will be hanging on the streets, hanging in front of stores and not doing productive types of things," said Chatman. "So, for us, this would be a devastating cut."

Wowing City Hall

Speaking in support of the Higher Education program Monday night, eighth-grade student **Mickayla Noel** made quite a splash at City Hall. Imploring council members to support the program, Noel explained how in the last four years, the after-school program has enriched her life. It's even given her the opportunity to read poetry at the Kennedy Center.

"Higher Achievement is awesome," she said, prompting cheers from the audience. "I'm going to be your future. I'm going to be that lawyer one day or that mayor one day."

Members of the City Council seemed to agree.

"I don't know what you're doing in a couple of weeks, but I have a State of the City Address coming up," said Mayor **Bill Euille**. "I would love to have you give it for me, OK?"

"I'm warming up this chair for her," added Councilwoman **Del Pepper**. "She's got a future."

Last year, Higher Achievement requested \$16,000 and received \$14,000 from the Alexandria Fund for Human Services. This year, the organization is on track to receive another \$14,000.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

How Would They Have Voted?

Candidates take sides in debate on waterfront.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The waterfront is no longer a partisan issue. As more candidates throw their hat into the ring to run in the election for Alexandria City Council, a broader field of possibilities is opening up to voters. The issue has polarized city politics in the last year, with partisans on both sides of the issue. At stake is the future of three sites slated for redevelopment along the waterfront, where city planners want to add 150,000 square feet of allowable density.

"The waterfront is a post-partisan issue," said Dak Hardwick, chairman of the Alexandria Democratic Committee. "Look at the people who spoke for and against it and you'll see there are Democrats and Republicans on both sides of this."

That may be so, but City Council members cast a party-line vote in January. All of the Democrats voted in favor of the plan, including Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Councilman Paul Smedberg and Councilwoman Del Pepper. The two Republicans on the City Council were united in their opposition, with Councilman Frank Fannon and Councilwoman Alicia Hughes voting against the upzoning. Republicans are eager to frame the waterfront issue as part of a broader argument about a council unwilling to listen to concerns from the Beauregard small-area plan to redevelopment in Arlandria.

"There's a widespread current of discontent in this city," said Tom Fulton, chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. "We are the party of change."

WHEN ASKED about the waterfront plan, candidates give a range of answers. Some were reluctant to say how they would have voted, although an-

Would Have Voted For It

- * John Taylor Chapman
- * Donna Fossum
- * Michael Hepburn
- * Sean Hollihan
- * Tim Lovain
- * Charles Sumpter
- * Justin Wilson

Would Have Voted Against It

- * Phil Cefaratti
- * Arthur Peabody
- * Allison Silverberg
- * Boyd Walker

Undecided

- * Melissa Feld

swered when pressed. Others have strong feelings about the issue and participated in the public hearings that culminated in the January vote. Perhaps none of the candidates identifies with the issue as strongly as Democratic candidate Boyd Walker, who helped create an organization known as Citizens for an Alternative Alexandria Waterfront Plan. He has since resigned from the group to focus on his campaign, but his opposition to the plan has not diminished.

"Would I have voted for it?" asked Walker. "How many ways can you spell no?"

On the other side of the debate is Democratic candidate Sean Hollihan. During the debate on the waterfront plan, he became active

with a group created to support the proposal known as Waterfront For All. He spoke in favor of the plan at the January public hearing, and he remains a strong advocate for boutique hotels such as Kimpton on the waterfront. When asked about how he would have voted, Hollihan said he would have enthusiastically cast his lot with the other Democrats on the council in support of increased density along the waterfront.

"I'd rather have a Kimpton than an abandoned lot surrounded by barbed wire," said Hollihan.

This week, two new Democrats entered the race who are opposed to the plan. School Board member Arthur Peabody said he would have voted against the plan, which he described as lacking vision and adding too much density to Old Town. Allison Silverberg said she would have also voted against the plan, which she said lacked a spirit of compromise. During the debate on the waterfront, she offered a compromise measure that would have added one 100-room new hotel to the waterfront in addition to a bandshell on the north end of Oronoco Bay Park. When asked about the increased density, Silverberg said she wasn't sure if that was a good idea or not.

"I realize that the city staff and council worked

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 30

Macdonald Considers Run for Mayor

Former Democratic vice mayor appears before Republicans to ask for support.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Former Democratic Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald says he is "seriously considering" an independent campaign for mayor, and he's asking Republicans for support. Macdonald appeared before Alexandria City Republican Committee members last week to ask for their backing if he decides to throw his hat into the ring and challenge three-term incumbent Democratic Mayor Bill Euille.

Macdonald said he would make a decision by the end of April.

"I think we need a change of leadership — a significant change," Macdonald told Republicans, prompting a round of sustained applause.

The move represents a departure for Macdonald, who ran for City Council and won twice as a Democrat. Although he initially ran unsuccessfully as an independent candidate for City Council in 2000, Euille and Macdonald appeared together on the Democratic slate in 2003 and again in 2006. In the 2006 election, he received more votes than another other candidate, which vaulted him to the position of vice mayor.

Within months, however, he unexpectedly resigned for personal reasons. He wouldn't say what those personal reason were, although court records show he was going through a divorce at the time. His unexpected departure prompted a special election that

SEE MACDONALD, PAGE 8

NEWS



The Alexandria Police Motor Squad.



The Washington Scottish Pipe Band Color Guard.

On Parade

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Sheriff Dana Lawhorne walks the parade route with neighbors Cate Leonard, Megan Robbert, and Sarah and Emily Brennan.



All stand as the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Pipe Band passes the reviewing stand.



Cub Scout Pack 1520 from the Cameron United Methodist Church in Franconia marches past the reviewing stand.



Former Governor and U.S. Senator George Allen, campaigning to return to the Senate, walks the route with his family and supporters.



Dancers from the Boyle School of Irish Dancing.



Pat Troy introduces parade Grand Marshals Tom and Melinda Mooney.



The O'Neill-James School of Irish Dancing from North Arlington dances through the parade route.

Not-So-Super Tuesday

Turnout was lowest in recent memory.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

With two of the major candidates in the Republican presidential contest failing to qualify for the ballot in Virginia, Super Tuesday was anything but super. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won the state and all 46 delegates up for grabs. But it wasn't the blowout that many predicted. Texas U.S. Rep. Ron Paul was able to capture more than 40 percent of the vote, an indication of Romney's weakness among Republican voters.

"The Virginia Republican nomination process pretty consistently moves in the direction of the most conservative nominee," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor of political science at Mary Washington University. "As a result, if Virginia had a larger number of candidates on the ballot, it's not clear to me that Virginia would get the attention that other states are going to get in this process."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich was leading in some Virginia polls when he failed to qualify, and some believe that he may have been able to secure a victory in the Old Dominion if he had been able to qualify for the ballot. But his ballot petitions were rejected when the Republican Party of Virginia determined that he had not met the threshold required under Virginia law.

"If you can't get your paperwork in that shows a

JURISDICTION

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
ALEXANDRIA		
Mitt Romney	3,457	68 percent
Ron Paul	1,658	32 percent
ARLINGTON		
Mitt Romney	4,922	65 percent
Ron Paul	2,701	35 percent
FAIRFAX COUNTY		
Mitt Romney	25,707	65 percent
Ron Paul	13,672	35 percent
FAIRFAX CITY		
Mitt Romney	604	60 percent
Ron Paul	397	40 percent
FALLS CHURCH		
Mitt Romney	314	64 percent
Ron Paul	178	36 percent

shortcoming in your election process," said Republican Townsend Van Fleet. "So I don't feel bad for the people who didn't get their paperwork in."

Romney won all precincts in Alexandria and all precincts in Arlington except Ashton Heights. But Paul showed surprising strength in Fairfax County, winning in various spots throughout the sprawling county. Overall the Texas congressman won 12 counties and four cities, including Manassas Park City in Northern Virginia. As election returns were being posted Tuesday night, Romney supporters rejected the idea that the Virginia primary was meaningless.

"I don't think it's an empty victory at all," said Ken VonSchaumburg, who votes at the Alexandria City Hall precinct. "That's part of the strategy. Everybody could have participated here in Virginia, and for whatever reason or another they didn't."

Macdonald Considers Run for Mayor

FROM PAGE 7

cost city taxpayers about \$40,000. Democrats could make an issue of the unexpected resignation and cost to taxpayers, although that's a strategy that could have its own shortcomings.

"I take him at his word that he needed to resign for personal reasons," said former Councilman Tim Lovain, who managed Euille's contested 2003 race for mayor. "I wouldn't fault him for that. He was doing what he thought he needed to do."

IF MACDONALD DECIDES

to wage an independent campaign against Euille, the waterfront small-area plan is certain to dominate the debate. Euille has been one of the most vocal supporters in favor of increasing the allowable density along the waterfront, and Macdonald has led the charge against the proposal. At one point, Macdonald even asked Euille to recuse himself because he has a business relationship with former Chamber of Commerce Chairman "Mango" Mike Anderson.

Macdonald called on Euille to rescue himself from voting on the waterfront because he claimed that Anderson is an investor in Virtue Feed and Grain, a waterfront restaurant. Anderson says he does not have a business relationship with the restaurant, and Macdonald was unable to produce any evidence that Anderson has ties to Virtue.

"I think we need a change of leadership — a significant change."

— Andrew Macdonald

"I've never owned any property on the waterfront," Euille said at the outset of the waterfront plan public hearing. "And I've never had an investment in a restaurant on the waterfront — past or present."

Nevertheless, many Alexandria voters remain outraged about increased density on the waterfront, and many have warned during public hearings that there will be a price to pay on Election Day. It remains to be seen whether or not opponents of the waterfront plan can marshal their support at the polls, although Republicans responded enthusiastically to Macdonald's appearance Thursday night.

"This City Council has got to go," said former Republican Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland. "I'm voting for anybody but Bill Euille."

ASIDE FROM the waterfront, another issue that could be a problem for

Macdonald is his tenuous relationship with the Alexandria Democratic Committee.

The former vice mayor is still a member of the committee, and recently renewed his membership. And yet he chose to appear before Republicans to talk about his potential candidacy, asking them for their support. That rubbed many Democrats the wrong way.

"He needs to let the Democratic Committee know what his intentions are," said Dak Hardwick, chairman of the committee. "He can't run as an independent and remain a Democrat."

OBITUARY

Betty M. Miller

Betty M. Miller, of Haymarket, Va., formerly of Alexandria, died on March 1, 2012. Loving mother of Marilyn Mallery and her husband Dave. Cherished grandmother of Michael Mallery and his wife Kim and Peter Mallery and his wife Christina. Great grandmother of Amber, Michael, Matthew, Shaman and Cheyenne Mallery. Betty retired from the photography depart-

ment of the CIA. After her retirement she worked at a medical pharmacy in Annandale.

The family will receive friends at the Everly Funeral Home, 10565 Main Street, Fairfax, on Thursday, March 8, from 6 until 8 p.m. Inurnment will be at a later date in Mt. Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the local animal rescue league.

OPINION

Reenacting a Dark History?

Who could have anticipated that our elected officials would take African American History month and Women's History month so seriously that they would literally try to turn back the clock?

First in February, African American History Month, the assembly voted to make it harder to vote, knowing that the bill would make it less likely that some African-Americans in Virginia would vote.

The bill, which "eliminates the provision that allows a voter to sign a sworn statement that he is the named registered voter he claims to be in lieu of showing identification." There is no evidence that this longstanding provision has been abused.

In an action that reminds many of the poll tax, the General Assembly voted to require specific forms of identification at the polls in order to vote, knowing that this will disproportionately affect minority voters, poor voters and older voters, knowing that 15 percent or more of minority voters and older voters do not have such ID.

In the House of Delegates, the measure passed 69-30, with Northern Virginia delegates Dave Albo, Barbara Comstock, Tim Hugo, Jim LeMunyon and Tom Rust voting in favor; voting against were Robert Brink, David Bulova, David Englin, Eileen Filler-Corn, Mark Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam, Kay Kory, Alfonso Lopez, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Scott Surovell and Vivian Watts.

All Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria senators voted against the bill that forces voters to provide one of a short list of identification in order to vote, but the bill passed 20-to-20.

EDITORIAL

Senators George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Mark Herring, Janet Howell, Dave Marsden, Chap Petersen, Toddy Puller and Dick Saslaw voted against.

Now on to Women's History.

Northern Virginia holds a special place in women's struggle for the right to vote.

From the Workhouse Museum in Lorton:

"In 1917, women began demonstrating in front of the White House for the right to vote. They decided they would rather be imprisoned than be quiet. In response to their outspoken protests during World War I, they were sentenced to fines or imprisonment. They chose imprisonment. Some of those arrested were sentenced to the Women's Workhouse at Lorton. The protestors were held under deplorable conditions. As news of the sentences spread, sympathy for the suffragists was aroused. ... Finally the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified in 1919 and for the first time women were allowed to vote in the November 1920 national election."

Women's right to self-determination and equality has not come easily, and the transformation to full equality is not complete.

The Virginia General Assembly nevertheless became the butt of jokes and a source of outrage as it pursued a variety of bills that seek to deny women the right to have control over their own bodies.

We don't need to revisit the many references to "transvaginal ultrasound." The literal invasive parts of this bill were deleted, but still the assembly passed legislation that will require women to have an ultrasound view of their

Turning back the clock in Richmond.

fetus before having an abortion.

A bill that would provide "that unborn children at every stage of development enjoy all the rights, privileges, and immunities available to other persons, citizens, and residents of the Commonwealth," passed the House of Delegates 66-32. Local delegates Dave Albo, Barbara Comstock, Tim Hugo, Jim LeMunyon voted in favor; and voting against, Robert Brink, David Bulova, David Englin, Eileen Filler-Corn, Mark Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam, Kay Kory, Alfonso Lopez, Ken Plum, Tom Rust, Jim Scott, Mark Sickles, Scott Surovell, and Vivian Watts.

This bill died in the Senate at least for this year. Northern Virginia senators voting to kill this bill were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Mark Herring, Janet Howell, David Marsden, Chap Petersen, Toddy Puller and Dick Saslaw. No senator from Fairfax, Arlington or Alexandria voted to keep the bill alive.

Outrage over these bills, assaults on women's rights, sparked demonstrations over the weekend.

Apparently the protest that ensued, with hundreds descending on Richmond, was darn scary; scary enough to turn out the riot squad and to prompt police to arrest protesters for sitting on the Capitol steps.

"Our state Capitol is becoming an armed garrison," said state Sen. Janet Howell. "Not since the massive resistance days in the '60s have I seen such a disgraceful display of excessive police presence in my state."

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS

Appreciating Support

To the Editor:

On Feb. 8, the officers and members of the Alexandria Fire Department began an experience that we have not had to deal with for many years.

While responding to an incident for a vehicle fire on Interstate 395, Paramedic Joshua Weissman fell from a bridge and was severely injured, succumbing to those injuries on Feb. 9.

As one of the responders to that incident, and as one of the Station Officers of Firehouse 206, I would first and foremost like to express our heartfelt condolences to Josh's wife Rebecca, and the entire Weissman Family. The members of Firehouse 206 would also like to express our gratitude to the crews of Arlington County Engine 109, A-Shift, Arlington County Truck 105 A-Shift, the Arlington County Police, the Virginia State Police

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

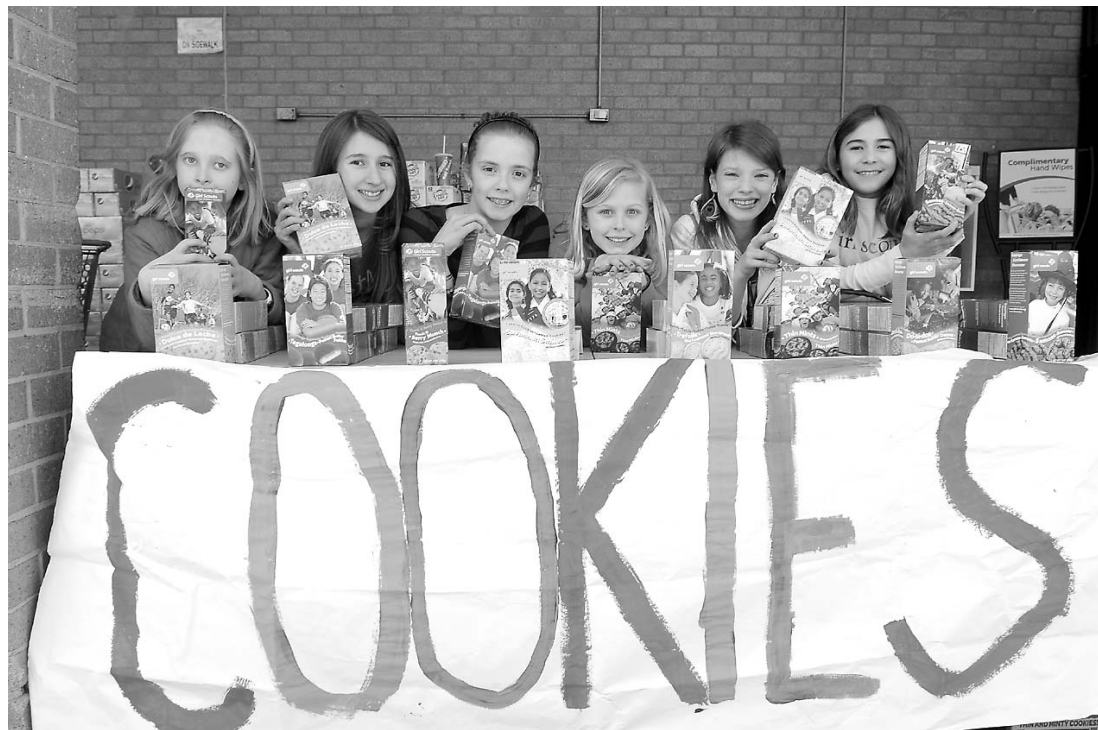


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot

Girl Scouts from Troop 4595 offer cookies for sale outside the Bradlee Safeway on Saturday, March 3. They are: Mary Ellen Petersen, Olivia Augustine, Priscilla Houck, Piper Bucholz, Leslie Lytle and Grace Fluharty.

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LETTERS

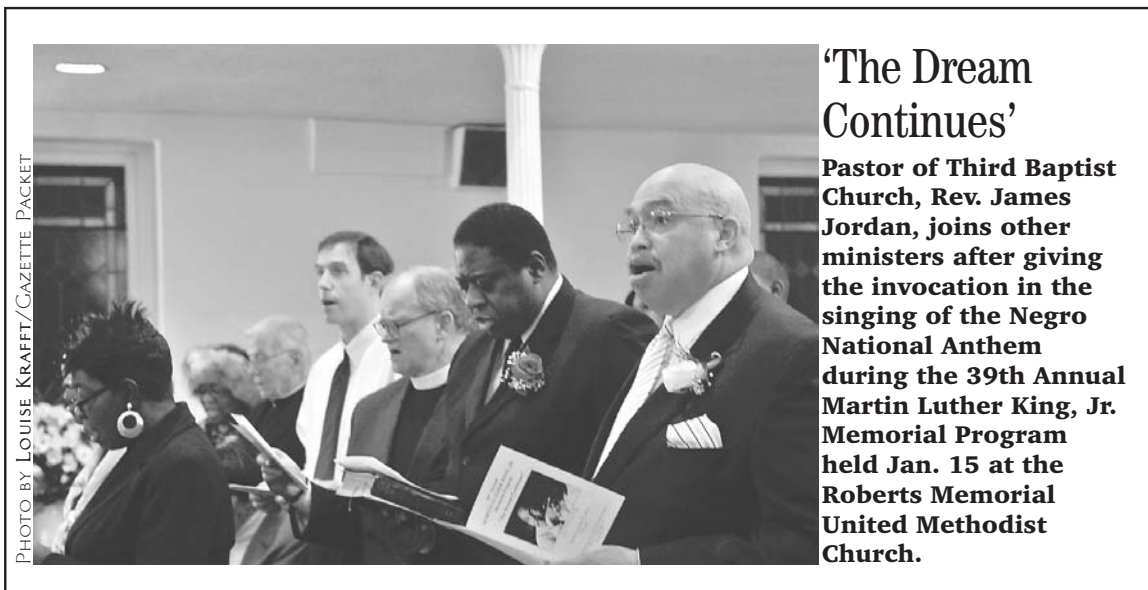


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

'The Dream Continues'

Pastor of Third Baptist Church, Rev. James Jordan, joins other ministers after giving the invocation in the singing of the Negro National Anthem during the 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Program held Jan. 15 at the Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

and everyone else that assisted during the incident. In addition, we must also acknowledge the members of the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority Police Department, the District of Columbia Police Department and the District of Columbia Fire Department for their assistance in transporting Josh to the hospital and their support while at the hospital.

After Josh's passing, the members of Firehouse 206 received an overwhelming amount of support from our brothers and sisters from the National Capitol Region, many of the local merchants and the citizens and visitors that we serve on a daily basis; 24/7/365. Your kind words, gifts of food, flowers, cards and your thoughts and prayers were humbly accepted with gratitude and will not be forgotten.

The members of Firehouse 206 and all of the Alexandria Fire Department will be grieving the loss of Josh Weissman for years to come. We know that with the support we have received from those mentioned above, we will move forward with Josh's memory in our hearts helping us to serve our com-

munity each and every day.

Acting Captain David Bogozi

On behalf of the Officers, Firefighters and Paramedics of Firehouse 206
Alexandria

City's Quick Response

To the Editor:

I would like to give the city a thumb's up for amazing service on a sidewalk repair.

At 1:10 on Friday, March 2, I sent the city an email about some loose bricks on a sidewalk on Franklin Street.

Within 30 minutes, I had a reply from Ray Brown saying a crew was on the way. On Saturday morning, I confirmed that the bricks had been repaired.

I am so impressed with this quick response. I especially appreciate it because it will make my daily walks with my dog much safer. Thanks to the city.

Carol Hutchinson
Old Town Alexandria

Where Are Students Going?

To the Editor:

As a West Street resident and a parent, I am amazed that Alexandria's leaders – both on the School Board and the City Council – are spending nearly \$45 million and probably more to come in taxpayer money for a newer and bigger Jefferson-Houston School when it looks to be just as empty as before.

The Virginia Department of Education enrollment numbers for Jefferson-Houston show that the school's real problem isn't recruitment. It's retention. The numbers show a big fall off with each successive grade level. There are parents taking a chance on the school by sending their children there, but the experience must not be positive enough for them to want to keep their kids there for subsequent grades.

VDOE's numbers show that there were 62 children in pre-kindergarten at the start of the current school year (2011-2012) —

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

Bevans

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Meet the Legends Reception

The Board of Directors of Living Legends of Alexandria invites you to attend the Meet the Legends Reception

Thursday, March 22, 2012, 6 p.m.
**Patent & Trademark Office,
Madison Building**

Special guest: **Senator Mark Warner**

Honoring the 2012 Nominees: **Duncan Wardman Blair, Suzanne S. Brock, Bob Calhoun, Diane L. Charles, Elizabeth C. Chimento and Poul Hertel, Bernard S. Cohen, Brooke Curran, Allison Cryor Dinardo, Al Grande, Michael M. Hadeed, Harry "Bud" Hart, James E. Henson, Sr., Wendy McGann John, William "Bill" Kehoe, Allen Lomax, Jimmie McClellan, Pat Miller, Patrick M. O'Brien, Mike Oliver, Lillian Stanton Patterson, William "Bill" Rivers, Joseph S. Shumard, Jim Singerling, Fay D. Slotnick and Joyce Woodson, The Steuerle Family, Dorothy Turner and Gwen Menefee-Smith.**
The Legends of 2012 are in bold

Legendary Tastings generously donated by Alexandria Cupcakes, Alexandria Pastry Shop, Barrett's of Alexandria, Bertucci's, Dishes of India, Hard Times Cafe, Joe Theismann's Restaurant, Pork Barrel BBQ, Red Rocks Pizza and UnWined.
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Reservations: Received by March 15, \$40/\$75 for two; after March 15, \$50/\$95 for two.
Register online at www.AlexandriaLegends.com or mail check to Living Legends, P.O. Box 10485, Alexandria, VA 22310. Info: 703-625-2330.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

the single largest grade at Jefferson-Houston. But in the same year there were 49 children in kindergarten, 41 in first grade, and only 29 in third grade. Even if you track the same group of kids across several years, the numbers drop: there were 64 children in pre-kindergarten at the start of the 2007-2008 school year, which fell to 38 kindergartners in 2008-2009 (a 41 percent decline), and only 28 children in second grade by 2010-2011.

If ACPS is not retaining children in this school whose parents do give it a try, why do they think they will attract and keep others from the neighborhood, or across the city? Does the School Board really believe that we parents only look at the exterior of a school and not at all the other factors?

My neighbors and I asked repeatedly why the rush to build was necessary. Why not bring up academic performance first to create measurable demand from parents to enroll their children there before committing to this huge project that will up-end our community? Instead, ACPS seems to prefer to gamble with taxpayers money, aided and abetted by Council members who are unable or unwilling to ask the hard financial questions.

Whether No Child Left Behind is repealed or not, parents zoned for Jefferson-Houston currently move or send their children to private school if they can't get a slot in another Alexandria elementary school. Are parents elsewhere in the city going to be any different? New developments are not an issue either. Those big new four-story townhouses in Potomac Greens haven't filled Jefferson-Houston with students, and I bet neither will Potomac Yard.

The recent expansion of Jefferson-Houston to include middle school grades also appears to mask a decline in the number of kids in PK through grade 5, the traditional elementary years. There were a total of 366 children enrolled at Jefferson-Houston at the start of the 2011-2012 academic year, but if you subtract enrollment in the new 6th, 7th and 8th grades, there were only 296 children in pre-kindergarten through grade 5. That's down from a high of 382 PK through grade 5 pupils in school year 2003-2004.

There's another question that hasn't been answered either. This enormous new school is presumably needed because of enrollment pressure throughout Alexandria, but its well known there is unused educational space at George Washington Middle School just a short walk away. GW was overbuilt and administrators occupy the excess space. What kind of capacity shell game are Alexandria's School Superintendent Morton Sherman and the School Board playing? Are the middle school children at Jefferson-Houston even going to get the same level of activities and enrichment that their peers will get at GW?

We heard the great line of "Build it and they will come" in the movie "Field of Dreams." The move was a fantasy, and unfortunately, so is ACPS's justification for this new school.

Dan Johnson
Alexandria



'Up Day' at Dee Campbell Boathouse

It was "Up Day" at the Dee Campbell Boathouse on Saturday, Feb. 18 — sign-up day for new rowers on the T.C. Williams High School Crew Team, and clean-up day to make sure the dock is ready for the year. Above, volunteers work on the dock. The 2012 T.C. Williams Spring Crew season marks the 65th year of public school rowing in the City of Alexandria, which dates back to 1947 when a Washington, D.C. policeman named Julian Whitestone and a Navy employee named Jack Franklin started training young men from what was then George Washington High School at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

City Cuts Affect Parade's Future

To the Editor:

I am writing to alert the citizens of Alexandria about some serious financial decisions made by our city council in the past few years that could impact the way that George Washington, St. Patrick's Day, and our Scottish heritage is celebrated and remembered (or not) in Alexandria.

In November 2009, our committee (made up of citizens appointed by the City of Alexandria) received a letter from the City Manager informing us that the FY2010 budget was reducing the budget for special events by \$150,000. This referenced that all three of the City parades (Scottish Walk, St. Patrick's Day parade, and the Washington's Birthday Parade) were now being asked to "help us by finding ways to reduce costs, and, if possible, raise private funds to help cover some of the expenses in the current fiscal year." They went on to ask that our committees reduce the amount of City financial support by 30 percent for FY10.

Although the parade is the most expensive undertaking of the GWBCC committee, since the committee also is responsible for several other events in February that do incur expenses, they asked the GWBCC to "either reduce City expenses or reimburse the City in the amount of \$18,824 (30 percent of the FY2009 costs) to offset the City's cost for activities and events during the 2010 George Washington Birthday Celebration Weekend, including the Birthnight Ball,

the 10K race, Revolutionary War Reenactment and the Parade." The 10K race is our only fundraising event. The other two parade-organizing entities are only running parades, and thus their expenditures are less than those of the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBCC).

In 2011, we changed our parade route, reducing the parade expenses by approximately \$7,000. We also stopped doing fundraising with our 10K for outside charities, as we had now become the charity. These two changes did not make up the difference, and we solicited sponsorships to try to help defray the costs.

Since 2009, the City has upped their reduction so that in 2012, the GWBCC is now asked to come up with 50 percent of the cost covering. The GWBCC doesn't know how or if this request can be met. Fifty percent of all of the costs of the GWBCC events can be attributed to the parade. An easy solution? Eliminate the parade. Then the GWBCC can pay for the other events, and use the 10K profits to pay the amount that the City is requesting on those. Just using the 10K to pay for the parade doesn't raise enough money — in fact, only about 1/3 of the parade expenses are covered by the 10K profits. Do they start charging admission to the re-enactment at Ft. Ward Park? Do they start charging for the Walking with Washington tours? Do they start charging restaurants to participate in the Cherry Challenge (an event that is still in the process of establishing itself amongst Alexandria restaurants)? Do they raise the price of the Birthnight Ball (which is already \$100 a

ticket, and has a very limited capacity)?

The City Council has not provided any representation on the committee for fundraising professionals, outside of "citizen slots." The GWBCC also has no voice in approving who is elected to the slots. The GWBCC can certainly publicize committee openings, but cannot force people to volunteer on the committee, and cannot specify if they prefer one representative over another, based on how they could help the committee. That is the right of the City Council.

This financial burden will likely be an issue that the City will need to take decisive action on in the years to come. It is not reasonable to expect the GWBCC committee to become a fundraising committee, when that was never the primary purpose, and also due to the fact that there is no manner of representation on the committee for someone with that kind of experience.

If the City wishes to continue holding GW events in the City, it must find a way to fund the events itself, or must make a command that the GWBCC will cease specific events that have been run historically because the City is unwilling to fund them. As sad as that kind of future would be, I believe it is what will be necessary.

I had hoped to bring media attention to this situation this year, as you know, as a means to garner more public support for our events, and perhaps some financial support, but was unable, even with my television industry connections, to get anyone to pick up this story. I didn't even get a response from the Gazette Packet.

The GWBCC events in the City are taken for granted by the citizens, and by our own City Council. It is unreasonable to expect that the GWBCC can be laden with such a large financial burden and still continue to run all of the events in the same manner as they have been in the past, if at all.

Sharon Sobel

GWBCC Committee member, 2000-2012
Fairfax

Democrats for A Better Alexandria

To the Editor:

A number of decisions by Alexandria City staff and City Council have raised questions about the City being responsive to citizen concerns and needs. Consider, for example, the location of the BRAC-133 complex of buildings, the process for the approval of the Waterfront Plan, the unpopular draft Beauregard Small Area Plan that calls, among other things, for displacing 10,000 lower-income residents; an ambitious and largely unfunded rapid transit Corridor C in the West End; and the general lack of adequate traffic solutions within the City. All these point to the great importance of the elections this year (primary and general) that will select a Mayor and six Councilmembers in Alexandria.

I invite those who also consider these elections to be crucial to join a new group,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Democrats for a Better Alexandria (DBA), co-chaired by Dorathea Peters and Jack Sullivan. DBA has a deep interest in such issues as land use; traffic and transportation; green open space; transparency, accountability, efficiency and civility in government; and adequate affordable housing in Alexandria. Its steering committee includes present and past Democratic party officials, and it welcomes others with a similar interest in these issues.

DBA plans to provide a range of support, including financial support, for candidates for Council which it endorses. Endorsements will depend on a number of things, including responses to a questionnaire that the DBA is preparing, regarding pressing issues that Alexandria faces. Our goal is to assure that the new City Council reflects the commitment to good government that has been a tradition in our city since its founding.

John Broughton
Alexandria

Losing Low Cost Housing

To the Editor:

Concerning the Council Notebook "Double Offense" and last week's article on the destruction of public housing:

I have been active fighting for affordable housing in Alexandria since 1985. During these 27 years every City Council member has been clear about their strong commitment to affordable housing and equally clear about their inability to do anything about market forces that are destroying affordable housing. This is the "big lie" that is constantly repeated while working people — particularly African Americans and immigrants — are forced from Alexandria.

A quick review of recent efforts that are driving the working poor from this community include:

❖ The destruction of the "uptown projects" and the "Berg" — both have been or are being bulldozed and replaced by high cost town homes. Hello big profit for EYA. Good bye working poor. Good bye Black Community.

❖ The Council gave away to PMI parking magnates the right to build a mega-development at the Arlandria Shopping Center. Hello big profit for PMI and Steven Weinstock. Good bye working poor. Good bye Latino community.

❖ The approval and destruction of market rate affordable housing at the Calvert on Mt. Vernon Avenue. No affordable housing on site — mega profit for UDR.

❖ Oh yeah, it was City Council that approved zoning for Potomac Yards that creates \$800,000 townhomes instead of affordable apartments.

❖ Of course we can go back 50 years and talk about building Route 1 through the heart of the Black community. Or urban renewal on the Southside (the dip) that removed African American homeowners.

Once again City Council is faced with a huge decision and Council can do some-

thing. The last large concentration of market rate affordable housing — virtually the entire West End — is seeking new zoning and permission to almost triple housing density. City Council is racing to approve another give-away that will end up with 6,000 housing units that virtually no current resident can afford. Now is the time for City Council to slow down and use the tools it does have to preserve low-cost housing.

The most powerful tool that Council has is the ability to say "No" to JBG and its allied developers. It's all math and negotiation. The math is simple — by tripling density the developer will make a certain number of millions in profit. A small portion of this is to be given back through 700 so-called affordable units, a fire station, and some road improvements. Nice but no cigar. Negotiating with JBG is like buying a car — you have to be prepared to walk out of the dealer and push beyond the first offer to get the best deal. Second, the City maintains the power of eminent domain. It can seize property, pay the market rate, and preserve affordable housing and Alexandria's most diverse community. This same power was used to destroy hundreds of affordable African American occupied apartments. It can legally be used to save apartments that are the home to thousands of working families. Third, the City can re-establish a "housing fund" to accrue money needed to buy and preserve affordable housing. There is much that can be done — the City's hands are not tied. No one is in a rush except the developer. Why not get a detailed study on the actual incomes and housing needs of West End residents? Why not get a detailed study of the projected profits so we know how much is potentially being given away and can establish reasonable parameters for negotiation? Many of our Council members are astute business people — why not use those skills to get the best deal for Alexandria? For the rest of us — we need to build the biggest possible movement to fight for Alexandria's most precious resource low-cost housing and the people who live in them. In November we need to look for at least four candidates who will join us and use every tool at their disposal to "Save the West End."

Jon Liss
Alexandria

Vision-based Planning

To the Editor:

Mr. Auld's letter in your most recent edition ("What's Best for All Residents") is full of straw men. No one in CAAWP (or anywhere else that I'm aware of) is arguing for mindless "preservation" of the kind that he knocks down. Opponents of the proposed rezoning (may it rest in peace) agree that the waterfront requires sensible, low-density development, appropriate for a National Historic Landmark. That should mean development driven primarily by public welfare (including residents' concerns) and long-term profitability, not short-term profits and long-term mediocrity.



Learning Chinese Culture

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Lower School celebrated the Chinese New Year on Feb. 3 with an interactive presentation from Wong People of Washington, D.C. Students learned the cultural meanings of the Chinese New Year, and students and faculty were encouraged to wear red, symbolizing good luck.

Among other things we must pay special but not exclusive attention to the two big Washington Post warehouses. One of them, Robinson Terminal North, is one of the unknown treasures of the National Capital Area. If you stand on its pier and look up and down river, especially at the magnificent perspective looking north, you will see what I mean.

If we handle the development of this site with taste and skill, we can accomplish something that future generations of Alexandrians will be proud of. They will feel about us the same way that we feel about those who saved Old Town from reckless development in the 1960s, and others who later turned the Torpedo Factory into an Art Center, anchoring (among other things) the future prosperity of the historic district.

Mr. Auld trots out another straw man — that CAAWP has advocated "purchasing these properties for parks." CAAWP does not have a politbureau, and individual members have said many things at different times. But CAAWP has always put primary emphasis on parks, museums and open space, to be achieved through public-private partnerships, including, but not restricted to, use of City and other public funds as well as NGO and philanthropic support where appropriate. That is what most other cities that have achieved successful waterfront development have done.

My own preference for Robinson Terminal North, spelled out in an letter to the Gazette-Packet published on Dec. 21, would be a decentralized, multi-purpose Museum of the Potomac River, the headquarters of which would be on the Robinson Terminal North site. It would be set in a well-designed (but not necessarily huge) building with ample green space around it, and take full advantage of the site's pier for riverine and maritime displays. It would among other things serve as a nucleus for other historic displays and museums along the waterfront.

This is just my idea, and others will have

other ideas. With zoning in limbo, this is the time to examine all of such ideas and decide on a community-based vision of what we want the waterfront to be — a goal sadly lacking up to now.

Achieving such a vision will take time and cost money. It will require sophisticated fundraising and some fresh thinking. We might emulate the success story of Oklahoma City, where three-term Mayor Mick Cornett, chairman of the National Republican Mayors Committee, has — in this reddest of red states — successfully advocated a temporary, targeted sales tax dedicated to civic improvements, including waterfront restoration, on the grounds — which his voters accepted — that such investment will pay in the long run.

Once we have the vision thing thing sorted out, we could even try approaching the Grahams (not their local lawyer) to see if the Washington Post, which is a great civic institution as well as a profit-making enterprise, would cut us a deal. Stranger things have happened.

Robert Pringle
Alexandria

Is Traffic Ellipse Necessary?

To the Editor:

Does the proposed \$30 million traffic ellipse improve traffic flow and pedestrian crossing at Seminary Road and North Beauregard? Should other safer, less costly options be explored?

City Transportation and Environmental Services staff members have touted the ellipse as being necessary to improve traffic conditions for employees working at the new BRAC office towers. City officials also argue the ellipse would improve opportu-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 32

Spell Check

Navigating the ABC's of Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The acronyms run from ACBA to WEBA and represent various business associations from the waterfront to the West End. Whether new to the city or a long-time resident, the following is a primer that explains the ABC's of Alexandria.

Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association - ACVA

The Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association, as the City's tourism marketing agency, attracts visitors to the city through a comprehensive sales and marketing program contributing both to the quality of life for Alexandria residents and to the economic health of Alexandria.



Stephanie Pace Brown, Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association

ACVA's advertising campaign for 2012 will reach 100 million households, with the website reaching 1 million visitors. The ACVA organizes promotions including the twice-yearly Alexandria Restaurant Week and the special-offers booklet Key to the City.

ACVA's sales team attracts meetings and groups to the city, booking revenue for Alexandria Businesses.

ACVA organizes member events with networking opportunities.

ACVA members receive benefits designed to generate business such as a web page with photos, events and special offers on VisitAlexandriaVA.com and more.

For more information contact Merrie Morris, director of public affairs, at MMorris@VisitAlexVA.com or 703-652-5361.

The ACVA Visitors Center is located at 221 King St. with administrative offices at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400.

VisitAlexandriaVA.com

Alexandria Economic Development Partnership - AEDP

Founded in 1992, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, along with the other economic development organizations in the City, defines and markets Alexandria as a creative, diverse, knowledge-based community with a high quality of life.



Stephanie Landrum and Val Hawkins, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership

AEDP's goal is to support existing and future businesses, development and economic growth in Alexandria as to ensure that businesses are successful and that the City is competitive.

Core functions include business attraction, retention and more.

The AEDP also participates in and influences decisions on Alexandria real estate and development, provides real estate and economic information and acts as a liaison between the City of Alexandria government and businesses.

The Partnership's work is supported by the City of Alexandria's general fund as well as by fees collected by the Alexandria Industrial Development Authority.

For more information call 703-739-3820 or visit www.AlexEcon.org

AEDP is located at 625 N. Washington St., suite 400.

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest chambers in the Greater Washington region, with 850 professional business members and partners employing more than 49,000 people region-wide. Founded in 1906, it serves as the voice of the business community in the City of Alexandria through lobbying efforts at the local, state and federal levels. In addition, the Chamber offers a variety of programs and services to assist members to promote and expand their business.

Its Motto: Charting the Successful Course of Business in Alexandria Since 1906

Phone: 703-549-1000

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is located at 801 N. Fairfax St. #402

www.alexchamber.com

The Del Ray Business Association - DRBA

The Del Ray Business Association is run by volunteers who are themselves business owners. Started almost 40 years ago, DRBA now has over 200 members. New members are enrolled for a year of free membership. The fee for subsequent years is \$150 and the fee for nonprofits is \$75.

The business association sponsors several events in the Del Ray community each year. There is a monthly luncheon featuring speakers of interest to the membership.



Andrew Palmieri, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce



Maria Wasowski, Del Ray Business Association

Members of the association are available to mentor new businesses and advocate in support of business friendly policies with Alexandria officials, the Planning Commission and City Council.

DRBA sponsors holiday marketing campaigns and a website where business owners who are members can promote themselves.

DRBA is always happy to welcome new members to the Del Ray business community. More information can be found at www.visitdelray.com.

Old Town Business and Professional Association - OTBPA

Old Town Business and Professional Association is open to all businesses of any type. Once a business has made the decision to locate here, OTBPA wants them to be successful.

OTBPA is a result of a merger of two organizations — Old Town Business (OTB) and King Street Metro Enterprise Team (KSMET). KSMET would have been 20 years old this year. OTB goes back further.

As an organization it is always willing to give its opinion on issues.

Probably OTBPA's most visible project is the annual Alexandria Retail Coupon Book.

OTBPA has always advocated the importance of keeping Alexandria beautiful. The plaza at Commerce and King Streets, with benches and lighting and now a sculpture, came about with KSMET funding and lobbying.

Alexandria Small Business Development Center - SBDC

The Alexandria Small Business Development Center is Alexandria's economic development program that focuses on small businesses. It's those small businesses that comprise the largest segment of Alexandria's economy, but their potential is often hindered by lack of information or expertise. All Alexandria SBDC services are provided without cost due to funding.

The services of Alexandria SBDC fall into three categories to correspond to business needs at each stage - START, MANAGE and GROW.

START: Instruction on steps to follow to start a business and more.

MANAGE: Cash flow management, referrals to accountants and more.

GROW: Access to loans and investors, network, social media and more.

Alexandria SBDC staff can recommend solutions to problems and link businesses to the most effective resources.

Alexandria SBDC offers individual and confidential assistance without cost to City of Alexandria businesses and Alexandria residents with businesses elsewhere. Get more information at www.alexandriasbdc.org or 703-778-1292.

Alexandria SBDC is located at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400.

West End Business Association - WEBA

The West End Business Association is comprised of West End Businesses and those that do business on the West End of Alexandria. The goal is to make the West End of Alexandria the preferred buying destination for goods and services in Alexandria.

WEBA provides members with networking opportunities, education and growth opportunities and representation before the City and economic development officials on matters important to the West End of Alexandria.

WEBA provides networking opportunities by hosting social and educational events. WEBA keeps its members informed of matters of importance via its website, newsletters and email notices. WEBA provides educational seminars on topics such as retirement plans for small businesses, social media and more. We offer support and the opportunity to learn about new business trends and help create alliances and introductions to key contacts to assist you in your business and help you deal with challenges that your business faces.

www.alexandriaweba.com

Arlandria-Chirilaugua Business Association - ACBA

The Arlandria-Chirilaugua Business Association was formed in fall 2011, with the support of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. ACBA has gained momentum in recent months and is now incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

It has approximately 25 paying members, a nine-person board and two officers. Membership in ACBA is open to businesses, nonprofits, and individuals.

SEE ABC'S, PAGE 38



Carol Supplee, Old Town Business & Professional Association



Mike Barber, West End Business Association



Bill Reagan, Alexandria Small Business Development Center



Sharon Eddy, Arlandria-Chirilaugua Business Association

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Varsity Park \$795,000
 1312 Knox Place, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Lovely 4BR + 2 1/2 + 1/2 brick colonial with huge room sizes, hardwood floors, finished lower level plus 2 car garage. This is an outstanding value!
 Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Wilton Woods \$750,000
 6104 Beech Tree Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310
 Drive by & fall in love with this Wilton Woods home. Filled w/ character—not your typical colonial. 4BRs, 2.5BA, 2-cr garage, stone driveway & patio, half-acre lot w/mature trees. www.Rita-Realtor.com Rita-McCauley-Redmond 703-447-9114



The Plaza \$239,500
 805 N. Howard St. #146, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Beautiful 2Bed/2Bath w/updated kitchen and bath. Lovely courtyard w/pool and much more. Peaceful setting mins to Mark Ctr, I395, Pentagon & Old Town. Includes Home Warranty!
 Mary Edwards 703-907-9800



Harbor View Mason Neck \$829,900
 8203 Lazy Point Lane, Lorton, VA 22079
 Massey Creek Waterfront home 2 acres, private setting w/tranquil views, navigable water channel access to Potomac River! Pristine condition, high ceilings, open flrplan, 4BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car gar. Near Ft Belvoir, 18 mi to DC. Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900



Hearthstone Mews \$799,000
 1111 N Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Old Town Alexandria Immaculate, sun-filled 4 lvl, 3BR/3.5BA brick TH, 2-car gar; Granite, EIK, deck, LR w/ fpl, 2 MBR Suites, HWF, crown mld, built-ins. 1 blk to Potomac, great dining & Perks CafE Chris Upham 202-359-1308



Crystal Gateway Condominium \$545,000
 1300 Crystal Dr. #1404, Alexandria, VA 22202
 Luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in convenient Crystal City. Enjoy the views from the large balcony. Quick access to Metro, airport, DC, & shopping. Parking & extra storage included.
 Carol Hooks 703-509-4199



Pinecrest \$229,000
 4505A Sahalee Ct, Alexandria, VA 22312
 Updated 1 bedroom condo in the Pinecrest community. Wood floors, granite counters, custom window treatments, and updated bath make this a special unit. Located between I395 and I495 Carol Hooks 703-509-4199



Forest Knoll \$699,950
 1110 N. Howard Street, Alexandria, VA 22304
 This fantastic updated colonial offers amazing space w/ 4100+ SF and .29 acres, 4BRs, HW floors, high-end appls, new windows, huge sunroom & walkout bsmt in a park like setting!
 Joy Deevy 703.930.5198



Belle Haven of the Green \$549,900
 1789 Duffield Lane, Alexandria, VA 22304
 Smashing Architectural Delight! High Ceilings, large rooms, bright. Brick TH. 3BR/3.5BA, LIB, Eat-In KIT, 2 Fireplaces! Garage! Bellehaven CC, Metro. www.DuffieldLane.com
 Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Collingwood Estates \$549,900
 1121 Anesbury Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
 First Offering, Open Sunday 1-4pm Priced for quick sale. 4BR, 3BA 2 lvl rmblr in Waywood schl dstrct. Upgrades include tile flr in entry/kit, LR picture window, microwave, dishwasher, insulation. Waywood pool membership included. Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Old Town Alexandria \$949,500
 507 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Total Renovation with Historic Appeal Beautifully renovated 3BR/2.5BA TH built 1853 in Old Town's SE Quad. Features Viking & JennAir stnls appl; Sep FR & LR w/ WB Fpl. MBR w/ sitting rm & balcony overlooking gardens. Chris Upham 202-359-1308



Fairland \$454,500
 4916 Grafton Street, Alexandria, VA 22312
 Amazing opportunity on this recently expanded 4BR 3.5BA home. Hardwood floors throughout, open floorplan, newer kitchen w/granite and glass front cabinets. www.sherryork.com Sherry York 703-625-3377



Old Town Alexandria

310 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

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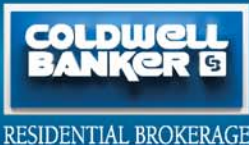
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NEWS

Purl Jam

“Krunch Bunch” seniors knit hats for preschoolers.

A kaleidoscope of colors filled the room as 36 preschoolers from the Child and Family Network Center tried on hats knitted especially for them by the “Krunch Bunch,” a group of seniors from the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

“It’s always exciting to bring one generation to another,” said ARHA representative Marvel Robertson.

The hats were presented to the children Feb. 7 in the Senior Room of the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

“It’s wonderful seeing the looks on the faces of the children showing off their new hats,” added CFNC preschool director Sharon Shackelford. “This is a wonderful partnership for us.”

The Child and Family Network Center serves at-risk children to prepare them for a successful kindergarten and school experience. For more information, visit www.cfnc-online.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Network Preschool students Karla, 5, and Naomi, 4, show off their new winter hats Feb. 7 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. The hats were knitted by ARHA seniors and donated to the students.

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Six Amazing Alexandrians
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Braddock Heights Colonial
All-brick home offering four bedrooms and three and a half baths. Walkout lower level with fireplace, living area and full bath...ideal for au pair! Large light-filled living and dining rooms, warm wood floors, neutral colors. Fabulous screened porch, garage parking. Walk to George Mason Elementary and private schools. Minutes to DC, Pentagon, and airport.

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Luxury Living in Historic Old Town!
Three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath, top-to-bottom renovation combines sophistication & fine craftsmanship. Brand new HVAC/plumbing/electrical. Exotic maple hardwoods, recessed lighting, crown molding. Stone accent wall, granite, extended breakfast bar, Viking & Bertazzoni Italian appliances. Outdoor patio & fully fenced yard. Master suite with vaulted ceiling, dual closets & lavish bath. One block to waterfront, six blocks to King Street, 1.5 miles to King Street Metro.

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Convenient Location
Completely renovated Cape Cod with four bedrooms and two and a half baths. Most of the house is new including the windows and kitchen which opens to the living and dining rooms. Large light-filled basement with a family room and potential large office. Beautiful hardwood floors have been refinished on the two upper levels. All baths have also been updated.

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www.homesbyhayes.com
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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$569,000



Historic SE Quad Home!
Built in 1900, this historic two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath, detached home in Old Town's Southeast Quadrant features a gas fireplace, recessed lighting, hardwoods, skylights, and a sleek eat-in kitchen opening to lovely deep garden. Freshly painted interior. Wired for sound in and out. Oversized master bedroom has huge window overlooking garden. Second bedroom for guests, nursery or office. Easy walk to stores, restaurants, tot/dog parks, and bike path.

Ginny Brzezinski
571.236.3405
www.oldtowndigs.com



ALEXANDRIA \$1,150,000



Price Reduced
Located in a bucolic setting on a 3/4+ acre lot, this home is a rare find in Alexandria. Built in 1935, this stone home offers a quiet retreat in the middle of the city. It features three bedrooms and two baths, a large eat-in kitchen, wood floors, a two-car garage and lots of storage space and all within minutes of the metro, Old Town, DC, shopping and the airport.

Julian Burke
703.867.4219
www.julianburke.com
MLS ID# AX7761328



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$429,000



The Anchorage House Rare Opportunity
Constructed by Robert Brockett in 1853 as additional space for his Alexandria Academy, this grand building was seized and used as a hospital during the Civil War. This one-bedroom, one-bath unit offers urban living at its finest. Move-in ready! Freshly painted in tasteful colors. Library with built-ins, fireplace, plantation shutters, hardwood floors, and moldings. Front and back private entrances to the unit. Use of the common patio for this 7-unit building and off-street parking. Low condo fee.

Pat Smith
703.728.4728
www.pat4pat.com
MLS ID# AX7751114



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9514 Mount Vernon Landing
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MVOP WATERFRONT-PRIVATE DOCK

- Prime location in Mount Vernon on the Potomac
- Custom designed to capitalize on waterfront setting
- Major components in place-personalize interior
- Rare opportunity at this price for direct waterfrontage with dock in place

OPEN SUN 3/11, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing; R-Mt Vernon Cir to Mount Vernon Landing



9219 Allwood Dr
\$525,000

Updated Home-Spectacular Lot!

Fabulous new listing! Move in ready! Stunning home on magnificent 3/4 acre grounds. Owner has

updated almost every major component of the home including: kit, baths, roof, HVAC within past few years. Open floor plan! Covered parking! Fenced lot! OPEN SUN 3/11, 1-4! GW Pky S; L-Ferry Landing; L-Allwood.



8355 Justin Rd
\$870,000

PERFECTION!

Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet kit, 2 levels of hardwood floors, stunning MBR and the list goes on. Truly a remarkable home!



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$285,000
Alexandria
1633 KENWOOD #C

NEW LISTING & just remodeled 2BR/2BA w/ new carpets, paint, kit cabs & appls. Excellent location of these rarely available units in the Terrace THs of Beverly Hills. EZ commute just off I395. Low condo fees. Pet friendly. Reserved parking. Walk to grocery/shops.

Call for more information:
Deborah Alea 703.447.1315



\$519,000
Alexandria
"CHARMING"

Beautifully renovated light-filled, 3 lvl end unit TH 2BR/1.5BA & fully fin. w/o bsmt. High-end finishes throughout, plus great outdoor living space w/lush landscaping & privacy fencing. Stroll to all Old Town has to offer.

www.kristymatthai.com
Kristy Matthai 703.786.6627



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$329,000
Belle View
6530 10th ST

NEW LISTING - Looking for charm & convenience? This 3 level 2BR / 1BA, townhome, minutes from Old Town and Fort Belvoir, has great updates - granite, energy-efficient windows & new HVAC - and is perfect for bike & Metro commuters.

Call for more information:
Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264



9020 Old Mt Vernon Rd
\$668,000

Stunning Renovation-Borders Mt. Vernon Estate!

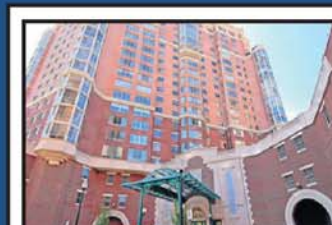
One of the most truly spectacular properties available on market today at any price! Spacious home with top quality renovations from. Features amazing open floor plan, dramatic glass walled sun room, new gourmet kit, 6BR, 3 remodeled baths, 2FP, finished LL, covered parking for 2, deck.



4009 Colonial Ave
\$749,500

New Home-Gorgeous Site!

Pre-construction opportunity-fabulous home by Wakefield Homes on gorgeous half acre level lot on quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Popular Belle View model with open floor plan, fabulous amenities and quality construction that have made Wakefield Mt. Vernon's leading builder for generations. Exceptional value-priced significantly lower than other new home on street. (Pre-construction picture is of similar house)



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\$675,000
Alexandria
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Hollin Hills
"JUST LISTED"

This exceptionally beautiful home has 4BR/2.5BA & is worthy of Architectural Digest! Lots & lots of windows create unusual amounts of light & a happy warm atmosphere. There is an eat-in kit, sep. DR, LR w/wood-burning fireplace & a family room w/built-in bookshelves. The yard has lovely landscaping & is sunny & open. For more info, call...

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533



\$949,000
Accokeek, MD
"HISTORIC ESTATE"

"Bellevue" - Meticulously maintained Historic Estate on 10.23 acres. 23/30 minutes from Old Town / DC. 4BR / 3BA Main House, 1BR / 1BA Guest House, Orangery, Folly (Greek Temple) w/IBA (currently used as office). Gated, wooded & private estate w/open green space & exceptional landscaping.

Daniel Lusk 202.412.8885



9405 Ludgate Dr
\$2,195,000

Stunning Price Reduction!

Magnificent colonial custom designed to capitalize on views from elevated site overlooking river. Home has approx 10,000 Sq Ft of luxuriously appointed space. Numerous features: 4 finished levels, elegant trim detail, high ceilings, multiple decks & private balconies, fabulous gourmet eat in kitchen, formal dining, 5 fireplaces, elevator. Direct river access.



9017 Stratford Ln
\$949,000

Totally Expanded and Updated!

Understated elegance-modest front elevation belies stunning expanded interior featuring room sizes and amenities typically associated with new custom homes. Many fabulous features include gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite, hardwood floors, upgraded HVAC system, imported tile and many additional luxurious amenities. No cost was spared in renovation resulting in top of the line brands throughout.



516A E. Howell Ave
\$679,000

Del Ray-Rare Opportunity!

Exceptionally spacious home by one of area's leading builders in prime location. Four stories of luxury featuring bright open floor plan, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite and private rear yard and deck. Unique combination of close-in convenience with up to date floor plan and amenities. Buy during construction and customize to suit your taste. (Photo is rendition)



PRICE REDUCTION!
\$795,000
Wilton Woods
4207 WILTON WOODS LN

Beautiful home w/ craftsmanship of a quality rarely found. Great attention to detail incl. stone patio/landscaped yard. Updated kit w/granite/tile/white cabs. HW both lvls, extensive moldings, wet bar off fam rm, mud rm from heated garage.

Catherine.Foltz@longandfooster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



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400 MADISON ST

You are invited to preview these 3 lovely condos: #1005 - 1BR/1BA on a mid-floor w/city views. #1207 - 2BR/2BA beautifully renovated w/ marble & wood floors. #901 - 2BR/2.5BA w/light-filled southern exposure. Closets galore. COME & SEE THESE WONDERFUL UNITS... Call for info -

Ann Kavajjian 703.626.9171



\$389,900
Alex / Colecroft
"FABULOUS"

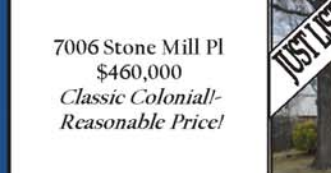
NEW LISTING! Updated top floor unit w/all new BA, W/D, new windows. Kitchen updates include tile floor, granite, lighting, paint & SS appliances. Hardwood floors on main lvl. Vaulted ceilings. Attic space w/pull-down stairs. Adjacent to Braddock Metro & trail to King St. 2BR/1BA.

Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913



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\$949,000

Updated Custom Home!



7006 Stone Mill Pl
\$460,000

Classic Colonial-Reasonable Price!



4502 Phylliss St
\$525,000

SUPER VALUE!



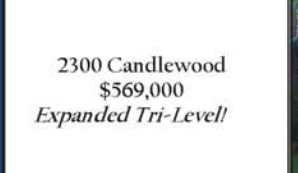
8890 McNair Dr
\$699,000

Pristine Custom Colonial!



8528 Monticello Ave
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Updated Colonial!



2300 Candlewood
\$569,000

Expanded Tri-Level



\$799,999
Alexandria
"HISTORIC TH"

Located in the desirable SE Quadrant, this carefully updated home, situated on a quiet court just blocks from the Potomac, Old Town & shops. Wonderful details: moldings, built-ins, hardwood & brick flooring, 2 wood-burning fireplaces & a charming, private garden w/brick patio.

Janet Thomas 202.413.7774



\$919,000
Alexandria
"UNRIVALED"

Incomparable in-town residence in close-in Quaker Hill, offers 4BR/3.5BA on 3 pristine finished levels. Corner lot, magnificent wrap-around porch overlooks lake, plus new high end Chef's kitchen & 2-car detached garage, bath updates, hardwoods. Move right in!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



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Norma Stratton 703.966.0756



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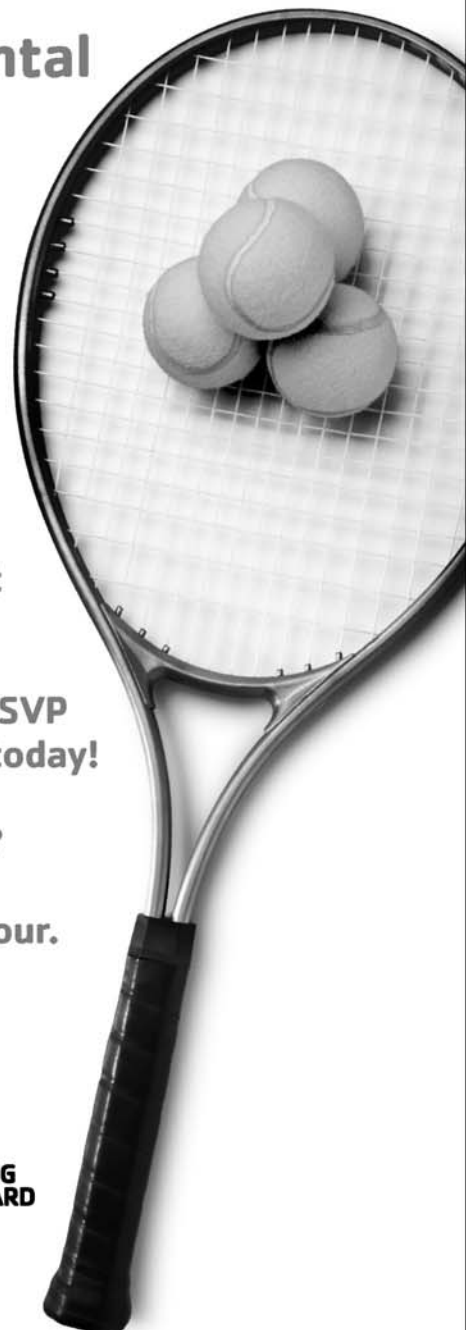
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PEOPLE

Mardi Growl

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria hosted its 2nd annual Mardi Growl in the historic lobby of Terminal A in the Reagan National Airport on Friday, March 2. Mardi Growl is the league's biggest fundraiser of the year benefiting the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. The shelter receives more than 3,500 animals a year and relies upon donations to meet operating costs.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



On stilts, Tim of the Davis Entertainment Group interacts with a few of the party-goers at Mardi Growl March 2.



Bittersweet's Jim Ryan and Jody Manor.



Sean Martin and Sloan Barroeo of Southside 815.



The Queen of Mardi Growl, former city manager Vola Lawson, with Patrick Murray and Peggy Ellis.



Jonathan Mota of Pork Barrell BBQ.



Brian McPherson of Morrison House.



Laura Miller offers cupcakes from Alexandria Cupcake.



Kate Walker accepts the prize of biggest paws for Optimus Prime.

All for Fun

Market Square filled with animals for the annual St. Pat's Fun Dog Show on Saturday, March 3. Barkley Square and Karing by Kristina sponsored the show.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



John Harter and Judge Daniel O'Flaherty select Gunther for a first place.



Natasha Edwards and Anya hold Spats and Sparkles who came to the show dressed as elephants.



The next competition is called and dogs swarm the stage for a chance to win the best tail wag.



Pat Brennan brought Darby dressed together in tweeds.



Clancy, a golden retriever, eyes a cookie.



Jill and Thad Parsons' Phoenix scans the crowd.

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VALUE



Exhibition Fundraiser / March 3rd-18th

The Target Gallery & March of Dimes are teaming up to raise money for both organizations. This unique event includes 200+ art works on 10" square panels, each only \$150!

Art Party / March 16, 7-10pm Tickets: \$15 advance/\$20 door

- Artwork - each only \$100 the night of the art party
- Raffle: awesome raffle prizes donated by local businesses
- Music, Games, & a Wing-Off Competition
- Food & Drinks: pizza, beer & more, provided by local businesses



Get your tickets online today:
www.torpedofactory.org/marchmadness

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HISTORY

Civil War nurse hosts tea at Carlyle House.

'Dragon' Dix Returns to Alexandria

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
GAZETTE PACKET

Cregarious, sunny and 209 years old, Dorothea Dix, Superintendent of Army Nurses during the Civil War, charmed visitors to Carlyle House who attended a tea in her honor in the fall.

"I'm so pleased the War is over," she told the 25 guests who sat at linen-draped tables on the chilly back terrace, sipping Southern Raspberry tea to warm up and munching a delectable assortment of tea snacks with fanciful names like "The Haversack Special," "Sabre Stew" and "Holiday Furlough."

As breezily reincarnated by Pat Jordan of the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia, Dix recounted her tempestuous childhood when she ran off from home fleeing a drunken abusive father, becoming a teacher at age 14 and later a social reformer responsible for the building of mental hospitals throughout the country.

Come the Civil War, she was recruited superintendent of female nurses serving the Union Army, and overcame resistance to ladies serving in hospitals with such fierceness, and wrote such blistering reports citing unclean conditions and doctors drunk on medicinal alcohol, she was nicknamed "Dragon" Dix.

Her nurses too she ruled with an iron hand, discouraging romance by hiring only "plain women" between the ages of 35 and 50 who wore drab unhooped skirts and no cosmetics or jewelry.

Many times she visited Carlyle House which had been commandeered from its Rebel owner, James



Dorothea Dix was brought to life by Pat Jordan of the American Historical Theatre.

Green, in November, 1861. One nurse at "Mansion House Hospital" as it was known — Anne Reading — dared to fall in love with and marry a patient, Andrew Furry. She wrote in her dairy that Dix "appears to be greatly offended because I had not previously made her acquainted with my intentions" and decided to leave, saying, "I do not think I shall be comfortable here any longer."

Spring is in the Air!



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A Director Returns To the Scene

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
GAZETTE PACKET

It isn't often that an out-of-town director has the opportunity to return to a show in a regional theatre and see how it has grown, evolved, and progressed since opening night. But Maurice Hines, director and choreographer of MetroStage's world premiere production of "Josephine Tonight" did just that recently. He returned to Alexandria with his associate director Mel Johnson Jr. to surprise the cast and see what his work looked like four weeks later. One of the exciting things about live theatre is that it is going to be slightly different every night. Actors can grow in their roles, further understand and develop their characters, and simply

inhabit the stage with their fellow actors more comfortably over time.

Hines' immediate response to seeing the show again was that it was better than ever and that he was so proud to be a part of it. When asked what his favorite moment was, he immediately responded "Pretty Is," the hauntingly poignant ballad that Aisha de Haas sings as Bertha Smith, a vaudeville star lamenting the fact that "pretty" "slowly slips away." It is a breathtakingly beautiful song sung by an exceptional artist whose voice was described by one critic as "a rich blend of powerhouse gospel, blues and red-hot sizzle."

Another inspired moment in the show is when two producers in their bold plaid vaudeville suits watch a young Josephine Baker

audition and declare in a song that she is "Too Young, Too Black and Too Thin." Hines says that he was totally inspired by the combination of the music and the performers, in this case the versatile James T. Lane and James Alexander, both of whom play multiple roles throughout the play. He loves to stage with humor and when he combines his famous choreography with a great song, scene and actors, it is a truly memorable moment on the stage.

And finally, our great friend and colleague Maurice Hines says he was inspired by the environment and that MetroStage was the best environment for him as he shared his vision for this new musical with the book and lyrics writer Sherman Yellen and with our actors and ultimately with our lucky



Mel Johnson Jr., Carolyn Griffin, and Maurice Hines in MetroStage lobby following a performance of "Josephine Tonight."

audiences who are cheering every performance for the gift he has given them.

(Josephine Tonight must close March 18. There are still tickets available. Call 703-548-9044).

Chef Cathal Armstrong Is Grand Marshal of St. Patrick's Day Parade

Famed Alexandria chef Cathal Armstrong has been chosen Grand Marshal of the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year's parade, the 41st, will step-off at noon, Sunday, March 11, 2012 on Constitution Avenue, N.W. from 7th to 17th Streets in the District.

Cathal Armstrong, a native of Dublin, emigrated to the U.S. in 1992 and has since distinguished himself as a chef and an entrepreneur. With his wife, Meshelle, he has established a highly regarded family of restaurants including Restaurant Eve, The Majestic, PX, Eamonn's A Dublin Chipper, Virtue Feed & Grain and most re-

cently Society Fair.

He embodies this year's parade theme of Feed the Soul and Nourish the Palate through his excellence in and out of the kitchen, and through his contributions to his adopted country. Last April, the White House named him a "Champion of Change" through President Obama's "Winning the Future" initiative, which honors individuals who continue to empower, educate and inspire their community. He has also garnered recognition from the National Restaurant Association with their "Neighborhood Community Award," Edible Chesapeake magazine's "Local Hero Award,"

and Washingtonian magazine's "Green Giant Award." Cathal shares his passion for freshness as a board member of Fresh Farm Markets, which operates eight farmers' markets in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. is a volunteer organization that organizes and produces this grand event, which invites people of all ages to "Put on the Green and be Irish for the Day."

To purchase grandstand tickets, visit dcstpatparade.com. Tickets can also be obtained from John Bowen at 301-384-6533 or johndbowen@earthlink.net.



Alexandria chef Cathal Armstrong

THEATER

Know of something missing from our Local Theater listings? Send it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com or gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412.

MARCH 8 TO MARCH 25

"Light in the Darkness." By Tantehorse Physical Theater Company from Prague, Czech Republic. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$55. At Synetic Theater at Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington. Box Office: 800-494-8487 or www.synetictheater.org.

FEB. 24 TO MARCH 10

"The Dixie Swim Club." Port City Playhouse presents a delightful comedy



about five women who were on their college swim team and get together for a "girls only" weekend at a cottage on the Outer Banks every summer. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 24-25, March 2-3 and 9-10; Tues., March 6 at 8 p.m.; Sat. matinees March 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

MARCH 6 THROUGH APRIL 15

"Brother Russia." Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are now on sale starting at \$63. Single tickets are available in person at the Signature Box Office or by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT. Student discount tickets are \$30 and must be purchased the week of the performance. At Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington.

APRIL 20 TO MAY 6

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." Port City Playhouse presents a play focused on the trials and tribulations of an Irishman, Englishman and an American who are kidnapped and held hostage by unseen Arabs in Lebanon. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

"Really Really." Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$56 - \$80 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting www.signaturetheatre.org. Signature is offering a special "20 Seats for \$20" ticket deal for every performance. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.

JUNE 1 TO 17

"A Little Night Music." Presented by TAP. Auditions will take place in March. The director will cast 14 singing actors (five male, nine female), age ranging 14-70. Singing actors of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to audition. At the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle at the Mead Center for American Theater. Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org.

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For more information on the event, item donation and pre-registration visit our website at <http://www.fairfaxbgcgw.org/index.php/rummage-sale>

Admission: \$5 per Person
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ENTERTAINMENT

MONTH OF MARCH

Radiance Yoga Classes.

\$5 for all weekday morning classes during month of March. For classes starting from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Arrive 10-15 minutes early for class. At Radiance Yoga, 110 King street, Alexandria. Visit www.Radiance-yoga.net or call 703-535-8282.

MARCH 2 TO APRIL 1

20 Years on The Avenue.

The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to celebrate DRA's 20 years on "The Avenue" with past and present masterpieces. This member-only show runs from March 2-April 1, 2012 and will be juried from outside our DRA family of members. Opening Reception for the "XX" show on Friday, March 2, 7-10 p.m. and will feature local jazz band "Veroneau". (www.VeroneauMusic.com). Running March 3- April 1 special exhibits of Del Ray Artisans' history will be featured. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

MARCH 3 TO 18

March Madness. Features 200 panels of artwork each \$150, a free kids art activity on March 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Art Party on March 16, from 7-10 p.m., featuring prizes, music, food drinks and more. The Art Party will be located in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, outside of the Target Gallery. Cost is \$15/advance; \$20/door. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/marchmadness.

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Ten Thousand Villages Celebrates Women in March.

The store at 915 King Street in Old Town Alexandria will donate 15 percent of its sales to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program. In honor of International Women's Day. The store is opened 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2nd Thursday Art Night: Child's Play.

6 to 9 p.m. The Torpedo Factory hosts the launch of Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Children and the Arts with an evening of gallery receptions, fun activities, live music by local teen Keira Moran, and more. At the torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Bob Sima. 7 p.m. Poet, observer, scribe, and sometimes reluctant healer all bundled up into one singing/songwriting bundle of energy. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

MARCH 8, 9, 10, 11

Antiques in Alexandria. Featuring 50 nationally recognized exhibitions. Benefits three charities. Thursday, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Pre-Show Party; Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Artisan Beer Tasting and Silent Auction. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$50. At the Campagna Center. If you wish to pay by check, mail to: The Campagna Center, Attn: Lee Stenberg/NN Event, 418 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. All proceeds benefit New Neighbor's ESL and Family Literacy Programs.

Rock Against Hunger. 7 p.m. Concert will feature local band Black Moon Tonic and the St. Luke's Outreach Committee will designate 100 percent of the funds to be divided among local nonprofits — United Community Ministries, New Hope Housing, and Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/students.

Wine and History. 6:30 p.m. The Mount Vernon Inn's inaugural wine dinner, A Well-Stocked Cellar: Dinner and Wine Tasting at Mount Vernon, begins with a private reception and remarks from Mount Vernon staff. Following the reception, guest will move up to the Mansion for a private tour that includes Washington's cellar. Concludes with a special four-course dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn with historic commentary between courses from Mount Vernon staff. Tickets are \$110 and include tax and gratuity. Available beginning Feb. 1 through www.MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

MARCH 9-10

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Tickets are \$5. Show times are March 2, 9, 10 at 7:30 p.m.; Matinee on March 3 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



FRIDAY/MARCH 16

Celtic Concert. 7 to 9 p.m. Featuring Scottish Gaelic singers, the Celtic folk band Na Maragan and other musicians, including Cèilidh in the Kitchen and Scott Morrison of the Maryland-based group Dileab Phriseil. Sponsored by the Gaelic Society of America. Tickets are \$12/person; \$25/family. At the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Contact Bill Cassidy 703-717-0074 or WillBCassidy@gmail.com.

Sushmita will show how she makes books that are houses for all kinds of creatures and all kinds of stories. Then kids will learn how to make their own "House Storybook." At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org. Call 703-746-4356.

Art Auction. 8 p.m. Free. The Art Auction features original works of art by Rob Vander Zee and twenty-five local Washington, D.C. artists known as the Vander Zee Gallery Painters. At Vander Zee Gallery, 105 S. Lee St., 3rd Floor, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.vanderzeeart.com/artauction.

Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor. 1 p.m. Cost is \$10. Learn how when experts from the National Archives and Records Administration present "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor" at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 to make reservations. Visit www.fortward.org.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.

Boating Safety Class. A class which meets the boating education requirements of Virginia, Maryland and D.C. is offered the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Alexandria. Students receive a manual, a certificate and card showing class completion and a free membership to BoatUS. The cost is \$40/student (\$60 if a couple share the manual). Contact Rich Miller at 703-780-3765 or (eaglesailor75@cox.net).

Kids' Clothing, Toy and Equipment Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great bargains on strollers, bikes, furniture, books, games, shoes, maternity, sports, safety equipment and other baby gear. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Parents of Multiples (www.nvpom.org). Contact sale@nvpom.com.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. Every half hour between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Admission is \$6/person, ages 5 and up. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 703-746-4242. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 11

Veterinary Medical Career Fair. 2:30 to 5 p.m. For any high school or undergrad student with an interest in the veterinary medical profession. At the Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Visit www.aavmc.org or diversitymatters@aavmc.org.

Teenage Suicide Awareness. 5 p.m. Aldersgate Church Community Theater and The Aldersgate United Methodist Church Youth Group will host a panel discussion on Teenage Suicide Awareness and Prevention following the performance of "Romeo and Juliet." At the Guback Center of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

MONDAY/MARCH 12

Relay For Life Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Organizational meeting to engage volunteers in recruiting and assembling teams, seeking community support, coordinating logistics, securing donated refreshments and prizes, planning entertainment and lending support. At Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Contact Nikkii Greenleaf at 301-982-2116, or visit RelayForLife.org/AlexandriaVA. The actual Relay For Life of Alexandria will be held at West Potomac High School on June 16.

TUESDAY/MARCH 13

"Heaven Can Wait" Benefit. 8 p.m. The Board of Lady

Upper School, Chapel/ Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.sssas.org/arts.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

"Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai" Film Screening. 4:30 p.m. Part of Movies with a Mission. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

House Storybooks. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum is offering a fun activity to help kids tell stories about a favorite house or building. Local artist and writer Sushmita Mazumdar will hold a workshop for children ages 6 through 12; adult family members are welcome to join in.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 26

Managers of INOVA Alexandria Hospital will host a special performance. At the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$25. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital Surgical Services. Contact Barbara Brenman at 703-548-9485.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. "When the Saints Go Marching In" featuring the NOVA Jazz Combo, the NOVA Faculty Jazz Ensemble and NOVA Community Chorus. Also the Northern Virginia premiere of Jazz Mass by Mark Whitmire. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With Mike Surratt and ECB. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 14

Achieving Your Vision

Rehabilitation Goals. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Join Dr. Alexis Malkin, a low vision rehabilitation specialist with POB's Low Vision Learning Center, for a discussion about what services and resources can help individuals make the most of their sight. Hosted by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington. At the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1760.

DJ Dance Party. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. With DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Landscape Design for Pollinator Diversity

7:30 p.m. Join Susan Abrams for a slide lecture that will showcase the use of native plants in area landscapes to enhance wildlife diversity, with particular emphasis on enhancing pollinator diversity. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

MARCH 16 TO 25

Repertory Opera Theater. Presents Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci." Fully staged with costumes. In Italian with projected English translations. Friday, March 16 and 23 at 7; Saturday, March 17 and 24 at 8; Sunday, March 18 and 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$30; Seniors, \$20; Students, \$15; under 10, free. At Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Rd. and Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

FRIDAY/MARCH 16

Mount Vernon Swing Band. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Owen Hammett will conduct the live band. Light refreshments will be provided by "ManorCare Health Services - Alexandria. \$4 at the door. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Celtic Concert. 7 to 9 p.m. Featuring Scottish Gaelic singers, the Celtic folk band Na Maragan and other musicians, including Cèilidh in the Kitchen and Scott Morrison of the Maryland-based group Dileab Phriseil. Sponsored by the Gaelic Society of America. Tickets are \$12/person; \$25/family. At the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Contact Bill Cassidy 703-717-0074 or WillBCassidy@gmail.com.

THROUGH MARCH 16

Join the League of 25. The Art League launches their latest art

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 28

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 27

fundraising initiative, a new society of 25 supporters who pitch in \$100 a piece to fund an Art League Gallery exhibit while having some fun. The inaugural exhibition sponsorship is for the environmentally conscious "Earth," which opens on April 12 with a reception featuring a recycled art challenge, with teams of League of 25 members competing in a sculpture making relay race. Donations are requested by March 16. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; www.theartleague.org, 703-519-1741.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

"Her Story: Women in Action." Cost is \$6/ person. A panel of former Girl Scouts will share their memories of Girl Scouting and how scouting empowered them. Participants will learn about Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of American Girl Scouting, by looking at a timeline of her life. Two sessions: 12:30 to 2:45 p.m.; and 3 to 4:10 p.m. Advance registration at www.alexandriahistory.org or by calling 703-746-4994. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria.

Steven Gellman in Concert. 8 to 10 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.stelmoscoffee.com or call 703-739-9268.

Mighty and Future Shock Youth Showcase. High-energy Hip-Hop and street dancing from dancers across the U.S. Groups include Future Shock and Mighty Shock DC, Future Shock Ottawa, Future Shock Atlanta, Future Shock LA, Beat Ya Feet Kids, Dimensions Dance, and more. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria.

Spring Kid's Rummage Sale. 9 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$1. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Proceeds from the door will go to Mondloch House, a community shelter that helps the homeless. There are a few tables still available. If you are interested in selling children's items and would like more information, contact Jen at jakelley19@gmail.com.

Choreographers Collaboration Project. 7 p.m. Presents The Science Project, a Modern Dance Concert. This concert is the culmination of a season creating dances based on science concepts, and exploring "science as inspiration" for other art forms. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$5/ages 12-17. At T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King street, Alexandria.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With pianist Rick Rowley. Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919 version), Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Sibelius' Symphony No. 7, and Sibelius' Finlandia. Free pre-concert discussion for ticket holders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

In Nature's Realm. 2 p.m. The Marine Chamber Orchestra performs. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com

Celtic Group Runa. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At the Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

Barbershop Chorus Concert. 3 p.m. The Harmony Heritage Singers, a 40-member men's "barbershop" chorus, will present a concert at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, in support of United Community Ministries. The program will feature patriotic music such as "God Bless America" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as well as popular songs from days gone by such as "Delta Dawn," "Country Roads," and the Beach Boys gem, "Barbara Ann." Bix Doughty, 98-years old, is scheduled to sing an audience favorite, "Old Bones." There is no admission charge; a free-will offering will be taken to benefit United Community Ministries, a local agency that serves families in crisis, the homeless, and those in poverty who live near U.S. Route 1. Information from Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779, brandtron@verizon.net.

FINE ARTS

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

Art Auction. 8 p.m. Free. The Art Auction features original works of art by Rob Vander Zee and twenty-five local Washington, D.C. artists known as the Vander Zee Gallery Painters. At Vander Zee Gallery, 105 S. Lee St., 3rd Floor, Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.vanderzeeart.com/artauction.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 23

Artist Raphael G. Nadeem. Artwork of 30 oil paintings and six pencil drawings will be displayed at the 2nd Floor Room 2000, Chet and Sabra Avery Room, City Hall in Old Town. An exhibit opening will be held Friday, March 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. All paintings are for sale. Contact the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 703-746-5588 or aca@alexandriava.gov.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 22

"A Palette of Paper - the Collages of Megan Coyle." The Center for the Arts, Caton Merchant Family Gallery in Manassas, will feature Alexandria resident Megan Coyle's collage art in a solo exhibition called "A Palette of Paper." Coyle's show will display portraits of people, animals, as well as landscape and cityscape collages.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 25

Cuba Revisited, 2011. Karen Keating, member of Multiple Exposures Gallery, will be exhibiting new images from her most recent trip to Cuba, April 2011. Reception is Sunday, March 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Artist's Talk is Thursday, March 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. At Multiple Exposure Gallery, Studio #312.

MARCH 2 TO APRIL 1

20 Years on The Avenue. The 20th Anniversary Committee invites you to



NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

Japan's Gift to Nature. Solo exhibit of Oriental Brush Paintings celebrating 100th anniversary of planting of the cherry trees in D.C. Art exhibition at Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Meet the artist's reception is Sunday, March 25 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.Greenspring.org.

celebrate DRA's 20 years on "The Avenue" with past and present masterpieces. This member-only show runs from March 2-April 1, 2012 and will be juried from outside our DRA family of members. Opening Reception for the "XX" show on Friday, March 2, 7-10 p.m. and will feature local jazz band "Veroneau". (www.VeroneauMusic.com). Running March 3- April 1 special exhibits of Del Ray Artisans' history will be featured. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.



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PEOPLE

Night of the Ballyshaner's Grand Marshal's Ball

The Grand Marshal's Ball is the annual Alexandria kick-off to the Irish-American Month. The ball, held March 2 at the Holiday Inn & Suites, is always on the eve of the parade and celebrates the installation of the parade grand marshals. This year, long time parade supporters Tom and Melinda Mooney were honored at the dinner and ball.

For more information on next year's event visit www.ballyshaners.org.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Pat Troy announces dinner.



Chester Simpson and Duncan Brown.



Bobby and Shannon Mahoney.



Paul and Tom Van Coverdon, Jeff Peterson and Bruce McPherson.



Julie and Townsend Van Fleet.

Rotary Hosts Study Exchange Team South Korean group visits Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Rotary Club of Alexandria welcomed a Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team from Gwanju City, South Korea, to Northern Virginia March 6 as it hosted the five-person delegation at the organization's weekly luncheon prior to a private reception and performance of "Heaven Can Wait" at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

"We are very happy to be here in Alexandria," said team leader Park Chan-Seok. "We are very proud of being Rotarians and a part of helping children around the world."

Chan-Seok presented Rotary Club president John Woods with several gifts on behalf of the GSE team members and their hometown in South Korea.

"There are more than 60,000 members of Rotary in South Korea," Chan-Seok said. "And our president is also a proud Rotarian," he added, referring to Myungbak Lee, the former CEO of Hyundai Engineering and mayor of Seoul.

The GSE team will remain in Alexandria for several days, touring businesses and historic sites such as Mount Vernon Estate.

"We are very thankful to Rotary for hosting us," said team member Jihyun Kim at the LTA reception, which was sponsored by the Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club. "It is a very exciting experience for us to share as Rotarians."

Rotary Club president John Woods receives gifts from South Korean GSE team leader Park Chan-Seok's hometown of Gwanju City.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

LTA director Roland Brandord Gomez, center, welcomes the GES team from South Korea to the March 6 performance of "Heaven Can Wait." With him are: Kibeon Park, Lloyd Stoessell, Suk-Kyung Kim, Gomez, Park Chan-Seok, Tom Roberts, Jihyun Kim and Changmok Jim.

Long Listening Tour

Facing his first difficult decision as the new president and CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, **John Long** is already in a no-win situation. Where to live? Choosing a house in Old Town will make the folks in Del Ray upset. And plunking down in Del Ray is sure to ruffle feathers in the West End. On a house-hunting trip last week, the new president remained neutral on the issue.

"I'm still looking," said Long, who was named as the 106-year-old organization's new leader last week.

During his stay in Alexandria last week, Long launched what he calls a "listening tour." The idea is to get a sense from chamber members of what direction they would like to see the organization take in the near future. Long envisions more events, more sponsorships and more dollars. But, at least for now, he's open to hearing from members about what kind of scale that change would take. When asked about what kind of growth he would like to accomplish, Long declined to answer.

"We need to take input first," he said. "I would be surprised if the listening tour didn't identify gaps."

Long comes to the Alexandria chamber after leading similar organizations in St. Petersburg, Fla., Kalamazoo, Mich., and Talbot County, Md. Although he's eager to hit the ground running in Alexandria and hear from members, the new chamber president made one thing clear — he wants the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce to be the center of action.

"The more buzz we can create the better," he said. "I want to be part of the buzz."

Roller Coaster Politics

The Senate Committee on Education and Health voted last week to kill an effort overturning the King's Dominion Law, which mandates that school divisions across Virginia begin classes after Labor Day.

Local school boards have fought against the hospitality industry for years to overturn the law, although each year they end the session disappointed. They were encouraged this year, when Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell said overturning the King's Dominion Law was one of his chief priorities in his State of the Commonwealth Address.

That wasn't enough to persuade a majority of the Senate committee to approve House Bill 1063. Earlier in the session, the same committee killed similar legislation introduced by state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). One of the critical votes against overturning the mandate was state George Barker (D-39).

"The objective here is to provide the best education we can for our students," said Barker. "And if we don't have the revenue to do it, we're not doing our job."

The vote was immediately criticized by the Virginia School Boards Association.

"School Board members are disappointed today because some of our representatives in the Senate prioritized theme park ticket sales before our students' academic success," said Joan E. Wodiska, president of the Virginia School Boards Association, in a written statement. "The VSBA stands firm in our belief that the three R's of education do not include roller coasters."

Super Bust

Remember those heady days four years ago when **Barack Obama** and **Hillary Clinton** were going at each other in Virginia. Television viewers could hardly turn on their sets without being inundated with advertisements. Campaign workers and consultants descended on the commonwealth, staying in hotels and eating in restaurants. All that activity came with a fairly sizable chunk of revenue.

Not this year.

"It's difficult to quantify how much revenue has been lost because of the lack of a competitive race in Virginia," said **Stephen Farnsworth**, professor of political science at Mary Washington University. "But it's clear that that's a lot of economic activity that Virginia lost this time around."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



Leadership Mixer
Members of the Alfred Street Baptist Church Entrepreneurship Ministry were among more than 70 attendees at the Feb. 21 Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce After Hours Mixer held at the Fairlington branch of Burke and Herbert Bank. From left: John Rosenthal, ASBC Entrepreneurship Ministry president Joicelyn Nelson, Tshaka Cunningham, Phyllis Cunningham, lay leader Al Hall and Burke and Herbert vice president Walter Clarke.

Candidates Take Sides on Waterfront

FROM PAGE 7

hard on the plan," said Silverberg. "But I wanted the council to continue to hone its plan, to first have a vision and then to seek a compromise."

Unlike the Democratic candidates who are divided on the issue, Republicans stand united in opposition. The two Republican incumbents have already voted against the plan and continue to oppose it in various procedural votes. Although he has not yet officially entered the race yet, Phil Cefaratti said this week that he is likely to put his name on the Republican ballot once again. Cefaratti ran an unsuccessful campaign for council back in 2009, and he's on the verge of making an announcement soon about this year. Like Fannon and Hughes, Cefaratti is opposed to the waterfront plan.

"There was a lot of discord in the populace about this," said Cefaratti. "In my opinion, it just wasn't complete."

THE TWO FORMER City Council members both say they would have voted for the plan had they remained members. Tim Lovain said that the original version of the plan, which was released in February 2011, was a flawed document. But the Planning Commission removed a building that would have been constructed on Waterfront Park and reduced the number of rooms that could be considered a "boutique hotel." At the last minute, Councilwoman Pepper changed the allowable number of hotels from three to two. He said he understands the concerns about increased density, but he said the move was needed to provide revenue.

"There are always trade-offs with density and what you get for it," said Lovain. "Hopefully, the city can implement it in a way that's sensitive."

Former Councilman Justin Wilson says he would have also voted for the plan. He said part of his logic for increasing density would have been a lawsuit brought by the Washington Post challenging the existing zoning. City planners say that lawsuit created

the origin of the plan to increase density along the waterfront, giving the land owners an increased value for their property in exchange for open space and developer contributions.

"I think we were in a situation where the city attorney was saying it was legally indefensible to keep the existing zoning," said Wilson. "We're talking about a relatively modest amount of density."

Planning Commission member Donna Fossum voted against the plan last year, although she said the proposal has since been changed to ease her concerns about eminent domain. Fossum said that she thinks the increased density could be very beneficial to Old Town if it's concentrated in a way that reduces traffic congestion. She also said that much of the discussion of the plan has overlooked an important feature of the proposal, which is that it would address persistent flooding in Old Town.

"The core of this plan is flood mitigation," said Fossum. "But that's kind of been lost in the shuffle."

Several of the candidates struggled for the right words to capture their feelings about the waterfront plan. When asked how he would have voted, Democrat John Taylor Chapman said yes. But when asked about his reasoning, the candidate paused for a time. He said he disagreed with those who were concerned that increased traffic congestion and parking problems would undermine the quality of life in Old Town.

"It's not going to ruin the neighborhood, although it will change it," said Chapman. "I think it will change it for the better in terms of making the waterfront more appealing to Old Town and throughout the city."

Democrat Charles Sumpter said he would have voted for the plan, describing the increased density as the best way to move forward. Democrat Michael Hepburn said he would have voted for the plan at the time, although he acknowledged that his listening tour has revealed more discontent with the proposal than he knew about at the time. Democrat Melissa Feld said she's unsure how she would have voted.

"I just don't know enough about it," she said.

SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

MCM Fun Run participants from George Mason Elementary School celebrate their Healthy School Award March 1. The school had 243 students participate in the run, which placed them in the top 5 and earned the PE department a check for \$1,000.

George Mason Wins Healthy School Award

Marines make presentation.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

A contingent of Marines from Quantico visited George Mason Elementary School March 1 to present the student body with the Marine Corps Marathon Healthy School Award for their record participation in the 2011 Healthy Kids Fun Run.

"I am so lucky," said PE teacher Julie Westcott in accepting the award. "Every single day I am so happy and so proud to be at this school."

George Mason registered 243 students for this year's race, making it one of the top five selected for the award. Nearly 3,000 students from across the country participated in the one-mile, just for fun race, which took place in the Pentagon North parking lot on Oct. 29, 2011.

"We know some other Alexandria schools are trying to compete with us," said Westcott in reference to James K. Polk, William Ramsey and Mount Vernon Community schools, which also placed in the top five of last year's event. "So next year, we're going to work even harder."

Students who participated in the race wore their Healthy Fun Run t-shirts to the awards ceremony. MCM race director Rick Nealis and mascot Miles the Bulldog then led the student body in a round of military physical training exercises.

As part of the award, MCM sponsor Sodexo presented a check for \$1,000 to the school and provided healthy snacks for the students.



George Mason PE teacher Julie Westcott receives a special medal from MCM race director Rick Nealis.

"We'll have no problem spending that money," Westcott said with a laugh. "We're preparing for our own Olympics in June where students will participate in multi-cultural sports that they wouldn't otherwise be able to experience. We can't thank the Marine Corps Marathon and Sodexo enough for providing this opportunity for our students."

The 2012 Healthy Kids Fun Run, a one-mile run for fun for students ages 5 to 12, will open for online registration at noon April 4 at www.marinemarathon.com. Parents can register kids for the event that will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27. Schools or organizations interested in registering groups of students can contact MCM communications coordinator Amy Beaulieu at amy.beaulieu@usmc.mil or 703-784-2357.



Miles the Bulldog leads students in exercises as part of the Healthy School Award ceremony.

MCM race director Rick Nealis and PE teacher Julie Westcott give a thumbs up as Sodexo representative Larry McMarlin presents a check for \$1,000 to the students at George Mason Elementary School March 1.



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

nities for better urban design and provide a more attractive gateway for the proposed town center development on Beauregard Street.

The ellipse revives the concept of a round-about or traffic circle. However there are significant differences. Traffic on Seminary Road would go through the middle of the traffic circle and traffic signals would be installed at intersections within the circle. Drivers using North Beauregard Street would make right turns into a signalized circular maze and merge into an exit lane.

The ellipse was proposed prior to VDOT proposing the HOV ramp at I-395 and Seminary Road. If approved the ramp will provide bus and HOV-3 drivers more direct access to and from the BRAC site. This would significantly reduce the distance and numbers of vehicles projected to use the triple left turn lanes on Seminary Road to access Mark Center Avenue off of Beauregard Street.

The proposed ellipse would replace the recently constructed triple left at Seminary Road and North Beauregard. It would reduce left turns. Given the potential volume of traffic, design speeds, site distances and maneuvering, safety could be an issue. The design does not alleviate current traffic congestion and queuing during the afternoon rush hour associated with I-395 on and off ramps and the traffic lights at Mark Center Drive.

The proposed ellipse creates a real barrier to pedestrian and bicyclist and will impact local bus service, including plans for the Bus Rapid Transit route through

Southern Towers. Pedestrian crossings at Seminary and Beauregard are currently bad and the ellipse would make it even worse. An argument can be made that if we are trying to create a transit oriented, walk-able community, with enhanced transit and local retail the ellipse is the wrong way to go.

The ellipse is a \$30 million engineering experiment. Although the cost of the ellipse would be borne by the developers, it is likely the cost would be offset by additional concessions allowing more development granted by the City through its zoning process.

If the HOV ramp is approved, the City should reevaluate the need for the ellipse. As an option the City should consider eliminating the third left lane since the proposed HOV ramp would alleviate much of the traffic at the Seminary and Beauregard intersection destined for the BRAC Mark Center site.

I suggest the City staff evaluate the option of eliminating the third left turn lane and returning the intersection to a more conventional intersection. Improved signalization, restriping would be less expensive and more importantly, it would provide opportunities for more direct, safer pedestrian crossing at this important intersection.

Dave Cavanaugh

Plugged In And Pre School

To the Editor:

Recently, I went to the Joint School Board/City Council Budget Work-session and I learned about a new adult education program called Plugged-In (www.pluggedinva.com). It cites a recent report

saying a General Education Degree (GED) is not enough and does not prepare students for the skills needed in today's workforce. Students need critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity, according to the report. I have learned a lot about the need of students to develop skills for where the jobs are from my sister, Donna Walker James, who has worked for many years on school-to-work issues. Preparing students to go into the workforce, matching students with careers, and getting them excited about learning skills where there are job opportunities is definitely a good thing.

Plugged In is a statewide program so it tracks jobs across the state, and already has pilot programs in place. It is a route to additional certifications besides the GED and possible scholarships at community colleges or other secondary institutions. In a recent article in the New York Times ("Schools Try to Match the Jobless with 3.4 Million Jobs," 2-29-12) Bob Templin, president of Northern Virginia Community college says: "We've become much more focused, much more agile and much more driven by what the data is telling us on where the jobs are," and he goes on to say "We're very market-oriented now, whereas before we would offer the

courses that people were interested in teaching and we'd see who would show up. In the last 24 months, we've thoroughly reorganized our continuing-education unit, and we now refer to it as 'Work Force Development in Continuing Education.'" Matching students to the jobs of the future sounds like something Plugged In will do.

It is great to see the our school system looking to new solutions to help all people, including adult learners achieve. This is a program that hopefully will be funded through a state grant, so it is not included in the budget. It would start with 64 students, and partner with Northern Virginia Community College, and the city's Job Link.

When I was at T.C. Williams I participated in a program called Executive Internships of America, and so I spent my last semester of high school working four days a week at the headquarters of the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. This work experience, plus the two summers I had already spent working for the Student Conservation Corps in Mesa Verde, Colo., and the Youth Conservation Corps at Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge on the Potomac, taught me about hard work and gave me leadership and team building skills

in the process. I also spent two years taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College, so I can appreciate the need to connect the learning experience to the real world of work and local educational opportunities.

I also learned that there are 94 pre-schoolers waiting for placement in our head start programs, so we need to work on both ends of the learning spectrum so children not only start in the right in the right place, but end up as adults in a place they can find work and success.

Perhaps another organization or foundation will raise the funds needed to help these 3 year olds start school, like the Alexandria Scholarship Fund helps students at T.C. Williams. I learned it would take a million dollars to provide a place for these children, so as it may not be something we can afford in the school budget, but it is a great opportunity for a public private partnership to form to ensure the success of our youngest citizens. Doing both Plugged In and making sure every three year old has the opportunity to go to school are good investments and will make sure we are providing the best education for everyone.

Boyd Walker

Candidate for City Council

NEIGHBORHOOD

Taylor Run

Scores of Del Pepper's friends gathered at Mango Mike's last week to help start her re-election campaign. There was green beer; there was Irish-type food; there was delightful entertainment. The Irish Breakfast Band, a group of musicians of widely varying ages (one of them in fact is 10 years old — Molly Hayes) has been playing Irish music for nearly 30 years since being started by Sean Doherty. Among the members are Gordon Johnston, Karen Helbrecht, Martha Beall, Sue McIver, Marcia Finnerty, Sandy Hoar, Peter Hayes, Tom Van Wagner, Rick Netherton, Lisa Anderson, Katie Duffy, Melissa Gouffray and Roger Darus.

PARTYGOERS

Elected officials in attendance included U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, Mayor Bill Euille and Council Members Kerry Donley and Paul Smedberg, along with Council hopefuls Justin Wilson and John Taylor Chapman. Patsy Ticer, Randy Sengel and Ed Semonian were there, along with Dick Hobson, Donna Fossum and Vola Lawson.

Enjoying themselves were Mike



City Councilwoman Del Pepper with husband E.J. Pepper celebrate St. Patrick's Day March 3 at Mango Mike's Restaurant.



Patsy Ticer and Arthur Peabody at Mango Mike's.



Mike Oliver shows off his lucky charm St. Patrick's Day sign handcrafted years ago by his father.

organized the celebration. A dozen dancers from the Boyle School of Irish Dance rounded off the afternoon with a rousing performance of hard-shoe Irish step dancing.

— **Lois Kelso Hunt**

Legal Notices

ABC LICENSE

Mee Gin, Inc trading as Sugar Plum Thai Restaurant, 5580A, 5580B Vincent Gate Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Somchat Sriwattananah/Chief Executive Officer.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legal Notices

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE

In the matter of the adoption of a child to be known as KAIA GRACE PRITCHETT (Birth Certificate Registration Number 2005 120102, State of Florida) a minor, born on July 7, 2005 by Robert Wesley Pritchett and Jamie Anne Pritchett,

PETITIONERS

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of the above-styled suit is an adoption action. An affidavit having been filed that due diligence has been used by the plaintiff to ascertain the address of the Defendant, Kenneth James White, without success. **ORDERED** that the defendant appear on or before the 23rd day of March at 9:00am, 2012 in the Clerk's office of this Court and do what is necessary to protect his interest.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 2003 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Unit at (703) 838-4709.

Legal Notices



Alexa Tabackman reenacts the midwife and apothecary shop owner Margaret Morris.



Nadeem Bohsali demonstrates to the 2nd grade Brownies the wonders of the vacuum.



Kayvon Morbarakeh portrays Benjamin Rush, a physician from Philadelphia.

Project Enlightenment Visits Apothecary Shop

Students from McLean High School in the Historical Reenactment Society, Project Enlightenment performed before audiences at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop in Alexandria last month.

Each of the students researched an 18th century person who worked in science. “The Magical Science of the Vacuum” by Dr. Mesmer was explained and demonstrated by senior Nadeem Bohsali; Margaret Morris, a midwife and owner of an apothecary shop was portrayed by Alexa Tabackman; Mel McCalley reenacted the study that the

naturalist Lucy Say of Connecticut worked on. A doctor, a spy and naturalist and others appeared throughout the afternoon.

The students will return on Saturday, March 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. All 50 students in the program will be also performing at the Mount Vernon Estate over the Memorial Day weekend. A special event coinciding with the transit of Venus will take place at the Sully Plantation during the first week of June. The Project Enlightenment program was established in 1992, and is now a fully credited course within the Fairfax County Public Schools.



The students in the McLean High School Project Enlightenment will perform again in Alexandria, at the Apothecary Shop on Saturday afternoon, March 24.

12 Democrats Seek 6 City Council Seats

FROM PAGE 1

Virginia State Board of Elections seems to open the way for a primary contest on June 12. For the first time in the history of the city, Democrats will head to polls at all of the precincts in a citywide primary rather than having a “firehouse caucus” at one central location. Party leaders say they are expecting more people to participate in the process.

The five new candidates join an already crowded field. Two incumbent Democrats are seeking reelection, Councilwoman Del Pepper and Councilman Paul Smedberg. Two former Democratic members of City Council are trying to return to their old positions, former Councilman Tim Lovain and former Councilman Justin Wilson. And four non-incumbent candidates have already announced their candidacies: Donna Fossum, Sean Hollihan, Charles Sumpter and Boyd Walker.

On the Republican side, two incumbent City Council members are seeking reelection — Councilman Frank Fannon and Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, who ran as an independent in 2009 but will be running as a Republican this year. Insurance agent

New Democratic Candidates

❖ **John Taylor Chapman, 30:** A native of Alexandria, Chapman grew up in public housing. After graduating from St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School in 1999, he received a bachelor’s degree in social science education from St. Olaf College in Minnesota. He is currently an after-school specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools. From 2006 to 2007, he was president of the Alexandria Young Democrats. Since 2011, he’s been president of the Alexandria NAACP. Chapman votes in the MacArthur Precinct.

❖ **Melissa Feld, 41:** A native of Toronto, Feld became an American citizen in 2008. She has a bachelor’s degree in government and history from the University of Toronto and a master’s degree in American government from Johns

Hopkins University. She is currently a principal with PowerBase Associates, a research firm that works with businesses. She is currently a member of the Maury Elementary School PTA. Feld votes at the Mount Vernon Center Precinct.

❖ **Michael Hepburn, 29:** A native of Miami, Hepburn received a bachelor’s degree in sports management from Florida International University in Miami. After graduating, he moved to Alexandria and took a position as coordinator of player services for the National Football League Players Association. He is a member of the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission and the Career and Technical Advisory Committee. Hepburn votes at the Tucker Precinct.

❖ **Arthur Peabody, 65:** A native of Lynn, Mass., Peabody moved to Alexandria in 1972. He has a bachelor’s degree in po-

litical science from Northeastern University and a juris doctor from Cornell University in New York. He was an attorney in the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice for 34 years and is currently counsel for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Peabody votes at the Chinquapin Precinct.

❖ **Allison Silverberg, 48:** A native of Dallas, Silverberg received a bachelor’s degree in international relations and history from American University and a master’s degree in playwriting from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. Silverberg has written comedy for shows like “Mama’s Place” as well as speeches for former presidential candidate John Kerry. She is currently the chairwoman of the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission. Silverberg votes at the Agudas Achim Precinct.

Scott Gordon ran a short-lived campaign, but he withdrew from the race this week. Former Republican candidate for City Council

Phil Cefaratti said Monday night that he will likely announce a candidacy soon.

Unless more Republican candidates come

forward, the party will not need to hold a primary or a caucus because they need more than six candidates to have a contest.

Cleaning Up One's Plate

Local nutrition experts encourage healthy eating during National Nutrition Month and always.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When it comes to healthy eating, Alexandria wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella encourages her clients to load up during meals, but she offers a caveat. "Crowd out your plate with good stuff," said Mirabella who has offices in Alexandria and Warrenton. "If you're eating nutrient and fiber-rich foods, you're naturally going to be more full and more satisfied and therefore you might not be reaching for the junk food as often."

In observance of National Nutrition Month, Mirabella is offering suggestions for making wise food choices. She and other health experts say that while trading in salt-laden potato chips for potassium-packed baked spuds might be challenging, making positive dietary changes is easier than one might think, and is worth the effort.

"I believe that food is medicine and we can use it as a way to prevent diseases and heal our body," said Mirabella. "If we eat foods that are full of nutrients we're going to give our body everything it needs to do what it does naturally. Food can be a

very powerful medicine in terms of disease prevention and reversal."

Begin by simplifying food choices. "The first step is focusing on what isn't food and then finding cleaner options," said Nina Elliot, an Arlington-based personal trainer. "All the additives ... that are in many of our favorite foods can contribute to obesity and health challenges. Replacing processed foods with whole foods may take a bit more work in the kitchen and a little more grocery money, but the health benefits are tremendous."

Add fresh fruits and vegetables to each meal. "Vegetables are high in antioxidants," said Mirabella. "Frozen fruits and vegetables are an excellent choice too. They are affordable and they're nutrient rich because they've been picked at the peak of their freshness. They went from the field to the freezer, so the nutrients are locked-in."

Watch for hidden sodium. "Deli meat for example, is highly processed and high in sodium," said Paulette Helman, a registered dietician in Potomac, Md. "You're better off baking a chicken breast with a little lemon juice."



Alexandria-based wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella grows vibrantly colored, vitamin-packed vegetables in her garden. She believes that nutrient-rich food is medicine for the body.



Alexandria-based wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella creates a nutrient-dense salad with avocados and spinach. Dieticians recommend eating fiber and antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables with every meal.

Choose whole grains. "Whole grains are healthier than plain, white processed grains," said Jean Glossa, M.D., medical director, Fairfax Community Health Care Network and Molina Healthcare. "The closer the food is to the way that it came out of the ground and the less processed it is the healthier it is. But that doesn't mean that by switching to whole grains you can eat an unlimited amount of it. Portion size is still important."

When it comes to protein, keep it lean. "Ideally with every meal and snack, you want to have protein," said Mirabella. "For example, you might have eggs for breakfast and toss in spinach or broccoli and a little feta cheese. If you have an apple for a snack you

might dip it in a little bit of peanut butter so that you get protein and healthy fat along with carbohydrates from the apple. Lean cuts of meat are good, but you want to stay away from saturated fat.

Nutritionists say gradual adjustments work best. "Making small changes is more manageable than overhauling one's diet all at once," said Elliot. "[They are] more likely to lead to the next positive change ... which means people are [more] likely to want to continue improving ... their diet."

Plan ahead. "Try to eat three meals and two healthy snacks each day," said Mirabella. "That is a great way to keep your blood sugar in balance so you can make healthier food choices all day long."

Health Services Coalition Receives \$10,000 Grant

Funding will help provide specialty health care to low income residents.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Northern Virginia Health Services Coalition's (NOVAHSC) Specialty Access program received a \$10,000 grant to help provide low-income, uninsured patients with access to specialty medical care through a regional network of providers.

"Increased access to specialty care continues to be a challenge for safety-net health care providers in Northern Virginia as the need in our community steadily grows," said Meagan Ulrich, program manager of NOVAHSC's Specialty Access program. "This [grant will] help NOVA Specialty Access to expand our abilities to place more patients from free clinics with the specialty care they need when they need it."

NOVAHSC is a group of clinics that provides medical services for financially vulnerable people in Northern Virginia. The coalition represents clinics and health care providers in Alexandria City, Fairfax County, Arlington County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Manassas City and Manassas Park. The

clinics provide specialty care services such as audiology, podiatry and physical therapy. NOVA Specialty Access takes referrals from participating safety-net clinics and links them with volunteer specialists in the community. Each clinic works with individual specialty care doctors who are willing to see patients in their offices.

The grant was awarded by Molina Healthcare, Inc., which helps state agencies in their administration of the Medicaid program. The company currently manages Fairfax County's Community Health Care Network.

"Molina Healthcare was involved in this important initiative from the start through its management of the Community Health Care Network, which has three clinics par-

ticipating as part of the specialty network," said Jean Glossa, MD, MBA, MPH, medical director of Molina Healthcare of Virginia and the Community Health Care Network in Fairfax County. "As the medical director of these local clinics, I see firsthand the overwhelming need for access to specialty care. It only made sense for us to take it one step farther and demonstrate our strong commitment to help address the unmet needs of such a vulnerable population."

The NOVA Specialty Access program, which was launched last fall, has recruited 97 specialty medical care providers. Program officials say they plan to recruit 200 providers within the next year.

Inexperienced Titans Hope To Continue Program Growth

TC enters third season under head coach Mike Mulherin.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams boys' lacrosse program took great strides toward respectability during the 2011 season.

The Titans won a Patriot District tournament game for the first time since 2006, beating Lake Braddock to advance to regionals. TC finished with a 7-9 record, its best mark since 2007, and produced more victories than the program totaled during the 2009 and 2010 seasons combined.

This year, the Titans have aspirations of continuing their growth under third-year head coach Mike Mulherin. However, TC will have to do so with a green group after losing the majority of its primary contributors from 2011. Mulherin said one reason the Titans have a chance to weather a storm of inexperience is improvement at the junior varsity level, which has younger athletes better prepared to play with the varsity.

"I feel like the players coming up are better equipped to transition to the varsity game," Mulherin said. "I still think we're going to be competitive in all our games. I think we can build on last year's success, continuing to be in the top half of our district, and looking for postseason success, even into the regional tournament this year. ... We have a slim roster. We think we're going to get a lot of playing experience for the guys this year and I think it's going to continue our progression toward being a solid program with, hopefully, this year and



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Junior attackman August Bryant will be one of the Titans' top offensive threats this season.

especially next year being really fruitful for us."

Leading the way on offense are junior attackmen August Bryant and Ed Kargbo. Bryant has been with the varsity since his freshman year but has seen limited playing time. Kargbo played JV lacrosse as a sophomore.

"[Bryant] and Ed, they have our best stick skills on the team," Mulherin said. "I really trust that when the ball gets to them, I know we're going to hold onto it. If they do lose the ball, it's going to be either a really good defensive play or they are going to have made a pass or a shot, and it's going to be worth it."



T.C. Williams junior attackman Ed Kargbo is a first-year varsity player who will be a primary contributor for the Titans.

Mulherin said Bryant lacked the work ethic necessary to contribute as a sophomore, but enters his junior season with an improved approach.

"This year, he's come back with a vengeance — great attitude," Mulherin said. "He's doing a better job in the classroom to make sure he's more focused out here and he's stepping up and being a leader on the field."

Bryant praised his coach.

"Coach Mulherin has been doing good work building the program every single year," Bryant said. "We've gotten a lot better since he's been here."

Juniors Jack Carver, a returning varsity contributor, and Michael McGonagle are

standouts at midfield. Junior Sean Burstein is making the transition from attack to midfield.

Seniors Wes Taylor and Dominick Ballou will lead the TC defense and senior Cameron Lyons is the favorite to win the starting goalkeeper position. David Davenport, a junior, could also see time at goalie.

TC will open its season at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 at Mount Vernon High School. The Titans' first home game will be March 20 against Centreville and TC will open district play on March 26 at home against Lake Braddock.

"I think we're getting better every day," Kargbo said, "and that's pretty much what we need to focus on right now."

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Moses Webb, bottom row, middle, was one of five Bishop Ireton seniors to sign national letters of intent to play college sports.

Five Ireton Seniors To Play College Sports

Five Bishop Ireton seniors — two football players and three girls' soccer players — signed letters of intent to play at the collegiate level.

Moses Webb, a standout at running back and receiver, will play at Division I Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. Webb set the Ireton single-season touchdown record with 16 and was named 2011 team MVP.

Eddie D'Antuono will be a preferred walk-on at Virginia Tech as a long snapper. He was the 2011 recipient of the Cardinal Award.

Anna Wissler will play soccer at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. She was an honorable mention all-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference selection and received the team's Cardinal Award.

Katarina Guillou, a first-team all-WCAC selection, will play soccer at UNC-Wilmington. She scored two goals in an upset of Good Counsel.

Hannah Thomas, a second-team all-WCAC selection, will play soccer at Charleston Southern University in South Carolina.

Sportsman's Club To Host High School Basketball Night

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club will host High School Basketball Night March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Dominion Boat Club in Old Town.

The program will consist of a question-and-answer period with the boys and girls high school basketball coaches from T.C. Williams, Bishop Ireton, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School and Episcopal High School. ASC will honor the student athletes of the month followed by dinner from Chick-Fil-A, sponsored by Unwined Gourmet Wine and Cigars.

The meeting is free and open to all. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the formal program kicking off at 7 p.m. at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 1 King Street. For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

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SCHOOLS

TC Musicians Score Big at States

The T.C. Williams Music program set what could be a performing arts record for the high school when 10 of its top musicians were selected to compete for chairs in the All-State Virginia Band and Orchestra. Statewide auditions were held Saturday, Feb. 25 at James Madison University.

TCW students earned their ticket to JMU by winning top chairs in auditions for District 10 Honors Wind Ensemble, which includes public and private high schools in Alexandria, Falls Church and eight high schools in southeastern Fairfax County.

The TCW All-State audition team included Kate Aplin - clarinet; Nate Conrad - euphonium; Christian Contreras - tuba; Emily Dooley - clarinet; Jonathan Forbes - trumpet; Kahlil George - percussion; Maria Jones - trombone; Alexander Psaltis-Ivanis - trumpet and Bobby Warden - trombone. The TCW Band program is directed by Brian Thomas and Doug Rogers. Missing from the photo is Cameron Lyons who auditioned on the bass and represented the TCW Orchestra.



TCW members of the 2012 All-State Virginia Concert Band are (from left): Nate Conrad, Kate Aplin, TCW Band Director Brian Thomas, Jonathan Forbes and Alexander Psaltis-Ivanis.

After returning from the auditions the TCW team learned that five of its members had earned chairs in the 2012 All-Virginia Concert Band. The new Alexandria All-State Band members include TCW senior Kate Aplin, sophomore Nate Conrad; junior Jonathan Forbes and freshman Alexander Psaltis-Ivanis. Junior Maria Jones was selected as an alternate. The "Titan Five" are the first TCW musicians in many years to receive "All-State" recognition by the Virginia Band and Orchestra Director's As-

sociation.

On April 12-14 the students will take their instruments and Titan Pride to Richmond, to train with other top high school musicians in preparation for a special April 14 public concert. The performance of the 2012 All-Virginia Concert Band will be conducted by Dr. John Carmichael, director of bands and associate director of conducting at the University of South Florida. The concert will take place at James River High School in Richmond.

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<p>Wednesday, March 7 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.</p> <p>zpizza the pure one™</p> <p>3217 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 2212 Dine in and pick up orders only.</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 14 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.</p> <p>WORLD'S FINEST FOODRUCKERS</p> <p>4141 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 21 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.</p> <p>BAJA FRESH MEXICAN GRILL</p> <p>3231 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 28 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.</p> <p>HOMEMADE PIZZA Co</p> <p>2413 Mt Vernon, Alexandria, VA 22301 Miracle League will get \$5 for every large pizza, plus donations on other items.</p>

Run for A Good Cause!

Kelley Cares 5K

After eating during March, run it off at the
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Special thanks to **Alexandria Gazette Packet**

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INSIDE ALEXANDRIA

ABC's of Alexandria

FROM PAGE 14

ACBA continues to grow and gain new members through community outreach. The association submitted an application to the Marketing Fund in January to help fund a marketing campaign in the spring that will promote the community as a great place to shop and dine and will drive traffic to a new ACBA website. ACBA is currently planning community, business and marketing events for 2012 and hopes to continue to collaborate with other organizations, such as DRBA, and to expand their membership and reach.

Eisenhower Partnership

The Eisenhower Partnership is a group of commercial and residential property owners and occupiers along the Eisenhower Avenue Valley corridor. The Eisenhower Valley is defined as the 4.5-mile east-west corridor, which parallels the City's southern border along Cameron Run. The Valley is anchored in the east by the Patent and Trademark Campus and in the west by the Victory Center development/Van Dorn Metro Station.



Kay Tyler, Eisenhower Public-Private Partnership

The Eisenhower Partnership's mission is to promote the Eisenhower Valley including the businesses and the residents located in it. The Eisenhower Partnership accomplishes these goals through sponsoring community events, hosting panel discussions with local business leaders and promoting the interests of the Valley stakeholders in front of the City Council and Mayor's office. The Eisenhower Partnership exists where economic development and political will intersect.

Led by President Kay Tyler and a 12-member board of directors, the Partnership currently has more than 100 members. The membership is composed of a diverse group of community leaders and civic minded individuals. The Eisenhower Partnership welcomes anyone in the community who would like to learn more about being a part of the future of this dynamic and exciting place. For more information, visit www.eisenhowerpartnership.org or send an email to info@eisenhowerpartnership.org.

Gazette Packet interns Alec Havéus and Daniel Elséus contributed to this article.

MILITARY NOTES

Army Pfc. Mohammad A. Bihamta has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. He is the son of Reza Bihamta of Nob Hill Court, Alexandria, Va. and nephew of David Decatur of Shallow Creek Lane, Stafford. Bihamta is a 2002 graduate of Colonial Forge High School, Stafford.

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Circa 1810

This historic, plaqued brick house is in one of the prettiest blocks of Old Town. Semi-detached with many windows, this townhouse offers four bedrooms and three and a half baths, five woodburning fireplaces with period mantels, front and rear staircases. Original pine floors and moldings are found throughout. The eat-in kitchen features Sub-Zero, a large farm sink, and six-burner stove. A mature tall tree in the outdoor patio and garden is a lovely setting for gardening and outdoor activities. Truly a great value at this price!

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