

A small replica of a 19th century netted gas balloon floats up outside the officer's hut at Fort Ward Park.

Civil War Balloon Corps

Reenactors at Fort Ward Museum and Park portrayed the Union forces' special military reconnaissance team, the Balloon Corps on April 28. The program featured a reenactor portraying period aeronaut Thaddeus Lowe, and a partially inflated netted gas balloon.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Reenactors describe the early work of the surveillance done during the civil war.

Last-Minute Budgeting

City Council members haggle over potential additions to budget.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Hold your wallet. The Alexandria City Council is putting the final touches on the budget for fiscal year 2013, and the long list of priorities could mean more taxes.

At issue is City Manager Rashad Young's \$585.6 million budget proposal, unveiled on Valentine's Day. The proposal represented a 3.3 percent increase from last year's budget, pumping \$18.7 million more into the annual operating fund. Now City Council members are considering a list of potential additions. Even without raising the tax rate, the average residential property taxpayer would already pay \$52 more than last year.

Potential Additions

- ❖ \$598,000 for two therapists and a technology specialist for the Community Services Board
- ❖ \$500,000 to expand career ladders and provide promotions to city employees
- ❖ \$400,000 to increase salaries for public-safety agencies
- ❖ \$172,000 to restore a child care fee subsidy
- ❖ \$125,000 to add school-based preschool class serving 16 4-year-olds
- ❖ \$532,000 for traffic calming measures discontinued in 2008
- ❖ \$65,000 to offset lost state funding for the teen clinic at T.C. Williams High School
- ❖ \$50,000 to restore library hours cut during the downturn
- ❖ \$96,000 to expand the holiday lights along King Street year-round
- ❖ \$83,000 to restore an advertising campaign of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
- ❖ \$70,000 to restore reservation services for the Senior Taxi program
- ❖ \$57,000 for a full-time family support worker as part of the Healthy Families Alexandria
- ❖ \$9,000 to fund a position to provide services through the city's gang-intervention program

As council members move toward their final budget adoption next week, the question of how much of a burden city taxpayers should bear will be at the

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 30

May Day at City Hall

Democratic primary puts heat on incumbents and former incumbents.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Hector Pineda is one of thousands of residents who live in the sprawling series of garden apartments on the city's West End, which has been one of the last remaining spots in the city for low-income residents. Pineda says his family income is \$43,000, well under the average median income. That's why he and many of his neighbors are organizing this campaign season against the city's plan to demolish the building he lives in and allow a developer to more than double the allowable density. Appearing at a May Day rally in Market Square, Pineda says members of the City Council need to know the consequences of their actions.

"We are a voting people," said Pineda, who works for a house-cleaning company. "We will see who Alexandria city is with —is



Hector Pineda, center right, holds a sign to protest a plan by developer JBG to demolish the building he lives in as part of a redevelopment plan that would more than double the allowable density.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

SEE CRITICISM, PAGE 30

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Knuckling Down

Councilman **Paul Smedberg** and Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes** clashed repeatedly this week about when and how council members should consider a proposal to add Sunday deliveries for Meals on Wheels. The disagreement grew so heated that Mayor **Bill Euille** had to gavel the meeting back to order.

"We're getting a bit hot under the collar," said Euille. "We probably need to call it a night."

But they didn't call it a night. In fact, the contentious budget work session lasted another 45 minutes. The two continued to quarrel about a dispute dating back to last year, when Hughes asked for a \$57,000 appropriation to fund deliveries for Meals on Wheels program on Sundays. Council members balked at considering a budget request outside the budget process, and the effort was tabled. This year, Hughes asked for a \$60,000 appropriation to fund the same program as part of the budget process. But during a Monday night meeting at City Hall, Smedberg said she should have requested a budget memorandum on the issue.

"With all due respect, Paul," responded Hughes. "A year ago when you voted ..."

"You should have put in a budget memo," interjected Smedberg.

"Excuse me," responded Hughes.

"You should have put in a budget memo," said Smedberg repeating himself.

The two began talking over one another, and Hughes said that Smedberg was "out of order." The mayor moved the discussion to the next item, which was an effort by Councilman **Rob Krupicka** to create a new city employee to keep track of the school system's budget. Euille pointed out that Krupicka hadn't asked for a budget memo on the item.

"This is the second example of something that has been pointed to for which there was no formal request," said Hughes, adding that she would support the measure. "Nevertheless, we are not getting the same outrage or uproar over the fact that this is being requested."

"Well no one is supporting it," said Smedberg.

"I'm supporting it," responded Hughes, prompting the mayor to use his knuckles as a gavel again.

Obamacare in Alexandria

Even though the U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering the fate of President **Barack Obama's** Affordable Care Act, federal officials are still moving forward with the healthcare overhaul. And one Alexandria organization stands to gain half a million dollars.

This week, Health and Human Services Secretary **Kathleen Sebelius** announced eight Virginia community health centers are getting \$16.7 million in federal funding to help pay for capital improvements. One of the centers is the Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, which is located in Arlandria. The center will receive a \$495,000 from the Affordable Health Care Act, which provides \$9.5 billion to expand services in five years and \$1.5 billion to pay for construction and renovation of the centers.

"For many Americans, community health centers are the major source of care that ranges from prevention to treatment of chronic diseases," said Sebelius in a written statement. "This investment will expand our ability to provide high-quality care to millions of people while supporting good paying jobs in communities across the country."

Blue Gold

It's official. The Alexandria Police Department is gold, or at least their headquarters is. This week, the Green Building Certification Institute awarded gold certification in its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. The LEED certification was awarded to recognize that the building was designed and constructed using strategies that achieve high performance in sustainable site design, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

City officials say the police headquarters was designed to attain more than 30 percent energy savings with high-efficient glazing, occupancy sensors and energy-efficient mechanical equipment. The building's bioretention ponds were also recognized, allowing the stormwater to be filtered before draining into the ground. The headquarters also has a 30,000-gallon irrigation tank to collect and reuse stormwater for irrigation.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Saving the Queen's Throne

Fifth graders mount successful petition drive.

BY MEGHAN PHILBIN
GAZETTE PACKET

For the 5th grade class of George Mason Elementary School, the tree stump by the edge of the playground is more than a reminder of the tree that once stood. To them, it is known as "the Queen's throne."

Through their imagination, this stump is transformed into the center of an elaborate game where, according to Emma Hathaway, "a queen makes speeches" to the various tribes of her kingdom. While on a typical day the Queen sits atop her throne uncontested, last week this schoolyard pastime was threatened, causing five 5th grade girls to set out to protect it.

Students Emma Hathaway, Marty Christino, Bridget Williams, Caroline Simmons, and Reese Hardman took immediate action when, during recess, they saw a SavATree crew removing similar tree stumps from the school's property.

Within minutes the group devised a plan to save their throne. Under the guidance of their teacher, Regina Freed, Marty and Caroline used their lunch period immediately following recess to write a letter to school principal Kevin West. In the letter, the two girls expressed the importance of the tree stump, explaining that it lets "our imaginations fly." Meanwhile, Emma, Bridget, and Reese went around the school collecting nearly three pages of signatures on a petition protesting the stump's removal.

After only 30 minutes the determined group of girls managed to gain the support of the school's administration, leaving it in their



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

George Mason Elementary School students: Emma Hathaway, Marty Christino, Bridget Williams, Caroline Simmons and Reese Hardman came together last Thursday at recess and over lunch drafted and typed a letter and gathered three pages of schoolmates signatures to save a tree trunk on the perimeter of the playing field at the school.

hands to see that the throne not be removed. The girls did not have to wait long to discover its fate. By the end of the school day, news had reached Marty who was in aftercare, that because of their fast action, the stump would survive to see another day.

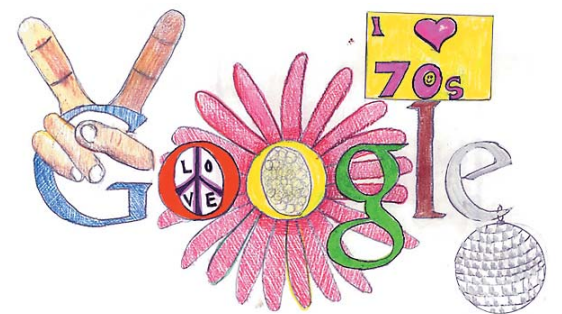
In the letter to their principal, the girls testified that the Queen's throne had "inspired poems, games, and stories." Thanks to their efforts, this source of inspiration will continue to motivate students for many more recesses to come.

Google Unveils Local Student's Entry

Emily Powell named finalist in national Doodle 4 Google contest.

Alexandria City Public Schools fifth-grader Eileen Powell was selected as a state winner in the annual Doodle 4 Google Contest. Google representatives announced the news Wednesday, May 2 at George Mason Elementary School and unveiled Eileen's "doodle" to her peers.

More than 114,000 students nationwide entered
SEE GOOGLE CONTEST, PAGE 29



Vote for Eileen Powell's entry in the Doodle 4 Google Contest through May 10.

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Retired Marine Major and Alexandria resident Van Brinson is the director of the Face of America bike ride.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of St. Rita's Daisy Scout Troop lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the pre-race dinner April 27 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City.

Who Says I Can't?

Face of America ride honors disabled veterans.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

They came from across the country, gathering before dawn in the shadow of the Pentagon to begin a two-day journey to honor the sacrifices of America's wounded warriors and gain a better understanding of people with disabilities.

"This is our second year participating in Face of America," said Timra Stump, a member of the "Who Says I Can't?" team that was making the 110-mile trek to Gettysburg in honor of Jothy Rosenberg, an amputee rider and cancer survivor. "Jothy couldn't be with us this year due to an infection from a recent surgery but he is still an inspiration to all of us riding today."

Stump's 58-member team joined more than 500 other riders April 28 to participate in the 10th annual Face of America bike ride that included disabled and able bodied veterans, servicemen and civilians on bicycles, hand cycles and recumbents.

"What our service members have done for us is outstanding," said World T.E.A.M. Sports CEO Paul Tyler. "We do this to show our thanks to our veterans for putting their lives on the line for us."

The annual Face of America ride is managed by World T.E.A.M. [The Exceptional Athlete Matters] Sports, a 20-year-old not-for-profit that organizes



Alexandria resident Gen. Robert Magnus (ret.), former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, recites the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the start of the 2012 Face of America bike ride April 28.

inclusive events for disabled citizens and wounded warriors.

"All of our events are designed to combine able bodied individuals with people with disabilities," said Alexandria resident and retired Marine Major Van Brinson, chief operations officer of World T.E.A.M. Sports and director of the ride. "When able bodied individuals ride alongside someone with a disability, it really changes their perception of what that person can accomplish."

Another Alexandria resident among this year's riders was Gen. Robert Magnus (ret.), the former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps who was participating in his fifth Face of America weekend.

"I started as a speaker five years ago and have been a rider ever since," said Magnus, who celebrated his 65th birthday the morning of the ride. "I never take for granted how fortunate I am to live and enjoy the liberties of the greatest nation on earth."

Presented by Capital One, Face of America sponsors included American Portfolios, General Elec-

tric, Revolution Cycles, Subway of the Bethesda Naval Hospital, Veterans Corps, Penske Truck Rentals and Booz Allen Hamilton.

"This is just an amazing event for us to be a part of," said Booz Allen team member Eli Hertz. "We have 51 riders and 55 volunteers. From registration to the finish line and every mile along the way, there will be a Booz Allen volunteer doing this as a tribute to our wounded warriors."

SEE RIDE, PAGE 14



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NEWS

Got Food?

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive set for May 12.

The nation's largest single-day food drive will take place on Saturday, May 12, when postal workers in Alexandria will join others across the country in the 20th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Last year's drive brought in more than 70 million pounds of food nationwide, raising the total to 1.1 billion pounds of food collected since the drive began in 1992.

To participate in this year's drive, place bags of non-perishable food items by your mail box before your mail is delivered May 12. Donations can also be dropped off at local post office branches throughout the city.

Donations of non-perishable food, including pet food, will be distributed by the letter carriers to local shelters and food banks such as ALIVE!

Official sponsors of this year's drive are the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Campbell Soup Company, Valpak, U.S. Postal Service, United Way, AFLCIO, Feeding America, Uncle Bob's Self-Storage and AARP.



COURTESY PHOTO/NAIC

April Cobb, Bob Frazier, Brian McCormick help collect food for ALIVE! at the Parkfairfax Post Office as part of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This year's drive takes place May 12.

For more information, visit www.helpstampouthunger.com.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Politics and Paychecks

Politicians are always squeamish about raising their own salaries, especially when the budget season is closely tied to an election. For many years that was the case in Alexandria, where the election took place weeks after council members approved a budget. But after the Democrats lost two seats in 2009, the lame-duck council abandoned the longstanding practice and moved the election to November when they can piggyback off of high-profile state and national races. That doesn't mean that the budget season has become any less political.

Take this week, when City Council members were once again considering giving themselves a raise. The last time the issue was debated was in late 2005, when Councilman **Andrew Macdonald** wanted to increase the salary of council members to \$40,000.

"I have some reservations about this because we're asking staff to dig incredibly deep into the budget of the city to find places for savings," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka** at the time. "While we're asking them to look hard and fast for pennies, we should be willing to look hard and fast for pennies ourselves."

Now things have changed. Krupicka is not seeking election to the next City Council, which would receive the higher salaries if approved. So he's proposing that the mayor's salary increase from \$25,000 to \$30,500 and council member salaries increase from \$20,000 to \$27,500.

"One of the concerns I have is how many other good people are out there in the community who might want to run for the City Council if the salary was a little bit more," said Councilman **Frank Fannon**. "Would we have more people running for City Council? We do have a lot now."

"Some of them might be able to pay their taxes," said Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**, referring to late tax payments recently made by Democratic candidate **Boyd Walker**.

The Arlandria Vote

Opponents of a massive new redevelopment at Mount Vernon Village Center have long memories, and they're hoping that voters will also remember what happened in December. That's when a majority of council members approved a development special-use permit critics say will gentrify the neighborhood.

During a public hearing on the issue, many residents said they feared a new high-end development would raise rents nearby or worse, create redevelopment pressure on the low-income housing units. Others said they felt their voices weren't heard during the process. Most of the City Council members set aside those concerns. Not Councilman **Alicia Hughes**. She suggested that a work group be formed similar to the waterfront work group so that residents who felt ignored could make their case.

"Let people come to the table and feel as though they are heard," Hughes said at the time.

Other members disagreed, and her motion to create a work group failed to get a second member to support it. Hughes was the lone dissenting vote on the project, although Arlandria-based Tenants and Workers United director **Gabriel Rojo** says her efforts are remembered in the community. "We need elected officials who are the champion of working people," said Rojo during a May Day rally in Market Square. "That just doesn't exist right now except for maybe Alicia Hughes, who's a Republican."

Wood Enters Race

As if the controversial waterfront plan weren't already one of the hottest topics this campaign season, Lt. Gen. **Bob Wood** is throwing his hat into the ring as a Republican candidate for the Alexandria City Council. As a member of the waterfront work group, Wood was one of the most outspoken critics of the city's controversial waterfront plan that increases allowable density at three sites slated for redevelopment. Last month, he attended the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting and spoke out against Planning Director **Faroll Hamer**'s decision to reject a petition submitted by neighborhood residents. Now he's taking his concerns directly to the voters.

"We are excited," said Republican chairman **Tom Fulton**. "It speaks to the level of concern people have about leadership in this city." Wood is the third Republican to announce for the six City Council seats. The Republican canvas is on June 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Minnie Howard Eighth Grade Center.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

PEOPLE



Cathy and Cynthia Puskar, center, browse the tables of silent auction items at the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria 2012 Gala reception on Saturday, April 28.



Lt. Thomas Fulham and Terra White.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



ACPS superintendent Morton Sherman and T.C. Williams principal Suzanne Maxey.



Julie Carey and Elynn Simons.



Chair of the Scholarship Fund board of directors Jeff McQuilkin and Mayor Bill Euille.

Gathering To Support Scholarship Fund



Josephine Torrente and Michele Butler.



City council member Frank Fannon, Marcy Covarrubias and Richard Downs.



David and Marcia Speck look over the catalog of auction items.



Gala co-chairs Jeff McQuilkin and Kathy Conrad.



Mark Mitlee and Wendy and Ed Donahue.

POTOMAC YARD



Construction for the South Potomac Yard development.



Sites of the future dog park and family recreation area.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Building from East Glebe Road to Monroe Avenue Bridge

After delays, construction on 164-acre part to finish by 2020.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
GAZETTE PACKET

Second in a three-part series about Potomac Yard development.

Watching the Potomac Yard project unfold is an amazing and captivating activity. Everyday motorists driving north and south on Route 1 near the Monroe Avenue Bridge can see the changes going on all around them.

The lower half of the 300-acre project, some 164 acres, is under construction and has been on and off since 2004. It stretches

south from the Target store parking lot along the rail lines to an area on the west side of Braddock Station.

The land was bought in 2004 by Pulte Homes and later developed under the auspices of Pulte Homes and Centex, two national home building companies. They are now merged into Pulte Group, which is building about two thirds of the south Potomac Yard project, stretching from East Glebe Road to the Monroe Avenue Bridge.

Stephen Collins, director of entitlement for Pulte Group, said the project was to go forward in 2005, but was delayed in the

mid-2000s due to the softening economic environment. It was begun in earnest in 2009 and Pulte expects to finish in 2019 or 2020, he said.

TO PREPARE the site, there had to be an enormous movement of earth, Collins said. The rail bed of the old Potomac Rail Yards was some 10 feet below the surface of the Route 1 and Pulte has trucked in some 500,000 cubic feet of earth to level the area. As it has laid sewers, drains and built streets and roads, the giant mountains of earth are slowly being reduced.

On the right as a motorist drives north is a project of town homes and condominiums. New buildings are going up each day, part of the some 1,300 residences that Pulte is building. The town homes in this housing sell for \$700,000 and the condominiums go for \$400,000. Pulte has not put a price on residences it is building in other parts of the project.

Collins said that by the first week of February Pulte has sold 42 condominiums and 14 town houses. In fact, the first town home

SEE RESIDENTIAL, PAGE 9

From Superfund Site to South Potomac Yard Development

EPA, State supervised original cleanup.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
GAZETTE PACKET

The Potomac Yard was initially cleared of environmental contaminants under the Environmental Protection Agency's "accelerated Superfund cleanup site," according to a report issued in 2004.

In 1987, when the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac decided to end the rail operation, the EPA identified Potomac Yard "as a potential threat to human health and the environment." Early assessments found metals in the soils "above health-based levels" and cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other dangerous organic compounds.

Before redevelopment of Potomac Yard, for nearly 100 years the 350-acre tract was the largest rail transfer point and train work

yard on the East Coast. In its heyday, hundreds of trains and rail cars daily passed through the yard.

In the days of the steam engine, according to William Skrabak, the deputy director of Alexandria's Transportation and Environmental Services Department, it was the practice of train crews to shovel the coal ash from the steam engines and spread it on the tracks.

Later when diesel engines came into vogue, the old Potomac Yard had giant tanks of diesel oil and refueled engines in the yard. Skrabak said in an era when environmental damage caused little concern there was leakage from the tanks and diesel waste from the refueling process.

One report done by ECS, an environmental risk assessment firm, retained by the Pulte Group, said the yard had some eight underground tanks and four large 25,000

gallon above ground tanks. "Surface spills, releases from underground tanks, and runoff from repair and maintenance activities contributed to subsurface petroleum contamination beneath large portions of the Potomac Yard site," ECS reported.

Early on, the EPA cleared a 50-acre portion of Potomac Yard in Arlington and it has been partially developed.

In 1991, the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad, at EPA's request, did an environmental assessment of the central operations of the site.

"The most elevated levels of this contamination are contained in Landbay's G and H, where the Central Operations facilities were located," Pulte quoted EPA findings. Those two Landbays form what is called "Town Center" and are being developed by MRP and JBG, a joint venture of two development companies.

The other contaminant is what is sometimes called "cinder ballast," but is also

termed "bottom ash" or "coal ash." This by-product of burning coal "was simply dumped on the ground," said the Pulte report. It contained metal concentrations "above normal background levels." According to ECS "cinder ballast" is in soils throughout the 295-acre site.

In 1995, EPA ordered the railroad to begin a cleanup of the yard from East Glebe Road to the Monroe Avenue Bridge. In 2004, the EPA reported this work had been completed.

"All work has been completed at this site. EPA's requirements made the site safe for people and the environment. By closing and re-grading existing outfalls and re-routing stormwater drains to the Four Mile Run, threats to the ecology were removed," said an EPA report. "EPA found that all the work required by the Order has been satisfactorily completed with the exception of the continuous obli

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL, PAGE 9

POTOMAC YARD

Residential Development

FROM PAGE 8

was occupied in October, he said.

On the left as a motorist going north leaves the Monroe Avenue Bridge, there is a fenced area of green grass surrounded by newly planted trees.

The grass has been sodded and sodded again; rolled and trimmed. These are new soccer fields that Pulte laid out and will give to the City of Alexandria when the project is complete.

Why has the soccer field been planted and manicured with such care?

"Because we don't want a sea of mud when playing starts," said Gwen Wright, chief of Alexandria's development division. Under its agreement with the city, she said, Pulte has funded a range of public improvements including the Monroe Avenue Bridge, several parks, play grounds and scenic pools and ponds. It will contribute \$3 million to the city's affordable housing program.

Collins said the pools serve a second function of collecting sediment and reducing phosphorous and nitrogen. The main park is being built along the east side of the development from roughly the line of the Target store's parking lot south to the Morris Avenue Bridge.

Collins calls it a "world class park" that will have running and walking trails, playgrounds for children, small areas to sit and enjoy watching the trains go by and a series of ponds and physical work out stations.

It also has a filtration system buried under the surface. The park will be open to the public as well as to Potomac Yard residents.

Pulte is responsible for building a street system within the south project. Some streets will be a continuation of streets from the west of Route 1 like Custis Avenue. Pulte is building a new street, Main Street, which will run south from East Glebe Road, under the Monroe Avenue Bridge along the rail tracks south to form a cul-de-sac just west of the Braddock Road Metrorail Station.

PULTE PLANS to build 66 town houses, 58 condominiums and 275 rental apartments on 17.5 acre site south of the Monroe Avenue Bridge and west of the Braddock Road Metro Station.

There will also be a small retail store area and a dog exercise park. Several members of Delray and other citizen groups testified at a hearing last year that the parking for this area is not adequate and could produce a problem if motorists seek to park in side streets in Delray.

There is already a city dog exercise area across Monroe Avenue from the Pulte site.

Pulte has responsibility to remove two bridges on Four Mile Run.

Pulte only builds homes and sold off Land Bay G to another developer and later sold 750,000 square feet of land in the Land Bay H.



Interiors of the 3-bedroom townhouse model for the South Potomac Yard development.



Stephen Collins and two sales persons review the South Potomac Yard developments.

Environmental

FROM PAGE 8

gation for a stormwater-monitoring program, which continues," the agency reported.

According to Skrabak's office, "The entire yard was characterized and remediated where necessary. That being said, the original 1995 risk assessment expected that additional remediation, soil management and health and safety practices would be implemented as needed during future redevelopment to maintain a level of no significant risk and address the contamination remaining on site."

Skrabak's office said in an email statement that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality "was involved and completed their regulatory oversight of the original remediation of the petroleum-impacted central operation area, which was used as a locomotive repair, maintenance and refueling area."

"VDEQ is still involved in overseeing this block as the developer has enrolled in the Voluntary Remediation Program, which is administered by VDEQ, to address remaining petroleum-impacted soil that will be encountered during redevelopment at depths previously left undisturbed."

Throughout much of this cleanup, the ultimate use of the land was not known. Now homes, playgrounds and offices are being constructed on the property, which means residents and workers will have much more exposure to contaminants if they still exist.

Throughout the other cleanups, the Alexandria authorities under Skrabak had monitored the cleanup. "As with all development or redevelopment parcels in the City, the individual development blocks within Potomac Yard require an updated site characterization report, a risk assessment, a remediation/soil management plan and a health and safety plan to be submitted and approved prior to plan approval. These plans direct the contractor regarding environmental issues during construction as overseen by City Inspectors and DEQ staff," Skrabak's office said in an email statement.

The fact that Pulte is currently selling homes in a portion of the south Potomac Yard, Skrabak said, means the area has been certified as safe.

Pulte Group which has sold homes on its south Potomac Yard site asks buyers to sign an acknowledgement that they know about the environmental contamination. Skrabak said Alexandria encourages developers to advise people about conditions and history of a site.

When the original EPA cleanup was underway, public hearings disclosed concern in nearby neighborhoods of Del Ray, Hume and St. Elmo. But according to Joe Bondi, head of a home owners' group in Lynhaven, when he reviewed plans as part of a public advisory group, there was little concern mentioned over environmental dangers.

City Against Its Residents?

To the Editor:

The City of Alexandria has announced that it will appeal the ruling by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) that the Planning Director overstepped her bounds by denying a citizen petition opposing the Waterfront Plan. This proves once again how haywire things have gotten in our town.

This action provides the spectacle of city officials using taxpayer money to go to court against a citizen board who were standing up for the rights of Alexandria citizens, all of them taxpayers. To make matters more expensive, the Council apparently does not trust our City Attorney and his office to do the job in court and thus the city will hire outside counsel for the work.

The City's press release suggests that if the BZA ruling stands, supermajorities would be needed any time a text amendment is proposed. That plainly is a red herring. No one will think of going to all the work and trouble of an appeals petition for the normal text amendment. The text amendment in the Waterfront Plan, by contrast, opened up the area involved to massive development that bypassed normal rezoning processes. Since many residents were strongly opposed to the Plan and did the hard work to get signatures, a supermajority vote was appropriate.

City's statement also contends that this move to the courts is "for the good of the entire city." That also is questionable. The reversed Planning Director rulings, if they had been allowed to stand, would have vitiated in important ways the ability of citizens in other parts of Alexandria to make use of City code provisions that allow 20 percent of adjacent landowners to force a supermajority vote on a re-zoning. The good of the entire city was served by the BZA, not by the City's going to court.

In short, the City Council and City Staff once again have set themselves against the people who put them in office and pay their salaries. The discontent rising among Alexandrians, as evident in the numbers of lawsuits and other actions to which citizens have been forced to resort, marks a city out of kilter. Alexandria officials need to get in touch with the people, not haul them into court and, for the privilege, ask them to pick up the check.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria

Able To Be Heard After All

To the Editor:

Since my letter was printed in Alexandria Gazette titled "Another Done Deal", April 26, the Transportation Commission has decided to allow for public comments at their regular meeting on Wednesday, May 2 regarding the Beauregard Small Area Plan — with much pressure from the community and only one member of City Council, Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, intervening for us.

Annabelle Fisher



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Honoring Heroes

American Legion volunteers Russ Crager, Jay Palermino and Steve Artley hand a flyer with information on the Heroes of Post 24 project to Ralph Timmons at Market Square April 28. The Legion will host a Cinco de Mayo fundraiser for the project, a documentary to preserve history through a series of interviews with local veterans. The event, which will include screenings of the documentary, is open to the public and will take place May 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Post 24, 400 Cameron St. Suggested donation is \$8. Refreshments will be served and DVDs will be available for purchase. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/TheHeroesOfPost24.

It's Time for Real Change

To the Editor:

I'm generally a Democrat, but in Alexandria the Democrats that run the City now might as well be just developers. Mayor Bill Euille is an 18-year member of the Council and a developer who invests in local restaurants. Vice Mayor Kerry Donley works for a bank that invests in local developments. The June 12 primary offers residents their first chance to elect Democrats who are truly progressive, who actually think that good government means listening to all your constituents.

Sean Holihan supports many important causes but not those of citizens who oppose developments that will damage their neighborhoods, like the waterfront and Beauregard plans. Justin Wilson and Tim Lovain were on the Council when the City invited the monstrous, revenue-draining BRAC-133 to Alexandria, regardless of its location. They are transportation experts and must think that it's quite OK if the taxpayers of Alexandria lose millions of tax dollars paying for expensive (and not well thought out) transit projects using a form of legalized gambling called tax increment financing.

Mr. Chapman seems quite willing to accept most of the current development policies in exchange for the support of the incumbent mayor. Del Pepper has been on the Council 27 years and now votes in lockstep with the Mayor. Paul Smedberg also supports the development policies of the current Democrat majority.

The good news is that there are a few candi-

dates who think differently. Ms Menjivar and Ms. Moshenberg have actually been working to support the lives of the underrepresented communities here in Alexandria to give them a voice. Arthur Peabody seems to understand that development without much thought for the future — or citizens — is not worth a great deal. Allison Silberberg recognizes as unfair the treatment of the taxi cab drivers by a City government more used to hobnobbing with the real power brokers and big campaign donors than those who struggle to pay rent. Boyd Walker has fought hard to preserve Alexandria's history and is not under the thumb of special interests.

Please join with me on June 12 to vote for Menjivar, Moshenberg, Peabody, Walker, and Silberberg.

Anne Peterson

Appreciates BZA Decision

To the Editor:

Excellent reporting as usual by Michael Lee Pope in April 18 edition of Alexandria Gazette. We agree with the decision by Alexandria BZA that the City Planning Department ignored the plain language of its own zoning code and used creative interpretations "as a ruse to avoid public participation."

My wife and I have lived in the West End in

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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PHOTO BY ASHLEY HILDEBRANDT

Valor Award winners pose for a group photo following the awards ceremony April 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HARRIS

Crossing Guard Sheila Richardson, with Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes at right, receives the Life-saving Award at the Valor Awards ceremony.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HARRIS

Police Officer Joshua Leach, a Bronze Medal winner, enjoys the Valor Awards ceremony with wife April and daughter Riley.

Recognizing Valor Award Winners

First responders from across the city were honored at the 26th annual Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Valor Awards ceremony at the Crown Plaza Hotel April 26.

More than 300 attendees were on hand as 31 awards were presented, including Gold Medals to

Firefighter Michael Chandler and Captain Phillip Perry. The two joined the elite ranks of Gold Medal winners for their heroism during the flooding of Sept. 8, 2011. Only 30 Gold medals have been awarded in the history of the awards.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

Alexandria for 33 years. We are deeply concerned about the pace of growth in Alexandria. We have never seen such fervor on the council for growth. Most of the current council members seem not to care about the views of their constituents, most of whom are strongly opposed to further densification of the city.

We are thankful for the Board of Zoning Appeal's recent decision regarding the Waterfront plan and hope that the City Council will now defeat this plan when it comes back up for vote. This will let us know that the City Council is indeed finally listening to its constituents.

Charles Schwidde
Alexandria

Planting a Tree For Arbor Day

To the Editor:

Today, I had a tree planted in honor of Arbor Day, April 27. I donated the cost of the tree through the Living Landscape Fund (www.alexandriava.gov/LivingLandscape). The tree was planted at Founders Park to replace a tree that was to be removed. I have always advocated that we should have one-for-one tree replacement in the city to maintain our tree canopy, and I wanted to show that I will support this.

I have seen many empty tree wells across the city, and always wondered why they sit for so long. The City Arborist, Joh Noelle, told me today, that all a resident has

to do is call the City Arborist of office (703-746-5496) and pick a tree off the approved list of new trees, and show a commitment by being willing to water the tree to help its success.

Without someone willing to nurture a new tree, it may not succeed, so they are not always replaced right away.

According to the Trust for Public Land, "A single mature tree can absorb carbon dioxide at a rate of 48 lbs./year and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings." Trees also provide shade and habitat. This will make us all breathe easier.

Boyd Walker
Candidate for Alexandria City Council
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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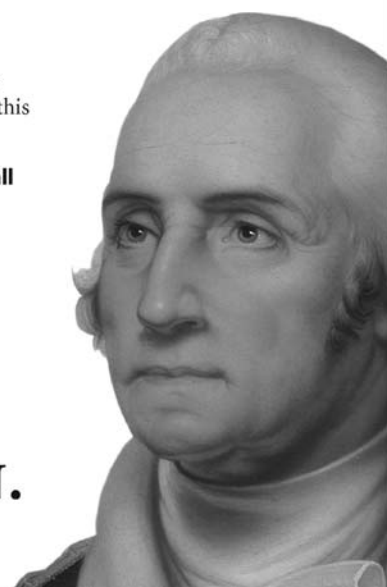
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Helping Hands

Rebuilding Together volunteers help homeowners in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The noise didn't seem to bother Rudy* as his Alexandria home of 30 years was overtaken by a team of volunteers who proceeded to plant, patch and paint their way through the Edison Street house as part of National Rebuilding Day April 28.

"There are no words for what they have done here today," said Rudy, referring to the volunteers from Mercer-Trigiani who spent the day performing renovations and repairs to the home he shares with his 14 and 17 year-old grandsons. "They have done such a tremendous job and it's amazing to see the spirit of everyone here."

Rudy was one of nearly 100 residents throughout the city to receive repairs and upgrades to their homes through Rebuilding Together Alexandria.

"So many people think all we do is paint and make yards look pretty but our volunteers do so much more than that," said Rebuilding Together of Alexandria Executive Director Katharine Dixon. "This past weekend volunteers poured a smooth, concrete walkway for an elderly client to more easily walk on and a few teams gutted kitch-

ens where cabinets were falling off of walls and the countertops were sinking."

More than 1,000 volunteers from organizations such as Rotary of Alexandria and the Structural Engineers Association took part in the one day national effort to help low-income, disabled and elderly residents receive much-needed repairs and modifications to their homes.

"These upgrades are important since most of Rebuilding Together Alexandria's clients live near the poverty level earning less than \$26,000 a year," Dixon said. "This makes it difficult for them to pay for home maintenance and much needed medicine or food."

Rebuilding Together Alexandria has worked on more than 1,450 projects in the city since its inception more than 25 years ago.

"I am so filled with gratitude right now," Rudy said as the team of volunteers put the finishing touches on a new patio, front gate and storm door. "Rebuilding Together has really made a difference in so many lives."

For more information about Rebuilding Together Alexandria, visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org.

** It is RTA policy to not disclose full names.*



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Homeowner Rudy, center, celebrates with Dave Mercer, right, and the Mercer-Trigiani team of volunteers after repairs were made to his home as part of Rebuilding Together Day April 28.



Eileen Longstreet helps spruce up some fencing as part of the Alexandria Rotary team of volunteers on Rebuilding Together Day April 28.



Jeremiah Ergas and Chris Crilly replace a storm door at a home on Edison Street.



On National Rebuilding Day, April 28, volunteers worked on nearly 100 Alexandria residences providing free repairs and upgrades. Support came from Skanska, Booz Allen Hamilton, First Baptist Church, Sears and Wells Fargo.

Above, Justin Domire and Jude Salac remove a tree from the doorway entrance of the home.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Archie's home had windows upgraded, house painting, landscaping as part of the days projects.



Amber Shoals paints the sills in the kitchen.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Jude Salac and Justin Domire of the Structural Engineers Association team do landscaping work for the front garden of a home on Edison Street.

NEWS

Prescription Drugs by the Pound

The Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office collected 227 pounds of expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction at the fourth National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

On Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the two Alexandria law enforcement agencies, with cooperation from the Substance Abuse Coalition of Alexandria,

collected prescription drugs and other medications for destruction at Police Headquarters, the George Washington Masonic Memorial and the parking lot of the Del Ray Pharmacy. The service was free and anonymous.

Last fall, the two Alexandria law enforcement agencies collected over 148 pounds of prescription drugs for destruction in the third take back initiative.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Spring to It

ACT for Alexandria Executive Director John Porter, left, demonstrates the Spring2Action online donation program to Peter Dingman May 2 at the Uptowner Café. The 24-hour online giving initiative benefitted more than 70 local charities and served as the kick off to the 2012 Spring for Alexandria events taking place May 3-5. For more information on the schedule of events, visit www.springforalexandria.org.

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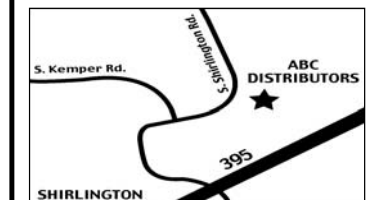
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News

Ride Honors Disabled Veterans

FROM PAGE 5

Beginning with a kick-off dinner and silent auction April 27 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, this year's ride raised more than \$400,000 to support the participation of wounded warriors and for upcoming events like this summer's Sea to Shining Sea ride from San Francisco to Virginia Beach.

"I've seen first-hand how this ride can transform people," said Brinson, who tackled his first Face of

America ride in 2006 before joining the organization in 2011 after 24 years of active duty military service. "It gives disabled riders more confidence and shows what they can do rather than focusing on their limitations. It truly is an inspiring journey for everyone who participates."

For more information on World T.E.A.M. Sports including upcoming events, visit www.worldteamsports.org.

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- May 13: **Mother's Day Tea at Carlyle House**
- May 18-20: **Mount Vernon Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour**
- May 24: **Washington Revels Heritage Voices Concert**
- May 25-27: **Sunset Celebration at Mount Vernon**
- May 28: **35th Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival**
- June 16-17: **Old Town Arts & Crafts Festival**
- June 23: **Alexandria's Food & Wine Festival**
- July 4: **An American Celebration at Mount Vernon**

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Open Sunday in Belle Haven!



Exceptionally Charming! Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3 full bath + 2 half baths, stone and brick colonial sited on a lot with Potomac River Views! Large and gracious living room with fireplace,



several seating areas, exquisite moldings, built in shelves + cabinetry, French doors leading to deck, elegant dining room with fireplace, light filled updated kitchen with breakfast area. Inviting

family room with fireplace, and 2 car garage. ~ \$1,450,000

6111 Vernon Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

Open Sunday in Belle Haven!



Elegant custom built colonial in the heart of Belle Haven. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths on over 4200 finished square feet. Tall ceilings, exquisite moldings, hardwood floors, elegant formal rooms, 4 fireplaces, 2 car garage, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, large master suite, and fabulous deck for entertaining. ~ \$1,695,000



2202 Woodmont Road Alexandria, VA 22307

A Gem in Fort Hunt! Open Sunday



Stunning like-new colonial situated on almost half acre in quiet cul-de-sac! Over 4300 finished square feet, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 car attached garage, hardwood floors throughout main level, formal living and dining rooms. Sunny eat-in kitchen opens to large family room with vaulted ceilings. Updated bathrooms, large fully finished lower level and huge rear patio! Walk to swim and tennis club ~ \$899,000



2717 Woodlawn Trail Alexandria, VA 22306

Open Sunday in Belle Haven!



Elegant Brick colonial sited on a lot overlooking wooded park land. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, on 4 fully finished levels. Gracious formal living room, inviting family room,



private screened-in porch and deck, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, and 1 car garage. ~\$1,195,000

6102 Edgewood Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

Stunning in Alexandria



Beautifully renovated and expanded colonial with exquisite finishing details. Every room thoughtfully planned, flows well and is useful. Light filled spaces and expansive rooms create a contemporary openness in a traditional setting. Wind-



dowed French doors lead to a charming patio, putting green and landscaped yard. 5 bedrooms-one with attic hideout, 3.5 baths and 3 family living areas. ~ \$1,099,000

600 W Windsor Avenue Alexandria, VA 22302

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Simply the most outstanding restoration in Old Town. Originally built at the end of the 18th century, this unique residence is a blend of history and modern



design. Original materials alongside elegant urban finishes creates the ultimate sophisticated home. 3 sides of windows, outdoor fireplace, reclaimed floors, commercial appliances. 2 bedrooms + Office, 2.5

baths, over 2200 finished square feet. ~ \$1,295,000
555 S Washington Street #100 Alexandria, VA 22314

The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick town-house built in 1780 was once the



residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horsehair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off

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

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

New Price in Mt. Vernon



Pristine colonial in culdesac with his and her master baths. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Hardwood floors on main level. Updated kitchen and baths throughout. Attached 2 car garage. Open floor plan



and spacious kitchen opens to family room. Large recreation room, deck and screened-in porch. Fully finished lower level. Custom moldings throughout. ~ \$649,900

4309 Sheridans Point Ct Alexandria, VA 22309

Live Life Along the Water



3 level custom brick colonial sited on large waterfront lot with sandy beach and 3 car garage. Over 6500 finished square ft w/



5/6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, expansive water views, soaring ceilings, elevator, screened in porch, large eat-in kitchen, formal living and dining rooms, 2 story family room. Plus main level master suite, ~ \$1,995,000

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OPINION

Honoring EMS Partners in Healthcare

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO, FACHE
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL

They are the first responders and the first link in the chain of survival when an emergency strikes. To be an emergency medical services (EMS) provider is truly a calling to help others, involving long hours, physical and emotional demands and potentially dangerous working conditions. This May, we at Inova Alexandria Hospital are proud to honor our local EMS providers during national "Emergency Medical Services Week" May 20-26.

Through the years, Inova Alexandria Hospital and the area's EMS providers have formed a supportive collaboration to improve the health of our community. In 2009, we teamed up with the City of Alexandria's Fire and EMS to equip the city's five ambulances with wireless technology that transmits a patient's electrocardiogram results immediately to the hospital's emergency staff. This tool has proven to be a critical resource for accurately diagnosing heart attack patients in the field so that we can ready the proper resources before a patient arrives at our doors.

In our role as a Primary Stroke Center, our emergency and critical care staff coordinated with EMS from Alexandria, as well as Arlington, Fairfax and the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority, to realize improvements in the rapid treatment for stroke patients. We provide annual education for area EMS providers and feedback on stroke patient outcomes to assist with their own in-house training. In turn, they have helped us improve patient outcomes

by conducting thorough neurological assessments and diagnostic tests in the field, which have enabled us to ready hospital resources before the patient arrives — a critical point for stroke patients who have only about a two hour window to receive life-saving clot-busting drugs.

Sometimes it's the little things we do for each other that make a big difference: Our recent hospital renovations included a room in the Emergency Department (ED) just for police and EMS to take a break, check email or send reports. And our EMS partners regularly include ED staff in ride-alongs and training, or conduct CPR re-certification classes as needed.

Working side-by-side every day, this calling becomes more than just a job for those of us in healthcare. As many of the employees here will tell you, the EMS providers at the City of Alexandria Fire and Rescue are part of our family. Tragically, in February our family was dealt a devastating blow with the loss of paramedic Joshua "Josh" Weissman, who died from injuries he sustained after falling from an I-395 overpass while responding to a call. Our staff remembers his perpetual smile and dedication to his job. He had a good sense of humor and was fond of eating popsicles on hot summer days. His loss has brought us all closer together.

On May 24, we will honor Josh's memory and the many contributions of his City of Alexandria EMS colleagues during our annual EMS Breakfast. We are grateful for their partnership in improving the health of the community we serve and honored to have counted Josh among our family.



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At The Holiday Inn Sunday May 13th
10:30AM to 3:00PM

Salad Table

- Fresh Fruit / Cheese and Cracker Display
- Fresh Garden Salad
- Pasta Salad
- Marinated Mushrooms, Olives and Hearts of Palm

Entrée Section

- Broiled Salmon with Dill Sauce
- Seafood Newburg with Pasta
- Mediterranean-Style Chicken
- Roasted Pork Loin with Rosemary Sauce

Side Dishes

- Bacon
- Sausage
- Saffron Rice
- Steamed Mixed Vegetables
- Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes

Carving Station

- Roast Beef
- Honey Baked Ham

Egg Station

- Eggs and Omelets made to order

Kids' Corner

- Chicken Nuggets
- Corn Dogs
- Mac and Cheese

Dessert Table

- Assortment of cakes, pies and pastries & make your own Angel Food Cake Sundae with strawberries, peaches and berries top with whipped cream.

Beverages

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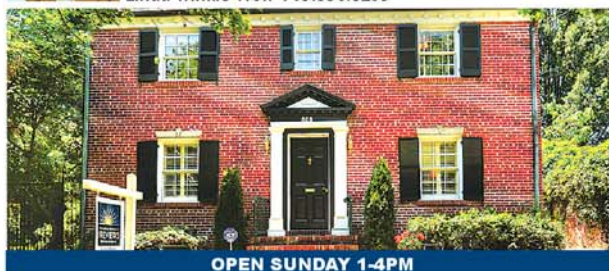
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Old Town Alexandria **\$624,900**
1170 N Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Canal Way Traditionally inspired 3BR/2.5BA TH in Canal Way. \$33,000 in recent updates: 1st Flr Pwd Rm, hrdwds, EE heat pump & wndws; SS appl; MBR w/ vaulted ceilings, walk in closet & fpl. Chris Upham 202-359-1308



Historic Old Town **\$1,895,000**
608 Oronoco St, Alexandria, VA 22314
Historic Old Town Located across from Lee's boyhood home, exquisite 3,000+ sqft, 4BR, 4.5BA. Landscaped backyard retreat, garage & 4+ car pkg. Spectacular addition, kitchen renovation & MBR Suite. Chris Upham 202.359.1308



Belle Haven Meadows **\$660,000**
2409 Belle Haven Meadows Ct, Alexandria, VA 22306
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Popkins Heights **\$469,000**
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Old Town Alexandria
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Exceptionally spacious home by one of area's leading builders in prime location. Four stories of luxury featuring bright open floor plan, open kit-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. **GRAND OPENING SUN 5/6, 1-4!** From Commonwealth: R-Monroe; L-Mt Vernon Ave; R-Howell.



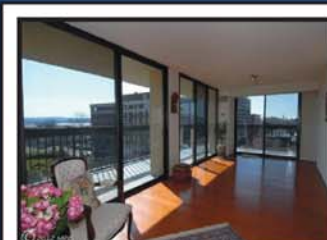
808 Pendleton St
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Owner has spared no expense updating this spectacular, spacious Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, expansive glass window walls, recently updated gourmet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



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Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594



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This completely renovated home is all about views. Overlooking the Potomac River & the Lee Street Park, this light filled end TH is absolutely new. Highlights: in-kit dining, tall ceilings, sparkling wood flrs, big BRs, beautiful BAs, a Mstr suite w/water views, & 2 FR.



Margaret Miller 703.906.7920



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Alexandria
Gazette Packet



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OPINION

Speaker Series Focuses on Education

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON,
RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA



One of the most anticipated benefits of retirement is the ability to put a stressful career — be it in an office, in nature, on a job site, or in the home — behind you. This down time can be a blissful experience where you can catch up on sleep, see friends, finish projects

COMMENTARY

and explore new areas of interest. According to the City's new Strategic Plan on Aging, Alexandria's booming senior population is among the best educated in the entire United States. So, what sort of options are there for expanding your horizons for someone over 55 in our area?

As part of Senior Services of Alexandria's dedication to promoting the health and wellness of Alexandria's seniors during Older American's Month, Senior Services of Alexandria's next Speaker Series event will make it easy to learn about the wealth of options out there for seniors in our area to continue to learn and grow with: Continuing Education Opportunities for Seniors.

Our upcoming Senior Speaker Series event will concentrate on the importance of staying mentally active and engaged. As

reported by the National Institute of Health, regular cognitive activity, through learning, reading, and playing games, helps all forms of memory loss and it can also be fun, exciting, and full of adventure.

Representatives from the major adult education programs in our area will be on hand, including: Northern Virginia Community College, Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute, The Art League of Alexandria, Computer Core, Alexandria Library, Osher Life Long Learning Institute and the Road Scholar Program.

Attendees will have a chance to speak directly with participating institutions, hear about their programs during a lively panel presentation and enjoy light refreshments. There are so many choices available to explore and this will be the perfect way to decide which programs fit your interests. The event will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 9:30 a.m.-noon at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 2701 Cameron Mills Road in Alexandria.

Register today by calling SSA at 703-836 4414, ext 10 or online at www.seniorservicesalex.org.

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PHOTO GALLERY!

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and
My
Mom"**

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

gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Alexandria Gazette Packet,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Boutiques Give Back' Charity Day is May 19

The Old Town Boutique District announces its Second Annual Boutiques Give Back Charity Day — a community-focused Spring event taking place on Saturday, May 19. This creative, small business driven event is staged to be the largest charity collaboration in the D.C. Metro area.

More than 30 retailers and 30 charities will be participating in this event. Each retail member of the OTBD has hand-picked local and national charities to support and honor on this special shopping day. On this day, retailers will create an activity or promotion in their stores that would benefit that charity of choice.

Examples of charity day participation include children's boutique Pink & Brown will donate profits to K.I.D.S. (Kids In Distressed Situations), Current Boutique will give customers 15 percent off their purchases if they donate gently-used suits for Suited for Change, and Red Barn Mercantile will host a variety of activities such as free design advice all day, craft for kids and 20 percent of sales from the day will go to Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia.

A complete list of each shop's activity and charity is at www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com/calendar/may/boutiques-give-back.



Wine, coffee, tea, lunch, dinner, classes, socials and monthly features are all within Grape + Bean.

To Go

What: Old Town Boutique District's Boutiques Give Back Charity Day

When: Saturday, May 19

Presented by: Old Town Boutique District

Where: Participating Old Town Boutique District stores in Old Town Alexandria

Time: Retail store hours

Website: www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

John Shackleford, director Rosemary Hartman, David James and Matthew Randal celebrate April 20 following the opening night performance of the Port City Playhouse production of "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me."

Cast Party for 'Someone Who'll Watch Over Me'

David James, right, is congratulated by his wife Catherine following the opening night performance of "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." The show runs through May 5.



2012 Del Ray House & Garden Tour

The 2012 Del Ray House and Garden Tour is pleased to announce the 12 homes that will be featured on the May 19 tour:

❖ **308 East Hume** – Extensive termite damage required a complete 'redo' of this farmhouse dating from the 1800's and the opportunity to add a family room and attic dormers.

❖ **306 East Hume** – The current owners started with smoking sludge on the walls, dangerous wiring, rickety staircases, dead-bolted makeshift doors and wallpaper over window screens.

❖ **309 East Hume** – An outdoor spiral staircase, a screened-in porch, storage nooks, yard art, and bedrooms to delight the heart of any little girl.

❖ **2600 DeWitt** – Look for a floating glass staircase and a master bathroom inspired by one this couple saw on their honeymoon in South Africa.

❖ **2607 DeWitt** – This owner/builder added large pocket doors, a wainscoted billiards room, custom-built china cabinets and a majestic wood-

burning fireplace to what was a 1920's bungalow.

❖ **2500 Leslie** – Built on the existing foundation in 2008 this craftsman style classic is the newest house on the tour with a wrap-around porch, detailed custom moldings and iron work, and reclaimed lumber.

❖ **2501 Terrett** – 1930's ordinary transformed into 2012 extraordinary with vaulted ceilings and a wall of windows, all done by local craftsmen.

❖ **11 East Windsor** – Whether installing central heat or a new kitchen or two new baths, this homeowner has worked hard to maintain the character and integrity of her 1920's farmhouse.

❖ **400 East Howell** – A one-time home for railroad workers, this is a flight of fancy with personal art pieces, family antiques, fabulous thrift store finds and recycled items.

❖ **406A East Howell** – Don't let the exterior fool you. This is a must see example of what can be done on with a classic brick duplex from the 40's – on a budget and with eco-friendly materi-

als.

❖ **2001 La Grande** – This folk Victorian was built in 2006 with four floors of living space and a grand outdoor oven.

❖ **506 East Windsor** – A brick Sears and Roebuck mail-order house with a country music history that will simply make you happy, inside and out!

The tour is a biannual project of the Del Ray Citizens Association, and serves as a fundraiser for neighborhood projects as well as a showcase for local homeowners.

This year proceeds from ticket sales will support the Alexandria Scholarship Fund and landscaping at the "Tot Park" at the corner of Commonwealth and Oxford.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and may be purchased online at www.drca.org or at the Farmers Market starting in late April. Day-of-tour tickets are \$20.

The self-guided tour runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Contact Mary Maginniss at HouseGardenTour2012@delraycitizen.net.

Mount Vernon's Spring Wine Fest

Mount Vernon's Wine Festival & Sunset Tour celebrates the history of wine in Virginia with exclusive evening tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington," and live jazz on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River. Visitors can bring a blanket and relax on the lawn as they sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 18, 19, and 20, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 per person. Private reserved tables featuring a fruit and cheese platter, three bottles of house wine and VIP table service are available for \$1,000. Tickets and tables are now available at MountVernon.org or the ticket window at Mount Vernon's Ford Orientation Center.

Historic interpreters will conduct special candlelit tours of the Mansion throughout the evening. The interpreters will discuss Washington's attempts at creating a vineyard and highlight various wine-related items inside the Mansion, including the basement's brick vaults where Washington stored his wine.

To accompany the wine tasting, Fruit & Cheese Boxes are available by advance purchase for \$26. A variety of hot and cold food and desserts including baguettes, gourmet sandwiches, and specialty sweets will be available on site from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Outside food and beverages are not allowed. Pets are also not allowed. Guests can take home a remembrance of Mount Vernon's Wine Festival and Sunset Tour from the Shops at Mount Vernon, open until 9:30 p.m. each evening. Cases of wine purchased at the Wine Festival can be transported by wine valets to the Shops for easy pick up at the end of the evening.

Mount Vernon's Wine Festival & Sunset Tour takes place rain or shine, tickets are limited and all sales are final. This is a popular event; early ticket purchase is suggested. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

ENTERTAINMENT



Torpedo Factory's Annual Spring Open House Mother's Day Sunday • May 13, 1-5pm • FREE

Come celebrate spring with the Torpedo Factory Artists!

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www.torpedofactory.org

MAY 3 TO 5

Spring Book and Media Sale. Sponsored by the Friends of Duncan Library. Book prices \$1 to \$5; media \$0.50 to \$3. Dates are May 3 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; May 4 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and May 5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. At 2501 Commonwealth Avenue Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705 or duncanlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

MAY 3, 4, 5

"South Pacific." 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5/adults; \$1/children will be sold at the door. Eighth-grade students from the Burgundy Farm Country Day School will perform the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. At 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Call 703-960-3431.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

Democrats for a Better Alexandria. 9 a.m. Democrats for a Better Alexandria will announce its endorsement of candidates in the June 12 primary election. At Royal Restaurant, 734 N. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Contact Jack Sullivan at 703-370-3039.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

Volunteer for Community Service Day. Event Combines Community Service, Fundraising-and Fun. Volunteers are needed to help in community service projects throughout Alexandria from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Event information: springforalexandria2012.kintera.org <http://springforalexandria2012.kintera.org>

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Giant Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Call 703-780-4696.

Midnight Yoga X. 9-10:30 p.m. Midnight Yoga X is set to become a signature jam on the first Saturday of each month. Designed for rebels and truth seekers alike, we're talking deep hot fluid asana sequences set to great music for a real Saturday Spiritual High! All rebels welcome! COST: \$15 prior to 5/2. At 532Yoga, 532 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Email suzanne@532Yoga.com, www.532Yoga.com

History Book Sale. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. History books, historical who-done-its, historical novels, travel, decorative arts and antiques books. At Alexandria Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1706 or gkcombs@alexandria.lib.va.us

Alexandria Art Market. Third season begins May 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Colasanto Park. Local artists, musical performances. Other dates: Saturdays 6/2/12, 7/7/12, 8/4/12, 9/1/12, 11/3/12. Application available for non-DRA members. Contact Kimberley Bush ArtMarket@TheDelRayArtisans.org or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtMarket.

Simpson Demonstration Garden Open House. 9 to 11 a.m. At 420 E. Monroe Avenue, Alexandria. Tour five gardens, each of which demonstrates a separate theme — waterwise, flagstone, tufa, butterfly and scented gardening. The gardens are located between the YMCA and Eugene Simpson baseball stadium. Park in the YMCA lot. Visit www.mgnv.org.

Bowties & Belles, a Kentucky Derby Party. 4 to 7:30 p.m. (Televised racetime is 6:15 p.m.) Tickets are \$100/patrons; \$80/individuals. Features an afternoon of watching the Kentucky Derby, a raffle, silent auction, cocktail reception. Sponsored by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center. Proceeds help support programs of The Campagna Center. At Collingwood on the Potomac, 8301 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Parking is available across the GW Parkway at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Visit www.CampagnaCenter.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 6

Prenatal Yoga and Dance for Conscious Birthing. 12-2 p.m. Enhance your comfort, enjoyment, and relaxation during all prenatal trimesters! Develop greater vitality and awareness of your body that is home for two, and deepen your relationship with your baby. This workshop is an introduction to an 8-week prenatal course commencing Sunday, 20 May at 11:15 a.m. No previous yoga experience necessary. COST: \$35 prior to 5/2 or \$40 thereafter. At 532Yoga, 532 N. Washington St., Alexandria; email suzanne@532Yoga.com, www.532Yoga.com

Art at Home. Noon to 1:30 p.m. and 2 to 3:30 p.m. (Two seatings). Tickets are \$15. New Interior Design Interactive Lecture Series introduced at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Interior designer Mary Mitchell will show how to layer design elements with furnishings and the visual arts to create an environment unique to every home owner. At Studio 325,



MAY 4, 5, 11, 12

"Crazy for You." Tickets are \$5/students, seniors; \$10/adults. Presented by T.C. Williams Drama Department. Show dates are May 4, 5, 11, 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door. The whole family will enjoy this upbeat show, which features a humorous plot, impressive dance numbers, and unforgettable songs, including "I Got Rhythm" and "Someone to Watch Over Me."

Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit <http://www.torpedofactory.org>; www.torpedofactory.org; or call 703-838-4565.
Titan Expo. 1 to 5 p.m. A community fair, will be held on the front lawn of T.C. Williams High School. Featuring games, moon bounce, bingo, food, book sale, and the ever popular car bash. All proceeds support the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. T.C. Williams is located at 3330 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-824-6868.

MONDAY/MAY 7

Children and Trauma. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Featuring guest speaker Margaret Dowell who will discuss the

connection between trauma and behavior. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3579 or email latanya.wooten@alexandriava.gov.

TUESDAY/MAY 8

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Bay Jazz Project. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

Musician Mike Doughty. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Featuring "The Book of Drugs": Concert, Reading, Q&A. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 9

Ottmar Liebert in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.Ticketmaster.com www.Ticketmaster.com.

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/MAY 10

National Foster Care Month Appreciation Event. 6:15-8 p.m. Adolescent and Family Growth Center, Inc. (AFGC), in honor of National Foster Care Month, will pay tribute to families and the amazing work of its therapeutic foster parents. Join us and see how: "Kids Grow Better in a Family." Call 703-425-9200 or visit www.afgcinc.com.

Belle Haven Women's Club Spring Fashion Show. "Bright, Bold and Beautiful." Cocktails 6:30 p.m.; Dinner and Fashion Show 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Bloomingdales. Tickets: \$60/members; \$70/guests. No tickets will be sold at the door. Send checks payable to BHWFC, c/o Fran Slade, 6016 Grove Drive, Alexandria, VA. To be held at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria.

MAY 10, 17, 23, 31

"Tea" Talk. 10:15 a.m. Experience the world through Tea with your guide, Lee Maguire. Join tea aficionado and Hollin Hall Senior Center Assistant Lee as he leads this four-part series about the world's second cheapest drink. Learn about the history of tea, its role in society, and how it has even changed history. Participate in blind tea tastings and help decide what tea best captures the essence of Hollin Hall Senior Center. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/MAY 11

Bid and Win Dinner/Auction. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The Cocktail Social and Silent Auction will run from 6:30 to 9 p.m. A Buffet featuring London Broil and Chicken will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. and the night will cap off with a Live Auction. Tickets are \$40 each. Sponsored by the Fort Belvoir Officers' Spouses' Club. At 5500 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir. To reserve your tickets or offer an item for donation contact Boisfundraiser@gmail.com or 540-847-1467.

Music for Oboe. 8 p.m. Free concert. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Benefit Concert for Haiti. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50. NSO Concert Master Nurit Bar-Josef and acclaimed pianist Rohan De Silva are guest artists for this National Chamber Players concert featuring Fritz Kreisler's Schön Rosmarin, Liebesleid, Sicilienne and Rigaudon, "It Ain't Necessarily So," by George Gershwin and arranged by Jascha Heifetz, and Antonín Dvořák's Schön Rosmarin, Liebesleid, Sicilienne and Rigaudon, "It Ain't Necessarily So," by George Gershwin and arranged by Jascha Heifetz, and Antonín Dvořák. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.episcopal.hightschool.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 12

Free Bee Yard Sale. 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., the Free Bee "Shop for Free" Yard Sale" being held at the Faith United Methodist

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 23

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

Church Campus, 7010 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. The Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Women (WFUMW) have collected donated items, and will set them out on tables like a traditional yard sale, but everything is free. Contact Maria Teel, President of WFUMW at 703-496-6380.

Barbershop Chorus

Concert. 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. Admission is \$20. Fairfax Jubil-Aires present “A Salute to the Troops and Moms.” At the Ernst Theater, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Order tickets at: www.fairfaxjubilaires.org or call Ron at 703-975-7844; tickets also can be purchased at the door.

Jazzercise Fundraiser. 10 to 11 a.m. Fundraiser where 100 percent of donations go to the American Cancer Society. At Waynewood Elementary Gymnasium, 1205 Waynewood Blvd., Alexandria. Contact Peg Frydenlund 703- 765-5659 or peg2011@verizon.net.

“This Old House.” 10 a.m. Watch episode 2 of “This Old House” that was filmed in Alexandria. General contractor Tom Silva heads to Alexandria to restore the windows in a home built by George Washington. Afterward, plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey installs a water filter at a kitchen sink. Airing on WETA-TV 26 and WETA HD.

Garden of Light Reception. 3 to 5 p.m. Help put an end to domestic violence by attending the Bethany House reception. Tickets are \$55/person. At the Holiday Inn and Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria. Visit www.bhnv.org or call 703-658-9500.

American Balalaika Symphony Spring Concert. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door. Peter Trofimenko and The American Balalaika Symphony welcome Spring with How a Peasant Went to a Fair — An ordinary tale told through extraordinary music. Travel back in time to a place where the pace was slow, the pleasures simple, and spring, a time of wonder and delight. With works by Andreyev, Tsygankov, Shalov, Gorodovskaya, Kachalin and more. Featuring ABS balalaika soloist Ekaterina Borodulina. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 Beauregard St (NVCC Campus), Alexandria. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

BBQ Fundraising Dinner. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. The Women's Auxiliary of the Salvation Army Alexandria is hosting its BBQ Fundraising Dinner. Dinner is sponsored by RockLands Real Barbeque. Show Military ID at the door and receive a 10% discount. Tickets are available through Auxiliary Members or calling TSA at 703-836-2427. Event is held at The Salvation Army Citadel Corps, 1804 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

Symposium on Historic Clothing. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Historic Pohick Church Docents Guild is sponsoring a “Symposium on Historic Clothing at Historic Pohick Church” covering the 18th and early 19th centuries. Speakers for this event are costume historians Mary Doering, Colleen Callahan, and Newbie Richardson. Tickets are \$75 (\$65 for students), which includes lunch and a tour of the church. Deadline for registration is April 27, and space is limited. For ticket information contact Charlotte Knipling at 703-339-8196 or c.knipling@gmail.com.

Folk Trio We're About 9. Meets at 7 p.m. Trio of Katie Graybeal, Brian Gunderson and Pat Klink. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. Visit www.FocusMusic.org. Explore Alexandria's Firefighting History. 1 p.m. Tickets are \$6/adults; \$4/youth. The walking tour, “Blazing a Trail: **Alexandria's Firefighting Past.**” As they walk through Old Town, participants will learn about volunteer firefighting in early Alexandria and stop at historic buildings that once served as fire stations. At Friendship Firehouse, 107 South Alfred St., Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net or by calling 703-746-4994.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With pianist Adam Golka. Britten's Sinfonia da Requiem, Debussy's La Mer, Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. Free pre-concert discussion for ticket holders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Civil War Crimean Oven Lecture. 1 p.m. Admission is \$10. Fort Ward Museum will sponsor a lecture on “The Story of Alexandria's Civil War Crimean Ovens and Camp California.” The lecture will be presented by Wally Owen, Assistant Director at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

MAY 12 AND MAY 13

“Biblical Girl: Eve's Big Fat Family Reunion.” Eve's

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



SATURDAY/MAY 5

St. Luke's Barbecue. 11 a.m. Besides slow-cooked North Carolina-style chopped pork BBQ, the church will be offering grilled chicken, hot dogs, beans, cole slaw and soft drinks. Proceeds support church activities and community outreach. St. Luke's is located at 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.

105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

Mother's Day Tea at Carlyle House. 2 p.m. Tickets are \$27/person. Guests will enjoy finger sandwiches, scones with orange marmalade, banana or lemon tea bread, a Mother's Day desserts of Petite Fours, Cheesecake with Strawberries and Powdered Shortbread Tea Cookies all while sipping special blend spring teas from Tea & Spice Exchange of Alexandria. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Old Town Alexandria. Contact Carlyle House at 703-549-2997 or e-mail: carlyle@nvrrpa.org

Sunday in the Woods Concert. 4 p.m. Premieres, two Debussy works as arranged for orchestra: Diane Overture (world premiere) and Operatic Love Duet from Diane au bois (U.S. premiere). Tickets are \$25/adults; \$20/seniors. At the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Visit www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 15

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With The Thrillbillies. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. 1 p.m. Free. John Philip Colletta will present, “Turning Biographical Facts into Real Life Events.” This lecture demonstrates how to turn biographical facts into the real-life experiences they were; how to gather together and evaluate evidence about a particular event, including its historical context, to “individualize” every ancestor in your family tree. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road, in Alexandria. Contact Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or mailto:publicity@mvgenealogy.org publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 16

Dark Star Orchestra. Doors open 6 p.m.; Show at 7:30 p.m. Special acoustic show. Continues The Grateful Dead's Live Experience. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria. Call 800-745-3000. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Dragonflies and Damselflies. 7:30 p.m. Learn about the arthropod aerialists of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve — dragonflies and damselflies like blue dashers, prince baskettails and eastern amberwings — from a presentation by Chris Hobson, Natural Areas Zoologist with Virginia's Natural Heritage Program. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh and the National Park Service. At Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-768-2525. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Square Dancing Lessons. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Singles, couples and families are welcome. Presented by the Boomerangs Square Dance Teaching Council. At the Lincolnia Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., in Alexandria. Call Nancy at 703-573-8378 or email tom.nancystafford@cox.net.

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, The Cutaways. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

“Pennsylvania Railroad.” 10 a.m. Model Railroad Club presents the story of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the history of the famous Broadway Limited Passenger Train, the Pennsylvania Railroad and World War II, and HO display of PRR Locomotives and Cars. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Spring Flower Show. 12 to 3 p.m. Free. At Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8532 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Presented by the Garden Club of Waynewood, which is celebrating 50 years of gardening, education, service and friendship.

Consciously Exploring Your Legacy. 10:30 a.m. Free. Bev Hitchins of Alexandria is a professional organizer who will show seniors how to shed light on clutter so they can let go and move on. At The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-845-5000.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

daughters — and a few sons — come home to the Garden of Eden for a holiday family reunion in this engaging new musical. Two workshop performances, Saturday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 13 at 3 p.m. Free and open to the public; cash donation requested at the door. In the LAB at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

SUNDAY/MAY 13

Mother's Day Open House. 1 to 5 p.m. Free. Take in the artwork while strolling through studios and galleries as you enjoy a lively Mother's Day afternoon filled with treats and sweets, artist demonstrations, and special spring activities. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center,



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Brunch 8:30 - Noon



Lunch 11:00am - 4pm



Dinner from 4pm

Mother's Day Dinner Specials Beginning at 4pm

Filetto di Funghi-	beef medallions sauteed with portabella mushroom reduced in an creamy marsala wine served with broccolini rabe.
Lamb Kapama-	lamb shank braised slowly in a cinnamon-garlic tomato base sauce.
Chicken Limoni-	chicken sauteed with artichokes and reduced in a lemony white wine sauce, served over a bed of angel hair pasta.
Mamma's Clam Linguine-	tender baby clam meat sauteed with sun dried tomatoes, garlic and onions in a white wine, butter sauce tossed with fresh linguine and Parmesan.
Shrimp Basilico-	jumbo shrimp sauteed with fresh basil, red onions and tossed in a creamy marinara sauce with linguine.

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Moody Mud: Gentle to Geometric. A Ceramic Guild show that runs at the Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

MAY 3 TO JUNE 3

The Biennial Ikebana Show and Tea Ceramics Exhibit. Reception is May 31, 6-8 p.m. Some 200 ceramic artists from all corners of the United States and Canada turned out to submit various wares associated with the ritual of drinking, serving, and presenting tea. Juror John Neely, ceramic artist and current Professor of Art in Ceramics and Assistant Department Head at Utah State University in Logan, UT, selected 47 pieces created by 33 artists from 19 states and Canada. At The Art League, 105 North Union Street, Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

MAY 8 TO JUNE 18

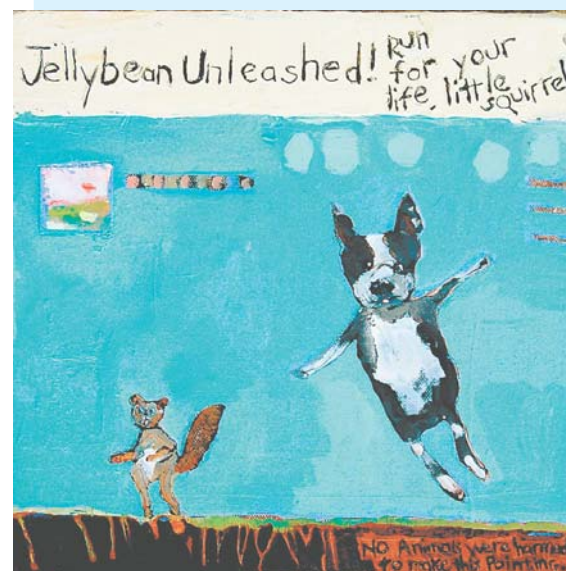
Variations. A photography exhibit featuring new works by Alan Sislen. Opening reception is Sunday, May 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center #312, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.MultipleExposuresGallery.com

SUNDAY/MAY 13

Spring Open House. 1 to 5 p.m. Free. Take in the fresh artwork while strolling through studios and galleries as you enjoy a lively Mother's Day afternoon filled with treats and sweets, artist demonstrations, and special spring activities. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

NOW THROUGH MAY 13

Push Pull Play. Focuses on interactive and toy inspired art. The juror, Prescott Trudeau, selected 12 artists to be a part of the exhibition. These artists are from around the country with three from the local DC metro area. The artists include Ellen Benson (PA), Ashley V. Blalock (CA), Phillip Delacruz (FL), Marlene Hawe (VA), Ericka Heffernan (NY), Joel Jonientz (ND), Melanie Kehoss (VA), Caroline McCatty (MD),



"Jellybean Unleashed" by Kathy Beynette, Studio 5

THURSDAY/MAY 10

Raining Cats and Dogs. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Browse open studios, interact with artists, and enjoy refreshments. Part of the 2nd Thursday Art Night at the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

Christopher Nitsche (GA), Seamus Liam O'Brien (NY), Mallory Sloss (PA), and Alex Waggoner (GA). At the Target Gallery at The Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

NOW THROUGH MAY 19

Word Incarnate. The Gallery at Convergence presents "Word Incarnate" featuring visionary artist Anita Breitenberg Naylor. Come explore as Biblical passages are brought to life and rearranged as visual images to provide a focal point for contemplative thought. Artist's reception is Saturday, May 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260. Visit www.convergenceccf.net.

MAY 3 TO MAY 28

Sculptor Elissa Farrow-Savos. Presents "Conversations With My Mother." Opening reception is Thursday, May 10, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. At 105 North Union Street, Studio 21, (Located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center), Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

MAY 4 - MAY 13

Student Art Show. Sponsored by T.C. Williams High School Art Department. Opening reception: Friday, May 4, 7 - 10 p.m. The exhibit will feature the work of 13 members of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS). At Del Ray Artisans Gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Gallery hours are: Thursday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.; Fridays, 12 noon to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sundays, 12 noon to 6 p.m. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org

MAY 10 TO MAY 31

Diverging Mediums: Photography vs. iPhoneography. Reception is May 10 from 6-8 p.m. This exhibit aims to raise discussion on iPhoneography, a movement that, some would argue, is transitioning from solely a social media into a fine-art form of its own right. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Movies With A Mission'

Screenings Explore African Diaspora

The Alexandria Black History Museum is continuing its partnership with SankofaSpirit to share the "Movies with a Mission" program with Washington, D.C., area audiences this spring. The screenings are held at 4:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month now through Saturday, June 9, at the museum, 902 Wythe Street.

"Movies with a Mission" are free monthly films from and about Africa and the African Diaspora that seek to inform and inspire dialogue. Screenings will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-746-4356. The following films will be offered this spring:

MAY 12 - "SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME"

Slavery by Another Name challenges one of Americans' most cherished assumptions, the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as the institution of slavery came to an end in the South in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality. It was a system in which men, often guilty of no crime at all, were arrested, compelled to work without pay, repeatedly bought and sold, and coerced to do the bidding of masters. Tolerated by both the North and South, forced labor lasted well into the 20th century. (90 minutes)

JUNE 9 - "BANISHED: AN INVESTIGATION INTO ETHNIC CLEANSING IN POST-RECONSTRUCTION AMERICA"

How did three U.S. towns make African Americans disappear? Marco Williams, award-winning filmmaker of Two Towns of Jasper, visits some of the whitest counties in the country to confront the legacy of "banishment" - a wave of racial purging that tore through the South 100 years ago. Williams sits down with Ku Klux Klan leaders, white residents of these all-white communities, as well as descendants of the banished alike, opening the wounds of history. Will he help these communities heal? Is reconciliation or any form of reparation possible? (89 minutes)

Founded in 2002, Atlanta-based SankofaSpirit is dedicated to providing cultural and educational programs and services that focus on Africa and the African Diaspora. Through its programs and services, SankofaSpirit encourages people of African descent to reconnect with their great legacy. For more information, please visit www.sankofaspirit.com.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the heart of the Parker-Gray Historic District and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about the museum and Alexandria's rich African-American heritage, please visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

For more information visit www.AlexBlackHistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

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SATURDAY/MAY 19

Fort Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Soldier-led tours of historic Fort Ward will be held in honor of Armed Forces Day. The tours will feature museum staff member Kevin Moriarty in Union uniform, providing an orientation to the defenses of Washington and a guided tour of historic Fort Ward, one of the largest of the forts that guarded the Federal capital during the Civil War. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

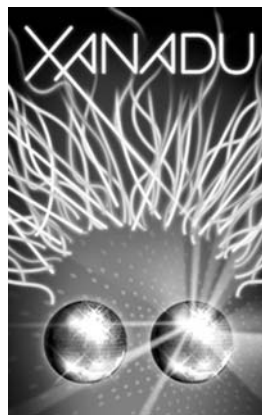
THEATER

MAY 31 TO JULY 1

"Home of the Soldier." Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili; Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili. Show times are Wednesdays to Saturdays 8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.; Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are 445 to \$55 with student tickets are \$15. At Synetic Theater at Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington. Call 800-494-8497 or www.synetictheater.org.

MAY 8 TO JULY 1

"Xanadu." Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets start at \$63. Call 703-573-SEAT. Student discount tickets are \$30 and must be purchased the week of the performance. Signature is also offering "\$22 for Tuesdays," making available \$22 tickets to the first two public Tuesday performances on May 8 and May 15. Contact the Signature Box Office at 703-820-9771 or go to the website at www.signaturetheatre.org. At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.



APRIL 20 TO MAY 5

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." Tickets are \$18/adults; \$16/military, seniors and students; \$14/groups of 10. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays, April 20 to May 5, plus Tuesday, May 1. In addition, there will be matinees on Saturday, April 24 and May 5, starting at 2 p.m. Presented by the Port City Playhouse. At the Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

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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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Not Quite An Endorsement

To the Editor:

The Jan. 20, 2012 letter from the National Park Service (NPS) that discusses the Small Area Waterfront Plan only states "general support for the proposed 2011 Plan." This is in contrast to what some have labeled an "endorsement." In political language there is a huge gulf between the two. After speaking at length with Peter May, author of the NPS letter, he made it clear that his real concern was not to put an NPS imprimatur on the Plan, but to state the importance of NPS property interests.

The political hay being made of the NPS "endorsement" is just that — only fodder for ruminating. Taken together with the letter from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the letter from former EPA Director, Reilly, the most obvious conclusion is that great caution should be exercised by the City in devising a Plan that is respectful

of history, environment, and citizens' quality of life on Alexandria's waterfront. There is no "endorsement" either stated or implied to be found — anywhere.

Looking closely what we find is:

NTHP: "The National Trust respectfully recommends that the City of Alexandria should defer adoption of the draft plan and text amendment in order to continue the planning process and expand its public education efforts to address these substantive issues and public's concerns for the future of the waterfront."

Former EPA director: "Plans for the waterfront offer Alexandria the opportunity to shape the city's future for decades to come. A hotel complex that blocks residents and visitors from the waterfront is the wrong way to go. Far better to embrace a vision as others cities of an open, accessible waterfront for all to enjoy. That would have lasting value."

NPS: "In closing, I would like to reiterate our general support for the proposed 2011 Plan."

In addition the political conceit of NPS "endorsement" is further aggravated by the fact that this letter is not part of the City's public record on the Jan. 21 vote, where it was waved around gleefully by a certain council member. However, the wished for NPS "endorsement" quickly went out under Rob Krupicka's signature on "Eco-City" letterhead where Mr. Krupicka states: "And I am particularly pleased that the National Park Service endorsed this plan."

It is clear the City vastly overreaches in

calling the NPS letter an "endorsement" and using it to characterize the plan as something that prominent outside organizations and individuals are willing to solidly get behind. It is political promotion at its ripest.

Mark Mueller
Kathryn Papp

Alternative For Mayor

To the Editor:

Last fall, I had the extraordinary opportunity to travel to the Arctic as a geologist and tour guide aboard a ship. There were many memorable moments, but one stands out. A few miles off Greenland, we spotted a polar bear resting on a small iceberg that had drifted south from the Arctic Circle. Sadly, this wild creature faces an uncertain future.

Alexandria is also at a crossroads. Although the city has added nearly \$7 billion to the tax base over the last 10 years, growth is taking its toll on our quality of life. The average residential tax bill almost doubled between 2000 and 2005. City debt has been rising rapidly, and we have lost about half of our market-rate affordable rental apartments. Population growth has outpaced the acquisition of new parkland, and we may need to build additional schools. Our streets are more congested too.

Alexandria has many qualities that are worth preserving as we change. There is a

sense of place and community, and an historic ambiance. There are historic landmarks like Gadsby's Tavern, and many small businesses along King Street and Mt Vernon Avenue. There are also places like Hunting Towers in Old Town and the Hamlets in the West End, which still offer rents that are much more affordable than most apartments.

We are gambling that developments at Potomac Yards, along Beauregard, and on the waterfront will provide enough revenue in the future to pay for community benefits and to mitigate any impacts. There is in fact little to justify such conclusions. The only thing that is clear is that we are facing a much more uncertain future than we were in 2003 and 2006, when I was elected to the City Council as a Democrat.

To put Alexandria on a more sustainable path, there needs to be a change in leadership at City Hall, beginning with the incumbent mayor who has been on the Council for the last 18 years. We should be guided by thoughtful planning and open, transparent government that represents citizens, rather than simply developers.

So, if you want a city government that listens to citizens, and if you feel that our future is threatened by poorly planned growth, join me next Sunday, May 6, from 4-7 p.m. at Pat Troy's Ireland's Own Restaurant in Old Town to hear what I will do to ensure that Alexandria remains a livable place in the years to come.

Andrew Macdonald
Independent candidate for mayor

Correction

Last week's issue ["Spreading the Wealth"] incorrectly reported the amount of a contribution to Democratic City Council candidate Donna Fossum from former City Councilman Mel Bergheim. The amount should have been \$250.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Old Town

A DOUBLE DOSE OF DOUBLE TROUBLE?

One problem about the glorious George Washington Memorial Parkway is it's always there. For many Old Towners, the handsome strip of gentle pavement has been weaving its way for 70-plus years through lovely Northern Virginia, treating us to spectacular vistas

along the way.

Many Gazette Packet readers take the National Road for granted — even as it has taken many shots endangering its continued life. Well, “Townners, the frontal assaults on the old road are beginning again, it appears, this time from both the north around Potomac Yard to the southern tip of Old Town near the Old Stone Bridge, just south of the Porto Vecchio

where I live. Complicating the latest assaults is no one seems quite sure whose driving the steamroller. No clear answer.

Understand this, “Townners: There are some in our town who’d rob the Memorial Parkway if they could come up with a legal way. But that’s where things get fuzzy. Laws, covenants, agreements and lots of other high-toned language are pretty tough to completely ignore. Start with the northern portion of the Parkway, nearest to access and bump into the construction zone where a new metro station is to be built. Infighting, some said to be vicious, has begun among jurisdictions all wanting a piece of the action as close as possible.

Among those involved, I’m told, is at least one Alexandria city council member and at least two city officials pumping for a decision that would accept the construction option that would place the metro station closest to the Parkway itself — the hell with what a decision would do the Parkway esthetic.

My friend Poul Hertel, who follows this issue (and many others), summed it up the other day: “The City has approved a plan for Metro on the Potomac Yard, and is looking to implement it. As part of the solution, they are looking at several

alternatives to the Metro Station. One is to build on the original that was approved, one is to build on Potomac Yard itself, one is a no build option, and the last option, which is the source of my concern.

“This option not only moves the Metro Station closer to the GW Parkway, which affects the view shed, but there are also some very detrimental and far-reaching side effects.”

The other part of the double trouble focuses on the southern approach to Old Town on the Parkway and the threat to the view shed. This a tough one to decipher. VDOT is sounding out possible buyers for the enormous buildings it owns on the east side of the Parkway, while a private developer who owns the buildings on the west side of the entry highway is playing his cards close as to his plans.

We can all be reasonably sure that some sort of change is imminent for the view shed. “Townners, we need to keep our eye on this one — the southern assault on our important entry to Alexandria.

Your friendly neighborhood reporter will try his best to keep you up to speed on this latest assault on our National Road.

— BOB FELDKAMP

OBITUARY

Willis Glenn Wright

Willis Glenn Wright, R.Ph., of Fairfax, formerly of Alexandria, died on April 23, 2012. Beloved husband of 10 years to Ruth J. Montllor. Loving father of William “Addison” Wright (Mala) and Edward H. Wright (Diane). Cherished grandfather of Ashley Carrie, William “Glenn”, John Savage “Jay”, and Emma Addison Wright.

Mr. Wright is also survived by his former spouse Patricia Sue (nee Hurst) Wright. He was predeceased by his brothers Robert E. and Kenneth L. Wright. Mr. Wright was the former owner of Claremont Drugs in Alexandria. He then became the pharmacist at the Goodwin House until his retirement.

A Celebration of his Life was held on Sunday, April 29, at the Everly Funeral Home, 10565 Main Street, Fairfax.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Save the Children. www.savethechildren.org. Flowers, gifts and the guest register may be found at www.everlyfuneralhomes.com.



Anniversary Gathering

Author Judith Viorst spoke to an audience of more than 200 at the first anniversary celebration of At Home in Alexandria (AHA!) last month. Viorst’s remarks, which included readings from several of her published and award-winning poems and books, interpreted life’s lessons in childhood, love, marriage, friendship and old age. The event was held at the Beth El Hebrew Congregation on Seminary Road. Above: AHA! Board Chair Carol Downs, Viorst (center) and AHA! Board Member Barbara Rosenfeld.

Del Ray Montessori School Adds Elementary Level

Starting in Fall of 2012, The Del Ray Montessori School will offer classes for children from 2 1/2 to 9 years old.

The Del Ray Montessori opened its doors to children ages 2 and a half to 6 in September of 2011. This year, the school received a special use permit from Alexandria City Hall to expand to include elementary education, as well as primary.

Children in the primary classroom (2 1/2 to 6 years) have individual lessons with their teacher and work with their classmates on developing their areas of interest. At the elementary level (6 to 9 years), children are involved in

group lessons because at this age they are becoming more social and learn through story telling.

The school plans to grow over the next few years to offer classes for children up to age 12, as well as a before and after school program, and a summer camp.

The school is currently accepting applications for the elementary for Fall 2012. For more information on Montessori education and the school, visit: thedelraymontessorischool.com or call the school office at: 703-980-9409; or send an email at delraymontessori@thedelraymontessorischool.com.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Join the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) for a public meeting on the Super NoVa Transit/TDM Vision Plan on May 15, 22, or 24. The meetings are an opportunity for public input on current and future transit and TDM needs to connect Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and D.C.

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NEWS

In National Google Contest

FROM PAGE 3

the contest, which is open to students in grades K-12, with doodles based on this year's theme: "If I could travel in time, I'd visit..." Eileen's entry, "The 70s," displayed her desire to visit the 1970s complete with a peace sign and disco ball.

Eileen is the only Virginia student whose artwork will be displayed for public voting on the Google website. Voting runs May 2-10. Each of the 250 state finalist doodles is featured in an online gallery on the Doodle 4 Google website; however, the public can only vote for the 50 state winners.

The 50 state winners will win a trip to New York for the final awards ceremony on May 17 and a t-shirt printed with their individual doodle on it. They will also have their doodle displayed in an exhibit at the New York Public Library. Five National Finalists (one per grade group) will be selected at the awards ceremony, and the National Winner's doodle will be featured on the Google homepage on May 18 for 24 hours. The National Winner will receive a \$30,000 college scholarship to be used at the school of his or her choice, a Google Chromebook computer and a Wacom digital design tablet. Google will also award the National Winner's school a \$50,000 technology grant toward the establishment or improvement of a computer lab or technology programming.

"When I entered I immediately decided to draw it on the 70s," Eileen said about her entry. "I felt like it would be very interesting to be able to go back into the 70s, because there was a lot of protesting for peace and a green culture, which I feel is something the world tends to lack today. To win is such an honor, and I hope that I could possibly move on. It has been amazing so far."

"We are extremely proud of Eileen," said Kevin West, principal of George Mason Elementary School. "Eileen was also selected as the ACPS 2010-2011 Poet Laureate through a local poetry competition. Her creativity and passion for the arts only enhances her overall education, and it is a joy having her at George Mason."

Schools Name Lead Psychologist

John C. Baker has been named lead psychologist for the Alexandria City Public Schools. The position supports the professional learning of ACPS' school-based psychologists.

Most recently, Baker served as clinical supervisor at the Options Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. Prior to beginning that job in 2010, he served as the school's lead clinician. His previous employment includes serving as a school psychologist for the Prince Georges County School District from 2007 to 2009 and working as a school psychologist intern for the Howard County School District from 2006 to 2007.

Baker joined ACPS staff on March 19.

Council Haggles over Potential Additions to Budget

FROM PAGE 1

center of the debate. That much was clear Monday night, as council members gathered to begin the final negotiations. One of the items under discussion is an additional half a million dollars that would create more pegs on the career ladder for city employees and allow additional promotional opportunities.

"I'm not comfortable increasing the tax rate across the city to accommodate pay raises," said Councilwoman Alicia Hughes. "And I don't consider that kicking the can down the road."

Offering city employees a premium cost sharing program to help with their dental coverage would cost \$600,000, and expanding the number of career ladders available to city employees would

cost \$500,000. Another item under discussion would spend \$100,000 to implement a new employee award and recognition program.

"If we move forward with this, what we are saying to the taxpayers is that they are the lowest priority," said Councilman Frank Fannon.

"I disagree," responded Vice Mayor Kerry Donley. "I think what we are saying to the taxpayers is that they are the most important thing because we want them to have services."

FROM LIBRARY HOURS to Meals on Wheels deliveries during the weekend, council members are still haggling over the finer points of fiscal year 2013. One issue that is certain to resonate to attract at-

tention is a proposal from Councilman Rob Krupicka to increase salaries of City Council members. The lame-duck councilman said he was in an ideal position to make such a suggestion because he would not personally benefit, but members who expect to return next year were reluctant to sign on to the effort.

"When I made the suggestion, it felt like lead in the ocean," said Krupicka, who announced in 2009 that he would not be seeking reelection in 2012. "None of us are doing this for the riches."

One by one, the council members made their case for a pet project. Councilman Frank Fannon argued unsuccessfully for \$38,000 so the city could assume financial responsibility for three parades. Councilwoman Alicia Hughes lost her effort to fund Sunday delivery of Meals on Wheels. And Councilwoman Del Pepper continued her longstanding campaign to increase the number of months trees on King Street have holiday lights.

"This isn't funny," said Smedberg when some members of the audience began laughing. "Lights are not economic development."

"Oh, I think they are," responded Pepper. "This shows that we are open for a good time."

FROM FEE SUBSIDIES for child care to funding for a therapist for children with intellectual disabilities, many of the potential additions council members are considering address \$2.5 million worth of cuts the city manager suggested to Human Services. When Young presented his first proposed budget as the new city manager in February, he acknowledged this was the most difficult part of the process.

"Those were hard decisions to make," said Young at the time. "Human nature is that you really don't want to make reductions there because you see the value of those kinds of programs, but to have a balanced budget you've got to create those trade-offs."

Now that Alexandria City Public Schools has come under criticism in the wake of an auditor's report detailing a "dysfunctional environment" at the school system's budget office, some of the potential budget additions are aimed at addressing accounting problems at the administration's headquarters on Beauregard Street. Fannon suggested reducing the transfer to the school system by \$1.2 million. And Krupicka proposed \$90,000 for a new full-time city employee who would do nothing but scrutinize the school system's budget.

"We are not providing the level of oversight that we should be providing," said Krupicka. "It's a practical way for us to get our hands around their budget."

In the end, final negotiations this weekend will shape the final contours of a deal. Whether or not council members are willing to raise the tax rate again to fund those priorities has yet to be determined.

Legal Notices



Captain Thomas Bayne Denegre, Jr., USN (Ret.), 92, of Irvington, VA, died on April 28, 2012. He was born February 20, 1920 in New Orleans, LA, the son of the late Thomas Bayne Denegre and Alma Baldwin Denegre.

After enlisting in the US Naval Reserve at age 17, Denegre transferred to the US Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Tulane University. With signs of war building up, he gained an officers commission in 1941 and immediately volunteered for the submarine service where he served for 19 years. He commanded a submarine, and later a division of six submarines.

During WWII he made ten submarine war patrols in enemy-controlled waters. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation for his actions in combat. He held the Submarine Combat Insignia with stars for seven successful war patrols. He also held other combat area ribbons. Toward the end of the war he had the good fortune to marry Louise Turberville Radford of Kansas City, MO, who was his life-long companion and greatest supporter.

Post war duties included service in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, USN Postgraduate School, The Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Chief Naval Section MAAG Belgium, where he received the Army Commendation Medal for his performance representing the US Navy, and command of a deep draft U.S. Navy supply ship.

Continuing in leadership roles after retiring from a 27-year career in the Navy, Denegre entered the banking industry where he rose to positions of Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer. He created the Trust Department for the Chesapeake Bank of Kilmarnock, VA and in this capacity he served on the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake Bank, and Vice Chairman of the Board for the Chesapeake Financial Shares Holding Company.

While with that bank, Denegre also led a group of dedicated citizens to form the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Continuing Care Retirement Community of Irvington, VA. He served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the RWC facility for fifteen years, and then served as Chairman Emeritus.

For over 20 years the Denegres lived in their historic house "Pop Castle" on the Rappahannock River near White Stone, VA. Tom loved to

Legal Notices

sail his sloop "Pimpernel" and many brass victory plaques attesting to his racing acumen adorn the walls of the Rappahannock River Yacht Club. Tom and Louise often cruised with friends on the waterways of the US East Coast as well as European waters

In the early 1990's the Denegres moved into the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Retirement Community where they, and their beloved Spaniel dogs, enjoyed their

remaining years. Tom Denegre left this world enormously grateful for the loving care he and Louise received from the dedicated staff at RWC.

Captain Denegre is survived by his children Thomas Bayne Denegre, III, John Baldwin Denegre and Eleanor Radford Denegre. Surviving grandchildren are Brooke, Taylor and Alden Denegre.

On Friday May 4th, at 1 p.m., the funeral service will be held at Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock, VA, with burial following at Historic Christ Church, Irvington, VA. The Reverend David May will officiate. A reception will follow at the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Retirement Community starting at 2:30 p.m.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Memory Support Facility Fund, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington, VA 22480.

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 NOTICE

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will hold a Public Information Hearing to discuss the proposed Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery nomination to the state and national registers, in City of Alexandria, VA. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th, 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Public comment regarding the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be sent to: Director Kathleen Kilpatrick, VA Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. This proposal has been recommended eligible for the Virginia Landmarks and National Register. Proposals will be presented to the State Review Board and the Historic Resources Board on June 21, 2012 in Richmond, VA. For a copy of the proposal and/or a boundary map, contact Marc Wagner, VA Department of Historic Resources, 804-482-6099 or marc.wagner@dhr.virginia.gov.

Criticism Follows Council Decisions

FROM PAGE 1

it with the hard-working people or is it with the big money?"

Big money is at stake with the Beauregard small-area plan, which is on the docket for the Planning Commission to consider this week. The City Council could vote on the plan as early as May 12. That puts incumbent members on the hot seat, potentially voting in favor of a plan that would benefit developer JBG. Many West End residents and their supporters say the developer would gain at the expense of low-income and Latino residents who live there now.

"Where are our elected officials that we elected into office? This is our tax dollars that are paying for almost everything here, and we're treated like stepchildren," said Gabriel Rojo, executive director of Tenants and Workers United. "This is an outrage."

FROM THE WATERFRONT to the West End, many voters are outraged at recent actions of the Alexandria City Council. Much of the anger is focused at the two Democratic incumbents and two former Democratic incumbents who will be on the ballot for the June 12 primary — Tim Lovain, Del Pepper, Paul Smedberg and Justin Wilson. They were all members of the City Council when a deputy city manager sent a letter to the Department of Defense endorsing the Mark Center as a potential location for the Washington Headquarters Service. The letter said the city was "comfortable that sufficient capacity will be created" and that "no additional traffic studies are warranted," a conclusion that has angered many West End residents who fear traffic gridlock as a result of the new military installation.

"I didn't see that letter until after it was sent," said former Councilman Justin Wilson when asked about the letter in January. "Our decision up to that point

had been about making a zoning determination and figuring out a way to get money in lieu of taxes, so I was surprised to see that transportation was part of the letter."

Anger over BRAC-133 isn't the only thing troubling voters. The controversial waterfront plan continues to be a lightning rod, especially since the Board of Zoning Appeals overturned a determination by Planning Director Faroll Hamer that neighborhood residents were not allowed to file a protest petition requiring a supermajority vote. This week, a group known as Alexandrians for a Livable City endorsed all five Democratic candidates who are on record saying they would have voted against the plan, none of whom are incumbents — Arthur Peabody, Victoria Menjivar, Sammie Moshenberg, Allison Silberberg and Boyd Walker.

"A lot of people who are active Democrats are really upset about the waterfront plan," said Katy Cannady, who organized the political action committee. "It may not be an issue across the city, but it's certainly the top issue in Old Town, just like the Beauregard small-area plan is the top issue on the West End."

ENDORSEMENTS in the primary show a rising tide of discontent with the direction of leadership in the city, an indication that this year's primary may be more closely contested than in recent memory. This week, former Councilwoman Joyce Woodson endorsed two non-incumbents, passing over the incumbents that she served with when she was a member of the City Council in favor of supporting new voices.

"Alexandria is at a turning point," said Woodson in her endorsement of Victoria Menjivar and Sammie Moshenberg. "We can either continue to make our city livable and affordable for only the wealthy or we can build an Alexandria where all our residents have the opportunity to work, live and raise families."

SSSAS Boys' Lax Blows Out Episcopal

It has been said records can be thrown out when rivals play one another. On April 27, the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' lacrosse team might have disregarded Episcopal's record, but it didn't forget the Maroon's three-game win streak between the Alexandria programs.

The Saints led 8-0 at halftime and cruised to a 12-1 victory at Episcopal High School. Seth Miller led the Saints with four goals while Brent Armstrong added three.

"We really wanted it because they've beaten us the past three times we've played them," Armstrong said, "... and a lot of us know these guys, a lot of us are friends. It's a fun rivalry. There are no ill intentions."

Armstrong scored back-to-back goals in the third quarter to extend the Saints' advantage to 11-0.

"He's a great person, he's a great leader on our team, he's got as good a work ethic as anybody on our team, and yet he's the best player, as well," SSSAS head coach Andy Taibl said. "He doesn't take breaks, he doesn't look for other people to do the little things. The success that he has, it's all deserved because he earns it."



The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' lacrosse team beat Episcopal, 12-1, on April 27.

He doesn't take shortcuts."

The Saints (12-5) followed the victory with an 11-7 loss to Potomac School and a 7-6 loss to Bullis to conclude the regular season. Episcopal (11-7) bounced back with a 9-6 win against St. Christopher's, but

ended the regular season with a 9-6 loss to Landon.

The IAC quarterfinals are scheduled for Saturday, May 5.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams junior Kate Whitmire committed on April 23 to play volleyball at James Madison University.

TC's Whitmire Commits To Play Volleyball At JMU

Kate Whitmire got off the phone with the James Madison University volleyball coaching staff on April 23 and started to dance. The T.C. Williams junior had determined where she was going to college and it was time to celebrate a weight lifted off her shoulders.

Whitmire, a 6-foot-1 outside hitter, committed to play at JMU, a Division I program in the Colonial Athletic Association, for head coach Lauren Steinbrecher. A first-team all-Patriot District selection in 2011, Whitmire had considered Miami of Ohio and the University of Virginia before deciding on JMU, where she will receive a full scholarship.

"There were a lot of things that went into it," Whitmire said of her decision. "It's two hours away from home, it has a really strong volleyball program ... [and] a lot of people from T.C. go there. It just felt right when you put everything together."

Whitmire said she is relieved to know where she's going to college.

"I danced around the house for an hour after," she said. "It felt so good to know where I was going. ... I don't have to deal with the stress of applying to colleges. All I have to focus on are my grades and volleyball."

Whitmire plays club volleyball for Virginia Elite and once again figures to be T.C. Williams' main offensive threat for the 2013 season. Her brother, Jay, is a 2011 T.C. Williams graduate and an offensive lineman on the University of Virginia football team.

— JON ROETMAN

TC Rowers Claim 3 Victories

Latest success occurs in the Charlie Butt Regatta.

The T.C. Williams crew team traveled to Georgetown this past Saturday, April 28 to compete in the Charlie Butt Regatta, a race that started on the Potomac just above the Key Bridge and ended in the shadow of the Kennedy Center just down the river.

The Titan rowers didn't have much time to reflect on the sights and scenery, though. They were busy taking on some of the fastest boats in the Washington region, competing in a series of 1500-meter races that saw T.C. Williams cross the finish line in first place three times on the day.

Leading the way for T.C. once again were the girls' freshman 8, who brought home a victory for the second week in a row and the third time this season. The freshmen finished with a time of 5:26.3, which was nearly four seconds faster than runner-up National Cathedral. Members of the T.C. girls' freshman 8 include: coxswain Kathrina Policarpio and rowers Maeve Bradley, Kyra McClary, Margaret McVeigh, Mary Embrey, Maura Nakahata, Taylor Sanders, Rachael Vannatta and Zoe Gildersleeve.

Also bringing home victories for T.C. Wil



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The T.C. Williams boys' lightweight 8 — a boat which has gotten faster each week that it has raced this season — came in first at the Charlie Butt Regatta in Georgetown on April 28. Members of the lightweight 8, shown here by their boat after their victory, include (from left): coxswain Brian Comey and rowers Cody Brooks, David Salmons, Chris Porter, Ethan Vannatta, Sam Zickar, Constantine Ivanis, Mitchell Youmans and Chris Kidd.

SEE REGATTA, PAGE 34

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<mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com>. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

Democrats for a Better Alexandria. 9 a.m. Democrats for a Better Alexandria will announce its endorsement of candidates in the June 12 primary election. At Royal Restaurant, 734 N. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Contact Jack Sullivan at 703-370-3039.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

Business Philanthropy Summit. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Featuring Thomas J. Raffa as the featured speaker. At the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.fbcalexandria.org.

MONDAY/MAY 7

Children and Trauma. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Featuring guest speaker Margaret Dowell who will discuss the connection between trauma and behavior. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3579 or email latanya.wooten@alexandriava.gov.

TUESDAY/MAY 15

Public Hearing on Proposed Public Art Policy. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts will host session at 7 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. The regular meeting of the Arts Commission will follow. Individuals unable to attend can view

draft Public Art Policy at www.alexandriava.gov/arts. Individuals may send written comments by May 18 to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Alisa Carrel, Deputy Director/Office of the Arts, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

JUNE 25 TO JULY 6

Exploring Aesop's Fables. For ages 4-6, 7-9, and 10-13. Children will learn to use their whole body to transform into animals and elements. At George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater, 101 Callahan Dr. Visit www.aticc.org/home/summer-production-camp-registration-form.

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WELLBEING

Safety Net Clinics Seek Doctors

Specialty care physicians and other medical professionals needed to serve low income, uninsured patients.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

When Marie Markey of Alexandria retired from U.S. Air Force as a physical therapist, she rolled up her sleeves and went to work helping those in need. Markey works as a volunteer twice each week at the Arlington Free Clinic, offering physical therapy to the clinic's low income and uninsured patients.

"The clinic fills a huge gap," said Markey. "We have people who walk in who don't have access to medical care for basic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes."

Markey is motivated by a sense of responsibility to give back to the community. "If everyone did their part, the world would be better place," she said. "I had a patient once who was a construction worker. He'd had back surgery and needed physical therapy to recover fully. He didn't have insurance and couldn't afford to pay for therapy. If he hadn't received free therapeutic services to help him recover, he would have lost his job."

NOVA SPECIALTY ACCESS, a project of the Northern Virginia Health Services Coalition is looking for more volunteers like Markey to provide medical services to low-income, uninsured patients from local "safety-net" clinics. The project matches patients with local medical specialists who volunteer their services.

The coalition has reserved several days in May and June for medical professionals, such as specialty care doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners, to volunteer at Head to Toe Specialty Clinics. The clinics will give patients enrolled at area safety-net clinics an opportunity to receive specialty health care services, including diabetic eye screening, foot care, diabetic nutrition counseling and audiology testing.

"The event is ... an important initiative where community members have the opportunity to get the

Volunteers Needed

"Head to Toe" Specialty Clinic for low income, uninsured patients.

❖ Saturday, May 19 : Loudoun Free Clinic, 224-B Cornwall St, Leesburg

❖ Saturday, June 2: Community Health Care Network, Bailey's Crossroads — 6196 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church

❖ Saturday, June 30: Prince William Area Free Clinic, St. Margaret's Clinic, (also for patients of the Family Health Connection) 13900 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge

Two volunteer shifts: 8:30 a.m. - noon and 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed to fill the following slots:

- ❖ Registration Volunteers
- ❖ Translators
- ❖ Audiologists
- ❖ Nursing Volunteers
- ❖ Podiatrists
- ❖ Ophthalmologist/Optometrists

Volunteers must be 16 years or older. For medical professional roles, volunteers will need a valid Virginia license. On-site orientation provided. To volunteer, email manager@novaspecialtyaccess.org or call 571- 235-3577

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Alexandria resident Marie Markey volunteers her time to low-income, uninsured patients at the Arlington Free Clinic. Local safety-net clinics are looking for volunteers, particularly specialty care doctors and nurses.

health screenings they need," said Sterling resident Karen Rudat, nurse manager for Fairfax Community Health Care Network.

Project officials say their most urgent shortage is of physicians: "Our greatest volunteer needs are for audiologists, podiatrists and ophthalmologists," said Ulrich. "If there are other specialists that come forward, we would add other services as well. The program is ongoing and we're hoping to generate interest even if it is not on these specific dates."

Health care professionals must hold a Virginia license and volunteer in an area that is consistent with their licensure.

VOLUNTEERS ARE CRITICAL to the mission of the clinics.

"We work with a fantastic group of volunteer physicians, mostly specialists. We are so grateful for their generosity as they give their time and talent to increase the quality and access to care," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director, Community Health Care Network of Fairfax County and Molina Healthcare. "Without them, I don't know how some of our most vulnerable patients would be able to get the specialty care they need when they need it the most."

Services and availability vary from clinic to clinic. To be eligible for service at the safety-net clinics, patients must be adults who have a household income of 200 percent or less than the federal poverty level and no health insurance. Ulrich suggested that those interested in the services visit <http://novaclinics.org> to find a clinic that is right for them.

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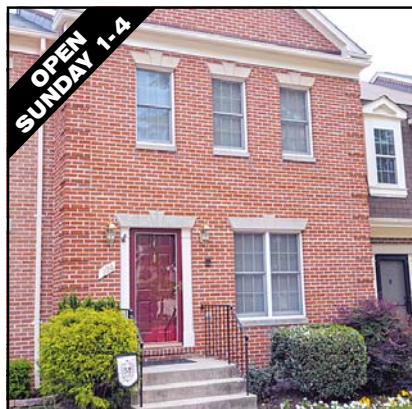


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SPORTS

3 Victories at Regatta

FROM PAGE 31

liams this past weekend were the boys' lightweight 8 and the boys' junior 4. The lightweight 8 — a boat that has gotten faster each week that it has raced — crossed the finish line with a time of 4:35.1, which was more than four seconds faster than runner-up McLean. Members of the T.C. boys' lightweight 8 include: coxswain Brian Comey and rowers Cody Brooks, Ethan Vannatta, David Salmons, Chris Porter, Constantine Ivanis, Sam Zickar, Mitchell Youmans and Chris Kidd.

In the boys' junior 4 contest, the Titan oarsmen — who are all sophomores, and who have been rowing together for just two short weeks — blazed down the Charlie Butt course with a time of 5:19.7, which was eight seconds faster than runner-up McLean. Members of the T.C. Williams boys' junior 4 include coxswain Spenser Gilliland and rowers George Waskowicz, Nate Conrad, Calvin Heimburg, and Ben Blakeslee.

In other strong performances at the Charlie Butt Regatta, the T.C.

Williams boys' varsity 4 crossed the finish line two seconds behind St. Albans to capture second place with a time of 5:04.3 in their race, while the T.C. Williams girls' first 8 — who have also been posting faster times with each passing week and narrowly missed winning their morning heat by 1.4 seconds — came in third in the afternoon final with a time of 5:13.5, placing them solidly in the hunt to beat Madison and National Cathedral, two of the fastest crews in the country who the T.C. girls will next face at states in two weeks.

The T.C. Williams crew team races next this coming Saturday, May 5, when the freshmen and novices compete in the Ted Phoenix Lower Boat Championships at Occoquan. The following weekend, the T.C. upper boats return to Occoquan for the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championship.

For the complete race schedule, visit the T.C. Williams crew Website at www.tcwcrew.org. The T.C. crew team is guided by boys head coach Pete Stramese and girls' head coach Mercedes Kiss.



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