# Alexandria Gazette Packet

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High tide behind Chart House on Cameron Street at 9:07 p.m. Tuesday, Oct 30.

### Big Punch, Little Lasting Impact

### Frankenstorm Sandy hits Alexandria hard; tidal flooding expected Thursday night.

By Michael Lee Pope Gazette Packet

he hybrid hurricane and nor'easter known as Sandy smashed into Alexandria Monday night, packing wind gusts of up to 60 miles an hour. Schools closed and absentee balloting stopped as the city went into a virtual

"We dodged a bullet." — Mayor Bill Euille y went into a virtual lockdown. When the sun came up on a drizzly Tuesday morning, Alexandria awoke to find very little damage — no reported injuries, no major accidents, no

critical buildings damaged, no historic buildings compromised.

"The storm packed a big punch," said Tony Castrilli, spokesman for the Alexandria city government. "But Alexandria was prepared, and we did the best we could under the circumstances."

City officials distributed about 6,000 sand-See Sandy Leaves, Page 7



Tree crashes through second floor of home on Vicar Lane.

### Upcoming Election Like No Other Voters to determine direction of city government.

By Michael Lee Pope Gazette Packet

re voters pleased with the recent direction of city government, which has dramatically increased the amount of density available to developers in recent years? Or are they willing to say no to growth and development that could bring new tax revenue? Are they willing to support elected officials who doubled tax bills over the course of the last decade? Or do they want to support candidates who call for spending cuts but are reluctant to identify which programs they would cut to reduce tax bills?

Voters are left with difficult choices, but clear distinctions.

Rarely have the choices been this clear for voters, with candidates clearly divided on the major issues of the day. Perhaps no other issue has been more polarizing than the waterfront plan, which would almost triple the amount of density at three sites compared to what's there now. Of the 12 candidates on the ballot next week, six say they would have voted against the plan and five say they would have voted for it. One candidate won't say how he would have voted. The issue is also the marque issue in the race for mayor, with three-term incumbent mayor Bill Euille pinning his political future on the proposal. His challenger, independent candidate Andrew Macdonald, has been the leading opponent.

"Development in Alexandria should not be the cart leading the horse," said Macdonald at a recent debate. "Revitalization should clearly be beneficial and sustainable, and everyone should agree that we are moving in the right direction."

Euille disagrees, defending the recent course of events in Alexandria.

"For all the things, Mr. Macdonald, that you and a few folks in this com-

munity are raising Cain over and suggesting that everything is wrong and that we've been a failure at it, it's just

The Issues Where the candidates stand: See pages 12-13.

the opposite," Euille said at a recent forum. "If you get out and be among people in the community, if you go and attend events and if you are all over the city like I am, and if you are even outside the city like I am, you will hear from people that they are very pleased."

WHETHER OR NOT voters in Alexandria are pleased will be settled at the ballot box. Many of the city's recent decisions have become flashpoints, including major land-use decisions. The waterfront plan added 63 percent of allowable density compared to what's there now. The Beauregard increased allowable density 106 percent compared to what's there now. All of the incumbent Democrats and the two former incumbent Democrats seeking to return to office support both of these plans, despite vocal opposition during a series of contentious public hearings.

See An Election, Page 3





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#### Week in Alexandria

#### **October Surprise**

Virginia election officials are asking the attorney general's office to investigate the son of U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) discussing a plan to cast fraudulent ballots and the person who made the recording of the incident.

"I don't condone the actions of the right wing organization in question," said Moran in a written statement issued last week. "But I recognize that this incident is teaching Patrick a tough lesson early in life."

Moran's son resigned as field director of his father's campaign last week after a group known as Project Veritas, an organization led by activist James O'Keefe, released an undercover video in which he reacted to a plan to cast fraudulent ballots. The plan called for casting ballots in the name of 100 voters who were registered but rarely voted.

"I know that my son's intention was to deflect the line of questioning by this trained political operative bent on goading him into a specific response," said Moran. "But the fact remains that the conversation drifted into discussions that reflected a serious error in judgment that Patrick wishes he could take back."

Moran's Republican opponent, Patrick Murray, was quick to try to use the situation to his advantage. "The truth is that Moran has a long track record of hyper partisan behavior, racially charged comments and an infamous anger management problem," said Murray in a written statement. "So this is more of the same embarrassing behavior that we've come to expect from Jim Moran and his campaign."

Independent candidate Jason Howell said the scandal provided mounting evidence that voters should get rid of the longtime congressman. "I was saddened watching video of the apparent sting operation on Patrick," said Howell in a written statement. "The Moran campaign may now have many distracting, legal and ethical questions to answer."

#### **Supreme Battle**

The Alexandria waterfront plan is headed to the Virginia Supreme Court. Last week, the commonwealth's high court agreed to hear a case brought by Old Town residents April Burke, Beth Gibney and Marie Kux. The trio has become known as the "Iron Ladies," a moniker devised by Old Town resident Mark Mueller that was inspired by the original Iron Lady Margaret Thatcher.

During the January public hearing, attorney Roy Shannon represented an effort by the Iron Ladies to submit a protest petition requiring a supermajority vote of the City Council to pass the controversial waterfront plan. City leaders said the Alexandria government was not open for business during the public hearing, and declined to accept the petition. The Iron Ladies argue that they couldn't have submitted a protest petition before the public hearing, but were unable to submit one during the hearing. That left them unable to file a document until the next Monday — too late to file anything that would have required a supermajority vote. Circuit Court Judge Jim Clark disagreed, and the Iron Ladies took the case to Richmond. Now that the justices have agreed to hear the case, opponents of the waterfront plan say they are eager to have their day in court. "We believe that if the Supreme Court reverses Judge Clark, the effect of it would be to invalidate the council's adoption of the waterfront plan," said Bert Ely, a member of the waterfront work group who is supporting the lawsuit. "That means they would have to start all over again."

City Attorney James Banks said Judge Clark's ruling was correct, and he believes the city will have a strong case to make in Richmond that the justices should uphold the decision.

"The city's position is that the petition was improperly filed and improperly proffered," said Banks. "They needed to file it in normal business hours, just like any other court. The Circuit Court is not open 24 hours a day to accept filings, nor is any other court in the commonwealth or the nation."

#### No Left Turns

Drivers on Washington Street have noticed a few more signs this week, as new restrictions go into place restricting the use of left-hand turns at most of the intersections during rush hours. The change was the result of a 2011 safety study that found an elevated accident rate for vehicles making left turns during HOV hours.

- Michael Lee Pope

### News

Alexandria Gazette Editor Steven Mauren 703-778-9415 or gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



The auditorium at Hammond Middle School was packed for the first debate.

## **An Election Like No Other**

#### From Page 1

"I think Beauregard is primarily a mismatch between land-use development and transportation planning," said Bob Wood, Republican candidate. "I don't think the transportation planning was done adequately to resolve the issues that were raised by the amount of density going into the Beauregard plan, so essentially they were out of synch in terms of satisfactory solutions for transportation to match the scale of development involved."

Several of the candidates are critical of the City Council's recent decision approving Corridor C, a controversial high-capacity transit corridor on the West End. Many neighborhood residents say widening the road to accommodate for the transit lane would remove tree canopy and inconvenience them for the benefit of people commuting through their neighborhood. Republican Councilwoman Alicia Hughes initially voted for it, although she later tried unsuccessfully to change her vote during the public hearing.

"It didn't feel right, and when I realized before the meeting came to a close I sought to change it," said Hughes. "And that is something that public officials have the right to do. That's why we have rules, and that's why there are parliamentary procedures in place that, when people are being considerate, would allow us to do that."

THE CAMPAIGN for City Council this year is unlike any other. The most dramatic difference is the timing of the election, which will be in November for the first time in the city's long history. After losing two seats in May 2009, the all-Democratic members of the lame-duck council moved the election to November — when record number of Democrats are expected at the polls. The campaign has also been marked by sharp exchanges between the candidates, including a dramatic back-and-forth at George Washington Middle School in early October when former Councilman Justin Wilson went on the attack against Republicans Frank Fannon and Alicia Hughes.

"There they go again," Wilson said. 'Just like in 2009, Councilman Fannon and Councilwoman Hughes are resorting to the same, tired national talking points about taxes."

Wilson said that months after being sworn in, both Fannon and Hughes proposed a higher tax rate during the add-delete work session. The two Republicans ended up voting against the budget that year, but Wilson said their willingness to propose a higher tax rate during the budget negotiations demonstrated that they were trying to have it both ways.

"Mr. Wilson voted for a tax hike the week before he lost the election," Fannon responded. "Without me on the City Council, you will continue to see your tax bills rise."

THE DEBATE about taxes and spending is at the heart of the campaign this year, with candidates taking various positions on a number of issues. Libertarian Robert Kraus, for example, repeatedly called for the city to return to 2007 spending levels. But when asked about which line items he would cut to make that happen, Kraus says he won't know specifics until an audit is conducted.

"I'm running for City Council because I'm angry," said Kraus at several candidate forums. "I'm angry as a homeowner because we are paying too much taxes."

Unlike issues such as development, where local politics is reversed from the national trend, issues of taxes and spending are falling along traditional party lines this election cycle. Republicans charge Democrats with being wasteful, and Democrats charge Republicans with being unreasonable. When a debate erupted over the council's recent actions at one of the debates, Councilman Paul Smedberg offered a defense of the council's recent spending priorities.

"It's very easy to say you are going to cut taxes," said Smedberg. "But if you look at the city's budget, a local budget is about the priorities the city sets. It's not about something they do at the national level or even the state."

THE CLASH between Wilson and Fannon became a running theme of the campaign, with both sides jousting at each other over the last several weeks. When Wilson suggested that the city offer childcare at public meetings, Fannon shot back.

"Getting people to the meetings is an important thing," said Fannon. "But I don't propose raising taxes to pay for babysitters as Mr. Wilson just endorsed." "Mr. Fannon apparently doesn't want to raise taxes

See An Election, Page 6



**Incumbent Democratic Mayor Bill Euille and independent** challenger Andrew Macdonald. Alexandria Gazette Packet \* November 1-7, 2012 \* 3

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### ★ EUILLE FOR MAYOR ★

Chapman, Lovain, Pepper, Silberberg, Smedberg, Wilson FOR CITY COUNCIL

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Paid for and authorized by Friends of Bill Euille.

# News **Soul Providers**

### Meals On Wheels volunteers recognized.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

ike most women. Ede Thomas was hesitant to reply when asked her

"I'm 93," Thomas whispered. "But don't print that. I still tell everyone I'm 35."

Retired since 1987, Thomas has been a volunteer for the Meals On Wheels program for 25 years. Along with other volunteers, she was honored for her service Oct. 18 at the Senior Services of Alexandria volunteer appreciation luncheon at The Fountains at Washington House.

"I thought I needed to do something worthwhile when I retired," Thomas said. "So I started delivering meals with Westminster Presbyterian Church. I am the coordinator there now but always enjoyed delivering the meals, seeing the people and really getting to know and talk to them."

First started in 1976, Meals on Wheels is a life-sustaining program that prevents malnutrition and starvation amongst home-



Ede Thomas, 93, was honored Oct. 18 at The Fountains at Washington House as Volunteer of the Year for her 25 years of service to Meals On Wheels of Alexandria.

bound seniors by delivering two prepared meals each morning. Currently available six days per week, the program will begin delivering meals on Sundays in mid-Novem-

See Soul Providers, Page 9



**Global Studies Certificate Program** 

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Shadow a Knight for a day!

### News In Campagna's Name Weaver honored for 20 years of service.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

ongtime Campagna Center volunteer Bridget Weaver was honored Oct. 4 with the Elizabeth Anne Campagna Award at a Circle of 1000 reception at the home of Douglas and



**Bridget Weaver listens to remarks** after receiving the Elizabeth Anne Campagna award.

Grace Marie Turner.

"I am completely overwhelmed," said Weaver, who began her service to the

See Weaver Honored, Page 36



**Campagna Center CEO Tammy** Mann, right, congratulates Bridget Weaver on her award for service at the Oct. 4 Circle of 1000 reception.



<u>Marc\_RE-ELE(</u>

for School Board





I value honesty, integrity and commitment. *My* decisions for Alexandria City Public Schools will continue to be based on what is best for our school system as a whole. This means looking at issues from all sides, making a decision and then holding all of us - board members, administrators, teachers, parents and students - accountable.

- Marc Williams

I Would Appreciate Your Vote On November 6. Paid for and authorized by Marc Williams for School Board



VOTE FOR A NEW VOICE! ALLISON SILBERBERG DEMOCRAT FOR ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL "AVoice of Reason" The Honorable Patsy Ticer "We are all the temporary stewards

of this national treasure called Alexandria." - Allison Silberberg, Chair of Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Commission

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- Voted to preserve historic Old Town Alexandria

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**Independent mayoral challenger Andrew** Macdonald.

from the crowd, which began booing and hissing the

former councilman. Then Hughes jumped into the

fray, criticizing Wilson's repeated attacks on Fannon.

does not reflect the best that we have to offer.'

after the debate.

"It's vitriolic," said Hughes. "And it's something that

"Telling the truth is not vitriolic," Wilson responded

### **Incumbent Democratic Mayor Bill Euille.** An Election Like No Other

#### From Page 3

to provide for increased community engagement," responded Wilson. "But in his first budget he did want to raise taxes to provide money for the Alexandria Pipe and Drum Corps."

That comment sparked an immediate response

### Help Boy Scouts Collect Food for Needy

A Scouting for Food collection will be held on Saturday, Nov. 10.

In 2011, 2,620 Scouts in the area collected mor than 64,000 pounds of canned and nonperishable food and delivered it to ALIVE, UCM and Koinonia for distribution among people in need locally.

This year, each Scout unit is assigned a local neighborhood for collection; the unit will drop

off Scouting for Food bags on Saturday, Nov. 3 and pick them up on Saturday, Nov. 10.

In this metropolitan region, more than 680,000 residents

struggle with hunger and 1 in 5 children is at risk of experiencing hunger daily, according to Boy Scout officials.

For more information, see www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/ScoutingForFood



2400 Russell Road Alexandria, VA 22301 703-548-4804 www.acdsnet.org



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### News



Sidewalk on Cameron Mills Road shifts after tree was uprooted in Monday's storm.

### Sandy Leaves Clean-up Behind

From Page 1 bags and shut down the government for two days. DASH bus service was discontinued, and the King Street Trolley was suspended. At the peak of the storm. 12,000 Dominion Virginia Power customers in Alexandria were without power. About a dozen trees feel on houses. One apartment building on the West End had a roof problem and was evacuated. "We dodged a bullet," said Mayor Bill Euille. "We were certainly spared in terms of the amount of damage inflicted on New Jersey and New York."

**DESPITE MISSING** the initial punch, Alexandria officials are still concerned about tidal flooding in the coming days. The high tide at 10:20 p.m. Thursday night

is particularly concerning to city officials, who say that's when the threat of flooding in Old Town is greatest. At press time, city officials are preparing for a flood that could reach Lee Street — known as Water Street in the original town layout because that was the location of the waterline in 1749.

"It depends on how much pressure builds up in the Potomac and how fast," said Euille. "We're expecting at least two feet of water on Union Street Thursday night."

One bright spot in the storm recovery was the minimal tree damage throughout the city. Because last summer's violent derecho



Fallen tree blocks Crestwood Drive east of Cameron Mills Road.



Tree falls over house on Vicar Lane.

purged many of the weaker trees and limbs throughout the city, the remaining canopy was strong enough to take the brunt of Sandy this week. One concern was the lack of in-person absentee balloting, which was cancelled on Monday and part of Tuesday. Alexandria election officials have already scheduled expanded hours for the rest of the week and next week as Election Day draws near.

"We had a very hefty turnout on Tuesday after the storm," said Anna Leider, deputy registrar. "We had about 400 people come in and vote."



#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL TO REVISE ITS SAVE RIDER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013 CASE NO. PUE-2012-00105

On September 28, 2012, Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company") completed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting approval to revise its 2013 SAVE Rider pursuant to § 56-603 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, the Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy Plan ("SAVE") Act, 5 VAC 5-20-80 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, and the Commission's April 21, 2011 Order Approving SAVE Plan and Rider in Case No. PUE-2010-00087.

The Company states that the SAVE Rider for 2013 will consist of two factors computed for each customer class: (1) a Current Factor which is based on the Company's projected SAVE Plan program expenditures approved in Case No. PUE-2010-00087 and (2) a Reconciliation Factor computed in accordance with § 56-604 E of the SAVE Act, the Stipulation approved by the Commission in the Company's recent base rate proceeding and the Commission's Order in Case No. PUE-2010-00087. The Company further states that if the Commission approves the Company's August 6, 2012 application to amend its SAVE Plan ("August 6, 2012 Application"), the SAVE Rider rates the Commission approves in that proceeding will replace the Current Factors described in this Application. The Company states that either its proposed Current Factors or the SAVE Rider rates proposed in August 6, 2012 Application will be reduced by the Reconciliation Factors proposed in the Application to reflect the over-recovery of SAVE Plan costs for the first period of the SAVE Plan ended April 30, 2012.

In its Application, the Company states that based on the SAVE Plan expenditures approved in Case No. PUE-2010-00087, the 2013 SAVE Rider for a typical residential customer using 749 therms of gas annually is estimated at \$3.82, which is based or a rate of \$0.0104 per therm for the projected SAVE expenditures for 2013 reduced by the Reconciliation Factor of \$0.0053 per therm. The Company states that the SAVE Rider for commercial customers will very with individual customer load and usage.

therm. The Company states that the SAVE Rider for commercial customers will vary with individual customer load and usage. In its Application, the Company asserts that its projected SAVE Plan expenditures of \$30 million for calendar year 2013 will be allocated as approved by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2010-00087 as follows: (1) Bare and/or Unprotected Steel Service Replacement Program, \$11 million; (2) Bare and Unprotected Steel Main Replacement Program, \$2 million; and (3) Mechanically Coupled Pipe Replacement Program, \$17 million. The Company proposes to compute the Current Factor for the SAVE Rider using the methodology approved by the Commission in Case Nos. PUE-2010-00087 and PUE-2011-00101 as follows: (1) using the cost of service methodology, determine the eligible infrastructure replacement costs by rate schedule for the 2013 annual period; (2) estimate the annual throughput for calendar year 2013 by rate schedule; and (3) divide the eligible infrastructure replacement costs by the estimated throughput to arrive at a "per therm" factor to be applied to all customers by rate schedule. The Company has computed a revenue requirement of approximately \$4,660,000 for the SAVE Rider for 2013, based on projected SAVE Plan expenditures of \$30 million for 2013. The proposed Current Factors for the SAVE Rider for 2013 by rate schedule are as follows: Residential \$0.0104 per therm; Commercial and Industrial \$0.0046 per therm; Group Metered Apartment \$0.0052 per therm; Interruptible \$0.0017 per therm.

For the Reconciliation Factor computed for this proceeding, the Company recognizes the actual costs related to the SAVE plant the Company installed from June 20, 2010 to April 30, 2012. During this period the Company over-recovered SAVE Rider costs by \$2,421,147, therefore, the Reconciliation Factors will be subtracted from the Current Factors for the various classes to arrive at the rates to be billed through the SAVE Rider for calendar year 2013. The resulting Reconciliation Factors per therm by rate schedule are: Residential-\$0.0053; Commercial and Industrial-\$0.0026; Group Metered Apartment-\$0.0030; and Interruptible-\$0.0008.

The SAVE Fider for 2013 will be applied to meter readings beginning on the first day of the January 2013 billing cycle and will be included in a separate line item labeled "All Applicable Fiders." By deducting the Reconciliation Factor from the Current Factor, the Company arrived at its proposed SAVE Rider Rate for 2013. The SAVE Rider Rate for 2013 per therm by rate schedule is as follows: Residential-\$0.0020; froup Metered Apartment-\$0.0020; and Interruptible-\$0.0009. However, if the Commission approves the Company's August 6, 2012 Application, the SAVE Rider rates the Commission approves in that proceeding will replace the Current Factors in this Application, as described above.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application and supporting exhibits for the details of these proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

A copy of the Company's Application may be obtained at no charge by requesting a copy of the same from the Company's counsel, Meera Ahamed, Esquire, Washington Gas Light Company, 3rd Floor West, 101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20080. The Application and related documents also shall be available for review in the Commission's Document Control Center, Tyler Building, First Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case.

On or before November 26, 2012, interested persons may file written comments on WGL's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so, on or before November 26, 2012, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case. Comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2012-00105. WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

# Living Legends Fighting for Public Housing Tenants

By Diane Bechtol

sserting that Alexandria public housing tenants have basic rights too, community activists Dorothy Turner and Gwen Menefee-Smith embarked on mission to assure that their peers would be treated fairly and with respect. In their decades-long journey for justice, each woman felt the pain imposed on unpopular crusaders, but were ultimately uplifted as those who struggled to do good for others.

The two women, both public housing tenants themselves earlier in life, worked tirelessly to improve the quality of living for Alexandria low income and minority residents. In the 1960s and 1970s, Alexandria was not in compliance with federal Housing and Urban Development guidelines and there was a pervasive attitude of disrespect, intimidation and unfair practices against people of color, Menefee-Smith said.

Similar to many communities at the height of nationwide racial unrest, though Alexandria public housing had just been integrated, African American tenants were not treated equally. A subjective high moral standard was imposed as a condition of residency, Turner said, especially upon single mothers or mothers of multiple children.

"The administrators were so disrespectful and rude and intrusive in your personal life when people just needed a safe, decent place to live," agreed Menefee-Smith. The feelings of oppression extended beyond housing issues, she asserted. There was no encouragement for higher education, job training or civic involvement. "One administrator said to me, 'Your course has already been charted. You have made your bed now and you have to lie in it."

'Just because you're in public housing, it does not need to be a death sentence. We were taxpayers, law-abiding decent citizens and we had a right to have voices in how and where we lived."

Turner and Menefee-Smith joined with other tenants to bring about change. Working with the Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, churches, local civil rights attorneys and advocacy organizations, the two helped found the Alexandria Tenants Council more than 40 years ago. Their primary goal was to work with city officials and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority to establish non-discriminatory and fair regulations regarding housing policies. They also sought to provide legal, economic,

social and educational support for tenants, and for the preservation of allotted numbers of public housing apartments were demolished.

Turner and Menefee-Smith broadened their efforts to organize voter registration drives and nonpartisan grassroots support of city, state and federal candidates for office. "We had to get tenants out to vote. We looked at politicians who didn't respect us and worked for their opposition. We can't blame people for needing the services. Politicians are supposed to do the right thing," Menefee-Smith said.

Turner was born and raised in Del Ray and is a descendant of one of the oldest African American families in the city. She attended St. Joseph's Elementary School and Parker -Gray High School. In 1968, she moved into the John Roberts public housing complex, where she lived for 13 years with her husband and children. She recalls that public housing had just been integrated and that an African American, Nelson Greene, was on the City Council. At the time, housing officials tried to deny unwed mothers space in public housing, a major point of contention within the black community. It was a burning source of her discontent and therefore time, she said, to "fight for something due to us." Turner said she was also inspired by her brother, one of five young men who had been arrested for protesting separate, but unequal public library facilities.

In addition to improving housing conditions and policies, she, Menefee-Smith and others pushed for increased black representation on City Council, commissions, and on the housing authority board. They worked the polls and picketed Yellow Cab, which would not hire black drivers. They also saw a newly established community center on Wythe Street become a meeting space, wedding venue and gathering place for teenagers. Soon sewing, typing and preparation classes for the Civil Service exam were offered. "We just did a lot of things and other people started helping us," said Turner.

One of her proudest moments, she reflected, was the successful sit-in campaign to offer black history classes at T.C. Williams High School.

Although not a native of Alexandria, Menefee-Smith became acquainted with the town at an early age. Her grandfather worked in Alexandria, and during summers she stayed in the house he purchased. In the early 1960s, she moved to Alexandria with her military husband and reared three children. The marriage didn't last, the couple separated, then divorced, and she wanted to stay in the area to be close to family. As a single mother Menefee-Smith had limited resources after leaving her husband and eventually ended up in a public

### Living Legends: The Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project units in the city after some to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria's Living Legends. The project was const-photographer Nina Tisara to cre endurin people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Club Managers Association of America, Dominion Foundation, Erkiletian Real Estate Development, Goodwin House, Inc., John McEnearney in memory of Ginny, Renner & Company, CPA, P.C. and the Rotary Club of Alexandria.

To nominate a Legend, visit Alexandria Legends.com or contact Nina Tisara, 703-625-2330. Nomination deadline is Nov. 15.



Dorothy Turner and Gwen Menefee-Smith helped found the Alexandria Tenants Council more than 40 years ago

housing apartment. She felt the scorn of housing officials due to her divorced and single mother status, she recalled. By knocking on neighbors' doors, Menefee-Smith confirmed they felt the same intimidation and fear of being ejected from their apartments for unfair moral standards imposed upon them. "They were traumatized and scared to death," she said. It was at a meeting organized by the Urban League that she met Dorothy Turner, who had just moved into public housing herself. "Word got arranged that local lawyers and the NAACP were interested in what was going on. The church was filled and it became a time of personal growth. It led me to get involved with other tenants."

Meanwhile, Menefee-Smith had other personal obstacles to overcome. She bristled when a housing administrator denigrated her educational goals and career potential. "Your chances are very slim and you need to come to terms with that," she was told. Instead, she attended Northern Virginia Community College, then George Mason University to get her undergraduate degree in social welfare, using a patchwork of scholarship, daycare and transportation assistance. She attended Howard University for her master's degree with scholarship help, working 20 hours a week while attending classes.

However, her path was still not cleared for easy success. She, Turner and others were very concerned when the Housing Authority proposed destruction of blocks of

> public housing units without provision for displaced families. More than 30 years later, Menefee-Smith recounted how her increased activism led to false criminal charges that she had stolen money from an elderly resident. As a Housing Authority employee at the time, the action was prompted, she said, to remove her from her job. Menefee

Smith was fingerprinted, and the case went to hearings, and then the grand jury before she was cleared. Public housing tenants picketed the police chief's house and one "alleged witness who gave false testimony" committed suicide. The FBI was called in to investigate. Despite her eventual vindication, Menefee-Smith switched to a job in Washington, D.C. to provide health care for the elderly. "That did not stop me from being involved with Alexandria tenants."

Menefee-Smith and Turner expanded their crusade for the disadvantaged and elderly by advocating for senior citizens, especially in the arenas of affordable health care and affordable housing. The women are currently working to improve the well-being of mentally challenged persons, especially African American and Hispanic at- risk special education students.

Turner explained that some parents need guidance to navigate the complex rules surrounding individualized education plans for special education students. It is especially true when English may not be their first language or if they have had limited schooling themselves. Education will always be the best means for a person to improve him or herself, Turner said, so it is critical that poor families get the support they need from the community. Menefee-Smith added that it is their continuing concern that Alexandria is losing young people - potential community leaders - who can't afford to live in here. Education makes the difference in getting better paying jobs.

"I will always be an advocate for poor people," said Menefee-Smith. She repeated her intent to keep working for the dignity and rights of minorities and the economically challenged. "You just can't walk away from them.

Turner agrees. At 83, she uses a walker and does not have the physical vigor she once had, but she still campaigns for disadvantaged families. "I've lived a full life and am blessed the Lord let me live so long to help people."

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### People



Meals on Wheels program coordinator Dolores Viehman presents Chief Deputy Tim Gleeson with cupcakes from Lavender Moon in appreciation for the volunteer services provided by the Sheriff's Department.

# **Soul Providers**

From Page 4

ber.

"Our volunteers are the eyes and ears of this city," said program coordinator Dolores Vieham. "They don't just see that our seniors don't go hungry. They see that they are safe at home."

Individuals as well as teams from local businesses, churches and organizations like the Alexandria Rotary Club, Jaycees, Sheriff's Department and Lyles-Crouch PTA were honored at the event, which featured a keynote presentation by Inova Alexandria nutrition expert Elizabeth Ramirez.

> See Soul Providers, Page 37



Inova Alexandria nutritionist Elizabeth Ramirez talks about the importance of nutrition during the volunteer appreciation luncheon.



Senior Services executive director Janet Barnett and board chairman Greg Murphy thank the Meals On Wheels volunteer organizations at the Oct. 18 luncheon.

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www.burgundyfarm.org

### The Alexandria Chapter

urges you to support strong, fair and effective law enforcement by voting for the following candidates on Tuesday, November 6th.

BILL EUILLE

JUSTIN WILSON

JOHN CHAPMAN City Council

PAUL SMEDBERG

City Council

GLENDA DAVIS

DEL PEPPER

City Council

JOHN WOOD City Council

JASON HOWELL House, District 8 KRISTIN CABRAL House, District 10

CHRIS PERKINS House, District 11

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

Paid for by the Southern States PBA, Inc. PAC Fund. 2155 Hwy 42 S, McDonough, GA 30252. Chris Skinner, president; Dave Soderberg, sr vice president; Beth Dyke, vice president, Joe Naia, secretary.

# Opinion As Sandy Rolls In, Still Plan to Vote

### Variety of choices in political landscape.

urricane Sandy means that the week preceding the election will not be what we were expecting. This editorial is being written Sunday night, Oct. 28, as forecasters predict five inches of rain and 65-mile-per-hour winds over the next two days.

With some predicting that power could take a week or more to restore, we have to worry about the likely condition of the Editorial Eastern seaboard will be on Election Dav. Nov. 6. Absentee voting in person

had been cancelled for Monday, and most government offices were closed in anticipation of the storm. What will this mean for voter turnout, for access to voting places on Election Day?

We don't believe that there are significant numbers of undecided voters in Northern Virginia. There are voters who know who they would vote for if they did vote, but they might not be committed to voting if circumstances are difficult. The outcome of the national election, both who will be president and which party controls the U.S. Senate and by what margin, could depend on voter turnout in Virginia. Make a commitment to have your vote counted, no matter how many days you might be without electricity.

We are not endorsing candidates for elected office this year. We do recommend that voters support local bond questions for investments

Letters to the Editor

### 'On the Web' Not an Answer

To the Editor:

The vice mayor, in responding to the letter "Metro on Scenic Easement" (Gazette Packet,

in libraries, schools, transportation, parks, stormwater management and public safety.

Four years ago in the presidential election of 2008, there were 5,034,660 voters registered in Virginia, and 3,752,858 actually voted. On Oct. 3, Fairfax County reported 723,967 total voters registered. Arlington reported 163,919 total voters. Alexandria reported 104,947 registered voters.

At the top of the ticket, in addition to choosing a president and vice president, Virginians will choose a new U.S. senator. Tim Kaine (D), former governor will face George Allen (R),

also former governor and former U.S. senator, to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D) who is retiring from the Senate after a single term. Webb defeated

George Allen six years ago. Connection coverage of the U.S. Senate race is available at http:// /www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Senate/

Two constitutional questions will appear on all Virginia ballots, one about the use of eminent domain and one about the timing of a particular session of the General Assembly to consider overriding vetoes by the governor of legislation that was passed by the assembly. See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/webdocs/ 201211ConstitutionalAmendmentsPoster.pdf

Coverage of the eminent domain question in particular can be found at http:// www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/

In the races for U.S. House of Representatives, it's worth noting that redistricting resulted in significant changes in Northern Vir-

Oct. 19), does not refute my salient point, but does omit some history. Factually, the small area plan for the North Potomac Yard was discussed and passed by the city Council on May 15, 2010, not June as he implies. There was no mention or consideration of any Memorandum of Understanding in either the discussions



Snapshot Oct. 28: Sandbags are distributed on N. Lee Street.

### For More Election Information

Alexandria Board of Elections, 703-746-4050, http://alexandriava.gov/Elections

132 North Royal Street, Alexandria, 22314; FAX 703-838-6449: email tom.parkins@alexandriava.gov

State Board of Elections, 804 864-8901 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194 email: info@sbe.virginia.gov

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/ Voter\_Information/Index.html

ginia in terms of who your U.S. representative will be. See the map for details. Connection coverage of congressional races is available at http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/ news/Election/National/Representatives

In the 8th District, incumbent U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D), seeking his 12th term since being elected in 1990, will face Patrick Murray (R), and two independent candidates, Janet Murphy and Jason Howell. The 8th district includes all of Alexandria and Arlington, plus parts of Fairfax County including Mount Vernon, Lorton and parts of McLean, Tysons and Falls Church. In the City of Alexandria, voters will also choose a mayor, members of the city council and school board. If you are voting by paper ballot, don't forget to vote both sides of the ballot.

There is more information on our website under http://

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/

Stay safe during the storm.

or the material provided to the public for the May meeting. The later meeting referenced by the vice mayor was a technical rezoning in which the memorandum was pasted into 500page documentation without any public notification.

Furthermore, neither the presentations nor discussions at the June meeting revealed the city had agreed with the developer that he only pay for the Metro Station if it ends in the scenic easement held by the National Park Services. It should therefore come as no surprise that the National Park Service and two planning commissioners whom I contacted, were unaware of the memorandum's existence until it I brought it up.

The vice mayor's suggestion that the public discourse is satisfied by putting the material on the web without letting the public know about it is a stretch. Nevertheless, it has occurred consistently at critical times in this process.

The City Council was asked on three separate occasions to advertise the public hearings on the Environmental Impact Statement to no avail. "It was on the web," I was told, but so are 5 trillion other megabytes of information. Although it is tempting to use an obvious clich here (If a tree falls in the wood and no one hears it, did it fall?), the seriousness of so many citizens having been left out of the process warrants more — certainly more than the city

See Letters, Page 14

#### Alexandria Gazette Packet

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# Opinion The Importance of Giving Back

By Christine Candio, FACHE CEO, Inova Alexandria Hospital

T is hard to believe that 140 years have passed since Julia Johns brought together a group of forward-thinking women to open a hospital in Alexandria. Much has changed over the last century and a half, but one thing remains constant: the overwhelming support Inova Alexandria Hospital has received from our dedicated community.

Giving back is both a privilege and a perpetuation of the good we see all around us.

Commentary

Whether it is programs within our hospital, or partnering with local organizations on community health and wellness initiatives,

we are involved in a wide range of opportunities to advance healthcare for those who need it most.

With Thanksgiving approaching, it's a good time to take stock of some of the ways we brought this commitment to life in 2012:

• October's Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, which we sponsor in partnership with the City of Alexandria and the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation, attracted 900 participants.

Proceeds benefit the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk Fund at Inova Alexandria Hospital, which provides mammograms to uninsured women or those in financial need.

Since the walk began in 1994, more than 7,000



women have been helped thanks to the generous support of sponsors, walkers and their pledges.

♦ More than 700 people turned out for the 2nd annual Emergency Management/Preparedness and Safety Fair in August. Alexandria police, fire, health and safety officials shared simple precautions to help

families be ready for a wide range of emergency scenarios. We co-hosted this event with the City of Alexandria.

At our Annual Health Expo in October, we provided health screenings, information and lectures for 450 community members.

In March, we teamed up with Senior Services of Alexandria to offer health and fitness lectures as part of National Nutrition Month.

♦ We partnered with Alexandria Public Schools and Project Search to give students with disabilities training, career development and employable skills for the future.

At Inova Alexandria Hospital, we know that healthy communities are essential for a healthy future. It is an honor to give back to the wonderful community that supports us, day in and day, and that we are proud to serve.





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Where 1 Waterfront	they stand Beauregard	Arlandria	Corridor C	Top Contributors	Alexandria City
				\$1,000 from Alexandria Yellow Cab \$1,000 from B3 Solutions \$1,000 from Myron Erkiletian \$1,000 from Jill McCaffrey \$1,000 from Northern Virginia Association of Realtors	<b>Bill Euille, 62:</b> A native of Alexandria, Euille is a 1968 graduate of T.C. Williams High School. He was first elected to City Council in 1994 and elected mayor in 2003. He was reelected without opposition in 2009. Euille has a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration from Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Conn. From 1974 to 1984, he was an appointed member of the Alexandria School Board In 1987, he founded William D. Euille and Associates, a construction services firm that serves the federal government. He also owns an interest in two Alexandria restaurants, Mango Mike's and the Majestic Grill. He votes in the George Washington.
×	×	×	×	<ul> <li>\$2,000 from Robert Latane Montague IV</li> <li>\$1,000 from Jerry Warner</li> <li>\$1,500 from Joanne Lepanto</li> <li>\$1,200 from Arra Ann Mazor</li> <li>\$1,000 from Janet King</li> </ul>	Andrew Macdonald, 57: Born in Paris, Macdonald is a lifelong resident of Alexandria. He was first elected to the City Council in 2003, and became vice mayor in 2006 when he received more votes than any other council candidate on the ballot that year. Macdonald has a bachelor's degree in geology from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., and a doctorate in geology from the University of Western Ontario. He has been a staff scientist for the Ocean Drilling Program at Texas A&M University and an analyst for the U.S. Congress' Office of Technology Assessments Ocean and Environmental Program. He votes at the Durant Center precinct.
×		~	~	\$5,000 from Thomas Fannon \$5,000 from Hoffman Management \$5,000 from Edwin Sheridan \$2,500 from James Scott \$2,000 from Commonwealth Republican Women's Club	<b>Frank Fannon, 43:</b> A native of Alexandria, Fannon graduated from West Potomac High School in 1987. He was elected to the City Council in 2009. Fannon has a bachelor's degree in corporate communications from Elon College in Elon, N.C., later returning to Alexandria and becoming a mortgage banker with SunTrust in 1995. Since 2004, he has managed the branch at the corner of Duke and Henry streets. <sup>o</sup> He votes at the Durant Center precinct.
×	ABSTAIN	×	×	\$1,000 from Michael Maibach \$1,000 from Jonathan Wilber \$500 from Alexandria Yellow Cab \$500 from Joe Demshar \$500 from Elizabeth Gibney	Alicia Hughes, 38: A native of Memphis, Tenn., Hughes has lived in Alexandria since 2007. She was elected in 2009 as an independent although she later became a Republican. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Texas Southern University and a juris doctorate from the University of Miami at Coral Gables. Her home precinct is Cameron Station precinct.
×	×	×	×	\$2,000 from Commonwealth Republican Women's Club \$1,500 from Michael Maibach \$1,350 from William Lennox \$1,000 from Candice Clary \$1,000 from Harvie Dill Goddin	<b>Bob Wood, 62:</b> A native of Fort Lewis, Wash., Wood has lived in Alexandria since 1964. He graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 1968. He has a bachelor's degree from West Point, master of business administration from the University of Chicago. He also has a master's of military science from the United States Command and General Staff College. He received a White House fellowship in 1985, and a senior strategic studies fellowship at Georgetown University in 1992. He votes at Lyles Crouch Precinct.
	DEFER			<ul> <li>\$1,200 from Montez Anderson</li> <li>\$1,000 from Mid-Atlantic Community Fund</li> <li>\$750 from Northern Virginia Association of Realtors</li> <li>\$500 from Ferdinand Day</li> <li>\$450 from Jack Taylor Toyota</li> </ul>	John Taylor Chapman, 31: A native of Alexan- dria, Chapman grew up in public housing. After gradu- ating from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in 1999, he received a bachelor's degree in social studies edu- cation from St. Olaf College in Minnesota. He is cur- rently an after-school specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools. From 2006 to 2007, he was president of the Alexandria Young Democrats. Since 2008, he has served on the executive committee for the Taylor Run Citizens As- sociation. Since 2011, he's been president of the Alexandria NAACP. Chapman votes in the MacArthur Precinct.
		~	X	\$3,000 from Waatch, Inc. \$1,200 from Mark Williams \$1,000 from Cynthia Lynn O'Connell \$700 from Lawrence Pastorius \$600 from Peter Friedman	<b>Tim Lovain, 64:</b> A native of Bradford, Pa., Lovain moved to Alexandria in 1983. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Chicago, a master's degree from Princeton, and a juris doctor degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. He works as a government relations consultant for Denny Miller Associates, and he lives in the Blessed Sacrament precinct.

The waterfront plan increased allowable density at three sites slated for redevelopment. Critics say the scale is too large for Old Town, and the increased traffic will clog neighborhood streets. Candidates were asked if they would have voted yes or no on the Jan. 21, 2012 docket item for the waterfront small-area plan.
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The **Beauregard** small-area plan increased allowable density for several sites in the West End. Critics say the plan will push out low-income residents who live there now. Candidates were asked if they would have voted yes or no on the May 12, 2012 docket item for the Beauregard small-area plan.

### Candidates 2012

Candidates 2012	Top Contributors	Where they stand Waterfront Beauregard Arlandria			Corridor C
<b>Del Pepper, 74:</b> A native of Omaha, Neb., Pepper moved to Alexandria in 1968. She has a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Grinnell College and did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. She served as a social worker in Cook County before mov- ing to Alexandria and working as an aide to former Mayor Charles Beatley. She lives in the Patrick Henry precinct.	\$4,000 from F.J. Pepper \$3,500 from Michael Wenk \$1,000 from Alexandria Toyota \$1,000 from H. Stewart Dunn \$1,000 from Bernard Fagelson				
Allison Silberberg, 49: A native of Dallas, Silberberg received a bachelor's degree in interna- tional relations and history from American University and a master's degree in playwriting from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. An Alexan- dria resident since 1989, Silberberg is author of the 2009 book "Visionaries in Our Midst." She is currently the chairwoman of the Alexandria Economic Oppor- tunities Commission. Silberberg votes at the Agudas Achim Precinct.	<ul> <li>\$1,250 from Andrew Glickman</li> <li>\$1,000 from American National Leasing</li> <li>\$1,000 from David Bock</li> <li>\$1,000 from Peggy Brown</li> </ul>	X	X	DEFER	X
<b>Paul Smedberg, 51:</b> A native of Hartford, Conn., Smedberg moved to Alexandria in 1987. He gradu- ated from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania with a double major in economics and history. He also has a certificate of graduation from the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. He works as a director of gov- ernment affairs for Affymax, a bio-pharmaceutical company based in Palo Alto, Calif. Smedberg votes in the Lyles-Crouch precinct.	\$1,050 from H. Stewart Dunn \$1,000 from Hoffman Management \$1,000 from Robert Kaufman \$750 Northern Virginia Association of Realtors				
<b>Justin Wilson, 33:</b> A native of Cheverly, Md., Wilson grew up in Springfield and moved to Alexandria in 2001, though he also lived in the city for two years shortly after he was born. He has a bachelor's degree in business information systems from Virginia Commonwealth University, and works at Amtrak as a principal system engineer. Wilson votes at the Mount Vernon Center Precinct.	<ul> <li>\$1,000 from Mid-Atlantic Community Fund</li> <li>\$1,000 from McClellan for Delegate</li> <li>\$1,000 from Juliette McNeil</li> <li>\$750 Northern Virginia Association of Bealtors</li> </ul>			~	
<b>Robert Kraus, 47:</b> A native of Chicago, Kraus has a bachelor in science in marketing and management from the University of Virginia. Kraus is currently the director of operations for the Libertarian Party, and he votes at the Chinquapin precinct.	\$1,000 from Robert Kraus \$250 from Michael Cloud \$100 from Libertarian Party of	X	×	MAYBE	×
<b>Glenda Davis, 64:</b> A native of Washington, N.C., Davis was raised in a military family that moved fre- quently. She has a bachelor of science in business edu- cation from Fayetteville State University. Davis is a retired accountant, and she votes at the Cora Kelly precinct.	\$500 from Monica Davis \$500 from Sean McGowan	X			
Jermaine Mincey, 28: A native of Sacramento, Ca- lif., Mincey has a bachelor of science in computer en- gineering and business management from the Univer- sity of California, Santa Cruz. Mincey is currently a patent examiner, and he votes at the Lee Center pre- cinct.	\$250 from Willie James Mincey \$219 from Jermaine Mincey	WON'T SAY	WON'T SAY	WON'T SAY	WON'T SAY

The **Arlandria** redevelopment of the Mount Vernon Center increased the allowable density at a strip mall site, where plans call for a large-scale building that has residences and ground-level retail. Critics say it will push out low-income people who live there now. Candidates were asked if they would have voted yes or no on the Dec. 17, 2011 docket item for redevelopment in Arlandria.

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**Corridor C** is a transit corridor that will be constructed on the West End, one of three transit corridors planned in the city. Critics say the scale of the road is too wide, and that trees will have to be removed to benefit people who don't live in the neighborhood. Candidates were asked if they would have voted yes or no on the Sept. 17, 2011 docket item for the creation of Corridor C on the West End.

### Opinion

From Page 10 is providing.

**Poul Hertel** Alexandria

### Exceptional Candidate

To the Editor:

We have an important election facing us on Nov. 6. In addition to candidates on the national level, Alexandria will be electing its next City Council. The council will have at least two members who are not currently serving, and the city faces a number of critical issues that will affect our citizens for many years to come.

I have known John Taylor Chapman for many years and have had the great privilege of serving with John on the executive committee of the Taylor Run Citizens Association. I believe that John would make an excellent member of the City Council and serve our community well.

John is extremely energetic and dedicated to the people of our community. As former NAACP president and youth policy commission vice-chairman, John has become a vital part of Alexandria's community. He also has a strong background in education, having served as the director of an after-school program in a public school system. I have found to John to display not only judgment and intelligence, but perhaps most importantly, character and caring for the community.

Over the next few days, candidates will be knocking on doors and calling our residents by telephone. I believe that John Chapman would be an exceptional addition to the Council and ask that everyone, including the Gazette, give his candidacy their strongest consideration.

> Michael H. Cook Alexandria

### Bi-Partisan Leadership

To the Editor:

I want to encourage my fellow Alexandrians to vote for Frank Fannon for Alexandria City Council on Nov. 6. Frank has set an example of bi-partisan leadership in the Alexandria City Council and has been the fresh, new voice needed for so long.

As a new mother, I strongly feel we need forward-looking leaders who understand our priorities as a city and can find common ground solutions to complex problems, especially in regards to our school system. Investing wisely in our education system in particular is a top priority for Frank. He has made it clear that he understands how to preserve and continue to build a solid school system that we can not only be proud of, but confident that we are providing the best education possible to our children.

During the City Council debates this fall, Frank has had an impressive command of the facts and succinctly communicated the solutions to many of the areas problems. He was head and shoulders above the rest of the candidates in his knowledge-base, combined with his record of leadership on 

#### 'Energize Alexandria'

More than 100 volunteers spread out around the City of Alexandria on Saturday, Oct. 27 to do energy upgrades for 25 low-income and elderly homeowners to help them save money and live healthier as part of Rebuilding Together Alexandria's Energize Alexandria event. One of the homes belonged to an 83-year-old Alexandria resident a widower, retired steamfitter and veteran.

key issues.

Frank is a lifelong Alexandrian and successful businessman who has proven during his first term that he recognizes the needs of our city and will work tirelessly with his colleagues to continue to improve it. He has served us well since being elected in 2009.

A win for Frank Fannon's candidacy is a win for the entire city of Alexandria.

**Lindsey Paulsen** Alexandria

#### Former Board Chairs Endorse

To the Editor:

We, as former School Board chairs, enthusiastically encourage Alexandria voters in District B to re-elect Marc Williams to the Alexandria School Board. Marc has served on the board for the past four years and, with a minimum of six new members on the board, it is important to maintain the experience and continuity that Marc brings in order to continue the progress that has been made in raising student achievement throughout ACPS. Marc is a consensus builder, proven leader and dedicated School Board member who has demonstrated his commitment to programs and curriculum that challenge and meet the needs of all our students.

Marc and his family have lived in Alexandria for over 20 years. His oldest son recently graduated from T. C. Williams High School, his younger son is currently at T.C. Williams and his daughter attends George Washington Middle School. More information about Marc can be found on his website www.marcwilliamsforschoolboard.com.

Melvin Miller served on the School Board for seven years and as chair from 1983-85 at a challenging time to further the excellence of public education in Alexandria. Carlyle C. ("Connie") Ring was on the School Board during the exciting changes portrayed in the movie "Remember the Titans" and served as chair from 1976-78.

We know the qualities that make a good School Board member and our choice is Marc Williams.

> **A. Melvin Miller** Carlyle C. (Connie) Ring

### Lack of Oversight

To the Editor:

The mayoral election is an opportunity to determine the future culture of leadership in the City of Alexandria. For six years, on behalf of several community organizations, I've attempted to get City Council members and city government managers to address a number of problems that impact our community in the Seminary Hills area. We have sought assistance to solve problems with illegal land uses, storm water, crime, crowds, traffic and human rights on public and private lands. My neighbors and I have been met with disinterest, disrespect, reluctance and disdain from city managers.

After years of letter writing, testifying and meetings elected officials took some action. The mayor and City Council delegated tasks, and funds to city managers with little or no oversight. These city managers believe that they are experts hired by the city and they know best for communities. More often than not they design actions without, or with limited, public involvement and seem to resent questions or comments from residents on the solutions that they put forward. Unfortunately this behavior increasingly becomes the norm breeding distrust, uncertainty and tension between citizens and their government. Often called "the Alexandria way" this culture of the way things are done leaves many feeling beatdown, helpless or, angry. Pro-forma public involvement often reinforces the paternal leadership style which exists now

The City of Alexandria government needs to be a non-partisan advocate for the citizens it serves in words and deeds. Although well-intentioned Mayor Euille has neglected this aspect of the leadership that he provides. A change in the culture of city government and leadership is needed. Electing Andrew Macdonald Mayor is a way to improve the relationship between the city toward its residents and build a stronger city for the future.

> J. Glenn Eugster Alexandria

### Analytical Skills Needed

To the Editor:

"If not now, when?" - A 40 year Alexandria citizen and life-long Democrat, I must abandon one claim (only within this city) to preserve the other. Clinging to the claim of "citizen", I cannot vote for any of the BRAC Five, all Democrats (Euille, Pepper, Wilson, Lovain, Smedberg). I find their positions on development destructive to the essential character of our city - putting at risk our heritage and keys to our future economic prosperity. At one debate I heard four of them attribute their BRAC position in part to being misled by city staff's presentations. Tantamount to an admittance of poor analytical skills and/or their ability to assert true leadership, their "excuse" is unacceptable. Might these flaws explain their advocacy for shortsighted and damaging positions on development from the waterfront to the west end?

At this precarious point in our history, I will vote for candidates who might have a chance at healing the wounds created in the last two years — those who will listen, challenge, scientifically analyze, integrate, and seek to bring us, the citizens of this city, together while moving us forward. Three of those candidates are Andrew Macdonald for Mayor, Allison Silberberg and Bob Wood for Council.

> Janet King Citizen of Alexandria

### Stop More Tall Buildings

To the Editor:

The question that should be asked every candidate or City Council or mayor is: What will you do to keep Alexandria from becoming Crystal City?

The essence of Crystal City is tall buildings — office buildings, condominiums, hotels — that tower over people walking along narrow sidewalks below.

The expansion of this type of Crystal City development into Alexandria is most evident driving south along Route 1 past the rapidly rising Potomac Yard development and on down Henry Street past the large buildings now being built or built recently at Pendleton Street, Oronoco Street, and

> See Letters, Page 19 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Ray! Features

hardwood floors, fresh paint, new AC & more! No detail overlooked & fantastic workmanship throughout! 2 side-by-side parking spots, fully-fenced yard and great back deck! Walk to Metro!

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\$495,000 Alexandria PENTHOUSE! ONE BEDROOM PLUS DEN. Maple hardwood floors throughout. Balcony off of Master Bedroom with Courtyard view! Granite counters and Stainless Steel Appliances, Wall-Mounted Plasma TV, 42" Maple Cabinets and Wine Rack, Washer Dyer in unit. Parking Space and storage included will convey. Party Room and Fitness Center. Walk to Metro and King St. 525 Fayette Street #622 <sup>5t.</sup> 525 Fayette Street #622 *Gary Chute* 703-371-9926



Alexandria/Old Town \$599,900 ALL-NEW OLD TOWN CHARM. You will love the 60K+ of updates in past 4 yrs, incl wood floors, windows, kitchen, heat pump, and the 2.5 BA's. Reserved parking and private brick patio. Fabulous location w/in blocks of Metro, King St, gournet groceries, shops and restaurants. 708 Wilkes Street Cindy and Leslie 703-594-1418



Belle Haven \$749,000 Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with a versatile floor plan situated on a lovely landscaped lot. Spacious living room with fireplace and formal dining room. Main level family room and large home office/Den. 3 main level bedrooms including 1 with bath en suite. Private upper level Owner's Suite with sitting room and full bath. 2210 Fordham Drive Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$619.000 Charming brick beauty located "right in the middle of the city" in the ultimate private .38 acre setting. Gated garden entrance opens to a roofed deck with skylights. Recently remodeled kitchen and baths. Contemporary feel and option for one-level living with a wonderful flow for entertaining. 905 Kemper Street 905 Kemper Street Mary Smith 703-626-9207



Old Town \$795,000 Walk to the riverfront bike trails, cafés & 2 schools from this delightful 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath detached home. Heart-of-town location. 718 South Fairfax Street Diann Hicks

703-628-2440

Alexandria/ **Cameron Station** \$427,000 This one has it all! Amazing 2-level town house-style condo with loads of recent updates! Open floor plan with soaring ceilings & gas FP. New hardwood floors, carpeting, granite, designer paint and more! Garage + assigned space. Shuttle to Metro, pool, fitness center & more! 459 Cameron Station Boulevard Erika Carroll 703-568-7376



Alexandria/Del Ray Alexandria/Del Ray 5/69,900 Unique detached craftsman-style farmhouse on spacious corner lot features a welcoming front porch, updated kitchen, master bedroom with soaring ceilings, large back deck, detached garage and driveway for convenient off-street parking. One block from shops, restaurants and farmers' market in Del Ray. www.HomesofAlexandria.com 301 Windsor Avenue E. Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213

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has radiant heated concrete floor. Hardwoods thruout. Full height basement ready to be finished! 1-year Home Warranty. Alexandria Times Home of the Week! 100 Maple Street East Week! 100 Maple Street East Phil Cefaratti 703-371-7601





home office, full bath and bonus room that is ideal for guests! Updated baths, new windows & off-street parking <sup>ing.</sup> 11 W. Glendale Avenue Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$514,900 One of the largest Town Homes inside the Beltway. Brick, garage, 3,400+ sq. ft. 4 levels, 3 bedrooms, 3.5+.5 baths, freshly painted, new carpet, great stor-age. Best Buy! 5202 Bedlington Terrace Nancie Williams 703-608-6959 Julie Hall 703-786-3634



FABULOUS VALUE IN THE HEART OF MT. VERNON! Charming Cape Cod on a half acre with a solidly-built two-car garage. Ready to live in with a little TLC and improve as you go. Oak floors on two levels (even the kitchen), 3 bedrooms, 3 levels, circular driveway; freshly painted. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir, G.W. Pkwy, Metro, I-495, Old Town. 8409 Mount Vernon Highway 8409 Mount Vernon Highway Cindy and Leslie703-593-1418

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Stately, spacious colonial in Riverview at Mount Vernon. Enjoy Potomac River views from all three levels. Four bedroom, five full baths on private cul-de-sac, 1/2 acre and over 5,000 sq ft w/ high ceil-

> ings and fine woodworking throughout, large lower level rec room with full bath, 3 fireplaces, + storage and 2 car garage. ~ \$1,395,000

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#### **Open Sunday in Mt. Vernon**



Best value in Mt. Vernon. Traditional center hall colonial with morning room addition. High ceilings, open

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#### Live Life on the Water



Resort Living on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River from every room! Idvllic for relaxation with all the luxurious modern touches. Grand entertainment areas inside and outside w/ pool and cabana. Impressive









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Pristine stone cottage from the country side of France, Fully Renovated and modernized while maintaining all the original charm. Sited on 1/2 acre featuring a new chef's kitchen. master retreat with stone bath. Wood and stone floors throughout.

Enjoy the lush landscaped exterior, breezeway to new cedar 2 car carport, and flagstone terrace. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. ~\$875,000

8316 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

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4.5 baths on 3 fully finished levels sited on a half acre. Large kitchen opens to family room and spacious private deck. 2 car attached garage, brick on 3 sides formal living and dining rooms + office. 3 fire-

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with custom colo-

nials Over 4600

feet. 4 bedrooms,

finished square

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#### Just Listed In Fort Hunt!



Southern colonial with all the bells and whistles, 6+ BRs, 5.5 baths,3 car garage, pool, over 7000 sq ft on 1/2.Wide plank



HW on main/upper levels. Cooks kitchen w/ gas 6 burner stove, 3 ovens, 2 sinks and 2 dishwasher, pantry & breakfast bar. Main + Upper level master large play/bonus room. Custom

1604 River Farm Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

#### Gorgeous in Wellington



The feeling of country living on over half an acre just off East Boulevard Drive on private cul-de-sac. Five bedrooms, 4.5 baths, on 3 fully finished levels spanning almost 4000 finished square feet. Large rooms, great flow, stunning kitchen renovation, overlooking huge family room and quite back yard with multi tier deck perfect for entertaining.~ \$1,497,000

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#### **NEW PRICE on WATER!**





New construction by Boucher Builders to be built along peaceful Hunting Creek with boating access to the Potomac River. Lot size of .35 acres with water frontage of over 98 feet. Several floor plans to

choose from. Four bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, with two car garage. Upper level features study, loft space and wet bar leading out to deck which overlooks the water. Customize your dream home ~ starting at \$1,350,000

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310 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703.518.8300

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### understated waterfront home with a million

dollar view in peaceful Mt. Vernon Community. 1.29 acres, stone patio overlooking brand new 160 foot dock. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 car garage, 2 fireplaces. \$1,280,000 + Three Other Options to choose from

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### Opinion **Caring for Seniors**

By Mary Lee Anderson Resource Center Director

ust a few years ago, one phone call changed our lives forever. As parents of two young girls, we were busy with our lives — work, preschool, plans for summer vacation: the usual daily routine. The call that turned our

Senior Services lives upside Of Alexandria down came from the

neighbor of my mother-in-law in Florida. They were concerned that she had been getting lost while driving to the store, and wanted to be sure we knew there was a serious problem.

Just a few weeks later, I found myself visiting assisted living and retirement communities in Alexandria and helping her move back up north. Together, we navigated a whole new world of estate planning, Medicare, military benefits and memory loss. Increasingly, we turned to friends who had been through similar experiences with their parents for advice, guidance and support.

We learned that we live in a great area for seniors and uncov-



ered many resources available to our family. It took a lot of time and patience, but eventually we felt like

"experts" in the field.

The next Senior Services of Alexandria Speaker Series event would have been a real lifesaver for us. On Nov. 10, a panel of local experts will be talking about "Caregiver Support" and the local resources available to help family and friends care for their loved one and for themselves. Representatives from AARP, the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Geriatric Care Management, Inova Alexandria Hospital, SSA, and Synergy HomeCare will share information about how to plan ahead, deal with immediate care issues, and get some helpful tools to make life easier for everyone concerned.

The event will be Saturday, Nov. 10, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 South Fairfax Street. Free and open to the public, but seating is limited. RSVP at 703-836-4414, ext. 10 or seniorservicesalex.org.

# POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT TIM KAINE FOR U.S. SENATE **ENDORSED BY MARK WARNER**



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- SECURING EQUAL PAY: They will work to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to help guarantee women equality in the workplace.
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1 KaineForVA.com



"I need a partner to help me get spending under control and our economy back on track. That's why Virginia needs Tim Kaine in the U.S. Senate."

Mak R Warney

Paid for by Kaine for Virginia

#### From Page 14

one block west on Fayette.

But the spread of Crystal City-type development is evident also in the BRAC building, the proposed Beauregard Small-Area Plan, and even the Waterfront Plan.

All over the city smaller, more humanscale buildings are being replaced by highrises. What will you do as City Council member or mayor to stop this trend?

> Ted Pulliam Alexandria

### Committed And Energetic

To the Editor:

Allison Silberberg is running for City Council and would be an outstanding new voice for this great city. From the very beginning when I met Allison in August, I was immediately struck with her energy, sincerity, and handle on the issues I see as important to Alexandria: fiscal responsibility, opposing the waterfront development plan, and school needs.

As a public defender, I value and see the impact of community service in my own work. I also appreciate the difficulties inherent in balancing such service with professional demands. Allison's continuous service to her community has informed her entire career — and that is what solidified for me the desire to help her campaign as a volunteer.

Allison has demonstrated the rare capability of balancing professional success with sustained leadership in service to the community around her: from founding a film program for teens in Anacostia in the early '90s, to creating a monthly charitable event for nearly a decade to benefit local nonprofits, to chairing Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Commission, advocating for Alexandria's most vulnerable and initiating an annual public service day, "All Hands on Deck," to make-over local nonprofits.

Allison Silberberg is the real thing, the kind of person any community should clamor to have representing it.

Her enthusiasm is matched by her smarts, her compassion and approachability. Following her through the Old Town Trader Joe's as we both did last minute shopping before the hurricane, she was greeted by at least 10 people, including many employees — and these were not passing "hellos." She knows everyone by name, and they stop to talk with her, just to catch up: this isn't campaign politics; it is simple human contact with neighbors and friends.

Allison demonstrates the intelligent, reasoned thinking the city needs at this time. Hard-working and focused, she will bring to the table her experience in public policy, as well as her unbridled passion for this city, its people, and the issues that we are confronting. Given Allison's admirable professional and community record, in electing her we can rest comfortably knowing that we will have a committed, energetic and intelligent new voice on the city council.

Suzanne Lachelier Alexandria

### Accountability Via Elections

To the Editor:

The pundits and the press talk about how important the issue of education is in this election, but it is not just at the national level.

People throughout Alexandria are concerned about the quality of Alexandria's educational system. They are concerned about capacity for students. They are concerned about the quality of the staff. They are concerned about the fiscal responsibility and accountability of Alexandria's educational system.

Elections are about accountability. Each election we hold our representatives accountable for their statements and their actions.

Just last week, this newspaper reported on another important issue — how to best educate students with disabilities in Alexandria. That article reported how Alexandria has always had difficulty doing this, how progress has been slow and how the Virginia Department of Education found several areas were Alexandria City Public Schools was not meeting the needs of its special education population. One of the candidates running for School Board stated that the Administration had been able to get away with many things because there has not been "enough focus on it."

Focus and accountability: Just as the school system expects it from their students, parents expect it from the school leadership. That's why the public debates for Alexandria City Council and for Alexandria School Board are very important. News reports flood our eyes with ideas about education issues — from the importance of parents, to the role of charter schools, to new parent trigger laws cropping up in other states, to the use of technology in the classroom — there is so much out there and it needs to be discussed and debated.

School Board members have many responsibilities — from budget preparation to curriculum development to salary structure benefits — and one of the reasons why Alexandrians scrapped their appointed school board years ago and chose an elected school board was the belief that an elected school board would provide for a more accountable school system.

In a recent OpEd in this paper, Dr. Mort Sherman, the superintendent of schools in Alexandria stated the "commitment to educating the children of our democracy remains our priority."

Everyone's vote this election on Nov. 6 is important, not because educating the children of Alexandria is important, but because it's about holding Dr. Sherman accountable to those words.

**Michael J. Carrasco** 

### BRAC Albatross

To the Editor:

On March 25, 2009, Mayor Euille, Council members Del Pepper, Paul Smedberg, Justin Wilson as well as Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks, appeared before my civic

See Letters, Page 28

# Nov. 6 Vote Jim Moran



"I am honored to represent Virginia's 8th District. I work hard to be deserving of this privilege because I believe deeply in the American dream and in the essential role the Federal Government can serve in the fulfillment of that dream. Well-paying jobs, world-class schools, and a clean, healthy environment are what matter most. That's what motivates me to work for you."

- Congressman Jim Moran

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new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hardwood firs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and 2 oversize 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price! OPEN SUN, 11/4, 1-4! From 395, Seminary Rd E; R-N. Pickett; R-Pegram; R-Polk.

gourmet kitchen, new baths, open floor plan, 4BRs, hdwd firs,

distinctive front porch entry, huge exterior deck, garage and extra

parking, Unique opportunity! OPEN SUN 11/4, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-

August 121 and the second



#### 3618 Old Vernon Ct \$839,000 Stately Columned Colonial! abulous opportunity! Spacious 5BR Colonial with updated modern floor

plan. Numerous features include: high ceilings, 3 finished levels, stunning master suite, custom built-ins and oversize two car garage. Prime location on large, fenced lot fronting quiet culde-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Nothing like it on market at close to this price. OPEN SUN, 11/4, 1-4! GW Pkw S, past Estate; R-Old Mt. Vernon Rd; R-Old Vernon Ct



8313 Mount Vernon Hwy \$789,000 Brand New! Amazing Price! Brand new home opportunity in prime Mt. Vernon location by Wakefield Homes Custom home with many

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\$525,000

Spacious Contemporary!

One Level Living!

One of Stratford's largest

contemporary models

featuring striking open

loor plan with 4-5

modern amenities and upgrades. Features include: expanded master bedroom suite, front porch, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 2 car garage. Fabulous new home amenities combined with convenience of a prime Mt. Vernon location.

bedrooms & exceptionally large room sizes. Numerous updates

include roof, thermal windows, water heater & electrical. Features

include large deck with hot tub, private rear deck & covered parking.



#### 1250 S. Washington St Porto Vecchio #824 \$599,000 Best Value!

Spacious residence with breathtaking panoramic river views from every major room Special

features include: glass walled great room, luxury MBR, marble foyer, & bright white kit. Elevated views of bridge & National Harbor. Unique opportunity-typically units with similar combination of views & elevation cost thousands more



9317 Old Mansion Rd \$859,000 Stunning Colonial with **River Views in** Riverfront Community! Classic colonial tastefully expanded and landscaped. One of area's most distinctive

properties! Fab features: 3 fin levels, expanded custom kitchen opening to sunroom and elevated stone terrace overlooking garden. Master suite with dual granite vanities, separate shower & whirlpool tub. 4BR, 3.5BA, 2FP and oversize 2 car garage. Lower level game room and exercise room. Community path to river access.









closet. Bosh W/D in unit! Granite kitchen counters, SS

appliances, breakfast bar, separate dining room, freshly

paint. All Size Pets Welcome- up to 2. CF includes All

Kendra Carey 703.887.2117

Utilities, parking space for rent.

\$ 799,900 Alexandria GRACIOUS LIVING Move right in! Pristine

spacious 3 level Colonial with top quality finishes offers 4BR/35BA, formal living and dining rooms, aupair suite, 2 fireplaces and



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conveys + extra walk-in



details.

closets, 2 garage spaces.



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# **Proposed Constitutional** Amendments

### To be voted on at the November 6, 2012 Election

Full text of Amendment [Proposed new language is underlined. Existing language that is deleted is shown as stricken (stricken)]

#### Article I. Bill of Rights. 1

Section 11. Due process of law; obligation of contracts; taking of private property; prohibited discrimination; jury trial in civil cases.

#### **BALLOT QUESTION**

Shall Section 11 of Article I (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to require that eminent domain only be exercised where the property taken or damaged is for public use and, except for utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance, not where the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development; (ii) to define what is included in just compensation for such taking or damaging of property; and (iii) to prohibit the taking or damaging of more private property than is necessary for the public use?

#### EXPLANATION

#### **Current Constitution and Background**

Article I, Section 11 of the current Constitution prohibits the taking or damaging of private property for public uses without just compensation. The power to take private property for public uses is known as the power of eminent domain. If a private property owner and the entity acquiring property for a public use cannot agree on the sale of the property, the property may be taken by eminent domain and the amount of just compensation is decided in a court proceeding.

In a 2005 case from Connecticut, the United States Supreme Court upheld the taking of private property and its transfer to a private business for economic development purposes and also said that states could restrict the use of eminent domain (Kelo v. City of New London, 545 U.S. 469).-Two years later, the Virginia General Assembly enacted § 1-219.1 of the Code of Virginia and set limits on the use of eminent domain powers. For example, § 1-219.1 provides that no more private property may be taken than is necessary for the stated public use, that the public interest for the taking must outweigh any private gain, and that private property cannot be taken for certain primary purposes such as increasing the tax base, revenues, or employment.

#### **Proposed Amendment**

The proposed constitutional amendment continues the approach and concepts set out in § 1-219.1. However, while limits in the Code can be amended by any future General Assembly, the proposed amendment, if approved by the voters, could only be changed by a future constitutional

amendment approved by the voters.

The proposed amendment includes the following:

- · The right to private property is a "fundamental" right. The taking or damaging of private property must be for a "public use."
- · No more property may be taken or damaged than is necessary for the stated public use.
- A "public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services." Elimination of a public nuisance may be a public use. It is not a public use if the "primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development."
- Just compensation for property taken is expanded and defined to be "no less than the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking." The terms "lost profits" and "lost access" are to be defined by the General Assembly, and it has done so by separate legislation that will become law if this proposed amendment is approved by the voters (Chapters 699 and 719, 2012 Acts of Assembly).
- The entity condemning property, known as the condemnor, has the burden to prove that the property is being taken for a public use.

Amend Section 11 of Article I of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

#### Article I. Bill of Rights

Section 11. Due process of law; obligation of contracts; taking or damaging of private property; prohibited discrimination; jury trial in civil cases.

Are You Election Ready? A new Virginia Voter ID law requires one acceptable form of identification to vote.

me and address

in the Conn

Valid Student ID from any

Acceptable forms of ID include:

- ★ Your Voter Registration Card ★ Valid Virginia Driver's License or ID
- ★ 1D Issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, a Political Subdivision, or the U.S. Govern
- ★ For additional acceptable forms of ID, Current utility bill, bank statement visit www.sbe.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-552-9745. or government check with current

Deadline to Register to vote institution of higher learning October 15, 2012 wealth of Virginia **General Electio** 

November 6, 2012

That no person shall be deprived of his life, liberty, or property without due process of law; that the General Assembly shall not pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, nor any law whereby private property shall be taken or damaged for public uses, without just compensation, the term "public uses" to be defined by the General Assembly; and that the right to be free from any governmental discrimination upon the basis of religious conviction, race, color, sex, or national origin shall not be abridged, except that the mere separation of the sexes shall not be considered discrimination.

That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, trial by jury is preferable to any other, and ought to be held sacred. The General Assembly may limit the number of jurors for civil cases in courts of record to not less than five.

That the General Assembly shall pass no law whereby private property, the right to which is fundamental, shall be damaged or taken except for public use. No private property shall be damaged or taken for public use without just compensation to the owner thereof. No more private property may be taken than necessary to achieve the stated public use. Just compensation shall be no less than the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking. The terms "lost profits" and "lost access" are to be defined by the General Assembly. A public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services. In all other cases, a taking or damaging of private property is not for public use if the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development, except for the elimination of a public nuisance existing on the property. The condemnor bears the burden of proving that the use is public, without a presumption that it is.

.....

Voter Registration Cards will be mailed to registered voters in late-September. Virginia citizens have until October 15, 2012 to apply to register to vote or update their registration information. If you have questions please call the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-





# Proposed Constitutional Amendments

### To be voted on at the November 6, 2012 Election

Full text of Amendment [Proposed new language is underlined. Existing language that is deleted is shown as stricken (stricken)]

### 2 Article IV. Legislature.

Section 6. Legislative sessions.

#### **BALLOT QUESTION**

Shall Section 6 of Article IV (Legislature) of the Constitution of Virginia concerning legislative sessions be amended to allow the General Assembly to delay by no more than one week the fixed starting date for the reconvened or "veto" session when the General Assembly meets after a session to consider the bills returned to it by the Governor with vetoes or amendments?

#### EXPLANATION

**Current Constitution and Background** 

After the end of every legislative session, the General Assembly is required by the Constitution to meet again or reconvene in a "veto" session. The only bills that the General Assembly can consider in a veto session are bills that it had passed during the legislative session and that the Governor has sent back to it with his vetoes or suggested amendments.

The Constitution now requires that the veto session must begin on the sixth Wednesday following the end of each session. The veto session usually lasts for only one day and cannot last more than ten days.

#### **Proposed Amendment**

The only change to Section 6 of Article IV, proposed by this amendment will allow the General Assembly to delay the start of the veto session for up to one week. The General Assembly will be able to avoid the possible scheduling of the veto session on a religious holiday such as Passover. The proposed amendment does not change the present limits on the business that can be considered in a veto session or on the length of the veto session. Amend Section 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

### Article IV. Legislature Section 6. Legislative sessions.

The General Assembly shall meet once each year on the second Wednesday in January. Except as herein provided for reconvened sessions, no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an even-numbered year shall continue longer than sixty days; no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an odd-numbered year shall continue longer than thirty days; but with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected to each house, any regular session may be extended for a period not exceeding thirty days. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn to another place, nor for more than three days.

The Governor may convene a special session of the General Assembly when, in his opinion, the interest of the Commonwealth may require and shall convene a special session upon the application of two-thirds of the members elected to each house.

The General Assembly shall reconvene on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of each regular or special session for the purpose of considering bills which may have been returned by the Governor with recommendations for their amendment and bills and items of appropriation bills which may have been returned by the Governor with his objections. No other business shall be considered at a reconvened session. Such reconvened session shall not continue longer than three days unless the session be extended, for a period not exceeding seven additional days, upon the vote of the majority of the members elected to each house. The General Assembly may provide, by a joint resolution approved during a regular or special session by the vote of the majority of the members elected to each house, that it shall reconvene on a date after the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of the regular or special session but no later than the seventh Wednesday after adjournment.

### Are You Election Ready?

★ Current utility bill, bank statement

Valid Student ID from any

institution of higher learning

in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

name and address

or government check with current

A new Virginia Voter ID law requires one acceptable form of identification to vote. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- ★ Your Voter Registration Card
- ★ Valid Virginia Driver's License or ID Card
- ★ ID Issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, a Political Subdivision, or the U.S. Government

★ For additional acceptable forms of ID, visit www.sbe.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-552-9745.

> Deadline to Register to vote October 15, 2012

General Election November 6, 2012 Voter Registration Cards will be mailed to registered voters in late-September. Virginia citizens have until October 15, 2012 to apply to register to vote or update their registration information. If you have questions, please call the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745.







### Living in Abundance

#### Learn about spiritual abundance and its benefits

International speaker, Evan Mehlenbacher, is a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing and a member of the Christian Science **Board of Lectureship.** 

Saturday, Nov 3, 2012 at 2:00pm at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St, Alexandria. VA

Thanks to this light fixture, a foundation was dug to a new home.

This used light fixture was donated **ReStore.** 

It was purchased at the ReStore for \$35 to help refurnish a kitchen.

This \$35 will go toward digging a foundation for a home for a family in need in Northern Virginia.



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### Obituary Ernest (Ernie) J. Colton

Ernest (Ernie) J. Colton, 96, of Springfield, died on Oct. 25, 2012 at Greensprings Retirement Community's Renaissance Gardens. He was the husband of Ruth Litten Colton who preceded him in death along with his parents, brother and other aunts and uncles. Survivors include his son David Martin Colton, daughter-inlaw Cheryl Anne and granddaughter Alexis FuBao from Alexandria, and daughter Esther Joanna Colton from Berlin, Germany.

Ernie came to the United States in the late 1930s from Germany and joined the U.S. Army. A World War II Veteran, Ernie served in Germany and the United States. Ernie served in the U.S. Information Agency as a Foreign Service officer with assignments in Bremen, Hamburg, Munich, Vienna, Cape Town, Berlin and Freiburg.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. at Temple Beth El, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Interment will be at Home of Peace Cemetery, Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Ernest J. Colton to: the United States Holo-Museum (http:// caust act.ushmm.org/page/s/tributecard) Arrangements are handled by Jefferson Funeral Home.

#### Bulletin Board

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

#### **THURSDAY/NOV. 1**

Free Parenting Seminar. 7-9 p.m. Jodi Sleeper-Triplett, founder of the movement for ADHD coaching for youth, will present seminar on ADHD Coaching Strategies for Parents" in Room 348A at the George Washington Middle School Campus. The Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Family Resource Center and Alexandria City Public Schools Office of Special Education Services are sponsoring the event. To RSVP, contact Mónica Sanjur at 703-824-0129.

#### THROUGH NOV. 3

Birth Center 25th Anniversary. 1-5 p.m. BirthCare and Women's Health, a practice of certified nurse-midwives supporting families who choose to give birth outside of the hospital, will celebrate 25 years of service to the community. The celebration will be held in the U.S. Patent and Trade Office Atrium located at 600 Dulany St. Free and open to the public. Visit www.birthcare.org

#### **MONDAY/NOV. 5**

Camp Dinner Meeting. 6:30 p.m. The R.E. Lee Camp will host its dinner meeting at the American

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# Entertainment

# Voices From The Past

### 'Cantorial' debuts at Little Theatre of Alexandria.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

fter moving into a new condominium, a young couple begins to hear eerie, hauntingly beautiful Hebrew singing. Unbeknownst to them, their Lower East Side condo is a former synagogue haunted by the ghost of its Cantor.

From the author of "Rosemary's Baby," "The Stepford Wives" and the Tony-nominated "Deathtrap" is "Cantorial," the Ira Levin play now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

"I was first introduced to the works of Ira Levin in fourth grade through a cousin who loved horror novels," said director C. Evans Kirk. "Rosemary's Baby' was a must read. You can only imagine the letter home to my parents from the school concerning my

#### Calendar

E-mail announcements to gazette@ connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

#### **THROUGH NOV. 4**

Art Exhibition. Día de los Muertos: The Art of Remembrance - Exhibition & Celebration. There will be a Costume and Dance Party on Friday, Nov. 2, 8-11 p.m.. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at door, or two for \$35. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedo factory.org/dayofthedead.

#### **THURSDAY/NOV. 1**

6th Annual Alexandria Film Festival. The festival brings highquality short and feature length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels and arts presentations to Alexandria. Presented by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts from Nov. 1-4. Call 703-746-5592

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 2

- Día de los Muertos Costume & Presentation of the 4th annual Day of the Dead extravaganza featuring an exhibition of artist-made altars and a festive Costume & Dance Party. Admission: Advance \$15; Door: \$20 or two for \$35 (Tickets \$10 each with a student ID). Torpedo Factory Art
- Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565.
- www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

choice of reading. My mom's response was, 'You mean he's actually reading a book!""

The award-winning director is no stranger to hair-raising plots, having directed productions of Stephen King's "Misery," Shirley Jackson's "The Haunting of Hill House" and Bram Stoker's "Dracula."

"I was excited at the prospect of adding a work by Levin to my résumé," Kirk said. "And as I read 'Cantorial' for the first time, I kept turning the page waiting for that moment like Rosemary walking down the long hallway to see her baby for the first time. I don't think I'm giving anything away by stating that the moment never came!"

Kirk has assembled a nimble cast led by Heather Benjamin, Josh Franklin and James Myers. The competent cast is rounded out by Fe Vivas Patriciu, Steve Rosenthal and LTA favorite John Shackleford.

"Yes, this is a ghost story, but only because there's a ghost in it," Kirk said. "Instead of horror, suspense or espionage, Levin has given us a personal journey...a story of an adopted boy searching for his missing link."

The synagogue turned condo originally opened in 1896. With the help of an old Jewish grocer, also a former member of the congregation, the new owners learn that the words most often sung mean "Build your house the way it was." Not always in sync, they set about uncovering the beauty and history that lies beneath the walls of their home.

"The world we live in is enchanted and mysterious," Kirk said. "It is not a symbol or a metaphor. However, we often make up symbols and metaphors to explain the unknown. In fiction, it may be hard to believe in vampires and time travel, so it becomes a work of horror and science fiction."

Drumathon. 4 p.m. Join Good

Shepherd Housing and the Hollin

and awareness for the homeless.

Each drumbeat can help Good

4,000 participants in Help the Homeless events, earning a bonus of

Hall Senior Center to help raise funds

Shepherd Housing reach the goal of

\$50,000 for our work in preventing

and ending homelessness. The event

will take place at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd.

Community Theater will be holding

Audition. 6-9 p.m. Aldersgate Church

auditions for "Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr." Children ages 8-18.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS/NOV. 2-7

Alexandria's award-winning theatre

season with the regional community

performance on Tuesday, Nov. 13

available on Nov. 10 & 17 at 2 p.m.

Port City Playhouse performs at The

Lab at Convergence, located at 1819

N. Quaker Ln. General admission

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 2-3

Play. 7:30 p.m. St. Stephen's & St Agnes

School will perform the drama, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." The

play is based on the works of art and

poetry by Jewish children who lived

in the World War II concentration

tickets are \$14-18. Visit

portcityplayhouse.org.

too. Saturday matinees will be

company continues its 2012-13

theatre premiere of The Soul Collector. There will be a

Visit www.acctonline.org.

Port City Playhouse. 8 p.m.



James Myers (Warren Ives) and Heather Benjamin (Lesley Rosen) play new homeowners who hear the chants of a Jewish cantor in the LTA production of "Cantorial," through Nov. 17 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

The mesmeric play seeks to resolve many questions: What will happen to the couple as the obsession of one partner stresses the relationship? What will happen to the apartment? And-of course-how will this all be resolved?

"Do you believe in angels and miracles?" Kirk said. "If so, do you actually see them and are they a part of your everyday life? In magical realism, writers write the ordinary as miraculous and the miraculous as ordinary. As Freud might have said, 'Sometime a ghost is just a ghost.' There is no answer; you just believe. I hope the audience enjoys this production of 'Cantorial' as much as I have enjoyed working on it."

"Cantorial" is playing now through Nov. 17 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

camp of Theresienstadt, and centers around Raja, a child who survived to tell her story. Performed by the Cappies award-winning Stage One Players. Matinee performance is on Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road Tickets are \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/ arts or call 703-212-2950.

#### **THROUGH NOV. 2**

Death Comes to Carlyle House. To commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the death of John Carlyle, Carlyle House presents an exhibit on the mourning practices of 18th-century Virginia through the experience of the Carlyle household. 10 a.m.-4 p.m from Tuesday through Saturday, noon-4 p.m on Sunday. Admission: \$5/adults, \$3/children, Free for members. Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Call 703-549-2997.

#### **NOV. 2 THROUGH 25**

Photography exhibition: "Telling Images." Opening reception is Nov. 2, 7-10 p.m. See photographic

techniques and interpretations that tell a story without words. Call 703-960-3873, email jldtifft@cox.net or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

NOV. 2 THROUGH JAN. 24 Watercolors and Collagraph **Prints: African Encounters:** Coast to Coast. The Alexandria Black History Museum will open an exhibition of watercolors and



#### Upheaval at Target

In celebration of Fotoweek DC, the Target Gallery hosts a juried photography exhibition that explores the theme Upheaval, whether in our own lives or throughout the world. Visit on Thursday, Nov. 8, 6-8 p.m. for a reception to meet some of the artists and listen to a gallery talk by juror Brie Castell at 7 p.m.

The exhibition will showcase 16 works by nine artists from across the country, including two local artists, Sascha Hughes-Caley (Great Falls) and Angela Kleis (Arlington). Other selected artists are Therese Brown (CA), Lisa DiLillo (NY), Jodie Mim Goodnough (MA), Annie Hogan (NJ), Matthew Moore (MD), Brandon Pilcher (NY), and Allison Rufrano (NY).

The exhibition runs from Nov. 3-Dec. 2. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. The entire exhibition is online at www.torpedofactory.org/target.

collagraph prints entitled African of Africa, providing a kaleidoscope of Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe St. and is open www.alexblackhistory.org.

#### **SATURDAY/NOV. 3**

p.m. The public is welcome to come and shop. Baked goods and lunch also available for sale. At Cameron United Methodist Church located at 3130 Franconia Rd. Rain or Shine. If you want to be a seller, contact Marilyn by Oct.22 at 703-765-6817 to purchase a table for \$20. Movie: Courageous. 3 p.m. The

movie will be shown in the fellowship hall of Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8600 Plymouth Dr. Refreshments will be served. Audition. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Aldersgate

#### See Calendar, Page 26

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Encounters: Coast to Coast. Artist Kathleen Stafford explores the landscape, architecture, and people variety and color for the eye. Free and open to the public. The from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit

Church-wide Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2





### Calendar

#### From Page 25

Church Community Theater will be holding auditions for "Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr." Children ages 8-18. Visit www.acctonline.org.

#### NOV. 3 THROUGH DEC. 2

Free Art Exhibition. This juried photography exhibition — open to all artists nationally and internationally—explores the theme of upheaval in our personal lives and throughout the world. A reception on Nov. 8, from 6-8 p.m. occurs during 2nd Thursday Art Night and features a talk by juror Brie Castell at 7 p.m. Target Gallery (Studio 2), 105 North Union St. Call 703-838-4565, x4 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 4

Concert. 3 p.m. The American Youth Philharmonic (AYP) and Music Director Daniel Spalding begin the season with "Meet the Orchestra" at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center of Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. The program features Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, narrated by John R. Adams. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), \$10 for college students, free for ages 18 and under, and free for music teachers. Tickets available at the door. Visit www.aypo.org/events.

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 30

**Concert**. 8 p.m. "Music in Motion" at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center will feature the American Youth Concert Orchestra led by J.D. Anderson and the American Youth Symphonic Orchestra led by Carl J. Bianchi with repertoire by Bellini, Tchaikovsky, Luigini, Rimsky-Korsakov, Hardiman, Berlioz, Debussy, Ravel, and Saint-Saëns. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), \$10 for college students, free for ages 18 and under, and free for music teachers. Tickets available at the door. Visit www.aypo.org/events.

#### THROUGH NOV. 4

Pulse4Artists – "4 Ways Of Color" 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Gallery West, 1213 King St. The opening reception will be Saturday, Oct. 13 from 5-7 p.m. Call 703-549-6006 Visit www.Pulse4Artists.com.

**Exhibition of 2D and 3D Artwork**. Featuring ceramic artist Daiva Balkus and photographer Ruth Ann Lowery. At Gallery West, located at 1213 King St. Visit www.gallery-west.info.

#### TUESDAY/NOV. 6

Election Day Dinner. Jackson 20 Chef Brian McPherson has created a three-course, Andrew Jacksoninspired menu, available for \$20 on Election Day for those wearing an "I Voted" sticker. The restaurant is located at 480 King St. Call 703-842-2790 or visit www.jackson20.com or www.facebook.com/Jackson20.

#### NOV 6, 12, 19 & 27 AND DEC. 4, 10 & 18

**Community Singers Wanted**. The West Potomac choirs invite alumni, parents, and community to rehearse and perform Part I (Christmas section) of Handel's Messiah. Rehearse 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Nov. 19; 6:30-9 p.m. through Dec. 18 with orchestra. At West Potomac

#### High School in the Springbank Auditorium. Visit http:// westpotomacchoirs.org.

#### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

- Author Series. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Alma Katsu will talk about The Reckoning, second book of the Taker Trilogy at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1702.
- **Uncorked**. 7-9 p.m. Wine, cheese, and chocolates catered by The Curious Grape and light hors d'oeuvre provided by the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria, with a silent auction. At the home of Stevie and Gardner Gillespie, 2414 Ridge Road Dr. Contact Susan Yonts-Shepard at seysrls@verizon.net or call 703-823-4020.

#### THURSDAY/NOV. 8

- War at the Birchmere. \$49.50. Visit http://war.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.
- Art Night at the Torpedo Factory 6-9 p.m. Free. Browse open studios and galleries, interact with artists, and enjoy refreshments at this free event held on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565.
- Art Focus Group. 7:30- 9 p.m. Making Marks and Making Meaning: Drawing and Early Literacy Connections. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Ln. Call 703-201-1250.

See Calendar, Page 27



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### Calendar

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#### NOV. 8 THROUGH DEC. 3

Free Photography Exhibition. Andrew Zimmermann: Cold River. This solo exhibition of large-format black and white photographs captures the "character of blankness." The opening reception takes place on Nov. 8 from 6:30-8 p.m., during 2nd Thursday Art Night. The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

#### **NOV. 8 THROUGH 25**

Free Exhibition: Blurring the Line. To complement the FotoWeek panel discussion on Nov. 15 surrounding the issues of fine art vs. commercial photography, this exhibition features artwork by the photographers serving on the panel. Site 2 & 3 Galleries, 105 North Union St. Call 703-838 4565, x 4 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 9

Fashion Show. 10:30 a.m. The Board of Lady Managers of Inova Alexandria Hospital will celebrate its 140th anniversary at their Annual Fashion Show, Luncheon and Silent Auction at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital surgical services. Tickets are \$45-\$140. Contact Lynda West at 703-836-8853.

#### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 9-10

Play. 7:30 p.m. St. Stephen's & St Agnes School will perform the drama, " Never Saw Another Butterfly.' Matinee performance is on Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. At St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Rd. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/ arts or 703-212-2950.

#### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 9-11

Alexandria Antiques Show & Sale. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Admission is \$12, \$10 with ad. George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Call 973-927-2794

#### NOV. 9-18

- Oklahoma! Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre, now in its 32nd season, presents Oklahoma, featuring a cast of 43 children and teenagers, ages 8-18. Performances will be held at Bryant Alternative School, 2709 Popkins Ln. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. To purchase online visit www.mvcct.org.
- FotoWeekDC at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Free. In conjunction with the 5th annual FotoWeekDC Festival. The complete schedule is online at www.torpedofactory.org/fotoweek. Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 North Union St.

#### SATURDAY/NOV.10

- Vegan Beauty Workshop. 2-3 p.m. Learn about making cuticle cream, a purse-size winter relief pod, a jar gloss and a lip stick at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1743 to sign up.
- Fort Hunt Preschool Play EXPO and Family Fall Festival. 11 a.m. 2 p.m. The Family Play EXPO and Family Fall Festival will feature lego igineering, vo-vo experts, an obstacle course, nature games, storytelling, and live music. Programs at FHP-a parent cooperativeencourage children to discover, engage, and explore the world around them through vibrant play. Free. At Fort Hunt Preschool grounds, 1909 Windmill Ln. Email alumni@forthuntpreschool.com, or

### www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

### **Refugees from Slavery: Contrabands in** Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia

The National Park Service and the Office of Historic Alexandria will co-sponsor a program called Refugees from Slavery: Contrabands in Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012, at the Alexandria Black History Museum from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The program will consist of two parts. Initially, Professor Chandra Manning of Georgetown University will explain the history of the Contrabands, men and women who escaped slavery during the Civil War.

Afterward, there will be further discussion about who the Contrabands were and how they can be remembered by a panel consisting of researchers, descendants, rangers, and local historians from across the region.

In 2013, the City of Alexandria will open its Freedmen's and Contraband Cemetery Memorial. The Memorial honors the more than 1700 contrabands

who came to Alexandria seeking freedom and who were later buried on this site. This program is free and open to the public. Seating may be limited, RSVP to Alexandria Black History Museum at 703-746-4356. Patrons needing special assis-

tance should contact the Museum two weeks prior to the event for accommodation. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street, in the Historic Parker-Gray District. The Museum is five blocks from the Braddock Road Metro Station on the Yellow or Blue lines. There is on-street parking. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

visit www.forthuntpreschool.com. Fundraiser. 4 p.m. Poetry and tea are on the menu at the annual fundraiser for Project Discovery at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Donations are welcome at the event or can be mailed to the Office of Youth Services, 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave. Make checks or money orders payable to Project Discovery Alexandria. All donations are tax deductible. Donations of \$500 or more should be

made by Nov. 1 to ensure inclusion

in the Annual Special Recognition

Legacy Program. Contact Ron Frazier at 703-746-5967 or ron.frazier@alexandriava.gov.

Concert. 8 p.m. Featuring Kim Allen Kluge, conductor; Yefim Bronfman, piano; Hovhaness: Symphony No. 2, "Mysterious Mountain;" I. Andante con moto Mussorgsky/Ravel: Pictures at an Exhibition; Newman: Little Women (1994); Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 in E Flat Major, "Emperor," Op. 73." At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St.Tickets start at \$40 adult, \$35 Fort



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### A Spiritual Mystery

October 27 - November 17 2012



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#### From Page 19

association to discuss the BRAC 133 development at the Mark Center, announced in September 2008. More than three years and multiple meetings and events later, including five candidate forums since this September, and I am still waiting for answers.

We have repeatedly been told that the city did not support the Mark Center site for the DoD relocation — this includes Mr. Lovain's insistence that the "City advocated vociferously for Victory Center", Councilwoman Pepper's claim that "no one besides Duke Realty wanted DoD to go to that site", and admissions of being "rolled" by DoD. Really. The City of Alexandria most emphatically did support the Mark Center site as the location for BRAC 133. Evidence, from the BRAC 133 Information Archive on the City website:

\* July 29, 2008: Two identical letters from Mayor Euille to James Turkel, chief of the Belvoir Integration Office; one is for the Victory Center, the other the Mark Center. "... the City of Alexandria strongly supports the proposal of the Duke Realty Corporation to relocate the Washington Headquarters Service to the Mark Center property in Alexandria, Virginia."

\* May 5, 2008: Two identical letters from Mayor Euille, one to Senator Webb, the other Senator Warner. "... We are writing you to solicit your support in having the two potential WHS sites in Alexandria be given equal consideration to the GSA warehouse site in this competitive selection process ... we are asking you to communicate to the DoD that all three finalist sites have your support, are viable, and deserve full and fair consideration ....'

So who "rolled" whom? Did the mayor, city staff and AEDP act without the full consent and knowledge of council?

If the city and council "vociferously" objected to the Mark Center site prior to its selection - where is the proof? Elected officials did nothing to prevent this West End disaster. In fact they lobbied for it and put out the welcome mat.

The city has initiated "What's Next Alexandria?" How are we supposed to go forward with the BRAC albatross hanging around the neck of City Hall? Trust cannot be rebuilt with the community when we keep tripping over what has been swept under the rug. Accountability is long overdue. Let it begin on Nov. 6.

**Diane Costello** 

### Balanced Representation

To the Editor:

With the national elections in the spotlight, I want to draw your attention to our local Alexandria City Council race. On Nov. 6, the front of the ballot will hold the Federal races and constitutional amendments, while the back of the ballot will hold our Local Alexandria races. This will be the first time our local election will be held on the same day as the presidential race. This is an important election both nationally and locally in Alexandria.

I will be voting for City Council candidates who will balance development and

traffic and community services and supports our local and small businesses in a tough economy and keeps my taxes down. Our City Council needs balanced representation to provide a voice of reason to support the growth and prosperity of our community.

green space, reviews projects that impact

Frank Fannon is a life-long Alexandrian who knows and cares about the issues facing our city. He has voted to keep taxes down — both for homeowners and local businesses, and he has supported the preservation of green space. During his past three years on the council, he has made himself readily available to his constituents demonstrating that he does care about our thoughts and concerns.

Please join me in voting for Frank Fannon on Nov. 6.

**Christopher N. Melling** 

#### Time for Change To the Editor:

Andrew Macdonald should be our next Mayor. Bill Euille has served us honorably as Mayor, but too long. His enthusiasm for high-density development puts at risk Alexandria's most valuable assets, livability and historic charm. He does not understand the old adage about killing the goose that lays golden eggs.

**Robert Pringle** Resident of Alexandria since 1954

#### **Investigate Voter** Fraud Allegation To the Editor:

[Last week], Congressman Jim Moran sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder calling on him to investigate allegations of voter fraud in Harrisonburg, Va. The next day, Project Veritas released a video showing Jim Moran's son Pat Moran [allegedly] detailing to an [individual who was secretly recording] how to commit voter fraud in Virginia. Pat Moran, who at the time was also serving in an official capacity of field director for his father's campaign, immediately resigned. Brian Moran, Pat's uncle and Jim's brother, is presently the state chairman for the Democratic Party of Virginia.

In announcing his request for an investigation in Harrisonburg, Moran wrote an article entitled "Voter Fraud Must Be Investigated." Moran's concluding point was that: "Voting is at the core of our democratic principles. When that right is violated, our democracy is violated." I concur.

For these reasons, my campaign is calling upon Attorney General Eric Holder to initiate an investigation into allegations of voter fraud against the campaign of Congressman Jim Moran. Proceedings have already been initiated by the Arlington County Police Department. However, because this is a federal election, it is critical that the Department of Justice conduct a thorough investigation to ensure that we have free and fair elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

While serving in Kosovo, I had the opportunity to be an official election observer. Deployed in a remote village in the mountains of Southern Kosovo, I witnessed throngs of excited, happy Kosovar Albanians rushing to the polling stations as soon as they opened. It was the first time in their lives that they had confidence that their vote counted, that they were participating in a free and fair election. As I saw their smiles, I felt a surge of pride that as Americans, we have a culture of free and fair elections. They have been thus because the participants, candidates and organizations, almost always agree to play by the rules. We are only as good as the rules we make.

So when this story concerning the Moran campaign broke this week, I was as stunned and disappointed as everyone else. Regardless of political party, we are all, or should be, Americans first, and that means insisting that our political leaders play by the rules.

I hope, on behalf of the integrity of our electoral process, Attorney General Holder will conduct a thorough investigation. In Jim Moran's own words: "Voter Fraud Must Be Investigated."

> **Patrick Murray** Colonel, USA (retired) Republican Candidate for Congress Virginia 8th District

### Representative Candidate

To the Editor:

According to 2010 Census Profiles, 52 percent of Alexandria's population is female and collectively, minorities represent 38 percent (Blacks 22 percent and Hispanics 16 percent). Everyone should be represented at the seat of government. We are women — young and old, Republican and Democrat, married and single, black and white. And we want genuine representation on the City Council just like everyone else. Alicia Hughes, in one person, represents all of us and we want her back on City Council. She is a black woman who happens to be Republican too. We need a balance of perspectives on council that no one party alone can provide. Most importantly, her stellar record of service, open-mindedness and intellect has earned our support.

We don't have to wonder what she'd do if elected. She led successful efforts to (1) fund research at Fort Ward Park that uncovered the graves of black soldiers; (2) secure funding to feed hot meals to seniors on Sunday through Meals on Wheels; (3) provide needed funds for STEM programs to close the minority achievement gap; and (4) secure additional funds to reduce the pre-K backlog to ensure that all of our children, regardless of family income level, could be sent to kindergarten on Day 1 ready to learn. She has worked to make government transparent and protect neighborhood integrity and stood up for all she represents. She is the only councilmember currently appointed by Governor McDonnell to two boards and is credited with saving local governments millions of dollars. She also serves as vice-chair of a regional board on human services and public safety and was named one of the country's political rising stars by the Aspen Institute in 2010.

Women in elected office are at a shameful deficit in Alexandria and the Commonwealth. Alexandria has only elected 10 women of whom only two have been minorities in more than 260 years. Neither commonality of race nor party alone supplants the need to feel included, to feel represented by someone who not only is sympathetic to our points of view, but empathetic.

We ask you to make sure that every woman regardless of her party affiliation has at least one person who empathizes with her on our council. With this one vote, vou ensure representation of more than half of the population in this city. No other single candidate in this race, based on heritage and political choice, does that. And to boot, she stands tall with the residents on issues affecting the community.

**Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis** Former member, ACPS Board

**Gail Ledwig** President, Commonwealth Republican Women's Club

#### **Rebecca S. Davies**

1998 Women's Commission Marguerite Payez Leadership Award Recipient **Kendra Gillespie** Women's Commission 2010 Rising Star

Award Recipient

#### **Jane Ring**

Alexandria Living Legend and also, an Alexandria Women's Commission Marguerite Payez Award Recipient

### **Return Local Elections to Spring**

To the Editor:

Two old clichés are about to crash into Alexandria on Nov. 6 as we experience our first time of voting for local Council and School Board officials at the same time as presidential and congressional elections. The first cliché is: Be careful what you wish for! Yes, the stated goal was to "increase turnout" and that will indeed happen. But the push by some local political stalwarts has come at a huge cost, measured in "unforeseen consequences."

One of our most respected and experience politicians, Dick Hobson, warned to no avail that lumping the federal, state and local elections together in one day could have horrible consequences. He was ignored and unfortunately, his prediction is coming true. The Alexandria issues have become a visual blur, with yard sign pollution along every patch of green. Are we being asked to vote primarily for a name, rather than for a compelling narrative of what a candidate has done and hopes to do?

Our many local issues — like BRAC, the Waterfront, Arlandria, Corridor C, the Beauregard Corridor, affordable housing, density, traffic and transportation — are all lost amidst the clutter of non-stop radio and TV ads for national candidates for President as well as the House and the Senate. The verbal and visual assault offers no insights into a candidate's skills and talents, and they are permeated with ugly insinuations, innuendo and falsehoods.

No one could have anticipated the upheaval that the January 2010 Supreme Court decision would have on future elec-

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tions, as it threw out 100 years of campaign finance laws and donor limits and cloaked it all in secrecy, to avoid any public scrutiny. It is expected that this will cost over \$1 billion in 2012 — wasted funds that could have been used for education, health and safety, security, creating jobs.

Now people from all over the country and the world — can secretly submit money to influence Alexandria elections as well as those at the national level. Was this an "unforeseen consequence" or a very deliberate act by a suddenly partisan Court? How can we support the assumption of Justice Anthony Kennedy that the massive infusion of this money at all levels 'will not affect democracy'? To many, it seems our elections are now simply for sale.

Our little election in Alexandria has to struggle to compete for the limited pool of money for all campaigns and candidates as well as trying to attract the limited number of volunteers. Where once we could closely focus on the needs of Alexandria, those are now drowned out by the onslaught of the federal and state campaigns.

This shift in election scheduling was a big mistake. Our town, which dates back to 1749, needed to enhance voter turnout. It didn't need to create a monster. You can create voter turnout by offering knowledgeable candidates, plenty of informational forums and significant issues that capture public attention. The first order of business when the new council convenes in January should be to congratulate the winners and then to admit defeat on shifting the election to November. Alexandria's elections are important, and they don't deserve to be merely an asterisk for a national electoral battle. The new council members should vote a resounding "No" on making this a permanent arrangement and push to move the Alexandria elections back to springtime, as the main event, and not as a sideshow. On Nov. 6, don't reward those who pushed for this unnecessary shift with your vote. It's time for a change.

Kathleen M. Burns Alexandria

### limportance of Leadership

To the Editor:

That "one Alexandria" motto Mayor Euille adopted when he first ran for office has become meaningless. I do not know where this One Alexandria is. It is not in the West End or in Old Town. These times cry out for a Mayor who will feel welcome in every neighborhood, and be ready talk to every citizen. There is no one in Alexandria today better suited to that task than Andrew Macdonald. He is fresh from creating a civic movement to change the waterfront plan. In the summer of 2011, during a heat wave Andrew went door to door talking to citizens, informing them of the proposal for a remade waterfront and recruiting previously uninvolved citizens to civic activism. That was not the work of a dilettante. I have worked in many Alexandria groups over the years, but never one that is more cohesive than the group that now functions

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as Friends of the Alexandria Waterfront. Andrew resigned from its leadership when he announced for public office. Nevertheless, the group remains as a monument to his organizational skills and steely determination in the face of great opposition. These are exactly the qualities we need as Mayor of Alexandria.

> Katy Cannady Alexandria

### Glorification Of Lost Cause?

To the Editor:

Your recent articles on the restoration of the Confederate statue at the intersection of Prince and South Washington streets Montie Martin's "A Statue with 100 Names" (Sept. 27) and Nancy Jennis Olds' "Appomattox' Gets Makeover" (Oct. 11) indicate that the romanticism and sentimentality of the South, otherwise known as the Lost Cause and exemplified in the glorification of the Confederate soldier, continue into the 21st century. But what W. J. Cash wrote of Southern sentimentality in 1941 still resonates today: "And of course the sentimentality waxed fat on the theme of the Confederate soldier and the cause for which he had fought and died. This soldier, I suggest, was in sober truth a proper subject for any people's pride. And men (Western men, at least) have everywhere and eternally sentimentalized the causes of their wars, and particularly the causes that were lost. All of them have bled and died for God and Womanhood and Holy Right; not one has ever died for anything so crass and unbeautiful as the preservation of slavery."

Craig D. Taylor Alexandria

#### Who Knows Better?

#### To the Editor:

Regarding the Freedmen's Cemetery sculpture controversy: a card laid is a card played. After the final designs were chosen, I remember that the public was asked to vote for the winner. It seems that only after the Dwight submission was chosen did the Public Arts Committee decide it was inappropriate. Is this another example of a few people telling the public that we know better than you what is right for our city? If the religious symbols were not noticeable enough to disqualify the proposed statue originally, they should not be invoked as a reason to rule the choice ineligible now.

More to the point, why did city officials prohibit religious symbols on sculpture meant for a cemetery? The First Amendment provides that "Congress shall make no law concerning the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The second part of the amendment is too rarely noted. Of course, public cemeteries funded by taxpayer monies such as nearby Arlington are full of marble crosses atop graves; they also include religious symbols for other faiths as the families wish.

City Council should revoke its mistaken

approval of the replacement statue based on the recommendations of the Public Arts Committee and honor the wishes of the citizens who voted for the Dwight sculpture.

Somebody surely owes sculptor Ed Dwight a huge apology, no matter the final outcome of this matter.

> Ellen Latane Tabb Alexandria

### Voting for Clean Energy Economy

To the Editor:

In November, young people have a choice: make our voice heard or continue letting others make decisions for us and our planet. No kid can wait to be an adult and run their own life. It's time we take that responsibility to the voting booth and preserve our environment.

President Obama has worked with auto manufacturers to save families \$8,000 at the gas pump by increase fuel efficiency standards. These new standards will create and bring home many auto manufacturing jobs. At the same time, he has worked to increase investment supporting over 100 clean energy and energy efficiency projects and supporting over 91,000 clean energy and energy efficiency jobs in Virginia.

Governor Tim Kaine is cut from the same cloth.

He finds new avenues to engage the private sector to create a cleaner planet. Kaine's stake in the environment comes from his outdoorsmen lifestyle. As governor, Kaine worked with legislators to invest a billion dollars in cleaning-up Virginia's rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. This investment means I can easily purchase fresh and local seafood within 10 miles of my Arlandria home.

As young people, the future of our planet and our economy affects us more than anyone else voting in this election; it's time we take a stand and support candidates that stand up for our health, the economy and the environment.

#### **Danielle Simms**

Danielle Simms lives in Alexandria and is the Environmental Caucus chair of the Virginia Young Democrats; she holds a bachelor of science in environmental science from Randolph-Macon Women's College

### Irresolute Resolutions

To the Editor:

Hunting Towers, a long-time source of over 500 units of workforce housing, is once again in the news. After culling approximately \$30 million in rental profits during its tenure as landlord, VDOT has begun the formal sales process of the property, and is currently in negotiations with the selected buyer.

Both Mayor Wiliam Euille and Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks have recently weighed in on the proposed sale. Mr. Jinks has been quoted as saying "It's unlikely that 100 percent of the building can be kept affordable — that's probably not likely at all," and "clearly keeping some units affordable would be [our] goal." "Some" units? I find this surpassingly strange, given that it was just this past May that the City Council passed a strongly worded resolution declaring their intention to do whatever they could to keep all of the Towers as an important source of workforce and affordable housing — which is, of course, a well-documented endangered species in the City of Alexandria.

How is that worthy goal furthered when the deputy city manager is quoted as hoping to keep just "some units" affordable before a final sales contract has even been inked? What message does it send to the new owner? And does that reflect an amended city government mindset on the subject?

Or perhaps it's not so strange after all. Consider the curious case of the Hunting Terrace garden apartments, another longtime source of workforce housing. Declared to be "past its useful life" and used as a negotiating chip with the council and Planning Commission in a 2008 proposal for redevelopment of both complexes, the owners subsequently closed the Terrace, summarily evicting all residents, some of whom had lived there over 40 years.

And then a year or two later, what do you know — a little capital investment, and the Terrace was reopened for business its "useful life" resurrected. Except that now, it's on the sales block as well, with a glossy ad noting its profitability "as is" on one side, the other side celebrating its potential for demolition and rebirth as a five-story upscale project.

And not a word from the city about it that I've noticed — no resolutions, no declarations of good intent, not a word.

Or perhaps none of this is strange at all, in the context of the slow-motion assault on the largest enclave of working class housing in the city in the West End as personified by the Beauregard Plan, or the "vision" of a new-and-improved, scenic and historic public waterfront that to date is centered on new hotels.

And the list hardly ends there. If the rhetoric expended about a "diverse city" was money, we'd all be millionaires. Unfortunately, rhetoric's just words. Not that there aren't options. Bonds, for example – in the case of the Towers, arguably self-financing, given that VDOT has regularly reported annual profits in excess of \$3 million operating the Towers — a profit rate in the neighborhood of 50 percent. But that possibility apparently never piqued the council's interest.

All of which is something for voters to keep in mind as we head to the polls in November.

Jim Mercury

15-year resident of Hunting Towers

### **Right Policy**

To the Editor:

Let's face it — Alexandria is the loveliest jurisdiction of the entire Washington Metropolitan Area. I have lived here for half of my life. And in the course of this many years, "things happen." The city was always there when needed — whether it was a tornado hitting four houses on our street, ours

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included; the Fire Department ambulance staffed with an emergency physician when I fainted while jogging; the battle with "our" monopolist TV and high-speed internet provider; the city arborist to support our drive to re-forest our street (80-year old oak trees had either died a natural death or had been trimmed to extinction because of aboveground wires); the Recycling/Solid Waste Department's responsiveness to "special needs" recycling or simple oversights; our highly competent Police Department whenever "odd" occurrences were reported on our small street; the General Court Clerk when we needed procedural information; the Environmental Inspector as to noise pollution and flooding problems; the Tax Department for additional information and help. And so on. The list is long, and I am fully appreciative not only of what our city does but also of what it represents historically.

That all of the above requires funding is perfectly understandable, and we do pay extra taxes (including small business taxes not levied right across the line in Arlington) for all of these privileges. And that the city, during difficult economic times, does its utmost to obtain revenue adequate to continue to be the most exceptional jurisdiction around Washington is also understandable. But - here is the but. How to maintain and increase tax revenue is the issue. Rezoning the historic waterfront for high-density development? No. The outrage at this approach goes way beyond our beloved city - Marylanders are well-informed too and opposed since our Old Town is a jewel for them as well. The Mark Center? No need to explain details of the detrimental impact on our quality of life. High-density development in Arlandria, Del Ray and Beauregard, destroying affordable housing and "organically grown" well-functioning neighborhoods? No. And the horror of gentrification on Madison and Montgomery Streets - my way to work to my Old Town office? No.

Conclusion: We need to reset City Hall with Andrew Macdonald as mayor and Bob Wood on the City Council, neither one beholden to developers but dedicated to preserve, protect and defend our culture, history and environmentally sustainable quality of life. This election is not about politics but about the right policy, about everything we Alexandrians care about most.

Ursula Weide Alexandria

### City Needs Consensus Builder

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the candidacy of Allison Silberberg for Alexandria City Council. As a former City Council president in Albany, N.Y., a long-time professor-in-residence at the New York State Assembly, and a continuing consultant for U.S. government projects around the world on what makes an effective, transparent and publicly engaged legislative body, I have had a long time to reflect on the qualities that we need on our City Council. Furthermore, as someone who grew up on the coast of Maine and who moved to Alexandria to live close to my two grandsons, I have thought long and hard about the leadership that we need to help safeguard our precious waterfront, and our environmental and fiscal resources for their future. Allison Silberberg is an inspiring examplar of those essential leadership qualities.

First of all, Allison Silberberg is a visionary, a person who evokes for all of us the glories that can be built into the many plans for Alexandria's future, drawing on the talents, inputs and ideas of all its citizens. A visionary is a person who will help us articulate who we are and want to be as a community, and work with all of us to tie concrete plans to that vision.

Second, she has made public involvement and citizen engagement hallmarks of her entire campaign. When she says that she wants a "people's waterfront," she means it. And when she points out that this and other projects key to Alexandria's future require public involvement at all stages of the process, she is committed to exactly that.

Third, Allison Silberberg can inspire others to work for the best, and to work with each other. I've seen her at several debates and public events. She doesn't holler, she doesn't take the low-road of sarcasm or easy attacks; instead, she reminds us that she will build on her work as chair of Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Commission to not only bring fiscal responsibility to her work on the council, but to play a crucial role on that council as a consensus-builder. Consensus-building is desperately needed if Alexandria politics are not to mirror the sometimes crippling disfunctionality that we see at the state and national levels.

Finally, Allison Silberberg sincerely believes in the concept of stewardship, that "we are all the temporary stewards of this national treasure called Alexandria." Stewardship, by definition, implies a commitment to building on the best work of past generations to guarantee the best possible future for generations of Alexandrians to come. Allison Silberberg understands the true implications of this important, respectful, and humbling concept. I urge my fellow Alexandrians to vote for Allison Silberberg on Nov. 6.

> Helen R. Desfosses Alexandria

### Pedestrian, Bicycist Safety

To the Editor:

I am writing because I am concerned about safety. While I am delighted that Alexandria has a strong economy and that our leaders are responding with increased roadcapacity in the form of transit lanes, I am concerned that too little attention is being paid to people who are out on our streets and sidewalks, walking and bicycling. After all, most people access transit by walking and, according to Metro, more bicycles park at the Braddock Road Station than at any other in the system.

As chair of the Alexandria Bicycle and

Pedestrian Advisory Committee, people write to me often, and safety is first among their concerns. I hear that an increasing number of people are using bicycles for commuting and shopping, which is great news for all of us. However, I also hear increasing complaints from pedestrians of cyclists on the sidewalks and from cyclists of bike lanes that end abruptly (Slater's Lane approaching Route 1) or are simply missing (West Glebe). In some places, even the sidewalks are missing, as on Seminary Road west of Quaker. Just last week someone wrote to me that Crestwood Drive between Kenwood and Valley has no accommodation for pedestrians. I am surprised that this is allowed to persist in a residential neighborhood.

Happily, Alexandria's leaders are taking positive steps to deal with our changing city. The transit corridors and the new metro station are positive responses to the development that is talking place (those who simply oppose development have yet to tell a convincing story, to my ears, here in strongproperty-rights Virginia). The bike lanes on Slater's Lane are a very positive step, connecting that neighborhood to the nearby Mt. Vernon Trail.

Alexandria may once have been a sleepy suburb where it was safe to walk in the street, but this is no longer the case. With respect to traffic safety, we are in danger of going the route of nearby Washington, D.C., where the majority of people killed in traffic are people walking or riding bicycles rather than people who chose to ride in cars. This is part of a national trend where, increasingly, ever-fancier airbags serve only to enable drivers to feel safe while yakking on their cell phones.

We in Alexandria can, must and will do better. Now is the time for us to speak up and to move forward, with a focus on people rather than automobiles.

**Jonathan Krall** Alexandria

Important Balance

#### To the Editor:

As I head to the polls on Nov. 6, there is one candidate who will surely get my vote, and I encourage other Alexandrians to do the same. First term Councilman Frank Fannon has been a true asset to the City Council over the past three years. Fannon is a lifelong Alexandrian who has worked and been involved in civic life for over 20 years. He brings an important balance that is needed in local government. He is a straight shooter, sticks to the point and is realistic about the issues facing Alexandria.

During the debate season, Fannon was clearly the leader of the 12 candidates. He has a command of the facts and the knowledge to continue to be a leader in the city. Fannon, who received the most votes in the May 2009 election on any candidate seeking re-election, is up against a November election where many citizens will be voting along Party lines with high voter turnout expected. Make sure you vote Fannon to support balance in Alexandria.

> **John Keegan** Alexandria

### **Pragmatic Leaders**

To the Editor:

Over the past nine years, Alexandria has grown to a population of over 144,000 while maintaining a historically low crime rate, a AAA bond rating, and the secondlowest property tax rate among major jurisdictions in Northern Virginia.

This is no accident. Under the leadership of Mayor Bill Euille and his Democratic City Council colleagues, Alexandria has supported a policy of measured growth to enhance the vibrancy of our city. They've sought to balance the residential tax burden by attracting new commercial enterprise and channeled new development right where it should be, near Metrorail stations. They've preserved affordable housing and constructed new public housing in attractive mixed-income communities. They've adopted a plan to replace underutilized warehouses on our waterfront with new parks and mixed-use activity centers. They've reinvested in civic infrastructure, including new and renovated schools, recreation centers, and police and fire stations. They've supported new transit options like expanded bus service and bikeshare, begun planning new high-capacity transit service along three corridors, and laid the groundwork to finally construct a new Metrorail station at Potomac Yard. At the same time, we've preserved the integrity of our neighborhoods and ensured that our historic seaport city remains a distinctive destination. Not to mention, we're all breathing easier since the GenOn power plant closed on Oct. 1.

Many of these decisions were not easy choices, and often required rework and compromise to achieve the best policy for Alexandria. Yet time and again, Council Democrats listened and led by reaching for progressive, fiscally responsible solutions in the interest of the entire community.

Alexandria is on the right track but we still have important issues to address. Our best course is to stick with pragmatic leaders who've governed our city with a steady hand. On Election Day the clear choice is to reelect Mayor Bill Euille, Councilwoman Del Pepper, and Councilman Paul Smedberg, and elect John Taylor Chapman, Tim Lovain, Allison Silberberg, and Justin Wilson to council.

> Nathan M. Macek Old Town Alexandria

### Unhappy Times

To the editor:

I am a lifelong Democrat and have not voted for candidates for public office other than Democrats. Unfortunately, there has come a point at the local level in Alexandria that I can't, in good conscious, bring myself to support the Democrat incumbents that are running for the City Council. They have displayed a level of disrespect, incompetence and delegation of responsibility that is inexcusable. There seems to be no leadership, no fresh new ideas and no willingness to devote time and energy to move this city forward in a responsible manner while preserving the wonderful unique character

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of this community. Rather, they have delegated to nonelected city employees the authority to present their own vision of this city, which seems to be a vision that sets aside many of the elements and aspects that make the city so special and unique, and try to make it look like every other city that is overdeveloped and excessively dense. Then the council members grab their rubber stamps and give their blessings to bad ideas and poor planning. This process is totally backward. A decision-making process should originate at the top, with elected officials creating a detailed vision for the city, with real and meaningful opportunities for public involvement and input, and then directing the city employees to develop draft implementation plans for review by the council and the public. This would require a good deal of more energy and work by council members than they appear willing to undertake. After writing this letter, but before I transmitted it, I received a Sample Ballot from the Democrats running for City Council which included a recommendation that we vote against Virginia Constitutional Amendment that would prohibit governmental bodies, like Alexandria, from taking private property from citizens and giving the property to other persons for their own private gain and benefit. Vote against this? This reinforces my belief that I should vote differently than I ever have before. These aren't real Democrats who should receive support from those of us who have supported the party and its fundamental ideals for all our lives.

I am not happy with the necessity I feel to vote in a manner that I have never have before, but I don't see an option if we are to protect this very special and unique community located in the significantly overdeveloped Washington Metropolitan area. We clearly need a change in the governing body of this city to protect and preserve what they have not already destroyed.

> **Etta Martin** West Alexandria

### Inclusive Dialogue To the Editor:

This year, the local elections in Alexandria are particularly important for the future of our city. The choices are clear and stark.

On the one hand, we may elect a Mayor and City Council that will continue to follow the closed, secretive, and divisive practices that have allowed development to run amok throughout the city. If we choose this path, we will condemn Alexandria to an uninspiring future of mediocrity, allowing it to develop into just another McCity with uninspiring architecture that could be located anywhere in the nation.

On the other hand, we can choose new leadership that will encourage open, transparent and inclusive practices that respect and preserve the unique, historic character of Alexandria. If we choose this direction, we can retain the best aspects of life in a city that has witnessed first-hand the most important and dramatic episodes in our nation's history. These and our rich cultural

heritage are the things that make Alexandria such a desirable place in which to live and which annually draw hordes of tourists to our city. Lose them and we lose our major attractions.

During Mayor Euille's nine years in office, he has deliberately chosen to lead the city much too far along the first path. Indeed, he and his collaborators on the City Council have clearly demonstrated not only that they are not really interested in the remarkably - that they are willing to antagonize residents in any part of the city. How else can one explain their willingness to force down the throats of Alexandrians BRAC-133 and unwanted developments in Arlandria, along the city's historic waterfront, in the West End, and in Potomac Yard?

We believe that it is high time for a change in our city administration. In our view, Andrew Macdonald is the best choice for mayor on Nov. 6. He has consistently advocated the kind of open, transparent, and inclusive dialogue with citizens that has been so sorely lacking over the past decade or more.

Whatever your political persuasion, we urge you to think carefully about the direction you desire for the future of the city we love as you cast your vote on Election Day. The choice is yours, Alexandria.

**Hugh and Sue Van Horn** Alexandria

# Moving Forward Together

To the Editor:

I thank the Gazette-Packet for publishing my opinion columns as I've written on what affects our lives through my lens as a member of the Alexandria City Council, Virginia Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring and Liaison the Virginia Task Force on Local Mandates Review. My public service to you remains a privilege.

I run again for council and have served purposed on "Keeping People First to Perfect One Alexandria." I have been pleased to successfully: (1) lead the charge to keep the tax rate flat; (2) provide hot meals to seniors on Sundays through Meals on Wheels, starting Nov. 4; (3) have Old Town Farmer's Market hours extended; (4) secure funding to reduce the pre-K backlog; and (5) preserve the integrity of neighborhoods while honoring our history, including having secured funding that led to the revelation of graves of Black soldiers in Fort Ward Park.

I am also proud to be credited with leading the discussion that brought about a yearlong study on how we use consultants and can curtail spending on them in Alexandria and saving local governments across the Commonwealth millions of dollars through my work on the Task Force on Local Mandates Review as the Governor's Liaison to the Commission on Government Reform.

At our last city council meeting, we adopted a legislative package for consideration during the upcoming General Assembly Session. It included a request to eliminate the Local Aid to State mandate that generates ~\$60 million annually for the



**Pumpkin Smiles** Colleen and Aiden: Happy customers at Immanuel Church-**On-The-Hill**.

state budget by requiring payments from local governments all over the Commonwealth, a bill that is passed to the local taxpayer directly. In my state-appointed service, I specifically requested reduction or elimination of this burdensome mandate and it was confirmed during our City Council meeting, that it has been reduced by \$10 million this year with a promise of a \$15 million reduction next year. While Alexandria loses ~\$6 million in revenue annually due to BRAC-133 occupying the Mark Center as a result of a City Council action or inaction before my election, I have worked as a steward to save us money, both as a local government and as individual taxpayers. As long as I occupy a chair to represent you, I will continue to do so.

I have learned that "One Alexandria" is so much more than a slogan. Perfecting it is a way of life. It inherently acknowledges that there is no patent on good ideas by any artificial barrier that would seek to divide us, political party included. We are dynamic because just as we've collectively supported Barack Obama as president, Mark Warner as U.S. senator, and Jim Moran as congressman, you've supported Alicia Hughes and Frank Fannon on the Alexandria City Council. This representative party dynamism speaks to what makes us so special as a place and as a people. In Alexandria, home to America's first president, we see what our nation's founders intended ... the inherent good nature of people and public service.

I hope that when you cast your vote you'll remember what our collective behavior says about who we are. Make your vote, your voice count for the good based on selecting people, regardless of party, who have the best ideas and records of service to move "One Alexandria" forward.

Alexandria City Councilwoman

#### **Proven Advocate** To the Editor:

In less than a week, we head to the polls

to elect our country's president, as well as local leaders who represent our community's interests in Congress, Alexandria City Council and the School Board of Alexandria City Public Schools.

I'm proud to support Ronnie Campbell who is seeking a third term on the Alexandria City School Board. It was an honor to serve alongside Ronnie on the Alexandria City School Board in 2006-09. We worked closely together in many areas, especially in our mutual interest to close achievement gaps.

With the support of teachers, the community, including Tenants and Workers United, Superintendent Sherman and fellow School Board members, we helped introduce Individual Achievement Plans (IAPs) which encourage students to take the lead in their own academic success. Today, IAPs are helping all students, especially social-economic challenged students as well as English Language Learners, get the help they need to succeed and prosper in our school system.

Ronnie has proven she's fiscally responsible. A great example is her tough position on T.C. Williams' new satellite campus recently opened at Landmark Mall. Before proceeding to open and fund other satellite sites, Ronnie forcefully and effectively argued to ensure the first center has adequate resources and staffing and most importantly, produces the intended results.

Ronnie is a strong supporter for teachers and staff throughout ACPS. For the third election in a row, she received the endorsement of the Alexandria Education Association.

Ronnie has worked tirelessly to improve conditions and services for students with special needs. Her strong advocacy for those who might not otherwise have a makes her a needed choice for our children. Let's re-elect Ronnie Campbell to the Alexandria City School Board.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera

Eileen Cassidy Rivera served on the Alexandria City School Board from 2006-09.



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Hall of Fame Award goes to Tami Sarjeant and her crew of pirates at 1407 Russell Road.



Best in Show this year is 210 East Monroe Ave.



The talking heads graveyard at 102 West Alexandria Ave. came in as a



Awakened at 24 East Del Ray Ave.



### Lake Braddock wins boys', girls' Patriot District XC titles.

By Jon Roetman Gazette Packet

he T.C. Williams boys' cross country team missed qualifying for regionals by one place on Oct. 25 as the Titans finished fifth at the Patriot District championships. While TC came up short, it wasn't for lack of effort from Anteneh Girma and Nick Brown.

Girma placed second and Brown finished ninth during the district meet at Burke Lake Park, sending each to the regionals as individuals. The Northern Region championship meet is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 1 at Burke Lake Park.

Girma finished with a time of 15:36, 25 seconds behind Lake Braddock's Nick Tuck, who won the individual district title. Brown finished with a time of 16:08.

The top 15 individual finishers and the top four teams qualify for regionals.

"The boys had good performances from Anteneh Girma [and] Nick Brown," T.C. Williams head coach Michael Hughes wrote in an email. "The team did not advance to the regional meet, which was disappointing because the team has worked very hard this fall. We didn't compete up to our potential as a team."

Lake Braddock won the team championship with a score of 55. West Potomac finished second with a total of 66, followed by West Springfield (78) and Woodson (118). T.C. Williams finished with 133.

South County's Alec Jones finished third with a time of 15:42. Lee's Biruk Amare finished fourth (15:58), Lake Braddock's Alex Corbett was fifth (16:00), West Springfield's William Rabil finished sixth (16:02) and West Potomac's Luca Halladay (16:02) and Nick Cucinotta (16:03) were seventh and eighth, respectively.

West Potomac's Corey Rosenberg finished 10th (16:12), followed by West Springfield's

#### — Sports Briefs –

### TC Field Hockey Ends Season In Regionals

The T.C. Williams field hockey team lost to McLean, 1-0, on Oct. 23 in the opening round of the Northern Region Tournament, ending its season.

The Titans defeated Annandale, 2-1, in the opening round of the Patriot District Tournament, securing a berth in regionals. The Titans upset top-seed West Springfield in strokes in the semifinals before falling to South County, 1-0, in the district championship.





District cross country championships on Oct. 25 at

T.C. Williams' Anteneh Girma finished second at the Patriot District cross country championships on Oct. 25 at Burke Lake Park.

John Amann (11th, 16:12) and Joey Spaziani (12th, 16:13), Annandale's Aviad Gebrehiwot (13th, 16:14), Woodson's David Falcone (14th, 16:15) and Lake Braddock's Forrest Isenhour (15th, 16:15).

In girls' action, T.C. Williams finished sixth out of eight teams with a total of 192. Lake Braddock won the event with a score of 25, followed by West Springfield (49), West Potomac (79) and South County (89). Woodson finished fifth with a total of 103. Eileen Nakahata was TC's top finisher, coming in 32nd with a time of 20:16. Hanna Smythe finished 39th (20:57), Hanna Bates was 42nd (21:09), Ava Scott finished 43rd (21:38) and Isabel Jones was 46th (21:44).

**Burke Lake Park.** 

Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase won the individual title with a time of 17:02. West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta finished second with a time of 17:09, followed by Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen (third, 17:34), Lake Braddock's Katie Roche (fourth, 17:39) and Lee's Bailey Kolonich (17:58). West Springfield's Maddie Wittich finished sixth (18:05), followed by West Potomac's Katie Genuario (seventh, 18:16), West Springfield's Katie Kennedy (eighth, 18:23) and Lake Braddock's Katy Kunc (ninth, 18:37) and Misha Suresh (10th, 18:41).

The rest of the individual regional qualifiers were: West Potomac's Lauren Price (11th, 18:56), Woodson's JaHyun Yang (12th, 18:59), South County's Mary Cate Scully (13th, 19:02) and Emily Lamontagne (14th, 19:02) and West Potomac's (15th, 19:07).

### TC Football Shuts Out Lee, 47-0

The T.C. Williams football team improved its winning streak to three games with a 47-0 victory against Lee on Oct. 26. The Titans are 4-5 and will conclude the regular season at West Potomac at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2.

Against Lee, Sterling Roberson, Rashawn Jackson, Ibrahim Sesay and Torrey Johnson each intercepted one pass for the Titans. Tyrice Henry, Malik Moultrie, Lamont Whiteside and Jeremiah Clarke each had one sack.

Johnson (2), Sesay and Kyreem Walton also scored touchdowns for TC.

On offense, Titans running back Dealo Robertson carried 22 times for 171 yards and a touchdown. Quarterback Alec Grosser went 6-of-11 for 81 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Alex Bledsoe and Landon Moss each had one touchdown catch.

### Episcopal Football Beats SSSAS

The Episcopal football team defeated St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, 22-19, on Oct. 26. The Maroon improved to 3-5, while the Saints fell to 5-4.

Episcopal will play at Bullis at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2. St. Stephen's & St. Agnes will host St. Albans at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3.

### Bishop Ireton Loses To Potomac School

The Bishop Ireton football team lost to Potomac School, 30-29, on Oct. 27.

Ireton quarterback P.J. Zingler went 14of-31 for 196 yards and rushed 18 times for 124 yards and four touchdowns. Running back Brandon Williams-Price carried 20 times for 142 yards.

The Cardinals (0-9) will travel to face Pope John Paul the Great at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3. Home Sales In September 2012, 161 Alexandria homes sold between \$1,500,000-\$81,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,500,000-\$575,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

						1	<i>,</i>		1 1
Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City .	Sold Price	. Туре	. Lot AC	PostalCode	e Subdivision
504 PRINCE ST	5 .	3 .	1	ALEXANDRIA .	\$1,500,000	. Semi-Detached	0.07	22314	OLD TOWN
333 ROYAL ST N									
1215 WILKES ST	3	2 .	1	ALEXANDRIA .	\$1,180,000	. Townhouse	0.05	22314	OLD TOWN VILLAGE
1205 WILKES ST									
328 LEE ST S									
5007 JOHN TICER DR	5	3 .	1	ALEXANDRIA .	\$938,000	. Detached	0.10		CAMERON STATION
1858 CARPENTER RD									
5240 BESSLEY PL	5								
2503 TERRETT AVE									DEL RAY
709 CHALFONTE DR	4	3 .	0	ALEXANDRIA .	\$820,000	. Detached	0.21	22305	BEVERLY HILLS
1119 WYTHE ST	4	3 .	1	ALEXANDRIA .	\$820,000	. Townhouse	0.02	22314	BRADDOCK LOFTS
714 DAY LN	3 .	3 .	2	ALEXANDRIA .	\$811,500	. Townhouse	0.03	22314	POTOMAC GREENS
209 LAVERNE AVE	4	3 .	0	ALEXANDRIA .	\$800,000	. Detached	0.14	22305	EMMA P HUME
5213 BRAWNER PL	3	2 .	2	ALEXANDRIA .	\$800,000	. Townhouse	0.04	22304	CAMERON STATION
221 JEFFERSON ST	3	2 .	1	ALEXANDRIA .	\$800,000	. Detached	0.04	22314	OLD TOWN
2706 RIDGE ROAD DR	3	3 .	0	ALEXANDRIA .	\$798,100	. Detached	0.15	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
611 OVERLOOK DR N	4 .	. 2 .	1	ALEXANDRIA .	\$797.000	Detached	0.16	22305	BEVERLY HILLS
622 ST. ASAPH S									
212 DUNCAN AVE E									
3605 NORRIS PL									
2714 KING ST									
960 WASHINGTON ST N									
736 MCKENZIE #102 AVE									
328 HELMUTH LN									
2005 BRADDOCK CT									BRADDOCK COVE
214 ALFRED ST S									
426 SAINT ASAPH ST S									
263 MURTHA ST									
3001 OLD DOMINION BLVD									
635 FIRST ST #304									
101 MASON AVE	3	2.		AI FYANDRIA	\$675,000	Detached	0.15	22301	COTTAGE PARK
952 WASHINGTON ST N	ວີ ວ	<u>2</u> .	0		\$667 500	Townhouse	0.13	22201	
5232 BRAWNER PL	3	2	1 2	AI FYANDRIA	\$664,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	CAMERON STATION
825 LEE ST S	2 2	1	2 2		\$654,000	Attach/Row Hee	0.04	22304	
824 DUKE ST					\$670,000	Attach/Row Hee	0.07.	222314	
9 MOUNT IDA AVE W									
306 WINDSOR AVE E									
5124 KNAPP PL									CAMERON STATION
5140 DONOVAN DR									
529 ALFRED ST									CARRIAGE WORKS
824 PITT ST S									
410 THOMAS ST									
2804 RIDGE ROAD DR									
1703 DOGWOOD DR									
1238 MICHIGAN CT									
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905 HOWARD ST N									
202 LOWARD 21 N	4 .	3 .	0	ALEAANDRIA .	\$5/5,000	. Detached	0.32		VAUACLEUSE

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### People



### Weaver Honored From Page 5

Campagna Center 20 years ago as a member of the Junior Friends.

"I am very humbled to receive this award and especially honored that it is named for a woman who continues to be a beacon to all of us."

The Elizabeth Anne Campagna Award was established in 1989 to honor Elizabeth Anne Campagna, who served as executive director of the center from 1961 to 1985. The award recognizes a member of the community for his or her vision, commitment and concern for the needs of women and their families.



Bridget Weaver is congratulated on her award by her husband John.

"So many people work so hard for this organization," Weaver said. "I really am so honored to receive this award."





www.unwinedva.com

# People **Soul Providers**

#### From Page 9

"I always wanted to do this," said Lois Ancona, an Alexandria resident since 1961. "My mother and grandmother delivered Meals On Wheels so it was only natural for me to do it. I really love getting to know the people I meet and realize sometimes I may be the only person they have to talk to." Senior Service board chairman

Greg Murphy used the occasion to talk about the upcoming launch of a Friendly Visitors program.

"Our Meals On Wheels volunteers are not just bringing food, they are bringing human contact and friendship," Murphy said. "We are looking to provide that contact through a new Friendly Visitors program."

Upwards of 70 homebound seniors receive delivery of meals through the program, which is jointly funded by the City of Alexandria, the Ronald M. Bradley Foundation and Alexandria Yellow Cab.

"Everyone is so nice," said Thomas, who has no plans to cut back on her volunteer work. "From the



**Volunteer Rebecca** Hierholzer caught a balloon carrying information on healthy eating during the keynote presentation at the Meals on Wheels appreciation lunch.

/Gazette Packe

people who receive the meals to the people I work with, I am so blessed that I got involved with Meals On Wheels."

For more information, contact Meals On Wheels manager Jeannine Purdy at 703-836-4414, ext. 12 or mealsonwheels@ seniorservicesalex.org.



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("Emperor"), Op. 73 Yefim Bronfman, piano Little Women (1994) Hovhaness Symphony No. 2, "Mysterious Mountain" Mussorgsky / Pictures at an Exhibition

Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat major

101

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#### From Page 24

Legion Post 24 Hall at 400 Cameron St. at S. Royal St behind Gadsby's Tavern. The cost to attend the dinner is \$25 per person and cash bar or BYOB. Rich Gillespsie, the Director of Education for Northern Virginia's Mosby Heritage Area, will speak on "Mosby, Katy's Hollow, and You." RSVP to Lawrence Graham at 703-217-7871 or Lawrence@va-scv.net. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to P.O. Box 4024, Oakton, Va 22124. Visit www.leecamp.org.

#### NOV. 5 THROUGH DEC. 24

Food Drive: Harvest Mondays. Every Monday during the holiday season, shoppers at Ten Thousand Villages will receive 15 percent off an item of their choice for every nonperishable food item they bring in. Benefiting organizations include Christ House and ALIVE!. Signs are posted inside the store advising customers of the food banks' "most wanted" items, such as peanut butter, tuna, macaroni and cheese boxes, canned vegetables, etc. Ten Thousand Villages is located at 915 King St. Call 703-684-1435 or visit alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com.

#### TUESDAY/NOV. 6

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Open House. 8:30-10:30 a.m. This event offers prospective families an introduction to the Middle School through group tours and panels. Reservations necessary. Call 703-212-2706 or email JKunz@sssas.org. Visit www.sssas.org/admission Middle School, 4401 W. Braddock Rd. **Election Day Prayer**. noon-1 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Catholic Church on 402 E Monroe Ave. will hold a special Election Day prayer service. Open to the public.

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 7

St. **Stephen's & St. Agnes School Group Tours**. 8:30-11 a.m. This is an opportunity to tour our Lower School campus, meet administrators, and see our outstanding faculty in action. Reservations necessary. Call 703-212-2705, or email KCarbo@sssas.org. Visit www.sssas.org/admission Lower School, 400 Fontaine St.

#### THURSDAY/NOV. 8

Planning the Edible Landscape: Food Production Made Beautiful. 7-8:30 p.m. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, a program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, will hold a workshop, presenting design techniques for incorporating vegetables, fruits, and herbs in gardens that are both ornamental and edible. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. The workshop is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. To register, visit http://mgnv.org/events/ november

Seminary Hill Association Meeting. 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Deputy City Manager Tom Gates on the City's new initiative "What's Next, Alexandria?" Open to the public. In the Addison Auditorium of the Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Rd. Visit www.seminaryhillassn.org.



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> Sue Goodhart 703.362.3221 www.SueGoodhart.com MLS ID# AX7953473



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Barbara Cousens 703.966.4180 Jud Burke 703.966.8343 www.BarbaraCousens.com MLS ID# AX7954021



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