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JANUARY 3, 2013



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Michaela Codella of New York and Sean Gresham of New Zealand share a midnight kiss.



PHOTO BY JAMES BORDNER

Internationally acclaimed Scottish Fiddler Bonnie Rideout gives a rare one performance only concert at St. Paul's Church.

Happy New Year

Thousands celebrate First Night Alexandria, flock to fireworks finale.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Revelers from as far away as New Zealand celebrated the New Year here as a dazzling display of fireworks lit up the Alexandria waterfront to signal the arrival of 2013. "This is the best New Year's Eve ever," said Sean Gresham, who was visiting Old Town with Michaela Codella of New York. "She

SEE FIRST NIGHT, PAGE 6

The fireworks finale of First Night Alexandria lights up the sky over Old Town to ring in the New Year.



PHOTO BY JAMES BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET



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Immediate past-president of the First Night board Charlotte Hall helps a family with directions for the children's activities next door in the Jefferson Houston Elementary School.

First Night Afternoon Alexandria

The lines snaked out the door of the Durant Center intermittently through the morning and afternoon as residents and visitors sought to pick up badges and maps for Alexandria's First Night activities. During the afternoon, voices in song drifted over the waiting crowd as members of the T.C. Williams Choir performed on stage under the direction of Maestro Theodore Thorpe III. Following the choir, the George Washington Middle School Chamber Orchestra



Maestro Theodore Thorpe III directs members of the T.C. Williams Choir in concert at the Durant Center on Monday afternoon.

performed through the late afternoon. Families and Fun Hunt teams also checked in at the Durant Center for maps of the 2012 contest.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Lines of residents and visitors fill the lobby of the Durant Center to collect their First Night badges and maps.



At Whisker Wonderland in King Street Gardens, Natasha Edwards, Liam Lally and Patrick Cole display catnip snowmen that they decorated. The activities at the park were sponsored by Pro Feed Pet Nutrition Centers and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

Looking Ahead to Issues Facing City in 2013

❖ **Waterfront Rezoning:** The controversial plan to upzone three parcels of land on the city's waterfront is set to finally move forward this year, almost tripling the density compared to what's there now. That's not likely to happen until two court challenges are resolved, one in the Virginia Supreme Court and one in the Alexandria Circuit Court. Both cases were brought by three women known as the "Iron Ladies" who are challenging the city's dismissal of a protest petition requiring a supermajority vote for the zoning change. The argument has now been rendered academic now that a new City Council has been installed with a

supermajority support for the plan.

❖ **Beauregard Rezoning:** Although the previous City Council adopted a small-area plan for redevelopment in the West End, members left the crucial rezoning for the future. That vote is likely to come up this year, pitting development interests against low-income residents who fear they will be displaced. Tenants and Workers United is calling on city leaders to hold off on rezoning until they can replace all of the market rate affordable housing units with dedicated affordable housing units. That would require City Council to triple the number of

units that have already been set aside.

❖ **New Leadership:** The Alexandria City Council will have four new members — two returning councilmen and two first-time elected officials. That may change the dynamic of several important issues, such as the waterfront plan and redevelopment along Beauregard Street. The Alexandria School Board will have seven new members, a drastic change in leadership for Alexandria City Public Schools. That could put new pressure on Superintendent Morton Sherman, who came under fire last year when an auditor's report described his bud-

get office as operating in a "dysfunctional environment."

❖ **Metro Location:** One of the biggest decisions the next City Council faces is where to locate the new Potomac Yard Metro station. Three potential locations are on the table. Alternative A, which would cost \$195 million, would be at the northern edge of Potomac Greens townhouses. Alternative B, which has a price tag of \$250 million, is at the southern edge of the Potomac Yard shopping plaza. Alternative C, which has an estimated cost of \$462

SEE LOOKING AHEAD, PAGE 8

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Bill Euille welcomes all to the 2012 First Night activities and the announcement of the Fun Hunt winners.

Awards from First Night Fun Hunt

The auditorium at the Durant Center was standing room only at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31, as the participants of the 2012 First Night Fun Hunt gathered for the announcement of winners.

The 2012 Fun Hunt clues were written again by 2012 T.C. Williams graduate Lauren McCracken and current T.C. Williams senior Kieran Hampl. Participants received a clue sheet with 17 questions that took them through the streets of Old Town to the river and back. The fun hunters were asked to return to the Durant Center by 5:45 to be entered in the contest drawing if the clue sheets were completed and correct.

The 2012 children winners were: first place – Asia Trumble of Lorton; second place – Macey Triplett of Dunn, N.C., and third place – William

Rash of Alexandria.

In the adult category winners were: first place – Nikhil Aggarwal of Lorton; Neil Graves of Alexandria, and third place – William Walker of Alexandria.

Prize sponsors included: First Night Alexandria, Hotel Monaco-Alexandria, Morrison House Hotel, Lorient Hotel & Spa, Dominion Virginia Power, Potomac Riverboat Company, Focus Data Solutions, Fitness Together, Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena, ThinkFun, Hard Times Café, Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Mango Mike's in Alexandria, King Street Blues, The Creamery, Bike & Roll, Pacers Running Store, Buggy's Pizza and Old Town Hardware.



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First place winner of the adult Fun Hunt Nikhil Aggarwal and her son pose with Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, Professor Arts Safari, and Mayor Bill Euille after receiving her prize.



Carl and Elizabeth Sandstrom spent the afternoon searching the clues of the Fun Hunt with their daughter Rose and Dan, a student visiting from Russia.



Asia Trumble makes her way through the crowd as her name is called as the winner of the children's first place prize in the Fun Hunt.

News

Digging Deeper

City archeologist steps down after 36 years in the mud.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Since 1977, Pam Cressey has been digging. In parking lots and under gas stations. Under tree stumps and through old privies. In the dense Old Town grid and out in the wild West End. Now, after 36 years on the job, City Archeologist Pam Cressey is hanging up her trowel and retiring. She officially stepped down at the end of December, although she plans to continue working on special projects with the city that has captivated her for almost half a century.

"What can I say? She's an institution," said Lance Mallamo, director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. "She built the archeology program from the ground up, and she leaves a lasting legacy in Alexandria."

Cressey helped craft the city's groundbreaking archeology code, which requires developers to conduct archeology if artifacts are discovered. She helped unravel the mystery of the Freedmen's Cemetery, where dozens of former slaves were buried under a gas station on South Washington Street. Ultimately, city leaders say, her contribution to the known universe of Alexandria history is incalculable.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pam Cressey has been the city archeologist since 1977.

"She's an outstanding and exceptional historian and archeologist," said Mayor Bill Euille. "She will be missed."

A NATIVE of Glendale, Calif., Cressey is proud to describe herself as "one of the original valley girls." She was raised in a Southern California environment not unlike "Happy Days," she said in a recent interview, with sock hops and swimming pools. When she was in the eighth grade, a male student submitted

SEE CITY ARCHEOLOGIST, PAGE 22

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PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Midnight fireworks over the Alexandria waterfront celebrates the finale of First Night Alexandria.

Celebrating First Night Alexandria

FROM PAGE 1

just agreed to move to New Zealand to be with me so this is truly a night to remember for us.”

The fireworks finale was the culmination event of First Night Alexandria, which included a rare one performance only concert by internationally acclaimed Scottish fiddler Bonnie Rideout.

“It’s very special for me to be here tonight,” Rideout told a sold-out crowd at St. Paul’s Church that included her daughter Clarice. “I remember playing at the inaugural First Night celebration and it was here where I first revealed publicly that I had multiple sclerosis. While I don’t perform much in public any more, this event is still very dear to my heart.”

Billed as the largest family-friendly New Year’s Eve party in the greater Washington area, more than 100 live performances took place throughout Old Town culminating with a fireworks finale over the Potomac River along the waterfront.

“This was fabulous,” said Charlisa Gordon of Lawrenceville, N.J. “I was in New York City last year but am so glad I came here tonight.”

The crowd, estimated to be more than 10,000, included children clutching glow sticks or perched on their parents’ shoulders to get a better view of the festivities.

“First Night is great,” said 6-year-old Caroline Christensen of Alexandria. “I did it once before when I was little but I’m having more fun tonight.”

First Night participants enjoyed an afternoon scavenger hunt throughout Old Town before evening performances got underway as part of the celebration that extended from the George Washington Masonic Memorial to the waterfront.

“Everything went off beautifully this year,” said First Night Alexandria executive director Ann

Dorman. “Between afternoon activities and the fireworks, it was a fabulous day.”

According to Dorman, a larger crowd than expected by the Alexandria Police Department gathered at the foot of King Street and along the waterfront to view the fireworks finale as the countdown to midnight began.

“We’re still running the numbers but around 10,000 participated in First Night this year,” Dorman said. “But according to our initial reports, there were no major incidents to report. Everyone had a safe New Year’s Eve and that’s what’s important to us.”

In addition to Rideout, other entertainment included the Grammy-award winning duo of Al Petteway and Amy White, the Janine Wilson Band, singer/

songwriter Nicole Belanus and Alexandria’s own Keira Moran, a 17-year-old senior at T.C. Williams.

For the first time, four food trucks were allowed to operate in the city as part of First Night Alexandria, which set a new sales record since the event began in 1994. Other businesses along King Street also stayed busy throughout the day.

“It’s been crazy busy all day,” said Alexandria Cupcake owner Adnan Hamidi at around 9:30 p.m. “We baked 3,000 cupcakes today and are already down to our last dozen.”

After being absent for the last two years, a fireworks finale was reinstated as part of the festivities but had to be relocated to the waterfront due to new state regulations that affected the previous site at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

“We weren’t sure how all of this would work out,” Dorman said. “But it all came together wonderfully and we’ll absolutely have fireworks again next year.”

“It’s very special for me to be here tonight.”

— Internationally acclaimed Scottish fiddler Bonnie Rideout.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Rose Between Thorns gives their farewell performance at the American Legion Post 24 Ballroom.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Crowds gather at Bittersweet Café as part of First Night Alexandria.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Cupcake owners Kathy Taylor and Adnan Hamidi, right, celebrate New Year’s Eve with John, James and Cynthia Bordner of Downers Grove, Ill., Douglas Goist and Joshua Hamidi.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

Samuel Barrant, 8, and his brother Lucas, 4, visited from New York to enjoy the First Night fireworks.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

Councilwoman Del Pepper and husband E.J. Pepper enjoy the finale of First Night Alexandria.

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NEWS

Looking Ahead to 2013

FROM PAGE 3
 million, would be an elevated site similar to the ones currently under construction in Tysons Corner.

❖ **Firing Line:** With the Newtown school shooting tragedy still fresh, members of the Virginia General Assembly are about to take up a number of gun-related bills. One that has support in Northern Virginia would forbid guns from the Virginia Capitol building except for police officers and members of the General Assembly. Another measure would require firearms to be reported stolen within 24 hours of the theft.

❖ **Gubernatorial Election:** Thought election year politics was behind you in 2012? Think again. You're in Virginia, where every year is an election year. This year will be a particularly important election year because the governor's race will be at the top of the ticket, and Republican incumbent Bob McDonnell is not able to run for a second consecutive term. Democrats who are running include former Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe and Northern Virginia attorney Matt Famiglietti. The primary will be in June. Republican candidates are Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and Northern Virginia businessman Tareq Salahi. The GOP has decided to select its gubernatorial candidate in a convention rather than a primary.

❖ **Election for Lieutenant Governor:** The governor's race is at the top of the ticket, and is sure to dominate the headlines this year. But a number of other statewide races are also on the ballot, and a

number of candidates are jockeying for position. Democrats who have already declared are former chief technology officer Aneesh Chopra and state Sen. Ralph Northam (D-6). Other potential Democratic candidates include state Sen. Kenny Alexander (D-5) and Roanoke Mayor David Bowers. Republicans who have declared are former state Sen. Jeannemarie Devolites Davis (R-34), conservative pastor E.W. Jackson, Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-31), state Sen. Stephen Martin (R-11), Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart, Stafford County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Susan Stimpson and technology executive Pete Snyder.

❖ **Election for Attorney General:** With current Attorney General seeking the Republican nomination for governor, a number of Democrats and Republicans are vying to become Virginia's next chief lawyer. Democrats who have already announced are former U.S. Attorney Justin Fairfax and state Sen. Mark Herring (D33). Republicans who have already announced are Del. Rob Bell (R-58) and state Sen. Mark Obensham (R-26).

❖ **Election for House of Delegates:** All members of the House of Delegates will be up for reelection this year. Here in Alexandria, that means Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) and Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) will both be on the ballot. Both Democrats are expected to run for reelection in districts that are solidly Democratic. So far, no Republicans have announced for either race although party leaders are trying to find candidates to oppose Krupicka and Herring.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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Looking Back at Alexandria in 2012

❖ **Democratic Sweep:** After losing two City Council seats in 2009, the lame duck Democrats moved the local elections from May to November when a record number of Democrats were expected to show up at the polls. Winning election in May 2009 required about 7,000 votes, while winning election in 2012 required more than 31,000 votes. It worked, and the two Republicans were swept out of office. The two Democrats who lost their seats in 2009 are now returning to City Hall.

❖ **Dysfunctional Administration:** In March, an independent accountant's report concluded that the budget office at Alexandria City Public Schools suffers from a "dysfunctional environment," prompting Vice Mayor Kerry Donley to ask for Superintendent Morton Sherman to step down. School Board members retreated into a closed-door, three-hour meeting to discuss his future. In the end, they decided to stand by the embattled superintendent. Seven new members were elected to the board in November.

❖ **Waterfront Impasse:** Old Town residents and City Council members clashed

repeatedly about redevelopment at three sites on the waterfront this year, at City Hall and in a series of courtrooms. City officials want to almost triple the allowable density at the three sites compared to what's there now. Many Old Town residents say that's too dense, and have filed a series of court challenges to Planning Director Faroll Hamer's rejection of a protest petition requiring a supermajority vote to adopt the zoning change. The plan did not have a supermajority vote on the old City Council. But a supermajority exists now with the new City Council members who campaigned in favor of the controversial proposal.

❖ **West End Redevelopment:** During the heat of a fiercely contested Democratic primary in May, members of the current City Council approved a controversial redevelopment plan for the West End that would demolish hundreds of low-income garden apartments to construct high-end housing, offices and hotels. Supporters say that the Beauregard small-area plan includes 800 units of dedicated affordable housing units, but critics say that's little consolation for the residents of the 2,500 units of market-rate affordable housing there now.

❖ **Sex Scandal Derails Englin:** In

April four-term member of the Virginia House of Delegates appeared at a meeting of the Alexandria Democratic Committee and made a revelation — that he had been unfaithful to his wife and that he would not be seeking a fifth term in November 2013. Almost immediately, rumors began to circulate that he would resign his seat. By June, those rumors had come true and Englin announced that he would not serve out the term he was elected to serve. Despite vowing that his unsuccessful 2011 campaign for Virginia State Senate would be his "last big campaign for a very long time," Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka launched a campaign and was eventually elected over Democrat Karen Gautney and Republican Tim McGhee and Libertarian Justin Malkin.

❖ **Failing Transparency:** In March, Virginia received a failing grade from the State Integrity Investigation as a result of the commonwealth's systematic lack of transparency. In June, members of a subcommittee of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council gathered to see if there was any way to reconcile the concerns of law enforcement officials and advocates of public access. But the meeting adjourned with no action, and Virginia re-

mains one of the least transparent states in America — especially with regard to documents outlining the actions of local police departments.

❖ **New Manager, Higher Taxes:** With little more than two months under his belt as the city's new chief executive, City Manager Rashad Young proposed his first budget to City Council members on Valentine's Day. The \$585.6 million proposal represented a 3.3 percent increase from the previous year's budget, pumping an additional \$18.7 million into the annual budget. The City Council approved the spending plan in May, raising the average property taxpayer's bill \$52, a 1.2 percent increase compared to the previous year.

❖ **Coal-Fired Power Plant Shuts Down:** After years of efforts to close the 1940s-era coal-fired power plant, the facility finally shut its door for good in September. That means the facility is no longer polluting the air in Alexandria, a longstanding goal of city leaders. But the future of the heavily polluted site remains a mystery. The 25-acre property is currently operated by Houston-based GenOn, which has an 88-year lease with Washington-based Pepco.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION
BY WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY
TO AMEND ITS NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION
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CASE NO PUE-2012-00138

On March 26, 2010, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") entered an Order Approving Natural Gas Conservation and Rate-making Efficiency Plan in Case No. PUE-2009-00064, which approved a three-year Conservation and Rate-making Efficiency ("CARE") Plan for the residential customers of Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company"), effective May 1, 2010, pursuant to Chapter 25 of Title 56 (§§ 56-600 et seq.) of the Code of Virginia ("Code").

On December 4, 2012, WGL filed an Application to amend its CARE Plan ("Application") to allow the Company to (i) continue to implement its CARE Plan for residential customer classes with a revised portfolio of programs for residential customers and (ii) extend its CARE Plan to "small" commercial and industrial ("C&I") customers and group metered apartment ("GMA") customers receiving service under Rate Schedule Nos. 2, 2A, 3 and 3A. WGL seeks approval of its amended CARE Plan for a three-year period beginning on May 1, 2013.

For residential customers, the Company's Application includes the following programs: (1) Low Income Energy Assistance Program (for eligible low income customers); (2) Space Heating Incentive Program, including Programmable Thermostat; (3) Water Heating Incentive Program; (4) Natural Gas Energy Star New Homes Program; (5) Home Energy Reporting Program; and (6) Energy Efficiency Education Program. The Company proposes to eliminate its Boiler Incentive and Heating System Check-up programs offered in its current CARE Plan.

For eligible C&I and GMA customers, the Company's application proposes "prescriptive-based rebate programs designed to incent the installation of high-efficiency gas equipment for five major gas-consuming applications, including (i) water heating, (ii) space heating, (iii) boilers, (iv) food service, and (v) laundromat services." The commercial programs offered by the Company also include an Energy Efficiency Education Program.

For the low income component of its CARE Plan, WGL proposes to continue its partnership with the Community Housing Partners Corporation ("CHPC") and will focus on funding energy audits for individually metered multi-family dwellings.

The total budget for WGL's three-year amended CARE Plan is \$5,943,034. These expenses will be recovered from a CARE Rate-making Adjustment ("CRA") that adjusts the actual non-gas distribution revenues per customer to the allowed level of distribution revenues per customer approved in the Company's most recent rate case before the Commission, Case No. PUE-2010-00139 and a CARE Cost Adjustment ("CCA") that will allow the Company to recover the costs of its CARE Plan through a monthly surcharge to all residential and eligible C&I and GMA customers' bills. According to the Company, the annual year one CRA for a typical customer using 753 therms per year is projected at \$2.71, and for a typical C&I heating customer using 5,264 therms per year it is estimated at \$20.93. For a typical GMA heating customer using 16,145 therms, the annual CRA is projected at \$62.97. The Company states that it does not propose, at this time, to seek approval for a performance-based incentive mechanism as part of its amended CARE Plan.

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 testimony and 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, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., 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 January 25, 2013, interested persons may file written comments on WGL's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2012-00138.

On or before January 25, 2013, any interested person may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing a notice of participation in accordance with 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2012-00138.

On or before January 25, 2013, interested persons may request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company's Application by filing a request for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Requests for hearing must refer to Case No. PUE-2012-00138 and include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

A copy of any written comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation shall simultaneously be sent to counsel for the Company: Meera Ahamed, Esquire, Washington Gas Light Company, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20080.

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

OPINION

Happy New Year, Keep in Touch

Reflecting and reinforcing the sense of community.

As a local, weekly newspaper, the Gazette Packet's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

To succeed at any of that, we need your help.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, let us know. We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show. Send us a photo and tell us about it.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, an-

niversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. E-mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

To have an event included in our calendars, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

EDITORIAL In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Gazette Packet is published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company. The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, two editions of the Centre View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna/Oakton, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

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— MARY KIMM,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Looking Forward To Turnaround

To the Editor:

I admit to being intrigued. The Alexandria City Council indeed approved construction of a new \$45 million Jefferson-Houston School, presumably to the outgoing School Board's delight. My neighbor, School Board member-elect Bill Campbell is among

Jefferson-Houston's hardest-working champions.

Bill's recent remarks, as quoted in Michael Lee Pope's "A New Jefferson-Houston Arising," surprised some. "I think we should rename the school," said Bill. "Jefferson-Houston has too much baggage."

Bill and I are prone to back-gate debates and renaming the school was one. In 2000 I helped now-deceased neighbor LeeRoy Steele

name a new elementary school for Alexandria-born, NAACP lawyer Samuel W. Tucker. Charles Houston was the legal architect of the 1954 Brown decision and Tucker is responsible for the U.S. Supreme Court's "extension of Brown," *Greene v. School Board of New Kent County, VA* (1968).

When pressed, I spoke against the renaming of Jefferson-Houston School. The suggested name change is like botox. It is cosmetic, appearance altering in the short-term, but not a permanent solution. ACPS has made an academic mess of the School; test scores (SOLs) have measurably declined, and ACPS must account for its failure.

Virginia's mandated turnaround team arrives in Alexandria in January and I, for one, welcome their residency. ACPS, and in turn Jefferson-Houston, must demonstrate more than construction progress. I hope, for the sake of the children enrolled, Virginia's educational team is well-suited.

The time for apologies has come and gone. The turnaround team will manage Jefferson-Houston School from on-site. Academic progress, like name change approval, now rests with the Commonwealth.

Sarah Becker

Address Guns Violence

To the Editor:

Blacksburg, Va. Aurora, Colo. Fort Hood, Texas. Tucson, Ariz. Newtown, Conn. Columbine, Colo. Milwaukee, Wisc. Washington, D.C.

Sounds like a wonderful travelogue but nothing could be further from the truth. Instead these are cities and towns which bore witness to horrific violence and mass murders due to gun violence. Last week our national consciousness was shocked by shootings in an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. when the lives of 20 innocent first graders were lost along with their teachers in a senseless act of violence. A place of community, a place of learning — an elementary school in an idyllic community — was changed forever when a lone gunman took rampage on a class of first graders.

Our hearts go out to the families of these victims along with the citizens of Newtown as they will be forever changed by this violence. I cannot imagine my life as a parent who sent a child off to school in the morning and just a few hours later had to realize that

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-917-6480 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Snapshot

Dylan, a relative of the Norwegian Forest Cats, ticks off time with his tail as evening light falls on Dec. 31 and the new year approaches.

OPINION

George's Advice on Role of Party

BY CARLYLE C. ("CONNIE") RING, JR.

This is the fifth in a series of columns, coordinated by former council member Lonnie Rich, that includes other past city leaders writing on governance and politics.

In his Farewell Address in 1796, giving his final counsel to his country, after two terms as President, George Washington warned: "Let me ... warn you in most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally ... [T]he spirit is inseparable from our nature, having its roots in the strongest passions of the human mind ... It [party] serves always to distract the public counsels and enfeebles the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riots and insurrection ... The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositaries, and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern; some of them in our country and under our own eyes."

Deep concern was expressed as well by James Madison in Federalist Paper 10:

"Complaints are everywhere heard ... that the public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties ... The latent causes of faction are thus sown in the nature of man. The zeal for different opinions

concerning religion, concerning government, and many other points ... and attachment to different leaders ambitiously contending for pre-eminence and power ... have in turn divided mankind into parties"

Madison, like Washington, argues, in the Federalist Paper 10, that division of powers, checks and balances, and assuring minority views have a place at the table, is the only safeguard to assure liberty by bringing all into the dialogue and finding common cause among different factions.

But for far too many, party becomes "the end," rather than the means to the end of "good government." The stalemate on addressing the current fiscal cliff gives witness to the disaster that threatens when "the common good" loses out to "political advantage" of party or office.

Parties tend to punish those who engage in any dialogue with the opposition or accommodation that seeks a middle ground. We need a genuine dialogue in Congress and between Congress and the President.

We need diverse voices on City Council and the Alexandria School Board — the goal should not be perpetuation of one party control and incumbency. Our founding fathers gave sage and useful advice about the role of party, we should follow that counsel.

Carlyle C. ("Connie") Ring, Jr. was former City Councilman (1979-88); School Board member (1969-78); ARHA Board member (1999-2010), and chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee (1962-68).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

my child had been murdered. How can one survive such an experience? My prayers are with those parents as they struggle to remain strong in light of such a terrible and unimaginable loss.

Not doubt the events of Newtown will reignite the national debate on gun restrictions which have been politically charged. The issues involved are complex but these very complexities should not deter us from seeking solutions. Instead they should prompt us to seek a variety of solutions directed at making our communities safer, reducing the possibilities that other events of violence might occur, and preserving our community institutions.

I offer these strategies as good steps toward our goals.

❖ Congress should reinstitute the ban on assault weapons. I fully

support hunters and their pursuit of sport, but assault weapons are not for hunters and they have no place outside the field of battle in any advanced society.

❖ Congress should restrict the sale of high capacity ammunition

magazines for both rifles and hand guns. Why on earth do we need such an invention designed solely to take human life?

❖ Close the gun show loophole and require criminal and mental health background checks for all purchasers of firearms.

❖ Increased funding for mental health services at both the federal and state levels, especially for those in crisis.

❖ Virginia should reinstate the "one gun a month" sale restriction which it recently repealed. One might reasonably assert that one gun a month is plenty, but I would argue that one gun a month is far too many.

❖ Virginia should enact requirements that owners

of firearms should be required to store them safely or that they are secured with trigger locks.

❖ Local governments in Virginia should be granted the authority to

prohibit firearm in public places such as schools, libraries, recreation centers, city halls and courthouses. Such authority is not a restriction on gun ownership but rather the proper exercise of local authority over the buildings and facilities in its jurisdiction.

These governmental actions are not an infringement on the Second Amendment but rather are rational and responsible solutions which focused on ensuring safety. While we should work to preserve our rights under our Constitution, we must also balance these rights under our duties, especially those of local governments, to ensure the public's safety.

President Obama has called for the violence to stop and he has seized the mantle of leadership by appointing a task force headed by Vice President Biden to suggest legislation to curb these violent events in the future. I congratulate our President for not only his leadership but for his compassion. Rarely have I witnessed our nation's leader so genuinely touch by events as President Obama was last week, and I believe his resolve will bring progress on the complex issues at the root of such senselessness.

I am equally perplexed at the attitude displayed by our

Governor McDonnell who suggested that had teachers or administrators been armed then perhaps the violence could have been avoided. This is absurd! One common element in all of these events is the presence of guns, and more guns are not a solution. Moreover, schools are places of learning and guns have no place in any school, be it an elementary school, a high school or a college or university.

We need leaders with the courage to rethink previous strategies and positions and not seek to ap

SEE OPINION, PAGE 21

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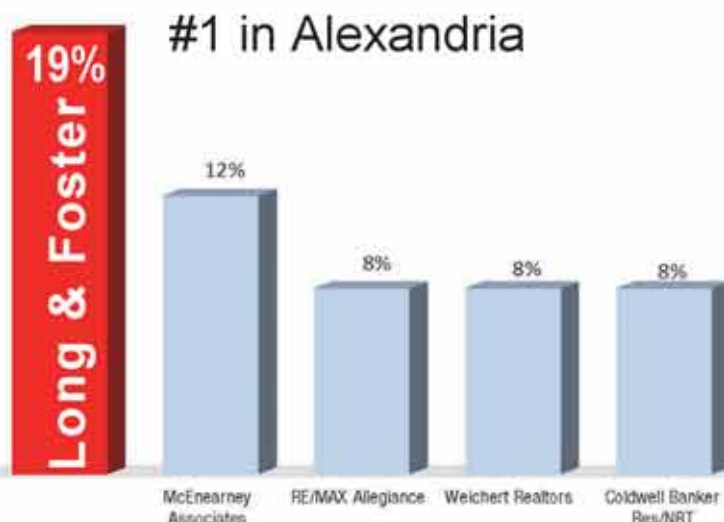


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JUST REDUCED! Celebrate the holidays with room for all your family and friends. Custom-built in 2006, this 3,444 sq ft beauty has 3 finished levels with 6BR/3.5BA, 2-story foyer and family room with massive stone fireplace, spacious kitchen with granite and maple, MBR with sitting room and so much more.
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\$397,000
Alexandria South
"WAYNEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT"
Charming 2BR/1BA brick rambler sited on large corner lot. Amenities include hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, vaulted ceiling in great room, upgraded kitchen.
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Alexandria
"COMMERCIAL"
Immediate occupancy available in this recently renovated building including 3 levels, 7 individual offices plus reception area and a large lower open finished level. A half bath and small kit with sink and dishwasher are on the top level. 5 deeded parking spaces plus more M-F by agreement. Walk to King St Metro.
Owner/agent
Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



*Source: Information based on data supplied by MRS and its member Association (s) of REALTORS, who are not responsible for its accuracy. Does not reflect all activity in the marketplace. October 1, 2011 - September 30, 2012. Information contained in this report is deemed reliable but not guaranteed, should be independently verified, and does not constitute an opinion of MRS or Long and Foster Real Estate Inc. ©2012 All rights reserved.

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OldTownAlexandria.com



ENTERTAINMENT



Choral Evensong

Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the Adult Choir in Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Music by Byrd, Wood, Mendelssohn, Ayleward will be featured. Three Magi will be receiving donations of non-perishable foods for St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry serving the needy. Free to the public, with a freewill offering optional. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, at the corner of Pitt and Duke streets. Call Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or email grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church's adult choir.

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

ONGOING

Homeschool Studio Class.

Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition.

At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street. Open daily, through September 2013, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time, through their own words, as well as in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery will host the juried show "Bedecked and Bedazzled" through Jan. 6 at Studio 18 of Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. In this show, the artists excel in holiday spirit and sparkle with jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

The Marshall House Incident Exhibition:

This exhibit at Fort Ward features objects from the museum collection to tell the notable story about the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria. Open through 2012 at Fort Ward Museum (4301 West Braddock Rd.) is open Tuesday - Saturday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, from noon - 5 p.m. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Art Exhibit. Alexandria artist Francis

Seeger will display "People" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. from Jan. 10-Feb. 24. Free. Features a number of the artist's larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger's subjects are captured with a bold, intuitive hand and vibrant palette. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition.

Daily exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Through September 2013 at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Tavern Toddlers.

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays through the end of April 2013. Designed for walkers through 36 months and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 3

Ocean Orchestra & Washington Revels 'Singers A Celtic Solstice Celebration!' 7:30 p.m. \$25. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

English as a Second Language Class.

10 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All levels welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Tech Zoo Fridays. Noon at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn about e-reading devices or bring one already owned. Free. 703-746-1704.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 4-5

Pat McGee Band Reunion. \$35. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

JAN. 4 THROUGH JAN. 27

Art Exhibit. "Shades of White" by Del Ray artisans at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. White isn't "just white." It has tones and hues ranging from blues to beiges to yellows and more. In addition, some white pigments chemically interact with others (e.g. lead-based v. sulfur-based) to create beautiful blues and grays. Curators: Betsy Mead and Hillary Mead. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more details.

SATURDAY/JAN. 5

Pine Wood Derby Workshop.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Cub Scouts can bring their cars, with the design traced onto the car, and have them be rough cut. Sanders, sandpaper and tools will be available for additional work to be done on the cars. \$1 voluntary donation per car accepted. 703-879-0475.

Cabin Fever Aromatherapy Workshop.

2-3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn to make tea, a sinus inhaler and more. Free. Register at 703-746-1743.

Saturday Stories.

11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702.

Meditation. Noon at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn about guided meditation and breathing techniques. Free. 703-746-1704.

JAN. 5 THROUGH JAN. 27

Art Exhibit. See "Between the Lines: Contemporary Drawing Now" at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. An all-media exhibition focusing on current trends in drawing today. Free. Visit



THE FULL MONTY A MUSICAL COMEDY

(Show contains adult content and possible nudity)

NOVAM Benefit

"The Full Monty" benefit for Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, Friday, Jan. 11 at 8 p.m., \$35, at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Reception and Silent Auction at 7pm. This Tony award-winning musical celebrates camaraderie, as well as family and friends. In this Americanized version, six unemployed Buffalo steelworkers, low on cash and prospects, decide to tackle their financial woes and regain their self-esteem by baring their best assets. The Full Monty, with a witty script and show-stopping musical numbers, has it all: great heart, jazzy tunes, and a universal message about love on so many levels. Visit novam.org for details and tickets, \$35. "The Full Monty" will be running at Little Theatre of Alexandria Jan. 12-Feb. 2, visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

www.torpedofactory.org/target.

SUNDAY/JAN. 6

An Evening of Musical/Political Humor with Mark Russell. 7:30 p.m. \$49.50. Visit www.markrussell.net/. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at

3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Performance. Armonia Nova, an ensemble of historical instruments and voices, performs at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Donations welcome. Visit www.armonianova.org or 571-482-9052.

Choral Evensong. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Music by Byrd, Wood, Mendelssohn and Ayleward will be featured. Donations of non-perishable foods welcome. Free. 703-549-3312.

THROUGH JAN. 6

Net Worked: Horjus, Lister, and Pearson.

Opening reception is on Sunday, Nov. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. Free. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Christmas at Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon is decking the halls for Christmas at Mount Vernon, a special daytime program offered through January. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing will be offered. Visitors will get a glimpse of how the Washingtons might have decorated and entertained during the holiday season. Tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion and learn how the Washingtons celebrated Christmas. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin, the resident camel. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 7

Garden Sprouts: Let it Snow.

11 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children ages 3-5 with adult can listen to the story of Snowflake Bentley and learn how snow is made. Walk the garden

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

and then make a craft. \$5/child. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 3901.

Friends of Beatley Central Library.

7 p.m. at the library, 5005 Duke St. Learn how to become more active with the Friends. Free. 703-746-1702.

Little One-Ders. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children age 12-23 months with adult. Free. Pre-registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Spanish Story Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories and songs in Spanish. Free. 703-746-1705.

Baby Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to 11 months can enjoy songs, fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705.

Teen Movie. 4 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Come watch a movie with friends. For students in grades 6 and up. Free. 703-746-1705.

Library E-book Help. 7 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how to use the library's collection on your e-reader. Registration required, 703-746-1714.

Read, Sing, Play, Baby. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy songs, games and playtime with toys. Free. 703-746-1703.

JAN. 7 THROUGH FEB. 3

Art Exhibit. Scope Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St.,

presents "Illuminations," a cozy ambiance that can be achieved with the glow from handcrafted ceramic lamps, lanterns and more. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 8

Opening of Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., will open "QR Codes." Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

English as a Second Language Class. 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All levels welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

Tech Zoo Tuesdays. 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn about the latest e-reading devices or get help with one currently owned. Free. 703-746-1702.

Time for 2s. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Game Night. 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12. Games change monthly. Free. 703-746-1702.

Songs and Stories. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy songs, fingerplays and stories. Free. 703-746-1705.

Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Sign up at the children's desk or call 703-746-1783 to reserve a 15-minute slot to read to a dog. For students in grades 1-6.

Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Ellen



"Belle Aria" by Jennifer Brewer Stone.

Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories, songs, games and making crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy songs, games and interactive fun. Free. 703-746-1703.

Stories to Grow On. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and interactive fun at 11

a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Free. 703-746-1703.

JAN. 8 THROUGH FEB. 4

Art Exhibit. "Winter Impression" at Enamelists Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Showcases the cold, snow, ice and cool colors of winter beauty. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Solo Artist Preview Exhibit

The Art League's second annual Solo Preview Exhibit will premiere a work by each of our nine 2013 solo artists. This exhibit offers viewers a glimpse of the exciting exhibits at The Art League Gallery this coming year. The preview will be on view in The Art League Gallery Jan. 10-24. All are invited to an opening reception to meet the artists Jan. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.

Artists include:

Sabyna Sterrett: March 2013, recycled object sculpture

Linda Lawler: April 2013, painting

Noah Williams: May 2013, recycled object sculpture

Bob Tetro: June 2013, photography

Jennifer Brewer Stone: July 2013, painting

Nick Khiku: September 2013, sculpture

Cindi Lewis: October 2013, painting

Everitt Clark: November 2013, photography

Thien-Kim Pham: December 2013, charcoal drawing

A panel of outside jurors selected these nine artists from approximately 50 applicants. To be considered, potential solo artists provided examples of their work, created a proposal, and completed the jurying process.

The Art League is located at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria at 105 N Union St. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

TUESDAYS/JAN. 8 THROUGH FEB. 12

Introduction to Cartoon Drawing.

6-7:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 8-12 will receive an introduction to materials, figure drawing, character creation and storyboarding. \$180/student. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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CANDEY'S
OF ALEXANDRIA
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TRATTORIA
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THE FULL MONTY
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(Show contains adult content and possible nudity)

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January 12–February 2, 2013

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Little Theatre of Alexandria
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www.thelittletheatre.com

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

WEDNESDAYS/JAN. 9-FEB. 6

Picture Writing: Literacy through Art. 7-8:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 8-12 will receive an introduction to an approach to writing that integrates visual modes of thinking at every stage of the writing process. \$150/student. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 9

Time for 2s. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Spanish Story Time. 1 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All levels welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

Pajama Story Time. 7 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-7 can wear pajamas and listen to two or three stories. Free. 703-746-1705.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy songs, games and interactive fun. Free. 703-746-1703.

Stories to Grow On. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and interactive fun at 11 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Free. 703-746-1703.

THURSDAY/JAN. 10

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Color Mixing as Science and Art - Explore liquid watercolor for mixing colors and experimenting with application to a variety of paintable materials.

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.

Music. Tommy Emmanuel will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Opening Reception.

6-8 p.m. at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Between the Lines: Contemporary Drawing Now" is an all-media exhibition focusing on current trends in drawing today. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

Art Night: Wintry Mix. 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Browse open studios, interact with artists, make a craft and more. Gloves or mittens accepted at a collection box. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Opening Reception. Features a premiere piece of work by each of the Art League's nine 2013 solo artists. 6:30-8 p.m. in the gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Library Speed Dating. 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Book lovers can share their love of books and find a literary better half. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments served. Call 703-746-

1751 to reserve a spot.
Latin American Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. 703-746-1702.

English as a Second Language Class. 10 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All levels welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. One-year-olds can sing, enjoy fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories,



Evening of Folk Music

Focus presents folk singer/songwriter Peter Mayer, with special guest the Copper Ponies, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at FocusMusic.org.

Actively touring throughout the '90s, Minnesota native Peter Mayer is known for his earthy, intimate songwriting and fingerstyle guitar work. Mayer writes songs about interconnectedness and the human journey; about the beauty and the mystery of the world. Whimsical, humorous and profound, his music breaks the boundaries of folk. Mayer's ninth CD, "Heaven Below," was released in 2010 and continues his themes of spirituality and serenity, and occasional silliness.

The Copper Ponies duo consists of Annie Donahue and Erik Balkey, both of New Jersey. With a focus on lyrics, melody and harmony, the Copper Ponies' songs are understated and unadorned, while still being compelling.

Peter Mayer

play time and a craft. Free. 703-746-1705.

Movie Matinee. 4 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Watch "The Odd Life of Timothy Green." Free. 703-746-1704.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Pajamas optional, but children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, games and crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and more, including a weekly craft or short film. Free. 703-746-1703.

JAN.10 THROUGH JAN. 24

Solo Preview Exhibit. Features a premiere piece of work by each of the Art League's nine 2013 solo artists. Gallery is located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

JAN. 10 THROUGH FEB. 10

Call for Applicants. Apply for the Visiting Artist Program for residency at the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for details on how to apply.

FRIDAY/JAN. 11

Opening Reception. 5-8 p.m. See work by local artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. There will be dance and poetry by Tori Lane. Free. Visit www.Convergenceccf.net.

Growing Healthy Indoor Plants. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn how soil, location and plant selection can fill a house with easy-care plants. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 183 3301.

Full Monty Fundraiser. 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Reception and silent auction followed by the musical "The Full Monty." Proceeds benefit Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry. Visit novam.org.

Tech Zoo Fridays. Noon at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn about e-reading devices or bring one already owned. Free. 703-746-1704.

JAN. 11 THROUGH FEB. 24

Art Exhibit. See work by local artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Free. Visit www.Convergenceccf.net.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

Garden Design: Session One. 9:30-

11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Two instructors will present lectures on "What Kind of Garden Do You Want?" and "Garden Bones." \$35. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 3101.

Garden Sprouts: Gifts from the Gardens. 11 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children ages 3-5 with adult can learn how seeds, fruit and other natural materials can be made into ornaments. \$5. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 185 9501.

Family Fun: Snow Globe Workshop. 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a snow globe in a jar with miniature figures and glittering snowflakes. \$6/person. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 3501.

Pine Wood Derby Workshop.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Cub Scouts can bring their cars, with the design traced onto the car, and have them be rough cut. Sanders, sandpaper and tools will be available for additional work to be done on the cars. \$1 voluntary donation per car accepted. 703-879-0475.

Saturday Stories. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702.

SUNDAY/JAN. 13

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. Francis Seeger will display "People" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Free. Features a number of the artist's larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger's subjects are captured with a bold, intuitive hand and vibrant palette. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Opening Reception. Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, showcases Clifford Wheeler's portfolio "Axes - Bold as Love, the Luthier's Art," at 2 p.m. 703-63-2205.

Grapes into Wine. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn about the history of wine production and go through the wine-making process. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 183 2901.

Tea, Glorious Tea! Tea Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$28. Learn all the different ways used tea bags or leftover brews can be used. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Browse a gigantic selection, divided by category. \$10/early admission from 8:30-9 a.m. Free admission after 9 a.m.

Pine Wood Derby Workshop. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Cub Scouts can bring their cars, with the design traced onto the car, and have them be rough cut. Sanders, sandpaper and tools will be available for additional work to be done on the cars. \$1 voluntary donation per car accepted. 703-879-0475.

MONDAYS/JAN. 14, JAN. 21

Two-part Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artist Betsy Mead will show how using two shades of white can lead to shades of black, brown, grey or blue. \$65/DRA member; \$75/non-member. Register at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/fusedglass.

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Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
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6:30 pm Mass (from Sept. 9
until mid June)

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion
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OBITUARY

Jack Samuel Daniels

Jack Samuel Daniels died at his Myrtle Beach home on Dec. 27, 2012 after a long battle with multiple myeloma. Jack was born July 17, 1923 in Alexandria and is the son of Harvey O. Daniels and Lillie Seibert Daniels of Alexandria. He was predeceased by four brothers, Harvey O. Daniels, Gordon Daniels, Wayne Daniels and Bobby Daniels; and three sisters, Ethel Mae Heddings, Elizabeth Duvall and Avis Wood.

Jack is survived by his loving wife Ellinor (Ellie) of 63 years; his daughter and son-in-law Cathy and Donald (Wink) Markwith of King George County; and his son Jack Daniels, Jr. of Myrtle Beach. Jack and Ellie are both from Alexandria, but retired to Colonial Beach, Va. They moved to Myrtle Beach in 1990 where they enjoyed golf, dancing, the beach, and a host of new friends.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 3

Conservation Breakfast. 8 a.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Held by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Richard Brown, Virginia Secretary of Finance, will talk about opportunities surrounding land conservation. Visit www.cb.nvct.org.

Alexandria Community Service Board Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Community Services Board, 720 N. St. Asaph St. Contact Donielle Marshall, donielle.marshall@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3523.

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. 7 p.m. City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Mildrilyn Davis, 703-746-4990.

Planning Commission Regular Public Hearing. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Kendra Jacobs, kendra.jacobs@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3844.

SATURDAY/JAN. 5

Comm. on Persons with Disabilities, Ad Hoc Emergency Management Committee. 2 p.m. Chakra Cafe, 600 Franklin St. Contact Mike Hatfield, 703-746-3148.

MONDAY/JAN. 7

Environmental Policy Commission. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Bill Skrabak, 703-746-4065.

TUESDAY/JAN. 8

Alexandria Commission on Employment. 8 a.m. JobLink, 1900 Beauregard St. Contact Dennis McKinney, 703-746-5990.

Alexandria Commission for Women. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Lisa Baker, 703-746-5030.

Community Meeting. 6:30 p.m. in the John Adams Elementary School media center, 5651 Rayburn Ave. Discuss a proposal for restricting traffic to right turns only onto Rayburn Avenue during peak traffic times.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 9

Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission. 8 a.m. Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Contact Lance Mallamo, 703-746-4554.

Alexandria Electoral Board. 8:30 a.m. Voter Registration Office, 132 N. Royal St. Contact Eric Spicer, 703-746-4050.

Transportation Commission. 7 p.m. City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Contact Karen Callahan, 703-746-4086.

Commission on Persons with Disabilities. 7 p.m. City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Mike Hatfield, 703-746-3148.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
702 Scarborough Way, Alexandria, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Christopher J.
Camera and Kiersten Camera, dated July 31, 2007, and re-
corded August 1, 2007, as Instrument numbered 070017988
among the Land Records of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, the
undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auc-
tion at the front entrance of the Court House for the City of
Alexandria, at 520 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on

Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said
Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 38, Old Town Greens, as the same is shown on a plat at-
tached to a deed of consolidation and resubdivision recorded
in Deed Book 1698 at page 1601, among the Land Records of
the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Commonly known as 702 Scarborough Way, Alexandria, Virginia
22314.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 or ten percent
(10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form
of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the
time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money be-
ing due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time ex-
pressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.75
percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement.
Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory
note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall
be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including
interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set
off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the
risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and re-
strictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real es-
tate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or material-
man's liens of record and not of record. The property will be
sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of
redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agree-
ments of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the
purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive reme-
dy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of
sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold
in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser
shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code
violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all
unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners'
association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also
shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at
his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and
shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruc-
tion, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of
sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Convey-
ancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of ti-
tle, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be
at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public
charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be
adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by
the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower(s)
did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior
to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the
status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited
to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into
any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior
to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void,
and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the
return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be
announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a
debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that
purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of
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The reward
of a thing
well done, is
to have done it.
- Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Obituary



Adelia Park Linnemann of Alexandria, VA
died on Saturday, December 22, 2012. Beloved
Wife of the late Calvin C. Linnemann; devoted
and loving Mother of Calvin (Pat) Linnemann,
Jr, Anne (Charles) Terio, Richard Linnemann,
and Adelia (Jon M.) Sams; dear sister of the
late Thomas Park, Hugh Park, and Montine
Shedd; adored Grandmother of Marianne
Elbertson, William (Andrea) Sams, Adelia (Ro-
bert) Quam, Chris (Anne) Terio, Christopher
(Sang) Moore, Mark (Kelly) Linnemann, Timothy
Linnemann, and Cathy Linnemann; great-
grandchildren Reed Anne Elbertson, Caroline
Elbertson, Alexander J. Terio, Sean Sams,
Garrett Moore, Eliza Moore, Rumi Linnemann,
Teo Linnemann, Lindsey Elbertson Paulson,
Dylan Quam, Catherine Quam, Megan Ann
Quam and Nicholas Quam; dear Aunt of Vicki
Haase, Alicia Levin, Rosemarie Olivia (Tony)
Cain, Sarah Park (Larry) Merck and Roger
(Suzanne) Park. A memorial service will be held
on Saturday, January 5, 2013 at 2:00pm at
Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8600
Plymouth Road, Alexandria, VA. In lieu of flow-
ers, contributions may be made to Plymouth
Haven Baptist Church. Arrangements by
Demaine Funeral Home.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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OPINION

FROM PAGE 11

pease a particular segment of the political spectrum. Sen. Mark Warner signaled his desire to rethink the assault weapon ban. Senator-elect Tim Kaine offered common sense solutions such as closing the gun show loophole. Congressman Moran reiterated his support for reasonable restrictions on gun ownership which are focused at making our communities safer.

Our country has seen time and time again the carnage of gun violence. It is truly unfortunate that the lost lives of grade schoolers at Sandy Hook has caused many to rethink their roles and responsibilities of our government and our citizens when it comes to guns and mass killings. We can only hope that the collective courage of our political leaders will lead to meaningful changes to gun ownership, mental health services and

common sense safety practices. I hope and pray that the future will not bring more debate in the wake of another violent event where lives have been lost. The time for action is now!

Kerry J. Donley
Vice Mayor

Beware Bad Advice

To the Editor:

In the article titled, "Union of Pedestrians" (Dec. 20 issue), a representative of the Alexandria Civic Federation made a highly inaccurate statement regarding the popularity of shared streets in the Netherlands. Specifically, he claimed they were unpopular.

As it happens, I actually lived in the Netherlands for a time and can still read Dutch articles and blogs. Thanks to that and my experience as the former chairman of the Alexandria Transportation Commission, I can state quite firmly that such claims are not accurate at all. In fact, shared streets are actually used as selling points in Dutch real estate ads. A simple Google search will verify the accuracy of my statement (though I should caution that they are written in Dutch).

This is not the first time this particular individual has opposed improvements designed to benefit cyclists and pedestrians. Sadly, I fear that it will not be the last. It is my hope that Council will remain vigilant against such bad advice and continue to listen to the counsel of informed citizens and staff when considering future plans.

Kevin H Posey

Replace Teachers; Not the Building

To the Editor:

I am incredulous, speechless after reading in the Gazette that a decision has been reached to replace a building housing the Jefferson-Houston school because it is on academic probation.

I can't believe that mature men and women, especially professional educators, are clamoring to replace a building because the school is failing. Good lord! Surely, they

Reflections and Lessons Learned

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

This year has been filled with both triumph and tragedy for our students and our community. The triumphs have been outstanding. We have expanded our services and extended our reach to students in new

COMMENTARY

ways with our T.C. Satellite High School and expansion of our city-wide autism classes. We are proud to have increased to 69 percent the number of special needs students being taught in general education classrooms for more than 80 percent of the day. Our school support teams have been trained in threat assessment management and have provided counseling, support, and supplies to students and families in need. We have transformed our high school into a thriving community of students who are improving academically and who are helping one another. Our students are excelling at academics, sports, and the arts with increasingly challenging classes and workshops and the help of our new Center for Arts K-12. Our Family and Community Engagement Centers have drawn thousands of people to our community events and workshops providing valuable information and services to enhance the lives of students.

Under the leadership of our outgoing Alexandria City School Board and an outstanding committee of community members, ACPS received national recognition for its Strategic Plan that received the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) "Magna Award" for the commitment to improving academic achievement and providing outstanding educational opportunities. Our own Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy has been recognized as a National School of Character and we are forging new part-



nerships to bring more internships, healthcare, and funding to our students.

We have had our share of tragedy as well including the loss of dear students and staff members, public service officials that we worked with and revered, and most recently the loss of young innocent lives in the public school district of Newtown, Connecticut. Each of these events shook our schools and our community. Our community has been rocked on occasion but it is not easily broken.

We stand together through each triumph and each challenge grateful for the opportunity to teach, care for, and support our students and each other. We have taken every opportunity this year to reflect upon each triumph and each measure of success. We have also taken every opportunity to evaluate each challenge and each tragedy to determine where we can prevent or support, improve or enhance. We have learned the importance of fully supporting the needs of our children and the tremendous value expanding our services to meet their needs.

Each day, we have the privilege of educating some of the most wonderful, energetic, challenging, and joyous children to be found anywhere in this country. These children are the face of America ... who we are and who we are becoming as a country. We ended the year better than we began it because of the hard work and support of our teachers, staff, and community partners. We will take with us into the new year our desire to educate the hearts of our children. We will do even more to keep them safe and to educate the whole child with the support they need to succeed academically and in life.

For example, the cost to maintain the current building was reported to be \$12 million over 20 years, which works out to \$50,000 per month to replace light bulbs, broken mirrors and jammed door locks. Compare that to the \$75,000 per month to pay just the interest on \$45 million borrowed at two percent to build a new building. No savings there and, worse, no guarantee that the students will be better educated. Just say no to the teachers and their supporters who believe the students attending Jefferson-Houston will be better educated in a palace. If you don't believe me, then look no further than T. C. Williams, the most costly high school ever built in America. This school is on academic probation too and not because its building isn't first class, but because its teachers aren't.

Jim Roberts
Alexandria

Legacy Of Life

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO, FACHE
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL

Dec. 12 marked an historic occasion in Inova Alexandria Hospital's long and distinguished history: the 140th anniversary of the hospital's founding by



Julia Johns and a committed group of Alexandria women. They saw a need and stepped forward — a tradition that has continued through the years as community members have loyally, and generously, supported their local hospital.

One of the most steadfast and visionary of these supporters is Joe Viar, chairman of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board. Named a "Living Legend of Alexandria" by the Alexandria Gazette in 2011, Viar is our hospital's very own living legend. Over the years he has worked tirelessly to raise funds to support advancements and expansions that meet vital community needs.

In 1989, in partnership with fellow Foundation Board member T.J. Fannon, Viar led a successful \$3 million campaign to create the Inova Alexandria Hospital Cancer Center.

Most recently, he and the Foundation Board raised \$25 million for Project 2010, Inova Alexandria Hospital's ambitious effort to enhance almost every aspect of our hospital campus.

Now, he has stepped forward with perhaps his most significant gift — a \$1.25 million donation through his estate to the Inova Alexandria Hospital Cancer Center. In recognition, the center has been named the Inova Joseph Viar, Jr. and Bonnie Christ Cancer Center.

Viar's gift kicks off Inova Alexandria Hospital's \$10 million Legacy of Life campaign, which encourages individuals and families to support the hospital through estate and bequest giving. Donors not only receive recognition for their gifts, but also may direct funds to a particular medical department or area of interest. These allocations are a way to plan and earmark future donations for the hospital.

When people of vision and dedication come together, they create great things. Joe Viar and all of Inova Alexandria Hospital's donors are no exception. Their ongoing philanthropic support has helped build a world-class hospital that touches the lives of thousands of people each year. As we usher in 2013, we thank our community for continuing this proud tradition and making Inova Alexandria Hospital a shining example of what it means to deliver excellent patient care.

To learn more about Inova Alexandria Hospital's Legacy of Life campaign, call Mary Myers at 703-504-7770.

City Archeologist Steps Down after 36 Years

FROM PAGE 5

her name to be class president as a joke — female students did not typically run for class president in those days, and no female had ever been class president before.

“Are you going to give up?” her father asked her. “Or are you going to get even?”

Cressey decided to get even, launching a campaign for the eighth grade class president. She studied public speaking, and found that she enjoyed the interaction. It was one of two “ah-ha” moments in her life. The other came when she was a college professor conducting a field study as part of a road-building project in New Hampshire. She came upon a metal shack in the middle of nowhere and met an elderly man who told her his life story. There, sitting on an orange crate escaping the bitter New England cold, Cressey had a revelation.

“Right then, this bolt hit me,” said Cressey. “I said, ‘I want to work with the public.’ I don’t know why because the term ‘public archeology’ had not been coined yet. But I just knew I wanted to be around real people and record their lives for some larger purpose. I didn’t want to just teach all the time.”

THAT MOMENT crystallized a career path that was just on the verge of coming into its own. She mentioned it to a friend who was a graduate student at Columbia University. That friend mentioned that he had recently seen a job announcement tacked to a bulletin board on campus advertising an opening for a “city archeologist” in Alexandria. He tried to discourage her from taking the job, warning her that she would not be taken seriously as an archeologist.

“It would be a total mistake for you to do this,” the friend said.

The next several decades would prove that her friend was dead wrong. Within weeks, Cressey was in Alexandria to interview for the job. The position of city archeologist was still new. Only one person had ever held the position — Richard Muzzerole. He had been hired the previous year, but didn’t get along with city officials and didn’t last long. So Richard Bierce, who was then director of the Division of Historic Resources, began looking for a replacement. Bierce interviewed Cressey at Gadsby’s Tavern.

“He had members of the Archeology Commission there during the interview,” said Cressey. “And that’s when I realized that

Alexandria was a city that really cared about its history.”

CRESSEY TOOK THE JOB, and immediately confronted a crisis. The 500 block of King Street was about to become the location of the Alexandria courthouse, an urban renewal project that would involve a massive amount of archeology. And Cressey was told she had about three months to accomplish the task. With all the privy wells in the historic block, one of the oldest in Old Town, she estimated that the block could have millions of artifacts. But she had a staff of two. So she put a blurb in the Alexandria Gazette seeking volunteers. “We had 150 calls in one week,” said Cressey. “And that was how the public volunteer program began.”

Cressey says that working with the public has been her biggest career accomplishment, sharing information with the city’s residents who seem to have a never-ending hunger to learn more about the city and its

history. During her time as the city archeologist, she helped uncover the mystery of the Freedmen’s Cemetery, a long-forgotten burial ground for former slaves that later became a gas station. She’s also helped lead an effort to find long-forgotten graves of African-Americans buried at Fort Ward Park. Ultimately, she’s found buried treasure throughout the city — a public career that

has helped define and redefine what it means to live in Alexandria.

“This has literally been the time of my life,” said Cressey, who lives on Mason Neck. “And what a privilege it is to be able to keep

doing this even in retirement.”

Yes, she will still be hard at work. First, there’s the conclusion of the Freedmen’s Cemetery study. Then there are educational projects she plans to put together for the Office of Historic Alexandria. And she will still teach classes at George Washington University. But the city will have to find another public archeologist. Current salary is \$102,253.

**“What can I say?
She’s an institution.”**

**— Lance Mallamo, director of
the Office of Historic Alexandria**

Volunteers from DC Metro Church, partnered with Senior Services of Alexandria, and gathered at the Hermitage of Alexandria to deliver Christmas dinner to Homebound Seniors on Christmas day.



PHOTO BY MARYANNE BEATTY

Making Christmas Holiday Special

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
VOLUNTEER, SENIOR SERVICES OF
ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria teamed up with DC Metro Church volunteers to deliver holiday meals to more than 50 Alexandria seniors on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The “volunteer elves” not only delivered hot meals, but also live poinsettias and holiday cards made by students from Mt. Vernon Elementary School.

**SENIOR
SERVICES OF
ALEXANDRIA**

“Volunteering for Meals-on-Wheels is part of our “DC/Go Outreach” program,” said Pam Scarlata, DC Metro Church Meals-on-Wheels Team Leader. “We are happy to partner with Senior Services of Alexandria to share joy during the holidays with Alexandria’s homebound seniors.”

SSA is grateful for the support of the Ronald M. Bradley Foundation who generously provided funding for more than

100 meals delivered during the Christmas holiday.

“The holiday season can be a lonely time for seniors,” said Ron Bradley, “I’m happy that we can bring some cheer and companionship to those who otherwise would be all alone at Christmas.”

Meals-on-Wheels is just one volunteer opportunity available in the City of Alexandria. Don’t miss SSA’s January speaker series event, “Staying Connected: Employment and Volunteer Opportunities for Alexandria’s Seniors” on Wednesday, Jan. 16, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Charles Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke Street. At this free event you’ll hear from local experts about how to explore job opportunities and volunteer options that are geared towards seniors and their unique experiences and talents. Panelists include representatives from AARP, Joblink, Volunteer Alexandria, Alexandria’s Mentoring Partnership and the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. You can register by calling 703-836-4414, ext. 10 or online at www.seniorservicesalex.org.

Vennells Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Charles (Ben) and Gloria (Ann) Vennell were married on Jan. 1, 1953 in Harrisburg, Pa. Ben Vennell created, owned and operated the Hollin Hall Variety Store and also The Treasure Chest and The Needle and Thread Shop in the Alexandria area.

Ben and Ann Vennell owned the Variety Store for over 50 years and although they retired, the store is still a fixture in the community.

The Vennell’s have two daughters, whose families, along with their grand-children also live in the area.



PHOTO BY SARAH WATSON

Jack Taylor, along with his son John, presents a check Dec. 13 to Alexandria Walk to Fight Breast Cancer founder Vola Lawson and Lisa Baker of the Office on Women. The \$14,580 check represents funds raised through Jack Taylor’s pledge for Alexandria Toyota to donate \$50 for each car sold and \$15 for each Facebook “like” made during the month of October 2012. The monies raised will support the city’s fund to help uninsured and underinsured women receive yearly mammograms.

BASKETBALL

Ireton Boys Go 9-3 in 2012

The Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team concluded the 2012 portion of its schedule by winning two out of three games at a holiday tournament in Atlanta.

The Cardinals defeated Pope John Paul II (Hendersonville, Tenn.), 56-49, on Dec. 27, lost to Brother Martin (New Orleans), 69-60, on Dec. 28 and defeated host St. Pius X, 56-49, on Dec. 29. The combined record of Ireton's three opponents was 36-5.

Ireton's record moved to 9-3 after the tournament.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, through 11 games, Ireton had three players averaging double figures in scoring and four Cardinals were scoring at least nine points per game. Daniel Noe averaged 15.7 points per contest, Patrick Moseh scored 14.8 per game, Louis Khouri averaged 12.3 and Taylor McHugh scored nine per game.

Bishop Ireton hosted Good Counsel on Jan. 2, after the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Cardinals will travel to St. Mary's Ryken at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 4.

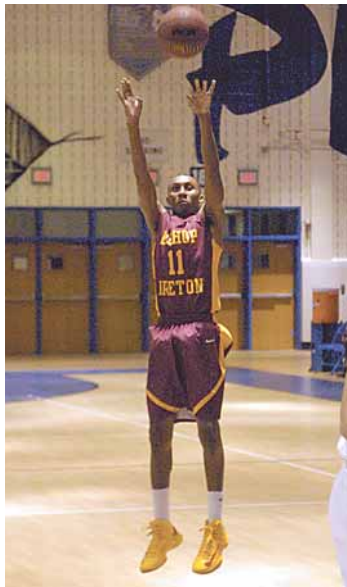


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

Taylor McHugh and Bishop Ireton boys' basketball went 8-3.

and Flint Hill at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5. The Cardinals' next home game is Tuesday, Jan. 8 against DeMatha.

SSSAS Boys Win Tourney

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' basketball team won the Boys Latin Laker Invitational in Baltimore, winning three games Dec. 21-23.

The Saints beat St. John's (Frederick, Md.), 61-55, on Dec. 21, Coppin Academy (Baltimore), 60-29, on Dec. 22 and Boys Latin (Baltimore), 58-52, on Dec. 23, improving their record to 8-1.

SSSAS hosted St. Anselm's Academy on Jan. 2, after the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Saints will host Landon at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5.

TC Boys Move to 4-4

Playing at Widener University in Chester, Pa., the T.C. Williams basketball team lost to Milford Mill Academy (Baltimore), 59-51, on Dec. 27 and defeated William Tennent (Warminster, Pa.), 51-33, on Dec. 28, moving the Titans' record to 4-4.

Prior to Pennsylvania, T.C. Williams lost to Woodson, 59-50, on Dec. 18 and defeated Lee, 65-34, on Dec. 21.

The Titans will travel to face West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 4. TC will face Maury at Virginia Wesleyan University at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5. The Titans' next home game is Tuesday, Jan. 8 against South County.

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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

E.C. Hammond Middle School students along with Mayor Bill Euille, Superintendent Morton Sherman and community members officially cut the ribbon on the new school field and track.

Ribbon Cutting at Hammond Middle School

The band played as students, faculty, staff and community neighbors joined Alexandria School Superintendent Dr. Morton Sherman and Mayor Bill Euille for the official ribbon cutting of the new sports field at Hammond Middle School on Dec. 20. The new synthetic turf field and track is regulation length for lacrosse and soccer. The field is available for community use during afterschool hours.



Community member and long time supporter of the new field Gary Carr applauds the efforts of the school board to provide a better field and track facility for the students and neighborhood.



Under the direction of Hammond music department chair Vaughan Ambrose, school band members perform on the newly completed sports field.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Senior citizens at Greenspring retirement community take Zumba, a Latin-inspired dance-fitness class.

Advice for Seniors on Fitness

Suggestions for making and keeping exercise resolutions.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Mary Garner's New Year's resolution is to increase the intensity of her workout routine. The 69-year-old retiree plans to seek the advice of a fitness trainer to create a plan to achieve her goal.

"Over the last three months, I've hit a plateau with my workouts," said Garner, who spent more than 40 years working as a math teacher for Alexandria County Public Schools. "During the holidays I ate too many cookies. I'd like to lose at least 10 pounds, but I don't want to put too much pressure on myself."

In December of 2011, Clint and Vickie Lambert resolved to shed extra pounds in 2012. The decision was promoted by a conversation with the couple's cardiologist who suggested weight loss. As they said goodbye to 2012, Clint, who is 68 had lost 45 pounds, while Vickie, who is 69, had lost 35 pounds. The Lamberts, who live at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield, say they accomplished their goal through behavioral changes that included regular exercise and healthy eating habits.

"The biggest change has been minimizing the quantity of food intake," said Clint Lambert, a retired psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist. "We were just eating too much."

Vickie Lambert, former dean and professor emerita of the Georgia Health Sciences University, College of Nursing, said, "It is nice to finally feel comfortable in our clothes and enjoy the positive comments from our friends."

Local fitness experts say the New Year is an ideal time to set and begin working to achieve fitness goals. Even those seniors with mobility issues can benefit from physical activities done in an upright position. "The activities must be done regularly and with a gradual increase in the amount of challenge, as you improve," said Rita Wong, PT., professor of physical therapy at Marymount University. "Therefore, upright activities that are fun and will keep your interest are

ideal."

To maximize success, experts say goals should be measurable, detailed and attainable. "Set small, realistic and concrete steps," said Maria Londono, a Chantilly resident and mental health therapist with Fairfax County Health Network in Alexandria, Reston and Falls Church.

Create a plan that includes strategies for dealing with the temptation to get off track. Boredom is a common detractor when it comes to exercise. Adding variety helps combat workout doldrums. "Switch up to include other activities like cycling, swimming or an aerobics-based class," said Michelle Walters-Edwards, Ph.D., professor of health and human performance at Marymount University in Arlington.

Develop a detailed strategy for achieving one's goal. The plan should include a method of tracking progress and recording successes as well as rewards for small achievements. "Once the resolution has been identified the first step is to consider ways to turn that good intention into action," said Springfield-based social worker Sue Franke, LCSW. "The next step is to do the habit consistently by setting goals, thinking about past successes, choosing a role model and above all staying positive."

Franke said that changing a habit requires doing it consistently for at least six months. "While six months seems like a long time, it takes that amount of stick-to-itiveness to really make the resolution a regular habit," she said.

Local fitness experts say the New Year is an ideal time to set and begin working to achieve fitness goals. "Consult your physician [and a] senior personal trainer before beginning an exercise program," said Juanita Kuntz, a Springfield-based wellness coordinator who specializes in fitness for the elderly. "Physicians will give you needed recommendations and restrictions to be used for your personal exercise program."

A senior fitness professional is knowledgeable in functional limitations and possible chronic health conditions or impairments that senior adults may need to look out for."

To maximize success, experts say goals should be measurable, detailed and attainable. "Start slow, set reasonable goals and choose an activity you enjoy," said Kuntz, "If you actually enjoy something you are much more likely to get out of bed and do it. Don't expect to reach your goals instantly. Be patient with yourself."

"Once the resolution has been identified the first step is to consider ways to turn that good intention into action."

— Sue Franke, licensed clinical social worker

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Should Virginia's Governor Be Able to Run for Reelection?

Longstanding ban on second consecutive term to be reconsidered this year.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia is the only state that limits its governor to a single, four-year term, a vestige of the distrust Americans had for executive power during the American Revolution. Now, more than two centuries later, the commonwealth may finally be ready to ditch the longstanding term limit and allow Virginia's governor to run for reelection.

"This may be the session that it finally passes," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). "The last time this bill was on the floor, it almost passed. Some people who voted no are no longer serving and quite a few who have never voted on it are now serving, and we don't know how they'll vote yet."

Legislators are about to find out because the issue is set to come up once again in 2013. Del. Bob Brink (D-48) is planning to introduce a constitutional amendment that would allow Virginia's governor to seek a second term in office. Brink introduced a similar bill last year, but it was tabled because the mechanics of how a constitutional amendment needs to be passed by two consecutive General Assembly sessions with an intervening election. Now that the election year 2013 is approaching, Brink is ready to reopen the debate about whether or not Virginia's chief executive should be able to seek a second term.

"One of the real problems with our current system is that the General Assembly can oppose the governor for partisan reasons by simply waiting him out."

— Michael Fauntleroy, professor at the George Mason School of Public Policy

"The situation we're in with transportation demonstrates more than anything else why it's so necessary to have a longer range planning horizon," said Brink. "What we've done through consecutive governors is not been able to build up the consensus that we need in order to get long-range solutions to transportation."

THE ROLE of governor began as a very weak position in post-Revolution-



The Governor's Mansion in Richmond has served as the home of Virginia's governors and their families since 1813, when the General Assembly chose the chief executive.

ary Virginia. Constitutional scholar A.E. Dick Howard described the job as an "authenticated coordinated branch of government." The first chief executives were relatively powerless and subordinate to the legislature. Governors were elected by the General Assembly for a one-year term and could not serve longer than three consecutive terms. The governor could take action only with the advice of the Privy Council, whose members were also elected by the General Assembly.

As Jacksonian populism grew, the role of governor gained more independence in Virginia. In 1851, the method of selecting the governor changed — allowing for popular election to a single four-year term. Twenty years later, the governor was finally given the ability to veto bills. That power was expanded in 1902 to include the authority to send down amendments and offer line item vetoes to the budget. Now, as legislators consider yet another revision, some are skeptical about the need for

change.

"I don't know why we're getting all bent out of shape about this," said Del. David Albo (R-42). "What's broken about Virginia that needs to be fixed?"

Albo said he would be skeptical of any move that would give Virginia's chief executive more power, adding that the position of governor already has vast powers compared to the General Assembly. He said that he might consider a proposal that would give legislators an increased role in

making appointments to the board of visitors positions at universities, for example, or key appointments in positions that have dominion over roads and schools. But even then, he said, it would be a tough sell for him and many other members of the General Assembly.

"In Virginia, nothing ever happens for the first time. So the fact that we have this system in place has a force of its own," said Brink. "The power of inertia is a hugely powerful force in area code 804."

THE EFFORT to get rid of the longstanding ban has been a recurring feature of political life in Virginia. In 1971, when state leaders were considering a full-scale constitutional revision, one of the most contentious debates that emerged at that time was whether or not governors should be able to seek a second nonconsecutive term. All the living governors at that time opposed the change, and the effort fizzled. Between 1972 and 2004, about 250 constitutional proposals would have substantially affected the election and terms as well as the powers and duties of the governor and General Assembly.

All failed, until 2004.

That's when a special joint subcommittee was established to look at the balance of power between executive and legislative powers. The subcommittee interviewed all the living former governors and found a wide disparity of opinions. George Allen was the only one to support the current limitation. Jim Gilmore and Chuck Robb sup-

ported an amendment to the Virginia Constitution allowing the governors to seek an additional four-year term. Linwood Holton and Gerald Baliles favored a single six-year term as a compromise.

"If the Constitution is to be changed for the sake of good governance, then a single six-year term of governing would be preferable to the current one-term system or the proposed two terms because it would combine the best of both worlds," said Holton in a written statement to the subcommittee.

In a 2005 report, a joint subcommittee recommended a constitutional amendment allowing Virginia's governor to seek a second consecutive four-year term. That recommendation was offset by a package of other proposals that would increase the powers of the General Assembly to maintain a balance of power. Since 2005, some of those recommendations have been adopted, including allowing legislators to appoint members to a key budget forecasting commission. Others, including allowing legisla-

tors an increased role in colleges and universities, have not.

"My bill will call for a review and update of that study," said Brink. "The idea is to create a new set of recommendations so that we maintain the balance of power between the executive and the legislature."

BRINK SAYS the idea has bipartisan support and backing from legislators across the region. For Northern Virginia, he says, making the case for continuity in transportation. As an example, he said that former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine had a transportation package that was stalled during his term. If he had been able to have a second term, Kaine might have been able to secure a transportation package that would have benefited Northern Virginia.

"One of the real problems with our current system is that the General Assembly can oppose the governor for partisan reasons by simply waiting him out," said Michael Fauntleroy, professor at the George Mason School of Public Policy. "If a governor comes up with a good idea in the second year of his term, it doesn't take much to wait him out."

The question before legislators is likely to be what kind of offset package will be acceptable. For legislators who are already suspicious of the idea in the first place, coming up with a set of recommendations might be tricky. How many appointments should the General Assembly get to make among college and universities, for example.

"Half," said Albo. "That seems reasonable to me."

"This may be the session that it finally passes."

— state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

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Don't miss the opportunity to own this spacious all brick beauty. Five bedrooms, three full baths, large eat-in kitchen, four finished levels, hardwood floors and a gorgeous sun room addition with radiantly heated tile floors. All on a beautiful lot in a great location and priced below the current appraised value!

Robin Arnold
703.966.5457
www.RobinArnoldSells.com
MLS# FX7926848



Alexandria \$659,900



Sunrise and Sunset Views

This spacious, updated and stylishly-appointed Alexandria House condominium is enhanced for many years of comfortable living. In addition to three bedrooms and two and a half baths, there is extensive cabinetry as well as extra storage. There are fifty-six feet of continuous balcony for additional outdoor living and entertainment space. One car garage!

Susan Anthony
703.795.9536
www.SusanBruceAnthony.com
MLS# AX7953444



Alexandria \$949,000



Price Recently Reduced!

This is a great value for a home on a 3/4 acre lot in Alexandria. Built in 1935, this stone house is a quiet retreat in the middle of the city. It features three bedrooms and two and a half baths, a large eat-in kitchen, wood floors, a 2-car garage, lots of storage space and all within minutes of the metro, Old Town, DC and the airport. You have to see the setting to truly appreciate it!

Julian Burke
703.867.4219
www.JulianBurke.com
MLS# AX926969



Alexandria \$599,990



Best Buy in Stratford Landing

Cathedral ceilings, skylights with custom blown art glass, a hand carved ladder, gleaming hardwoods, terra cotta floors laid by hand and French country kitchen cabinets designed by builder, this home has six bedrooms and three and a half baths. The French doors lead to a covered deck; over one-third acre of beautifully landscaped lot with a swimming pool.

Vicki Binkley
703.944.0778
www.VickiBinkley.com
MLS# FX7982721



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Alexandria/Old Town \$625,000



Resort Living at Porto Vecchio

Spacious, 1,630-SF, luxury condo with glass enclosed balcony that overlooks water, golf course, and Masonic Temple...breathtaking sunset views! Updated kitchen, two master suites with closets galore, large living room with fireplace, den, and separate dining room. Two parking spaces and the conveniences of concierge, limo to Metro, outdoor pool and more.

Susan Craft
703.216.4501
www.SusanCraft.com
MLS# AX7965170



703.549.9292

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