

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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FEBRUARY 28, 2013



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

PET GAZETTE PACKET

Otis Sterling. More Pet Gazette Packet coverage and contributions on pages° 3-5, 27-29.

## Higher Taxes, Cuts in Services

Young proposes \$626.6 million budget.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

An increase in property taxes along with cuts in services to Alexandria residents are part of the \$626.6 million General Fund Operating Budget proposed Feb. 26 by City Manager Rashad Young for fiscal year 2014.

"We are starting with a budget shortfall of \$31 million," Young said during a media briefing at City Hall. "This is about a balanced approach and a shared sacrifice. Every stakeholder group shares the pain in this."

Young's proposed budget increases the real estate property tax rate to \$1.053 per \$100 of as-



**City Manager Rashad Young reviews his proposed 2014 \$626.6M budget during a media briefing Feb. 26.**

essed value, and the motor vehicle personal property tax rate to \$5 per \$100 of assessed value. The majority of this tax revenue — a combined \$21.1 million — will be used to pay for an increase in the Alexandria City Public Schools operating budget, capital investments and transit expansion and improvement.

The budget reflects Young's recommended real estate property

SEE CITY MANAGER, PAGE 7

## Witnesses Recount Feb. 18 Shooting

Cook offers condolences to Sellers family.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

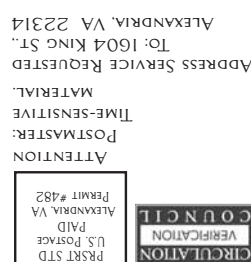
Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook offered his condolences to the family of Taft Sellers in a Feb. 25 press conference that detailed the investigative process in place regarding the

city's first police-related shooting since 2009.

"I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to the Sellers family," Cook said. "I have been in constant contact with the family and offered them my support."

Alexandria police officers responded to a call in the 3400 block of Duke Street Feb. 18 for the report of a domestic dispute that resulted in the death of the 30-year-old Sellers, a former Marine and 2001 graduate of T.C. Will

SEE WITNESSES, PAGE 7





# Belle Haven

Located one mile south of Old Town Alexandria, this 1930s-'40s community of 425 homes overlooks the Potomac River and Belle Haven Country Club.



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## PET GAZETTE PACKET

# Second Chances

AWLA's special funds help those most in need.

BY PATRICK COLE  
DIRECTOR OF AWLA COMMUNICATIONS  
AND OUTREACH

Many city residents are familiar with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the life-saving work that takes place at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. Our generous donors and supporters are a testament to the compassion and generosity prevalent throughout Alexandria. Many animal lovers ask us how they can make the greatest impact and where our greatest area of need lies. While caring for healthy animals can be a challenge on its own, it is the sick and injured animals that require the most resources. Luckily, these animals can rely on Sarah's Fund and Rosemary's Seniors Fund for assistance.

The League set up these special funds to help finance medical care that might otherwise fall outside of our budget. Since 2003, Sarah's Fund has enabled us to provide special medical treatment for hundreds of companion animals, giving them a second chance to find love. Estrella, a 2-year-old-Chihuahua, is just one of many Sarah's Fund success stories. She came to the League with multiple fractures in her front left leg, which sadly could not be repaired. Her leg was amputated and the cost of the surgery and medication was financed by Sarah's Fund. It wasn't long before Estrella won the heart of a lucky adopter, a happy ending made possible by the generous donations to Sarah's Fund. Senior pets make excellent companions and have a lot of love left to give. The League established Rosemary's Seniors Fund to help our mature animals receive medical screenings and additional care to ensure they have a clean



Estrella, a 2-year-old-Chihuahua, was helped through Sarah's Fund.



Mimi is a healthy 9-year-old cat available for adoption.

bill of health. Mimi is a 9-year-old cat who recently benefited from Rosemary's Seniors Fund. She received a physical and a blood test to help determine why she was not eating. Several serious conditions were ruled out and Mimi has regained her appetite. She is now healthy and available for adoption.

Although the League only receives one-third of its operating budget from the City of Alexandria, we are able to help animals like Estrella and Mimi thanks to the generous donations we receive. No gift is too small, and donors that want to provide assistance to the animals that truly need it most should consider making their donations to Sarah's Fund and Rosemary's Seniors Fund. For more information, visit [www.AlexandriaAnimals.org/SpecialFunds](http://www.AlexandriaAnimals.org/SpecialFunds)



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY BETH CORRIGAN

Rehabilitation programs at King Street Cats often include special feeding practices. Staff coax cats using baby food, cooked chicken, as well as tunafish in order to stimulate appetite.

## The Coolest Cats

King Street Cats celebrates 10 years.

BY MONTIE MARTIN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria-based no kill animal shelter King Street Cats has a lot to purr about in 2013. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the all-volunteer organization that services kitty lovers throughout the region.

"A decade ago we could not have imagined that we would now find ourselves in a special facility on Dove Street in Alexandria rescuing over 350 cats and kittens per year," said Vivian Bacon, board president of King Street Cats, in an emailed statement. "We could not do this work without the support of the local community, including many dedicated

people who volunteer their time to caring for our cats until they find forever homes."

Since doors opened in 2003, King Street Cats has rescued more than 2,500 cats from D.C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and from as far afield as St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In terms of numbers, 2012 was the best year so far for King Street Cats, which placed 273 cats in homes and rescued a 82 felines.

**"There are abused cats on the streets in DC, but when they receive care and don't have to forage they are so happy."**

— Melissa Murphy, a principle volunteer with King Street Cats

"If you give them money, 100 percent goes directly to the cats, a dollar donation is well spent," said Chris Dionigi, an auxiliary police officer with Arlington County who picked up his feline friend

Buddy at King Street Cats. "It is amazing the number of feral and free-ranging cats in parks; they are not getting care, they're breeding more and eating

SEE KING STREET CATS. PAGE 30

# Animal Welfare League Hires New Executive Director

Megan Webb to lead Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.

Megan Webb, an animal shelter professional with more than 15 years of management experience and extensive knowledge of both shelter and field operations, has been named the new executive director and chief executive officer of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

"Megan's knowledge and management expertise within the sheltering community

will enhance the AWLA's growth and strengthen our relationships within the Alexandria community," said AWLA board chairman Charlotte Hall in making the announcement.

Webb will formally assume her new position beginning Monday, March 11, and will lead AWLA's staff and volunteers to operate the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, an open-admission facility and Alexandria's only



PHOTO COURTESY AWLA

Megan Webb will take over March 11 as executive director of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

animal shelter, and implement the city's animal control contract.

Webb served as the director of Oakland Animal Services in Oakland, Calif., for the last three and a half years. OAS is a unit of the Oakland Police Department and cares for more than 6,000 animals each year.

Webb improved the care of the shelter's animals, increased the number of animal adoptions and transfers, and led her

team of Animal Control officers to investigate and rescue animals from multiple felony abuse cases.

Before serving as director, Webb was the volunteer manager at OAS and gained national recognition for her volunteer program. Webb also founded Friends of Oakland Animal Services, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to raising donations to enhance the quality of life of the animals at OAS.

"I chose to join the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria because it has such a strong foundation to develop projects that will make a real difference in the lives of ani

SEE NEW EXECUTIVE. PAGE 6  
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 6, 2013 ♦ 3



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## PET GAZETTE PACKET



The Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy Animal Crusaders, a group of 30 students, has raised more than \$6,000 for the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter since the fall of 2012. The group also visits the animal shelter four times a month where they make toys and treats for the animals waiting for their forever homes.

## Barkley Square Opens Pet Spaaah

**B**arkley Square Pet Spaaah has opened at the former location of Dogspaw Grooming in Falls Church. The pet spa will complement Barkley Square's petsitting and dogwalking services, as well as its gourmet dog treats. Barkley Square Pet Spaaah will begin renovations in late April, adding a small

retail space. Spaaah products will be available for purchase as well as Barkley Square's original dog treats and cakes. There will be a line of designer accessories for the haute canines as well. The Barkley Square Pet Spaaah is located at 105 N Virginia Avenue, Suite 101 in Falls Church, Va.

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Judith Albarelli, MA, RT, RDMS  
Nora Grobauer, RT, (R) (M)  
Angel Malone, RT, (R) (M)



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# Curtain Up!

All the world's a stage for the pets of LTA cast, crew and volunteers.



This is Kehoa, a Chihuahua. He belongs to Mike McCrea and LTA box office manager Tina Barry McCrea. Mike is a very active LTA volunteer who is currently helping with several reorganization and construction projects.



Freedom Hubbard took center stage in last year's LTA production of "A Christmas Carol."



Voodoo is an integral part of the costume parties hosted by LTA volunteer Heather Norcross and her husband Ben.



Roxy stole the show from Mom Rachel Hubbard in the LTA production of "It Runs In the Family."



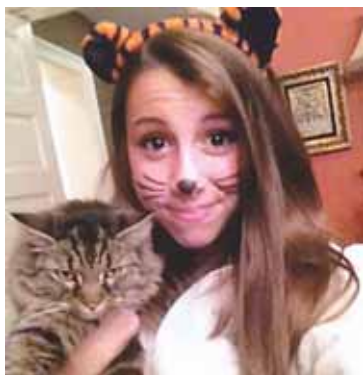
This is Buster. He's an 8-year golden retriever who loves the beach. He's owned by Zoe Gage, a freshman at T.C. Williams.



Heather and Ben Norcross with Dr. Claw.



This is Chester. He's the well-loved dog of Robin Parker, a WATCH-nominated make-up and hair artist ("Hairspray") and sometime actor ("The Full Monty").



Charlotte Alberts with 4-year-old Mia, a rescued barn cat from Middletown, Va.



Crickett, a 2-year-old Welsh Springer Spaniel, with Charlotte Alberts. Charlotte is the daughter of Rachel Alberts, LTA's Governor of Public Relations.



Gonzo shares his home with LTA president Margaret Evans-Joyce.

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# New Executive Director for AWLA

FROM PAGE 3

mals in the community,” said Webb in a statement. “The staff is compassionate and knowledgeable, the board of directors is composed of individuals with a wide range of expertise, the shelter is modern and progressive, and the city has a wealth of people who truly care about animals.”


Webb added that she is impressed with Alexandrians’ compassion and activism and plans to harness that energy to assist more animals in need.

Webb earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an EMBA from a joint program


between the University of California, Berkeley and Columbia University in New York City. Joining her in Alexandria will be her shelter rescue animals: Suzie, a Chihuahua/Dachshund; Rosie, a Shepherd mix; and Flips, a cat born with a brain disorder similar to cerebral palsy in humans.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is an independent, local, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and recognized by Charity Navigator as a Four Star Charity.


— JEANNE THEISMANN




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# City Manager Proposes \$626.6 Million Budget

FROM PAGE 1

tax increase of 2.5 cents; and an additional 3 cents in accordance with the City Council guidance to provide additional revenues to support an increase in capital investments.

Also under Young's proposal, parking fees will increase by 25 percent at the eight city-owned parking garages while parking meter hours will be extended by two hours to 9 p.m.

The Capital Improvement Program proposes a \$1.27 billion capital investment over the next 10 years; prioritizing schools' capacity needs, fire equipment and apparatus, facility maintenance and transportation capital investments.

City expenditures would be reduced by \$13.8 million in the proposed budget in addition to other cost savings that include closing Warwick Pool, reducing by two

hours per week the operating hours of Duncan, Burke and Barrett libraries, and the elimination of 14 positions within the city government.

The budget proposes total spending increases of 6.6 percent (\$41.3 million) from the FY 2013 approved budget. Within that budget, the operating budget transfer to ACPS would increase by 3.3 percent (\$6 million) from last year's approved budget. The bud-

get for city operations would also increase by 3.3 percent (\$10.82 million).

Residential real property and commercial property taxes combine for 57.7 percent of the city's revenue with other local taxes such as restaurants and lodging adding an additional 27 percent.

Young noted that the city is facing its sixth straight year of economic challenges as the cost of current services and previous commitments exceeds revenue growth.

"We evaluated over 200 recommendations over the last three months," Young said. "There was no good way to address the challenges we have so that someone is spared."

Funding for ACPS accounts for 30 percent of the proposed budget; public safety, 24 percent; child youth and family programs, 15 percent; CIP and debt related costs, 12 percent; transit and commercial development, 11 percent and internal services, 8 percent.

The proposed budget cancels the implementation of the Arlandria/

Del Ray Trolley, which would save \$700,000 in costs for the city, while allocating \$600,000 to expand the Capital Bikeshare program.

City Council will host seven work sessions to review the proposed budget with city staff along with three public hearings. The work sessions are open to the public and will be recorded and posted online. There will be a public budget presentation on Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. The public may submit comments online, or speak at budget public hearings on Monday, March 11, at 4 p.m.; Saturday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m.; and a tax rate public hearing on Saturday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m.

The Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program are scheduled for adoption by the Alexandria City Council on May 6 at 7 p.m. Information about the public budget presentation and public meetings, the proposed budget and online comments can be found at alexandriava.gov/Budget.



**At 1:43 p.m. Feb. 18, Alexandria police officers have their guns drawn during the standoff that resulted in the death of Taft Sellers.**

PHOTO BY  
MELINDA SIGAL

## Witnesses Recount Feb. 18 Shooting

FROM PAGE 1

iams High school.

Cook said Monday there are still several questions surrounding the shooting, including how many officers were involved and how many shots were fired. An internal police investigation is underway in addition to a separate one conducted by the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

"My presumption is my officers will always act with good judgment and based on training," Cook said. "Our officers are trained to respond to a threat and I make an assumption that they had a threat and they responded to a threat. Other than that I await the investigation."

While Cook declined to confirm if Sellers fired a weapon, witnesses saw the victim holding a gun and fire a shot before officers returned fire.

"I saw the victim crouched on the steps with a gun," said Marshall Love, who was directly across the street in the McDonald's parking lot when the shooting took place. "I remember thinking 'He's got a chance to let this go. He can't win this. This is a losing situation. He should just surrender.'"

Love and his colleague, Alexandria resident Melinda Sigal, both heard a single shot followed closely by a series of shots.

"A gun was clearly visible [in the hands of Sellers] although it didn't appear he was aiming at anyone in particular," Love added.

Time stamps on photos taken by Sigal range from 1:43 p.m. just prior to the shooting to 1:49 p.m. when police began marking the scene at the intersection of Duke Street and Arell Court with crime tape.

"We treat any loss of life as a homicide," said Cook, who noted that the officers involved have been placed on administrative leave per departmental policy. "The officers understand they are under investigation until the Commonwealth's Attorney completes his investigation."

Cook said the investigative process will take "some weeks" to complete.

"We felt we needed to reach out to the community to let them know we will do a complete and thorough investigation," Cook said. "I assure you that details will be made available when the investigation is completed." According to his LinkedIn profile, Sellers was expecting to graduate this year from Strayer University with a BA in acquisition and contract management.

"I hope everyone finds some peace in this," Love said. "You don't ever forget hearing gunshots or seeing the body on the steps. You don't forget that imagery. But there should have been a way out sooner. It didn't have to get to this point."

Cook asked that anyone who witnessed or has information regarding the incident to call the Alexandria Police Department's Criminal Investigations Section at 703-746-6711.



**Marshall Love and Melinda Sigal pay their respects at the scene where Taft Sellers was killed in an Alexandria police-related shooting Feb. 18. Both witnessed the incident from across Duke Street.**

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COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

## Waterfront Waves

Opponents of the waterfront plan say city leaders are working in secret to help a handful of developers maximize their profits at three sites slated for development, conducting deliberations in secret executive sessions that could just as well take place in public.

“You decided this whole thing in one of your backroom sessions,” said waterfront plan critic Townsend Van Fleet. “This is BRAC-133 all over again.”

BRAC-133 involved the secret executive session in which council members may have approved a letter from Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks endorsing the Mark Center as a potential location for a massive new military installation even though it does not have the transportation infrastructure to handle the traffic. Now, opponents of the waterfront plan are worried that tripling the density of three waterfront properties compared to what’s there now would present a similar shock to the system for Old Town. And then there’s the issue of removing the ability of neighbors to launch a protest petition to challenge zoning changes.

“Changing the zoning ordinance as proposed by city staff would show an incredible disrespect for the rights of property owners throughout the city,” said Waterfront Work Group member Bert Ely. “Doing so would remove an important property-rights protection for its residents as well as an important safeguard for the city as a whole as redevelopment occurs throughout the city.”

## After the Deadline

The deadline for a potential buyer to step forward and purchase the Carver Nursery has come and gone, but preservationist Boyd Walker has not given up hope. During last weekend’s public hearing, he appealed to city leaders to find a way to save the building, which was originally constructed so black women could enter the workforce during World War II. It later became an American Legion hall for black veterans after the war.

“A few of you voted for the demolition permit two years ago,” said Walker. “I hope I can convince you to change your minds.”

Walker presented council members with a petition bearing more than 300 names of individuals who are opposed to demolishing the building to make room for developer Bill Cromley’s plan for a new modern condominium building. Several leaders of the African-American community stepped forward Saturday to say demolishing the building would be a travesty.

“This is not an African-American issue,” said Adrienne Washington, who has been fighting to preserve long-forgotten graves at Fort Ward. “This is an Alexandria issue.”

## Another Hotel

Upper King Street is about to get another hotel, although this one will be tucked away in a quiet spot one block south of the main drag at Prince Street and Daingerfield Street. The six-story building will have 109 rooms. Council members approved an application that expanded the allowable density, raised the maximum height limit and reduced the number of parking spaces required. The deal included the developer giving a donation to the city’s housing fund, installation of new public art and a contribution to the BikeShare program.

“The two questions you should be asking are does this protect residents and does this enhance business?” said Leslie West, a neighbor who opposed the hotel. “This doesn’t.”

The developer, Carr Hospitality, is the same Washington-based company seeking to construct a hotel on the Cummings property once council members move forward with a zoning change as part of the waterfront plan.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

# Taking Over the Takeover

## Governor McDonnell poised to take local control away from failing schools.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

In recent days, talk at the Jefferson-Houston playground has turned to politics. The governor and Republican members of the General Assembly want to appoint a board of nine people to take over the troubled school — the only educational institution in Northern Virginia that would find itself in the crosshairs of the Opportunity Educational Institution Bill. Although Arlington County and Fairfax County don’t have any schools that currently qualify, opponents worry that shifting standards could shift local control to Richmond across Northern Virginia.

“If the school has been struggling for 11 years, I wouldn’t have a problem with the state coming in and taking over,” said Israel Richardson, who attended third grade here in the late 1990s. “That might be the best thing for the school.”

Taking a break from a basketball game with his 4-year-old nephew, Richardson said he had fond memories of Jefferson-Houston when it was a thriving elementary school. That was before a redistricting process that changed the demographics of the school, plunging the test scores into a persistently lowest achieving status. Now Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell wants to appoint a nine-member board to oversee a dramatic turnaround. Urging his uncle to return to the playground, nephew Luther Smith says he does not consider Jefferson-Houston to be a failing school.

“That’s my school,” he said, pointing to the Head Start wing that originally constructed as the Kindergarten wing of the 1970 facility. “Over there.”

**THE CONFLICT** between local control and educational progress is at the heart of the debate about the governor’s educational reform. McDonnell began the year by featuring the Opportunity Educational Institution bill in his State of the Commonwealth Address. Now that Senate Bill 1324 has passed the Senate and the House, it’s on the way to inevitable passage at the Governor’s Mansion. And yet the details of how it works may surprise many when it becomes law later this year.

“Typically when you think of the state taking over, you think of the Department of Education taking over,” said Charles Pyle, spokesman for the department. “That’s not how this legislation was drawn up.”

Failing schools will have their per-pupil spending transferred from the local school division to the Opportunity Education Institution board — nine individuals appointed by the governor and General Assembly. The idea is that the board would oversee operations at the school until performance improves and then hand it back to the local school division. But nobody knows how long that might take, or how much money would be taken from local taxpayers and sent to a board of political appointees. And then there are the constitutional questions.

“It doesn’t have an elected School Board,” said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). “So the question becomes whether or not this opportunity school division is really a school division as contemplated by the con-



By MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Jefferson-Houston School in Alexandria is the only school in Northern Virginia that would find itself in the crosshairs of the governor’s Opportunity Educational Institution bill.**

stitution.”

**THE POLITICS** of education reform have shifted in recent years. After decades of calling for the U.S. Department of Education to be abolished, Republicans switched course and gave it massive new powers during the administration of former President George W. Bush under No Child Left Behind. Now Virginia Republicans are poised to take power out of the hands of local officials and move it to Richmond,

a strategy that might be viewed skeptically outside the realm of education reform.

“It’s no secret that Democrats are backed by teachers’ unions,” said Kyle Kondik, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “So Republicans are eager to make a campaign issue out of going after failing schools.”

The reform effort outlines several possible models for taking over troubled schools, one of which would be the creation of a charter school. Currently, Virginia has only four charter schools — one of the lowest numbers

in the country. That’s because the law currently allows local school divisions to guard dominion over their own schools — and their own taxpayers dollars. If McDonnell signs the legislation, as he is expected to do, that money and control would shift to the political appointees.

“If you are running a company, and you have a store that keeps losing money, you don’t keep funding it without trying to change it,” said Del. Dave Albo (R-42). “So we are going to send in turnaround experts, turn the schools around, and then turn them back over.”

**OPPOSITION** to the effort has come almost entirely from Democrats, making the reform initiative a polarizing issue that is likely to resurface in the campaign later this year — even as local control and local money is sent to Richmond. Democrats have criticized the effort as a diminution of local control, taking tax dollars and giving it to an appointed board with no oversight. Meanwhile, critics charge, parents will be left in the cold as the takeover board makes decisions about the future of Jefferson-Houston and other failing schools.

“If they have a problem, they have nobody to call,” said Surovell. “They can’t call their school board member because their local school board member has nothing to do with the school.”



# NEWS

## Police Officer Seriously Injured

An Alexandria police officer is in critical condition after being shot during a traffic stop on Wednesday, Feb. 27.

At 11:44 a.m., a look out was issued for a yellow cab regarding a minor offense. Almost immediately, a Motor Unit officer spotted the suspect vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. Shortly after, the Department of Emergency Communications began receiving 911 calls for an officer down. The officer was flown to Medstar Washington Hospital Center with life-threatening injuries. A look out was issued for a yellow cab minivan.

A patrol officer spotted the vehicle heading southbound on Washington Street and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. A pursuit ensued into Fairfax County where the Fairfax County Police Department took over. The suspect vehicle ultimately crashed at Fort Hunt Road and Bellevue Boulevard. The driver was taken into custody. Fairfax County Police are handling the accident scene.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Criminal Investigations Section of the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6711.

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## Major Step Forward

BY CHARNIELE HERRING  
DELEGATE (D-46)



**T**he short 45-day 2013 General Assembly session was a roller coaster, but I am glad to have the privilege of representing our community and our values in Richmond. I again came to the Capitol hoping to bring some moderation, common sense, and compassion into a chamber that can sometimes be dominated by extreme partisan politics.

One area where we saw a version of success is in taking a step forward to deal with our transportation gridlock. The deep flaws in the Governor's transportation proposal united Democrats and Republicans in opposition to his unprecedented statewide tax increases, which would not even raise enough money for Virginia's roads. A conference committee made up of Democrats and Republicans worked together to fashion a new proposal. I am proud of Democrats for putting aside partisanship in order to make the best of a bad process and work to pass a transportation package.

It has been a quarter century since we raised the gas tax, and 17.5 cents buys less than half as much today as it did then. As a primary source of revenue for transportation solutions, this poses a problem. As we move into the future, better fuel efficiency and new technology will continue to change our dependence on fossil fuels. Chaining this revenue source to cents on the dollar puts us in an untenable long-term position as a Commonwealth. Instead, moving that tax to the wholesale level and moving it to a percentage will allow us to ensure that a level or rising amount of revenue will be possible to fund our transportation needs.

Due to the nature of this legislation, we were faced with a single up or down vote. I voted yes because we cannot continue to push the idea of dealing with our decaying infrastructure and massive congestion further down the road. This plan gives us a regional package allowing us to keep Northern Virginia money here in Northern Virginia to fund those priority projects that will allow us to directly deal with the congestion we face. It also provides for rail and transit funding, a priority for our community. That being said, I do have serious concerns about portions of this transportation package. One of the areas where this package does not do justice to our future is an increase of a \$50 fee to become a \$100 fee on hybrid and special fuel vehicles. This does the opposite of incentivizing the use of vehicles that place less strain on our air quality and help make a better environment for our future a reality. I join many of my colleagues in calling on the Governor to address this when he reviews this legislation before we return to Richmond in April.

Overall, this is a major step forward that came about in a bipartisan way.



### Bike-N-Roll on All DASH Buses

**Alexandria Transit Company mechanics and Sportworks contractors spent this past weekend installing new bike racks on the 53 DASH buses that had not been equipped with them. Now, all DASH buses have front mounted, two position bike racks and bikes can travel on the entire DASH fleet of 73 buses and five trolleys. The 53 bike racks made by Sportworks were purchased with a state grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation. To learn how to safely travel with a bike on DASH, visit [www.dashbus.com/bikenroll](http://www.dashbus.com/bikenroll) for a downloadable brochure of tips and safety information.**

## A Tough Transportation Vote

BY ADAM EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



**T**he 46-day legislative session drew to a close on Saturday, Feb. 23. As you know, transportation dominated the debate this session. The House and Senate passed separate transportation funding bills that

### RICHMOND REPORT

were eventually combined into HB2313. I voted for the original Senate plan, which would have raised the gas tax by 5 cents per gallon and indexed it to increase with the cost of road construction materials, keeping the link between driving and road funding intact. On the other hand, the House proposal would have eliminated the gas tax, increased the sales tax by .8 percent to 5.8 percent, and diverted \$283 million from the General Fund. Both plans similarly raised vehicle registration fees.

In my view the Senate plan was much better than the House version. The final conference committee report bill lowered the state gas tax by more than a third, weakening the link between driving and road funding. Just last week, the Republican-controlled Wyoming legislature teamed up with their Republican governor to raise their gas tax by 10 cents. To me, there is no reason that Virginia parents should pay a higher sales tax to clothe their children than drivers pay at the gas pump.

The new plan will have out-of-state drivers contribute less for their use of our roads than previously. It also increases the tax on whole-

sale diesel fuel to 6 percent; this was done to capture more revenue from trucks, which cause more wear and tear on our roads than standard vehicles. A rebate will be available for lighter diesel vehicles, including clean diesel vehicles. The plan does include a local .7 percent sales tax for Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. The money raised in NoVA will stay here for local and regional projects.

A provision in Governor McDonnell's original bill charging a \$100 annual fee for all hybrid vehicles resurfaced in the conference committee report, even though that tax was excluded from the versions passed by both the House and Senate. This is a punitive tax. The typical hybrid driver won't save more than \$35 a year in state gas taxes, but the annual fee would have them pay an extra \$65 to "make up" for them.

There are many regular gasoline-powered vehicles that get better MPG than hybrids that wouldn't pay this new tax. Hybrids are more expensive, costing the owners higher titling tax revenues for the state and higher personal property taxes for localities.

While the final bill would raise significant needed funds for transportation, it was too bitter a pill for me to swallow. I oppose lowering the gas tax and increasing the sales tax and also find the new hybrid tax bizarre. For those reasons, and others, I voted no.

The bill passed both houses and is now with Governor McDonnell for review. He may decide to offer amendments. Delegate Surovell of Mount Vernon and I have started an on-line petition asking the Governor to remove the hybrid tax from the bill. If you'd like to sign, please visit [www.NoHybridTax.com](http://www.NoHybridTax.com).

State Sen. Adam Ebbin can be reached at [district30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district30@senate.virginia.gov) or 571-384-8957.

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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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](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com), and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



## LETTERS

### Derry Will Be Missed

To the Editor:

Bob Feldkamp's very nice memorial to Frederic Wolcott (Derry) Bancroft, which appeared in the Gazette Packet – Neighborhoods – old Town (Feb. 21) was much appreciated.

As an addendum: Derry was a long-time member of a very casual group of residents who met weekly on Fridays for lunch. Said group started about 40 years ago and was composed of (mostly) boys born, raised and worked in Alexandria. Restaurants usually chosen were, and are, Warehouse, Wharf, Union Street and Chadwicks but we occasionally experiment with a few others. As membership has sometimes declined over the years, refills have been carefully chosen.

Derry, although slightly liberal, was a great asset at our lunches and was very much liked by all.

Former and current members include Robins Lindsey, Douglas Lindsey, Norwood Michie, Anderton (Andy) Burke, David Burke, Julian Burke, Jack Ticer, Lee Duncan, Arthur Kelleher, Will Williams, Jim Aldige, Charles (Chuck) Langdon, Temple Moore, Clarke (Tom) Cooper and the undersigned.

A good many of our survivors attended the funeral services and reception at St. Paul's Church where we were able to speak with Ellen and their charming daughters, Elizabeth and Mary McLean.

Derry will be sorely missed.

**William Francis (Bill) Smith**  
Alexandria

### Support School Construction

To the Editor:

Right now, Alexandria is facing the same issue as many other school districts: increasing enrollment. This year, ACPS enrollment jumped 5.8 percent, but this is not an anomaly; it's a trend. From 2007 to 2013, enrollment has been steadily rising at an average of 3.2 percent per year and is projected to increase 4.5 percent for the 2013 school year (SY). Even after that, future predictions foresee an average growth rate of 3.7 percent until FY 2019. Decisive action must be taken before our at-capacity schools become overcrowded. The Children Youth and Family Collaborative Commission supports the efforts of the Joint Long Range Planning and its work thus far in addressing and solving this growing problem.

Currently, ACPS is investing in a long-term solution, but there's also a short-term method to cope with the influx of students. In Superintendent Dr. Morton Sherman's recent budget proposal, he presented several Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) for capacity buildings and maintenance. This CIP budget calls for \$189.3 million over the course of 10 years, which will be used to add classrooms — increasing instructional space — and renovate cafeterias and auditoriums, parking lots and libraries — making these communal areas functional for the growing population.

This plan calls for the following:

❖ Charles Barrett: four classrooms, larger cafeteria and parking lot (SY 2014-2015)

❖ Douglas Macarthur: one classroom, improvements to library, parking lot and cafeteria (SY 2015-2016),

❖ George Mason: two classrooms, renovations to library, parking lot and cafeteria (SY 2014-2016)

❖ Matthew Maury: two more classrooms, more parking (SY 2015-2016)

❖ James K. Polk: four classrooms, wing of ten classrooms (SY 2014-2015)

❖ Patrick Henry: 10 classrooms, additional 10-room wing (SY 2015-2016)

❖ T.C. Williams Minnie Howard Campus: second-floor addition (SY 2018-2019)

Besides these renovations, there's a proposal to build a new K-8 school on a TBD site, a project that will be completed in time for the SY 2017-2018. Another idea calls for the demolition of Cora Kelly and a new K-8 building in its place, which would open in SY 2019-2020. So, why are all these projects essential? It's simple, actually. ACPS is committed to maintaining a classroom cap, now set at 20 for kindergarten, 22 for grades 1-2 and 24 for grades 3-5.

According to a Denver Post article, "Research into the effect of class size on achievement has found that it can have significant impact in kindergarten to second grade ... large increases in class size suggest certain intuitive results — challenges in classroom management, less individual attention, a reluctance to assign homework — that could affect student performance" ("Education experts disagree on importance of school class size," Simpson 2012).

To manage this year's increased enrollment, Dr. Sherman and the school board raised the kindergarten cap by two students since construction is a longer process. Because ACPS would never turn any students away, if the issue of capacity continues to be a problem, and at that, one that goes unresolved, class size could continue to increase. Since it appears that the student population is only increasing in the coming years, these CIPs should be supported to prevent a surge in class size and ensure our schools have enough room, providing our students with the best possible learning environment.

**Emma Beall**

T.C. Williams High School Student  
And member, Alexandria Children,  
Youth and Families  
Collaborative Commission

### Encourage Riding Bikes

To The Editor:

Over the last few weeks there have been several articles about registering and charging fees for bikes in the city. Given the logic and questionable application of the economic concept of free rider(s), why stop at registering just bicycles? Surely every child's tricycle, dolly stroller and baby carriage should be covered. Also let's tax motorized wheel chairs and scooters. Maybe throw in lawn-mowers, after all you may cross a sidewalk to mow part of your lawn. They all

## Attention, Alexandria Property Owners!

**Your rights are under assault by City Hall!  
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- **Tell City Council members that you oppose this damaging zoning change**

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



photo: Enoch Chan

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

put additional wear and tear on our public roads.

As used in a recent letter, in this case the concept of “free rider” creates a false equality between cars and trucks on one hand and bikes on the other. Bicycles simply do not cause wear or pollution on an equal basis with motorized vehicles. We should want to create incentives for more bike usage, not increase the nanny state burden.

What lessons do we teach our children with this tax? I would not want to be the parent of a child who was stopped because their bike was untaxed. How do you explain this? This would not encourage bikes, but does put an additional burden on people who have committed the very heinous crimes of clean living and healthy exercise.

The correct economic concept to apply is if you want to encourage an activity you subsidize it, if you want to discourage an activity you tax it, tobacco being the best example. That is how to look at bike usage.

Finally my most sincere appreciation, especially as a taxpayer, of whoever in the City Attorney’s office had the good common sense to suggest that registration is no longer needed. That person deserves a promotion for having a practical solution for an issue versus creating an additional burden on the residents. Hopefully the City Council can find a way to finance whatever infrastructure is needed. It can’t be that expensive. Furthermore this can be done without an income tax.

**William L. Blumberg, MBA**

cal election had unfortunate ones). But an insurgency against the political establishment in a one-party town has to wisely choose its battles.

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

## Saluting Santa Claus’s Yacht Club

To the Editor:

Approximately 20 years ago, members of Santa Claus’s Yacht Club entered the lives of many families who reside in the city of Alexandria. The members provided families with food, gift cards, goods, services and monetary donations. They assisted shelter families who graduated to self-subsistence, provided uniforms for school children, and aided individuals befallen by disaster and tragedy. Over the years the following organizations have benefited from their services: Adopt A Family (Christmas), Alexandria Police Association, Alive, Child and Family Center, Hurricane Katrina Fund, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, Lombardi Cancer Center, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, Matthew Maury Elementary School, National Minority Junior Golf, Scholarship Association, Police Youth Camp, Saint Colleta School, Saint Patrick Foundation, Special Olympics, Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure, The Rocky Versace Memorial Fund and V Foundation for Cancer.

The members of Santa Claus’s Yacht Club willingly gave of themselves and actively supported the community and its children. The members placed their talents at our disposal and demonstrated their commitment to help others. Over the years, Santa Claus’s Yacht Club generously made contributions of over \$400,000.

I first met members of Santa Claus’s Yacht Club after member, Harry Francis Klein, approached me (then principal of Lyles-Crouch Elementary School) about forming an educational partnership with the school. I was elated with the idea and welcomed Mr. Klein and members of the club with open arms. The union of Santa Claus’s Yacht Club with Lyles-Crouch Elementary School certainly made a difference in the lives of families. The smiles and words of encouragement were exactly what were needed to help turn things around for our families.

In 2004, I became the principal of Matthew Maury Elementary School. Just when I thought our partnership had ended, Gary Heinzmann, Santa Claus’s Yacht Club member, contacted me to state that the club wished to expand the partnership. I was indeed ecstatic. The partnership helped the school in immeasurable ways and we appreciated the difference the club made in the lives of our families.

On Dec. 13, 2012, a meeting was held with Gary Heinzmann. It was at this time that he informed me that the club would be dissolving. Although this news was something I did not want to hear, I respected the decision of the group and with heartfelt understanding accepted what was inevitable.

It was at this time that Mr. Heinzmann presented me with a check for \$24,000 to be utilized at my discretion for the school.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

The school is extremely grateful for this!

It's a comfort to know there are heroes among us — regular people, just like the members of Santa Claus's Yacht Club, willing to do what they can to make the world a better place. Heroes give instead of take. They step forward and perform hard and unseen jobs, to give the best of themselves — measuring their own success, not by wealth or comfort, but by the lives they touch along the way. That's what heroes do. Santa Claus's Yacht Club are those people. Maybe they don't think of themselves that way, but that's what they are.

On behalf of Matthew Maury Elementary School, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy and families and organizations in the city of Alexandria, I want everyone to know that we appreciated the club and their generosity. We are grateful to have had an opportunity to know and work with them and to know that there are heroes like them in the world.

Thank you very much: Mark Allen, Rick Baker, Bill Baptiste, Bob Bennett, Rob Blumel, Larry Bory, Brad Bradford, Paul Brisgone, Hunt E. Burke, John Burke, Keith Burner, Jeremy Burnham, Thomas W. Carroll, Rick Casey, Billy Coombs, Michael Cranston, Merle Delancey, Jim Devine, Dan H. Droze Jr., Tom Dunn, Greg Dunshaw, Pete Eldridge, David Elsber, Mike Faber, Frank Fannon IV, Mark Flatt, Steve Forehand, Arthur Fox, Jim Frazier, Robert K. Fuegel, Tim Geary, Mike Gibson, Steven Green, Robin Grover, Mike Guiffre, John Hiller, Gary Heinzmann, Al Himes, Miles Holtzman, Ben Hord, Jonathan Hudgins, Randolph Huggins, Tom Hulfish, Jerome Javier, Earl Johnson, Harry Kabel, John Keegan, Richard Kenefick, Irv Koniak, Franco Landini, David Lavoie, Lonnie Marchant, Peter Moll, Page Moon, Janice Mosher, Daryl Mull, Steven Pace, Liz Pennell, Mark Poskaitis, Richard Pritchard, Paul Rapchak, Bill Ross, Dan Rowe, Shaun Sheehan, Greg Shiner, Bob Steventon, Pat Stover, Pat Sweet, Townsend Van Fleet, Drew Von Bergen, Scott Ward, Pat Willson, Glenn Witucki, Doug Wood and Bob Yakely.

For seven years PLTI has been able to offer our free 20-week course on leadership and civics due to the generosity of community sponsors and individuals who support our mission. In order to continue this service, we must raise funds annually to meet our budget. I invite you to join us for a performance of Lady Swings the Blues on March 10 at 5 pm at MetroStage to support us in our goal of fostering parental involvement in shaping our children's future. Tickets are \$75 and include a delicious dinner buffet and silent auction prior to the show. Your generous support will help us to continue delivering free non-partisan civic leadership and democracy education to Alexandrians.

**Lucretia M. Jackson,**

Principal and the Matthew Maury Elementary School Staff

## Embrace Civic Duties

To the Editor:

I am a proud 16-year citizen of Alexandria. One of the things I

love most about living here is the city's commitment to creating a caring environment and fulfilling the needs of its citizens. As a taxpayer, a member of the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organization, and the executive director of the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria (PLTI), I often speak of the importance of civic engagement and creating opportunities for our citizens to become advocates for themselves and their communities. This is why I support the city's latest initiative, "What's Next Alexandria?" which is bringing residents together to formulate ideas on how Alexandrians can play a larger role in the public decisions that shape the city.

Of course, the goal of bringing new voices to our community tables, boards, commissions, and schools colors everything we do at PLTI. I am fortunate to work daily with motivated individuals who are passionate about growing their public awareness and acquiring the necessary tools to participate and influence positive outcomes for our city's youth. One of the requirements of our PLTI students is that they design and execute a civic project where they employ the skills they learn in the program. Over the past several years, participants have effected impressive changes in our community.

Even after they graduate, our alumni remain involved and are recognized as leaders in the community. The city recently approached PLTI to ask for volunteers to contribute to and help facilitate the "What's Next Alexandria?" dialogue. Several former students answered the call, and are enthusiastically involved in this critical conversation. I hope others in the community will consider participating; the next dialogue is slated for March.

For seven years PLTI has been able to offer our free 20-week course on leadership and civics due to the generosity of community sponsors and individuals who support our mission. In order to continue this service, we must raise funds annually to meet our budget. I invite you to join us for a performance of Lady Swings the Blues on March 10 at 5 pm at MetroStage to support us in our goal of fostering parental involvement in shaping our children's future. Tickets are \$75 and include a delicious dinner buffet and silent auction prior to the show. Your generous support will help us to continue delivering free non-partisan civic leadership and democracy education to Alexandrians.

**Fay D. Slotnick**  
Alexandria

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Beautiful Charleston Style home w/ over 7,000 sq ft. 5BR/5BA, 2 fireplaces, renovated kitch, 2 offices, 2 car gar, in sought after culdesac - steps to the Potomac. Open Sun 2-4.  
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**Alexandria** \$929,000  
7305 Park Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Two level brick home with panoramic views of the Potomac River. 3BR/3BA lower level suite, remodeled kitchen, two fireplaces & large garage on .4 acres. Open Sunday 2-4pm  
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



NEW LISTING



**Beverly Hills** \$1,099,000  
3102 Circle Hill Road, Alexandria, VA 22305  
This beautiful Beverly Hills 4BR, 2 full & 2 half bath colonial has been transformed with unparalleled design, custom craftsmanship, and it's environmentally-conscious resources.  
Joy Deevey 703.930.5198



NEW LISTING



**Hollin Hall Village** \$525,000  
8017 Yorktown Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308  
Stylish updt in a tranquil setting! This charming 3BR/2BA home has much to boast about! Beautifully renovated Kit & BA's too! Excellent locat. off GW Pkwy & close to everything!  
Karen Leonard 703.328.7041



NEW LISTING



**The Mews** \$509,000  
7039 Kings Manor Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315  
End townhome w/ 1 car garage in The Mews! 3BR/3.5 BA, moldings, remodeled, 4 levels, deck, fenced back yard, vaulted ceilings, walk in closets, close to Metro & commuter routes.  
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



OPEN SUN 1-4PM



**Waynewood** \$1,095,000  
8701 Eaglebrook Court, Alexandria, VA 22308  
Perfect gathering place for entertaining. The well designed gourmet kit. flows seamlessly to family rm, formal dining rm & fabulous outdoor living space. New driveway & walkway!  
Edward Pagett 703-518-6161



OPEN SUN 1-4PM



**Hunting Creek** \$595,000  
817 Green Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Charming updated townhome w/ 2BR/2.5BA, located on tree lined street w/ easy parking. Hardwood floors, newer appliances, finished basement and lovely garden.  
Linda Wolf 703-518-6165



**Mason Hill** \$739,990  
2005 Mason Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Beautiful Updated Colonial in Mason Hill. 4BR/2.5BA, Remodeled Kitchen with Granite, SS Apps, Refreshed Baths, Hardwood Floors, Walkout Lower Level, Great Floorplan.  
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



NEW LISTING



**Old Town** \$475,900  
1109 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
1870's row house has 3 levels, incl fin basement. 3BR/2.5BA, wood floors, cozy fireplace, patio, fenced yard. Walk to Metro. Whole foods and all that Old Town has to offer.  
Sherry York 703.625.7337



OPEN SUN 1-4PM



**Greenhouse** \$275,000  
5300 Holmes Run Parkway 105, Alexandria, VA 22304  
Remodeled, 11' ceilings, gar parking, priv patio, hrdwd flrs, closet space, large rooms, breakfast rm/den off kit plus full size dining rm, lots of amenities, 24 hr front desk.  
Sherry York 703.625.7337



**Gabriel Plaza** \$384,900  
2811 Joseph Makell Court, Alexandria, VA 22306  
Call, Look, Buy, Must Sell. Well maintained & updated 3 level SFH in 2011. 4BR/3BA, kit w/ granite countertops, hrdwd floors, LR, DR combo leading to fenced backyard.  
Fatima Needham 703-981-8090

Alexandria | 703.518.8300

cbmove.com



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**NEW HOME** **OPEN SUN**

5211 Polk Ave  
\$1,085,000  
Just Completed - Grand Opening!

Best of both worlds-new home size and amenities combined with "in-town convenience". Spacious new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hardwood flrs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and 2 oversize 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price! **OPEN SUN, 3/3 1-4PM!** From 395, Seminary Rd E; R-N. Pickett; R-Pegram; R-Polk.

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

4505 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway  
\$529,000  
Totally Updated- Gorgeous Setting!

Nothing like it in price range! Fabulous updated home, everything is done. Move-in condition. Features include: bright open floor plan, updated kitchen with maple cabinets and granite countertops, luxury baths, two finished levels, upgraded trim detail, hwd flrs, thermal windows and covered parking. Fab screen porch overlooks magnificent grounds. **OPEN SUN 3/3, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Forest Haven; immediate R on service rd**

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

9102 Old Mount Vernon Rd  
\$545,000  
Huge House-Little Price!

Most house for the money in prime Mt. Vernon location! Exceptionally spacious 6BR home on spectacular 3/4 acre lot overlooking wooded grounds of Mt Vernon Estate. Custom pool with new liner in complete privacy. Home has huge potential and fab features inc: bright, open floor plan, 2FP, hwd flrs (under carpet), updated kitchen cabinets, gas cooking and garage parking. Amazing opportunity-the lot alone would sell for this price! **OPEN SUN 3/3 1-4! GW Pky S; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd.**

**NEW PRICE** **OPEN SUN**

4721 Tarpon Ln  
\$919,000  
Spacious Colonial- Prime Water Frontage!

Fabulous updated and expanded Colonial on gorgeous half acre plus waterfront lot. Just dredged to provide deep water and smooth boating to Potomac and beyond! Magnificent three level home with 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, large room sizes, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning sunrooms on two levels, and oversize two car garage. Walk to yacht Haven amenities. **OPEN SUN 3/3, 1-4! GW Pky S; L-Yacht Haven Est; R-Tarpon.**

**CONTRACT!**

4716 Neptune Dr  
\$1,250,000  
Stunning Water Frontage Private Dock!

Spectacular contemporary Rambler on magnificent lot with 190 ft of bulkheaded water frontage. Custom home designed to capitalize on gorgeous water views and natural environment. Special features include open floorplan, expansive glass walls, soaring cathedral ceilings, main level MBR, walkout lower level. Gorgeous grounds with custom pool and private dock.

**CONTRACT!**

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

Spacious residence with breathtaking panoramic river views from every major room. Special features include: glass walled great room, luxury MBR, marble foyer, and bright white kitchen. Spectacular elevated views. Outstanding building amenities include limo service, party rooms, work out room, pool and more! Unique opportunity-typically units with similar combination of views & elevation cost thousands more!

**JUST LISTED** **CONTRACT!**

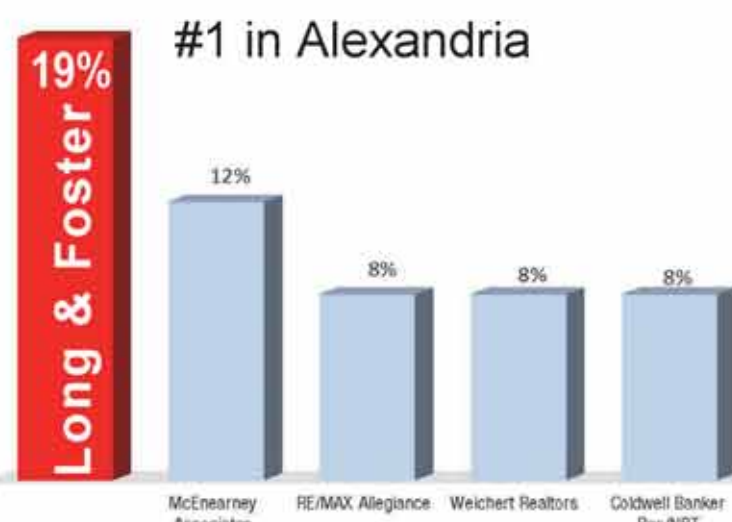
213 Woodland Terrace  
\$1,759,000  
Rare In Town Estate!

One of Alexandria's most admired homes! Magnificent property consisting of 18,000 sq ft manicured grounds, elegant main residence, two car garage and detached cottage.

Home has been tastefully updated and expanded with a careful eye on preserving its original charm and character. Fabulous features include: bright, open, free flowing floor plan, exquisite trim detail, hardwoods, custom built-ins, high ceilings and recessed lighting throughout. Striking gourmet kitchen any chef would envy. Magnificent family room open to kitchen. Stunning master suite with fireplace, luxurious bath & his and hers dressing rooms with custom cabinetry. Fabulous covered porch overlooks private rear grounds. Winner of the *Alexandria Beautification Award*, recognizing select Alexandria residences that beautify their surroundings. "Perfection" best describes this one of a kind offering!

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**Mary Bourke 703.906.5825**

**\$ 1,485,000**  
**Old Town**  
**"RARE LOT"**

Beautiful, large, one owner Cape Cod sited on .77 acres has been lovingly cared for and updated. Highlights: formal LR/DR, eat-in kitchen, Florida room addition, paneled den, large bedrooms and walk-in closets, finished rec room, refinished hardwoods, fresh paint, new roof, 2-car side load garage and more!

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841**

**OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4!**  
**\$ 255,000**  
**5903 MT EAGLE DR**  
**#803**

Lovely views and resort amenities simply magnify this gracious 1BR/1.5BA home. A beautifully updated kitchen awaits you with a spacious master bedroom/bath suite including a huge walk-in closet. The den has a closet and could certainly be used as another bedroom. The BAs have been updated too! Indoor/outdoor pools, tennis, cafe and more!

**Catherine Foltz@longandfoster.com 703.626.6914**

**OPEN HOUSE 1 - 3!**  
**\$ 628,950**  
**Alexandria**  
**309 HOLLAND LN**  
**#215**

This upscale condo has it all! 12' ceilings, 2 master BR, en-suites and den, upgraded granite throughout. Glass backsplash in kitchen, bathrooms have vessel sinks and mirror frames, garden tub, breakfast bar, large walk-in closets, and 2-car parking. Walk out the door to Whole Foods, King St Metro, shopping and restaurants.

**Elfie Biankini 703.593.2634**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 185,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**6641 WAKEFIELD DR**  
**#411**

JUST LISTED! 1BR/1BA, condo with UTILITIES included. Sunny unit! Updated kitchen and bath!

Plenty of parking, amenities. Excellent location: near shops, transportation, bike path, GW Pkwy, river, I-495, Old Town, FT Belvoir. Minutes to DC.

**Pictures: www.ijumani.com**  
**Inderjeet Jumani 703.472.8804**

**\$ 219,900**  
**Port Royal**  
**"CONVENIENT"**

A very nice and very large 1BR/1BA condo with an updated kitchen, newer carpet and a large balcony. 24 hour front desk and a rooftop deck from which you can see forever. Restaurants/shopping only a short walk. All utilities covered in condo fee. Just 2 blocks off the GW Parkway, very convenient to National Airport and DC.

**Katherine Ward 703.627.8728**  
**Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 824,900**  
**Alexandria / Old Town**  
**716 N COLUMBUS ST**

Larger than it looks! Gorgeous renovation with 4BR/2.5BA and 3 levels. Gourmet kitchen with upgraded SS appliances, gleaming hardwood floors, crown molding, and brand new heat/a/c systems, plumbing and electrical. MBR with vaulted ceiling, walk-in closets and master bath.

**Mary Taylor@realtor.com 703.785.5619**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 549,900**  
**Arlington**  
**105 S FILLMORE ST**

"Turn-key! Entirely renovated from top/bottom!"

- 4BR / 3BA with Mstr suite
- 2,200+ sq ft of living space on a 4,000 sq ft lot
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- HW floors on ML / carpet in LL, recessed lighting

**Martine Imer & Alexander Imer 703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465**

**\$ 618,000**  
**Stafford**  
**"ESTATE HOME"**

A spacious home with room to spread out including large kitchen and family room just made for entertaining sited on a private cul-de-sac wooded lot. Sumptuous master suite with his/her closets, sitting room with fireplace and huge spa bath. LL has family room, guest room and full bath.

**www.novapropertyshop.com**  
**Susan Haughton 703.470.4545**  
**susansells@longandfoster.com**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 599,990**  
**Longwood Knolls**  
**9412 ONION**  
**PATCH DR**

4 large BRs/2.5BAs Colonial with 2-car garage and swimming pool. Updated kitchen with SSA, granite counters, tile backsplash and upscale cabinets. Deck overlooks the rear yard oasis. Lower level features rec room with wet bar, large utility room storage area, glass doors lead to pool area. Close to shopping, restaurants and commuter routes.

**www.brianandjerry.com**  
**Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764**

**\$ 399,900**  
**Del Ray / St Elmo**  
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... for this large detached 3 finished level duplex. A plain canvas waiting for your creative strokes but in move-in condition. New HVAC. Located in one of the best places to live plus dog friendly, Del Ray offers "The Avenue" restaurants, shopping, farmer's market and more. Blocks to Potomac Yards, minutes to Old Town, two Metros, National Airport and DC. Sold "As-is".

**Walid Ashoor 703.585.6224**

**RENTALS**

**3078 S Abingdon St \$1,450**  
Fairlington Village Condo / Garden 1BR/1BA  
**Renee Raymond 703.507.5330**

**242 N Payne St \$2,200**  
Alexandria / Old Town TH 2 levels 3BR/1.5BA  
**Marcy Covarrubias 703.772.6569**

**525 N Fayette St #122 \$2,200**  
The Henry Condo / Mid-Rise 1BR/1.5BA 1 Garage Parking  
**Norma Gants 703.408.2560**

**2913 S Buchanan St \$2,200**  
Fairlington Village Condo / Garden 1BR/1.5BA  
**Brad Kintz 703.548.0888**

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## The Perfect Crime

**“Dial ‘M’ for Murder”  
at LTA.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A** key. A pair of shoes. The fibers of a carpet. The devil is in the details as the perfect crime unravels in the suspenseful classic “Dial ‘M’ for Murder,” now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Written by Frederick Knott, the play premiered in 1952 on BBC television before being performed on stage that same year in London’s West End in June and New York’s Broadway in October. But it was the 1954 film directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Ray Milland, Grace Kelly and Robert Cummings that turned the thriller into one of the most riveting movies of all time.

Set in the singular location of the London flat of Margot and Tony Wendice, “Dial ‘M’ for Murder” finds ex-tennis pro Tony blackmailing Captain Lesgate, an old college acquaintance, into murdering his wealthy wife Margot. Never in love with her to begin with, Tony methodically orchestrates the plan after discovering Margot’s brief affair with American crime-fiction

writer Max Halliday.

When Tony’s original plan goes awry and Lesgate ends up murdered, he ingeniously devises Plan B and watches with glee as his wife becomes the target of the investigation.

Directed by Carla Scopeletis, the ensemble cast is led by Richard Isaacs, who perfectly inhabits the wretchedness of snake-in-the-grass Tony. Jenni Patton is the intended victim accused of murder, convicted and ultimately sentenced to death.

As Hubbard, the chief inspector on the crime scene, John Henderson is a model of British reserve and careful deliberation as the drama reaches a steady boil and the layers of truth are peeled away. James Myers as Max Halliday and Jerry Hoffman as Captain Lesgate round out the talented ensemble cast.

Resentment, jealousy and greed. The devil is in the details of “Dial ‘M’ for Murder,” a spellbinding evening of suspense for all ages.

“Dial ‘M’ for Murder” is playing now through March 16 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).



**Richard Isaacs (Tony Wendice) in Little Theatre of Alexandria’s “Dial ‘M’ for Murder.”**



**Jenni Patton, playing Margot Wendice.**



PHOTOS BY HEATHER NORCROSS

**Richard Isaacs (Tony Wendice) and Jerry Hoffman (Captain Lesgate) in “Dial ‘M’ for Murder,” playing through March 16 at Little Theatre of Alexandria. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).**



**John Henderson (Inspector Hubbard) and James Myers (Max Halliday).**

## Port City’s ‘Drawer Boy’ Opens

**Canadian classic  
debuts at Port City  
Playhouse.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**I**t was 40 years ago when a Toronto theater company crafted the basis of a play by sending a group of actors to live and work on the farms of Ontario. The experiment became a landmark in Canadian theater and was the inspiration for Michael Healey’s “The Drawer Boy,” now playing at Port City Playhouse.

Set in 1972, the play opens with Miles, a young thespian and aspiring playwright who turns up on the doorstep of Morgan and Angus, two World War II veterans who share a rural farm near Clinton, Ontario.

In the course of his research for a theater piece on farming, Miles discovers a rare



**Morgan is played by Elliott Bales, Miles by Daniel Westbrook and Angus by Paul Tamney in Port City Playhouse’s “The Drawer Boy.”**

bond of friendship between the world-weary Morgan and the cheerful and child-like Angus.

Directed by Jennifer Lyman, the talented cast delivers compelling performances from Elliott Bales as Morgan, Paul Tamney as Angus and Daniel Westbrook as Miles.

Morgan runs the farm and acts as caretaker for his lifelong friend Angus, who suffered brain damage in a bombing in London during the war. With little memory beyond the tasks of daily life on the farm,

Angus is the “drawer” boy, a once-promising architect whose talents were erased by the war.

When the hapless Miles enters the picture, he uncovers the true story behind the rural existence of the two friends: That the wartime buddies were stationed together in Britain in the 1940s, where they met their future brides before returning home to Canada. What happened to the two women proves a mystery that slowly unfolds between fiction and reality.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DEBLOIS

**Angus is played by Paul Tamney and Morgan by Elliott Bales in Port City Playhouse’s “The Drawer Boy.”**

The Friday, March 1, performance of “The Drawer Boy” will be followed by a special “talkback” with the director, cast and technical crew. Audience members will be able to ask questions and gain perspectives on the creative process and how a play goes from being a playwright’s script to a live performance on stage.

“The Drawer Boy” is playing now through March 9 at Port City Playhouse at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. For tickets visit [www.portcityplayhouse.com](http://www.portcityplayhouse.com).



# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

## ONGOING

**Spring Classes.** Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at [www.artatthecenter.org](http://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, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. 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 [alexandriahistory.org](http://alexandriahistory.org) or call 703-746-4994.

**Tavern Toddlers.** Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon, through the end of April. 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](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 28

**Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.** 7:30 p.m. \$45. Visit [www.nittygritty.com](http://www.nittygritty.com). The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Author Series.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. In honor of Black History Month, Bob O'Connor will speak about his book "The U.S. Colored Troops at Andersonville Prison." Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1702.

**Networking Fun.** 6-9 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Hosted by New Hope Housing's Young Professionals Board and IMPACT Marketing & Events. Features cocktails, music and more. \$20 online or \$25 at the door. E-mail Michelle Jannazo at [mjannazo@newhopehousing.org](mailto:mjannazo@newhopehousing.org) or 703-799-2292 ext. 11.

**Information Talk.** 6-7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Hall

Library. Students and parents can gain insight into the importance of promoting financial literacy at an early age. Daryl Mackey, author of "Teamesteem is the Key to a Teen's Financial Dreams" will lead the forum. Copies of his book will be given out to the first 25 teens to arrive. 703-980-3510 for questions.

**Gala Benefit.** 7-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 S. Union St. The fourth annual CAC Gala benefits the Center for Alexandria's Children. Features a silent auction, mini raffle, buffet and more. Tickets start at \$150 and available at <http://2013cacgala.eventbrite.com> or by contacting the Center at 703-746-6008. For more information about the Center, go to [www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org](http://www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org).

**Performance.** 10:30 a.m. at Downtown Baptist Church, 212 S. Washington St. See "The Young Spectaculars and the Front Yard Adventure." \$8/person and can be purchased at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door.

## THROUGH FEB. 28

**Highlights at Mount Vernon Estate.** In observance of Black History Month, Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Black History Month activities are included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$17; children ages 6-11, \$8; and children under 5 admitted free.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Shades of Gray" at Printmakers Inc., in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## FEB. 28 THROUGH APRIL 7

**Art Exhibit.** See "Process: Photography" at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Features established and emerging talent displaying a wide variety of picture taking devices ranging from large print to electron microscopy. Over 15 types of equipment are represented. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

spanish

french

chinese

Grades 5-8

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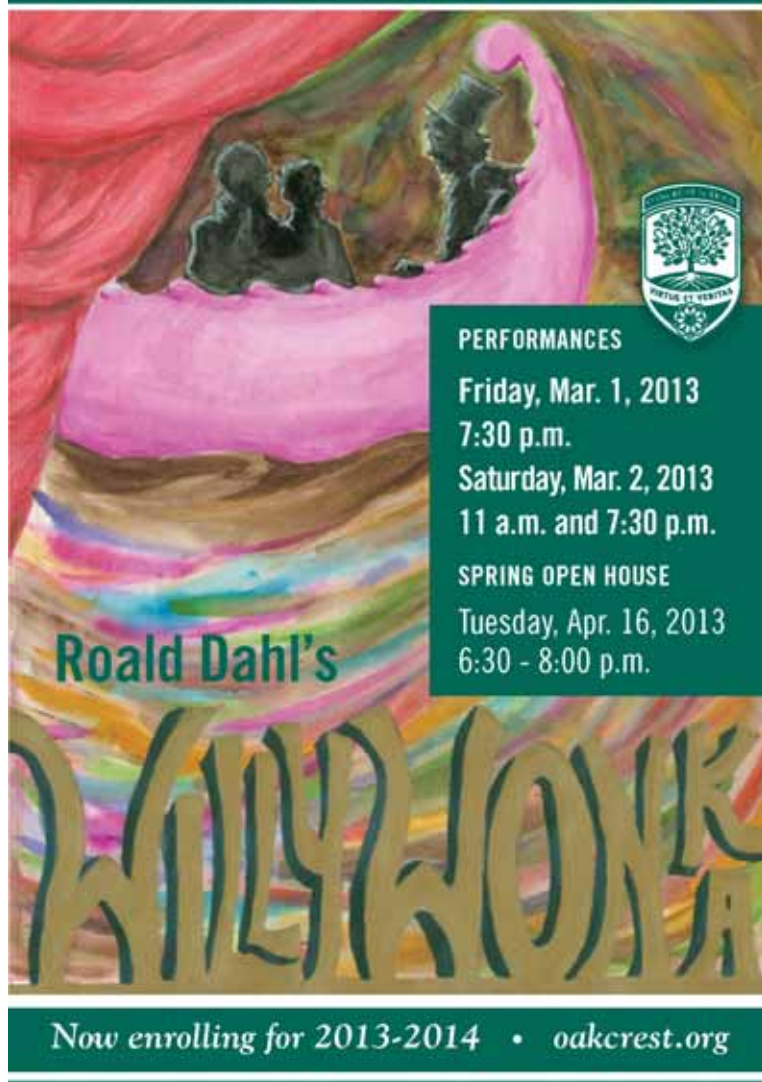
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## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 19

### FRIDAY/MARCH 1

**Performance.** 10:30 a.m. at Downtown Baptist Church, 212 S. Washington St. See "The Young Spectaculars and the Front Yard Adventure." \$8/person and can be purchased at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and under can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Visit [hooray4books.com](http://hooray4books.com) or 703-548-4092.

**Basic Gardening.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to incorporate native plants to the garden. Visit [greenspring.org](http://greenspring.org) or 703-642-5173.

**Performance.** 6:30-8 p.m. Alexandria City Community Theatre presents Apollo Live in the Kauffman Auditorium at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., featuring music through the years. Free. Contact [kendall.hermesdorf@alexandria.gov](mailto:kendall.hermesdorf@alexandria.gov) or call 703-746-5575 or 703-746-5411.

### MARCH 1 THROUGH MARCH 6

**Artwork Due.** Target Gallery's March Fundraiser exhibition will accept artwork at the gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or 703-838-4565.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 2

**Celebrate Alexandria: 25 Years with Music and the Maestro.** 6 p.m. at Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square. Kim Allen Kluge, musical director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will be



**Josh Movius (Tinman), Adhana Reid (Dorothy), Jewell Dupree (Scarecrow), Alexander Collins (The Wiz), and TreVaughn Allison (Lion), in rehearsal for St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's upcoming production of "The Wiz."**

### Off to See 'The Wiz'

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School will present the musical "The Wiz" for two weeks, March 1-2 and March 8-9. "The Wiz," by William Brown and Charlie Smalls, is based on L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. It is a fresh, modern look at the famous story of Dorothy's arrival in the Land of Oz and her eventual return home to Kansas. Join the Cappies award-winning Stage One Players of SSSAS Upper School for the journey down the yellow brick road. Shows are March 1, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m.; March 2 at 2 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. Tickets are \$5, visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts) or call 703-212-2950.

honored. There will be a reception, silent and live auction, dinner, dancing and more. Individual tickets are \$200. For reservations and information, contact Margherita Woods at 703-960-7994, [marg.woods@cox.net](mailto:marg.woods@cox.net), or Jane Ring at 703-548-745, [jring10@comcast.net](mailto:jring10@comcast.net).

**Virginia Grand Military Band.** 7:30 p.m. Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear works by Sousa, Grainger, Gilbert &

Sullivan. Adults \$15; band directors and students free. Parking \$6.-cash only, vehicles displaying handicapped tags park free. Visit [www.vgmb.com](http://www.vgmb.com) or 703 426-4777.

**Music.** Focus Music presents Slaid Cleaves with special guest Ruut at 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. \$20/general; \$18/advance at [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

**Performance.** 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Downtown Baptist Church, 212 S.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21



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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 20

Washington St. See “The Young Spectaculars and the Front Yard Adventure.” \$8/person and can be purchased at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door.

**St. Patrick’s Day Parade.** Starts at 12:30 p.m. at the corner of King Street and Alfred St. Grand Marshal is Bryan “Bugsy” Watson, owner of Bugsy’s Pizza Restaurant and Sports Bar. There will also be a Classic Car Show at 10 a.m. at Pitt Street. Visit [www.ballyshaners.org](http://www.ballyshaners.org) for more information about the day’s events.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and under can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Visit [hooray4books.com](http://hooray4books.com) or 703-548-4092.

**Read Across America Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 6 and under can enjoy stories and more. Free.

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

**Indoor and Outdoor Plants.** 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rod. Discover plants that work best in both indoor and outdoor gardens. Visit [www.green-spring.org](http://www.green-spring.org) or 703-642-5173.

**Exhibit.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Explore the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum for free. Located at 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Contact [apothecary.museum@alexandria.gov](mailto:apothecary.museum@alexandria.gov) or call 703-746-3852.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 3

**Choral Evensong.** 5 p.m. at Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St. Listen to a service of evening prayer with choral music. All are welcome. Visit [www.historic-christchurch.org](http://www.historic-christchurch.org) or 703-549-1450.

**Film Day.** 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Watch “Remember the Titans,” about T.C. Williams High School and its newly desegregated football team, in honor of African-American History Month. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or 703-746-1702.

**Opening Reception.** 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meet some of the creators of the “Process: Photography.” Features established and emerging talent displaying a wide variety of picture taking devices ranging from large print to electron microscopy. Over 15 types of equipment are represented. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Closing Reception.** 2-4 p.m. meet the creators of “Student/Faculty Exhibit” at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Browse through paintings, drawings, ceramics, jewelry, and more. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

**Friends of Dyke Marsh.** 2 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Learn about snakes, skinks, salamanders, geckos, frogs, alligators and more. Free. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) or 703-768-2525.

**Party with a Purpose.** 6-8 p.m. at Grevey’s Restaurant, 8130 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation invites you to come learn about volunteer opportunities for their 10 weekly adoption events, fostering, transport or taking care of cats and kittens in their adoption centers. Door prizes and munchies, free. Prospective volunteers welcome. Email [lisamarierescue@hotmail.com](mailto:lisamarierescue@hotmail.com) or [lostdogbarb@gmail.com](mailto:lostdogbarb@gmail.com).

**Winter Lecture.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Elissa Steeves will discuss her gardening experience and how her garden reflects her personality. Visit [greenspring.org](http://greenspring.org) or 703-642-5173.



**Counted Thread – Cross Stitch by Marlene Lewis**



**Marion Smith’s Canvaswork – Multi, won one of two Director’s Choice awards.**



**Works by Ragne Svevar hang on a door in one of the upstairs bedrooms.**

## 50th Annual Needlework Exhibition

The 50th annual Needlework Exhibition will be open to the public starting Friday, March 1 at the Woodlawn Plantation.

Woodlawn was the home of Eleanor Custis Lewis, one of America’s foremost needleworkers. The exhibition honors her legacy by maintaining the tradition of the needle arts and by raising funds to preserve her estate.

Nelly’s Needlers is a volunteer auxiliary working year-round to raise funds for this historic site. Since its inception in 1962, the Needlers have donated more than \$750,000 to Woodlawn.

Lunch will be served daily Wed-Mon. The lunch-

room will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 31. Lunch reservations are required for large parties. To make lunch reservations for groups of 15 or more, contact Alice Deaschner at 703-323-1781.

Technique/judging tours may be scheduled in advance for groups of 8 or more. Contact Maggie Bunch at [woodlawn50years@gmail.com](mailto:woodlawn50years@gmail.com).

The entrance to Woodlawn is changing to a new gate off Woodlawn Road. Traveling south on Rt. 1, Woodlawn Road is at the next traffic light at the south end of the estate. Take a right at the traffic light and head west, the gate is to the right across from the Woodlawn Quaker Meeting House.

**Exhibit.** 1-5 p.m. Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N Union St. Free. Visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org) or call 703-746-4399.

## THROUGH MARCH 3

**Art Exhibit.** See “Fabricated: An Exhibition of Wearable Art” at Target Galley in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/target..](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target..)

**Student/Faculty Exhibit.** The Art League in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., presents paintings, drawings, ceramics, jewelry, and more. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

## MONDAY/MARCH 4

**Performance.** 10:30 a.m. at Downtown Baptist Church, 212 S. Washington St. See “The Young Spectaculars and the Front Yard Adventure.” \$8/person and can be purchased at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door.

**Dinner Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 24 Hall, 400 Cameron St. \$25/person. William Connery will discuss his book “Civil War Northern Virginia 1861.” Visit [leecamp.org](http://leecamp.org) or RSVP 703-217-7871.

**Spanish Story Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories in Spanish. Free. 703-46-1705.

**Little One-Ders.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Baby Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to 11 months can hear stories and more. Sign up half-hour before it begins. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Teen Movie.** 4 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Teens in grades 6-12 can watch a movie with their friends. Free. 703-46-1705.

**Read, Sing & Play Baby.** 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children up to 11 months can

enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

**Garden Sprouts.** 11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the history of maple syrup and its importance. Then sample some treats while visiting trees that are tapped for syrup. Visit [greenspring.org](http://greenspring.org) or 703-642-5173.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 5

**Stories and Songs.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Baby Rhyme Time.** 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Game Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12 can play with their friends. Free. 703-746-1702.

**“Lincoln and Booth: One Mad Act and Its Expiation.”** 6-8 p.m. at the Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. In relating the story of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination and John Wilkes Booth’s escape, flight and death, Dr. Terry Alford will introduce fresh details and insights about the most consequential murder of the 19th century. Free. Visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com) or call 703-838-8000.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 6

**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Film Noir Film Series.** 6:45 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Call for title. Discussion follows at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub. Free 703-746-1705.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth

Ave. All ages can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Special Presentation.** 1 p.m. in the ballroom at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. Illustrated lecture by Marc Meltonville on “The Kitchens of George III.” RSVP at [gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 7

**Art Focus Group.** 7:30-9 p.m. Weaving and textile arts — we will look at ways to bring textile arts into the classroom or home studio with a specific focus on recycled fibers. 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 Lane. Call 703-201-1250.

**Performance.** 10:30 a.m. at Downtown Baptist Church, 212 S. Washington St. See “The Young Spectaculars and the Front Yard Adventure.” \$8/person and can be purchased at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door.

**Mother Goose Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories, activities and more. Limited to 25 children. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Story Time.** 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

**Paws to Read.** 5:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1702 x5.

**Pope-Leighey Lecture Series.** 7 p.m. Lecture featuring Frank Lloyd Wright homeowners and qualified experts in the fields of restoration, conservation, preservation and management of Wright sites. Located at The



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**The music room parlor is laden with a variety of different needlework styles.**

Lyceum; 201 S. Washington St. \$15; \$10 for members. Contact woodlawn @nthp. org or call 703-780-4000.

**Children’s Concert.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The NOVA Alexandria Band, John Adams Elementary School Orff Ensemble and more will perform to celebrate Music in our Schools month. Free, but parking is \$6.

## MARCH 7 THROUGH APRIL 1

**Art Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. “State of Emergency,” Sabyna Sterrett’s exhibition of woven repurposed plastic bags and products, will be featured in The Art League Gallery, at 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 8

**Performance.** Megan Mullally and Stephanie Hunt perform “Nancy & Beth” at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$29.50. Visit [birchmere.com](http://birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500.

**Mardi Growl Gala.** 7-10 p.m. at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Enjoy music by a N’awlins jazz band, silent auction, raffle, beverages and more. \$85/single; \$150/pair of tickets. All proceeds benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Visit [www.alexandriaAnimals.org/](http://www.alexandriaAnimals.org/) MardiGrowl for more.

**Performance.** 10:30 a.m. at Downtown Baptist Church, 212 S. Washington St. See “The Young Spectaculars and the Front Yard Adventure.” \$8/person and can be purchased at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door.

**Classical Potpourri.** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear works by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and more. \$15/advance or \$20/door. Buy online at [InstantSeats.com](http://InstantSeats.com).

**Book Reading.** 7 p.m. Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., will host author Pat Britz for a special reading and activity program with children. Free. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or call 703-548-4092.



## PEOPLE

# Vercessi's Latest Novel Highlights Local Sites

### Pursuing a cold case.

By SENITRA T. MCCOMBS  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**etired Navy captain and local author George Vercessi highlights the Alexandria area in his latest novel "NCIS Agent Jerzy Shore." The novel follows cold case sleuth

Jerzy Shore as he tries to solve the "decades-old death of Midshipman Jeff Resnick whose body is found at the base of the Naval Academy clock tower before the annual Army-Navy football game which is initially ruled an accidental death until an anonymous letter lands" in Jerzy Shore's lap.

"The main character is being bounced around like a pinball. He's got



people directing him when he doesn't want to be. He's got a woman who he's not sure is attracted to him and a boss directing him in a path he doesn't want to go. And he's got a man out to kill him," Vercessi said.

Vercessi includes many local landmarks and places in the book including a car crash near the old Confederate soldier statue near the intersec-

tion of Washington Street and Prince Street, the Landini Brothers restaurant and the dock at the end of King Street (behind the Torpedo Factory).

Similar to "NCIS Agent Jerzy Shore," he has two other novels "King of the Hill" and "We the People" based in the Washington Metropolitan / Annapolis and New York City areas which are familiar stomping grounds to the Bronx native and long-time Alexan-

SEE JERZY SHORE, PAGE 25

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## LIVING LEGENDS

# Stearman: Helping Young and Old in Alexandria

He epitomizes spirit of volunteerism.

BY MELINDA SIGAL

**L**ewis A. Stearman has supported Alexandria's youth for almost 75 years. His passion for serving young people developed when, as a compassionate 16-year-old, he sent Valentine's Day cards to patients at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C.

From that day forward Stearman's volunteerism grew from his belief that today's youth are tomorrow's future. "Our young people are rich resources that we must cultivate and mentor to inspire them to be our future leaders of tomorrow," he said. "They are our precious jewels and I have always wanted to help."

Stearman was born on Feb. 8, 1924, at Garfield Hospital in Washington, D.C., son of Joseph Stearman, a salesman, and Esther Rose, a homemaker. His family often visited his grandparents, who lived in Alexandria and were owners of a pawnshop and dry goods store across from the Alexandria Gazette newspaper.

Stearman's family moved to Del Ray when he was six years old. He attended Alexandria public schools and began work for the Gazette as a substitute carrier when he was 14. In his 43 years at the Gazette, many of those years alongside his mentor, president, editor and publisher C.C. Carlin, Jr., Stearman held myriad positions, including working in the accounting/bookkeeping department, as editorial writer, general manager, vice president and treasurer. In 1983 he served as consultant to the newspaper's 200th anniversary edition.

In March 1967, after Carlin died, Carlin's wife Sarah publicly recognized Stearman for his devoted support: "He tries daily to do his job in such order that may contribute to his job, his community, thus to his family. He quietly gives hours of time to unknown and thankless tasks. In short, he is his brother's keeper."

Stearman met Mildred, who would become his wife, at a dance where she had come as a friend's blind date. With his friend's blessing Stearman invited Millie to dance. He saw she was beautiful and a great dancer, and later learned she played piano exquisitely. Stearman immediately knew she was the one. Within a year, in 1950, the couple married. The Stearmans have three sons: David, who is deceased; Douglas; and Joseph, who lives in Alexandria. They have nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. Stearman and Millie still love to dance. Stearman says "she's been a great supporter throughout the years."

Of 39 charter members of the Optimist Club of Alexandria, founded in 1946, Stearman is the only survivor. During the club's first year its members raffled off a car to renovate the Alexandria Boys Club, now the Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys and Girls Club. The relationship between

**In his 43 years at the Gazette, Lewis Stearman held myriad positions, including working in the accounting/bookkeeping department, as editorial writer, general manager, vice president and treasurer.**

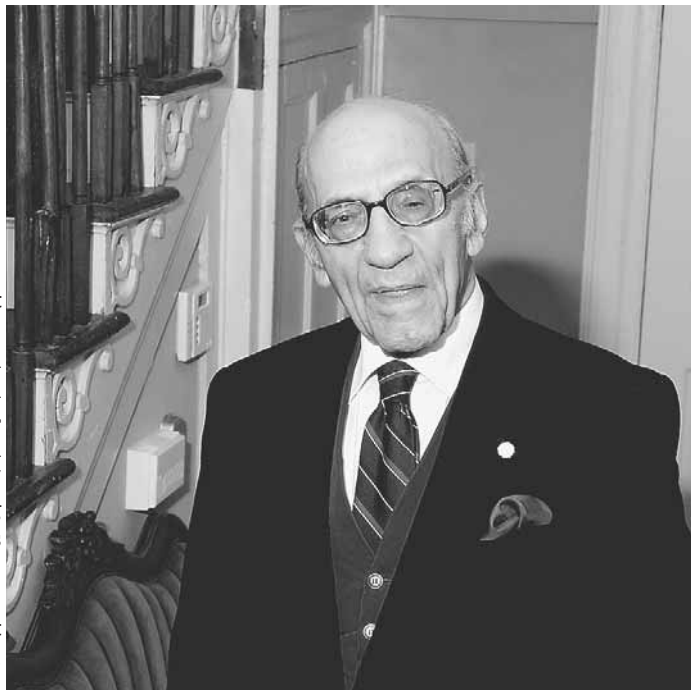


PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

the organizations continues today. The Optimists continue to donate to the activities of the Boys and Girls Club. Stearman became an Optimist life member in 1952 and was honor club president in 2006-2007. He was chosen Optimist of the Year in 2007-2008. He continues to serve on the Optimist's board of directors. Stearman also wrote the 40 and 50 year history of the Optimist Club.

In 1952 Stearman was elected to the board of directors of the Salvation Army in Alexandria. Motivated by the goal of helping youngsters, he helped organize the Salvation Army's Century Club, which enabled 1,000 underprivileged children to attend Camp Happyland. For 13 years he was chair-fundraiser for the Salvation Army's Annual Civic Banquet. He served as chairman of the board in 1962-63 and again in 1986-87. He was honored as the Man of the Year in 1965 and in 1967. In 1968 he was presented the prestigious William Booth Award. In 1991 he was given a certificate for life board membership. He said he is still enthusiastically committed to help the young and distressed.

In 1958 Stearman was elected to the board of directors of the Alexandria Boys Club. He has remained an active board member for more than 30 years. Stearman's father had known the club's founders, the Barretts, as well as its first president, Roger Sullivan, who initially suggested that Stearman's father bring his son down to the club. Even as a child Stearman was grateful children had such a place. He felt that someday he would do what he could do to help kids. Significant accomplishments include assistance with the merger of the Alexandria Boys Club and the Olympic Boys Club, writing the 50-year history of Alexandria-Olympic Boys and Girls Club and 13 years as banquet and fundraising chair. He raised the bar for donations by bringing in celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor, U.S. Sen. John Warner, Judge John J. Sirica, Mark Russell and Joe Theismann, all of whom shared Stearman's vision of

mentoring youth.

Stearman is a member of the board and trustee of the Maurice D. Rosenberg Lodge of B'nai B'rith International in Alexandria. In 1953 and 1968 he received awards for Outstanding Merit in Journalism for promoting better community relations through journalism.

In 1968 Virginia Del. Marion Galland approached Stearman with an important challenge: to become a founder of the Alexandria Senior Citizens Employment and Services, now Senior Services of Alexandria. The goal was to start an organization for people over 60, to mentor them, bring them dignity and make them feel worthy. He became one of 16 founders and served on the board of directors as president in 1970-71.

The highlight of Stearman's tenure as chair of the Alexandria Mental Health Sym-

## Living Legends: The Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts; Club Managers Association of America; Goodwin House, Inc.; McLaughlin Ryder Investments; Renner & Company, CPA, P.C.; the Rotary Club of Alexandria and SunTrust Bank.

This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year. For information about the Meet The Legends reception on March 21, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.com](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com) or contact [Legends@AlexandriaLegends.com](mailto:Legends@AlexandriaLegends.com).

posia Committee and president of the Alexandria Community Mental Health Center was bringing 1,700 attendees to the T.C. Williams High School auditorium for a discussion on mental health featuring U.S. Sen. Abraham Ribicoff and renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead.

Stearman has served as a leader in many other organizations and championed their causes, including the Visiting Nurse Service of Alexandria, Park & Shop Alexandria Corporation, Alexandria Hospital, the local branch of the American Red Cross, the local branch of the American Cancer Society and the Alexandria Board of Trade, which became part of today's Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Stearman turned 89 years old in February 2013. He said: "I thank God for one more day in my life. It's a blessing and I appreciate each day that I take a breath, feel wonderful and can carry on doing things I want to help kids."



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA/LIVING LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA

## Family Legend Workshop

**Families from as far away as New Jersey participated in the Family Legends Bookmaking workshop at the Alexandria Black History Museum on Feb. 16. The program was led by Sushmita Mazumdar, a local book artist, writer and educator who started writing stories for children when her own children were little. Family Legend workshops are an activity of Living Legends of Alexandria ([www.AlexandriaLegends.com](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com)).**



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(Performance  
Contract), available at  
[alexandriava.gov/dchs](http://alexandriava.gov/dchs).  
The hearing will be  
Thursday, March 7 at  
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## 21 Announcements

**OBITUARY**  
RUTH E. GREIFER passed away February 22, 2013 at her  
home in Rockville, MD. Ruth, daughter of Isidore and Sophia  
Dahl was born in Geilenkirchen, Germany May 30, 1922. A  
Holocaust survivor, she moved to the United States after  
WWII. She met and married her soul mate Bernard Greifer z"l  
and settled in Alexandria, VA. A loving wife and mother, Ruth  
was a life member of Hadassah and active in her synagogue.  
She worked in the Alexandria school system, raised a family  
and earned a college degree from Northern Virginia Communi-  
ty College.

Ruth was the beloved wife of 61 years of the late Bernard Grei-  
fer (2013), loving mother of Carla Paris Teich, Helen Grimm,  
Amy Godin, grandmother to Andrew Paris, Rebecca and Jacob  
Grimm and Sophia and Shira Godin. A true lady in every way,  
she will be missed by family and friends.

A funeral service was held at Agudas Achim Congregation,  
2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA on Monday February 25 .  
Shiva was observed at the home of Amy and Ed Godin starting  
Monday at 7:30 pm. Contributions may be made to the U.S.  
Holocaust Memorial Museum in her memory.

## 21 Announcements

**OBITUARY**  
**Bernard M. Fagelson (Age 100)**

On Wednesday, February 20, 2013 of Alexandria, VA. Beloved  
husband of Helen C. Fagelson. Loving father of John Fagel-  
son. Brother of the late Robert Fagelson. Grandfather of Sam  
Fagelson and Max Fagelson. He grew up on a dairy farm in  
Northern Virginia and graduated from George Washington Uni-  
versity Law School during the Depression. After law school he  
worked for a New Deal agency in Richmond and became a na-  
val officer when the country entered World War II. He served  
on the USS Quincy at the invasions of Normandy, Southern  
France, and Okinawa. After the war he returned to Alexandria  
and began a law practice that continued for fifty years, special-  
izing in zoning and land use law. He was a consummate gen-  
tleman and always known for his integrity, fairness, generosity  
and an appropriate quote for all occasions. He was active in  
Democratic politics and was a long time member of the Burke  
& Herbert Bank board of directors, retiring as a Director Emeri-  
tus.

Funeral service will be held 10:30am Monday at Agudas Achim  
Congregation, 2908 Valley Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302. Inter-  
ment Agudas Achim Cemetery.

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## PEOPLE



George Vercessi

## ‘Jerzy Shore’

FROM PAGE 22

dria resident.

“NCIS Agent Jerzy Shore” is available in paperback and ebook through Amazon.com or any on-line bookseller and at any bookstore.

Although the book’s title was taken partially from the famous NCIS television shows, Vercessi had thought up the idea for the book one day out of the blue.

“It was just one of those things, what if someone died and the case was never solved,” he said.

For research, he read a number of textbooks on forensic science and cold cases but he also interviewed local NCIS agents to get a feel for how they solve cases.

Unlike many writers who outline their plots, he chose to draw out his plot so that it would be easier to tie together all the different variables involved.

He explains that because certain characters only appeared once or twice in the book, sketching the plot made it easier to write the book.

When he’s not writing novels, he enjoys reading mysteries by Donald Westlake and Elmore Leonard. He often tries to read the same genre as he is writing or working on to inspire his creativity.

He is also in a writer’s group where he can give and receive critiques of his work and other budding writers. He advises novice writers to “put their stories down on paper,” “never talk about your writing” and to “join a writer’s group” to gain insight into their writing. Some of his other hobbies include listening to opera, in particular Italian operas, traveling and collecting art.

Vercessi said the best part of writing is seeing the finished product. “I hope that people will like the character [Jerzy Shore] and they will ask when’s the sequel coming out,” he said. Currently, he is working on researching another Jerzy Shore book and working on another novel about a bail bondsman named Charlie Paradise who works out of a mobile office that was previously a lunch wagon. He is also writing a children’s book to help families cope with stroke victims and helping an incarcerated person to write a memoir.

Vercessi resides in Alexandria with his wife. After 27 years in the Navy, he retired as a captain. He has a master’s degree in mass communications from San Diego State University and a bachelor of arts degree in political science from La Salle College in Philadelphia. He is a member of the Authors Guild, National Press Club in Washington, D.C.



# Bishop Ireton Beats Potomac School in VISAA Playoffs

Cardinals earned first trip to WCAC semi-finals by beating Gonzaga.

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**wo days after making the program's first trip to the WCAC tournament semifinals and losing to St. John's, the Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team hosted Potomac School in the opening round of the VISAA state playoffs.

The Cardinals quickly showed there would be no letdown against their opponent from the Mid-Atlantic Conference.

Bishop Ireton built a 22-point halftime lead and cruised to a 59-42 home victory against Potomac School on Tuesday night, advancing the No. 5-seed Cardinals to the VISAA quarterfinals, where they faced No. 4 Benedictine on Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

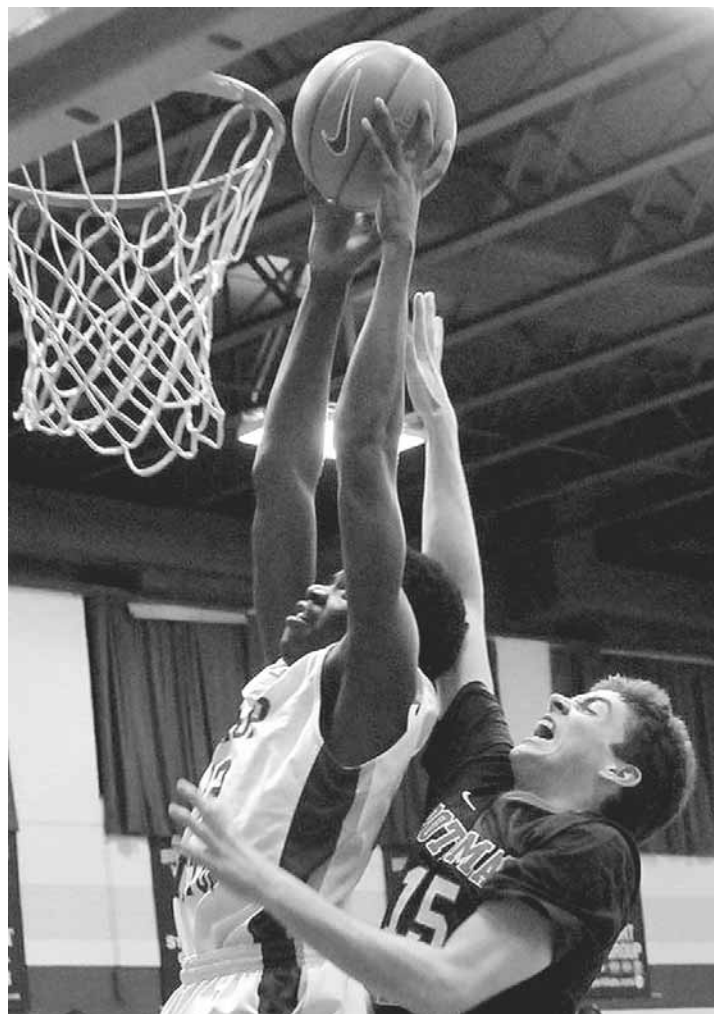
Ireton opened Tuesday's game with a 13-1 run and led 17-3 when Dan Noe scored with 5:44 remaining in the second quarter. The Cardinals held a double-digit lead for the final three quarters of the contest.

"I thought we came out of the box pretty well with a lot of energy after the emotional letdown of losing to St. John's in the semi-finals," Ireton head coach Neil Berkman said. "We occasionally exhibit fragile psyche and tonight we showed some resilience and came out played hard. ... I was proud of my guys."

Senior guard Louis Khouri led Ireton with 14 points, including eight in the first quarter.

"Louis plays the game like a 40 year old," Berkman said. "His IQ is off the charts. He sees the next play. We're going to miss him dearly. He brings a lot of intangibles that don't show up on the stat sheet with him. He's just a terrific kid to coach and I hope his career doesn't end for another three games."

Noe scored 12 points, Patrick Moseh totaled 11, Ritchie Kamtchoum finished with



**Bishop Ireton's Ritchie Kamtchoum is fouled while attempting a dunk against Potomac School on Tuesday night.**

eight and Kyree Robinson added seven.

The victory came three days after Ireton upset top-seed Gonzaga 67-58 in the WCAC quarterfinals on Feb. 23. Gonzaga went undefeated in conference play during the regular season and beating the Eagles earned the Cardinals their first trip to the conference semifinals. Moseh led Ireton with 20 points, and Noe and Khouri each had 16, according to the Bishop Ireton athletics Web site.

"It was a great win," Khouri said Tuesday. "... This is the first time in my high school career beating Gonzaga, so it was kind of just a good way to end it. We played as a team; we won as a team, every body contributed, so it felt great to upset



**Davon Wiley and the Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team beat Potomac School on Tuesday night.**

Gonzaga. ... I think a lot of teams were just staying Ireton's close but they're not for real, and pulling the upset I think got some people's attention to respect Ireton as a program. We're still not up there with the elite teams yet, but we're getting there."

The Cardinals found a way to win despite losing a 10-point lead. Berkman called the victory "unbelievable."

"I think it's a program-changer and I hope recruits out there see it and I hope we real-

ize that anything is possible," Berkman said. "We've been coming close the entire year and haven't been able to get over the hump and when they erased our 10-point lead at halftime and tied it up, everybody was like, 'Here we go again,' including the coaches."

"We got over the hump with some toughness and some gang rebounding and making big plays at the big time. Going through the wars every day in the WCAC just made our team resilient."

## TC DL Clarke Receiving College Interest

T.C. Williams junior defensive lineman Jeremiah Clarke, a first-team All-Patriot District selection in 2012, has received scholarship offers from Virginia, North Carolina State, North Carolina-Charlotte and Toledo. He has also received interest from several other schools, including Maryland, Virginia Tech, Penn State and South Carolina.

Clarke, a 6-foot-5, 272-pound defensive end, wrote that his top four schools in any order are North Carolina State, Virginia, Penn State and Virginia Tech. He's been on two unofficial visits to Virginia, and one each to North Carolina

State, Maryland and Old Dominion.

Clarke finished with 40 tackles and 11.5 sacks last season. He also forced two fumbles, recovered two and blocked a field goal.

## All-Conference Recognition

**Ferrum sophomore and 2011 T.C. Williams graduate Jamal Pullen was named to the USA South Men's All-Conference second team. In 23 games, Pullen, a 6-foot-4 forward, averaged 14.2 points and 4.2 rebounds per contest.**



FERRUM ATHLETICS

**Bishop Ireton senior Louis Khouri scored 14 points against Potomac School on Tuesday in the opening round of the VISAA state playoffs.**





# PET GAZETTE PACKET



"Pupcakes. I finally got my dogs working for us — in the marketing department!" Jody Manor, Bittersweet Catering Café Bakery



Virginia Wine Dogs Prosecco, a 1-year-old Yorkie, and Pomeroy, a 14-year-old Pomeranian, enjoy a bottle of Virginia wine. The two pups, who live in Old Town, travel the state visiting wineries and blog about their adventures on their blog [www.vawinedogs.blogspot.com](http://www.vawinedogs.blogspot.com).



Rally and Tally are twin golden retriever puppies owned by Marcia Call and Lonnie Rich, and daughter Matty Rich of Del Ray.



Florida boy Formal Tuxedo moved to Alexandria with his dad, Chamber President John Long, to support The Alexandria Chamber and the Washington Nationals



Terry Darcy and her Westend Wired-Hair Fox Terrier, Bobbi, waiting to play in the snow.

Tony and Amelia are relaxing in the sunshine at my front door. I adopted both cats from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria when they were kittens (Amelia at 9 weeks and Tony at 9 months). Tony (orange tabby) turned 17 on Nov. 10 and Amelia (grey domestic shorthair) will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 15. They've lived most of their lives in Alexandria but had a brief, six-month stay with me in a corporate apartment in Palo Alto, Calif. Upon returning home to Alexandria, Tony jumped on the kitchen counter, surveyed the house and let out a huge sigh. Amelia went directly upstairs into her favorite rocking chair, curled up and went to sleep. They haven't left home since.



— Phyllis Andes



Flash Winston Bones Palermino's first stick retrieval.



This is Daisy Hughes lovingly sculpted by Lisa Schumaier.



Daisy enjoying an egg sandwich at Uptowner Cafe with Uncle Jeff McQuilkin.



My dog Molly and grandson Dashiell share a tender moment.

— Carol Siegel



Ben Camden, Mattie Ashton, Christian Reyes, Heidi Lloyd and Cooper Lamkin frolic with Sunny Barnett while mom Janet is hard at work.

Two girls. One mission. Fit dogs having fun. In search of more exciting days for their stay-at-home dogs, Linda Benson and Erin Dawson researched the area but could not find options that offered lots

of exercise in fresh air. So they recently started Fun Dog Fitness that will pick up, drop off and provide different daily exercise adventures in small groups for your dog. The business presently serves Old Town and the Mount Vernon areas. Contact: [linda@fundogfitness.com](mailto:linda@fundogfitness.com); 703-650-5115; [www.fundogfitness.com](http://www.fundogfitness.com).



Masha the adorable greeter at Decor Decorm on N. Lee Street.



A Forever Home has recently rescued 68 puppy-mill dogs. All will require extensive medical care and need your help! Please visit our Website at [www.aforeverhome.org](http://www.aforeverhome.org) to make a donation or to adopt one of these wonderful dogs. All donations are tax deductible.



## PET GAZETTE PACKET



Amy McClellan, Starwind (red chow), and Winona (black chow) dining at the Hunter's Head, Upperville, Va. Starwind was supposed to be a show chow but he preferred the companionship of

his family. He was named for the hero's steed in a fantasy novel by Joy Chant, "Red Moon, Black Mountain." He is 12 years old. His portrait was painted by a local artist, Bill Harrah, who subsequently used Star as his model for his chow products. Winona, the black chow, is 6 years old. The breeder insisted, because of her place in the litter, she be given a name beginning with W. Since my favorite actress at the time was Winona Ryder, naming her was easy. She is a superb watchdog.



We are lovely 3-year-old KSC rescue brothers, found in a dumpster now enjoying life in Alexandria waiting for squirrel activity outside. We are adventurous: Lewis

hunts for food and will even eat kale and Clark loves rubber especially flip flops and spatulas.

— Elizabeth C. Smith

## Spring Pet Health Care Classes

- Pet First Aid
- Making Your Pet's Food
- Savvy Pet Care Techniques

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Percy, unwanted by his first adoptive family, has formed a bond with Clare Williams that can never be broken.

— Maureen Williams



Rosie is a rescued dog born wild in West Virginia and has moved quite a few times. She's around 2, is full of love, likes to play and, then, as in this candid shot, take a nap.

— George Anderson

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<b>\$85 OFF*</b> <b>Whole House Air Duct Cleaning</b> <small>Dryer Vent Cleaning Only</small> <b>\$95</b> <small>*Offer Expires 03/15/13</small>	<b>20% OFF*</b> <b>Your Next Moth Proofing Service</b> <small>Protect Your Rug Against It's Natural Predators!</small> <small>*Offer Expires 03/15/13</small>	<b>25% OFF*</b> <b>Hardwood Floor Cleaning &amp; Polishing</b> <small>*Maintenance Cost Only</small> <small>*Offer Expires 03/15/13</small>	<b>Free Pickup and Delivery with Cleaning Service!</b> <small>Includes: Moving Furniture, Rolling &amp; Relaying Your Rugs!</small> <b>All Hadeed Employees Go Through a Rigorous Background Check by</b> <b>UNITED STATES HOMELAND INVESTIGATIONS, INC.</b> <small>HAVE PEACE OF MIND KNOWING THAT ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES ARE PROFESSIONAL &amp; COURTEOUS WITH SAFE BACKGROUNDS, DRUG FREE &amp; AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S.</small> <a href="http://www.ushii.com">www.ushii.com</a>	

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Me and my shadow: Oscar Viar (left) and his foster brother Georgie (through Lucky Dog Animal Rescue) stroll down Captain's Row in Old Town together. Georgie has since found his forever home.

— Katherine Viar



Squirrel patrol with room for just two: Gandalf (top left) and Penelope patrol Captain's Row in Old Town, while Maizzie (on the foot-rest) waits to relieve them of their duty.

— Katherine Viar



Bailey, my terrier mix, recently passed away at age 15. She was instrumental in the success of the Blessing of Animals

for many years at Trinity United Methodist Church. Bailey and I always participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade and many democratic events. She was a constant at Polk Elementary School Precinct on every Election Day for 15 years.

— Lucelle O'Flaherty



Kay, a Yorkie mix puppy, says: "Man, I'm bored now that football season's over!"

— Lucelle O'Flaherty



# PET GAZETTE PACKET

## Picking a Pet ... Like Picking a Date

BY KAREN BARAGONA  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF  
ALEXANDRIA VOLUNTEER

If we're honest, we can all admit we have a "type" as far as what we find attractive — in people and in dogs. Some of us go for big and brawny, others melt over dainty and petite. Maybe we prefer blondes, or curls are a deal-breaker. Whatever your leanings, chances are, you have a perfect "look" in mind. But like Mama always said, don't judge a book by its cover. And that goes for dates and dogs.

When you decide to adopt a dog, try to keep an open mind. You can window shop online to your heart's content, mooning and swooning over every gorgeous furry face that pops up in your Petfinder search. But when it comes to finding the dog of your dreams, it's personality that matters most.

Me? I have husky lust. Those prick ears and pointed muzzle and lush pelt ... that wolfish aura ... and if the eyes happen to be blue, I'm smitten.

But when we went to pick out our latest dog a year ago, I knew in my heart that I what I really needed was a dog that loved my rowdy kids and their rambunctious friends, wouldn't stalk and hunt my



PHOTO AWLA

**Kory, a 14-week-old female Border Collie mix, is currently available for adoption from the AWLA shelter.**

other five pets, could romp — not rumble — with my neighbors' dogs, would greet guests with zest — not angst — and would love a good nap on the couch as much as a hard workout.

Yes, I wanted a cute dog. But no matter how adorable, a dog who didn't fit that bill wouldn't fit into our lives. The floppy-eared, crew-cut goofball hound mix who rode home smiling in our back seat that day was a far cry from the "look" that normally turns my head. But it turns out it was a match made in heaven.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria has an expert team of matchmakers ready to help you make that love connection and meet The One. Be ready with a list of qualities that are important to you — personality traits that will help your new dog thrive in your family and your home. And get ready to fall in love with a dog with a heart of gold, not just a pretty face

The League's adoptable animals can be found at [www.AlexandriaAnimals.org](http://www.AlexandriaAnimals.org), but to truly get to know your potential pet, take the family to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. The shelter is open to the public every day except Wednesday. Adoption hours can be found online.



Moses Woodman



Cocoa and Lexi Hobson.



Flea Weimar



Will Edwards with Tina and H.C.

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## PET GAZETTE PACKET

# King Street Cats Celebrates 10 Years

FROM PAGE 3

birds. King Street Cats is dealing with a serious but not recognized problem."

According to Melissa Murphy, a principal volunteer with King Street Cats, feral and street cats are often easily rehabilitated with medicine, food, and love. "There are abused cats on the streets in D.C., but when they receive care and don't have to forage they are so happy," said Murphy.

Rehabilitation programs at King Street Cats vary on a case-by-case basis. When major medical care is needed, such as when cats have respiratory problems, broken pelvises or amputated limbs, a foster system is used that provides one-on-one care following surgery. Not all rehabilitation programs focus on physical maladies however, as the hardest cases involve depression in cats.

"The hardest part is when cats are given up from homes," said Murphy. "When cats have lived in a home for 10 plus years, and suddenly find themselves in a shelter, they become depressed, stop eating, and they crash."

King Street Cats highlights such cases with an annual "What About Me?" campaign, which focuses on finding homes for elderly felines. March through September is kitty season, when cats breed in greater



**Lakshmi, a British Shorthair mix, is an adult female and a former stay. Lakshmi is one of many cats available for adoption at King Street Cats.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY BETH CORRIGAN

## Fun with Felines

King Street Cats will celebrate its 10-year anniversary at Ten Thousand Villages in Old Town on Thursday, March 14.

The event runs from 7-9 p.m., and includes playtime with kittens, as well as chocolate and wine courtesy of Artfully Chocolate. For more information, and to donate online, visit: [kingstreetcats.org](http://kingstreetcats.org).

numbers, and is one of the most important times of the year for the shelter.

Although King Street Cats is a no kill shelter, capacity is limited and space is only available when cats find new and permanent homes.

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For more information, visit our event site.

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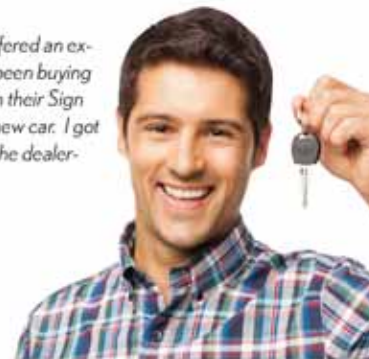
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**Sue Goodhart**  
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Alexandria \$1,249,000



### Wonderful Expanded Cape Cod

Expanded and updated, five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath Cape Cod with a two-car garage has wonderful details around every corner - hardwood floors, crown molding, two fireplaces, and more! Chef's kitchen opens onto an inviting family room and a wonderful deck.

**Mason Montague Bavin**  
703.338.6007  
MasonBavin.com



Alexandria \$949,000



### Spacious and Sparkling

This five-bedroom, four-bath home in Monticello Park offers three fireplaces, a sunny kitchen with granite counters adjoining a family room with vaulted ceilings and skylights. The luxurious master suite offers his and hers walk-in closets, a large master bath with jacuzzi and separate shower. The lower level features a rec room and separate nanny suite.

**Babs Beckwith**  
703.836.1297  
BabsBeckwith.com  
MLS# AX8015410



Alexandria \$735,000



### Beverly Hills

This wonderfully maintained, four-bedroom, three-bath, garage home is just a short walk to the Pit. Beautiful hardwood floors. Pella replacement windows throughout. Fabulous new screened-in porch and deck are wonderful for relaxing and entertaining. Large, stunningly landscaped yard is beautiful all year and is truly amazing in the spring. Plentiful storage!

**Chris Hayes**  
703.944.7737  
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Alexandria/Seminary Ridge \$975,000



### Just Listed & Ready to Go

Cul-de-sac location just a short walk to SSSAs, Inova Alexandria Hospital. Four-five bedrooms, three and a half baths, updated kitchen opens to family room with custom cabinetry, casual dining area and screened porch, two-car garage, and laundry - this has all the space you are seeking! The lower level offers a walk out recreation room and a private guest/nanny suite.

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### Be George Washington's Neighbor

Located on more than one acre of beautifully landscaped property, this updated home features four bedrooms, two and a half baths. Hardwoods gleam, walls are freshly painted, kitchen and baths are updated. Lower level includes fully finished rec room, laundry/storage area. Two-car garage.

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**Betty Mallon**  
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Alexandria \$365,000



### Kingsgate

This bright, sunny, two-level, upper corner condo has been well maintained. A new furnace, new carpeting and a fresh paint job highlight recent updates. A three-sided fireplace adorns the living and dining rooms. Spacious, open kitchen. The living room opens to deck. Two master suites; one has a jetted tub, separate shower and two sinks. Half bath on main level.

**Chris Hayes**  
703.944.7737  
homesbyhayes.com  
MLS# AX8016095



Alexandria \$869,000



### Braddock Heights Classic

Spacious and sunny Cape Cod! Custom eat-in kitchen and beautiful patio surrounded by fresh landscaping. There are charming details like built-ins and exposed brick throughout. The master suite has stunning windows, an organized walk-in closet and luxurious bath with soaking tub. Rec room and large bedrooms provide room to roam and there's even a garage!

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**  
703.868.5676  
LizLuke.com  
MLS# AX8012962



City of Alexandria \$299,000



### Ready for Easy Living?

Spacious, 1243-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath condo - ALL on one level! Separate formal dining room and eating space in kitchen, elevators, garage parking, and a stunning view. The Plaza Condominium offers a clubhouse, exercise room, pool, and tennis.

**Julie Robben Lineberry**  
703.489.2823  
McEneaney.com  
MLS# AX7915223



Arlington \$735,000



### Forest Hills Elevator Townhouse

Fresh paint, new carpet and refinished hardwood floors await you! Two master suites, wood-burning fireplaces and a beautiful brick patio. Kitchen and baths are ready for your creative updates! One-car garage. Walk to Army Navy Country Club and Pentagon/Metro.

**Susan Leavitt**  
703.855.2267  
SusanLeavitt.com  
MLS# AR7998603



**703.549.9292**

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