

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



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MARCH 14, 2013



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Friends, co-workers, residents and well-wishers fill Wales Alley as they wait in line for admittance to the Peter Laboy fundraiser inside Virtue Food & Grain on Sunday afternoon, March 10.

## Thousands Gather for Laboy

**\$80,000 raised; Biden pays visit to APD.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

One by one, more than 3,000 people from throughout the region slowly passed by the motorcycle of wounded Alexandria Police Officer Peter Laboy as they waited in line March 10 to attend an Old Town fundraiser that raised more than \$80,000 on his behalf.

"We were expecting hundreds and got thousands," said Capt. Shahram Fard, a trustee with the Alexandria Police Association that co-hosted the event at Virtue Feed and Grain Restaurant. "It was very heart-



Retired Alexandria Police Officers M K Bryant, Jim Fisher, Dennis Mastie and Ken Howard take a seat inside the restaurant during the fundraiser at Virtue.

warming to see how people care for the officers in the city."

Mayor Bill Euille and members of City Council joined the crowd that patiently waited up to two hours in a line that snaked through Wales Alley to honor Laboy and support his wife Suzanne and four children.

Also in line was Virginia Hill Obranovich, widow of police officer Charles Hill, the last APD officer to be killed in the line of duty on March 22, 1989.

"I am overwhelmed by the turnout the city has given Officer Laboy," said Obranovich, who serves as the volunteer executive director of the Alexandria Police Foundation. "Peter's shooting really hit home with me since Peter's sons are close in age to my own when Charlie was shot."

Laboy, a 45-year-old veteran motorcycle officer, suffered a catastrophic head wound when he was shot Feb. 27 during a routine traffic stop in Old Town.

The suspect, 27-year-old Kashif Bashir of Woodbridge, was arrested near Fort Hunt Road and is charged with malicious wounding of a police officer. He faces a court hearing April 10.

"It's miraculous he's with us today," Fard said.

Laboy's wife Suzanne continues to provide updates on Laboy's recovery on the Caring Bridge website via her "Superman's Journal" blog, a nod to Laboy's favorite comic book hero.

"Two weeks ago today my life changed forever," Suzanne Laboy posted March 13 at 10:57 a.m. "Thanks to God for allowing him to stay and spend more time with me, the children and our families."

While she was unable to attend Sunday's fundraiser, Suzanne Laboy posted a note of thanks

SEE THOUSANDS GATHER, PAGE 3

## Leadership Cost

**School system has some of region's highest paid administrators.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The administrator in the corner office at your local school is sitting pretty with a six-figure paycheck. Principals in Alexandria pull in anywhere from \$117,000 a year to \$161,000 a year — information that is closely guarded by a school system that requires a public-records request before handing over a list of administrator salaries. The salaries offer a window into how the school system is managed as well as the cost of overhead.

"There tends to be momentum toward this idea that school principals and school superintendents are paid a lot or perhaps even overpaid," said Noelle Ellerson, executive director of American Association of School Administrators. "And I think a really good base of reference is to take a like-sized business and look at what the CEO or administration of that business is paid based on the number of employees."

Alexandria administrators pull in more money than most school divisions in Virginia. Even com-

pared to salaries in other parts of Northern Virginia, administrators who work at Alexandria City Public Schools are the highest in the region. Superintendent Morton Sherman said he's proud of that distinction.

"We are probably in the upper third of Northern Virginia jurisdictions," said Sherman, who makes \$264,000 a year. "We want to attract and retain the best."

**T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL** has the largest number of administrators — 14 at the main campus, four more at Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center and another at the Landmark Mall satellite campus. Added together, that's more than \$2 million for administration salaries with about 3,000 students. That means administrators are getting about \$700 in salary for each student.

"I think this has been a great return on investment," said Sherman. "I don't hear people complaining about our counseling department any more, and I don't hear people complaining about fights in the hallways they way

SEE SCHOOLS HAVE, PAGE 27

## Cuts That Were Cut

**List of rejected cuts reveals thinking behind budget proposal.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Imagine a world without school crossing guards or security screening at the courthouse — a city so strapped for cash it closes one of its fire stations and

eliminates life insurance for its retired workers. That's the disaster scenario outlined in Budget Memo 7, which outlines budget cuts that were considered this year but rejected.

SEE BEHIND, PAGE 4



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## A Taxing Ad

Want to know how much city officials are going to charge you for the privilege of living in Alexandria? Check the advertisements.

This week, City Council members approved a legal ad setting the maximum residential property tax rate at \$1.038 for every \$100 of assessed value. That would increase the average property tax bill from \$458,023 to \$4,885, an increase of \$314. Before taking a vote, council members wanted to stress that the advertised tax rate was the maximum, and that they could also end up approving something lower.

"It's a tough decision," said Mayor **Bill Euille**. "But it sets the framework for our decisions during the budget process."

## Indirect Storm

Last week's "snowquaster" may have turned into what many are calling a "noquaster," but that doesn't mean that it didn't create its own low-pressure system at City Hall. Although the city government remained open, the school system shut down for the day. Snowplows were mobilized. Salt trucks were dispatched. In the end, the storm-that-never-was will cost the city about \$22,000.

And that's just the direct cost to taxpayers. As Councilwoman **Allison Silberberg** pointed out, closing the school system also has an indirect cost in a city where 56 percent of students qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches. That's about 7,000 children.

"For a lot of kids, that means they did not receive a free or reduced-price lunch," observed Silberberg during a Tuesday night council meeting. "Some will have food at home, but many will not."

## Being Framed

Who's on City Council?

It's a simple question, and one that should be easy to answer. But it's also one that is causing a little heartache at City Hall.

For many years, mug shots of elected officials have graced the hallway between council chambers and the council workroom. One night last week featured two simultaneous and well-attended meetings, one with council members about the GenOn site and another with Planning Commission members to determine the fate of the waterfront plan. When one of the attendees asked Councilman **Paul Smedberg** about the collection of current members, he was shocked to find it missing.

"It's been two-and-a-half months," complained Smedberg.

Special assistant to the city manager **Jerome Fletcher** assured elected officials that framed collection of headshots was on the way, and that it would be installed soon.

"Paul's still trying to learn the faces," cracked Councilman **Justin Wilson**.

## Mixed Economic Picture

The city's most recent economic figures outline a mixed picture for Alexandria. Although the unemployment rate dipped from 4.6 percent to 4.2 percent in the last year, that doesn't mean that the city has fewer unemployed people. As City Manager **Rashad Young** explained in the March financial report, the declining rate is largely attributable to a larger pool of workers.

"The city's economy is in a stronger position now than it was a year ago," wrote City Manager **Rashad Young** in his monthly financial report. "However, based on Virginia Employment Commission data, it appears that less than half the past year's growth in the employed population can be attributed to the decline in the unemployed population while slightly more than half reflects growth in the labor force."

In the last year, the city's unemployment rate decreased 10.7 percent. But, in that same time, the city's employed population increased 12 percent.

"There is still room for concern," Young explained, "especially when the potential negative economic effects of the upcoming federal budget cuts are taken into consideration."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

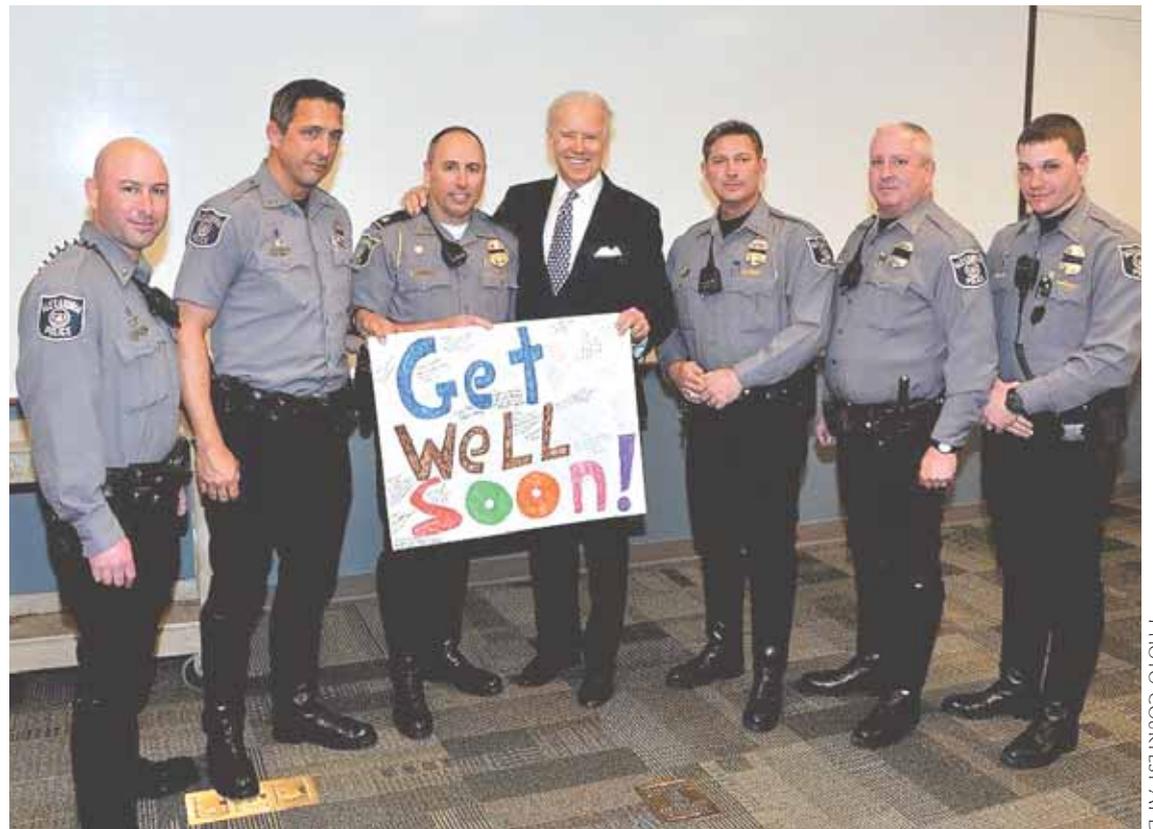


PHOTO COURTESY APD

Vice President Joe Biden pauses for a photo March 8 with members of APD's Motor Unit after signing a Get Well poster for officer Peter Laboy.

# Thousands Gather for Laboy

FROM PAGE 1

from her husband's bedside at Washington Hospital Center:

"Getting lots of updates and pictures from the event today.....I want to say thanks to everyone for the love and support that we are receiving. My family has been touched during this trying time in our life. So many have been involved. I feel I am being carried by all of you during this time. It's very emotional and I am forever grateful."

On Friday, March 8, Vice President Joe Biden paid a visit to the Alexandria Police Department to meet with Laboy's Motor Unit to express his condolences. Biden also met with police and city personnel who were on the scene and involved the day Laboy was shot and thanked them for their service to the community.

Due to the overwhelming turnout, Sunday's event was extended by the owners of Virture.

"The fundraiser was supposed to end at 6 p.m. but there were so many people that staff decided early on there was no way we could do dinner service," said local builder and Virture co-owner Murray Bonitt.

"We called everyone holding reservations, and they were all very understanding."

Bonitt noted that money is still coming in on Laboy's behalf.

"We've raised north of \$80,000 so far," Bonitt said. "Money is still coming in so hopefully we'll have close

to six figures when all is said and done."

The previous day, Port City Brewing Company donated 10 percent of the proceeds from its tasting room to the Alexandria Police Association fund for Laboy.

"Port City raised about \$1,600 for Officer Laboy," Fard said. "Other fundraisers are being planned by the Boat Club and Top Golf, where Peter was a member."

At the request of the Laboy family, the police department will be holding a blood drive at its Wheeler Ave. headquarters on March 21 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"Even though Peter does not need blood, the family asked us to do a blood drive in his name," Fard said. "We are working with the Inova Blood Mobile and will post more information on our Facebook and Twitter pages."

Fard praised the owners and staff of Virture, adding that the bartenders donated more than \$3,700 in tips to the Alexandria Police Association fund.

"Everyone hated the circumstance that brought everyone together," Bonitt said. "But it's great to see the way the community has rallied around Officer Laboy and his family."

Donations for the Officer Peter Laboy fund can be dropped off at the Alexandria Police Department, 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22304.

Donations can also be sent through the mail: The Alexandria Police Association c/o Peter Laboy P.O. Box 1228 Alexandria, VA 22313.



Virginia Hill Obranovich talks with Fairfax County Police Officer Mark Dale and Lt. Gus Milan.



Chairman of the Alexandria Police Foundation Willem Polak



AFD Captain Luis Santano and his wife Debbie wait in line for the entrance to the fundraiser.

# Behind the Numbers

FROM PAGE 1

"The attached list reflects every item that was considered during the process," wrote budget director Nelsie Smith. "In some cases, an item was subsequently withdrawn by the department and replaced with a different option."

Late last year, the city manager directed city agencies to identify a number of potential cuts. Budget officials considered the list in January and put together their own list of potential cuts.

That list was later revised to the \$13.8 million worth of budget reductions City Manager Rashad Young recommended late last month — a set of cuts that took advantage of potential budget reductions outlined in the disaster scenario.

"For example, the entire inmate work detail program was considered for elimination," wrote Smith. "Ultimately, one detail was eliminated, both the other two, which are reflected on this list, are still funded in the budget."

## Rejected Cuts

- ❖ \$924,576: close Fire Station 201
- ❖ \$720,571: reduce emergency medical services by not staffing Medic 210
- ❖ \$619,728: reduce community policing program
- ❖ \$604,440: redeploy fire-suppression staff from Engine 204 throughout the city
- ❖ \$500,000: reduce overtime pay
- ❖ \$476,930: eliminate school crossing guard program
- ❖ \$460,546: reduce parking enforcement
- ❖ \$306,653: reduce the number of call-takers at the emergency communications center
- ❖ \$300,000: reduce fuel costs for city vehicles
- ❖ \$259,080: elimination of life insurance for city retirees
- ❖ \$234,632: reduce emergency medical services by discontinuing peak hors medic unit
- ❖ \$160,684: elimination of city adult dental emergency program
- ❖ \$151,678: eliminate initial screening for security at courthouse
- ❖ \$151,678: reduce staff support at visitor's center

to revise their revenue expectations, Alexandria City Council members may be fac-

ter for the jail

- ❖ \$151,678: eliminate inmate work detail
- ❖ \$148,372: reduce resources available for prosecution of misdemeanors
- ❖ \$117,065: discontinue school resource officer service in middle schools
- ❖ \$101,800: reduce resources available for classification of inmates by reducing staff support
- ❖ \$92,350: eliminate the GED program at the jail
- ❖ \$91,923: reduce treatment for seriously emotionally disturbed youth and their families by reducing staff support
- ❖ \$88,532: reduce staff support for gang investigations
- ❖ \$75,839: reduce security presence for civil cases at the courthouse
- ❖ \$75,839: reduce warrant services
- ❖ \$75,569: eliminate police youth assistance by reducing staff support
- ❖ \$72,668: reduced staff support of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program
- ❖ \$56,533: elimination of Sunday hours at the central library

ment. Last year, for example, the original forecast was for a \$9 million shortfall. But council members ended up facing a \$31 million shortfall. The projection for next year's shortfall is \$14 million, although that number may well rise if the economy tanks.

"Let's not make our problem worse by adding more money to the operating budget.

The way we can make it better is by making capital investments," said Councilman Justin Wilson. "If we were to grab a project that is funded

next year and fund it now and get it done, that comes out of the \$14 million gap."

- ❖ \$50,000: reduce by one-third the number of appointments provided by the regionally funded dentist
- ❖ \$50,000: reduce call back pay cost through adjustment to policy
- ❖ \$30,350: reduce staff support of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission cases
- ❖ \$44,316: reduce public information provided about Department of Children and Family Services programs and services by reducing staff support
- ❖ \$40,000: transfer Housing Grant Fund expenses for a portion of the office space lease and the city match for a HOME grant to use dedicated affordable housing revenues
- ❖ \$40,000: increase transit fees for paratransit users
- ❖ \$19,375: elimination of contracted security guard services at Burke Library
- ❖ \$15,000: reduce feasibility studies for special economic development projects by half
- ❖ \$10,000: decrease Other Post Employment Benefits pay to retiree health costs
- ❖ \$10,000: raise copay for senior taxi

The list of potential cuts may end up being a crucial list as the debate about fiscal year 2014 moves forward in the coming weeks. As members of the community advocate restoring funding for mental health services or human services, they will be armed with specific cuts that have already been identified and evaluated.

"It may well be that there are some things on this list that could end up being substituted for cuts that did make the city manager's proposed budget," Councilman Tim Lovain.

**"It may well be that there are some things on this list that could end up being substituted for cuts that did make the city manager's proposed budget."**

— Councilman Tim Lovain

**THE LIST** of rejected cuts may be a forecast for reductions next year. If the economy is sluggish, and city officials have

ing a future where they have to reduce courthouse security or parking enforce-

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# Artrageous

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria has been recognized as one of America's Top ArtPlaces, one of only 44 communities to receive the designation in 2013, as a new study revealed a \$70.7 million economic impact generated by the local arts industry.

In a March 5 event held at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association announced the findings from the Arts and Economic Prosperity IV national study conducted by Americans for the Arts, a nonprofit arts advocacy organization.

"Arts are not just food for the soul," said Randy Cohen, vice president of Research and Policy for Americans for the Arts. "The arts industry puts food on the table for 1,774 workers employed around town."

Cohen presented his findings and noted that \$44.6 million in event-related spending by audiences of Alexandria's nonprofit arts and culture industry directly supports the city's non-arts businesses.

In addition to the presentation by Cohen, Alexandria was heralded as a top arts community by ArtPlace, a collaboration of foundations and agencies to accelerate creative placemaking across the U.S. "Alexandria is exceptionally successful at combining art, artists and venues for creativity and expression with independent businesses, retail shops

## City among top arts communities.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Lyz Crane of ArtPlace, right, presents vice Mayor Alison Silberberg and Mayor Bill Euille a certificate of recognition naming Alexandria as one of the top 44 arts destinations in the country.**

and restaurants, and a walkable lifestyle to make vibrant neighborhoods," said Lyz Crane, director of partnerships and special projects for ArtPlace in presenting a certificate to the city.

For more information about America's Top ArtPlaces 2013, visit [www.artplaceamerica.org](http://www.artplaceamerica.org).

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### Early Honor Roll as of March 1

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**NEWS**

**Distinguished Service Award Given to Berg**

**Former ACPS superintendent honored for exceptional leadership.**

**F**ormer Alexandria City Public Schools superintendent Herbert Berg was recognized for his exceptional educational leadership Feb. 23 with the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of School Administrators.

Berg, who lives in Alexandria with his wife Paula, was presented the award at AASA's 2013 National Conference on Education in Los Angeles, California.

Over the course of his career, Berg served in public education for more than 40 years. He was superintendent of schools for 35 years, serving as ACPS superintendent from 1995 to 2001 in addition to six districts in Washington and South Carolina.

He was also the executive director of the Association for the Advancement of International Education and served the U.S. Department of State/Office of Overseas Schools, School to School Partnership in China for seven years.

Berg was twice named among the top 100 North American Executive Educators by Executive Educators Magazine. He was named Superintendent of the Year in South Carolina as well as a National Tech Savvy Superintendent by eSchool News. He was elected president of the Washington Association of School Administrators and was a board member of the Washington Post DC Council of School Superintendents.

Berg received his B.A. from Seattle Pacific University, his M.A.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Former ACPS superintendent Herb Berg, shown with his wife Paula at an Alexandria fundraiser, was presented the Distinguished Service Award Feb. 23 from the American Association of School Administrators.**

from Seattle University and his Ed. D. from Washington State University.

In addition to Berg, the 2013 honorees included Patricia E. Neudecker and Paul Shaw. In presenting the awards, the AASA stated that three were recognized "for bringing honor to themselves, their colleagues and their profession; rendering exemplary service to their state or national professional association; and contributing to the education field through writing, public advocacy, or other activities."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

**NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Taylor Run**

**THE WIZ**

Euphoria filled the hall as the students of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes danced and sang their way through "The Wiz." Production values, light, sound, and set were extraordinarily well-developed and good. The choreography and the dancing showed great skill and a lot of rehearsal.

Adhana Reid turned in a lovely performance as Dorothy. Jewell Dupree made an affecting performance of the Scarecrow. Josh Movius turned in an excellent performance as the Tin Man and Tre Vaughn Allison

made a powerful Lion.

LeAnn Dunn as Evillene has a lot of fun with "No Bad News," to my mind the best number in the show.

**HOLDEN PARTY**

Headmistress Joan Holden kindly entertained a group of parents at her home before the performance. Among those present were Anna and Stanley Dees, Dr. Ben Bridges, Fran and Gant Redmon, Charlene and Keith Jones, Jan and Hugh Campbell, Jackie Phillips, Donna Hurlock M.D., Adelina Phillips and Liz and Jay Gamble.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

# PEOPLE

# Wonder Women Salute to Women Awards to honor 11 civic leaders.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Commission for Women will hold its annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet March 18 to honor 11 individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

Honorees at the 33rd annual banquet, a benefit for the Alexandria Sexual Assault Center, will be recognized for their accomplishments in civic life and for the improvements they have brought to the well-being of Alexandria's women.

"These women exemplify the true spirit of the mission of the Commission for Women," said commission chair Elizabeth Johnson in a statement announcing this year's winners. "The City Council has charged us to eliminate discrimination because of gender, encourage equal opportunity for women in every aspect of life in Alexandria and to educate all Alexandrians

about such issues as domestic violence and sexual assault. Women like our awardees are instrumental in helping us achieve our goals."



COURTESY PHOTO

**Monika Jones will receive the Rising Star Award.**

Selected by an independent committee appointed by the commission, the 2013

awardees are:

**Brooke Curran**, Rising Star Award - Curran, founder of The RunningBrooke Fund, has committed to run a marathon in every state and continent to benefit local charities such as The Reading Connection,



**Pat Miller, left, shown volunteering at a Miracle League baseball game in 2012, will be given the Susan Lowell Butler Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Community Lodgings and Girls on the Run.

**Becky Davies**, Making a Difference Award - Davies will be honored for a lifetime of volunteer service to the community that includes the yearly registration of over 1,000 members of Girl Scouts organizations and allocating them into troops.

**Faye Gunn**, Making a Difference Award - A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Gunn has sponsored young women to become debutantes and donated funds for girls to attend college through Alfred Street Baptist Church. She is the only woman to serve as a pastor at ASBC and has served on numerous committees as an advocate for women including the city's Walk to Fight Breast Cancer.

**Monika Jones**, Rising Star Award - As vice chair of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, Jones recently led the Black History Month documentary screening dis-



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Brooke Curran, shown at right following the inaugural Family Fun Day 5K, will be given the Rising Star Award.**

cussion on Shirley Chisholm, the first African American congresswoman and candidate for president.

**Erika Kleiner**, Women's Health and Safety Advocate Award - During her tenure as a city employee, Kleiner has raised awareness of taboo health and safety issues like domestic violence among lesbian couples and violence against transgender women.

**Pat Miller**, Susan Lowell Butler Lifetime Achievement Award - Miller, a volunteer with numerous organizations throughout the city, is founder and chair of Art on the Avenue and a founding committee member of the Del Ray Music Festival.

**Karyn Moran**, Youth Community Services Award - Moran has served as a coach, consultant and fundraiser for Girls on the Run, a running-based mentoring program for girls in third through eighth grades.

**Monica Reid**, Marian Van Landingham Legislation and Public Policy Award - As social action chair of the Alexandria chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority and member of the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, Reid plans business events and candidate nights that work to highlight legislation that impacts women's rights.

**Nina Tisara**, Donna Bergheim Cultural Affairs Award - In 2007, Tisara founded Living Legends of Alexandria, a photo-documentary project to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Alexandria. The project has expanded to include Fam-



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/LIVING LEGENDS

**Nina Tisara, founder of Living Legends of Alexandria, will be honored with the Donna Bergheim Cultural Affairs Award.**

ily Legends workshops for children throughout the city.

**Elizabeth Todd**, Leadership in Business and Career Development Award - As owner of the Shoe Hive and co-founder of Old Town Boutique District, Todd is a civic advocate for the retail sector and strives to position Old Town



COURTESY PHOTO

**Robin Wallin is the recipient of the Vola Lawson Award.**

as a unified shopping destination and alternative to shopping malls.

**Robin Wallin**, Vola Lawson Award - As Alexandria Public Schools Health Services coordinator, Wallin was instrumental in developing the Wellness Center at T.C. Williams High School. Since its opening two years ago, teen pregnancy rates have decreased by nearly 25 percent.

The awards banquet will be held on Monday, March 18, at the Westin Hotel Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m.

with dinner to follow at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$85 per person. Sponsorships and ads in the program are also available. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Sarah Watson at 703-746-3123 or visit [www.alexwomen.com](http://www.alexwomen.com).



COURTESY PHOTO

**Monica Reid will receive the Marian Van Landingham Legislation and Public Policy Award.**

**Karyn Moran, with children McLain, 12, and Brian, 10, will be presented with the Youth Community Services Award.**



## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 14

**Waterfront Commission - - Marina Committee.** 5 p.m. City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. For more information, contact Jack Browand, [jack.browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jack.browand@alexandriava.gov), 703-

746-5504.

**Tenth Anniversary Celebration.** 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Celebrate King Street Cats' 10th anniversary with wine, chocolate and kittens. A portion of the proceeds will benefit KSC.

**Outreach Program.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. at William Ramsay Rec Center, 5650 Sanger Ave. The presentation will be on Brainology, a student program focusing on the power of a growth

mindset. Dinner and translation will be provided. 703-461-4105.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 15

**Nomination Deadline.** Submit a nominee for the fifth annual Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award. The award will be presented during Alexandria Earth Day 2013. Visit <http://alexearthday.org/award.html> for requirements

and the nomination form.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 16

**Boater Education Course.** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Highway. The course meets the boating education requirements of all states. Contact Rich Miller at [eaglesailor75@cox.net](mailto:eaglesailor75@cox.net) or 703-780-3765.

## Charmville Redux

City Manager **Rashad Young** wants to pump \$200,000 into an extension of an ad campaign for the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, which already has a budget of \$3.1 million. That's on top of the additional \$100,000 the association received last year for a controversial advertising campaign dubbing Alexandria "Charmville."

"The city sees the tourism industry as an answer to some of the revenue issues," said **Patricia Washington**, president of the association. "The impact from tourism is immediate because we see the returns fairly quickly, and we have such a strong momentum right now."

Visitor spending has increased 22 percent in Alexandria in the last five years. So the green eyeshades at City Hall say the new destination advertising campaign would create half a million dollars worth of new revenue by generating overnight stays in Alexandria by targeting a key demographic within a five-hour drive. The campaign will feature print, broadcast and digital media. In addition to the regional campaign, the city manager's proposal also includes another joint campaign with other jurisdictions targeted at international markets.

"This increased investment is really to help drive business," said Washington. "It's an economic development strategy."

The city manager also wants to close the Ramsay House visitors center at 5 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. to save \$15,000 even though city officials estimate about 2,000 more visitors in the coming year.

## Google Snooping

This week, Virginia officials learned that the commonwealth will receive about \$143,000 from a \$7 million national settlement with Google over the California-based company's collection of emails and other sensitive data over wireless networks. Back in 2010, Google revealed that company cars taking street-level photos for its online mapping service also collected personal data transmitted over unsecured wireless networks. The settlement closes a joint investigation by attorneys general in Virginia and 37 other states, along with the District of Columbia.

Attorney General **Ken Cuccinelli** said Tuesday that he hopes the settlement serves as a warning to any other company that might try to collect such data over wireless networks. That's an issue where the Republican attorney general can find common ground with Del. **Rob Krupicka** (D-45).

"Right now, you can go in your browser and clean out your cache and decide how much of your data you want stored," said Krupicka, a former AOL executive. "I think there's big difference between that and having someone outside your home essentially eavesdropping on everything you are doing."

## Sales Taxes

A new study by the Washington-based Tax Foundation shows that cutting the corporate tax rate would increase economic growth, boost wages and provide a net revenue bonus for the U.S. Treasury. The study finds that decreasing the corporate income tax rate would increase economic growth nationwide, generating federal revenue from other tax sources to offset the smaller total collected from corporations.

"Very few tax cuts pay for themselves, but this would be one that does," said Tax Foundation fellow **Michael Schuyler** in a written statement. "Our study focuses on the results of cutting the corporate rate from 35 percent to 25 percent, but the results suggest that even zeroing out the corporate income tax entirely could pay for itself over time."

The study finds that a lower corporate income tax rate could invigorate the sluggish economy by reducing the tax penalty on saving and investment. At the same time, the study finds, a larger more vibrant economy could generate higher real incomes and a greater supply of goods and services.

"The benefits from a more prosperous economy would justify lowering the corporate tax rate even if federal revenues fell," said Schuyler. "But given the expected revenue gain, it's a slam dunk."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS



PHOTO BY ANN DORMAN

First Night Alexandria board president Kerry Donley, left, is shown with Theodore Thorpe, III, T.C. Williams High School Choral Director, T.C. Williams Choir students Samantha Williams, Jada White and Sam Davies and Shawn Thorpe, Academic Principal on Assignment, Center for the Arts K-12 after presenting a check to the school's music programs.

## First Night Donates to Schools

### \$3,000 given to music programs.

For the second straight year, First Night Alexandria has donated a total of \$3,000 to the music programs at T.C. Williams High School and George Washington and Hammond Middle Schools.

"First Night Alexandria believes in promoting the artistic talents in the city's public school system," said FNA board president Kerry Donley as he presented the awards. "It is our hope through these contributions that some of these students will continue to

develop their musical skills and come back in a few years and perform at First Night on Dec. 31."

A community celebration of the New Year through the performing arts, First Night Alexandria began in 1994 and turns coffee shops, retail stores, hotels, museums and public buildings into performance venues to showcase a variety of talent on New Year's Eve.

Founded in 1975 by a group of artists in Boston, First Night celebrations take place around the world as an alternative to traditional New Year's Eve revelry. For more information, visit [www.FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://www.FirstNightAlexandria.org).

— JEANNE THEISMANN

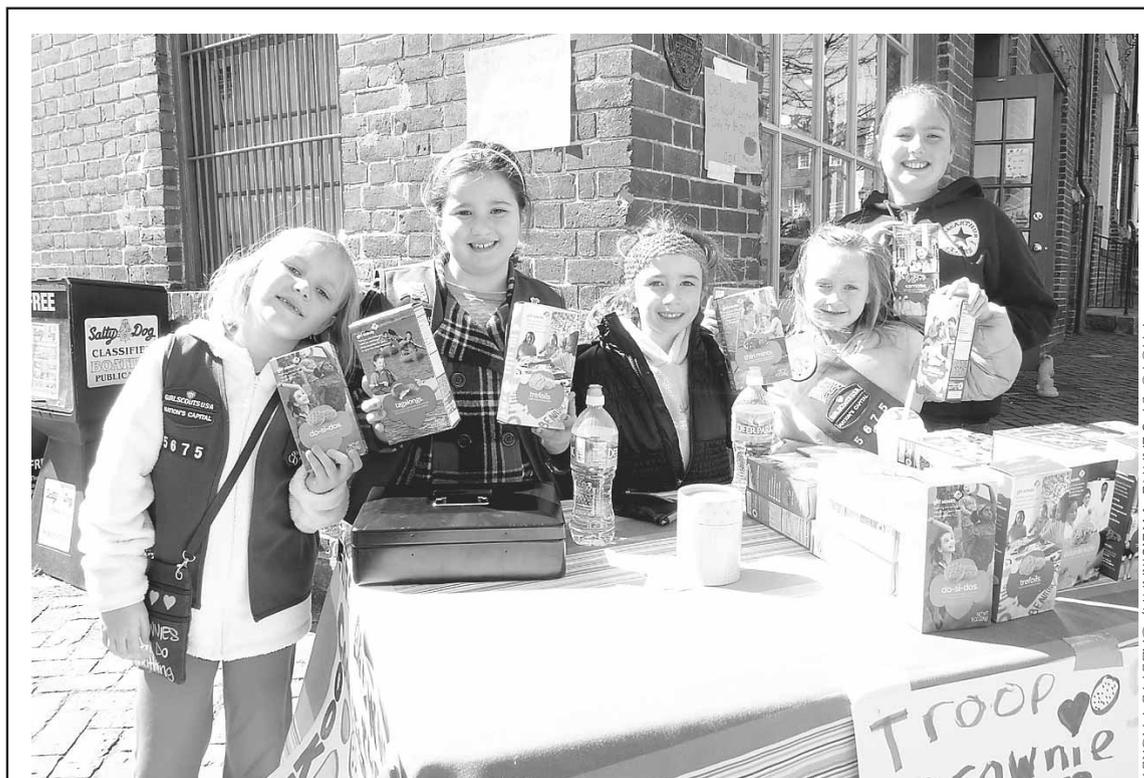


PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

## Support the Troops

**Ellery Reinholtz, 7, Avery Miller, 7, McKenzie Hibshman, 8, Erin Munson, 7, and Halle Reinholtz, 10, — all members of Alexandria's Brownie Troop 5675 — sell Girl Scout Cookies at the corner of Lee and King streets March 9 as part of this year's campaign to support local Girls Scouts of America troops. Cookies will be on sale through the end of March. Visit [http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gsc\\_cookies/how\\_to\\_buy](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gsc_cookies/how_to_buy). Download the Cookie Finder app for iOS or Android or enter your zip code to find a location of local troop cookies sales.**

PEOPLE

# Generations To Be Honored

Senior Services of Alexandria to host Generation to Generation Gala.

BY MONICA BELL  
FORMER BOARD MEMBER  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

**M**ultiple generations of three Alexandria families will be honored at this year's Senior Services of Alexandria's gala for the leadership, energy, and talent they've contributed over the past seven decades to civic, charity, recreational and faith organizations.

This year's honorees are Sanden Swanson and his daughter Lindsey Swanson, Kerry Donley and the Donley girls, and Nelson Greene, Sr., his son Nelson, and granddaughter Nina. According to Janet Barnett, SSA's executive director, this year's honorees have been selected because "the parents set an example for their children to give back to the community through volunteering, advocacy and ensuring that each generation carries the torch for the next one."

Senior Services of Alexandria's annual Generation to Generation Gala will be held on Saturday, March 23, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. The Jen Walker Team of McEneaney Associates is the presenting sponsor.

Sanden Swanson became dedicated to the Alexandria Soccer Association when all five of his children became active participants. He began by coaching and progressed to serving on the board of the Alexandria Soccer Association. During this time he convinced his children that it was great "bonding" time to get up and line the soccer fields with him before sunrise on the weekends. He also worked with the city staff to ensure that the fields were available and in the best possible condition for play.

He continues to pass on the importance

of community and responsibility to his children by working side by side with Lindsey and Katey and the board of the Kelley Cares Foundation that serves the Therapeutic Recreation Program of Alexandria.

Following the passing of her sister Kelley, Lindsey Swanson followed in her father's civic-minded footsteps by helping the family establish the Kelley Cares Foundation in Kelley's honor. Lindsey has served as the director since its founding in 2006. Her leadership, along with the support from volunteers, sponsors, and the community, led to five Kelley Cares 5K Run/Walk events that benefitted the Therapeutic Recreation Program of Alexandria. These events have served as fundraisers for numerous projects including the Kelley Cares Miracle Field in November of 2012 (a public-private partnership with the Miracle League of Alexandria and the City of Alexandria), the roll-out of the Kelley Cares Multi-Sensory Mobile in January of 2012, the donation of four iPads to Therapeutic Recreation in December of 2011, the purchase of equipment and training for the Project Lifesaver program in 2008, and the equipment and installation costs for a multi-sensory room at the Lee Center in Alexandria in November of 2006.

Lindsey has also served as the vice-chair of the Miracle League of Alexandria, been a Planning District II representative with the Alexandria Parks & Recreation Commission, and served as a member of the Youth Policy Commission. She also served on the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Gala Committee, and has been the volunteer chair for Art on



Sanden Swanson and his daughter Lindsey Swanson

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

the Avenue for many years.

**KERRY DONLEY** served as an Alexandria City council member, mayor, and vice mayor over two decades. In the private sector, Donley is in the banking industry and he has served on numerous community and non-profit boards including First Night Alexandria, Carpenters Shelter, Hopkins House, the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, and the Business Finance Group.

His three daughters, Colleen, Kaitlin, and Kristin are also being honored.

is active with programs that benefit children and children's health. She has a long history of serving the community as a coach and volunteer of girls' youth field hockey teams, volunteering with Girls on the Run, and lending a hand at health fairs at middle and elementary schools. She also helped write health curriculum for ACPS students. She also contributes her time to the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation and serves on two boards at Children's National Medical Center as a parent representative. One of those boards is a nationwide board and the other is for the hematology oncology unit. She speaks at events on behalf of the Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, INOVA Blood Donors, pediatric cancer awareness, and pediatric brain tumor awareness.

Kaitlin Donley has devoted time in the recent past as a volunteer income tax preparer. Some of her other service endeavors include volunteering with Greater DC Cares at Foggy Bottom Food Pantry and Ronald McDonald House. While in law school she spent her winter breaks on service trips to New Orleans working with the Student Hurricane Network which helped rebuild and revitalize communities in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi.

**THREE GENERATIONS** of the Greene



Nelson Greene, Sr., his son Nelson, and granddaughter Nina



Kerry Donley and the Donley girls: three daughters, Colleen, Kaitlin, and Kristin

SEE GENERATIONS, PAGE 25

# Hybrid Hijinks

Discouraging innovation in high-tech Virginia.

EDITORIALS

Consider this as a possible scenario (although perhaps we should have saved this for April 1): Fewer people are smoking, and many of those who do are smoking less. Virginia's cigarette tax, the lowest of any state at 30 cents a pack, is a declining revenue source. Higher cigarette taxes are proven to reduce smoking. Under current logic in the Commonwealth, there would be two courses of action to raise revenue: a) cut the cigarette tax, and b) charge non-smokers a fee to make up the difference and to compensate for the fact that they don't pay cigarette taxes.

This is basically the convoluted approach that leads to the \$100 annual hybrid fee as part of Virginia's proposed transportation plan, to help make up for the reduced tax on gas.

The annual \$100 surcharge for owners of hybrids vehicles should be stripped out of the transportation bill. Something that could add \$1,000 to the price of owning a car over a normal period of time discourages innovation and punishes people who are trying to reduce pollution and dependence on oil.

It also seems likely that the greatest concen-

tration of ownership of hybrid vehicles would be in Northern Virginia, so it's one more way to extract more money from our region.

To replace these funds, plus a little, why not charge an additional \$100 annual registration fee for any vehicle with a purchase price of \$40,000 or more? Or charge the additional \$100 for any personal vehicle with a miles-

per-gallon rating of less than 25 miles per gallon highway, especially since the more gas your car burns in Virginia, the more of a break you are receiving on the gas tax reduction. Or charge a sliding fee based on the number of miles driven and the weight of the vehicle (hint: the fee would go up with the miles and weight).

Or raise, rather than reduce, the gas tax and index it to inflation.

## Sober on Saint Patrick's Day?

Saint Patrick's Day has always been holiday associated with alcoholic beverages.

You, and/or the young adults in your household, will naturally have a plan to celebrate without drinking and driving. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation home. Plan to party at home or at a friend's house where you can spend the night.

If all of those plans fall through, however, and you end up without a ride home when you've been drinking on Saint Patrick's Day, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has a safety net for you, SoberRide — Saint Patty's

edition.

WRAP's 2013 Saint Patrick's Day SoberRide program will be offered on Sunday, March 17, from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Monday, March 18. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30.00 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. Last Saint Patrick's Day, more than 600 potentially impaired drivers made use of this service. SoberRide has provided more than 57,000 free rides home to people who otherwise might have driven drunk.

See [www.soberide.com](http://www.soberide.com).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Illusory Benefits

To the Editor:

In the March 7 edition of the Gazette Packet, Mayor Euille was quoted saying, "As a lifelong resident of the City, I would not vote for or support a plan that would harm the community, plain and simple." As a long-time resident, this may be true. As a builder, his perspective and mindset allows him to think of more development as always positive and good for the community. In truth, it is not always so.

This waterfront rezoning and recent plans all propose to greatly increase density and future impacts on the neighborhood and city, at

a most sensitive location. The most recent plan is not much different from the three-large-hotels plan; dictating an extreme change in density. It will irrevocably change our city, and the changes will not be as good as believed by our development-friendly council. The waterfront rezoning of the '90s was a great victory for the city. And now that effort will be undone by blindered planning and profit motive for the few, for illusory benefits that will be eclipsed by the costs and negative impacts to our community over the long-run.

There are many long-time residents (and newcomers too) who are appalled by this rezoning and our inability to have an impact on the course of events. Our voices have been discounted because those of the development industry are worth more.

**Kathleen Kust**  
Alexandria

## Libraries Take Another Hit

To the Editor:

Imagine my consternation when once again Alexandria's libraries are on the hit list. At the same time the BikeShare program is expanded to the tune of \$600,000 on top of \$360,000 that taxpayers have already forked over. Wait just a minute ... this is not an anti-bike proclamation! I love bikes, probably everyone reading this loves bikes. I get it. Bikes are green. Biking is good exercise. Just think, with \$600,000 you could buy everyone in Alexandria a bike!

So let's talk about what this issue is: It's fairness in spending. One of the major responsibilities of local governments after health and safety is public education. Alexandria's education record is not a proud one. So, what does the city do? It proposes cutting the budget for

the critical public service that introduces children to books and the fun of reading and learning. The very libraries that provide research materials for avid students, that give a reading home to seniors who need to be out and about keeping themselves healthy and mentally alert. Libraries are an essential resource for the low income and middle-income families who do not have the money for high-speed Internet or dollars to buy books on Kindle or Amazon.

And yet every year Alexandria looks to the libraries for budget cuts. It's just not right to give scarce money to programs that benefit a few. While our public libraries work, as they are intended, for everyone from three to 90, the BikeShare program, according to a Virginia Tech study, serves a very small, special group. Their demographics are eye-openers: white, young (mean age: 34.64) with 43 percent having advanced degrees. These people can afford their own bikes and are welcome to use our trolleys, the Metro, Dash bus and the water taxi to move around our very walkable, pedestrian-friendly city.

Additionally, while Alexandria's libraries are city-owned and operated, BikeShare is a private, for-profit organization selling its program worldwide. Two large bicycle-friendly cities welcomed BikeShare but without taxpayers' dollars: Portland, Oregon, and New York City. Mayor Bloomberg dictated that no federal or city taxes would fund its program there. Due diligence shows there are other bike-sharing programs that do not require expensive kiosks, viaCycle is one ([info@viacycle.com](mailto:info@viacycle.com)) currently operating on George Mason's campus. So, if BikeShare wants to expand in Alexandria, let the parent company, Alta Bicycle Share, Inc., use some of its profits and reinvest, which is what corporations are expected to do. That way, the city gets an expanded bike program

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



**For Officer Peter Laboy**  
A card inside the fence at Lyles-Crouch Traditional School playground on Feb. 28 says "Thank you."

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

but leaves Alexandria taxpayers off the hook.

Alexandria's goal should be to extend rather than reduce hours or books at its libraries. An analysis shows that two neighborhood libraries, Duncan and Burke, with many young families living nearby together service almost 60,000 more customers per year than the main library despite Beatley having three times the number of employees and longer hours. These libraries that serve walking patrons should have their li-

brary hours increased, not cut. In contrast, Arlington appreciates the needs of working families by having libraries open to accommodate working hours. In fact, two are open on Sundays until 9 p.m. How nice is that! Since Beatley is not pedestrian friendly with only few homes nearby, perhaps, it could be closed on Sundays so that Burke, Duncan and Barrett can be open instead.

Go visit a number of area libraries as I do frequently ... it's so heartwarming to see mothers, fathers and their children there ... with arms full of books, children who will discover the wonder of storytelling inside

those covers. This is the beginning of a lifetime of reading for them. Walk around and see all the folks with their laptops researching and reading, the numbers at Internet computers searching for jobs. I was told that Barrett serves large numbers of new residents and other adults searching for employment, yet librarians and patrons struggle constantly with IT problems budgeted to be fixed, but have yet to happen. Budgeted money that sits there while needed services falter.

Alexandria's libraries are special places, and they should not have to struggle and

beg for money every year. They should be fully funded along with fire, police and schools. Alexandria's libraries serve many; BikeShare is for a few. Seems easy to me. Cut BikeShare and give the city some budget relief. Just ask BikeShare to pay its way or find another vendor that will. The city is already giving them valuable public sidewalk free as well as on-street parking spaces. That's enough.

Finally, the city should make sure taxpayers know that education and libraries do

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

## ALEXANDRIA WEEKEND on BOOK TV and AMERICAN HISTORY TV

*Programs on the Literary Life & History of Alexandria*



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### I'm Phillip Norris - Your Alexandria Neighbor



...for probably as long as you've lived in Alexandria. My wife and I grew up here. I'm a finish carpenter with 30 years of experience.

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## OPINION

# The BBQ Princess

BY KATHARINE  
DIXON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REBUILDING ALEXANDRIA  
TOGETHER



### COMMENTARY

Frances\* has spent all 61 years of her life in Alexandria though she has moved at least eight times over the years. From Patrick Street to Henry, Cameron Valley to Old Town, Fulton Street to Hume Springs ... she now owns her home in the Mount Jefferson neighborhood. She has such fond memories of the city, she can't imagine living anywhere else.

During her childhood, Frances' father held many jobs in and around Alexandria, including a cab driver, demolition contractor, restaurateur of seafood and sandwich shops, and, most proudly, the owner of a BBQ restaurant at the corner of Queen and Henry streets. Back in the day, her dad was known as the "barbeque king," making Frances the "barbeque princess" on the days she helped her father in the eatery. They made pulled pork, ribs, and chicken, along with potato salad, cole slaw, and "hand cut fried potatoes." And while Frances' mother thought her father was a great chef, she always noted what a huge mess he made in their kitchen at home. Now in her own home, Frances would like to host a BBQ party under the big umbrella in her back yard.

Over the years, Frances has seen many changes to Mount Vernon Avenue. She remembers a drug store, two beauty parlors, a Chinese restaurant, a florist, thrift shop, and Al's Steak House. She loves the addition of Cheesetique and the Dairy Godmother and sometimes treats herself to both. At one point in its history, her church was even housed on Mount Vernon Avenue in a small building on what is now home for Eclectic Nature.

And while the storefronts and some neighbors have changed, Frances loves her house and hopes to stay in this "friendly, comfortable" city in which she has spent her entire life. Helping maintain Frances's home is volunteer-based Rebuilding Together Alexandria, providing home repair services free of charge that keep her warm, safe, and able to invite friends over for a BBQ!

\* It is Rebuilding Together Alexandria's policy to not disclose full names. Rebuilding Together Alexandria is an award winning, non-profit organization dedicated to repairing and revitalizing homes at no charge for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans, and families. To date, in-kind donations of labor and materials have resulted in \$6 million worth of value on nearly 1,600 properties. If you would like to apply, volunteer or donate, visit [www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org) or call 703-836-1021.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

matter by restoring spending to pre-recession hours and opening at least two neighborhood libraries on Sundays. After all, education is a great leveler. All Alexandrians, rich, poor or middle class, deserve the very best you can give them in this regard.

**Linda Couture**  
Alexandria

## A Final Opportunity

To the Editor:

On March 16 the City Council will take what may be the final vote on a waterfront plan that in my opinion is akin to the razing of historic buildings along King Street that occurred in the 1960s. We are returning to urban-renewal-style development along

the waterfront because its supporters promise it will be good for Alexandria's finances.

Mayor Euille and supporters of the current waterfront plan make the same fiscal argument when they claim we must leverage the waterfront to pay for public benefits like flood control and greater access to the water and other projects around the town like schools and metro stations. I think this is shortsighted at best and negligent at worst. It's a miscalculation of the real value of a properly and carefully planned waterfront that complements, rather than diminishes, the value of an historic town.

Supporters of the plan claim that hotels will make the waterfront more of a public space. This is preposterous argument. Hotels will create closed spaces accessible only to hotel patrons with money

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



### Who's Behind Your Image?

Monjari Gillian, M.D., FACR  
Theresa Yuh, M.D., FACR  
Judith Albarelli, MA, RT, RDMS  
Nora Grobauer, RT, (R) (M)  
Angel Malone, RT, (R) (M)



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# Explaining Waterfront Plan and Petition Process Text Amendments

BY JOHN KOMOROSKE  
AND ERIC R. WAGNER

CURRENT AND FORMER CHAIRS, ALEXANDRIA  
PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMENTARY

On Tuesday, March 5, the Alexandria Planning Commission approved two text amendments to Alexandria's zoning ordinance after public hearings where most of the speakers opposed the amendments. Those opponents may think commissioners disregarded the concerns of those who testified. That is not the case: all commissioners heard and carefully weighed all of what was said. There is a distinction, however, between understanding the arguments made by the speakers and being convinced that the points they advocated would be good for the City of Alexandria.

We thought it would be useful to explain our votes on these two issues.

The first hearing was on zoning ordinance amendments to permit the development envisioned in the Waterfront Small Area Plan. The current zoning does not allow hotels or cultural institutions, such as art schools and museums, nor does it allow the small amount of additional development recommended by the plan. The text amendment we approved at our hearing authorizes the development contemplated by the

city's adopted Waterfront Plan.

During the public hearing, some speakers testified against elements of the Waterfront Plan itself, such as flood mitigation. But the Waterfront Plan was approved by the City Council more than a year ago, is not the subject of litigation, and it was not up for a "re-vote." The Planning Commission overwhelmingly voted for the plan in May 2011, so it should come as no surprise that the planning commissioners unanimously approved the zoning text amendment to implement it.

The hearings Tuesday night also reminded us that the facts about the Waterfront Plan can get lost in the rhetoric. Several speakers spoke against "massive" new development, but not only is all of the planned development the same size and scale as neighboring buildings, it increases development in the overall Waterfront Plan area by less than 2 percent, and increases potential development on the three small individual development sites in the plan by no more than 25 percent — not the 300 percent stated by opponents and even some mathematically challenged members of the press.

Another speaker complained that the

plan's requirement for below-grade parking was being ignored in the Carr hotel proposal; in fact, the proposal includes a full level of below-grade parking. A third speaker said the plan does not include enough open space, but the waterfront, which is just 4 percent of the city's land area, contains 40 percent of the city's open space, and the plan adds 5.5 acres of new open space to that, with 35 percent more new park square footage than new development square footage. Another commenter, apparently confused by other parts of Old Town with combined storm and sanitary sewers, predicted quantities of untreated sewage going into the Potomac as a result of the plan, when in fact the new development is served by a new, uncombined sewer line with far more capacity than needed to accommodate build-out of the entire plan.

Our second hearing was on a proposal to delete two words from the section of the zoning ordinance that empowers neighbors to protest the rezoning of a nearby piece of property. A successful "protest petition" forces the need for an unusually "super" supermajority (6 of 7) of councilmembers to approve that rezoning.

Everywhere else in the protest section of the zoning ordinance, it is clear that it applies to proposed changes to the city's zoning map — the assignment of a particular piece of property to one zone or another — which is called a map amendment. In one sentence, however, the words "text or" precede the word "map." Some, including the Board of Zoning Appeals, incorrectly felt that was enough to justify that the protest petition also applies to amending zoning ordinance text, in spite of the impossibility of administering such a requirement, the lack of authority from the Commonwealth of Virginia to permit this approach, or the plain language of the rest of the zoning ordinance.

In the past year, the disagreement about how to interpret this language has resulted in litigation to resolve an issue that, up until now has never been a problem. Since

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

to spare, create traffic nightmares, and create a generic, unwelcoming face for Alexandria.

But we probably should not worry so much about the hotels per se, because the land-use plan the city is about to approve lets developers pick what they want to build on the waterfront. This means that instead of a warehouse where kids in a program sponsored by the Alexandria Seaport Foundation are building a whaleboat for a replica of an historic schooner, we will most likely have townhomes that offer no real public benefit beyond taxes, and which will deprive us use of the waterfront as much as the two aging warehouses that are there now do.

Citizens have tried to propose a better plan for the waterfront, but the city has willfully ignored them for four years in a

1992, when the zoning ordinance was comprehensively revised, this provision has only been interpreted in one way.

It was abundantly clear to all commissioners that the extra words are an error and they unanimously voted to remove them. But we agreed with witnesses who thought that there were other protest issues in the zoning ordinance that should be addressed. These include:

\* Should nearby residents be able to use the protest petition for text amendments that are so narrowly drawn that they are, in effect, map amendments?

\* When condominiums protest, should the individual condominium owners sign the petition or does the condominium board speak for them?

\* Should the provision to protest map amendments not be applicable when the map amendment is part of or implements a comprehensive planning effort such as a small area plan, just as it specifically now does not apply to a map amendment that is part of a overall city-wide zoning change?

\* What changes to the city's charter will need to be adopted by our representatives in Richmond to address these concerns?

The Planning Commission directed staff to come back with a plan to address these and other petition process questions, and the staff is now scheduling its work to meet that goal soon.

To conclude, we continue to support the city's adopted Waterfront Small Area Plan and are pleased to have supported a change in the zoning ordinance to allow the plan to be implemented. We also are pleased to have clarified the applicability of the appeal provisions of the zoning ordinance to be consistent with how it has been interpreted and administered for the past two decades. We believe these actions will be broadly beneficial for the city and its residents.

The City Council will hold public hearings on both text amendments on Saturday, March 16. We hope the council adopts both amendments as recommended.

planning process that has been insulting to the community, wasteful of time and money, and a sham.

We have one final opportunity to stop this plan from becoming a law that will destroy Alexandria's waterfront. I urge you to show up on March 16 and let the city know how you feel.

Andrew Macdonald

## The Right To Petition

To the Editor:

On Saturday, March 16 at City Hall, elected officials will take a vote that seems intended to try to deny property owners' their day in court. This vote could easily

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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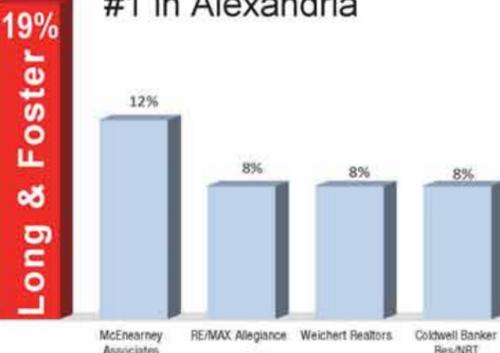
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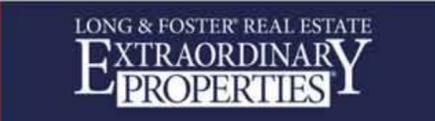
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# Join in Battle Against Secondhand Smoke

BY RICHARD E. MERRITT  
CHAIR, ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC  
HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

**K**ick Butts Day is Wednesday, March 20. It is an annual day of activism, celebrated in more than 2,000 events around the country, empowering youth to raise awareness about the problems of to-

bacco use in schools and the community. One of the key messages behind Kick Butts Day is that every day, 5,000 kids try their first cigarette; and another 2,000 kids become regular, daily smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result.

Last year, Kick Butts Day was celebrated in Alexandria with Mayor Euille and Councilwoman

## COMMENTARY

Pepper hanging the first sign in a city-owned bus shelter which reads: For everyone's health, thank you for not smoking in this bus shelter. Following the ceremony, students from T.C. Williams and a few middle schools fanned out across the city engaging other stu-

dents and residents in conversations about the harms of smoking.

On Kick Butts Day this year, the Clean and Smoke-Free Air Coalition, in partnership with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria and Y-Street, is sponsoring an Operation Storefront Survey, which will engage a number of Alexandria youth in collecting information on how retail stores advertise tobacco products and alcohol.

Recent data reveal many positive trends when it comes to tobacco use among Alexandria high school and middle school students. For example, current cigarette use (14.1 percent) and cigar use (11.7 percent) among high school students are lower than the national rates of 18.1 percent and 13.1 percent respectively. Moreover, over the past 5 years, there has been a major reduction in the percentage of students that tried smoking — down from 34.1 percent in 2007 to 19.1 percent in 2011. Hispanic students registered the biggest reduction from 45 percent to 22.7 percent. Despite the mostly positive directions, the data reveal a few underlying “pockets” of concern that will likely need attention. For example, the current use rate for Black high school students was 12.7 percent, 2.2 percentage points above the national rate of 10.5 percent; and, with respect to heavy smoking (>10 cigarettes per day), rates for Asian and White students rose 7.7 percent to 11.1 percent and 6.8 percent to 8.2 percent respectively. At the middle school level, Black students registered a significant increase on the “heavy smoking” indicator — from 3.4 percent in 2007 to 17.7 percent in 2011.

While the teen (and adult) smoking rates could certainly be better, the Public Health Commission is focused on a much greater smoking-related concern affecting our young children and youth — exposure to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

While many may know that tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death and disease in America, most are unaware that exposure to secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of death and disease. Because a child's body is still growing and their lungs still developing, the chemicals in secondhand smoke are especially dangerous to their health.

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared that there is “no risk free exposure to secondhand smoke; even a brief exposure ... can be harmful. More frequent exposure

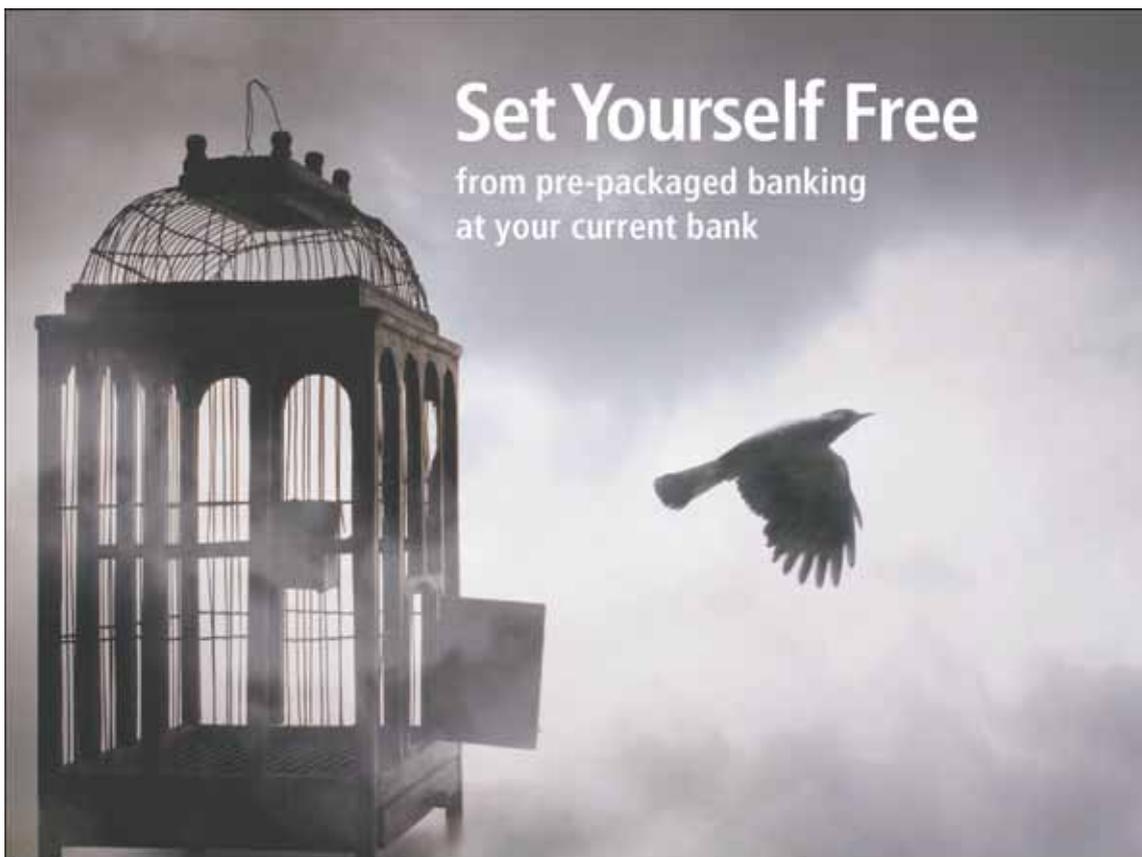
causes disease and premature death in nonsmoking adults and children.”

Unfortunately, there are no local data regarding the extent of secondhand smoke exposure in Alexandria. The American Academy of Pediatrics, however, estimates that about 18 percent of all children and youth between ages 3-19 are regularly exposed in their homes. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control suggests that about 45 percent of all residents in Virginia that live in a multiunit residential facility and do not allow smoking in their homes, still experience secondhand smoke penetration in their apartment on occasion. (This occurs primarily because the smoke seeps through the walls, under the doors, and through shared ventilations systems.) Hence, it is reasonable to conclude that hundreds-to perhaps a few thousand children and adolescents in the city are needlessly exposed to secondhand smoke either occasionally or on a regular basis.

To reduce the level of exposure of our children and youth to secondhand smoke, the commission is seeking City Council's support for the promotion of comprehensive smoke-free policies in all multiunit residential facilities in the city. More specifically, council is being asked to:

- ❖ Declare that all residents deserve to breathe clean air and live in a smoke-free environment.
- ❖ Declare secondhand smoke, as it drifts from one apartment to another, a “public health risk” and call on owners and landlords to voluntarily adopt comprehensive smoke-free policies for their building(s).
- ❖ Declare that all low-income, uninsured residents will have access to an affordable, effective and comprehensive smoking cessation benefit.
- ❖ Increase the local cigarette tax to generate new revenues to support evidence-based tobacco prevention, cessation and education programs in the city.

The City Council made a major step forward over a year ago on protecting our kids and nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure with the placement of smoke-free signs in all city-owned parks, playgrounds and bus shelters. We're asking them to take another big step forward to close the gaps in secondhand smoke exposure as to where our kids are most vulnerable — in the homes where they live and spend the vast majority of their time.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**Art Exhibit.** See Matthew D. Kiehl's "Craft and Character: Wasteland" at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery. See an exploration of pen and ink on paper. Through March 17. Free.

**"Hearth and Home."** Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., presents a juried show where items reflect on the meaning of home, or items used in the home. Through March 17. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or 703-548-0935.

**Theater Performance.** March 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. March 17 at 3 p.m. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre presents Disney's "My Son Pinocchio." This production will be performed at Bryant Alternative High School on Popkins Lane. Tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Visit [www.mvccct.org/](http://www.mvccct.org/) to pre-order tickets.

**Art Exhibit.** March Fundraiser exhibit at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Through March 17. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or 703-838-4565.

**Needlework Exhibit.** Exhibit is at Historic Woodlawn Museum, 9000 Richmond Highway. Through March 31. There is a fee. Visit <http://woodlawn1805.org>.

**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. Through April 1. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**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. Through April 7. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**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.

**Tavern Toddlers.** Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays 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).

**Art Exhibit.** Through May 11. Local artist Nicholaus Aman attempts to express the compelling nature of the Pacific coast through his solo exhibition, "Pacific Pulse," at Alexandria's Artspace 109 Gallery, 109 N. Fairfax St. The gallery hours are: Tuesday through Friday noon-5 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays noon-5 p.m.

**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. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time, through their own words, as well as in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or call 703-746-4994.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 14

**Toast to Fashion.** 6:30-10 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club. Enjoy a fashion show, marketplace, raffle and more. Benefits the Campagna Center. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) to purchase tickets.

**Open Discussion.** 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Low Vision Tea and Talk "Do you know what I know?" discussion with Gloria Sussman. Call 703-746-1760.

**Thursday Art Night.** 6-9 p.m. "Spring Awakening" at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. Browse three floors of open studios and galleries, converse with artists

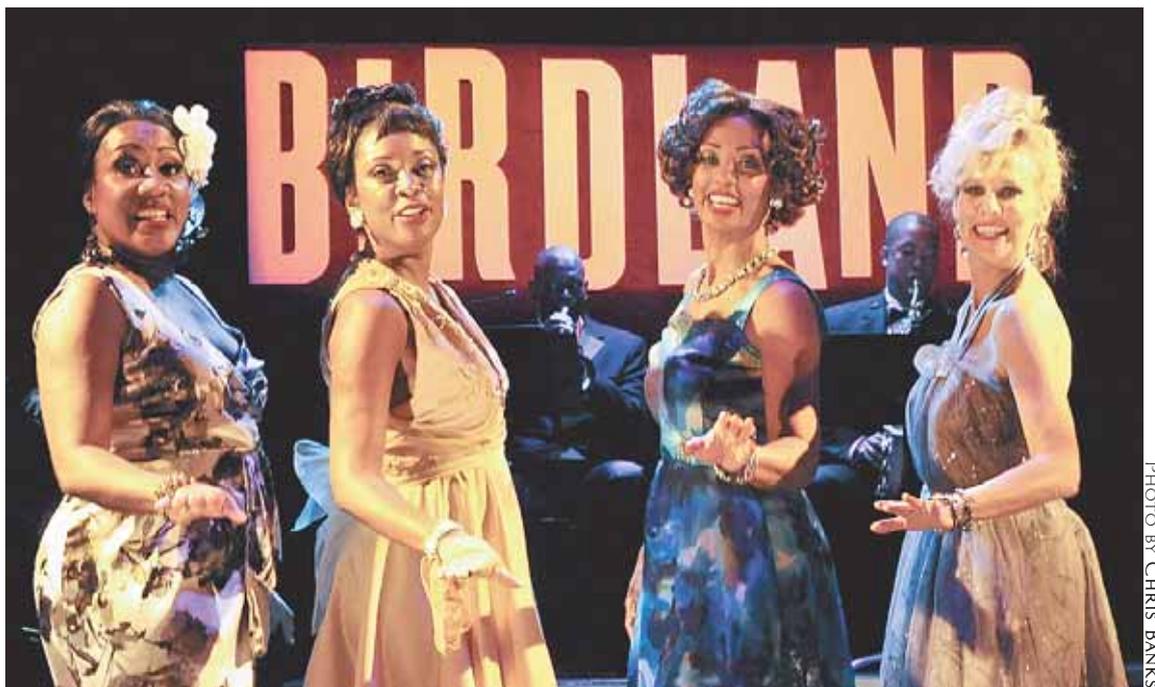


PHOTO BY CHRIS BANKS

Roz White, Lori Williams, Yvette Spears and Sandy Bainum star in MetroStage's "Ladies Swing the Blues."

## 'Ladies Swing the Blues' Extended Through March 31

A world premiere by Thomas W. Jones II and William Knowles. Explore the jazz folklore, mythologies and backstage stories of the '40s and '50s with four legendary jazz divas as they gather to commemorate the passing of jazz legend Charlie Parker. Starring Sandy Bainum, Anthony Manough, Yvette Spears, Roz White, and Lori Williams. Performances are through March 31, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sun at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 (students, \$25). For tickets call 800-494-8497 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org). For information or group rates, call 703-548-9044. 1201 North Royal St. Fully accessible, free parking.

and enjoy refreshments at this monthly event. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/thursday.htm](http://www.torpedofactory.org/thursday.htm)

**Fundraiser.** 7 p.m. reception; 8 p.m. performance at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Healthy Families Alexandria presents "Ladies Swing the Blues" to benefit early childhood intervention programs. \$75/person. Register at <https://give.nvfa.org/pages/event-registrations/metrostage-registration> or call 571-438-7715.

**An Evening With Cowboy Junkies.** Includes a complete performance of "Black Eyed Man" at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for times, pricing and tickets.

**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. Children 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.

**Library Speed Dating.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Book lovers can share love of books to find a literary better half. Prizes will be awarded. Free. 703-746-1751 to reserve a spot.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 15

**Art Party.** 7-10 p.m. at Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Get a discount on artwork, enjoy prizes, music, games, wings and more. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Live Music.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. The Mount Vernon Swing Band will perform at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500

Shenandoah Road. \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

**Going for the Green Spring Silent Auction.** 6:30 p.m. at Fort Hunt Elementary School. Music will be provided by DJ Bob, food and facepainting will be available for purchase. There will also be a raffle for items.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King Street. Children ages 2 and under can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Call 703-548-4092 or visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com).

## MARCH 15-16

**The Average White Band.** 7:30 p.m. \$35. Visit [www.averagewhiteband.com](http://www.averagewhiteband.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.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 16

**Conversations and Stories.** 2:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Local artist/storyteller Sushmita Mazumdar will read from her books and more. \$20/includes tea and cookies.

**Andrew Jackson Birthday Gala Dinner and Fundraiser.** 6:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Features a catered dinner, auction and more. \$20/person which will go to one of three scholarship funds. Visit [www.andrewjackson120.org](http://www.andrewjackson120.org) for more.

**Poetry and Book-Making Workshop.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., lead by artists Stacy Rauch and D.J. Gaskin. Create a journal and personal poems. \$75 (includes supplies). Register by March 8 [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/bookmaking](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/bookmaking).

**Touch-A-Truck.** 3-6 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road. Explore fire trucks,

police cars and other vehicles. This is a hands-on event, so horns will be sounded and more. \$5/person, children under 2 are free. Proceeds benefit Fort Hunt Preschool. Visit [www.forthuntpreschool.com/events](http://www.forthuntpreschool.com/events) for more.

**Civil War Artillery Projectile Presentation.** 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m., 30-minute presentations will be offered. Come learn about the projectiles used in the Civil War at Fort Ward, located at 4301 West Braddock Road. Free. Visit [www.forward.org](http://www.forward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dance Performance.** The Choreographers Collaboration Project presents their Spring Modern Dance Concert at T.C. Williams High School auditorium, 3330 King St. The concert is inspired by public art pieces and public locations in Alexandria. Adults/\$10; ages 12-17/\$5; kids under 12/free. Visit [www.ccpdance.org](http://www.ccpdance.org) or call 703-683-2070.

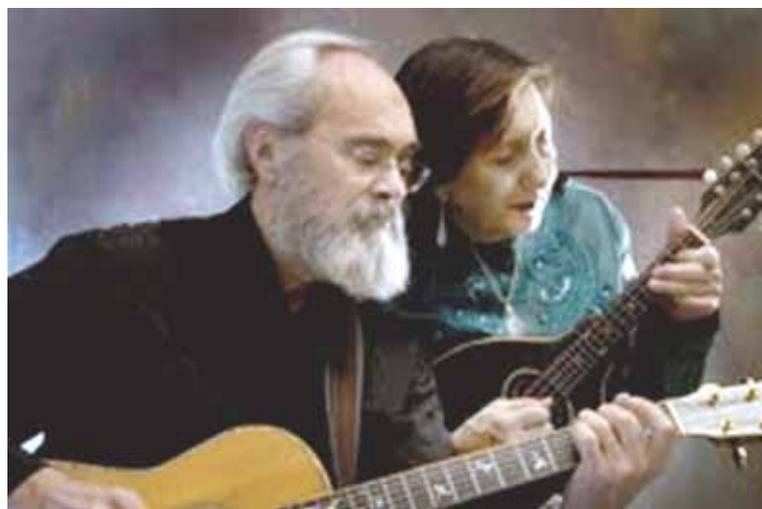
**Auction.** The Potomack Company's Spring Catalogue Sale will feature two works by Andy Warhol, as well as Asian art, Tiffany jewelry and southern antique furniture. The Potomack Company is located at 1120 N. Fairfax St. Visit [www.potomackcompany.com](http://www.potomackcompany.com).

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

**Fundraiser.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant and Bar in Old Town. Alexandria Rugby, Inc will donate the funds to Center for Alexandria's Children. The event features live broadcast of three rugby matches, awards and more. Free. E-mail Owen Malone at [owen.malone@alexandriarugby.org](mailto:owen.malone@alexandriarugby.org) for more.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King Street. Children ages 2 and under can enjoy stories and songs. Free.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20



## Magpie

Focus Music presents the folk duo Magpie (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino), on Sunday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$18, \$15 in advance at [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or call 703-501-6061. New York-based Magpie is a husband-and-wife duo originally from Takoma Park, Md. Their repertoire of largely topical songs encompasses traditional and contemporary folk, jazz, blues, country and ragtime styles, and includes many original compositions. Magpie has a high-energy sound, characterized by tight harmonies on guitar, mandolin and harmonica. Visit [www.magpiemusic.com](http://www.magpiemusic.com).

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A rare opportunity to live in the heart of Old Town, Alexandria. The elegant, historic Swann Daingerfield condominium has a spacious 20 ft x 13 ft living room with 11½-foot ceilings and marble fireplace, dining room with 2nd fireplace, kitchen with sunny breakfast area, spacious 2nd bedroom. Large Master Bedroom, Master Bathroom and Dressing Room. Balcony overlooking courtyard garden. Elevator, private parking and large storage area. This sought-after location at the corner of Prince Street and S. Columbus Street is only two blocks away from King Street and Washington Street. Perfect for gracious living and convenient to all amenities of Old Town, Alexandria.

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## ENTERTAINMENT



FROM PAGE 19

Call 703-548-4092 or visit  
[www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com).

**Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at Artspace 109, 109 N. Fairfax St. Local artist Nicholaus Aman showcases "Pacific Pulse." Free.

**Performance.** 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. 7 Sopranos will perform and then a champagne reception will follow, featuring an exhibit by artist and Typeface designer Chris Lozos. \$25 donation suggested. All proceeds will help send 7 Sopranos to Carnegie Hall.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 17

**Watch Awards 2013.** 7 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$15. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500. Visit [www.washingtontheater.org](http://www.washingtontheater.org) for nominees.

**African Drumming Workshop.** 2-3:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Susan Berning leads the interactive rhythms. Bring own drum, bell or

shaker, or ask to borrow one. \$5/person or \$15/family. Contact Susan Berning at 443-761-0165 or [sberning@worldportico.com](mailto:sberning@worldportico.com).

**Film Fest.** In honor of Women's History Month watch "The Queen" at 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or 703-746-1702.

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration.** 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Virtue Feed and Grain, located 106 S. Union St. Featuring Corned Beef Sandwiches, Fish N Chips and Shepherd's Pie, as well as Irish bands and dancers from the Boyle School of Irish Dance. Visit [www.virtuefeedandgrain.com](http://www.virtuefeedandgrain.com) or call 571-970-3669.

**Concert.** Focus Music presents the folk duo Maggie (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino) at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or call 703-501-6061.

**Concert.** 3 p.m. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. Featuring the world premiere of James Kazik's

## Fusebox at Virtue

Virtue Feed & Grain presents Fusebox at 7 and 9 p.m. on Sunday, March 17. Under 21 must be supervised by an adult. Virtue Feed & Grain is located at 106 S. Union Street. Visit [virtuefeedandgrain.com](http://virtuefeedandgrain.com) or call 571-970-3669. Check out Fuse Box at [www.youtube.com/user/fuseboxband](http://www.youtube.com/user/fuseboxband).

Symphony, among other works. In addition, World renowned piano virtuoso Thomas Pandolfi will perform Edward MacDowell's D Minor Piano Concerto. \$10 General Admission tickets, ages 18 and under attend free. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org).

**Kegs & Eggs.** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Start St. Patrick's Day with a brunch menu inspired by the public houses of Ireland. Visit [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com) for a menu.

**Live Music.** 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Virtue Feed & Grain, 106 S. Union St. Fusebox will perform two sets. Visit [virtuefeedandgrain.com](http://virtuefeedandgrain.com) or 571-970-3669.

**Opera.** 4 p.m. Virginia Bronze presents Opera is for Everyone, featuring guest vocalist Gregory Stuart and Carol Feather Martin, artistic director at George Washington Masonic Memorial Auditorium. Tickets, \$5-20, will be available at the door, in advance from any member of Virginia

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21



**SAVE THE DATE FOR:**

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Small items and clothing drop-offs may be made to the front of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Tysons Corner with the Bell Staff. Please indicate that the items are for the Boys and Girls Clubs Rummage Sale. Donation receipts will be available at drop-off.

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# ENTERTAINMENT



## Alexandria Youth Tap Ensemble to Dance in DC on March 23

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center Youth Tap Ensemble will perform at the 5th Annual DC Tap Festival All Star Concert at 8 p.m. on Sat., March 23 at Duke Ellington Theatre, 3500 R Street., NW, Washington, D.C. All tickets can be purchased online at [www.dctapfestival.com](http://www.dctapfestival.com).

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center of Alexandria and Fairfax Station is a multi-disciplinary performing arts organization in the Washington, D.C. area that has taught dance, music and theater to more than 10,000 students since opening in 2001. MFAC offers high quality performing arts train-

ing in a ground-breaking, holistic learning environment that cultivates creativity, builds community and empowers students. Many students go on to perform in prestigious arenas including Broadway, national tours, The Julliard School, The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Washington Ballet and more. MFAC is also affiliated with its non-profit company, Metropolitan Performing Arts Alliance.

For more information, call 703-339-0444 or visit [www.metrofinearts.com](http://www.metrofinearts.com).

## CALENDAR

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Bronze, or online. Visit [www.vabronze.org](http://www.vabronze.org) or call 888-824-2541. The Masonic Memorial is located at 101 Callahan Dr.

### MONDAY/MARCH 18

#### Salute to Women Awards Banquet.

6:30 p.m. reception; dinner at 7:15 p.m. at Westin Hotel Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Alexandria's Commission for Women will honor 11 women who have contributed to improving the quality of life in Alexandria. \$85/person includes dinner. Visit [www.alexwomen.com](http://www.alexwomen.com) or 703-746-3123.

**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.

**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.

**Animal Shelter Visit.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in ages K-5 can learn about animals, their habits, care and training. Animals usually come along for a visit. 703-746-1705.

**Biography Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Free. Call for title. 703-746-1743.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 19

**Poetry Readings and Discussion.** 11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Free. Reservations required, 703-765-4573.

**Dance.** 9-11 p.m. DJ Dance with TK the DJ at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Free.

**Performance.** Mint Condition performs at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for times, pricing and tickets.

**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,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22



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SUNDAY, MARCH 24 ~ 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

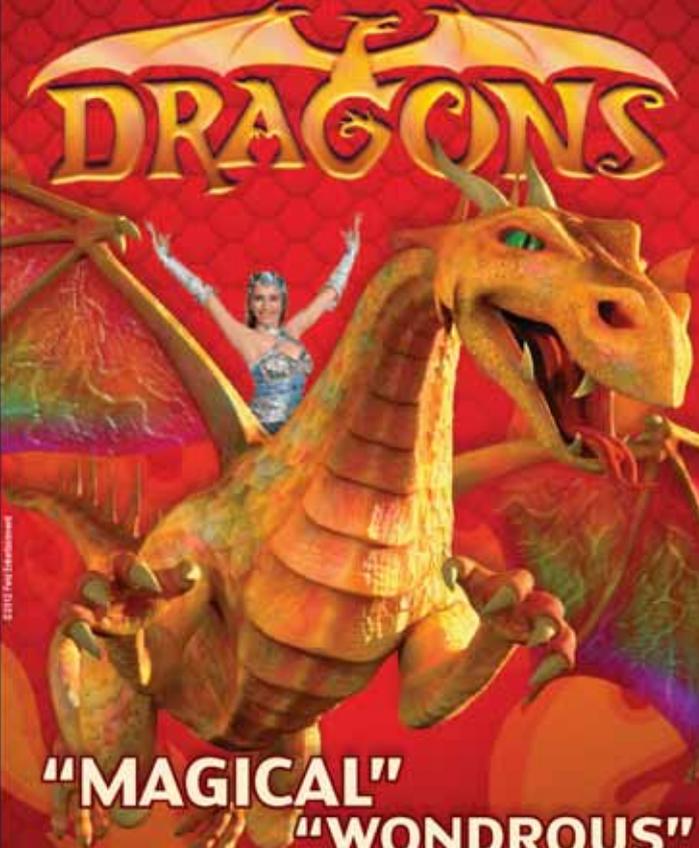
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.JLW.ORG](http://WWW.JLW.ORG)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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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.

**Craft Night.** 7 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. All skill levels can meet other crafters, get help on projects or just come to share the love of crafts. Free. 703-746-1703.

## MARCH 19 THROUGH APRIL 23

**Art Exhibit.** Open Friday-Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Thursday 1-9 p.m. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of the juried

show "Sculptural Elements." Located in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street. Free Admission. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

**Antiques Club.** 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Features Vivian Kronstedt who will discuss the history of the Avon company. Free. 703-765-4573.

**Music Performance.** 9-11 p.m. Hear the blues band The Smokin' Polecats at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. \$10.

**Performance.** Mint Condition performs at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for times, pricing and tickets.



Ryan Sellers as Malcolm, Chris Dwyer as Macduff, and James Miller as Ross in rehearsals to bring "Voodoo Macbeth" to the stage beginning March 22.

## 'Voodoo Macbeth'

The American Century Theater will present Orson Welles' adaptation of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," "Voodoo Macbeth," March 22-April 13 at Gunston Theatre II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S Lang St. Shakespeare's chaos unfolds on a futuristic battleground of faith and mystery in a retelling of Orson Welles' sensational 1936 production for the Federal Theatre Project. Kathleen Akerley directs. The all-male cast includes Joseph Carlson as Macbeth, with Frank Britton, Keegan Cassidy, Evan Crump, Matt Dewberry, Cyle Durkee, Chris Dwyer, James Finley, Nick Hagy, Will Hayes, James Miller, Ryan Sellers and Theodore Snead.

Shows are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. No matinee on Saturday, March 24 and no performance Sunday, March 31. Pay what you can preview Thursday, March 22. Pay what you can performance Wednesday, March 27.

Purchase tickets online at [americancentury.org](http://americancentury.org) or by calling 703-998-4555.

**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.

**Nature Program.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children in grades K-5 can learn about various artifacts and animals. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1702.

**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Discuss "Murder on the Orient Express" by Agatha Christie. Free. 703-746-1705.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 21

**An Evening with Rickie Lee Jones.** 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Art Focus Group.** 7:30-9 p.m. Puppets in the classroom — creating characters to tell stories. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Ln. Call 703-201-1250.

**Presentation.** 6:30 p.m. at the Art League Gallery, located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Representatives from the Alice Ferguson Foundation will discuss their initiative, in conjunction to the exhibit "State of Emergency." Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**Model Railroad Club.** 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The club presents "The Story of the New York Central Railroad - History of the 20th Century Limited." Free. 703-765-4573.

**Lecture.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. "Preserving Alexandria's African American Heritage: The Development of Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial" is the topic. Free. For further information, contact Kimberly Nathaniel at 703-746-1770.

**Book and Art Sale.** 1-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse art, children's books, puzzles, cds and more. Proceeds benefit church activities.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 22

**Performance.** Phil Perry performs at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for times, pricing and tickets.

**Book and Art Sale.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse art,



## 'Pacific Pulse'

Nicholaus Aman attempts to express the compelling nature of the Pacific coast through his solo exhibition, Pacific Pulse, at Alexandria's Artspace 109 Gallery. The opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Saturday March 16, 7-9 p.m. The Pacific Pulse exhibition will be on display through May 11, 2013. Artspace 109 is located at 109 North Fairfax Street, 3rd Floor Alexandria, VA 22314. Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Friday noon-5 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays noon-5 p.m.

children's books, puzzles, cds and more. Proceeds benefit church activities.

## MARCH 22 THROUGH APRIL 28

**Art Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. "Spotlight," an exhibition of acrylic paintings on canvas by Lukman Ahmad, will be on display in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/alexandria/schlesingercenter/gallery.html](http://www.nvcc.edu/alexandria/schlesingercenter/gallery.html).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 23

**An Evening with Tom Rush.** \$39.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Vinyasa Yoga Session.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Instructor Isabella Gutfreund will give an intermediate skill level class. \$15. Register by March 18 at

[www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).  
**Trunk Show.** Noon-6 p.m. at Vintage Mirage, 117 S. Columbus St. Features Selma Karaca and her Spring 2013 line of hand-made clothes. Free. Visit [www.vintagemirage.com](http://www.vintagemirage.com) or 703-535-8200.

**Dance Performance.** 8 p.m. Jane Franklin Dance presents Three degrees of JFD at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Melton Rehearsal Hall, 641 D St. Tickets are \$25 at the door; \$20 in advance. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or call 703-933-1111.

**An Evening with Tom Rush.** At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for times, pricing and tickets.

**Dance Performance.** 8 p.m. at Duke Ellington Theatre, 3500 R St., N.W., Washington, D.C. The Metropolitan Fine Arts Center Youth Tap Ensemble will perform at the 5th Annual DC Tap Festival All Star Concert. Visit [www.dctapfestival.com](http://www.dctapfestival.com) for tickets.

**Madison Inaugural Banquet.** 8 p.m. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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**2013 Public Safety Valor Awards Ceremony & Luncheon**  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. \$150 banquet and reception. Black tie or 1813 attire. Visit [visitalexandria.com](http://visitalexandria.com) to register.

**Book and Art Sale.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse art, children's books, puzzles, cds and more. Proceeds benefit church activities. Everything is half price in the church, \$5 a bag in the mansion.

**Program.** 10 a.m. in the Helen Wilson Community Room of the Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Learn about the historic Belvale house on Telegraph Road. Free.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 24

**Music.** Madeleine Peyroux performs at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$55. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500.

**Ladies 18th-Century Tea.** 3 p.m. or 3:15 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Sip the museum's special blend and eat period-inspired delicacies. \$35/person. Reservations required. 703-746-4242.

**Film Fest.** In honor of Women's History Month watch "Julie & Julia" at 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or 703-746-1702.

**Concert.** 3 p.m. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Featuring the world premiere of James Kazik's Symphony, among other works. In addition, World renowned piano virtuoso Thomas Pandolfi will perform Edward

MacDowell's D Minor Piano Concerto. \$20 General Admission tickets, ages 18 and under attend free. Visit [www.wmpmusic.org](http://www.wmpmusic.org).

## THROUGH MARCH 24

**Art Exhibit.** Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., will showcase work by three new artists: Tim Hyde, Soomin Ham and Fred Zafran. Each artist will showcase the world around us. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## MONDAY/MARCH 25

**Music Performance.** Travis Tritt performs at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$55/person. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

## THROUGH MARCH 25

**Art Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Come see the art of Kathleen Stafford at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Free. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) or call 703-746-4356.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 29

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will perform music for soprano and clarinet. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 30

**Cleve Francis.** 7:30 p.m. \$32.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-

7500.

## THROUGH MARCH 31

**50th Annual Needlework Exhibition.** Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Monday. At the Historic Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. \$10/adults; \$5/students through grade 12; free/children 5 and under. Visit <http://woodlawn1805.org/50th-annual-needlework-exhibition/> or call 703-780-4000.

**Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 1-3 p.m. Sunday. No admission charge at the Lee-Fendall House Museum throughout March. Located at 614 Oronoco St. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 2

**Chasing the Bloom in Southern Appalachia.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Become an armchair tourist through mountains of Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Don Hyatt will lead a tour of native azaleas, rhododendrons, and wildflowers coming into flower in the wild. \$15. Visit [www.green-spring.org](http://www.green-spring.org) or call 703-642-5173.

**Event.** 6-8 p.m. at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. Maureen Luran will discuss the medieval pilgrimage known as "The Way," The Camino de Santiago, and shares stories and photos from her trek. Free. Visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com) or 703-838-8000.

**Author Event.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Bill Schweigart will discuss his book "Slipping the Cable." Free. 703-746-1702.

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## Memoriam

Today, March 12th, 2013, marks one year since the tragic and sudden passing of loving father and husband Dana Brian Simonsen. Brian is survived by his daughter Danaka, wife Barbara, and countless friends and family. Brian served his country proudly as a Marine and toured overseas for 9 months. He was a seriously dedicated and hard worker, but most importantly a dedicated and truly loving father. His laugh would make you smile, his smile would make you laugh, and his heart made everyone feel welcomed and loved. Please take a moment to remember a man we all aspire to be, Dana Brian Simonsen.

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Family are being honored this year: Nelson E. Greene Sr., his son Nelson E. Greene Jr., and his grand-daughter Nina Greene. All three are active members of Meade Episcopal Church. Greene, Sr. is the founder and current president of the Greene Funeral home in Alexandria. His hard work and dedication for more than 50 years helped the funeral home become what it is today. He was a member of the City Council and of a number of philanthropic organizations including the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F. & A.M. Inc., the Secret Seven, the Departmental Progressive Club of Alexandria, the American Legion William Post #124, and the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World. At Meade Episcopal Church, he has served in the past as Junior and Senior Warden, and on the Steering Committee for the new building. He has also been a member of Omega Psi Phi since 1938.

Nelson E. Greene, Jr. has worked in the family's funeral home his entire adult life except for the three years he spent in the military. He is currently the vice president and manager of the funeral home. He is also a founding member of the Northern Virginia District of Virginia Morticians Association. In Alexandria, he served three terms on the Alexandria City School Board and is active with Meade Episcopal Church, where he currently serves as Junior Warden and Lay Eucharistic Minister. He has served as Junior Warden seven other times, and as Senior Warden three times. Like his father, he is a member of Omega Psi Phi, and has been since 1974.

Early in Nina Greene's life, she spent a lot of time with her grandfather and she credits him with teaching her that service to the community is a way of life. Although she initially pursued a career in the healthcare industry and was an EMT, a CPR instructor, and an occupational health administrator she recently decided to complete her funeral service education. She has more than 20 years of experience working in the family business and currently provides administrative support at the funeral home where she is instrumental in helping families with memorial tributes. She also devotes much her time to Meade Episcopal Church where she is a lifelong member. At Meade Episcopal she is a Lay Eucharistic Minister and has been active in the Gospel Truth Choir, the Outreach Committee, and serves as Youth Group chaperone. Previously, she served on the Vestry and chaired the stewardship Committee. She is also a member of the Women's Ecumenical Choir of Ebenezer Baptist Church and the International Order of the Daughters of the King. She also volunteers with the Alexandria YMCA, the Avon Breast Cancer Walk and the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

The Generation to Generation Gala, while honoring these families, will also support the work of Senior Services of Alexandria. To purchase tickets, call 703-836-4414, ext. 10 or online at [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

end by depriving the majority of property owners throughout the City of Alexandria the right to freely petition against zoning decisions that affect them; it would restrict access to the city's own Protest Petition.

On March 5 citizens' clarity and the integrity of their arguments regarding the importance of the Protest Petition were in no doubt.

Many favored relying on judicial reasoning for a full and final understanding of the Protest Petition process. This is scheduled on the Circuit Court docket for April 9.

If a super majority of council members agree on March 16 to limit access to the city's now freely available Protest Petition, this rarely used but highly important way to question and challenge city zoning, will be restricted to just a few property owners. The many

who are left out can no longer simply present their petition to the city and appear before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) in a fee-free, last resort to press their case.

The Protest Petition, cumbersome and difficult to achieve, is a way to require the city to respond to property owners' concerns about laws that might encourage tall buildings, dense neighborhoods, traffic congestion, or any change to where they live. In the past the city would indicate these changes by drawing maps to show where they could happen. But today, most changes like adding a hospital, several floors to a building, etc. are best described with words and are called text amendments. If the city's March 16 vote creates new restrictive rules, property owners (commercial and individual) affected by text amendments cannot use the Protest Petition process.

The city's apparent purpose in limiting most property owners' access to a Protest Petition stems from fear it will stifle development. This is unreasonable and unsupported. The Protest Petition was designed to be so difficult to do and so uncertain in its outcome that it is truly a property owner's last resort when freely appealing to their city.

Firstly, the petition must come from property owners representing 20 percent of the land — either within 300 feet of the parcel to be rezoned or 20 percent of the land inside the zone — not an easy number to attain. The larger the area zoned the tougher this is. Secondly, it requires a planimeter to measure the boundaries. Finally, filing it with the city might be a painfully difficult task. All together, the risk of even a few Protest Petitions being filed is probably smaller than a snowball's chance in summer. As such, this March 16 vote to whittle the number of Protest Petitions filed stands out as an exercise in intimidation and fear mongering.

This political maneuver of a re-vote seems a clever way to clear a path for the city's overly dense waterfront plan. The way was paved when the Planning Commission drafted amendments violating the current city charter and, perhaps, Virginia code. It also instructed staff to clarify the confused zoning advice regarding Protest Petitions. The BZA gave the same direction about a year ago — nothing was done. In fact, it is simply the city's 20 years of ad hoc rule making that has produced confused zoning law.

The Protest Petition process is one of the most valuable governance tools available to all property owners, but it is especially im-

portant to the city. It is the city's own platform for negotiation. With the city as mediator with all property owners at the table, it creates high transparency that raises trust levels all around. It is the city's last and best opportunity to avoid litigation.

Is the city taking a re-vote to prevent court costs? Or, to save face by avoiding the April 9 Circuit Court review of its own appeal of the BZA's decision, which upheld the Protest Petitioners? It is still possible to hammer out an equitable and optimal solution for less dense waterfront development — let's hope that happens.

**Kathryn Papp**

## Defer Decision On Zoning Changes

To the Editor:

There are two important votes before Alexandria's City Council this Saturday. Both deal with amendments to zoning language. One amends the W1 Waterfront Mixed Use Zone. The second amends language of the zoning ordinance itself. The first vote can seal the fate of a dull plan that concretes our future waterfront, relegates its design to corporate taste, and leaves public use to the dictates of commercial prerogatives. Alexandria's brand on its own historic waterfront will be, at best, Carr Properties, or, at worst, an uncaring and remote investment entity. The second vote threatens to sacrifice important protections to the rights of property owners across the city, all to serve short term, spiteful ends at the expense of long-term strategic needs of the city.

I think there's still hope to take positive steps forward, beyond the bitterness, acrimony, and distrust. Like the stages of grief, we've seen denial, anger, and are now in the final stages of negotiations. Disappointment (for sure) but even better acceptance could lie ahead.

Regarding the text amendment to the W1 zone ... this decision sets the future framework for all Special Use Permit considerations to follow. City Council can control development with effective use of these Special Use Permit provisions. The framework needs to be strengthened in two straightforward ways. Height and uses are resolved, for better or worse. Density is the last area where positive change can still happen.

The 1992 Settlement Agreement for the Waterfront zone more than doubled allowable density over current uses. Suggested increases to density beyond the '92 agree-

ment have been arbitrarily set, produce no certain return of profits or public good, and compound parking and flood risk problems. The city's own data shows city investment costs are still recovered at '92 density levels. It simply takes more time. By adding prescriptive limits to density or F.A.R. in the text of the amendment, both city and council concerns about river access, quality of life, and flood risks are lessened.

Additionally, language regarding environmental concerns and building offset from the river needs to be added. The city has already described their best intentions in PowerPoint briefing slides and staff reports. A 100-foot setback from the river and the requirement to meet the highest environmental standards need to be described clearly in the section of the text amendment describing open and usable space provisions.

Progress in the second vote on the amendment to zoning language (Section 11-808) is much simpler. Last summer, the BZA did more than reject the actions of the planning director regarding the citizen petition. In a second resolution that night, the BZA "recommended that City Council appoint a committee to review the zoning language of section 11-808 of the Zoning Ordinance." Also, the Planning Commission, in recent action, suggested further review of the Zoning Ordinance to clarify and not diminish provisions protecting citizen petitions. Finally, the city's own Federation of Civic Associations unanimously asked for deferral and further evaluation. The City Council should defer decision on changes to the Zoning Ordinance pending a more thorough review by a duly appointed committee with necessary citizen input.

The path to moving forward seems clear: Less density, stronger Special Use Permit provisions, affirmation of environmental safeguards, protected green space along the river, and assured property rights. All can be achieved inside these two amendments. It's tough to live with so large a loss of opportunity, but clarity and consideration is vitally needed now to move beyond legal tangles and further citizen frustration.

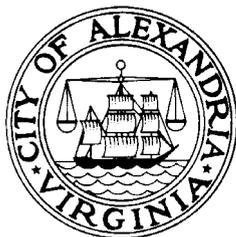
**Bob Wood**  
Alexandria

## Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. Send to: Letters to the Editor, Gazette Packet, 1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314  
By e-mail: [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

### Legal Notices

### Legal Notices



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

This notice is required by State law. The City Council has authorized a proposed real estate tax rate for advertising purposes of \$1.038 per \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate may not exceed \$1.038, it could be less, and it will not be set until May 6, 2013.

The City of Alexandria proposes to increase the current property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 3.33 percent.

2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.966 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

3. Effective Rate Increase: The City of Alexandria proposes to advertise a tax rate of \$1.038 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the advertised tax rate would be \$0.072 per \$100, or a 7.5 percent increase. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Alexandria (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will exceed last year's by 6.1 percent.

5. The City proposes to continue an additional tax rate of \$0.20 per \$100 for all properties that have been classified in the Tier I Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Services District.

A public hearing on the increase will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., at the City Council Chamber of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

All persons wishing to speak to this issue may contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council located on the second floor, Room 2300, City Hall, or may appear and be heard after completing a Speakers form before Council.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements, or who require language translation services to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 746-4550. We request that you provide a 5 day notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

# ACPS Has Some of Highest Paid Administrators in Region

FROM PAGE 1

they were when I got here.”

After years of failing test scores, T.C. Williams was dubbed a “persistently lowest achieving school” back in 2010. Since that time, Sherman hired a Maryland administrator to lead the school and gave her a paycheck of \$161,000 a year — the highest paid principal in the city. The school is no longer in a lowest achieving school, although the reorganization left a legacy with several new administrative positions. School leaders say the idea behind the reorganization was to create “small learning communities,” each of which has its own leadership hierarchy.

**“Alexandria has a long history of having bloated administration. But administrators at private schools make twice as much if not more.”**

— Hazel Rigby, longtime teacher and former president of the Education Association of Alexandria

“When you have one assistant principal responsible for tenth grade, it’s efficient but it may not be as effective,” said Steven Staples, executive director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents. “By breaking it into smaller houses, they are probably more effective in interacting with the kids, but it’s not going to look as efficient.”

**DURING HIS TIME** at the head of Alexandria City Public Schools, Sherman reorganized two middle school facilities into six separate schools — each of which has its own principal and associate principal. That’s increased the overhead at the schools, the latest twist on an old complaint that has plagued city

## High School

**T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL: \$1.6 million**

**2,300 students (grades 10-12)**  
 ♦ Principal **Suzanne Maxey**: \$161,000  
 ♦ Director of Student Activities **Stephen Colantuoni**: \$144,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Kathy Taylor**: \$126,000  
 ♦ Director **Gregory Forbes**: \$119,000  
 ♦ Assistant Director **Maria Muhtadi-Roach**: \$113,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **William McGreevy**: \$111,000  
 ♦ Lead Academic Principal **Pierrette Hall**: \$110,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **David Serensits**: \$107,000  
 ♦ Dean of Students **Gregory Baldwin**: \$104,000  
 ♦ Dean of Students **Fulton Vinson**: \$104,000  
 ♦ Academic Principal **Jessica Hillery**: \$103,000  
 ♦ Academic Principal **Shawn Thorpe**: \$103,000  
 ♦ Dean of Students **Michael Diggins**: \$101,000  
 ♦ Dean of Students **Kelly Davis**: \$91,000

**MINNIE HOWARD NINTH GRADE CENTER: \$400,000**

**680 students (grade 9)**  
 ♦ Principal **Sara Schafer**: \$132,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Michael Cohen**: \$91,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Kennetra Wood**: \$99,000  
 ♦ Dean of Students **Carmen Sanders**: \$77,000

**SATELLITE CAMPUS: \$135,000**

♦ Principal **James Wilson**: \$135,000

## Middle School

**GEORGE WASHINGTON 2: \$252,000**

**450 students (grades 6-8)**  
 ♦ Principal **Linda Whitfield**: \$153,000  
 ♦ Associate Principal **Vondrenna Douglas-Martino**: \$99,000

**FRANCES HAMMOND 1: \$246,000**

**441 students (grades 6-8)**  
 ♦ Principal **Benjamin Costa**: \$122,000  
 ♦ Associate Principal **Patricia Williamson**: \$124,000

schools for decades.

“Alexandria has a long history of having bloated administration,” said Hazel Rigby, longtime teacher and former president of the Education Association of Alexandria. “But administrators at private schools make twice as much if not more.”

When asked about administrator salaries,

**FRANCES HAMMOND 3: \$239,000**

**448 students (grades 6-8)**  
 ♦ Principal **Andrea Sparks-Brown**: \$127,000  
 ♦ Associate Principal **Vincent Jarosz**: \$111,000

**GEORGE WASHINGTON 1: \$231,000**

**451 students (grades 6-8)**  
 ♦ Principal **Gerald Mann**: \$231,000  
 ♦ Associate Principal **Erin Whatley**: \$99,000

**FRANCES HAMMOND 2: \$214,000**

**451 students (grades 6-8)**  
 ♦ Principal **Jason Sutton**: \$122,000  
 ♦ Associate Principal **Mark Hayden**: \$91,000

## Elementary Schools

**JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$457,000**

**871 students (grades preK-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Grace Taylor**: \$140,000  
 ♦ Principal on Assignment **Dawn Felton**: \$127,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Paul George**: \$106,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Andreia Searcy**: \$84,000

**MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL: \$333,000**

**563 students (grades K-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Peter Balas**: \$135,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Elizabeth Namba**: \$101,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Laura Mondragon**: \$98,000

**JEFFERSON-HOUSTON SCHOOL: \$326,000**

**389 students (grades preK-8)**  
 ♦ Principal **Rosalyn Rice-Harris**: \$126,000  
 ♦ Principal on Assignment **Mark Eisenhour**: \$122,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Helena Payne Chauvenet**: \$78,000

**WILLIAM RAMSAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$310,000**

**778 students (grades preK-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Rosario Casiano**: \$135,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Nefertiti Hunter-Holbeck**: \$103,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Thomas Kenney**: \$72,000

school leaders were unwilling to hand over the information without a formal request through the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Sherman now says that policy is “under review,” especially after school leaders responded to a formal public-records request with what they now admit was incomplete information.

**DOUGLAS MACARTHUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$248,000**

**646 students (grades K-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Deborah Thompson**: \$140,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Melva Holloman**: \$108,000

**TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$236,000**

**674 students (grades K-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Christopher Paschal**: \$135,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Janeene Mainor**: \$102,000

**JAMES K. POLK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$235,000**

**675 students (grades K-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Pree Ann Johnson**: \$135,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Carla Carter**: \$101,000

**PATRICK HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$215,000**

**601 students (grades preK-5)**  
 Principal **Ingrid Bynum**: \$117,000  
 Assistant Principal **Michael Routhouska**: \$99,000

**CORA KELLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$213,000**

**404 students (grades preK-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Brandon Davis**: \$121,000  
 ♦ Assistant Principal **Gail Brady**: \$91,000

**MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$140,000**

**404 students (grades K-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Lucretia Jackson**: \$140,000

**LYLES-CROUCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$140,000**

**422 students (grades K-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Patricia Zissios**: \$140,000

**GEORGE MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$126,000**

**466 students (grades K-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Kevin West**: \$126,000

**CHARLES BARRETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: \$120,000**

**416 students (grades preK-5)**  
 ♦ Principal **Seth Kennard**: \$120,000

“To mandate to folks that they submit a FOIA is the wrong approach, especially if it’s information that we know should be readily available to the public,” said School Board member Bill Campbell. “It’s a tactic that says, ‘Well maybe these folks will go away.’”

## Zelloe Receives Highest Honor in Girl Scouting

Natascha Zelloe, Girl Scout Ambassador in Linda Kelly’s troop 2615 and senior at St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes High School, has achieved the highest honor in Girl Scouting — the Gold Award. Only 3,000 Girl Scouts nationwide obtain the Gold Award each year.

Natascha was recognized for her long-term dedication, commitment, and the contributions she has made for the past 13 years to the Girl Scouts and for her project, a herb garden.

Inspired by the First Lady’s focus on growing her own vegetable garden in the White House and Jane Goodall’s mission

of improving the community by creating a more sustainable world, Natascha decided to plant an herb garden in the courtyard of St. Stephen’s upper school with the goal of utilizing the fresh herbs from the garden by the cafeteria chefs for the daily lunches. After discussions with the cafeteria staff as to the desired herbs, she planted basil, thyme, parsley, garlic, and chives.

Natascha tended the herb garden for several months and completed her project in the fall of 2012.

Volunteers will continue her garden in the future.



Natascha Zelloe



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Seaport Grads

**Marcus Washington (left) and Melvin Techell graduated from the Alexandria Seaport Foundation on Feb. 20. ASF uses the craft of boatbuilding to teach academic, career and life skills. Both are seeking employment and will remain at ASF until placed in a job.**

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## PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Nutcracker Performances Draw Donations

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center of Alexandria raised \$5,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, after pledging \$1 of every ticket sold from their Nutcracker performances. Above: Back row, from left, are Jessica Eckhardt, 17 Alexandria; Katie Kotila, 13, Alexandria; Katie Frieden, 13, Alexandria; Chloe Borden, 15 Lorton; Bridget Keenan, 13, Alexandria; Lauren Michaels, 12, Alexandria, and Emily Gross, 12, Burke. Bottom row, from left, are Kelsey Kaufman, 12, Alexandria; Beth Mann, 12, Springfield; Tiffany Chatfield, 12, Alexandria, and Ann Marie Mingle-Taylor, 15, Lorton. Visit [www.metrofinearts.com](http://www.metrofinearts.com) for class schedules.

### OBITUARIES

#### Doris Clark

Doris M. Clark, 85, of Woodbridge, died at Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center on March 2, 2013. She is preceded in death by her husband, Julian T. Clark, Sr. She is survived by her daughters, Shirley Hicks, Delores "Cookie" Walton, Melissa Baeza, and Evelyn Cox; her sons, Julian T., Jr., Stephen H., Walter E., and Kevin M. Clark; and one brother, Addison Gallahan. She is also survived by 23 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

The family received friends on Monday, March 4, and Tuesday, March 4 at Mountcastle Turch Funeral Home, 4143 Dale Blvd. Dale City. A Life Celebration Service was held on Tuesday, March 5, at the funeral home, followed by interment at Mt. Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria.

#### Bernard M. Fagelson

Bernard M. Fagelson, 100, died on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013 of Alexandria. Beloved husband of Helen C. Fagelson, loving father of John Fagelson, 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 University Law School during the Depression. After law school he worked for a New Deal agency in Richmond and became a naval 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 50 years, specializing in zoning and land use law. He was a consummate gentleman 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 Emeritus. Funeral service was held Monday, Feb. 25 at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Dr. Alexandria. Interment in Agudas Achim Cemetery.

#### Hazel Elizabeth Greenwald

Hazel Elizabeth Greenwald, born Aug., 5, 1912 at 417 S. Lee Street, Alexandria, died on Feb. 15, 2013, at Budd Terrace Nursing Home, Atlanta, Ga.

She is survived by her niece, Harriet Ann Cronin of Acton, Mass.

Graveside service was held Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Pohick Cemetery, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

#### Ruth E. Greifer

Ruth E. Greifer died Feb. 22, 2013 at her home in Rockville, Md. Ruth, daughter of Isidore and Sophia Dahl was born in Geilenkirchen, Germany on May 30, 1922. A Holocaust survivor, she moved to the United States after World War II. She met and married her soul mate Bernard Greifer and settled in Alexandria. 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 Community College.

Ruth was the beloved wife of 61 years of the late Bernard Greifer (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 on Monday, Feb. 25. Shiva was observed at the home of Amy and Ed Godin. Contributions may be made to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in her memory.

## Meet the Legends Reception

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

**Thursday, March 21, 2013, 6 p.m.  
Patent & Trademark Office,  
Madison Building**

Honoring the 2013 Living Legends of Alexandria: Willie F. Bailey Sr., Kathryn A. Brown and Marlin G. Lord, Rosa E. Byrd, Elizabeth C. Chimento and Poul Martin Hertel, Joe Guiffre, Thomas Young "Jay" Johnson Jr., David M. Martin, Richard E. Merritt, Joann E. Miller, Lonnie C. Rich, William "Bill" Rivers and Lewis A. Stearman.

Legendary Tastings generously donated by Alexandria Cupcake, Alexandria Pastry Shop, Bertucci's, Bittersweet Catering, Red Rocks Pizza, Dishes of India, Hard Times Chili, Joe Theismann's Restaurant, Pork Barrel BBQ and UnWined.

Complimentary parking in the East and West PTO garages. Complimentary Valet Parking available at the Eisenhower Avenue entrance.

Reservations: by March 14, \$40/\$75 for two; after March 14, \$50/90 for two. Register online at <http://meet-the-legends.eventbrite.com/>, or mail check by March 14 to LLA, P.O. Box 10485, Alexandria, VA 22310. Info: 703-625-2330.

Special thanks to

**Alexandria  
Gazette Packet**

## SPORTS

# TC Boys' Soccer Beats Chantilly

**Titans senior Terell Williamson scores game's lone goal.**

By JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET



By CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

**T.C. Williams senior forward Terell Williamson scored the lone goal in a 1-0 victory against Chantilly on Tuesday night.**

Terell Williamson lifted his jersey over his face and bent over in disappointment. The T.C. Williams forward had missed wide left with a shot during the 56th minute of a scoreless tie against Chantilly in both teams' season opener on Tuesday night.

"I felt like I let my team down on the first one," Williamson said.

It wouldn't take long for Williamson to get a shot at redemption.

The senior in the 61st minute scored what proved to be the only goal of the contest as the T.C. Williams boys' soccer team came away with a 1-0 victory at Chantilly High School.

"It felt great," Williamson said. "... I just had to keep my head up and [keep] going and just got the second one."

TC's scoring opportunities increased in the second half. After Chantilly failed to capitalize on some early chances, the Titans found the net with the game-winner.

"We just talked about trying to take better advantage in the attacking third," TC head coach Martin Nickley said. "We thought that we could have a little bit more intensity up in the attacking third than we had in the first half. ... As a senior, [Williamson is] going to be one of our leaders and one of the players that we all look for not just for scoring, but really for his work ethic and the amount of effort he puts in."

TC enters the season with a mix of returning athletes from last year's Patriot District championship team and newcomers from a JV squad that finished the 2012 campaign with an 11-1-1 record. Nickley said goalkeeper Edgar Martinez played well against Chantilly. The sophomore made a key save with less than six minutes remaining in the second half to preserve the shutout.

Senior defenders Neil DeWakar and Marcus Ninman, and sophomore midfielder Eryk Williamson also received praise from Nickley for their efforts against the Chargers.

TC defeated eventual region runner-up Lake Braddock in last year's Patriot District championship game. The Titans beat Stuart in a penalty-kick shootout during the opening round of the Northern

Region tournament before losing to Langley in the quarterfinals.

Nickley said he expects TC to have a target on its back.

"The Patriot District is very competitive and we remember from year to year who won the last one," Nickley said. "We always know who won it the year before and pay special attention, so I think that definitely teams are going to be ready."

Chantilly had chances to score early in Tuesday's contest, including a shot that bounced off the crossbar, but the Chargers came up empty.

"I think we had the better of it toward the beginning and we didn't get one," Chantilly head coach Brian Goche said. "... And then the momentum swung." While Chantilly failed to score, goalkeeper Mitchell Lagos helped keep the Chargers in the game. The senior is in his third season as Chantilly netminder. "He's been very strong for us in previous seasons," Goche said. "Records the past two seasons in the regular season have not been strong, so he doesn't always get the accolades that he should get. I think he had 12, 13 saves tonight. ... He's a big boy. We're going to need him throughout the season to continue playing like that."

Goche said he also expects senior attacking midfielder Chris Treme, junior defender Lucas Brennan and sophomore forward Ryan Kraus, who led the JV in goals last season as a freshman, to be key contributors this year.

Chantilly went 3-9-1 during last year's regular season, including an eight-game losing streak, before beating Centreville and Robinson in the Concorde District tournament. The Chargers finished district runner-up, losing to Herndon in the championship game, before falling to Langley in the opening round of regionals.

District title and finished Northern Region runner-up, finished last season with a 26-3 record. Lake Braddock is led by senior outfielder Alex Gransback.

Madison is ranked No. 2. The Warhawks went 15-6 last season but failed to qualify for the region tournament, losing to Langley in the first round of the Liberty District tournament. Defending Liberty District champion Stone Bridge is ranked No. 3, followed by defending Northern Region champion West Springfield (4), defending Concorde District champion Robinson (5), Oakton (6), Chantilly (7), South County (8), Westfield (9) and defending National District champion Yorktown (10).

The Concorde District has the most teams ranked in the top 10 with four. The Patriot District has three, followed by two for the Liberty District and one for the National District.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### TC Girls' Soccer Wins Scrimmages

The T.C. Williams girls' soccer team won scrimmages against Wakefield (4-0) and Hayfield (3-0) and will open the 2013 season with a home game against South Lakes at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14.

### Northern Region Baseball Coaches Poll

Defending state champion Lake Braddock is ranked No. 1 in the season's first Northern Region baseball coaches poll. The Bruins, who also won the Patriot

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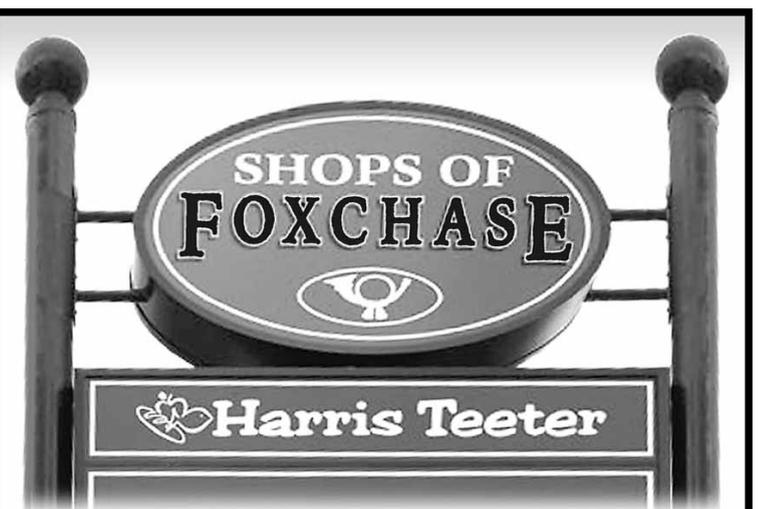
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## SCHOOLS

# TC Satellite Campus Offers Online Programs

BY MCKENYA  
DILWORTH-ABDALLA  
LEAD TEACHER  
FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT  
T.C. WILLIAMS SATELLITE CAMPUS

The month of February began with a number of tech-savvy online learning opportunities on the TC Satellite Campus through the Learning History through Skype series. Guest presenters included A'Leia Bundles, great-great granddaughter of Madame CJ Walker; Tyehimba Jess, English professor at CUNY, and Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher, one of the first African-American mayors of a major American city. They all shared the importance of the accomplishments of African-Americans. The event stressed that Black History is American History.

Also in February, the first online conference for students was held on the Satellite Campus and the keynote speaker was Antwone Fisher, author of "Finding Fish," a memoir of his life that was turned into a movie directed by Denzel Washington. Other presenters



**Tyree Dreher and Kris Whitehead participate in National Read Across America Day as volunteer readers at Patrick Henry Elementary School.**

were Ifa Bayeza, playwright, lecturer at Brown University and author of "Some Sing, Some Cry," a novel she penned alongside her sister, Ntozake Shange, author of "for colored girls who considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf" and playwright Jeff Stetson. The theme of the online conference was the Right to Write, owning one's story and that all people have a story to tell. Students engaged authors through Blackboard Col-

laborate, an interactive program that allows for interaction in real time and the session is recorded for posterity.

Students who participated will contribute some of their reflective writings to a publication dedicated to giving voice to the everyday story and they are Chloe Brogdon, Mikaela Brogdon, Henry Rodgers, Bre Nee Ruffin, Stephanie Tullis, Milton Medrano, Noe Rivera, Dania Estrada, Kevin Lancto,



**Noe Rivera reads to students at Patrick Henry Elementary School.**

Mohamed Osman, Ahmed Al Jaberi, Janine Castillo, Fahrah Jackson, Kris Whitehead, Norman Frye, Andrew Bangura, Cierra Boyd, Khadijah Martin, Anthony Pullen, Duvier Reyes, Matthew Walton and Starr Johnson. A special note of gratitude to the IT Department at ACPS, Dr. Hoover, Marya Runkle and especially Dan Foreman, the online conference moderator/troubleshooter/motivator that day.

March 1 was National Read

Across America Day and students from TC Satellite once again stepped up and were volunteer readers at Patrick Henry Elementary School. We were delighted when first asked by Mr. Eanes, reading specialist at Patrick Henry to participate in the event. Students who participated were Fahrah Jackson, Kris Whitehead, Tyree Dreher and Noe Rivera. Dr. Wilson, principal of TC Satellite and Mr. Brewington were also guest readers at the school.

## Healthy School Award

The Marine Corps Marathon presented its Healthy School Award to the students at James K. Polk Elementary on Feb. 21. Healthy School Awards are presented to the top five participating schools at the MCM-organized Healthy Kids Fun Run. Students from James K. Polk Elementary comprised 325 of the 3,600-participant race field in the Kids Run held on Oct. 27, 2012. As part of the Healthy School Award, MCM partner Sodexo presented the school with a check for \$1,000 and provided healthy snacks for all students.



## With High Honors

Timothy Trout, a former 2011 class graduate of T.C. Williams High School, graduates with a diploma, high honors, as an automotive technology student from Universal Technical Institute in Exton, Pa. on Feb. 8. Tim has completed several certifications. He is pursuing a career in the automotive field, and plans to complete his certifications to become a master mechanic.



## The All-City Sinfonia

Emory Hayes, a 5th grade student from Charles Barrett Elementary, plays her violin in the ACPS All-City Sinfonia.



John Dresen stands in conclusion of his performance as a part of the Alexandria City Public Schools' All-City Sinfonia. The ACPS Orchestra Pyramid Concert was held in the T.C. Williams High School auditorium, featuring six orchestras comprised of Alexandria City public school students.



**Veronica Jackson conducts the Hammond 6th Grade Overture Orchestra.**

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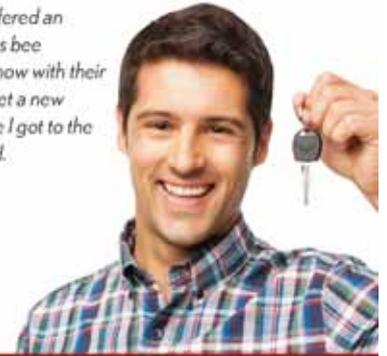
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**Old Town Alexandria** \$1,750,000



**Full of Surprises**

A central atrium brings remarkable light to this alluring four bedroom, three and a half bath home with generous entertaining and living space. A flounder addition of a lush master bath and sitting room overlooking the special garden completes a master suite. Even a family room and den cater to more relaxed times. Off-street parking.

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**Alexandria** \$839,000



**Captivating Cape Cod**

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**Jefferson Park - 5 Bedrooms**

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**Alexandria** \$599,000



**Three-Story Delight**

The home features include three bedrooms, two and a half beautifully updated baths, an upgraded eat-in-kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. This home has been thoughtfully appointed with hardwoods throughout, Juliet balconies on the main level, designer finishes, custom built-ins, and a wood-burning fireplace.

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



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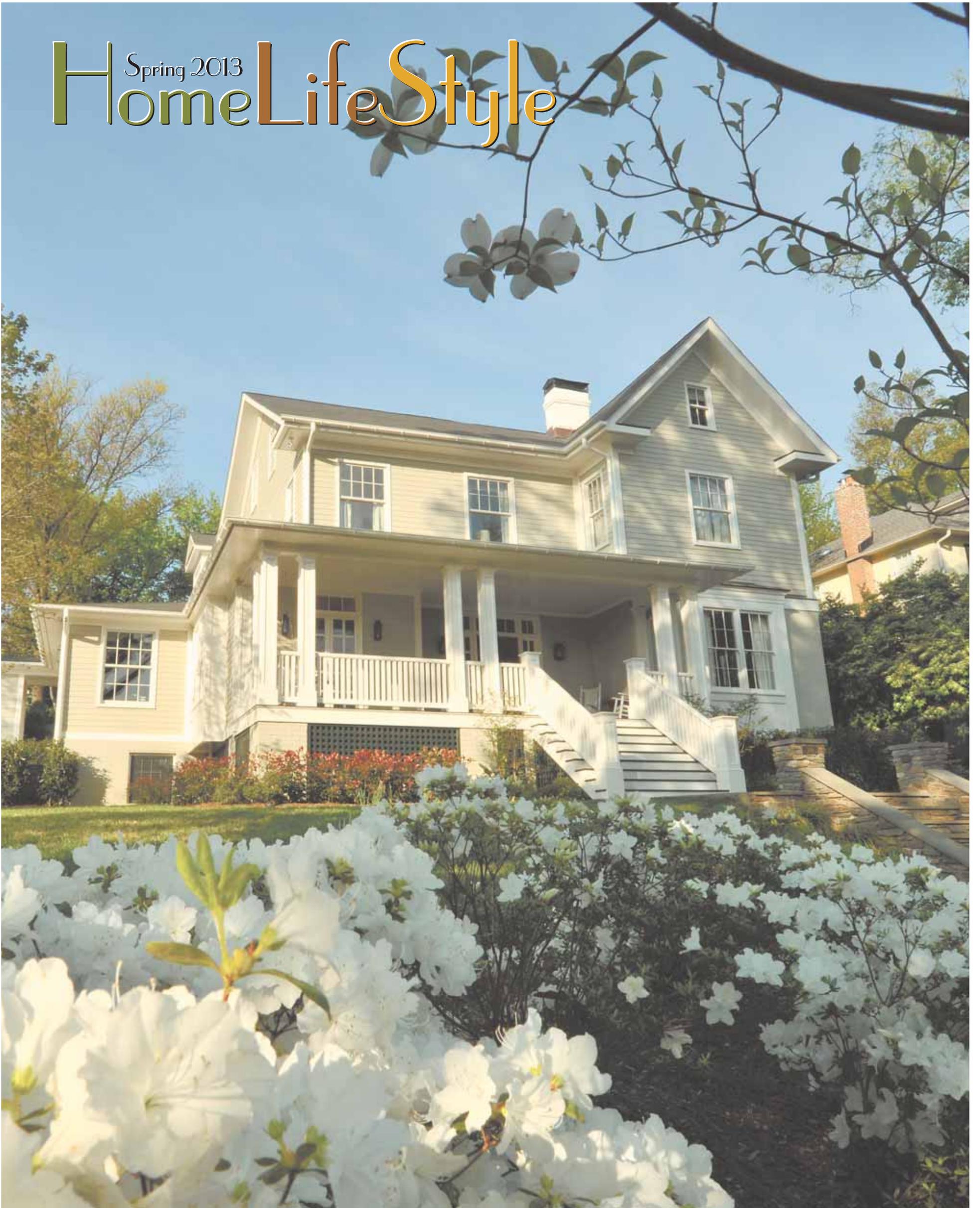


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PHOTO COURTESY OF NARI



**Harry Brawell of Harry Braswell, Inc. in Alexandria, was named Contractor of the Year in the “Entire House \$500,001 to \$1,000,000” category for renovating a home that had not been updated since the 1950s.**

## The Region’s Best Home Designs

### Alexandria designer garners top remodeling award.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

From designing a kitchen with a concave glass tile backsplash to creating a backyard with a fire place and pool, some local home remodelers were honored recently with the National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s (NARI) 2013 Regional Contractor of the Year awards for design acumen. Winning projects ran the gamut from historic preservation projects to environmentally conscious conceptions.

**HARRY BRASWELL** of Harry Braswell, Inc. in Alexandria, was named Contractor of the Year in the “Entire House \$500,001 to \$1,000,000” category for the renovation of a home that had not been updated since the 1950s. “The house was outdated, too small for the family’s needs,” he said.

The renovation included a kitchen outfitted with cabinet-front appliances and porcelain sinks including an apron farm sink and an island sink in a pale aqua. “That color is carried throughout the house,” said

project manager Gretchen Brown.

A concave glass tile backsplash surrounds the durable, brown-toned quartzite counter. “Quartzite doesn’t stain easily,” said Brown. “It is strong like granite, but is more expensive.”

The Braswell team also got a nod for energy efficiency for this project, which was named “NARI Green Project.” Brown noted that the team installed energy efficiency lighting and energy star appliances.

“The homeowners had specific criteria about wanting to meet [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certification because they are dedicated to protecting the environment,” said Braswell.

**A MCLEAN KITCHEN** by BOWA took top honors in the “Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000” category. The homeowners were looking to create a free-flowing, light-filled space.

“Their kitchen was not as open as they would have liked,” said Josh Baker, founder and co-chairman of BOWA. “They wanted to make it more integrated and useful for the family.”

To accommodate a larger kitchen, the design team built an addition and added a sitting room, screened porch and additional windows to allow an abundance of natural light to stream into the space. The new kitchen also included a butler’s pantry and a family dining area.

Baker, who founded BOWA with his college friend Larry Weinberg, says an open dialogue is essential to a successful remodeling project. “This is a customer service business. It is not just a construction business. The entire process is important, not just the end result,” Baker said.

**FAIRFAX-BASED FIRM** RJK Construction, Inc. received top honors in the category of “Residential Addition \$100,000 to \$250,000” for a home in the Mantua area of Fairfax County. Company president Robert Kalmin says the homeowners’ goal was to blend their interior and exterior spaces. “They wanted to make their exterior landscaping a visual point because they entertain a lot,” he said. “The windows act as murals to the exterior landscaping bring the outdoors in and the indoors out.”

The owners requested an open floor plan that allowed guests to move freely between the kitchen and the backyard. “They were very specific about how they wanted people to meander from the outside to the inside,” Kalmin said. “We had to relocate the powder room so that people are able to use the restroom without having to go anywhere else.”

An abundance of windows allows natural light to flow throughout the home. “The kitchen has red oak flooring and other col-

SEE DESIGNS, PAGE 12

## 80th Historic Garden Week, April 20-27

Historic Garden Week 2013 will feature approximately 200 private homes and gardens open on 32 separate tours throughout the state of Virginia over eight consecutive days. It is the largest ongoing volunteer effort in Virginia and represents the coordinated efforts of 3,400 club members. One hundred percent of tour proceeds are used to enhance Virginia’s landscape. For 80 years, the grounds of the Commonwealth’s most cherished historic landmarks have been restored or preserved with help from proceeds from Historic Garden Week including Mount Vernon, Monticello and the grounds of the Executive Mansion in Richmond. In addition to the amazing interiors and gardens on display, Garden Club of Virginia volunteers will create more than 2,000 spectacular floral arrangements to decorate the rooms. Visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org).

### SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2013

Old Town Alexandria  
Sponsored by the Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All eight private properties on the historic Old Town Alexandria tour are within an easy walk of each other, allowing visitors to enjoy strolling the quaint streets lined with charming townhouses and intimate walled gardens. The full tour ticket includes free admission to George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate (entrance is normally \$15 per person), as well as six other notable historic sites in Alexandria on the day of the tour. Refreshments are offered from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the historic Lloyd House

SEE VIRGINIA GARDEN, PAGE 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

**This home in the Vienna/Oakton area is featured on Virginia’s 80th annual Historic Garden Week tour in Fairfax County.**

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The open staircase in the foyer of designer Sydnye Pettengill's Alexandria home offers a view from the foyer to the third floor. The designer found a carpenter who replicated the home's original stair railing.

Exterior on the Cover.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ©BRAD PETTENGILL PHOTOGRAPHY

## Historic Home for Sale in Alexandria

Designer/owner brought the home up to date while preserving its architectural integrity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Decades before Alexandria-based interior designer Sydnye Pettengill and her family moved into a stately Victorian home near Old Town, it was well established as a spacious retreat. "The former owners were a family of seven who had lived there for 45 years," she said.

When Pettengill purchased the property, which was built in 1917, little had changed. The home, which connects to King Street, was in disrepair. However, Pettengill, who started her own business in 1987 after studying in London and a stint with prominent interior design firm Milo Hoots Associates, Inc., saw a diamond in the rough. "I thought it had incredible potential," she said. "I found the high ceilings particularly appealing."

Pettengill's husband Bill Wiley, a systems engineer and director of the Science Engineering Research Center at the Potomac School in McLean, said, "We bought it knowing that it was going to be a full renovation. We didn't know what the final blueprint was going to be, but it was so large that we knew we could do whatever we wanted to."

The 7,590-square-foot, six-bedroom, eight-and-a-half bathroom home also included a two-story carriage house, and although she needed to expand and update the home, Pettengill worked to preserve the historic home's architectural integrity. "We remodeled and

gutted, but we wanted to keep the character of what it was," she said. "We were careful about integrating the spaces that we added."

**ONE OF THE KEYS** to maintaining the original design was salvaging and reusing materials as much as possible. "We kept the original front doors, original French doors going into dining room, as well as the original windows on the first floor in front of the house," said Pettengill.

"The hardwood floors in the master bedroom are original," she continued. "There is a sitting room off the master bedroom. It is quite a suite. The pine floors on the second and third levels were also saved from the original home and reused."

A striking Belvedere window in the kitchen creates an ideal marriage of style and function by filling the room with natural light. "The kitchen is the heart of the house," said Pettengill. "There is a side terrace and you can go in and out of the kitchen through two door ways."

The kitchen, which opens into the home's great room, has pale yellow painted cabinets and contrast-

SEE HISTORIC HOME, PAGE 5



One of the keys to preserving the historic home's architectural integrity was salvaging and reusing original materials, such as the French doors in the dining room.

# Historic Home for Sale in Alexandria

FROM PAGE 4

ing dark, honed Uba Tuba granite counters. “One of the eureka moments for us was the kitchen,” she said. “We struggled with it for a couple of years and then decided to push it out and make it more open.” The flow continues into the dining room, which has a bay window that is original to the home.

“It is spectacular for entertaining,” she said. “There is a terrace off the back of the house that is concealed and very private. There is also a side terrace off the kitchen.” The original service kitchen became the library after Pettengill added built-in bookcases.

Pettengill says that the foyer is the pivotal point of the house. “There is an open stairwell and you can see from the foyer straight up to the third floor.” She even found a carpenter to replicate the original stair railing.

A round table stands in the middle of the foyer, complimenting the shape of the space and the period of the home. “It is a hand painted table that’s



PHOTO COURTESY OF ©BRAD PETTENGILL PHOTOGRAPHY

**This 7,590 square-foot, six-bedroom, eight-and-a-half bathroom home near Old Town Alexandria, is on the market for \$2,995,000.**

reminiscent of the Victorian era when the house was built,” said Pettengill.

**FORMER CLIENTS SAID** that one of Pettengill’s strengths is her ability to navigate the often-daunting task of creating fresh designs that compliment historic homes. Alexandria resident Grace-Marie

SEE HISTORIC HOME, PAGE 5

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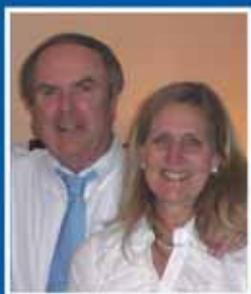
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# Demand for Incremental Improvements

Over time, some owners makeover the entire house — one phase at a time.

BY JOHN BYRD

If you compare the current home remodeling market to 2007, it's clear that homeowners are less likely to execute a top-to-bottom makeover in a single stroke than they were five years ago.

Home resales are rising again, but the belief that every dollar spent on a Northern Virginia home will be quickly recovered has been suspended — if only temporarily — as homeowners reassess.

For most local homeowners, a house is an asset of enormous personal appeal: an expression of identity and aspiration, periodically adapted to life's changes.

While the scale of the average project may be smaller, it's evident that many homeowners middle age or older have come to see the home as a long-term — even life-long — work in progress, one that they take up passionately, and at regular intervals.



PHOTO BY DIMITRI CANAS

**The Nusbaums' initial goal was an open "kitchen-centric" plan that would make it easier for Sandy Nusbaum to entertain. A three-stool dining counter proved an effective starting point; the new surface is also well-positioned as a serving station for porch dining.**

Veteran remodeler David Foster calls these homeowners "incremental" improvers, and has come to see them as the primary focus of a home improvement enterprise he started 30 years ago.

As president of Foster Remodeling Solutions in Lorton, Foster regularly coaches his team on the importance of understanding what these homeowners need, what they are expecting and how to articulate their

best options with clarity.

"Our core belief is that there are many homeowners who will make a notable home improvement every two to five years, so we place a high priority on earning that person's trust. In this sense, there is nothing more important than outperforming expectation," Foster said.

**WHILE THERE MAY BE** many reasons why a homeowner will remodel in stages, Foster said that the typical incremental improver has a pay-as-you-go orientation.

South Alexandria resident Sandy Nusbaum, for instance, attributes her periodic home upgrade inclinations to a gradual but decisive recognition that the four bedroom colonial she has occupied for 28 years with husband Mike is the last single family residence the couple will ever own.

"We raised three children here, and when the last of them moved away, we looked at other houses in the area and even a retirement village in North Carolina," Nusbaum said. "That's when I renewed my appreciation for the many advantages of this house. I recognized that everything we wanted was already here; we just needed a few focused improvements that take us into the foreseeable future."

SEE DEMAND, PAGE 10

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## Virginia Garden Week to Feature Alexandria Gardens

FROM PAGE 3

and garden. Adding further convenience for tour visitors is the free King Street Trolley that travels from the Metro station down our main commercial street to the Potomac River every 15 minutes.

Tickets are \$40 and available at the Ramsey House Visitors Center at the corner of King Street and North Fairfax Street on the day of the tour. For advance tickets contact Mrs. Donald Rocen Virginia.rocen@comcast.net 703-684-3876. For more information, please contact Tour Chairmen Mason Bavin at mbavin@mcenearney.com, Twig Murray attwig@twigweb.com or Catherine Bolton at 4boltons@comcast.net

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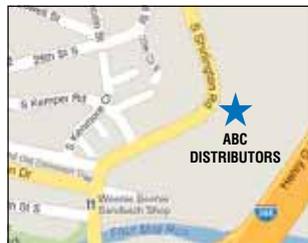
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#### Beautiful Belle Haven



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#### Water Views in Belle Haven



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6111 Vernon Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

#### Gorgeous in Belle Haven



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



2202 Woodmont Road Alexandria, VA 22307

#### Classic Wellington Home



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PHOTO BY DIMITRI CANAS

**The custom wetbar effectively separates the chef's activity zone from the hearth-side sitting area. It's also convenient to the porch, the kitchen and the family room.**

## Remodeling One Piece at a Time

FROM PAGE 6

Initially that meant introducing an open, "kitchen-centric" plan in the back half of the house, and creating an outdoor component in the form of a 16-by-16-foot back screen porch that allows for easy warm-weather circulation.

Replacing a wall between kitchen and dining room with a three-stool dining counter proved an effective starting point to a more interactive entertainment space. The new surface is also well-positioned as a serving station for al fresco porch dining.

Although the needed structural changes were relatively minor, a new shelled-in niche for the refrigerator allows for additional storage. Maple cabinets with a Barton door style and honey-spice stain evoke a clean linear look within a softly lit ambiance. Likewise, the Silestone quartz surfaces in ebony pearl provide a tonal and textural contrast.

Once the kitchen had been transformed, it wasn't long before the Nusbaums began planning the follow-on phase: an extension of the rear family room, an open-air grilling deck and a layout that permits children, grandchildren and many guests to circulate freely through a now wide-ranging entertainment space.

Then, just last year, the largely unused lower level was converted into a multi-purpose suite that serves as both an exercise room and guest accommodation.

"The built-ins with closets flank either side of a new Murphy bed — one exclusively for guest use," Nusbaum said. "We also made the laundry room more functional and added a full bath with handicapped access."

Meanwhile, Nusbaum mainly

uses the remade lower level daily for her daily treadmill workouts: "It's a real luxury having so many useful things exactly where you want them."

**JUST BLOCKS AWAY**, Steve and Diane Piper purchased a circa 1980s Colonial a few years ago, pleased with the home's lovely wooded setting, but keenly aware that original builder-grade kitchen had never been improved in 30 years.

"The rear of the house was designed as a great room with a kitchen and designated breakfast nook that segues to a family room with a brick hearth. There's also a sizable back porch along the rear of the house, which you had to access from the family room," Diane Piper said.

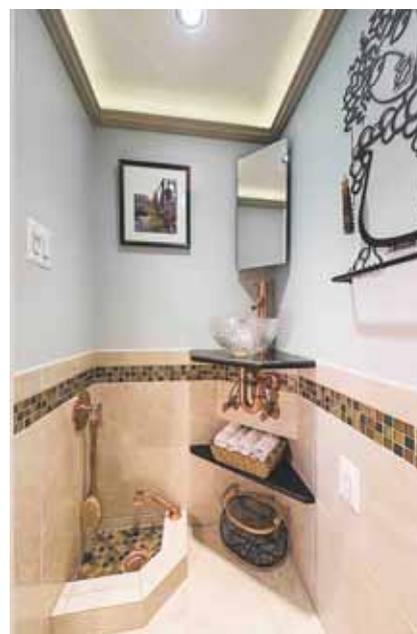
"Our goal was not simply to improve the amenities, but to really develop a better rear-house circulation plan — one that confers privacy where needed, and also makes it easier to take advantage of the porch."

Piper said several comparatively simple changes implemented by Foster made all the difference. A food preparation island, supplanting the existing U-shaped counter, makes it easier for Piper to both cook and entertain. Better yet, the wet bar room divider between the kitchen and family room gives the area around the hearth a sense of intimacy while retaining sightlines.

Relocating the door to the kitchen-side of the wet bar has also coaxed the back porch into the home's mainstream.

"The wet bar is a significant step-saver," Piper said. "The whole back of the house is much better rationalized."

And success breeds success. The Pipers were, in fact, so pleased with the kitchen, they



**The Pipers' new powder room includes a Mediterranean-style foot bath ringed in glass and mosaic tiling.**

SEE DEMAND, PAGE 11

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## Demand for Incremental Improvements

FROM PAGE 10

pressed on with a master bathroom upgrade less than a year later and last month remodeled the powder room in a plan that includes a Mediterranean-style foot bath ringed in glass and mosaic tiling.

The artfully-executed first floor facility — planned with an assist from Foster Remodling Solutions designer Sarah Wolf — includes a vessel basin with exposed copper piping, marble floors and a coffered ceiling with concealed lights.

The Pipers — who often travel internationally — say the foot bath is a pleasant convenience in the summer when they are often wearing sandals.

“I wouldn’t say it adds anything to the resale value,” Diane Piper said, “but then we do plan to be in this house for at least another ten years.”

**ON A SIMILAR NOTE**, Vienna resident Kelly Grems has executed four remodeling projects with Foster starting with a kitchen addition in 2003.

“We bought the house in 1995 when I was pregnant,” Grems said. “My husband [Ed] and I had been living in a much smaller house in Maryland, but envisioned a traditional home that would offer our growing family lots of useful activity areas.”

A kitchen with a sizable breakfast room was the first item on the wish list, an assignment complicated by the fact that the home’s rear elevation backs into a woodland set-aside and a precipitous drop.

“The ground level decking was already in place,” Grems said, “but David showed us a plan for an elevated breakfast room extension built on pilings that

wouldn’t require a ground level foundation. Turns out, this solution created a welcome canopy for the ground level patio. And it was also a more sensible, economical choice for us at the time.”

Grems said her first step was handing Foster a file of articles on kitchen interiors she had clipped from Southern Living; the Foster design staff then took over from there, helping the couple visualize design ideas with the aid of a computer program.

Apart from budget considerations, Grems said taking a pause between projects allowed the couple to pay more attention to how the family is actually using the house, and to develop ideas that work or everyone.

The recently completed family room upgrade didn’t become an immediate action plan, for instance, because the family design process were fomenting slowly — again starting with magazine articles and other sources.

“Frankly, we’re particular; we let the basic interior design come to us piece by piece, then we collaborate with professionals” she said. “It’s an entirely different mood from the sun room,” Grems said, “and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle.”

*Staff at Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offer workshops on home improvement topics at the Lorton showroom. Call 703-550-1371 or visit [www.FosterRemodeling.com](http://www.FosterRemodeling.com)*

*Foster also maintains an Alexandria facility in the @Home Real Estate Lounge and Design Center on North Alfred Street Call 703-791-1167 or visit [www.AtHomeDCMetro.com](http://www.AtHomeDCMetro.com).*

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# Recycle, Reuse, Remodel

By JOSHUA BAKER  
BOWA

[www.restorenova.org](http://www.restorenova.org).



**R**emodeling often affords an opportunity to re-purpose existing materials by donating to those less fortunate. Ask your remodeler if there is a plan or policy for saving materials for re-use rather than sending it to a land fill. Every project is different. And some materials are more easily removed and saved than others. Here are a couple of organizations that accepted used materials.

## GOODWILL

Founded in 1902, Goodwill accepts gently used clothing, furniture, housewares, working electronics, and other household items. These items are then sold at their retail locations, with the proceeds used to fund employment, job training, and placement services for the disadvantaged and those with disabilities. To view their full list of goods accepted, and for the list of donation centers and stores, visit [www.dcgoodwill.org](http://www.dcgoodwill.org). You may also schedule a pickup online for larger items or multiple items you don't have the resources to transport.

## A WIDER CIRCLE

This organization provides basic-need items to families transitioning out of shelters and those living without life's necessities. A Wider Circle furnishes the homes of more than 1,000 children and adults each month. If you wish to donate furniture and other home essentials that are in good condition (no rips or stains), you can drop off items at their Center for Community Service in Silver Spring, Md. You can also schedule a pickup in most areas throughout greater Washington, D.C. Refer to their website for a full list of accepted items and their "wish list" of the most needed items at [www.awidercircle.org](http://www.awidercircle.org).

## SALVATION ARMY

Although the Salvation Army is involved in many community programs, proceeds from items donated to their stores will benefit their Adult Rehabilitation Centers, which help those who have lost the ability to cope with their problems and are unable to provide for themselves. Each rehabilitation center offers residential housing and work, along with individual and group therapy. This enables many to be reunited with their families and resume a normal life. Items commonly donated include appliances, clothing, furniture, and household goods. For more information on their donation program, please visit [www.satruck.org](http://www.satruck.org).

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - RESTORE

ReStore is a resale business that sells new and used building materials and home items to the general public. All donations are tax deductible and donated by individuals, local retailers, building contractors and suppliers. Donated items are then sold at 50-90 percent off the retail price, with all proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity, an organization that provides safe and affordable housing to low-income families. ReStore accepts appliances, furniture, cabinets, roofing and flooring materials, exercise equipment, countertops, electronics, lighting and plumbing fixtures, among many others. All materials and items must be in good and working condition. Items may be dropped off at ReStore locations during their business hours or for larger donations you may schedule a pickup. For store hours and locations and for the complete list of acceptable items you can check out stores in Alexandria and Chantilly -

## BOWA HOME CLEANUP DAYS

As a thank you to the neighbors in the communities in which we work, from time to time BOWA hosts Home Cleanup Days. Home Cleanup Day is a great opportunity to donate and recycle gently used household items, toys and clothing, and dispose of any debris or other unwanted clutter. A BOWA employee will help folks unload their items and a Goodwill representative will be on hand to accept donations and provide receipts.

To find a BOWA Home Cleanup Day in your area, please visit our <http://info.bowa.com/communityblog/>.

*Josh Baker is founder of BOWA, learn more at [www.bowa.com](http://www.bowa.com).*

# The Region's Best Home Designs

FROM PAGE 3

ors and finishes that compliment the natural scenery outside," said Kalmin.

**CABIN JOHN, MD., BASED** firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. received kudos in the "Residential Exterior, \$100,000 and Over" category for a backyard space that includes a pool and fireplace. "The homeowner wanted four separate living spaces in the backyard," said company spokeswoman Danielle Frye. "He wanted a dining room, a living room with a heat source, a place to sunbathe near his pool and a place to play cricket on his lawn."

The Wilder team developed a backyard plan that replaced overgrown grass with flagstone and a badly worn fence with foliage to create a sense of privacy. "There is a sundeck and spaces for a sofa and dining

table, but the fireplace is the focal point," said Frye. "We used really tall bamboo to shield the view."

**A BETHESDA HOME ADDITION** garnered a top prize in the "Residential Addition Over \$250,000" category for A.R.T Design Build Inc. with team member Grossmueller's Design Consultants, Inc.

"The client wanted to expand their one story house to have a separate area for [bedrooms] and create a more functional first floor with more communal spaces, the kitchen, family room [and] dining room," said Cindy G. McClure of Grossmueller's Design Consultants, Inc.

The design team added a new second floor to the home, which accommodates a laundry room, a master suite, two additional bedrooms and a bathroom. A stair tower and cathedral foyer create an open floor plan and connect the first and second levels.

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**Alexandria**  
**\$364,900**  
**2411 Dearing St.**  
Fairlington Towne perfection! Excellent value, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, two-level condo in Fairlington Towne. Great floor plan. Gleaming hardwood floors, private patio backs to common fenced green space. Tons of natural light; freshly painted. Walk to Starbucks in 2 minutes. Great location. Easy bus to Pentagon.  
*Julie F. Hall*  
703-786-3634



**Del Ray**  
**\$699,900**  
**2408 Terrett Avenue.** Wonderful family home in Del Ray! Fabulous detached home on large lot boasts 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, spacious living & dining room, finished lower level & driveway for convenient off-street parking. Walk to shops, restaurants and weekend farmers market in Del Ray. More Info: [www.HomesofAlexandria.com](http://www.HomesofAlexandria.com)  
*Bobi Bomar* 703-927-2213



**Lorton**  
**\$350,000**  
**7343 Rhondda Drive.** Spectacular three-level townhome with 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Close to Fort Belvoir. Completely renovated and ready for move-in. New plumbing, roof, windows and completely renovated from top to bottom. Fully fenced back yard and woodburning stove in fully finished basement.  
*Daphne Melillo*  
703-975-6670



**Old Town**  
**406 Jefferson St.**  
Great renovation in Yates Gardens for <\$700k. 3-level TH with 2/3 BR & 2 BA w/private boulevard parking. Don't miss out!  
*Phil Cefaratti*  
703-371-7601



**\$8,000 IN CLOSING COSTS**  
**Arlington**  
**\$539,000**  
**3650 GLEBE RD S #542.** Wow! \$8,000 CLOSING COST CREDIT! Spacious (1,242 sq ft) unit w/balcony, NEW WOOD FLOORS! Split suites for privacy. Kit w/SS appl & granite. Lg MBR w/walk-in closet, luxury bath w/soaking tub & sep shower. Extra storage, gar parking, Blks to Crystal City, METRO & Potomac Yards. 1 Yr Warr.  
*Christine Garner* 703-587-4855



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM**  
**South Alexandria**  
**\$1,050,000**  
**2415 Lakeshire.** Almost 1 full wooded acre of privacy—plus an executive home. Hard-to-find 6 bedrooms/4.5 baths on 3 levels with complete in-law suite. Wood floors, neutral colors & large windows at every turn. Convenient cul-de-sac location so close to Old Town amenities.  
*Joni Koons* 703-209-7277 • *Greg Koons* 703-209-7678



**Alexandria**  
**\$929,000**  
**716 Day Lane.** Elegant 4BR/3.55BA town house just 2 lights to D.C.! 3,500+ Sq Ft. Open floor plan w/hardwood floors, triple crown molding, roof-top deck, 2-car garage & more! Enjoy pool, fitness center & tot lot. Walk to shops/restaurants.  
*Erika Carroll*  
703-568-7376



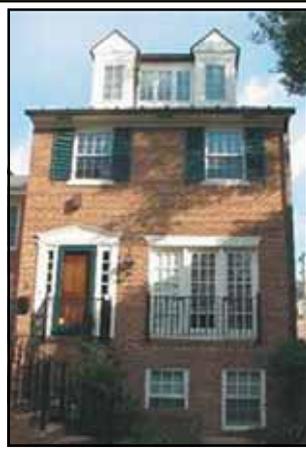
**OPEN HOUSE**  
**Alexandria**  
**\$470,000**  
**5904 Mount Eagle Dr. #1618.** Potomac River View in Montebello. Spacious 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms with 1,695 SF plus 2 enclosed balconies. Newer windows, warm wood floors & renovated kitchen; garage space. Montebello is a private park-like oasis of 35+ acres on a "beautiful mountain" with lots of amenities, just 2 miles from the heart of Old Town. Virtual Tour @ 5904mouteagledr1618.com  
*Cindy* 703-593-1418 • *Leslie* 703-400-3010



**Alexandria**  
**\$475,000**  
**801 Pitt St S #418.** Welcome home to a sensational top floor corner flat with treetop views of Old Town. Private and quiet location w/fireplace, washer/dryer. Updated kitchen & baths. This home is move-in ready. Walk to shops & restaurants. From this in-town perch, summer afternoons provide the chance to relax poolside.  
*Diann Hicks* 703-628-2440



**Alexandria**  
**\$639,000**  
**406 Skyhill Rd.** Light-filled 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath home in exclusive Clover neighborhood. 3,500+ finished sq. ft. on 2 levels, 2 fireplaces, attached garage, hardwood floors and a spacious deck with pergola are just a few of this home's many features.  
*Jeremy Stewart* 703-879-4131 • *Kristen Mason* 571-213-0617



**Old Town**  
**\$1,375,000**  
**8 Potomac Ct.** With stunning views from 4 levels, this brick home offers nearly 3,000 Sq Ft of totally renovated living. Custom features include spa tubs, prof. Viking range, audio syst. built-ins & landscaped garden w/Pergola. River Views overlooking Windmill Hill Park make this property recognizable in Old Town. Pvt. Patio is a summertime room.  
*Diann Hicks*  
703-628-2440



**Alex./The Greenhouse**  
**\$329,000**  
Spectacular Park View! Sunny & spacious 1,500 s.f. condo in great building, featuring 3 BRs, 2 BAs, den, large balcony, updated kitchen, W/D in unit, new carpet. Excellent facilities include a 24-hour desk, large pool, tennis, gym, individual garden plots for owners, garage space & extra storage. Close to Van Dorn Metro, central library and Cameron Station.  
*Mary Hurlbut* 703-548-4741

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# Alexandria REAL ESTATE

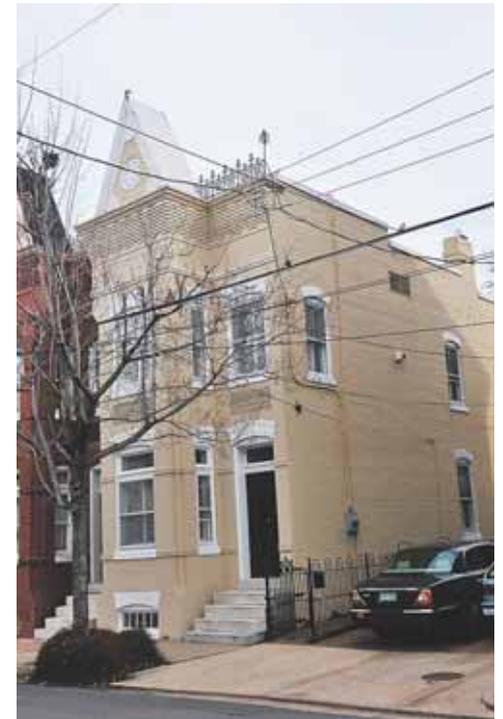
## Top Sales for January 2013

IN JANUARY 2013,  
108 ALEXANDRIA HOMES SOLD  
BETWEEN \$1,100,000-\$90,000.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



**1** 602 Johnston Place — \$1,100,000



**3** 416 Lee Street South — \$1,002,000



**4** 1003 King Street — \$985,000



**7** 723 Annie Rose Avenue — \$813,810



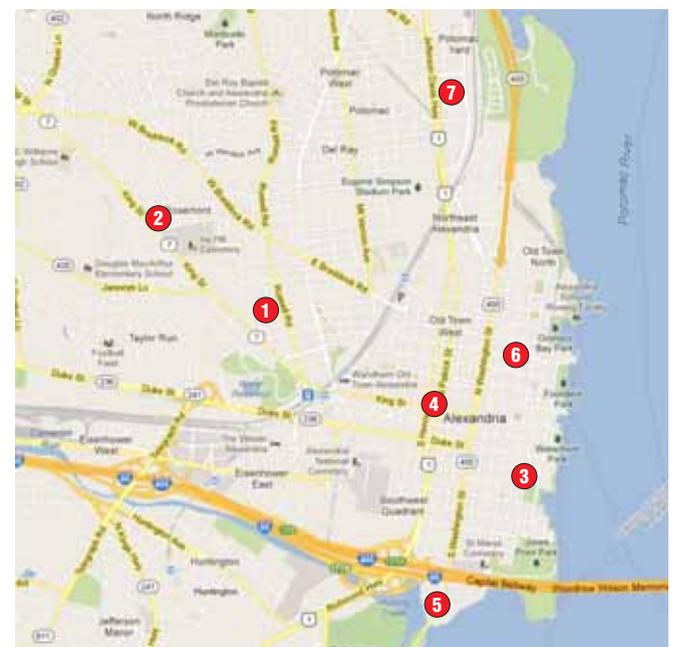
**6** 405 Oronoco Street — \$830,000



**2** 2917 Eddington Terrace — \$1,065,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 602 JOHNSTON PL	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.13	22301	ROSEMONT	01/07/13
<b>2</b> 2917 EDDINGTON TER	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,065,000	Detached		22302	EDDINGTON TERRACE	01/22/13
<b>3</b> 416 LEE ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,002,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.04	22314	OLD TOWN	01/18/13
<b>4</b> 1003 KING ST	2	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$985,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.02	22314	OLD TOWN	01/22/13
<b>5</b> 1250 WASHINGTON ST S #621	2	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$975,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	PORTO VECCHIO	01/17/13
<b>6</b> 405 ORONOCO ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$830,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	CHATHAM SQUARE	01/17/13
<b>7</b> 723 ANNIE ROSE AVE	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$813,810	Townhouse	0.05	22301	POTOMACYARD	01/11/13

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© Google Map data

# Home Historic

FROM PAGE 5

Turner hired Pettengill to complete the interior design on her expansive Old Town home. The oldest part of the house was built in the mid-1700s and subsequent additions span the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

"The house had 50 windows that all required different window treatments," said Turner. "We wanted them to be new and fresh and at the same time respect the period." The result, she continued, was a balance of elegance and coziness that honored the home's range of architectural periods.

Pettengill, who has adult children, said it's time for her family to find a smaller abode and turn her spacious Alexandria property over to another family. "As a friend told me, we're not down-sizing, we're right-sizing," she said.

The home is on the market for \$2,995,000. For more information, call 703-838-8480.

**"We wanted to keep the character of what it was. We were careful about integrating the spaces that we added."**

— Sydney Pettengill



PHOTO COURTESY OF ©BRAD PETTENGILL PHOTOGRAPHY

**This is one of eight and a half bathrooms in the Victorian home of interior designer Sydney Pettengill.**



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#### 7407 Admiral Drive \$865,000

- Superior Location in heart of Villamay
- Manicured, level lot with great curb appeal
- Two-tiered expansive deck at rear elevation
- Large custom Storage Shed

- Lawn Irrigation System All-Brick and Masonry Construction by May Companies
- Generous, Bright Kitchen with abundant storage
- Spacious Foyer Entry
- Formal Living/Dining Rooms
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Full Ceramic Tiled Baths
- Lower Level Recreation Room w/Raised Hearth Fireplace
- Oversized Two-Car Garage
- Hardwoods on Two Levels

Dir.: Alex S on GW Pkwy, R on Morningside, R on Park Terrace, L on Belle Vista, R on Admiral to 7407.

#### 7108 Park Terrace Drive \$875,000

- Marlan Heights
- Villamay Community
- Brick Rambler on Prime Corner Lot
- Five Bedrooms
- Two Raised-Hearth Fireplaces



- Three Totally Remodeled Baths — One with Jetted Tub
- Enormous Formal Living and Dining Rooms
- Library and Bright, Breezy Sunroom
- Galley Kitchen w/adjacent Breakfast Bay
- Fabulous Custom Laundry on Lower Level
- Large Storage Room
- Two-Car Garage

Dir.: Alex S on GW Pkwy, R on Tulane, L on Park Terrace to 7108.



#### 7302 Park Terrace Drive \$735,000

- Custom, Diverse Floor Plan
- Potomac River Vistas
- Sectional Staircase Ascends to Large, Open Spaces
- See-Through Fireplace in Living

- Room & Den/Bedroom
- Bright, Eat-in Kitchen
- Small, Private Solarium off Master Bedroom
- Freshly Painted Throughout in Neutral Tones
- Low-Maintenance Exterior & Grounds
- Enormous 2+ Car Garage — Space for Large Workshop

Dir.: Alex South on GW Pkwy, R on Tulane, L on Park Terrace to 7302.

#### 7118 Park Terrace Drive \$839,000

- Exceptional Lot and Curb Appeal
- Three-Level Split with Double Car Garage
- Large Sunroom at Rear Elevation



- Extensive Hardscape and Barbecue at Rear Elevation
- Eat-in Kitchen w/Hand-painted Tile Flooring
- Four Generous Bedrooms
- Three Full Baths
- Formal Rooms feature 8" Parquet Flooring
- Large Recreation Room on Lower Level
- New HVAC
- Replacement Windows Throughout



#### 7210 Burtonwood Drive \$1,185,000

- Complete first-class renovation with the highest degree of design detail and attention
- Carefully selected marble, stone and granite throughout
- Spectacular neutral

- window treatments and wallpaper
- New shatter-proof windows and hard wired alarm system
- New washroom with wall-to-wall maple cabinets, sink and 8-foot counter
- Master bedroom and bathroom with vaulted ceiling, skylights, steam room, Jacuzzi, walk-in closet and designer his/her vanities
- Two separate AC/heating systems with humidifier
- Double-faced gas ventless fireplace with remote
- Full outdoor living space with Viking kitchen
- Heated pool/spa and hand-selected river flat stone surround
- Screened gazebo eating area
- Striking season-round flowering plants and landscaping

Dir.: Fort Hunt Road, L on Marine Drive, R on Burtonwood Drive to 7210.

#### 7120 Park Terrace Drive \$899,000

- Elevated Corner Lot on almost One-Half Acre
- First Offering of this Customized Floor Plan
- Expansive, Open Kitchen w/adjacent



- Family Room
- Glass Sunroom/Breakfast Room at Rear Elevation
- Large Formal Living and Dining Rooms
- Light-filled Recreation Room w/Raised Hearth Fireplace
- Four Spacious Bedrooms — Three Full Baths
- Brick & Block Construction — Full Masonry Fireplaces
- Beautiful In-ground Pool — Manicured Grounds

Dir.: Alex S on GW Pkwy, R on Tulane, L on Park Terrace to 7120.



#### 1202 Gatewood Drive \$900,000

- Customized, Unique All-Brick Colonial
- Superior Curb Appeal with Extensive Gardens at Rear
- Large Open Rooms/

- Spacious Grounds/ Great for Entertaining
- Expansive Marble Entry Foyer/Hardwoods on Both Levels
- Remodeled Granite Kitchen w/Viking Range/Heated Marble
- Floors
- Generous Family Room/Library features Wall of Built-Ins
- Enormous Master Suite w/Dressing Room and Luxury Marble Bath featuring Soaking Tub, Seated Separate Shower, Water Closet with Bidet, and His/Hers Vessel Bowl Vanities
- Two-Zone HVAC
- Three Masonry Fireplaces
- Whole House Security System
- Lawn Sprinkler System

#### 7215 Regent Drive \$989,000

- An Original Owner Offering in Villamay
- Captivating Southeast Views of the Potomac River
- Largest Rambler
- Five Bedrooms



- Remodeled Kitchen—top to bottom
- Family Room/Den adjacent to Kitchen
- Generous Formal Rooms
- Three Fireplaces
- Main Level Laundry for One Level Living
- Fenced Rear Elevation
- Large Two-Car Garage
- Main Level Deck Looking to River
- Lower Level Patio

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