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Newcomers & Community Guide 2013-14

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN 703-778-9415 or gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

There's No Place Like Home

Getting the 4-1-1 from local residents.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

t first glance, Alexandria is all about its history, and as hometown to George Washington and Civil War General Robert E. Lee, there are volumes written about the city's celebrated past. But if you look beyond the cobblestone streets and historic townhouses, there is an edgier side of the city that attracts artisans and even inspired musician Dave Grohl of Foo Fighters fame to write "Arlandria" in homage to his hometown neighborhood.

"Alexandria is a world of its own," said resident Maria Ciarrocchi. "On one hand it's your quintessential small town with quirky characters and fun traditions like parades and the Town Crier. Yet at the same time it's also extremely sophisticated with world class restaurants, excellent shopping and a destination for music and the arts."

At 15.4 square miles and with a population of just over 147,000, Alexandria attracts more than three million visitors annually with nationally recognized events

such as the Scottish Walk and Del Ray's Art on the Avenue, founded 18 years ago by resident Pat Miller. "Without a doubt,

it's the people that really know and talk to make Alexandria so special," said Miller, a 30-year resident who also founded the Del

Ray Farmer's Market. "We are a 'front porch' community. People really know and talk to

their neighbors." From being named a top Christmas and



The Torpedo Factory Art Center and the city's waterfront are popular destinations.

arts destination to making Money Magazine's list of the Top 25 "Best places for the rich and single" in America, there is no shortage of accolades for the community.

"Old Town has all the charm that you see in "We are a 'front porch' European cities," said Douglas Goist, who recommunity. People located to Alexandria from Brooklyn, N.Y. four years ago. "It's nice to live in an area their neighbors." where people still support small business — Del Ray resident Pat Miller owners and where you can find one-of-a-kind

shops and eateries. Getting away from that chain store mentality while still keeping a historic small-town feel is not something

you get in a larger city."

It doesn't take long for a newcomer to realize that Alexandria is a city that loves its festivals and parades, starting with the largest George Washington birthday celebration in the country followed by the nation's first St. Patrick's Day Parade on the first Saturday in March and the traditional Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot.

For first-time visitors, the city's most obvious landmark is also considered by many to be one of its best kept secrets.

"The George Washington Masonic Memorial is the best kept secret in town," Goist said. "Everybody sees it but very few go to the top. But they should because the view overlooking Alexandria and into Washington is spectacular."

Other Alexandria treasures are local art-See There's No Place, Page 20



Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden honed her acting skills at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.



Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters wrote "Arlandria" to pay homage to his hometown neighborhood.



Maestro Kim Allen Kluge is at the helm of Alexandria's world-class orchestra.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Original artwork by Todd Healy celebrates the distinctive streetscapes of Old Town.

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Newcomers & Community Guide Alexandria ... The Good, the Bad and the Ugly



PHOTO BY JAMES BORDNER THE GOOD — Following a two-year absence, fireworks lit up the sky at the stroke of midnight in a spectacular finale to First Night Alexandria. They will return again to ring in 2014.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER THE BAD — The congestion caused by the traffic, trolley and tourists at the intersection of King and Union streets frustrates residents and visitors alike.

ith neighborhoods as diverse as Del Ray, Arlandria, Old Town and the West End, there's a lot of good to be said about Alexandria. But like any community, the city has its share of bad and ugly, whether it be a tangible eyesore like the dilapidated Beachcomber site along the waterfront or the intangible but ever-present pall that hangs over the city in the ongoing litigation over the Waterfront Redevelopment Plan.

Quentin Tarantino once called "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" the best directed film of all time, with arguably the perfect proportions of violence, humor and intrigue. Such as it is with Alexandria.

— Jeanne Theismann



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET THE GOOD — With almost 2,500 routes and 200 courses to choose from, Alexandria is pedestrian and bicyclist friendly, promoting both a green and healthy lifestyle.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER THE BAD — While growth and development can be good for a city, this playset left standing amidst the construction rubble on N. Columbus Street is a reminder of the families that are losing their homes



Photo by John Bordner

THE GOOD — Making its home at the Alexandria City Dock, the Potomac Riverboat Company's Cherry Blossom is one of only six Coast Guard certified working sternwheelers in the country.



THE BAD — Some would call it ugly but whatever its moniker, residents are weary of the city's seemingly endless litigation with the "Iron Ladies" of Old Town and the Old Dominion Boat Club over the Waterfront Development Plan.

THE UGLY — Purchased in 2006 for \$1.135 million, the city-owned Beachcomber Restaurant continues to be an eyesore along the Potomac River at the foot of Prince Street.



and being displaced.

Photo by John Bordner

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Photo courtesy U.S. Army

THE UGLY — The Mark Center in the city's West End is home to the Washington Headquarters Service and other Department of Defense agencies. Built amid contentious debate, acrimony still exists over its location at the intersection of Seminary Road and Beauregard Street at the I-395 Interchange,

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Newcomers & Community Guide Who's in Charge: City Council

Mayor Bill Euille

703-751-7970 william.euille@ alexandriava.gov A native of Alexandria. Euille is a 1968 graduate of T.C. Williams High School. He was first elected to City Council in 1994 and elected mayor in 2003. He was reelected without opposi



tion in 2009, and beat independent candidate Andrew Macdonald in the election of 2013. Euille has a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration from Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Conn. From 1974 to 1984, he was an appointed member of the Alexandria School Board. In 1987, he founded William D. Euille and Associates, a construction services firm that serves the

federal government. He also owns an interest in two Alexandria restaurants, Mango Mike's and the Magestic Grill. Euille votes at the George Washing-School ton precinct.

Vice Mayor Allison



703-625-3366

Silberberg

703-395-0006 allison.silberberg@alexandriava.gov

A native of Dallas, Silberberg has a bachelor's degree in international relations and history from American University and a master's degree in playwriting from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. An Alexandria resident since 1989, Silberberg is author of the 2009 book "Visionaries in Our Midst." She is a former chairwoman of the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission. Silberberg votes

at the Agudas Achim precinct.



bachelor's degree in philosophv from Grinnell Col-

lege and did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. She served as a social worker in Cook County before moving to Alexandria and working as an aide to Mayor Chuck Beatley. Pepper votes at the Patrick Henry precinct.

Paul Smedberg

paul.smedberg@alexandriava.gov

A native of Hartford, Conn., Smedberg moved to Alexandria in 1987. He graduated from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania with a double major in eco-

Getting to Know

John Long, CEO Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

> By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

hen John Long arrived in Alexandria in March of 2012, he wasted no time in letting everyone know his goals as the new president and CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

"I said as soon as I arrived that I want Alexandria to set the standard as one of the best chambers in the country," said Long in a rare free moment as head of the city's most influential business organization. "I don't want us to be an organization that thinks outside the box. I don't want to have a box."

Long has been actively putting together partnerships with area organizations such as the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, and the Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"We're making moves to have representatives from these groups on our board," said Long, who also established a partnership with the Washington Na-

tionals Major League Baseball team. "It helps us put together an organization that looks like the community we represent."

Long brings to Alexandria over 18 Long

years of chamber management experience, having served as the president and CEO of the St. Petersburg, Fla., Kalamazoo, Mich. and Talbot County, Md. Chambers of Commerce. Under his tutelage, the St. Petersburg Chamber was honored as one of the Top 3 Metropolitan Chambers in North America and Long was individually honored with the Chairman's Award by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives as the Outstanding Chamber Executive in the United States.

"Alexandria is an exciting place to be," said Long, who serves on the boards of the Alexandria Police Foundation, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, the Small Business Development Council and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. "There is great opportunity here and I'm confident that people will see the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as an organization to be a part of."

nomics and history. He also has a certificate of graduation from the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. He works as a director of government affairs for Affymax, biopharmaceutical company based in Palo Alto, Calif. Smedberg votes at the Lyles-Crouch precinct.

Tim Lovain 703-549-1441 timothy.lovain@ alexandriava.gov A native of

Bradford, Pa., Lovain moved to Alexandria in 1983. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Chicago, a

master's degree prom Princeton, and a juris doctor degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. He works as a government relations consultant for Denny Miller Associates. Lovain votes at the Blessed Sacrament precinct.

Justin Wilson 703-338-2843





justin.wilson@ alexandriava.gov

A native of Chererly, Md., Wilson was raised in Spingfield and moved to Alexandria in 2001, though he lived in the city for two years shortly after he was born. He has a bachelor's degree in business systems from Vir-



g i n i a Commonwealth University and works at Amtrak as a principal system engineer. Wilson votes at the Mount Vernon Center Precinct.

John

Chapman 571-236-4170 johntaylorchapman@ alexandriava.gov A native of Alexandria, Chapman was raised in public housing. After graduating from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in 1999, he re



ceived a bachelor's degree in social studies education from St. Olaf College in Minnesota. He is currently an after-school specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools. From 2006 to 2007, he was president of the Alexandria Young Democrats. Chapman votes at the MacArthur Precinct.

Inside Senior Services of Alexandria

enior Services of Alexandria is non-profit founded in 1968 by a group of residents committed to improving the lives of seniors in the community. In partnership with the City of Alexandria, donors, faith communities and volunteers, SSA provides programs and services for seniors including Meals on Wheels, DOT Para-transit Services, the Friendly Visitor Program, a monthly Speaker Series and the Senior Resource Center which offers information about service providers, activities and resources for seniors and their caregivers. SSA is a link between aging citizens and other community members with a mission to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors to age with dignity.

SERVICES AND VOLUNTEER **OPPORTUNITIES**

Meals on Wheels - Meals on Wheels allows seniors who are unable to leave their homes to shop or who have difficulty preparing a meal to have two healthy meals a day delivered to their homes. SSA provides meals 365 days a year in partnership with the City of Alexandria, volunteers and donors.

Volunteers are always needed especially on weekends to deliver meals. The time-commitment is about 2 hours and training is provided. For more information contact mealsonwheels@ seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 12.

Friendly Visitor Program - SSA screens and trains volunteers who donate their time to bring companionship during weekly visits to elderly people residing in the City of Alexandria. The goal of the program is to relieve loneliness and the feeling of isolation experienced by many of the city's seniors. To volunteer or know of a senior who could use a friendly visitor. email friendvisitor@seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 20.

DOT Transportation Services - For residents of Alexandria unable to use public transport, DOT Transportation provides safe and reliable curb-to-curb taxi services seven days a week in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. SSA's reservationists schedule rides which are provided in cooperation with Diamond Transportation and White Top Cab companies and the City of Alexandria. For more information email transport@ senior servicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext 15.

Senior Services of Alexandria 700 Princess Street, Mezzanine Level Alexandria, VA 22314 703-836-4414 www.seniorservicesalex.org executivedirector@seniorservicesalex.org.



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Newcomers & Community Guide 2013-14 Who's in Charge: City School Board

he Alexandria City Public Schools educates more than 12,000 students in 19 schools with an operating budget of \$215 million and a capital budget of \$65 million. It has a per-pupil cost of \$18,000.

District A Chairwoman

Karen Graf 703-907-9321 karen.graf@

acps.k12.va.us A native of San Francisco, Graf has a bachelor's degree in English literature from California State University, Chico, and a master's degree in technical communications Northeastern University. Currently a

from stay-at-home mother, she is a former technical writer and manager of writers and editors. She has three children in Alexandria City Public Schools.

Graf votes at the Mount Vernon precinct.

Bill Campbell

703-399-9521 bill.campbell@ acps.k12.va.us A native of W.V., Fairmont, Campbell has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from West Virginia University and a master's degree in paralegal studies from Georgetown University. He is currently a project engineer for the De-

partment of Defense. He has two boys in Alexandria City Public Schools, and a daughter who graduated from T.C. Williams



High School in 2010. Campbell votes at the Durant precinct Stephanie **Kapsis**

703-798-8036 stephanie.kapsis@ acps.k12.va.us A native of Washington, D.C., Kapsis

was raised in McLean and has a bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University and a master's

degree in teaching from Pace University. She has been a classroom teachers and a director at Teach for America. Kapsis votes at the George Washington School precinct.

District B Vice Chairman

Justin Keating 703-966-3193

justin.keating@ acps.k12.va.us A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Keating has a bachelor's degree in

political science from SUNY College at Fredonia and a juris doctorate from George Washington University. He is cur-

rently a lawyer representing labor unions and pension funds. He has a son who attends Alexandria City Public Schools. Keating votes at the Maury precinct.

Kelly Booz

703-244-6396 kelly.booz@acps.k12.va.us A native of Minneapolis, Booz has a bachelor's

degree in psychology with a minor in women's studies at Carleton College in Minnesota. She also has a master's degree in in social foundations in education from the University of Virginia. Booz is



703-549-3443 marc.williams@

acps.k12.va.us native of А Versailles, Ky., Williams has lived in

Alexandria since 1992. He was first elected in an August 2008 special election after the resignation of former School Board Chairwoman Claire Eberwein, and was reelected in 2009. Williams received his bachelor's

degree in political science from the University of the South and a juris doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law. He is currently part of IBM's Governmental Programs group, where he is responsible for IBM's global intellectual property policy. His home precinct is George Mason El-

District

Ronnie Campbell

703-965-3344 ronnie.campbell@ acps.k12.va.us of native А Brookfield, Mass.,

she has lived in Alex-

andria since 1985.



She was first elected in 2006, and was reelected in 2009. She graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School and attended Worcester State College. A longtime employee of the Untied States Postal Service, Campbell is currently a sales associate. She is a former member of the School Board's Budget Advisory Committee, the board of the Virginia state Parent-Teacher Association and the first assistant director to the Fairfax District PTA. Her home precinct is John Adams Elementary School.

Pat Hennig

202-969-3404 pat.hennig@ acps.k12.va.us A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Hennig has been a resident of the West End since 1975. She served as a member of the first elected School Board from 1994 to 1997. She served on the School Board Special Advisory Committee and the Substance Abuse



Education and Violence Prevention Advisory Committee, the Budget Advisory Committee and was a founding member of the Alexandria Police Youth Camp Foundation. She votes at the William Ramsey Center.

Chris Lewis

703-300-2370 christopher.lewis@ acps.k12.va.us

A native of Alexan-dria, his family has lived in the city for four generations. He has a bachelor's degree from Harvard University. He is a former state director 0



GenerationEngage and former Senate

staffer with Senator Edward Kennedy. He is currently deputy director of the Office of Legislative Affairs for the Federal Communications Commission. He votes at the Beatley Library precinct.

Getting To Know ... Patricia Washington, President and CEO, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

atricia Washington arrived in Alexandria last November, relocating from Philadelphia without comment on whether or not she is an Eagles fan. After nine months as the president and CEO of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, the former vice president of Cultural Tourism for the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation wasted no time in embracing the unique culture of her new hometown.

"I'm truly inspired by Alexandria," Washington said. "It has a unique history, abundance of assets, creativity, energy and vitality. And I'm inspired by Alexandrians who are passionate about the city and its future."

Prior to her move, Washington spearheaded With Art Philadelphia, a \$2.5 million collaborative campaign promot-



ing Philadelphia as a premier arts destination. "As a tourism marketer, I have to say Alexandria is a dream product," Washington said. "We're a welcoming, sophisticated, contemporary, authentic destination, rich in history, culture and diverse neighborhoods

that functions on a completely livable scale, six miles from the capital of the most powerful nation on earth. Our job at ACVA is simply to share Alexandria's story with the world so we're not such a well-kept secret." Washington is no stranger to the region,

graduating from Howard University with a degree in fine arts before earning her juris doctor from the Howard University School of Law.

"The travel industry has been revolutionized by electronic marketing," Washington said. "At the touch of a smartphone you can find out anything about any destination, and not just from the official visitors bureau. To the destinations that adapt, the opportunities are huge and the playing field is level. We're remaking ACVA to take full advantage and grow our tourism market share. The result for every Alexandrian will be a stronger local economy, a stronger tax base and a richer quality of life."

On Sept. 18, Washington will unveil a new brand initiative for the city at the ACVA Annual Meeting. Until then, mum's the word."Suffice it to say that the new brand is reflective of the new Alexandria and everything that makes this place special."





Newcomers & Community Guide Getting Down to Business Navigating the ABC's of Alexandria.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

he acronyms run from ACVA to WEBA and represent citywide organizations and various business associations from the waterfront to the West End. Earlier this year. the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association held its annual "ABC's of Doing Business in Alexandria," a symposium that showcased the resources and support available to businesses throughout the city.

"You are our vision of what makes Alexandria great," ACVA President and CEO Patricia Washington told attendees. "Business people investing the time, resources and hard work it takes to succeed, and in the process, building a strong financial foun-



Mellenie Runion, Del Ray **Business Association (DRBA)**

dation for this city."

Whether you are new to the city or a longtime resident, following is a primer that explains the ABC's of Alexandria.

Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association - ACVA

The Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association, as the City's tourism marketing agency, attracts visitors to the city through a comprehensive sales and marketing program contributing both to the quality of life for Alexandria residents and to the economic health of Alexandria.

ACVA's advertising campaign last year reached 100 million households, with the website reaching 1 million visitors. The ACVA organizes promotions including the twice-yearly Alexandria Restaurant Week and the special-offers booklet Key to the City.

The ACVA Visitors Center is located at 221 King St. with administrative offices at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400.

VisitAlexandriaVA.com

Alexandria Economic Development Carol Supplee, Old Town Business **Partnership - AEDP**

Founded in 1992, the Alexandria Ecowww.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Val Hawkins, CEO, Alexandria **Economic Development Partnership (AEDP)**

nomic Development Partnership, along with the other economic development organizations in the City, defines and markets Alexandria as a creative, diverse, knowledgebased community with a high quality of life. AEDP's goal is to support existing and future businesses, development and economic growth in Alexandria as to ensure that businesses are successful and that the City is competitive.

625 N. Washington St., suite 400. 703-739-3820 or www.AlexEcon.org

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Alexandria is home to one of the largest chambers in the Greater Washington region, with 850 professional business members and partners employing more than 49,000 people region-wide. Founded in 1906, it serves as the voice of the business community in the City of Alexandria through aggressive lobbying efforts at the local, state and federal levels. In addition, the chamber offers a variety of programs and services to assist members to promote and expand their business.

801 N. Fairfax St. #402

703-549-1000 or www.alexchamber.com



Bill Reagan, Executive Director, Alexandria Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Del Ray Business Association -DRBA

The Del Ray Business Association is run by volunteers who are themselves business owners. Started almost 40 years ago, DRBA now has more than 200 members.

The business association sponsors several events in the Del Ray community each year. There is a monthly luncheon featuring speakers of interest to the membership. Members of the association are available to mentor new businesses and advocate in support of business friendly policies with Alexandria officials, the Planning Commission and City Council. www.visitdelray.com.

Old Town Business and Professional Association - OTBPA

Open to all businesses of any type, OTBPA is a result of a merger of two organizations - Old Town Business (OTB) and King Street Metro Enterprise Team (KSMET).

OTBPA's most visible project is the annual Alexandria Retail Coupon Book.

As an advocate for the importance of keeping Alexandria beautiful, the plaza at Commerce and King Streets, with benches



Peter Baldwin, West End Business **Association (WEBA)**

and lighting and now a sculpture, came about with KSMET funding and lobbying. www.otbpa.com

Alexandria Small Business Development Center - SBDC

The Alexandria Small Business Development Center is Alexandria's economic development program that focuses on small businesses. Small businesses comprise the largest segment of Alexandria's economy but their potential is often hindered by lack of information or expertise. All Alexandria SBDC services are provided without cost.

The key message is that Alexandria SBDC offers individual and confidential assistance without cost to City of Alexandria businesses and Alexandria residents with businesses elsewhere.

625 N. Washington St., Suite 400.

703-778-1291 or www.alexandriasbdc. org



David Chamowitz, Eisenhower **Public-Private Partnership**

West End Business Association -WEBA

The West End Business Association is comprised of West End Businesses and those that do business on the West End of Alexandria. WEBA provides members with networking opportunities, education and growth opportunities and representation before the City and economic development officials on matters important to the West End of Alexandria.

www. alexandriaweba.com

Eisenhower Partnership

The Eisenhower Partnership is a group of commercial and residential property owners and occupiers along the Eisenhower Avenue Valley corridor. The Eisenhower Valley is defined as the 4.5-mile east-west corridor which parallels the City's southern border along Cameron Run. The Valley is anchored in the East by the Patent and Trademark Campus and in the West by the Victory Center development/Van Dorn Metro Station.

www.eisenhowerpartnership.org

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and Professional Association (OTBPA)

Opinion About the Gazette Packet

Newcomers and **Community Guide** 2013-2014

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

Editorial Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we've included an expanded and updated insider's look at events and activities, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an e-mail or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries,

awards and obituaries. We are also interested **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

The paper you're reading, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC,

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As our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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> — Mary Kimm, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM, @MARYKIMM

Letters to the Editor

Concern For Students

To the Editor:

Another year and another disappointing set of test scores. I am amazed that the only thing the School Board and City Council are focused on with respect to the situation with Jefferson Houston is a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law that enables the state to take over the school.

During this entire discussion I have not heard one Alexandria official voice concern for the students. Instead of concern that they are not successful in providing students the skills necessary for success in life, they are focused on their own needs (keeping control). I think they are trying to block the school takeover because they don't want someone else to get the credit if performance improves.

The fact of the matter is that we would not be in this situation if they were doing their job to educate the children of Alexandria. They have not been doing their job

and we have the absymal test scores to prove it. In my opinion, we should turn the entire school district over to the state and maybe we would see some return on our substantial investment.

> **Micheline Eyraud** Alexandria

Continuing Improvements To the Editor:

The headline of the Aug. 15 article, "When It Rains, It Stinks," may grab your attention, but for many who are unaware of the current issues, it may also lead to a misunderstanding of facts about challenges associated with managing a legacy infrastructure such as the city's Combined Sewer System, while maintaining full compliance with all regulatory and permit requirements.

Here are the facts: ✤ The Virginia Department of

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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Festival Preview

Zohal Hamidi and Lina Amini perform an Afghan cultural dance to benefit Afghan Education for a Better Tomorrow on the Old Town waterfront Saturday, Aug. 24. The performance is a preview for the Afghan Arts and Culture Festival on Sept.1 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

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OPINION

Forgotten New Arrivals

By Harry M. Covert

hile the welcome mat is always out for newcomers in Alexandria there are lots of visitors who are really returnees.

Consider the pleasures of dining and shopping up and down historic King Street's Old Town, visiting the magnificent waterfront.

Then there is the comfortable and happy Del Ray. This is a neighborhood with it's own main street which enjoys a separate but equal status. Active and proud hometowners who love the small town flavor within a big town.

Of course, Alexandria's West End is

Covert Matters

booming too. Not all new arrivals find their return

as hospitable as leaders want. It's not their fault perhaps. Thankfully there

are folks who make it their business to be welcome wagons of sorts.

The pitch here is many "visitors" are those returning to the community after serving jail and prison sentences. They are certainly delighted to be free from the bonds of justice but they face challenges of enormous proportions after penance.

Where to live? Where to work? How to get a job? It's not unusual to hear such words as "they got what they deserve." And other similar epithets that aren't encouraging or helpful.

When the men and women, boys and girls attempt to go back home, it's not always a wonderful experience. In fact, former friends, neighbors, employers and prospective employers look askance. A smile



perhaps but not fully happy to see them. Not everybody says: "What can I do to help?"

It's easy to poke fun at city government and political leaders. It's always on topic to criticize everything they plan or want to accomplish.

Within the past few weeks, Alexandria's City Hall has welcomed the work of Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR). Not really newcomers because they've been involved with people in all of Northern Virginia for years.

The city's funding enabled OAR to find office space where it's needed in a big way.

One of the city's largest religious institutions answered their call. Downtown Baptist Church on Washington Street offered facilities where ex-offenders, called clients, meet the pros of OAR. They are counseled and aided in "coming home." It's not always easy to find a job but OAR knows how to do it. Many anonymous donors find OAR's mission vital. Local companies find ways to put the clients on their payrolls. This takes time. It's worth the hard work

though. It's a common comment that many former offenders find their way back to jail cells. The reasons are many but mainly no jobs, family rejections, despair, no education, homelessness and hunger.

As "come heres" or "new arrivals" find joy and comfort in the friendly confines of the celebrated city there is room to welcome and help those "recovering" from "controlled environments."

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Protecting Digital Property

By Deborah G. Matthews

t is a new world out there. Looking forward, we face a digital frontier with many unknowns. You might know where your digital things are located, but could others find them without your help?

The digital frontier has changed how we access what's ours. Digital property is often hidden from view. No longer can we simply reach out and touch things. What is digital property?

Digital property is everywhere and what it constitutes is broad – e-mail, texts, social media posts,

Senior Services of Alexandria

online accounts, videos, passwords and IDs to access sites, data on shopping, financial and other sites, electronic documents, photo collections, etc. To the dismay of many, your iTunes music collection, downloaded e-books or movies are not

included - you purchased only a lifetime license. The licenses typically expire when you die.

To determine how a site or online provider will treat your data in case of death or incapacity, read the Terms of Service to see whether a guardian or executor may access the data, remove it, or if your site will terminate after a given period of inactivity. Even where an executor may have power over digital property, a court order may be required under the Terms of Service — a costly option. What can you do now?

Loved ones may have no idea what exists or where to find it. The best plan is to keep a detailed list of your digital property with username, password, PIN, security question and answer, and how to access all the required login data — a digital inventory.

I encourage clients with online access to bank and www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



financial accounts to not opt out of paper statements. Toss them as soon as they're received, but then the account won't be hidden. One client bought an oldfashioned address book to track accounts and passwords that is kept away from the computer. Another listed all accounts, security questions and current pass-

words and left it with my office in a sealed envelope with instructions on when and to whom it is to be released. The gold standard, says digital experts Sharon Nelson and John Simek, is keeping data in an encrypted electronic file for security and identity theft reasons. While you can diligently create a comprehensive list, that is not enough. It must be kept current as passwords change and additional accounts are created. Careful consideration must be given to

where the list is kept and who is to have access. Taking the time to prepare an inventory may mean

your digital property won't just disappear from view. Protecting your digital property and other security issues will be addressed at the third annual Senior Law Day, "Staying Safe — Avoiding Scams — Don't be a Victim!" on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St. This free event is sponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and the Alexandria Bar Association. Register at www.seniorservicesalex. org or by calling 703-836-4414 ext 10.

This was excerpted from an article co-authored by Deborah G. Matthews, Esq., an Old Town Alexandria attorney, with Sharon D. Nelson, Esq. and John W. Simek of Sensei Enterprises, Inc., a Fairfax digital forensics, information security and information technology firm, that published in the Virginia Lawyer, July 2013.



Letters

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Environmental Quality (VDEQ) permit requires the city to update its Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) over the next three years. When implemented, the LCTP will significantly reduce or eliminate the impact from the city's Combined Sewer System on Hunting Creek, which drains into the Potomac. Once finalized, the LTCP is required to be fully implemented in less than 20 years (not 32, as stated in the article) to meet the 2035 compliance date. In fact, construction of a major set of improvements is tentatively scheduled to begin in four years.

✤ This permit includes both near- and long-term requirements, each with specific goals and outcomes. For example, while the city is developing the LTCP, the permit also requires the city to continue improving the system with a goal of reducing the equivalent of 5 million gallons of stormwater from the system annually over the next five years. This is no small task. While the city believes this target can be achieved, we will continue to work with the community to implement projects needed to meet this goal. The city anticipates such measurable, performance-based reduction targets will be integral to future permits until the updated LTCP is fully implemented, thus guaranteeing continued improvements to the system and reduction of impacts on the receiving waters.

◆ The permit's regulatory approach achieves short-term results, while ultimately ensuring long-term compliance with water quality standards. It is important to also note that since 2000, the city has been proactive in its efforts to address the combined sewer overflow (CSO) issue, requiring developers to separate wastewater from the CSO system wherever redevelopment occurred in the CSO area.

♦ The cost of fully implementing the reduction targets could be as high as \$300 million, depending on the extent and nature of the future controls ultimately incorporated into the LTCP. It is appropriate that the city and the community take some time to fully understand the technical issues, costs and potential impacts on the community before proposing the projects to be implemented as part of the updated LCTP. Given all the ramifications, the three years provided in the permit to develop such a plan is not an unreasonably long time to allow for community participation, input

and determination of the most cost effective solution.

♦ The city's community outreach process began with an Aug. 5 meeting hosted by the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) to share information about the permit's new requirements. Information about the permit is at alexandriava.gov/ Sewers, and additional outreach, education and information sessions will take place over the coming months and years in order to fully discuss development of the LTCP and the projects needed to achieve its goals. The city is updating signs at all of the outfall locations to ensure the community is aware of the sewer discharges.

The city will continue to work with the community to address the challenge of maintaining and updating the city's aging sewer infrastructure. We welcome feedback and comments, and look forward to working with our community to improve our infrastructure, while protecting and enhancing our environment.

> **William Skrabak** Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Quality

Condemnation Was Too Quick

To the Editor:

I have no dog in this fight — not even a puppy — but full disclosure, I have met the two principal partners in the St. James Group and before they presented their proposal formally I had a chance to look at it.

Regardless of one's opinion about their plan, anyone who did have a chance to meet them could not help but be impressed by their personal and professional life stories and the extent to which they had studied the idea for a sports complex. So as I am reading the comments and observing the self-congratulatory high-fives over the success in killing this proposal, I have a few observations:

1. Removing open-space playing fields from the city's inventory is a pretty big deal, and not one to take lightly. We are a city of finite resources and every square foot of land that is built upon is one less foot for greenspace or recreational use. That being said, the fields at Hensley Park are also a finite resource in that they are largely dependent on weather, season and daylight to be used. The concept of taking open recreation space and creating new fields (albeit indoors), basketball, volley ball, a competitive-sized pool, NHL-sized ice rinks, gymnastic center, fitness center, child-care, elderly-oriented recreational facilities, etc. (the list of what was included goes on much longer) was, at the very least, worth evaluating.

2. The restriction on Hensley Park for the open space to be retained or replaced because of a \$117,000 federal grant in 1977 cannot be ignored, but rather than being excited that a deal killer was found, I wish that we could have taken a step back and looked at (1) was the idea of a sports and entertainment complex a new use that was worthwhile to consider, and (2) was replacement open space possible somewhere else in Alexandria?

3. Concern about how the new complex would benefit Alexandria citizens was a very valid issue and one that would need to be addressed thoroughly and carefully. Assurances that Alexandrians would have preferred access would need to be more than a wink and a nod, but too bad we did not at least get to a point of finding out how that would work. And unlike the fields at the existing Hensley Park, this facility could literally be a 24/7 usage.

4. Some in the community were very critical that the idea presented by the St. James Group was unsolicited. Yeah? So? When was it written that new, innovative ideas could only come to the city in one way? For anyone who follows land use decisions in Alexandria, the prospect that someone could come in, propose an idea, and it would just sail through is not paying attention. At the very least, if the City Council had thought this proposal was worth considering it would have had to go through an arduous RFP (because it was city land), and then proceed through all the community, planning, legal, land use steps that virtually any new project requires. We may still have ended up with the proposal being withdrawn, but I sure would have liked to have had the conversation.

I do not know whether this proposal was a good idea or not. I truly don't. But I regret that the first response from some in the community was to condemn it. This was a serious proposal from two serious professionals who were prepared to invest their own money and other private capital, to take the risks, and to bring to the City of Alexandria a facility unlike anything that exists in the region and one that we could never afford on our own. It is unfortunate we will never find out if it could have worked.

> David G. Speck Alexandria

Need More Concern For Pedestrians

To The Editor:

Much like Townsend Van Fleet (Letter, Aug. 22), I also have been reading all the back and forth on the Old Town bicyclist issue. I am not sure if licensing bicycles is the answer, but I agree that pedestrians are getting lost in this debate. I recognize that not all bicyclists disregard traffic laws, but as a resident of Old Town I can tell you that from my experience, 98 percent of them do. It is a shame that those bicyclists who are careful and law-abiding are getting lumped in with those who disregard the laws. I always thank those who stop at crosswalks to allow me to cross, because it is such a rarity. I can also say that I am more concerned about being hit by a bicyclist than a car when walking my dog in the southeast and northeast quadrants of town. I have nearly been hit by bicyclists a half dozen times in the last year, as has my dog. It is not safe and it needs to stop. The decision to allow bicyclists on sidewalks has only made the problem worse. I live on a cobblestone road so bicyclists on my street generally elect to use the sidewalk, which is not very wide, and we have narrowly missed being hit while exiting our front door on more than one occasion. What a stupid, stupid decision! I also need to respond to some of Chris Hubbard's (Letter, Aug. 1) comments about changes that can be made to push visiting motorists to park in garages instead of on the streets. While his point is well-intentioned and well-taken, it raises another problem in Old Town that the city just doesn't seem interested in addressing properly: the shortage of parking. By increasing fees on parking meters, which the city is already considering, this will only serve to drive visitors deeper into neighbor-

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turday

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Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9300 a.m. Morning i

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist



From Page 12

hoods where there are no meters. I live one block south of King Street and can rarely find parking on weeknights after work, never mind on weekends if I am foolish enough to leave Old Town to get groceries.

It seems to me that the city needs to look at these problems holistically and do a better job of enforcing laws that regulate bicyclists, motorists and those parking in our neighborhoods. I have long been a proponent of following in the footsteps of the D.C. residential neighborhoods that reserve one side of the street for resident parking only. The city has a responsibility to address these issues since it seems intent upon moving forward with the waterfront development project, which will only make matters worse for everyone involved, especially residents of the southeast quadrant.

> Katherine Viar Alexandria

Cites Errors in Car Tax Bills

To the Editor:

I have found serious errors in the

for personal property (such as cars). The treasury division of the city has miscalculated the taxes of seemingly all tax payers in Alexandria this time around - and that miscalculation is detrimental to the taxpayers' finances (by hundreds and even thousands of dollars), as well as to the image and professionalism of the city of Alexandria bureaucracy. Case in point are two cars for which I have reviewed tax bills, each under a separate Alexandria account, that I am using below to display the erroneous calculations of the city bureaucrats:

1) 2011 Porsche - assessed value \$61,675, assessed tax \$447.29, at 5 percent tax rate.

The calculation of the bureaucrats is wrong. In reality, for the first 6 months of 2013 the tax was 4.75 percent, and the "tax relief" was \$579.50. The Porsche was registered in Virginia/Alexandria not for 2 months (60 days) as one portion of the tax bill shows, but as city records and the tax bill itself correctly indicate in another potion, only from 3/28/12 to 5/16/ 13, thus for only 48 days. The tax during the entire period was 4.75 percent. Which means that the tax was \$8.02 per day (or \$2,929.56

City of Alexandria's latest tax bills for personal property (such as cars). The treasury division of the city has miscalculated the taxes of seemingly all tax payers in Alexandria this time around — and Example a for 365 days in a year), or \$385.25 for 48 days. Minus "relief," which was \$579.50 for 365 days, or \$1.58 per day, or \$76.20 for 48 days. Therefore, \$385.25 - \$76.20 = \$309.05.

> Thus, the total tax was \$309.05 for the 48 days, and not \$447.29 as the Treasury Division/personal property unit erroneously calculates.

> 2) 2008 Hummer H3 - assessed value \$20,250, tax bill for \$512.50, at 5 percent tax rate.

> This is wrong. Once again, the tax rate was 4.75 percent for the first 6 months of 2013 (\$480.93 for 6 months, or \$961.87 if for full year), and the "tax relief" was \$579.50 if for the entire year or for just 6 months was \$289.50. Thus the tax for the first 6 months of 2013 for the first \$20,000 of the assessed value of the car was \$480.93 - \$289.50 = \$191.43.

And then 4.75 percent tax with no relief on the remaining \$250 of value above the first \$20,000 of assessed value, which is \$12. Thus, the total tax for the first 6 months of 2013 was \$191.43 + \$12.00 = \$203.43.

Then, the 5 percent tax on the remaining 6 months of 2013 (\$1,012.50 if the entire year, or

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Week in Alexandria

Splitting Up Jefferson-Houston

Is it time for Thomas Jefferson and Charles Hamilton Houston to break up? The marriage between a plantation slaveowner and a civil-rights pioneer has always seemed a bit unlikely — combining the old Jefferson School on West Street with the old Houston School on Wythe Street in 1970 with the construction of a modern new elementary school. For more than a decade, the school has failed to meet state and federal standards. Superintendent after superintendent has failed to improve scores, and the principal's office has seen a revolving cast of characters come and go.

Now, Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell is threatening a takeover of the school — seizing control from local officials who have demonstrated an inability to fix the problem. McDonnell wants to hand the school over to the Opportunity Educational Institution. Not so fast, say school leaders.

One option under consideration is splitting up the school, which offers kindergarten through eighth grade, into two separate schools. One would offer kindergarten through fourth grade and another grades five through eight. School administrators say this option would eliminate the negative name association with the failing school and protect students and staff from a takeover.

"My husband and I believe the two schools option is the best decision," said Beth Coast, parent of a Jefferson-Houston student, during a recent meeting of the School Board. "I am asking you to give our students a fresh start, without the stigma that the name Jefferson-Houston represents to the greater community."

School Board member **Bill Campbell** says he's not sure the option would work. "I think it's more sleight of hand than anything," said Campbell, who lives near the school in the Parker-Gray neighborhood. "I think it's close to status quo, and status quo is not good enough." Other options on the table include closing the school, redistricting and creating a charter school.

Trucking Along

Should Alexandria allow food trucks to park at Market Square? Answering that question the wrong way may get a rotten tomato flung in hostility. The city's brick-and-mortar restaurateurs want to limit food trucks to what they call "food deserts," places without a wealth of established restaurants.

That means no Market Square. But food truck owners and their allies in the foodie community feel that consumers should be given the choice of going to a sit-down restaurant or a drive-by automobile. Competition is the lifeblood of capitalism, after all, and so supply should be able to drive its truck to a parking spot in the 100 block of North Royal Street.

That means food trucks at Market Square. The food fight is just now cranking up and City Manager Rashad Young has appointed members of a newly created Food Truck Advisory Group. Citizen members include Yvonne Weight Callahan, Lynn Bostain, Sheena Franklin and Lori Arrasmith Quill. Restaurateurs include "Mango" Mike Anderson and celebrity chef Meshelle Armstrong. Food truck vendors include Popped Republic owner Rich Arslan and Red Hook Lobster Pound owner Doug Povich.

Invisible Bathrooms

Carr Hospitality is getting ready for round two at the Board of Architectural Review, preparing a new proposal for the Cummings-Turner property — one of three properties slated for redevelopment under the waterfront plan. The first plan was rejected by board members who felt the 121-room proposal was too big for the waterfront, a massive development at a key spot that would become the first high-profile building under the hotly contested small-area plan. "There are 121 hotel room bathrooms in this proposal, some of them relatively large bathroom suites, which are not counted toward (floor-area ratio)," wrote **Deena de Montigny** and **Joseph Demshar** in an analysis of the first proposal. "This additional floor area drives taller volumes that are not acceptable in the Old and Historic District."

When the new proposal is released next month, many Old Town residents will be carefully scrutinizing the floor-area ratios to make sure the bathrooms are counted.

— Michael Lee Pope





Budget officials stand to be recognized after City Council members voted to approve the budget for fiscal year 2014 back in May. Council members would later learn it ended a set aside for affordable housing that a majority of the members did not approve, and one change they did approve for increasing the utility tax rate has yet to be implemented.

Fiscal Year Follies Latest budget blunder

involves higher utility tax.

By Michael Lee Pope Gazette Packet

S hortly after City Council members approved the budget for fiscal year 2014, they had to reconsider two dedicated sources of revenue that had been spiked despite a lack of consensus among elected officials. Now City Manager Rashad Young has acknowledged a new blunder in revenue collections, a failure to follow all the necessary steps to increase utility taxes. Speaking to reporters this week, Young called the former a "communication issue" and the latter a

"mistake."

"We try not to make mistakes," said Young. "It just was an oversight at an extremely busy time for us when we are trying to wrap up the legislative session."

Councilman Justin Wilson flagged the issue last weekend. He was at home on a Saturday night

reading his utility bill when he realized that the rate did not reflect the new higher amount approved by elected officials.

He sent an email to city leaders, who began an investigation to get to the bottom of what happened and why. As it turns out, the increased tax was never put on the docket for a final vote — leaving City Hall in the red by about a quarter of a million dollars.

"It's very unfortunate," said Wilson. "It gives the taxpayers a little bit of a cut but it also costs the city

\$275,000, and we now have a \$275,000 hole in the budget."

ON THE ISSUE of dedicated revenues, City Council members were forced to place the item on the docket for a second time to reconsider the issue. During a rare after-the-fact public hearing on the budget, Mayor Bill Euille said that the decision to end a set-aside tax for affordable housing happened "accidentally." Council members ended up voting to restore the set-aside fund for affordable housing.

"Adding something after the final add-delete meeting is unheard of and does not bode well for our open, democratic process," said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg at the time. "It undermines it."

Councilman Paul Smedberg later said removing the dedicated source of funding for affordable housing was not an accident, de-

spite what the mayor

said. When asked about

the issue this week,

Young said that it was

not a mistake, despite

what the vice mayor said.

as a mistake," said

Young. "I think we al-

ready discussed the set-

aside issue back in June,

and what we are talking

about now is the utility

"I wouldn't describe it

"We try not to make mistakes. It just was an oversight at an extremely busy time for us when we are trying to wrap up the legislative session."

— City Manager Rashad Young

tax."

YOUNG BLAMED the newest budget problem on a scheduling error. City officials have recently installed software known as "Legistar," which allows them to put items on the docket for City Council meetings. The problem with the increase to the utility tax was that it was never placed on the docket for a second reading, which means that it never became active.

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News

Latest Fiscal Year Follies

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When asked how that could have happened, Young

explained that the item was never typed into Legistar. "It failed to occur amongst all of the revenues and appropriation ordinances that are required to be enacted and adopted," said Young. "This is one that just slipped through the cracks, quite frankly."

No heads will roll, Young said, and nobody will be reassigned to a different job. Instead, city officials are going to docket the item for September. That means monthly utility bills will increase 60 cents to

\$3 for gas and electric services. In the future, Young said city officials will revisit their process for docket management and focus attention on responsibilities of the budget officials. They will also explore legal options for combining tax and fee changes into one or two documents rather than setting them all up as separate votes.

When we were going through that process this year, I suggested that we should throw them all into the same ordinance," said Wilson. "It's better for the public, and it's more transparent."

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Newcomers Guide

Agenda:Alexandria

Agenda: Alexandria is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to provoke thoughtful discussions on areas of interest to the Alexandria community. It takes a look at the issues affecting Alexandria without taking sides.

Agenda: Alexandria, which began in 1998, sponsors eight dinner meetings a year with presentations on topics of interest to Alexandrians. Membership is \$35 a year and open to anyone. One does not have to live or work in Alexandria to be a member.

Topics include issues of importance to the community such as the new healthcare system school turnarounds, budgeting for capital expenses, care and reentry for persons with mental illness, especially those in the justice system, and preparedness for emergencies. The group is also looking at its emerging role as the region's new dining capital and having a "fireside chat" with Alexandria Circuit Court Judge Nolan Dawkins, an Alexandria native. One month is being kept open for an issue that may emerge during the year.

Meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception (cash bar) is at 6:30; dinner at 6:45; programs (free to members; \$5 for non-members) begin at 7:15. Dinner for members who reserve by the published deadline is \$28 (nonmembers pay \$35) while dinner for members who reserve after the published deadline is \$33 (nonmembers pay \$40). Presentations are followed by a question and answer session based on written questions from the audience. Programs end promptly at 9 p.m.

Suggestions by members for program topics and speakers are welcome. Board members (who wear special name badges outlined in red) plan and organize each program: contacting and coordinating with the speakers, introducing programs, and assisting with other duties, including the question and answer session at the end of each program.

Agenda: Alexandria is a 501(c)(3) under the guidelines of the IRS. For more information, contact Executive Director, Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or agendaalexandria@aol.org. Visit agendaalexandria.org.

Sesquicentennial Committee

As part of Virginia's emphasis on its important history, The Alexandria Sesquicentennial Committee plans, develops and presents programs and activities commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Under the auspices of the Office of Historic Alexandria, meetings are held at Lloyd House at 6 p.m. bimonthly and last about an hour. It plans to present eight programs a year and welcomes volunteers to assist in these efforts.

To volunteer and get more information, contact Ellen Tabb at ProfTabb1@hotmail.com or 703-549-0466 or Lance Mallamo at Lance.mallamo@alexandriva.gov or 703-746-4554.

Democratic Committee

The Alexandria Democratic Committee is the local committee created by and composed of citizens of Alexandria who share the political beliefs and aims of the Democratic Party. The ADC welcomes new members and encourages political participation on every level. The ADC meets the first Monday night of every month at the TC Williams Minnie Howard Campus (3801 W. Braddock Road) as well as participates in and holds events yearround all over Alexandria. For more information, call 703-549-3367 or visit the ADC's website at http://www.alexdems.org

Inova Alexandria Hospital

Inova Alexandria Hospital is committed to provide high-quality medical services and innovative technologies in a caring environment. It is dedicated to offering programs and services to meet the healthcare needs of the diverse communities

Some of its services: Cancer center, Cardiovascular and interventional radiology, Cardiac, pulmonary and physical rehabilitation, Diagnostic radiology, Occupational health, Certified stroke center, Surgical services including our Joint Commissioncertified hip and knee replacement center; neurosurgery, and cardiac surgery, and Women's center.

For more information, visit inova.org/iah or call 703-504-3000.

News

OAR, Church, City Join Forces

Coordinated effort to ensure "second chances."

By Harry Covert

ffender Aid and Restoration (OAR) and Downtown Baptist Church have joined efforts to help those leaving jail sentences to return to their communities.

Dr. Gail Arnall, OAR's executive director, and Pastor Dan Carlton have forged an effort that aids offenders "right in the heart of Old Town."

Within a few weeks, through facilities of Downtown Baptist, OAR has begun work with 10 clients "who need re-entry services," Arnall said.

The city of Alexandria has also joined forces with the groups to fund the work for office hours in the city.

Carlton said OAR's mission to "strengthen community through second

chances" resonates well "with the kind of church we want to be. We are excited to be able to partner with OAR in providing a place for their work in Alexandria."

Elizabeth Jones, chief operation officer and director of programs for OAR, said the second chances for Alexandrians returning to the community is an asset.

"Once we were notified by the city it was funding the program, Downtown Baptist stepped up with the space we needed," Jones said.

OAR is known as one of the best charities of Northern Virginia and Greater Washington and a major player in helping ex-offenders.

"People who do not have much when they come



Dr. Gail Arnall and Pastor Dan Carlton.

out of incarceration, need services to be located in a convenient place," Arnall said. "This is the reason we are so pleased to be able to offer case management right in the heart of Old Town at Downtown Baptist Church."

OAR is supported by the courts of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax as well as the municipal and state governments.

One of the concerns for ex-offenders lately in Alexandria has been the relocation of the State Probation and Parole Office. It was forced to relocate from downtown to 4020 Eisenhower Ave., where there is no close access to the Metro and inadequate bus service.

"Those on probation and parole will have to take off at least a half-day of work, if not an entire day, just to see their probation officers," Arnall said. "This is another barrier to re-entry. Most employers won't allow that amount of time off durig the work week."

Chief Judge Becky J. Moore of Alexandria General District Court, supports the work of OAR especially in Alexandria.

"I had the honor of serving as chairperson of OAR's board of directors before I began my judicial service. OAR is an invaluable resource for offenders to utilize as they begin positively contributing to our community," she said.

Connect and Contribute

Chief Judge Becky

J. Moore

Service and citizen's associations lead community engagement.

> By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

lexandria is home to many diverse neighborhoods, each with its own unique traditions. As each neighborhood has developed, so have the service groups and citizens associations that provide more than just an opportunity to meet and greet your neighbors. Whether you have five minutes or five hours, consider joining one of the many organizations in Alexandria that help solve problems, improve

lives, connect citizens and strengthen the community. **Rotary Club of Alexandria** P. O. Box 320666 Alexandria, VA 22320 www.alexandriarotary.org Kiwanis, Kiwanis of Del Ray www.alexandriakiwanis.org Jaycees P.O. Box 1836 Alexandria, VA 22313 www.alexjaycees.org Volunteer Alexandria 123 N. Alfred St., 3rd floor 703-836-2176 www.volunteeralexandria.org North Old Town Citizens Association P.O. Box 25571 Alexandria, VA 22313 703-549-5849 www.notice-alexandria.org Old Town Civic Association P.O. Box 1213 Alexandria, VA 22313 ww.oldtowncivic.org **Del Ray Citizens Association** 1601 Mount Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301 703-549-0225 www.delraycitizen.org **Founders Park Community**

Association www.alexandriafounderspark.org



St. Stephen's and St. Agnes students Sarah Shaw, 17, and Katarina Williams, 18, volunteer at the Lemonaide stand in Market Square as part of the citywide Spring for Alexandria day of service in May.

Coldwell Banker

WHERE HOME BEGINS



11107 Gunston Road, Lorton, Virginia 22079

dia rms. River terraces, beach & dock, B CGAR

Susan Gray Chambers

Rare Waterfront, private & gated on 7ac site, 20,000sf of luxury, elevator, theater, Mn Mstr BR, chef's kitchen, billiard & multi me

703-203-9900



Oak Grove \$2,750,000 1418 Janneys Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302 Premier location near DC/OldTown, mins to St. Agnes Sch. State of the art smart house w/8800 s Stephens-St gnes Sch. State of the art smart house w/8800 sf high end lux ishes-qual craftsmanship. 6 BR/6.5 BA/4 Fpl/3 CGAR. Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900



Braddock Heights \$1,250,000 607 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302 This beautifully maintained 4BR + 3BA colonial, circa 1922, of ers a brand new roof, wide front porch + loads of charm 703-518-6156 Donnan C. Wintermute





River Bend Estates \$1,195,000 8911 Charles Augustine Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308 New Construction only steps to Fort Hunt Park and Potomac River. End of summer completion. SBR/SBA including main level BD, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, large fenced yard. 703-518-6158 **Phyllis Patterson**



Riverside Gardens

8417 Riverside Road, Alexandria, VA 22308 Beautiful home in sought after Riverside Gardens! Gorgeous up-grades and additions include renovated kitchen and bathrooms, HUGE walk-in closet, new roof & hot wtr heater.

703-518-6158 **Phyllis Patterson**



6128 Edgewood Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22307 Price reduced! Unique opp in sought after Belle Haven. Reno-vate, expand, tear down, and/or combine with 6126 Edgewd 3BR/2BA home. Den, deck, moldings & railings. Pvt wooded lot Edward Pagett 703-518-6161



Stratford On The Potomac \$609,000 8410 Camden Street, Alexandria, VA 22308 4BR/3FBA house. Gorgeous, remodeled home in Stratford! Spec tacular gournet kitchen, open plan, luxurious BAs, flooring and more! See www.8410Camden.com for photos and more info. 703-851-4207



\$449,900 **Ridge View** 4205 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310 Surprisingly quiet and convenient home less than a 2-mile drive from Huntington Metro's parking garage. Mature flowering cherry trees, fenced backyard, and hardwood floors. Kevin Harold Posey 703-628-5823





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Long & Foster / Old Town Historic District Office • #1 Long & Foster Office in Virginia 2011 • 703.683.0400 400 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 • Fax 703.683

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Newcomers Guide





Meet John Smith, a London taxi driver with two wives in two different parts of London and a very tight schedule to keep. This farce brings absurdity to the technological forefront.

September 7–28, 2013



www.thelittletheatre.com

The Birchmere Music Hall features world-renown bluegrass, country and jazz entertainers.

There's No Place Like Home

FROM PAGE 3

ists like Pat Palermino, Artfully Chocolate's Eric Nelson or Todd Healy, whose distinctive images of the city's streetscapes can be found in his popular annual calendar.

"I truly love this city," said Healy, who recently relocated his Gallery Lafayette shop to the corner of Prince and Royal streets. "I want to share that with my customers through my work."

When it comes to entertainment, do as the locals and head to the Birchmere, take in a concert by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra or see a show at MetroStage, The Little Theatre of Alexandria or Port City Playhouse.

If you're looking to perform yourself, a variety of classes are available for children and adults at LTA's home on Wolfe Street, where actor Dermot Mulroney and Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden

honed their craft.

But beyond the traditional tourist diversions and occasional sightings of notable residents like Washington Nationals general manager Davey Johnson, it's the people that make Alexandria so unique.

"This is an extremely giving community," Miller said. "If there is some kind of catastrophe, everyone steps up to help, which is very unusual in other communities."

For the record, rock legend Jim Morrison, Willard Scott, "Nashville" star Chip Esten and "Saturday Night Live" alum Casey Wilson also hail from Alexandria.

"Huge chunks of our nation's history have played out on our streets," Ciarrocchi said. "I think to people who haven't lived in Alexandria all their lives, they tend to just consider it a suburb of Washington, D.C. But those of us who call it home know so much better."



WHAT WOULD YOU

RATHER BE DOING

THIS SUMMER?

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More than three millions visitors frequent the historic streets of Alexandria each vear.



The Torpedo Factory Art Center and the city's waterfront are popular destinations. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE Issues Facing Alexandria Residents

Changing City Politics: For the first time in the long history of Alexandria politics, the election for Alexandria City Council was moved to the general election ballot. The move was orchestrated by Democrats, who lost two seats in 2009. When the election was moved to November 2012, when a record number of Democrats were expected to turn out in the presidential election, they were able to sweep the election and install a one-party government. But council terms are three years, which means the next election for City Council will be in November 2015. Democrats won't have the benefit of a presidential election to boost their numbers, and the top of the ticket will be the state Senate.

♦ Risky Business: Alexandria taxpayers are about to gamble on the future, rolling the dice on development at a former railroad yard to fund a new Metro station. City officials are expecting Potomac Yard to generate \$1 billion worth of revenue in the next three decades, an expansion of the tax base that would help fund construction of a Metro station that could open its doors as early as 2018. But that plan comes with significant risk. Depending on the location and design of the station, the project could cost the city anywhere from \$194 million to \$459 million — all of which would be borrowed by the city government to finance

the construction of the facility.

* Raising the Ceiling: Alexandria is about to hit the roof, literally. According to a recent report by the Alexandria Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, the city is on track to exceed its debt ceiling with or without the borrowing needed to finance the new Potomac Yard Metro. Even when taking the \$194 million project off the books, the city still has a massive amount of uncertainty about everything from the waterfront plan and the Beauregard redevelopment to federal demands on the sewer system. Members of the Commission say additional borrowing would "adversely impact" the city's bond rating and "significantly deteriorate the city's performance relative to its debt policy guidelines."

◆ Landmark Redevelopment: Earlier this year, members of the City Council approved a plan to redevelop the struggling Landmark Mall. Sears and Macy's will remain, but the rest of the mall will be demolished to make way for a new open-air, mixed-use community. The 750,000-squarefoot redevelopment will include 285,000 square feet of retail, 400 residential units and an upscale dining movie theater. Demolition is expected to begin next summer.

♦ Waterfront War: Last year, members of the previous City Council approved a

controversial plan to almost triple density at three sites slated for development. Critics say the proposal was too large and would choke Old Town. Supporters say the new zoning would create a sense of vitality and bring new tax revenue. A series of lawsuits was filed to challenge the plan and the process that city leaders used to deny citizens an opportunity to protest. The city prevailed in most of those cases, although one challenge is still being considered by the Virginia Supreme Court. One proposal has already been submitted for the Cummings Turner block, which will be considered by the Board of Architectural Review next month. And the sale of Robinson North is expected in the coming months.

♦ School Takeover: Jefferson-Houston School is the only school in Northern Virginia where test scores have been so bad for so long that state leaders are threatening a takeover. Next year, members of the newly created Educational Opportunities Institution are expected to seize control of the school. Many of the details have yet to be worked out, though. Will teachers at the school be employees of Alexandria City Public Schools or the commonwealth of Virginia? Will the janitors be contracted by the city or will a charter school operation step in and handle operations? Alexandria School Board members are also consider

ing a plan that would split the existing school into two facilities, potentially protecting it from a takeover if state officials approve.

✤ Bulging Classrooms: Over the course of the next decade, school officials want to spend more than \$300 million in an ambitious plan of demolition and construction, replacing existing facilities with new buildings and adding a new school. Three existing schools would be rebuilt and one new school would be added at a location yet to be determined. Projections call for enrollment to increase by about 600 students in the coming year, pushing total student population to just under 14,000.

* Gutter Politics: Every year, the city of Alexandria dumps 10 million gallons of raw sewage into the Potomac River under a permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. That permit is about to expire, and city leaders are trying to get a new one that will allow Alexandria to continue dumping untreated human waste into the Potomac River until 2035. Critics say it would be a mistake to wait 20 years to solve the problem, although city leaders warn that the cost of taking action would be at least \$100 million. State leaders in Richmond will have the final say when they determine if they will grant the permit. - Michael Lee Pope



ENTERTAINMENT A GUIDE TO LOCAL FUN

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

ONGOING

- Fall Classes. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Early bird registration through Aug. 30. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.
- Art Class. Running through Saturday, Aug. 31, classes meet 9:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Bring toddlers or preschoolers for guided exploration of clay, paint, collage, drawing and building in a supported studio environment. Classes held at Art At The Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Register online at www.artatthecenter.com.
- Visiting Artists. Through Saturday, Aug. 31, the Visiting Artist Program is a professional development opportunity for emerging and experienced visual artists from all over the country and provides anopportunity for visitors to interact with a rotating group of visual artists. Torpedo Factory located at 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.
- Guests who visit George Washington's Mount Vernon and the International Spy Museum will be able to take advantage of Operation: George Washington and save 50 percent off the ticket purchase at their second destination. To redeem the offer, guests must present their receipt for admission or ticket stub from one site when purchasing their ticket to the second site. Both Mount Vernon and the International Spy Museum will honor receipts and tickets throughout August. Visit www.MountVernon.org.
- Dog Days Dog Show. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 in the Athenaeum Gallery. The show includes a variety of photographs about dogdom, portraits are also included. Visit
- www.nvfaa.org or call 703-683-5058. Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 at The Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. The exhibit is "Radio Sebastian: You, Me, and the Void". An opening reception for the exhibit will be held Aug. 8, 6-8 p.m. in the gallery. Visit www.torpedofctory.org/ target or call 703-838-4565.
- Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Sept. 1 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. The exhibit features seven Del Ray Artisans following their own theme and inspirations to create their own artwork. The gallery is free and open to the public. Visit
- www.thedelrayartisans.org. **Art Exhibit**. Through Sept. 2, see "Shapes" and "scapes" at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. An opening reception for both exhibits is planned for Aug. 8, 6:30-8 p.m.. Visit www.theartleague.org.
- Paisano's Pizza is going to "Share the Pie" with the Boys and Girls Clubs of greater Washington. For all customers who mention "BGC" when placing an order, Paisano's will donate 10 percent of their purchase price to help support the organization. The fundraiser goes until Sept. 15. In Alexandria, Paisano's has locations at 269 S. Van Dorn St. and 6937A Telegraph Road. Visit www.pizzapaisanos.com. Distillery Open. George Washington's
- Distillery and Gristmill open through Oct. 1. \$17/adult, \$8/child, 5 and under are free.
- Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions to hone figure drawing skills. Drop-in with your supplies to draw our live models. Fee: \$8-12. See the calendar at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org. The West End Farmers Market will

run Sundays from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. through November. Located at Ben Brenman Park, browse food, crafts and more. Visit

- www.westendfarmersmarket.org. The Marshall House Incident Exhibition. Through 2013 at Fort
- Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road . The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Visit www.fortwaRoad.org or call 703-746-4848
- Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all
- skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205. **Book a Librarian.** At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005
- Duke St, for help with research or to better understand the library's databases and resources. Make an appointment by calling 703-746-1751.
- Computer Tutoring. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Individual assistance from a librarian. Call 703-746-1751. Mobile Market. Thursdays through
- October, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Landmark Mall parking lot on the Duke Street side. The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture Mobile Market is a refurbished school bus offering produce, meat, eggs and more from small farmers and food artisans within 100 miles of the area. EBT cards and WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers accepted. Visit
- arcadiafood.org. **Encore Chorale.** Mondays 10:30 a.m.-noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.
- African American Activists Exhibition. Through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photodocumentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or
- call 703-746-4356. Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23, 2014. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call
- 703-746-4994. Metro Club After-School Program.
 - From Sept. 9-June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

See Calendar, Page 23

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Carbon Copy performs during the 2006 First Night Alexandria Battle of the Bands teen finals. After a seven-year absence, the popular talent competition will return again this year. Rock On!

First Night Alexandria is bringing back the competition for best amateur band or solo artist with the Battle of the Bands competition to be held Dec. 31 during the city's annual New Year's Eve celebration. The competition is open to all area amateur bands and solo performers ages 14-19.

The first round of the competition will take place via online voting. To qualify, performers must submit a video of their performance which will be available for viewing on the FNA website beginning next month. Fans, families and friends can vote for their favorite video and performers with the most votes will compete in the final Battle on New Year's Eve.

For complete rules, deadlines and preliminary judging information, visit www.FirstNightAlexandria.org/battle or email info@firstnightalexandria.org.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

A sampling of annual community events. If you know of somethine we're missing, email the basic information to alexcore@connectionnewspapers.com.

September 2013

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-8

King Street Art Festival. Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on King Street, Alexandria. In a burst of vibrant color and activity, the 11th Annual Alexandria King Street Art Festival transforms the city's historic main street into a world-class outdoor art gallery.

December 2013

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. City of Alexandria celebrates the New Year with family friendly entertainment at venues throughout the city. Visit www.FirstNightAlexandria.org.

April 2014

- Alexandria's Annual Earth Day celebration takes place at
- Ben Brenman Park. Visit www.alexearthday.org. Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at Springfest 2013. This event is free fun for family at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Enjoy pony rides, games, farmers market, environmental workshops and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/ earthday/ for more Earth Day events.

May 2014

Spring for Alexandria. A multi-day celebration where the focus is on philanthropy and service to Alexandria—"Where we work, play, live and give." All City facilities, including libraries and recreation centers. Visit http:// volunteeralexandria.org for individual events.

June 2014

- Alexandria Armenian Festival. Vendors, entertainment, food and more. Visit www.alexandriaarmenianfestival.com. Springfield Days/Party in the Park. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.,
- South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that includes a pool party, "Pet Fest" and more. Visit www.springfielddays.com. **Cardboard Boat Regatta.** Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Witness the cardboard
- boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline. 703-569-0285 or julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Vintage Crystal: Wine in the Water Park. Fridays in
- June from 6-10 p.m. Visit www.crystalcity.org. Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Enjoy a wide variety of genres and performers at the Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances/.

July 2014

USA & Alexandria Birthday Celebration. 6 p.m. concert, 9:30 p.m. fireworks, at Oronoco Bay Park, Alexandria. Enjoy a concert by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, birthday cake, food and fireworks. The evening culminates in Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture." Free.

001 August 2014

- National Night Out. Strengthen community connections and heighten crime-prevention awareness at local events throughout the region.
- Arlington County Fair. Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second St. South, Indoor and outdoor activities. Visit arlingtoncountyfair.us.





A selection of upcoming theatre, music and art shows in and around Alexandria & Mount Vernon. If you know of missing venues or organizations, please email the information to cbryan@connection newspapers.com

219

Two NineTeen Restaurant, 219 King St., Alexandria. Famous for it's succulent New-Orleans style dishes, 219 also features live music nightly. 703-549-1141 or www.219restaurant.com/.

Aldersgate Community Theatre

With a home in Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, the ACCT puts on plays and musicals for families. ACCT has a professional stage and are members of the Northern Virginia Theater Alliance and the Washington Area Theater Community Honors. www.acctonline.org.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. 3001 N. Beauregard St. 703-548-0885 or www.alexsym.org.

Art on the Avenue

On Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Three hundred-plus artists/artisans sell their work (all price ranges), creating mini-exhibits down the avenue. Music stages, a Children's Stage, a pie baking contest and food round out the fest. www.artontheavenue.org.

The Birchmere

The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. "America's Legendary Music Hall" showcases music in a dinner-theater style. All guests must have a ticket. 703-548-7500 or birchmere.com.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. This Alexandria theatre offers classics and popular, new favorites. 703-683-5778 or www.thelittletheatre.com/.

Calendar

From Page 22

THROUGH SEPT. 1

Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week. More

Restaurant Week. More than 50 restaurants throughout Alexandria offer a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two. To browse the list of restaurants participating, visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com or 703-746-3301.

THURSDAY/AUG. 29

Movie Matinee for Children. 4 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children in grades K-8 can watch a movie. Free. 703-746-1783.
Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.
Film Series. 6 p.m. at Burke

Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Watch "Moonrise Kingdom." Free. 703-746-1704. Martha's Family Movie. 7

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Metro Stage

MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Presents Broadway quality theater productions. 703-548-9044 or www.metrostage.org/.

Morrison House

Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St., Alexandria. A classic hotel serving traditional American fare boasts exceptional piano music at the bar. www.morrisonhouse.com/ or 703-838-8000.

Mount Vernon Community Theatre

1900 Elkin St., Alexandria. MVCCT's programs are twofold: each year three to four productions are presented, directed by professionals and featuring children in all roles. Additionally MVCCT, a nonprofit, has an active education program which includes after-school programs in Fairfax County Public Schools (both PTA sponsored and outreach/ grant based), as well as a spring break and summer camp. 703-360-0686 or http://mvcct.org/.

O'Connells

Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant and Bar, 112 King St., Alexandria. Serving fresh specials and old favorites, the food at O'Connell's is accompanied by traditional live Irish music. 703-739-1124 or www.danieloconnells.com/.

Port City Playhouse

Port City playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Featuring theater productions for all tastes, the Port City Playhouse is a fun, Alexandriabased theater company. 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.org/.

St. Elmo's Coffee Pub

St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. St. Elmo's Coffee Pub is a neighborhood gathering place with a coffeehouse atmosphere and plenty of entertainment. 703-739-9268 or stelmoscoffeepub.com/.

Torpedo Art Factory

p.m. at Martha Washington

based on a children's classic

Town Theater, 815 King St.

Caravan of Thieves and the Funhouse perform. \$20. Call

www.oldtowntheater1914.com.

All ages can watch a film

book. Free. Registration

required. 703-768-6700.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Old

703-544-5315 or visit

Theatre Performance. 7:30

Metropolitan Performing Arts

Theatre's ensemble presents

"Fame: the Musical." \$20.

Call 703-584-2900 or visit

Annual Big Chalk Draw. 8-10

a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane.

Join in a morning of chalk

drawing in the parking lot.

Free, everyone welcome. Art

www.metro-theatre.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 30

p.m. at Workhouse Arts

Center, 9601 Ox Rd.

Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road

105 North Union St., Alexandria. The world-renowned art center on the waterfront features the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, art exhibits, classes through The Art League School, and the Cafe by Bread & Chocolate. For general information, 703-838-4565. For information on art classes, 703-683-2323.

> at the Center will also be collecting new school supplies and backpacks for children in the community. Visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Three Dog Night. At The Birchmere 3701 Mt Vernon Ave. Tickets on sale now for \$69.50. Visit www.threedognight.com or www.birchmere.com for information.

THURSDAYSATURDAY/AUG.2931 SATURDAY/AUG.31

Last Taste of Summer Wine Event. 2-5 p.m. at Balducci's Food Lover's Markets, 600 Franklin St. All wines will be paired with gourmet snacks. Visit www.balduccis.com or 703-549-6611. Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see The Outlaws perform. \$35. visit www.outlawsmusic.com.

ArtFestival.com

See Calendar, Page 24

Robyn Ludwick will open.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet 🔹 August 29 - September 4, 2013 🔹 23



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CALENDAR

From Page 23

SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

- Music Performance. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Violinist Benjamin Scott will perform music by Beethoven, Ravel and more. Visit www.wmpamusic.org/free or 703-799-8229.
- **Civil War Sunday.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327. See an original May 26, 1861 edition of the "New-York Tribune" detailing Col. Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria, a Peeps diorama and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org or 703-746-4399.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 3

- Stories and Songs. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free. 703-746-1705.
- Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.
- **Tuesday Tots.** 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1704.
- Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free. 703-746-1702.
- **Sherwood Poetry Read-Around.** 6:45 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can share favorite poems, either original or by a favorite poet. Free. 703-765-3645.
- Evening Storytime. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children of all ages can wear pajamas and enjoy stories and activities about bedtime. Free. Registration required, 703-339-6700.
- Game Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12 can play with their friends. Free. 703-746-1702.
- Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Mary Radnofsky will discuss "Escape from Romania to 9/11: Rebuilding the American Dream." Free. 703-746-1702.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 4

- 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.
- **Down on the Farm.** 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 4-5 can enjoy stories, songs and activities about farms and animals. Registration Required. Call 703-768-6700.
- **Laptime Rhythm and Rhyme.** 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children up to 18 months with adult. Free. 703-746-1704.
- **Daytime Book Discussion.** 12:15 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Call for title.
- 703-339-4610. **Hitchcock Film Series.** 6:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Watch a movie
- and then discuss it at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. Free. 703-746-1705. Family Story & Craft Night. 7 p.m.
- at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy crafts and stories. Free. 703-746-1702.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

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.

- Terrific Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.
- **Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1705.
- Little One-Ders. 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.
- **Paws to Read.** 5:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1702 x5.
- Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 3-6 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1704.
- Night Time Tales. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 3-5 can listen to stories. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.
- **Movies at Martha.** 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults and teens age 13 and up can enjoy a movie. Call for title. 703-768-6700.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 5-SUNDAY/OCT. 20

Art Exhibit. See "Deep, Full, And Not Quite Real" at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. See how artists play with notions of science, psychological state and more to create art. Free. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

SEPT. 5-OCT. 7

Art Exhibit. Kreshnik "Nick" Xhiku explores the bounds between figurative and abstract sculpture in his solo exhibit "Structural Elements" at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

- Friday Affair Market. Noon-4 p.m. at historic Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane. Purchase baked goods, treats, flowers and crafts from local vendors. Held the first and third Fridays of every month through December. Call 202-256-5332.
- **E-Reader Cover Craft Project.** 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Librarians will show how to turn a hardback book into a cover for your e-reader. Participation is limited, 703-746-1745.
- **Theater Production.** 8 p.m. at Old Town Theater, 815Ω King St. Bible Stories Theatre will perform "Once Upon a Time Shop." Call 703-544-5315 or go to OldTownTheater1914.com for tickets.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6-SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Art Exhibit. See "Voyage in Tangible Space" by Mei Mei Chang at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. It is a mixed media exhibit. Free. Visit http:// www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/ gallery.html for more information.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet local artists and hear live music. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/ artmarket for more. Alexandria King Street Art **Festival**. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Old Town Alexandria, 480 King St. Free and open to the public. Email Info@ArtFestival.com or call 561-746-6615.

- Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.
- Fall and Winter Gardening. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Learn what grows best during the winter months in this region. Free. 703-746-1703.
- **Saturday Stories.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702.
- Family Dig Day. At Alexandria Archaeology 105 N. Union Street Learn and assist City archaeologists as they examine soil and artifacts gathered from a real dig. The day begins with a lesson on the history and archaeology of Shuter's Hill and continues with a tour and an opportunity to sift through excavated soil in search of artifacts. \$5; children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment provided. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4399 or visit
- Wish (1997) Horava, 2007 Archaeology, Wartha Martha's. 1 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Hear local poets read and discuss their works. Free. 703-768-6700.
- Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. see and meet Mei Mei Chang, the artist of "Voyage in Tangible Space" at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Visit http:// www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/ gallery.html for more information. Theater Production. 5 p.m. or 8 p.m.
- at Old Town Theater, 815 Ω King St. Bible Stories Theatre will perform "Once Upon a Time Shop." Call 703-544-5315 or go to OldTownTheater1914.com for tickets.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-29

Art Exhibit. See "In the Flesh 4" at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit examines contemporary figurative art. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

- Alexandria King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Old Town Alexandria, 480 King St. Free and open to the public. Email Info@ArtFestival.com or call 561-746-6615.
- Movie Musical Series. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for the title. Free. 703-746-1751.
 Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. meet the artists of "Deep, Full, And Not Quite Real" at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. See how artists play with notions of science, psychological state and more to create art. Free. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.
- **"Bounty of the Bay" Party.** 6-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. All-youcan-eat feast of summer favorites like a Chesapeake crab boil, oysters, fried clams, red potatoes, summer corn and cole slaw. \$45 inclusive of tax and gratuity. Visit www.jackson20.com or call 703-842-2790.

MONDAY/SEPT. 9

Little One-Ders. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-

See Calendar, Page 25

CALENDAR

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- 746-1702 ext. 5. Baby Lap Sits. 10:30 a.m. or 2:30
- p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Literacy programs for parents and babies. Ages birth through 12 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.
- Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free. 703-746-1702.
- Read to the Dog. 2 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 6-12 can read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Register at 703-768-6700
- Wild and Wonderful: Hidden **Pond.** 3:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can learn about animals in nature. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.
- 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
- Interfaith Book Club. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Read nonfiction works that strive to find common ground through recognizing and celebrating common values. Free. Call 703-746-1743 for title.
- Let's Talk Books. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Discuss "Flight Behavior: A Novel" by Barbara Kingsolver. Free. 703-746-1703.
- Books and Ideas. 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "River of Doubt" by Candice Millard. Free. 703-765-3645

TUESDAY/SEPT. 10 Stories and Songs. 10 a.m. at Duncan



GREG MINAH

with color, pattern and intensity, also featuring Greg Minah and Beverly Ryan. An opening reception is planned for

Saturday, Sept. 7, 6-8 p.m. at Gallery Plan B, 1530 Fourteenth St. NW, Washington, D.C. The Exhibition continues

through Sunday, Oct. 13. Visit www.galleryplanb.com or call 202-234-2711.

Check Out Plan B Artist Tory Cowles, a Potomac resident with a studio in Alexandria, will be part of an exhibition of paintings packed

Early Words. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy songs and

more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

BEVERLY RYAN

stories. Registration required, 703-339-4610

- Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Stories, songs and games for ages 12-23 months with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-765-3645.
- Stories and Songs. 11 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.
- Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1704.
- Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.
- Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free. 703-746-1702.
- Story Time in the Afternoon. 2 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1704.
- Game Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12 can play with their friends. Free. 703-746-1702.
- Second Tuesday Book Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss 'Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter" by Tom Franklin. Free. Visit secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com or 703-339-4610.
- **Evening Book Group.** 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can discuss "Inside of a Dog" by Alexander Horowitz. Free. 703-768-6700.

Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free. 703-746-1705. Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen

St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free. 703-746-1703. Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age

24-36 months can enjoy stories and



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News



A long line, filled with members of the T.C. Williams High School community, waited for the Aug. 21 event to begin.

Back-to-School Family Night at TC



A dinner including pizza and apples was part of the free event. T.C. Williams Principal Suzanne Maxey was on hand to pass out food.

Photos by **Renée Ruggles** Gazette Packet



One of the most popular tables at the event belonged to Raffaella. After being bullied herself, the 5th grader came up with her own anti-bullying character to inspire others to help put an end to it.



The staff of the Campagna Center, including Associate Director Chrystal Starr Brown, Karla Kelby, and teacher Shirley Simmons were on hand to talk about their programs which strive to improve the community through a commitment to learning and achievement. Their Campagna Kids program, which serves K-5 aged children can be found in multiple locations.



Scottie, the Campagna Center mascot, was a popular guest at the family event. The Campagna Center's booth was equally popular with parents who were interested in learning about the services that they offer.

End Legal Executions, Say Local Activists

Group gathers to discuss state's death penalty.

By Harry Covert

as the time come for Virginians to reconsider using lethal injections and the electric chair to fulfill the death penalty?

That was the question more than 80 Alexandrians discussed on a recent Friday "Happy Hour" event on North Alfred Street.

Christopher Leibig, a local author and defense attorney, spearheaded the program that included prominent legislators, lawyers and citizens, both for and against the continued use of the death penalty in capital crimes.

Stephen A. Northrup, executive director of Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, told local participants the "ultimate sentence" is inappropriate for a 21st century society.

Northrup said, "There's no question whether Virginia will join the growing list of states that have abolished it. The only question is when."

Northrup's comments echoed others. He didn't equivocate on his objection to the penalty and said, "The death penalty is unnecessary, unwise and inappropriate."

He also discussed the political issues, noting that legislators and citizens may be ready to change state laws, especially when taxpayers realize the



Christopher Leibig

costs and its ineffectiveness at furthering "legitimate justice."

Dan Goldman, a capital defense lawyer, discussed developments on the matter in the state's courts of record.

Meghan Shapiro, also a capital defense attorney, gave the history of the electric chair in the Old Dominion and said it was a "cause to painful death." She said the Supreme Court of Virginia "will not address this cruel and unusual punishment issue."

Leibig said there is a growing movement to revisit Virginia's use of the death penalty. Legislators and state leaders will find increased lobbyists at work to legally end executions in the state.

Among organizers with Leibig were Shapiro, Joni C. Robin and Heidi Meinzer.



Stephen A. Northrup, executive director, Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

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Letters

From Page 13

\$506.25 if for 6 months), with relief being \$500 if for entire year or \$250.00 if for the remaining 6 months of a year. It means \$506.25 - \$250 = \$256.25.

Thus, the total tax on Hummer H3 is \$203.43 + \$256.25 = \$459.68, and not \$512.50 as the Treasury Division/personal property unit erroneously calculates.

I requested that the Treasury Division of Alexandria immediately corrects not only my tax bills, but the bills of all taxpayers in the City of Alexandria who have had their bills erroneously calculated. There were 30,978 families residing in Alexandria in 2010, which conservatively means about the same number of vehicles are registered in Alexandria — if not several times more. If the average difference between the already high and unjustified tax, and the improperly calculated one are about \$100 per car, that's extra "unearned income" of \$3,097,800 for the always-hungry Treasury Division.

I also requested that a public apology and notice be issued on the website of the City of Alexandria government. And of course the officials who did this serious error should be fired or at the very least severely disciplined. They basically wanted free and easy money from tens of thousands of people, which in other circumstances could be viewed as an attempt of defrauding consumers.

I hope all readers of the newspaper will express their sentiments to city officials.

Adil Bagirov, Ph.D.

Don't Blame City Attorney

To the Editor:

I don't think it's fair to flail the city attorney for spending tax money to defend City Hall's bad decisions in court. City Hall is his client, so legal ethics require him to defend City Hall's decisions.

The waterfront is no open-and-shut case, but a matter of great precedent whose outcome will decide the parameters of nearby property owners' rights and governmental latitude. And, while the aggrieved taxpayer might consider a fired financial analyst who pointed out a pattern of failures to document and challenge costs of building the new police headquarters to be a whistleblower, his superiors apparently felt that such questions challenged their discretion.

The city attorney's job is to defend his client. Courts are there to decide these questions, and if they decide them against the city, it should not be the city attorney who gets the blame, but his client.

> **Dino Drudi** Alexandria

City Deserves 'F' Grade To the Editor:

I am sad — no, make that disgusted, at how poorly the City of Alexandria has served the children attending Jeffersonwww.ConnectionNewspapers.com Houston Elementary school. Educating our children is after all, a major responsibility that citizens entrust to the local government. The latest test results are abysmal, with only 22 percent of fourth graders passing the reading test, and with a passing rate under 50 percent for practically all tests.

This poor showing has been going on for over 13 years, with cries for help by residents whose children are obligated to attend this school, only to be told that it is the parents' responsibility to be involved with the educational process. Although parental engagement is an important part of the educational process, a supposed lack of parental engagement does not explain how Jefferson-Houston has become one of the worst rated elementary schools in the state of Virginia.

Comparisons are available at schooldigger.com, which ranks Jefferson-Houston 989th out of 1001 elementary schools in the state. Zillow, which is a commonly used real estate search engine, has a school ranking feature and it gives Jefferson- Houston a 1 out of 10 rating. Not many parents are going to give our neighborhoods a second look after seeing that number, or they will move out of the neighborhood as the children reach school age.

Some years ago, there was more transparency in the process, since it was possible to see per capita spending for each child by looking at the School Board budget documents. A quick review of the 2002 budget showed that the per/child spending at Jefferson-Houston was about \$4000 less than at Lyles-Crouch, and that classroom sizes were almost twice the size as those at Lyles-Crouch, which had teaching assistants as adjuncts to its classes. This is not intended to suggest that Lyles-Crouch was undeserving of these features, but it does question the city's commitment to Jefferson-Houston.

The city is now crying foul about the state's intervention, but it would have been a surprise if the state did not intervene, given the results.

The city's solution is to build a new larger school, yet it is not clear how this will address the root cause, nor has it taken responsibility for allowing Jefferson-Houston to become the 12th worst elementary school in the state.

Real estate models all point to schools as an integral part of determining housing prices, so this school failure affects Northeast, Inner City and Old Town North. However, the greatest sin of all is our failure to level the educational playing field by ensuring that more than 22 percent of the fourth graders attending Jefferson-Houston are able to read and write at acceptable levels.

The money that is being spent on the new school would be better served if only a fraction was directed to early childhood intervention and enrichment programs. The City of Alexandria gets an "F" for their management of the Jefferson-Houston School.

Connie Graham Alexandria

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Letters

From Page 27

City Relies On 'Lawyering'

To the Editor:

I read your article entitled "City Attorney Gave Green Light to Hensley Before All Documents Were Reviewed" with interest. It is a reflection of a disturbing trend in city government in the last few years to transform every policy debate into legal drama. We have seen this soap opera play out on the waterfront and other land use decisions; with whistleblowers; and with contractors. Sometimes it ends in protracted and pitched litigation; other times there are tortured and novel interpretations to claim that there is only one legally permissible policy choice (which just so happens to coincide with the interests of our one party leadership).

History repeats itself, first as tragedy and then as farce. The Hensley debacle was not the first time that the city was surprised by a deed or grant that restricted land use contrary to the power brokers' desires. In 2000, the city aggressively tried to shut down Burke Library. The community coalesced around saving Burke as a library, and the city fought against its citizens very hard. A citizen located the deed for Burke Library, which stated that the land was deeded to the city as long as it remained a library or ancillary facility. This stopped the plan to close Burke Library dead in its tracks. After a long period of acrimony and scheming, the city got serious about talking Burke Library's future with its citizens. Today, there is a successful joint library and school administrative office at the site.

Unfortunately, the city did not learn much from its relatively recent experience with Burke Library: overlooking critical legal requirements and documents to compel a predetermined political conclusion is a recipe for disaster, and in the end rarely works.

In April 2013, in the aftermath of a campaign to undermine rights of citizens to achieve a particular result on the waterfront, I wrote a letter expressing concern that the city was pursuing a policy of lawyering its way to pre-determined political conclusions, turning ordinary policy matters into a battle of the legal memos, while blowing off fundamental due process. Because of its reliance upon making policy through lawyering, it spends way too much time and treasure positioning itself for legal skirmishes it provoked. Specific political conclusions are rarely required by legal mandates, nor are there any laws against keeping an open mind about planning issues. The future of Hensley almost fell victim to attempting to lawyer the way to a specific outcome.

The What's New Alexandria effort remains a promising (if flawed) initiative to break this type of thinking and return policy issues to the public arena, to be thrashed out in the normal give and take involving citizens with different interests, and their government. On occasion, it may get heated; most of the time, it will not. As we saw with Burke, an adult conversation (even when heated) gets better results than legal scheming. But it is a far better approach, with a much better track record, than using questionable legal maneuvering to drown voices and please city hall.

Frank Putzu Alexandria

Another Turn For the Worse

To the Editor:

City Housing Director Mildrilyn Davis recently released a statement seeking to "clear up a few misconceptions about Hunting Point." In fact, that statement is a fount of misconceptions, and raises the question of why the city housing director felt it necessary to praise an out-of-town developer that is in the process of removing over 500 units of affordable and workforce housing from the rolls of such at a property that the city has repeatedly cited as a very important source of it.

The tone is set early on in a condensed history of VDOT and the Point when Ms. Davis repeats VDOT's own disingenuous excuse for its role in this mess, that it was not equipped to manage apartment complexes. In fact, VDOT is a massive bureaucracy with enormous resources. It commissioned inspection reports of the buildings, which reports detailed the necessary repairs, and hired a professional real estate services company to manage both Hunting Towers and Hunting Terrace. The VDOT history with both complexes is worthy of a long overdue investigative multi-part story. Its shameless neglect of the properties while reaping millions of dollars in profits was entirely willful.

But then such "clarifications" run throughout Ms. Davis's statement. For example, there is a reference to the Landlord Tenant Relations Division of the Housing Office. Hunting Point residents are indeed familiar with the Division, as we filed a 17page complaint with it on Aug. 16, after repeated refusals by Laramar management to meet with us. The complaint details a number of issues that appear to us to violate a number of provisions of the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act.

As of the date this letter is submitted, the Landlord Tenant Relations Division is conducting an investigation into the issues in our complaint, including the poorly planned and excessively intrusive way that Laramar is performing in-unit repairs, and the repeatedly inaccurate "communications" accompanying that work. Should the Landlord Tenant Relations Division find merit in at least some of those issues — and we do not see how they could fail to do so — then the next stage would be an attempt to conciliate those issues with Laramar.

In that context, Ms. Davis's repeated endorsements of Laramar practices specific to those issues in her statement of Aug. 22 are entirely premature and inappropriate, given that the Landlord Tenant Relations Division is a subordinate office of hers, and the ongoing nature of the investigation. Why would Ms. Davis choose this point in time to undercut the efforts of a Division in her own office and the efforts of residents by publicly backing Laramar?

See Letters, Page 34



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PEOPLE



Firetrucks were popular with the children who attended the Safety Fair. Firefighter Kandra Wilson, from Station 203, helped children like Lucas climb up and experience what it's like to sit inside.



Gavin Latney, Inova's director of Safety, Security, and Emergency Management, welcomed everyone to Inova's 3rd annual Safety and Emergency Management Fair. Then, he introduced Washington Mystic's player Matee Ajavon to the crowd. The basketball player was there to sign autographs for her fans.



Most of the food was provided by Firehouse Subs. Franchise owner Barry Pitkin was on hand to serve sandwiches to everyone who attended the event.

Inova Hosts Annual Safety Fair



Members of Medic #207 were on hand to talk to anyone who had questions.



inside the Alexandria Police **Department Command Bus** were greeted by Captain Len Fouch. He shared the history and purpose of the resource, as well as showing the various pieces of equipment inside. The Command Bus is used to respond to large-scale incidents.



When the DJ played the Cupid Shuffle, Runyon, The Burke and Hebert Mascot, delighted the crowd by dancing. He was joined by Doron Fields, who was at the event helping his wife Angie, one of the organizers.



history at the VietFest 2013 outside Landmark Mall on Saturday, Aug. 24. The VietFest group dancers perform Stacey Vuong takes a bite a traditional northern Vietnamese dance.

of grilled steak kabo.

standing in line to taste Vietnamese cuisine such as pad thai, chicken on a stick and veggi lomein.

Schools

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

Michael Barber, a peace and conflict studies major, and Aidan Mosley, a history major, were both recipients of the dean's award for academic excellence during the spring 2013 term at Colgate University.

Connor James Lenio was named to the dean's list for the spring 2013 semester at Washington University in St. Louis.

Luis A Mojica Rodriguez was named to the Columbia College dean's list for the January-March and March-May 2013 sessions.

Evan Jenkins has earned placement on the dean's list for the 2013 spring semester at Berklee College of Music.

Jennifer Anne Lynch and Sarah Elizabeth Ortman graduated from Miami University in southwestern Ohio.

Brittney Boykin, a Sacred Music major, graduated from the Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

Cheryl Olechnowicz received the John Edgar Baublitz Pi Lambda Sigma Award in Management at Gettysburg College's Spring Honors Day ceremo-

Emma Florence Cordell was named to the Miami University president's list.

Caroline T. Kelly has been named to first honors on the Clark University dean's list for the spring 2013 semester.

Emory University presented degrees to the following people: William Ford, who received masters of public health; Christina Heddesheimer, who received a doctor of law degree; Michael Howell, who also received a doctor of degree; and Meghan law McCullough, who received a doctor of medicine degree.

Brooks Eaton has been named to Lawrence University's dean's list for the spring 2013 semester.

The following area students gradu-ated from Mercyhurst University this past May: Gregory Rouson with a master of science in applied intelligence and Joseph Thessin with an associate in science in liberal arts.

Nine Alexandria residents graduated from Radford University at the end of the spring semester. Earning Bachelor of Science degrees were Stephen Andrew McFarland, psychology; Tewodros Degefu Desta, biology; Kristin Ashley Kayes, political science; Charlotte Patricia Warrington, communication; Emily Sohyoung Besse, media studies; and Megan Marie Maple, interdisciplinary studies. Earning a Bachelor of Art degree was Andrew Spencer Williams, art. Earning a Bachelor of Administration degree was Andrea Michelle Laplace, history. Earning Bachelor of Business Administration degrees were Stephanie Carolyn Cockayne, finance; and Emily Sohyoung Besse, marketing.

The following students have been admitted to Hampden-Sydney College: Logan Durwood Leathers III who will enter with a president's award; Kurt David Anderson who will enter as a Patrick Henry Scholar; and Scott Michael Bellamy, Nicholas David Javier Fletcher, Ernesto

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Landaverde, Steven Dino Ponce, and Henrik Lars Anderson, Jr. who all enter with alumni awards.

> Katherine Hussey, a theater arts major, has made the spring 2013 dean's list at Hofstra University.

> Michelle Hassell earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in 3-D digital graphics from RIT's College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

> Andrew Stebbins earned a bachelor of science degree in computer science from RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

> Domenic Carr and Michael Saunders graduated from The Georgia Institute of Technology this past spring.

> Anastasia C. Voellm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. Voellm, was recognized for outstanding achievement at Randolph-Macon Academy at the school's second end-of-vear awards ceremony in May. Voellm received the president's award for academic achievement.

> Edward Bell, a freshman at Tufts University, made the spring 2013 dean's list.

> Christopher McDonough graduated from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.

> The following students enrolled at Virginia Tech were named to the dean's list for the spring 2013 semester: Christopher M. Orem, Colin B. Stamper, Rachel A. Gartlan, D'Elia M. Chandler, Matthew T. Czechanski, Samuel J. Ferrara, Andrew K. Kicinski, Claire S. Osborn, Sarah E. Tianti, Marianne S. Wolz, Shauna M. Erickson, Katherine G. Banchoff, Eileen Cheng, Kelley A. Cumpton, Kelsey E. Donley, Catherine A. Doulis, Olivia N. Foroughi, Roger B. Gildersleeve, Sandy S. Janwatin, Marin A. Nolan, Molly E. Vaughan, Alexander J. Zelloe, Devin B. Amole, Khoki N. Bernier, Nicholas W. Galdos, Farhan M. Hasan, Elliott T. Jernigan, Caroline E. Kelly, Kathleen A. O'Connor, Michael C. Pourchot, Alexander W. Cheng, Kevin H. Corcoran, Sarah E. Curzon, Kathleen H. Driscoll, Anna M. Gehring, Gabrielle N. Gonzalez, Mark C. Micklem, Ian S. Philips, Sasha A. Spriggs, Joseph F. Taylor, Alan Tran, Annmarie J. Wood, Lindsey M. Baumann, Julianne D. Bigler, Molly A. Bowdring, Reed H. Bryant, Michelle S. Cohen, Samantha L. Cooper, Bridget A. Corridon, Christina L. Devine, Todd P. Ferri, Casey P. Jenkins, Dylan M. Keightley, Saskia R. Kroesen, Grant G. Leonard, Douglas P. Magill, Kelly D. McFarland, Madalena R. McNeil, Leo T. Naegele, Owen T. Nugent, Kelley M. O'Leary, Catherine B. Royka, Laina N. Schneider, Sean M. Trenchard, Patrick M. Murphy, Dylan M. Bischoff, Jason M. Cayanong, Hilmi D. Entabi, Michael C. Fagan, Hunter J. Fairchild, Adam D. Frank, Travis E. Frank, Alan A. Gomez, Ezra S. Kaypaghian, Juan G. Montolin, Timothy H. Song, Jessica R. Wessinger, Lina S. Abdelatif, Andrew J. Chesley, Hanna Y. Coleman, James E. Creaven, Primal K. Dhillon, Kruthika Kikkeri, Andreas C. Kunkel, Richard D. Lee, Brian M. MicKey, Natalie S.

Montequin, David R. Moran,

Carolyn Y. Mottley, David C. Oetjen, Stefan J. Povolny, Brittany L. Sholes, Mishell A. Siles Borda, Younes Taleb, Jennifer L. Thompson, Rebecca K. Truong, Jwalita Veeramachaneni, Hope H. Wentzel, Julia E. Zukowski, Philip J. Daniel. Peter T. Raum, Girum Z. Tessema, Laura A. Vilhauer, Robert J. Calvey, Peter Francis S. Guevara, Stephanie M. Mateus, Christine R. McCoy, Kirsten R. Melone, Alicia L. Sobral, Erika L. Weidman, Mitchell S. Youmans, Ryan G. Morrison, Michele J. Newby, Mahmood A. Alwash, Robiel M. Ande, Michelle J. Baca, Allison S. Biache, Mikala T. Brunson, Ali M. Buhisi, Alan Cai, Gwendolyn M. Cardiff, Mussie Kebede, Zachary T. Kiszka, Menen L. Missailidis, Kevin K. Pham and Eileen H. Phan.

Elizabeth Conran and Kara Von **Dresner** both graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus this spring.

Ashley Lynn Thorpe graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor of social work degree.

Jocelyn Griser and Sarah Selica Miura were named to the spring 2013 dean's list at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Sheldon Pearce was named to the dean's list at Stevenson University for the spring 2013 semester.

Danielle Piscal has graduated from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, In.

Hannah C. Lynn earned dean's list honors at Saint Joseph's University for the spring 2013 semester.

Evan Morris recently took part in the annual Rail and Intermodal Transportation Program, a collaborative program hosted by Michigan Technological University and the University of Wisconsin-Superior. RITP is designed for students with an interest in rail and intermodal transportation engineering. Students learn about and ride trains, giving them a first-hand look at locomotives in action.

The following Virginia Tech students were among those honored at the university's spring graduate commencement ceremony: Christopher Ritchie, Anny Batista, Katelyn Seskey, Jeffrey Engle, Celine Desbrosses, Mary McAlevy, Sara Weisbeck, Larry Do, Mike Gamble, Richard Krewson, Claire Cuccio, Jessica Ross, Alexis Barrios, Caitlin Dufraine, Jason Granado, Taylor Ham, Gregorio Doble, Faisal Hameed, James Lepse, and Manuel Feijoo.

John Luzik will attend the University of Dayton this fall.

Molly Caulfield, a student at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, was named the 2013 recipient of the Saint Michael's College Book Award for Academic Achievement with a Social Conscience. The award recognizes students who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in volunteer service and academic achievement.

Danielle Comer and Kwasi **Owusu-Agyemang** were named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the summer 2013 semester.

Bishop Ireton High School graduate See Schools, Page 34



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Alexandria Gazette Packet 🔹 August 29 - September 4, 2013 🔹 31

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News Getting To Know T.C. Williams Sports

Girls' basketball team won 2012-13 **Patriot District** championship.

School: T.C. Williams High School. Mascot: Titans. School Colors: Red, white and blue.

Athletic Director: Steve Colantuoni, 703-824-6860. Football Coach: Dennis Randolph

(seventh year).

After a 1-5 start, the Titans closed the season with four consecutive victories, including a 13-10 overtime win against rival West Potomac in the regular season finale. Despite the strong finish, TC failed to qualify for the playoffs with a 5-5 record, extending its postseason drought to 22 seasons.

Boys' Basketball Coach: Julian King

Girls' Basketball Coach: Kesha Walton. Boys' Soccer Coach: Martin Nickley Baseball Coach: Jim Blair. Rival School: West Potomac.

What happened last year: The field hockey team reached the Patriot District championship



The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team won the 2012-13 Patriot District championship.

game. The girls' basketball team won the district title and reached the region quarterfinals. The baseball team advanced to the region tournament for the first time since 2009. The boys' soccer team reached the region quarterfinals.

Historic Achievements: While the football program hasn't reached the playoffs in 22 seasons,

the Titans have a decorated past, winning state championships in 1971, 1984 and 1987. The boys' basketball program won a state title in 2008.

Famous Graduates: Gary Bertier was an all-American linebacker on the Titans' 1971 state championship team, considered one of the best prep football teams in the Virginia history. Bertier was part of a TC defense which posted nine shutouts, including a 27-0 victory over Salem's Andrew Lewis in the state championship game in Roanoke. Following the 1971 season, a car accident left Bertier paraplegic. Ten years later, he died in a car accident. But while Bertier was confined to a wheelchair, he continued to push forward, competing in the Wheelchair Olympics. Bertier's time with the Titans was portrayed in the 2000 Disney movie "Remember the Titans." Linebacker Keith Burns (1990) was a seventh-round draft choice of the Denver Broncos in 1994. He spent 13 seasons in the NFL with the Broncos, Chicago Bears and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, winning a pair of Super Bowls (XXXII and XXXIII) with Denver. He is an assistant special teams coach with the Broncos and enters his sixth season on the staff. Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (2009) was a McDonald's All-American and the girls' basketball program's all-time leading scorer. She will be a senior at the University of North Carolina.

Quotable: "We tried so hard [for] four years we haven't won it since 2009, so to win it my senior year is a great experience for me and my team because we worked hard to get here." - Former T.C. Williams girls' basketball player Christian Roberts after the Titans won the Patriot District title.

Getting To Know Bishop Ireton Sports

Boys' basketball team defeated top seed Gonzaga in WCAC tournament and reached semifinals for first time in school history.

School: Bishop Ireton High School. Mascot: Cardinals.

School Colors: Burgundy and gold. Athletic Director: Bill Simmons, 703-212-

5169. Football Coach: Tony Verducci (seventh year).

One year after producing the program's first 7-0 start, the Cardinals started 0-9 in 2012 and finished the season 1-9, winning their season fi-

nale against Pope John Paul the Great. Boys' Basketball Coach: Neil Berkman. Girls' Basketball Coach: Derek Campbell. Girls' lacrosse coach: Rick Sofield. Rival School: Bishop O'Connell

What happened last year: The boys' basketball team reached the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference semifinals for the first time in school history. The girls' lacrosse team finished WCAC runner-up and reached the VISAA semifinals.

Famous Alumni: Governor of Virginia Bob McDonnell graduated from Bishop Ireton in 1972. The Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl attended but did not graduate from Ireton.

Quotable: "I think [beating Gonzaga is] a pro-

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Patrick Moseh and the Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team in 2013 reached the WCAC semifinals for the first time in school history.

gram-changer and I hope recruits out there see it and I hope we realize that anything is possible. We've been coming close the entire year and wen't been able to get over the hump and when they erased our 10-point lead at halftime and tied it up, everybody was like, 'Here we go again,' including the coaches. We got over the hump with some toughness and some gang rebounding and making big plays at the big time. Going through the wars every day in the WCAC just made our team resilient." — Bishop Ireton boys' basketball coach Neil Berkman



Carly Reed and the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team won the 2013 state title.

Getting To Know St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Sports Boys' and girls' Boys' Lacrosse Coach: Andrew Taibl. Girls' Lacrosse Coach: Kathy Jenkins.

lacrosse teams won state championships.

School: St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. Mascot: Saints.

School Colors: Red, white, green and gold. Athletic Directors: Stephanie Koroma (girls), 703-212-2776; Andrew Taibl (boys) 703-212-2775

Football Coach: Bernard Joseph (third year). The Saints started 5-0 in 2012, but dropped their next four games and finished the season with a 6-4 record. The program went 1-8 each of the previous two seasons.

Field Hockey Coach: Marsha Way.

Boys' Basketball Coach: Ron Ginyard. Girls' Basketball Coach: Calvin Crenshaw. Rival School: Episcopal.

What happened last year: The field hockey team defeated Bullis to win the ISL tournament championship. The boys' lacrosse team won IAC tournament and state championships. The girls' lacrosse team finished 28-1, capturing ISL tournament and state titles. Softball pitcher Alexis Sargent surpassed the 1,000-career strikeout mark.

Quotable: "Hitting the 1,000 mark felt truly amazing. It was not so much the reaching of the mile mark that felt so good, but the incredible amount of support that the community showed. Coaches stopped practice to bring their teams to the game, teachers stayed late after school, and my friends and family came from all over. The love and support was overwhelming." - Softball pitcher Alexis Sargent via email after reaching 1,000 career strikeouts.

Sports

Episcopal Sports Boys' basketball team reached IAC tournament semifinals.

School: Episcopal High School. Mascot: Maroon. School Colors: Maroon and

black. Athletic Directors: Jim

Fitzpatrick (boys), 703-933-4034; Jen Fitzpatrick (girls), 703-933-4036 **Football Coach**: Panos

Voulgaris (second year). The Maroon finished 3-7 in

Voulgaris' first season as head coach, but two of those victories came against Alexandria foes Bishop Ireton and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

Boys' Soccer Coach: Rick Wilcox.

Boys' Basketball Coach: Jim Fitzpatrick.

Girls' Basketball Coach: Mady Gobrecht.

Baseball Coach: Greg Moviel. Rival School: St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

What happened last year: The boys' soccer team lost to Paul VI in the VISAA state quarterfinals. The boys' basketball team reached the IAC tournament semifinals.

Famous Graduates: Bryson Spinner (1999 graduate) accounted for more than 60 career touchdowns while playing quarterback for the Maroon. He played college football at the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond and was signed as an undrafted free agent by the NFL's Jacksonville Jag-Seattle Seahawks uars, Washington Redskins and San Francisco 49ers. He played for NFL Europe's Frankfurt Galaxy in 2006 and helped the team win World Bowl XIV. Running back Tim Hightower (2004) played at the University of Richmond and was a 2008 fifth-round draft choice of the Arizona Cardinals. He was traded to the Washington Redskins prior to the 2011 season. He has 523 carries for 2,054 yards and 24 touchdowns in four NFL seasons. He played in Super Bowl XLIII for Arizona, carrying once for no yards and catching two passes for 13 yards in a 27-23 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers. Hightower also competed in basketball and track for the Maroon. Republican senator and 2008 presidential candidate John McCain (1954) competed in football, wrestling and tennis while at Episcopal. For two years he held the school record for "fastest pin" while wrestling in the 127-pound weight class. Paul DePodesta, New York

class. Paul DePodesta, New York Mets vice president of player development and scouting, also attended Episcopal.

Recreation Notes

City To Extend Old Town Pool Season

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will continue to operate the Old Town Pool, located at 1609 Cameron St., through Saturday, Sept. 21. Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 3, admission to the Old Town Pool is free for City residents.

Extended Operating Hours

Tuesday, Sept. 3 through Saturday, Sept. 21

Monday – Friday: 6 a.m. to noon, 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Note: Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday & Sunday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Note: Pool closes at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21 to prepare for the Annual Doggie Day Swim

For more information on City of Alexandria Aquatic Facilities, visit www.alexandriava.gov/pools.

For updated information on the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center facility improvements, visit www.alexandriava.gov/70502.

Fall Program Guide Now Available

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Ave. Activities' 2013 Fall Program Guide is now available. The program guide highlights city classes, programs, activities and special events occurring September through December.

Individuals who did not subscribe can download a free copy by visiting alexandriava.gov/recreation or pick up a printed copy at the following locations:

 Department of Communications & Public Information, City Hall, 301 King St.

 Charles Barrett Recreation Center, 1115 Martha Custis Dr.

- Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.
- Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, 3210 King St.
- Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Ave.
- ♦ Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Recreation Center,
- 1605 Cameron St.

✤ Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger

♦ Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave.

♦ Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson St.

- Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4643 Taney Ave.
- ♦ William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Ave.
- Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St.
- Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
- Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Rd.
- Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave.

Program guides are mailed to subscribers three times each year: Fall Programs (August); Winter Programs (December); and Spring and Summer Programs (March).

To sign up for a free subscription to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Program Guide, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703-746-4343.



<image>



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LETTERS

From Page 29

Laramar's disregard of the city's Voluntary Rent Guidelines is another issue in the Landlord Tenant Relations Division complaint - rents are being increased by multiples of those in the Guidelines, the first wave of many similar increases to come in each of the years ahead. This issue could be discussed in a number of ways. For example, a comparison of VDOT's annual rental profits statement with Laramar's estimated repair costs suggests that profits are achievable at increased rental rates within the City Guidelines, or perhaps with no increases at all, pending the completion of those repairs and the attendant interruptions in basic utilities, as well as the multiple various hardships residents are dealing with in the process. Instead, Ms. Davis essentially dismisses the issue.

Equally remarkable on that subject is the scant attention in Ms. Davis's statement given to two words: "affordable" and "workforce" — as in affordable and workforce housing. The implications of double-digit percentage rent increases for current residents and the initial 20 to 30 percent increase in the rent ranges for new residents, with more increases to come, is plain enough - the Point's days as a source of affordable and workforce housing are numbered.

As are the over 100 remaining units of workforce housing at Hunting Terrace, slated to be demolished in favor of an upscale development. Added to the many thousands of imperiled units at Beauregard and elsewhere, and the over 10,000 units lost since 2000, the city is set on course to lose over 20,000 units of said housing during Ms. Davis's tenure as housing director and beyond. The city's message to nurses, teachers, police, waiters, custodial workers, secretaries, mechanics, cashiers, et al - you can work here, but you can't live here.

> Jim Mercury Hunting Point resident

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School Notes

FROM PAGE 31 **Michael Barber** is one of about 150 Colgate University students conducting serious research on and off campus this summer as a paid research fellow. Barber is conducting research in peace and conflict studies.

Veronica Hartley, the daughter of Paul and Jacquelyn Hartley of Alexandria, was named to Randolph-Macon Academy's dean's list. Hartley was a sophomore at Randolph-Macon Academy during the 2012-13 school year.

During Randolph-Macon Academy's Class Night Awards ceremony on May 23, 2013, top students were recognized for their achievements. Anastasia Voellm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. Voellm of Alexandria, received Baylor University Provost's Gold Scholarship, an Army ROTC Scholarship, and a National Honor Society Scholarship. Voellm was also named the Athlete of the Year and received the Cadet in the Arena Leadership Award. She also received the Athena Award, which is presented each year to the senior who merits special recognition for demonstrating leadership and service. Voellm was a senior at the Academy during the 2012-13 school year.

Andrew Huerta joined six other Bob Jones University students for a mission trip to Australia June 1-July 30. The team, led by BJU Science Division chairman George Matzko and his wife, Darlene, ministered at nine churches and a camp in Queensland and New South Wales. Huerta, a resident of Alexandria, is a 2013 graduate of Bob Jones University. He is now pursuing a bachelor of science degree in chemistry.

Tavlor Hitt of Alexandria, was recently initiated into the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Hitt was initiated at University of the Pacific.

Christopher Baur received the bachelor of arts degree in cinema and media studies, magna cum laude, from Carleton College during its 139th Commencement ceremony, held on Saturday, June 15. Baur is the son of Phebe Jensch of Alexandria and Donald Baur of Alexandria.

Alexander James Zelloe has recently become recognized as a member of Sigma Alpha Lamba, National Leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development, and lifelong professional fufillment.

The following local residents earned dean's list honors for the Spring 2013 semester at Saint

Joseph's University: Margaret R. **Covert** is majoring in psychology; Emily M. Deller is majoring in inter disciplinary health services; Heather J. Olson is majoring in elem/special education and David M. Robinson is majoring in Spanish.

Anastasia C. Voellm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. Voellm of Alexandria, graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy on May 25. She was a member of the National Honor Society,

National English Honor Society, and the National Spanish Honor Society while at the Academy. At the end of the school vear, she received Baylor University Provost's Gold Scholarship, an Army ROTC Scholarship, the National Honor Society Scholarship, the President's Award for Academic Achievement, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Award, and the Certificate of Excellence for Spanish Honors V. She also received the Cadet in the Arena Leadership Award and the Athena Award. Voellm participated in varsity tennis, basketball, and soccer. Her athletic awards included Athlete of the Year, and being named R-MA's MVP for tennis, basketball, and soccer. She was also named to the Delaney Athletic Conference All-Conference 1st Team in tennis, basketball and soccer. Voellm was named to the dean's list for the fourth quarter for achieving a grade point average above 3.5. She will attend Baylor University in the fall.

Ariel Raquel Harris, graduated from the College of Fine and Performing Arts at University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor of arts degree.

John Paul Still graduated from the Graduate College at University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a master of science degree.

Geoffrey William Goff recently graduated from Wofford College with a bachelor of arts degree in finance. His parents are William and Mimi Goff.

Queen Martin and Madeline **Ogden** have been named to the spring 2013 honors list at Mary Baldwin College





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(1) DUE AT SIGNING INCLUDES DOWN PAYMENT (COROLLA: \$1,999, CAMRY, \$2,499, RAV4: \$2,990), FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT; \$499 PROCESSING FEE AND NO SECURITY DEPOSIT. NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL, OUALIFY, TAX. REGISTRATION AND INSURANCES ARE EXTRA. CUSTOMER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSIVE WEAR AND EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGES OF \$0,15 PER MILE IN EXCESS OF AGREEMENT'S MILES (COROLLA/RAV4: 36,000 MILES; CAMRY; 24,400 MILES), OFFER AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT TO QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES (2) 0% APR FINANCIAL SERVICES (2) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS. OFFERS FOR WELL-QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH APPROVED THE1+ CREDIT THROUGH ITS; 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$16.67 PER \$1,000 BORROWED; (3) PUPCHASERS CAN RECEIVE UP TO \$2,750 CASH BACK FROM TOYOTA OR CAN APPLY CASH BACK TO DOWN PAYMENT. AMOUNT VARIES PER MODEL (4) BASED ON BLACK BOOK TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING; (5) COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST THE NEW VEHICLE CAN-NOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET. SEE PARTICIPATING DEALER FOR COMPLETE PLAN DETAILS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ALASKA. (6) COLLEGE GRAD AND MILITARY REBATE AVAILABLE ON NUT TO RECEIVE REBATE; (7) 2012 OR 2013 EPA-ESTIMATED MILEAGE MAY VARY (8). CUSTOMERS CAN RECEIVE A S500 INCENTIVE FROM TOYOTA UPON LEASING A NEW 2013 RAV4 AND TRADING IN A TOYOTA VEHICLE. (1) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (11) FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. (11) 1.9% APR FINANCING ON ALL CPO VEHICLES FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THROUGH TFS. 60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$17.05 PER \$1,000 BORROWED, ONE INCENTIVE PER TRANSACTION. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 98/13.



MCENEARNEY **ASSOCIATES, INC. REALTORS®**



\$739,000

\$379,900





Location, Location, Location!! This charming, two-level condo includes two bedrooms and one fully renovated bath making this a great starter home. The unit is perfectly situated off the main street with a nice rear patio that offers a place to relax morning or evening. Recent updates include kitchen appliances, disposal, washer/dryer, and complete HVAC system. **David Raincy**

703.286.1333 www.YourAtHomeTeam.com MLS ID# AR8165939

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Alexandria, VA 22314

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\$649,000

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Elizabeth Lucchesi 703.868.5676 www.lizluke.com MLS ID# AX8163816

Vernon Trail are just steps away.

Effortless Living

With two outdoor spaces, an open floor plan and a high-end kitchen, you'll love having guests! There are beautiful built-ins and a gas fireplace

in the living room and a main floor master suite. Upstairs is a third

bedroom and versatile loft space. Shopping, restaurants and the Mount



\$749,000

Preferred Lender



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