



FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

Six firefighting units were on scene during the peak of the fire.

Fighting Six Alarm Fire

Massive blaze erupts at warehouse on West End; cause yet to be determined.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Firefighters from across the region battled a massive six-alarm fire Monday on the West End, a fight that enlisted help from across the region and gave four firefighters minor injuries. The blaze erupted Monday at a 1960s-era warehouse on South Pickett Street shortly before noon, a time when the building was empty because of the Labor Day holiday.

As firefighters arrived on the scene, they were confronted with a serious and unexpected challenge. A water-main break earlier in the day left the block without water. That meant that the hydrant directly in front of

SEE MASSIVE, PAGE 30



PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/GAZETTE PACKET

The six alarm warehouse fire was under control after 4 p.m., Monday, after hours of effort by several fire stations.

Sherman Era Draws to Close

Superintendent oversaw schools during tumultuous five-year term.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As members of the Alexandria School Board were behind closed doors in a one-hour executive session last week, Glenn Hopkins was thumbing through a draft report he was preparing to the release from the Student Achievement Advisory Committee. The report was not good. On item after item, the report would show that Alexandria School Superintendent Morton Sherman failed to make progress on a series of recommendations designed to improve student achievement.

"I'm not sure what we're going to do with this report now," said

Hopkins, glancing toward the room where School Board members were meeting in secret. "The target is gone."

The target — the embattled superintendent of the city's struggling public school system — was about to be toast. A few minutes later, board members emerged from behind closed doors and began debating a motion to release Sherman from the remaining 22 months of his contract — a cost to taxpayers of \$282,000. Sherman's annual salary — SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 22



Morton Sherman

Eminent Decision

City considers eminent domain if boat club rejects final compromise.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

City officials and elected leaders are considering using the power of eminent domain to accomplish its goals on the waterfront if members of the Old Dominion Boat Club reject their latest compromise. After eight years of negotiation and debate, Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille wrote a letter offering an ultimatum: Cut a deal of face the consequences.

"One of the considerations is potential litigation," said Deputy City Attorney Chis Spera. "Eminent domain is one of the possibilities, but ultimately that's going to be a public process. The City Council is going to have to vote on whether they want to go forward with eminent domain or anything else."

At issue is the club's parking lot at the foot of King Street, a point of disagreement between city leaders and Old Dominion members — SEE CITY WEIGHS, PAGE 3

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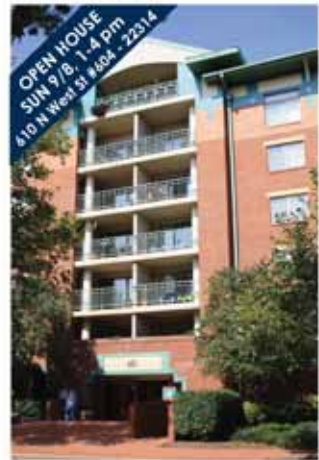
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Is Takeover Constitutional?

Virginia Attorney General **Ken Cuccinelli** is weighing into the debate about school takeover with a surprising move this week, announcing that his office will not be defending the Opportunity Educational Institution. The move comes as a change of fortune for many opponents of the institution, which was designed to take over failing schools. Because Jefferson-Houston School in Alexandria is the only school in Northern Virginia to qualify for a takeover, city leaders have been closely following the debate about the constitutionality of the law.

City Council members and School Board members went behind closed doors in July to consider entering into a lawsuit with the Virginia School Boards Association. They ultimately decided against joining the lawsuit, which was eventually filed by the association and the Norfolk School Board. Alexandria leaders said they were concerned about the perception created by engaging in a political lawsuit while students at Jefferson-Houston were still struggling. Meanwhile, School Board leaders have not been shy about publicly challenging the constitutionality of the law.

"It takes away local tax dollars and commandeers them for state use," said School Board Vice Chairman **Justin Keating**. "So it's simply illegal."

Now Alexandria School Board members have an unlikely ally — the Republican attorney general, who is now refusing to stand behind the landmark education reform of a Republican governor. In a letter to the governor this week, the attorney general informed the governor that his office "cannot defend this lawsuit." He suggested that the governor find special counsel to represent the targets of the lawsuit if necessary.

"The Virginia Constitution states, and the courts have affirmed, that the supervision of public schools must remain with their local school districts," said **Brian Gottstein**, director of communication for the attorney general's office. "This is a purely legal issue. If the attorney general's analysis shows that a law is unconstitutional, he has a legal obligation to not defend it."

Back in Court

Next week, justices of the Virginia Supreme Court will once again hear oral arguments in a dispute between the Old Dominion Boat Club and Alexandria City Hall. At issue is Wales Alley, a disputed stretch of land that connects Strand Street to South Union Street.

After the Alexandria City Council approved a lease to Virtue Feed and Grain for the restaurant to install outdoor dining tables and chairs in part of the alley, members of the club filed a lawsuit. The lawsuit charged that members have a historical right to use the alley to get their boats to the parking lot at the foot of King Street, the source of an ongoing fight between the club and the city.

The boat club won the case in Alexandria Circuit Court, and the city appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court last year. The Supreme Court decided that the circuit court had not ruled on the merits of the case, so it was remanded back to Alexandria. Then the Circuit Court ruled in favor of the city. So the boat club appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court.

That means justices will hear oral arguments in the case for a second time. This comes at a time when leaders of the club are considering a final offer from city officials to determine the fate of a parking lot, an offer that comes with the threat of eminent domain.

Reforming Ethics

With the outgoing Republican governor caught up in a scandal involving undisclosed gifts, Democrats are smelling blood in the water. As the campaign season heats up, many Democrats are announcing efforts at ethics reform — a way to capitalize on the media attention while sticking it to Republicans. This week, Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) was the latest to join the effort, launching a website called VAethicsReformNow.com.

"The ongoing investigation regarding Governor McDonnell and his acceptance of gifts from Star Scientific has brought to light the urgent need for reform in our political system," said Krupicka in a statement announcing the new site. "Without changes, we will lose the trust of the people we are supposed to represent."

Krupicka said the idea behind the site is intended to make sure the public has a seat at the table during the discussion of the state's ethics reform, a conversation that includes everything from caps on the dollar amount of gifts elected officials can receive to new rules governing disclosure of gifts to family members. The website features a petition calling for the Virginia General Assembly to pass "significant ethics reform legislation" and a survey to gather input from the public about ethics reform issues.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

Aerial view shows how the waterfront looks now, including the Old Dominion Boat Club parking lot at the foot of King Street.

City Weighs Eminent Domain

FROM PAGE 1

for decades. Recommendation 3.72 of the waterfront plan calls for the city to "pursue eliminating the ODBC parking lot along The Strand, preferably through negotiation with the ODBC." Since zoning for the waterfront plan was adopted earlier this year, city officials have been engaged in ongoing negotiations to make that recommendation a reality. Now those negotiations seem to be reaching an end game.

"In developing this last and final proposal, council took the city's adopted waterfront small-area plan into account as it improves the appearance of the waterfront, provides for better access for the public, and implements vital flood mitigation strategies," wrote Euille in a June 14 letter to the boat club.

THE WATERFRONT PLAN has long been a source of disagreement in Alexandria, prompting a series of legal challenges that are still making their way through the court system. Although much of the attention has been the three sites slated for redevelopment, another part of the plan calls for eliminating the club's parking lot, which is located on the site of a historic wharf that dates to the earliest days of the city.

"The elimination of the parking lot creates the opportunity for a major new public space

between the Fitzgerald warehouse and the water," according to the plan. "This would open up continuous public access along the waterfront and increase the amount of public space at one of the most important locations on the waterfront."

Now city leaders are ready to cut a deal. If boat club members agree to reduce the size of the parking lot to 11,500 square feet, the city would construct a public plaza along the Strand side of the lot. City officials want boat storage to be moved to an off-site storage facility, but boat club leaders have resisted that idea. Many members question the idea that the club should cut a deal with city leaders at all.

"I don't see any reason to give the city anything," said Townsend Van Fleet, a boat club member who ran against Euille in 2003. "We had a lawsuit with the feds for more than 30 years, and the land was awarded to the boat club. And now the city comes along and wants to take parts of the same land that we fought over with the feds."

WHEN MEMBERS of the boat club were buzzing about negotiations between the club and city leaders, Van Fleet called assistant city attorney Joanna Anderson and asked for a copy of the city's proposal. The city attorney's office interpreted the request as a Freedom of Information request.

SEE CITY WEIGHS, PAGE 22



The waterfront plan calls for a new public plaza called Fitzgerald Square to be constructed where the Boat Club's parking lot now stands.

ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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Michele Burns, wife of Redskins special teams coach Keith Burns, is joined by her children Keith, 12, and Rachel, 16, as volunteers during the Cuts for Kids Day at Charles Houston Rec Center Aug. 26.



George Washington Middle School student Natalie Cross, 12, gets a new back-to-school haircut and style from Mason Shupe of Blown Hair Salon in Old Town.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

‘Cuts for Kids Day’

Firefighters send youngsters back to school in style.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 300 students from throughout the area were treated to free back-to-school haircuts courtesy of Alexandria and Fairfax County firefighters who sponsored the third annual Cuts for Kids Day.

Held Aug. 26 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center and Aug. 27 at the Gum Springs Recreation Center, local hairstylists and barbers volunteered their time and talents to help send youngsters back to school looking and feeling good about themselves.

“This is a fantastic partnership with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue,” said Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel. “I am thankful to them and the many community sponsors that have come out to help serve our youth in Alexandria.”

Joining Thiel and the volunteers at Charles Houston was Michelle Burns, wife of Washington Redskins special teams coach and former NFL great Keith Burns.

“This is our first time here,” said Michelle Burns, who volunteered with her children Keith, 12, and

Rachel, 16. “We’re newbies but Keith is from Alexandria so we do anything we can to help out.”

New clothing provided by the Neediest Kids was distributed at Charles Houston as well as more than 100 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Organizations supporting the event included the Alexandria Fire Department, Nationwide Creditors, Apple Federal Credit Union, Keith Burns Foundation, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Modern Technology Solutions, The Progressive Firefighters, Local 2068, SEIU-512, Primo Family Restaurant, Cardinal Plaza Shell, Promax Realtors, Centreville Moose Lodge and Arlington - Fairfax Elks Lodge 2188.

“It’s really fun being here,” said Rachel Burns. “I want to be a teacher when I get older and love being around the kids and helping out.”

Children were entertained by a clown and treated to face painting, animal balloons and tours of a fire truck.

“I can’t thank our volunteers and sponsors enough for all their help in making today a success,” Bailey said. “Serving the community and helping kids feel more confident as they head back to school is why we are doing this.”



Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel gets a fist bump from 8-year-old Liyew Gashawtena at the third annual Cuts for Kids Day at Charles Houston Recreation Center Aug. 26. At right is Fairfax County Fire Department technician Cheryl McWilliams, who donated her services as a hairstylist for children preparing to return to school.



Gary Bailey of All At Once salon in Del Ray puts the finishing touches on a new haircut for Markeith Johnson, a 13-year-old student at Minnie Howard.

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Del Ray United Methodist To Celebrate 120 Years

Building on a sense of community.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Although the Rev. Mark Mrini said no one can pinpoint the exact date of Del Ray United Methodist Church's anniversary, the congregation will officially celebrate 120 years on Sunday, Sept. 15.

Mrini said it is an exciting time for all members of the congregation — from members who have joined the church in the seven years he has been on board, to the people who have been members for decades.

"This is a birthday celebration, but it's really a celebration of both our longevity as a community and also the newness of our community," Mrini said. "We have experienced a lot of rebirth in the last decade, so it's a significantly different community than it was 10 years ago. ... And so, while we do have a handful of members who have been members for longer than 50-60 years," there are also people who were not here a decade ago.

Mrini said the church was established in 1893. Though the church has survived for

120 years, it has been in its current sanctuary since the 1940s and the rest of the Windsor Avenue church since the 1960s. The original church home is now a residence about a block away from the current building.

According to Mrini, it is quite an accomplishment for a church community to not only last, but to thrive for 120 years. And, even with its deep roots in the community, Mrini said the church still continues to be a vibrant part of the Del Ray neighborhood.

"This is a celebration of new beginnings, freshness about our community and a new spirit of vitality we've got here," Mrini said.

Jillian Roth, the director of programs and children's ministries, has only been working at Del Ray UMC for two months, but she said she felt the enthusiasm and youthfulness of the church almost immediately.

"I can feel that sense of community, and passion for everything that goes on here," Roth said. "There are lot of different ministries and openness to all of them."

She added that there are a multitude of programs for the youth, which has contributed to the growing number of children in the congregation.

"We have a great children's church, as



Mrini

well a drama club that will start again on Sept. 15," Roth said. "We work on skits that kids perform for the congregation. They do everything from picking the skit to some simple set design. It is all hands on deck for the children."

Mrini said the growing need for youth programs is a great thing, and is an indicator of the church's success.

"Youth programs and participation has grown tons," he said. "Seven to 10 years ago, we didn't have any kids over the age of 10. And, now we have so many babies we can't even count. We have a baptism almost once or twice a month ... there are tons of babies."

Mrini said there is not only youthful enthusiasm for the children's programs, which range from the nursery to a high school youth group, there are programs for all subsets of the church populations, and healthy participation in all of them.

"There is a real spirit of openness and excitement to try new ministries here," he said. "We have been very intentional about making sure nobody gets left out. [Del Ray UMC] is a place where anybody can connect and find community and a place to go. We need all segments of the congregation to be able to plug in."

The celebration on Sunday will include food and a paper plane contest for the children. "There will be a Paper Airplane Flying Contest, hot dogs, cake — a full celebration," Roth said. "We are encouraging the kids to work on and really craft the airplane in the days leading up to the contest. Whoever's plane goes the longest wins."

Mrini said the competition symbolizes the vision of the church for the upcoming decades; Del Ray UMC is "flying into the next 120 years."

Roth said it will not take another 120 years for the church to see even more development and have even greater influence in the community.

"I would like to see that the children I am teaching pass the torch and do what I am doing," she said. "I see them being the volunteers and leaders of the community to bring forth the next generation."

Mrini said that Del Ray UMC is already central to the community. "Something we describe ourselves as on our website and that we really feel we are is the 'spark in the heart of Del Ray,'" he said. "We are hub for neighborhood groups — including preschools, the Alexandria citizens band — the list goes on and on. This is where a lot of people in the neighborhood meet, and get connected. We are hoping and praying that this is a positive and transformative thing for the whole neighborhood."

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Women's Movement Got Him Involved in Politics

Lonnie Rich: Governance and public service.

By CAROL COOKE

Ask Lonnie C. Rich's wife, Marcia Call, why her husband was selected as a Living Legend of Alexandria. Her answer is simple but profound: "He's somebody who touches things and wants to make them better."

Former Alexandria Mayor Kerry Donley said Rich has touched the city in a number of ways: through civic engagement as chair of the Del Ray Citizens Association, through engagement in partisan politics and through public service as an elected official.

Rich said he grew up in a very apolitical family. His father was a preacher and politics were not discussed around the dinner table. However, politics have played a major role in Rich's many contributions to the City of Alexandria and beyond.

Born in Baton Rouge, Rich spent time in Louisiana, Georgia and Texas before moving to Tennessee where he attended high school. After graduating from law school at the University of Memphis in 1974, Rich moved to Washington and began work at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was responsible for drafting regulations that implemented the landmark Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibited sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs.

Rich said the women's movement got him involved in politics. In 1977 he joined the National Organization for Women (NOW) and worked with a group he described as "rump Democrats" to defeat a local Alexandria Democrat in the Virginia Assembly who opposed the Equal Rights Amendment. The group recruited and supported a moderate Republican who supported equality for women.

"I think politics is important. Governing is important. But they're not the same things," he said. "When you're in politics, you're playing for a team, but when you're governing, you're governing for everybody."

Rich served the City of Alexandria in both capacities. He was member and chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee and a member of the Alexandria City Council from 1991 to 2000.

"He came on the council as a maverick," Donley said. "He threw out a lot of controversial stands. He brought a lot of new ideas but had trouble getting them enacted. He



PHOTO BY JOE BLEACH

2013 Living Legend Lonnie Rich: The Women's Movement got him involved in politics.

came to see that it was a whole lot better to work as a team and became a real contributor. When he left the council he was one of the most effective members."

Rich said one of his most important initiatives as a member of the council was a 1996 proposal in support of same-sex marriage. He believes he was one of the first elected officials in the U.S., and even more likely one of the first heterosexual elected officials, to introduce such a proposal. The proposal lost, but started a civilized debate on the subject on the council, Rich said.

Although elected to Alexandria City Council as a slow-growth candidate, Rich said he has come 180 degrees from that position. An environmentalist convinced him that low-density development contributes to sprawl while high-density development at Metro stations and other transportation hubs is better for the environment. He pointed to Reston Town Center as an example. People work and live in the same area so there is less need for getting into a car. These high-density zones should be mixed-use developments that include residential, retail and even industrial compo-

nents, he said. "I don't want to need to drive to Dale City to get my car fixed."

Rich was on the council when it approved the development in Alexandria of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. "He had to think long and hard about it, and it shows his own personal development," Donley said. "So often people get stuck in their ways and are unwilling to change. He came around to the position of supporting how the city can grow in a prudent fashion."

Rich supports more development along the Old Town Alexandria waterfront that is vibrant, relatively low density and maintains full public access all along the waterfront. "No one wants T-shirt shops," Rich said. "But the boutiques need foot traffic. We've got a gold mine across the river [at National Harbor] and we want our fair share of that."

"Lonnie was always very attuned to education," Donley said. "His children were [and are] in public schools. He was one of the leaders in the move to have the Alexandria School Board elected instead of appointed."

Before that time the state required the

Living Legends: The Project

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

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

For information on how to nominate a Legend for 2014, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Legends@AlexandriaLegends.com. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 15.

school board to be appointed but allowed for local options with an advisory referendum. "Lonnie led the effort to get the referendum passed. It had a profound effect on transparency and accountability," Donley said.

Call, who ran two of her husband's three city council campaigns, said they could never count on the same supporters in subsequent elections because of the many different issues he would try to tackle. "It was a challenge. He would make people angry," she said. "He sees things farther and faster than most people."

But there was also humor in Rich's approach. According to Donley, Rich went about the city's business in a fun-loving way. "One time Lonnie took the floor at a city council meeting and started in a very serious manner. He said he wanted the council to have a say in a matter of public import and it was whether we should endorse the 'Fat Elvis' or the 'Skinny Elvis' at the time that the U.S. Postal Service was issuing a stamp to honor Elvis. It was a stitch."

Rich is writing a series of columns for the Alexandria Gazette Packet that includes one on the process of governing. "Process is important but it's not the end game. You need to make decisions. It's easy to kick the can down the street. It happens at every level of government: local, state and federal. In local politics a lot of candidates go door-to-door. They have a lot of coffees. They hear people screaming at them. It's very personal. The political process is a good training for governing."

Rich said one of the things he likes most about Alexandria is its "incredibly long history of good government. Basically, we have honest public servants. We have an incredibly open government — sometimes too open. Anyone who wants to get involved can."

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnews.com. Deadline is Thursday by noon.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Health Screening. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Global Health College, 25 S. Quaker Lane. Women over the age of 40 can get a mammogram screening. Free for those who meet financial eligibility, otherwise insurance will cover the screening. 202-741-3252 to make an appointment.

Torpedo Factory Art Center Board -

Governance Comm. 10 a.m. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Contact Eric Wallner, ewallner@torpedofactory.org, 703-838-4565 x307.

Community Criminal Justice Board. 4 p.m. City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Call Desha Hall-Winstead, 703-746-4547.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Leukemia Cup Regatta. 10 a.m. at the

Washington Sailing Marina. Spectator boats will be available for a closer look of the races. \$10/person. Tickets are also available for post-race celebration, \$10. Visit www.leukemicup.org/nca for tickets or information.

Environmental Policy Commission Annual Retreat. 10 a.m. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Call Khoa Tran, 703-746-4076.

Picnic. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Lake Accotink. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Greens. Free. Visit <http://www.nvgreens.org>

gp.org/NoVa/ for more.

National Capital Cat Show. Terri Grow of PetSage will discuss holistic therapies for cats at 2 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center.

MONDAY/SEPT. 9

Human Rights Commission - Executive Committee. 1 p.m. La Madeleine, 500 King St. Call Jean Niebauer, 703-746-3140.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 24

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

AFD Capt. Thurston McClain, Victoria Mazzoli and John Morehead help distribute backpacks filled with school supplies for children in need Aug. 29 at Station 11 in Penn Daw.

Leader of the Pack

Firefighters distribute 2,400 backpacks to children in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Firefighters from throughout the area joined forces Aug. 29 as they distributed more than 2,400 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in need.

"We started with 150 backpacks in our first backpack drive 10 years ago," said Capt. Willie Bailey, founder of the nonprofit Firefighters and Friends. "While I'm glad to see how the drive has grown over the years, it's sad to see that the need for this is still there."

Representatives from over 60 schools, shelters and nonprofits in Fairfax County, Alexandria and the

"People tend to think 'entitlement' is a dirty word. But these kids are entitled to a good start."

— Capt. Willie Bailey

District of Columbia collected the backpacks as part of the annual Distribution Day held at Fire Station 11 in Penn Daw.

"People tend to think that 'entitlement' is a dirty word," Bailey said. "But these kids are entitled to a good start just like other kids. So we do what we can to help break the cycle."

Organizations supporting the event included the Alexandria Fire Department, Nationwide Creditors, Apple Federal Credit Union, Keith Burns Foundation, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Modern Technology Solutions, The Progressive Firefighters, Local 2068, SEIU-512, Primo Family Restaurant, Cardinal Plaza Shell, Promax Realtors, Centreville Moose Lodge, and Arlington - Fairfax Elks Lodge 2188.

"It's amazing to see how everyone has come together for this," said Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers, a recent transplant to the FFD after serving in that capacity in Montgomery County, Md. "Captain Bailey serves the department well in finding ways for us to help those in need in our community."

OBITUARY

Margot Marmor-Moskowitz

Margot Marmor-Moskowitz died on Aug. 19, 2013 in Los Altos, Calif. Margot, born in Darmstadt, Germany on July 20, 1922, the daughter of Joseph and Dina Simon, came to the U.S. in 1937. She was the beloved wife of the late Arthur K. Marmor and the late Sam Moskowitz, devoted mother of Michele (Dr. Michael S.) Greenfield and Jacqueline Richeson; dear sister of Lotte (Ludwig) Bravmann; loving grandmother of Ariele and Alexandra Greenfield, Justin (Lauren) and Chase Richeson.

She worked as a translator for the Department of

Justice after World War II.

In 1968, she helped found Senior Services of Alexandria and became its associate director, developing programs for older adults in Alexandria. She was also active with the League of Women Voters, Hadassah, the Campagna Center, and Elder Crafters of Alexandria.

Funeral services were held at King David Memorial Gardens in Falls Church on Thursday, Aug. 22. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Senior Services of Alexandria.

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Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, followed by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
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OPINION

Dangers of Failure To Act

Our current and future standing in the international community is on the line.

By JIM MORAN
U.S. REP. (D-8)

President Obama has sought Congressional approval to carry out limited surgical strikes in Syria against the regime of Bashar al Assad in response to his use of chemical weapons to attack Syrian civilians, which killed 1,429 people, including 426 children.

The Administration, led by Secretary of State Kerry has presented what I know to be irrefutable evidence that the Assad government is responsible for this heinous attack.

I support the President's decision, but regret the fact that he chose to entrust this Congress, one of the most divisive and ineffective in history, to authorize force against the Assad regime for their use of chemical weapons. I hope the President calculated correctly, because our current and future standing in the international community is on the line. Should Congress vote down the Administration's effort, it will severely undermine America's fu-

ture leadership role in foreign policy and cripple the Obama Administration's ability to respond to subsequent challenges, both foreign and domestic.

President Obama's request for authorization to attack the Assad regime rests on three considerations: (1) the ethical responsibility to react to what Secretary of State Kerry has called a "moral obscenity," Syria's clear violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol against the use of poisonous weapons; (2) The humanitarian doctrine known as "the responsibility to protect" civilians at imminent threat from their own government; and (3)

COMMENTARY

The strategic imperative to establish a clear limit to the Syrian military's power, and thus a deterrent against further use of chemical weapons.

That's not to say we should ignore the dangers involved with taking military action. The impact a strike would have on opposition fighters, our regional allies, and on civilian communities in Syria is of serious concern. We also want to ensure that we are not helping extremist groups like the al-Qaeda connected Al Nusra

front gain strength due to our actions.

Should a vote in Congress fail, a U.S. attack may occur anyway. The President has the authority to carry out limited strikes, similar to what Presidents Clinton and Reagan carried out during their time in office. But by rejecting the President's request for Congressional support, our ability to deter the use of weapons of mass destruction in the future, be they chemical or nuclear, will be diminished.

America is the only country in this world with the ability to stop the use and proliferation of such means of murdering civilians on a massive scale. I believe we have the concomitant responsibility to use that ability today if we want to bring about a more peaceful world for our children tomorrow.

What we decide to do now is transcendent of this specific situation and not confined to what we do with Bashar al-Assad. We must act in a way that represents our fundamental values and moral convictions, one that will endure through the inevitable subsequent challenges we are sure to face. The use and proliferation of chemical weapons is so abhorrent, so beyond the pale, that the world must act. In this case, our only option is military. We cannot fail to accept this responsibility today. The challenges and costs will be all the greater if we fail to act.

Sherman: A Vision to Close the Achievement Gap

By YVONNE FOLKERTS,
CHAIRMAN, ALEXANDRIA
SCHOOL BOARD,
2008-2009,
2009-2010, 2010-2011
WITH JON LISS
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TENANTS AND WORKERS UNITED

Morton Sherman and I would join the Tenants and Workers United to walk Arlandria neighborhoods and visit families in their homes.

The mothers and fathers who invited us into their living rooms were gracious hosts, serving us cold soft drinks or tea and cookies. And the translators for our conversations were their children — students of Alex-

COMMENTARY

andria City Public Schools.

We were told stories of frustrating encounters with the school system, of watching peers enroll in higher-level classes, of wishing more school officials understood their cultures and stories about how they came to live in Alexandria.

When Dr. Sherman came to ACPS in 2008, minority students were not achieving at nearly the same levels as the white students. For example, unadjusted SOL math scores were 68 percent for English Language Learner (ELL) students and were 66 percent for black students, compared to 91 percent passing for white students.* Scores in other subjects had similar ratios.

Jon Liss helped organize these neighborhood visits. He said, "I wanted the superintendent and the School Board chair to hear first-hand the stories I heard day in and day out as executive director of Tenants and Workers."

In fact, Jon pushed for these conversations because he had already met Morton Sherman in the superintendent's first month on the job. Jon recalls, "TWU had produced a report that showed a three (or more) track system in ACPS — a white track, a black track and

an ELL, or immigrant, track. The previous school administration had denied the accuracy of the report and in fact had taken the extreme step of leafleting events that we had organized. At our first meeting, Mort said that he had read our report and was making sure his entire senior team read it. This anecdote highlights the sea change that he brought to Alexandria five years ago ... no longer would ACPS be a school system in which only white students were expected to succeed."

To say the achievement gap was troubling to Dr. Sherman was an understatement. I watched him in these living rooms, shaking his head and listening to these students and their families. When we left a home to go on to the next, he always said, "no more; not on my watch."

In 2009, Jon Liss and ACPS signed a memorandum of understanding to improve academic achievement for all students in ACPS.

"To know that other students are going to have a better chance at achieving their dreams because of something you've worked so hard on feels amazing," said Jennifer Granado, at TC Williams junior and Tenants and Workers United

SEE WHAT SHERMAN, PAGE 14



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Safety Reminder

Community Relations Deputy Valarie Wright delivers posters to city libraries and recreation centers, including Charles Houston, to remind adults and students about traffic safety with the beginning of the new school year. The posters are for AAA's annual "School's Open Drive Carefully" campaign.

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria.

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LETTERS

Cost to Taxpayers

To the Editor:

News of the termination of Alexandria Superintendent Morton Sherman's contract is stunning in its particulars and consequences. Here is a city bureaucrat, accused of budget mismanagement and ultimately responsible for "testing irregularities" and school-system underachievement, who spends the summer negotiating a severance deal with Alexandria's School Board and, as a result, harvests over \$281,000 in pay-off, just so the city can be free of him. Really?!

Since his appointment, Sherman has regularly subjected Alexandrians to baseless bloviating about the glorious state of Alexandria's public school system.

In fact, throughout his tenure our system has been repeatedly recognized as one of the costliest (in terms of per-pupil spending) and poorest performing in the country. So much for the effectiveness of all those expensive consultants he hired over the years.

As one who generally prefers to pay local taxes — where the potential for control, or at least vigilance, of expenditures is greater than is the case with taxes levied at more-remote levels of government — I am appalled at the expensive deal the Alexandria School Board has struck with Sherman. Of course, we taxpayers will be financing that deal, which begs the question: How does the School Board intend to compensate Alexandrians for its persistent inability to hire competent superintendents, who then have to be released or, worse, paid off for falling way short of expectations? And will we now be expected to double dip — that is, concomitantly cover the costs of both the dismissal of the latest superintendent and the hiring and salary of the next?

Sherman Resigns, Finally

To the Editor:

I think it's safe to say that the only reason Mort Sherman decided to resign as superintendent of ACPS was that he found he could not control/manipulate this new school board as he had done with the previous board.

Several points need some clarification: because the former school board voted to extend Mort's contract through 2015 rather than 2014, this school board had no other choice then to work out a financial settlement in order for him to resign effective Aug., 31, 2013. However, we cannot let this new school board off the hook.

As the "managers of ACPS" they need to learn how to manage. This means keeping a paper trail, documenting all of the mistakes, financial issues, budget issues, creating some kind of foundation and Mr. Sherman's continued resistance to providing school board members with the information they requested, i.e., Shelter Care; Foundation materials and getting this information to them in a timely manner. Insubordination equals termination. Had they done this, then there would have been cause to terminate Sherman's contract.

However, they cannot rest easily even with Margaret Walsh stepping in as acting superintendent. Continued documentation via emails, letters, school board minutes, etc. must be part of their job. Anyone who has worked in the public/private sector knows this happens and provides the "proof" for termination. It's difficult to believe that none of our school board members don't know about "documentation."

It cannot be overlooked that Marc Williams, the only no vote, was on the previous school board that voted to extend Mort's contract. Fortunately, Ronnie

Judy Navarro

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23

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ing room with the lovely windows that overlook an exquisite backyard. With beautiful gleaming hardwood floors, this home is stunning yet relaxed! The home offers four spacious bedrooms, two renovated full and one half bathrooms, a gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops and a magnificent breakfast room that flows perfectly into the family room with its wonderful built-in custom bookcases. A tastefully designed formal living and dining room is fashioned from a magazine! The handsome recreation room is a great place to sit, relax and watch the Redskins win!

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7608 Southdown Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Potomac River View



This extraordinary French Country style home is the epitome of elegance and comfort. 8500 sq. ft. on .61 acres with spectacular views of the Potomac River. Impeccable attention to detail. 6 BD, 4 full & 3 half BA, 3 car garage. ~ **\$2,950,000**



7715 Northdown Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Open Sunday 2-4



Stunning waterfront home on the Potomac River on .86 acres in Hallowing Point. Two level contemporary style with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 2 car garage with room to expand. Swimming pool and gardens overlook a 2 mile expanse of river views. ~ **\$1,395,000**



5813 River Drive Lorton, VA 22079

Waterfront Lot in 22308



Gorgeous waterfront lot located in a premier neighborhood of luxurious, upscale homes. Stunning views on .56 acres in a lush, serene environment. Please call for more information. ~ **\$1,500,000**



884 Andalusia Alexandria, VA 22308

New Waterfront Construction



Build your dream home on the water front. Approx. 6,000 sq ft on 2 levels on 1/3 acre overlooking the serene waters of Little Hunting Creek with Potomac River boat access. Almost 100 feet of water frontage. Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage with optional dock. Custom design to your specification and desires. ~ **\$1,350,000**



8728 Thomas Stockton Pkwy Alexandria, VA 22308

New Construction



New Construction only steps to Fort Hunt Park and Potomac River. 5/6 bedrooms, 5 full baths, main level BR/den/library, high ceilings, 2 fireplaces, copper shingles and arched roof, deck, fenced yard. ~ **\$1,195,000**



8911 Charles Augustine Dr Alexandria, VA 22308

Open Sunday 2-4



Spacious, split foyer in sought after Riverside Gardens. Great location and ready for immediate move in! New carpet, new roof, updated kitchen and baths, and large deck just off the kitchen overlooking the large, lush back yard. ~ **\$695,000**



8417 Riverside Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Under Contract



One level living at its best! Updated and beautiful, this home features three bedrooms, two baths and a one car garage.



Gorgeous kitchen with stainless steel and granite, brick patio and large fenced back yard. ~ **\$650,000**

2217 Fordham Road Alexandria, VA 22307

Canal Place Under Contract



Charming one bedroom condo in Old Town with peek a boo view of the Potomac River. Gorgeous hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace and windows on three sides. Community pool, storage unit and only 10 blocks to Metro ~ **\$289,000**



1207 North Pitt #3A Alexandria, VA 22314



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OPINION

What Sherman Did Accomplish

FROM PAGE 10

youth leader at the time.

The agreement called for improved cultural competency, development of Individual Achievement Plans, which were individualized roadmaps for success for all students, and fostering a culture of parent and youth involvement, encouraging parents to participate in ACPS activities.

Later in 2009, Dr. Sherman presented his administration's goals to the School Board. The board approved a wide variety of Dr. Sherman's proposals, which are still in effect today. They included identifying students with specific needs and strengths as "at promise," establishing the Individual Achievement Plans (IAPs) for each student, K-10th grade, and giving more students support to enroll in Algebra in the 8th grade.

Thanks to the dedication of administrators, the leadership of our principals and the talent of our teachers, the picture changed. By fiscal year 2011-12, more ELL students were starting to pass the math SOL. Seventy-two percent of Hispanic students grades 3-5 were passing the reading SOL, compared to 68 percent the year prior. Seventy-four percent of black students in the same grades were passing the SOL reading test, compared to 69 percent the year prior.

ELL students dropping out of school was 16 percent, compared to 22 percent the prior year; 12 percent of black students were dropping out, compared to 14 percent the year prior.

And another sign changes were working: 80 percent of ELL students graduated on time in 2011-

2012, compared to 72 percent the year prior.** Clearly, improvements were taking hold.

More recently, Jon says, "TWU had been advocating for Restorative Justice (RJ) as an approach to dispute resolution to keep students in school. After a Washington Post article cited the success of RJ, we received a call from Dr. Sherman where he said, 'we need to do this here, too.' Six months later we are working with ACPS to implement RJ as a pilot program in the International Learning Academy at TC.

"This commitment to fairness and innovation has been a hallmark of our five years working with Mort Sherman and ACPS," Jon says.

ACPS still has a long way to go to serve all our students. But we are most definitely on a path of continual improvement. And perhaps even more importantly, instilled across the school system is a cultural shift to believe that indeed, each and every student can learn and succeed.

Dr. Sherman was an individual with a vision for ACPS. With partners like the School Board and TWU, he built a strong foundation for all our students to achieve at their highest levels.

Of course, Dr. Sherman wasn't perfect (none of us are) but his driving vision was that each and every student could succeed. Let's hope his departure from ACPS represents a change in personnel but not in vision. We are beginning to see the results of five years of work; now is not the time to take a step back.

* January 2009, ACPS Division Goals, 2008 - 2010 report to School Board

** Key Measures for ACPS Priorities for School Years, 2012 - 2016

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Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



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Andalusia On The Potomac \$1,500,000
884 Andalusia Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308
Gorgeous waterfront lot located in a premier neighborhood of upscale homes. Stunning views on .56 acres in a lush, serene environment. Please call for additional information.
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NEW LISTING - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4 PM

Hallowing Pt Rvr Estates \$1,395,000
5813 River Drive, Lorton, VA 22079
Stunning waterfront home on the Potomac River on .86 acres. Two level contemporary style with 4BR/2.5BA/2CG with room to expand. Lovely pool and gardens.
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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4 PM

Riverside Gardens \$695,000
8417 Riverside Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
Spacious split foyer in Riverside Gardens. Great location-ready for move in! New carpet, roof, hot water heater, updated kitchen & baths, huge deck off of the kitchen, large yard.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Wellington Heights \$1,495,000
1219 Woodcliff Court, Alexandria, VA 22308
One of a kind custom home to be built on large 3/4 acre cul de sac lot. 4-SBR/4.5BA, high end amenities and finishes throughout. Wayneswood school district.
The York Group 703-409-3377



JUST REDUCED

Thompson House \$899,000
211 Fairfax Street A, Alexandria, VA 22314
Historic Thompson House c1780 townhouse style condo. 3BR/3.5.5BA, 3 levels, fin basement, 4515 sqft & brick terrace. 2 blocks from King St shops & restaurants.
The York Group 703-409-3377



Heywood Glen \$599,999
4315 Dahill Place, Alexandria, VA 22312
Lovely home, move-in condition. 4BR upper lvl, fam rm, FP, fresh paint & refin hardwoods, bsmt for expansion, deck, patio, gar, level lot, located on 2 quiet cul-de-sacs.
Lauren York - The York Group 703-409-3377



OPEN SUN 1-4PM

Hensley Estate \$840,000
8203 Hensley Court, Alexandria, VA 22308
Lovely 4BR Colonial on cul-de-sac. Updated top to bottom! Gourmet kitchen, elegant living & dining rooms, family room, library, sun room, new master suite.
Robert Woods 703-244-8726



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



Ridge View \$449,900
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



NEW LISTING

Woodlawn Terrace \$359,900
8206 Ackley St., Alexandria, VA 22309
Cozy Split Level 4BR/2BA and Den, Updated Kitchen and Bathrooms, Gas Fireplace in Family Room, walkout to Spacious Back Yard, Easy Commute to Ft. Belvoir, Shopping and more!!
Janice Kendall 703-518-6168



OPEN SUN 1-4PM

River Towers \$269,900
6621 Wakefield Drive 709, Alexandria, VA 22307
Rare balcony 2BR/1.5BA unit light & bright. A tree top view, w/ neutral decor, lots of closets. Located on 26 acres and close to shopping, GW Pkwy & Potomac Rv. Move right in!
Denise Davis 571-332-8531

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JUST LISTED

19127 Continental Dr
 \$598,500
Major Updates!
 Nothing like it for under \$600,000! Spacious home with numerous recent updates. Fabulous features include: large room sizes, bright open floor plan, brand new custom kitchen, updated baths, 4 bedrooms, gleaming hardwood floors, living room with fireplace, family room, and garage parking. Prime location on large lot—walk to neighborhood school! **OPEN SUN 9/8, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Cherrytree; R-Continental.**

OPEN SUNDAY

4408 Tarpon Ln
 \$575,000
Yacht Haven-Near River!
 Meticulously maintained home on absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Significant upgrades and features include: Luxurious baths, hardwood floors, huge deck, 4 levels & more! Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price! **OPEN SUN 9/8, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing; R-Forest Haven; L-Tarpon.**

JUST LISTED

1503 River Farm Dr
 \$1,395,000
Grand Colonial Minutes from Old Town!
 Best price for Estate caliber residence in highly sought after GW Parkway area! Special home custom designed to capitalize on its park like setting and seasonal River views. Special features include 3 fin levels, w/o LL, 5BRs with dual master suites, expansive glass walls, multi-level deck and amazing four car garage. Combination of size, features & location add up to a truly unique value! **OPEN SUN 9/8, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-River Farm**

OPEN SUNDAY

9124 Volunteer Dr
 \$649,900
Updated and Expanded with 3 Car Garage!
 Fabulous 5BR home in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Stately presence with columned Portico. Recent renovations include designer kit with "Lineadecor" cabinets, top of line appli, gas cooktop & custom granite. Brightness of kitchen enhanced by opening to glass walled sunroom. Other features: thermal windows, h/dwd flrs, 2FP, updated baths. **OPEN SUN 9/8, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Cherrytree to corner of Volunteer.**

JUST LISTED

4213 Sonica Ct
 \$579,000
Spacious Home - Open Floor plan!
 Feels like brand new model! Abundant large windows, high ceilings & open floor plan combine to bring light to every corner of this exceptionally spacious home. Fabulous features include: 3 fin levels, full w/o LL with FP and full bath, gourmet kitchen open to family room, 4BRs including stunning master suite, Palladian windows, 3.5 BAs, 2 car garage and extensive outside decking. New home ambience at fraction of new home price!

JUST LISTED

8412 Washington Ave
 \$469,900
True One Story - No Stairs!
 Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. Extensive major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electrical panel, siding, gutters and more—in short, almost everything! Family room with fireplace and private master suite. Large back covered deck. One level living in "move-in" condition!

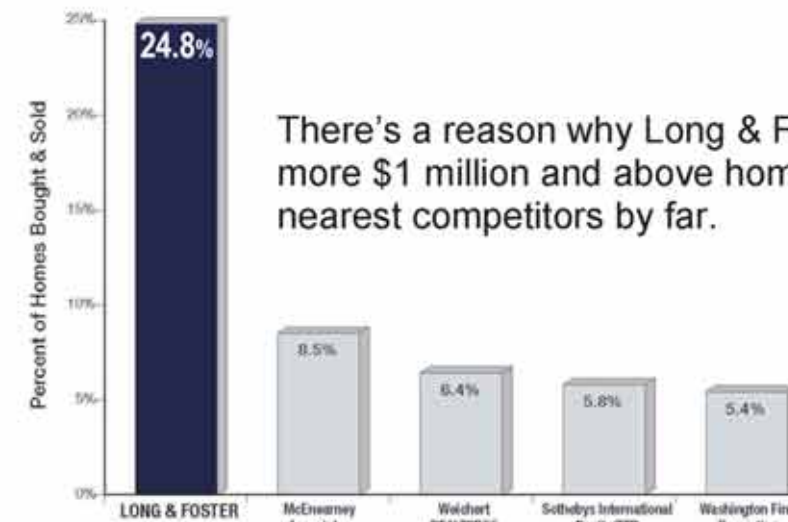
JUST LISTED

9412 Old Mount Vernon Rd
 \$1,295,000
Craftsman Masterpiece!
 Former model by Wakefield Homes loaded with options and upgrades. Many fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, three finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage. Gorgeous location on elevated lot with extensive landscaping and custom stonework. Priced thousands below current price list.

JUST LISTED

9409 Ludgate Dr
 \$2,000,000
Just Down River from Mount Vernon Estate!
 Stately Colonial Estate in the Virginia plantation tradition. Magnificent setting on high bluff overlooking Potomac. Views protected by conservation land. Home is truly spectacular with high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, 4 bedrooms, each with private bath, breathtaking river view master suite. Walls of windows capture magnificent views. App. 300 ft dock with lifts. A true VA Estate just minutes from Old Town.

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Steve Kindrick
 Instructor
 703-683-0400 (office)
steve.kindrick@LNF.com

***Classes begin on Tuesday, September 17th and end on Saturday, October 12th.

They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 10:00pm and on

Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 1,395,000
Alex. / #405
1115 CAMERON ST
 One-of-a-kind 3BR corner Penthouse with 2,145sf belongs in Architectural Digest. Impeccably renovated by current owner

with no expense spared. Private roof-top terrace adds an additional 1,500sf of living space. You must see this stunning home; nothing compares in Old Town.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 875,000
Alex. / Liberty Row
635 FIRST ST. #402
 This 2BR/2BA top floor condo has style and comfort. Elegant entry, light filled living room, separate dining room opening to gourmet kitchen with island, Viking SSA, custom back splash and granite counters. Plantation shutters, hard wood flooring, custom molding, custom bookcases, wet bar and balcony.

Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460

\$ 675,000
Alex. / Rosemont Park
"WALK TO BRADDOCK METRO"
 NEW PRICE! Loads of character and charm in this 1930's farm house from the welcoming porch to the 2-level rear deck. Newly remodeled upstairs bath. Replacement windows. Warm hardwoods. Lower level boasts ceramic tiled rec room, laundry room and full bath. Bonus space of sun porch and sun room. Detached one car garage. Wood stove optional! 3BR/2BA.

Martha Deal 703.622.6797

\$ 385,000
Alexandria
"HUNTINGTON METRO"
 Gorgeous 2BR/2BA corner unit with balcony in luxurious high-rise. Amenities include 24 hour concierge, pool, party room, cyber café, fitness center, garage parking and ample visitors parking. 1 garage parking space.

Debra Bell 703.350.9750

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 258,000
Alexandria / Belle View
6600 10th ST #B1
 Stunning and move-in ready with its many beautiful renovations. 793 square feet of sunlit living space. Top floor unit with 2BR/1BA.

Pet friendly community with pool and tennis courts; easy access to 495/95, bus and Metro.

Christine Vanderhyde 703.309.2829

\$ 599,500
16th St Heights
"HAS IT ALL"
 Totally renovated beauty has gourmet kitchen, wood floors, spacious living room with gas fireplace, luxurious master suite with gas fireplace - walk in closets - spa like master bath, 3 additional BR, den, rec room, extra storage, garage parking, covered front porch, super convenient location and more.

McCormick and Lusk.com
Daniel Lusk & Michael McCormick
202.412.8884

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 509,999
Parker Gray Historic District
907 PENDLETON ST
 • Deceptively wide and charming semi-detached 3BR townhouse

- Spacious Living room with separate Dining room
- Beautiful Hardwood's throughout
- 1 car garage
- Blocks to Metro and shopping

Martine Imer & Alexander Imer
703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465

\$ 215,000
Alexandria
"UPDATED"
 Beautiful 2BR/2BA condo that sparkles with wood floors, new kitchen cabinets, granite, newer appliances, full size W/D, custom closets, extra storage unit, balcony and much more. One garage space and one assigned space. Amenities include pool, exercise room, convenience store, and picnic area. Walk to shops and dining.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Teresina Huxtable, Carol Christensen and Liz Hood will make a one-night-only appearance Sept. 8 at Hard Times Café in Old Town.

Melancholy Babies

Trio to make special appearance at Hard Times Café.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been 40 years since Carol Christensen, Teresina Huxtable and Liz Hood began singing together while students at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The all-girl rock band recorded two albums and were feature performers at the Philadelphia Folk Festival. But despite their musical success, life had other plans for the three, who will reunite Sept. 8 for a one-night-only performance at Hard Times Café in Old Town.

"We met in college and always stayed in touch," said Christensen, a longtime Alexandria resident and wife of Hard Times Café founder Fred Parker. "No matter where our lives have taken us, we usually perform once a year, but mostly in Saratoga. It's very rare for us to perform down here."

Armed with a degree in art history, Christensen began work 30 years ago at the National Gallery of Art, where she specializes in art restoration as a senior conservator. Huxtable is a special education teacher and Hood currently works for the New York State Department of Education after a career in public television.

"We do a lot of a cappella music," said Christensen, a soprano who also tackles keyboards and percussion. "That's our specialty, from Renaissance to Caribbean. But my favorite is the traditional rock and roll."

The trio known as Huxtable, Christensen and Hood ("I know, not very creative," laughed Christensen) recorded Wallflowers, their first album, in 1980, followed by Melancholy Babies six years later.

"Our repertoire pretty much spans five centuries," Christensen said. "We do everything from madrigals to doo-wop and everything in between."

It was through music that Christensen met her future husband.

"Fred was working as a graphic designer at the National Gallery even as he was gearing up to open Hard Times," Christensen



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Teresina Huxtable, Carol Christensen and Liz Hood began singing together while students at Skidmore College in the '70s.



BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Carol Christensen with husband Fred Parker at Hard Times Café.

said. "There was a Gallery band called the Desperados that played together as a hobby. A co-worker told me about the group and I guess the rest is history."

Married for 29 years, Christensen and Parker have two sons: Ned, who works at the Naval Research Laboratory, and

Jonathan, a graduate of the Eastman Conservatory of Music and professional jazz saxophonist.

"I'm excited to see HCH perform here in Alexandria," said Parker, who on rare occasions can be seen playing the spoons between serving up chili at any number of charity events. "Melancholy Baby' and 'Come a Little Bit Closer' by Jay and the Americans are two of my favorites."

HCH will be part of a Hard Times Café double bill featuring singer/songwriter Michael Jerling, a "New Folk" winner at the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival.

"It worked out that everyone was able to make the trip to Alexandria for the show," Christensen said. "And I'm excited to be able to perform again before a hometown audience."

Huxtable, Christensen and Hood will perform on a double bill with singer/songwriter Michael Jerling Sept. 8 at Hard Times Café, 1404 King St., Alexandria. For tickets or more information, call 703-837-0050.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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. View 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.

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 photo-documentary 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

and academics, as well as designated 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.

Art Exhibit. See the second Front Porch Installation by Ned Egan. "Leci n'est pas une Magrite" is on display at 18 W. Linden St.

ART CLASS REGISTRATION

Fall Classes. Children ages 6-7 can enjoy a theater class and pretend to be all sorts of characters on Mondays, starting Sept. 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$135 for the 8-week class. Register at www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-5778 ext. 2. Classes available for all ages and days.

Art Classes. Tuesdays from 7-8:30

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. For children ages 12 and up. Begin with drawing figures and lines and work up to drawing in detail and on larger scale. Starts Sept. 10. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

Art Classes. Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. for children ages 9 and up. Focuses on clay work in the studio. Begins Sept. 11 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

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.

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.

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.

Music Performance. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Shopping Center, 7908 Fort Hunt Road. Fusebox performs as part of the Rock & Shop Community Event. All ages welcome. Visit www.reverbnation.com/fuseboxbandrocks or 703-765-071.

Theater Production. 8 p.m. at Old Town Theater, 815 Q King St. Bible Stories Theatre will perform "Once Upon a Time Shop." Call 703-544-5315 or go to OldTownTheater1914.com for tickets.



The 2012 Colonial Marketplace was bustling with activity.

Colonial Market & Fair

Mount Vernon re-creates an early-American marketplace with demonstrations, crafts and entertainment at its Colonial Market & Fair on Saturday, Sept. 13, and Sunday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. More than 40 juried artisans from across the nation will demonstrate their trades and sell their wares while two stages of family entertainment delight audiences with 18th-century amusements. Free Potomac River sightseeing cruises are available while supplies last. Costumed interpreters will be demonstrating the 18th-century chocolate-making process using an authentic colonial recipe. Guests are invited to sample fresh chocolate made by hand on site.

Mount Vernon's Colonial Market & Fair is the most authentic and diverse event of its kind, bringing together

distinguished artisans working in colonial attire and a dozen entertainers who re-create the amusements loved by early Americans. As visitors shop, artisans demonstrate their crafts and explain the historic trades used to make items similar to those George Washington purchased in the 18th century.

General Washington will preside over a host of amusements including: Mr. Bayly, Conjuring and Entertainments; Signora Bella, Equilibrist; Professor Thompson S. Gunn, Mystic Arts of Asia, the Far East, & India; and more. Fair fare will be available from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant concession stands.

The event is included with regular admission: adults, \$17; youth, 6-11 \$8; children 5 and under, free. Visit MountVernon.org/FallEvents.



General Washington (Dean Malissa) greets a lad at the 2012 Colonial Market & Fair.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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 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.

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 www.alexandriava.gov/Archaeology.

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 www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more information.

Theater Production. 5 p.m. or 8 p.m. at Old Town Theater, 815 Q King St. Bible Stories Theatre will perform "Once Upon a Time Shop." Call 703-544-5315 or go to OldTownTheater1914.com for tickets.

Block Party. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Nalls Produce, 7310 Beulah St. There will be food, family fun, giveaways, discounts on produce and more. Bring canned goods to donate to the Koinonia Foundation.

Music Performance. 3:30-5:30 p.m. at L&B's Sports Bar, 5401 Mapledale Plaza, Woodbridge. Alexandria's Fusebox performs. All ages welcome. Visit www.lbsportsbar.com or 703-730-1764.

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-you-can-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, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

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, 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.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 10

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

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

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. Children 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.

SEPT. 10-OCT. 20

Art Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents "Collaborations," an exhibit where each piece combines the input of two or more artists. Located in studio 18 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

<call> Wednesday/Sept. 11

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

Laptime Rhythm and Rhyme. 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children up to 18 months with adult. 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.

Spanish Story Time. 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All abilities and all levels can join in for stories. Free. 703-746-1702.

Ford Nature Center Program. 3:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children in grades K-8 can see live animals and learn about their habitats. Free. 703-746-1704.

Pajama Story Time. 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1705.

Lego Family Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Families can enjoy building together and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

Saving Whooping Cranes. 7:30 p.m. at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Hear Ken Lavish of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center discuss the project to re-establish migrating flocks. Free. Visit www.fodm.org or 703-768-2525.

Square Dance Lessons. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Boomerangs Square Dance Teaching Council hosts. Free. E-mail tom.nancystafford@cox.net or 703-573-8378.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

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

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

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.

Second Thursday Art Night. 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Hear performances by local school ensembles, browse art exhibits and more. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Reception. 6-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of "In the Flesh 4" at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit examines contemporary figurative art. There will be a juror talk at 7 p.m. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Reception. Meet Kreshnik "Nick" Xhiku from 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Gallery, 105 N. Union St. His exhibit "Structural Elements" explores the bounds between figurative and abstract sculpture. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

Writing Triage. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Get a resume or writing project reviewed and get suggestions on how to improve it. Free. 703-746-1742 to register.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road.

ENTERTAINMENT

Children ages 3-6 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1704.

Lecture Series. 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Potomack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will discuss "Celebrating the Natural Communities of VA." Free. Visit www.vnps-pot.org for more.

Second Thursday Music. 7 p.m. at The Atheneum, 201 Prince St. Jamey Turner will perform. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-15

Fair Trade Oriental Rug Event. Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St., will present hundreds of rugs from Bunyaad, a fair trade company that works with Pakistani artisans to produce hand-knotted rugs from their villages. Bunyaad ensures that each rug is designed and made by fairly paid adult workers. Ten Thousand Villages will hold a one-hour introduction to the event on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. Registration encouraged. Call 703-684-1435 or visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com.

SEPT. 12 THROUGH NOV.3

Theater Performance. See the premiere of "Gee's Bend" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Watch as the true story of the Pettway family unfolds during the Civil Rights Movement and they become famous for their iconic quilts. Performances for Gee's Bend will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. For ticket reservations call 800-494-8497 or go online to

www.metrostage.org. For information and group sales call 703-548-9044.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

Agatha Christie Movie Marathon.

10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There will be a short intermission between films. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for titles. Free. 703-746-1702.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

Comedy Improv Performance.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. at The Atheneum, 201 Prince St. For people 18 and older. A dessert reception will follow. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/SEPT.14

Colonial Market & Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Enjoy a re-creation of early-American marketplace with demonstrations, crafts and entertainment. Free Potomac River sightseeing cruises are available while supplies last. Event is included with regular admission \$17/adult; \$8/youth 6-11; children 5 and under free. Visit MountVernon.org/FallEvents for more.

Grand Gaming Melee. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can play a variety of games. Beginners welcome. Join an existing game or bring your own board. Free. 703-746-1702.

Free Meditation Workshop. 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn breathing technique and more. Free. 703-746-1704.

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Special thanks to **Alexandria
Gazette Packet**

School Board

FROM PAGE 1

ary was \$265,000, so the buyout was a fraction of what he would have earned if he stayed for the duration of his contract. School Board member Marc Williams was the only member to speak out against the motion, offering a full-throated defense of the superintendent and his five years on the job.

“Everyone will recall that a previous superintendent, Rebecca Perry, was bought out of her contract,” said Williams. “This will make Dr. Sherman the second superintendent in a row to be bought out. What a perverse recruitment model.”

SHERMAN WAS HIRED to lead the school division in 2008, when school officials were reeling from the controversy swirling around former Superintendent Rebecca Perry. She survived a drunk-driving arrest, staying on the job and even receiving a raise by members of the School Board. Then a new board was elected and voted five-to-four to get rid of her. That was when Sherman entered the picture and began making bold pronouncements about how the school system’s dropout rate and achievement gaps were unacceptable. He hired an army of consultants to come in and train teachers, creating new layers of highly paid administrators to implement a new curriculum.

“When we hired Dr. Sherman, we know we were getting an individual unafraid of change and tackling big problems,” former School Board Chairwoman Yvonne Folkerts said in a 2009 interview. “We brought him here to make changes, and that’s what he’s doing.”

The change may have been bold, but they weren’t always popular. One of the first controversial changes was to do away with the large banners that announced “This School is Fully Accredited.” The change was made just as the long-troubled Jefferson-Houston Elementary School finally made accreditation for the first time in many years. Parents were looking forward to seeing the banner on their school, but Sherman determined that the school would receive no banner.

That was just the beginning.

The superintendent brought an army of consultants to Alexandria, including Lucy Calkins of Columbia University who worked to revamp the elementary-level writing program. He also outsourced the school system’s janitorial services to save money and moved students with disabilities into mainstream classrooms. Perhaps the biggest reorganization happened at the two middle schools, where Sherman added several layers of bureaucracy by creating five new institutions at the two existing buildings. By the end of his tenure, Sherman was overseeing a staff of 27 central administrators who earned \$3.6 million in salaries.

“Alexandria has a long history of having bloated administration,” said Hazel Rigby, longtime teacher and former president of the Education Association of Alexandria. “But administrators at private schools make



MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Interim Superintendent Margaret Walsh, right, takes a seat with School Board members after they vote to allocate \$282,000 to release Morton Sherman from his remaining 22 months in office.

twice as much if not more.”

LAST YEAR, a major scandal rocked the school system after an auditor’s report revealed a “dysfunctional environment” in the budget office. The nine-page audit blasted budget officials for allowing a culture of information silos to emerge regarding the division’s Capital Improvement Program.

“This fragmentation and lack of transparency have created significant internal control weaknesses in monitoring CIP financial transactions,” the audit concluded.

The audit capped a series of dramatic developments that month, beginning with the resignation of budget director Jean Sina. That was followed by the resignation of Deputy Superintendent Margaret Byess, a former budget director who oversaw the financial side of the school system’s operation. By the time City Council members gathered on March 13, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley was ready to call for Sherman to step down.

“In my opinion, the superintendent should resign,” Donley said Tuesday night. “Ultimately, the buck stops at the top.”

“I appreciate his perspective, but he is way off base,” Sherman responded a few minutes later in an email response to the Alexandria Gazette Packet. “I am sure that Mr. Donley is frustrated and angry about the CIP situation, but not nearly as frustrated and angry as I am.”

SCHOOL BOARD members gathered for a closed-door, three-hour executive session a few days later to determine Sherman’s future. They emerged that night to announce that they were standing by their embattled superintendent. Before they left office, members of the outgoing School Board issued a new three-year contract to Sherman a year early. But as seven new members joined the board earlier this year, the writing was already on the wall.

“He either has to change or leave,” said newly elected School Board member Bill Campbell in a December interview. “We’ve got to have the attitude that we are all working together for the good of the children, and that all of our contributions are critically important and I’m not sure that’s been consistent with the way Mort has done things here in Alexandria.”

Tensions began mounting during the budget season this year, when Sherman outlined a proposal to spend \$357 million in an ambitious plan of demolition and construction across the city’s public school system. Three existing schools would be demolished and rebuilt. One new school would be added at a location yet to be de-

termined. The budget request would have more than doubled the previous year’s appropriation.

“Are we going to go in and antagonize City Council from the get go?” asked School Board member Pat Hennig at the time. “We have no business going to the funding authority without being able to prove every single thing we say.”

City Council members ended up funding less than half of Sherman’s request, an indication that the superintendent was unable to sell his vision outside of the School Board. In the months since that time, school officials have learned that test scores at Jefferson-Houston School have been so low for so long that state leaders are orchestrating a takeover next year, removing control of the school and its facility from the city. Meanwhile, a new round of failing test scores shows that the city’s schools are making little progress.

That lack of progress was evident to Hopkins as he thumbed throughout he draft report on student achievement. In the days

leading to Sherman’s ouster, Hopkins explained, he had a series of tense meetings with senior administration officials about what kind of language should be used to describe progress on the goals. On one item, for example, Hopkins said school administrators wanted to use the language “pending” for a demographic study that was supposed to have been completed in October. Hopkins disagreed with that language, arguing that “not accomplished” was more appropriate.

Just then, as Hopkins closed the folder on his draft report, School Board members emerged from their closed-door meeting and drew the era of Morton Sherman to a close.

“We could have done better,” said Hopkins as board members scurried for the door. “We haven’t done what we should have been doing for children and particularly those who are in greatest need. I’m specifically talking about minority children, low-resource children of all colors. I think we could have done a better job.”

City Weighs Use of Eminent Domain

FROM PAGE 3

mation Act and began processing the order. Instead of responding specifically to Van Fleet, city leaders eventually determined that they should make the document available to the entire community rather than merely respond to one request. “Had this been communication between attorneys, it would not have been FOIAble,” said Sperra. “But at some point in the proceedings, the boat club requested — and the mayor agreed — to just have discussions between principals.”

Now city leaders are in the awkward position of conducting a public negotiation with the boat club, even as members consider the city’s final offer before possibly using eminent domain to take the parking lot. So far, the club has not yet responded to the request. But members of the club have a long history of rejecting offers from the city, and tensions over the waterfront plan linger at the waterfront club. That means that members of the Alexandria City Council are likely to consider eminent domain in a closed-door executive session this fall.

“Eminent domain is something that should be very rare. The classic example is President Eisenhower using it to build the interstate system,” said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. “This is not the interstate.”

THE POLITICS of eminent domain could pose a serious challenge for council mem-

bers, whose term ends in 2015. Last year, voters approved an amendment to the Virginia Constitution allowing land owners to seek damages from local governments if they can prove a loss of profits or a loss of access.

In this case, the Old Dominion Boat Club could seek damages for the loss of profits on parking spaces it owns adjacent to Mai Thai restaurant — across the street from the parking lot.

“Virginia has one of the worst state constitutions in the entire country with regard to property rights,” said Ilya Somin, professor of law at George Mason University. “Most state constitutions say you can only take property for a public use. But what the Virginia constitution currently says is you can condemn property for any reason the legislature defines as a public use.”

Alexandria has a history of using eminent domain for a variety of projects. Back in the 1970s, city leaders used eminent domain to acquire land that would eventually become Hensley Park. More recently, members of the Alexandria Sanitation Authority used eminent domain to acquire property in the Eisenhower Valley. Now members of the City Council are poised to consider using eminent domain to achieve some of the key objectives of the waterfront plan.

“We are going to look at all the options,” said Councilman Justin Wilson. “My preference would be a negotiated settlement.”

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Campbell did the right thing as a member of the previous board by voting with the majority.

I know I would like to see the data showing that school enrollment will be increasing within the next few years. Because it has become so expensive for families to continue to live in Alexandria, especially for those who rent and families wherein their income is only about \$50,000-60,000 a year, it seems to me that many of these families will be moving away. Further, future development projects in Alexandria are geared for singles and/or couples with disposable income and not families.

This should not be a "green light" for City Manager Young, Mayor Euille and all members of the council to increase funding for ACPS in its next budget. Until ACPS can get its "financial house in order," an overall cleaning out of staff in central office including the many consultants Mort continued to hire without any regard for any Alexandria taxpayers' money, our local elected officials cannot increase any more funding to ACPS.

As this school board begins a search for a new superintendent, they must do a better job of vetting whomever they decide to hire. Paying \$250,000 plus all of the benefits that go along with being superintendent for this very small school district must be an open discussion with every member of the community who wants to get involved and cares

about ACPS. There is no reason any superintendent should receive that amount of money for a public school district no matter where this school district is located. Forget the usual "talking points" that ACPS won't be able to find someone without paying them too much money. Rubbish. It's now time to move forward and for the school board to get it together.

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Update on Tree Lighting Fund

To the Editor:

I am very pleased to announce that the tree lights on King street will remain on this next coming spring as we are matching the contingency Council, led by Del Pepper, set aside to use for this purpose. They set aside \$13,500. We have to match one half of that by early in March 2014 to keep the lights on through June 2014. That is only \$6,750.

I have pledged that I will help raise that money and we have come up with several ways to do it. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce has agreed to keep the money in their foundation C3 fund. Old Town Business and Professional Association has endorsed this campaign. All of the city is hoping that we can do this.

I do have several deposits in the bank already from the following individuals and

businesses: from Frank Fannon, George Seghers from The Masonic Memorial, Ann Dorman with First Night, Andrew Palmerie, Lynn Hampton, Franco Landini with Landini Brothers Restaurant and Fish Market, The Enchanted Florest, Walker Real Estate, Hard Times Cafe, The Creamery, David Baker, Joan Renner, Maginniss& DelNinni Architects, and Don Simpson. John Porter with ACT for Alexandria, and citizens: Phil Hollywood, Randall Larrimore, Helen Sullivan-Kumar, Phillip Hollywood, and Lana Slack.

This comes to \$3,775 now collected. It is more than half of the \$6,750.

Please join these concerned citizens; we're all in this together. Make your check out to The Alexandria Chamber Foundation Inc. and mark it for the "Spring tree lights 2014." I will keep track of all the money as it comes in so I can make a public statement, available through The Alexandria Gazette, as they have agreed to do so for this fund drive. This is tax deductible.

Send your checks to me C/O Gold Works Inc., 1400 King Street, Alexandria VA 22314 please, and I will see that they are deposited with the Chamber immediately. As this money is raised we will assure that the lights will be on next year for the spring at least through June 2014. Let us add your name to this growing list.

David Martin
Gold Works Inc.
Alexandria

Going Beyond A-F in Virginia

To the Editor:

In one year, Virginia is slated to start rating schools with a simple A to F grade. This rating system, which Jeb Bush started when he was Governor in Florida, received some negative press this month when a similar Indiana program showed the dangers of using one metric to rate

schools. An Indiana official had adjusted grading methods for a politically connected charter school, exposing the risks of overly simplistic school rankings and changing the scores of about 165 schools in the process. With Virginia slated to start using an A-F school ranking in 2014, this story, among other factors, should give us pause.

A-F is intended to give the public a snapshot of what is happening in Virginia's schools by creating simple rankings for how schools stack up.

Easy-to-understand school ratings are certainly needed. The problem is that education is more complex than one simple grade. Our kids don't get one grade for their work. They get grades for each subject. We do that on purpose to understand a student's strengths and weaknesses. Looking at recent SOL scores, the variance between subjects, grades and different student groups are stark. It is almost impossible to compare those differences with one grade.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

Torpedo Factory Art Center Board - Executive Committee. 4:30 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Call Eric Wallner, ewallner@torpedofactory.org, 703-838-4565 x307.

Convention & Visitors Assn. Executive Committee. 5 p.m. ACVA, 625 N Washington St. Call Patricia Washington, 703-746-3302.

Transportation Commission Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Steve Sindiong, steve.sindiong@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4047.

Emergency Medical Services Council. 7 p.m. Inova Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Road. Call Brian Hrick, 703-746-5245.

Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee. 7 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1102, 301 King St. Call Rose Boyd, 703-746-4300.

Commission on Information Technology. 7 p.m. City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Call Beverly Hill McDonald, 703-746-3001.

Foster Parent Orientation. 6-7:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Free information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. To RSVP e-mail Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5858.

Democratic Committee Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Minnie Howard School auditorium, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Bring canned foods for ALIVE. There will be door prizes. 703-549-3367.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 10

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

Proclamation Commemorating Constitution Week. 2 p.m. at City Hall, 301 King St. Participating in the event will be students from Mt. Vernon and Samuel W. Tucker Elementary schools and Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

Alexandria Tea Party. 6-9:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. The Alexandria Tea Party hosts their Survivors of Communism Summit. Attendees will receive a program booklet containing resources for understanding communism and joining with others to oppose it. Registration required, visit www.alexandriateaparty.com.

Annual Citizenship Day/Naturalization Ceremony. 6 p.m. Market Square, 301 King St. Contact JoAnn Maldonado, JoAnn.Maldonado@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4800.

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

Alexandria Electoral Board. 9:30 a.m. Voter Registration Office, 132 N. Royal St. Call Eric Spicer, 703-746-4050.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Meeting. 8 a.m. at City Council Workroom at City Hall, 301 King St. City of Alexandria and ACPS are jointly developing a Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan to accommodate growing student population and more. Free. 703-461-4666.

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

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. 10 a.m. Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-3969.

Local Emergency Planning Committee. 3 p.m. Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1500 Eisenhower Ave. Call Ashley Ehrhart, 703-746-5258.

Deadline. The City of Alexandria is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Braddock Implementation Advisory Group. The vacancy is for an "at-large" slot. All applicants must submit a completed application to the Department of Planning and Zoning no later than 5 p.m. Applications can be found at www.alexandriava.gov/Braddock or requested by e-mail Nathan.imm@alexandriava.gov.

Torpedo Factory Art Center Board - Finance Comm. 5 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Eric Wallner, ewallner@torpedofactory.org, 703-838-4565 x307.

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

Children, Youth & Family Collaborative

Commission. 7 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Ron Frazier, ron.frazier@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5967.

DASH Study Public Workshop. 7 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Help identify future transit needs in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.dashbus.com/COA for information.

Board of Architectural Review Old & Historic Alexandria District Hearing. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Call Al Cox, 703-746-3833.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Fire and Police Officers Pension Plan Board Meet. 8:30 a.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Call Steven Bland, steven.bland@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3886.

Supplemental Retirement Plan Pension Board. 8:30 a.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Call Steven Bland, steven.bland@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3886.

Post-employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Board. 1 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Call Steven Bland, steven.bland@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3886.

Discussion. 1:30-3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn how to access senior services in Alexandria to help live independently. Free. 202-234-1010.

Waterfront Commission — Marina Committee. 5 p.m. City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Call Jack Browand, jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5504.

DASH Study Public Workshop. 7 p.m. at Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Help identify future transit needs in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.dashbus.com/COA for information.

Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Call Peter Leiberg, 703-746-4666.

Alexandria Beautification Commission. 7:30 p.m. Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron St. Call Judy Lo, 703-746-5940.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-15

Annual Rug Event. Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King Street. More than 300 rugs will be on display and available for purchase from Bunyaad, a company that works with artisans in Pakistan. Call 703-684-1435 or visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Community Fun Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Woodlawn/Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Enjoy a food truck, vendors, Irish step dancers, music, food and more. Visit <http://www.woodlawn-umc.org/> for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 16

Commission on HIV/AIDS. 6:30 p.m. Alexandria Health Department, 4480 King Street Call Nechelle Terrell, nechelle.terrell@vdh.virginia.gov, 703-746-4933.

Healthcare Talk. 7-9 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School auditorium, 3330 King St. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran and healthcare experts will discuss "Navigating the Affordable Care Act: Making Health Reform Work for You and Your Family." Free. RSVP at moran.house.gov.

Social Services Advisory Board Meeting. 7 p.m. Human Services Building, 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave. Call Tresniece Perry, tresniece.perry@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5668.

Environmental Policy Commission. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Call Khoa Tran, 703-746-4065.

George Washington Birthday Committee. 7:30 p.m. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Call Cheryl Lawrence, 703-746-5419.

Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia. 8 p.m. Northern Virginia Regional Commission, 3060 Williams Drive Call 703-573-3100.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

Public Meeting. 7-9 p.m. in the City Council Work Room, 301 King St. Discuss City Code and Zoning Ordinance revisions to clarify that residents of developments with Development Special Use Permit conditions limiting residential parking permits. Free. 703-746-4139.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

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

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

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000360, Alexandria Meals on Wheels Program Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference: September 12, 2013 at 2 p.m., prevailing local time, at 100 N. Pitt St, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314.
RFP Closing Date and Time: September 30, 2013, 4 p.m., prevailing local time
For general inquiries, contact John Soderberg at 703-746-4397
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and or all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

Supermarkets on the Corner

BY HARRY M. COVERT

Labor Day is a perfect time to revisit the first day of the first job. The experience sticks with most people no matter the passage of time.

A neighborhood grocery store sticks out because the customers phoned in orders, they were charged, bills were cleared up usually on Friday paydays and orders were delivered by bicycle, if within a few blocks and by panel truck otherwise.

Supermarkets were few. Family-owned stores were simply neighborly, usually stopping-in points. Children could slip by for chewing gum or small candy after school. Morris, the proprietor, never refused anybody. He merely put the pennies on a family's running account, kept on small white notepads. Sometimes, during the summer, out of the kindness of his heart, soft drinks made the charge account.

Fortunately I visited the store almost daily either for mother, grandmother or neighbors Mrs. Jones or Mrs. Gaskins. They gave me a nickel, sometimes a dime, for my services. Mother gave me supper.

Mrs. Jones always called in her order, mostly bread and milk and snuff. I noticed there was always a small lump around her lips and finally learned that snuff was a popular habit among lots of women. It never attracted my interest.

Morris discovered he needed some help since his delivery man got sick. He would have to drive. He asked if I'd like a job on Saturday, pay would be 50 cents an hour starting at 7 o'clock in the morning sharp.

There were several aspects I didn't learn until the first day. I had to sweep the floor from the back door, through the meat department refrigerator and out the front door to the sidewalk.

Second duty was to take egg crates and fill-up egg cartons, making sure each egg was free of any straw or other unwanted chicken coop debris. Third I had to fill up the drink machine with iced water, load it with the sugar-filled drinks of the period.

As the lone telephone began to ring with anxious customers calling in weekly orders work began on the egg cartons, all white eggs, no browns. No organic products.

Ashley the delivery man doubled as a meat grinder — preparing hamburger, sausage and slicing pork chops. He was doing his work slowly this day.

For some reason, before going about my egg duties, I quietly picked up three eggs and decided to practice juggling. I'd watched a juggler in tuxedo on television. I knew I could do that too.

The first three attempts at throwing the eggs into the air went well. Really proud of myself. The front door opened. In walked Mrs. Saunders' statuesque daughter. My head turned only briefly for an ogle. Then crash, splat. I dropped all three eggs and almost lost it all. I managed to save the crate from falling. The girl looked at me and just laughed.

My career as a juggler ended quickly.



From then on every time the "girl" saw me she just giggled even in high school. Later that summer she won the beauty contest at the local recreation center. She shocked the entire neighborhood mind you, wearing a two-piece bathing suit. I watched.

Morris took pity on me, didn't scream or deduct the cost of the broken eggs. He sent me to the meat table where Ashley was grinding, chopping and wrapping. I became the official packager.

Ashley was talking non-stop, complaining about all the work he had to do. He was filling the grinder, pushing the meat with his fingers. Suddenly he screamed. He jerked his hand out of the apparatus. The index finger to the second knuckle remained in the ground beef.

It's not necessary to describe what happened then. Morris grabbed white linen towels, wrapped the hand and raced to the hospital. A couple of hours later all stitched up Ashley returned to the store and watched me clean up the butcher board, grinder and floor. Whenever Morris walked to the meat area, Ashley moaned.

Quite an opening day of course. Within six months the official truck-driving delivery boy was me at 15. The job extended to after school where I loaded the 1946 model truck and made certain all groceries reached the destinations. Radios were always blaring with the soap operas, "One Man's Family," "Just Plain Bill," "The Guiding Light," "Ma Perkins," "Our Gal Sunday" and many more.

THERE STILL REMAINS something special about neighborhood groceries. They were wonderful gathering spots — gossip about everything, local politics, high school sports and the new products hitting the stores. Nolde's Bread had pictures of The Cisco Kid on each loaf, Cokes, Pepsis, RC's and Grapettes, Rinso soap powder and Old Dutch Cleanser were popular.

Drinks were a nickel for a 12-ounce bottle (no cans). Nolde's bread was 18 cents. Almost forgot. Bond Bread had Hopalong Cassidy labels. There were no frozen foods to speak of.

I loved the first job. Pay that day was \$5, no deductions. It was the only time I ever forgot to ask for it. Morris called my house that night and said, "don't ever forget to get your money." Never have.

Grocery shopping to this day has always been a pleasure.

On this week honoring workers, I remember how to fill grocery paper bags, grind ground beef, and always know where the fingers are. I still like prattling on about who's doing what and think of the joyful days of reading local papers, mornings and afternoons.

In those days I didn't know anything about left-wingers or right-wingers. I did know what was right and wrong as well as the difference between boys and girls.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 23

Applied to Virginia's current method of accrediting schools, it also has the potential to exacerbate the challenges we face with low-income students in Virginia.

In Virginia, for a school to be deemed successful, or accredited, it is not required to meet academic expectations for students in each income and ethnic group. Instead, scores are averaged across a school. To use Alexandria as an example, we have one elementary school that is accredited by the state, passes all the state standards and is highly desired by parents. We have another school that is subject to a state takeover because of its low average test scores. When you compare these schools by their test scores for low-income students though, the one at risk of a state takeover does better. Looking at an A-F system, how do you compare these schools? Why is one considered failing when another, with worse performance for similar students, isn't? Poverty, English language learners and other factors can impact test performance and are important challenges to address throughout Virginia's school districts. Our school grading system needs to expose aspects of our schools that need more attention so that we can adapt and compare techniques that are working and those that are not.

Since family income is a significant predictor of test scores, we have to be careful to not let A-F simply become a de-facto ranking of schools by average parent income. Our A-F implementation needs to expose all of the data that goes into the final letter grade. One school may be doing great in math, but have problems with reading. Another may be doing a great job bringing up the achievement of lower income students, but not making any significant progress with its middle-income students.

Exposing these differences is a critical part of empowering communities with useful information about their schools.

Comprehensive information will show parents and communities how their schools truly stack up. Transparently showing the underlying information behind a school's grade in simple and clear terms will help prevent the rigging of grades as happened in Indiana. We also should go further and make sure our accreditation system forces Virginia to pay attention to kids from every background, whether they are a small portion or the majority in a school.

I know the Board of Education is looking at these issues as it grapples with a fair A-F system. The legislature didn't give them a lot of time to do this, so it is going to be a stretch. If more time is needed, we should grant it. It would be a mistake to let haste turn A-F into a tool to mask what is truly happening in our schools.

Rob Krupicka
Alexandria

'Iron' Versus 'Golden Age'

To the Editor:

I sat through St James group's presentation for their "public-private partnership" high-end athletic facility, but emerged skeptical as to its commercial viability. Why

didn't the company do "due diligence" which would have told them Hensley Park wasn't feasible? Did city hall fail to docket the requisite public hearing on the utility tax contained in the city budget because staff and members were too distracted by this unsolicited proposal only two had the sense to dismiss from the outset?

Former city councilor David G Speck insists citizens too quickly condemned the St James Group's "public-private partnership" proposal for a mega-sports center on city parkland. Certainly, citizen opposition was quick, but the alacrity with which that opposition emerged, coalesced, mobilized, and shut the project down was of necessity.

Former city councilor Speck served on city council during a long "golden age" which saw such titans of statespersonship and civic leadership as James Moran, Charles Beatley, and Patsy Ticer. Councilor Speck, whose appointment to city council for the last few months of Rob Krupicka's term may well make him the first person to serve on Alexandria's city council under two different political parties since the Whigs, was one of those titans. But it would be a mistake to apply a "golden age" modus operandi to today's "iron age" of city governance, where citizen petitions are dismissed with legal legerdemain; public property and prerogatives are treated like poker chips at the casino to be bet on "public-private partnerships," new metro stations, and new fire stations in exchange for development concessions which run out affordable housing; lame ducks shift election date for partisan advantage; and city committees' informed and well-considered recommendations are insouciantly ignored.

The entre act of this "iron age" was city council's lame-duck decision to shift the election to November. Not in living memory have the Democrats not enjoyed a majority on Alexandria's city council, so partisan advantage was more a foil than the real motivation, marginalizing the highly informed voters who dominated the spring-time election and diluting their influence on city governance, even though they had always given Democrats a majority. City hall may have hoped these voters would evaporate into the ether, but instead, precisely because they are well-informed, they have evolved their tactics to, as successfully as they can, address the new reality.

Today's city council is not capable of undertaking the sort of sophisticated conversation Councilor Speck seeks because it is too reflexively concessionary to developers. Who, for example, would trust today's city council to assure Alexandrians would have preferred access more than "a wink and a nod"? The bloc of well-informed civic activists who formerly dominated the spring-time election understands that opening with a hard tackle is the most successful strategy for operating in today's "iron age" of city government.

From their sacred graves, that "golden age's" titans' 1977 \$117,000 federal grant today protects us from city hall's machinations and "public-private partnerships" where all our civic treasures are on the auction block.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

How To Set Realistic Goals

Local experts say key to success is setting achievable goals.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Laura Wheeler Poms, of Fairfax, set out to earn a doctorate degree and make a career change. As a wife, mother and working professional, the goal, she said, often felt lofty.

"Writing my dissertation at times felt overwhelming, especially if I looked at it as one huge project," said Poms, who now holds a Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology and is an assistant professor of global and community health at George Mason University in Fairfax. "I set goals like writing one page or doing one analysis each day and I was able to get it done. I also gave myself little rewards along the way."

While Poms set and achieved an ambitious goal, she and other psychologists say many people do not. Whether one desires to make a career change, set boundaries in an unhealthy relationship or lose weight, setting and achieving goals is difficult for some.

"The biggest reason people fall off the bandwagon is that they pick goals that are outside their behavioral repertoire, that are environmentally impossible or that they don't have the skills to accomplish," said Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D., a therapist in private practice and a professor of psychology at Howard University in Washington, as well as a Potomac, Md., resident. "If you say, 'I'm going to exercise an hour a day,' but you have a full-time job and children, you really don't have time to exercise for an hour."

Poms says that a person's reasons for waiting to make a change could affect his or her success or failure. "If your goal is motivated by guilt, fear or regret, you're less likely to achieve that goal," she said. "If someone tells you that you need to lose weight, unless that realization has come home to you, it is not very useful. ... If you don't see the need, you're not going to be motivated to accomplish it."

To make lasting changes, experts say, one must be prepared for the work involved in making the shift. "Sometimes when people want to make a change, they are not quite ready," said Amy Van Arsdale, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington and a therapist in private practice who lives in Fairfax. "And sometimes people want to make a change, but they aren't sure how."

"Another reason that sometimes makes it really hard for people to make changes like setting boundaries with someone they love, is because that person might feel hurt, so the person who is trying to change backs down," Van Arsdale continued.

Whether your goal is getting out of a toxic relationship, making a career change or maintaining an exercise plan, there are strategies that you can implement to maintain your perseverance.

"If someone starts to give up," said Van Arsdale, "I recommend that they do a check-in and ask 'What is going on that makes me want to quit?'"



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/GAZETTE PACKET

When working to make behavioral or physical changes, experts recommend dividing one's goals into small, gradual steps.

Assessing how much control one has over the situation is another key tactic. "A person should look at what they can change and what cannot change," said Van Arsdale. "When setting a boundary with another person, for example, a person could say, 'Maybe I can change how often I call my mother, but I can't control how often she calls me so I need to change how I respond, because I can only control myself.'"

Berg-Cross recommends small, gradual changes. "Make the teeniest changes you can think of that are part of your normal routine," she said. "It is not making behavioral changes, it is fading from one behavior to another on a long continuum, little by little."

Van Arsdale said that sometimes she asks clients to think in reverse. For example, "If I didn't lose weight and I didn't get in shape, what is the worse part?" she asks. "I am having problems with my mother and want to set better boundaries. [If] I don't change set boundaries, I will feel powerless, and I want to feel more powerful."

Re-evaluate specific goals and tweak them if needed. "Sometimes people set goals that are too high," said Van Arsdale. "If you set you goals to go to the gym five days a week and that it isn't happening, instead go three times a week. Hanging in there and tweaking goals so that they work for you is better than giving up."

Poms recommends a SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-based) model when setting and working to reach goals. "Set small, achievable goals and get excited when you meet your goals," she said. "Accentuate the small things that you've done."

Van Arsdale said, "Think how your life will change if you make the change, but be realistic. Saying I want to lose 10 pounds is vague. Saying 'I really want to be able to walk a 5K race with my friend' is more doable."

This strategy also works in interpersonal relationships. "You have to figure out what it is about the other person that makes you feel the need to set the boundary," said Poms. "You have to figure out deep down what is the source of the irritation and then set a boundary, but you want to try to talk to that person first."

Get support from friends and family for any challenging goal. Also, "Don't set too many goals at once because it gets overwhelming," said Poms. "You need practical solutions for dealing with things."

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T.C. Williams running back Malik Carney carries the football against Oakton on Aug. 30.



T.C. Williams quarterback Darius Holland throws a pass against Oakton on Aug. 30.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams Football Blasts Oakton in Season Opener

Five different
Titans reach end
zone in victory.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

After an Oakton punt bounced toward the sideline early in the second quarter, T.C. Williams return man Rashawn Jackson noticed the ball remained in bounds.

He also noticed an opportunity.

"I thought the ball rolled out of bounds, and then when it didn't, nobody was covering the ball," Jackson said, "so I just said, 'there's my chance right there.'"

Jackson grabbed the ball and raced 53 yards for a touchdown, helping give the T.C.

Williams football team a 24-point lead en route to a 38-2 season-opening victory over the Cougars on Friday night at Oakton High School. Five different Titans scored a touchdown in the program's first victory against a team from Conference 5, formerly known as the Concorde District, since beating Oakton in 2009.

The Cougars, who graduated several key players from their 2012 Northern Region championship team, were no match for the Titans, who scored on their first offensive play from scrimmage and led 31-2 at half-time.

T.C. Williams hasn't reached the playoffs since 1990, but one wouldn't have known it from watching Friday's contest.

"This win means a lot," Jackson said. "We had to send a message for everybody on our schedule. We expect to do this."

TC took control early in Friday's game. After forcing an Oakton punt during the

game's opening possession, the Titans scored on their first offensive play when running back Malik Carney, who is committed to the University of North Carolina as a linebacker, carried 54 yards into the end zone. After a 52-yard punt return by Jackson set up a 31-yard field goal by Zach Eisenhour, the Titans extended their lead to 17-0 when quarterback Darius Holland connected with Philip Tyler for a 46-yard touchdown in the opening minute of the second quarter.

Tyrice Henry hauled in a 73-yard touchdown pass from Holland late in the first half and TJ Jordan caught a 26-yard scoring toss from Holland in the third quarter.

"Beating Oakton High School, they're not as strong as they've always been, but they're still a very strong program," TC head coach Dennis Randolph said. "By the end of the year, they're going to be in playoff contention, so I think we beat a playoff team. ...

That was our goal: to come in here and show them that we could play with them. We have some very, very, very good athletes."

One of those athletes is Holland, a 6-foot-2, 182-pound junior making his first varsity start Friday. He completed 9 of 14 passes for 205 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed three times for nine yards — numbers which would have been better if not for a penalty and a 12-yard loss on a fumble recovery.

"I was confident in our team," Holland said, "but I was nervous."

Holland saw limited action as a varsity quarterback during his sophomore season, and played receiver for the junior varsity team. He performed well during the offseason, Randolph said, and had a strong showing against the Cougars.

SEE TC'S 38-2, PAGE 29

SPORTS BRIEFS

TC Field Hockey Finishes Second in Under the Lights Pool

The T.C. Williams field hockey team placed second in its pool during the Under the Lights Tournament Aug. 26-27 at Lee High School.

The Titans finished 3-1 during the two-day tournament. TC beat Mount Vernon 4-1 and lost to Oakton 2-0 on Aug. 26, and beat Osbourn Park 1-0 and Lee 5-0 on Aug. 27.

Oakton finished first in the pool with a 4-0 record.

TC head coach William Heresniak said

junior midfielder Meredith Caine, senior midfielder Gianna Knutson and junior midfielder Emily Moncure are some of the team's top players. Freshman Sarah Leckman takes over for graduated four-year starter Megan Boyle.

"After losing Megan Boyle, I have a freshman, Sarah Leckman, [who] has impressed me beyond words," Heresniak said. "You can keep an eye out for her doing some stuff this year just as a freshman."

Last season, TC upset top seed West Springfield in the semifinals of the Patriot District tournament and finished district runner-up.

"The way that we jelled, it was pretty

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 29



T.C. Williams senior Gianna Knutson converts a stroke against Lee during the Under the Lights Tournament on Aug. 27.

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

SPORTS

TC's 38-2 Season Opener

FROM PAGE 28

"He'll grade out OK," Randolph said. "He made some exceptional plays. He made some mistakes, but overall he did a great job. Him being an athlete back there and the things he can do, if you don't box him in, he's going to take off on you and he did that a couple times tonight."

Carney carried 12 times for 77 yards. Henry had two receptions for 78 yards, Jackson finished with two catches for 37 yards and Tim Rattanaphone had two receptions for 15 yards.

Oakton's points came in the second quarter when the T.C. Williams punter stepped out of bounds in the end zone, resulting in a safety.

It was the Cougars' lowest scoring output since being shut out, 35-0, by eventual state champion Westfield in October of 2007.

The Titans held Oakton to 105 yards of offense, including minus-2 on the ground. Five-foot-8 senior Michael Ficarra, making his first varsity start at quarterback, completed 8 of 15 passes for 107 yards. Senior Bobby Lam was Oakton's leading rusher with

28 yards in 11 carries.

"We had a senior-laden team (in 2012), we're returning two starters on offense this year," Oakton head coach Jason Rowley said.

"We've got to bring some of these younger guys around and some of the guys that are seniors that have waited their turn, they've got to learn how to play under the lights and take care of the little things, and we didn't take care of the little things tonight. ... We got beat in every facet of the game. ...

"TC's a good football team, take nothing away from them. They've got talent all over the place. They've got two Division I committed players (Carney and lineman Jeremiah Clarke). [Their] quarterback, he can throw the deep ball as well as anybody in the region.

They're impressive. Coach Randolph has done an excellent job over there."

T.C. Williams will travel to face the Centreville Wildcats at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7. Centreville won its opener against West Potomac, 51-7, on Thursday.

Oakton will host Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

"This win means a lot. We had to send a message for everybody on our schedule. We expect to do this."

**— T.C. Williams senior
Rashawn Jackson**

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 28

awesome," Heresniak said. "... [T]hat night was probably one of the best nights of my coaching career. The kids who are on the team this year who were there last year, they understand it, they talk to the other kids"

— JON ROETMAN

Fall Crew Registration To be Held Sept. 7

The start of school means one thing at the Dee Campbell Boathouse in Old Town — it means fall crew is about to start, as well.

Designed for those who want to learn more about

the sport of rowing and build on the skills they have developed in the past, Fall Crew is open to all students in the seventh-12th grades from public and private schools in Alexandria and the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Registration for this year's program will be held this Saturday, Sept. 7, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Boat-house, which is located on the Potomac River at 1 Madison Street in Alexandria. Fall crew begins two days later — on Sept. 9 — and will be held from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The program runs for five weeks and concludes on Oct. 11.

Fall crew is led by veteran coach Patrick Marquardt and sponsored by the Alexandria crew boosters. For registration forms and more information, visit www.tcwcrew.org/programs/fallcrew.html.



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PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/GAZETTE PACKET

Firefighters work from the ladder truck to get the fire under control.



PHOTO BY PAULA FRIEDRICH/GAZETTE PACKET

Smoke from the warehouse fire filed the sky Monday, Sept. 2. This view is from 4600 Duke St. opposite Foxchase Shopping Center

Massive Blaze Erupts at Warehouse on West End

FROM PAGE 1

the building was inoperable. So Alexandria fire officials called for help from Fairfax County, which loaned a 10,000 gallon tanker truck. That provided an immediate source of water while firefighters scanned the area for a working hydrant. Eventually, one was discovered in a nearby apartment complex. So firefighters cut through a fence and tapped off a hydrant by an apartment complex on Edsall Road.

“In emergency services, you train for not only what you expected to have there but what is unexpected,” said Chief Fire Marshal Robert Rodriguez. “So if your water source is impaired, then you go to your secondary options for either alternate water mains or portable water sources in order to meet your objective.”

That wasn’t the only stumbling block. Just as firefighters were entering the building, part of the roof collapsed. That sent firefighters scrambling from the building



PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/GAZETTE PACKET

Equipment lined the intersection at South Van Dorn and South Pickett.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

By Tuesday, the fire had been contained and charred pieces of foam were scattered around the South Pickett Street.

and radically changed the strategy.

“We go from an offense mode to more of a defend-in-place mode,” said Rodriguez. “We are going to continue to attack the fire building, but only use exterior lines as well as protect any other structures around that the fire could extend to.”

ALEXANDRIA RECEIVED support from across the region to help fight the fire, including Prince George’s County, Arlington County, Fairfax County and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Units from across the National Capital Region scrambled to fill in for missing units that were in Alexandria, reshuffling responders across Northern Virginia and Maryland. Assistance included help from the U.S. Navy, the Red Cross and Dominion Virginia Power. Injuries included one firefighter from Alexandria, one from Fairfax County and two from the airports authority.

“The firefighters transported to hospital from Alexandria warehouse fire were for precautionary reasons,” Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel announced on Twitter at 5 p.m. “Thanks for all your concern!”

At the peak of the firefight, the blaze was a six-alarm fire — meaning that six firefighting units were dispatched to help contain the blaze. By 2:30 p.m., the fire was finally contained although crews remained on the scene through the night. Tax records show the building is owned by a limited-liability corporation created by McLean-based Velsor Companies, which rents to a business known as D.C. Foam Recycle Center. Charred bits of foam could be seen littering Pickett Street the day after the fire, where the smell of smoke lingered in the air. Fire officials said the investigation will take at least a week to determine a cause.

“It’s going to be a long and detailed investigation,” said Rodriguez. “Investigators need to remove the roof portions that have collapsed and shore up certain areas that were damaged by the fire to ensure there isn’t a further collapse. Once they make the scene safe for entry, they’ll start doing a detailed investigation.”



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ALEXANDRIA \$1,080,000



19th Century Townhouse

This lovely old house in the heart of the Historic District is spacious and filled with natural light. It is well maintained with many updated systems (vintage baths) Fresh paint throughout; move-in ready. You will love the pretty walled garden and unlimited possibilities.

Ginny Brzezinski 703.236.3405

Vici Boguess 703.447.2829

www.BBZgroup.com



ALEXANDRIA \$749,000



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 Vernon Trail are just steps away.

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

www.lizluke.com

MLS ID# AX8163816



ALEXANDRIA \$1,250,000



Southern Elegance

Resonates throughout this 12 year young fabulous home, with its sweeping front veranda and fabulous entertaining rooms! With a center hall configuration, elegant entry staircase, gourmet kitchen, family room and deck, the piece de resistance is the wonderful first floor office! Four bedrooms and three baths on the upper level with two car garage.

Kate Patterson

703.627.2166

www.katepattersonhomes.com



ALEXANDRIA \$1,030,000



The Best of Old Town

Stylish four bedroom, three and half bath townhome, in the quiet enclave of Cameron Mews. Exceptional location, one block to the Potomac River, shops and restaurants on King Street. Versatile floor plan, pristine condition, wood floors through-out, marble bathrooms, two fireplaces, surround sound, renovated kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances, French doors leading to secluded walled patio garden. Private parking.

Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930

Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961

www.colleencoopersmith.com



ALEXANDRIA \$244,900



Move-In Ready

Light and bright, S-facing, upper level two bedroom (793 square feet) one bath condo in quiet location in Belle View, just a few steps to shops, metro bus, bike path and Old Town. New paint, carpet and floors. Washer and dryer, storage on premises.

Barbara Cousens

703.966.4180

www.barbaracousens.com

MLS ID# FX8165637



ALEXANDRIA \$439,000



Large and Secluded Springfield Oaks

Spacious three bedroom, three & half bath end-unit townhouse in pristine condition with over 2200 sq. ft. Bamboo floors, gourmet kitchen, deck. Large family room with fireplace, wet bar & French doors to fenced garden. Lower level office and utility room with additional storage. Low HOA fee. Two assigned parking spaces.

Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930

Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961

www.mbgenghauser.com



ALEXANDRIA \$889,000



Classic Colonial

Situated on a quiet cul-de-sac at Mount Vernon on the Potomac. Immaculate condition with updates throughout. Four upper level bedrooms two and a half baths. Huge basement with walk-out. Pool! Two car garage. Neighborhood amenities include tennis courts and boat slip access.

Vici Boguess

703.447.2829

www.BBZgroup.com

MLS ID# FX8172971



FALLS CHURCH \$1,950,000



Waterfront Contemporary ON Lake Barcroft!

This four-year old Masterpiece boasts six bedrooms/ five and a half baths plus waterfront and Private Dock! High Ceilings and Huge windows provide unparalleled views. Second kitchen offers perfect Au-pair/In-law suite. Come home to Lake living - within 7 miles of DC.

Peter Crouch

703.244.4024

www.PeterCrouch.com

MLS ID# FX8165016



703.549.9292

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