

**Alexandria artist Patricia Palermino, left, is shown with Festival of the Arts promoter Howard Allen and a collector Sept. 7 on King Street. Palermino was one of three local artists to be featured in the show that drew tens of thousands of visitors to Old Town.**



**Art work by Koko Brandao attracted passers-by.**



**Artists Katie Delacruz and her daughter Maggie greet visitors as they view her mixed media and acrylic paintings.**



### Art on King Street

**The 11th annual Alexandria King Street Art Festival filled six blocks from Washington Street to Union Street on Saturday, Sept. 7.**



**Visitors stop to view and purchase up paintings from the collection by artist Phillip Singer.**

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/GAZETTE PACKET

## Uneasy Easement

**1789 deed at issue as City Hall takes on Old Dominion Boat Club.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**J**ohn Adams was president of the United States when two land owners on Wales Alley secured a deed that gave them private use to a 30-foot easement in the alley. Now that deed is at the heart of a legal dispute before the Virginia Supreme Court between city officials and the Old Dominion Boat Club. At issue is a lease agreement city leaders entered into with Virtue Feed and Grain that allows the restaurant to block part of the alley with tables and chairs. City Attorney James Banks told justices that the private easement was ex-

tinguished when the city started treating the alley as if it were a public street in the 1970s.

"It goes away by application of law when there is implied dedication," said Banks.

Banks seized on what he called the doctrine of implied dedication, a theory that the city essentially dedicated the alley a public street by actions if not by explicit action. Because city officials cleared snow, filled potholes and issued parking tickets, he argued, the private rights that date back to the 1789 deed was extinguished. Several of the justices were critical of the theory, though, and asked a number of pointed questions.

SEE CITY, BOAT, PAGE 20

## Waterfront Lawsuits Come to an End

**Long and winding road of legal challenges ends with moot point.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**hat began with a dramatic flourish during a waterfront public hearing ended with a whimper last week as justices of the Virginia Supreme Court decided an appeal of the city's actions to adopt the controversial small-area plan was moot.

The case began in January 2012, when members of the City Council were about to vote for a plan that almost triples density on three sites slated for redevelopment. Opponents collected thousands of

signatures to present a "protest petition" to force a supermajority vote. But city officials would not accept the petition on Friday. Then, on Saturday, they said they were closed for business. That left opponents with no recourse other than to file it the next week, depriving them of the ability to force a supermajority vote or stay the proceedings.

As a result, three Old Town women filed a lawsuit. The trio became known as the Iron Ladies and started a protracted legal battle with the city — one of a handful of lawsuits filed to con-

SEE WATERFRONT, PAGE 20

## For Fallen Heroes

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Medal of Honor is the U.S.'s highest military honor, awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. On Aug. 26, Army Staff Sgt. Ty Carter became one of only 79 living recipients of the award during a whirlwind day that began at the White House and ended at American Legion Post 24 in Alexandria.

"It's an honor and privilege to have a Medal of Honor recipient at our Post," said Commander Jim Glassman at a private dinner welcoming Carter, his

**Post 24 hosts newest Medal of Honor recipient.**

family and members of his unit to the historic Old Town American Legion building. "We not only welcome Sgt. Carter but also his fellow soldiers whose bravery during the Battle of Kamdesh kept the outpost from being overtaken."

Earlier in the day, President Barack Obama bestowed the Medal of Honor on Carter for his courage under fire as nearly 350 Taliban insurgents attacked Combat Outpost Keating in the Kamdesh Valley of Afghanistan in the early morning hours of Oct. 3, 2009. Out-numbered nearly 8 to 1, eight U.S. soldiers were killed in the ambush and more than 25

SEE POST 24, PAGE 7

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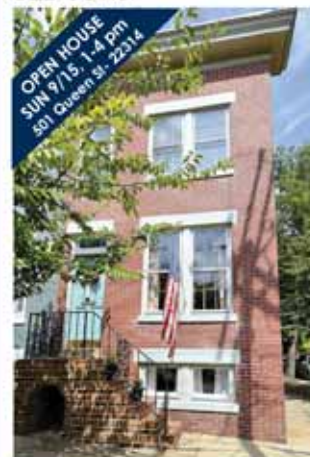
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## International Mayor

Jet-setting Alexandria Mayor **Bill Euille** has just returned from an international trip to Taiwan, where he met with local officials, toured municipal buildings and soaked up the local culture. Euille spent six days in the East Asian nation as part a delegation of 10 mayors and county administrators that visited the mountainous island.

"I had some trepidation about it, initially, in terms of what I would gain from it," said Euille. "But it was 100 percent paid for by the Taiwanese government."

Euille said he got more out of it than expected. Recounting his trip Tuesday night during the City Council meeting, the mayor said it was enlightening to see democracy at work in a country with 23 million people. He praised the cleanliness of the subway system, which he said was so clean that you could eat off of the floors. He complimented the Taiwanese taxicab industry, which he said would "blow your mind" compared to American taxicabs. He said it was not uncommon to see bicycles on the sidewalks because that's how people there get around.

"From culture and arts to the food and hospitality, it's a beautiful country," said Euille. "We didn't want to leave and come back."

## In the Dark

What happens if the streetlight on your block goes out? City officials say they would like to help if they could, but it's really not their thing.

Dominion Virginia Power owns and operates the streetlights in Alexandria. So when citizens want to report an outage, they need to call Dominion or visit the website to make a complaint. Councilman **Tim Lovain** said he heard from a neighbor who spent 20 minutes on hold waiting to report an inoperable streetlight.

"I'm just wondering what we could do to make this a better system," said Lovain. "It's not a very good system now."

**Rich Baier**, director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, said city officials frequently get reports of broken streetlights. But all those calls are referred to Dominion. Baier said Alexandria has no ability to push Dominion to expedite repairs, which leads to a constant source of frustration.

"The community has been conditioned to call the city," said Baier. "They are looking for someone to come out and explain when it will be fixed, but we can't do that."

## Superlative Service

It's not quite an endless summer in Alexandria, but the season has been extended at the Old Town Pool. And some people are clearly thrilled about it. Councilman **Justin Wilson** said he had an opportunity to go with his children over the weekend, when he saw more than 100 people enjoying the pool. He said several people thanked him for extending the operations of the pool past Labor Day. One woman who has lived in Alexandria since 1972 told Wilson it was "the best thing the city has ever done."

"I attempted to argue that there were some other good things we had done in the last 42 years," said Wilson. "But she was pretty convinced this was the best thing we had ever done, so we have that going for us."

## Twenty-Year Horizon

City officials are pushing back against criticism that they are not working fast enough to do something about the 10 million gallons of raw sewage Alexandria dumps into the Potomac River each year. Although it's true they worked with state officials to set a deadline of 2035, they say, that doesn't mean that they are dragging their feet. "There will be interim steps," said **Bill Skrabak**, deputy director of the Alexandria Department of Environmental Quality. "Every five years, we will be getting a permit, and there will be conditions in the permit."

The city's newest permit issued in August, for example, has new requirements about total maximum daily loads of bacteria that can be discharged into Hunting Creek. As a result, the state is forcing the city to reduce by 80 percent to 99 percent at three outfalls in the next five years. "We have a target that we have to remove approximately five million gallons of stormwater or the equivalent out of our (combined sewer outflow) system on an annual basis at the end of this permit cycle."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## News

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN  
703-778-9415 OR GAZETTE@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Fire Chief Adam Thiel announces investigators have identified a person of interest in the six-alarm warehouse fire last week.**

# Incendiary Remarks

**No arrests yet, but fire chief says investigation puts one individual in the hot seat.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel stopped short of calling it "arson." But the chief was clear that city officials believe that the person of interest identified by the investigation into last week's six-alarm fire on the West End started the fire on purpose. No arrests have been made yet, but Thiel says the case has been handed over to prosecutors, who will ultimately determine if the charge of arson applies.

"This fire was incendiary in nature," Thiel said in a brief press conference Tuesday night. "We have ruled out any accidental causes."

The massive fire on South Pickett Street erupted shortly before noon on Labor Day, prompting a response from firefighters across the region. Thiel described it as the largest fire since the Pentagon was in flames on Sept. 11, 2001. The warehouse was leased to a business known as D.C. Foam, and investigators pegged damage at \$6 million. Four firefighters received medical attention for over-exertion. Now prosecutors are trying to figure out their next move.

"We just got the file on the investigation, so it's

going to take some time for us to review it," said Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel. "It will be a while before we sort through it and make any kind of determination."

**THE CHARGE** of arson assumes some amount of malicious intent, Sengel said. So prosecutors must now look at the evidence in the case and determine what degree of intent they suspect the person of interest had in mind when the fire began. Sengel said the analysis would be similar to determining whether or not a wounding was malicious.

"The difference is degree of intent or what evidence of intent there was, which is something we have to determine from the evidence," said Sengel. "Fortunately this is not something we see with great frequency here."

During Tuesday night's City Council meeting, members praised the Alexandria Fire Department and the team of regional responders who helped battle the

six-alarm blaze. Councilwoman Del Pepper pointed out that firefighters were challenged by a water-main break that morning, which sent firefighters scrambling for alternative sources of water.

"We've had a lot of water-main breaks lately," said Pepper. "This seems almost like an epidemic."

**CITY MANAGER** Rashad Young said city officials recently met with Virginia American Water about

the issue. According to Young, water officials said they would like to be on a 100-year replacement cycle. But instead they are on a 300-year replacement cycle.

"So that's a tad behind where they would like to be," said Young.

**"This fire was incendiary in nature. We have ruled out any accidental causes."**

— Fire Chief Adam Thiel





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### **7116 Burtonwood Drive \$889,000**

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## PEOPLE



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

The trio Huxtable, Christensen and Hood make a special Alexandria appearance at Hard Times Café Sept. 8.

## All in the Family Trio rocks Hard Times Café.

**A**fter a 20-year absence in Alexandria, the female trio of Huxtable, Christensen and Hood took to the stage Sept. 8, performing to a capacity crowd at Hard Times Café in Old Town.

Cheering on the group were Hard Times founders and brothers Jim and Fred Parker,

husband of vocalist Carol Christensen, along with their sons Ned and Jonathan Parker.

"I think I'm the only Parker without any musical talent," laughed Ned Parker, whose brother Jonathan is a professional jazz saxophonist. "I guess that's why I'm taking the

SEE ALL IN THE FAMILY. PAGE 6

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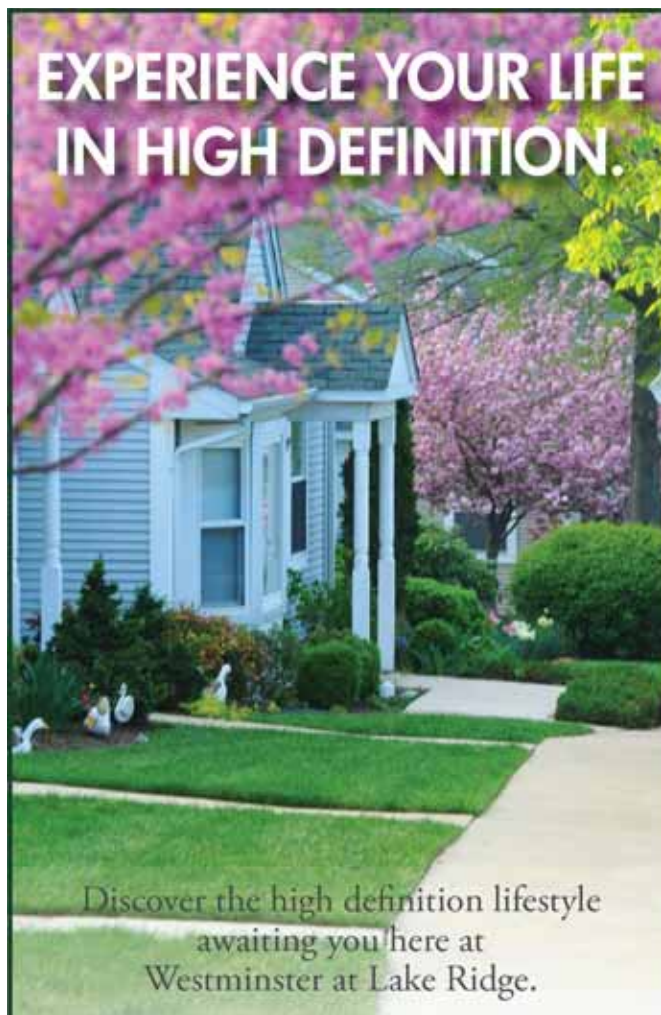


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## PEOPLE

# All in the Family

FROM PAGE 5

tickets at the door.”

A percussionist, Fred Parker is known for his skilled spoon playing while Jim was a professional musician prior to the duo opening their first chili parlor on King Street in 1980.

In addition to Christensen, Teresina Huxtable and Liz Hood complete the trio that belted out musical selections ranging from Renaissance to contemporary. Highlights of the show included Christensen's rendition of Patsy Cline's "She's Got You" and a humorous performance of "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun."

"It's great to be back in Alexandria," Christensen said. "There's



**Hard Times Café founder Jim Parker, center, joins nephews Jonathan and Ned Parker in applauding their mother's performance with Huxtable, Christensen and Hood. Carol Christensen is married to Jim's brother and co-founder Fred.**

nothing like performing in front of a hometown crowd."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



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## News

# Post 24 Hosts Newest Medal of Honor Recipient

FROM PAGE 1

wounded, making it one of the deadliest battles for Americans in the Afghan war.

Carter is only the fifth living recipient to be awarded the Medal of Honor for exemplary heroism in Iraq or Afghanistan. He was honored for his efforts to save Spc. Stephan Mace, a 21-year-old Purcellville, Va., resident who was mortally wounded and left

stranded in the attack. Because of Carter's actions, Mace survived the battle but died later that night in surgery.

"I lost some of my hearing in that fight," Carter said in his press remarks at the White House, "but I'll hear the voice of Mace, and his pleas for help, for the rest of my life."

Carter, a 33-year-old father of three, visited Old Town with his

wife Shannon and several members of his unit.

"Everyone, especially Ty and Shannon, said that their evening at the American Legion was one of the best events during their time in D.C.," said Leta Carruth, an organizer of the dinner. "By providing Ty and his soldiers and family the opportunity to be 'out of sight' the night after receiving the Medal of Honor earlier that day was the

perfect medicine for them all."

In recent months, Carter has spoken out for troops suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and hopes that an understanding and compassion for those with PTSD and other war-related mental health issues will continue to grow.

"Know that a soldier suffering from post-traumatic stress is one of the most passionate, dedicated



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Commander Jim Glassman welcomes Medal of Honor recipient Army Staff Sgt. Ty Carter to American Legion Post 24 in Old Town.**

men or women you'll ever meet," he said. "Know that they are not damaged. They are simply burdened with living what others did not."

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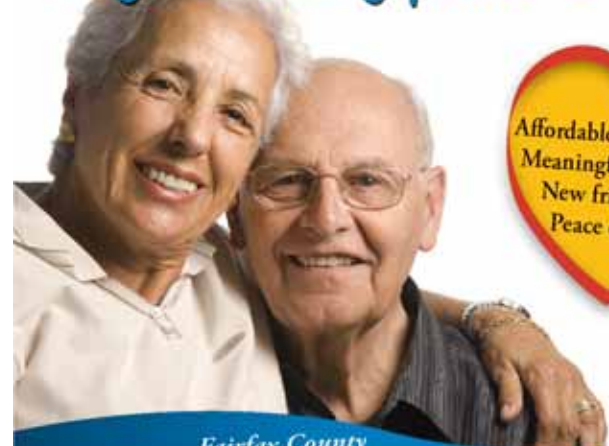
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## News

# Murder Trial Set for Dec. 9

BY HARRY M. COVERT  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**rlington's Deputy Sheriff Craig Patterson lost another bid to be released this week. His murder trial will start Dec. 9 in Alexandria Circuit Court.

The 17-year sworn officer with an unblemished record, according to the Arlington Sheriff's Office, is charged in the May shooting death of Alexandrian Julian

Dawkins.

Retired Chief Circuit Court Judge William D. Hamblen of Prince William County was assigned to the case by Virginia's Supreme Court.

On Monday, Sept. 9, Hamblen denied a second bond motion by Patterson's attorneys, noting he had already ruled on the deputy's custody status. He is being confined in the William D. Truesdale Detention Center of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.

Hamblen said it was proper to proceed with the trial speedily.

He also granted defense counsels Megan Thomas, Joseph King and Christopher Leibig access to all reports of the victim's previous encounters with Alexandria police.

Patterson was jogging late at night in the Lynhaven neighborhood when he exchanged words with Dawkins, 22. A second meeting led to the shooting death. Patterson said he was threatened with a knife.

He telephoned the incident to his department which called the Alexandria police. He was not arrested until a week later.

The deputy is claiming self-defense in the

shooting. Information was given the court that Dawkins was intoxicated with a blood alcohol content of .16.

At Monday's hearing, Dawkins family members and witnesses were present.

Patterson was unshackled for the hearing but dressed in the Alexandria jail green jumpsuit. He did not speak, allowing his attorneys to do so.

Dawkins was employed by WETA at the time of his death.

Because the victim was a nephew to Alexandria Circuit Court Judge Nolan Dawkins, Virginia's Supreme Court selected Hamblen for the jury trial.

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Vendor booths will be available for \$25 and \$50. Bethlehem is located on the corner of Fordson Rd. and Sherwood Hall Lane. To sign up and get more information on the Vendor Fair please go to [www.bethlehemofalexandria.org](http://www.bethlehemofalexandria.org) or contact Geanetta Fanning at [geanetta@bethlehemofalexandria.org](mailto:geanetta@bethlehemofalexandria.org)

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# Annual Ride Raises Funds for Lymphoma Research

**Alexandrian among the participants.**

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**O**n Sunday, Sept. 22, the Lymphoma Research Foundation will hold its seventh annual Lymphoma Research Ride. Hundreds of present and former lymphoma patients, as well as families, friends and supporters, will embark on a fundraising bike ride on a 25, 39, or 50-mile route, through Montgomery County, Md.

The National Capital Chapter of the Lymphoma Research Foundation, which includes Washington D.C. and its surrounding areas in Maryland and Virginia, was formed seven years ago, according to Jennifer Davis, senior director of Chapters and Events for the Foundation. She added that this cycling event has raised millions of dollars for lymphoma research.

"Over the past seven years, the Lym-

## Details

Visit [www.lymphoma.org/ride2013](http://www.lymphoma.org/ride2013) to register for or donate to the Lymphoma Research Foundation's Ride, which will start at The Barnesville School in Dickerson, Md. on Sept. 22 at 9 a.m.



**U.S. Navy Captain Jeanmarie Patnaude-Jonston with her husband Lt. Col. James G. Jonston, USMC, retired.**

phoma Research Ride has raised more than \$2.5 million for lymphoma research, with last year's ride netting a record of more than 530,000 dollars raised," Davis said. "We are aiming to beat that number this year with a goal of reaching 550,000 dollars, and we are more than halfway there."

People of all different biking levels are encouraged to ride, even cyclists who have never pedaled even a mile, or have not been on two wheels in years.

"Currently, we have 248 individuals and

34 teams registered," Davis said. "We expect to have at least 300 participants across all skill levels join and ride for the cause through Montgomery County."

**ONE OF THE 248** signed-up individuals is a current lymphoma patient, U.S. Navy Captain Jeanmarie Patnaude-Jonston of Alexandria. Jonston was diagnosed with Follicular Lymphoma Stage IV on June 4 of this year.

Jonston said her doctor, Dr. Bruce Cheson, who is also a member of the Lymphoma Research Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, was the one who first approached her about the ride. Jonston figured that, as a 30-year deputy commander of administration in a variety of hospitals, she would be most effective not by riding, but instead by helping with the event administratively.

"When I first met Dr. Cheson, he asked me if I rode bikes," Jonston said. "I said, 'no, I don't, but that I'd be happy to help administratively.' Then, I thought, I wouldn't be able to solicit or request contributions that way."

Jonston said that although she is not experienced or even all that comfortable on a bike, she is determined to finish her 25-mile ride.

"It's 25 miles, and if I have to carry this bike, I will finish that 25 miles," Jonston said.

Due to her recent diagnosis, she only started fundraising in the last two and a half months. Still, due to the support of her military family and friends, she has been able to far surpass her starting goal.

"My first goal was about \$1,000, and that was doable, so I changed my goal to \$5,000," Jonston said. "Then it was \$7,000 ... and I am up to \$7,510 today."

After sending a fundraising request e-mail to about 200 people in her personal and professional networks, she received donations from all over the country, and even from donors in Okinawa, Japan.

"These are military people and some civilian friends that have done this," she said. "It's just, amazing. A few people from my church donated. I am now hoping to raise \$10,000 but I wasn't diagnosed until late ... I only started two months ago."

Jonston said it is important for people to keep advocating for lymphoma research and joining the battle against the disease.

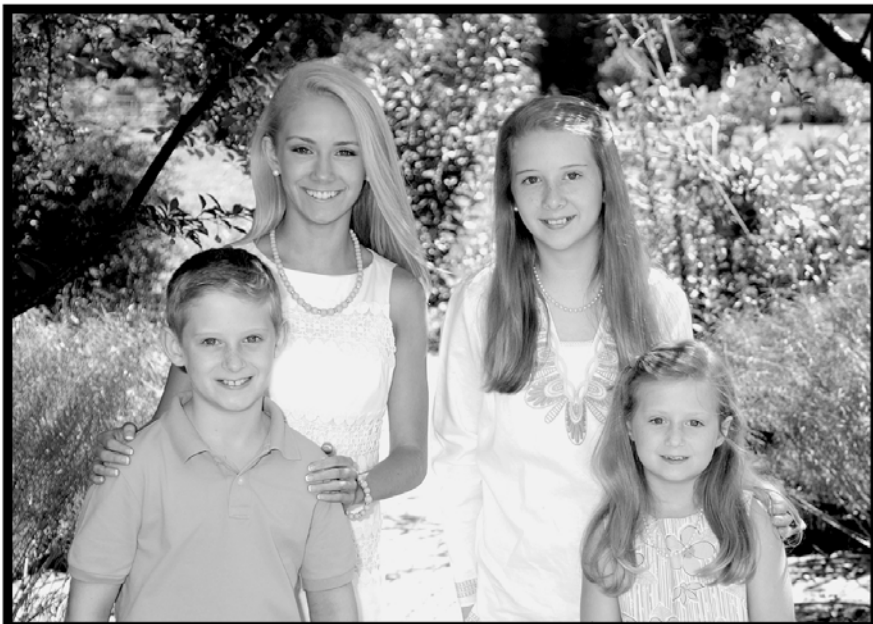
"Nearly 80,000 patients get diagnosed every year with lymphoma, and many don't get diagnosed until the third or fourth stage," Jonston said, who was asymptomatic until she found a swollen lymph node in June. Now, she said, she has the disease everywhere, even in her bone marrow.

Jonston said that since she has been diagnosed with lymphoma, she considers it

SEE CYCLING, PAGE 26

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Who do you know whose vision and energy has improved life in Alexandria? Living Legends of Alexandria is seeking nominations in order to recognize Alexandria's Living Legends, through 2014.

There are two nomination categories:

- (1) Those who have contributed at least one tangible improvement to the quality of the city's life that would likely be missing without this person's vision and energy.
- (2) Those demonstrating exemplary service to the city over ten years or more, specially service on Boards, Commissions, Committees or Service Organizations that improve the quality of life in Alexandria.

Nominees must live or work in Alexandria. Those currently running for or holding political office are not eligible for consideration. The contributions of City employees must be beyond the responsibilities of their jobs.

See [www.AlexandriaLegends.com](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com) or call 703-625-2330 for a nomination form. Send your nominations no later than October 15th to:

AlexandriaLegends@NinaTisara.com (e-mail preferred) or Living legends, P.O. Box 10485, Alexandria, VA 22310.

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# OPINION

## Fear of Action Opens Way for Diplomacy

### This new plan on Syria has Moran's support.

BY JIM MORAN  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-8)

Congress returned to Washington this week with a full plate of contentious issues. The most immediately pressing was President Obama's request for congressional approval to carry out limited surgical strikes in Syria against the regime of Bashar al Assad, responding to his use of chemical weapons to attack Syrian civilians, which killed, in gruesome fashion, 1,429 people, including 426 children.

Most Americans, including a large majority in Northern Virginia, oppose U.S. military intervention in the Syrian conflict (my calls are running 93 percent to 7 percent against). I can understand their deep concern. The Bush Administration deliberately misled the public in seeking authorization for war in Iraq. That conflict, and the challenges we've faced in Afghanistan, have left a war-weary public, distrustful of any effort to engage militarily elsewhere in the world, particularly in the Middle East. It's shameful, the money spent on the Iraq

War, especially given that the result was a country more aligned with Iran than the U.S. That money could and should have been used for nation-building here at home. And first and foremost, the lives of American soldiers lost in both conflicts is heart breaking and at least with regard to Iraq, inexcusable.

But the situation in Syria is very different. Failure to stop Assad from using chemical weapons would be something we would deeply regret, allowing the use of chemical weapons to become a new norm of war fighting and increasing the threat that these attacks could one day be used against future generations of Americans.

What the President has been talking about is not war. It's limited missile strikes, designed to punish Assad, damage his military capability, and deter him from using chemical weapons again in the future. There is ample precedent for such actions. Presidents Reagan and Clinton both used their authority as President to launch limited strikes to achieve positive foreign policy outcomes. President Clinton essentially ended the atrocities in Kosovo and Bosnia through the use of military strikes. The biggest regret of his presidency, he has stated, was not using military force to curtail the Rwandan genocide.

In recent days, the situation has changed

dramatically. Russia has agreed, with Syria's approval, to facilitate the securing of their chemical weapons arsenal in exchange for an agreement that the U.S. will not launch a strike. In this case, the fear of U.S. military action has pushed the Russians to finally engage constructively in this conflict. For the past two and a half years, the Russians have stymied every effort at the U.N. Security Council to stop Assad's atrocities against his own people.

This new plan has my support. As an adamant, vocal opponent of the Iraq War, I believe deeply that the use of military force should be a last resort after diplomatic efforts have been exhausted. If the Russians and Syrians are true to their word, and Assad's use of chemical weapons stops, the long standing international norm against the use of chemical weapons will have been upheld and no further direct U.S. military involvement is necessary. If the Russian intercession proves to be merely a ploy to buy time, forestalling international action while Assad gains ground on the battlefield through the further deployment of chemical weapons, I would be in support of military action.

Russia has long been the key to ending the conflict in Syria through diplomacy. Let us hope that their new tack will set the diplomatic process in motion which will always be the far preferable approach to military action.

#### COMMENTARY

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Resolving Parking Lot

To the Editor:

My name is Miles Holtzman and I am the president of the Old Dominion Boat Club. We have been an Alexandria institution since 1880 and support many charitable activities within the city including underwriting the Fall Rowing Program for the T.C. Williams Crew Boosters and fundraising activities for those in need. Among others, our efforts have benefitted the Lombardi Cancer Center, APD Officer Peter LaBoy and children with special needs from the Alexandria

Public Schools through parties and things of a like nature. We have been in our current facility since 1923 and acquired our parking lot in 1935.

As the public is well aware, the Department of Interior (DOI) and City of Alexandria have been interested in our parking lot for many decades. While the Boat Club recently prevailed against the DOI in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and acquired clear title to our property, the city's desire for our lot became more pronounced with the conception (and eventual passage) of its Waterfront Plan.

In the past two and half years

we have been in an active dialogue with the city to see how we could accommodate their desires without compromising that which the courts have said we own. The six years prior to that, we participated with the DOI and the city to settle the federal litigation that, in the end, resulted in clear title to our property. This year, we have had vibrant and productive dialogues with city staff identifying 11 issues that frame our current discussion.

We appreciate the city's recent letter outlining issues requiring discussion and resolution and look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue to reach a long term settlement. The ODBC will be responding shortly to the city's letter.

**Miles Holtzman**  
President, Old Dominion  
Boat Club

### Appreciates Extra Pool Time

To the Editor:

I wrote a letter in June bemoaning the closing of Chinguapin Recreation Center and the lack of aquatic facilities in Alexandria. I also mentioned it was too hot to swim laps outside in bath tub temperature water.

Now that the summer is over, I

want to say that due to cooler temperatures than our usual sizzling summers, it has been possible to swim outdoors most days. The hours were lengthened at The Cameron Street Pool. Thanks to the hard working staff, the facility was kept cleaner than it has been in past summers. The really special gift, thanks to David Miller of the Recreation Department, was that the pool has stayed open and will remain open until Sept. 21. It is free for Alexandria residents. There is nothing like watching the clouds and sky while moving through the refreshing water. It is the best thing that has been given to our citizens in a long time. I hope we can get some extra weeks again next year. I think we would be happy to pay an entry fee if needed.

We still have a long way to go on aquatic facilities in Alexandria. There is a committee of citizens currently working on this issue. It will take the support of anyone that wants to swim in a public facility in the city since the few pools are close to reaching their spans. In the meantime, I am grateful for these extra weeks of glorious swimming.

**Carol Siegel**  
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



Founded in 1880, the Old Dominion Boat Club has occupied its present location at the foot of King Street since 1923.

PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

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Published by  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

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

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

### Sherman's Efforts Appreciated

To the Editor:

As former and current PTA presidents in Alexandria, we would like to recognize and thank Dr. Morton Sherman for his five years of dedicated service to our school system. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Sherman was a passionate and tireless advocate for our children. On a personal level, he maintained an admirable open door policy for us and was always willing to listen to our concerns, show up at our meetings and respond to our emails, sometimes at 3 a.m.

None of us agreed with every one of his decisions, and many of us have had lively conversations with him. But we are grateful for his many positive contributions and hope that his most successful reforms will be maintained under the new leadership.

In the face of a rapidly expanding student population, Dr. Sherman was staunchly committed to maintaining small class sizes, and he managed to do this while reducing the per pupil ex-

penditure. During his tenure and following his hiring of principal Suzanne Maxey, T.C. Williams High School showed impressive progress: increased graduation rates; higher participation rates and higher exam scores in AP classes; implementation of programs such as AVID, which is targeted toward first generation college-bound students; and creation of the Satellite Campus.

Dr. Sherman's commitment to improving academic achievement throughout the student population, including African-American, Hispanic and special education students, was steadfast.

His establishment of the "schools within a school" model for the middle schools, as well as greatly expanding the number of middle school and high school counselors, reassured parents that our kids would not get lost among the crowd.

Finally, creation of the K-12 curriculum and the introduction of a STEM Academy within Minnie Howard will help equip our students with the critical-thinking skills essential for future success.

Despite the progress that has been made over the past five years, our school division faces many

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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| <b>Bill Jourdan</b><br>Branch Manager<br>703-472-3558 (cell)<br><a href="mailto:bill.jourdan@LNF.com">bill.jourdan@LNF.com</a> | <b>Dianna Campagna</b><br>Assistant Manager<br>703-477-0849 (cell)<br><a href="mailto:dianna.campagna@LNF.com">dianna.campagna@LNF.com</a> | <b>Steve Kindrick</b><br>Instructor<br>703-883-0400 (office)<br><a href="mailto:steve.kindrick@LNF.com">steve.kindrick@LNF.com</a> |
|--|--|--|

\*\*\*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.

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hardwoods, renovated kitchen has updated appliances/wine chiller, DR with built-ins. Private oasis-flagstone patio. 2 pkg spaces.

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Building located at Belle

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\$2,600 per month-full

service (landlord pays all utilities, CAM, taxes and insurance). This updated 932 sq.ft. office suite is on the top floor. It is bright and airy, exam rooms or private offices, receptionist area, waiting room, bathroom and kitchenette. Available right now. Call for showings...

**Katherine Ward**  
703.627.8782



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 1,395,000

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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!

\$ 350,000

Alexandria

1014 PRINCE ST #5

Wonderful location offers

access to eateries, shops,

Metro and all of Old Town.

This 1BR/1BA has lovely

hardwoods, crown

moulding, and W/D in unit. Wood-burning fireplace in living area with decorative wood mantle, plus tile hearth and surround. Built-in bookcases/shelves and office alcove complete the bedroom with walk-in closet.

**Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer**  
703.929.5764



\$ 579,000

Old Town / Westover

"JUST LISTED"

Must see this nicely remodeled and

expanded townhouse in popular

Westover! 3BR/2BA, large open

kitchen with island, deck, screened

porch, lower level rec room with walk-

out and more. Short and easy walk to

the Metro, bike path, and Old Town.

Two lights to DC!

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams**  
703.587.7841



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 620,000

Alexandria

6336 OLDE TOWNE CT

Great price! Gorgeous and

spacious brick townhome

with 4BR/3.5BA, 2 fireplaces,

and 2 parking spaces. Fresh

and updated with a

contemporary flair. Professionally landscaped private brick patio. 1.5 miles from Old Town Alexandria, 2 blocks to Potomac River, walk to shops and restaurants. In Belle Haven! This is a MUST SEE!

**Sharon Edwards** 703.408.8144



OPEN SUNDAY 12 - 3!

\$ 749,990

Arlington

4908 CHESTERFIELD

RD

Great location - beautiful -

totally remodeled in 2007! 3

levels, brick front,

5BD/4FBA. Master bedroom with Jacuzzi, hardwood floors, fresh

paint, fully fenced yard. Minutes to Shirlington, shopping, restaurants, theaters, I-95, airport and Washington, DC.

**Manfredy Lopez** 571.277.0601



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 679,000

Arlington

2330 S QUEEN ST

Beautiful pristine townhome

in prestigious enclave of

deluxe townhomes with

garages and elevators - 3

levels, with walkout LL and

private secure patio garden - 2 master suites/baths - dramatic 12' ceiling in Living/Dining rooms - 2 fireplaces - fully finished LL with spacious Family room, wet bar - Sunfilled rooms, light and bright - many upgrades - ceiling fans - Ideal location to Pentagon and more!

**Franki Roberts** 703.898.0840



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 535,000

Alexandria

8320 FT HUNT RD

JUST LISTED! This large 3

level 3BR/2.5BA home with

solarium is a "Gardener's

Paradise". Skylights and

bay windows allow sunshine

to flood in. The lush garden provides views of nature and greenery from every window. Freshly painted, replacement windows, warm hardwoods, dining room, family room with FP, fenced yard, new roof, gutter guards. LL easily converted into in-law or au-pair suite.

**Martha Deal** 703.622.6797



\$ 925,000

Arlington

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Clarendon or Courthouse Metros and

across from Whole Foods, Apple Store

& Barnes/Noble is steps away. Leave

the cars in the 2-car garage and walk to

restaurants and shops. 3BR/2.5BA,

4 level townhouse with

den on lower level.

Corian countertops, lots of

natural light and windows.

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**Margaret Ruhe** 703.599.7527



\$ 319,000

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METRO"

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I-495, Ft Belvoir, Old Town. Hardwoods

on main and upper levels. Refinished

lower level family/rec room has ceramic

tile floors, full bath, separate laundry

area with storage.

Renovated baths, bright

kitchen, replacement

windows. Fully fenced, level backyard. Freshly painted.

Driveway parking.

**Sara Rothwell** 703.472.5289



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!

\$ 530,000

Alexandria

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routes. Extremely well

maintained all brick

detached home with full walk-out basement. Living room has fireplace and wood floors. Huge open upper level has room for a bath or could be a magnificent suite with views for miles. Located in area of more expensive homes, this is a wonderful opportunity to personalize or expand.

**Paul Petefish** 703.244.6220



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Little Theatre's Life in the Farce Lane

### Cooney's "Caught in the Net" opens at LTA.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Few will ever compare Ray Cooney to Shakespeare. The king of British bawdiness doesn't pretend to be the Bard of high-brow literature, but as Britain's recognized "master of farce," Cooney's comic genius is unmatched and on display in "Caught in the Net," now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Written as a sequel to "Run for Your Wife," "Caught in the Net" is a fast-paced farce that finds taxi driver John Smith juggling two

families in different parts of London. When his teenaged children discover each other on the internet and decide to meet, John's already complicated life descends even further into disarray.

The mayhem takes place in the home of John and Mary Smith, who live in Wimbledon, and, simultaneously, the home of John and Barbara Smith, who live in Streatham. When John's daughter Vicki and son Gavin discover how much their fathers have in common — same age, same name, even the same job — John frantically tries to keep them apart and his two marriages together.

This deftly written comedy is expertly performed by an LTA cast led by the incomparable duo of Mike Baker as John and Paul Tamney as his confidante and upstairs Wimbledon tenant Stanley Gardner. Together they handle the intricately synchronized script with unparalleled verbal dexterity and spot-on timing.

Joining Baker and Tamney in the finely-tuned ensemble are Annie Ermlick as Barbara Smith, Tricia O'Neill-Politte as Mary Smith, Luke Markham as Gavin Smith, Eliza Lore as Vicki Smith, and Richard Fiske as Stanley's Dad. As a team they execute with razor-sharp precision Cooney's descent into delirium.

For Markham, a senior at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes High School, "Caught in the Net" is his theater debut.

"This is fantastic," Markham said following the opening night performance. "Everyone has been so welcoming. I couldn't have asked for a better experience."

Lore, a 17-year-old senior at West Potomac High School,



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Director Eleanor Tapscott, second from right, celebrates with the cast on the LTA set of "Caught in the Net" following the opening night performance Sept. 7. Seated with her are Richard Fiske, Eliza Lore, Annie Ermlick, Paul Tamney and Tricia O'Neill-Politte with Mike Baker in back.**



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**SSSA senior Luke Markham, at left with fellow cast member Eliza Lore, is starring in the LTA production of "Caught in the Net."**



PHOTO BY TABITHA RYMAL-VAUGHN

**Mike Baker (John Smith) dons a disguise in "Caught in the Net."**

returns to LTA after appearing in "A Christmas Carol" at the age of 12.

"What a great night!" Lore said at the opening night reception. "There's nothing like performing in front of a live audience and hearing their laughter."

Under the tautly timed direction of Eleanore Tapscott, the LTA cast is peerless in delivering an evening of hilarity. "Caught in the Net" is British farce at its best — well staged, well cast and well written with a tale-ending twist you must see for yourself.

"Caught in the Net" is playing now through Sept. 28 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sunday, Sept. 29, 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](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target).

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sunday, Oct. 6, 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](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html) for more information.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Collaborations" through Oct. 20 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artists share inspirations to create pieces combining the input of two or more artists. It is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. everyday except on

Thursdays when it is open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Deep, Full, and Not Quite Real" at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., through Oct. 20. Features four artists exploring concepts of depth and three-dimensionality. Visit <http://www.nvfaa.org/> for more.

**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](http://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](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) or call 703-746-4356.

#### 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](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**Art Exhibit.** See the second Front Porch Installation by Ned Egan. "Leci n'est pas une Magritte" 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](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) or 703-683-5778 ext. 2. Classes available for all ages and days.

**Art Classes.** Tuesdays from 7-8:30 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. Visit [www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm](http://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](http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm) to register.

**Registration Still Open.** The Art League School has openings in over 200 classes and 50 workshops, from painting, jewelry, photography and more. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) to register.

#### 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/](http://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](http://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](http://MountVernon.org/FallEvents) for more.

**Grand Gaming Melee.** 10 a.m. at



## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Gee's Bend' At MetroStage

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN  
METROSTAGE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The beauty of regional theatre is that each theatre has its own personality, its own character, both on and off the stage. So when seasons are announced there is usually a common theme, thread, tone that connects the choices made by the Artistic Director, reflecting individual interests, passions and personalities.

**NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER** As scripts cross our desks, actors and directors discover scripts that may be of interest. Media coverage of playwrights and plays are perused and a season slowly takes shape. What may appear as a random series of plays and musicals will ultimately reflect the aesthetic and intent of the theatre company.

Over time music has had an increasingly greater presence at MetroStage. Even though one of our first productions in the 1980s was Maltby & Shire's "Starting Here Starting Now," it took a while for us to realize music was our passion. And this year, as the season took shape, it became apparent that music was the connecting link in all five offerings. That, and the "emotional core" that seems to consistently inform and dominate our work.

This season the choices have a very profound musical component. In our opening production, the women of Gee's Bend sing gospel songs as they quilt. They are making quilts for their families' comfort, and at the same time, creating abstract designs that have been compared to Paul Klee, Frank Stella and Matisse, all the while participating in the Civil Rights movement. These women tell a remarkable story and the 17 songs sung in the gospel tradition add another dimension to this story and the history of Gee's Bend, which includes a visit by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the night before the famous Selma march.

When you attend a play or musical at MetroStage,



PHOTO COURTESY ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

**Margo Moorer, shown in the original production of "Gee's Bend" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, will reprise her role as Nella at MetroStage.**

you are recognizing the commitment we have made for the past 29 years to offer theatre with great artists and enriching stories that will explore your world and engage your intellect and emotions, stories of the human condition in all its complexity and challenges. Music covers the range of human experiences and emotions. Our productions this season will do the same, beginning with the beautiful gospel moments in "Gee's Bend," co-music directed by William Knowles and Alexandria's own William Hubbard.

*"Gee's Bend" plays at MetroStage Sept. 12 - Nov. 3. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).*

## CALENDAR

**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.

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

**Multicultural Fest.** Noon-4 p.m. at Four Mile Run Park and Community Building, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Features live music, activities representing the region's culture and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation), or contact Kelly Gilfillen at 703-746-4644.

**Movie Matinee.** 1 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Watch a screening of the Academy Award Winner for Best Documentary Feature. 703-746-1705.

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performance by Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun, as well as the Daryl Davis Band. Tickets on sale July 12. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or [www.billkirchen.com](http://www.billkirchen.com).

**Annual Community Fun Fair.** 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Events

include free health screenings, zumba and nutrition classes, vendors, game trucks, food and more. The day will benefit youth and community.

Vendor and sponsorship opportunity still available. Call 703-360-9450.

**Theater Night.** Reception with a buffet from 7-8 p.m. and watch "Gee's Bend" at 8 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. \$75/person. Visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.com](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com) to buy tickets.

**Theater Performance.** 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. For tickets, visit [www.portcityplayhouse.org](http://www.portcityplayhouse.org).

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

**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](http://MountVernon.org/FallEvents) for more.

**Civil War Sunday.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327. Explore an original newspaper detailing the death of a colonel in Alexandria, a Peeps diorama, an exhibit featuring

the Civil War drummer boy and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org) or 703-746-4399.

**Dance.** 2 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This unusual dance performance will investigate the endless cycle of resonance and reciprocity between artist and dancer with choreography by the mother of modern dance, Isadora Duncan, contemporary works by local Duncan Dance artists, as well as improvisations directly in response to the "Full, Deep, and Not Quite Real" exhibit on display. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Movie Musical Series.** 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1702.

**Performance.** 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Hear music from Last Train Home. \$18/door; \$15/advance or members. Visit [www.focusmusic.org/concerts\\_alexandria.php](http://www.focusmusic.org/concerts_alexandria.php) or 703-501-6061.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 14-15

**Free Admission.** In celebration of the Executive Mansion's 200th anniversary, many of Virginia's renowned historic homes and museums will be open admission-free to the public. Visitors may visit [www.historicalhomes.virginia.gov/](http://www.historicalhomes.virginia.gov/)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

timetraveler.cfm to print their 'passport' for free admission to the participating sites.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 16

**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.

**Meet a K-9 Dog and Deputy Sheriff.** 3:45 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. For students in K-8 grade. Free. 703-746-1704.

**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.

**Spa-liday Event.** 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. There will be refreshments, meditation techniques and more. Visit [www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com) or 703-684-1435.

## MONDAY-WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16-18

**Gad Elmale.** At The Birchmere 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$45. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or [www.gademaleh.com/](http://www.gademaleh.com/).

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

**Stories and Songs.** 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Mother Goose Time.** 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories, activities and more. Limited to 25 children. 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.

**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 ages 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

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

**Animal Shelter Discovery Time.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. An employee from the city's animal shelter talks about the animals they have at the shelter. For children in grades K-5. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Opening Reception.** 5-7 p.m. at The Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artwork by artists over the age 55 will be on display. Meet some of the artists. Free. Exhibit runs from Sept. 18-Jan. 22, 2014.

**Craft Night.** 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. All skill levels can bring their own supplies and get help with their knitting, crochet or sewing project, or just come for the conversation. Free. 703-746-1703.

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

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

**Presentation on Vintage Dresses.** 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mount Vernon Antique Club presents a discussion on vintage dresses from 1900-1930. Free. 703-765-4573.

**Mother Goose Time.** 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories, activities and more. Limited to 25 children. 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 ages 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

**Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1705.

**Art Appreciation Workshop.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Joan Hart will hold a workshop on learning to live creatively. Free. 703-746-1702.

## Old Town Theater Welcomes 'The Big Meow!'

Specially adapted for young audiences, Jane Franklin Dance offers a family-friendly performance of "The Big Meow!" Little Cat is taunted by neighborhood felines because his meow is just too darn loud. The dance-based performance is adapted from the children's book by Baltimore author Elizabeth Spires and tells the story of an ever-hopeful orange fluffball who desperately wants to belong to the band of neighborhood cats, but is ostracized for his "loud as a lion's roar" meow. Children and parents alike will enjoy the imaginative retelling of this story through dance.

Jane Franklin Dance presents "The Big Meow!" on Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. at Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Tickets are on sale at \$15. Order in advance at [www.oldtowntheater1914.com](http://www.oldtowntheater1914.com) or purchased at the door. Box office phone: 703-533-5415. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com).



**Family Story and Craft Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can come enjoy stories and a craft. Free. 703-746-1702.

## SEPT. 18-JAN. 22

**Art Exhibit.** At The Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artwork by artists over the age 55 will be on display. Free.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

**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.

**International Talk Like a Pirate Day Movie Feature.** 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Enjoy two classic swashbuckling movies. Free. Call for titles. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

**Yappy Hour.** 5:30 p.m. Artfully Chocolate, 506 John Carlye Street. Artfully Chocolate has teamed up with pet care company Paw'k Ave to create happy hours with a twist. Call 703-575-8686 or visit [www.pawk-ave.com](http://www.pawk-ave.com).

**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.

**Film Series.** 6 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1704.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 3-7 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and

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Bring donations to the Library at 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. 10 Boxes or more? Friends of the Beatley Library will pick up! Call 703-746-1702, Ext 3 or e-mail us at [friendsofbeatleylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbeatleylibrary@gmail.com).

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Gazette Packet

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## ‘Miss Saigon’

Performances extended to Oct. 6 at Signature.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It was 24 years ago this month that London’s West End saw the debut of a modern adaptation of Giacomo Puccini’s 1904 opera “Madame Butterfly.” Set in the waning days of the American-Vietnamese conflict, “Miss Saigon” set theater records around the world and now makes its highly anticipated return to the D.C. area at Signature Theatre.

From the creators of “Les Miserables,” Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg’s phenomenally successful musical tells the tragic tale of the doomed romance between an American GI and a young Vietnamese bar girl. Under the expert eye of Signature’s Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, “Miss Saigon” is sleekly staged with an impressive cast that includes Diana Huey as Kim, Gannon O’Brien as Chris, and Thom Sesma as the nightclub owner known as the Engineer.

Kim and Chris fall in love as the city of Saigon descends into chaos in April of 1975. While Chris’ plans to bring Kim home with him are ultimately thwarted, Kim fights to survive in Vietnam, believing they will one day reunite and raise the son Chris doesn’t know about.

Huey is luminous as Kim and delivers a performance filled with emotional acuity, particularly in tandem with Gannon O’Brien, a last-minute substitute for Jason Michael Evans as Chris. Together their duets are poignant and potent with clear and commanding voices that soar.

Their foil is the Engineer, a pimping, visa-obsessed entrepreneur desperate to escape to America. Broadway veteran Sesma sizzles in the role, played with a sinewy style and sardonic grit. As the evening’s narrative engine, Sesma oozes with sleaze and manipulation from the opening “The Heat is On in Saigon” to his expertly demented rendition of “The American Dream.”

The talented trio is joined on stage by Erin Driscoll as Chris’s wife Ellen, Chris Sizemore as Chris’s friend John, and Christopher Mueller as Thuy, Kim’s intended fiancé through an arranged marriage.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER MUELLER

**Kim (Diana Huey) comforts her son Tam (Joel Chen) in “Miss Saigon,” now playing at Signature Theatre through Oct. 6.**

Schaeffer’s creative team includes Karma Camp (choreographer), Adam Koch (scenic designer), Frank Labowitz (costume designer), Chris Lee (lighting designer), and Matt Rowe (sound designer). The baton of Gabriel Mangiante guides the 15-piece orchestra through a lush, string-laden score that premieres the new song “Maybe,” written for Ellen by Boubil’s original co-lyricist Richard Maltby Jr.

Together, they have crafted a sensational production highlighted by an impressively staged fall of Saigon, with the image of an arriving helicopter that fills the theater with flashing lights and pulsating sounds.

From the opening scenes where gyrating hookers vie for the highest bidder to the tragic end of Chris and Kim’s love affair, Signature Theatre has delivered to D.C. area theatergoers an unrivaled production of “Miss Saigon” that is not to be missed.

“Miss Saigon” runs through Oct. 6 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. A Pride performance is scheduled for Sept. 20 and a discussion performance set for Sept. 18. Call 703-820-9771 or visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org).

## CALENDAR

listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1704.  
**Great Books Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1702.  
**Brewing History: Beer Tasting & Dinner Menu.** Enjoy dinner and a private Mansion tour at Mount Vernon Estate. There will be four courses paired with beer. \$95/person. Tickets available at [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).  
**Film.** 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Watch an independent film about Captain John Singleton Mosby’s combat operations in Fairfax County. Free. Call 703-746-4554 or visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org).

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 20

**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.

**Alexandria Poetry Slam.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. At 7 p.m., Tony Greenberg will perform with poetry at 8 p.m. with Shelly Bell. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

**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](http://www.portcityplayhouse.org).

**Community Dance and Music.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Enjoy live music, dancing and refreshments. \$4/door. 703-765-4573.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**Beatley Open House.** All day at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Enjoy music, face painting, book swaps and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

**Lil’ Pals Pet Photography.** 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. \$10/sitting fee will benefit the Friends of Beatley Library. Portrait

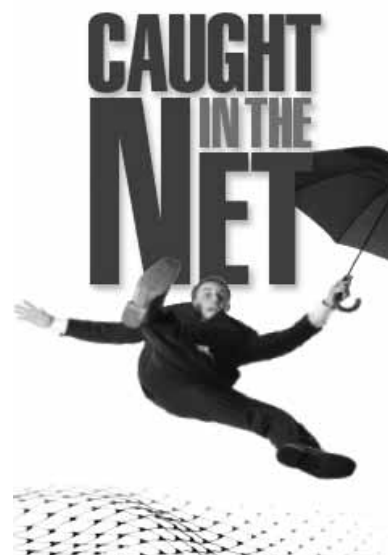
session will take place in a climate controlled studio. 703-746-1702.

**Art and Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. James’ Episcopal Church of Mount Vernon, 5614 Old Mill Road. Local artists will sell a variety of handcrafted items. Lunch and baked goods will be sold.

**Carlyle House Fashion Show.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. A living-history interpreter will describe the various styles and types of clothing of the 18th and 19th centuries. Enjoy a tour of the house after the show. \$10/adult; \$5/child age 5-12. Reservations recommended. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or 703-549-2297.

**Vermicomposting at Home.** 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Learn about the benefits of vermicomposting and vermiculture at home. 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.



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

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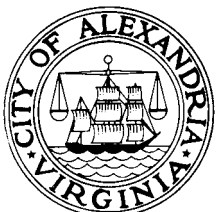
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Legal Notices

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.



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, September 21, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the herein-after described items.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES), Chapter 8 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATION), Article G (PARKING METERS), Division 1 (PARKING METER ZONES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance expands the existing parking meter district to include the seven additional block faces to the existing approved blocks in meter zone 1 and two additional block faces in meter zone 2.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-353 (CONTESTED PARKING CITATIONS) of Article S (PAYMENT, CONTEST AND ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING CITATIONS) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Amend and reordain City Code Section 3-2-353 to clarify the language regarding how a parking citation can be contested and extend the deadline for contesting a citation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to repeal Chapter 7 (Personal Grooming Establishments) of Title 11 (Health, Environmental and Sanitary Regulations) of the Code the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance would repeal the local regulation of personal grooming facilities such as barber shops, beauty shops, nail salons and tanning salons.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-373 (ELECTRIC UTILITY CONSUMER TAX) and Section 3-2-374 (NATURAL GAS UTILITY CONSUMER TAX) of Article V (ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS CONSUMERS TAX) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The ordinance increases the monthly cap for the electric and natural gas utility consumer taxes on residential and group meter consumers to \$3.00 per month. The ordinance also increases the electric utility consumer tax on (1) commercial consumers to \$1.07 plus the rate of \$0.005071 on each Kilowatt Hour delivered monthly to the consumer and (2) industrial consumers to \$1.07 plus the rate of \$0.004131 on each Kilowatt Hour delivered monthly to the consumer.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the sale of property owned by the City of Alexandria located at 200 North Royal Street in the City of Alexandria, Virginia to Murray Bonitt, Trustee.

The proposed ordinance authorized the sale of the referenced real property and authorizes the City Manager to enter into all the appropriate agreements to complete the sale.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL, JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

# City, Boat Club Battle over 1789 Deed

FROM PAGE 1

“Your argument is premised on something that is not correct,” Chief Justice Cynthia Kinser told Banks. “You haven’t told us how the easement gets swept up.”

**THE HISTORY** of Wales Alley dates back to the earliest days of the city, a time before Alexandria became part of the District of Columbia. It was originally called Fitzgerald Alley in honor of Alexandria Mayor John Fitzgerald, one of the major landowners in the city. By 1786, people started calling it Wales Alley when Andrew Wales started selling beer there. Three years later, Fitzgerald and Maryland businessman Valentine Peers divided their holdings, securing a deed that allowed for “free use and passage of the several streets and alleys.”

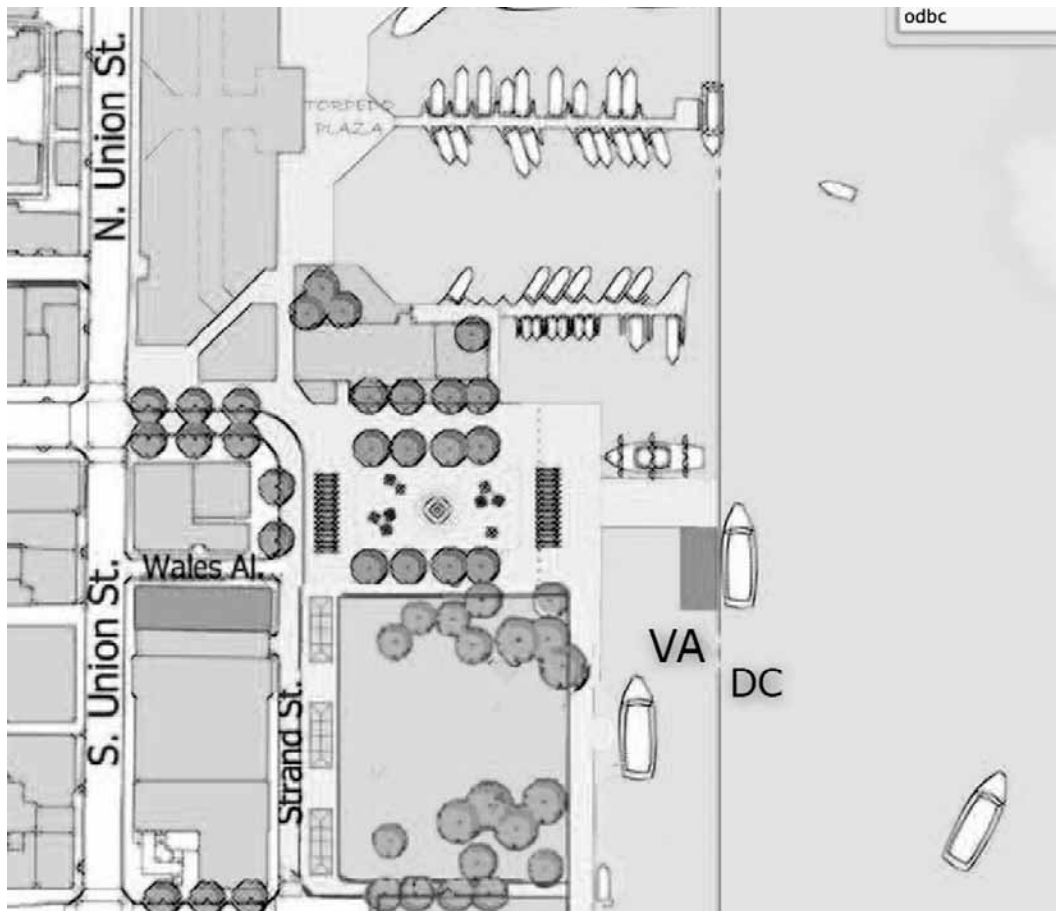
“They probably didn’t like working with each other on it,” speculated Andrew Carroll, attorney for Virtue Feed and Grain Restaurant, according to court documents. “So they said, ‘let’s split it,’ and they split it.”

Lawyers for the Old Dominion Boat Club say the city is perverting the charter provision granting authority of public land. Instead of making that land available to the public, they said, the city was doing the opposite — making it available to a restaurant and denying the public an opportunity to use it in the process. Arguing before justices, Boat Club lawyer David Chamowitz rejected the idea that Old Dominion somehow yielded its private property rights from the 1789 deed by not rejecting city crews filling potholes or issuing parking tickets.

“You wouldn’t have a right to object to these things even if you want to,” said Chamowitz.

**ALTHOUGH** the Boat Club and the city have been at odds with each other for decades, the latest dispute erupted in 2010 when the Alexandria City Council granted a special-use permit to Virtue that opened the door to a lease agreement to the restaurant. The Boat Club reacted by suing the city, saying it needed the road to get its boats to the launch at the eastern edge of its controversial waterfront parking lot — the source of lingering tension between the Boat Club and City Hall.

“The city has benefited one private landowner at the expense of another landowner,”



This map from the waterfront plan shows Wales Alley ending in a public plaza city officials call Fitzgerald Square.

observed Justice Bill Mims. “It’s not quite as lofty as making sure King Street is one way.”

Banks tried to make the argument that the city essentially added the alley to the public inventory by providing services since 1972, when the Alexandria Corporation Court ruled that a business known as Dockside Sales did not have the right to block access to Wales Alley for retail inventory storage. Since that time, city workers have treated the alley as if it were a public road.

“The Boat Club has today what it has always had,” said Banks, “reasonable and appropriate access to the parking lot.”

But when the city attorney began outlining the familiar list of government responsibilities that are executed in the alley, one of the justices interjected.

“None of those are inconsistent with a 30-foot easement,” observed Mims. “The city does not have carte blanche to run over private

property interests.”

**LAST WEEK**, city officials acknowledged they are considering using the power of eminent domain to accomplish its goals on the waterfront.

A key provision of the waterfront plan says the city will “pursue eliminating the ODBC parking lot along The Strand, preferably through negotiation with the ODBC.” One potential outcome of the ongoing negotiations is that the Wales Alley litigation might be included into some kind of global compromise that also includes the fate of the parking lot at the foot of King Street. But if this week’s oral arguments are any indication, both sides are digging in for now.

“We do not need to guarantee a 30-foot easement,” Banks concluded.

The Boat Club disagreed with the city’s attempt to deprive them of the easement.

## Waterfront Lawsuits Come to an End

FROM PAGE 1

test increased density on the waterfront and the actions city officials took to make it happen. But the case has gone on for so long that a new City Council has been elected, giving the plan supermajority support. Last week, justices concluded that there was little they could do about the appeal brought by Iron Lady April Burke. “Although Burke claims that this court could invalidate the waterfront plan, such a declaration would not be proper,” the justices

concluded. “Upon consideration of the record, briefs and arguments of counsel, the court is of the opinion that this appeal is moot, as we are unable to render consequential relief in the matter.” Attorney Roy Shannon says it was a victory for his clients.

“The reason it’s moot is because the city had to do it over again the right way,” said Shannon. “It should have been passed with a supermajority vote and the city disregarded that.”

Shannon’s clients agree with the Board of Zoning Appeals, which ruled that the city violated the rights of Alexandria citizens seeking to file a protest petition. But city leaders say they have done nothing wrong, and they interpret the Supreme Court ruling as a victory for their side.

“The city is not going to change its current business practice,” said Deputy City Attorney Chris Spera. “When you file you have to file when the city’s offices are open for business.”



# NEWS

## Making It Official

Mayor William Euille swears in the Alexandria Country Day Student Council Members for the 2013-2014 school year on Monday, Sept. 9. Euille shared that he got his start in elementary school student government and answered students' questions about what it is like to be mayor. The following students were sworn in: President: Mabry Griffin, Vice President: Hayden Katz, Secretary: Taraneh Samadani, Treasurer: Shannon Ayres, 8th Grade Reps: Andrew Katz and Dylan Hirt, 7th Grade Reps: Nora Stanko and Bella Hubble, 6th Grade Reps: Emma Gilman and Vaughn Smethurst, and 5th Grade Reps: William O'Connor and Michael Murphy.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



## 2013 HEELS & WHEELS

September 17, 2013 • 5:30 - 7:30 PM

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# DASH CONTEST



## Why Should You Try Transit?

Try Transit Week: September 16 - 20, 2013

Enter during Try Transit Week, and you could win a DASH gift basket that includes a DASH Pass and a 2GB flash drive!!

Email your answer to: [DASHContest@alexandriava.gov](mailto:DASHContest@alexandriava.gov)

Visit [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com) for details!

Join DASH at the Alexandria Transit Store\* for a chance to win a DASH Pass & give-a-ways!

Tuesday, September 17  
Noon - 6 PM

\*Located at 1775-C Duke Street



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Special thanks to **Alexandria Gazette Packet**



# Considering Shoulder Surgery? Experience Matters

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO, R.N.,  
FACHE  
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA  
HOSPITAL



If you've got shoulder pain, you're not alone. According to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, shoulder pain is among the top four reasons Americans consult an orthopedic surgeon. And nearly 53,000 undergo total shoulder replacement on this ball and socket joint every year. Common reasons for surgery include overuse, sports injuries, torn rotator cuffs and arthritis.

For Martin Bailey of Woodbridge, severe arthritis caused his shoulder pain. A martial arts enthusiast, Bailey pushed

through the pain as long as possible, lifting weights and exercising. Then one day he noticed that his body was leaning to the right. He returned to his surgeon at Inova Alexandria Hospital who had previously diagnosed his arthritis. His condition had progressed so far that his shoulder joint was no longer visible on X-ray. Bailey underwent a total shoulder replacement at Inova Alexandria Hospital. Within six months, he resumed his beloved martial arts training and was back to full function. Like Bailey, many people find that their shoulder

pain gets worse with time. Early treatment with medication, physical therapy or cortisone injections can help. But when the pain impacts your quality of life — you can't sleep at night, you have trouble lifting your arms over your head to dress or reach for objects — surgery may be a good option. A well-performed procedure can alleviate pain, improve motion, strength and function, and help you continue to enjoy your favorite activities. Choosing the right surgeon is important. Like many things in life, experience matters. The Inova Shoulder Replacement Program performs the most shoulder replacements in Northern Virginia each year. Our board-certified orthopedic sur-

## COMMENTARY

geons are leaders in their field who meet strict requirements for quality outcomes. They pioneered Virginia's first reverse total shoulder replacement here at Inova Alexandria Hospital in 2004. And through their research and travel, Inova's orthopedic surgeons teach advanced shoulder replacement techniques to other orthopedic surgeons around the country.

Our surgeons, together with the physician assistants, nurses and therapists who comprise the Inova Shoulder Replacement Program, use a multidisciplinary team approach to ensure the best outcome for you. Our joint navigators guide every patient through the care process, providing education, arranging appointments and serving as

a point of contact for patient questions. In addition, our program encourages each patient to designate a "coach" who can serve as an extra resource. You could choose your spouse, a friend or a relative. Your coach will serve as a second set of eyes and ears during appointments, after surgery and throughout the process.

The Inova Shoulder Replacement Program is available at three Inova locations: Inova Alexandria, Inova Fair Oaks and Inova Mount Vernon hospitals. Wondering if shoulder surgery is right for you? Come meet our surgeons and learn more at one of several "Ask the Expert" lectures this fall. Find dates and locations at [inova.org/shoulderprogram](http://inova.org/shoulderprogram) or call 703-504-4550.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11  
challenges.

Throughout the city, some students are not yet meeting grade level objectives and we need to continue building on the progress at Jefferson-Houston toward reattaining accreditation. As we em-

bark upon a new school year and a superintendent search, Alexandria's PTA leaders remain committed to working with the school board, ACPS staff and the community on our shared mission of making sure that every student achieves his or her full potential.

Kay Arndorfer, Patty Chamberlain, Beth Coast, Daria Dillard, Kelly Dresen, Shanelle Gayden, Ramee Gentry, Mary Giordano, Marianne Hetzer, Keith Jabati, Lisa Jacobs, Mia Jones, Laurie Kahl, Susan Keightley, Linda Kelly, PJ Lepp, Judy Lyons, Nicole Maaia,

Cindy Martinez, Karen McManis, Laura Miles, Ann O'Hanlon, Priscilla Plishker, Marie Randall, Caitlin Rockwell, Jennifer Roda, Beth Simmons, Becky Sullivan, Carey Sullivan, Annie Vroom, Jerica Webber, Rosie Wiedemer and Melynda Wilcox

you wait on the phone so the person can look on a map for the streetlight and give you a work request number.

I hope Dominion Power will go back to checking their own street lights not asking the citizens to do it for them. Very few lights get called into Dominion Power.

The citizens of the city of Alexandria deserve the key benefits of streetlights which enhance crime deterrence and vehicular and pedestrian traffic safety. Sad that the governor, state senator, state delegate, city of Alexandria and news media will not or can not make Dominion Power repair or replace their own equipment. Why is it so hard to make a company do its job?

I hope these problems can be resolved quickly.

**Ronald Gochenour**  
Alexandria

## Streetlight Outages

To the Editor:

Dominion Virginia Power has a convenient way to report streetlight outages and track the progress of repair: just call Dominion customer service center at 1-866-366-4357, wait 10 minutes or more for a person. You will need the street address of the nearest house or building and the streetlight's 9-digit utility pole number found on a metal plate on the pole. After you give the info,



SEPTEMBER 16 – 20, 2013

### ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

- Free one year pass to the transit provider of your choice
- SmarTrip Cards (\$30 Value)
- iPad

During Try Transit Week, the Alexandria Transit Store will focus on major benefits of transit. Each day a different transit option will be featured, along with some great FREE PRIZES.

[TryTransitWeek.org](http://TryTransitWeek.org)



**9/16 MON.**  
Walk in for a coffee from 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. and a FREE pedometer giveaway all day\*

**9/17 TUES.**  
Ride in and enter for a chance to win a DASH pass and receive a FREE 2GB flash drive all day\*

**9/18 WED.**  
Pedal over for a FREE bike light, water bottle, bike helmet, or a 24-hr Capital Bikeshare coupon all day\*

**9/19 THURS.**  
Come together for FREE ice cream from noon - 2 p.m.

**9/20 FRI.**  
Raffle drawing at 5 p.m. with cupcakes

\*All giveaway items available while supplies last.

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(Across from the King Street Metro)  
1775C Duke Street  
703.299.6227  
Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
[alexandriava.gov/LocalMotion](http://alexandriava.gov/LocalMotion)

## Police Investigate Sexual Assault

Alexandria Police are investigating a sexual assault that occurred Tuesday, Sept. 10, near the intersection of North Van Dorn Street and Sanger Avenue.

At approximately 4:10 p.m., a 13 year-old juvenile was walking from a bus stop. She was approached from behind and groped by an unknown male. There were two witnesses to the incident who confronted the suspect. The suspect then fled.

The suspect is described as a white or Hispanic male approximately 5'5" to 5'8" with slicked back hair, a thin mustache and tattoos on both arms.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Criminal Investigations Section at 703-746-6711.

Detectives would like to remind witnesses that they can remain anonymous.



# OPINION

## Timing Is Everything

BY HARRY M. COVERT

If the hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Judge William D. Hamblen is enrobed and on the bench. Prosecutors, defense lawyers, the defendant, security and visitors are in their respective places. All quiet.

Hamblen is the retired chief judge of the 31st judicial district of the Commonwealth, Prince William County. He is well-respected and expects nothing but the best in courtroom manner; this includes the attire for brothers and sisters at the bar, defendants and anyone just watching.

**COVERT MATTERS** It's advisable to be in the court, seated, at least a half-hour before starting time. Don't arrive a minute before the case is called. It's likely admittance will be refused.

Like many retired jurists, Hamblen is kept busy presiding over various and sundry cases. His judicial demeanor has long been an example to other legal eagles.

Once in his Prince William County courtroom, all were in place. Deputies appearing at attention, attorneys alert. A defendant was called.

In walked a young fellow attired from head to toe in the complete sporting regalia of a famous basketball player.

The judge didn't hesitate and sent him home accompanied by a deputy to redress and return. He did sans the uniform and hat.

On Monday, a two journalists arrived on the fourth floor of the Alexandria's Franklin Backus Courthouse Courtroom No. 4.



They first had to pass through the first-floor security — "take everything out of your pockets."

It's a special pre-trial hearing, the case of Commonwealth of Virginia versus Arlington Deputy Sheriff Craig Patterson who shot and killed a 22-year-old Alexandrian.

A pleasant white-shirted lieutenant stopped the reporters at the courtroom door, at 9:59: "I think you're too late. Judge says no one is allowed after 32 seats are filled."

The wordmen pleaded. The officer opened the door and another white-headed, white-shirted veteran lieutenant, "You're late. Why didn't you get here early?"

A bit unnerved, the printmen sort of dropped their guard and appeared seriously sullen. The lieutenant-in-charge relented moments later and directed them to two seats. Other reporters were intently listening and scribbling. Once Judge Hamblen had the lawyers agreeing on a Dec. 9 jury trial, court was over. He left the bench. Defendant Patterson was removed from the courtroom and deputies began shoos everyone out the door.

"Now, don't forget you folks, be here 30 minutes ahead of time in December," the lieutenant-in-charge bellowed. "A minute late and you won't get inside."

Everybody scampered to the elevator. Almost unnoticed, the visiting judge walked to elevator number two and was on his way.

The public's right-to-know is safe. We'll be early in December.

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)  
**Sunday**  
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm

**Weekday & Saturday Mornings:** 9:00 am Mass, followed by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)  
**Thursday & First Friday of the Month:** 7:30 pm Mass en Español

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# SPORTS

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET SPORTS EDITOR JON ROETMAN  
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**T.C. Williams running back Malik Carney carries the ball against Centreville on Sept. 6.**



**Philip Tyler runs against Centreville on Sept. 6.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

## TC Football Thumped By Centreville

After a 38-2 win against Oakton in the season opener, the T.C. Williams football team experienced a rough night at the office Friday.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

Playing in their second consecutive road game against an opponent from the former Concorde District, the Titans were no match for Centreville as the Wildcats opened a 34-point halftime lead and cruised to a 44-16

victory on Sept. 6 at Centreville High School.

Wildcat running back AJ Turner carried six times for 142 yards and two touchdowns, returned a kickoff 92 yards for a score and intercepted two passes — in the first half. Meanwhile, TC managed just three points until 6:27 remained in the fourth quarter, when quarterback Darius Holland connected with TJ Jordan for a 35-yard touchdown pass. Holland also scored on a 34-yard run on the game's final play.

Centreville led 10-0 at the end of the first quarter and 37-3 at halftime.

Holland completed 10 of 16 passes for 96 yards and was intercepted twice. He also rushed for 82 yards and a score.

Running back Malik Carney ran for 105 yards. Jordan four catches for 55 yards and a score.

TC has a bye this week and will host Langley at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

## Ireton Football To Host St. Stephen's

The Bishop Ireton football team will host

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14. Ireton won its season opener, beating Park View 21-2, but lost to O'Connell on Sept. 7, 41-6. St. Stephen's lost to St. Christopher's 27-0 on Sept. 7, dropping the Saints' record to 0-2.

## Episcopal Football To Open Season

The Episcopal football team will play its season opener in Vienna on Friday when the Maroon travel to face Flint Hill at 4 p.m.

### SCHOOL NOTES

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

**James Walker Slaughter**, of Alexandria, graduated from Clemson University in August with a bachelor of science degree in computer science.

**Katrina Marie Daiga** graduated cum laude from James Madison University. Daiga earned a degree in communication studies.

The following high school seniors from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School were named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program: **Isabel M. Dewhurst**, **Alison Lindsay**, **Caroline Secrest** and **Adam Naidorf**.

## TC Cross Country Competes at Monroe Parker

The T.C. Williams boys' cross country team finished 24th at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 7.

The Titans posted a total of 650, finishing ahead of South County, McLean, Hayfield, Falls Church and Pope John Paul the Great.

TC's top finisher was Anteneh Girma, who came in 26th with a time of 16:02.

Defending state champion Chantilly won the team event with a total of 88. Patriot

placed second (121) and Robinson finished third (144).

Edison's Louis Colson won the individual title with a time of 14:43. Marshall's MacKenzie Haight placed second (15:05) and Chantilly's Ryan McGorty was third (15:11).

The T.C. Williams girls' team finished 17th out of 27 teams with a total of 385. The Titans' top finisher was Sydney Schaedel, who finished 17th (18:43).

Defending state champion Lake Braddock won the team title with a five-harrier total of 159. Madison placed second with at 163, followed by Chantilly (171), South Lakes (185) and Osbourn Park (194).

West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta, who finished state runner-up last season, won the individual title with a time of 16:58. Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen placed second (17:28) and Lee's Bailey Kolonich placed third (17:55).

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### FLU VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE

**Flu Vaccination Clinic.** Every Friday through Dec. 13 from 3-6 p.m. in Hospital Health Education Center at Inova Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Road. \$30/shot; \$35/fluMist. Inova accepts Medicare Part B as payment in full for persons who are not enrolled in a managed care or advantage plan and bring their Medicare card. All others must pay and will be given a receipt to submit to insurance company. Visit [www.inova.org/flu](http://www.inova.org/flu) for more.

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

**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](mailto: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](http://www.dashbus.com/COA) for information.

**School Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. in the meeting room, 2000 N. Beauregard St. 703-824-6614.

#### 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](http://rugs.tenthousandvillages.com).

#### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 13-15

**National Adoption Weekend.** Visit a PetSmart store on Friday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. or Sunday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. to find a new furry companion. For every pet that is adopted over the weekend, PetSmart Charities will reward all participating local adoption partners with \$35 in adoption-reward grants. For a local PetSmart, visit [www.petSMARTcharities.org/events-news/adoption-events/](http://www.petSMARTcharities.org/events-news/adoption-events/).

#### 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 [www.woodlawn-umc.org/](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](mailto: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](http://moran.house.gov).

**Braddock Implementation Advisory Group Meeting.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe St. Discuss the implementation of the group and then neighborhood retail.

## SSSAS Coach Way Reaches 500 Wins

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes field hockey team defeated Good Counsel 2-0 on Sept. 10, giving Saints head coach Marsha Way 500 career victories.

Way came to the school in 1979 and has totaled a 500-82-45 record, 21 ISL season championships, 20 ISL tournament titles, four VISAA state championships and 12 undefeated seasons.

There will be a celebration for May's achievement after the Saints' Sept. 24 matchup against Mercersburg Academy.



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The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
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## 21 Announcements

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PRELIMINARY BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Administrative (J) Building located at 1500 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA. The preliminary budget is available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com and during regular business hours at the above address. Copies will be made available upon request - phone (703) 549-3381 ext. 2260. August 1st and September 5th  
Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
BY: William Dickinson  
Secretary - Treasurer

## 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 materialman'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

### LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids 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 of Invitation to Bid: ITB #0000092: Rental of Equipment and Vehicles with Personnel

Bid Opening Date and Time: September 27, 2013, 3 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Friday, September 13, 2013 at 2 p.m., in the Purchasing Division Conference Room Suite 301 - 100 North Pitt Street, Alexandria VA 22314.

For general inquiries contact Jason Soltis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4299.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all bids, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**

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## 28 Yard Sales

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makes a  
majority.  
**-Andrew Jackson**

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## SENIOR SERVICES

# The Fraud Lottery

BY AMBER NIGHTINGALE  
AARP ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTOR  
FOR VIRGINIA

Joyce H., a 59-year-old unemployed woman raising four grandkids on her own, could barely believe her luck. A London barrister had emailed her, claiming to be relieved to have finally located her, because he was administering the will of someone he claimed was distantly related to her. She replied.

He eventually called her at 4 a.m. and asked, "Joyce, are you ready to get this money?" She may have been half-asleep, but of course she was ready! In her own words, she describes herself as a "poor person," struggling to pay rent on the roof over her family's head. All she had to do was go to Western Union and wire him \$350 "as a show of good faith" on her part. Fortunately — whether because she smelled the rat or just didn't have the money — she balked. "What would I need to wire you \$350 for when you have all that money right there? Take \$350 out of that!" she said she told the barrister. "If you scam 100 people for \$350 each — that's a lot of money!"

Indeed it is. The U.S. Federal

Trade Commission estimates that foreign-based lottery fraud alone bilks Americans out of literally billions of dollars a year. Moreover, the FTC estimates that more than 90 percent of lottery scams go unreported because the victims are too ashamed to file a complaint.

They shouldn't be ashamed, because they are hardly alone. An estimated 10 percent to 15 percent of the U.S. population falls for one kind of scam or another each year, according to FTC research. Studies show that the average fraud victim is between 55 and 65 years old. Joyce herself summed it up well: "Us elderly people, we are often scammed by these things. They always try to work on us, because they know we are very vulnerable. We all need the money." Learn how you can spot and avoid scams of all types, including lotteries, "business opportunities," and sweepstakes, at Senior Law Day 2013, co-presented by the Alexandria Bar Association and Senior Services of Alexandria. AARP is a sponsor. This free event is Saturday, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Please pre-register at [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org), or by calling 703-836-4414, ext. 10.

## Cycling for Research

FROM PAGE 9

both a blessing and a duty to be Cheson's first patient in his clinical trial, for which she takes chemo type drugs daily and is scheduled for infusions as well.

"Dr. Cheson is one of the renowned cancer researchers in the country, and he sponsors this protocol and clinical trial," Jonston said. "I was interested in doing something untraditional, because we are not going to be able to move further if we are not doing research. Somebody has got to step up to the plate, and it has to be this new generation of newly diagnosed patients."

In the two and a half months since she has been diagnosed, she has maintained a positive attitude, and attributes it in part to not only her friends and family, but also to the dedicated medical staff at Georgetown.

"I haven't met anyone who is not super dedicated to what they are doing, and that is awesome," Jonston said. "You cannot ask for better treatment, and they are such a dedicated staff. I couldn't be in a better place. If you are going to get diagnosed with cancer, the D.C. metropolitan area is the best place to be."

Jonston said she is positive about her prognosis, and she would "take her odds to Vegas any day."

"Follicular lymphoma can be treated, but it never goes away," she said. "You can go into remission for a long time, but the cancer can come back. But, there is a 97 percent chance I will go into remission."

She said her experience has reinforced her belief in a higher power, saying she must be in the right place at the right time.

"It's timing, and I really, truly believe everything happens for a reason," Jonston said. "I should be living in Pensacola, Fla. with my husband, who is a retired Marine, but for some reason I decided to stay [in Northern Virginia] for another year."

Jonston has been training on a stationary bike for these last couple months. Still, she said she is still nervous about the challenge she faces on Sept. 22.

"I'm getting anxious," she said. "I am going to finish this, because my characteristics will not let me not finish. I am not really a big bike rider, but this too shall pass, and it will help me do better next year and raise more money for the cause."

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## **ABOUT ALEXANDRIA'S BRENDAN O'TOOLE**

Brendan O'Toole served in the United States Marine Corps from 2008-2012. He enlisted during his senior year at T. C. Williams High School in Alexandria. During his time in the Corps, O'Toole completed two overseas deployments as a communications specialist based out of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (N.C.).

On his first deployment (2009), Brendan served as a member of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) which assisted in the Haitian earthquake relief effort, before serving in the Indian Ocean, the country of Djibouti, and patrolling the Gulf of Aden and the east coast of Africa where pirating was a major problem. During their Haitian duty, O'Toole established a functioning communication system that was used to coordinate the distribution of vital humanitarian supplies.

On his second deployment (2011), O'Toole was stationed in Afghanistan with Marine Air Support Squadron 1. Upon his arrival, he was assigned to Regimental Combat Team 6, which was assigned to the western part of the Helmand Province, outside the city of Delaram. O'Toole was responsible for all ground communications efforts of the Direct Air Support Center's area of operation. Sgt. O'Toole established and maintained radio and tactical communications systems used to coordinate air strikes against insurgent forces as well as support medical evacuations, and re-supply to U.S. military and coalition forces throughout the battlefield. It was during his Afghanistan deployment that Brendan started planning for The Run for Veterans.

In June 2012, Brendan completed his active duty military service with the rank of Sergeant. On his return home to Alexandria, he began planning and organizing The Run for Veterans, which was chartered by the State of Virginia in August, 2012.

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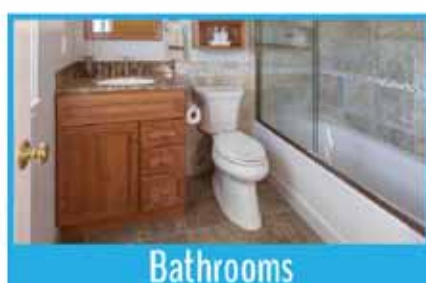
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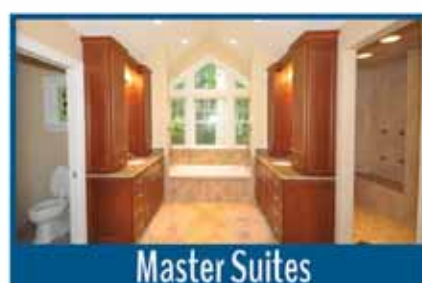
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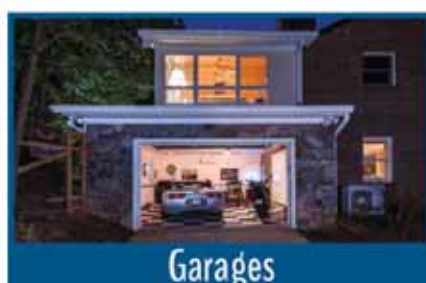
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## NVAR Summit at GMU's Mason Inn

Complex shortage of homes for sale likely to persist.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**N**ationally syndicated columnist and moderator Kenneth R. Harney introduced the expert panel for the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) 17th annual Economic Summit Thursday morning, Sept. 5.

Dr. David Crowe, chief economist and senior vice president of the National Association of Home Builders, joined economic experts David E. Versel, a senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis, and Dr. Lawrence Yun, senior economist for the National Association of Realtors. The panel addressed a full house — representing the nearly 10,000 realtor and “affiliate business members” that comprise the NVAR — on issues they believe best explain the current housing market and outlook, for both northern Virginia and the United States as a whole.

Though none could offer any “silver bullet” solutions to address all their concerns for housing, all agreed that growth in the market within a genuinely rebounding economy is sustainable, if only at a slower rate than the last year.

**HARNEY, WHOSE COLUMN** “The Nation’s Housing” appears in The Washington Post and in syndication, opened the program on a positive note, praising the “fortunate” market of the last year. And the increased sales, listings and home prices, he said, are demonstrative of a second, more generally sustainable phase of economic rebound that should give buyers and sellers alike hope.

But Harney was also quick to follow with qualifications and caveats to the optimism. “It may vary where you are,” he said, “but as far as I can tell, the entry-level buyer is still missing in action. They’re out there, but



Members of the Northern Virginia Realtors Association filled the conference hall at the Mason Inn on the campus of George Mason University for the 17th Annual NVAR Economic Summit.

they face hurdles. Student debt load is a big issue. And the job market is a huge constraint for the first-time buyer.”

**VERSEL WAS THE FIRST** panelist to speak, giving more detail regarding past, present and future economic forces in the DC metropolitan area as they relate to housing. A major concern for Northern Virginia is the decline in federal jobs and federal procurement. His data show a continuation of the trends, with one example being a \$14 billion decrease in spending from 2010 to 2017.

“There’s no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam,” Versel said. “That said, we’re not Detroit. We haven’t been a one-horse town for the last 30 to 40 years. For example, Fairfax County has attracted Volkswagen North American Headquarters. We have that base of brainpower, and hopefully that’s leading into a new generation of economic growth.”

Versel sees a steady increase in building permits as a positive marker. Between 2012 and 2017, he forecasts 55,000 new jobs

being created in the housing industry, which should come as a package with increased construction and greater inventory.

Lack of inventory, Versel explained, is a key impediment to the more rapid strengthening of the market. Families or individuals looking to trade up have fewer options to do so, and first-time or entry-level buyers have fewer options to become involved at all. Versel attributes this mainly to the vast amount of homeowners in northern Virginia between the ages of 45 and 64.

“Nearly half of all homeowners in this region are in the Baby Boomer demographic,” he said. “Let that wash over you for a second.” Versel cited data from the 2010 Census.

“That’s in no small part why inventory remains a problem,” Versel continued. “They don’t want to retire, they don’t plan to retire. Some of it is financial and some of it is lifestyle: ‘I’m not old, I’m never going to get old, and I’m living here forever.’ They’re probably going to stay in these places for another 20 to 30 years. For younger people who want to buy houses in those areas, unless you have new construc-

tion, there just isn’t any inventory to purchase.”

**CROWE ECHOED HARNEY’S CALL OUT** of the missing entry-level buyers, citing national survey data from University of Michigan studies, among others. “No matter what market you’re in, the larger picture does matter. The government is going to react to what the rest of the economy’s going to do.”

Crowe said lifestyle choices — children of Baby Boomers moving in with their parents and deferring marriage, childbirth, etc. — and economic insecurity had and continue to have profound influence on household creation.

“We’re in store for enormous pent up demand,” said Crowe. “When people don’t know what their future’s going to be,” they’re less likely to move out of their parents’ basements, get divorced, have more children, etc. “That’s why we had such a surplus of houses. We didn’t build too many houses — people stopped moving out. That’s coming back again.”

During the last housing peak, Crowe said household creation at the national level was 1.4 million annually. In the slump, that figure dipped to half a million. According to Crowe, it should be at about 1.2 million.

With the slow but now steady growth of the national housing market — contributing a three percent out of a more ideal six percent to GDP — Crowe is optimistic more and more of this pent of demand will emerge as entry-level sales. But there are still potential lags: availability of credit can be limiting and discouraging, the cost of building materials is increasing.

**YUN ALSO STRESSED** the importance of job creation in helping prop up the missing entry-level segment. He specifically referenced students who, whether they “over-borrowed” or not, collectively feel the weight of loan debut. “What will most help them pay off debt or buy a home,” he said, “is really jobs. If they have jobs, student

SEE NVAR, PAGE 7

### Northern Virginia Designers Awarded Rooms in Showhouse Event

Northern Virginia/metro area interior designers Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design and Wayne Breeden of E. Wayne Breeden Design are among 17 designers awarded rooms at the benefit Winchester Showhouse & Gardens, open to the public through Sept. 29.

The Showhouse features an 18th century home in the Shenandoah Valley, Long Green, known for its historic and architectural prominence and beautiful vistas.

Landscaping, shopping, artwork and designer sales complement the event, which benefits Blue Ridge Hospice, a not-for-profit hospice organization serving the Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley.

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Long Green, an 18th century home in the Shenandoah Valley, is made over to benefit Blue Ridge Hospice.

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# HomeLifeStyle

## Top-to-Bottom Makeover Embraces Longterm Horizons

The Hollis family wanted a house that would work better today — and long into the future.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes it's not limited square footage that makes a house feel inadequate — it's how that square footage is configured.

Take, for example, the circa 1970s Vienna split-level Andre and Katy Hollis purchased in 2005. With more than 3,200 square feet of living space that included four bedrooms, three bathrooms and a large family room, most would consider the house sufficient — even enviable — as the primary home for a family of four.

True, the previous owners had been empty-nesters, which partly explained why there was a soaking tub instead of a shower in an upstairs bathroom allocated to two pre-teen boys.

Still, the structure's two-level main block seemed to have capacity to spare. There was a guest room; a full bathroom on the first floor; a home office.

In fact, it was the lack of need for changes that had prompted the Hollis' to buy the house in the first place.

But while recuperating from an accident a few years ago, Katy Hollis began to reassess. "I decided that I really like our neighborhood and that we could stay in the house

indefinitely. But I also saw that I had been ignoring a lot of things that didn't work for us. And the shortcomings were even more obvious when I looked ahead."

All of this sounded familiar to Mindy Mitchell, the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist at Sun Design Remodeling. Katy Hollis called in to talk over some ideas.

"In the last two decades, designers have learned a lot about how to customize a traditional production house floorplan for longterm use," Mitchell said. "Size is less important than how rooms are purposed and configured. The goal is to create a plan that will logically support priorities."

As discussions with Mitchell evolved, Katy Hollis unveiled her larger agenda. To make the house more functional for both current and foreseeable needs, the homeowner envisioned a series of focused revisions: a spacious first floor bedroom; a gourmet kitchen; television-viewing that's not in the midst of other entertainment zones; a guest suite with dedicated bath; an indoor-outdoor segue to the beautifully wooded backyard.

The new plan had to serve a variety of concurrent scenarios. There should be beautifully articulated front-facing rooms that would support the occasional dinner party. They needed a family gathering area for daily meals and

everyday interaction. The new kitchen should be equipped with a gas range, a wine refrigerator and generous food preparation surfaces.

"I found it reassuring to talk about the house as a place we might occupy 30 years from now," Katy Hollis said. "I thought that we probably had the necessary square footage to make the changes I had in mind, but there were many space planning considerations we needed to work out carefully."

Certainly, the current plan was problematic.

The entryway foyer was flanked by an L-shaped galley kitchen to the left and a family room four steps down on the right.

One could proceed to the back of the house from the galley kitchen to a rear dining room, or from the parallel foyer directly to a small sitting room adjacent to the dining room.

The arrangement often led to bottlenecks. At parties, guests would circulate back to the family room after dinner creating traffic jams in the foyer.

Moreover, a promising view of the pretty backyard was hampered by undersized windows — which



BEFORE: Kitchen

The former galley kitchen offered few supports for inspired food preparation.



Moving TV-viewing from the living room to an upgraded lower level has made the first floor far more functional while adding an element of privacy to the new master suite.

made the back of the house too dark.

**SUCH PROBLEMS** were equally apparent upstairs. The front-facing master bedroom suite was large enough — but the master bathroom could only be accessed through a closet/changing area, and the plan lacked a walk-in closet and privacy. Adding to the inconvenience, the only shower available for second floor guest room was one flight down, on the

## More

Sun Design Remodeling frequently holds workshops on home remodeling topics at their office in Burke. Visit [www.SunDesignRemodelingInc.com](http://www.SunDesignRemodelingInc.com) or call 703-425-5588.

first floor.

"Our challenge was comprehensively re-imagining how space could be allocated while staying inside the envelope of the house," Mitchell said.

Interestingly, a decision to move TV-watching away from the front-facing family room set the reconfiguration process in motion.

"We saw the rooms in the front of the house as a suite that would better serve all formal entertainment needs," Mitchell said. "Situating the TV in the newly remodeled basement allowed us to fully convert the family room into a more formal living room and eliminate the marginally useful sitting room."

Freeing-up the 17-foot-by-8-foot sitting area in the back of the house, Mitchell and team next shifted the dining room to the front (across the foyer from the new living room), allocating 170 square feet in the rear for a gourmet



PHOTOS BY BRIAN BURKIS

Following an accident, the Hollis family decided to reconfigure their Vienna home for both improved day-to-day functioning, and long-term use. From left: Alex, Max, Katy and Andre in the newly remodeled family room.



BEFORE: Basement

cooking and clean up tasks. "It's much easier to both cook and tend to guests," Katy Hollis said. "The dining room, foyer and new living room are well-unified aesthetically; guests don't even need to see the kitchen."

Re-purposing bedrooms and bathrooms also figured prominently in the makeover. Katy Hollis wanted both a guest room with dedicated bath and a larger, more private master bedroom suite.

"We had to scrutinize the footprint closely," Mitchell said. "Fortunately, there were first level utility rooms adjacent to the family room we could either delete or reassign in our search for space to

accommodate a first level master suite." Relocating an upstairs hall bath, thus, gave Mitchell the option to move the laundry to the second floor. The former master bedroom suite now becomes the coveted guest quarters. A second floor corner bedroom has been transformed into a bathroom for the two boys complete with a double sink vanity.

With the laundry now out of the way, Mitchell and team re-deployed 300 square feet on the rear of the first level for a spacious and very private master bedroom suite that includes a master bath and generous walk-in closets.

A home office behind glass-facing French doors opens directly into the redecorated living room. The first level bath has been re-fashioned as a handsomely appointed guest powder room.

"It's a terrific solution in every detail," Katy Hollis said. "And knowing we've already made some solid decisions about the future is really quite satisfying."

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## Home LifeStyle

# Condo Renovations

As sales of condominiums grow, so does demand for luxury renovations.

More people are moving from leafy, sprawling suburbs to more urban areas, neighborhoods both in the city and in Northern Virginia that offer close proximity to restaurants, jobs, cultural activities and Metro.

Sales of condominiums in Northern Virginia are up, with growth in sales of condos outpacing both single-family homes and townhouses in the past year, according to the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors.

Both "echo boomers" (30-and-under) and retiring baby boomers want smaller homes near public transportation, shopping and workplaces, driving up the demand for condominiums, Lisa Sturtevant, deputy director of GMU's Center for Regional Analysis reported to NVAR in March.

With the growth in demand for condominiums comes growth in demand for condominium renovations.

One local company BOWA, a residential remodel and construction firm based in McLean, is responding to that trend by bringing on a new project leader, Mark Miller, with expertise in condo remodeling and commercial construction. Miller and BOWA say they are responding to the demand to push the boundaries of luxury condo transformation.

Most upscale condominium buyers will select a location where they want to live first, and then search for a condo to buy, said Miller, who is an Arlington resident, often in older buildings.

"Condos come in all different sizes and flavors," Miller said. "Years ago people didn't even think of renovating a condo."

People moving from larger suburban homes often are not satisfied with the smaller room sizes, utilitarian kitchens and cramped bathrooms that are typical of many condominiums.

"But now we can change the footprint from smaller rooms to open layouts," Miller said, creating room for luxurious kitchens open to spacious entertaining areas, luxurious bathrooms, audio/visual spaces and even outdoor spaces.

When renovating a condominium, Miller says they see some very demanding cooks. "They want high-end appliances. ... What clients want for their finishes is high end residential."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB NAROD PHOTOGRAPHY/BOWA

**This renovation features custom woodwork and built-ins to maximize space.**

## More

Contact BOWA's McLean office at 703-734-9050 or see [www.bowa.com](http://www.bowa.com) for more information.

"Ten years ago, it was not even possible to produce that environment in a condo."

Some clients are renovating even in brand new buildings. "People will buy two units and combine them. Sometimes they are looking for different space than the [condo developers] are willing to do," Miller said.

**RENOVATING CONDOMINIUMS** is fundamentally different than renovating a single-family home, and it requires very different expertise, even if the desired outcome inside might look similar.

"It's a completely different animal," Miller said. The permitting and approval process is far more stringent, requiring commercial standards in many cases.

"The normal renovation process is completely different in a condominium building. The structural systems are different," Miller said. "The stakes are so much higher."

In a condominium renovation, you might have 10 very close neighbors who are concerned about noise. Just the installation of a dryer vent is likely to require a permit. Delivery of building materials and taking care of debris are more complex. Tapping into the heating and hot water systems in a condominium building requires different expertise than most single-family home builders have.

Miller recommends that anyone planning to buy a condo to renovate consult an experienced condo remodeler before they buy.

An experienced company can help guide the design with a realistic sense of what they actually can do and what sort of budget the project would require, can help with the permitting process.

"By understanding what's possible, we can come in very early, so if someone is contemplating a purchase, we can evaluate 'is this one remodeling friendly?' By getting on board early with a customer we can avoid some of the pitfalls," Miller said. "We can offer some design ideas for some things they haven't even thought of."

Renovating a condo is completely different, but it doesn't have to be bad, he said. You can create "brand new luxurious space out of something that wasn't that way before."



Mark Miller

JOE PARISI PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Sun Design Named One of U.S.'s Fastest Growing Private Companies

Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, Inc., of Fairfax, was named by Inc. Magazine as one of America's fastest-growing private companies. This is the fourth time the magazine has included Sun Design on its annual Inc.5000 list.

Sun Design was one of the Virginia companies to be included on the list this year.

Companies are chosen for the list based on their growth rate for the previous three years; Sun Design's revenue was up 9 percent over that period. A statement released by the magazine said, "The elite group you've now joined has, over the years, included companies such as Microsoft, Timberland, Vizio, Intuit,

Jamba Juice, Oracle, and Zappos.com." The awards will be formally presented at The 32nd Annual Inc. 5000 Conference and Awards Ceremony, Oct. 10-12, 2013 at the Gaylord National.

Bob Gallagher, president of Sun Design, said, "Being recognized by Inc. Magazine for this national award four times is a great testimony to the success of our company, the creativity and drive of our entire team and our reputation as a company that clients love to work with. We're very pleased to be included among such great companies."

Sun Design, celebrating its 25th year, has been the recipient of dozens of industry awards. Each year, Sun Design shows off its work during a series of home tours and other special events. Visit [www.sundesigninc.com](http://www.sundesigninc.com) or call 703-425-5588. Sun Design is located at 5795 B Burke Centre Parkway, in Burke.

## NVAR Summit at GMU's Mason Inn

FROM PAGE 3

loans are not a problem. It's about job creation. We are creating jobs, but at a slow pace. This is hindering young people in the country."

But like all the panelists, Yun's presentation was peppered with plusses and minuses. A positive for employment seekers, as well as their potential employers, is the concept of "clustering," according to Yun. Clustering takes place when a sizable number of skilled workers congregate in a certain area and that attracts employers, which attracts more skilled work-

ers.

Yun applauded the multi-skilled workforce in and around DC as "a clustering effect beginning to grow." He believes more businesses will be drawn to the workforce, independent of government, which could in turn help create more jobs in the region.

Finally, noting the rising population of renters, Yun implored the audience (to pass along to their clients) to be wary of inflation over the next year. "We may actually get a 6 percent mortgage next rate next year, if inflation rate pops out. It's something to watch carefully."

Tuckpointing: New life for historic brick buildings



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