



Rosemary Gonda joins in the drumming as baby Joel looks on.



Baba Ras D explains how to make sounds with a variety of instruments at Monday's workshop.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Celebrating Black History

Musician and educator Baba Ras D shared his love and knowledge of African drumming and dancing at a free family workshop on Monday evening, Feb. 3. The workshop was sponsored by FACE (The Family and Community Engagement Center of ACPS) and held in the John Adams Elementary School cafeteria.

Baba Ras D introduced the children and their families to a variety of African drums along with other traditional percussion instruments. As a wave of sounds filled the air, dance steps were introduced and words put to the songs. Baba Ras D is the creator of "Harambee," a presentation for children and their families that offers a creative atmosphere "where the children celebrate learning through movement and song." Additional family workshops this month include family bookmaking and African jewelry making. For more infor-



Joy Gonda plays on two djembe drums. A djembe drum is a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands.

mation and to register visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/face-centers/>

— LOUISE KRAFFT

Scattering Low-Income Residents

Public-housing authority considers redeveloping seven properties.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Uncertainty is hanging in the air for thousands of public-housing residents and their neighbors. That's because the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority is seeking feedback from developers about potential redevelopment of seven key properties — six housing developments as well as the organization's administrative office on North Fairfax Street. Together, the properties have 571 units. The request for proposals was issued by the authority in partnership with its affiliated devel-

opment corporation, Virginia Housing Development.

"People who live in these units are concerned, as are people who live right outside of them because nobody knows what's going on," said Alexandria Councilman John Chapman. "Not having specifics is going to make people cautious and concerned."

Last month, the authority issued requests for proposals to developers who might be interested in redeveloping the properties. Then, last week, a series of developers joined authority leaders for a bus tour of the seven properties. Now the ball is in the court of the developers, who will be coming forward with plans to redevelop one or more of the sites by March 17. Their goal, according to the authority, is to deliver "mixed-income, mixed finance and/or mixed-use components."

"They've got to go through the approval process, and there has to be a plan to relocate and house all

SEE ARHA, PAGE 22

Interim Budget

School Board considers budget as search for superintendent continues.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria City Public Schools is in a state of flux. School Board members are conducting a national search for the next superintendent as students are flooding into the city's classrooms. Meanwhile, interim superintendent Alvin Crawley is proposing a 3.3 percent increase over last year's budget, adding \$8 million to the existing \$235 million operating budget. That's a 21 percent increase com-

SEE CRAWLEY, PAGE 5

Budget Drivers

\$4.3 million: Back in December, outgoing Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell proposed an increase to the rate the school system will need to contribute to the Virginia Retirement System. School officials are expecting their contribution to increase from 16.66 percent to 23.20 percent.

\$2.8 million: To meet annual recurring requirements for maintenance and operation, the superintendent is proposing a plan to upgrade HVAC systems, maintenance contracts, software, electrical services and natural gas. This includes increased cost of leasing office and instructional space.

\$1.6 million: The number of students in Alexandria who speak English as a second language continues to grow, which means that the division is planning to invest money for English Language Learning teachers. The superintendent's proposal adds 21.5 positions to ensure that middle schools are staffed at a minimum of six teachers for each school.

\$1.5 million: The superintendent's proposal includes 20 reserve positions, which can be used to meet changes in enrollment, course registration or student needs. The line item includes 12 positions for general reserves and 8 positions for special education.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Educational Opportunity

First Lady Michelle Obama talks with students and parents at T.C. Williams High School on Wednesday morning, Feb. 5. The First Lady along with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan addressed the students and their parents on the importance of higher education and filling out the FAFSA form.

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Blight in Rosemont

Parents of Maury Elementary School beam with pride about what's inside the walls of their building on Russell Road. But many wince with disapproval about what happens in the school yard.

"The outdoor recreation area of one of the finest schools in Alexandria is a disgrace," said **John Buser**, parent of a third-grade student at Maury. "The schoolyard is an outdated patchwork of asphalt, dirt, mud, roots and rocks that's an unfortunate blight on the Rosemont neighborhood." During a School Board meeting last week, Buser described how water drains from Beach Street Park, over the playground blacktop, washing away the grass and soil from Maury onto Russell Road sidewalks. Enter the Maury Schoolyard Initiative, an organization affiliated with the Maury Parent-Teacher Association. The group, which Buser says represents hundreds of people, began a campaign last year that includes lobbying the Rosemont Citizens Association, the Youth Sports Advisory Board and the Alexandria Parks and Recreation Commission. Now the group has drafted a new schoolyard plan.

"Our plan can be accomplished in phases over time," said Buser. "But involvement from ACPS and the city is critical."

Buser says his group has already embarked on what he calls "the largest fundraising effort in school history." That includes grants, nonprofits, corporations, foundations and individuals. But, he added, he and others hope School Board members fund the project in their capital improvement budget.

King Clash

City leaders have ditched their plan to remove 27 parking spaces along King Street and add a bike lane without public hearing. The original plan prompted such an outrage that people were challenging the city's legal right to take action behind closed doors.

So now the plan is to move forward in plain sight.

The Traffic and Parking Board will consider the plan on Feb. 24. Then the City Council will take up the proposal on March 15. Transportation and Environmental Services Director **Rich Baier** says he will remain open-minded, although he is quick to add that he believes the plan will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

"There may be something new that comes out of it," said Baier. "But we've had a pretty extensive public process to date."

Advocates for cyclists and pedestrians support the plan, which they say would slow vehicles on a stretch of road that has logged 30 crashes in the last five years. But residents along the street say they are concerned the plan will actually make the street less safe by removing the line of cars that acts as a buffer. They're also concerned about how deliveries vehicles would be able to access homes and where guests would park for large-scale entertaining.

"It's a dream that this will improve safety," said **Tom Walczykowski**, who lives in College Park. "I would rather share the lanes."

Breaking Ground

Last year, members of the City Council approved a new affordable housing project known as Jackson Crossing, a 78-unit affordable housing complex that will serve families that earn 60 percent or less of the area median income. Now, those plans are about to become reality.

Later this month, city officials will break ground on the project, which is located on Route 1 across from the Potomac Yard shopping center. Groundbreaking is scheduled for Feb. 22. Construction is expected to take about 18 months, with leasing estimated to take until the end of 2015. The City Council approved the new affordable housing project back in January 2013. The plan is for the city to loan \$2.5 million to the developer and also transfer a city-owned parcel of land at 3600 Jefferson Davis Highway for the project. Six privately owned parcels controlled by AHC make up the rest of the plot. The project will provide underground parking for residents, a rooftop patio, onsite management and a community space. Some neighbors are concerned about the scale. "This building's size will dwarf the other apartment complexes in the area," wrote **Ana Haworth-Duke** in a letter opposing the project last year. "And by allowing it to be built in the midst of such a heavily trafficked area, it will ensure that gridlock happens every morning and every rush hour."

City Council members said the scale was appropriate considering the building will be on the new transit corridor, which is expected to open the region's first dedicated lanes in the coming weeks.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Eight in the Eighth

Crowded Democratic primary to replace Jim Moran takes shape.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been three weeks since longtime U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) announced that he would not be seeking a 13th term in Congress, opening up an epic primary fight that is now starting to take shape. Eight candidates have announced their intention to run in the June primary, setting the stage for the most expensive primary fights in recent memory.

"The winner is going to be spending half a million or more," said Christopher Newport University professor Quentin Kidd. "And then if it goes on paid media, then we're going to be talking about a million dollars or so in a primary."

The 8th Congressional District has about 360,000 active voters, according to statistics from the Virginia Board of Elections. If about 20 percent of the voters participate in the Democratic primary, that would mean turnout would be in the neighborhood of 72,000 voters. In an eight-person race, that means a winner could emerge with as little as 15 percent or 20 percent of the vote.

"All you need to win is a plurality," said Arlington registrar Linda Lindberg. "You could win on 14,000 or 15,000 votes or less even if you had several highly popular candidates duking it out."

University of Virginia Center for Politics analyst Geoff Skelley says former Lt. Gov. Don Beyer begins the race with an advantage none of the other candidates have — name recognition. Not only did he serve two terms as lieutenant governor, but he also owns a car dealership that gives him a kind of familiarity that most politicians don't have. Although he successfully won two statewide elections, Beyer hasn't been on the ballot since he lost the race for governor to Republican Jim Gilmore in 1997.

"Beyer has probably got the most money and the most resources of anyone," said Skelley. "But with this many candidates on the field, I think it's difficult to say that he is absolutely the frontrunner."



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Crawley Proposes 3.3 Percent Increase for Schools

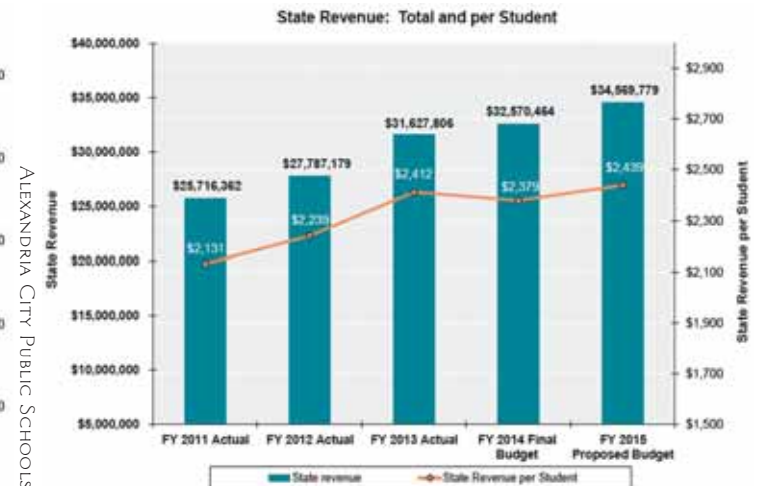
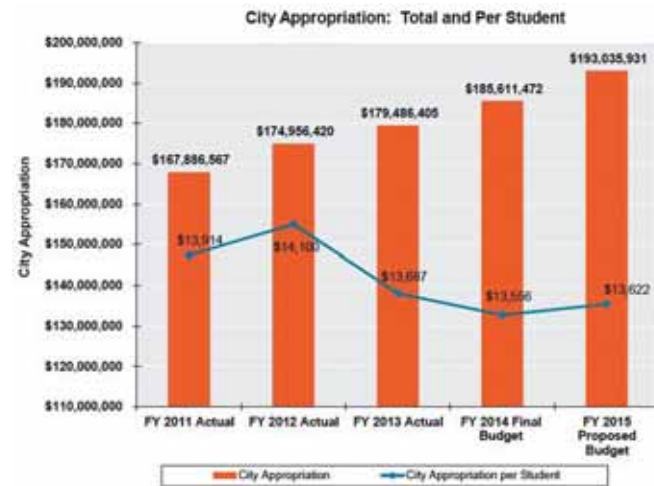
FROM PAGE 1

pared to 2010, a dramatic increase at a time when many school systems across the country have been forced to make cutbacks because of the Great Recession.

“Whether you have children in our schools, grandchildren in our schools or no children in our schools, your investment in our students is an investment in the vibrancy of the city of Alexandria,” said Crawley at the conclusion of his budget presentation to School Board members last week. “Now is the opportunity for all of us to stand up and be a champion for our students.”

One of the challenges for school officials this year is the dramatic increase in enrollment, a trend that began in 2007. Next fall, school leaders estimate, enrollment will exceed 14,000 students. That’s an increase of more than 500 students compared to this year. And the fastest growing segment is students who live in poverty. Almost 60 percent of the city’s public-school students live in poverty, the highest percentage in the region according to statistics compiled by the Washington Area Boards of Education. That means school officials must put together a budget during a time when resources are scarce and difficulties are growing.

“I can feel the passion around this,” said



School Board Chairwoman Karen Graf. “We have a very tough job.”

COST PER PUPIL in Alexandria is more than \$17,000, one of the highest in the region. Only Arlington County has a higher cost per pupil at more than \$18,000 per student. The vast majority of the school system’s budget, more than 85 percent, is salaries and benefits. And the chief source of revenues is Alexandria taxpayers, who fund the vast majority of operations at the school system’s headquarters on Beaugard Avenue. Crawley’s proposed budget asks for a 4-percent increase in the appropriation from City Hall, adding more than \$7 mil-

lion to the \$193 million transfer.

“The bottom line for ACPS is that there is a funding gap,” said Crawley. “Funding less than the requested level will result in additional cuts in services to our students.”

One of the interim superintendent’s policy recommendations could budget savings in the future, although it’s not part of the proposal he outlined last week. Crawley wants to ditch former Superintendent Morton Sherman’s system of separating the two middle schools into five separate institutions. The schism came at a time when Sherman was beginning his controversial term as the school system’s chief administrator, and parents have been complaining

about it ever since. Now, School Board members are about to consider moving back to a middle school organization that has one school at each of the two buildings.

“I think it was a lot better before the re-organization,” said Leslie York, parent of two students at Hammond, in an interview last year. “In my opinion, it’s a bad idea to mix sixth graders with seventh graders and eighth graders because the older kids are a bad influence.”

THE CAPITAL BUDGET proposal includes several large-scale projects in the coming years, all of which are designed to meet the

SEE SCHOOL BUDGET, PAGE 9

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PEOPLE



Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board Joe Haggerty poses for a photo with former U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao at the Community Reception Jan. 23 at the United Way Worldwide headquarters in Old Town.



Artfully Gifts and Chocolate owners Edward Hart and Eric Nelson with ACVA president Patricia Washington.



Chamber chair-elect and board member of the year Walter Clarke with his wife Kellye Clarke.

Chamber Salutes New Chairman United Way's Haggerty takes the helm for 2014.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed United Way Worldwide Chief Operating Officer Joseph V. Haggerty as its 2014 Chairman of the Board at the Chairman's Community Reception Jan. 23. "Tonight is all about the chamber and us working together," Haggerty said. "We had a very successful year in 2013 under John Renner's leadership. In 2014, we will build on that momentum and continue to advocate for the business community."

Presented by SunTrust, the sold-out reception at the United Way Worldwide Headquarters in Old Town was a departure from the traditional formal Chairman's Gala and featured former U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao as guest

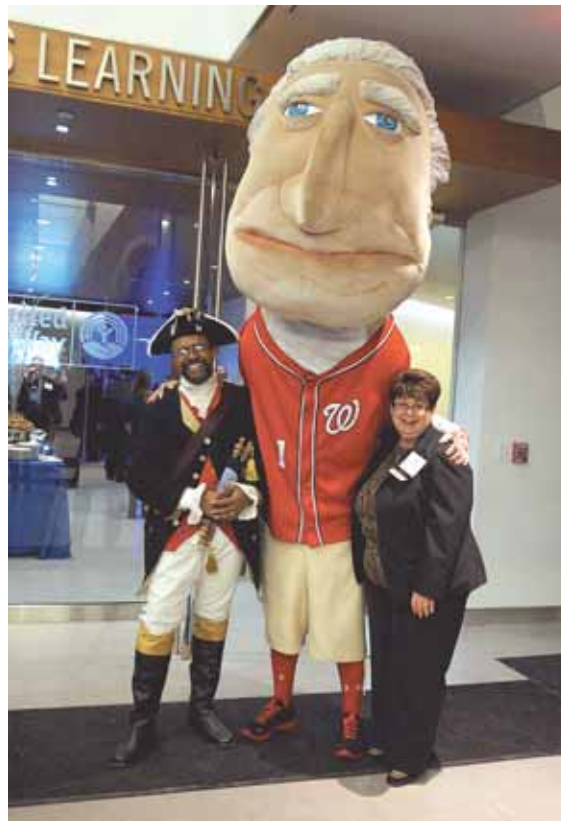
speaker.

"Joe Haggerty knows how to bring everyone together to solve tough community problems," said Chao, who headed United Way of America from 1996 to 2001. "That's where the chamber comes in. It's about people coming together to find solutions."

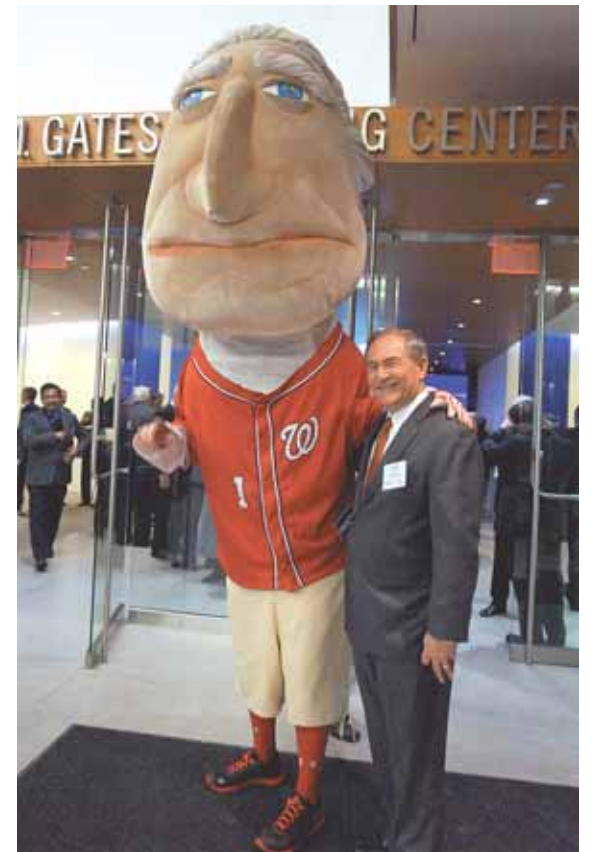
Attendees included U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), former governor Jim Gilmore and Ambassador Don Beyer. The networking event featured a jazz lounge, outdoor cigar bar and appearances by Washington Nationals mascot George Washington and Alexandria Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker. "This room is full of employers and job creators," Chao said. "You are the ones offering hope and opportunity to workers in Alexandria. Thank you for what you are doing and know that working together you will bring wonderful things to this community."

"Tonight is all about the chamber and us working together."

— 2014 Chamber board chairman Joe Haggerty



Alexandria Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker and Gin Kinneman have some fun with Washington Nationals mascot George Washington.



Former Gov. Jim Gilmore poses with Washington Nationals mascot George Washington.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Taylor Run

"AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN" is Arlene Stelluto's opinion of the probable result of changes being considered by the Traffic and Parking Board. Leesburg Pike, which is King Street in Alexandria, carries 12,000 cars a day going toward Old Town.

A recent count by some residents counted 12 bicycles a day. A proposal to put bike lanes marked off with lines will be considered by the Traffic and Parking Board on Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

At 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 15, the council will consider whatever the Traffic and Parking Board recommends. Both

meetings are open. The public may comment at both these hearings.

Darlene Johnson points out that Park Road is 24 feet wide, and that would leave only 10 feet in the middle of the road if cars were parked on both sides.

King Street follows the path of a route which has been important for 300 years, carrying tobacco and other products to the river port of Alexandria. In the 18th century it was a toll road; the company which installed paving on the road charged everyone who used it. Since the area became developed as a residential district, attempts to widen it have been made but have been rejected by the residents.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

OBITUARY

Gladys Seisler

Gladys Seisler, a retired elementary and special education teacher from Long Island, N.Y., and a 21-year resident of Alexandria, died on Jan. 28, 2014 after six years battling fourth stage breast cancer. She was 86 years old.

Gladys was an ardent community activist involved in local politics and a variety of philanthropic activities wherever she lived. Gladys was recognized as an Alexandria Living Legend in 2007 for her founding and on-going leadership of the Naughty Knitters, a group of women who knit clothes for impoverished children, needy families in the U.S. and abroad, as well as U.S. military personnel serv-

ing abroad.

She was known for her robust sense of humor and spirited involvement in the Montebello apartments where she made a lasting impression on her many friends. Gladys is survived by her sister Marilyn, her son Jeffrey, two grandchildren, a great grandson, and five nieces and nephews. Gladys was affiliated with two organizations for needy children that are appropriate for donations in her name: Community Partners for Children, based in Alexandria (<http://cpc.wildapricot.org>) and the USDAN Center for the Creative and Performing Arts (specifically to the Arnold P. Hruska Scholarship) <http://www.usdan.com/financialaid/>.

FROM PAGE 5

Bank Makes Donation to Police Foundation

\$6,500 raised for Fallen Officers Memorial.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Officials from John Marshall Bank gathered Jan. 30 to present a check for \$6,500 to Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook and Police Foundation Chairman Willem Polak to go towards the building of a Fallen Officers Memorial at APD headquarters.

"This is a worthy cause for our fallen heroes," said John Marshall Bank Alexandria Regional Executive Ted Johnson. "It's something that should be completed and accomplished for the community."

The funds were raised through a golf tournament held last fall at Old Hickory Country Club in Woodbridge. "We are grateful to Ted and everyone at John Marshall Bank," Polak said in accepting the check. "With the help and generosity of community businesses like John Marshall Bank, we are confident that we will see the completion of a long overdue memorial honoring our fallen officers." For more information on the Fallen Officers Memorial, visit www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Police Foundation Chairman Willem Polak and Police Chief Earl Cook, at left, accept a check for \$6,500 from John Marshall Bank executives Ted Johnson, Charlie Collum and Shannon Catlett Jan. 30 at the new South Washington Street branch in Old Town. The foundation is raising funds for a Fallen Officers Memorial.

needs of a rising school enrollment. The first large scale project is at Patrick Henry Elementary School, where school leaders are still trying to figure out if they should demolish and start over or renovate the existing structure. Whatever they decide, funding for the \$41.5 million project is expected to start this year. The second is a new school building for Cora Kelly, a \$28.5 million project that would open in 2020. A third large-scale project in the capital-improvement program would be to build a brand new elementary school at a site that has yet to be selected. The cost for that is expected to be \$52.4 million, and it would open in 2023.

"We still need to determine where the trends are leaning in terms of whether it should be an east side school or a west side school," said School Board member Bill Campbell, whose district is on the east side. "It will probably be on the west side."

At the end of his presentation to School Board members last week, Crawley warned that funding less than his request would mean cuts to instructional supports and services to schools. He also suggested that might mean increased class size. School Board members have a number of work sessions before they vote for a budget on March 6.


"When facing increasing enrollments, aging facilities and a need to support and challenge all students now more than ever before, we have put our money behind our commitments," concluded Crawley. "Moving the division forward in preparing students for the 21st century is our goal in developing this budget."



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Few Thoughts on General Assembly Action

Yes, allow homeschool students access to programs in public schools.

It's possible that this is not the right bill exactly, and in general, we favor local control. But it is wrongheaded of public schools to force families into a take-it-or-leave-it position.

Families that homeschool their children are likely saving localities more than \$10,000 a year in operating costs and take some pressure off overcrowded schools. It makes sense that these students should not only have access to sports, if they can meet the requirements, but they should also have access to other extracurricular activities and even some classes.

Public schools need to provide for the best for all students in their jurisdiction.

This is HB63.

Are We Barbarians?

Testimony stated that on occasion the clothing of the person in the electric chair would burst into flames and the man throwing the switch for an execution feared the person being executed might burst into flames as well.

There have been problems acquiring the

drugs needed for lethal injection for execution, so the Virginia House of Delegates passed the following: HB1052 Method of execution. Provides that if the Director of the Department of Corrections certifies that lethal injection is not available as a method of execution, electrocution shall be used instead. House: VOTE: PASSAGE (64-Y 32-N)

How local Northern Virginia delegates voted:

YEAS: Albo, Comstock, Hugo, LeMunyon and Rust.

NAYS: Brink, Bulova, Filler-Corn, Herring, Hope, Keam, Kory, Krupicka, Lopez, Plum, Sickles, Simon, Surovell and Watts.

EDITORIALS

Please No Hunting On Sundays

For those who enjoy a hike or a ride through the Virginia countryside, it's good to know that on Sundays during hunting season, one can still enjoy the outdoors without worrying about being mistaken for a deer. On Saturdays, vigilance, bright colors, loud talking and sometimes even jingle bells hung on clothing or saddles helps provide a sense of safety. This bill already passed the House of Delegates, and will likely proceed in the Senate.

Send Photos for Pet Gazette

The Pet Connection, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish Feb. 26.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute? Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your

pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog? Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets and tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

Submissions should arrive by Feb. 19.

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets/.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Cranky Outliers?'

To the Editor:

Over the years that the waterfront plan has been super-sized and pushed through, Mayor Euille has consistently downgraded anyone with different ideas. He and his allies on the council have successfully framed those with views and motivations other than theirs as cranky outliers. This turned a public discus-

sion with serious input from some of our most caring and knowledgeable residents into a lopsided, personal, grudge match.

Why not serve the people who will be impacted the most, and those throughout the city who agree with them? Ugly warehouses once blocked out the sun here. That's no excuse to do it again.

It's depressing to watch this thing unfold. It seems that maximizing profits for some indi-

viduals is the most powerful influence, while shared values of scale and function honed by long experience are allowed no influence.

Kathleen Kust
Alexandria

Define 'Boutique'

To the Editor:

The City Council's hearing on the Carr Hotel was a joke. When a developer can essentially threaten the city that he won't build a hotel at the 220 South Union site unless it has 120 rooms, then we are in deep trouble. Apparently Carr and the city staff do not want to denigrate Carr's projected return on investment (ROI) and that means 120 rooms or Carr walks away from the deal. In my opinion let them walk, walk, walk.

The mass, shape and scale are not reflective of the 19th century warehouse that was intended for this location. It is too large for the site. It needs to be scaled way back to reflect a real boutique hotel like the Morrison House (45 rooms). While they are at it, the city needs to redefine what a real boutique hotel is and it's not 150 rooms, it's a lot less. They should be planning for about 50 or so rooms in this small space. In other words keep the height down to around 30 feet and the floor area ratio between 1 and 2. This is a historic city and this building needs to reflect that.

Since this development is the first one out of the gate since the city recently passed the Wa

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STEVEN C. ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

terfront Plan it needs to done right. Otherwise the other developments to follow will also be overly dense and result in real eysores. The proposed architecture is seedy at best. The building looks like an oversized jail. The council spent 90 percent of their discussion time before voting in trying to make a number of cosmetic changes to the building, but not once did they discuss the mass and scale of this oversized monstrosity. Density is all they care about as it yields the greatest dollar pay-back in tax revenues. How it fits in historically is totally ignored.

This decision by council is right in tune with all the other poor decisions they have made in the last couple of years. The only council member who has voted the right way on every new development is Allison Silberberg. It is a shame she was not at the hearing on the Carr Hotel as the vote would have been 6-1 and not 6-0. Not a win either way but a message

**Townsend A. "Van"
Van Fleet**
Alexandria

Protecting Public's Health

To the Editor:

We all spend more time than we'd like thinking about traffic – whether we can avoid it, how late we'll be because of it – but one thing we all probably overlook is how gridlock affects our lungs. Our perpetually busy roadways mean that we're constantly pumping out pollution, like the kind that contributes to soot and smog.

The good news is that there's a cost-effective way to significantly reduce the asthma attacks, ER visits, and even premature deaths that vehicle pollution causes. The U.S. EPA has proposed standards that would clean up gasoline and make future vehicles less polluting. Automakers, public health groups, and environmental groups are now calling on EPA to finalize the standards into law by the end of February so that they can start saving lives as soon as possible.

Congressman Moran recently added his voice to help get this proposal over the finish line. He was one of 41 members of the House of Representatives to sign a letter to EPA asking them to make cleaner gasoline and vehicles a reality. I'm glad to see my congressman stand up for his constituents and their health.

Sean Holihan
Alexandria

More and More New Residents

To the Editor:

Old Town Alexandria's build out can only be called volcanic. Rated the densest city in Virginia for the past 10 years, Alexandria's dubious distinction has new meaning. Old Town alone will experience an estimated 72 percent increase in population when all the approved and anticipated construction is complete. All these new people

will be occupying the same space we now live in, drive on same streets, rely on the same waterlines, and contribute to an already overloaded combined sewer system.

The city's own web information and that of various business publications show that Old Town is not only dense, it is so hardscaped that the National Flood Insurance Program rating has downgraded stormwater management and open space preservation. Mitigating the effects of stormwater run-

off and replacing the decrepit combined sewer system in Old Town will not go forward with the build out, but lag behind it for several years. It's fair to say we can anticipate many more water main breaks, rats in our toilets, sewer gas in our basements, and flooding on Union Street and other low lying areas.

It's time to make some contingency plans and anticipate the impact or simply limit the density levels of each development. In particular areas adjacent to the

waterfront will bear the brunt of this massive, rapid construction boom. The ARHA property selloff and development alone will contribute an estimated 1,700 new residents on the blocks directly behind Oronoco Bay Park. This is also very near the future site of the hotel, restaurant, residences, and retail expected to replace the now low impact Robinson Terminal North site. The combined sewer system for most of this new development property empties into

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

THE PLACE-TO-BE
FEBRUARY 8TH 2PM
-to-
5PM

If your taste can be best characterized as "3D" - Discerning, Distinguished and Discriminating - you will not want to miss the unveiling of our exquisite new townhome model at Potomac Yard in Alexandria. To help us celebrate, we've invited accomplished chef Harper McClure (Chef de Cuisine, Brabo) to present a cooking demonstration in our gourmet inspired kitchen.

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Speak Up for Pollution Restrictions

BY U.S. REP. JIM MORAN (D-8)
AND MADISON POCHE,
ENVIRONMENT
VIRGINIA FIELD ASSOCIATE

Virginia is not immune to the dangers of climate change. In recent years, we have seen the damage sea level rise and storm surges have caused in our lowland areas. The science is clear that we must cut carbon to the levels scientists say are safe to address these issues.

Notably, coal-fired power plants are the single largest source of both air and water pollution in this country. These power plants are responsible for over half the toxic pollution dumped into our rivers, lakes and streams every year, impairing hundreds of bodies of water across the country annually. Additionally, 40 percent of our country's carbon pollution, fueling irreversible global climate change, comes from these sources. By Environment Virginia calculations in a report issued last year, Virginia power plants contribute as much carbon pollution as adding 7.1 million cars to our roads in one year.

Right now, we have a great opportunity for action. As President Obama reiterated in his State of the Union address, his administration is setting the first standards to limit the amount of carbon pollution power plants are allowed to dump into the air, and Virginia now has a governor ready to implement these historic standards.

Unfortunately, outside groups and Tea Party extremists aim to block any action on

climate change. These campaigns have adopted the strategy the tobacco industry used to block regulation of cigarettes, employing a misinformation campaign to confuse the issue and scare people with exaggerations, this time on job losses and sky rocketing electric bills. Despite all of this, poll after poll shows that the public favors climate action. Virginian voters support cutting carbon pollution from power plants two to one.

Avoiding commonsense standards on the carbon pollution is not only a public health risk, but it also erodes the innovation and economic benefits of taking action. States that get out early and embrace new technologies to replace coal and fossil fuels with cleaner alternatives are in the best position to prosper from the changes. We can look to other states already training their workforce for our clean-energy future to implement best practices.

Since 1970, every \$1 in investment in compliance with Clean Air Act standards has produced \$4-8 in economic benefits.

According to a recent analysis by the Natural Resources Defense Council and business and labor groups, cutting carbon pollution from power plants will add over 200,000 new jobs and save American families an average of \$0.90 a month on their electric bills.

To address climate change in the long-term, we need policies that put a price on carbon, like a carbon tax, and the only way we will create a majority in Congress ready to address climate change is for members to hear from their constituents.

Right now, Virginian residents, local businesses and elected officials are taking action by highlighting the effects climate change is having on our community and by encouraging other Virginians to support the Obama Administration's effort to cut carbon emissions. The recently proposed limits on carbon pollution for new power plants are now in the Federal Register and open for comment from the public until March 10. We hope that all Virginians share their opinion with EPA as well.

Free Seminar Addresses Heart Health

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO, RN, FACHE
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL

Every February we're reminded of our hearts. From chocolate-filled candies and roses of red, Valentine's Day observances and National Heart Month remind us of the important role our hearts play in our lives, emotionally and physically. But for Inova Alexandria Hospital's Chief of Cardiac Surgery Dr. Linda Bogar, matters of the heart are a passion she shares with our patients every day of the year.



"There is nothing more exciting than seeing a heart beat in front of you," says Dr. Bogar, a board-certified thoracic surgeon. She first felt that excitement in high school after volunteering at a local hospital. That experience sealed the deal on a future in medicine, prompting her to leave behind her original dream of becoming a Radio City Music Hall Rockette! "I realized I couldn't sing and Broadway wasn't going to be an option," she said, adding, "My personality is better suited for surgery."

Since then, Dr. Bogar has dedicated herself to mending damaged hearts and educating others about lifestyle changes that promote heart health. Yet even after 13 years in practice, there remain many more hearts to heal. Today, nearly 84 million Americans live with some form of cardiovascular disease or the after-effects of stroke, according to the American Heart Association.

Indeed, heart disease is a killer. It accounts for one out of every six U.S. deaths. Yet, Dr. Bogar says there's much you can do to reduce your risk and prolong your life, including:

- ❖ Get fit — Set a goal to lose those extra pounds that are putting an extra strain on your heart. Regular exercise can also help lower blood pressure and reduce the amount of artery-clogging fat in your blood.

- ❖ Eat right — Commit to a heart-healthy diet. Choose foods that are low in animal fats. Avoid high-sodium foods, which make your body retain fluid and your heart work harder. Consume more fruits and vegetables.

- ❖ Quit smoking — Smokers have twice the risk of non-smokers of getting heart disease. Nicotine narrows your blood vessels, making your heart work harder to get oxygen-rich blood. Commit to quit.

She'll share these and more tips about Staying Heart Healthy, including treatment options, in a free seminar at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, at the Beatley Library at 5005 Duke St. in Alexandria. Bring your questions and get advice about changes you can make to show your heart some love. Register at inova.org/asktheexpert or call 1-855-MyInova. For additional heart information, go to inova.org/heart.

Transfer of Power in Senate

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

The Virginia Senate underwent a significant transfer of power last week following the elections of Senators Jennifer Wexton (D-Loudoun) and Lynwood Lewis (D-Accomack). The Senate is again evenly split 20-20 — as it was before the 2013 statewide elections. However, Lt. Governor Ralph Northam (D) gives Democrats a crucial tie-breaking vote and control of the chamber. On Tuesday, we Democrats moved to change the committee chairmanships and compositions to reflect our new majority. This means the Senate will now offer a counterbalance to the sharply conservative House of Delegates.

As a result of the transfer of power, I have been given two additional committee assignments. I now serve on the Commerce and Labor Committee, which considers critical issues involving economic development. I have also become a member of the Privileges and Elections Committee, which hears legislation regarding voting access and constitutional amendments. I remain on the General Laws and Technology Committee as well as the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. While I expect this docket to keep me quite busy, these committees greatly impact the overall direction of the Commonwealth and I look forward to delving further into these important topics.

This is the final week before the Feb. 11 Crossover, the date by which each legislative chamber must complete work on its own bills and thereafter only consider bills passed by the other body. Most of my bills have advanced through committees and the full Senate, but there are a few which still need to be voted before next week's deadline.



RICHMOND
REPORT

One such bill would establish a pilot mental health program in the Virginia Community College System. I introduced legislation that would provide counseling services at four campuses around the state. Given the rash of violent tragedies at colleges around the state, I hope that access to mental health care will reduce the loss of life and improve the quality of life for many students. I am pleased to report that this bill was unanimously passed out of the Senate Education and Health Committee. It will now be considered by the Senate Finance Committee.

Thanks to all who attended the Lee District Legislative Town Hall Meeting last Saturday with Senators Toddy Puller and George Barker, Del. Mark Sickles and Supervisor Jeff McKay.

For those who could not make it to that one, there will be another meeting for Alexandria and Arlington residents on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Charles Houston Recreation Center (905 Wythe Street, Alexandria, 22314.) Del. Rob Krupicka and I will be there to brief attendees on the legislative session and answer questions.

If you're in Richmond between now and March 8, please stop by my office and see me. You can also email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov or call 804-698-7530 with your thoughts on legislation or state-related matters. I am active on Facebook and Twitter (@AdamEbbin).

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Oronoco Bay Park.

The names of these developments are familiar by now: the Health Center Building, Harris Teeter store and apartments, the Madison, 515 N. Washington, the Oronoco, and scattered developments totaling about 2,200 new residents. Even before the cold weather stressed water lines, Old Town suffered three water main breaks in the short period of a month. In a downpour the drainage system is overwhelmed and trash floats in the streets.

The impact of adding almost 4,000 new residents to Old Town ... now 5,500 residents ... is alarming. The fact that the city is very aggressively pursuing a tourist campaign and waterfront "activation" program to bring in extra bodies with no capacity planning studies is just irresponsible. What is urban planning for but to ensure that the people who live there enjoy a high quality of life, one that creates a stable community?

So far, the piece meal mushrooming of whole-block build outs has masked the effects, but the waterfront and ARHA property developments have made it impossible to deny the reality. We may have a Master Plan but it has never been informed by a capacity and infrastructure plan. The base of the pyramid is built of clay.

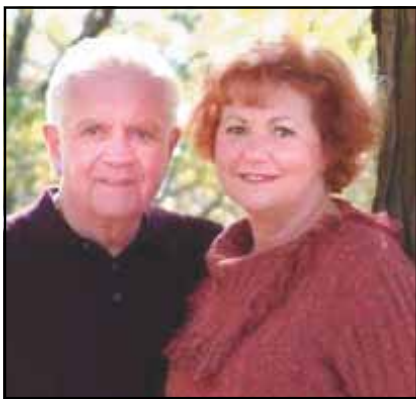
Kathryn Papp

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9309 Reef Ct
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 Exceptionally attractive property on magnificent half acre grounds fronting quiet cul-de-sac in one of area's premier neighborhoods. Special features include: 3LVL, 4BR, 2.5BA, family room with FP off kitchen, gorgeous stained hwdw flrs, economical gas heat and hot water, and oversize 2 car garage. Major upgrades include thermal windows and glass doors. Unique opportunity! **OPEN SUN 2/9, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing; R-Tarpon; R-Coral; R-Reef.**

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1503 River Farm Dr
\$1,295,000
Grand Colonial Minutes from Old Town!
 Best price for estate caliber residence in highly sought after GW Pkwy area! Special home custom designed to capitalize on its park like setting and seasonal River views. Special features include 3 finished levels, w/o LL, 5BR with dual master suites, library, sunroom, open kitchen to family room, expansive glass walls, multi-deck and amazing 4 car garage. Combo of size, features & location add up to a truly unique value! **OPEN SUN 2/9, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-River Farm Dr.**

8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd
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Large Home- Totally Updated!
 One of a kind compound consisting of a luxurious 5645 sq ft home and a totally remodeled and updated 2BR cottage. Ideal situation for home office or extended family. New home has everything including 6BR, 7BA, custom kitchen open to family room, large living and dining rooms, main level study, stunning master suite, finished lower level and 3 car garage. Most house & lot for \$\$ in Mt. Vernon!

JUST LISTED **CONTRACT**

9410 Coral Ln
\$649,500
Yacht Haven- Near River!
 A truly spectacular updated property! Personal residence of interior designer provides custom detail and level of finishes rarely found in this price range. Features include open floor plan, chef's kit, 3 luxury baths, 4-5BR and the most amazing oversize 2 car garage you'll ever find! Easy walk to Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Unique opportunity to acquire home with top of the line custom features.

JUST LISTED **SOLD!**

4325 Adrienne Dr
\$598,950
Southwood Gem!
 Gorgeous home and grounds, fabulous 4BR Colonial in pristine condition with many major updates including expanded gourmet kitchen w/custom cabinetry,ilestone counters, stainless appliances and large breakfast area. Other features: hwdw floors, family room with fireplace, thermal windows and two car garage. Beautiful grounds with brick walk, stone patio & magnificent landscaping. Nothing like it for under \$600,000!

CONTRACT

9009 Captains Row
\$665,000
Great Opportunity!
 Stately columned residence in prime location on prestigious Captains Row at exceptionally competitive price! Large 5BR, 3BA home with many significant updated items. Special features: updated kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counters, custom trim detail, stained hardwood floors, master with updated bath, 2 fireplaces, gas heat & hot water. Oversize 2 car garage and custom 2 level deck. Priced to sell!

JUST LISTED **SOLD!**

9305 Allwood Ct
\$519,500
Stunning Value- Huge Potential!
 Spacious home with two car garage on quiet cu-de-sac in prime Mt. Vernon location! Features include 3 finished levels, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings, hwdw flrs, updatd kitchen and large bedrooms. Check the comps- nothing provides the combination of house and lot size in this premier location for close to this price!

JUST LISTED **SOLD!**

1938 Shiver Dr
\$625,000
Totally Updated!
 Truly stunning home in prime "close-in" location! Fab features include columned front portico, bright-open floor plan, gourmet kit with custom white cabinets, SS appli, gas cooktop, soapstone countertop & large island. Other features include "Pella" replacement windows, hardwood floors, 2 FPs, 3 full baths, & gorgeous professionally landscaped grounds. All the work has been-just move in & enjoy!

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Enjoy the pretty front lawn of this spacious, updated TH with a fabulous 2-story addition! Stylish kitchen and baths are totally renovated. Oversized kitchen has SS appliances, island, and granite. Large backyard offers endless potential for entertaining plus off-street parking. Buy now and move in just in time for DC's spring blossoms. 2BR/2BA

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350

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Alexandria

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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

\$849,000
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"HEART OF OLD TOWN"

First time on market in 22 years! Charming 4BR home with deeded off-street parking in rear. Beautiful formal LR and DR with classic architectural details. High ceilings, wood floors, 3 wood-burning fireplaces. Family room off kitchen opens to deck and garden - perfect for entertaining.

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Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

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Alexandria
1014 PRINCE ST

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Alexandria
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RENTALS

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 River Towers Hi-Rise 2BR / 1.5BA
 Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

114 Roberts Ln #301 \$2,100
 Ft. Ellsworth Garden 2BR / 2BA 2 Assigned Pkg
 Deborah Alea 703.447.1315

320 S West St #105 \$3,150
 Duke Condominium Garden 2BR / 2BA 1 Garage & 1 Assigned
 Don Hatley, Jr. 202.329.6818

1200 N St, NW \$2,200
 The Mondrian Hi-Rise 1BR / 1BA 1 Garage Pkg
 Georgia McLaughlin 703.628.4663

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$554,000
Alex. / Porto Vecchio
1250 S WASHINGTON #404

Exceptional Value! Stop by to see this spacious 2BR residence and the beautiful, elegant renovated lobby and River Room. Updated kitchen, formal dining room and living room. Beautiful sunset views. Pretty open balcony with columns. Larger units also available.

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Ella' Has Scatititude

MetroStage production runs through March 16.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was 1934 when an orphaned 15-year-old girl won an amateur talent contest at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. That fateful night, Ella Fitzgerald made a last-minute decision to sing rather than dance when she took to the stage, launched a new era of jazz that is immortalized in the rousing musical "Ella: First Lady of Song," now playing at MetroStage.

Based on the book by Lee Summers and conceived and directed by Broadway royalty Maurice Hines, "Ella" takes the audience on a musical journey through the celebrated singer's life.

Set in Nice, France, in 1966, the intimate theater has been magically transformed into a concert hall where Ella is about to take the stage only days after the death of her half-sister Frances. The poignantly written script gives a glimpse into the private heartaches Ella endured on her road to stardom.

"There's only one woman who could do this role and that is Freda Payne."

— 'Ella' director Maurice Hines



Wynonna Smith as a young Ella Fitzgerald performing at the Apollo at age 15.

Taking on the daunting role of Ella is recording artist Freda Payne, best known for her 1970s hits "Band of Gold" and "Bring the Boys Home." Payne is dazzling in her portrayal of Ella in a toe-tapping, two-hour performance that brings the audience to its feet.

Displaying an immense range of both musical and dramatic talent, Payne tirelessly performs some 29 songs, including "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "The Man I Love," "Mr. Paganini," "Sweet Georgia Brown" and "A-Tisket, A-Tasket."



Freda Payne stars as Ella Fitzgerald in "Ella, First Lady of Song," playing now through March 16 at MetroStage.

"There is only one woman who could do this role and that is Freda Payne," Hines said following the Jan. 26 performance.

With a two-octave range, Payne also displays her astonishing talent for singing jazz — more specifically her ability to scat through a song in a way that all but brings Ella back to life. Her lower range resonates with a deep, rich gospel sound while her high notes are succinct, clear and spirited.

With musical direction and arrangements by William Knowles, Payne's vocals are accompanied by a five-piece band that is more than up to the task of recreating the big orchestra sound of the era.

Comprised of Doug Pierce on trumpet, Greg Holloway on drums, Yusef Chisholm on bass, Grant Langford on saxophone and

William Knowles on piano, the gifted musicians also have brief double-duty stints voicing various men in Ella's life.

The talented Tom Wiggins, best known as Kirk Anderson in the daytime soap opera "As the World Turns," portrays jazz impresario Norman Granz, Ella's manager and friend for what would turn out to be a nearly 40-year collaboration between manager and artist.

The award-winning Roz White is Ella's cousin and lifelong companion Georgiana with Broadway veteran Wynonna Smith doing double duty as Frances and the young Ella. Both add their soaring vocals to lush orchestrations

by Frank Owens.

Adding to the transformation of the former lumber warehouse are sets designed by Carl Gudenus, lighting by Alexander Keen and costumes by Scotty Sherman.

Under the direction of Hines, MetroStage has perfectly combined the excitement of an Ella concert with the poignant tale of survival of the orphan from Harlem who would go on to win 13 Grammy Awards and sell more than 40 million records.

As Ira Gershwin famously said, "I never knew how good our songs were until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them."

"Ella: First Lady of Song" is playing now through March 16 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. For tickets or more information, call 703-5489044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. Artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display through January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Primary Colors" art exhibit from Jan. 3-Feb. 2 at The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists use the three primary colors without mixing them. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Theater Performance. See "The Ballad of the Red Knight" by Red Knight Productions at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Runs Jan. 24 through Feb. 8. Performances are Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. For tickets visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

Art Exhibit. The results of the latest art challenge issued by Artistic Artifacts, "Mixed Media Metallics," will be exhibited Jan. 18-Feb. 8. Many of the entries are included in a silent auction benefitting Food for Others. On display at Artistic Artifacts, 4750 Eisenhower Ave. Admission is one

non-perishable food item, which will be donated to Food for Others. Visit www.ArtisticArtifacts.com/metallics.

Art Exhibit. See a solo photographic exhibit "Darkness Visible" by Timothy Hyde at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 16. Hyde's photography examines the mysteries hidden in the shadows. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Theater Performance. Arts on the Horizon presents "Under the Canopy," a 20-minute interactive, nonverbal show for children up to age 4. Performances are Feb. 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21, 23 at 10:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$5/person. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets. They can be purchased at the door.

Celebrate Black History Month. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 1-28 at Mount Vernon Estate. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. A wreathlaying and presentation occurs daily at the slave memorial site throughout the month of February. Black History Month activities are included in admission: adults, \$18; senior citizens, \$17; children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$9; and children under age 5, free. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-

2000.

Art Exhibit. See "Reincarnations" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features art from salvaged items, art from encyclopedias and more. Free. Runs Feb. 7 through March 2. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Frances Gallardo: Meteorology" Jan. 18 through March 2 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints by Chantilly resident Peter Toth in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs Feb. 7 through March 16. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

Art Exhibit. See Katie Runnerstrom's drawings and paintings through March 16 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The show reflects her exploration of several areas of science such as mycology and the study of jellyfish. Free. Visit nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Theater Performance. See "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., from Jan. 23-March 16. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets may be ordered by calling 1-800-494-8497 or online at

boxofficetickets.com. For group sales and information call the theatre at 703-548-9044. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See "7th and H Streets, NW: The Hidden Refrain of Inner City DC" by Fred Zafran at Multiple Exposures Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Feb. 18-March 30. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/ for more.

Art Exhibit. "Portraits of Pop Culture" art exhibit will be on display at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see artists' interpretation of pop culture, featuring compelling cartoons, lampoons and caricatures of celebrities, politicians, pundits and other pop figures. Show runs March 7-30. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

New Exhibit. Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington's design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, "Gardens & Groves: George Washington's Landscape" at Mount Vernon opening Feb. 22 through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington's landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Metro Club After-School Program.

Through June, 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.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Just drop-in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 18

Warm Their Heart!

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the Romance of Italy

Three-course Dinner with Champagne or House Wine
A Red Rose and Chocolates for the Couple

Live Entertainment

David Redskin at the piano with Mike Blaney the singer and some songs by the singing Chef Franco

7:00-11:00 P.M.
February 14th
Valentine's Day

Special Menu Includes:

- Linguini Mare Nostrum
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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Perry Conner, Ian Lloyd, Kent Jenkins, Luis Milburn, and Auggie Koch are nominated for a Best New Artist Wammie Award as Fuse Box, an Alexandria-based rock band.

Alexandria Teens Nominated For Best New Artist Wammie

Fuse Box, an Alexandria-based rock band made up of five area high school students, has been nominated for Best New Artist in Washington Area Music Association's annual Wammie Awards. The five members of Fuse Box, who include students at Alexandria's St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School and T.C. Williams High School, released their first recording in 2013, a self-titled collection of six original songs, and recently played Vienna's Jammin' Java. Fuse Box's members include three students at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes - senior Auggie Koch on bass, junior Ian Lloyd on lead guitar, and senior Luis Milburn on rhythm guitar and drums - and one student at T.C. Williams - junior Perry Connor on keyboards and rhythm guitar. The band also includes lead singer and drummer Kent Jenkins, a junior at Sidwell Friends School in the District. To hear Fuse Box's songs and catch videos of the band in concert, visit www.FuseBoxBand.net. Vote in the fan favorite award category at www.wamadc.com/wama/fanform.htm by noon on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Dance Classes. Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, #4, will hold adult classes starting in February. Ten percent of the fees will be donated to American Heart Association. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org or 703-339-0444 for a schedule.

CONTEST

Spotlight on Pet Adoptions. From Jan. 27 to Feb. 14, ACTion Alexandria is holding a photo contest for animal lovers in Alexandria. Participants are asked to post a photo of their adopted pet on ACTion with a short description of their pet. All contest participants are encouraged to sign up to be a Social Media Animal Ambassador for an animal who has been in either King Street Cats or the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria for a longer period of time. To participate visit actionalexandria.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

Free Frozen Yogurt. From noon-9 p.m. at Menchie's Pinecrest Plaza, 6550 Little River Turnpike. Print off a coupon at facebook.com/mymenchies and bring it in for a free six-ounce cup of frozen yogurt. Valid only on that day. Visit www.menchies.com for more.

Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. "How France Embraced and Rejected American Values." Free, donations accepted. Visit www.alexandriacaen.wordpress.com for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Vanessa Carlton with Patrick Sweany will perform. Rescheduled, all tickets from Oct. 17 will be honored. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

Opening Reception. 7-10 p.m. see "Reincarnations" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features art from salvaged items, art from encyclopedias and more. Free. Runs Feb. 7 through March 2. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. meet Chantilly resident Peter Toth, artist of "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Arlo Guthrie continues his tribute to Woody's 100th birthday. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Barnes & Noble Bookfair. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Support Jefferson-Houston PTA while enjoying student performances, book readings and crafts. Visit bn.com/bookfairs and enter ID #11271368 if you would like to support the school online.

Talk. 10 a.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327. Former AAC chair, Jack Hranicky, will present an overview of the Arkfeld paleosite which offers an insight to the pre-Clovis time periods in Virginia and the eastern U.S. The discussion will include the toolmaking stations and the clay-fired figurines found at this Pleistocene site. Free. 703-746-4399.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. Noon-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Enjoy a re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay, displays,

discussions and more. Includes audience participation. \$6/person. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Civil War Recruiting Day. 1-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Meet soldiers and civilians of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K. There will be demonstrations and information about how to become a re-enactor. Free. Snow day is Feb. 22. Visit www.fortward.org or 703-746-4848.

Closing Reception and Silent Auction. 3-8 p.m. bid on some of the entries from "Mixed Media Metallics." Proceeds benefit Food for Others. On display at Artistic Artifacts, 4750 Eisenhower Ave. Admission is one non-perishable food item, which will be donated to Food for Others. Visit www.ArtisticArtifacts.com/metallics for more.

Teen Production. 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See MVCCT's production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." \$12. Visit mvcct.org for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Arlo Guthrie continues his tribute to Woody's 100th birthday. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Valentine Card-Making Party. Noon-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free, but a donation for a make-and-take card is requested. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Book Launch. 1 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Mark Twain in Washington: The Adventures of a Capital Correspondent" by John Muller. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Downton Abbey Tours. 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The current owner of Highclere Castle, the real world castle where Downton Abbey is filmed, is a direct descendent of the original owner of Lee-Fendall House. The tour will compare similarities between people and places within the world of the television series and those of Lee-Fendall House and also include the rarely seen servant's wing and kitchen area. \$5/advance; \$7/day of. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or 703-548-1789 for tickets.

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Eat period-inspired delicacies while enjoying tea and American Heritage Chocolate. A historic guest will be visiting. \$35/person and is all inclusive. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Teen Production. 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See MVCCT's production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." \$12. Visit mvcct.org for more.

Christie Dashiell. 6-9 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. The Hoop Academy Project presents an Evening with Christie Dashiell, accompanied by the Vaughn Ambrose Quartet. Proceeds benefit the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame Project. \$35 per person. Cash bar and full dinner menu available. Contact Julian Haley at 571-217-9951 or aaahalloffame13@gmail.com.

Music Performance. 6 p.m. in the chapel of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra will perform. Free.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount

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ENTERTAINMENT

Vernon Ave. Jeffrey Osborne will perform. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

MONDAY/FEB. 10

Book Making Celebration. 6:30 p.m. at John Adams Elementary, 5651 Rayburn Ave. Parents and children can create their own family history book.

TUESDAY/FEB. 11

Animal Benefit. 6 p.m. at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, 530 S. Saint Asaph St. Students will present piano, vocal and dance solos, Lego art displays and student-produced PowerPoints. Admission is a donation of cat/dog food, a pet care item or a monetary donation to the Animal Welfare League. Contact the school at 703-706-4430.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. Gino Vannelli will perform at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

THURSDAY/FEB. 13

Reception. 6-8 p.m., curator talk with Laura Roulet at 7 p.m. at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Book Making Celebration. 6 p.m. at Jefferson Houston School, 1501 Cameron St. Parents and children can create their own family history book.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Steve Earle will perform. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY/FEB. 14

Benefit. 3-7 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Browse chocolate, coffee, candles, jewelry and more. A percentage of sales will be donated to the Fair Trade Alexandria campaign. Visit www.fairtradecampaigns.org for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jake Armerding will open for Eddie from Ohio. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

George Washington's Birthnight Banquet and Ball. 5:30-11 p.m., with the ball to open at 9 p.m. in the ballroom at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. The re-creation celebrates the famous party held for Washington's birthday and includes dinner, dancing, desserts, character re-enactors and more. \$120/person or \$50/ball only. Ticket options for dining in a room or at the same table with the Washingtons. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jake Armerding will open for Eddie from Ohio. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Author Discussion. 10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria Archaeology, 105 N. Union St., #327. Meet authors Char McCargo Bah, Christa Watters, Audrey P. Davis, Gwendolyn Brown-Henderson and James E. Henson Sr. for a discussion of their new book. Experience the narratives of Alexandria's African Americans who helped to shape not only their hometown but also the world around them. Free.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'Much Ado About Nothing'

Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre presents the teen production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado about Nothing." Originally published in the 1600s with the main characters returning from war, director Heather Sanderson brings a fresh, updated version to the stage as she takes the MVCCT production into 1982 Italy as the characters return from the World Cup. Performances are Feb. 8, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 9 and 16 at 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Tickets are \$12 at the door. Visit www.mvctt.org.

George Washington's Birthday Celebration. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. There will be a hoecake judging contest and samples given out while supplies last, enjoy a dancing demonstration, stories, and more. Everything is included in admission \$18/adult; \$9/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Kim Allen Kluge presents "To Be Passionate," featuring works by Gershwin, Wagner, Debussy and more. \$5/18 and under; \$10/student; \$20+adult. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/ for tickets or 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

George Washington Classic 10K or 2K Fun Run. 8 a.m. at Eisenhower Ave. \$40/10K; \$10/2K. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday to register.

George Washington's Birthday Celebration. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. There will be a hoecake judging contest and samples given out while supplies last, enjoy a dancing demonstration, stories, and more. Everything is included in admission \$18/adult; \$9/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Revolutionary War Re-enactment. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Park. Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday for more.

George Washington Goes to the Theatre. 2 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Enjoy a community play reading of "Cato" by Joseph Addison, George Washington's favorite play. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday for more.

Downton Abbey Tours. 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The current owner of Highclere

Castle, the real world castle where Downton Abbey is filmed, is a direct descendant of the original owner of Lee-Fendall House. The tour will compare similarities between people and places within the world of the television series and those of Lee-Fendall House and also include the rarely seen servant's wing and kitchen area. \$5/advance; \$7/day of. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org or 703-548-1789 for tickets.

Madeira Tasting with President Washington. 3 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Taste four Madeira wines (George Washington's favorite drink) and get insight into their production plus food pairings. \$45. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday for more.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Kim Allen Kluge presents "To Be Passionate," featuring works by Gershwin, Wagner, Debussy and more. \$5/18 and under; \$10/student; \$20+adult. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/ for tickets or 703-548-0885.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform Rachmaninoff and more. Pre-concert discussion at 2:15 p.m. \$20/adult; free for children 18 and under. Visit www.wmpmusic.org or 703-799-8229.

Documentary. 6:30 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Watch a free documentary of "Dark Side of Chocolate." Visit www.tenthousandvillages.com or www.darksideofchocolate.org.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Singer-songwriters Julie Clark and Lara Herscovitch will perform. \$18/general; \$15/advance or member. Visit www.focusmusic.org or 703-380-3151.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jake Armerding will open for Eddie from Ohio. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

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OPINION

The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. To learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>

From a Mentor's Perspective

By JENNIFER LEMMERT

"I can't do it!" Daniel cried in frustration. "Spelling is too hard!" His tears surprised me. The leaders at Casa Chirilagua, who introduced me to Daniel, warned me that he was full of energy (and he was) but he had never gotten so upset before.

"Look," I assured him. "You're a better speller than a lot of adults I know. We just have to keep practicing."

After several more months of hard work, Daniel showed me his first A+ spelling test. I still have a picture of him with that test, his wide smile missing several baby teeth. He was so proud of himself.

Daniel Cruz is a fifth grader at Mount Vernon Community School: "Every week, Ms. Jen and I do my homework and read. We do math flashcards too. We read 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid,' 'Franny K. Stein' and 'Big Nate' books. I have been working with Ms. Jen since first grade. We have done special things like going ice skating, going to the zoo, getting ice cream, going to the Spy Museum and laser tagging. From Ms. Jen, I learned about samurais, spies and dinosaurs on our special trips."

My journey as a mentor began in early 2010. I felt called to become more involved in the local community and I have always had a passion for helping kids in need.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mentor Jennifer Lemmert with Daniel Cruz.

When I heard about Casa Chirilagua's mission in our community, I knew this was the path that I should take. I pictured my future mentee as a quiet, sweet girl who loved reading and getting straight A's. Imagine my surprise when I met Daniel, a very rambunctious first grader who loved comic books, soccer and clowning around.

It's hard to believe that nearly four years have passed and he's now in 5th grade. Inspired by his teachers, Daniel has developed a renewed love of learning this school year. Recently, he completed his long division homework right as his favorite math teacher passed by the library window where we

SEE BEING A MENTOR, PAGE 26

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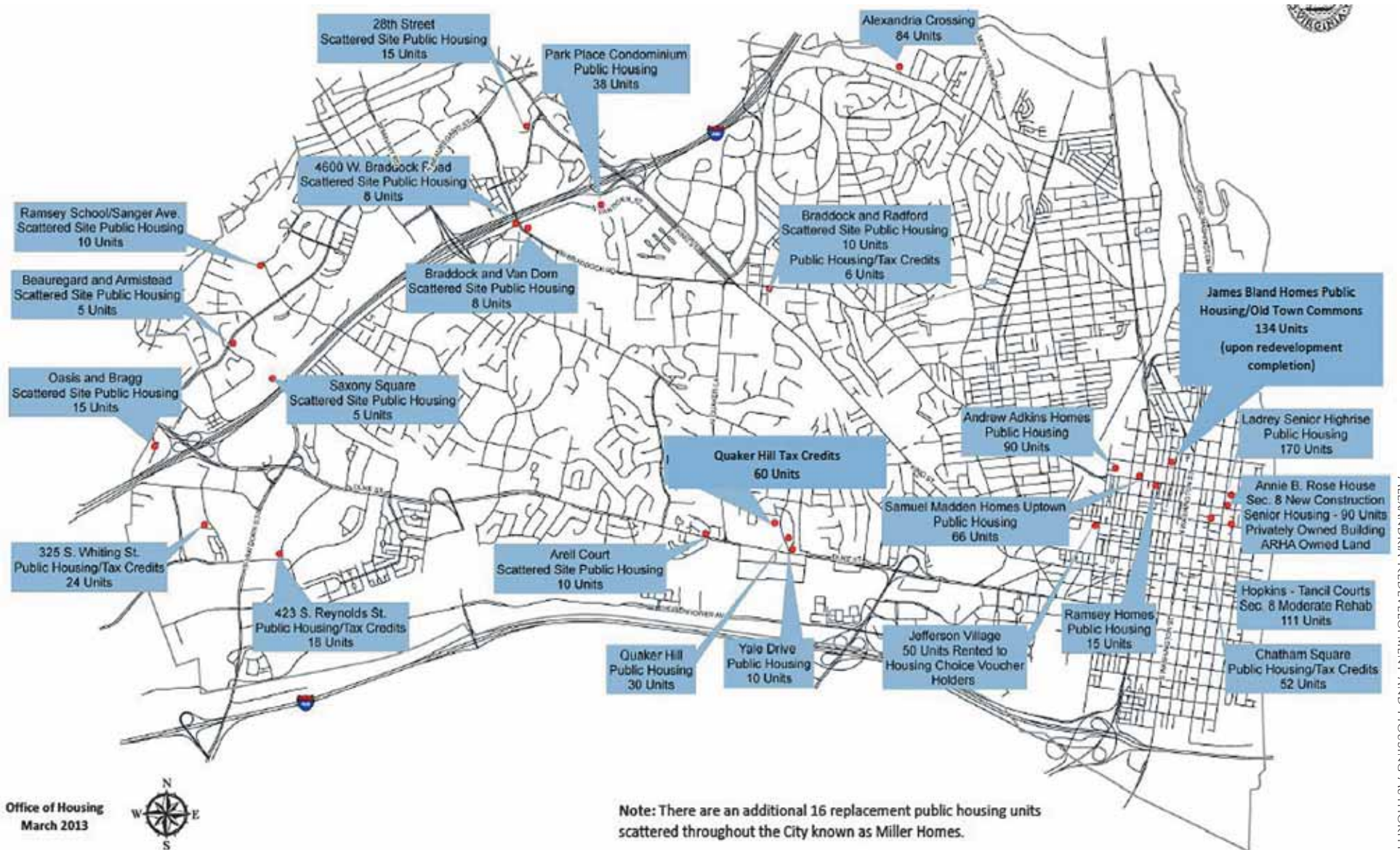


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Alexandria Gazette Packet



Office of Housing
March 2013

Note: There are an additional 16 replacement public housing units scattered throughout the City known as Miller Homes.

ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

ARHA Considers Redeveloping Seven of Its Properties

FROM PAGE 1

of our residents,” said Christopher Ballard, former chairman of the authority. “Once we get responses back from the development community, we’ll be able to better prioritize.”

REDEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC housing has been a source of ongoing controversy over the last decade. The trend began with the old Samuel Madden Downtown, a public-housing complex known locally as “the Berg” — a derivative of Petersburg, where many of the residents had roots. The public-housing complex was the childhood home of Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille and Police Chief Earl Cook, both of whom have streets named after them now that the property has been redeveloped into Chatham Square.

“It brought me to tears when they said they were naming a street in my honor,” said Euille in 2004, when the streets were dedicated. “It’s one thing to be mayor of this wonderful city. But it’s quite another to have something so lasting named for you.”

Redeveloping ARHA

- ❖ Ladrey Senior Highrise: 170 units
- ❖ Hopkins-Tancil Courts: 111 units
- ❖ Andrew Adkins: 90 units
- ❖ Alexandria Crossing: 84 units
- ❖ Samuel Madden Uptown: 66 units
- ❖ Jefferson Village: 50 units

About half of the public-housing units at the Berg were replaced at Chatham Square. The rest were located in other parts of the city. More recently, the James Bland public-

“This city once had a vibrant African-American community centered around the Berg and Ladrey and the northside projects, and now you have people scattered 10 units here and 10 units there.”

— Jon Liss, executive director, Tenants and Workers United

lic-housing complex was demolished in the Parker Gray neighborhood. Once again, about half the units were replaced on site and the rest were scattered through other parts of the city. That’s a strategy that could play out again at properties such as the Ladrey Senior Center or Hopkins-Tancil Courts, which are prime spots for redevelopment. Critics say this has decimated a

once-thriving black community. “This city once had a vibrant African-American community centered around the Berg and Ladrey and the northside projects, and now you have people scattered 10 units here and 10 units there,” said Jon Liss, executive director of Tenants and Workers United. “Even when they live in the middle of the redeveloped Berg, they get harassed by their more affluent neighbors. So we’ve really seen a destruction of both affordable housing and a vibrant black community.”

A CITY ORDINANCE known as Resolution 830 requires that all public-housing units that are destroyed be re-

placed, a one-for-one ratio that legally binds the city to find housing for all current residents. But that’s a transition that is worrisome to some.

When the first James Bland units were demolished, for example, many say they were not given timely notice. An advocacy group known as Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement worked

with residents for more than a year to get moving expenses.

“In the first phase of James Bland, a lot of residents were very frustrated that they were asked to move in November and December,” said Jennifer Knox, an organizer with VOICE. “That might have worked well for the developer, but it didn’t work well for families — especially families with kids who would have to change school systems.”

The juxtaposition of low-end residents and high-end townhouses is supposed to create a rising tide of opportunity, a theory supporters call “scattered site housing.” The idea is that instead of concentrating public housing in one part of the city, it’s spread out in different areas. Ideally, the concept is supposed to work both ways. Public-housing residents are supposed to learn from their market-rate neighbors and vice versa. Meanwhile, the persistent problems with crime caused by concentrating public-housing units in one place are supposed to disappear as the city adopts a new philosophy.

“There could be townhomes and condominiums and apartments, and so I don’t think it will be one product type that we do hundreds of times that delivers at the exact same time,” said Ballard. “The reality is that there will be a natural progression through the sites.”

SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

T.C. Williams junior Jordan Mambert performs her floor routine at the Conference 7 gymnastics championship meet on Jan. 31 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams gymnastics team won the Conference 7 championship on Jan. 31. Gymnasts pictured from left: Jordan Mambert, Grace Girard, Holland Cathey and Cailyn Lager.

TC Gymnastics Wins Conference 7 Championship

School's first full gymnastics team since early 1980s produces title.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

With the T.C. Williams gymnastics team in the midst of a dominant performance during the Conference 7 meet, athletic director Steve Colantuoni said the school doesn't have a championship-recognition banner for the gymnastics program hanging in the gym. After all, T.C. Williams hadn't fielded a complete gymnastics team since the early 1980s.

After the Titans' performance on Jan. 31, Colantuoni will need to consider an addition to the gym wall.

Fielding its first complete team in three decades, T.C. Williams captured the Conference 7 championship at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Titans produced a score of 143.45, comfortably ahead of second-place Woodson's score of 132.9. The Titans finished with the top score in three of four events and finished second to Woodson on floor.

"[It] feels great. Really nice," T.C. Williams head coach Pete Novgrod said. "Like I said, the girls are great. They work hard. They put a lot into their gymnastics and it showed."

As a freshman, Grace Girard was the only gymnast competing for T.C. Williams during the 2011-12 season. The following season, Holland Cathey and Jordan Mambert joined Girard, but the Titans were still one gymnast shy of the required four needed to record a team score. This year, freshman Cailyn Lager joined the trio to form T.C. Williams' first full gymnastics team since the early 1980s.

And the Titans aren't just any team. Each of the four gymnasts competes at the club level for the Arlington Aerials. And each put on a quality performance at the conference meet, earning the Titans a berth in the 6A North regional meet on Feb. 12.

Cathey, now a senior, won the all-around competition with a score of 37.55. She placed first on floor (9.725) and vault (9.65), and second on beam (9.15) and bars

(9.025).

"I'm happy with my performance today," Cathey said. "I could have [done] better on beam, but that's OK. I'll make it at regionals."

Girard, now a junior, finished fourth in the all-around with a score of 35.875. She placed first on beam (9.3), tied for second on vault (9.3), finished sixth on bars (8.375) and eighth on floor (8.9).

"I just remember being a freshman and having to compete with other teams," Girard said. "Now I have my own girls to compete with and it's a great feeling."

Mambert, a junior, finished sixth in the all-around with a score of 35.2. She placed fourth on bars (8.8), tied for fifth on floor (9), finished sixth on vault (8.95) and seventh on beam (8.45).

"I want to do better at the regionals and I want to win regionals [as a team],"

Mambert said. "This is really awesome."

Lager, a freshman at Minnie Howard, finished seventh in the all-around with a total of 34.825. She tied for second on vault (9.3), placed third on beam (9), tied for seventh on bars (8.075) and finished 16th on floor (8.45).

"I think it's really cool," Lager

said, "because I'll be able to do this for the next three years."

While the Titans assembled a full team this season, it took them awhile to compete in the same meet. Injuries and other factors left TC competing with three earlier in the campaign, but the Titans finally competed together during the W-L Invitational on Jan. 25. T.C. Williams placed third during the event (W-L Invite counts top three scores, rather than top four) and has been improving since.

The Titans will compete at regionals on

"Just to start as one and then bring it to a team that's winning districts, that's an amazing feeling."

— T.C. Williams junior Grace Girard

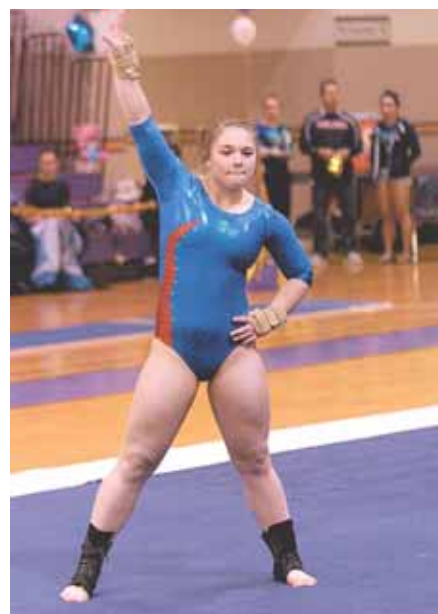


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

T.C. Williams senior Holland Cathey won the Conference 7 all-around gymnastics championship on Jan. 31.

Feb. 12 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"I haven't had anything so exciting happen to me in a while," Girard said. "Just to start as one and then bring it to a team that's winning districts, that's an amazing feeling."

World Record Set at MidAtlantic Erg Sprints

A new world indoor rowing record was set in Alexandria this past weekend at the 29th MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, which was held in the Gerry Bertier Gymnasium at T.C. Williams High School on Saturday, Feb. 1.

The record was set by Tom Darling of the Cambridge Boat Club in Massachusetts. Competing in the 2000-meter race for veteran men age 55-59, Darling blasted the hinges off the previous world record by covering the distance in a time of 6:12.6, which was over six seconds faster than the previous record of 6:18.6 set by Dick Cashin in 2009.

This year's competition featured more than 1,500 athletes competing on 120

ergometers that were set up on the race floor inside the Gerry Bertier Gymnasium. The athletes ranged in ages from under 10 to over 70.

The athletes came from such high schools as T.C. Williams, Bishop Ireton, West Potomac, Thomas Jefferson, McLean, Yorktown, Washington-Lee, Bishop O'Connell, Lake Braddock, Langley, Loudon County, James Madison, St. Albans, Gonzaga, Georgetown Visitation, Walt Whitman, Walter Johnson, Churchill, Hylton, Oakton, Robinson, Wilson, West Springfield, Western Albemarle, Westfield, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, and the Academy of the Holy Cross.

Next year's MidAtlantic Erg Sprints will



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

T.C. Williams rower Hannah Posson competes in the mixed relay event while her teammates cheer her on.

be held on Jan. 31, 2015. For the complete results of this year's competition, visit www.ergsprints.com.

Help for Dry Winter Skin

Skin care experts suggest hydrating solutions that range from nutrition to treatments.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Andrea Myers and her two young sons say that one of the challenges of winter is dry, itchy skin. Her boys, aged six and four, can only stand wearing soft clothing, because rough fabrics like denim irritate their skin. “It’s horrible,” said Myers who lives in Old Town Alexandria. “They are constantly scratching. My own hands are so dry and cracked that my cuticles hurt.”

When the temperature drops, the humidity usually follows, creating frigid, dry temperatures outside and warm, dry furnace air inside. The dehydrating combination can lead to dry, itchy winter skin. Local skin care experts say understanding the causes of dry skin is the first step to restoring it. They also offer dry-skin fighting suggestions that range from the food you eat to the products you apply to your skin.

Bethesda-based dermatologist Dr. Richard Castiello says the dry warm air inside our homes — our refuge from the cold — can lead to dry skin. “The skin will lose its water content in the dry air, particularly with modern furnaces where the air is bone dry,” said Castiello.

Jodey McGhee, a licensed esthetician and co-owner of Pure Aesthetica in Alexandria,



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Jodey McGhee, a licensed esthetician and co-owner of Pure Aesthetica in Alexandria, applies a water-based mask to one of her clients. Skincare experts say hydration is one of the keys to combating dry winter skin.

said the food and liquids you consume during winter can also impact dry skin. “First and foremost is always drinking plenty liquids like clean filtered water, maybe with a squeeze of lemon or a chunk of ginger,” she said. “Parsley is very hydrating. Cucumbers contain a lot of vitamins and minerals for your skin and they offer a detox for your skin, especially if we’re not working out as much and perspiring as much, they can help your skin achieve a glowing complexion.”

McGhee said that consuming fruits and vegetables with anti-inflammatory properties will also aid in the battle against dry

skin. “Both cucumbers and avocados have anti-inflammatory properties,” she said. “Leafy greens [like] kale, collards, dandelion greens, lettuces and spinach are key. If you have a juicer and can juice these foods, your body doesn’t have to work as hard to extract the nutrients. You don’t need a lot, but 16 ounces is very good.

Make sure your diet includes good fats. “We’re big on avocados, which have a lot of Vitamin E and Vitamin B,” said McGhee.

“Vitamin C helps the skin because it is a building block of collagen and elastin, and vitamin E is known to improve the skin’s

moisture,” she said.

When it comes to topical skin care, Castiello said to watch how often you cleanse and the type of soap you use. “Soap works by cutting oil, so be less aggressive with showering [as] frequent washing strips the skin of natural oils,” he said.

McGhee said, “You always need to exfoliate, but you have to make sure you’re not over exfoliating. If you see a skin care professional, they can do it for you.”

After an exfoliation, hydration is crucial as well. “Apply a water-based mask like one made of aloe — aloe is mostly water — and leave it on any where from five to 25 minutes,” McGhee said.

Sealing in the moisture is the next step, although Castiello said combating dry skin doesn’t require skin-care products that come with a high price tag.

“You don’t need a fancy lotion, but the thicker and greasier the lotions, the better,” said Castiello.

McGhee suggests using a plant-based moisturizer. “You can seal the moisture in with a really good moisturizer, one that is fatty-based like almond oil or avocado oil to lock in the moisture. There are a lot of fantastic oils like grape seed oil, avocado oil, even coconut oil, that will lock in the moisture. Just make sure you use an oil that is pure.”

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Senior Housing Options

One size doesn't fit all.

By MARY LEE ANDERSON
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SENIOR SERVICES
 OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria's (SSA) Feb. 12 Speaker Series is about "Senior Housing: New and Innovative Solutions." SSA is cosponsoring this event with At Home in Alexandria (AHA) a grassroots not-for-profit organization founded by and for individuals age 55 and older who live in Alexandria and who want to remain in their own homes, living independently in the community they love.

As we reach the "golden" age, looking at where and how we want to live becomes a priority and there are so many options to think about. We ask ourselves, "Where can I live and be comfortable, independent yet have my needs met?" At this session attendees will learn about programs and services to help "age in place" safely; simple home modifications to make life easier; assisted living, continuing care and adult residential facilities in Alexandria. There will also be a discussion of innovative housing approaches — remember the "Golden Girls?"

Experts from AHA, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, AARP, Building Bridges, Caring Considerations and Alexandria's Code Administration Office will be on hand to discuss the various housing options and answer any questions. The Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons is providing Communications Access Realtime Translation (CART) service during the session for those attendees who suffer from hearing loss.

The Wednesday, Feb. 12, event is taking place at Charles Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke St. from 9:30 a.m. – noon. It is a free event open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. To register online go to www.servicalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 10.

Being a Mentor

FROM PAGE 21
 were working. He held up the worksheet so Ms. Olvera could see this big accomplishment.

While Daniel continues to make improvements academically, I know that he has changed my life significantly. He is truly a joy to be around: he's hilarious and he loves learning about the world around him (especially if he gets to run around). Outside of the library, we have so much fun together — whether it's bowling, mini-golf, ice skating, painting, museums, laser tag, or the aquarium. Daniel has challenged me to be more patient and look at the world much differently than I did before — he is a true blessing in my life and he makes a big impression on everyone he meets. I'm so excited to see this talented young man continue to grow and achieve.



Frances REBECCA Myers

World traveler, long term resident of Old Town Alexandria, Va. and most recently of Sunrise Senior Living OF GEORGE MASON in Fairfax, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 24, 2014.

Rebecca was a devoted Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, and a friend to all she met. She is survived by her sons: William Braun Jones Jr. and wife Martina, Bradley Jones and wife Karen, daughters: Beverly Hogg, Julian Myers Benton and husband Jeff; Grandchildren: William Braun Jones III and wife Angela, William Charles Hogg III (Chad) and wife Christi, Tucker Clay Hogg, Ashley Jones Sullivan and husband Paul, Heather Jones, Ava and Madison Benton, Terra Picirilli and husband Jim; Great Grandchildren: William Braun Jones IV, Julia, Lexie, and Logan Jones, Caitlyn, Jamison, and Sofia Picirilli, a sister Mary Lou Rolley and nephew Scott Rolley. A son Blix Jones preceded her in death. There will be no formal service at this time. Instead the family is planning a Celebration of Life to be held locally in early spring.

Please view and sign the family guestbook at:
<http://www.everlywheatleyfuneralhome.com/obituaries.html>

Invitations to the Celebration of Life will be sent from this guestbook. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rebecca's name to Ms. Shannon Yunn, Executive Director, Sunrise Assisted Living, 4300 George Mason Blvd., Fairfax, Va. 22030

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
 King Street Bottleshop, LLC trading as King Street Bottleshop, 1309 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Christine Lee Seashore, member of LLC
 NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
 AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications equipment at 4600 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 and 2727 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. New generators will be installed at grade on a 5' by 11' concrete pad at each site. The height of the generators is not to exceed 10 feet above grade. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61140019-TC c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail S, York, PA 17403 or via telephone at 339-234-2597.

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21 Announcements

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA

TAKE NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Alexandria will be attending Local Government Day, Thursday, February 6, 2014, at the Richmond Marriott, located at 500 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. There will be three or more Council members in attendance.

For information, please call (703) 746-4550.

Jacqueline M. Henderson
 City Clerk and Clerk of Council

21 Announcements

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

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Michael L. Kelley (Age 79)

On February 2, 2014 in Alexandria, VA. Born and raised in Alexandria, VA, he worked for the Washington Star and then with Marriott Hotels in the housekeeping department for 25 years. He loved daily walks around Old Town Alexandria to visit the firehouse and catch up with friends. Having never driven a car, Mike was one of the first riders on the DASH bus line and was always up to date with all of the drivers as well as the daily schedule. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Robert Emmett Kelley, Jr., Evangeline Minor Kelley Agentovich. He is survived by his sister in law, Bettylea C. Kelley; brother in law, Edward Agentovich; nieces and nephews, Robert Emmett (Cindi) Kelley, III, Dawn Kelley Mull, Stephanie Kelley (Scott) Erickson, and Vanedda Agentovich; great nieces and nephews, Shaina Kelley, Michael Mull and Erin Mull (Zachary) Manafort. Family and friends may gather on Friday, February 7, 2014 from 10 a.m. until the time of service at 11 a.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. A small committal service will be held for family immediately following the service at St. Mary's Cemetery. A guest register may be found at www.everlywheatleyfuneralhome.com

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
 AT&T Mobility, LLC proposes to install new wireless telecommunications equipment at 501 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314. A new +/- 10-foot tall generator will be installed at grade on a 5-foot by 11-foot concrete pad. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61140019-TC c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail S, York, PA 17403 or 339-234-2597.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
 Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
 Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000403, Production and Mailing of Business Tax and Combined Personal Property Tax Bills, Vehicle Decals, and Revenue Mass Mailing.
 RFP Closing Date and Time: February 20, 2014, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.
 Pre-Proposal Conference: None
 For general inquiries contact Jason Soltis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4299.
 The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

21 Announcements

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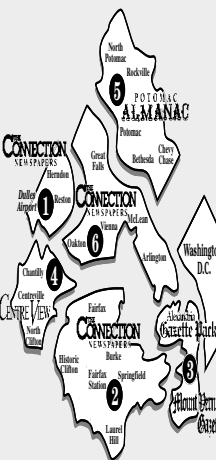
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In charming Warwick Village, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath townhome has an updated kitchen, finished walk-out basement, beautiful hardwood floors, and newer windows. Downstairs is a rec room and spacious laundry room. Walk to all Del Ray has to offer! 207 Gentry Ave. MLS# AX8263543

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Old Town Alexandria \$899,000

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Alexandria \$799,000

Located on a cul-de-sac, this 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath property has much to offer. Open kitchen and family room, granite and stainless. Huge master suite, 3 additional bedrooms on second level. Lower level theater space, entertainment bar, 1/2 acre lot and 2-car garage. 4901 Silo Rd.

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Old Town Alexandria \$575,000

Stunning 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit in sought-after 900 North Washington St Condos. Top-floor corner unit with cathedral ceilings. Top-of-the-line finishes, gorgeous kitchen, Brazilian cherry floors, and 2 garage spaces. Geothermal heat & air, utilities average \$78/month. 910 Powhatan St #303S.

Jennifer Halm

703.851.2255
www.JenniferHalm.com



Alexandria

This 3-bedroom, 3-bath home sits on almost a half acre of land. It offers a large kitchen, generously sized living and dining rooms, and a bright, cheerful lower level. Fabulous year-round sunroom and screened porch have brilliant views...it's like always being on vacation. 3217 Old Dominion Blvd.

Betty Mallon

703.989.8548
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Alexandria/Belle View Condo \$239,000

This 2-bedroom, 1-bath, first-floor condo is easy to love! Plantation shutters, freshly painted, traditional parquet floors. Direct access to laundry center on lower level, and huge storage locker too! Stroll to Belle View Shopping Center, bike paths, and more. 6611 Potomac Ave #A2.

Cindy Clemmer

703.966.0403
www.CindyClemmer.com



Alexandria \$619,000

Gorgeous light-filled penthouse with 2 spacious master suites, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, nearly new kitchen, 2 walk-in storage areas, 17-foot balcony with Old Town views, 2 garage spaces, and all just steps from Braddock Road Metro. MLS# AX8224098

Annette Hinaman

571.216.4411
www.AnnetteHinaman.com



Old Town Alexandria \$309,900

Bright 2-bedroom in Bearings South. Updated condo has Brazilian cherry wood, granite counters, stainless appliances, updated Kohler bath. Spacious with designer details. Walk to south Old Town shops, restaurants. A few blocks to King St and steps to Mt Vernon Trail. MLS# AX8258979

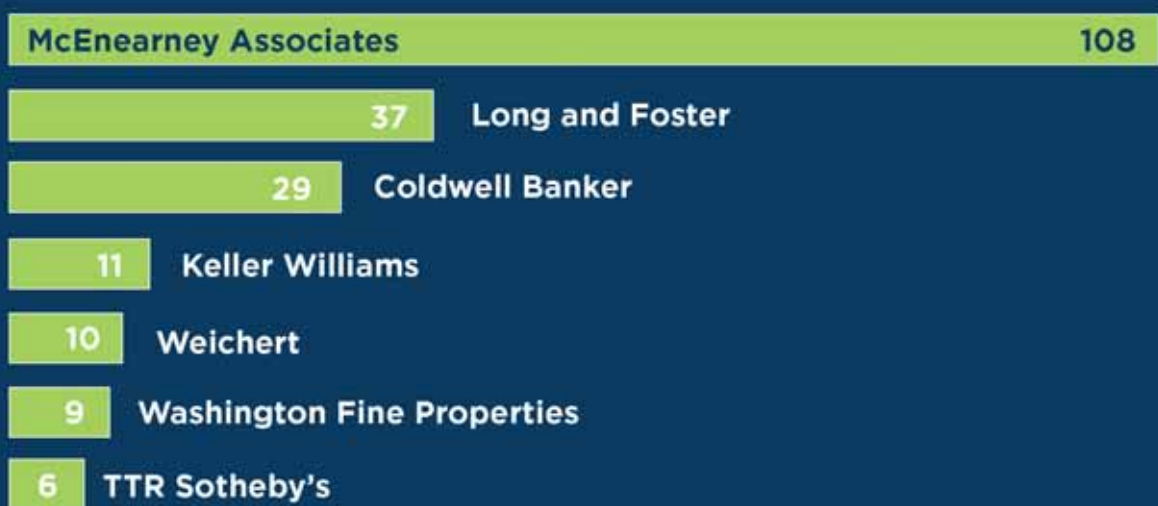
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