



## Four's a Crowd

Oscar the dog photo-bombing his feline siblings, Gandalf, Penelope and Maizzie, who were exploring a new piece of furniture. All are rescues and are wonderful sports when we bring in other animals to foster for Lucky Dog Animal Rescue.

— KATHERINE VIAR

# \$634.8 Million Budget Proposed

Average homeowner would see \$190 tax increase.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

City Manager Rashad Young submitted his proposal for a \$634.8 million General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 before City Council Tuesday, Feb. 25, reflecting an increase of 1.6 percent over last year's budget while maintaining current real estate and personal property tax rates.

"Expenditures are growing at a faster rate than revenue," said Young in detailing his proposed budget during a press briefing earlier in the day. "The challenge always is how to put together this big jigsaw puzzle to meet the needs of the different constituencies and stakeholder groups."

The proposed budget, part of an All Funds budget of \$794.4 million, was assembled using a new budget framework developed with the city's performance management system, Results Alexandria, and focused on the city's budgeting philosophy: aligning long-term outcomes with core city services wanted by residents.

"This is the seventh straight year

of budgetary challenges, where the cost of current services and previous commitments exceeds our revenue growth," Young said. "So rather than begin the conversation with what departments spent last year and making adjustments from there to achieve a budget solution, we instead looked at the outcomes defined in the City Manager's Performance Plan and the city's Strategic Plan and focused our financial resources accordingly."

The proposed budget includes \$190.6 million for Alexandria City Public Schools, a 2.62 percent increase over FY2014 but \$2.5 million less than requested by the ACPS School Board.

Young's Capital Improvement Program proposes a \$1.46 billion capital investment over the next 10 years including \$92.5 million in FY2015.

"Our new budget philosophy focuses us on where

money is spent and goes back to the basic question: what is government supposed to provide?" Young said. "The result is a more balanced, sustainable proposed budget that pushes resources towards

SEE PROPOSED, PAGE 5

"The challenge always is how to put together this big jigsaw puzzle to meet the needs of the different constituencies and stakeholder groups."

— City Manager Rashad Young

# 911: Keeping Secrets

Police agencies refuse to release audio from 911 calls, prompting questions about transparency.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

When city officials in Alexandria released the audio of a 911 call in a high-profile murder case, many people interpreted the move as a step forward for transparency in a commonwealth known for opaque government. But then reality set in. The release was a mistake. The city attorney's office failed to consult with the police department, which carefully guards its privilege to withhold information from the public.

"It was a clerical error that the 911 call was released," said Crystal Nosal, spokeswoman for the Alexandria Police Department. "We didn't waive the privileges under FOIA, so they are not going to release it again."

Across Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information and documents available in other states. One key example of the lack of transparency is audio from 911 calls, which are regularly released in most states across America. But not in

Virginia, which is one of the reasons why the commonwealth got a failing grade for transparency from the State Integrity Investigation in 2012. Advocates for open government say audio from 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is — or isn't — working on their behalf.

"If anything, it seems the more public input that can be sought on this the better, and the more information the public has the better," said Emily Grannis, a legal fellow at Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "This is a scary kind of case, and it's a scary kind of case to have open and the more the public can know about it the better the public will be equipped to be able to help police investigate."

**POLICE AGENCIES** in Virginia don't see it that way. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act gives them sweeping power to withhold documents and information, a power that is unprecedented in any state in America. And even though part of the law talks about public records being presumed open, Virginia police officials tend to view them as presumed closed because they have the power to prevent the public from having access.

"A lot of the time, what you get with 911 tapes is someone calling in is someone who is afraid of being identified," said Dana Schrad, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. "They

SEE SECRETS, PAGE 22

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## Shooting at North Payne, Wythe

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a shooting that occurred in the area of N. Payne Street and Wythe Street on Sunday, Feb. 23.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., police responded to for multiple calls of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers located an adult male victim suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper torso. The victim was transported to an area hospital where he is listed in stable condition. Detectives and crime scene investigators continue to work in the area.

Citing the Lodato homicide, the Alexandria Police Department said obvious differences in the crimes led detectives to believe these incidents are not connected.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Dan Gordon with the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6685.

## Back to Two Middle Schools

Following a six-month study by its Middle Schools for Tomorrow Workgroup, the Alexandria School Board unanimously approved restructuring the city's five middle schools on two campuses back into two middle schools.

As part of a plan to improve student achievement, George Washington Middle School would be formed from the current GW 1 and 2 middle schools and Francis C. Hammond Middle School would be formed from the current Hammond 1, 2 and 3 middle schools. The board voted unanimously on Thursday, Feb. 20, to revise the middle school structure to one school per campus. The administration recommended consolidating the structure for the 2014-15 school year.

A new administrative structure will be introduced at the two consolidated middle schools. Each school will have:

- ❖ One principal
- ❖ Three academic principals
- ❖ One dean of students
- ❖ One director of school counseling
- ❖ Two counselors per grade level
- ❖ One resource teacher for Talented and Gifted (TAG)
- ❖ Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program
- ❖ Targeted professional development
- ❖ A restructured, definitive middle school counseling program.

To view the full proposal for the restructure of the middle school program, visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/middle-schools/>.

## Memorial Fund Honors Lawson

For the last 20 years, The Walk to Fight Breast Cancer has helped support mammograms and other diagnostic screening for Alexandria women who are uninsured or not adequately insured. To honor the Walk's founder, Vola Lawson, who died in December 2013, the Walk will be renamed. A fund has been created in her memory, the Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Memorial Fund.

Since its inception in 1994, the Walk has helped more than 8,000 uninsured Alexandria women receive free mammograms and other diagnostic screenings. Over the last several years, the need has increased while donations have seen a decrease, resulting in the fund's near depletion. This year, the Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Fund will participate in ACTS Spring2Action Giving Day, on Wednesday, April 9.

Donate at [www.razoo.com/story/Alexandria-Walk-To-Fight-Breast-Cancer](http://www.razoo.com/story/Alexandria-Walk-To-Fight-Breast-Cancer).

## Resident Dies in Traffic Collision

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a fatal traffic collision that occurred at 700 S. Pickett Street on Tuesday, Feb. 11. At approximately 7 p.m., a vehicle traveling southbound on S. Pickett Street crossed into on-coming traffic and struck several vehicles before stopping when the car hit an electrical pole.

The driver, Daniel Kilcullen, 65, a city resident, was found dead inside the vehicle. The accident is still under investigation. Anyone who has additional information about this case is asked contact Officer Mouyal at 703-746-6628.

## NEWS

# 'To Honor Our Beginnings'

## Center for Alexandria's Children to host fund-raising gala.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Since the Center for Alexandria's Children opened in 2007, a number of dedicated individuals has kept its child abuse education and prevention programs running, growing and thriving.

Three of these individuals will be honored at its Fifth Annual Gala Benefit on Friday, Feb. 28, at Virtue Feed & Grain in Old Town. The organization hopes to raise more than \$120,000 at the gala, which is its biggest fundraising event of the year. Center staff, volunteers and affiliates will take some time at the event to honor some key players in the Center's history.

Deputy City Manager Debra Collins was one of the city officials who presented the idea of a child advocacy center to Alexandria Community Trust. She came to the City of Alexandria in 2003 with ideas of how a center could streamline and centralize all the services required to address child abuse cases. She will be presented with the 2014 Outstanding Dedication to the Children Award.

The two recipients of the Center's 2014 Champion for Children Award are business leader Nigel and Lori and Nigel Morris. Nigel served as chairman of the board of the Center from 2006 to 2013. His wife, Lori, is a current and founding board member of ACT, which was crucial in establishing the Center.

CAC Executive Director Giselle Pelaez said the Center would not have ever come to fruition without Collins, and its progress and programming would not have been possible thus far without the Morrises.

"The growth and development of each of our programs has been profound," Pelaez said. "We received full accreditation as a National Children's advocacy center in two years. This speaks to the dedication of Debra Collins' support, whose top down support of the whole idea of having a children's advocacy center helped make this happen."

Collins shared ideas for the center from her experience with the Erie County government in upstate New York. "I was very fortunate that when I came to

Alexandria, it was around the time they were forming this thinking," she said. "There were a number of city departments that had been meaning for a couple of years to address the idea of a child advocacy center. I was able to talk to them from a boots on the ground perspective of having come from a community with a working child advocacy center."

Collins said ACT was integral in getting her ideas set in motion. She gives much credit to Lori Morris, who is also chair of ACT's Community Investment Committee, with making the center happen.

Like Collins, Lori Morris also said that it has taken many dedicated people in Alexandria to get the Center launched and in operating mode.

"This was very much a group effort," Lori Morris said. "The idea of the center came from Debra Collins and the city. The city had actually been working on it quietly, and Debra brought it to ACT, our city's community foundation, of which I play a role in developing program. ACT is a convener and a catalyst, and ACT was able to say 'if this is something you really want, we will help bring the right people around the table to make it happen.'"

As a part of ACT, she helped plan the Center, secure funding for it and establish partnerships that made it all possible.

"ACT played the very critical role of being the backbone organization for this effort," Lori Morris said.

"They held it together, they brought the right people around the table and they hired a consultant to help form the concept. They also helped get initial funding grants, and at the time ACT's executive director Jonelle Wallmeyer acted as an initial CEO. ACT helped form the board, hire and pay for the first director, and launched it. I was thrilled to work with ACT through this process."

Lori Morris leads the Center's Playgroup Steering Committee, which created the Learn and PlayGroup Curriculum for all the playgroups that CAC offers.

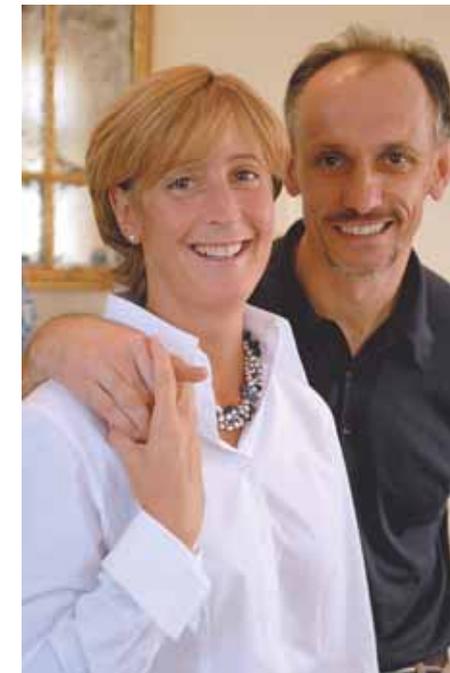
"I have watched the playgroup program go from providing three playgroups to 10 playgroups in the community," Pelaez said. "Now with playgroups, we are serving over 600 children, and their families, per year."

The curriculum of the playground sets out to help parents and caregivers ensure that children have meaningful, healthy fun.

"Now we are really able to focus on prevention of child abuse, and that is because of all the work that was done establishing the Center and forming critical partnerships and support around it," Lori Morris said.



Debra Collins



Lori and Nigel Morris

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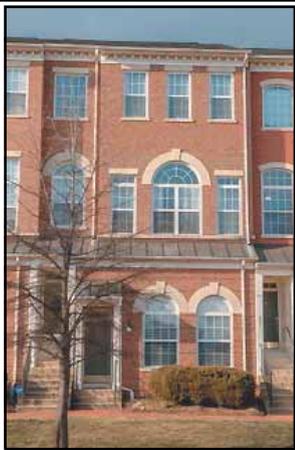
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*Diann Hicks 703-628-2440*



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# Proposed Budget Increases Taxes

FROM PAGE 1

services that advance the outcomes we seek, while reducing, or in some cases eliminating, funding for programs that are duplicative, less effective or of a lower priority.”

While Young’s proposal maintains a residential real estate tax rate of \$1.038 per \$1,000 of assessed value, additional revenue is expected due to the increase in property assessments. With an average Alexandria home value of \$490,422, homeowners will see a \$190 increase in their \$5,091 tax bill.

Under the proposed FY2015 budget, which begins July 1, 33 full time city employees will be eliminated from the 2,515 workforce, most in the Department of Parks and Recreation. Young also proposed eliminating the Senior Taxi service and an annual donation to the local law library, saving the city \$160,000 and \$121,000 respectively. A renegotiated contract with the Animal Welfare League is expected to save an additional \$98,000.

Young stressed that this budget maintains the city’s self-imposed debt limit, “except for Potomac Yard.”

“I say except for Potomac Yard because we have explained this to the financial rating agencies and they concur with our investment in transit at Potomac Yard,” Young said. “Also, it is important to say that this debt limit is self-imposed because City Council set the limit; no outside agency did.”

Young is also proposing performance-based increases for eligible city employees, setting aside \$4.6 million for merit pay. No changes were made to city employee health benefits although retirees will be



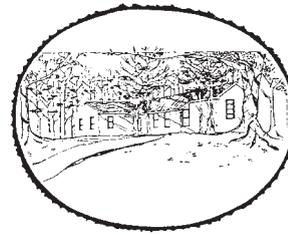
By JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**City Manager Rashad Young reviews the details of his proposed FY 2015 budget at a media briefing at City Hall Feb. 25.**

asked to begin paying for their own life insurance premiums.

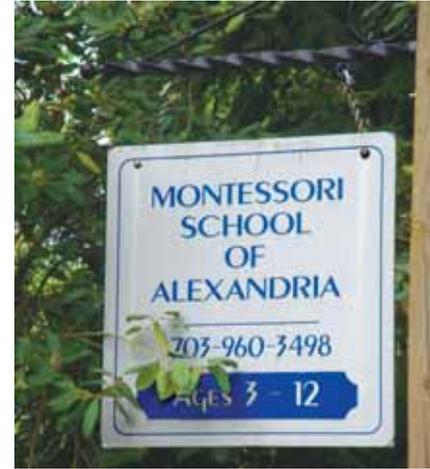
City Council will hold nine work sessions throughout March and April to review the proposed budget. Residents may provide comment at a special budget public hearing on March 10 and a tax rate public hearing on April 12. All sessions are open to the public and will be recorded and posted online. In addition, there will be a public budget presentation March 17 at Beatley Central Library. The public may submit comments online or speak at the public hearings.

Details about the proposed budget, public budget presentation and public meetings can be found at alexandriava.gov/Budget.



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**BELLE HAVEN** \$1,250,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151](http://ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151)  
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# PET GAZETTE



**Erin Buckles and Solomon**



**Sarah Wishart and Darby**



**Rachael Wessell and Dawson**



**Alex Keefover and Kingsley**



**Natalie Kiddie and Dolce**



**Adam Campbell and Kenan**



**Joan Brady with Fred and Hank.**

## Making Connections

**Service dogs and their “handlers” are teamed up through paws4people.**

BY JOAN BRADY

I was already one of those embarrassingly crazy dog people, when I first met Kyria and Terry Henry, founders of paws4people.org. But I had no idea how little I truly knew about the bonds possible between animals and their people.

After photographing puppies coming home for the first time, dogs sharing their favorite pastime and pets who are older and/or ill, I really thought I knew all about the animal/people connection.

But nothing prepared me for the emotional bonds that I began to capture for paws4people.org of dogs and the “handlers” who are the paws4people clients.

These were assistance dogs, trained to provide support in mobility, psychiatric service, educational and rehabilitative assistance, and social therapy. The dogs’ training is done largely in prisons by inmate trainers.

Children and adolescents, veterans and active-duty service members who are accepted into the program, meet with trainers and dogs at the prisons (called a “bump”), in hopes that there will be a match between each of them and a dog. When a match is found, the dog is trained specifically to the needs of his/her new “handler.”

If you have ever tried to photograph your pet, you know it requires patience, a quick finger on the shutter and fast equipment. Capturing the relationship

between assistance dogs and their handlers, is something altogether different.

It’s about capturing the intimacy of two beings who live largely for each other. As a photographer, that means creating the right environment, without intruding too much on the moment.

Here are a few of the pairs I have photographed, and a little bit about each.

**SONNY MORROW**, of Alexandria, stepped on a land mine while serving in Vietnam. As he has aged, the injuries he sustained

have continued to limit his activities and those of his wife, Peggy.

When Sonny went to West Virginia for his “bump” at FCC Hazelton, four years ago, he didn’t know what to expect. Sonny was introduced to two dogs, one by one. Each dog took one look at him and walked the other way. Sonny had heard that you don’t pick the dog, the dog picks you. And he wasn’t getting picked.

Another dog, Jake, a black lab, was not felt to be ready to meet any of the “clients.” Maybe it was the way he looked at Sonny from across the room, maybe it was just a gut feeling, but it was decided that Jake should meet Sonny. Within seconds, Jake was upside down in Sonny’s lap and it was clear they were meant for each other.

Sonny gives Jennifer, Jake’s lead trainer, a great deal of credit for thoughtfully questioning him that day on what he was going to need from his assistance dog and then making sure that Jake had the training that would allow him to meet his specific needs. They remain close friends to this day.

Sonny can’t imagine his life without Jake. Jake is not only a caring constant companion, but his practical skills are critical to Sonny’s well being. Jake is able to call 911 if Sonny gets into trouble and helps Sonny with his mobility and stability. Sonny describes Jake, with great pride, as being able to do absolutely anything.

**DAWSON HAS BEEN WITH RACHAEL WESSELL** about a year now. He helps her with daily tasks like picking up dropped items, alerting her when someone is approaching her wheelchair from behind, helping her to balance when she needs to right herself, carrying bags, getting out her wallet or cell phone, getting help in an

emergency. He is able to remove her socks and coat and will even bring her a hot pizza without scarfing it down himself. He lives for Mondays when Rachael rides at Lift Me Up therapeutic riding in Great Falls.

**FOR ERIN BUCKLES**, born a conjoined twin and separated as an infant from her sister Jade, having Solomon meant that she would no longer be the girl in the wheelchair at school in Northern Virginia. She would be the girl with the dog. And, she wouldn’t have to wait for someone to pick

### FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

memory and the knowledge of what he would want for her helps to propel her forward.

She was thankful to have Darby by her side.

**GETTING TOGETHER** with friends is challenging for Josh Gregor of West Virginia. Because of his medical needs, he is fed and/or receives medications through a tube throughout the day. He is sensitive to other kids observing the intimate details of his daily life and he always has to have a nurse or his mom nearby.

Mason, his assistance dog, has practical, life saving responsibilities like alerting adults when Josh’s tube gets twisted, but what Josh cares most about is that now he has someone to play with all of the time.

**NATALIE KIDDIE AND DOLCE**, a psy-

chiatric service dog, work as co-therapists at North Spring Behavioral Healthcare in Leesburg helping youths and adolescents with mental health impairments. Often it is Dolce with whom they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.

**ALEX KEEFOVER AND KINGSLEY** met when Alex was 16. This year, they started college. Like so many of the paws4people clients, Kingsley is Alex’s everything, “He’s there for me. If it’s picking up stuff, taking my coat off, stuff like that, and also the emotional support. If I’m having a bad day or worried about school, I just have to look at him and I’m laughing.”

Alex remembers well how he felt the day he met Kingsley for the first time, “When we got [to the prison] I was so nervous. ... then when I met the dogs, pure joy.”

Alex felt the connection to Kingsley the minute they met. He says that Kingsley’s only limitation is that he cannot type for him as Alex has much to say, but has speaking and typing difficulties.

*Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4people, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her by email at joan@joanbradyphotography.com.*



**Sonny Morrow, Peggy Morrow, Jake and Jennifer, Jake’s trainer.**

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY

up a dropped pencil or bring her shoes to her.

**ADAM CAMPBELL** says he felt connected to Kenan as soon as they met at Lakin Correctional Center in West Virginia. “[it was] the way he looked at me, while he leaned into me, while I pet him. It was a moment I will never forget.”

**SARAH WISHART**, a veteran, and Darby were matched last July and both are still in training as of the writing of this column. They train together and Darby continues her training separately until they are both ready for Darby to go home with Sarah.

This training time is hard on Sarah, especially leaving Darby behind when she heads home. She can’t wait for Darby to come home with her. “She’s going to get me back out and helping my community again.”

At the paws4people.org annual reunion in October, Sarah struggled with her fear of crowds, related to her PTSD. Not only was she facing the crowded reunion, but that weekend marked the first anniversary of the death of one of her fellow soldiers.

He had been a true leader who was lost to an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. To Sarah, he will always be known by his call sign, “Cowboy.” His



In memory of Bruce, Susan O'Flaherty Griffith's beloved 14 year old terrier, being blessed by Associate Pastor, Matt Benton, at Trinity United Methodist Church (trinityalexandria.org) at the annual Pet Blessing in memory of St. Francis of Assisi. Bruce was blessed each year at this well-attended community event. Bruce is deeply missed by all his friends at Jones Point and Windmill Park. Rest in peace!



Molly is a 10-year-old Bichon Frise. She has shared her beauty and sweet personality with Carol Siegel for all those years.



Rudy Krese of Alexandria prepares for a "Cutest Irish Eyes" event for dogs, which was held in conjunction with a local Irish dance competition. Rudy charmed his way into a tie for first place.

— CHRIS, JENNY, ELLE AND CHIP KRESE

Duke — Paul and Susan O'Flaherty Griffith's Toy Fox Terrier puppy — poses with his Christmas blanket custom crocheted by family friend, Patti Stang.



*A Salute to the American Voice*



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## People of Faith for Equality in Virginia

BY LONNIE C. RICH

*An ecumenical group of people of faith gathered at the courthouse in Alexandria on Valentine's Day, 2014, and "witnessed for love" in support of same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses in Virginia. Former council member Lonnie C. Rich was there and spoke about his 1996 City Council proposal for same sex marriage, possibly the first legislative proposal in the U.S.*

**P**rior to 1996, I had not given much thought to same sex marriage. Then, in September of that year, DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, was passed.

Now DOMA confused me. I really did not understand why marriage needed defending. If gay people got married, would that make me want to abandon my wife or make me want to become a gay man? What nonsense! If gays adopted kids who needed homes, wouldn't that be a good thing, and how was it different from an infertile straight couple who adopted? If gays had legally-recognized families, would they do any worse with the institution of marriage than straight people who for years have sported a 50 percent divorce rate?

In November 1996, as a member of City Council, I proposed that we include in our legislative package a same-sex marriage proposal for consideration by the Virginia General As-

sembly. Hard to believe that was almost 20 years ago. That was the first legislative proposal for same-sex marriage in Virginia, maybe the first in the country. It didn't pass, but I can tell you it made for some very interesting politics in my next election six months later.

One of favorite quotes is by Mark Twain, who said, "In the beginning of change, a patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned, but when his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot."

In a sense, I could be called a patriot. And I am proud that I stood up for what I thought was right, but I have not been alone and I was hardly the first.

I have long been blessed with openly gay family members and an open, progressive church. About five years ago, my Baptist Church, Commonwealth Baptist Church, formally became a welcoming and affirming church — the first Baptist church in Alexandria and one of the first in Virginia. There have been denominational consequences. In a sense, my church could be compared to a patriot.

But the real patriots came long before me or my church.

In 1970, nearly 45 years ago, Jack Baker and Michael McConnell sought a marriage license

in Minnesota. They were denied all the way to the US Supreme Court. Baker and McConnell are patriots.

In 1976, Wayne Schwandt and John Fortunato held a public, holy ceremony in D.C., after their church refused to bless them. Schwandt and Fortunato are patriots.

In 1985, Alexandria added sexual orientation as a protected class to its human rights ordinance. Councilman Mike Jackson, a devout Catholic, voted for it. Thereafter, he was refused communion. Mike Jackson is also a patriot.

Martin Luther King, Jr., a patriot for another cause, said "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

We have much to learn from Dr. King and Mark Twain. Together they teach us that the arc of the moral universe is indeed very long, but every day each of us has the opportunity to be a patriot and do the right thing in the face of uncertainty and risk.

Today, you who are publicly seeking marriage licenses, knowing you will be rejected, you are patriots; and we thank you.

Tomorrow will present other challenges along that great moral arc. My prayer is that we all muster the strength to bend that arc toward justice. Amen.

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

## A Call to Action: Jefferson-Houston School's Future

BY JENNIFER TOPPING  
MEMBER, JEFFERSON-HOUSTON  
PLANNING COMMITTEE

**W**ithin the next few weeks the Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) Board plans to decide on a way forward for Jefferson-Houston (JH) School. The School Board discussed three options at its Feb. 20 meeting for the school's future. You may be saying, I don't have a child in school, why should I care? Because the city (and you as a tax payer) has invested \$44 million for a new

JH school building to open this fall which will double the school's capacity. Meanwhile, everyone is working hard to reverse more than a decade of low achievement.

❖ Option 1: PK-8 with an emphasis on strengthening of core instructional programs (i.e., continuing on its current path of moderate reform).

Pros: Continuity and minimal transition for families and teachers.

Cons: Unlikely to gain accreditation/concern for SOL performance across grades 3, 5, 6, 7,

and 8.

❖ Option 2: Regrowing the school – opening in the fall with grades PK-3 and 6 (or alternatively PK-3); adding a grade level each year.

Pros: A new start and a greater likelihood of meeting accreditation since the younger grades are trending better overall.

Cons: Relocation of 117 future 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th graders (displaced students would attend surrounding schools; while many are at capacity, they currently outperform JH).

❖ Option 3: PK-3 or PK-5 school.

Pros: Greater focus on fewer grades; continuity at the elementary school level.

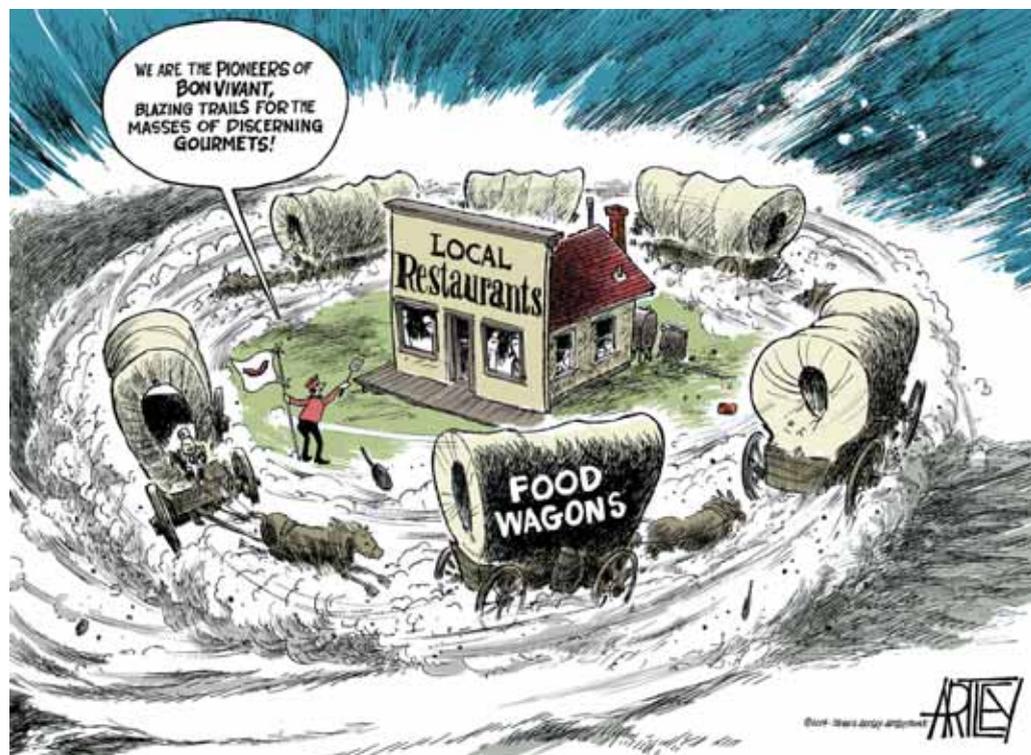
Cons: Lessens families' choice at the middle school level; displaces 41 students in the upper grades based on ACPS Executive Staff's figures.

[Note: Full disclosure, I am the mother of a four-year-old slated to attend JH School this fall, but if you want to see how Interim Superintendent Crawley's staff has framed these options just google "ACPS School Board Meetings," click on agenda and attachments for the Feb. 20 meeting, and view the Jefferson-Houston materials for yourself.]

Now is the time to act. The School Board's goal is to have a final decision by mid-March. A board of nine people, even though elected, should not make this decision alone. They need to hear from us. This choice should involve our dynamic community and city members. While all of the information is public, unless you are actively looking for it you may miss it.

How to act? Observe school board meetings in person or virtually, write to the school board members: [board@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:board@acps.k12.va.us), or sign up

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVEN C. ARLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

to speak at a school board meeting. School Board meetings are normally held twice a month on Thursdays during the school year in the Board Room, 2000 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Board meetings are televised and aired on Channel 71 and available for online viewing.

The School Board needs to hear all voices. JH School serves a much larger population than those who are currently attending the school.

According to local experts, while school turn-around data shows that there is no magic solution to academically turn around a school, a consistent idea with many successful charter or charter-like turn-arounds is the concept of rebuilding or regrowing the school.

While considering such an idea is a bold move since it involves displacing 117 students and having an emptier school for the new JH building's initial years, the idea has real merit and may provide the best foundation for the school to quickly achieve the minimum test scores for accreditation and bring old and new families back to JH.

This is not about next year, or the year after that, but attempting to set a course for the new \$44

million school as high achieving for many years to come. If you like/dislike one or more of these three options, please join me in having your voice heard.

## Complete Idiocy?

To the Editor:

Is the "Complete Streets" policy adopted by Alexandria also to be termed "complete idiocy?" After listening to two hours of testimony before Council recently about the proposal to eliminate parking and put bike lanes on a stretch of King Street, the question occurs to me as a cogent one.

The idea of Complete Streets seems like a reasonable idea. More people are using bicycles rather than automobiles to get around and bicycle rights-of-way in the past have been enormously unclear. Complete streets is touted as a way to accommodate cars, pedestrians and bicycles. Unfortunately, some very questionable planning decisions are being made in the name of the concept.

For example, the Duke Street transportation plan calls for a bike path to be built on the south side of that major artery, separated

from the street traffic and from pedestrian sidewalks. While that might seem like good idea, it would require condemning a strip of land, all now private property, to construct the bike lane. Thus homeowners on Duke, roughly from Jordan east to Wheeler, would lose a healthy chunk of their already small front yards.

In another instance, the Complete Streets concept was cited as the reason for tearing down block after block of trees along Beauregard Street as part of the new Beauregard transportation and redevelopment plan. Anyone who uses that major avenue knows how much the trees are part of the attractive ambiance of the neighborhood. Yet all citizen efforts to preserve the trees have been denied by cries of "Complete Streets."

Finally we have the plan of the city's head of transportation, Mr. Baier, to apply the Complete Streets concept to the stretch of King Street from Russell Road east to Janney's Lane. As a result parking would be banned. The street recently has been repaved and already the lanes have been made narrower on one of the most heavily traveled roads in Alexan

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## OPINION

# No Sneaking into Newsrooms

BY HARRY M. COVERT



COVERT  
MATTERS

Consider for a moment if Alexandria City Council and surrounding jurisdictions decided to join the federal government and sent agents, inspectors or political operatives into newsrooms of local newspapers, broadcasting houses and every online outlet.

Can't happen most of the journalistic professionals would probably be spouting. Really?

Remember the time not so long ago when the idea of same-sex marriages was deemed impossible?

Unthinkable?

Remember the time not so long ago when pot-smoking was illegal and deleterious to society?

Remember the times not so long ago when religious liberty was considered sacrosanct, that churches were the pillars of every community and prayer encouraged for everyone?

Remember the times not so long ago when the Pledge of Allegiance was repeated in every school, public and private, and no one objected?

So what's the point here?

It appears that few people, including the vast array of reporters, writers, newspaper, magazine and broadcasting owners, and other wags expressed any concern that the Federal Communication Commission, at the urging of the current national regime, was planning to send agents to the broadcasting venues.

Why the FCC? Well, the FCC can't jump into the printed news rooms but can exert its authority over those using the public airwaves — radio and television stations, cable networks, and, yes, users of the internet. The latter includes the internet giants and those individuals and institutions that disseminate news of all sorts.

No way would or could that happen to newspapers? Hog wash.

On every level of government, the professionals, the bureaucrats and the electeds, have long worked at keeping the public ears blocked from what they do. Governments only want taxpayers and "regular" citizens to hear what they designate as good stuff. Don't be blindsided. This is the game.

Reporters do have a difficult time finding facts and figures, unless they are in the best interests of government. Reporters are more often than not considered pariahs to government and only to be "used." Scandals are not just the imaginations of reporters.

One of the best jobs in government today is public information officer. PIO's are well schooled in how to avoid answering any inquiring nose news people; how to keep things out of the public domain. Listen to the press secretaries.

News organizations certainly differ in in-

terpretation of the news. Listeners, viewers and readers have a right to choose favorites and how and when events are slanted or not slanted. That's freedom of the press. Thankfully, by and large, censorship is still a bad word. That's not always been the case.

Along the same avenue, censorship of any form must be out of the question for any publication. Don't buy those publications that are offensive to any individual taste. Don't listen or watch those to whom personal beliefs find disagreeable.

In case the latest report out of Washington escaped notice, the FCC on Friday past decided to put a hold on any "study" of "perceived station bias." This is a sneaky way for the government, though its agency, to creep into the news environment and cause great fear and panic.

Isn't that "hold" nice and soothing? If such activity is resumed, it will infect everybody in a country built on free speech, guaranteed. At present the current administration of "progressives" could benefit. When another crop of conservatives or socialists or tea baggers or what-have-you find themselves in charge, obviously they would find the "creep intos" a thrill.

Wouldn't be long before the threat of federal, state and local prosecutors would be finding ways to finally jail reporters, writers, editors, producers and bloggers for what's "in their hearts." They have been looking.

Americans should never forget the dirty work of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Governments should not be telling news organizations, or pressuring them, as to how to cover certain subjects.

The first test of this FCC plan was to begin in a few months in South Carolina. The idea is reprehensible. How long will the "hold" remain is not known. Hopefully the Supreme Court would put the kibosh on this. That would take a long time.

Imagine any local governments pursuing such conduct? Yes.

Disagreeing is one thing but freedom of the press and free speech is inviolate.

### Unsolved in Alexandria: Still Counting

❖ Ruthanne Lodato, 20 days, fatally shot Feb. 6;

❖ Ronald Kirby, 3 months, 7 days or 106 days, fatally shot Nov. 12;

❖ Nancy Dunning, 10 years, 2 months, 21 days, or 3,736 days fatally shot Dec. 5, 2003.

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# OBITUARY

## Thomas Edward Braswell, Jr.

Thomas Edward ("Ed") Braswell, Jr., died in Alexandria on Feb. 23, 2014, at the age of 93.

Mr. Braswell served as chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission for over 30 years, beginning in the 1960s. In that role, Mr. Braswell was a key figure in the preservation of the historic character of Old Town Alexandria, as well as its historic homes and neighborhoods. In particular, Mr. Braswell worked to defeat the "Beggs Plan," an urban renewal initiative in the 1960s that would have bulldozed several blocks of historic buildings on King Street, as well as most of historic neighborhood north of King Street in the vicinity of City Hall. Mr. Braswell assisted in the creation of Alexandria's Board of Architectural Review and the enactment of strict height limitations on new development, both of which have been instrumental in the preservation of Old Town Alexandria's historic character. Mr. Braswell also assisted in the creation of Founders' Park on the Alexandria waterfront. Developers were reluctant to purchase this prime parcel of waterfront property because of a centuries-old legal title dispute over the exact boundary between the City of Alexandria and the District of Columbia. Recognizing that the legal title to the parcel could probably never be cleared, Mr. Braswell arranged to obtain the parcel for the City of Alexandria for a park. The parcel became Founders' Park, thereby preserving a prime waterfront space in perpetuity for all of the people of Alexandria to enjoy.

In his work on the Alexandria Planning

Commission, Mr. Braswell said that it was always his goal to strike a fair balance between the interests of the residents and those of business community, to create a sustainable environment in which both residents and businesses could thrive.

Mr. Braswell was born in Elm City, N.C., in 1921. He was the son of Thomas Edward Braswell, Sr. and Sarah McCauley Braswell. Mr. Braswell graduated from Duke University in 1942. He then served in the Army Air Corp. during World War II, stationed in India. Mr. Braswell later graduated from Harvard Law School and commenced his legal career at the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. For the majority of his legal career, Mr. Braswell served as the Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Senate Armed Services Committee from 1953 - 1976. Upon leaving public service, he went into private law practice with Corcoran & Rowe and later with Zuckel, Scout & Rasenberger in Washington D.C., before starting his own law firm based in Rosslyn.

Mr. Braswell is survived by three of his four sons: Harry A. Braswell, Thomas Edward Braswell III, and Andrew S. Braswell. His eldest son, John M. Braswell, preceded him in death last year. He is also survived by his former wife, Jeff Sutherland Braswell of Port Gibson, Miss., his daughters-in-law, Sue and Pauline Braswell and Monica Fagan, as well as six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A visitation was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria on Tuesday evening Feb. 25, followed by a memorial service at St. Paul's on Wednesday Feb. 26.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

dria. In the past the city has allowed parking at certain sections on the north side of the street and drawn lines to indicate the places. Those lines no longer appear, apparently awaiting the outlining of a bike line. Neighbors understandably are upset.

The problem on King Street and elsewhere in the city is similar to a man who wears a size 30 suit and gains weight but decides that he can still get his 250 pound body into it. Historically many streets in Alexandria were, in essence, cow paths. They are narrow and curving, sometimes scarcely wide enough for safe passage of automobiles. Trying to "shoe horn" an extra lane for bicycles on them hardly makes sense.

Is the "Complete Streets" policy to be considered "complete idiocy." The answer is "No." But in the hands of officials who seem prone to making bad decisions, unfortu-

nately it can seem so.

**Jack Sullivan**  
Alexandria

## An 'A' for Snow Removal

To the Editor:

A week late, but after this last snow storm, I meant to give Alexandria an "A" for its efforts with respect to Snow Emergency Routes/Primary Road and transit/city school bus routes. Residential street clearing is always a matter of perspective depending on where you live and the width of your street. I was surprised at the ease of my drive to my church when I decided to head there and shovel our walkways.

**Ruben Duran**  
Alexandria

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### GARDEN SEASON

**Make a Reservation.** The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities announces procedures for the 2014 Community Garden season. Visit <http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/parks/>

CommunityGardenRegulations2014.pdf for the terms and conditions for the reservation of 194 community garden plots located in Chinquapin Park, 3210 King St., and Holmes Run Parkway. Community plots are available as follows: full-size community garden plot (15 feet by 20 feet): \$55/resident and \$75/nonresident; half-size plot (10 feet by 15 feet): \$28/resident and \$35/nonresident. Individuals interested in receiving information to apply for a garden plot contact John Walsh, Horticulturalist, at 703-746-4654 or [john.walsh@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.walsh@alexandriava.gov).



**Old Town** \$975,000  
218 Fairfax Street N, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Fabulous Historic Townhouse in the Heart of Old Town. This 2BR/Den with 2.5BA features Updated Gourmet Kitchen w Granite, SS, & Private Walled Garden.  
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



**Alexandria House** \$825,000  
400 Madison St 1108, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Smashing custom corner unit w/ wrap around balcony! Water views from every room Huge master BR w/ step down sitting room, closets galore, 2 garage spaces!  
Katherine Zwicky 703-408-0399



**Mason Hill** \$779,900  
1722 Hollinwood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Beautiful Center Hall Colonial in Mason Hill. This home has been updated inside & out. Enjoy a chef's gourmet kitchen & dining room, deck & patio, 2CG  
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



**Rosemont Park** \$659,000  
108 East Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301  
Coming Soon! Charming Cape Cod located in Rosemont, minutes to Del Ray and Metro has it all! Move-in ready, complete with CAC, off-street parking, screened-in porch and much more!  
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



**The Point At Twin Lakes** \$649,000  
219 Twin Lake Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
5BR/4BA 5000 sqft home on almost 2 acres less than 2 miles from VRE stop. Close to new biking/jogging path.  
Kevin Harold Posey 703-628-5823



**Huntington** \$297,500  
2104 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303  
A few min. walk to Metro! It can't get more affordable and convenient than this! 3 fin. lvl Duplex with Lg. fenced back yard and spacious patio. 2BR/2BA.  
Fred Marcellus 703-340-2925



**River Towers** \$252,900  
6621 Wakefield Drive 313, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Largest 2BR floorplan offering stunning view of park-like setting, neutral decor, ample closet space, lg picture windows. Amenities incl prkng, pool, tennis. OPEN 3/2 (1p-4p).  
Heidi Burkhardt 703-217-6009



**Belle View** \$184,900  
6604 Boulevard View B2, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Sunny cute Belle View 1BR/1BA condo. Top floor unit, great value, low condo fee, parking. Restaurants, shops & more nearby! Bus to metro, just off GW Parkway near Old Town.  
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068

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**JUST LISTED**



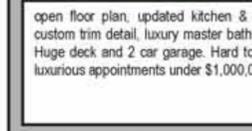
**4300 Sheridans Point Ct**  
**\$829,900**  
**Elegant Georgian Colonial!**  
 Abundant custom enhancements make this property a true showplace. 3 fin. levels, open floor plan, updated kitchen & baths, sunroom, magnificent custom trim detail, luxury master bath, recently finished lower level. Huge deck and 2 car garage. Hard to find home with this size and luxurious appointments under \$1,000,000.

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**



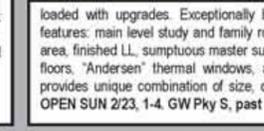
**4200 Ferry Landing Rd**  
**\$698,500**  
**Spacious Colonial- Shows Like Model!**  
 Unique opportunity! This gorgeous 4BR Colonial is in impeccable condition, located on large lot and is loaded with upgrades. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Fab features: main level study and family room, large kitchen, breakfast area, finished LL, sumptuous master suite, stunning Brazilian Cherry floors, Andersen thermal windows, and 2 car garage. Property provides unique combination of size, condition and prime location. **OPEN SUN 2/23, 1-4. GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing.**

**OPEN SUN**



**9409 Ludgate Dr**  
**\$1,980,000**  
**Magnificent Setting!**  
 Stately Colonial Estate in the Virginia plantation tradition. Magnificent setting on high bluff overlooking Potomac at its widest point. Views protected by bordering conservation land. Home is truly spectacular with high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, 4BRs, each with its own private bath and a breathtaking view from the master bedroom suite. A 300 ft dock (approx.) with lifts. **OPEN SUN 3/2, 1-4. GW Pky S, past Estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd. L Washington Woods, R Ludgate.**

**JUST LISTED**



**9309 Reef Ct**  
**\$629,000**  
**Three Level Colonial- Near River!**  
 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!

**NEW PRICE** **OPEN SUN**



**8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd**  
**\$839,000**  
**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** **SOLD!**



**4821 Stillwell Ave**  
**\$529,500**  
**Curb Appeal Galore!**

**8888 McNair Dr**  
**\$749,500**  
**5 Bedroom Colonial Prime Location**

**SOLD!**



**9009 Captains Row**  
**\$665,000**  
**Great Opportunity!**

**9410 Coral Ln**  
**\$649,500**  
**Yacht Haven- Near River!**

**JUST LISTED** **SOLD!**



**1938 Shiver Dr**  
**\$625,000**  
**Totally Updated!**

**4325 Adrienne Dr**  
**\$598,950**  
**Southwood Gem!**

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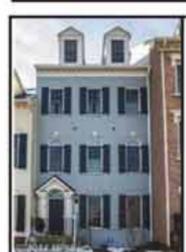


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**\$ 1,100,000 Alexandria "IT'S A TEN"**



Exceptional townhome with designer flair. Seasonal views of the Washington Sailing Marina and the Potomac River. Spacious 3,444 sq ft of living space with hardwoods throughout. Entertainment room on 4th level or 4th bedroom. Roof top deck. 2 car garage. Short commute to Old Town, DC and Reagan Airport. 3BR/3.55BA

Call for more information:  
**Deborah Alea 703.447.1315**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 985,000**

**Alexandria / Potomac Greens 1744 POTOMAC GREENS DR**



Visit this spacious and sunny 4 level townhouse with 4BR/3.5BA, roof top terrace and 2 fireplaces. There are hardwood floors, formal living and dining rooms; roomy eat-in kitchen with granite counters and SSA plus a 2-car garage. Located at the North End of Old Town, 1 stop to DC

**Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441**

**\$ 1,059,000 Alexandria "SEMINARY RIDGE"**



Sited on a quiet cul-de-sac, an expanded and renovated Colonial by builder with \$200K+ of quality upgrades. Gourmet kitchen, wet bar, laundry area, formal living and dining rooms, family room with wood-burning fireplace and half bath plus office area on ML. 4BRs and 2 spa-like baths on UL. Finished LL has vast living space, 2nd kitchen area and full bath. 2 car garage with hi-tech flooring tiles.

**Michael Manuel 703.615.6317**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 519,000**

**Alexandria South 8320 FT HUNT RD**



This large 3-4BR / 2.5BA home with a solarium addition will delight nature lovers! The lush garden provides views of nature and greenery from every window. Skylight, bay windows, warm hardwoods, separate DR. Freshly painted, replacement windows. LL family room with fireplace. Rec room addition. Fenced yard with patio and storage shed. New roof. Meticulously maintained.

**Martha Deal 703.622.6797**

**\$ 699,999 Alexandria Old Town "HISTORIC - PLAQUED HOME"**



All the charm you want is in this home in sought after Old Town location. A private brick patio with adjacent off-street brick parking plus an amazing moveable fence that allows for gigantic garden party rounds out the outdoor space. Gorgeous wood floors, 2 wood-burning fireplaces. Lower level has private front entrance. LR/DR have built-ins. 3BR/1BA

**Julia Martin 703.850.5543**

**\$ 475,000 Washington, DC "RARELY AVAILABLE"**



Two full units combined producing a great unit with 2/3BR, 2BA, 9 closets, and a 30 ft balcony with western views. Huge master suite with full bath and walk-in closet. Kitchen window. Parquet floors under carpet. Garage parking. 24/7 security/concierge. Perfect location near Metro, GWU and more.

**McCormickandLusk.com**  
**Daniel Lusk & Michael McCormick 202.412.8885**

**\$ 389,900 Alex. / Rosemont "QUIET SETTING"**



2BR/1BA condo located in quiet, tree lined community. Hardwood floors throughout, kitchen has stainless steel appliances; granite counter tops and cherry cabinets, covered patio off eat-in kitchen perfect for barbecuing. 4 blocks to the King Street Metro.

Virtual Tour: [www.bobskinnerhomes.org](http://www.bobskinnerhomes.org)  
**Bob Skinner 703.585.6683**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 680,000 Alexandria 1911 SWORD LN**



4BR/3.5BA home offers M.L. open floor plan with fireplace, hardwoods. The screened porch overlooks a private fenced yard backing to woods. Entertain or work from home in separate office space. Rec room has wet-bar/mini-fridge and built-in bookcase/entertainment center. Large kitchen, separate DR plus carport round out this great home.

**Katherine.Ward@inf.com**  
**Katherine Ward 703.627.8782**

**\$ 579,000 Alexandria "HISTORY & CHARM"**



Seize the opportunity to turn an 1830's historic flourer into a home you will love. Currently 2 - 3 bedrooms with 1.5 baths, 2 fireplaces, and an enormous amount of land for the outdoor living of your dreams. Good potential for expansion.

**Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com**  
**Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914**

**\$ 369,000 Alexandria City "IDEAL LOCATION"**



Pretty 1BR/1BA pied-a-terre boasts sunny open floor plan, wood floors, bright kitchen, recently updated bath and excellent closet space including large walk-in. Both LR and MBR access huge private balcony with a peek of the Potomac. Roof top pool with panoramic river views too! 2 blocks to river and more and just 9 blocks to Metro.

**Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433**  
**Emily Capelli 703.472.1282**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 649,900 Alex. / Waynewood 8506 CROSSLEY PL**



New Listing in Waynewood! An addition and many improvements make this a terrific buy! With a redone kitchen and baths, replaced systems, 4BR and a wonderful sunroom, this home offers space, convenience and is a short distance from Waynewood ES.

**Leah Chapla 703.929.4875**  
**Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343**

**RENTALS**

**1308 Belle View Blvd #B-1 \$1,550**  
 Belle View Garden 2BR / 1BA  
 Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

**801 N Howard St #201 \$1,700**  
 The Plaza Garden 2BR / 2BA 1 assigned 1 unassigned Pkg  
 Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433

**4600 Duke St #1005 \$1,750**  
 Forty Six Hundred Hi-Rise 2BR / 1BA  
 Indereet Juman 703.472.8804

**400 Madison St #1904 \$2,800**  
 Alexandria House Hi-Rise 2BR / 2BA 2 Garage Pkg  
 Ann Kavaljian 703.626.9171

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**Celebrate Black History Month.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Feb. 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](http://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 through March 2. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Frances Gallardo: Meteorology" through March 2 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/target](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target).

**Art Exhibit.** See The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show, on view from Feb. 19-March 2. Faculty works will be showcased alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by the student body. Located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) 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 through March 16. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See Katie Rrunnerstrom'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](http://nvfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

**Theater Performance.** See "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., through 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](http://boxofficetickets.com). For group sales and information call the theatre at 703-548-9044. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://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/](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/) for more.

**Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition.** At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or call 703-746-4994.

**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](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Woodlawn Exhibit.** See work of needlers from across the country, including objects created by First Ladies and First Family members, including items by Edith Roosevelt, Dolley Madison and Barbara Bush. The exhibit runs March 1-31 at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. Lunch is available from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for a fee. Admission is \$10/adult; \$5/student. Visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See photographer E.E. McCollum transform the figure in "The Cocoon Series" March 13 through April 7 in the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Through a series of black and white photographs, McCollum transforms the human figure by using nylon tubing to encase the body. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

**Art Exhibit.** See "REVOLUTION: Art and Technology" art exhibit from April 4-27 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists explore their relationship with technology in computer-created art, digitally manipulated art, art made from electronic parts, mixed-media pieces expressing feelings about technology, and more. Hours are Thursdays noon-6 p.m.; Friday & Saturday noon-9 p.m.; Sunday noon-6 p.m. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

**Attics and Alleys Tour.** Tickets are now on sale for the Attics and Alleys tour, a three-hour walking tour featuring rarely seen spaces of four sites — the Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Carlyle House. Tours will be offered Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-noon. \$35/peron. Reservations required. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

**Art Exhibit.** "Women Legends of Alexandria: 2007-2013" art exhibit will be on display at Prudential PenFed Realty, 300 N. Washington St., suite 100. The exhibit will showcase portraits from the Living Legends of Alexandria project with selected works from the Del Ray Artisans. Show runs March 3-June 27. Hours are Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Sit Down and Take a Stand: Samuel W. Tucker and the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In" at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The exhibit focuses on the life of famed civil rights attorney Samuel Wilber Tucker, and highlights the role of Robert Strange, who was a runner between the library and Tucker's office, keeping Tucker abreast of developments. The exhibit runs through August. Free. 703-746-4356.

## 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

# 'Next Fall' Opens This Weekend

Port City Playhouse presents gay love story.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Port City Playhouse is staging "Next Fall" from Feb. 28 to March 15. The contemporary love story written by Geoffrey Nauffts is about two gay men in an up-and-down relationship in New York. The character of Luke is devoutly religious and his lover Adam is an atheist. The action revolves around their five-year relationship and how they make it work despite their differences. However, when an accident changes everything, Adam must turn to Luke's family for support.

"I want to tell a realistic story about two people who love each other very much," said Director Rob Batarla. "And that at the end of the day, the differences that you think really matter just don't really matter." He added, "Although the story centers around a same-sex couple, the central theme is universal."

"Next Fall" opened off-Broadway in 2009 and was nominated for the 2010 Tony Award for Best Play. It also received a 2010 Outer Critics Circle Award as Best New American Play.

According to Richard Isaacs, 50, of Old Town, who plays the role of Adam, one of the two leads, "All of the characters are in search of where they are in life. They seem to be looking for something, but they aren't sure what they're looking for. I think it's about life's journey and finding who you are in life."

Added Isaacs, "In this five-year relationship, they are trying to find a common connection and make the relationship work despite different theological attitudes ... Some of the questions Adam asks Luke, I have asked these same questions in my own life."

Frederick Dechow, 37, of Alexandria plays the role of Luke — an actor in love with Adam who was brought up as a fundamental Christian. He says the play portrays a wide spectrum of the human experience — it's funny, silly, sad and serious. "I'd call it a dramedy," he said.

Dechow said, "[Luke] is from New York and sees things from a broader perspective; he's a serious Christian. He loves everybody and tries to see things from Adam's perspective."

Batarla said he wants people to walk away from this show relating to the characters. "I want people to say to themselves that they heard things on stage that they have said themselves at some point in their life," he said. "I believe that connection will draw

run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**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](http://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 reservations. Call 703-683-2205.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/GAZETTE PACKET

"Next Fall" features actors Frederick Dechow, 37, who plays Luke (left), and Richard Isaacs, 50, who plays Adam.

the audience into the story."

Batarla said that because the show bounces back and forth in time a lot, they date-stamped each scene for the audience — with every scene having an exact time and location. He said, "Not only will that help the audience understand what is happening where, but also give that sense that maybe at that specific time and place these things really did happen."

A challenge for Batarla was to make the acting real. "I have asked my actors to speak as they would speak in real life," he said. "In real life, we don't stop on our way to the kitchen to say a line ... So we worked a lot on the fluidity of the show to enhance its realism."

According to producer Carol Strachan, Port City Playhouse has a board and a subcommittee who read plays and make recommendations on which plays to produce. In turn, the board approves them or not and then asks the community for directors. Last February, Batarla interviewed for the director job and got the job in March, which means he's been processing the material for about a year. Rehearsals started about six weeks ago.

Strachan has also produced for Port City's production of "Medea," "The Children's Hour" and "The Drawer Boy." She also accent-coached several of their plays when called for a British accent. Her background is director, producer and actor since 1979.

The other actors in "Next Fall" include: Butch (Cal Whitehurst), Arlene (Gayle Nichols Grimes), Brandon (Andy De) and Holly (Suzanne Martin).

"Next Fall" performances take place at 8 p.m. on Feb. 28 and March 1, 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15; and 2 p.m. on March 8 and 15. Port City Playhouse is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Purchase tickets for \$16-\$18 at [www.portcityplayhouse.org](http://www.portcityplayhouse.org). Recommended for ages 15 and above as it contains strong language and mature themes.

# ENTERTAINMENT

**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](http://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](http://actionalexandria.org).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**African Jewelry Making.** 5:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Rec Center, 905 Wythe St. Families can learn about the history of African jewelry while create their own piece.

**Lecture Series.** 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. "Excavations at the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery and the Concept of the Proper Coffin in the Mid-19th Century" is the topic.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**Fun Fly.** 8 a.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The Fun Fly consists of a free-flight area, a radio controlled plane area, and an outdoor flight area, weather permitting. There is also a kids' exhibit, where younger children are taught how to build a custom paper airplane, and a flight simulator, where participants can experience flying a plane. There is a \$5 landing fee for all flyers; the event is free to everyone else. For additional information or with questions, contact [WESTPotomac.engineering@gmail.com](mailto:WESTPotomac.engineering@gmail.com).

**Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres!** 10:30 a.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Children can sing, shake and sound out rhythms while trying regional Latin dances and practicing Spanish words. 703-884-1040.

**Show.** 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Max Major will perform his show "THINK: An Evening of Mind Reading and Magic." Major uses a combination of magic, mind-reading, psychology, hypnosis, and suggestion to demonstrate the untapped powers of the mind. At Old Town Theater, 815 King St. \$32/general; \$49/VIP. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) for tickets and times.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Wedding Open House.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kimpton's Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Couples can tour the hotel and see the ballroom, courtyard and guest rooms, taste food, meet with wedding professionals and vendors and more. Raffle prizes will be drawn throughout the day. Couples can RSVP to [weddings@monacoalexandria.com](mailto:weddings@monacoalexandria.com). Visit [www.monacoalexandria.com](http://www.monacoalexandria.com) or [www.jackson20.com](http://www.jackson20.com) for more.

**Walk with Washington.** 2 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Tour some of the sites associated with George Washington. Free. 703-746-3301.

**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](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or 703-548-1789 for tickets.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear chamber music of Brahms and Beethoven. \$10 suggested donation. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum) or call 703-838-4994.

**Dance Performance.** 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. See "I Missed It" by Jane Franklin Dance Company. \$20. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or 703-933-1111.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 25

**Swing Dance.** 9-10:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Dance to music by Shannon Gunn and the Bullettes. \$10. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) or 703-359-9882.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

**Book Making Celebration.** 6:30 p.m. at Cora Kelly STEM School, 3600 Commonwealth Ave. Parents and children can create their own family history book.

**Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. "Archaeology of the War of 1812: From Barney's Flotilla to Bladensburg." Presented by the Office of Historic Alexandria and Alexandria Historical Society.

**DJ Dance Party.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Swing dance to music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s and more. \$6. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) or 703-359-9882.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 27

**Benefit.** 6-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 S. Union St. Portion of the proceeds benefit the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. Hear live music by Molly Winston duo. Visit [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://www.alexandriaseaport.org) for more.

**Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. The sixth-graders will perform "Burgundy on Broadway: Heroes and Legends," a musical revue that spans "Spamalot" to "Footloose" to "Hercules." \$5/person; \$1/child at the door.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 28

**Gala Benefit.** 7-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed & Grain, 106 S. Union St. The Fifth Annual CAC GALA benefiting The Center for Alexandria's Children. The Center will honor 2014 Board Award Recipients: Nigel and Lori Morris Alexandria Deputy City Manager Debra Collins. Includes a buffet, silent auction, raffle and more. Tickets start at \$150. Visit [www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org](http://www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org) or 703-746-6008 for more.

**Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. The sixth-graders will perform "Burgundy on Broadway: Heroes and Legends," a musical revue that spans "Spamalot" to "Footloose" to "Hercules." \$5/person; \$1/child at the door.

**Music Performance.** Carly Harvey will perform with her band Kiss & Ride at the Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) or 703-884-1040 for tickets.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts) or

703-212-2950.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 1

**Dance.** Lessons at 6:30 p.m., dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. A DJ will provide music. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association. \$10/member; \$12/non-member; \$5/child under age 18. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.

**Speakeasy Era Fundraiser.** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy music, silent auction, food and more. Benefits the museum. \$100/person. Visit [www.facebook.com/GadsbysTavernMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/GadsbysTavernMuseum) or 703-746-4242 for tickets.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade.** 12:30 p.m. at the corner of King and Alfred streets, continuing to King and Lee streets. Hosted by the Ballyshanners, this year's parade will be led by Grand Marshal Martin White, owner of King Street Blues. In addition to the Parade, festivities will include a Classic Car Show, which begins at 8 a.m. on Pitt St. between King and Cameron Streets. The car show judging will begin at 10 a.m. The "Fun Dog Show" will be held in Market Square, 301 King St., beginning at 11 a.m. Visit [www.ballyshanners.org](http://www.ballyshanners.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** 2 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts) or 703-212-2950.

**"Make Your Pizza Workshop.** 10 a.m.-noon at Pizzeria Paradiso Old Town, 124 King St. Families can learn how to make pizza. \$30/one adult or one adult and one child over 5 years of age, \$10/each additional child or adult. Prize drawings and more. Reservations required. Visit [eatyourpizza.com](http://eatyourpizza.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 2

**Opening Reception.** 2-4 p.m., meet the artist of "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/](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/) for more.

**Film and Panel Discussion.** 2 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Watch "An Ordinary Hero," the true story of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a civil rights legend from Arlington, who was a Freedom Rider, a white participant in the Jackson Woolworth Sit-In and who helped plan the March on Washington. Following the movie there will be a panel discussion. \$15 with a reservation or \$20 at the door. Students with ID will be admitted free. Reserve at [wjrhospitality@gmail.com](mailto:wjrhospitality@gmail.com) or contact Michele Milden, 703-820-7794.

**Closing Reception.** 2-4 p.m. see The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show. Faculty works will be showcased alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by the student body. Located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**History Book Club.** 2 p.m. at 201 Prince St. Alexandria Gazette Packet reporter, and local author, Michael Lee Pope will lead a discussion of "African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century." At this inaugural meeting, members will determine what time and day they would like to meet and what book they would like to read

## Happy St. Catrick's Day!

You've heard about St. Patrick who drove the snakes out of Ireland, but did you know about St. Catrick, who saved the kittens out of shelters? Now's your chance to find out! Join Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation for a St. Catrick's Day celebration, and learn how you can help save lives.



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- ♣ Adoption Center Coordinators will provide information about volunteering at PetSmart centers.
- ♣ Our Transport Coordinator will explain how you can help with little more than some time and a car.

Join us at Lost Dog Café-McLean Saturday, March 15, 3-7 p.m. Enjoy snacks & soft drinks while learning how you can help. 1690 Anderson Road, McLean (near Safeway) [www.lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://www.lostdogandcatrescue.org)



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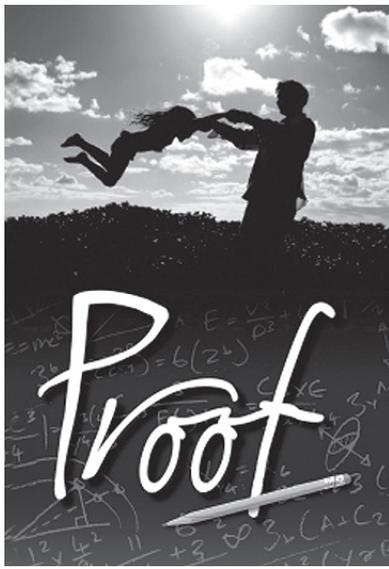
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# ENTERTAINMENT

next. The meeting is free and open to the public. Call 703-548-0035 or visit [www.NVFAA.org](http://www.NVFAA.org).

**What's Happening to Frogs?** 3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Chris Hobson, a zoologist with the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, will talk about the issues frogs are facing, tips on how to identify them and more. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or call 703-768-2525.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Beau Soir Ensemble, a flute, viola and harp trio will perform. \$15/adults; \$10/children. The performance will include music by Ravel, Villa Lobos and Tangos by Milton Barnes. Visit [www.beausoir.org](http://www.beausoir.org) or 202-607-6000.

#### TUESDAY/MARCH 4

**Illustrated Lecture.** 6 p.m. at Morrison House Hotel, 116 S. Alfred St. "The Story of the Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Bas-Reliefs." Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) or [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org) for more.

**Book Talk.** 7 p.m. at Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, 3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. C.L. Bragg will discuss "Crescent Moon over Carolin: William Moultrie and American Liberty." Free, registration required. Visit [MountVernon.org/BookSeries](http://MountVernon.org/BookSeries) to register.

#### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 5

**Swing Dance.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Smokin' Polecats with Marianna Previti provide the music. \$10. Call 703-359-9882 or visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com).

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 6

**Children's Concert.** 7:30 pm. at Northern Virginia Community College, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The NOVA Alexandria Band and the John Adams Elementary Orff Ensemble will perform a variety of selections. Free. 703-845-6252 or e-mail [leckstein@nvcc.edu](mailto:leckstein@nvcc.edu) for more.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will perform music for the jazz quartet. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

#### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 6-9

**Ikebana Show.** The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., will be host to The Sogestu

### AT THE LIBRARY

**Beatley Library,** 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1702.  
**Duncan Library,** 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Call 703-746-1705.  
**Burke Branch Library,** 4701 Seminary Road. Call 703-746-1704.  
**Barrett Branch Library,** 717 Queen St. Call 703-746-1703.  
Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 28

**Film Series.** 3:45 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Watch a movie based on a true story of one man's struggle with homelessness, which stars Will Smith. Free.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 1

**Special Author Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Duncan Library. Local author Madelyn Rosenberg, author of "Canary in a Coal Mine," will talk about her book. Followed by crafts. Free.  
**Saturday Stories.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free.

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 2

**Irish Heritage Film Screening.** 2 p.m. at Beatley Library. Watch a movie that celebrate Irish American Heritage Month. Call for title.

#### MONDAY/MARCH 3

**Little One-Ders.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.  
**Baby Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Songs, fingerplays and bounces for babies up to 11 months. Free.  
**Baby Rhyme Time.** 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.  
**Read, Sing & Play Baby.** 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children up to 11 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.

#### TUESDAY/MARCH 4

**Stories and Songs.** 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.  
**Mother Goose Time.** 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.  
**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.  
**Stories to Grow On.** 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.  
**Baby Rhyme Time.** 11:30 a.m. at

Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.  
**Game Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 8-12 can play games against friends or meet new people to play against. Free.

#### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 5

**Mother Goose Time.** 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.  
**Time For 2s.** 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required.  
**Stories to Grow On.** 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.  
**Children's Crafting.** 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library. School-age children can enjoy crafts and more. Free.  
**Friends of Burke Branch Library Book Sale Preview Night.** 5 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Members can buy books, DVDs and CDs at discounted rates. Membership available at the door. Proceeds benefit Friends of Burke Branch Library.  
**Hitchcock Film Series.** 6:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library. Watch a movie and then discuss it at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. Free.  
**Family Story & Craft Night.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy stories and a craft. Free.  
**Author Talk.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Johanna Willner will discuss and sign the book "Christine," about life after WWII as seen through the eyes of a young German girl. Free.

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 6

**Mother Goose Story Time.** 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.  
**Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free.  
**Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free.  
**Little One-Ders.** 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

School, which promotes Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arranging. Sogetsu members have selected works of art by Art League and Torpedo Factory artists to inspire and complete their harmonious installations. There will be a reception from 6-9 on March 6, performances on March 8 at 2 p.m. and flower arranging demonstration on March 9 at 2 p.m. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 7

**Reception.** Meet some of the artists of "Portraits of Pop Culture" from 7-10 p.m. 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](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts) or 703-212-2950.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**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](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

**Music Performance.** Alexandria resident Marquita Renee Ntim will

perform from noon-3 p.m. at the John 3:16 Christian Bookstore, 7953 Annapolis Road, Lanham, Md. Free. Visit [www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/?id=14752](http://www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/?id=14752) for more.

**"A Talent of Women" Arts & Crafts Show.** 2-5 p.m. at 1451 Belle Haven Road, #420. Browse crafts, photography, art, jewelry and more. Free. Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres.

**Symphony Ball and Auction.** 6 p.m. at the Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square. The Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria is celebrating 70 years with an auction, food, dancing and more. \$200/person. E-mail Anna Russi for tickets at [annarussi@live.com](mailto:annarussi@live.com).

**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Country/folk singer Kate Campbell will perform with Jeep Rosenberg. \$18/general; \$15/advance. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Adolphe Sax Bicentennial Concert. \$17/advance; \$20/door. Visit [classicalsaxophonist.com](http://classicalsaxophonist.com) or 703-244-3710.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts) or 703-212-2950.

**Fundraising Gala.** 8 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Alexandria Choral Society will perform Dvorak's Mass in D Major in its original version for choir, soli, and organ. A reception and silent auction will follow. \$25/adult; \$15/senior, military; \$10/student. Youth age 13 and under are free. Visit

[www.alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 9

**Talk.** 2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. A symposium will discuss "Women with a View," about three women who were instrumental in preserving Mount Vernon. \$30 includes a tour of the View and Mount Vernon and reception. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/womenwithaview](http://www.mountvernon.org/womenwithaview) to register.

**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](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

**Choral Evensong.** 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the adult choir in a choral lenten evensong. This will be preceded by mezzo soprano Barbara Hollinshead and lutenist Howard Bass performing devotional songs by 16th century English composer John Dowland. Free, with donations going to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. A reception will follow. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or e-mail [grant@stpaulsalexandria.com](mailto:grant@stpaulsalexandria.com) for more.

## MONDAY/MARCH 10

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. The Duke University Chorale will perform a free concert. 703-549-4766.

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# PET GAZETTE



Bella with our daughter Emma Schutzius. We adopted Bella through Good Dog Rescue in Arlington, not knowing anything about Italian Greyhounds. They are very affectionate and very particular. They don't like cold. Or wind. Or rain. Or loud noises. They do love to burrow under covers, go for walks, and are gentle, wonderful pets. Our Bella was a true Italian, offering both sides of her cheek for kisses. We never thought we would have a dog that actually preferred wearing sweaters! We lost Bella in 2012 to granulomatous meningoencephalitis, which is a rare disease small dogs can get. I would definitely recommend Italian Greyhounds as we still cherish our time with Bella Amore. — LAURA FRIES



Our dog JT, a 15-year-old Golden Retriever/Chesapeake Retriever mix, was rescued in 2001; he is still active and walks two miles per day, sleeps as much as he wants, dreams often of squirrels that got away, and still loves to hold multiple tennis balls in his mouth. He befriends both humans and other animals and serves as a goodwill ambassador in our neighborhood.

— BARB AND MARK LABRECQUE



Last summer my father moved to the Sunrise Senior Living community in Alexandria. We now visit him there often and frequently bring our 9-year-old Lab mix Guinness along. While not officially a therapy dog, Guinness' naturally happy and friendly temperament brings a welcome joy and comfort to my father, as well as many of the other residents she meets when visiting. Here Guinness enjoys relaxing with 86-year-old Chalmers Marquis in his room.

— BRIAN MARQUIS

Sawyer was adopted from the Alexandria Animal Shelter on Friday the 13th, 2010. The shelter was having a special — black cats were only \$13. Alexandria's shelter — and many around the country — have a hard time getting black cats adopted. According to a study by UC Berkeley, people still fall prey to old and erroneous superstitions. Black cats, therefore, are far more likely to be euthanized.



Sawyer is very sweet, velvety soft and is one of the friendliest cats we've ever had. If we are going to believe any superstitions, we'll go with the Scottish (Alexandria is after all a Scottish town) that a black cat in your home symbolizes prosperity. In Japan, black cats are considered good luck and if you live in the English Midlands, people there give black cats as wedding presents as a sign of good fortune. I hope more people will consider adopting a black cat.

— LAURA FRIES

Leslie Wilder, MacGregor and Bill Buchanan at the Scottish Christmas Walk. He loves to make friends — such as The Treat Lady — on his morning walks. He is better than a home security system, although he may not be less expensive, and has protected his household from lions, tigers, buffalo, and other marauding beasts. (Well, we haven't seen any, have we?) Now 11 years old, he has attended several Old Town Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walks.



PHOTO BY STEVE WOMACK

— LESLIE WILDER



Cat Cinco, "son" of Susan Dawson and Max Rotermund, loves to play at the door, banging it against the desk next to it and making a loud noise. He may be found there any time there's a human around to react.



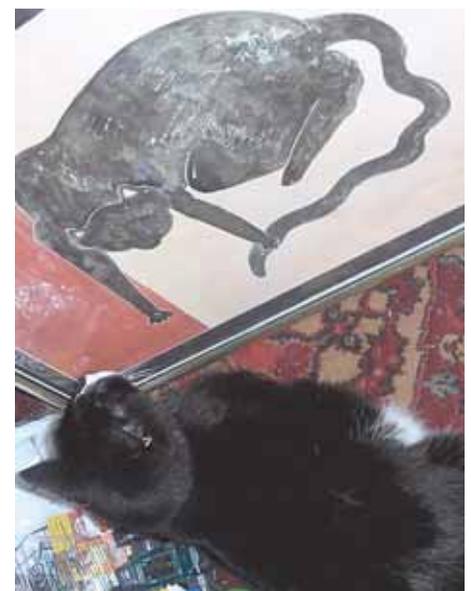
Kay, a Yorkie Bichon mix, is being blessed by Associate Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church (trinityalexandria.org). Kay is held by Lucelle O'Flaherty, third generation at Trinity and one of the organizers of the annual Pet Blessing. Resa and Dan O'Flaherty proudly witnessed the first blessing of their "Grand-dog."



Rupert is taking a cat nap on my couch.

Rupert looking up at a portrait of his sister, Black Beauty Onyx.

— SALLY MACKLIN



# Fighting over Medicaid Expansion

By ROB KRUPICKA  
DELEGATE (D-45)

This past week we began the process of amending the House budget proposal. I joined a number of my colleagues in objecting to cuts to public safety and economic development programs as well as to the proposal to spend \$450 million on a new office for the General Assembly at a time when we are not adequately funding core state services. I introduced three floor amendments. The first is to adequately fund the General Registrar so they can comply with the Voter ID laws. Virginia's Voter ID law requires all voters to have a valid identification in order to cast their ballot. Over 330,000 active Virginia voters currently don't have a driver's license. However, the proposed budget only has enough funds to provide free voter ID cards to about 4,000 people. By not fixing this, we risk disenfranchising tens of thousands of Virginia voters and we also put the constitutionality of Virginia's Voter ID Law into question.

The second amendment I introduced was to defund the Opportunity Educational Institute. The proposed budget cuts funding for the Opportunity Educational Institute down to only \$150,000 a year and removes 6 out of the 7 staff positions. This is a good step, but we should finish the job and completely de-fund this school take-over program.

If we want to help struggling students in Virginia, we should start with a full study of what those students need, to understand where they are excelling and where they are struggling so we can put forward a policy based in fact and evidence. Lastly, I introduced an amendment to ensure there are enough funds available to help train teachers as we reform our student testing and assessment system and move away from so many SOL tests.



RICHMOND  
REPORT

The big fight remains Medicaid expansion. While some Senate Republicans are proposing interesting solutions to move forward to expand health coverage, House Republicans are digging in their heels and are refusing to consider any compromise that includes taking Federal funds to expand health access for working Virginians.

We've learned from recent studies that increased coverage would have a significant and positive impact on our economy, would create jobs and cover an additional 400,000 currently uninsured Virginians. Instead, to offset the shortages caused by not taking our tax dollars back from the Feds, they are trying to take funds from other priority areas of the budget including our already cash-strapped schools. We need to cover healthcare for working Virginians, not cut services because we won't cooperate with the Federal Government.

On Friday my bill HB275 passed through the Senate unanimously. This bill would allow for photocopies to be made of certain records of the State Board of Elections that are currently not available to the public. This not only removes tiresome burdens and increases efficiency, but it also broadens the category of records available to the public. As ethics reform and transparency in government have been big topics this year, I am happy to bring a little more sunlight to government by increasing people's access to election records.

It is an honor to represent you, I look forward to communicating with you in the future.



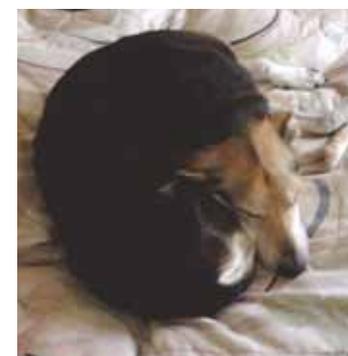
Raja, 3 and a half, got his princely moniker because of his regal countenance and rather entitled attitude. When Raja moved in, I had a bay window with a gallery of framed photos on display. He quickly swiped them away with his paws and made the bay window his "throne." I've been his loyal subject ever since.

— MICHAEL PAYNE



Bridget watching the snow come down — hoping I'll be off from work!

— LAURA M. PORTER



This is our dog, Fido, taken shortly before Dec. 14, 2013, when he reached the end of a long and happy trail. He was 13 and a half. He is pictured sleeping peacefully on his favorite bed.

— ANDY RUDIN



Teddy is half Newfoundland/half Border Collie. He is 10 and 3/4 years old. Last June, Teddy was diagnosed with a non-treatable Sarcoma and we were told to "just keep him comfortable because he did not have long to live." Eight months later, Teddy is still with us and enjoying the 2014 snowstorms. He is alive, because we have changed his diet to a no-grain feed, organic meat and a nutritional powder, consisting mainly of tumeric, ginger and medicinal mushrooms. We also give him extra tumeric and fish oil. We are hoping to share this information with other pet owners, especially those who may be faced with the same circumstances.

— THE POWERS FAMILY



PHOTO BY SALLY B. MACKLIN/GAZETTE PACKET

## At the Athenaeum

Dancers Wayles Haynes, Kate Tuebner, Amy Scaringe, Kryisia Bock and Kevin Truitt from Jane Franklin's Dance company performed on Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Athenaeum in "Penelope's Pesky Pen." They will be performing there again in a children's show on March 16, at 4:30 p.m. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com).

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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**City of Alexandria**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET**



A summary of the City of Alexandria's proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget is set out below. Notice is hereby given of a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the City of Alexandria. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Persons wishing to speak on the proposed budget may sign up prior to the public hearing by calling the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550. Presenters are requested to provide a copy of their text to the City Clerk and Clerk of Council. Persons with disabilities who wish to request an accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550 (TTY/TDD (703) 838-5056) prior to March 10, 2014, if possible.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2015**

	General Fund PROPOSED FY 2015 (1)	All Funds PROPOSED FY 2015 (2)	FY 2015 Capital Improvements (3)
City Council	\$515,815	\$515,815	
City Manager	2,083,690	2,083,690	
City Attorney	2,768,749	2,768,749	
City Clerk and Clerk of Council	425,944	425,944	
18th Circuit Court	\$1,578,593	\$1,578,593	\$131,000
18th General District Court	62,452	62,452	
Clerk of Courts	1,616,542	1,616,542	
Commonwealth's Attorney	2,761,293	3,018,863	
Court Service Unit	1,542,654	1,637,735	
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court	36,129	36,129	
Law Library	0	56,165	
Other Public Safety and Judicial Activities	4,251,208	4,435,385	139,738
Registrar of Voters	1,275,660	1,275,660	
Sheriff	30,072,886	30,944,594	1,940,700
Finance (including Real Estate Assessments)	\$ 13,519,702	\$ 14,280,141	
General Services	13,615,177	13,820,177	\$4,819,000
Human Rights	703,818	741,482	
Information Technology Services	9,348,392	9,617,693	9,285,000
Management and Budget	1,265,046	1,265,047	
Non-Departmental - Debt Service	62,664,899	62,664,899	
Non-Departmental - Contingent Reserve	0	0	
Non-Departmental - Insurance, Memberships, Other	6,299,382	7,299,382	
Human Resources	3,933,587	3,933,587	
Performance and Accountability (including Internal Audit)	863,882	863,882	
Office of Communications & Public Information	2,213,928	2,213,928	
Fire	\$43,806,789	\$ 44,924,108	\$3,071,370
Code Administration	120,000	8,231,411	1,700,000
Emergency Communications	7,197,239	7,197,239	230,000
Police	55,445,255	57,234,709	180,000
Alexandria Health Department	6,144,044	6,168,559	
Community and Human Services	50,369,988	88,346,748	150,000
Other Health Activities	1,764,150	1,764,150	
Housing	2,438,468	3,463,736	
Economic Development Activities	5,106,855	5,106,855	
Project Implementation	2,053,865	3,137,836	
Planning and Zoning	6,322,919	6,671,275	1,630,000
Historic Alexandria	2,913,433	3,648,931	245,000
Library	6,658,057	7,082,367	220,000
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities	20,938,990	22,252,558	7,537,197
Transit Subsidies	20,006,378	52,455,378	13,180,000
Transportation and Environmental Services	31,443,110	42,601,342	29,957,831
Other Educational Activities	11,877	11,877	331,630
Schools	190,611,472	248,921,824	17,715,817
Cash Capital	\$18,058,794	\$18,058,794	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$634,831,110</b>	<b>\$794,436,232</b>	<b>\$92,464,283</b>

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City's website ([alexandriava.gov/budget/](http://alexandriava.gov/budget/)) or visit City Hall, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3400, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PROPERTY TAXES**

The proposed budget includes no increase to the existing property tax rate of \$1.038 per \$100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that City Council will set the maximum tax rate to be advertised at its March 11, 2014, meeting at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers and that Council may not adopt a rate that exceeds this tax rate, but may adopt an equal or lesser tax rate. The proposed budget includes no change in the current motor vehicle personal property tax rate of \$5.00 per \$100 of assessed value. All other personal property tax rates, including vehicles specially equipped to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$3.55 per \$100 of assessed value; personal property other than vehicles, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value; machinery and tools, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.50 per \$100 of assessed value and privately owned boats and water craft that are used for recreational purposes only which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, are unchanged. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for affordable housing and to support existing debt service related to affordable housing is 0.6 cents. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for storm water is 0.5 cents. The amount of real estate tax rate reserved for transportation projects is 2.2 cents.

**RESIDENTIAL REFUSE COLLECTION FEE**

It is proposed that the City's single family residential trash collection fee remain at \$328 per household in FY 2015.

**SEWER LINE MAINTENANCE FEE**

It is proposed that the City's sewer line maintenance fee remain the same at \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons of water.

Jackie M. Henderson  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
703-746-4550

**Across Northern Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information such as audio from 911 calls.**



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

**Secrets of 911**

FROM PAGE 1

want some kind of understanding that they are not going to have their name released.”

Advocates for open government disagree with that perspective. They say 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is working on their behalf. Instead of denying access to public records altogether, which is how Alexandria is now handling subsequent requests for the 911 audio in the Ruthanne Lodato murder, those who support public access to government documents say the information could be partially redacted to protect sensitive information. But that's not how the Alexandria city government is handling the situation. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request from Connection Newspapers, the city attorney's office said the record

supposed to redact the whole thing.”

**IN VIRGINIA** police agencies have the ability to withhold a variety of information from the public, including “documents and information, including complaints, court orders, memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, photographs, correspondence, reports, witness statements, and evidence.” Police agencies regularly use this part of the Freedom of Information Act to prevent the public to having free access to information.

“I think they are exercising their discretion too broadly,” said Grannis. “This sort of information should be made public by default, particularly in this situation where they have already released the tape and it has already been made public, there really cannot be a justification for withholding it from future requesters.”

**“This sort of information should be made public by default, particularly in this situation where they have already released the tape and it has already been made public, there really cannot be a justification for withholding it from future requesters.”**

**— Emily Grannis of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press**

was being “entirely withheld” even though it was already released to the Washington Post.

“They can't discriminate from one media source to the next,” said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. “And they can redact parts of the call they think might jeopardize the investigation, but they aren't

Alexandria police officials say the justification is that the transparency was a mistake — that they never intended on sharing the audio with the public. Perhaps most importantly, police leaders underscored, they did not ever waive their privileges to withhold information from the public. Across Northern Virginia, government officials say the public's right to know is tempered by the government's desire for secrecy. That means that the presumption is that 911 calls associated with criminal complaints should be secret.

“If there are any kinds of criminal charges tied into a case or if it's an ongoing investigation or if it's ever been part of an investigation, then it's exempt from release under FOIA and can only be released under a court order,” said Erik Daniel, custodian of records for Fairfax County Department of Public Safety. “Once there's a criminal incident associated with a record, then it's exempt from FOIA.”



**T.C. Williams junior Grace Peterson scored a team-high 17 points against Stonewall Jackson in the 6A North region quarterfinals on Tuesday.**



**T.C. Williams senior Tykera Carter played her final game for the Titans on Tuesday night.**

## TC Girls' Basketball Loses in Region Quarterfinals

**Titans fall short despite overcoming 11-point deficit.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**.C. Williams girls' basketball coach Kesha Walton wasn't ready to move on.

The Titans will have multiple talented athletes back next season, but on Tuesday night at Stonewall Jackson High School, Walton took the time to praise a team that nearly won despite facing a double-digit second-half deficit.

"I'm still in awe that it's come to an end," Walton said. "I love this team and love the group of girls that we got to coach this year. If anything, I really wanted it for them."

T.C. Williams lost to Stonewall Jackson 51-47, ending its season in the 6A North region quarterfinals. Facing a team led by Wake Forest-bound post Nicole Floyd, the Titans overcame an 11-point third-quarter deficit to take 45-44 lead when Rejoice Spivey came up with a steal and a layup with 4:38 remaining in the fourth quarter. But a pair of turnovers in the final minute cost T.C. Williams a chance to knock off the Raiders, who entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed from Conference 8.

"These girls right here get after it," Walton said. "They fight to the end and no matter what they keep fighting."

Stonewall Jackson built a 34-23 lead midway through the third quarter thanks in large part to offensive rebounding. Led by 6-foot-2 Floyd, the Raiders scored 10 points on putbacks alone during the second and third quarters. As the game went on, however, the Titans, thanks in large part to 6-footers Grace Peterson and Taylor Burns, did a better job of defending the rim and started to make a comeback.

A 3-pointer by senior guard Angie Schedler cut Stonewall Jackson's lead to 34-30 with less than 3 minutes remaining in the third quarter. The Raiders extended their lead to six, but back-to-back 3-point-

ers by Spivey and Schedler tied the score at 38 late in the third.

Stonewall led 44-40 with less than 5 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, but T.C. Williams answered with a 3-pointer by Schedler and a steal and layup from Spivey to take a 45-44 lead.

"We started to pick it up once we started to play together and stopped rushing everything," Schedler said. "We played our offense and it started to work."

However, a pair of free throws by Genesis Parker gave Stonewall Jackson a 46-45 advantage with 3:22 left in the fourth and the Raiders led for the remainder of the contest.

Peterson led T.C. Williams with 17 points while battling with Floyd and Stonewall Jackson's other post players. Floyd finished with 21 points.

"I think [Peterson] did a phenomenal job — also, Taylor was instrumental in that," Walton said. "We basically just told [Peterson] to face guard [Floyd]. ... Don't



**Six-foot-2 Stonewall Jackson post Nicole Floyd blocks a T.C. Williams shot during Tuesday's regional quarterfinal contest.**

worry about where the ball is, just follow her around."

Peterson said she did "OK" against Floyd. "I could have gotten more boards," Peterson said, "but it was a good experience."

Spivey scored 15 points for the Titans. Schedler finished with a trio of 3-pointers and nine points, senior guard Tykera Carter had four points and Burns added two.

T.C. Williams finished the 2013 portion of its schedule with a 4-5 record. The Titans made a New Year's resolution to complete the 2014 portion of their regular-season schedule undefeated. They did just that, winning 13 games in a row.

T.C. extended its winning streak to 15 with a pair of victories in the Conference 7 tournament, but lost to West Springfield 70-58 in the championship game on Feb. 21.

T.C. Williams defeated McLean 45-44 in

the opening round of regionals on Feb. 24 before losing to Stonewall Jackson.

"It's tough because I've been in the program for five years, so it's pretty tough going through this," Schedler said after

Tuesday's loss. "It happens. We just came out on the short end of the stick. We fought hard, so you can't really take anything away from that."

The Titans will lose seniors Carter, Schedler, Burns and Angelica Coleman, but will return athletes such as Spivey, Peterson and 5-

foot-11 freshman Keyana Roberts.

On Tuesday night, however, Walton wasn't ready to look to the future.

"It's a little bit too soon," she said. "We're just going to have a lot of work to do in the offseason to prepare to get back here and go further next year. That will be our resolution coming in: to get further than we did last year."

**"I love this team and love the group of girls that we got to coach this year. If anything, I really wanted it for them."**

— T.C. Williams girls' basketball coach Kesha Walton



**T.C. Williams junior Rejoice Spivey scored 15 points against Stonewall Jackson on Tuesday night.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

## PEOPLE

# Q&A: Brooke Curran

BY ISABEL AMEND  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**fter witnessing the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, Brooke Curran decided that she would embark on a mission to impact the lives of others. After recreationally running 10 miles each day, Curran made it her goal to run 50 marathons in all 50 states, seven marathons in each continent, and each of the five major marathons. Curran has successfully accomplished all these goals while raising money to fund more than 20 local charities with her Alexandria-based nonprofit, RunningBrooke.

### What was it like running a marathon in each state? Did it get easier over time?

Each state is different and investigating their cities is very fun. Many times, however, I toed the starting line I thought, "Oh my god, whose idea was this?" 26.2 miles is a long way, no matter how many times you've done it. Over time I've become easier on myself; marathon running is now more a social activity than a competitive one. That has certainly made it more easier and fun.

### What was your favorite marathon to run?

That's a difficult question. My favorite international marathon was Berlin, and my favorite U.S. marathons were Boston and Big Sur.

### How do you get the money to run your marathons?

I committed to not using any of the fundraising dollars for travel expenses. I'm a spokesperson for a pharmaceutical company because I have asthma and exercised-induced bronchospasm (EIB). Working part-time helps offset the cost of traveling.

### What are your current goals?

Right now I want to run 100 marathons, raise \$1 million, continue to run one marathon each month while training for my first Ironman, and run them locally, so I can be closer to my family.

### You've run one marathon each month since 2009. Have you ever burned out?

Surprisingly, no. Running speaks to me at a deeper level. I made a personal commitment to Alexandria. My passion for making an impact keeps me fired up. Now that I'm not as fast as I was. I just enjoy learning about a city and talking with my fellow runners. It feels good to be less competitive with myself and focus on the who and why



Brooke Curran at a 1K fun run with children taking home new books.

I am running.

### Share an exciting running story.

Running a marathon in Antarctica was exciting, to say the least. I won that marathon after battling 40 mph sustained winds, mud, sleet, snow, and cold temperatures. We wound our way through Russian, Chinese, and Chilean research bases.

### Tell us about RunningBrooke's impact on the community.

44.5 percent of Alexandria's children ages 2 to 5 years are obese or overweight, 30 percent of children did not pass their SOL tests for reading in 3rd grade, and 12 percent of Alexandria's children drop out of school before graduating. Clearly, some-

thing is wrong. We know that a child who doesn't read by third grade is far more likely to drop out of school and that kids need to get outside to develop healthy bodies and minds. Nevertheless, almost half of our kids are obese, overweight, and cannot walk from where they live to a playground.

RunningBrooke is unique because we go the distance and support the whole child — we invest in children early on in life. Since May of 2009 we have raised and donated over \$300,000 to 22 nonprofits in Alexandria. To celebrate our 5th year, we will build KaBOOM! playground in an Alexandria neighborhood in all of one day with 200 volunteers.

Curran can be reached at [therunningbrookefund@gmail.com](mailto:therunningbrookefund@gmail.com)

PHOTO BY WAYNE HULEHAN

## Celebrating Thirty Years: Past, Present & Future

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

The Alexandria Transit Company and the City of Alexandria  
Cordially Invite You to a Reception Honoring  
DASH's 30 Years of Service to the Alexandria Community

SPEAKERS:  
Mayor William D. Euille  
Paul Abramson, ATC Board of Directors

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Vola Lawson Lobby, Alexandria's City Hall  
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**101 Computers**

**101 Computers**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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**OBITUARY**



**Charles E. Figgins, 70**, of Alexandria, Virginia died on February 4, 2014 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Mr. Figgins is survived by his wife of 47 years, Virginia J. Figgins; his daughter, Tara Kelley and her husband Brian; and his son, Troy Figgins. He is preceded in death by his brother, Clifford "Skip" Figgins.

A graduate of West Point class of 1966, LTC Charles Figgins, USA, Ret. was a decorated Vietnam veteran and served in Korea and Germany. He was most recently a senior consultant at Technica Corporation. Mr. Figgins is a member of the West Point Association of Graduates, the West Point Society, the Military Officers Association of America and the American Legion Post #24.

Interment will be held for Mr. Figgins at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the West Point AOG at [www.westpointaog.com](http://www.westpointaog.com). Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, Alexandria, VA.

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**21 Announcements**

**OBITUARY**  
**Edmund C. Rowan (age 91)**

On February 15, 2014, Edmund C. Rowan of Alexandria, VA. Predeceased by his wife Cleona A. Rowan, he is survived by his three sons, Roderick of Alexandria, Gregory (Patricia) of Manalapan, NJ, and Charles of Reston; and by five grandchildren, Patrick of Alexandria, Timothy, Megan and Madeleine (Benjamin Madorsky) of Brooklyn, NY, and David of Durham, NC. A public memorial celebration will take place Sunday, March 2nd, at 2 PM. Contact Charles Rowan at [rowanc@verizon.net](mailto:rowanc@verizon.net) for additional information. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to The Wounded Warrior Project [<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>] or to the charity of cause of the donor's choice, in memory of Edmund C. Rowan.

An expert is someone  
who knows some of the worst  
mistakes that can be made in his  
subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

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webs unite, they  
can tie up a lion.  
-Ethiopian Proverb

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**21 Announcements**

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The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Saeid Sanaei, Member 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

Do not wish  
to be anything  
but what you  
are, and try  
to be that  
perfectly.  
-St. Francis  
de Sales

**21 Announcements**



**Charles Burdette Ramsey  
(Chuck)**

Charles Burdette Ramsey (Chuck) died suddenly on February 16th from a heart attack while on a glorious vacation in South Africa. He was born in Suffolk, Virginia on November 20, 1944 to William Burdett Ramsey and Frances Stallings Ramsey. He is survived by his wife, Madeline Hutcheson Ramsey, originally from Emporia, three sons, Robert Hutcheson Ramsey and wife Meredith, William Burdette Ramsey, and David Quinn Ramsey, foster son, Peter T.W. DeVine and twin grandchildren, Emily Katherine Ramsey and Allan Parker Ramsey. He is also survived by his brother Terrill Watkins Ramsey, his wife Rose, and daughter Wanda Frances Ramsey.

Chuck grew up in Charlotte Court House, VA, and graduated from Randolph-Henry High School in 1963. He earned an engineering degree from the University of Virginia in 1967, and subsequently earned a J.D. from Louisiana State University in 1971, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from Georgetown University in 1979. He worked as a tax attorney for the I.R.S. from 1974 to 2013, retiring in July of 2013. He lived in Alexandria, Virginia for the last 40 years. He was an elder and active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Visitation will be Saturday, February 22 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. A memorial service will be held Sunday, February 23 at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Westminster or the charity of your choice. Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria, VA is in charge of arrangements.

**21 Announcements**

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**OBITUARY**  
**Edmund C. Rowan (age 91)**

On February 15, 2014, Edmund C. Rowan of Alexandria, VA. Predeceased by his wife Cleona A. Rowan, he is survived by his three sons, Roderick of Alexandria, Gregory (Patricia) of Manalapan, NJ, and Charles of Reston; and by five grandchildren, Patrick of Alexandria, Timothy, Megan and Madeleine (Benjamin Madorsky) of Brooklyn, NY, and David of Durham, NC. A public memorial celebration will take place Sunday, March 2nd, at 2 PM. Contact Charles Rowan at [rowanc@verizon.net](mailto:rowanc@verizon.net) for additional information. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to The Wounded Warrior Project [<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>] or to the charity of cause of the donor's choice, in memory of Edmund C. Rowan.

An expert is someone  
who knows some of the worst  
mistakes that can be made in his  
subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

**21 Announcements**

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The Alexandria Community Services Board is holding a public hearing to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, intellectual disability or a substance dependency, and on the proposed Plan of Services (Performance Contract), available Feb 26 at [alexandriava.gov/DCHS](http://alexandriava.gov/DCHS). The hearing will be Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. at 720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. To sign up to speak or to send comments, call 703.746.3523 or email Donielle Marshall. Comments can also be faxed to 703.838.5070.

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

## Center's Gala

FROM PAGE 3

The Center works cooperatively with police, therapists, social workers, the courts, schools and medical professionals. They operate jointly when someone calls with an emergency or potential case of abuse.

Nigel Morris is founding chairman of the board for the CAC. As co-founder of Capital One Financial Services, he provided business experience and corporate expertise to help with funding and logistics of the center. He served as chairman of the board for seven years, wanting to stay in his position until he saw the national accreditation of the Center.

"As board chair, it was very gratifying to hear from members of the CAC's multi-disciplinary team that the Center has truly changed the way cases of child abuse are handled in the city," Nigel Morris said.

"Even if the Center for Alexandria's Children ceased to exist, there are agreements and protocols in place across city agencies to ensure that children and their families receive a best practice, coordinated response whenever abuse is disclosed," he said.

Pelaez said all three recipients of the awards have been critical in the mission of the Center.

"We are seeing so much growth and we have to give credit to Lori Morris for really helping us to grow with her foundation strategizing playgroup efforts," Pelaez said. "She was really critical, pulling all of her contacts that were experts. Of course Debra Collins and the children's advocacy program. Without her, we wouldn't be anywhere without we are. Nigel's part as chair has also just been huge."

**PELAEZ HOPES** to see even further progress in the child abuse education prevention programs.

"We have a very, very strong children's advocacy program where identified victims of abuse are going to get support," Pelaez said. "But then there is our education, outreach, prevention — like the playgroups. I'd like for us to impact more children and more families in the community. Through play group programs, sexual abuse prevention education, and the provision of child safety with partnerships with the police and the county, we are actually working with the entire community."

She said all three recipients of the Center's fifth annual awards have done so much for the Center, and she is excited to both honor them and to celebrate a successful season of fundraising.

"I'm excited about it and I think we are going to surpass our goal of raising over \$100,000," Pelaez said. "This year is a big one for us. Not only is it our fifth [gala], we are taking a moment to honor our beginnings. It is exciting to say that we have been impacting an increasing number of kids each year. So, [it is] fitting that this gala is taking a moment to honor those beginnings, saying that there is no way we would ever be where we are without Nigel, Lori and Debra."

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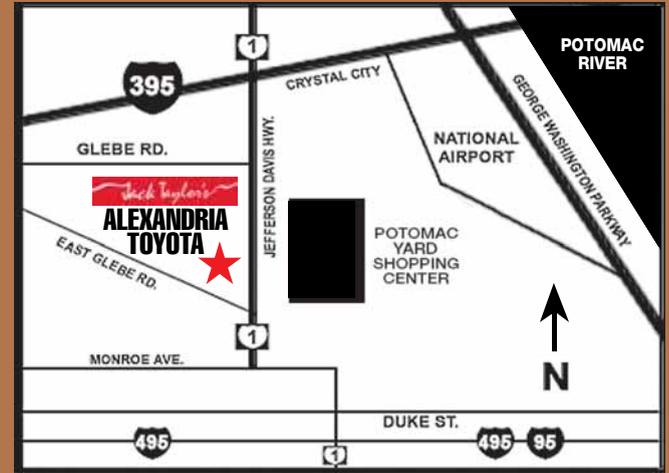
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**Old Town \$393,500**

Steps from Braddock Metro and with reserved garage parking, this two bedroom, one bath condo features open living room, large eat-in kitchen with sizable pantry and two private outdoor spaces including large patio. 505 East Braddock Rd #103.

**Wendy Santantonio**  
703.286.1308  
www.WendySantantonio.com



**Old Town \$2,850,000**

Spectacular four bedroom, four full baths and two half bath home in the heart of Old Town. Stunning river views at every level. Private riverside terrace, four fireplaces, elevator, two car attached garage, and boat slip. www.WaterfrontOldTown.com

**Sissy Zimmerman**  
703.989.9779  
www.BBZgroup.com



**Parkfairfax \$220,000**

Freshly painted from top-to-bottom & newly re-finished floors, this spacious one bedroom condo awaits your personal touches and updates. Spacious living room and separate dining area with wall of windows for maximum light. Washer and dryer.

**Ann Duff**  
703.965.8700  
www.AnnDuff.com



**Parkfairfax \$218,000**

Sun-filled one bedroom condo features newly re-finished floors and paint from top-to-bottom. Put your design dreams into action in the kitchen and bath, plus opportunity to add a patio to this end-unit Adams model condo in Parkfairfax. Excellent location.

**Ann Duff**  
703.965.8700  
www.AnnDuff.com



**Old Town \$559,900**

Stunning two bedroom, two bath corner unit with rare balcony in 900 North Washington St Condos. Gourmet kitchen with subzero refrigerator and quartz counters. Luxury baths with marble counters, master bath with soaking tub. 910 Powhatan St #103S

**Jennifer Halm**  
703.851.2255  
www.JenniferHalm.com



**Alexandria City \$436,500**

Beautifully updated and maintained end-unit townhome features gracious room sizes throughout. Three bedrooms, three and a half bath. The dining room is open to the updated kitchen and allows comfortable seating for eight. 656 N Armistead Street.

**Chris Hayes**  
703.944.7737  
www.HomesByHayes.com



**Old Town \$489,900**

Supersized, 900 sf, one bedroom, one and one half bath with 250 sf balcony. Only one of two units like it in the community. Open kitchen with granite, island, subzero refrigerator, pantry and beautiful finishes throughout. 900 N Washington St #305.

**Jennifer Halm**  
703.851.2255  
www.JenniferHalm.com



**Alexandria \$499,900**

Located in Hayfield Farm this home has three bedrooms and two full baths all remodeled. Newly installed solid oak floors, a fully finished basement, crown molding, wood burning fireplace and a large yard. Convenient to VRE, metro & bus lines.

**Sue Goodhart**  
703.262.3221  
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



**Old Town \$1,495,000**

Ideally located in a quiet corner of the SE Quad. Four bedroom, four and one half baths. Neutral palette, excellent floor plan, gorgeous kitchen. Large, light filled rooms. Lovely, private garden, easy parking. www.109PommanderWalk.com

**Ginny Brzezinski**  
571.236.3405  
www.BBZgroup.com

