



### 33rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Celebrating their 30th anniversary, Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band lead Division 7 at the close of the parade. More photos, page 23.



Apollo steps out from the crowd to get a better view of the oncoming parade on Saturday afternoon.



Princess Kelly, a day cook at Hard Times Café, appears as a leprechaun riding a unicorn on the back of the Hard Times Café truck.

Students from the Boyle School of Irish Dancing dance down King St.

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT  
GAZETTE PACKET



## Royal Street: Bicycle Boulevard?

City hires consultant to consider ways to encourage more bicycle traffic.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Pedestrians and bicyclists clash with vehicles up and down Union Street, a concern for city leaders who want to find a way to move cyclists to Royal Street. The effort began as part of the waterfront plan, and now the city has hired a consultant to help make the effort a reality. In the next few months, Maryland-based Toole Design Group will present options to convert Royal Street into an "express route" through Old Town for through traffic on the Mount Vernon Trail.

### Potential Changes To Royal Street

- ❖ Mini-circles could replace stop signs and require bicyclists and motorists to slow down and yield to traffic without stopping.
- ❖ Two-way stop signs could reduce stopping points for cyclists.
- ❖ Speed bumps or speed tables could include a bicycle slot to slow motor-vehicle traffic while allowing cyclists to pass through.
- ❖ Signs could create a welcoming street atmosphere by encouraging all users to share the road.

Source: Union Street Corridor Study

"Generally the idea is to make it more attractive for bicycles," said Jonathan Krall, a member of the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. "One way to do that is to make it slightly less attractive for automobiles."

City officials describe a bicycle SEE DETERMINING, PAGE 8

## School Board Praises Crawley's Management

School Board selects interim leader to head division.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

TURNS out, the national search for a new superintendent wasn't able to

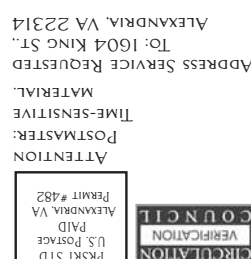


Alvin Crawley

find a candidate as good as the guy who is already sitting in the chair. Last week, members of the Alexandria School Board offered the job

to interim superintendent Alvin

SEE BOARD PRAISES, PAGE 5





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## Machine Politics

Most state Senate sessions begin with a round of pomp and circumstance. Boy Scout troops are recognized, and resolutions are offered to celebrate high-school football teams or retired dignitaries. But yesterday's resolution to honor the late **Harry Byrd** was a little different.

"As you know, Senator Byrd was part of an important Democratic machine that ran the commonwealth of Virginia for a very long time," said state Sen. **Jill Holtzman Vogel** (R-27). "All 140 of us walk past the statue of his father, which is out here. His father was the 50th governor of the commonwealth of Virginia."

Almost all of the legislature's black members left the floor during the presentations honoring Byrd, a defender of Virginia's policy of massive resistance to court-ordered racial integration of public schools. A few white Democrats joined them, including Alexandria state Sen. **Adam Ebbin** (D-30).

"It bothers me that someone who was a leader of massive resistance to close schools rather than desegregate them would be honored in this way," said Ebbin shortly after walking away from his seat.

Byrd's two sons, his daughter-in-law and five of his nine grandchildren were in the chamber to receive the resolution. That's why Arlington State Senator **Barbara Favola** (D31) said she felt she had to stay rather than walk out as she did the last time the Senate considered a resolution honoring Byrd.

"When dignitaries are invited onto the floor of the Senate, they have to walk by my desk to greet the president of the Senate," said Favola. "So I just didn't think it would look right to have an empty desk."

## Middling Schools

One of the strangest legacies of former Superintendent **Morton Sherman** was the effort to split the city's two middle schools into five separate institutions. The school system kept the same two buildings, but created five separate administrative structures, each with its own set of principals and vice principals.

"The small learning environment provides a better opportunity to know the kids," said Sherman when newly elected School Board members started pushing back against the proposal last year. "We lose kids in middle school, and the best way to stop the dropout rate is to focus personal attention at the middle school level."

Now, Sherman is out. And so is his middle-school reorganization. Late last month, members of the School Board unanimously approved a plan to reorganize the reorganization. By the time the next school year begins, Alexandria will have two middle schools once again.

"Clearly there is a sense of urgency to act and do something different," said new Superintendent **Alvin Crawley**. "We're approaching this with a great deal of thought, compassion and interest in improving the outcomes for our middle schools."

Only one of the five schools is currently fully accredited.

## Watch Your Purse

Ladies, do you know where your purse is? The Alexandria Police Department wants to make sure you do because the city is facing a rash of purse snatching.

Since December, police say, at least five purses have been nabbed from unsuspecting grocery store shoppers. Now police are warning city residents not to leave their purse or wallet unattended or in a grocery cart unattended. In addition, police say, women should keep their purse closed so potential thieves can't see inside. And they are warning all people to carry only items that are needed and take only the credit cards that will be used. Police say they have charged an Arlington man with the Jan. 2 purse-snatching at Whole Foods in Old Town. The 49-year-old man has been charged with seven counts of felony credit card theft, one count of grand larceny and one count of credit-card fraud.

## Calling Off the Search

Police officials say they are no longer looking for an elderly man in an older model green Subaru wagon approaching children. After issuing a press release asking for public input, the department received several tips. Police say those leads helped them establish that the incidents involved two separate men, both of whom had a legitimate reason to be in the area.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

A couple walks along the waterfront at Canal Place.

# License to Chill

Storm closes schools, city government.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**M**arch came in like a lion, with Mother Nature dumping several inches of snow on the region March 3 as city governments and local schools closed in the wake of yet another storm that brought life across Alexandria to a crawl.

"I am not a fan of this weather but thought I would try and get some enjoyment out of this last storm," said @Home Real Estate and Design Center Realtor Christine Sennott. "My boyfriend and I packed on our winter gear and went for a walk about town. The streets were desolate with random residents shoveling walk ways and an occasional barking dog the only sound to be heard."

With snow totals ranging from 2.5 to 8 inches, the latest round of winter weather brought icy conditions and subfreezing temperatures to Alexandria just days after sunshine bathed the city's annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

City plows and salt trucks worked through the night, clearing snow from 521 lane miles of roadways, 20 miles of publicly owned sidewalks, walkways and pathways, and 44 acres of municipal parking lots and publicly owned squares.

Alexandria City Public Schools were closed both Monday and Tuesday, bringing the 2013-2014 total of snow days to nine, up from three last win-



Bicycles sit idle during the storm.

ter. ACPS students will attend school on two previously scheduled professional work days this spring as a result of the first five closures of the year, but there are no plans in place to deal with the most recent closures.

With ample warning, meetings and events were canceled and city services like trash collection were delayed for one day.

"I have always thought this town was beautiful, but during this latest storm I saw another side of its beauty," Sennott said. "As everything was covered with a soft, white blanket of snow, people were greeting each other with a sympathetic smile in a moment of both bonding of gratitude to be here and of exasperation of this weather. On this day, we all had something in common."



Battered by the winter storms, a street lamp stands askew in Oronoco Bay Park.



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## News



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Dr. Katy Nelson of the "The Pet Show with Dr. Katy" interviews a young contestant in the owner-dog look alike contest.**

## St. Patrick's Day Parade Fun Dog Show

**D**r. Katy Nelson and Capitol Heel co-owner Bobby Mahoney took the stage at Market Square on Saturday morning, March 1, announcing the start of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Fun Dog Show.

The canines were all registered and local Scout troops volunteered to escort the groups. Judging this year for people's choice used an applause meter.

All proceeds from the show benefit Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing homeless and abandoned animals, primarily dogs, from high-kill shelters and owners who can no longer care for them. For more information visit [www.LuckyDogAnimalRescue.org](http://www.LuckyDogAnimalRescue.org)

**Arlo announces his presence onstage as one of the contestants for the most handsome male dog.**



**Tabitha Randazzo is all smiles as her dog Gracie is awarded prettiest female dog at the show. With Tabitha is her mother Marisa.**



**Bandit, the Leprecanine, awaits the call for the most Irish dogs to appear onstage.**



# Board Praises Crawley's Style

FROM PAGE 1

Crawley. The move marks the conclusion of a search that began when former Superintendent Morton Sherman unexpectedly resigned after months of turmoil at the school division's Beauregard Street headquarters.

"I am unequivocally honored to have this opportunity," said Crawley. "As superintendent, I plan to continue to be very visible, responsive and accountable to all ACPS stakeholders. We have begun serious, thoughtful efforts to enhance the educational experience for our students, and I will work tirelessly to continue to move this division forward."

Crawley is taking control of a school division with about 2,000 employees, an organization that employs about 3 percent of the city's population. It has an average teacher salary of \$74,000 and spends about \$17,000 per pupil for 13,000 students. The division has 12 elementary schools, five middle schools (to be restructured back into two), one high school and three alternative schools. Since becoming the interim superintendent in October, Crawley has impressed board members who have the final say on who is hired to lead the city's public school system.

"We got the right person," said School Board member Pat Hennig. "He's calm. He's professional. He's a listener. And he's very good at what he does."

**BEFORE COMING** to Alexandria, Crawley served as the interim superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools. He spent most of his career

in education in Arlington Public Schools, where he held top roles including assistant superintendent for student services and director of special education. People there recall him as a hard-working and dedicated leader.

"I think Alvin Crawley is perfect for Alexandria, and I've been telling people in Alexandria that for months," said Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey, who was a longtime School Board member. "His temperament and character are probably better suited to Alexandria than Mort."

Sherman often clashed with city leaders, especially over budget issues. Those conflicts escalated in the spring of 2012, when an auditor's report described a dysfunctional environment in the school system's budget office. Vice Mayor Kerry Donley called for Sherman to resign, although the embattled superintendent held his ground for another year. Then, in September 2013, members of the School Board emerged from a closed-door meeting and declared an end to the era of Morton Sherman.

"Everyone will recall that a previous superintendent, Rebecca Perry, was bought out of her contract," said School Board member Marc Williams at the time. "This will make Dr. Sherman the second superintendent in a row to be bought out. What a perverse recruitment model."

**NOW, SCHOOL LEADERS** say that Crawley will bring a new sense of leadership to the city's public

SEE CRAWLEY, PAGE 24

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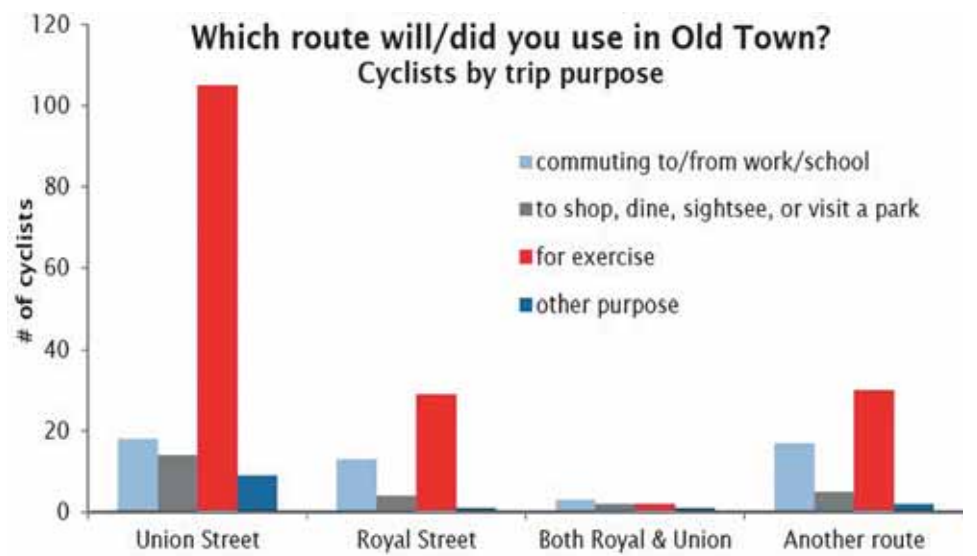
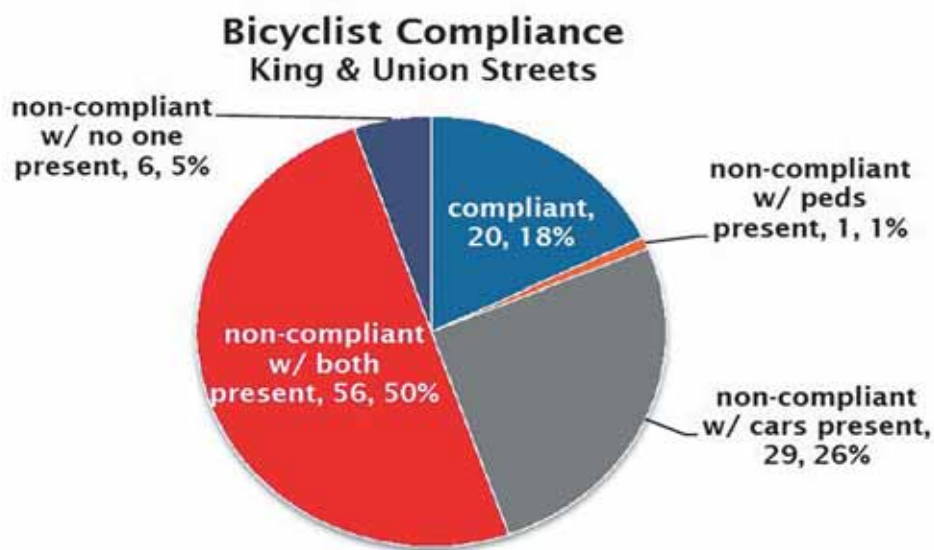


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# Determining Ways to Encourage More Bicycle Traffic

FROM PAGE 1

boulevard as a “priority bicycle street” that includes traffic-calming measures to reduce the speed of motor vehicles closer to the speed of bicycles. The Union Street corridor study explains that a bicycle boulevard “eliminates stops for bicyclists,” leading to concern among some that the city might remove some of the stop signs along the northbound and southbound Royal Street. One of the recommendations specifically mentioned by the Union Street Corridor Study was two-way stop signs, which reduce stopping points for cyclists.

“One of the ways to encourage them to move away from Union Street is accommodate their lawbreaking by taking away the stop signs on Royal Street,” said Poul Hertel, former president of the Old Town Civic Association. “To just simply take away stop signs on Royal Street is to encourage bicyclists to use it as opposed to Union Street is like the perennial example of bringing out a cannon to shoot some doves.”

**CITY LEADERS** say they are a long way from making any decisions and that the city staff is in the process of creating an inventory of bicycle conditions along several north-south streets in Old Town, not just Royal Street. The inventory includes what types of signs and signals are present, the condition of the pavement, route markers,



PHOTOS UNION STREET CORRIDOR STUDY

**Pedestrians and cyclists mingle with motorists on Union Street, which was identified as a problem during the waterfront planning process.**

driveways and curb cuts.

“Right now, all we are doing is cataloging what’s there today,” said Rich Baier, director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. “The complaint came out of the waterfront planning process that there’s so much congestion on Union Street.”

That complaint led to the Union Street Corridor Study, which was completed in 2012 with the help of Toole Design Group. Part of that study involved observing the behavior of cyclists at the intersection of King and Union streets, an infamous spot clogged with pedestrians and motorists.

During four separate 15-minute periods in 2012, only 18 percent of cyclists were compliant with the stop sign. The study also found that 57 percent of cyclists use Union Street while only 18 percent took Royal Street.

“A bicycle boulevard through Old Town would encourage cyclists to use that street as their primary on-street connection of the Mount Vernon Trail,” concludes the Union Street Corridor Study. “It may encourage some riders on Union Street to switch to this parallel route.”

**THE CONCEPT** of a bicycle boulevard

dates to the late 1980s, when city leaders in Berkeley, Calif., coined the phrase. Since that time, many cities across America have — including Tucson, Ariz., Minneapolis, Minn., and Portland, Ore. Creation of a Royal Street Bicycle Boulevard was first identified as a long-range project for the city in a 2008 transportation master plan. The project is estimated to cost less than \$1 million and would take one to five years to complete. It was recommended by both the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan as well as the Union Street Corridor Study.

“Why are people choosing Union Street? Why aren’t they choosing Pitt Street?” asked Baier. “In order to understand that, we have to understand what exists there today.”

One potential feature that some cyclists say would improve conditions involves traffic signals. In Old Town, the signals are triggered by automobiles. That means that cyclists have to press buttons configured for pedestrians to get a light. Some cyclists say they would like to see the city incorporate technology that would allow them to avoid using buttons designed for pedestrians.

“It is awkward for cyclists to get off the bike, put down the kickstand and go over and push the pedestrian button,” said David Kaplan, a member of the advisory committee. “If they are in the roadway, there should be a way to pick up their presence and cycle the signal accordingly.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### DONATIONS NEEDED

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### TAX HELP

**AARP Tax-Aide**, the nation’s largest free tax preparation and tax counseling volunteer program starts its free Tax Preparation Services Feb. 1. The program,

sponsored by the IRS, is staffed with Certified IRS Tax Counselors and use IRS computers and software to prepare and eFile tax returns for low to middle income families and elderly citizens. Bring government-issued picture IDs, and social security cards for all persons that will be included in your tax return. Also bring a printed copy of last year’s tax return, if you itemized. Located at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide) for additional information.

### 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).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 6

**Public Hearing.** 6:30 p.m. at 720 N. Saint Asaph St. The Alexandria

Community Services Board will receive comments on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, intellectual disability or a substance dependency problems. To sign up to speak or to send comments, call 703-746-3523 or e-mail [danielle.marshall@alexandriava.gov](mailto:danielle.marshall@alexandriava.gov).

### Waterfront Community Meeting.

6:30-9 p.m. at United Way Worldwide Mary Gates Center, 701 N. Fairfax St. A composite design for the Core Area extending from Duke to Queen Street will be shared for community input. For more information, contact Urban Planner Richard Lawrence, with the Department of Planning and Zoning, at [Richard.lawrence@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Richard.lawrence@alexandriava.gov).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 7

### Application Deadline.

5 p.m. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is seeking volunteers who reside or work within the City of Alexandria to serve on the Public Art Committee. The Committee will review applications and meet with candidates for the positions on Thursday, March 20, 2014, and will make recommendations to the Commission, who will vote on new members at the April 22, 2014 Arts Commission meeting. The Public Art Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., and all Public Art Committee meetings are open to the public. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/PublicArt](http://www.alexandriava.gov/PublicArt).

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 9



# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**Program.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Christ Church is hosting Empowered Women International for a day of celebrating women and encouraging advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way. The program will include a full course homemade Egyptian meal with Chef Aida Mady of Cooking and Beyond, as well as fellowship, heartfelt stories, prayer, reflection, art and hand-crafted goods. \$12/person. Visit [www.historichristchurch.org](http://www.historichristchurch.org) for more.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

### Taylor Run

#### BIKE LANES NOT WANTED

Darlene and Dick Johnson sat bravely until 1:30 a.m. at the TRCA meeting to discuss possible bike lanes on King Street.

The general opinion seemed to be unwelcoming, but the final word will come from Council which will have a public hearing March 15 at 9 a.m. Everyone may attend.

#### CANDIDATES GATHER

Jim Moran's announcement of his retirement has ensured much activity among Democratic candidates. The June primary will decide who gets the nomination. Eleven candidates have announced thus far.

#### PARTY FOR HERRING

P. J. Johnson threw a party to show her support for Charniele Herring for Congress.

## MONDAY/MARCH 10

**City Council Public Hearing.** 4 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St.

**Food Truck Policy Advisory Group.** 6 p.m. City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Contact Rose Williams Boyd, 703-746-4300.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 11

**City Council Meeting.** 7 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact 703-746-4500.

**Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee.** 7 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Alex Braden, 703-746-3740.

Among those attending the party were Anne Farr, Bobbie Fisher, David Smith, Alonzo and Constance Bell, Susan Kellom, and Carolyn Herring, the candidate's mother. Also there were Sarah Stott, Sara Harris and Shelby Scarpa. Laura Derby was there from the Mount Vernon area. David Smith explained that he was supporting Charniele because she's the best candidate. "My priority has always been to help the people in my district," Charniele said. "I am so proud of my daughter," added Mrs. Herring.




P. J. Johnson very generously has offered to match any donation of campaign funds. "I will try to continue the good work done by Jim Moran," said Charniele, who has served in the House of Delegates since 2009 and is the chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia.


We were all interested to hear at this gathering that Anna Leider is the new Registrar.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

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# OPINION

## Take the Money

No downside to gaining health care for 200,000 or more; 30,000 jobs and millions of dollars for hospitals from expansion of Medicaid.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe is right to make expansion of health coverage part of the budget process. Any measure that would create 30,000 jobs, that could save \$1 billion in the state budget over 12 years, that could provide health insurance for 35,000 people who don't have it in Fairfax County alone, that is supported overwhelmingly by the business community and hospitals, actually deserves to be a part of the budget. As many as 400,000 people in Virginia currently without health insurance could be covered.

Under the Affordable Care Act, if states opt in to the expansion of Medicaid, Federal dollars would pay the costs for five years to cover people with incomes up to 138 percent of pov-

erty, \$15,856 for an individual or \$26,951 for a family of three in 2013. After five years, federal dollars would still cover 90 percent.

Under the Affordable Care Act, people with incomes 100 - 400 percent of poverty qualify for subsidies on their health insurance premiums when they purchase coverage through a Marketplace. The amount of the subsidy, provided via tax credit, is based on income and the cost of insurance, and are only available to people who are not eligible for other coverage, such as Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare, or employer coverage, and who are citizens or lawfully-present immigrants. Because the Affordable Care Act envisioned low-income people receiving coverage through Medicaid, people below poverty

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Safety on King Street

To the Editor:

At the February Traffic and Parking Board hearing, city staff presented a detailed plan that referred to the King Street Traffic Calming plan as nothing "cutting edge." The plan implements standard and accepted practices for making a street safe. The common practices for King Street are part of the common practices in the city's Transportation Master Plan. City staff is just following through.

In its Pedestrian section, the city's Transportation Master Plan (pages 2-7) states "Side-walks along arterials should be wide and well buffered since these streets provide key transit access. Planter strips and bicycle lanes create essential separation from vehicles." King Street is, of course, an arterial road leading to the King Street Metro Station. In Appendix H of the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan, King Street (from the Metro to

Janneys Lane) is marked "Long term - Create buffer".

The King Street Plan provides a buffer with a bike lane on both sides of the street. And this bike lane supports the City's objective of providing a continuous, bike-friendly route extending from Janneys' Lane to the Metro. Though there is little argument that bike lanes are a great buffer protecting pedestrians, some have wondered aloud if the buffer lanes are safe for bikers.

Bike lanes are a recommended, standard solution for busy arterial roads, according to the applicable safety standards. A majority of bikers who spoke at the Traffic and Parking Board hearings on Nov. 25 and Feb. 24 agreed. Positive experience on bike lanes such as on Commonwealth Avenue were cited multiple times. The King Street plan was evaluated as safe by not only the professional planners on city staff but also in an independent review by a professional engineering firm.

are not eligible for Marketplace subsidies. At least 190,000, and as many as 400,000 adults in Virginia fall into the coverage gap because they don't qualify for Medicaid under Virginia's rules, among the most stringent in the nation, but earn less than the poverty rate, so not enough to qualify for subsidies. [Source: Kaiser Family Foundation]

Elections have consequences. McAuliffe made expansion of Medicaid a key element of his campaign, and Virginia voters chose McAuliffe. The Virginia Senate approved a plan to expand health coverage using Medicaid dollars to purchase private health insurance.

There must be a way forward that doesn't involve stifling economic growth and the health of poor Virginians.

It's time to move forward, implement the city's plan.

**Randolph Dingwell**  
Alexandria

## Educate Drivers About Bicyclists

To the Editor:

Bike Lanes on King Street are unsafe but even more, they are unnecessary.

They are unnecessary because:

1. There are alternate safe paths for bicyclists to the metro and Old Town.
2. Those few bicyclists who use this route have a direct route to the Metro and beyond using the vehicle lanes on King Street.

❖ A bicyclist is a driver, not a "rider" on a bike.

❖ A bicycle is a vehicle.

❖ King Street is a road for vehicles.

The city planners in their "2008 Complete Streets Plan" show this stretch of King Street with motor vehicles and bicycles sharing lanes. The plan projects King Street will have low bicycle traffic use; .6 percent of Alexandrians commute to work on a bicycle. Few use King Street.

The city planners are stating that bike lanes on King Street will calm traffic. How can bike lanes here, with so few bicyclists calm traffic?

It is rather ironic, today, when people are pursuing equal treatment, accommodations, civil rights, marriage rites, that the drivers of bicycles, are demanding, separate accommodations — separate space on the roads.

Every road in Alexandria is already a roadway for bicycles which are vehicles. Virginia law states that they have equal right to the use of all city roads and can command the whole lane width of a city road.

So, why would they want bicycle lanes on King Street? Do bicyclists not want to wait in traffic which is almost standing still during rush hours? Bike lanes would enable them to speed to the bottom of the hill, bypassing the stopped

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 27



STEVEN G. ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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# Making Mentoring Matter It's the little things that count.

**I**t's hard to believe that Erika Stratmann and Jenny have only known each other for a little over a year. Whenever they get together, they talk non-stop about everything and anything under the sun, from career opportunities to when Jenny's going to be able to get her driver's license. Jenny's really excited to learn how to drive, even though she still has a few years to wait. Conversation hasn't always come that easily though. Stratmann recalls that when she first met Jenny, she was a bit quiet and it took some time to strike up a conversation. Now, they warmly refer to each other as sisters and you'd never know that they are not if you measured it by the closeness of their relationship.

Stratmann and Jenny met through the SOHO - Space of Her Own mentoring program in the fall of 2012. After having spent her first five years in the City of Alexandria focused on her career, Stratmann decided that she wanted to become more connected to the community by getting involved in a meaningful way. It was through a simple Google search that she came upon SOHO - Space of Her Own. The blend of creative arts and the opportunity to empower young women drew her in and she applied.

Stratmann was eventually paired together with Jenny, a fifth-grade girl who had also



applied to become a member of the program, during SOHO's annual match night. Stratmann reminisces that the evening of the match was overwhelming, but she distinctly recalls Jenny running up and saying "I knew it was going to be you." At that point in time, they had already spent nearly six weeks getting to know each other and the other mentors and mentees in the program.

Their bond continued to develop throughout the 2012-2013 school year through weekly SOHO meetings at the Art League. Each week, after enjoying dinner together, the pair worked on a creative arts project with instruction from a professional artist. Each art project allowed Jenny to express herself in creative ways. The art pieces were used for Jenny's room renovation at the end of the year. Stratmann re-designed Jenny's bedroom with all of the art projects to give

Jenny a true space of her own.

Although Stratmann says that the art projects were fun, her fondest memory of their time together was the day she took Jenny to her office for a "take your child to work day," which she transformed into "take your mentee to work day." Jenny has always had an interest in becoming a lawyer, so Stratmann introduced her to several women in the field of law at her office. They also traveled to the courthouse, and Stratmann showed Jenny what the working world is like on a day-to-day basis. Stratmann was most impressed by Jenny's confidence throughout the day.

For Jenny, it's some of the smallest moments that stick out most vividly. Jenny reflects that her mentor has always been there for her, from letting her borrow her blanket during a SOHO camping trip to Camp Kekoka to understanding that her little brother needs extra patience because he has autism. Jenny's favorite memories are ice skating together and completing art projects. After Jenny shared her memories with Stratmann, Stratmann noted that it's the little things that don't take a lot of time or effort that have really made a difference and made their relationship stronger. They continue to meet regularly and hope to be friends for many years to come.

Space of Her Own is now accepting ap-



**Erika Stratmann and Jenny**

plications for mentors for the 2014-2015 school year. To find out more about the program, visit [www.spaceofherown.org](http://www.spaceofherown.org) or e-mail [recruitment@spaceofherown.org](mailto:recruitment@spaceofherown.org).

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## SSA Speaker Series Highlights Things To Do

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
MEALS ON WHEELS/  
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Spring is almost here! It's time to think about getting out and exploring what our wonderful city has to offer in the way of recreation and cultural activities. There is something for everyone, especially for seniors. If you are curious about what's out there, come to Senior Services of Alexandria's next speaker series event to hear from Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and Alexandria Library about special programs for seniors. This free program will be held at Chinquapin Recreation Center at 3210 King St. on March 12 from 9:30 a.m. – noon. Light refreshments will be served and free parking is available. During this session partici-

pants can enjoy exercise and activity demonstrations designed especially for mature adults. Information will be provided on the many activities, classes and program available including: Power Plus +55 recreation programs; aquatics and recreation centers; classes and clubs; city parks and open spaces; the latest senior craze, "Robust Walking," and the Alexandria Library programs and author series. There will be something for everyone and it guaranteed to a fun and active morning. As seating is limited, please RSVP either online at [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703-836-4414, ext 10.

# The American Legion's Role

Serving veterans for 95 years.

BY JIM GLASSMAN  
COMMANDER, AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 24



It was 95 years ago, on March 15, 1919, when members of the American Expeditionary Forces convened in Paris, France for the first American Legion caucus. The American Legion was born.

The Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Today, our membership stands at over 2.5 million in 14,000 posts worldwide.

In The American Legion, a veteran was a veteran regardless of whether they were enlisted or commissioned, black or white, male or female. In fact, women Legionnaires were able to vote for Legion national commander before they could legally vote for the president of the United States.

The American Legion focuses on service to all veterans, service members and communities. It is about principles, not politics.

Since The American Legion is not indebted to any political party, it is widely respected by members of both major political parties. Most importantly, it is respected for what it does every day in communities across America.

In Alexandria and across the nation The American Legion serves America's youth with outstanding programs such as American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, Junior Law Cadet, Junior ROTC, Oratorical programs, Boys State and Boys Nation.

By offering temporary financial assistance to veterans facing extreme economic hardship, the Legion helps provide food, shelter, clothing and medical necessities for our service members and their young children.

We have also not forgotten the young people whose parents have made the ultimate sacrifice during the war on terrorism. The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship

Fund was created to help pay for the college educations of those who lost a military parent serving since 9/11.

The author of America's greatest legislation, Past National Commander Harry Colmery, knew that it was right for America to remember returning war veterans by making it possible for them to obtain a formal education and have the ability to purchase a home.

While others scoffed that such a benefit would "break the treasury," The American Legion held firm and ensured the passage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill of Rights.

But The American Legion has not rested on its laurels. Today we are fighting to improve post-9/11 GI Bill benefits so the current generation of veterans can pursue the educational opportunities needed to succeed in the 21st century. In 2008, U.S. Rep. Tom "Chet" Edwards said the new Post-9/11 GI Bill "would not have happened without The American Legion."

We are constantly reminding Congress and the White House of their promises to "not balance the budget on the backs of veterans." The veterans did not cause this deficit and they should not see their retirement benefits cut, disability compensation reduced, or health care diminished because our elected leaders fail to do their jobs.

We are also fighting to make sure that the flag of the United States is constitutionally protected from desecration. If it's sacred enough to place on a soldier's coffin, it is important enough to protect from physical desecration.

Through our Operation Comfort Warriors program, The American Legion turns financial donations into gifts for wounded, injured and ill service members recovering in military hospitals, VA Centers and warrior transition units around the world. OCW gifts may not make these veterans "whole" again, but they do show that The American Legion appreciates their service and sacrifice.

It is The American Legion's presence in a community like Alexandria that makes a difference. It is the true value of our membership. We are not in this for ourselves; we are in this for our brothers and sisters-in-arms. We are in this for the husbands, wives and parents of those who served.

Legionnaires today still live by the motto: "Still Serving America."

If you are a veteran and not a member of The American Legion, what are you waiting for?

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**4713 Dolphin Lane**  
\$1,150,000  
**Waterfront-Private Dock!**  
Rare find-reasonably priced Alexandria area waterfront property! Spacious light filled contemporary in gorgeous condition. Custom features include 2 fin. lvs. (approx. 4,000 sq ft) 2FP, 4-5 BR, 4BA, gorgeous hwd flrs and oversize 2 car garage. Expansive glass walls, high ceilings and exterior deck capitalize on nautical views. **OPEN SUN 3/9, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; R-Forest Haven; R-Dolphin Ln.**



**9309 Reef Ct**  
\$629,500  
**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 hwd flrs, economical gas heat and hot water, and oversize 2 car garage. Major upgrades include thermal windows and glass doors. Unique opportunity! **OPEN SUN 3/9, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing; R-Tarpon; R-Coral; R-Reef.**



**9412 Old Mount Vernon Rd**  
**Craftsman Masterpiece!**  
\$1,198,950  
Former model by Wakefield Homes loaded with options and upgrades. Many fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, three finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage. Gorgeous location on elevated lot with extensive landscaping and custom stonework. Priced thousands below current price list.



**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.



**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 \$5 in Mt. Vernon!



**4821 Stillwell Ave**  
\$529,500  
**Curb Appeal Galore!**  
Character abounds in this fabulous Cap Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated. Many fabulous features include: 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificent half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland.



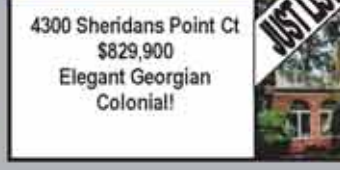
**9009 Captains Row**  
\$665,000  
**Great Opportunity!**



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



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



**4300 Sheridans Point Ct**  
\$829,900  
**Elegant Georgian Colonial!**

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703-477-0849 (cell)  
[dianna.campagna@LNF.com](mailto:dianna.campagna@LNF.com)

**Steve Kindrick**  
Instructor  
703-683-0400 (office)  
[steve.kindrick@LNF.com](mailto:steve.kindrick@LNF.com)

\*\*\*Classes begin on Saturday, April 19th and end on Saturday, May 17th. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 10:00pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.

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\$1,087,500  
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**Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914**



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**Pia Taylor 301.661.9974**



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Auburn Village Garden 1BR / 1BA  
Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400  
**205 Skyhill Rd #9 \$1,695**  
Seminary Walk Garden 2BR / 1BA  
Dianna Campagna 703.447.0849  
**801 N Pitt St #802 \$1,750**  
Port Royal Hi-Rise 1BR / 1BA  
Sean Satkus 703.887.2116

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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.

**Songwriter's Showcase.** Every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Features a different Songwriter's Association of Washington artist each week. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) for tickets.

**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).

**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).

**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.

**Exhibition Fundraiser.** From March 8-23 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibition features nearly 200

panels of artwork created by local artists. \$150/panel. The panels will be for sale and proceeds will benefit March of Dimes and the Target Gallery's outreach programming. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

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

**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) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "LOULUDI Flower/To Flower" at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The exhibit explores the natural process of flowering and its metaphorical context through object making and installation. Free. The exhibit runs March 20-May 4. Call 703-548-0035 or visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Art Exhibit.** See "Spirit of Place: Dyke Marsh," an exhibition of photography by Anthony Peritore and sculptural works by Megan Peritore from March 26 through May 18 in the Crossroads Gallery, located in Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church. Free.

**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



## Modern Dance

**The Choreographers Collaboration Project presents their Spring Modern Dance Concert on Saturday, March 8 at the Athenaeum, 901 Prince St. This concert will feature works in progress by CCP choreographers, guest artist ACW Dances and will include performances by CCP's youth dancers. Adults \$10; 12-17 \$5; 12 and younger free. Visit [www.ccpdance.org](http://www.ccpdance.org), email [cpdance@gmail.com](mailto:cpdance@gmail.com), or call 703-683-2070.**

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.

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

**George Washington's Mount Vernon** has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria - a \$26 added value. Learn more at [PresPassport.Monticello.org](http://PresPassport.Monticello.org).

**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 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.

## SUMMER CAMP

**Camp Offering.** Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold sessions starting June 30 to Aug. 22. There are two-week sessions with morning, afternoon or all day sessions, and one-week sessions that

go all day. To register, visit [www.mvcc.org](http://www.mvcc.org).

## CHERRY BLOSSOM FUN

**Cherry Blossom Food Tour.** On Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m., take a guided tour of Alexandria, exploring the architecture, while pausing in locally-owned eateries to sample cherry-centric dishes and learn about cherry blossom history. \$49/person. Runs March 22-April 12. Visit [www.dcmetrofoodtours.com/cherry\\_blossom\\_food\\_tour.html](http://www.dcmetrofoodtours.com/cherry_blossom_food_tour.html) for more.

**Blossoms by Bike River Ride.** On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m., enjoy a three-hour bike tour along the Mount Vernon Trail, into DC and around the tidal basin to see the blossoms up close. Runs March 22-April 13. \$40/person age 13 and older. Visit [www.bikethesites.com/tours](http://www.bikethesites.com/tours) for reservations.

**Cherry Blossom Boat Tour.** Departing Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. at Cameron and Union Streets. Take a boat cruise and view the blossoms along the river. Runs March 29-April 13. \$26/adult; \$14/child age 2-11. Visit [www.potomacriverboatco.com/blossoms2014.php](http://www.potomacriverboatco.com/blossoms2014.php) to register.

## 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

## Inspiring Change

The Historic Christ Church in Old Town Alexandria is hosting Empowered Women International for a day of celebrating women and their achievements in the entrepreneurial world and beyond. The event will be held on Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Enjoy a homemade Egyptian meal and fellowship, heartfelt stories, prayer, reflection, art and hand-crafted goods. Event and meal will be \$12/person and tickets will be at the door (cash only). Call 571-312-4781 or e-mail Alex Codrea at [alex@ewint.org](mailto:alex@ewint.org) to reserve.



# ENTERTAINMENT

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 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.

**Casino Night Fundraiser.** 6:30-11:30 p.m. at Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's Fairfax County Region will hold live and silent auctions,

dinner, casino-like games, dancing and more. \$95/person; \$175/couple. To purchase tickets for Casino Night and for more about Fairfax Region of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington visit: [www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**Celebration.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Celebrate women and their achievements in the entrepreneurial world. Enjoy stories, art, homemade Egyptian food and more. \$12/person. RSVP by calling 571-312-4781.

**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).

**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.

**Spring Modern Dance Concert.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The concert will feature works in progress by Choreographers Collaboration Project. \$10/adult; \$5/child age 12-17; free/child under 12. Visit [www.ccpdance.org](http://www.ccpdance.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.

**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).

**International Women's Day.** Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St., will honor women by donating 15 percent of proceeds to the City of Alexandria's Women's Initiatives and their programs to prevent domestic violence. Visit [www.alexandria.ten-thousandvillages.com](http://www.alexandria.ten-thousandvillages.com) or 703-684-1435.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 9

**Talk.** 2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. A



"Ella" cast members Roz White, Freda Payne and Wynonna Smith with Julian Bond after Saturday's performance.

## 'Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song'

Julian Bond, former chairman of the NAACP, and his wife Pamela attended "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song" Saturday, March 1. The show is in its final two weeks. Shows are selling out, and cannot be extended because Freda Payne will head to London for her next engagement. There are a few tickets left for select performances. Call the theatre box office at 703-548-9044.

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. **Still Life Techniques.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Children age 8 and older can learn basic still life painting techniques. Free. RSVP

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# ENTERTAINMENT

to [admin@nvfaa.org](mailto:admin@nvfaa.org).

**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.

**Show and Auction.** 5 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Enjoy "Ella! First Lady of Song" with the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria. There will also be a dinner buffet and silent auction. \$75/person. Visit [www.plti-alex.org/ella.html](http://www.plti-alex.org/ella.html) for information.

**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).

**Buy Cookies.** During store hours, Together We Bake will set-up a pop-up store and sell cookies at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Together We Bake is a workforce training and personal development program for women in need of a second chance, run in collaboration with Friends of Guest House, a transitional housing program in Alexandria. Together We Bake is centered around a micro-baking business. Visit [www.alexandria.ten-thousandvillages.com](http://www.alexandria.ten-thousandvillages.com) or 703-684-1435.



**Barbara Hollinshead and Howard Bass**

## 'Early Music' at St. Paul's Old Town

Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo soprano, and Howard Bass, lutenist, will perform a program of Devotional Songs by 16th century English composer, John Dowland at St. Paul's, at the corner of Duke and Pitt streets, on Sunday, March 9, 7 p.m. The performance is free to the public. It will precede a Lenten Choral Evensong service at St. Paul's Old Town, directed by Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster. Evensong is an evening service with a musical focus in addition to prayers and scripture reading, and it may be with or without a sermon. Free-will donations will go to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry which provides hope and help to people in crisis. A reception will follow the evensong.

### 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.

**Poetry Reading.** 8 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Del Ray resident Jodi Hollander will read selections from her collection of poetry published under the title, "The Humane Society." Copies of the book will be available for sale at the Library. Free, open to the public. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1705.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 13

**Toast to Fashion.** 6:30-10 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort

Hunt Road. Hosted by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center, the event features a fashion show, marketplace, raffle, cocktail reception. All the proceeds will benefit programs operated by the center. \$55/advance or \$65/door. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org).

**Opening Reception.** 6:30-8 p.m., meet the photographer of "The Cocoon Series" E.E. McCollum, 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.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will perform music for mixed chamber

wind ensembles. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 14

**Art Party.** 7-10 p.m. in Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Meet the artists who created panels, enjoy prizes, food, wing-off competition and more. Panels will cost \$100 at the event, with proceeds benefiting March of Dimes and the Target Gallery's outreach programming. \$15/advance or \$20/door. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Performance.** 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Singers' Theater of Washington presents "Suor Angelica," a one-act opera from Giacomo Puccini's "Il Trittico." \$20/general; \$15/student, senior, group. Visit [www.singerstheater.com](http://www.singerstheater.com) for tickets.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Patty Reese Band will perform. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) for tickets.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 15

**Touch-a-Truck Event.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Children can explore, climb and press buttons on trucks of all sizes. \$5/person older than 2 years of age. Visit [www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html](http://www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html) for more.

**Vegetable Gardening 101.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Horticultural agent Kirsten Buhls, assisted by Master Gardeners of Arlington/Alexandria, will discuss the basics of vegetable gardening including seed starting, soil preparation and when and where

to plant. Free. Registration is requested, e-mail [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com) or 703-228-6414.

**Children's Program.** 11 a.m. at the Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. "Dezmo & the Secret Power of Knowledge." There will be music, dancing, audience participation and more. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) for more.

**Country-Western Dance.** 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincolia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Lessons begin at 6:30 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. \$10/member; \$12nonmember; \$5/child under 18. Bring your own refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.


### SUNDAY/MARCH 16

**Special Tours and Demonstrations.** 1-4 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Discover items from poison bottles to dragon's blood and find out how they were used and if they worked. There will also be demonstrations. Recommended for children in 3rd grade and older. \$6/person. Reservations recommended. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-3852.

**Music.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Cynthia Marie will perform. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at Beverley Hills Community UM Church, 3512 Old Dominion Blvd. The folk duo Simple Gifts will perform. All ages. Free. Visit [www.bhcumc.org](http://www.bhcumc.org) for more.

**Dance Performance.** 4:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Jane



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# ENTERTAINMENT

Franklin Dance will perform "Mouse in House," adapted from the book "The Mouse of Amherst" by Elizabeth Spire. \$12/adult; \$10/child. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) for tickets.

**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Folk duo Mustard's Retreat will perform with Kipyn Martin. \$18/general; \$15/advance. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or 703-380-3151.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 18

**Music Performance.** Don Williams will perform at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$59.50/person. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for tickets.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

**Music Performance.** The Marshall Tucker Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Wanda S. Dowell will discuss the daily lives of women in Union-occupied Alexandria during the Civil War. Free. 703-746-4554.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**Reception.** 6 p.m. at Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. "Meet the Legends" reception. \$45/by March 19; \$55/door. Register at [meet-the-legends.eventbrite.com](http://meet-the-legends.eventbrite.com).

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

## FRIDAY/MARCH 21

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Enjoy music by the Mount Vernon Swing Band. \$4. 703-765-4573 TTY: 711.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit [mvct.org](http://mvct.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**Bus Tour on the Civil War Defenses of Washington.** 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., meet at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. The itinerary includes Forts Reno, DeRussy and Totten, and highlights Fort Stevens and Battleground National Cemetery. Pre-registration required, \$85/members of the Friends of Fort Ward; \$100/non-member. Call the Museum at 703-746-4848 to register.

**Reptiles Alive!** Noon at the Old Town

## Toast to Fashion

The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center presents the 15th Annual Toast to Fashion on Thursday, March 13, 6:30-10 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. This annual event combines a fashion show, marketplace, raffle, and cocktail reception. For the fourth year, ABC-7/WJLA and NewsChannel 8's Britt McHenry will serve as emcee. Proceeds from this event help support programs of The Campagna Center. For nearly 70 years, The Campagna Center has been committed to fostering a dedication to learning for Alexandria's children and families. Through effective and visionary leadership, the Center has responded to the changing needs of the community with quality programming and services. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org/events/toast-fashion](http://www.campagnacenter.org/events/toast-fashion). Advance tickets are \$55 online through March 7 or \$65 at the door.

Theater, 815 1/2 King St. See snakes, crocodiles and more. Fun for the family. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) for tickets and more.

**Theater Performance.** 6:30 p.m. See "The Foreigner" at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Proceeds benefit Empowers, Inc., an after-school program for at-risk children and youth of the area. Appropriate for children age 11 and older. \$12/online. Increased cost at the door. Buy tickets at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) or 703-855-4444.

**Cheesetopia Event.** 2-5 p.m. at Balducci's Food Lover's Market, 600 Franklin St. Taste gourmet cheeses, enjoy demos, meet renowned tastemakers, a raffle and more. Free. Visit [www.balduccis.com](http://www.balduccis.com).

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit [mvct.org](http://mvct.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 23

**Theater Performance.** See "The Foreigner" at 6:30 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Proceeds benefit Empowers, Inc., an after-school program for at-risk children and youth of the area. Appropriate for children age 11 and older. \$12/online. Increased cost at the door. Buy tickets at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) or 703-855-4444.

**Theater Performance.** 3 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit [mvct.org](http://mvct.org) for more.

**Opening Reception.** 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meet some of the artists of "LOULOU DI Flower/To Flower." The exhibit explores the natural process of flowering and its entire metaphorical context through object making and installation. Free. Call 703-548-0035 or visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 28

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress."

\$12. Visit [mvct.org](http://mvct.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 29

**Rummage Sale.** 9 a.m.-noon at Fort Hunt Preschool grounds, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse infants', children's and maternity clothes, books, games and furniture. Household items such as kitchenware, linens and decorations will also be on sale. All proceeds benefit the preschool. Visit [www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html](http://www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html) for more.

**Story Time.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Meet Carol Butler, the author of "Genois Wilson, Firefighter, She Dared to Be First," and Genois Wilson. Tour the historic firehouse and ring the bell. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. For children age 6 and older. \$4/child. Reservations required, [www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse](http://www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse) or 703-746-4994.

**Generation to Generation Gala.** 6-11 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Enjoy dinner, dancing, silent auction and more. SSA will pay tribute to some Alexandria residents for the impact they've had on the community. Buy tickets at [www.eventbrite.com/e/generation-to-generation-gala-tickets-10630589379](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/generation-to-generation-gala-tickets-10630589379) or visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

**Great Rum Punch Challenge.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 138 N. Royal St. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local restaurants and distilleries and vote for your favorite, as Cutters of Barbados defends its title. The Alexandria Town Crier will announce the winner at the end of the evening. There will also be food, a silent auction and more. Beverages will be provided for designated drivers. \$50/person or \$100/person for VIP pre-event tasting. Proceeds benefit the museum's educational and preservation efforts. Reservations required. Visit <http://shop.alexandriava.gov> for tickets.

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## Meet the Legends Reception

The Board of Directors of Living Legends of Alexandria invites you to attend the "Meet the Legends Reception"

Thursday, March 20, 2014, 6 p.m.,  
Patent & Trademark Office,  
Madison Building

Honoring the 2014 Living Legends of Alexandria: Mike Anderson, Char McCargo Bah, Rose Enevoldsen Berler, Lee Fifer, Charles "Tony" Gee, Richard "Rick" Allyn Glassco, Ramona K. Hatten, Gregory "Gregg" Murphy, Tricia Rodgers, Shirley N. Tyler, Converse "Connie" West and Donnan "Donnie" Chancellor Wintermute.

Also honored by a nomination: J. Glenn Eugster, Gila Harris, Wayne Hulehan, Susan B. Kellom, Kim Allen Kluge, Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis, Lorraine Lloyd, Gary Oelze, Fred Parker, Nora Partlow, James S. "Jim" Roberts, James B. "Jim" Singerling, Jodie Smolik and William Willis.

Complimentary parking in the East and West PTO garages. Complimentary Valet Parking available at the Eisenhower Avenue entrance.

Reservations made by March 19, \$45; at the door, \$55. Register online at <http://meet-the-legends.eventbrite.com/> or mail check by March 13 to LLA, 400 N. Washington Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Info: [legends@alexandrialegends.com](mailto:legends@alexandrialegends.com)

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# Reading the Judge's Mail

BY HARRY M. COVERT

When the weather gets bad, it's a good thing to find an old box full of scribbles on napkins, paper scraps and old note pads.

Recent days have proved invaluable. Some interesting stuff fell out. Over time a lot of notes have been taken in courthouses, jails, political meetings and other venues where intellect sometimes is off the bubble.

How about this one. Alexandria's Chief General District Court Judge Becky J. Moore, presiding one morning, sentenced a defendant to a jail term in the city's William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, better known perhaps as Dana Lawhorne's jail.

A few days later, among the chief judge's morning mail, a handwritten letter arrived from Mill Road. The jailed inmate thanked her for his courtroom experience, then asked "if she would go to dinner with him" when his time was completed.

The veteran judge smiled and declined the unusual invitation.

In another Commonwealth courtroom, Hizzoner asked a guilty defendant if he "had any statement before passing judgment." The guy replied no and promptly spit on the judge. Bailiffs jumped on the defendant as the judge wiped spittle from his brow.

The late Judge Macy M. Carmel didn't add more time for contempt and noted: "He's got 12 months on a state road gang. That'll be enough." A defense attorney was knocked cold in retired Chief Judge Donald Haddock's court on a Thursday Commonwealth's Day. The culprit made a mad dash from the Circuit Court of the Franklin Backus Courthouse. Sheriff's deputies nabbed him falling down the stairs. He didn't escape, of course, and is in custody of the Department of Corrections, still a mean convict.

A now ranking sheriff's deputy was on courtroom duty early in his career. It was his first day and came during a high profile case. The defendant suddenly attempted to belt his lawyer. The young deputy didn't flinch, launched a choke-hold on the fellow who promptly fell down unconscious. He was restrained for the rest of the trial.

## Still Counting Unsolved Alexandria Tragedies

- ♦ Ruthanne Lodato, murdered, Feb. 6, 20 days.
- ♦ Ronald Kirby, murdered, Nov. 12, 133 days.
- ♦ Nancy Dunning, murdered, Dec. 5, 2003, 3,743 days.



COVERT MATTERS

Here's an oxymoron. The deputy, doing his duty, was praised by the judge, thanked by the attorney and reprimanded by his commander. Such is life.

An Alexandria bail bondsman had been searching for a female bond jumper all over the city. Her boyfriend had been released from prison and she wanted to get married. She finally telephoned the bondsman and offered to surrender on one condition, that the bondsman arrange a marriage.

The couple got a license signed my Clerk of Court Edward Semonian, and met the bondsman in the city park near Old Dominion Boat Club. Handcuffed they stood in front of a minister and exchanged vows. Within a few hours, half of the happy couple surrendered. Following a few weeks of incarceration, the marriage resumed but only for a short while. The husband went back to a prison term for parole violation.

On a Friday night two lustrums ago, an off-duty detective from the District stopped by a Latin restaurant where the amigos and amigas were dancing, singing and having a good time. No fighting or anything like that. The Spanish-speaking detective, after some unauthorized beverages, whipped out his Glock, started waving it to the ceiling and scaring the daylights out of the merrymakers.

In only moments, police cruisers arrived, grabbed the visiting peacekeeper. The good guys subdued and disarmed him as customers resumed dancing the tango. Attempting to answer charges to the magistrate, a brief scuffle erupted before order was restored. Lockup deputies got the upper hand.

It should be noted courtroom drama as often portrayed in popular television shows is suspect. Defendants and attorneys aren't allowed any verbal threats or intimidation while the wheels of justice are turning. Outbursts are handled quickly and decisively 99 times out of a 100. There is always a gag if malefactors misbehave. A belt to the nose also works well.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Cub Scouts and Junior Girls Scouts from Troop 301 at St. Mary's and Lyles-Crouch elementary schools gather for a photo with President George Washington (reenactor Don De Haven) during a reception Feb. 16 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

## By George!

### Local Scouts meet George Washington.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The questions were fast and furious as nearly 100 local Boy and Girl Scouts slated to march in Alexandria's Washington's Birthday Parade met with President George Washington (Alexandria re-creator Don De Haven) during a Feb. 16 reception at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

"This was really interesting," said 10-year-old Lillie MacBride of Troop 869 at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. "I learned a lot. It was a very gratifying experience."

Hosted by the ODBC in conjunction with the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, Scouts, troop leaders and parents listened as De Haven detailed the struggles faced by families in the nation's fight for independence.

"Every patriot — men, women and children — played an important role in the birth of our nation," De Haven said. "Our freedom is owed not just to the men who fought but to the women and children who were home and shouldered the family burdens."

Scouts posed questions for De Haven ranging from such as why the President wore a wig (he didn't) to his favorite haunts in Alexandria (he preferred taverns) and how he felt about women serving in the military (he is proud that women are judged by their abilities).

"We are honored to host this event," said ODBC President Richard Banchoff, who noted that 18 presidents have been involved in Scouting, including President Barack Obama. "President Washington set very high standards for himself and so have each of you as young Scouts and future leaders."



Girls Scouts from Troop 869 at MacArthur Elementary School pose with George Washington following a reception at the Old Dominion Boat Club. Pictured with Don De Haven as Washington are: Darcy Mendonca, 10, Lillie MacBride, 10, Neeley Mathes, 11, and Zanajh Jones, 11.

In addition to Obama, Gerald Ford participated in Scouting and is the first president who was also an Eagle Scout.

Refreshments for the event were donated by local businesses including hot chocolate from The Creamery and cupcakes from Occasionally Cake.

"This is fun for me to be here today," said Occasionally Cake owner Sabrina Campbell. "My family and I live on land that was once part of George Washington's pig farm and my daughters are especially proud to be connected to our first president in that way."

Following a question and answer period, the local troops posed for pictures with the President, read posters about Alexandria history and expressed their excitement in marching in the parade the following day.

"I hope we can do this again next year," said Zanajh Jones, 11, of Troop 869. "This was a lot of fun."



# Celebrating the U.S.: A Nation of Immigrants



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Tammy Portnoy and Sean Malone of the Port City Brewing Company wave at the dignitaries in the reviewing stand.**



**Dancers from Morenada Transpeco USA perform.**



**Pat and Bernadette Troy**



**Irish ambassador to the United States Anne Anderson talks with parade Grand Marshal Martin White.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**St. Patrick leads units from the Ancient Order of Hibernians.**



PHOTO BY TRACY BARBER

**Crowds step aside for these marchers.**



BY VERONICA BRUNO/GAZETTE PACKET

**Members of the Rebel Legion participated in the Old Town St. Patrick's Day parade on March 1. This storm trooper did not forget his Irish kilt in his costume details.**



PHOTO BY VERONICA BRUNO/GAZETTE PACKET

**2014 Miss Arlington winner Briana Hanafin surrounded by Miss Teen Arlington Sydni Alexander (right) and Pre-Teen Arlington Toi Ruff-Hobday (left).**



PHOTO BY VERONICA BRUNO/GAZETTE PACKET

**Bobby McKee's float in the parade got the crowd singing to Billy Joel.**



# Have You Scheduled Your Colonoscopy?

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

**C**olonoscopies save lives. Just ask Audrey Marcoe. The 83-year-old Alexandria resident underwent a colonoscopy in December at Inova Alexandria Hospital due to a severe bout of anemia that left her exhausted and significantly underweight. Her doctors suspected she might be bleeding into her colon. The exam revealed a large cancerous tumor on her ascending colon that was likely causing her anemia. She would need surgery to remove it.

"I was surprised at this, truthfully," she said. "I just never thought I'd get it."

Cancers of the colon and rectum — part of the body's digestive system — are unfortunately rather common, especially among Americans age 50 and older. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), colorectal cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer among men and women combined. It will cause an estimated 50,000 deaths this year alone. Fortunately, those numbers have been declining for the last two decades thanks to proper screening, increased disease awareness (remember TV



anchorwoman Katie Couric's colonoscopy on the "Today" show?) and advances in treatments and surgical techniques.

Luckily for Ms. Marcoe, those advanced techniques were available close to home at Inova Alexandria Hospital. After doing some research, she turned to the expertise of Dr. Lawrence Stern, Inova Alexandria's Medical Director for Colon and Rectal Surgery. Dr. Stern leads the hospital's team of board-certified colorectal surgeons — the largest group in the area — who are among the few in the region offering the most advanced minimally invasive colorectal procedures. Minimally invasive procedures use small incisions that generally result in quicker recoveries and shorter hospital stays compared to standard "open" surgeries.

In February, Dr. Stern performed a single incision laparoscopic right colectomy on Ms. Marcoe. The relatively new procedure involves removing the tumor and surrounding lymph nodes and reconnecting the healthy segments of the colon via a laparoscope — a tube with a camera — inserted through the abdomen. Unlike traditional

minimally invasive surgeries that involve several small incisions for all the surgeon's instruments, Ms. Marcoe's delicate surgery was conducted via just one abdominal incision measuring only three centimeters long.

Just three days after surgery, Ms. Marcoe returned home. Follow-up confirms her cancer was caught in time and chemotherapy is not required. She has since resumed her regular activities, including daily exercise, running errands and dining out with friends — life.

Colorectal cancer can be successfully treated if caught early. Routine screening is the key. The ACS recommends you get screened for colorectal cancer beginning at age 50 and continue once every 10 years thereafter. It's important you follow these guidelines because colorectal cancers exhibit few, if any, symptoms in the early stages. Those with a family history of colorectal polyps, or other cancer should talk to their doctor about getting screened sooner.

Be sure to talk with your doctor about your family history and when to begin screening for colorectal cancer. Y

You can find more information about colorectal cancer, including symptoms, treatment options and physicians at [inova.org/cancer](http://inova.org/cancer).

# Crawley's Style

FROM PAGE 5

school system — a division that has some very serious challenges on the horizon. Perhaps the most pressing is the possibility that state leaders will seize control over Jefferson-Houston School, which has been designated as a failing school because of years of low test scores. School Board members say he has the right temperament to handle that issue and others.

"Since Dr. Crawley arrived in Alexandria, he impressed us with his calm, collaborative and positive style while working towards solutions that are best for all our children," said Karen A. Graf, School Board chair. "Our board unanimously selected Dr. Crawley from a pool of top candidates and we are thrilled to have him lead ACPS."

BWP & Associates identified a total of 56 applicants, including 26 sitting superintendents. Six were recommended to the School Board, and four were interviewed before Crawley was ultimately selected.

"This was one of the strongest and largest applicant pools we have ever worked with," said search consultant Kevin Castner. "Dr. Crawley rose to the top of the well qualified group of applicants to earn the superintendent position."



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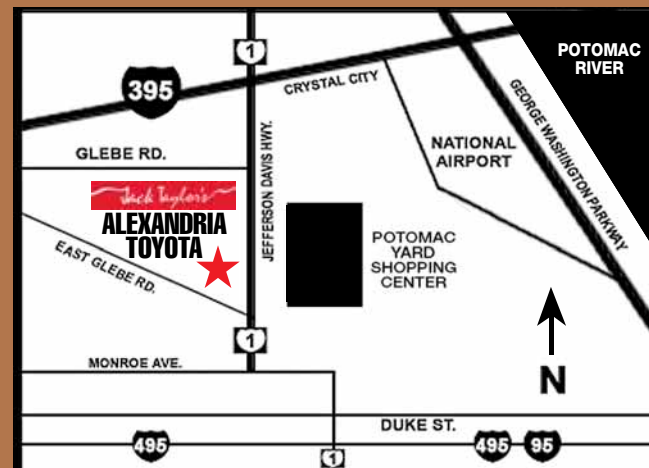


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# Creating a Harmonious Family Life

Local experts offer tips for keeping your family happy.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**s Elizabeth Rees drove her daughter and two of her daughter's friends to a library reading group recently, the Alexandria mother of three admits that she felt like a chauffeur at first. But she had a change of heart after hearing sounds of laughter.

"They were giggling and so sweet in the back," said Rees, the associate rector at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. "Suddenly that moment of grace turned it all around and I felt privileged to be there. I think that sort of thing happens all the time if only we are paying attention."

What are the keys to paying attention and creating a happier family life? Experts say it's important to stop trying to do everything 100 percent and make other things a priority. They offer their top tips for creating balance.

"With three young kids, a two-career marriage and way too many activities, I find this balance as hard as everyone else and am absolutely preaching to myself," said Rees.

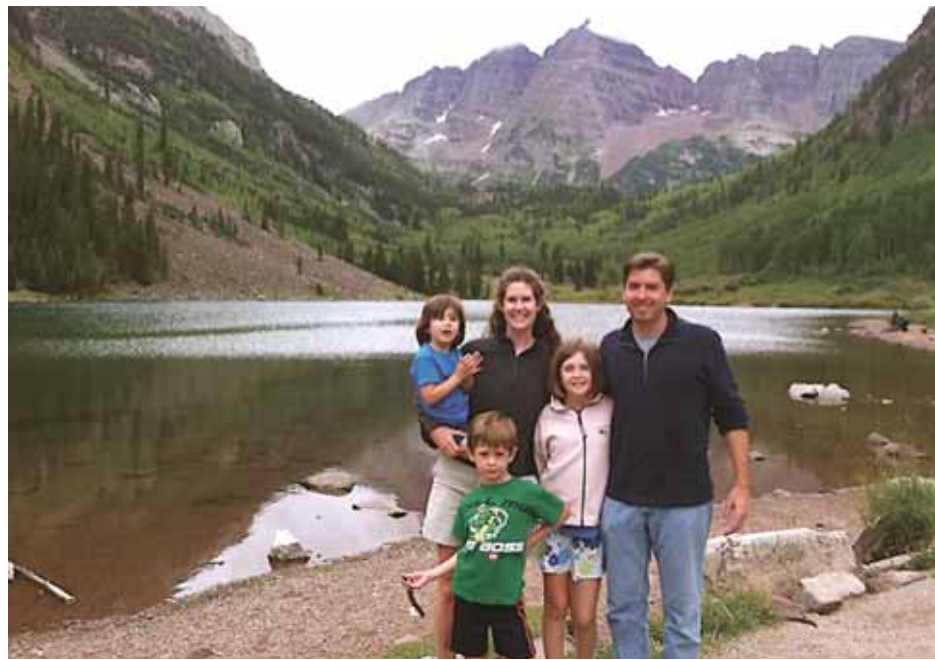
**EXPERTS SAY** living in a competitive area like the Washington, D.C., region can make creating balance even more challenging. "I see children who are stressed to always be the best," said Dr. Bruce Pfeffer, a Potomac, Md.-based child psychiatrist.

Parents play a critical role in helping children create a healthy balance of work and play, he added, explaining that "parents must serve as rudders to guide their children [toward the] peace of mind that comes with a supportive home environment, emphasis on gaining joy in life, along with appropriate goals and achieving."

Michael Moynihan, head of the Upper School at The Heights School in Potomac, Md., agrees. "The most significant obstacles to harmonious family life today are over scheduling and over connectedness É resulting in families that are pulled in many different directions for activities, and when they have those brief moments together, are often plugged into various electronic devices," he said.

Make finding uninterrupted family time a priority. "The solution is to schedule family time such as meals together — without electronic devices — and to protect this time from other activities," said Moynihan.

Rees suggests being present and engaged. "So much of life is spent in work and preparation and accomplishments that it's hard sometimes to live in the moment," she said. "Maybe some days the only time you have together is in the car. ... Try to remember to make the most of even those moments."



**Elizabeth Rees, the associate rector at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, says laughter, forgiveness and gratitude are among the factors that create a harmonious family life. Here she is pictured on a family vacation with her daughter Maya, 3; her husband Holden Hoofnagle; her son Dylan, 7; and daughter Sophia, 10.**

Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D., an associate professor of human development and family science at George Mason University, said "It's also important to find joy in the mundane and to give one's self and others a break ... to be patient, empathic and compassionate with yourself and with your coparent. ... But that doesn't mean not holding everyone accountable to the family system, which is also critical."

Parents might consider the importance of quality time versus quantity of time spent together and prioritize what they value most," said Colleen Vesely, Ph.D., an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University. "Be purposeful. Children will likely remember quality time spent with a parent who was fully present than whether the house was perfect or the laundry folded."

Rees encourages stressed parents to give themselves time alone as well. "I am part of a prayer and listening group on Tuesday nights. We come together and have a time of silence and share where we are in our lives. For me, that's my chance for renewal, refreshment, and it makes me return home with a completely different attitude. ... For

others, it might be a walk in the woods or coffee with a good friend, or an hour at the gym. It's hard to make space for yourself, but it can make a big difference in how you treat the people around you."

When it comes to building a harmonious family life, which elements matter most? "Love, obviously, is essential," said Rees. "But that's a big and amorphous word and really has to be much more about how we

**"The most significant obstacles to harmonious family life today are over scheduling and over connectedness. ... The solution is to schedule family time such as meals together — without electronic devices to interrupt being present to each other — and to protect this time from other activities."**

**— Michael Moynihan,  
head of Upper School, The Heights School**

The willingness to forgive oneself and one's family members is also vital to family harmony. "We all do and say things without thinking all the time with our families," said Rees. "They bear the brunt of all the weight we carry. Try to remember that in the heat of the moment and put aside petty grudges."

Sometimes, says Rees, it's small, often overlooked actions that can have a major impact. "Little things matter so much in

family life," she said. "Replacing the soap in the soap dish, or asking someone about their day and really caring about the answer, or giving a hand when you see someone struggling. When my husband hears my car in the driveway when I return from the grocery store and comes out to help carry the bags É I notice and I feel cared for."

Letiecq said, "With myriad external stressors and pressures on family systems, it is really important that families É work together to model positive coping strategies and moderate conflict and anxiety levels. Parents can model healthy conflict resolution practices and support their children's positive coping and adaptation. This often takes a lot of work, learning skills that we may not have picked up from our own family systems [such as] practice, cooperation and patience." "Learn and implement effective communication skills," said Rees. "Share what you are feeling with those all-important 'I statements' that we know about but find so hard to use in the heat of the moment. Stop what we are doing when there is something we really need to listen to, and then really listen with empathy and love. É Not just thinking it, but saying 'I love you,' 'I'm sorry,' 'I forgive you,' 'thank you.'"

Manage expectations. "Reasonable expectations seem like a big piece of this, for ourselves, for our kids, for our partners," said Rees. "Remember to step back and think about what really matters and try to place less importance on the rest."

Parents are a child's best role models for dealing with setbacks. "Parents must help their children be resilient when goals are not met," said Pfeffer. "Sometimes the best growth can be gained by resilience after a disappointment."

**LAUGHTER HELPS A LOT**, too. "Try not to take things so seriously and to see the humor even in the mistakes and the impossible moments," said Rees.

Practice gratitude. "Lately, I keep reading about the link between practicing gratitude and feeling happiness. I find it true in my own life," said Rees. "When I consciously look for things to be grateful for, I am much more aware of the moments of love and beauty in my life. So practice gratitude for each member of our families, for the good that we see in them, for the moments that we have with them. When, after a long day, I get to sit down and read a book with my arms around my kids, I try to remember to thank God for that moment."

"There really is not one 'right' way to parent a child or engage in family life," said Letiecq. "Every parent-child relationship, every family system is unique in terms of what each person brings to the relationship: temperaments, interests, skill-sets, personality traits, personal histories, past familial experience, health issues, etc. É There is a range of parenting styles, but what seems most important is to do what works best with your child's temperament and what is going to be most supportive and least stressful for the entire family."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH REES



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

vehicles. Those few bicyclists who use King Street can use the alternate, almost parallel route through the George Washington Masonic Memorial grounds with no impediments.

It's unsafe because narrowing King Street traffic lanes, by designating about 30 percent of the street with bike lanes, increases the risk of collisions and vehicles veering out of their lanes to avoid them.

When founded, the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) had as its goals, (1) education and (2) advocacy. In 1997 when it moved its offices from Baltimore, Maryland to Washington, D.C., and focused increasingly on advocacy at the federal level. During the last few years, LAB abandoned its role of protecting members' interests and it dropped most of the services to become just another Washington lobbying and fundraising group.

On the local level, Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) still recognizes that bicyclists legitimately ride with the traffic and offers classes educating bicyclists how to properly and safely ride in the road with the traffic.

Alexandrians and other drivers in our city need to recognize bicyclists are legitimate drivers. Rather than add bike lanes, educate the motor vehicle community — with signage, red light cameras, speed boards and speed enforcement by our police force — bicycles belong on the road as an integral part of the traffic.

The "Bicycle Friendly Communities" (BFC) program fails to encourage communities to educate citizens about best practices. It focuses on building facilities and spending money on planners and consultants who may not know how to operate bicycles properly. "Bicycle Friendly Community Awards" favors cities having "miles of separate bike lanes" whether those lanes are safe or not. Alexandria, having received the silver (BFC) award, seems to covet a higher award, with more bike lanes without considering the safety of the cyclists or the neighboring residents.

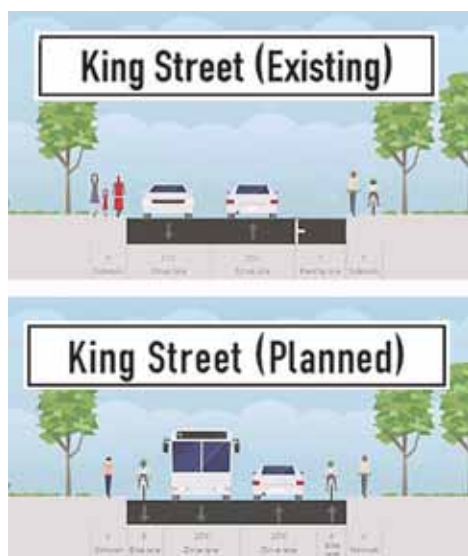
Bike lanes on King Street is easy — a bandage — that turns residents and bicyclists into adversaries. Education is difficult but the crux of the matter: Educate motorists to accept bicyclists as legitimate partners on our streets.

**Darlene Johnson**  
Alexandria

## Valuable Compromise

To the Editor:

Much has been spoken and written about the King Street Traffic Calming project with bike lanes, since city staff proposed an early concept at a June 12, 2013 meeting of the Taylor Run Civic Association Executive Board. Let's assume that our goal is to provide the safest, most convenient, and most attractive solution we can find, and generally in that order. I would love for there to be parking, bike lanes, medians between lanes with turn lanes and trees, wide sidewalks with utility zones, and four driving lanes for that matter. Given 30 feet of road-



way, not all of those things are going to be achievable. Two driving lanes leave 9 feet of space for anything else on the existing road. The choices on the table for that space are parking and bike lanes. Bike lanes are clearly the safer option, based on a great deal of data that has been presented by the city engineer, importantly, providing an essential buffer for pedestrians on both sides of this arterial roadway.

Given that, City staff initially recommended putting bike lanes on this section of King Street. However, after some dialog with the residents and data gathering about parking usage that showed a maximum of six parked cars, the city has chosen to recommend leaving about 13 parking spaces.

Although I prefer the safer approach that was initially recommended with full bike lanes, I support the City's compromise plan with some bike lanes and parking that meets residential needs.

**Angus Hendrick**  
Alexandria

## Questionable City Budget Priorities

To the Editor:

Any of us who thinks that Alexandria cares about its people is sadly mistaken. Just take a look at the 2015 proposed city budget and you'll soon understand why this city's priorities lie elsewhere. Look at the proposed cuts while the city continues rampant spending on a metro station, large legal and planning staffs, BikeShare program and premature waterfront landscape plans. The losers are: school children, families, the elderly and underprivileged.

Let's start with seniors who will lose Senior Taxi money as well as tax relief if their homes have any value. How can we turn out backs on these vulnerable residents? And once again, the libraries are on the hit list — the very institution that complements learning, introduces children to books and provides Internet services for those who cannot afford their own. Libraries are used by low and middle-income families while studies from the Pew Charitable Trusts show that just two percent of the population use only E-Readers. The rest of us like books in our hands. In our libraries, families can check out movies allowing them to avoid expensive theater tickets or movie rentals.

Certainly we can cut some city workers

since employee cost is a big driver, but government's primary role is to keep its people safe, so why are firefighters, deputy sheriffs and closing 12 satellite police stations on the list? And why when we live in such a dense, highly populated area, would you cut Parks and Recreation monies? Or support for our hospitals and the cancer walk? These are all "people" programs!°

To reiterate, we need government and city council members who will put people first. And I don't mean bicycle riders who comprise a very small percentage of the population: young, well-educated males who don't need libraries as much as the rest of us do. And, we should certainly question the large legal staff when we still seem to employ outside counsel a lot.

As for school spending, we continually shuffle the deck but never fix the underlying problem of educating our young people. Cutting library spending surely isn't a step in the right direction for doing so. Instead of numerous principals and assistant principals, we need less of our dollars going to administrative staff and more to the classroom in the form of great teachers instead of just technology. So, if the schools are to succeed and our taxpayer dollars are to be effective, excellent teaching must head the class.

As a resident who doesn't mind paying taxes, but objects mightily to taxes being spent for the wrong things, I implore all of you taxpayers who live here to make your concerns known now. Do not just rubber stamp these budgets year after year without question. The city is whittling away at those very things that make a city worth living in.

**Linda Couture**  
Alexandria

## Improving Public Safety

To the Editor:

The stretch of what is now King Street from near the Metro Station and the Alexandria Train Station to Janneys Lane was originally used as a major road transporting farm commodities to warehouses in Alexandria. It was (Leesburg Pike) not built for cars or bikes, but instead for horse drawn wagons, and carriages. It was an early farm to market road promoting local transportation and commerce.

Public streets are provided to serve the broader community. They are not private property. On-street parking is an ancillary use that can and should be accommodated when it is safe and appropriate. Allowing on-street parking on a narrow, heavily used public street is unsafe to other vehicles, pedestrians as well as bicyclists.

The proposed bike lane would be a major improvement benefiting a broader community. It would not significantly impact car and bus traffic, but would provide a safer corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The bike lane would provide an alternative choice for those commuting to the King Street Metro, the train station and Old Town Alexandria. The compromise proposal reduces the number of on-street parking spaces lost under the original proposal.

More importantly, the proposed change would improve safety and promote other means of transport.

The modified plan calls for full bike lanes part of the way, and street markings that indicate bikes, cars, buses and small trucks will share existing traffic lanes the rest of the way. Marked shared lanes can produce conflicts and confuse drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. If it doesn't work out further adjustments can be made. For now the city's investment is fairly minor — a few cans of paint, shared lane markings, and a few plastic safety poles. These items can be easily removed allowing residents to park on what is a heavily traveled section of King Street.

**Dave Cavanaugh**  
Alexandria

## Impact on Parking

To the Editor:

Parking spaces, parking spaces where have they gone? It seems that every time I say that parking in Old Town is becoming near impossible some uninformed member of one of our boards or commissions tries to tell me that that there are excess parking spaces in the Old and Historic District. Well, as all of you know that's not true. In fact, the parking situation is going to get worse as our esteemed transportation director continues to recommend to the council members that they take parking spaces away from us.

The taking of the 27 parking spaces on upper King Street is a good lead-in followed by the taking of 66 parking spaces at the King Street Metro. The upper King Street spaces are going to be used to construct bicycle lanes. The Traffic and Parking Board has recommend to council not to follow the transportation director's guidance in taking these spaces. On the other hand, the King Street Metro spaces will be used to "Q" more buses within the circular parking lot and while also providing new°parking spaces for taxicabs on the west side of Diagonal Road. These parking spaces are very critical to Theismanns Restaurant and to the many businesses in the 1800 Diagonal Road office building. Just around the corner down King Street near the small Trifoile park, the Food Truck Task Force has just recommended the taking of 10 parking spaces to be dedicated for food trucks. Of course the food trucks will also take a number of other parking spaces at other venues in Old Town.

Down King Street near the water on the Strand, the city intends to take Chadwicks parking lot (100 spaces) to develop a new park. Additionally, the SOLO Parking Company will lose 36 parking spaces in the old Art League Building which is soon to become a Carr Hotel. The hotel is only going to provide 69 parking spaces in its underground garage. That's to park the patrons of the 120 rooms in the hotel and the restaurant customers in their 120-seat dining room. Carr claims that the work force, a laughable 14 workers at any one time, will take public transportation to the hotel. My message to Carr is that the trolley does not start operating until 11:30 a.m. There is also a plan to remove many of the parking spaces on South Union Street. All of this will oc-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30



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Special thanks to *Mount Vernon Gazette*



**Marla Lerner Tanenbaum, one of the principal owners of the Nationals, addresses the Feb. 12 Alexandria Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting.**

## Chamber Hosts Business of Baseball Forum

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Nationals hosted a sold-out breakfast Feb. 12, offering a behind the scenes look at the nuances of running a Major League Baseball team. Keynote speaker Marla Lerner Tanenbaum, one of the principal owners of the Nationals, highlighted the relationship the team has with the Dream Foundation and supporting the community immediately surrounding the stadium.

The event, part of an on-going partnership between the Washington Nationals and the Alexandria Cham-

ber, featured a panel of executives from the Nationals Baseball Club including Chris Gargani, vice president and managing director of sales & client services; John Knebel, vice president and managing director, corporate partnerships and business development; Catherine Silver, vice president, ballpark enterprises and guest services, and Ted Towne, vice president, finance.

Guests were provided an opportunity to interact with panel members and posed questions related to the franchise and the business of baseball.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## TC Williams Baseball To Host Scrimmage

The T.C. Williams baseball team is scheduled host a scrimmage against Washington-Lee at noon on Saturday, March 8 at Simpson Field.

Last season, the Titans secured a regional berth for the first time since 2009. Washington-Lee won the National District title.

## TC Boys' 4x400 Relay Wins State Title

The T.C. Williams boy's 4x400 relay team of senior Aaron McKinney, and sophomores Josephus Lyles, Mahlique Booth and Noah Lyles won the 6A state title with a national-qualifying time of 3:23.62 during the stat championship meet Feb. 27-March 1 in Hampton.

Noah Lyles won an individual state title in the boys'

300-meter dash, recording a national-qualifying time of 34.2 seconds.

R.J. Thorne finished state runner-up in the boys' shot put with a mark of 53 feet, 5 1/2 inches.

The T.C. Williams boys' team placed fifth with a score of 35. Forest Park won the state title with a total of 71.5, followed by Grassfield (55), Western Branch (41) and Robinson (36).

## Join Northern Virginia Senior Softball

Men 50-plus years of age and women who are 40 and older can join Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS) to play two seven-inning slow-pitch games Tuesday and Thursday mornings, April 8-Aug. 1. Placement on one of 28 teams in one of three skill-level conferences is by skill assessment, not a tryout. Everyone present bats: 11 play defense. For fun, fitness, and friendship, see [www.nvss.org](http://www.nvss.org) and call Dave at 703-524-5576.

## 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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## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Route 1 Public Meeting on March 26

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will host its second public meeting for the Route 1 (Richmond Highway) Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis on Wednesday, March 26 from 6-8 pm, at the South County Government Center, located at 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA. The public is invited to participate and learn the latest on this study to improve transit, bicycle, pedestrian and vehicular travel along a 15-mile segment of Route 1 from Woodbridge to I-495. Project partners include Fairfax County, Prince William County, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. For more information, visit [route1multimodal.virginia.gov](http://route1multimodal.virginia.gov) or call 804-786-4440. DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information on DRPT's nondiscrimination policies and procedures or to file a complaint, please visit the website at [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov) or contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, Linda Balderson, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

## 21 Announcements

## 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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## 21 Announcements

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Auction to be held At Holly Hill Self Storage on March 19, 2014 at 12:00 pm. ph# 703-765-3115 units to be auctioned- 6235,7120,7123,7238,7243.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 27

cur without the development of the two Robinson terminals. The density in this part of Old Town is about to explode, yet our city government doesn't think it is necessary to create parking space replacements for all those spaces that they have been taken away.

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

## Healthy Eating At Hospital Cafe

To the Editor:

With a vast number of choices for dining out in the nation's capitol, gourmet restaurants and economical eateries abound. The region provides a chef's paradise and a variety of tastes to please the palates of a diverse population. Often overlooked are the hospital cafeterias that have, in the past, been the unfortunate victims of consumer disdain.

However, with the advent of a focus on healthy eating and nutritional diets in recent years, a local hospital has become attuned to the reality of putting into practicing good health and wise nutrition. Inova Alexandria Hospital is at the forefront of this movement.

The hospital's cafeteria, The Alex Café, under the management of Morrison's Cafeterias, offers a variety of healthy food choices combined with providing information on food contents including sodium, calories and other vital information. Mindful of employee's health, visitors and patients, the cafeteria provides a number of healthy yet tasty alternatives to high fat and heavy caloric intake.

Adam Silvis, the Food Services director, is on top of his game. With a visible presence and a keen awareness for his customers and staff, Silvis aims to please. His staff is pleasant and provides excellent customer service. The chefs, often behind the scenes, are conscientious in their food preparation resulting in exemplary food production.

Hot entrees, a colorful and plentiful salad bar, sandwiches, fresh fruit, and a variety of desserts and health snacks are plentiful. Even the soup kettles are bubbling hot with delicious soups — including their notable chicken noodle soup — to satisfy the taste buds of the diverse population that frequents the hospital. It is not uncommon to see the local police or fire crews stop by the Alexandria Cafe for their meal break. Convenient, fast and affordable, the public safety sector knows a good deal when they see it.

Inova Alexandria Hospital is dedicated to a wellness platform for better health. The hospital has combined all the right ingredients including goals, health and nutrition that demonstrate a hospital cafeteria can be an affordable and tasty choice for a pleasurable dining experience.

**Karen L. Bune**

## Parking in District 1

To the Editor:

In his letter of Feb. 22, Nate Macek offers a questionable set of recommendations on

parking in Old Town, which begins with the faulty assumption equating Old Town's street grid with that of Clarendon and the District. Referencing a Google map of Old Town and Clarendon shows extremely different systems, and simply citing "the District" is like comparing Old Town to Nebraska.

Above all, the Parking study that Mr. Macek refers to was done to provide a specific look at the five distinct Districts in Old Town. The usage patterns of all five are different. The most impacted by waterfront development is District 1. Applying a standard of 85 percent usage before seriously considering a residents' only parking rule is using opinion to rule. The evidence collected in the parking study show that in District 1, where significant waterfront build out will inevitably put greater pressure on the surrounding residents, street parking spaces are 82 percent occupied on weekdays between 5 p.m. and midnight. This is not only "peak time" but also, in a more human context — this is when people come home from work, want dinner with their families, and understandably resent circling the block for a place to park.

The study referenced was done two years ago with a recommendation to reassess every two years. Before advocating against guaranteed residents' parking in District 1, on both or one sides of the street, this two-year reassessment needs to be done. In addition, the argument that merchants will suffer from a lack of on street parking does not stand up. The city's own assessment of available garage parking, 3,000-plus, spaces defies that logic and has been used continuously by the city to demonstrate total parking spaces in Old Town.

Finally, the argument that developers must supply required levels of parking is not what happens. The Carr property parking requirement, based on zoning and recommended by the mayor's Waterfront Advisory Group (Mr. Macek was co-author of that report) was much higher before the city's radical downward revision in the latest DSUP. Engineering below-ground parking in a floodplain will always be an expensive and risky venture. The Planning Commission's logic, which Mr. Macek and city staff worked on in advance of a critical meeting to approve this, used a comparative universe of other Old Town hotels, none of them on a floodplain or remotely threatened by even "nuisance flooding."

When politically driven arguments are used to justify decisions that deeply impact the people who live, work, and maintain a neighborhood, it is time to question the methods, the numbers, and the sources. Guaranteed parking for District 1 residents is the position we should start from.

The Parking Study, the city's data on garage space, and consistent reports of scarce space from District 1 Old Town residents all support this.

With 82 percent of on-street District 1 parking spaces, on weekdays from 5 p.m. to midnight, occupied — getting home to your family in time for a hot dinner can be a rare treat ... and like residential parking space, guaranteed to grow rarer.

**Kathryn Papp**  
Alexandria



## Impasse over Medicaid Growth

BY ROB KRUPICKA  
DELEGATE (D-45)

**T**his week we enter what will hopefully be the last week of the 2014 legislative session. The Senate and House must agree on a budget before we adjourn, but Healthcare remains the issue where legislators are having trouble moving forward.

Republicans are refusing to discuss any options that involve Medicaid expansion and they are turning around and accusing the Democrats of holding the budget hostage.

It is one thing to have an honest debate on differences in opinion, but it is not acceptable to stonewall the other side of the aisle to score political points. I recently spoke on the House floor this week about the need to compromise on healthcare and the budget; video is available on my website [www.krupicka.com](http://www.krupicka.com).

Mental Health has been another one of the big issues this year. I co-patroned several bills this year relating to emergency detention.

There has been some disagreement on how long we should extend the time for an emergency detention order, but the General Assembly has shown strong re-



**RICHMOND  
REPORT**

solve to make real progress with our state's mental health system and I am confident we will find a compromise to this issue.

Residents across the 45th District will be no strangers to flooding and storm water management problems. Flood and storm water management is becoming more and more of an issue all over the state, especially to our coastal towns. The General Assembly is trying to figure out how we can best assist localities to manage these problems.

This year I co-patroned a resolution that would create a joint subcommittee that would study and make recommendations regarding short- and long-term strategies for minimizing the impact of recurrent flooding. It is currently making its way through the Senate and House floors.

It is an honor to serve the 45th district. Please contact my office with any questions or concerns at 571-357-4762 or [DelRKrupicka@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelRKrupicka@house.virginia.gov).



**Bishop Ireton senior Giovanni Hernandez, second from right, is with St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Head of School Joan Holden, Alexandria Rotary Club president Peter Knetemann and his father Vince Hernandez after being presented with the Student Community Service Award Jan. 28 at Belle Haven Country Club.**

## Hernandez Honored for Community Service

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**G**iovanni Hernandez, a senior at Bishop Ireton High school, was presented with the Student Community Service Award by the Rotary Club of Alexandria at its Jan. 28 meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

Known as Gio to his family and friends, Hernandez has participated in the school's student government organization since his freshman year serving as class rep, class president and a member of the executive board. A standout athlete in cross country, football and lacrosse, Hernandez writes for the school literary magazine and is active in the Campus Ministry Program.

Joined by his father Vince Hernandez, Bishop Ireton Director of Campus Ministry Brian Dunn and teacher Matt Hendricks, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Head of School Joan Holden and Rotary Club president Peter Knetemann presented the award to Hernandez, who was recently accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy.

A member of the National Honor Society, Hernandez is also a participant in the Beta Club and Haitian Alliance Club, both of which work towards helping those less fortunate in the local and international communities.

"I am excited to be here today," Hernandez said. "Thank you to my teachers at Bishop Ireton and to the Rotary Club for this honor."



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