

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

In recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, the lights on the George Washington Masonic Temple shown blue on Friday evening, Jan. 9.

Masonic Memorial Turns Blue

In recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, the George Washington Masonic Memorial was illuminated in blue throughout the evening of Friday, Jan. 9 to show support for Alexandria's law enforcement officers and Project Blue Light. Members of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and Alexandria Police Department met outside the Masonic Memorial and activated their cruisers' emergency lights when the memorial went blue at 5:30 p.m.

Supporting this effort were the Alexandria Committee of Police Local 5, the Southern States

Police Benevolent Association, the Alexandria Police Association and the Alexandria Sheriff's Association. Concerns of Police Survivors and the National Fraternal Order of Police designated Jan. 9, 2015 as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to remind the public of the efforts law enforcement officers take to keep communities safe. The National Fraternal Order of Police notes that on average between 105 and 203 officers die in the line of duty each year and that 50,000 officers are assaulted and 14,000 officers are injured annually in performance of their duties.

Supporting Music in School

Award-winning violinist helps Alexandria Public Schools play its biggest concert.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Every elementary, middle, and high school in Alexandria, 18 schools in total, came together on Jan. 7 for the biggest concert in the school system's history:

370 students, 200 of them from local elementary schools, 170 from middle and high schools, participated in Electrify Your Strings (EYS). After months of practice, the students had an opportunity to practice and perform with electric violinist Mark Wood, an

Emmy-award winning composer and a former member of Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

The concert at Francis C. Hammond Middle School almost didn't happen. The original plan was to have a practice session on Jan. 6 and to host the concert the

following day. A snowstorm Jan. 6 forced Wood and the students to go through two days' worth of practice in one

afternoon before the performance.

Wood prides his concerts as being different from the traditional orchestras. All of the students in

SEE SUPPORTING, PAGE 4

"Music closes the generational gap."

— Mark Wood

Amazing Grace

APD mourns loss of first female police K9.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

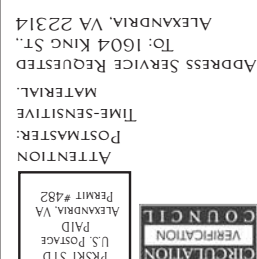
For more than a year, it looked as if she would defy the odds, but on Christmas Eve, Gracie, Alexandria's first female police K-9, lost her battle with kidney cancer.

"Gracie was not only an outstanding police dog, she was a great family dog," said APD K-9 officer Steven Escobar. "She has left a large void in our family."

Gracie, a 7-year-old German shepherd, served the City of Alexandria for five years. In November of 2013, she was diagnosed with kidney cancer and given only two to three months to live. But Gracie defied the odds and survived for more than a year, continuing to work with Escobar up until her death.

"I never owned a dog in my life until K-9 Gracie, so I wasn't familiar with the great bond that is created with having a dog," Escobar said. "When I was initially told that I was getting a female canine as my canine partner, I wasn't sure how it was going to turn out. But I quickly realized that having such

SEE GRACIE LOSES, PAGE 4



BABS BECKWITH

SELLS OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA



472 S Union St



815 Prince St



414 Duke St



209 S Fairfax St



209 S St Asaph St



406 S Pitt St



328 S Lee St



656 S Columbus St



22 Wolfe St



112 Gibbon St



609 S Fairfax St



700 S Lee St



454 S Union St



1 Wilkes St



710 Potomac St



637 S Saint Asaph St



720 S Union St



16 Wolfe St



724 S Union St



713 S Union St



815 S Royal St



827 Rivergate Pl



403 S Pitt St



52 Wolfe St



125 Queen St



610 Queen St



527 S Lee St



229 S Pitt St

Exceptional Service with Exceptional Results. Babs has helped more families settle in Old Town...get her expertise working for you! If you are considering purchasing or selling your home in 2015, call Babs. Some of Babs' Old Town 2014 sales are above.



BABS BECKWITH
Specializing in Old Town Residences

703.627.5421 • BabsBeckwith.com

BabsBeckwith@aol.com

109 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314



LEADING
REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD

LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL

Malicious Wounding

Police are currently investigating a burglary and malicious wounding in the North Ridge neighborhood on Jan. 9 at 4 p.m. According to a police report, an 84-year old man and his wife returned home to 400 Jackson Place and interrupted a burglary in progress. The man was stabbed and the suspect fled the scene. At City Council, Deputy Police Chief David Huchler responded to criticisms that neighbors in the area were inadequately informed of the reason for the police presence.

"The department is currently reviewing how we're communicating with the community," said Huchler. "We know there are areas of improvement." Huchler said his department is currently working with Craig Fifer, the city's director of communications and public information, to improve their communication systems.

"This is not just one neighborhood, this is citywide," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "In terms of overall feeling: do you feel that you need more boots on the ground?" Huchler responded that the department is currently reviewing its budget and operations with Mark Jinks, the acting city manager, and that the discussion of the department's requirements will be forthcoming.

Code Red

According to City Councilwoman Del Pepper, Alexandria's representative to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality, Alexandria has not experienced any "Code Red" days in the past two years. Code Red refers to an Air Quality Index score between 151-200, which is categorized as unhealthy.

"This is important for those with respiratory problems," said Pepper. In a briefing with the EPA, Pepper said there was discussion of a new proposal that would lower the ozone standard in the region. Currently, the standard is 75 parts per billion but the new proposal would lower the standard to 70 or 60 ppb.

Flooding at Gadsby's

A pipe burst at Gadsby's Tavern on Jan. 9, flooding parts of the historic building. Staff rushed to recover signed documents and furniture from the 18th century and were mostly successful, but the staff is currently in the process of assessing the damage. The restaurant section of the tavern is open but the museum segment will be closed through Jan. 18. The Civil War dance classes and ball to be held throughout January have been cancelled. Tavern Toddlers, Tuesday Dance Classes and the Jan. 29 Birthnight Ball Dance Class will have check-in at the tavern but the event will be moved to the American Legion at 400 Cameron St. The Presidential Salon on Jan. 25 and Ladies Tea on Feb. 8 will proceed as scheduled.

Taxi Reforms

The chain-smoking, cellphone-chatting taxi driver stereotype may be coming to an end in Alexandria. An ordinance, proposed at City Council on Jan. 13, would no longer require taxis to carry two-way radios and would prohibit smoking or talking on a cellphone except in cases of emergency or trip related activities. The ordinance was accepted for first reading to be considered again on Jan. 24. The possibility of capping or even reducing the fleet of 767 taxis licensed to operate in Alexandria was tabled until after July 1, following the statewide discussion of taxi policy at the General Assembly.

Un-uncontested Appointment

Controversy erupted in Alexandria City Council when the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority asked the council not to approve an uncontested appointment to the ARHA board. Councilman Paul Smedberg expressed concerns that the candidate met the post's requirements. Roy Priest, ARHA's chief executive officer, said that the office was working on major redevelopments and they were looking for a person with more experience. Smedberg countered that the unnamed candidate had experience as a housing coordinator for mixed income families, a background ARHA should find useful. In a 5-2 vote, the council chose to proceed with the uncontested appointment.

— VERNON MILES

NEWS

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

Pulling Punches Local Boxer Tony Suggs teaches a local boxercise class.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

One of the most popular New Year's resolutions is to get into shape. A "boxercise" program offered in the Charles Houston Recreation Center by local boxer Anthony Suggs is helping to make that happen. On Monday and Wednesday nights, his Boxercise program is helping local citizens, mostly women, fulfill that resolution. For Suggs, the program is something more: it's a chance at some local redemption, to work through his demons, and to teach the sport that's defined his life.

"It's the beginning of the year," said Suggs. "Everyone wants to get right and get into shape."

The good thing about this class is you're working hard, you're getting into shape, but you're having fun while you do it."

There are 12 classes in each session, with two classes a week for six weeks. The sessions are \$60, or \$5 per class. Suggs has been doing boxercise at the Community Center for five years. When he retired from boxing, Suggs said he wanted to just eat and drink what he wanted, namely Pepsi. He visited a doctor who informed him he had a very high cholesterol count, and if he didn't want to start taking medicines, he'd have to diet and exercise.

"I've been doing that my whole life," said Suggs, "it's what I was trying to get away from."

Suggs exercised and dieted for three months, and when he went back to the doctor learned that his cholesterol count was within acceptable levels. During that time of exercising, though, he noticed many women in the gym he went to didn't know some of the simple fitness exercises. His impromptu assistance at the gym turned into a semi-regular session, and has since evolved into a full workout program.

Michael Swanigan helps teach the class. He's never boxed professionally, but he was recently certified as a personal trainer.

"He's my right hand man," said Suggs, "I can't do this without him."

Swanigan grew up in the area reading and hearing all about Tony Suggs, who in the boxing ring went by the name "Da Beast."

"I've watched him box his entire career. Everyone knew Tony Suggs: the Beast," said Swanigan.

For Swanigan, helping to teach the class has built his self-confidence and his stamina.

"There's a balance in boxing, and it's done me good," said Swanigan. "In my life, that's been the balance of physical, mental, and spiritual."

Physically, boxercise has helped Swanigan with speed and agility, two aspects he'd want to carry over into his own training courses in the future. The biggest lesson of boxing, Swanigan says, is endurance. For Suggs, endurance has been one of the hardest parts of trying to redeem himself in the community as he's trying to be a role model.

"I never want them to catch me doing something bad, wrong, or negative," said Suggs. "Even though they don't come up and speak to me and say 'I look up to you', they joke with me all the time about it."



Anthony Suggs leading his class in an exercise.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Suggs says he wants to be the kind of person he wishes he had been — the kind of person who could have stepped in and kept him from using drugs.

Suggs' life is fairly similar to his exercise routine at his boxercise program. It starts off simple enough. Suggs was a boxer, a good one. He was a 1988 Olympic hopeful. Suggs loved the sport ever since he was a youth, and through all of the hardships that would follow, it remained the one constant in his life.

After the initial exercises, things start to get more complicated and the stresses begin. Suggs started taking drugs in high school and as his career took off, so did his drug consumption.

Just when things seemed like they couldn't get more difficult and tiresome, they did. For Suggs, that low point wasn't when he lost his chance at the Olympics, it was when his infant daughter died and Suggs slipped into a drug binge as a coping mechanism.

Suggs says his relief came when he was arrested, and after several chances to get clean, encountered a judge who sent him to Alexandria's Detention Center. When he was there, Suggs was enrolled in the sober living unit. He graduated from the program three times.

"Every time I got out, I went back to the same negativity that got me in there. You're in a controlled environment when you're locked up, but when you get out you have to bring those tools you learned in there with you, because it's so easy to fall back into that trap."

When he first got out, Suggs said he didn't know anybody who wasn't using drugs. His father taught him how to fight, taught him to be strong, but taught him never to cry or ask for help: "I had to be man enough to ask someone for help. I was raised under the old school concept that that makes you weak, but you're weak when you hurt and you don't ask for help."

He says with each of the things he's done in life, he's tried to apply the same ferocity he brought to boxing as "Da Beast."

When he was boxing, Suggs said he was driven by rage. Today, he still uses that feeling, but it's a different kind of rage.

"I want to give them an example," said Suggs. "Martial arts, it's always you against your opponent. For me, that opponent is life."

The class is a fairly even balance between new students and women who've taken the class for several years. Suggs notes one or two who have been with the class since he started. Jessica Wolfe, one of the newest attendees of Sugg's boxing class, has also been in a six month "boot camp" on the waterfront, but says she wanted to switch things up.

"I like to be challenged," said Wolfe. "If someone's telling me I can do something, I can do more than I think I can."

Wolfe says she loves the class because it helps her get rid of tension and it helps push her.

"It's not just about being fast, you have to be strong, you have to have endurance, and you have to be able to out-think your opponent," said Suggs. "That's what I'm trying to teach: the science of boxing."

Supporting Music in Public Schools

FROM PAGE 1

this concert face the audience. If they ever want to live in a world where people attend and fund orchestras, Wood says the next generation of musicians is going to have to learn how to perform as entertainers as well as musicians.

"Look at orchestras as a business, which you have to, we can't rely on the arts funding," said Wood. "None of them are looking at the audience. The conductor's back is to the audience. Could you imagine Michael Jackson performing with his back to the audience? If you're not interacting with them visually, socially, and passionately there's a disconnect, your audience disappears real fast."

Wood exudes the influences of '70s rock legends like Jimmy Page. Most of the music selection reflects this. In practice before the show, after the cacophony of instruments tuning, Wood taps the side of his electric violin to get the students' attention. The room fills with an orchestra version of the Queen classic "We Will Rock You," complete with stomping and clapping from the orchestra and the middle school students whose gym session was interrupted by the practice.

Wood's concept of an audience-focused orchestra caught on with many of the students in attendance. Ava Tucker, a 4th grader at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School plays the violin, but says she loves the movement of other art forms.

"I'm a dancer. I love jumping around and just doing theatrics and gymnastics. I like jumping around on 'zombie hunters,'" said



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Mark Wood leads the orchestra in practice.

Tucker, referring to one of the songs the elementary school section of the orchestra would be playing later that day. On hearing someone mention that orchestras can often be boring, she shook her head and responded, "This won't be."

But if EYS wants to make a mark on the schools, it will have to impress more than the students.

"When the teachers call me and say, 'Mark, we're going to be cut' I go in there with the scientific evidence to reassure [the administration]," said Wood. "We do a concert, like we're doing here."

This is, more or less, how the concert came about. Like a vampire, Wood emphasizes that he can't come to the schools him-

self, he has to be invited in. Veronica Jackson, an orchestra director at Hammond Middle School, said she'd worked with Wood and the EYS program in the Henrico County schools and thought his program would be great for the Alexandria public schools.

"[EYS] inspires students, gives them an alternative style of music to play and they feel motivated to practice," said Jackson, taking a moment to sit on the bleachers and breathe after a full day of corralling nearly 400 students. "It brought our school community together because the teachers got to see these students perform in a different setting with a different style of music. The parents were extremely excited about how

motivated their children were to play and it brought attention to the schools and the school system for this high energy performance."

The connection with parents is another vital part of the performance.

"Music closes the generational gap," said Wood. "A kid can come home and play Eleanor Rigby and the parents will recognize it ... Being a kid in the Woodstock generation, everyone was scared of rock. Now look what's happening: they're playing AC/DC in church services now."

This is why most of the music in the EYS concert is rock music from the '70s and '80s. According to Wood its music that the students still listen to, but it's also music that will connect with the parents in a way most modern pop won't. Many of those parents were the ones who got the students involved in music in the first place, and Wood hopes this concert will help show them that their encouragement and interest can pay off.

At her father's encouragement, Kira Pierce started playing bass for her middle school in 4th grade, though she says she played electric bass long before that. Her father plays bass, and she was named after bass player Kira Roessler from the band Black Flag. Pierce acknowledged her parental influence on her choice of instrument, but also said in other ways she came to it herself, namely because "it's just awesome."

In prior years, Alexandria's music departments have struggled in the budgets to pay for replacement instruments. Last year, \$240,000 was allocated to replace many of

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 22

K-9 Gracie Loses Battle with Kidney Cancer

FROM PAGE 1

a smart canine with an easy going personality was a perfect fit for me and my family." Gracie and Escobar began training together in 2009 when Escobar was transferred to the APD's K-9 Unit. The pair graduated from Basic K-9 School in January 2010 and together worked the midnight shift for three years before being moved to the day shift. Gracie eventually became certified as a bomb dog and was named the top overall novice dog at the 2012 U.S. Police Canine Association's Region 3 Dog Trials.

"Through the experiences we shared through the initial 16 weeks of rigorous training and over the five years of patrolling the city I was able to realize the strong relationship that I had heard other canine handlers talk about," Escobar said. "Gracie was always excited to go to work. When she heard me getting ready for work, she would run over to the door, jump up against it and start scratching at the door ready to go." Other awards for Gracie and Escobar include the 2012 and 2013 U.S. Police Canine Association Triple Crown Award (certification in tracking, explosive detector and patrol dog).

Escobar continues his K-9 work as handler for Zara, a female Belgian Malinois who

was surrendered to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria last year, recruited for the police force and is now an official Alexandria police K9. But he says Gracie will always be a part of his family.

"I was devastated when I first learned of Gracie's diagnosis," Escobar said. "I immediately broke down and realized that Gracie was truly a part of my family and it hurt to hear that she would pass away in a few months. But Gracie lived over a year and deep down inside I feel it was because of the love that she had to get up to go to work and because of the love that she had for me and my family."

Escobar has asked that donations to be made in Gracie's memory to the Alexandria Police Foundation's Health and Welfare Program for Retired Police Dogs and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. The APF program provides insurance coverage and food for the City of Alexandria's retired canine "officers," who often face increased medical needs because of their demanding life of service.

"I would like to thank the citizens of Alexandria along with my fellow canine handlers, members of the police department and the Alexandria Police Foundation for all the support they showed Gracie and my



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Gracie, Alexandria's first female police K-9, is shown with APD officer Steven Escobar and his family. Gracie died Dec. 24, 2014 from complications from kidney cancer.

family," said Escobar, who also acknowledged Jason Swain of Billabong Art Studio for his portrait of Gracie. "Like my fellow canine handler Mark Wuckovich says, 'Dogs

leave paw prints on our hearts' and I know that K-9 Gracie will always be watching down from heaven over me and my family."

NEWS



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Preparing the Roads

It is 7 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14 and Mike Haynes is checking in with a City of Alexandria truck driver after dumping in 2 tons of salt from his loader. The trucks had been out working since 1 a.m. preparing for predicted snow and sleet.



Massage (Deep Tissue, Swedish, Sport Massage & Reflexology), Reiki, EFT, Body Energy Work, Crystal Healing/Tuning Forks and Meditation, Zumba, Yoga and Holistic Workshops.

Book your appointment today and experience total Renewal, Harmony & Balance.

Your Life Energy services and classes are insured.

311 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

571-319-0093

www.yourlifeenergy.com

Bring this ad to your appointment & receive a 90-minute Traditional Thai (reg \$120) or Malee Signature Deluxe (reg \$130) for \$90!

3 locations to serve you:

Falls Church, Fairfax and our newest location in Old Town Alexandria.

Call 703-237-0105 to make your appointment now!

Thai Massage...Like No Other



www.malee-thaimassage.com

Aldersgate Church Community Theater

Presents

★ DC area premiere! ★



2 weekends - 8 shows • January 16-25, 2015

Aldersgate Church Community Theater

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308

All tickets \$12.00 - order online or purchase at the theater

Visit www.acctonline.org For Details!

DOWNLOAD
THE FREE
layar
APP AND SCAN TO
EXPLORE MORE!

**GOT IT?
FLAUNT IT.**

Our homes undress to impress.
Brambleton from the Low \$400's.
Singles, Villas and Towns in the buff expose their
finest attributes to satisfy all your needs.
Call our hotline at 844.275.3438, or explore more at:
www.VMNaked.com

HANDCRAFTED HOMES
Van Metre
SINCE 1955

Making Pasta — and More

In the kitchen
with Chef Jenrri.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Flour sprayed through the air as Chef Henry Jenrri sprinkled the metal ravioli mold before spreading the sheet of pasta over the top. He filled each indentation with spinach filling, folded the large sheet of pasta over the top and pressed the rolling pin back and forth to separate the raviolis. “Whoops this one didn’t come apart. I get flour everywhere.” Jenrri has been working at A La Lucia on Madison Street in Old Town for 10 years. He came to D.C. from Las Vegas looking for a job and started as a dishwasher at Galileo. “But I’m a hard worker and in three months I was working the grill. I also learned prep and salad and saw how pasta was made.”

PEOPLE AT WORK

Jenrri is in charge of the kitchen at A La Lucia, which means he manages the workers, helps those with questions on how to make something, decides on the menu and makes a number of the dishes. For instance, “today we’re having fettuccini with fresh spinach, cherry tomatoes and goat cheese. We had a lot of cherry tomatoes so I had to decide how to use them. I worked with the owner to come up with tonight’s special. Most of the recipes are mine — we do the simple stuff, not the fancy part.”

In addition, Jenrri usually works the pasta line and makes many of the fillings for the stuffed varieties. He plans for the week on Sunday, has his day off on Monday and arrives at 2 p.m. other days to begin preparing for that night’s menu. “Tonight we have a party of 20; the 19 degree weather didn’t stop them from coming.” Everyone has a different idea on how to make good pasta. “I use five eggs to a pound of flour and some oil and salt. The oil for me is more soft for working. Otherwise it is too dry. At first you experiment around to see but then you get it and do it the same.” He threads a two-foot piece of dough through the pasta machine over and over again; each time the pasta gets thinner and longer until his arms stretch to hold it.

Any difficult dishes? “Osso buco, the chopping I’m



Henry Jenrri, chef at A La Lucia on Madison Street, begins the process of making spinach ravioli with a large ball of pasta dough.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

used to, but the cooking to get the flavor is the hard part, the right amount of spices and love. And the focaccia. I made about 1,000 recipes to get the focaccia we have now,” he says pointing to a large tray of Italian bread on the other side of the kitchen.

He says that when he started they didn’t have any fresh specialties. “Then I started to build. Today we like to make everything fresh and use it the same day. He opens the large door of the refrigerator and pulls out the agnolotti nestled just above the curls of black and white squid linguine. “This will be with shrimp, scallops and clams. My favorite is most of the pasta. I especially like the spicy ravioli.” Jenrri says customer favorites change but now it seems to be the veal raviolini or the gnocchi in cream sauce. In 2010 he went to school at Galleria in D.C. “It was the basics but things I didn’t know. I had learned in different restaurants and been cooking things that tasted good but the course told me why it worked.”

He didn’t grow up eating Italian food. “I am from Honduras and I loved my mother’s food. I think everyone likes what his mother makes best. No one could make tamales like she did.”



Henry Jenrri feeds the pasta dough through the machine to begin flattening the pasta into a thin sheet.



The pasta dough lengthens and thins each time it goes through the machine until it is pliable and ready to fill.



Henry Jenrri squirts a small amount of spinach filling in groups of four across the dough. “After a while you just know where to put it.”



After covering the small mounds of filling with another sheet of pasta, Henry Jenrri cuts out each ravioli with a round, scalloped pasta tool.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sworn In

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) was sworn in as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives by House Speaker John Boehner on Jan. 6 with his wife Megan watching. Beyer is on the web at www.beyer.house.gov, on Facebook at [facebook.com/RepDonBeyer](https://www.facebook.com/RepDonBeyer) and on Twitter @RepDonBeyer. The 8th Congressional District encompasses Arlington County, City of Alexandria, City of Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

On the rooftop observatory at Jefferson-Houston are, from left, Mark Eisenhour from ACPS Education Facilities; Priscilla Gomez, Ivan Francois Cruz Navarette and Rocio Torres from the Instituto Thomas Jefferson in Mexico City; and VMDO Architects Sara Teaster and Bob Moje.

Touring Jefferson-Houston

A delegation from the Instituto Thomas Jefferson in Mexico City toured the new Jefferson-Houston School last month as part of their research on developing green schools in Mexico.

The tour was organized by Nathaniel Allen from the U.S. Green Building Council, based in Washington, D.C. The Green Building Council wanted to highlight pioneering examples of environmentally friendly workspaces in the D.C. metro area to their Mexican counterparts.

The group was shown around Jefferson-Houston by Mark Eisenhour from ACPS Educational Facilities and VMDO Architects, Sara Teaster and Bob Moje who

designed Jefferson-Houston.

The delegation shared information about their work in Mexico City and took note of the green features of the new school such as the rainwater harvesting system and polished concrete floors.

Jefferson-Houston was designed with light louvers and rooftop light tubes that reflect daylight deep into the interior of the building. Daylight harvesting controls also allow artificial lighting to be turned off automatically when daylight levels exceed minimum thresholds.

The school building also uses local materials such as native hardwoods stones such as Buckingham Slate and Alberene Soapstone.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Former state Sen. Patsy Ticer reads one of Aldo Leopold's February entries in his Almanac "The Good Oak."

Celebrating Life of Aldo Leopold

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust sponsored a Read-a-Thon in honor of the 128th birthday of environmentalist Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 10. Former state Sen. Patsy Ticer, Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, Fairfax County Supervisor John Cook and

several others were among the "readers" of sections of "Sand County Almanac," one of Leopold's books.

The read-a-thon involved public readings of 3-5 minute sections of the Almanac and was held at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library. Following the read-a-thon and a celebratory birthday cake for Leopold there was a showing of "Green Fire" a documentary film about Aldo Leopold.

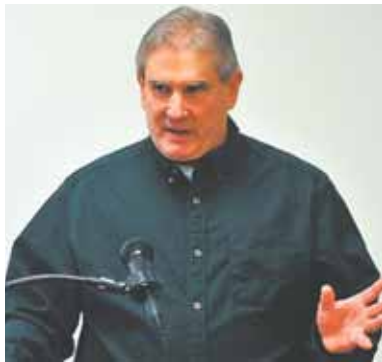
The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust is a regional, nonprofit land trust founded in 1994. Since its founding, NVCT has preserved 6,410 acres of land in Northern Virginia and is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. For more information on the trust and its activities visit www.nvct.org.



NVCT board member Greg Evans begins his reading of Leopold's "January Thaw," "... the hibernating skunk, curled up in his deep den, uncurls himself and ventures forth to prowls the wet world, dragging his belly in the snow. His track marks one of the earliest datable events in that cycle of beginnings and ceasings we call a year."



Alexandria Open Space Coordinator Laura Durham reads over her selection of Leopold's Journal entitled "65290," "to band a bird is to hold a ticket in a great lottery. Most of us hold tickets on our own survival, but we buy them from the insurance company, which knows too much to sell us a really sporting chance."



Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Director Kevin Cline opens the program reading from the forward of Aldo Leopold's "Sand County Almanac," "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot."

JACKI SORENSEN'S FITNESS CLASSES

JACKI SORENSEN'S FITNESS CLASSES

Jacki Sorensen's Aerobic Dance
Classes at Lee Center,
1108 Jefferson Street 22314

Winter Session Openings Available Now!

Monday/Wednesday
 10:15 am & 6:30 pm
 Friday 9:30 am

Register online at
alexandriava.gov › Recreation

For information,
 Call: 202-657-1150
 Email: JackisDC@gmail.com

JACKI SORENSEN'S FITNESS CLASSES




NOVA Parks has over 4,000 acres of parkland protecting the drinking source for the city of Alexandria

But that's not all ... As the leading multi-regional park system in Virginia, NOVA Parks is dedicated to protecting lands and wildlife from the area's hurried development. NOVA Parks has over 11,000 acres of parkland in our region, 90 percent of which remains in a natural state. In fact, in the last five years alone, NOVA Parks has acquired more than 600 acres of new parkland, and planted over 800 trees in 2014.

**NOVA Parks –
We are ever green!**



Learn more at www.novaparks.com



MEETING HOUSE COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE for PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015
9:00 A.M. Formal Presentation • 9:30 A.M. Tours

Morning Preschool Programs for Children Ages 2 - 5
 318 South Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria
 703-549-8037 • www.mhcppreschool.org

Free Estimates Patios, Walkways, Retaining Walls, Paver Driveways, Landscaping! **OFF-SEASON PRICING**

Tree Clearance Sale
30% OFF
All Trees 2013 & Prior

60 50-75% Off Pottery **Lowest Prices Since 2008**

Playground Chips & Organic Compost \$29.99 cu. yd.	Bagged, Shredded Hardwood Mulch \$3.49	Bulk Mulch \$24.99 cu. yd. FREE Fill
--------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------

Cravens Nursery & Pottery
9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia
2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50.
1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro)
703-573-5025
Open 7 days a week
Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com

Fragrant, blooming Citrus Plants 10% Off

NEWS BRIEFS

Mackey To Lead Court Service Unit

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice has appointed Michael "Mike" Mackey as director of the 18th District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit, effective Jan. 10.

The Court Service Unit provides intake, probation, parole, restitution, investigations and mediation services. The agency also administers mental health and substance abuse counseling, gang prevention and intervention services, after-hours supervision and parent education.

The CSU manages the Attendance Review Panel, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, and a variety of crime prevention programs, including Intensive Case Management, Shoplifter's Alternative, and the SOHO-Space of Her Own and Space of His Own mentoring programs.

Early in his career, Mackey worked at a psychiatric hospital and then counseled teenagers in Texas, New York, Massachusetts and at Sheltercare of Northern Virginia.

Mackey became an Alexandria community-based probation officer in 1997, providing supervision to court-involved delinquents and status-offenders, prevention services to at-risk children and residents, and cultural and educational programming for the community.

He was promoted to senior probation officer in 2001, in which capacity he maintained a caseload of high-risk juveniles and chaired the Court Service Unit Family Assessment and Planning Team. In 2004,

Mackey was named the Commonwealth of Virginia's Probation Officer of the Year.

The following year, he became the City of Alexandria's gang prevention and intervention coordinator. In 2007, he received the United Way's Outstanding Community Service Award and the City Manager's Alexandria Jaycees Award.

Mackey earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is a graduate of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Institute for Regional Excellence and the City of Alexandria's Leadership and Management Institute. He is a founding member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, and member of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force and Northern Virginia Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. Throughout the past decade, he has volunteered with ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically).

Focusing on Lights at Simpson Park Dog Park

A community meeting regarding the installation of lights at the Simpson Park Dog Park is scheduled for Jan. 15.

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities invites the public to the meeting to be held at the Reingold office building, 433 E. Monroe Ave. at 6 p.m. Following a city staff presentation, the Simpson Park Dog Owners Group will continue the meeting and discuss additional potential dog park improvements.

Alexandria Handyman Services

No Job Too Big or Too Small

Free Estimates Local References

- Electrical
- Gutter Repair & Cleaning
- Yard Work
- Landscaping
- Minor Roof Repairs
- Painting
- Plumbing
- Interior Renovation
- Moving Services
- Tree Trimming, Cutting, Removal
- Snow Shoveling & Much More

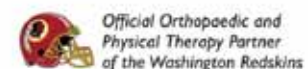


Mark Carlson and Associates • Alexandria, VA
Office 703-660-6212 • Mobile 703-863-1758
markcarlson1950@gmail.com

Commonwealth Orthopaedics has merged with OrthoVirginia.

This merger means that Commonwealth Orthopaedics will now be known as OrthoVirginia. While our name may be new, our doctors, our staff, our locations and our commitment to our patients haven't changed at all. Call us or visit our website to learn more.

A new name.
The same commitment.
Getting **you** back to your life.



703.277.BONE (2663) | orthovirginia.com

COLDWELL BANKER®

WHERE HOME BEGINS



Open SUN 2-4PM SE Quadrant 600 South Lee Street, Alexandria, VA Major \$50,000 Reduction for spacious brick end townhome w/River views from 3 levels, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, wood floors, 4 br, 3.5 ba and ready to move in! **\$1,249,000**
Bonnie Rivkin CBmove.com/AX8496964



Del Ray 313 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria, VA Charming multi-family 4 unit building in the heart of Del Ray. Many recent upgrades, walk to restaurants & shops. Ample off street parking in rear. Fully leased grossing \$80k+. **\$1,175,000**
Charles York CBmove.com/AX8507567



Ivy Hill 502 Ivy Circle, Alexandria, VA New Year, New House! This cul-de-sac home boasts a gorgeous kitchen, cozy fireplace, bright sunroom, rec room, storage, & fenced yard with playset. 3 beds + 3.5 bath + driveway. **\$1,045,000**
Nancy Perkins CBmove.com/AX8510452



Collingwood Spring 8212 Collingwood Court, Alexandria, VA Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this beautiful 4BR + 3 1/2BA colonial offers 3,700 sq. ft. of luxury living. Fabulous 1st floor FR w/fp, fully finished lower level + 2 car garage. **\$895,000**
Donnan C. Wintermute CBmove.com/FX8178143



Sandy Run 11200 Henderson Road, Fairfax Station, VA Impressive 3 car gar Colonial on .99 acre lot. Fresh paint & new carpet. Granite Kitchen w/ island open to breakfast area, family rm & cozy FP. Fin bsmt w/BR & kitchenette. **\$719,900**
Charles York CBmove.com/FX8479212



Open SUN 2-4PM Woodlawn Terrace 8136 Keeler Street, Alexandria, VA Just Listed, sfh for amazing price, w/addition and includes 4 br 2 ba, hw floors, gourmet kitchen, new windows, big corner lot, move in ready! **\$379,000**
Bonnie Rivkin CBmove.com/FX8531166



Thinking of a Career in Real Estate?

Classes Start Monday,
February 2nd, in our office
at 310 King Street

Enroll Now – Cost \$199.00

To Register: www.cbrbschool.com
1-800-992-4794

*Coldwell Banker University is ranked #1 among all real estate company training programs nationwide and #9 among companies from all industries in Training Magazine's 2012 Top 125 Training Organizations, February, 2012.



Open SUN 2-4PM Mason Hill 1607 Mason Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA New Price! Beautiful Custom Contemporary in Mason Hill. Large Light Filled Rooms, Hardwood Floors, 3 Finished Levels, 5 Bedrooms on Upper Level, 2 Car Garage. **\$858,899**
Greg Doherty CBmove.com/FX8488807



Open SUN 2-4PM The Prescott 1115 Cameron Street #115, Alexandria, VA Perfection in the heart of Old Town; Corner, Street level private entry, convenience of city living with the feel of a luxury private residence. 2B/2Ba, 2 garage parking spaces! **\$587,000**
Lyssa Seward CBmove.com/AX8496334



River Towers 6631 Wakefield Drive #718, Alexandria, VA Great 1Bed/1Bath unit, 714 sq ft, hdwd floors, tile bath, utilities included in condo fee are central heat and air conditioning, gas, water, electricity, a rec facility pass, sewer, trash removal. Fantastic commuter property close to GW Pkwy, Rt 1, and Huntington Metro. FHA & VA apprvd. Outdoor pool, playground, basketball court, tennis court, picnic area, exercise room and garden plot. **\$177,000** **Jane King** CBmove.com/FX8524943



River Towers 6631 Wakefield Drive #212, Alexandria, VA Set amongst 26 acres of private land, this 1 BR/1 BA condo offers great views of the National Parks Wild Life Preserve! Freshly painted with original wood floors, utilities INC! **\$172,000**
Heidi Burkhardt CBmove.com/FX8528496

Alexandria | 703.518.8300
CBmove.com



Nothing contained herein is intended to create an employment relationship. Any affiliation by you with the Company is intended to be that of an independent contractor licensed real estate sales associate. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. ©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker, the Coldwell Banker logo, Coldwell Banker Previews International and the Previews logo are registered and unregistered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.



Administered by American Home Shield

OPINION

Steps To Prevent Gun Violence

BY MARTINA LEINZ
PRESIDENT, NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER
OF THE BRADY CAMPAIGN
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Legislators convening for the 2015 Virginia General Assembly session this month have a great opportunity to make the Commonwealth a safer place for us all by voting in favor of the modest and responsible recommendations recently put forth by Governor Terry McAuliffe regarding gun violence prevention.

Governor McAuliffe has proposed six key pieces of legislation intended to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals. Three of the initiatives are regarding criminal background checks at gun shows. Currently, only Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers are required to run criminal background checks prior to selling or transferring firearms. Private sellers are exempt from this requirement leaving the door wide open for criminals to easily gain access to guns.

One of McAuliffe's proposals would make unlawful purchases more difficult by prevent-

ing gun shows from advertising that they are not required to conduct background checks. Another proposal would give the State Police statutory authority to process voluntary background check requests of private sellers. The most substantive of the three proposals would close the existing loophole and require background checks for all purchases at gun shows.

None of these three proposals goes far enough. Ideally, criminal background checks would be universal; required on all firearms transactions including online sales. They are, however, a step in the right direction and would do much to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Another proposal is to return the limit of handgun purchases to one a month so the Commonwealth won't hold the dubious distinction of being one of the most prolific gun-running states in the nation. Other initiatives include a bill to keep guns from people subject to protective orders and one to revoke concealed handgun permits for parents delinquent on child support payments. This later proposal would affect the roughly 9,000 parents with

such permits who are delinquent collectively on child support payments of over \$15 million.

These six modest proposals would be very effective in reducing violent crime by keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.

None of the proposals would prevent law-abiding citizens from owning weapons and none would infringe upon Second Amendment rights of responsible adults.

With the Republicans controlling both the House of Delegates and the Senate, there are bound to be disagreements with any legislation proposed by Democratic Governor McAuliffe. However, everyone should agree to these modest proposals to keep Virginians safe. It is not a partisan issue; it is a simple matter of public health and safety.

With great opportunity comes great responsibility. I sincerely hope the General Assembly embraces that responsibility and votes accordingly. If you agree, please contact your elected officials and tell them you are counting on them to vote in support of all proposals to curb gun violence in the Commonwealth.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beware of Precedent

To the Editor:

Alexandrians pride themselves on their history, diversity and their charming neighborhoods. What if you learn that a lot adjacent to your residential property has recently been rezoned to permit construction of a high-density commercial entity? This, you say, would not be likely since your neighborhood is zoned residential

and your Small Area Plan calls for keeping it that way.

But if a proposed rezoning soon to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission is approved, the door will swing wide open for this to happen anywhere in our city. The project involves a proposed "memory care facility" on a small lot adjacent to the Woodbine Nursing Home and Ivy Hill Cemetery in the 2800 block of King Street. This spot zoning requested by the developer and currently supported by the planning staff, from residen-

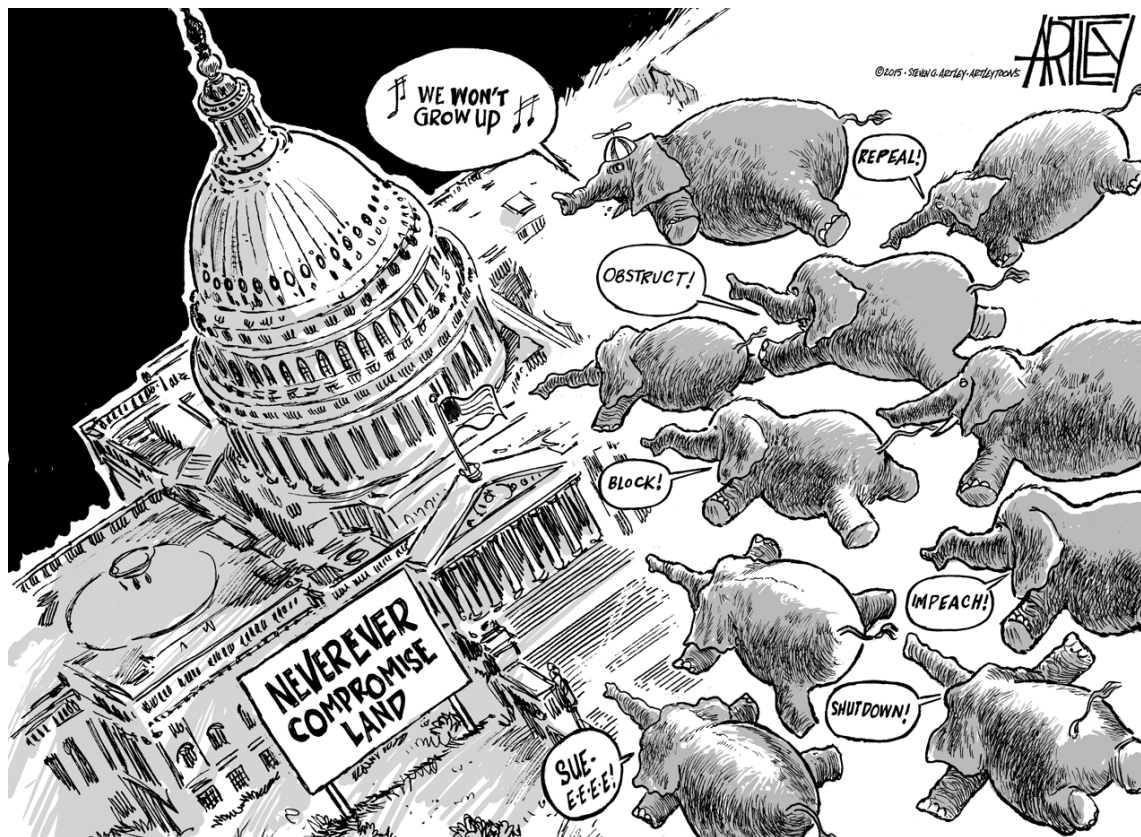
tial single-family R8 to RB/townhouse, would constitute a serious precedent.

A critical aspect of this proposal is the argument that the land is in an area designated for "institutional use" according to one of many maps accompanying the 1992 Small Area Plan. Note that a substantial portion of land in our city is so designated, where churches, schools, hospitals, cemeteries and some governmental facilities are located. However, there is no provision in the Alex-

andria Municipal Zoning Code that clarifies what use meets this definition. But it is a handy, hazy category for a developer who has failed many times to get the property rezoned commercial. Although a nursing home is not permitted in R8 zoned areas, the developer argues that it should be allowed in an RB zoned area with Special Use Permits (SUPs).

The "institutional use" argument now being utilized provides a ploy to achieve higher density construction of a multi-story 74,000-square-foot facility on a 1.3 acre lot for commercial purposes. Normally, a rezoning would require an amendment to the master plan, but in this case the developer uses the "institutional use" designation of the land to justify the more lenient approach.

You can't be too sanguine: there are no maps of land designated "institutional use" online. You may also find out that years of "concept plans" submitted by a developer allow repeated feedback to gauge what the traffic will bear in City Hall so that the bar is moved: what city staff determined in 2005 to be a lot appropriate for construction of only three single-family homes would now house 66 residents in a very large facility. The bottom line is that the city has wide discretion to approve new zoning and uses with SUPs and to disregard commitments agreed to earlier. But approval in this case is particularly noteworthy since it will set a precedent for more en-



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

@AlexGazette

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Vernon Miles
Reporter, 703-615-0960
vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

Steve Artley
Cartoonist
artley@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Display Advertising, 703-778-9446
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd
Display Advertising, 703-778-9447
tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Photography:
John Bordner, Deb Cobb,
Louise Kraft, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

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

Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com,
and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

OPINION

Caregiver Support

The importance of taking care of yourself.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA



of topics. There will be local experts from Griswold Home Care, AARP, Mediation Works, Mt. Vernon Rehabilitation Center and Senior Services of Alexandria. The event will start with a demonstration of the

best way to have a positive conversation with loved ones to support those who need their care. Other topics include how caregivers should take care of themselves, in-home services available and the right questions to ask when considering rehabilitation or assisted living facilities. The event will be held at Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, from 9:30 a.m.-noon. It is free and open to the public with light refreshments. To register go to www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 10.

Beginning Thursday, Feb. 12, a new Caregiver Support Group facilitated by Griswold Homecare will begin meeting at Immanuel Church on the Hill. The group will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at ICOH. This group is for anyone who is caring for a loved one, near or far. It's a venue to speak freely and feel the support of others. It's free, call Griswold Home Care at 703-739-2273.

The National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP report that nearly 44 million Americans — 1 in 5 adults — are family caregivers for a relative or friend over 50. Those providing the care are in many cases still working and have to care

SENIOR SERVICES OF

for their own families. This can be extremely stressful for everyone involved, especially the person who must juggle the demands of family members and their own needs. If you are in the situation of being a caregiver, learning what resources are available can be of tremendous help and alleviate some of the pressure in one's daily life.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Senior Speaker Series will focus on a variety of important issues related to Caregiver Support. This informative session will provide those serving as caregivers and their loved ones with valuable resources on a number

TCHOUPITOULAS

Fine Furnishings and Interior Design

Tradition with a Twist



Tchoupitoulas is accepting applications for a Full Time Designer and a Part Time Designer to join our wonderful Team!

For more information, please contact the showroom directly.

210 N. Lee Street, Alexandria ~ 703-299-0145
www.TchoupitoulasFurnishings.com
Mon-Fri: 10-6 • Sat: 10-5 • Sun: 12-5



Jan. 23 - Feb. 1, 2015

EXTRAORDINARY

Alexandria

restaurant week

OVER 60 RESTAURANTS WITH \$35 MENUS!

AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com

f t YouTube Instagram Pinterest BLOG

Browse Menus - Make Reservations



LONG & FOSTER®

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • TITLE • INSURANCE • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE
LUXURY HOMES
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



#1 Long and Foster Agent in Alexandria!
CHRIS WHITE ~ 703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com



1804 Rampart Drive \$599,000

Expanded and Updated!

Exceptional opportunity—true custom home with many recent updates at remarkably reasonable price! Special features include dramatic open floor plan, stunning entry foyer, refinished hwd flrs, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, spacious kitchen with brand new granite counters and stainless appliances, large storage area and garage. Sunroom and large deck overlook gorgeous level lot. Walk to nearby Stratford Landing Elem and Sandburg Middle School. Truly astounding value! **OPEN SUN 1/18, 1-4! GW Pky S, R-Belle Haven Rd; L-Ft Hunt Rd; R-Cool Spring Dr; L-Woodacre; R-Rampart Dr.**



3810 Westgate Drive \$689,900

Top Quality Renovation!

Remarkably attractive price for totally updated spacious Colonial in wonderful Westgate, one of area's premier communities. Fabulous features: open floor plan, sun room, amazing custom kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 updated baths, 4 fireplaces, finished lower level & side load 2 car garage. Magnificent grounds with patio & large level open spaces. Impossible to duplicate this incredible property at even close to this price! **OPEN SUN 1/18, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate, continue on 235 S; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Westgate.**



9201 Cherrytree Dr \$599,500

Huge House—Small Price!

Most home for the \$\$ in premier Mt. Vernon neighborhood! Exceptionally spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath home with bright, open floor plan in pristine "move-in" condition! Major updates include roof, windows, HVAC, kitchen & more! Other features: hardwood floors, chef's kitchen, gas cooking, heat & hot water heater. Sunroom and custom deck overlook magnificent grounds. We invite comparison—nothing like it on market for close to this price!



8826 Black Alder Dr \$598,500

Stunning Value—Seems Too Good To Be True!

Stunning Value—seems too good to be true! Spacious three level Colonial in beautiful neighborhood for under \$600,000! Features inc: 3 fin levels, 5 bedrooms including main level master suite, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces. Open kitchen to family room and oversize 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks gorgeous yard. Thousands below comps—move quickly! **OPEN SUN 1/18, 1-4! GW Parkway South, past Estate; continue on 235 S; R-Old Mill; R- Black Alder.**

NEW CLASSES STARTING!

There is NO BETTER TIME to get your Real Estate License than RIGHT NOW!

The 60 hour evening and Saturday Principles' Classes will begin JANUARY 17th in our Alexandria / Old Town Office for only \$199 including books. Long & Foster has a wide variety of technology, tools and training that provides our agents with a competitive edge in today's real estate market. If you are looking to begin an exciting and profitable new career, start with us!

These classes are also offered to active duty or honorably discharged military, through the "P. Wesley Foster Military Scholarship Program", which covers tuition and books for the military, their spouses and children.

* Full-Time Broker Support * Certified Ninja Selling Training Classes *
* Weekly Learning Opportunities * Long & Foster Star Builders Classes *

YOU & LONG & FOSTER
Your Career in Real Estate

Work with the Largest Independent Real Estate Company in the US! Contact us today for more information and to register for classes. Your Real Estate Future starts right here!

Forrest Odend'hal
Managing Broker
703.216.9058 cell

Dianna Campagna
Assistant Manager
703-447-0849 cell

Steve Kindrick
Instructor
703-683-0400 ofc

***Classes begin on Saturday, January 17th and end on Saturday, February 21th. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 9:30pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.



Daniel Lusk & Michael McCormick 202.412.8885 or 412.8884
WASHINGTON, DC \$1,249,000

True glamour awaits you in this 2736R home in the historic Wyoming. Grand entertaining space, large kitchen with room for expansion, gorgeous hardwoods, separate den thru master, W/D in unit. Soaring ceilings, loads of storage, large tree top windows, convenient location.



Randy Bender 703.906.1749
ALEXANDRIA \$715,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

2424 GRETTIER PL Largest model in Stonegate. 3 private BR suites; 2 gas fireplaces, spacious open kitchen with SS Kitchenaid; brand new granite counters; deck off kitchen/family room; landscaped rear brick/stone garden patio. Master suite with built-ins, spa-like BA.



Louise Devers 703.795.9944
ALEXANDRIA \$305,000

JUST LISTED! Contemporary style TH in easy commuting location. Backs to Huntley Meadows Parkland. 3BR/2.5 BA. Wood-burning fireplace. Freshly painted. 2 assigned parking. Close to Lee District Park, bus stop at corner non-thru street.



Dorothy Megna 703.927.3216
ALEXANDRIA / The Plaza \$265,000 Sale / \$1,550 Rent

Beautiful 2BR, 2BA in top condition. Kitchen has new SS appliances; granite, like-new white cabinets, + eat-in space. Separate dining. Lovely living room with sliding doors to balcony. Master has large walk-in/dressing room/private BA. New carpet and fresh paint. Garage



Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914
ALEXANDRIA \$215,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

7008 ELLINGHAM CIR Beautiful 1BR condo at Elton Square close to restaurants, shopping, and Metro. Kingstowne community offers pools, fitness, and more. Includes a storage area.



Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594
ALEXANDRIA \$1,250,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

6401 OLMI LANDRITH DR - RICE IMPROVEMENT! You are in luck! Buyer backed out! Unique 4BR/3BA stone house nestled on 2 acres with winter river views. Well maintained - charming property.



Poole / Braun Team 703.960.3100
ALEXANDRIA \$839,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

1103 BELLE VISTA DR Winner of Villamay Beautification Award with gorgeous landscaped gardens! 3BR/3BA with over 3,400 sq ft on 2 levels, plus a 2 car garage. Lots of updates including whole house generator. Stop by for a visit.



Marcy Bates 703.606.7605 & Laura Dunkel 703.217.8971
ALEXANDRIA / Wellington \$1,475,000

Gorgeous new 6BR/5.5BA Craftsman-style home in Wellington just steps from GW Pkwy. Master suites on main and upper levels, finished basement with 9 ft ceilings, gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors and garage space for 4 cars! Option to finish second upper level.



Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562
ALEX. / Cameron Station \$625,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

163 SOMERVELLE ST Better than new Bradley model with 30K in upgrades including Travertine floors, new carpet, granite in kitchen/ bath, new fixtures, and built-in/cabinets. 3BR/2.5BA with 2 car garage, gleaming hardwoods, beautiful park views. Shuttle to Metro.



Martine & Alexander Imer 703.346.7283 or 403.2465
ALEXANDRIA / Parker Gray \$1,295,000

Beautifully restored, circa 1900, detached 3,000 square foot Victorian farmhouse with everything you could want! Open floor plan. Gourmet kitchen. Car garage. Off-street parking! Large 5,400 square foot lot and a stone's throw to Metro. 4BR/3.5BA



Randy Bender 703.906.1749
ALEXANDRIA \$215,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

3222 S 28TH ST, #203 2BR/1BA completely remodeled - new kitchen with updated cabinets, SS appliances, ceramic floor and granite. All interior walls/ceilings have new paint, new simulated wood floors, 3 new ceiling fans, updated bath with ceramic floor.

RENTALS

113 Fairfax St #2 \$1,995
Old Town Townhouse 1BR / 1BA 1 Frpl
Ann Kavaljian 703.626.9171

1250 Washington ST, S #322 \$2,750
Porto Vecchio Mid-Rise 2BR / 2BA
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL®

Long & Foster / Old Town Historic District Office • 703.683.0400

400 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 • Fax 703.683.1303

LEADING
REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD



A Legacy Advocating for All Children

BY KAREN GRAF
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD, CHAIR
ON BEHALF OF THE ALEXANDRIA CITY
SCHOOL BOARD AND ALEXANDRIA CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

When you take a look at national or global history, there are leaders whose legacies inspire and guide us. We remember these people because they gave great gifts to humanity and their contribution last the test of time. Each community in the United States has a set of people like this. Alexandria City has a long and proud history. We have also known people that help inspire progressive moments during key chapters of our national history. We need to continue to tell their stories.

Ferdinand T. Day was one of these great leaders who gave to Alexandria City's African American community a voice during a time when it was a risk to do so. He was a pioneer for equal opportunities, a mentor to many generations and a genuine friend to those at ACPS to other schools who were lucky enough to have known him.

In the 1960s, Mr. Day became the first African American man to be appointed to the Alexandria City School Board and by 1971 he was elected chair, making him the first African American to hold the position in the Commonwealth. Even though the times were turbulent across the United



States, he led some of the most difficult decisions in the history of ACPS. Mr. Day was a leader who, with grace, intellect and sophistication, fought not only for changes in educational policy, but for action across our city.

When I asked School Board member Bill Campbell to recall his most fond memories of the local historic figure, he said that a single recollection was nearly impossible. He recalled when he first met Mr. Day at 85 years old and recalled that while he had the knowledge and history of those 85 years, his mind and wit was that of a man so much younger. He could provide the minutest details whenever he told a story.

Campbell also shared that when Mr. Day was in a room, he had a commanding presence. When Mr. Day, a long-time member of Alexandria's Departmental Progressive Club, would speak at a meeting every member in the club would go silent. No matter if you were the mayor, police chief, council or school board member, you were captivated. Everyone in that room knew that when Mr. Day spoke, he was sharing something precious.

I met Mr. Day at a Departmental Progressive Club open house in 2013. While I had only a moment to talk with him, I was left appreciating his kind eyes and warm smile. In the fall, he shared with me a letter he wrote to the City Council in 1965. He was advocating for proper bus routes and sidewalks in neighbors that had largely black populations. I immediately felt a sense of gratitude for the time he spent not only on equality for instruction, but for his commitment to the qualities of a community, like roads and sidewalks, in order for children to safely get to school. There are few areas of our city that were not thoughtfully considered by Mr. Day and his colleagues.

School Board member Patricia Ann Hennig remembers him as a vibrant, caring man. She first met Mr. Day in 1980 when her son was at Jefferson-Houston. He was always informed about the city and schools issues and was not a confrontational man. His reasoning was that if you were open and honest, you could work through conflict allowing reason to prevail. She wants to remember Mr. Day with that amazing smile and his great, warm handshake.

We are deeply privileged that he has left us with a culture where 'every student counts' is the norm. On behalf of our School Board, we offer his family and friends our condolences. We pledge to keep his legacy alive as we strive to advocate for all children in our community.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

croachment in your residential neighborhood.

The Taylor Run Citizens' Association has voted to oppose this project and hundreds of neighbors (taxpayers and voters all) have signaled their opposition in letters to the Planning Department. Last week, the Board of the Seminary Hill Association unanimously voted to oppose this special treatment for Woodbine. In its resolution, the Seminary Hill Board focused on the "institutional use" issue, recognizing that if this precedent was used to provide a special deal for Woodbine, it would open up almost 350 acres of land in the Seminary Hill area, all zoned residential and classified as institutional, to similar commercial development.

Don't wait too long to do some research, as this development, if approved, will open the way for new and unexpected changes in your neighborhood too. The Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to take up this project at its Feb. 3 meeting at City Hall.

John Harley
Alexandria

A Fighter Against Injustice

To the Editor:

When Ferdinand Day was 91 he had not quit fighting for justice in Alexandria as he gave an affidavit in a lawsuit against the City of Alexandria against demolition of the Carver Nursery School/ William Thomas Post of the American Legion at Queen and Fayette streets in the Uptown/Parker-Gray National Historic Register District. I think he had always regretted that we had lost the Parker-Gray School where the Charles Houston Recreation Center now sits and he was more than willing to stand up to save the last standing segregated school in Alexandria. He had a special connection to this school, as he had sent his daughter Gwen to the nursery school in 1944-45.

As many of his friends know, he was always instructing his listeners on history. He would start his story with the fact that the last lynching in Alexandria happened in 1907, not long before his birth in 1918. He attended Parker-Gray Elementary, but there was no high school for African Americans so he continued his education at Armstrong Technical High School in Washington D.C. After receiving his teaching degree at Miners Teachers College he was unable to work as a teacher in Alexandria because of the color of his skin.

He was able to substitute for one day in a Negro School but noticed that they were using textbooks discarded by the white schools. When he told the children that they would have to work harder to compete with white students who were given more advantages he was not asked back. So he moved to Charlotte N.C. to teach. After moving back to Alexandria he rose to work in the State Department and became a Foreign Service Officer. He also worked for the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

Mentoring through Casa Chirilagua

BY ADRIANA GOMEZ

Lee Ferron began mentoring Eddie through Casa Chirilagua in the fall of 2011, during Eddie's 5th grade year. After their first month, Lee was impressed that Eddie would remember all the details Lee would share with him about his personal life: where he was from, where he worked, etc. Their match was off to a good start however as the months went by, Lee was met with some challenges. Eddie's family had to suddenly move out of state

MENTOR OF THE MONTH

after two years into their mentorship. This didn't stop Lee in pursuing his mentorship with Eddie. Thankfully, Eddie and his family moved back after being gone six months and Lee continued to be his mentor.

Since the beginning of their mentorship, Eddie had always been behind one grade level. During his 7th grade year, Lee and Eddie hit the ground running with his academics. Eddie and Lee met every week, working on math homework and also talking about life. Lee has been consistently teaching Eddie important character values such as honesty, integrity and responsibility. Lee communicated directly with Eddie's teachers



Lee Ferron and Eddie

about his assignments and created goals with Eddie, like a "math plan," to improve on his academics. At the end of the 2013-2014 school year, Eddie's hard work and high SOL scores allowed him to skip the 8th grade and move on to the 9th grade.

Throughout their mentorship, Lee has taken Eddie to many "experience and exposure" trips such as a trip to the Naval Academy and a farm retreat in the Shenandoah Valley, where Eddie had a hands-on experience working on a farm. Lee also encouraged Eddie to participate in the 2013 Casa Chirilagua 5k fund-raiser race; he took Eddie to the race and cheered him on as he crossed the finish line with one of the top race times in his age group. Last fall, Lee and Eddie participated in the ropes course, an outing for Casa Chirilagua



mentees and mentors. They were the only match able to climb the toughest obstacle course.

Lee continues his mentorship with Eddie and plans to continue mentoring Eddie as long as he is able. Lee and Eddie have one of the longest and most consistent mentorships in the Casa Mentoring Program and are an example of how two lives can truly be transformed through one mentorship. It is mentorships like this one which illustrate Casa Chirilagua's core value of relationship-building and the positive impact it has in the community.

The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP) was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. There are 11 professionally managed programs in the partnership that need adult mentors. Join us on Monday, Jan. 26 from 6-8 p.m. at the Lee Center (1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria) for our information session (rsvp to mentoring@alexandriava.gov). To learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>.

2015 New Year Remodeling Resolutions

Improving long-term living needs and future home value.

By JOSHUA BAKER
BOWA

After all the holiday festivities have passed and the ball has dropped to ring in the New Year, many homeowners are inspired to tackle resolutions that relate to their living space. 2015 may be the year you want to remodel your home to allow for the changes occurring in your life. Perhaps you want to build out an office which will allow you to work from home? Maybe 2015 is the year you want to avoid climbing stairs, so moving the master suite to the first floor may be on your resolution list?

One thing is certain in life — family needs are always evolving. As kids come and go, aging parents move in, greener technology becomes available, and we look for more creature comforts in our homes, individuals and families need and want to update

living spaces.

So, if you're thinking 2015 is the year to make changes to your home to better suit your changing lifestyle needs, I would encourage you to review some of the following top home remodeling resolutions.



TIP #1: Planning For Your Long-Term Home Needs

Given the fact that a home remodeling project can be a significant investment of both time and money, I would strongly recommend that your family has thought through all elements of the remodeling job to make sure it will work for family's long-term living needs. You want the work done on your home to both improve your day-to-day life and add to the future value of your home, so ensuring the decision makers in your family are all on the same page is critical.

Also, as your family plans to remodel your home, we recommend considering the best times for your home to be under construction. We find that since families tend to travel more during the summer months, that is a good time for a remodeling project as the process may be less disruptive and the work can move quicker.

TIP #2: Research What You Like

One of the best things you can do to prepare for sitting down with a professional remodeler is to find pictures of aspects of homes that you like. Being able to show examples of your preferences is extremely helpful to ensure your tastes are understood and incorporated into the design, and often, the materials selected for your remodeling project.

Websites like Houzz.com or Pinterest.com offer thousands of ideas that you can explore and print out to help you define the look and feel you desire to achieve with your new finished space. You can also save them in an online account that can be viewed by your potential remodel company.

TIP #3: Do Your Homework on the Best Remodeling Company

As with any significant investment, make sure you do due diligence before signing on with a design-build firm. Remodeling remains one of the most reported industries, so be sure to talk with the firm's client references and visit recent projects they have completed to get a sense for their craftsmanship. You may also want to ask about employee tenure and which professionals will be working with you through the re-

modeling process. It is important to know who will be your single point of accountability.

With a single point of accountability for the entire design and construction process, you can work alongside your architectural team and other specialists to ensure reliable materials are specified, drawings are clear, and challenges are addressed to lay the groundwork for a smooth production process. Most importantly, this team approach ensures that the project that is being designed aligns with your budget goals, and finds areas of efficiencies and appropriate cost savings wherever possible.

These three tips will help you to achieve the best approach and find a design-build team that will take accountability and manage the entire process while looking after your best interests. Remodeling professionals become part of your family during the process, so it's important to be extremely comfortable with the firm you choose.

Josh Baker is the founder and co-chairman of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction company specializing in luxury renovations, remodels and additions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. BOWA has more than 25 years of experience and has been honored with 170 local and national awards. Visit www.bowa.com or call 703-734-9050.

Ring in the New Year with a New Car!



Get up to
125%
financing!

Auto loan rates
up to 36 months as low as **1.49%**
APR*

- We'll beat or match your rate from another lender
- Receive loan discounts with Loan Loyalty Rewards
- Use our free Auto Buying Service powered by TrueCar®
- Get more with free benefits including Vehicle Return Protection and Tire and Wheel Protection

Open an account online at
cofcu.org or call (703) 823-5211



Not A Member? Not A Problem! If you live, work, or worship in Alexandria you can bank with us.

CommonWealth One
Federal Credit Union
Your Lifetime Financial Partner

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates effective 1/1/2015 and subject to change. Other rates and terms apply. Some rates quoted reflect a .50% reduction for Loan Loyalty Rewards. Example: 1.99% (current rate) less .50% Loan Loyalty Rewards equals 1.49% (your final APR). Borrow up to 125% of the purchase price, MSRP, or NADA retail value, whichever is lower. Most local area residents can bank with us. See cofcu.org for full details. Federally Insured by NCUA.



Be Part of The February Pet Connection

Send Your Photos & Stories Now to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or complete our online form at alexandriagazette.com

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 18.



Winter brings us indoors...



Are you ready for a fresh look in your home? Call us!

703-684-7702

Tech Painting Co.

www.techpainting.com



ENTERTAINMENT

Port City Presents ‘Smellin’ Up the Den’

To include a bawdy collection of comic sketches similar to “Saturday Night Live.”

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

Port City Playhouse of Alexandria, in its second co-production with Red Knight Productions, will present “Smellin’ Up the Den,” a bawdy collection of comic sketches similar to “Saturday Night Live,” on Jan. 16-17, Jan. 23-24, and Jan. 31.

Director Scott Courlander said “Smellin’ Up the Den” is more akin to an episode of “Saturday Night Live” than it is a play. It was originally produced at Amy Poehler’s Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York, and while the sketch comedy scene is blossoming in New York, audiences in D.C. have few options short of the Capital Steps.

“We thought it was important to bring this kind of show to D.C. area audiences,” Courlander said. “We’ll be serving beer and wine and hope to create a comedy club feel at the Playhouse. Our main goal is just to make people laugh.”

He said there were several challenges for him as a director. “Having produced the show in New York with different actors, it was important to me to find comedic performers here in D.C. that would ‘get’ the humor, and at the same time I had to avoid the trap of trying to recreate the exact performances from the original cast. I was very lucky to find a group of actors with tremendous comedic chops who are finding their own interpretations and nuances and are cracking me up every day.”

He added, “We deal with some ‘edgy’ material, but we are not in the business of trying to shock anyone or be offensive. We’re just being silly, and in the process we’ll be dropping some ‘F-bombs,’ making fun of

Hitler, and touching some hot-button topics, but it’s all in the spirit of fun and we desperately hope the audience will come along for the ride.”

He said part of the reason they’ve worked with Port City to get a liquor license for this show is to loosen the audience up, so they’ve added 10 p.m. shows to really provide that comedy club feel.

“If the audience winds up thinking about some big issues as a result of some of the subject matter, that would be great, but our main endeavor is to entertain,” he said.

Justus Hammond plays multiple characters throughout the show.

“It’s a sketch show, so my character changes with each sketch I’m in,” he said. He starts out playing a straight-laced roommate who’s concerned about the health of another roommate. Then he shifts to playing a die-hard “skins” fan who’s desperately trying to balance his love of football, the skins and his girlfriend. He has another role playing Thomas Jefferson’s disapproving father, and one playing a one-percenter who finds himself under interrogation in a police station.

He said the challenge was differentiating the characters in each of the scenes, especially those who were similar to each other. In the third sketch, he plays an every-day guy but he has to stretch himself emotionally. “I have to bounce back and forth between a range of emotions all while I maintain just the right amount of heightening, so as not to leave myself with nowhere to go,” he said.

In the fourth sketch, he has to keep himself from breaking. “And I have to deliver my lines sincerely without being caught up in the joke of the scene,” he said.



Katie Courlander, Justus Hammond and Michael Carwright will star in Port City Playhouse’s “Smellin’ Up the Den.”

He added, “In the next sketch, the challenge of playing a swordsman is really all in the fight choreography. Despite hours of rehearsal, I am still holding a real sword that could do real damage. The challenge in this sketch is remembering all of the choreography and doing it cleanly and safely.”

Nick Hitchens plays relatively normal characters who wind up getting in some sort of funny conversation or predicament — everything from a simple man who gets stranded without a cell phone on a rainy night, to a regular nice-guy friend, and even to Charlie Brown’s father.

He said he hasn’t acted on a stage in quite some time, so getting back into the swing of things was a bit of a challenge.

“It is so much fun to come out of my shell and really play around on stage,” he said. “It all winds up feeling like playing make-believe back when I was a kid.”

Katie Courlander plays 13 different characters, including two little boys.

“It’s a lot of fun to get to play with a wide variety of characters,” she said. “I jump from being a mom, to a disgruntled girlfriend, to a little boy, to a lawyer, to Juliet — all within the course of an hour.”

She said that one might think the biggest challenge was coming up with 13 distinct characters, or even being the only female in the production. “But for me, the biggest challenge is not laughing on stage,” she said. “This show is hilarious, and my castmates are a riot.”

She said, “I hope that audiences will let loose and get into the spirit of the show. It’s a lot of fun, and I guarantee you will laugh out loud.”

Actor Jonas David Grey plays a variety of characters, including Charlie Brown, Hitler, a hunchback, a gay man, a silent killer and a child prodigy. He said working on this piece was easy, except for not cracking up in the middle of a sketch because his fellow actors were so hilarious.

He said, “I suppose the hardest part of any type of comedy, especially this kind of sketch, is the timing. Not only are there the practical demands of quick changes and entrances, but so much of the success of pieces like this relies on getting the lines and looks out in exactly the right way.”

He said that after the crowds and chaos of the holiday season, he hopes the audiences simply walk away in a better mood. “This is funny stuff, and laughter is a great antidote to stress. Seeing ‘Smellin’ Up the Den’ is a great way to start the New Year in a good mood.”

“Smellin’ Up the Den” runs Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17 and Jan. 23-24, and Saturday, Jan. 31, at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Fridays, 8 p.m., Saturdays 8 and 10 p.m. \$18; \$22 tickets are available for patrons age 21 (valid ID required) and include one serving of beer or wine. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Tavern Toddlers. Weekly open playtime continues every Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, North Royal Street, Alexandria. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance and color in the historic ballroom. No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18. On Monday, Feb. 16 Tavern Toddlers will be closed due to President’s Day. www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-746-4242.

“The Space Between.” Through Feb. 2 at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105

N Union St., Studio 312. Photographer Janet Matthews presents a portfolio of new work in this solo exhibit at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, looking beyond the literal representation of objects to explore their edges and the space that surrounds them. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205 for more.

Signature Tour. 2 p.m. or various other availability. Through Thursday, Feb. 12 at Mount Vernon Mansion, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. During a guided exploration tour of the Mansion, visit areas not normally open to guests, including the basement and the third floor where Martha Washington retired after the death of her husband in 1799. \$5/per person in addition to general admission. Hours vary. Visit mountvernon.org for more.

“Beyond the Board” Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans’ presents “Beyond the Board.” A portion of artists’ sales go to the

PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/ 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 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. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink

coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

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. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington’s Mount

Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park’s entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tavern Toddlers. Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join other families with toddlers

ENTERTAINMENT

(walkers through 36 months) to have fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern or call 703-746-4242.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. 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.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring 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.

THROUGH FRIDAY/JAN. 16
Exhibit of the Alexandria Library
Sit-in of 1939, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at City Hall in the Vola Lawson Lobby, 301 King Street, Alexandria. For more see www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

THURSDAY/JAN. 8
Ford Evening Book Talk. 7 p.m. at the Rubenstein Leadership Hall at the Fred W. Smith National Library, 3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Author Turk McCleskey will discuss his book, "The Road to Black Ned's Forge: A Story of Race, Sex, and Trade on the Colonial American Frontier." Free, registration is required. Visit mountvernon.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 8-FEB. 22
Exhibition "Unearthed | Unleashed." In the Athenaeum Gallery 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An exhibition of the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent. Gessner's mixed media sculptures reference a variety of natural forms. Kent's minimal works with thickly applied paint and wax appear to be a reflection on organic elements and artifacts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 17
Tea with Martha Washington, 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn. Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS/JAN. 16-30
"Smellin' Up the Den." At Port City Playhouse, 1819 Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The classiest potty humor in the DMV. Audiences will be treated to an hour-long whirlwind of hysterical vignettes. \$18-\$24. Visit www.redknightproductions.com or www.portcityplayhouse.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 22
"When the United States Spoke French." 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave., Alexandria. The Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee presents François Furstenberg, Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University, who will speak about his book. Book Signing with wine and dessert reception to

follow. RSVP online at <http://when.theunitedstates.spokefrench.eventbrite.com>. Free admission. Contact Julia Sylla at julia.sylla@georgetown.edu or 202-203-0177.

The Noctonals Concert. 8 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Contemporary a cappella music performed by recent graduates from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and Wheaton College. \$15 admission. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 23
Junior Brown. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$25. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.
Beer Dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Learn how beer was brewed and enjoyed in early America at this event co-hosted by Old Ox Brewing Company. Guests will enjoy a reception, beer tasting and a four-course menu paired with specialty beers by the Mount Vernon Inn with commentary by staff. Old Ox Brewing Company is a family owned and operated commercial brewery located in Loudoun County. \$100 per person (includes tax & gratuity). Visit www.mountvernon.org/inn for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24
Tea with Martha Washington, 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn. Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 24-25
The Taste & Style of George Washington. 2 p.m. Mount Vernon's first fine arts tour offers guests the chance to appreciate a lesser known quality of George Washington - his keen eye. This tour, which includes the mansion as well as the museum, explores Washington's tastes and his selection of decorative fine arts for his home. This tour is included in admission, visitors must register for a tour ticket online or at the ticket window. Limited capacity. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 25
Presidential Salon. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Join President James Madison, as presented by John Douglas Hall, to discuss the recent Battle of New Orleans and the arrival of the Treaty of Ghent in the context of his own time, and be a witness to the events of the year of 1815. Reservations are recommended and tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. Madeira, Port and other libations will be available for purchase. To purchase tickets, visit shop.alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4242.
Jeffrey Osborne. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$69.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27
New Exhibit. 12:35 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Meet the curator of The Lyceum's new

exhibit, Explore the Attic, and learn how an exhibit goes from concept to script to objects on display. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28
Swing Dance, 9-11pm, at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria. \$10. Since forming in 2009, the Andy Poxon Band has played at various venues and festivals up and down the east coast. The band plays a variety of originals and covers, mixing elements of blues, soul and country. For more information on swing dance classes, dances, and special events, call 703-359-9882 or visit www.gottaswing.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31
Tea with Martha Washington, 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn. Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 31-SATURDAY/FEB. 1
The Taste & Style of George Washington. 2 p.m. Mount Vernon's first fine arts tour offers guests the chance to appreciate a lesser known quality of George Washington - his keen eye. This tour, which includes the mansion as well as the museum, explores Washington's tastes and his selection of decorative fine arts for his home. This tour is included in admission, visitors must register for a tour ticket online or at the ticket window. Limited capacity. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6
"Elements" Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. John Bordner, Kathryn Brown, Michele Reday Cook, Linda Elliff, Kim S. Joy, Marlin Lord and Tamara Wilkerson present artworks which incorporate elements of earth, water, air and fire in materials, media and subject matter. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7
Tea with Martha Washington, 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn. Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.
The Beverly Hillbillies. 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Tickets at www.mvcct.org.

Please make reservations early for Valentine's Day

Le Refuge Restaurant

Winter Specials

- Split Pea Soup
- Venison Medallions
- Beef Wellington
- Dover Sole
- Coq au Vin
- Cassoulet
- Frog Legs

Find us on Facebook

127 N. Washington St., Alexandria • 703-548-4661
Smoke-Free Restaurant
www.lerefugealexandria.com

Join Us for Lunch:

PASTA



Thursdays
EVERY THURS. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



SCAN Image with Smart Phone using QR code reader to view content on our website

MADE TO ORDER
• Choose Your Pasta
• Choose Your Toppings
• Choose Your Sauce
• Includes Salad Bar & Hot Bread
\$8.50 per person

FREE WiFi AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

Royal Restaurant
ALEXANDRIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT • SINCE 1904

734 North Asaph Street, Alexandria VA 22314
703-548-1616 www.RoyalRestaurantVA.com

10% OFF

BRING THIS AD and RECEIVE 10% OFF Your Entire Bill. Limited to parties of 4 or less. One coupon per party and Offer excludes alcohol, tax & gratuity. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Present coupon when ordering. Exp. 1/31/15

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

Peace Corps and the U.S. Information Agency. He certainly showed that his snub by the Alexandria School system would not hold him back.

Even so, Ferdinand Day gave back to his hometown. He was appointed the first African American member of the Alexandria School Board and became the first African American chairman of a school board in Virginia in 1971. He was a member of the “Secret Seven” that pressured the city to change and, with Vola Lawson, helped make sure confederate flags were taken down at City Hall. Along with Vola, he co-chaired the campaign for Ira Robinson, the first African American member of the Alexandria City Council. Ira Robinson started his campaign on the steps of the Carver Nursery School/American Legion Building.

When we began the campaign to save the American Legion building we had little support from neighbors, or from the African American mayor or members of City Council. We won a reprieve of two years to find a buyer but a committee that was formed to consider proposals only met a couple times and we were generally given the run-around by the city. We needed a new strategy and a new committee with new leadership. I called Gwen and asked if she and her father would come to a meeting. When she said that it might be hard to bring Ferdinand to a meeting I asked if we could bring our meetings to him, and he and Gwen became the co-chairs of The Committee to Save the Carver Nursery School. Because of his presence we were able to convince all seven members of City Council to attend one of our meetings and pass a resolution in support of our efforts. The owner was somehow convinced to save the building by selling it to a buyer interested in preserving it. It is now the Parker-Gray Pediatric Dental Clinic.

At his wake, we heard of many of his other worthy deeds, and of his lifelong fight against injustice. He has made Alexandria a better and more just place where racial barriers have been lowered, but as many people said the fight for injustice is something we must continue to do battle with every day. Ferdinand Day believed the best way to do this started with education. I would say that we should use this moment to remind people of the unjust history of Alexandria and how we overcame it and that we must continue to work for justice. The Carver Nursery School may have been one of Ferdinand’s last battles but I hope that we keep on fighting for a better Alexandria in his spirit and in his name. I would urge, at the next opportunity to name a school in Alexandria. that we must name it for Ferdinand Day.

Boyd Walker
Greater Alexandria
Preservation Alliance

Project Has Opposition

To the Editor:

At the Dec. 11, 2014 meeting of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, a proponent

of the Woodbine Nursing Home expansion and a former chair of the Commission on Aging made the statement (as quoted in the official commission meeting minutes) that “... he had personally met with neighbors immediately adjacent to the project and there was little or no objection voiced.”

We the neighbors, also taxpayers and voters, who live immediately adjacent to the proposed project are confused. During 2014, we made our objections known to the city in every way possible. Detailed letters were sent to the planning staff in a timely manner in response to each of the developer’s three proposals, including our Sept. 24, 2014 eight-page letter opposing the third and current version of the developer’s proposal – the version that the planning staff is now ready to green light after some unprecedented reinterpretation of the city’s zoning policies. In addition to these detailed response letters, several meetings were held with the planning officials to discuss our collective concerns in detail. There were also numerous emails and telephone calls to the planning staff. In addition, more than 200 homeowners have signed letters to planning and zoning in opposition to the plan, including 24 of the 25 families living on my street. The neighbors, the voters, are clearly on record.

The only Alexandrians who reside in the immediate vicinity of Woodbine who might not have expressed their concern about this oversized commercial project being forced onto land zoned residential, are the residents of nearby Ivy Hill Cemetery. And even Ivy Hill, long regarded for its elegant quietude and stately trees, will now need to adjust to a 74,000-square-foot, multi-story commercial building wedged in immediately beyond its south fence line.

I have lived in Alexandria for over 37 years and have taken comfort in knowing that we have a city that prides itself on an open, transparent, and responsive government. As such, the most disturbing fact about this misleading statement is that the commission meeting minutes indicate that three senior members of the city’s Planning and Zoning staff were present at the time. These were the same officials who have been intimately involved in all the Woodbine meetings with both the developer and with the community opponents. Apparently, not one of these officials felt it necessary, or appropriate, to correct the record.

John J. Salmon
Alexandria

A Clean Sweep Needed

To the Editor:

It should be a given that a local government provide its citizenry with three basic public goods, namely: (a) a safe place to live, (b) an adequately maintained infrastructure, and (c) a fundamental and sound education for its children.

Unfortunately this current City Council, (with the exception of the vice-mayor), has failed to some extent, at all three of these. Their solutions to the above basic requirements have been either to reduce public

services, to build new structures (especially headquarters buildings), or a combination of both.

With regard to safety: By not filling dozens of currently vacated police officer positions, and by failing to provide our police force with competitive salaries over time, our city has reduced the number of officers on the streets, thereby making us less safe. As a result, assaults and robberies have gone up during the daylight hours in high tourist areas such as King Street. In the Old Town area alone, although previous city budgets funded 10 full-time police officers to patrol our streets, the 2015 budget only allows for 4 full time officers to cover the same territory. In addition, the Bike Patrol on Union Street, and the city-wide High Crime Area Response Vehicle (“jump out van”) have been disbanded due to these budget cuts. If this same paradigm has been replicated throughout the entire city, it places our entire population in an extremely unsafe posture. Unfortunately, some of “Alexandria’s finest” will undoubtedly become the “finest” in some other city’s police force. However, the city was able to build a new police headquarters, since the old site that was selected for this purpose was sinking.

Then there is the Fire Department. Last year, the city wanted to move the Fire Department Headquarters and its functioning engine company to a new facility on Eisenhower Avenue, and eventually close the headquarters facility on Powhatan Street where they had spent several million dollars renovating a few years ago. This would leave Old Town, Old Town North, Northeast and parts of Inner City without a nearby fire department, despite it’s extreme density, narrow streets, flimsy new townhouses, and two fires in newer townhouses in this area at this time last year.

Concerning infrastructure, much of our 1700s’ and 1800s’ infrastructure continues to aggressively age under the weight of development. The greatest example is our archaic combined sewer system, since the entire sewer system has continually been encumbered by a large increase of new developments. However, developers are not required to provide an offset or a consideration for the impact on sewers when building a new site. Moreover, through our DSUP (Development Special Use Permit) system, we reward developers with increased density, parking reductions, (and the like) in exchange for very little in return. One only needs to look at Arlington’s recent developments to note that they are accomplished with much more consideration for the public good. We are constantly reminded by our City Council that all of this massive and frantic development will keep us from paying increased property taxes, which we know is just not true. In addition, they also profess that the increased developments will increase the tax base, thereby assisting us in bringing down our half billion dollar debt. However, before we even get started putting the city’s FY 2016 budget together, we already know we will start with a \$16 million deficit, and a \$64 million debt service. Therefore, our old and historic infrastructure will continue to be inadequately

served, unless we are able to continually upgrade and maintain it. (This means we don’t put haul routes to tear up our historic streets if there are other alternatives).

The last (and most egregious) example of inadequate stewardship of a public good lies with the City Council and the School Board’s oversight of our 16 schools, and the mismanagement of the library system. Regarding the schools, two years ago, out of 93 school districts throughout the United States, the Alexandria Public School System was ranked dead last by Forbes Magazine, and there are other more recent sources for equally dismal rankings of our school system, including the State of Virginia itself. A number of years ago, I pointed out that Alexandria should consider combining with the Fairfax County School System, where over 181,000 students matriculate within a top notch and well-respected academic atmosphere. Fairfax City, (a self incorporated city just like Alexandria) has done just that, since Fairfax County runs the Fairfax City School System. This could also be an extremely profitable arrangement for both jurisdictions as Fairfax County’s cost per student is roughly \$13, 500 (as compared to \$17,000 per student in Alexandria). There is a potential of \$50 million in annual savings less any incentive fee to Fairfax County. Also, despite the law that dictates that the School Board has total oversight of our schools, the City Council controls most of the ACPS funding, so we end up with (no great surprise here), more development of school sites, instead of a better education for our students (see Jefferson Houston). If the magnificence of school buildings were rated, Alexandria would be in the top 10 on most Virginia lists.

With regard to our library system, (which is an adjunct to educating our students) Alexandria first designated the Library on Queen Street as its Library Headquarters, then built a new headquarters and library on Duke Street since parking was inadequate at the Queen Street location. However, when the Beatley Library was built, funding was not initially set aside for books. Subsequently, my good friend Al Voorhees wrote a check for \$1 million to bail the city out. On the west end, only a citizen outcry prevented the closure of a popular library that was used by a variety of people. Although in 2013, Alexandria was designated by Amazon as the most literary city in the U.S. due to its online book buying habits, could this be because there is only one chain bookstore, and the library system (to include sufficient parking) is inadequate?

Although not related to a discussion of public good per se, another glaring example of the extreme “headquarters-itis” of the City Council is a proposed City Hall relocation to another (yet to be built) site elsewhere in the city. The current iconic building in its current location at Market Square was deemed to be possibly too expensive to renovate, or too far gone to save. However, the Alexandria City Hall building is the center of gravity — it represents the historic past, which is what most people think of when Alexandria comes to mind.

In any basic budgeting course, students

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ARTS PROGRAM GRANTS

The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts will begin accepting applications for Arts Program Grants on Monday, Jan. 5. Grant funds are available to eligible arts organizations and individual artists for operations, programs and special projects that occur in Alexandria between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The Office of the Arts will conduct a series of grant workshops and webinars to assist interested applicants in preparing their grant applications. Online application forms, instructions, and frequently asked questions for all grant programs will be available online at www.alexandriava.gov/arts on Jan. 5. Online applications are due by Friday, Feb. 28.

ADULTS/PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Resource Guide Available. The City of Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services has updated the Directory of Resources for Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities. The directory provides contact information for organizations and City departments that offer services for older adults such as assisted living facility placement, case management, in-home services and support for caregivers. The guide also provides information on resources for people with disabilities. Visit alexandriava.gov/Aging to download the directory or call 703-746-5999, option 1, to request a copy.

ADULT EDUCATION

Registration for Winter Classes.

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Winter 2015 Program Guide is now available online. The guide highlights City classes, camps, programs, activities and special events occurring January through March 2015 as well as park and facility information. Register online, in-person or by phone at the new Registration & Reservation Office, located at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. For additional information, call the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities at 703-746-4343 or visit the Department's website at alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

PUBLIC INPUT

Fort Ward Park Research Project. Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Office of Historic

Alexandria seeks public assistance in finding photographs documenting gravestones at Fort Ward Park before 1980. Archaeological investigations have recently confirmed locations of at least 40 unmarked graves. These gravesites post-date the Civil War fortification for which the park is named, and are associated with a significant African American community known as "The Fort" that developed at the site after the Civil War and remained until the park was created in the 1960s. Visit www.historicalexandria.org. Those who may have such photographic evidence of gravestones in Fort Ward Park may email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399.

THURSDAY/JAN. 15

Math Madness. 6-8 p.m. at T.C.

Williams High School, 3330 King St. Math Night: A Title I Event, a fun-filled night of math activities and take-home kits for families at Cora Kelly, John Adams, Jefferson-Houston, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay. School math specialists and teachers will share skills and strategies to help parents assist their children with math learning at home. The first 300 families to RSVP will receive free math kits and supplies. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-824-6865 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Public Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. The City's Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, Transportation Planning Division will hold a project public meeting on the King Street, Callahan Drive & Russell Road Intersection Safety project. The purpose of the meeting is to seek input on issues or concerns regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety at this intersection. This project is part of a federal grant to improve Access to Transit in Alexandria. Contact Hillary Poole at 703-746-4017 or hillary.poole@alexandriava.gov.

Public Hearing. 7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed updates to the City of Alexandria Special Events Policy. The proposed updates will be posted on the Park & Recreation Commission website Monday, Jan. 12. Individuals who are unable to attend the public hearing may send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Jack Browand, Division Chief, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria VA 22314; jack.browand@alexandriava.gov; or fax to 703.684.6826 by 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15.

Bathroom Remodel Special \$6,850

Celebrating 15 Years in Business!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



Free Estimates
703-999-2928



Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Est. 1999



Join us as we welcome in our
2015 Chairman and Board of Directors.

January 22nd, 2015
6:00 - 9:00pm
Reagan National Airport
Historic Terminal A

Tickets:
Members: \$99
Non-Members: \$150
For more information and to register, visit www.alexchamber.com.

ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
801 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 207
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 549-1000 • www.AlexChamber.com

ADVOCATE • EDUCATE • NETWORK

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
2015 Chairman's Community Reception
and Annual Meeting

Presented by
Burke & Herbert Bank
At Your Service Since 1887

Sponsored by
LIVE UNITED
United Way

"The Hermitage is where I've finally found my family."
—Helena Scott

Call
703-797-3814
to schedule a tour of our beautifully appointed apartments.

Enjoy the Carefree Lifestyle You Deserve

Discover why many people like you have come to call the Hermitage home—the chance to experience a new lifestyle with an array of services and amenities.

The residents at the Hermitage stay busy. Just ask Helena Scott, who was confined to wheelchair for 30 years because of Multiple Sclerosis and with regular physical therapy at the Hermitage, can now walk a mile a day when the weather permits. In her spare time, Helena knits scarves for fellow residents, volunteers in the beauty salon, sits on the Health Center Committee and delivers mail. Our residents also rave about our superb dining service, our courteous and helpful staff, and an overall feeling of caring and security that comes with living at the Hermitage.

You'll also gain peace of mind knowing that health care and supportive services are available right here, if you ever need them.

For more information, call 703-797-3814.

HERMITAGE
Senior Living in the Heart of Northern Virginia
Celebrating 50 Years of Service to Area Seniors

Alexandria, VA
www.Hermitage-Nova.com

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Monday
6:30 pm Mass (Español)
Saturday Evening
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)
Sunday
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word);
10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm

(en Español); 6:30 pm
Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org

Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves

To Advertise Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468



Andrew Hill led T.C. Williams with 27 points during a win against Lake Braddock on Jan. 13.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

Jordan Jones and the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team never trailed during their win over Lake Braddock on Tuesday.

T.C. Williams Boys' Basketball Firing on All Cylinders

Titans beat 2014 region finalists Woodson, Lake Braddock.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bryan Hill was in the home locker room at T.C. Williams long after the final buzzer had sounded when a reporter approached in search of answers about Hill's first game as head coach of the Titans.

It was Dec. 5 and the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team had just suffered a 28-point beatdown at the hands of Wakefield, a talented and experienced team that had reached the state tournament each of the last two seasons. Hill, who previously coached at Ballou High School in Washington, D.C., talked about his players needing to break old habits and understand the importance of playing as a team. It appeared Hill had his work cut out for him, trying to turn around a proud program that had fallen on hard times.

Thirty-nine days later, Hill walked outside the visiting locker room at Lake Braddock and spoke with the same reporter. This time, the questions and answers were about a T.C. Williams team that had just won its fifth straight game and knocked off a 2014 6A North region finalist for the sec-

ond time in five days.

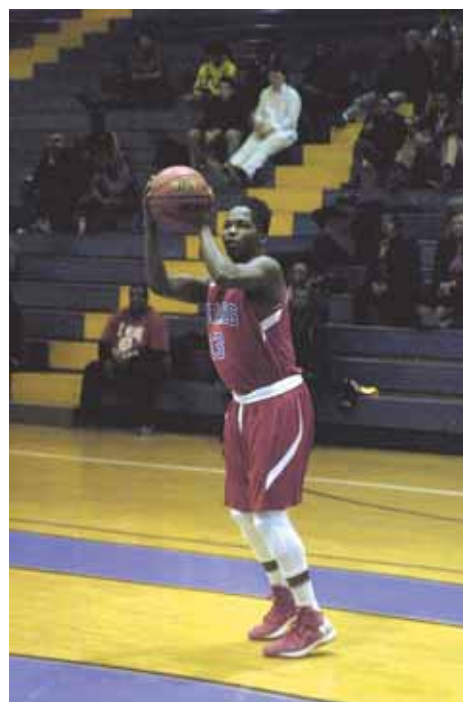
Hill talked about understanding roles, maturity and defensive pressure.

It was Jan. 13 and it appeared the Titans had re-discovered the program's winning ways.

T.C. Williams jumped out to a 10-0 lead against Lake Braddock and never looked back, beating the Bruins 69-58 Tuesday night in Burke. The Titans used a combination of speed, defensive pressure and deadly perimeter shooting to outplay a foe with superior size. Lake Braddock, the two-time defending Patriot District/Conference 7 champion, never held a lead and trailed by double digits for the entire fourth quarter.

"I think that we've gotten a feel for what type of effort needs to be given to win," Hill said. "We have matured in a sense because guys are understanding their roles, and their role may be different from night to night based on the opponent. They're understanding the game is chess, not checkers. You can't just go run up and down and do whatever you want. You have to play the game with a certain level of basketball IQ to learn how to win games and finish contests."

After a 1-4 start, T.C. Williams has won five in a row. The Titans defeated two-time defending region champion Woodson 63-53 on Jan. 9 in Alexandria. On Tuesday, the Titans traveled to Burke and handled the Bruins, a team that reached the 2014 region champi-



Tavaris James scored 21 points during a 69-58 victory over Lake Braddock on Jan. 13.

onship game and entered Tuesday's contest with a 10-2 record.

Led by 6-foot-8 junior James Butler and 6-foot-6 senior Reagan Jones, Lake Braddock entered Tuesday's game with a considerable size advantage over T.C. Williams. Butler finished with 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Jones totaled 13 points and nine rebounds, but the Titans kept the Bruins from maximizing their advantage through intense backcourt pressure.

T.C. Williams senior Andrew Hill and his fellow Titan guards came up with a slew of steals, helping to force 21 Bruin turnovers while limiting Lake Braddock's opportunities in the paint.

"Our mentality was to pressure the ball," Andrew Hill said. "They've got no guards out there. Nobody out there in this league right now is as quick as our guards, so we've

got to keep the pressure up."

Andrew Hill led T.C. Williams with 27 points to go with his stifling defensive effort. His 3-pointer with 6:03 remaining in the third quarter sparked a 19-6 Titan run after the Bruins had cut the deficit to five points at 30-25.

T.C. Williams junior Tavaris James finished with 21 points. James and Andrew Hill combined for 17 of the Titans' 19 points during their decisive third-quarter run.

"I thought they played well," Bryan Hill said about his pair of 20-plus-point scorers. "I thought that Andrew shot the ball well. Tavaris did a great job quarterbacking us tonight, getting us into the sets that we need to be in and getting the ball to the guys who are open in a timely manner. Tavaris is a very coachable kid and is getting better from game to game."

Junior guard Jordan Jones also scored in double figures for the Titans, finishing with 13. T.C. Williams jumped out to a 15-2 lead and held Lake Braddock without a field goal until sophomore guard Corey Pelham knocked down a 3-pointer with 1:45 remaining in the opening quarter. The Titans led 17-6 at the end of one.

Butler scored nine points in the second quarter, helping Lake Braddock cut the lead four late in the first half, but a 3-pointer by T.C. Williams senior Curtis Jordan and a jumper by Jones extended the Titan lead to 30-21 at halftime. "We're playing great, we just let this one get away from us early," Butler said. "[T.C. Williams is] a fast, athletic team. ... They're one of the best teams in the conference." T.C. Williams (6-4, 4-1 conference) will host Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16. Lake Braddock (10-3, 3-1) will travel to face South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

How do the Titans maintain momentum? "Remaining humble, understanding that the season is a process," Bryan Hill said, "and just focusing on the game in front of us."



Head coach Bryan Hill and the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team beat each of the 2014 6A North region finalists, Woodson and Lake Braddock, during a five-day span.

ZONE 3: • ALEXANDRIA
• MOUNT VERNON

CLASSIFIED

703-778-9411

ZONE 3 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Blazin Wings, Inc trading as Buffalo Wild Wings, 7732F Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306-2803. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Restaurants, Beer & Wine on-premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Emily C. Decker, Vice President of Blazin Wings, Inc.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

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

21 Announcements

Forming New Show Band,
wide variety of music and songs. Need guitarist, rhythm, lead, bass, keyboards, horn section, male & female vocalist, call Lee 703-400-5005.

10 Storage

**Wanted:
Garage to rent
for storage of an
Antique/
Classic car.**

Contact David
703-765-8983 or
speedwilson@cox.net

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Rev James L Duley, 88, of Lake of the Woods, VA, died Friday, December 19, 2014. Jim was a retired elder in the Virginia Conference. He began as a student pastor serving Sudley & Gainesville in 1948 while attending Wesley Theological Seminary. He served Aldersgate (Alexandria) for 16 years, during which time more than 3,800 people joined. Other appointments included Messiah (Springfield) and Roanoke District Superintendent.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Buckmaster Duley, a son Gary (Lynn), a son Brian, a son Jason (Jenn), a daughter Jamie Morley (Steve), a daughter Beth Morlock (Terry); 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Hanni Milton

Hanni Milton, a retired US Civil Service employee died peacefully in an Alexandria, Virginia, hospital on January 9, 2015. She was 92.

Known to her family as Tante (aunt) Hanni, she was born Hanni Kroschwitz in Wuppertal, Germany, on December 12, 1922. Mrs. Milton was a hard worker all of her life. She grew up during turbulent times in post-WWI Germany, and she was forced to leave school early in order to help support her family. During the Second World War she and her family lived in Berlin which suffered heavily from allied bombing attacks, in which they lost almost everything. In March of 1945, they barely escaped the attacking Soviet Army and moved to western Germany, Limburg, in Hessen, where they eventually settled. It is here that she met her future husband, Donald Milton, who worked for the US Government.

Mrs. Milton eventually moved to the US with her parents and her entire family was finally reunited in Alexandria in 1956. A naturalized American citizen, she worked for the US Civil Service at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, until her retirement. She and her older sister, Trude, took turns caring for their elderly parents.

Hanni was a loving and caring person who kept in touch not only with her extended American family, but also with her German cousins and friends, and she loved to entertain guests at her apartment. She will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Milton was preceded in death by her parents, Friedrich and Berta Kroschwitz, her husband Donald Milton, her sisters Trude and Erika and their husbands, and her niece Annette.

She is survived by her nephew Arnim Gerstenmeier and his wife Linda of Ft. Worth, Texas and her niece Kristina Ratches and her husband Jim, of Alexandria, Virginia and their families, as well as her German cousin, Rosi. Last November she was very exited about becoming a great-great-great-aunt.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 2 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. Interment will be held at a later date in Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria, VA. A guest register may be found at www.everlywheatley.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body and allow the reuse of reclaimed wastewater in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Public comment period: January 16, 2015 to February 16, 2015

Permit name: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT Name, address and permit number:
City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority
d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises
1500 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314
VA0025160

This facility is an Extraordinary Environmental Enterprise participant in Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program. Project description: City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the public Alexandria Renew Enterprises Water Resources Recovery Facility. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewaters from residential areas at a rate of 54 million gallons per day into a water body and reuse reclaimed wastewater for landscape water features and non-bulk irrigation. Biosolids from the treatment process will be land applied and/or blended in the production of a soil amendment. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage in the Hunting Creek in City of Alexandria in the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: pH, carbonaceous-biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, E. coli, nitrate+nitrite, total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total residual chlorine. The facility will be required to monitor for total Kjeldahl nitrogen and whole effluent toxicity.

Additionally, the facility maintains a pretreatment program in accordance with Part VII of 9VAC25-31. The Industrial Pretreatment Plan for Continuous Industrial Waste Survey and the significant industrial user permit boilerplate have been updated.

This facility is subject to the requirements of 9VAC25-820 and has registered for coverage under the General VPDES Watershed Permit Regulation for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Discharges and Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Watershed in Virginia.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, email, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ-Northern Regional Office by appointment or may request electronic copies of the draft permit and fact sheet.

Name: Douglas Frasier
Address: DEQ-Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193
Phone: (703) 583-3873 Email: Douglas.Frasier@deq.virginia.gov
Fax: (703) 583-3821

26 Antiques

We pay top \$ for STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY, FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.
Schefer Antiques
703-241-0790
theschefers@cox.net

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LIFETIME METAL ROOFING
by VA CAROLINA BUILDINGS
45 Year Warranty
Financing Available
Licensed & Insured
Local Contractor
12 MONTHS SAME AS CASH!
w.a.c
1-800-893-1242
Call For Your Free Roof Inspection!

FREE ESTIMATE
ENERGY STAR
Storm Proof Metal Roofing

101 Computers

101 Computers

HDI COMPUTER SOLUTIONS

JENNIFER SMITH ♦ Serving the Area Since 1995

- Speed up Slow Computers
- Troubleshooting
- Virus Removal
- Computer Setup



(571) 265-2038

jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

102 Instruction

102 Instruction



William A. Banks

2601 Londonderry Road
Alexandria, VA 22308
(703) 989-1616

Guitar, Tenor Banjo, and Mandolin Instruction

- Master of Arts in Music
- Studied with NBC/CBS staff musician
- Member of American Federation of Musicians & Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

HOW TO SUBMIT ADS TO

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

CLASSIFIED

DEADLINES

Zones 1, 5, 6.....Mon @ noon

Zones 2, 3, 4.....Tues @ noon

E-mail ad with zone choices to:

classified@connectionnewspapers.com

or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

EMPLOYMENT

DEADLINES

Zones 1, 5, 6.....Mon @ noon

Zones 2, 3, 4.....Tues @ noon

E-mail ad with zone choices to:

classified@connectionnewspapers.com

or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

ZONES

Zone 1: The Reston Connection

The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Zone 2: The Springfield Connection

The Burke Connection

The Fairfax Connection

The Fairfax Station/Clifton/

Lorton Connection

Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet

The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North

Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

Zone 6: The Arlington Connection

The Vienna/Oakton Connection

The McLean Connection

The Great Falls Connection

ZONE 3: • ALEXANDRIA
• MOUNT VERNON

HOME & GARDEN

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CONTRACTORS.com

703-778-9411

ZONE 3 Ad DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

EMPLOYMENT

ELECTRICAL

ELECTRICAL

K & D ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...
Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522
lektrkman28@gmail.com

GUTTER

GUTTER

GUTTER CLEANING

Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned
Small Repairs • Gutter Guards

PINNACLE SERVICES

lic/ins 703-802-0483 free est.
email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
web: lawnsandgutters.com
Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

R.N. CONTRACTORS, INC.

Remodeling Homes, Flooring,
Kitchen & Bath, Windows,
Siding, Roofing, Additions &
Patios, Custom Deck, Painting
We Accept All Major Credit Cards
Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic

Phone: 703-887-3827 Fax: 703-830-3849
E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com
www.rncontractors.com

The HANDYMAN

A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION

BATHROOM REMODELING, DRYWALL,
PAINTING, CERAMIC TILE, CARPENTRY,
POWER WASHING & MUCH MORE

You have tried the rest - NOW CALL THE BEST!!
Proudly serving Northern VA - 46 yrs. exp.
Licensed Insured We Accept VISA/MC
703-441-8811



Remodeling Bathrooms, Kitchens & Basements

Exterior & Interior Repair, Painting, Carpentry,
Wood Rot, Drywall, All Flooring, Decks

- FREE Estimates
- EASY To schedule
- FAST & Reliable Service
- NO \$\$\$ DOWN!

Handyman Services Available

www.pphionfine.com

"If it can be done, we can do it"

Licensed - Bonded - Insured



LAWN SERVICE

LAWN SERVICE

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC. LAWN SERVICE

MOWING, TRIMMING, EDGING,
MULCHING & TRIM HEDGES

Friendly Service for a Friendly Price

703-802-0483

HAULING

TREE SERVICE

ANGEL'S HAULING

Junk Trash Removal,
Yard/Construction
Debris, Garage/Base-
ment Clean Out,
Furniture & Appl.

703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

ANGEL'S TREE REMOVAL

Brush & Yard Debris
Trimming & Topping
Gutters & Hauling
Angeltreeslandscaping-hauling.com
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

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

-Werner
Heisenberg

LANDSCAPING

JUNK HAULING

Junk, Rubbish,
Homes, Offices,
Commercial,
Yard/Construction
Debris, Lot Clear
out, 24 hrs day,
General Hom Work.

703-520-3205 N-VA

MASONRY

MASONRY

BRICK AND STONE

Custom Masonry

703-768-3900

www.custommasonry.info

Patios, Walkways, Stoops, Steps, Driveways

Repairs & New Installs • All Work Guranteed

TREE SERVICE

TREE SERVICE

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured



Leaf Removal Gutter Cleaning

25 years of experience

Free estimates

703-868-5358

24 Hour Emergency Tree Service

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.



Fall Cleanup...

Tree removal, topping & pruning,
shrubbery trimming, mulching,
leaf removal, planting, hauling,
gutter cleaning, retaining walls,
drainage problems, etc.

25 years of experience - Free estimates

703-868-5358

24 Hour Emergency
Tree Service

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

BUSINESS OPP

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE

A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!

NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!

301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

TELEPHONE

A great opportunity to
WORK AT HOME!

NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!

301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

is hosting an

EDUCATOR OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 24 at 9:00 A.M.
Presentation begins at 9:20

Learn more about teaching at our school and finding
jobs in private schools. Teachers of diverse back-
grounds and experiences are encouraged to attend.

Register online: www.sssas.org/educator
1000 St. Stephen's Rd., Alexandria, VA 22304
703-212-2284

AUTO DETAILING

Auto Detailers, Car Washers & Managers

Diamond Detail is expanding into the
Alexandria, VA Area Must have a valid
driver's license, clean background and
positive attitude To apply online or for
more information visit our website
WWW.DiamondDetail.com Or call our
employment line at 410-983-1008.

HIRING NOW!!!

Don't miss your chance to be part of
history! As **B. Frank Joy, LLC (BFJ)**
approaches its 100th year in busi-
ness; we are looking for a new gen-
eration of highly skilled and highly
motivated players to join our
company.

This is your opportunity to rise up and
lift your career to new heights. Come
be a part of our family, our efficient
Lean Six Sigma production philoso-
phy, and our unmatched reputation.

We are looking for candidates with
construction experience; gas quali-
fied, foreman, superintendent and
others. Let's build history!

For more information on joining one
of the elite teams of BFJ, please feel
free to email or just send your resume
and salary requirements to
hr@bfjoy.com.

You can also stop by in person at
**5355 Kilmer Place,
Hyattsville, MD 20781.**

ALEXANDRIA Gazette Packet CLASSIFIED

Classified or Home • Lawn • Garden:
703-917-6400

Employment: 703-917-6464

E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 18

are taught the following: (a) to not spend more than they make, (b) to pay the important bills first, (c) to save up for large purchases, and (d) to consult with spouses on decisions affecting the household. The citizens of Alexandria deserve a City Council who can manage to the basic budgetary guidelines, and who are good stewards of the public trust. Although we must thank the current City Council for their long service to the public, a clean sweep is indicated. If you compare this situation to football, it is clear that we need to bring in a new team (including a new quarterback, new coach, and new general manager) rather than to build a new stadium.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

News

Music

FROM PAGE 4

of the schools' instruments, and the schools are requesting another \$240,000 to complete this process over the next three years. Whether or not they get this funding will be revealed in the new instructional and capital improvement budget unveiled Thursday, Jan. 15. The EYS concert was self-funded, with a small participation fee from students and the rest paid through ticket sales. It's a rare event for the schools and one the participating students said they were grateful for.

"We don't get very many chances to express ourselves through music because it's not like you can just organize a concert every month," said Pierce. "We only get them about two times a year. And so, whenever we get a chance, I always sign up for it. I think it's really great that we have a rehearsal program, because I know not a lot of places do, and it gives the kids a chance to express themselves and also meet up with other people with the same interests, which don't always happen."

For Wood, giving students a chance to express themselves is the primary purpose of any musical program and is part of what makes them vital for schools.

"There's nothing more exciting than finding yourself in music," said Wood. "When a kid finds his voice in clarinet or violin, there's no other feeling like it. Music gives us a sense of empowerment that's all emotion. Because science should not be set up as an emotional experience and math should not be set up as an emotional experience, where do you get the emotional development from? The arts. And talk about a cockamamie culture, right now we're the most emotionally retarded country in the world. I find these kids have a struggle with communication and deep emotion that's not rage or anger."

Students cited emotional expression as one of their favorite things about getting involved in music.

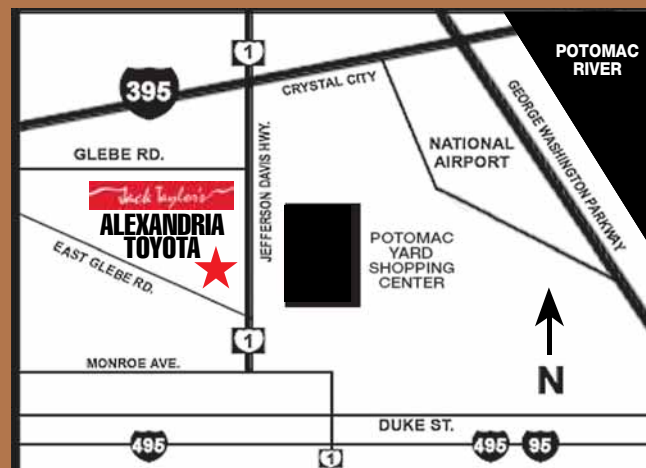
"I can share my emotions," said Jacob Rosario. "When you're angry, you can play hard. But when you're happy, you can make everyone else happy too."

Jack Taylor's ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Alexandria, VA 22305

703-684-0710

www.alexandriatoyota.com



NEW! Extended Service Department Hours:

Monday – Friday, 7 am to 9 pm

Saturday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday by appointment only.

Make your next service appointment at:
alexandriatoyota.com

You Have Saturdays Off

That's Exactly Why We Don't!



ServiceCenters
Keep Your Toyota
a Toyota



27 YEARS OF
RECEIVING THIS
HONOR

TOYOTA
Owners
ToyotaOwnersOnline.com

TOYOTA
LIFETIME GUARANTEE

Mufflers • Exhaust Pipes • Shocks • Struts
Toyota mufflers, exhaust pipes, shocks, struts
and strut cartridges are guaranteed to the
original purchaser for the life of the vehicle
when installed by an authorized Toyota dealer.
See us for full details.



TOYOTA
Let's Go Places



TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR



\$1.00



& GET A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95

GOTT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY
MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

**PRICE
MATCH
GUARANTEE**
ON ANY
OEM TIRES

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT



\$89.95

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

**TRUE START
BATTERY SPECIAL**



\$139.95

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.

Does not apply to Hybrid Batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL

\$119.95

Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL

\$5.00 OFF

Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**5K, 10K, 20K, 25K, 35K
MILE MINOR FACTORY
RECOMMENDED
MAINTENANCE SERVICE**

\$54.95

SYNTHETIC OIL ADDITIONAL \$10.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
WINTERIZATION SPECIAL

\$59.95

Includes: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump. Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more.

SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.

GENUINE TOYOTA
**15% OFF
WIPER INSERTS
& WIPER BLADES**

SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**WE WILL
MEET OR BEAT
ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S
CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE
SPECIALS**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
NITROFILL SPECIAL

\$39.95

We will purge the tires of air and refill them with nitrogen.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79.95

PADS

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
DETAIL SPECIALS

\$39.95

Wash & Vacuum

\$139.95

Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning

\$295.95

Full premium detail

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE!
BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL**

TRANSMISSION FLUSH

\$189.95

POWER STEERING FLUSH

\$139.95

BRAKE FLUSH

\$139.95

FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH

\$139.95

FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE T OR WS FLUID ADD \$50.00

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA / SCION

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA/SCION
3750 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305
1-866-616-8420 | ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM
JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!

TOYOTA

**Let's
Go
Places**



Old Town \$1,249,900

Price Reduced! Stunning residence in the heart of the SE quadrant. Rooms boast beautiful moldings, hardwoods and lots of light. Third level master suite features large walk-in closet! Private lower level suite for additional living space. 525wilkes.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart

703.362.3221

www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Alexandria \$529,000

Gleaming hardwood floors welcome you to this lovely 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on a large lot with extensive mature landscaping & a custom deck. Updated kitchen & baths, huge lower level rec room with tons of storage and 4th bedroom/au pair/in-law suite.

Vicki Binkley

703.994.0778

www.VickiBinkley.com



Fairlington Towne \$386,000

Bright & inviting 2-bedroom end-townhome! Freshly painted interior and refinished floors. Sunny dining room. Gas cooking. Separate laundry room. Spacious wood deck. Easy parking, great walkability and just 10 minutes to airport. Low condo fee!

Ann Duff

703.965.8700

www.AnnDuff.com



Alexandria \$309,000

Rarely available 2-bedroom, loft condo in Manchester Lakes. Soaring ceilings & spiral staircase to the loft highlight this dramatic home. Generous room sizes, plus huge balcony make for comfortable living. Close to 2 Metros & shopping. 6912B Sandra Marie Circle.

Peter Crouch

703.244.4024

www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



Old Town \$1,365,000

Located on Captains Row, this historic home offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gracious living room, and spacious dining room. This home is perfect for

entertaining and everyday living. 4 fireplaces, original floors and moldings. Stainless-granite kitchen opens to family room. Garage parking for one year.

Babs Beckwith

703.627.5421

www.BabsBeckwith.com



Old Town \$1,075,000

Just a block from the banks of the scenic Potomac River this freshly painted, spacious 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhouse with a 2-car garage in the

Rivergate Community offers fabulous details - renovated gourmet kitchen & a divine master suite with its own private sitting area! 123 Montgomery Pl.

Pat Day & Mason Montague Bavin

703.850.7934

www.housesbydaybavin.com



Alexandria \$770,000

Stunning 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome in highly desired section of Old Town. Updated throughout & ready for move in. Stunning master

bath & kitchen. Fenced backyard. Parking out back gate. Walk to everything, just blocks to river & other amenities. Seller says bring your offers!

Delaine Campbell

703.299.0030

www.DelaineSells.com



Alexandria \$519,900

Charming townhome in Del Ray boasts 3 levels of comfortable living space, warm hardwood floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Walk out from

kitchen to large deck, fenced yard and off-street parking. Excellent location, steps to "The Avenue" in Del Ray. Easy access to Metro. 314A Clifford Ave.

Jen Walker

703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



Arlington \$849,000

Impressive three level townhouse in close in location near Pentagon! Offering two master suites, formal living and dining rooms, 2 fireplaces

AND both a garage and an ELEVATOR! Hurry, don't miss this gem! 1811 S 24th Street.

Kate Patterson

703.627.2166

www.KatePattersonHomes.com



Alexandria \$499,900

Stylish and updated Warwick Village, 3-bedroom, 2-bath, modern open floor plan, warm hardwood floors, renovated kitchen. Finished

lower level has a cozy family room & full bath. Walk-out to covered deck and patio. Great location, walk to "The Avenue" in Del Ray. 209 Burgess Ave.

Jen Walker

703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



Old Town \$515,900

Three-level townhome is fully renovated! Gourmet kitchen has deluxe stainless appliances and granite counters. Open floor

plan with hardwood floors, recessed lighting and Elfa closets. Two master suites. Attic storage. Off-street parking available. 807 Franklin St.

Susan Craft

703.216.4501

www.SusanCraft.com



Parkfairfax \$279,000

Low price for first time buyers. Charming and quiet townhouse with 2 bedrooms, beautiful light, green views, ample parking, Pentagon bus, short

walk to Shirlington shows and restaurants. New energy efficient windows and front door. Attic storage. Tennis, pool and playground 1/2 block away.

Cecily Winchell

703.851.9292

www.CecilyWinchell.com