

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

25 CENTS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Students, teachers and staff from Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy stand in front of City Hall after participating in the Constitution Week proclamation signing Sept. 21. Music teacher Debra Lindsay, far right, composed music that was sung by the students during the ceremony.

'We the People ...'

DAR, students celebrate Constitution Week.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Students from across Alexandria gathered at City Hall Sept. 21 to participate in the signing of a proclamation to kick off Constitution Week, a week designated to promote the study and appreciation of the document sometimes referred to as "America's birth certificate."

"Prior to the crafting of the Constitution, the United States was operating under the Articles of

Confederation," said Linda Greenberg, Constitution Week chair for the John Alexander chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. "There were inadequacies that needed to be corrected, such as creating three branches of government. Prior to the Constitution, there was only the Legislative branch. The country also needed a national mint and the power to raise an army. Most importantly, we needed a representative government. The Constitution established those things."

Participating schools included Mt. Vernon Community School, Jefferson-Houston School, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School and Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy. Mayor Euille officiated. Also

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 9



Students from Jefferson-Houston, Samuel Tucker, Lyles-Crouch and Mount Vernon Community School sit in City Council chambers prior to the start of the Constitution Week ceremony Sept. 21.



Linda Greenberg, Constitution Week chair for the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution John Alexander chapter, talks about the significant role several Virginians played in crafting the Constitution during a proclamation signing ceremony Sept. 21 at City Hall.

Cross-Training Plan Ignites Controversy

Medics and chief clash over Dual-Role plan.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Councilman Justin Wilson is choking on a fruit chew. After City Council votes on whether or not to call 911, emergency services arrives on the scene. Before 2014, if a fire unit had arrived on the scene first, the firefighter would have begun administering basic life support immediately. However, if more drastic measures were required, the firefighters would have to wait until the medical transport unit arrived to perform more invasive

procedures. But with the Fire Department's restructuring over the last year, no matter which unit arrived first, Wilson would be able to receive the needed emergency care. It was a hypothetical scenario used in the City Council's Sept. 12 public hearing, to explain the layout of the new system implemented by the Alexandria Fire Department. But the new system raises questions, and not just about Wilson's mortality.

The transition into a "Dual-Role Provider" system is currently in effect for the Alexandria Fire Department. Fire Stations 207 and 210 currently operate as dual-role service providers. While the change will have a major impact on emergency services, it is a very technical one for most outside the

SEE DUAL-ROLE, PAGE 24

Among the Trees

New plaque in Parkfairfax honors Vola and David Lawson.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

There's no shortage of memorials in Alexandria to Vola Lawson. There's the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter in West Eisenhower. There's the Vola Lawson lobby at City Hall. But among her friends, family, and peers gathered in Parkfairfax, there was unanimous approval that the most fitting tribute to Vola and David Lawson was across the street from their home and in the heart of the neighborhood they fought to save. The new plaque at the corner of Gunston Road and Valley Drive, commissioned by the

Parkfairfax Condominium Owner's Association and unveiled on Sept. 19, honors their years of public service in the city and in the neighborhood.

"This was the spot for the next high rise," said David Lawson, son of Vola and the elder David Lawson, pointing towards the woods behind the new memorial. "In the middle of the larger metropolitan area, Parkfairfax is one of those neighborhoods that feels more like a small town." David Lawson looks around and can point out the apartment he grew up in and the streets he learned to ride a bicycle on. For an event that

SEE NEW PLAQUE, PAGE 3

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Old Town Alexandria

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lower level with bath and Pitt Street access. The deep garden with ornamental pond and trellised "outdoor room" completes this treasure.

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City Council Candidates Go West

Candidates
debate future
of the West End.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Landmark Mall. BRAC 133. Over crowded schools. Crumbling infrastructure. The West End has a different set of problems from Old Town. Before they can win a spot on the City Council, the 11 candidates need to prove to the residential core of the city that they can address some of these problems. The format of the Sept. 17 was a little different from the others; different candidates were mostly asked specific questions, meaning not every candidate was able to address the same topics.

The Republican and Democrat divide was less apparent at the West End Civic Associations' debate at Ramsay Elementary School. It was the second candidates' debate that day, the first held by the Chamber of Commerce in the Patent and Trademark Office that morning. In the West End, candidates across party lines recognized the need to refocus on infrastructure and to finally get a plan in the works to deal with Landmark Mall.

"We need Landmark Mall developed," said Councilwoman Del Pepper, a Democrat. "There's potential, but there's been no movement in seven years. This could really



City Council candidates at the West End debate.

jump start other things in the Van Dorn area."

Candidate Bob Wood, a Republican, agreed that development at Landmark Mall needed to be the number one goal for the West End.

On a broader level, Councilman John Chapman, a Democrat, said that lowering the office vacancy rate was vital to the West End's economy.

Councilman Paul Smedberg, a Democrat, focused many of his comments on transportation policy in the West End.

"Transit dramatically impacts the quality of life [in the West End] and we need to tackle that regionally," said Smedberg, proposing an increase in bike stations and sidewalks in the West End, and adding that the city needed to highlight pedestrian safety on the major transit corridors. For Pepper, an increase in bike stations and sidewalk improvements in the West End would help

improve some of the transit congestion. Republican candidate Townsend "Van" Van Fleet similarly proposed plans to encourage Alexandrians to walk rather than drive.

On transit, Chapman said that the West End needs an expansion of DASH and bus transit options. Democratic Councilman Tim Lovain favored centering development around metro station as an effective method of reducing traffic demands throughout the city. Candidate Fernando Torrez took the idea a step further and said he would like to see another metro station installed in the West End, though at the same time acknowledging the difficulties and cost such a plan would entail.

Other candidates focused on changes to traffic and parking. Phil Cefaratti, an independent, argued that residential streets need more stoplights as well as more restrictions on turning left without a sign.

"We are too gracious in relieving devel-

opers of parking requirements," said Wood. Democratic candidate Willie Bailey proposed adding a phone number on no-parking signs that would allow residents to contact city officials if a car was left inappropriately parked.

The final question of the night asked the incumbent candidates what vote they regretted the most and challenging candidates what City Council vote they most disagreed with. For members of the City Council, there was a recurring theme of regretting delays in infrastructure development.

"We put off a lot of infrastructure development during the recession, but those deferred bills don't get any smaller," said Democratic Councilman Justin Wilson. Pepper expanded the infrastructure regrets to include not building new schools, which left the city's schools overcrowded.

"We need to prioritize spending on cen
SEE DEBATING FUTURE, PAGE 4

New Plaque in Parkfairfax Honors Vola and David Lawson

FROM PAGE 1

drew nearly every member of the City Council and the mayor, it's a fairly quiet Saturday in Parkfairfax. More traffic is headed towards the yard sale down the street. For David Lawson, it feels comfortable. It feels like home. And it brings back stories about his parents.

One day, they were driving down a nearby road and saw a broken down bus full of migrant workers.

As they passed the same bus on their way home, Vola Lawson reached out to the community and the local church and organized a series of car trips to retrieve the stranded workers and house them in the neighborhood for the night.

Vola and David Lawson's civic activism is legendary among the their gathered friends and family, having their small home be the centerpiece of a political event would not have been out of the ordinary. Andy Evans recalled working with them in the 1970s on the campaign trail to elect Ira Robinson, the city's first black council member since Reconstruction.

For Evans, the campaign started, and was basically run, out of their home in Parkfairfax. Four weeks before the election, however, a young black man's murder in Del Ray sparked riots in the city. Evans

thought it was all over, but Robinson took Evans and David Lawson with him right into the heart of the riots.

The three of them walked through the neighborhood in turmoil, and Evans recalled the extremely tall and very white David Lawson seeming somewhat out of place. But he followed the group closely and they came across an Alexandria police officer who'd gotten caught in a crowd during the riots. The three of them, Robinson in particular, helped to talk the crowd down and let the police officer go.

"It was a defining moment," Evans said, "it was the moment that changed the campaign."

Robinson was elected to the council a few weeks later.

"When the black and white community were separated, they were right in the middle," said Evans.

This was the Vola Lawson that Mayor William Euille first met when he was a teenager, and later the same Vola Lawson that he asked for advice before running for City Council.

"Their loss has devastated us," said Euille. "But they encouraged us to keep caring and to keep protecting our environment."

While Vola Lawson brought new development to Alexandria as city manager, an-



Vola and David Lawson's sons: McArthur Meyers (left), David Lawson (center), and Peter Lawson (right).

PHOTO BY
VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

other of her famous battles was keeping the new Redskins stadium out of Potomac Yard. Vola Lawson and Mayor Patsy Ticer stood up to Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and Redskins owner Jack Cooke to maintain Alexandria's historic atmosphere and preserve the future of Potomac Yard.

"Vola and David were my friends," Ticer recalled at the memorial's dedication. "It was a great memory to have with her, and she's still with my every day."

The Lawsons' biggest fight, though, was keeping developers from taking over

Parkfairfax. Ronnie Yoder, one of the co-founders of the Parkfairfax Citizens Association, recalled how Vola took on the residential developer who hoped to turn the open space where the plaque sits today into high rise apartments. Vola took the fight to the City Council and won.

"I know how we loved Parkfairfax and how we and all of its current residents love it," said Yoder. "It very likely would not be here without Vola and David."

"It's a very appropriate way to remember them," said Ticer, "among these trees."

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NEWS

Debating Future of the West End

FROM PAGE 3

tral functions," said Republican candidate Monique Miles, emphasizing infrastructure costs and schools as primary needs for City Council funding.

The most controversial discussion of the evening started when Van Fleet accused the City Council of voting in secret on BRAC 133. Later, Lovain responded that there was no vote on BRAC.

"It was a Department of Defense decision rammed down Alexandria's throats," said Lovain, drawing loud jeers from an otherwise docile audience. "The truth hurts."

The truth, as it turns out, is more complicated. While the City Council may have discussed BRAC in a closed session, the Freedom of Information Act prohibits the Council from privately voting on the topic.

"Regardless of whether or not the City Council

discussed BRAC in closed session, the city's position was ultimately not to favor one private developer over another as they competed for the Department of Defense's business," said Craig Fifer, director of the Office of Communications. "Thus, City Council did not vote on one location versus another."

Correction

In the article "City Council Hopefuls Debate Issues" [Gazette Packet, Sept. 17-23], Candidate Fernando Torrez's comment "Refine existing long application process for small businesses" under the topic Future of Alexandria's Economic Development was repeated as Monique Miles' platform. Miles' Economic Development policy should read: "Pursue a diverse tax revenue stream to reduce the heavy reliance on property taxes."

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website.

See www.alexandriava.gov/PedBikePlan.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update Public Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Dr. Oswald Durant Center, Large Multipurpose Room, 1605 Cameron St. The City of Alexandria is in the midst of updating its Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Training for First-Time Homebuyers. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. This training leads to a certificate from the Virginia Housing Development Authority and access to the organization's below market rate mortgage financing. Free. Call 703-580-8838 or email lmartinez@firsthomealliance.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

Deadline for Orders Fall 2015

Tree & Shrub Sale. Residents may purchase a variety of trees and shrubs, including White Oak, Eastern Redbud, American Hornbeam, Elderberry, American Hazelnut, White Fringetree, River Birch, Black Gum, and Pitch Pine. Plants must be picked up on Oct. 3 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. Trees are \$20. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

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PEOPLE

It's All About the Pan

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Mauviel copper saucepans and fry pans hang on pegs across the wall in back of the counter at La Cuisine on Cameron Street. Nancy Pollard, who opened La Cuisine in 1970, explains these pans are good for cooking because copper is the best heat conductor. Pollard had been thinking about opening her store for a while because she was a German language student and saw that “cooking in Europe was a really different deal.” They had commercially designed cookware that you didn’t see in American shops. “What we do is really work toward selling good solid classic cookware.” She also has equipment and ingredients that are difficult to find.

PEOPLE AT WORK

“I am a cook,” Pollard said, “but was really fortunate to cook with the first American woman who had taken and finished the hard core course at the Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. She just walked into my store one day and we cooked together 2-3 times a week in her kitchen until she died. I learned a lot of classic cooking techniques from her.”

Pollard said it helps that she is married to a “wine maniac” so it works both ways. Her husband chooses a wine to go with her dinner or he has a particular wine and requests that she find for instance a lamb recipe to go with it. Tonight she is making gnocchi with smoked tomatoes, “ridiculously easy; I’m embarrassed to even tell you.” Pollard says she has a game she plays with herself. Since her husband buys all the needed paper products at the grocery store, she tries to see whether she can shop only at the farmer’s markets from April-November.

A number of Pollard’s customers come in for advice. “I made a recipe and it didn’t turn out; can you help me?” Or “I bought a set of cookware and don’t use all of the pieces.” Pollard says one of her big pieces of advice is to buy as you need it. “You might find that you need two saucepans of the same size or don’t cook anything in the oven.” She says that you have to hold a knife in your hand before buying it or you may buy an 8-inch knife you will never use. Pollard said, “We still carry carbon knives. It’s kind of a cult. They are easier to sharpen at home.”

A customer walks in the door with her umbrella and a large black leather case. Pamela Simon has driven in from Laurel, Md., with 8 Henckel knives to be sharpened. “I love to cook and I would be here



Pamela Simon has driven in from Laurel, Md., with eight Henckel knives to be sharpened and to pick up an order of specialty cocoa. She said, “Working here would be my dream job.”



Nancy Pollard says La Cuisine carries a number of items of cookware and ingredients that are difficult to find such as the poire extract she pulls out of the case. “The French have different extracts than we have in America.”

more if I didn’t live so far away,” Simon said, “They sell really high quality cooking equipment here. This would be my dream job.”

Pollard says all of the employees in the store are always scouting out new products and “sometimes customers come in and recommend things and ask us to try them.” She chooses a small glass bottle from a row and twists open the cap. “Smell this. It’s poire. They have different extracts in France than we have in America.” She says she has brought in the chocolate from Chocolate House in Lyon for the last 35 years, but only at Christmas. She points to a new section of jams by Philippe Bruneton, meilleur confiturier de France. “And we have this incredible rinforzato Italian pizza flour that makes Neapolitan pizza like it should be.” She says she has seen a renaissance of Italian ingredients and restaurants popping up, and she has a daughter living in Italy who helps make suggestions on Italian products.

The three most popular items? She pulls a line cook spatula from its hangar on the wall. “If you have anything in the store, this is it. It is also called a fish spatula but we call it a line spatula because I sell hundreds to line cooks in restaurants.” The second item is cooking tongs, “the best quality of any” and finally the microplane. She said, “We have a few things for fun, too,” picking up a can of bacon Band-aids. Pollard says she has noticed that the younger 20- and 30-year-olds are much more into cooking “than their older brothers and sisters. There is so much Internet research available now and you can try things out yourself.” She speculates there were a couple of generations where people didn’t sit down to dinner together. She sees a change in patterns as evidenced by the new compost pile in Alexandria. “You have to cook to get compost.”

“Bye bye Miss American pie” plays in the adjoining office and Nikka, the German shepherd rescue dog, barks twice to announce another customer.

New at Ramsay

Michael Routhouska is principal.

BY AMINA LUQMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

For some of us there are defining moments in our lives that forever color who we will be. For Michael Routhouska, the new principal at Ramsay Elementary School, one such experience happened in first grade. “I remember being really shy as a first grader. It’s funny because I’m not at all shy now. But, I remember my teacher sent me to the principal’s office for refusing to read out loud. And my principal, Mr. Powers, I still remember his name. I remember Mr. Powers just had me read to him. That was my first impression of being a principal.” That day and Mr. Powers, stayed with Routhouska for the years to come.

A far cry from his first grade shyness, today, Routhouska is a straight-shooter, unafraid to say what’s on his mind. Perhaps, it’s his New Yorker roots. “I’m from New York actually, well some wouldn’t say that, because I’m from central New York.” He was raised in Auburn, a small city just southwest of Syracuse. “My family is still up there.” He was raised the second of four boys. His mother was a social worker, his father a jailer at the local jail. He describes them as not having a very hands-on role in Routhouska’s education. In those formative years, he recalls how his grades would fluctuate depending on his relationship with a teacher. “If I had a good relationship with a teacher, I could get an A, if not I could get a C. Relationships were crucial for me in education,” he recalled.

And More ...

For Michael Routhouska:
Favorite Music Artist: The Kings of Leon

Favorite Book: Hemmingway’s “Complete Short Stories” and “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven”

Favorite TV Show: “The Walking Dead”

Something surprising about you: I was the lead singer in a rock band. We played covers and originals around the D.C. area.



Michael Routhouska, principal of Ramsay Elementary School.

Part Two

Second in a four-part series on new principals in Alexandria City Public Schools.

Routhouska went on to earn a BA from Nazareth College in New York and a Master’s in educational leadership from George Mason University.

It’s lessons from Principal Powers and from his own educational experiences that informs Routhouska’s role as principal: “I want kids to fear disappointing me. Not to fear me. You’re really doing your job as an administrator if you can achieve that.”

Routhouska is creating new traditions and practices at Ramsay. He’s started with a collective process of creating a school credo: “Running the road to success.” It’s a nod to the school’s roadrunner mascot.

He has new plans in place for supporting students with the greatest need and ways of showing off their successes. One way will be through end of day PA “shout outs” that recognize students who have done great work that day. He has plans to streamline Title I requirements to reduce their burden on teachers as a way of fending against high staff turnover.

Routhouska lives nearby Ramsay on Van Dorn Street, with his wife, a special education teacher, and their 6-year-old son. His free time is limited, but when he has it, he enjoys going to the pool with his son. “He’s going in the deep end, which is huge for him. His big thing is touching the bottom of the pool. He can do it,” he says with a smile.

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John Ronveaux MLS # AX8739384



Old Town Commons 815 North Alfred St, Alexandria VA
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3 full and 1 half bath with 2-car garage. \$974,500
Karen Leonard MLS # AX8634639



Open House Sunday 1-4pm Mason Hill 1907 Winmill Lane,
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Open House Sunday 2-4pm Cameron Station
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granite, SS, hardwood;
soaking tub; double vanity;
W/D. Comm Ctr/w pool;
Easy Commute DC/VA.
\$310,115
Annie Haskins
MLS # CH8740351



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Top floor unit in immaculate condition! Brand new neutral carpet
& ceramic tile floor in kitchen. Neutral paint color. New custom
windows & balcony door. W/D in unit. Pkg space. \$258,000
Wendy Smith MLS # AX8743185

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3 W. Del Ray. Classic Bungalow on Large Lot! Many original 1920s features including high ceilings, moldings and hardwood floors, and wood-burning fireplace are combined with updated kitchen, 2.5 baths, 3-4 bedrooms, CAC and gas heat. Extras include brick driveway, large slate patio, garden shed, and beautiful landscaping on triple 7,500 square-foot lot. To see, call Mary Hurlbut at 703-980-9595.
Mary Hurlbut 703-980-9595



Alexandria/Yates Gardens \$799,000
719 Royal St. Sensational addition to this circa 1940 Yates Gardens home. 2 BR. Lovely deep garden, ideal for entertaining. Close to transportation, shopping and riverfront.
Diann Hicks-Carlson 703-628-2440



\$25K PRICE REDUCTION
Alexandria/Montebello \$775,000
5901 Mount Eagle Dr. #1617 & 1618. Welcome home! This condo has stunning Villeroy & Boch foyer, lovely Potomac River sunrise view w/180-degree sweep to treed view w/sunsets. 2 gourmet kitchens, 2 BA, 4 BR, 3 encl. balconies, all recently renovated. Built-in cabinetry, FP & 10 closets. 2,545 SF condo perfect for a home office, in-law suite, guests & entertaining. Indoor & outdoor pools, tennis, gym, café & shuttle bus; pet-friendly, 24/7 security. 2 lights from Old Town. Never has had a special assessment!
Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418 & Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010



NEW LISTING
Alexandria/Rosemount \$899,999
1215 Russell Road. Charming Bungalow where classic meets contemporary. 4 Beds | 3.5 Baths Gorgeous hardwood floors. Beautifully updated kitchen with quartz countertops, natural stone backsplash, porcelain tile. Contemporary updated family room. 2 large bedrooms with cedar closets. His & Her vanities in upper level bath.
Michelle Zelsman 202-390-8714



Alexandria/Stratford \$675,000
1904 Leo Lane. Stunning 5 bedroom, 3 bath home. Beautiful open kitchen/living/dining area. Made for entertaining, with huge center island bar that opens into the living and dining. Cozy family room w/wood-burning fireplace. Storage rooms in lower level, large play room, laundry/mud room w/washer dryer! Exterior is fully fenced w/gated drive, gazebo, shed.
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Alexandria/Cameron Station \$669,000
5121 Knapp Place. End unit Cameron Station gem with many unique features! Immaculate, one-owner, 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 4 level town house on quiet street in Cameron Station. All bedrooms have an en suite bath, 2-car garage, back deck, hardwoods, upper level laundry, new SS kitchen appliances, walk-in closets, lots of storage. Coveted visitor parking in front. Community amenities include pool, clubhouse, walking/biking trails, soccer field and much more. A Must-See!
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Melissa Schultz 703-407-5847



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711 B. Massey Lane. A Perfect 10...New Kitchen, New Windows, New Carpet. Monument Views! Sun-Drenched home, Beautiful floor-to-Ceiling Windows! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 Full Baths, Deck, Remote Garage, Attic storage, Vaulted Ceilings, 2 lights to D.C. Pool and Lighted Tennis Courts. Almost 1,800 SQ. FT. Open House this Sunday from 1 to 4.
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Enhanced Price
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Lib Willey 703-362-7206



Alexandria/Fairlington Towne \$374,900
3829 Ingalls Ave. Fantastic town house with cute private backyard. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout. Freshly painted. Tons of attic storage. Easy commute location to Pentagon, Mark Center, D.C., Old Town. Walk to shopping.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria/Van Dorn \$335,000
5938 Kimberly Anne Way. Beautiful town house with 2 levels overlooking nothing but trees. Great location near Metro and Kingstowne. Bedrooms are large and each with a private bath. Private and easy to love.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria/Cameron Station \$584,900
5112 Grimm Dr. 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath Franklin model w/3 levels, 1-car garage & over 2,300 sf. Open flr plan & neutral hues. LL FR w/SGD to Fenced Custom Patio. 1/2 BA. Main level hrdwd flrs, high ceilings, crown molding & freshly painted. LR/DR/Den w/gas FPL. Kit w/Islands, Brkfst Nook, Silstone counters & oak cabinetry. French doors to deck. UL Owner Suite w/WIC, Jacuzzi tub & dble vanities. 2 addtl BRs & hall BA. Community Amenities galore!
Sandy McConville 703-402-1567

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Representatives from six DAR chapters join Mayor Bill Euille for a photo following the signing of a Constitution Week proclamation. From left: Carol Horn, Ruth Bennett, Diane Williams, Eve Stocker, Linda Greenberg, Mayor Euille, Linda Montgomery-Blair, Kay Warren, Gail Eger, Stephanie Campbell, Mary Lou Wall and Nadene Bradburn.

Celebrating Constitution Week

FROM PAGE 1

attending were Alexandria City Public Schools' chief academic officer Terri Mozingo, School Board chair Karen Graf and members from local DAR chapters.

To commemorate the Constitution, students from the four schools sang the "Preamble" and "The Bill of Rights RAP." The music was composed by Lyles-Crouch music teacher Debra Lindsay.

"We also highlight the role Virginians played in the crafting of the Constitution," Greenberg added. "George Washington was the organizer and James Madison drafted the document. George Mason, who wrote the Bill of Rights, and Thomas Jefferson were also major contributors to our new Constitution."

Constitution Week was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside Sept. 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted and signed into public law on Aug. 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"The program has been very well received in schools," Greenberg said. "Being at City Hall allows the students to appreciate both the contributions of George Washington, James Madison and George Mason, our local founding fathers, to the government we have today, and to appreciate that this tradition continues today in our government at City Hall."



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OPINION

Move Forward Against Gerrymandering

BY DIANNE BLAIS
AND LOIS PAGE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA

Sept. 1 brought yet another reminder of the partisan rancor that too often paralyzes the Virginia General Assembly these days. Despite convening briefly for a special session in mid-August, that body failed to meet the deadline imposed by a federal court for redrawing the boundaries of the state's 3rd Congressional District.

COMMENTARY To briefly recap, a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the General Assembly to go back to the drawing board after it found that its 2011 Congressional redistricting plan sought to pack as many African-Americans as possible into the district represented by Democratic Rep. Bobby Scott of Richmond. Because African-Americans now make up nearly 20 percent of the state's population, this approach served only to dilute their potential political power in a state that has 10 other Congressional districts.

While the legal and political wrangling continues, the failure of the General Assembly to address its responsibilities will likely leave the map-drawing in the hands of the federal judiciary — a job that the League of Women Voters

of Virginia (LWV-VA) suspect the judges are not eager to take on. The LWV-VA believes that these maps are a good place to begin, because they were developed by persons seeking to adhere to the redistricting requirements embedded in the Virginia Constitution, rather than by persons seeking only to amass enough voters of the right political stripe in their districts to assure their easy re-election.

The judges do have the opportunity to set a very positive example for all future redistricting efforts by using as their starting point the independent, bipartisan redistricting plans that were developed during the last redistricting cycle. A good redistricting plan would respect natural geographic boundaries, the boundaries of local jurisdictions and communities of interest. If redistricting is done in a way that is fair and non-partisan, it will ultimately produce a result that permits democratic processes to flourish in our state and reflects the true political power of minorities and other ethnic groups within our increasingly diverse Commonwealth.

The court also has the opportunity to follow a key recommendation of Governor McAuliffe's bipartisan Integrity Commission. The commission recommended amending the Virginia Constitution so that future redistricting plans would always be drawn by an independent

commission, rather than partisan politicians.

It was commendable that then-Governor Bob McDonnell appointed an independent, bipartisan advisory commission, which held hearings around the state before proposing three different congressional redistricting maps. The commission also encouraged the consideration of the winning maps that emerged from a competition among Virginia college teams that year.

Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of using such commissions to draw the boundaries of legislative districts, we believe the current impasse provides the appeals court with a rare opportunity to demonstrate that this approach can actually work in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In doing so, the court can strike a blow for fairness, transparency and good government — and take an important step toward promoting a healthier democracy in our very politically polarized state.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA), along with Leagues across the country continue to press for redistricting reform at the state level. To learn more about redistricting and LWV-VA decades-long efforts to decrease gerrymandering go to <http://www.lwv-va.org/redistrict.html>. A major effort of LWV-VA is to have redistricting reform by 2021 when the next redistricting occurs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reason for Leaving Democratic Committee

To the Editor:

Earlier this year when I decided to run in the primary for delegate, I did so as the next step in my decades-long commitment to our city and to ensuring every member of our community can participate fully in our economy and society. That means safe, quality, acces-

sible education from preschool through college. It requires access to health care, including mental health services. Finally it means we need to nurture and support the small businesses and entrepreneurs that employ our neighbors and make up the backbone of our economy.

That commitment has led me to have the honor of serving our community as chair of four important civic organizations — Alexandria's Economic Opportunity Commission, Alexandria Community Services Board, Sheltered Homes of Alexandria and now Hopkins House. For similar reasons, I have

belonged to the Alexandria Democratic Committee for more than 20 years, serving in a variety of roles including deputy chair for Finance and Administration for nearly six years.

Our city has recently received numerous accolades as a great place to live (<http://www.visitalexandriava.com/plan/about/accolades/>) but we also face serious challenges. In light of the specter of another Federal sequester, state revenues that are still recovering from the recession, and an over-reliance on residential property taxes for revenue, it will require experienced leadership to address issues of our crowded schools and aging infrastructure while maintaining the services we and our neighbors need and expect.

While I deeply respect our past history, I am more concerned about our future success. Mayor Euille's stewardship of Alexandria, over the last decade, along with our City Council has been how we have weathered the recession, retaining our outstanding bond rating and our services, strengthened our schools and continued to attract business and residents to our wonderful city.

I have been and will continue to



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot

4:50 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18: Crossing Prince Street in Old town Alexandria.

Volunteer as Literacy Tutor

32 Alexandria kindergarteners and first graders still in need of tutors.

BY SAMI SMYTH
VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA

In just a few short weeks in October, 93 eager Alexandria City Public School kindergarten and first grade students will meet their one-on-one literacy tutor for the year. These students, at risk of falling behind their peers in their literacy skills, will receive individual attention twice a week until May from their designated tutor. However, 32 students who also need one-on-one tutoring will have to wait to find their tutor because not enough volunteers have signed up yet for this year.

Are you on the fence about volunteering? Tutoring is a big commitment, but it is extremely doable. Volunteers come from all walks of life and tutor for various reasons. One volunteer, Mike Mackey, was on the fence as well.

For years, he had considered tutoring but always managed to talk himself out of the commitment. Reasons included a busy schedule, not knowing the right program, or whether or not his abilities were up to par.

One year, he found the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. Taking a leap, he signed up to tutor with the consortium, and after

receiving an orientation and training, was paired with a first grader at Jefferson-Houston Elementary school for the year.

That October, Mike went to Jefferson-Houston for the first time to meet his student. Looking back at the experience, Mike remembered "this adorable little boy sheepishly came forward to meet me — stone faced. The teacher made introductions and he looked up to the top of my 6'4" head, wondering who I was — and was still not smiling. Then, I crouched down, introduced myself and was greeted with the biggest smile in the world." From that point, Mike knew he made a great decision in volunteering as a literacy tutor with the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium.

Although tutoring is a big commitment, the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium offers great flexibility with their program. Our volunteer, Mike, "was able to easily negotiate the time each week with [his] schedule, was able to reschedule when needed, and was trained and supported well." Volunteers commit to tutoring their student for one hour a week at their school. The consortium has programs at 10 ACPS elementary schools, so volunteers can choose which school is convenient to them.

Just imagine — in a few short weeks, you could be on your way to meet your student for the first time. We still need tutors for 32 ACPS kindergarten and first graders. All you need to do is sign up to volunteer. Take the same leap that Mike did by going to www.VolunteerAlexandria.org and enter 'tutor' in the search engine.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Volunteer Alexandria at 703-836-2176.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

be a committed Democrat. Membership in the governing body of the party, the Alexandria Democratic Committee, requires supporting the slate of candidates determined on June 9. I am totally supportive of our council candidates. However, today I am requesting a leave of absence from the Alex-

andria Democratic Committee through Nov. 4, 2015 in order to help the write-in campaign to re-elect Mayor Euille. I look forward to rejoining the committee after the election.

Julie Jakopic
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS PAGE 12



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Dir.: G.W. Parkway South from Old Town, right on Tulane & follow Partners Signs.



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7124 Park Terrace Drive

Join in Alexandria's Robust Walkathon

BY ALEX GARCIA
MEALS ON WHEELS COORDINATOR
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Calling all seniors to lace up your sneakers for the annual Fall Robust Walkathon. It's a perfect time to get out and enjoy the fall weather while weaving low-intensity exercises into a walk about the park.

The event is taking place on Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. –

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

noon at Ben Brenman Park located at 4800 Brenman Park Drive off Duke Street. Jerry

King who heads up the Del Ray Robust Walking Group will show participants different ways to use environmental objects as exercise props and exercises that will help with balance, strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance. Each participant will even receive a resistance exercise device.

"This is a great event," said Mary Lee Anderson, a member of the Successful Aging Committee. "We are seeing so many people enjoying a beautiful day in the park



Seniors participating in the Spring Robust Walkathon.

and learning how easy it can be to stay fit."

The Alexandria Successful Aging Committee sponsors this twice-a-year event and the proceeds go to funding three senior events throughout the year: Dance for All Ages' Senior Holiday Party and the Senior Health

& Fitness Fair. There is a \$10 suggested donation to register and a \$25 pledge donation.

You can register online at seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110 for more information.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Consider School Board

To the Editor:

The school year has started and as many Alexandrians are getting to know the student's teachers and principals, they should also be getting to know their School Board members as well.

One School Board member Alexandrians need to know is Ronnie Campbell. She is a mother of three children, including one child with special needs, all of whom attended and graduated Alexandria City Public Schools. Ronnie understands the school system. She is a resident of Alexandria for over 29 years and been involved in a variety of school leadership roles:

- ❖ School Board Budget Advisory Committee 2004-06
- ❖ School Board Calendar Committee 2003-04
- ❖ School Board Health Advisory Board 2002-04
- ❖ Special Education Advisory Committee 1998-2006
- ❖ Therapeutic Recreation Committee 2000-06
- ❖ City Before- and After-Care Committee 2004-06

SEE LETTERS PAGE 15



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Charming historic townhome featuring 3 levels, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1,400 sq ft, off-street parking, large eat-in kitchen that opens to private brick patio, and formal dining and living rooms.



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305 PAYNE ST, #301 Exquisite 2 level corner condo with 3BR/2.5BA in secure elevator building. Beautiful kitchen with marble floors, cherry cabinets, furniture island, Silestone counters. Burmese teak floors. 3-sided fireplace, built-ins in living room. Separate dining room. Large deck. Park at front door.



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7901 BETHLEN WOODS LN Spacious 3BR/2.5BA! Updated! End-unit townhouse surrounded by trees. New roof, windows replaced on upper levels. Updated: HVAC, HWH, W/D, kitchen, flooring, light fixtures and more. Near NGA, Ft Belvoir, Metro, Springfield Town Ctr, minutes to DC, Old Town, airport.

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The 80 hour evening and Saturday Principles' Classes will begin October 17 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!

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*Classes begin on Saturday, October 17 and end on Saturday, November 14. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 9:30pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.



Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144

ALEXANDRIA / River Towers \$220,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
6621 WAKEFIELD DR #717 2BR/1.5BA, rare corner home with all utilities included in condo fee. Full renovated with new carpet, new SS appliances, granite and cabinets, both baths renovated too! Walk to shopping, 1.5 miles to Metro. Call Sharon for more details!



Pat Wilson 703.598.7279

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Fantastic 1 bedroom / 1 bath unit with spacious patio on quiet side of building. Enjoy the patio in warm weather and the fireplace on those chilly winter evenings. Open kitchen with SS appliances. Updated bath! Includes garage parking space. W/D in unit.



Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764

ALEXANDRIA / Gunnell \$870,000 OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

5673 CLOUDS MILL DR. Lovely Ryan home with 6BR/4.5BA. Updated kitchen with granite and new appliances; breakfast nook leads to deck backing to trees. All lighting fixtures replaced throughout. Formal living/dining rooms. Great room off kitchen. LL has large open rec room.



Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

ALEX. / Hollin Hall Village \$460,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

2005 SHENANDOAH RD Move-in ready 1-level, 3BR/1.5BA brick rancher with family room, 1/2 bath and laundry room addition. Hardwoods, newer windows, roof & HVAC, updated kitchen with granite, new driveway, screen-in porch, fenced yard. Walk to shops, pool, bus, 10 minutes to Metro. Waynewood Sch.



Catherine Parker 703.627.5688

FALLS CHURCH / Chateaux \$224,900

Spacious 1BR/1BA and large balcony with tree-line views. Wood floors, updated kitchen/bath. Full-sized W/D + more storage. All utilities included. Assigned garage parking, private community pool with BBQ patio. On Rte 7, near Rte 50, EZ to DC, Alexandria and Pentagon City. www.3115PatrickHenry521.com



Pia Taylor 301.661.9974

ALEXANDRIA / Waynewood \$799,000 or RENT \$3,750

Lovely brick split-level home on corner lot just 1 block from bike/hike path. Recent renovations include: all baths, electrical, refinished hardwoods, hardscaping, recessed lighting, carpet, tile, the kitchen sink and more. Stroll to community pool, playground, and school!



Catherine Parker 703.627.5688

ALEXANDRIA / Stratford Landing \$549,900

Wonderful home near Potomac River and parkway with huge MasterBR makes 4BR/2BA on main level. Remodeled kitchen. Remodeled BA with cherry cabinets and granite. Hardwoods throughout. New windows, skylights and solar tubes. Family room, deck, peaceful fenced back yard. www.2403WittingtonBlvd.com



Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

NEW ALEXANDRIA \$734,500

Wooded privacy and just 1 mile to Old Town and Metro. Walk to Potomac River and hike/bike path. Beautifully updated kitchen with stainless, granite and Silestone. Updated BAs with Silestone and skylight. 4BR/2.5BA, hardwoods, fireplace and 2-car garage. Private yard with slate patio and fenced side yard.



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

ALEXANDRIA / Mt Vernon \$619,000

One-of-a-kind! Feels like a cottage in the woods! Longtime owner has lovingly updated/expanded! UL with 2 large BR, office, and updated full bath! ML with 2BR, full BA, separate dining/living rooms, large eat-in kitchen. All windows replaced! Hardwood! Wood-burning fireplace! Deck! Attached garage! Waynewood

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

There are important issues facing our school system — increased student enrollment, better collaboration with City Council, more support for teachers and staff — and while our new Superintendent, Alvin Crawley, has been working hard to make changes for the better, he needs School Board members like Ronnie Campbell who care about Alexandria's students and teachers who can get things done.

My wife and I have known Ronnie Campbell over 10 years now and we endorse her for Alexandria City Public School Board and encourage everyone in District C this Election Day to vote for Ronnie Campbell.

Michael and Yolanda Carrasco
Alexandria

Predictable Obsession

To the Editor:

Alexandria "Mayor and Developer for Life" Euille's write-in campaign for the upcoming November elections has brought out revealing comments from former mayor

Kerry Donley and others in their corner. Surprising in its tone of churlish and entitled privilege, the Euille-Donley "she's not ready" warning represents nothing less than a flagrant gender racism signal to duly elected women that they don't qualify for prime time even if publicly tested and proven.

This Euille/Donley platform tries to convince Alexandria's voters that the massive development versus neighborhood civil wars started, aided and abetted on their watch (e.g. BRAC, Landmark Mall, Beauregard, the Historic Waterfront, and Potomac Yards) are a triumph of fiscal and architecturally visionary leadership over ambition, mediocrity writ large, and greed. If only that were so.

In particular, rampant city-wide development projects have instigated a spiraling social injustice race to the bottom where the city collects rising taxes from its residents only to spend that money in dragged out and bitterly contested law suits against the very same citizens it just taxed. At issue is the need to defend private residential property and neighborhoods from the Euille/Donley pecuniary belief that "what's yours is mine and what's mine stays mine."

The restaurant, Virtue Feed &

Grain, owes its favored Old Town location to this line of attack, but there are no local Old Town homeowners who can say the same. Instead, disenfranchised residents wait for hours during civic forums to recount stories of betrayal, rage, fear and loss at the hands of their own municipal leaders.

Alexandria has become a government without any sustainable economy, because big, out-of-town developers who contribute to Mayor Euille love the 12-year status quo. Those of us who protested against the Waterfront Plan recall being left out in the cold with our banners and voices while Mayor Euille simultaneously feted favored supporters in sealed City Hall rooms.

Allison Silberberg speaks with an authentic voice and has shown the political courage of her convictions to "just say no" and put tax-paying residents ahead of ex-territorial investors. It's way past time to end the development versus residents false choice, which the Mayor-Developer and his "hangers-on" coterie favor at our expense. Those who throw a fair and legal election under the bus because they can't get their way reveal a rotting Alexandria politi-

cal machine whose time has come.

Clearly, now is the time to retire self-styled "politicians for the people" who put vested interests and well-practiced backroom deal-making above the primary election results of their own Democratic party.

Michael Peck
Alexandria

Maintain Progress

To the Editor:

There is a great quote from the West Wing TV show that goes, "If they're shooting at you, you must be doing something right." Judging by the venom in the letters to the editor last week, Mayor Euille must be doing something right for the citizens of Alexandria. I feel compelled to set the record straight on some of the untruths.

Among the distortions leveled at the mayor recently are that Bill Euille said that Allison Silberberg, "lacks understanding of complex fiscal matters." I find it hard to believe that he ever said this. Bill Euille has been cordial and respectful to Ms. Silberberg at all times which is consistent with his positive nature.

The mayor is also accused of not being a man of his word. Mayor Euille never made a pledge to support the Democratic nominee of the primary election. What he did promise to do, like Kerry Donley and Allison Silberberg did, was to not appear on the November ballot. This can be found in all of the candidates statements of candidacy. True to his word, Mayor Euille will not appear on the ballot which is why he is waging a write-in campaign.

Yes, Alexandria's real estate taxes have risen recently, but it's not all bad news, nor one person's fault. Alexandria has increased the property tax rate in recent years to make up for lost revenue during the Great Recession. The tax rate has increased from the the lowest in the region to the middle of the region; higher than Arlington and Prince George's, lower than Loudoun, Prince William, and Fairfax. More of a factor in our increasing taxes is the fact that home values are rising and assessments are going up. People want to live in Alexandria. I would argue that this is a better problem to have than the declining home values that are being experienced

SEE LETTERS PAGE 22

NEW LISTING



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA 112 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Offered At \$1,100,000 | Listed by Deena de Montigny, AIA

Semi- detached Historic Townhouse, Circa 1892, on a cobblestone street in Old Town near the Potomac River and one block from King Street. Brick exterior with traditional colonial windows, 3 bedrooms, 1 and 1/2 baths and a separate dining room with direct access to rear yard. Property is located within walking distance to the Potomac River, galleries, shops and restaurants and Metro/Amtrak. The site is 4 miles from Reagan National Airport.



Deena de Montigny, AIA
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ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria's MetroStage Presents 'Uprising'

Show is part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival, now through Oct. 25.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

MetroStage in Alexandria will open its 2015-16 season with the premiere of "Uprising" by Atlanta playwright Gabrielle Fulton as part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival, now through Oct. 25.

Set in the aftermath of John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry, "Uprising" explores self-determination and sacrifice through the lens of a free black community during secession-era America. When Sal discovers Ossie, a hypnotic revolutionary hiding in the field, her life is turned upside down by her strong attraction to him and his revolutionary mission and its impact on her commitment to the well-being of her young son, Freddie. Inspired by the true story of Osborne Perry Anderson, the only African American participant in John Brown's Raid to survive, and the tales of the playwright's cotton-picking great-grandmother, "Uprising" explores notions of freedom and sacrifice, family and community.

"I love the idea of the Women's Voices Theatre Festival," said Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin. "Women playwrights have been seriously underrepresented on our stages and with over 50 theatres presenting over 50 world premieres in the D.C. area alone, it is clear that the festival is already having an impact. So of course MetroStage was going to

a part of the festival."

Her director Thomas W. Jones had just workshopped this play in Atlanta so he suggested that she consider it. "Upon reading the script I knew it was a perfect play for MetroStage," she said. "It had strong characters, particularly a strong female character, Sal. It had so many of the qualities that I look for in a play. Excellent character development, great roles for African American artists, a story based on a historical event (John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry) but a play driven by lots of other personal issues, motivations, relationships."

She added: "It is kind of an epic play for MetroStage, and I am very proud of the production and that it is a part of this Festival celebrating all of the distinctive voices of women playwrights."

The actor Enoch King plays the role of Bo-Jack. "He is a freed slave living in a free slave community in Pennsylvania. He is a hard worker, and has an interest in Sal, played by Cynthia D. Barker," he said. "The physical nature of the show can be a bit challenging. However, I think the main challenge I had was making sure not to approach the characters with a 21st century mentality and understand what freedom, personal and beyond, means for Bo-Jack."

He said he hopes the audience gains a broader understanding of what it means to be free. "What you understand is your definition of freedom, and what are the decisions and choices you would make in your



Anthony Manough and Cynthia D. Barker star in "Uprising" at MetroStage in Alexandria now through Oct. 25.

life to have that freedom," he said.

Director and choreographer Thomas W. Jones II has a long history with MetroStage. Jones has written and directed "Harlem Rose," "Three Sistahs," "Two Queens, One Castle," "Bricktop," "Cool Papa's Party," "Pearl Bailey ... by request," "Ladies Swing the Blues," and most recently, "Bessie's Blues," as well as directing "Gee's Bend" for which he received a Helen Hayes nomination.

Music Director William Knowles is also a mainstay at MetroStage having music di-

rected "Bessie's Blues," "Gee's Bend" (Helen Hayes Nomination), "Bricktop," "His Eye is on the Sparrow," "All Night Strut," "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song," and "Cool Papa's Party" (Helen Hayes Award).

MetroStage in Alexandria will present "Uprising" now through Oct. 25, 2015. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m.; and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 and \$60. The venue is located at 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

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.

ONGOING

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

Through Sept. 26 at various times. Leaves from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Baseball fans can avoid heavy traffic and cruise along the Potomac to Nationals Park. Tickets are \$20 one-way and \$25 round-trip, Monday-Thursday, \$28 roundtrip Friday-Sunday. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

Sidney Xunnian Zhang Exhibit.

Through Sept. 26 at The Monroe Gallery, 2017 I St., NW, Washington, D.C. Chinese artist and Virginia resident Sidney Xunnian Zhang depicts the Alexandria waterfront and Old Town in much of her work. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.artclubsofWashington.org/galleries for more.

Fred Eberhart Photography Exhibit.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sept. at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Photographer Fred Eberhart focuses on local Virginia landscapes. Free. Visit www.broadwaygalleries.net.

"The Ring of Fire." Through Oct. 5, gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Monday-Saturday; Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Indonesian American artist Wijati Soemantoro expresses her emotional response to the natural disasters she experienced while growing up in the most seismically active zone in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried Show: "What I Did On My Summer Vacation."

Through Oct. 18, 10-5 p.m., 10-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 18. View summer vacation-themed artwork. Admission is free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

"Angel Soldier Dance Sublime."

Through Oct. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. View work exploring femininity and masculinity by female artists from Maine's Blue Hill Peninsula. Free. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition.

Through Oct. 25, during gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Works inspired by the song "Don't Fence Me In," by Cole Porter, will be on display. Free. Visit nvfaa.org.

"Artifact" Exhibit.

Through Oct. 25, gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and during performances at Rachel M.

Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. In this exhibit artist J.T. Kirkland integrates the painted gesture with the naturally occurring textures or "gestures" in the wood. John James Anderson will also share the space. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

Doggy Happy Hour.

Tuesdays through Oct. at 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Enjoy discounted drinks and treats with one's dog. Free. Visit www.jackson20.com.

"Seven Deadlies."

Through Oct. 31, Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Sculptor Karen Swenholt explores lust, sloth, greed, gluttony, wrath, envy, and pride. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

"Painting the Line, Drawing the Paint."

Through Nov. 8 at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. This show that will include works by Ann Schlesinger, daughter of Jim and Rachel Schlesinger. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

Mount Vernon in 3-D: Then & Now.

Through Nov. 20 during regular operating hours at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visitors will have the chance to travel back in time, and in 3-D, to see how the estate appeared more than 100 years ago through a special photography exhibition. The exhibition is included in the regular admission fee of \$17

for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth and free for children younger than 5. To view the historic stereoview images as well as the modern 3-D anaglyphs, visit www.mountvernon.org/3D.

Young at Art Juried Art Show.

Through Nov. 20, Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older display work. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

Supper Under The Stars.

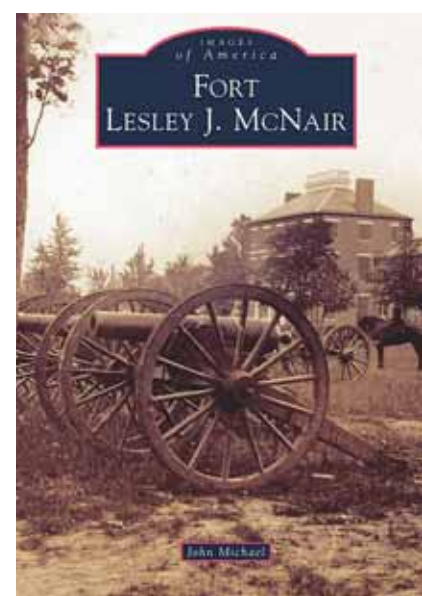
6-9 p.m. at King Street Garden Park, 1806 King St. Find jazz, chili, cupcakes and an open bar. Tickets are \$30. Call 703-683-0333.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

St. Luke's Annual Craft Fair.

9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Mount Vernon. Connect with old

SEE MORE, PAGE 18



Book Signing

Author John Michael will be at Barnes & Noble, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway on Oct. 3 for a book signing. Michael is the author of two books: "Images of America: Fort Lesley J. McNair" and "Images of America: For Myer." The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. and there is no cost for admission. Call 703-626-9409 for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

Oktoberfest Brings Out Best in Beer

Oktoberfest is only beginning of busy season for Port City Brewing.

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET



Port City Brewing tasting room

You can set your watch by it year after year, September after September. No, not the autumnal equinox (though you can count on that, too); we're talking about Oktoberfest season, from Munich, Germany, to countries worldwide. And you don't have to travel to Europe to get a taste of the festival. There are plenty of local Oktoberfest flavors to savor right here at home.

Port City Brewing Co., 3950 Wheeler Ave.

Alexandria's local brewery has gotten out ahead of the start of Oktoberfest (which began Sept. 19 in Munich), releasing its seasonal Oktoberfest beer in late August.

The Oktoberfest brew, a Marzen-style lager with an amber complexion and a smooth, slightly sweet taste, has become a seasonal favorite at Port City. This year, Port City brewed three batches to keep up with demand, says Tammy Portnoy, Port City's beer admiral of marketing and events.

"This is the fourth year it's come out — our Oktoberfest was our first seasonal," Portnoy said. Launched in kegs in 2011 and bottled the following year, Oktoberfest is now a staple of the brewery's repertoire.

Port City kicked off Oktoberfest season with a launch party at the brewery, and now it's taking its seasonal beer on the road and across the river, celebrating with Roofers Union and the Bier Baron in D.C. and Capitol City Brewing in Shirlington, just to name a few.

And a couple of weeks ago, Port City ventured even further afield to celebrate the season.

"We did a big tap takeover in New York at one of the oldest bars in New York City," Fraunces Tavern,

Portnoy said. "It was actually the bar where George Washington handed over the American troops when he was done with the war. ... We had our Oktoberfest on draft there, and I think it was the first bar this year to have it in the New York area."

Beyond Oktoberfest, October itself is a busy month for Port City. The brewery releases its newest edition of Long Black Veil mid-month to commemorate the 199th anniversary of the death of Alexandria's much-discussed Female Stranger. On the anniversary itself, Oct. 14, Port City will visit Gadsby's Tavern — the alleged site of the Female Stranger's final hours — to debut this iteration of its black IPA, a hoppy concoction with some citrus notes.

The re-release of Long Black Veil will be quite a relief to the beer's fans, many of whom have come into the brewery's tasting room over the past few weeks looking for it and coming up empty.

"Right now (it's) one of the things we don't have on draft — and it's funny how many people come in and ask for it," Portnoy said. "We have four different series of beers: We have our flagships, we have our occasionals, we have our seasonals, and we have our colossals. We consider Long Black Veil to be one of our occasionals. It doesn't fit in as a seasonal or a flagship."

Later into the sea-

son: The debut of the 2015 version of Port City's Tidings seasonal.

Need more Oktoberfest?

Fort Belvoir Oktoberfest, Oct. 1-4

This on-base celebration, open to the public, will offer a collection of Oktoberfest lagers, daily live entertainment, a bazaar of handmade crafts and goods, a bake sale, and a Kinder Korner for younger attendees. Tickets are \$15-30. See www.belvoir.army.mwr.com.

Cap City Oktoberfest, Oct. 3

This festival in Shirlington, hosted by Capitol City Brewing Company, is one of the biggest Oktoberfest celebrations in the region. More than 60 breweries (including Port City) will be on hand, accompanied by local food establishments (some of which will be offering Oktoberfest traditional food), live German music, and more. Tickets are \$30. See www.capcitybrew.com.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, www.kitchenrecessionista.com.



The brewery offers a diverse menu.

If You Go

Port City Brewing Co.

Address: 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria
Hours: Monday-Thursday 4-9 p.m., Saturday 12-9 p.m., Sunday 12-6 p.m.

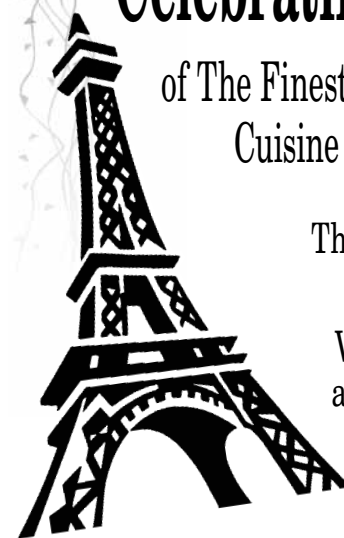
Top seller: Optimal Wit, Port City's Belgian-style wheat ale. "It's a great starter beer if you're not comfortable with craft beer ... and it's a great beer if you are super-geeky about your craft beer, to geek out on and notice all the different levels and layers of the beer and the complexity of it," says Tammy Portnoy.

Try this: Colossal 3, a Heller Bock style beer that packs a surprising punch. "People are so surprised when they try it and realize how much they love it."

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16
friends and neighbors. Cold drinks and luncheon items from the St. Luke's grill will be available, along with a bake sale featuring cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Also fresh produce from a nearby farm, entertainment by a guest guitarist and two local pianists, a moonbounce, face-painting and games. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Church of St. Clement parking lot, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Find 10 vendors from four states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free to attend. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.northernalexandria-nativeplantsale.org.

74th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. For the 74th annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, the public may visit six historic homes and gardens in Old Town Alexandria, all within walking distance of one another. Proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are \$35 through Sept. 25 and may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at The Twig's Thrift Shop, 106 N. Columbus St. Visit www.thetwig.org/homes-tour for more.

Batman Day. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Check out the new Batman teen series, Gotham Academy and wear a Batman costume or t-shirt. Enter for a chance to win a 2015 Jim Lee Batman signed exclusive Diamond edition action figure. Free. Call Terri Hayne at 703-299-9124 for more.

3rd Annual Community

Celebration and Business Expo. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. Learn more about the community and local businesses. Take part in the chili cook-off, cute baby contest, ugly dog contest and scavenger hunt. Free to attend. Visit www.mtvernon-leechchamber.org.

Coach to Cure MD Football Watch Party. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at T.J. Stone's, 608 Montgomery Ave. This national charity was started by Old Town Alexandria resident Brad Todd. Local football fans will gather to cheer on their favorite coaches and raise money for research toward a cure. Free to attend. Email Elizabeth Todd at elizabeth@theshoehive.com.

Seaport Day. 12-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park. Annual festival featuring three live bands, new restaurants Carluccio's and Blackwall Hitch, local beer and wine, children's activities, chowder cook off, wooden boat display, nautical displays, Anything that Floats race and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org for more.

50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Reception. 2 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Special remarks will be made by Professor Janelle Wong, director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland. Guests may view a traveling exhibit "Remembering 1882: Civil Rights Under the Shadow of the Chinese Exclusion Act." The exhibit will be on display for a week in the museum's Watson Reading Room of Alexandria Black History Museum. Free. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org for more.

"Nancy Clancy" Book Signing. 4 p.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St. Jane O'Connor, author of the Fancy Nancy picture book series and Nancy Clancy chapter book series, will be at Hooray for Books! to present and sign her latest Nancy Clancy title "Soccer Mania." In the spirit of the book, children are encouraged to come dressed in their sports uniforms. Free. Visit www.hoorayforbooks.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

Simpson Park Gardens Fall Open House. 1-3 p.m. at 420 E. Monroe St. Master Gardeners who maintain this demonstration garden welcome visitors to the garden for a display of what's in bloom, with emphasis on native plants and plants for pollinators. Enjoy light snacks and drinks and pick up packets of seeds from plants in the garden. Call 703-228-6414.

"Painting the Line, Drawing the Paint" Reception. 4-6 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. This exhibit includes work by Ann Schlesinger, daughter of Jim and Rachel Schlesinger. Meet and discuss with the artist. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

Factory Society Open House. 5-7 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. CRAVE micro-granting dinners give everyone a chance to be a patron of the arts. The Torpedo Factory Art Center and Convergence host CRAVE (Creating Resources for Artistic Vision and Engagement) as an opportunity to connect innovators with supporters to fund new artistic community projects. Now in its fourth installment, CRAVE has granted about \$3,500 to creative endeavors in the region. A \$15 ticket buys a meal and a vote. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

www.torpedofactory.org for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 28

Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. practice and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Come with or without a partner to learn several classic dance styles from Gary Stephans. Admission is \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998 for details.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

Doggy Happy Hour Fundraiser. 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. There will be a prize wheel and door prizes, and a pet photo contest will be held. Members of the Police K-9 unit and their dogs will be on hand to meet and answer questions. Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco will donate 10 percent of event profits to the Alexandria Police Foundation, a local non-profit organization, to benefit Foundation programs such as retired K-9 support and other initiatives. Free. Visit www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org.

Banned Books Read Out. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Sections of banned or challenged books will be read aloud at this celebration of reading. Free. To sign up to read a 3-5 minute passage, contact admin@NVFAA.org.

50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Panel Discussion. 7-9 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Speakers will include National Park Service historians, Alexandria Black History museum staff and area educators. They will discuss the role of African Americans and Chinese during the Civil War and its aftermath. Free. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30

Get Moving in Carlyle. 6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. and 1901 Jamieson Ave. Take an outdoor pilates class sponsored by Local Motion Studio. Free. Visit www.localmotionstudio.com.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. DJ Dabe Murphy plays recorded music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s, and some contemporary surprises. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 1

50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Panel Discussion. 7-9 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Panelists will share their memories of the Civil Rights Movement in Alexandria and share eyewitness accounts of how D.C.'s Chinatown was affected by the Martin Luther King assassination in April 1968. Film clips from the documentaries "Freedom Riders, The Loving Story," and "Through Chinatown's Eyes: April 1968" will aid the discussion. Free. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 2

50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Workshop. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A one-day



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ENTERTAINMENT

workshop on teaching diversity will be offered. Area educators and staff from Alexandria museums will discuss resources and lesson plans. Excerpts from the films "Out of Obscurity," and "Through Chinatown's Eyes: April 1968" will be shown. Free, but reservations required. Call 703-746-4356.

Cocktails in La Zona Rosa. 7-9 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Attend the annual member appreciation party for the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA). This year's theme will bring Latin food, music and dance. Admission is free for NVFAA members, \$75 for non-members. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

OCT. 2-NOV. 1

"Skeletons: Exploring Under the Surface." Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; and Sundays 12-6 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Experience 2D and 3D artwork in a wide range of mediums that digs deeper and discover what is 'under there,' literally and figuratively. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 2-4

Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about the successes and failures of George Washington's wine endeavors, listen to live music and tour where Washington stored his wine. Tickets are \$36-\$46. Visit www.mountvernon.org/calendar.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-4696 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or email admin.wfumc@verizon.net for more.

Charity 5k. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Cameron Run Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Run or walk to promote traffic safety. \$20-35 per person, depending on when you register. Visit www.theartofdriving.org/ART_5K/.

Art on the Ave. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. along Mt. Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Multi-cultural arts festival featuring music, art, and food. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.artontheavenue.org for more.

Historic Huntley Talk & Tour. 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Preservation consultant Debbie Robison will share information about the Fairfax County Park Authority property and discuss how contemporary trends influenced the cultural landscape. She will host a discussion about the farm manager's house, Huntley's double ditches and the influence of pattern books on villa design. After the talk, take a tour of the buildings and grounds at Historic Huntley. The suggested donation is \$5. Visit www.historichuntley.org for more.

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at The Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give guided tours of the historic colonial church. Free. Visit www.pohick.org.

Book Signing. 2-4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. John Michael, author of "Images of America: Fort Lesley J. McNair" and "Images of America: For Myer," will be signing his books and greeting fans. Free. Call 703-626-9409 for more.

50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Workshop. 3-6 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. to commemorate the anniversary of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act (also known as the Hart-Celler Act), author Martin Gold will present a lecture, "Forbidden Citizens: Chinese Exclusion and the U.S. Congress." Gold will discuss the history of the passage of exclusion laws that still have significance today. Following the lecture, a reception and book signing will be held at the Black History Museum, at 902 Wythe St. Free. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Oktobertfest. 3-7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Find live German music, German food including knockwurst, bratwurst and side dishes; beverages, bake sale, and children's crafts and games. Free. Contact staidansalexandria@gmail.com.

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SPORTS

Mount Vernon To Host TC in Conference 7 Matchup

Majors 2-1 after beating TJ, Titans 1-2 after loss to Westfield.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

One year after laboring through a winless season, the Mount Vernon football team is off to a 2-1 start and the Majors are playing with increased confidence.

T.C. Williams is coming off back-to-back losses to physical, Conference 5 opponents, but first-year head coach Marc Matthie said the Titans discovered they have a formidable defense.

The two teams will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25 at Mount Vernon High School. For the Titans (1-2), it's their Conference 7 opener and a chance to see if the team has improved after losses to Oakton (24-0) and Westfield (21-6). For the Majors, it's their homecoming game and a chance to earn a win against a 6A opponent after beating 5A foes Stuart (39-16) and Thomas Jefferson (40-18).

"It would be huge [to get a win] because it's a conference game," said sixth-year Mount Vernon head coach Barry Wells, whose Majors lost their conference opener to West Springfield, 47-13, on Sept. 11. "It's a 6A game, but it's a conference game. ... The environment is set for a really good [matchup]."

Mount Vernon went 0-10 in 2014 and entered the 2015 season on a 16-game losing streak. The Majors snapped that streak by beating Stuart in the opener on Sept. 4. After losing to West Springfield, Mount Vernon defeated Thomas Jefferson on Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams defensive back Colson Jenkins intercepted two passes during Saturday's 21-6 loss to Westfield.

Mount Vernon senior Josh McGrigg had a big night against TJ, catching eight passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns, carrying once for 48 yards and returning a kickoff 76 yards for a score.

For the season, McGrigg has 22 receptions for 398 yards and five touchdowns.

"There are people who aren't aware of how good Josh is, but when you see him in person, he's the real deal," Wells said. "... He can catch a short pass and take it the distance. ... He's electrifying."

Senior running back Hameed Oyedele,

who is battling a foot injury, carried three times for 58 yards and two touchdowns against TJ. Sophomore quarterback Tim Heltzel completed 10 of 16 passes for 174 yards and three touchdowns.

What is one of the biggest differences between this year's Mount Vernon team and last year's group that went winless?

"Clearly, a little bit more confidence, and winning will do that for you," Wells said. "They're seeing some results from the work we've put in."

This is the first time Mount Vernon has

won at least two of its first three games since 2008. Standing in the way of a 3-1 start for the Majors is a T.C. Williams team that hasn't scored an offensive touchdown since defeating Thomas Jefferson 65-0 in the season opener. The Titans were shut out against Oakton and scored on a 99-yard interception return by Colson Jenkins against Westfield. T.C. Williams was held without a first down in the first half of each of its last two games, and finished with 12 yards of total offense against Westfield, a program that has reached the region championship game each of the last four seasons.

After years of running the spread offense, T.C. Williams has transitioned to the wing-T under Matthie, who spent the previous five seasons as an assistant at Centreville. Matthie said the Titans are trying to figure out what they do well on the offensive side of the ball.

"I think we're trying to find our identity," he said, "and at times it can be difficult to find that identity when you're going against two of the top defenses in the region."

While the offense has struggled, T.C. Williams' defense has been a bright spot. The Titans held Oakton to 10 points through the first three quarters of their Sept. 11 contest, and shut out Westfield in the second half of Saturday's home opener.

"I think we have a really competitive defense in the northern region," Matthie said. "They can compete against any team. We obviously need to ... clean up some things ... but as far as effort and getting after it, I think we're doing a really good job."

Jenkins, a defensive back, intercepted two passes against Westfield. He returned the

SEE TC, PAGE 21

Rowers Leaving the Water ... Better

Alexandria Crew Boosters participate in waterfront clean up.

Soggy tennis balls, cigar wrappers, styrofoam beverage coolers and shoes were among the 71 bags of trash pulled from the Potomac at Oronoco Bay Park Saturday morning. Sixty-seven rowers, parents and other volunteers from the Alexandria Crew Boosters (ACB) gathered in Old Town to participate in the Annual Waterfront Clean Up Day. Volunteers picked up gloves and paired off to scour the waterfront, removing trash from the waters and the shores.

Held as part of the Ocean Conservancy's 30th Annual International Coastal Clean Up campaign and the Clean Virginia Waterways initiative, the clean up was undertaken in conjunction with the City of Alexandria's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. More than 100 people from the area participated in the effort. Felipe Ip, Sara DeGroot, and Wisdom Gbediame from the City of Alexandria's Transporta-



Sixty-seven rowers, parents and other volunteers from the Alexandria Crew Boosters (ACB) gathered in Old Town on Saturday morning, to participate in the Annual Waterfront Clean Up Day.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

tion and Environmental Division, helped coordinate the day's event, supplying volunteers with rubber gloves, and extension tools to reach over rails and between the rocks.

DeGroot, senior environmental specialist with Alexandria Stormwater and Sanitary Infrastructure, said, "The Oronoco Bay Park Clean Up helps clean the water in the city to protect our waterways and provide a

safer and more enjoyable environment for the wild animals and humans that use them."

Carter Weitekamp, a senior at T.C. Williams who rows with the Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) Select Fall Crew program, said, "We just came in from our first race of the season and we're out here every day at practice. The trash along the shore can get pretty gross. It's really cool that everyone

is here this morning, taking care of the environment. When everyone helps a little, it makes a big difference."

Students who participated earned community service hours for the work, and even get a Certificate of Participation, but according to T.C. Williams sophomore Cole Towers, that isn't what it's about.

"The waterfront is — well, can be — really nice and we're lucky to have it," Towers said. "We can't really feel good about it when there's garbage collecting at the edge, right?"

According to ACB President Steve Scroggs, this was the fourth year they have participated in the waterfront clean up at Oronoco Bay Park, adjacent to the city's rowing facility, the Dee Campbell Boat-house. ACB coordinated the event with the City of Alexandria and organized breakfast at the Boathouse for the volunteers.

The clean up followed the first race of the Fall Rowing Season for ODBC rowers, a scrimmage held at the Dee Campbell Boat-house. Next Sunday, Sept. 27, the ODBC rowers will be heading to Georgetown for Scullers' Head of the Potomac.

SPORTS

TC To Face Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 20

second pick 99 yards for the Titans' only points in the last two weeks.

"He did a great job," Matthie said. "Colson is a guy who has always been an athlete and now has taken some coaching. ... The first interception was kind of a trap defense and he executed it wonderfully. ... The second pick, that's just Colson

being Colson. The ball is tipped and you're always looking around, hoping someone will make the play."

Matthie said linebackers Teyan Williams and Tyrese Randall are also playing well.

"They're bringing the lumber," Matthie said, "and being very encouraging and being leaders out there."

The Titans are hoping for the return of senior defensive lineman Chadi Abdalla, who missed the last two games after undergoing appendix surgery.

"I think it's just another opportunity to get better,"



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

Head coach Barry Wells and the Mount Vernon Majors are off to a 2-1 start.

Matthie said about Friday's game. "Mount Vernon to me is a much-improved team. Watching film, they're more physical than they were last year and they have some athletes that are pretty good."

Wells seemed to place more importance on the game.

"TC, it's a tipping point for us," the Mount Vernon head coach said. "A win here goes a long, long way, as opposed to being .500 and facing a tough game [against Wakefield]."

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Revitalization Includes Small Neighborhood Parks

BY KATHARINE DIXON
PRESIDENT,
REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

A mom pushing a stroller with a toddler skipping beside her is an image that stays with me following our day in the park.

I had the privilege of being in Hume Springs Park volunteering with 60 Fannie Mae employees, working to rejuvenate this urban oasis and make it an even better place for children and families to spend time. Hume Springs is a half-acre park tucked in a low-income neighborhood that borders Arlandria that needed a little TLC. We were also working in partnership with the city's Parks & Recreation Department and RunningBrooke, an Alexandria nonprofit dedicated to helping at-risk children.

This bright, sunny day, our volunteers from Fannie Mae built and installed park benches and tables, cleared sod for a stone pathway, installed new signage, and removed bushes/trees, making the park safer and more inviting.

Every day, Rebuilding Together Alexandria works to preserve housing affordability and revitalize the Alexandria community by providing free, safe, and healthy home re-

pairs. We typically provide upgrades to low-income homeowners, which is important since most of these clients live near the poverty level. By improving their housing conditions, we can help them remain active members of their neighborhood and in turn help our city remain economically, socially and culturally diverse.

But we also recognize that revitalizing a community requires more than helping individuals. Successful communities need safe places to meet, play, exercise, and hold events. In fact according to the City Parks Alliance, a national nonprofit dedicated to preserving and building parks, "easy access to parks, green spaces, and recreation areas is critical to the wellbeing of urban communities, [and] are vital to the future of America's cities."

There are several specific benefits for investing in parks and rehabbing them as part of the urban infrastructure, notes the City Parks Alliance. One is that parks spur economic growth. In fact, Texas A&M University research found "at least a 20 percent increase in value for properties abutting parks." Another is that parks "are an important part of the solution in reducing obesity and its associated public health costs." Also, city parks are an important part of the ecosystem as trees in urban areas are credited with removing 711,000 tons of air pollution annually in the U.S.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers from Fannie Mae working in Hume Springs Park.

All these reasons are why we invest time into repairing homes as well as open spaces. With the help of volunteers, we know that Hume Springs Park can be a community unifier focused on health, neighbors, and the outdoors. But nothing quite drives the

point home better than a child hopping and running through something you helped make better. It's revitalizing.

To learn more about volunteering with us, visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 15

in Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Mayor Euille has been accused of somehow forcing members of the City Council to vote with him. If anyone has ever watched a council meeting or met any of the city councilors one would quickly realize they are all very intelligent, independent, and opinionated people and wonderful public servants. The fact is that Mayor Euille has always sought consensus and most of the time been able to build strong coalitions, on council as well as in the larger community.

The reality is that Alexandria is about to experience a renaissance. The performance of the city in almost universally positive; schools are improving as evidenced in higher test scores; we have gotten ahead of a region-wide school capacity crunch by building three new school buildings over the past 15 years; we are experiencing the lowest crime rate in 40 years; we are implementing long-delayed infrastructure projects that will improve our quality of life; we are attracting new business and government agencies to the city; we are increasing affordable and workforce housing. The city is putting their trust in the citizens of

Alexandria as evidenced by their support of public-private ventures to like the Maury Elementary Schoolyard Initiative. Alexandria is increasing open space, expanding and diversifying our tax base, and setting a course for an even brighter future.

Now is the time to stay the course rather than steer our city's ship towards an uncertain future. I urge you to fill-in the box and write-in Bill Euille for mayor and vote for the Democratic candidates for City Council. Together, they will ensure continued progress for our city.

Glenn Klaus
Alexandria

What Happened To One Alexandria?

To the Editor:

If Bill Euille is trying to repeat what Republican Frank Mann did in the early '70s, and win a write-in campaign for mayor, he has a big challenge ahead of him as Frank Mann only needed 4,122 to win a May Election. Mr. Euille will need significantly more than that in a general election, with over 25,000 voters expected.

Mr. Euille should remember that 64 percent did not support him having a fifth term, so about two-thirds of voters voted against him and for another candidate. Lastly, there was not a low turnout in the primary. It was actually pretty strong for an off-year election, at around 8 percent. It will be very hard for Mr. Euille to convince half of the voters going to the poll in a General Election to write him in, something most voters are unfamiliar with doing. It is now a one-on-one race, not a three-way, a race that he couldn't even win as an incumbent, which is usually a big advantage. There are reasons that he had two challengers, and failed to convince even a third of voters to vote for him. He used to run on the idea of "One Alexandria," and now he is running to divide Alexandria.

On the other hand, many people voted for a new candidate for mayor that they liked, Allison Silberberg. Her concern for social services, libraries, and reaching out to those faced with a tragedy spoke to many people in Alexandria. Her concern about the pace and size of development, and the size of our debt, and the cost of carrying that debt, spoke to many people who are having to watch their personnel budgets more carefully.

She did not attack either of her opponents, and I believe many people in Alexandria wanted the city to turn in a new direction. Even if they like the pace of development, they feel it is time that there is some return on the increased tax revenue we supposedly get from development. We need to have storm water sewer separation to improve our water quality, and we have other infrastructure needs. We need to look at future sites like the Gen-On site not just for their development potential, but for their open space and public park potential. We need to have a range of options on the table when it comes to major decisions, not just "my way or the highway."

One Alexandria is proving to mean the way one person sees the city, and not listening to a variety of viewpoints to come to a consensus. Bill Euille failed to listen to voters, and he has failed to listen to the advice of those who think he should consider his legacy over his ego. On election night, Bill Euille chose not to stick around to congratulate either of his two opponents, if either of them should win. He surely would of been congratulated by either of them and quickly endorsed. Instead of conceding and leaving office gra-

ciously, he has chosen to challenge the election, and go for a second, if albeit quixotic, chance to win. As a four term mayor, Bill Euille was bound to have many celebrations in his honor, and warm wishes. Now he has chosen sour grapes instead. If you don't like the result, ignore your pledge not to run as an independent, and abandon your party. I think those sour grapes will leave a bitter taste in many voters' mouths, as they have in mine. I urge voters to support Allison Silbereberg and keep the city moving forward.

Boyd Walker
Alexandria

Do Not Erase History

To the Editor:

I wrote a letter to the editor in July advocating the removal of Appomattox, the bronze statue of a Confederate soldier, from its position of prominence at South Washington and Prince Streets to a spot that does not imply city or Commonwealth sympathy to the Confederate cause.

The recent clamor to rename streets named after Confederates

SEE LETTERS PAGE 23

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 22

seems over the top. Although their ultimate cause was the continuation and expansion of the institution of slavery, that does not mean that those who supported the Confederacy, or even slavery itself, as evil and unjust as it was, were themselves evil and despicable. As individuals, they were probably no better or worse than their Federal brothers. People are a product of their time and place and their deeds in the Civil War are our national equivalent to the myths of the Greco-Persian Wars.

More pragmatically, it will cost money and cause confusion. Besides, people do not generally think of those for whom the streets were named. They are now mere monikers indicating a place. The same can be said for T. C. Williams High School. To present and former pupils and Alexandrians, it is just the name of their school and few know and fewer care that he supported segregation in complete antithesis to the school's diversity. History is full of ironies and erasing portions of it for present political correctness hollows its lessons.

Philip Brinkman
Alexandria

Address Disrespect

To the Editor:

City Council did not crown itself with glory at its Sept. 12 meeting.

Council heard over four hours of testimony over the proposed demolition of the Ramsey Homes in the Parker Gray District. The testimony was — at times — emotional and passionate. Also striking were the number of young, highly articulate residents from the area who spoke of their fondness for the neighborhood and their strong desire to maintain the Ramsey Homes as an integral part of African-American history. Those citizens who spoke to council — many for the first time — are just the kind of new residents this city should encourage to participate in the public process.

However, the testimony of the citizens were met with overwhelming scorn by none other than Assistant City Attorney Chris Spera, who dismissed the citizens' testimony as "hours of gobbledygook." He characterized the speakers as providing "amateur testimony," he went on to say, adding there was also "some very heartfelt testimony and sincere testimony with actual qualified people."

His disdainful remarks were left unchallenged for several minutes by City Council, until Councilman

Smedberg admonished Mr. Spera. "Be careful about how you categorize people's testimony. Not everyone can or should have a Ph.D. in something to make their testimony to be of value."

The Assistant City Attorney issued a non-apology: "I apologize if my duration of stay (sic) up here expressed with some frustration but the fact remains many people testified off the cuff though there were also some comments from the heart," he repeated.

Most people learn in elementary school that an apology which starts as "I apologize, but ..." means they really aren't apologizing.

Alexandria prides itself in having enacted Principles of Civic Engagement, and speakers are reminded of this fact when they fill out their speaker's forms. "It is the purpose of this policy to ensure all members of the Alexandria community, regardless of station or circumstance, shall have the opportunity to express their views on matters of public policy and that their views are given fair and respectful consideration."

Encouraging civic engagement hardly is assisted by rude characterizations of the speakers themselves by the council's legal advisor. While Councilman Smedberg defended the citizenry, his remarks were ignored by the mayor, who did not object to the intemperance of Mr. Spera's statement.

Perhaps it is time to look again at the city's policy of Civil Engagement and ensure that it includes language to the effect that city employees are to be respectful of all citizens and whatever it is they have to say, at all times. Characterizing the testimony of citizens as gobbledygook is rude, unprofessional, and shows a fundamental disdain for the citizens who pay Mr. Spera's salary. The City Attorney's office owes all speakers an apology, and one that doesn't start with "I apologize, but"

Yvonne Callahan
President, Old Town Civic Association
Bert Ely
Vice President, Old Town Civic Association

Time for A Change

To the Editor:

I would like to offer my comments regarding Mayor Euille's decision to run a write-in candidacy for Mayor. The Mayor has offered up many excuses why he lost the Democratic primary race, but he is not listening to the majority of the residents of the City of Alexandria. First, the mayor and former Mayor Donley signed a

pledge in the Democratic primary to accept the outcome. Both have now ignored their pledge, which is a serious ethical breach and shows very little character.

Both Mayor Euille and Kerry Donley have taken a leave of absence from the Alexandria Democratic Committee (ADC). So, on Nov. 4 they become members again? Should that be allowed?

Mayor Euille blamed the Republicans and low-voter turnout for his primary loss. But if the mayor was so popular with city residents, wouldn't more people have turned out to vote? Furthermore, the ADC had an open primary. If Euille and Donley were so concerned about non-Democrats voting, why didn't they push for a closed primary?

Much of Mayor Euille's \$195K plus primary campaign funding came from donations from developers. Vice Mayor Silberberg refused to accept donations from developers. The historical fabric of our great city is being threatened by all these greedy developers trying to make the city look like Crystal City — metal and glass condos everywhere. Alexandria thrives on tourism. Tourists are not traveling here to see boardwalks, condos and metal/glass buildings. They are coming here to see and trace the steps of our founding fathers and other historical sites.

Mayor Euille and most council members have plundered this city into over \$532 million dollars of debt. The yearly debt service on this is \$62M per year. Soon, this will grow to over \$1 billion in debt when you add in the new Potomac Yards Metro; needed infrastructure replacements and a new elementary school. How does one pay back \$1 billion without raising several types of taxes — property, sales, lodging and other local taxes? That is all money coming out of our pockets which is needed to feed, clothe and house our families.

The mayor has this grand plan for a boardwalk and talks of the revenue generated from such. Has the city realized all the revenue projections they so proudly proclaimed they would receive from overflow crowds from National Harbor? How about the revenue generated from the use of trolley cars going back and forth from the King Street Metro to the waterfront? Oops, that is free. However, the mayor did raise our parking meter times in Old Town from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for added revenue. That money along with \$7 million in annual parking ticket revenue is generated.

The mayor also undertook a very long, costly and nasty fight with the Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) and even threatened to use eminent domain against this

private club if they did not give in to the mayor's wishes to give up their property. The ODBC is one of the oldest private clubs in town and has donated thousands of dollars to charities throughout the city and to city expenditures. Private entities should never be threatened with eminent domain, in my opinion.

It is time for a change. Mayor Euille has been mayor for 12 years. He has shown lapses in judgment and just plain ignoring the wishes of city residents. Vice Mayor Silberberg has won the Democratic primary fairly. She has repeatedly spent time listening to residents all over the City of Alexandria and shows a genuine deep concern for all residents.

She is also the only City Council member that has the courage to fight against all these developers threatening our historical city fabric. I therefore strongly urge all residents in the City of Alexandria to vote for Alison Silberberg for mayor on Nov. 3.

Lorie A. Green
Alexandria

Success, Not Stagnation

To the Editor:

I am writing to voice my concerns for The Alexandria Democratic Committee. Even as Alexandria moves forward with important projects such as Potomac Yard Metro, the current Democratic administration weakens every project by pandering to both the developers and to the stodgy anti-everything Old Town Civic Association. By frustrating both progressives and the OTCA, the current administration may very well have lost the support of both.

With its growing economy and growing population, the D.C. area is undergoing fundamental change. Change is divisive and Alexandria sits on prime historic real estate near the center of the action. Based on their letters to the Gazette-Packet, the anti-everything crowd, Alexandria's version of the Tea Party, would have us stop building much of anything. This radical idea would cost us dearly. It would hurt our economy.

It would turn limited affordable housing into pricey condos.

The sensible policy is to add high-density housing, add high-capacity transportation, and to make those changes work. City Hall is working on the first two but has failed to convince citizens, including me, that they will make those changes work.

I'll focus on transportation because that is what I know best, but there are other examples of inaction. Consider that Confederate statue, with its back turned to Washington. Like the Tea Party, it belongs in a museum.

While City Hall clings to a middle ground that doesn't exist, citizens are moving forward. Transit-oriented housing in Potomac Yard is selling at high prices because people want to live near D.C. and have reduced-stress commutes. Outside of D.C., Alexandria leads the region in car-free households, even ahead of Arlington.

Meanwhile, City Hall is systematically rebuilding without installing a single bike lane. Potomac Yard? Nothing. Oakville triangle? Not one. The West End Transitway? Nada. This is what happens when City Hall panders to developers, who want maximum space for condos, and to the OTCA, which doesn't want bicycles to slow down their cars. Is this our future? Bigger buildings, more cars, and minimal space for people? Yuk.

Supporters of Allison Silberberg, the Democratic mayoral candidate, clearly want her to lead us towards the anti-everything end of the spectrum even as she assures us that the new Metro Station will be built. The ADC, it seems, is bravely leading us from the mushy middle to another spot in the mushy middle.

Where are the progressives? Where is the candidate who prioritizes people instead of profit? Where is the voice of the Millennials? The ADC needs to locate those voices and start listening. In the meantime, progressives would do well to seek out and support only those few candidates who are working for success rather than stagnation.

Jonathan Krall
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Dual-Role

FROM PAGE 1
fire department, which is why the City Council has largely left the decisions to the judgment of Fire Chief Robert Dubé. In the old single-role system, if someone called 911, the care provided to the victim depended on whether or not an ambulance or a fire unit arrived at the scene first. Fire Units carried three or four Firefighter/EMTs who could provide basic life support (BLS) but not advanced life support (ALS). Under the new system, those providers are cross-trained. One medic rides along with the fire unit and is also trained as a firefighter, the medic on the ambulance is replaced with a firefighter specialist. In this way, no matter which vehicle arrives at a scene first, they can provide the same level of medical care. Both Arlington and Fairfax use dual-role systems, and their respective fire chiefs wrote in letters of support for the change to the Alexandria City Council.

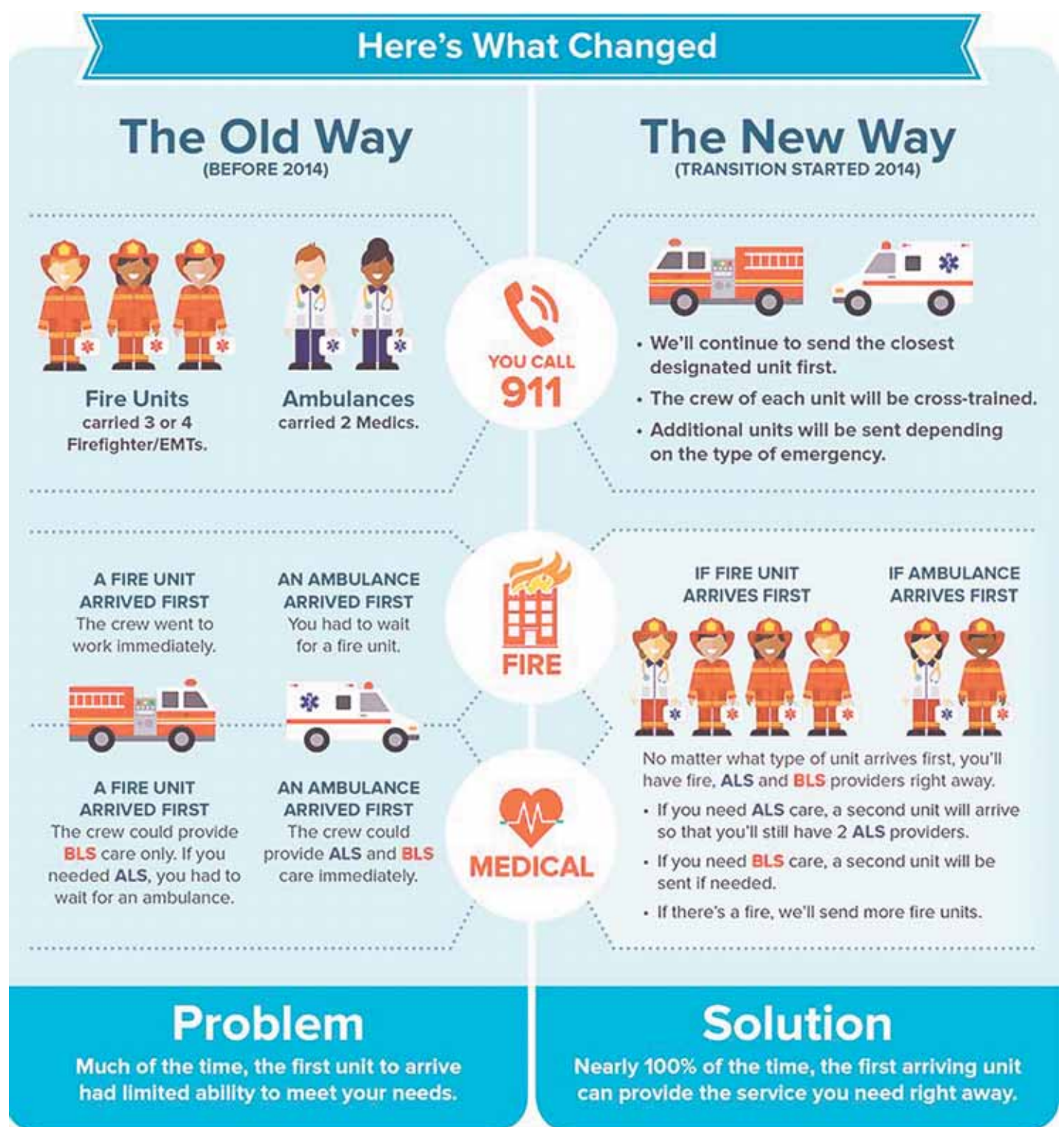
However, the new plan is opposed by many of the city's paramedics. Michael Kohrt, president-elect of the Alexandria Medics Association, said the plan fixes problems that don't exist. According to Kohrt, most of the calls received by the Fire Department are for very routine situations that do not require ALS care. Dubé says there's truth to this. The morning of the interview, the Fire Department receives a call about a traffic accident in Carlyle. It's nothing too bad, it certainly doesn't require ALS, and Dubé says that's the majority of the types of calls received by the fire department. Only 8 percent of calls require ALS. However, if the situation were worse, the closest ambulance is in Del Ray. The closest fire unit? Just a few blocks away.

The association argues that the quality of care will not be as specialized as it would with a medical unit. Kohrt expressed serious concerns that one of the two firefighter-medics would be removed from the transport unit, replaced with a firefighter-specialist driver. Dubé answered that the second person on the medical transport unit is a driver, a role that doesn't require extensive medical experience, but Kohrt noted that the situation can be a lot more complicated. Kohrt recalled an incident in Alexandria where a medical unit arrived at the scene of a shooting. It was a critical situation, and both of the medics were needed to save the victim's life. Kohrt's chief concern is that if the fire truck is away on a fire-related call, there will only be one paramedic available in a situation like this.

There is also the question of specialization.

"Advanced life support, when it is needed, needs to be performed by people who are very skilled at this," said Kohrt. "What happens is, people come out of school and they learn their skill, and when they're assigned to an engine company it removes their skills. Not all of it, but a good deal of it. Opening a surgical airway is not an option in Fairfax, they will just drive as fast as they can to somewhere that can do it."

Kohrt argues that medics spend more time specifically training for medical emergencies, and more importantly, deal directly



Infographic by the Alexandria Fire Department outlining changes to the plan.

with those issues every time they go into the field. Dubé answered that the new firefighter-medics are held to the same high standards as current medic staff, but Kohrt is still skeptical.

"Something bad is going to happen if this plan continues," said Kohrt. "You have all these fire trucks on every corner in case something happens. If the fire chief believes he needs paramedics on every truck, go ahead. But don't take the resources away from ambulances in order to put those resources on a fire truck."

Medics at the public hearing also raised concerns that single-role medics currently in the department, who weren't cross-trained as firefighters, would be removed from their positions. Dubé said that no single-role medics would be forced out of their positions, even the current EMS supervisors, but as members of the department retire from those positions, they will be filled exclusively with cross-trained personnel.



Fire Chief Robert Dubé in front of a Dual-Role Transport Unit.

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES GAZETTE PACKET

Kohrt emphasized that the plan is continuing to evolve, and the Medics Association's primary goal is to make sure

the changes are for the better.

"We want to continue to fix the plan for the better," said Kohrt. "We want it to be good for the people in this city."

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-Elizabeth
Barret Browing

21 Announcements

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.

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Title: RFP No. 00000539, Landscape Architectural Design Services for the Conceptual Design, Park Grading Plan, and Construction Drawings of the Simpson Park Playground and Passive Space Renovation

RFP Closing Date and Time: October 14, 2015, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-Mandatory Site Visit: September 22, 2015, 11:00 a.m., prevailing local time at Eugene Simpson Stadium Park located at 426 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.

For general inquiries contact Peter Tomaselli, Contract Specialist I at 703.746.3892.

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The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for General Construction Services, Job Order Contracting.

Sealed Proposals with the notation **RFP# 15-09-04 - General Construction**, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, October 30, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

All questions should be submitted before 3:00 p.m., October 21, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPs web site.

There is a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for this RFP on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 10:30 AM, at the Alexandria City Public Schools Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, in the third floor conference room 310-3B, in Alexandria, VA 22314. All Offerors interested in providing the services in the RFP are encouraged to attend. The Conference will include a site visit to several school locations.

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

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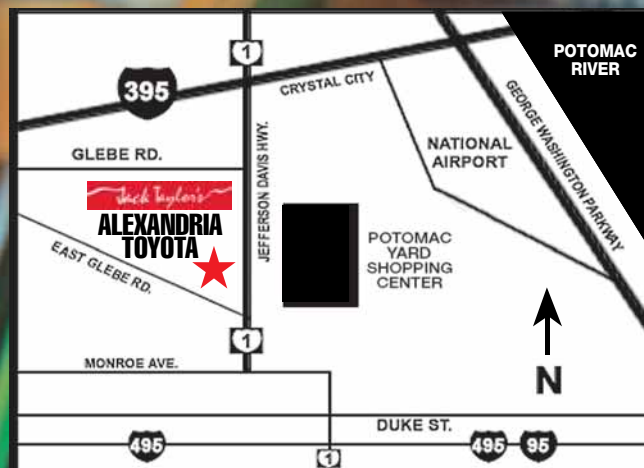
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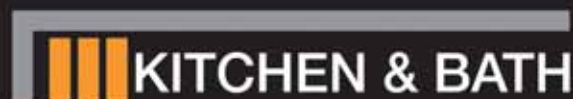
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HomeLifeStyle

Trading Spaces

Two retirees swap Old Town Alexandria digs for an RV

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A retired couple is feeling liberated after selling their Old Town Alexandria home and buying a Winnebago. Cathy and Mick Hanratty, who'd been living in their Winnebago at Fort Belvoir, left town earlier this week to see the country.

"We have three greyhounds so we had to have our dogs with us when we travel," said Cathy, a retired nurse. "With the RV, we can go anywhere we want to go and take our dogs with us. ... We don't have to worry about finding a hotel when we travel that accepts animals."

The couple lived in Old Town for 16 years. While they enjoyed the community, they found the winter weather too brutal for their liking. "When winter came, I hated it," said Cathy. "Now we'll be in Florida in winter."

The Hanrattys say the transition wasn't as difficult for them as it might be for some because of their backgrounds. "We are both Army brats so we've been doing this all our lives," said Mick, a retired Army colonel. "It's not like someone who lived in the same place all our lives to all of a sudden move to an RV. We're used to a transient manner."

The Hanrattys say their Winnebago is comfortable. It boasts a living room with a large-screen television, recessed lighting and an electric fireplace. The kitchen is equipped with a convection-microwave oven, an apartment-sized refrigerator in stainless steel and a propane stove. There is a king-size bed in the bedroom and woodwork in a cherry finish.

"One thing that impressed us was all the storage," said Mick. "There's even a lot of overhead storage."

Porcelain flooring throughout "makes it much easier to clean," said Cathy.

The Hanrattys, who have been married for 42 years, say their new lifestyle offers



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCKENNEY ASSOCIATES

Cathy and Mick Hanratty sold their Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, home and bought a Winnebago.

them flexibility. "It's much more relaxing," said Cathy. "If we go someplace we don't like, we can pick up and go somewhere else. When you own a house in Old Town, you can't just leave if you decide you don't like it."

Their Old Town Alexandria home, which was located in Old Town Village, actually sold before it went on the market. "It's a

really popular area," said Lisa Groover, of McKenney Associates, the couple's real estate agent. "People are always looking for homes there."

"I was thrilled to have an opportunity to work with friends and neighbors," said Groover. "They were open to ideas and suggestions about marketing."

Although the couple have yet to de-

cide on their final destination, they're optimistic.

"We're anxious to travel around the country and to find a place where we feel comfortable enough to settle down," said Mick. "We have to find a place that affords us a home base where we can park our RV. We're thinking about a house with an RV garage, probably in Georgia, Florida or South Carolina."



The living room of Cathy and Mick Hanratty's Winnebago has an electric fireplace and large-screen television.



Cathy and Mick Hanratty's Winnebago has a king-sized bed and an abundance of storage.

HomeLifeStyle

Evolution of a Family Home

BY JOHN BYRD

Starting in the late 1990s, Paul and Laurie Carter began transforming a simple production house into a personal residence.

Collaborating closely with Sun Design Remodeling, the Carters nursed their vision of an exceptional property with a stunning indoor-outdoor continuum.

This past September, the public was invited to see the results.

Paul and Laurie Carter purchased a new production house in a new neighborhood not far from Mount Vernon. At 3,700 square feet, it was a perfect spot to settle down and raise their son. The schools nearby were excellent; the house was just a few miles from Old Town Alexandria. But there were some things about the property Carters thought they might improve — if they were to stay in residence long enough.

Cramped master bathroom; no family play area; dark rear rooms with no visual continuum; cabinet-cluttered kitchen; builder-grade finishes ... Just a few of the perceived shortcomings.

But skip ahead almost two decades, and the whole house remodel that the public was invited to see this past September demonstrates the kinds of improvements and upgrades that can occur when owners continue to occupy, modifying the environment to suit evolving interests.

In fact: it's no longer merely a house. It's

the Carter's long-term residence.

"The ideal of long term ownership is the option to create a home that, over time, becomes more supportive of favored activities and aesthetic preferences," says Bob Gallagher, Sun Design Remodeling's Executive Vice President. "We are finding this kind of on-going commitment to personalizing a residence much more frequently than in decades past."

Gallagher was at the house Sept. 12 to greet neighbors who wanted to learn more about remodeling in phases. Sun Design had guided the Carters throughout nearly every revision over the past decade. Many guests seem surprised at the project's top-to-bottom scope.

The Carters are quick to acknowledge that their periodic home remodeling efforts have been a logical and sequential response to family needs — beginning with an 18-foot-by-36-foot swimming pool installed on their quarter acre lot in 2006.

"We wanted a place where Paul, our son, Austin, and I could enjoy pleasant summers together as a family," recalls Laurie. "Our remodeling changes reflect the different stages of our lives, and the lifestyle options we wanted to pursue in day-to-day living."

As Austin's circle of friends expanded, for instance, the Carters hired Sun Design Remodeling to convert the home's unfinished lower level into a spacious family room and fitness center complete with a billiards table and TV viewing area suitable for guests of all generations.

During this same time period, Paul and Laurie, both working professionals, sought improvements to the second floor master suite, introducing a sizable master bath with a walk-in shower and changing vestibule. The plan was designed so that one partner could shower, dress and slip off to work without rousing the other partner, who might be still sleeping.

"The new master suite made life more comfortable for both of us," Laurie says, "and it still works beautifully today."

More recently, when Austin left for college, the Carters, now empty nesters,



The Carters purchased the original production house in 1998 and have steadily made focused improvements and upgrades.

began considering ways to better integrate the home's rear suite of rooms with its lovely poolside setting.

The landscaping and mature trees confer a lot of backyard privacy, so the Carters were looking for graceful ideas to better integrate indoor and outdoor horizons. "It made no sense not to have a better view and more natural light from the back of the house," she said. "Also, we didn't have a comfortable outdoor dining zone."

Not surprisingly, the core problem was the home's original floor plan.

Unchanged since the late 1990s, the three rooms on the west-facing rear elevation consisted of a central kitchen flanked by a formal dining room to the right and a family room to the left.

The dining room was sequestered from the kitchen by a floor-to-ceiling wall festooned with builder-grade cabinets. There was one small window above the kitchen sink which was, likewise, bordered by cabinets on two sides. To the left, one entered the family room, which provided an exit to a rear veranda partially covered by a shed roof.

"We had talked about a more open floor plan," Laurie recalls. "But how do you tear down the walls that are holding up the cabinets you use every day?"

As it turned out, this was a good question for Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming, who supervised the Carter's most recent remodeling.

"Something as simple as custom-designed cabinets can inspire a completely new, and much more functional, floor plan," Fleming says.

"Once the Carters were satisfied that the wall between the kitchen and dining room

could come down," he adds, "it was clear that innovative storage solutions would make it possible to further develop a special visual continuum from inside the house."

A counter surface with a gas-fueled cooktop range between the kitchen and the formal dining area, thus, provides storage for both the best family china (accessed from the dining room) and everyday cooking necessities (retrievable from the kitchen). A reach-in pantry next to the refrigerator offers supplemental storage. Though the eye-level cabinet clutter has been deleted, Fleming says there's actually been a 35 percent increase in storage capacity.

To improve natural light, the small kitchen

window has been replaced with a three-part glazing solution consisting of a 45-inch picture window flanked by two double hung windows.

Better yet, with its bianco romano granite surfaces, square flat cabinet facings and bright, reflective wall coloring, the new space has acquired a design elegance that was never previously in evidence.

"An open plan that segues to a free-flowing indoor/outdoor component is the very essence of a transitional-style interior design solu-



Eliminating walls initially seemed impossible, but custom cabinets by Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming created the opportunity for a different floorplan.

tion," says Fleming. "The formal elements provide definition and balance, yet the clean lines allow a lively visual continuum."

To provide for outdoor dining, Fleming extended the rear shed roof over the previously sun exposed decking. The former outdoor dining niche now becomes a viewing area adjacent to a recently installed flat screen TV.

With the addition of two overhead rotating fans, the new outdoor space is both intimately connected to the house and visually linked to the pool and well-landscaped setting.

"We couldn't be more pleased with how well the house has evolved over the years," says Laurie. "We look forward to living here long into the future."

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years. See more stories at www.HomeFrontsNews.com.



Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming extended the shed roof to cover sun-exposed decking. Two overhead rotating fans add comfort.



The home's unfinished lower-level was converted into a spacious family room and fitness center complete with a billiards table and media viewing area.

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4 ♦ ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ HomeLifeStyle Fall 2015

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BOWA kitchen renovation in Arlington features under-counter microwave and beverage center.



BOWA basement renovation includes space for arts & crafts, games and media.

Remodeling in 2015: All about Family

Adapting your home so it tracks your family's development over the years.

BY JOSHUA BAKER
BOWA

Almost every luxury remodel starts with the same question "How can we improve our family's life at home?" But this answer varies as our families grow, age and evolve. And the best designs consider both current and future needs.

For young families, the focus is almost always child-centric. Kitchens are designed with low drawers for easy access to the most important items, like sippy cups and napkins. Refrigerator drawers installed as beverage stations and below-the-counter microwaves allow the "vertically challenged" to help themselves. Study areas are incorporated into family spaces to allow for parent-child interaction at homework time.

Creative storage solutions and child-friendly finishes, like washable wall paint, chalk-board paint in play areas, and custom ceramic tiles featuring kids' artwork in their bath, all lend to a successful design.

In the teen years, the question asked most often is, "How do I create the house where all the kids and their friends want to hang out?" For this age group, creative basement remodels with game areas are most popular, and perhaps not surprisingly, basement bars are often minimized or omitted completely. As opposed to the closed-off theaters of the past, media viewing rooms are now open and designed as multi-purpose spaces that also facilitate informal gatherings and entertaining. For the ambitious, outdoor features, such as pools, patios and fire pits, can create a neighborhood destination. (Though pools and water features are of-

ten delayed until kids are old enough to be safe around water.)

Teen-friendly designs often include a family foyer, an entrance from the garage with plenty of storage for sports equipment, coats, backpacks, etc. Other potential opportunities for teens include creating small, fun spaces like lofts in bedrooms, themed bedrooms, and making sure that there are plenty of USB charging stations.

For empty nesters, remodeling typically involves "downsizing" within the home by planning to use the space more efficiently. Often, one-level living is designed for convenience and to reduce energy use. Heating and cooling systems are zoned so only the inhabited areas are fully conditioned when in use. Apartment-style washer and dryers are right sized for a couple. Smaller, drawer-style dishwashers are also available. And, perhaps now is the time to discuss repurposing spaces that were previously used as game rooms or homework stations into areas to accommodate hobbies and interests.

Almost all design discussions should at least contemplate the potential for boomerang kids (children coming home after college), in-laws, or elderly family members who might join the home. For those wanting more independence and privacy, in-law suites sometimes include private entrances and even a small kitchenette. Sometimes kids' rooms are moved to the basement to add more privacy.

For all of us as we get older, a house that incorporates the principles of universal design, which allow us to live comfortably and safely in the homes we love, is a critical conversation. Design considerations include creating accessibility-friendly baths, kitchens, entrances and passageways and

perhaps reconfiguring to minimize steps. Often, a strategy that comes up is the consideration of the installation of an elevator to facilitate long-time use.

The design priorities for each remodel are unique to the family, but thinking about all the different phases of family life is critical to long-term success.

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.



Renovated home office by BOWA features space for the whole family.



Custom designed cabinetry in this renovated family foyer in Great Falls keeps a busy family organized.

Notes

Mary Bayat, owner of Bayat Realty Inc. in Alexandria, was installed as the 2015 chair of the Board of Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. As a director for the National Association of Realtors, Bayat has supported the implementation of core standards for local associations to ensure industry professionalism. Bayat has also been involved with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Global Forum.

Harry Braswell, Inc., of Alexandria, which has served the Northern Virginia area for more than 30 years, is introducing Concierge Home Services for homeowners in Northern Virginia. The members-only services include home maintenance plans, snow removal, off-site storage and à la carte consultation.

The headquarters of the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** will relocate to the Victory Center in Alexandria with a 15-year lease.

Weichert, Realtors' Alexandria/Old Town Office was recognized for outstanding performance in May. The office led both the company and the region, which is comprised of offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for resale dollar volume.

Ruppert Landscape promoted Joshua Araujo and Mike Lopes in its Alexandria Landscape Management Branch. Araujo has been promoted to area manager. Lopes has been promoted to enhancement manager.

Morgan Price has joined the Alexandria office of BB&T Scott & Stringfellow as vice president and financial advisor. Price has more than seven years of experience in the financial services industry, most recently with SunTrust Investment Services.

Managing Director at Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, **David Speck**, was recognized in the 2015 edition of the Financial Times 400 Top Advisers in the United States.

Michael Ormonde has been named the new area president for Wells Fargo's South Potomac Region. Ormonde has worked for Wells Fargo since 1998 when he became a teller at a San Francisco branch. Most recently he served as a district manager. Ormonde replaces **Ravi Chandra**, named regional president for Western Virginia.



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July, 2015 Top Sales

IN JULY 2015, 236 ALEXANDRIA HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$2,495,000-\$120,000.

PHOTOS BY HAL VERNON/THE CONNECTION



10 325 Pitt Street North — \$1,145,000



1 410 Prince Street — \$2,495,000



2 212 Royal Street South — \$1,515,000



3 208 Wolfe Street — \$1,317,000



8 106 Wolfe Street — \$1,165,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 410 PRINCE ST	4	3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,495,000	Townhouse	0.07	22314	OLD TOWN	07/02/15
2 212 ROYAL ST S	3	3	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,515,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN	07/30/15
3 208 WOLFE ST	3	2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,317,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN	07/17/15
4 3309 RUSSELL RD	5	4	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,280,000	Detached	0.23	22305	MOUNT IDA	07/31/15
5 331 MANSION DR	4	2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,278,000	Detached	0.23	22302	JEFFERSON PARK	07/30/15
6 2710 FARM RD	5	5	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,249,500	Detached	0.20	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS	07/28/15
7 319 KENTUCKY AVE	4	4	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,202,500	Detached	0.21	22305	BEVERLY HILLS	07/10/15
8 106 WOLFE ST	4	3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,165,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN	07/17/15
9 4875 MAURY LN	3	3	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,150,000	Detached	1.79	22304	MOORE HILL ESTATES	07/24/15
10 325 PITT ST N	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,145,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	PITT MEWS	07/08/15

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