

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



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25 CENTS

MARCH 10, 2016



## Annual Tradition

Alexandria Pipes and Drums passes the reviewing stand on Saturday, March 5 during the annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 8.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET



City Councilman Willie Bailey greets parade spectators.



Anne Anderson (left), ambassador of Ireland to the United States, with Pat Troy, chairman emeritus of the Ballyshaners and founder of Alexandria's Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



Brett Disher (left) and Katie Quattrini celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in Old Town.

## Ramsey Reconsidered

Rebuilding the strained "special relationship."

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**e zoning a piece of property without having an approved plan — for what will replace it — is highly unusual, but it doesn't mean the City Council won't do it.

At the March 8 City Council work session with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), the mayor and City Council members emphasized that, if they approved the rezoning of Ramsey Homes at the up-

coming March 12 public hearing, it's only because of the city's "special relationship" with ARHA.

The work session was part of a recent string of surprises surrounding the redevelopment of Ramsey Homes. When the proposal to demolish the existing four homes was denied by the Board of Architectural Review in April of 2015, the decision was appealed and later reversed by the City Council in September. The project proposed by ARHA would be a 52-unit mixed income rental property.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 26

## Remembering Dorothy Evans Turner

Public housing, Civil Rights activist dies at 87.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

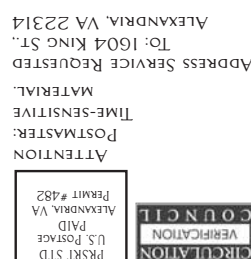
**T**o her friends, she was affectionately known as "Peaches." But the tender moniker belied the fierce, unyielding spirit of Dorothy Turner, a descendant of one of Alexandria's oldest African American families,

SEE TURNER, PAGE 26



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

**Dorothy Turner, who was named a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2012 for her community activism, died March 3 at the age of 87.**







## Ahh... One of the best signs of Spring

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# A Salute to Service

Senior Services of Alexandria gala set for March 12.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It was Thomas Jefferson who said that “every human being feels pleasure in doing good to another,” and the willingness of Alexandrians to serve others is often cited as what sets the community apart from others. On March 12, Senior Services of Alexandria will hold its annual Generation to Generation Gala to honor individuals who have been creating change for their neighbors and community through service.

This year’s gala will recognize two Alexandria families for their long-term commitment to giving back in the local community: Sue Goodhart and her daughter Allison Goodhart DuShuttle; and Kitty Porterfield and her son Mike Porterfield and his daughters Keely and Kirby Porterfield. SSA will also present its inaugural special Service Award to H. Arthur Sauer in recognition of his commitment to service and leadership in Alexandria.

“We are honored to pay tribute to this year’s Generation to Generation honorees,” said Mary Lee Anderson, SSA’s executive director. “They epitomize the Alexandria spirit of giving back and the importance of making a difference in the local community.”

## SUE GOODHART AND ALLISON GOODHART DuSHUTTLE

The Goodhart family has been a mainstay of the Alexandria community giving back in both their professional and personal lives. Sue Goodhart and Allison

Goodhart DuShuttle are members of McEneaney Associates Realtors’ Goodhart Group. In 2008, they were named the Small Business Philanthropist of the Year by the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau.

Sue Goodhart is active in several local charities including president of the board of directors of St. Coletta’s of Greater Washington, a member of the board of directors and Supporting Friends of the Campagna Center and a long-time advisor for The Fund for Alexandria’s Child, as well as many other philanthropic involvements.

Allison Goodhart DuShuttle is the co-chair of the Advisory Council for The Fund for Alexandria’s Child and an active member of the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center.

## THE PORTERFIELD FAMILY

The Porterfield family has been giving back to the community since they moved to Alexandria in 1963. Kitty Porterfield was instrumental in founding the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, becoming its first executive director. She has been involved in a number of nonprofit boards and task forces related to education and youth issues. Most notably, she served as the chair of the Northern Virginia Community College Board, NOVA’s College Fund Board of Trustees and is currently chair of the board of the Northern Virginia Literacy Council.

Mike Porterfield is a principal of Tartan Properties, a family-owned Alexandria commercial real estate brokerage firm. He is chair of the Small Business Development Center, past chairman of the board of



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sue Goodhart and daughter Allison Goodhart DuShuttle.

trustees for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and past member of the board of directors for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Mike’s daughters Keely and Kirby Porterfield’s volunteering efforts include participating in the Arlington Street People’s Association Shoebox Sunday project and coaching Alexandria youth soccer.

## H. ARTHUR SAUER

H. Arthur Sauer, recipient of the SSA Service Award, has also made a volunteering a priority. During his federal government career, Sauer joined Westminster Presbyterian Church and volunteered with the So Others May Eat (SOME) program before heading off to work. After retirement, vol-

unteering became his full-time job and passion. Currently, he serves as Westminster’s volunteer coordinator of Member Involvement and actively participates in the Westminster Tutoring Program, the Bag Lunch Program, Rebuilding Together Alexandria and numerous church mission programs. He served as a board member of Senior Services of Alexandria for over 10 years, including several years as treasurer, and currently continues to serve on SSA’s finance committee.

The SSA Generation to Generation gala will be held March 12 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, from 6 to 11 p.m. For more information about this year’s gala and its honorees, call Senior Services at 703-836-4414 or visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) to sponsor the event or purchase tickets.



H. Arthur Sauer



Kitty Porterfield with son Mike Porterfield and his daughters Keely and Kirby.

## What’s Needed To Succeed In Alexandria

Small business owners offer suggestions.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

It might not sound like much for the average Alexandrian, but a zoning community meeting could be the first step towards making Alexandria a better home for small businesses. On March 19, the city will host a Small Business Zoning Community Meeting, starting at 10 a.m. in the Sister Cities room at City Hall.

“Planning staff have proposed amendments to zoning ordinance,” said Stephanie Landrum, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. “This is something the city did four years ago, and the results have been fantastic from first updates. They realized that perhaps these were older, holdover rules and regulations that didn’t necessarily apply to modern businesses.”

The city revised some of the restrictive rules and regulations in the special use permitting (SUP) process, like requiring a restrictive special use permit for gyms or yoga studios opening in industrial areas for fear that the noise and smell from the gyms might bother the industrial neighbors. Another major change was that outdoor dining in certain parts of the city no longer required an SUP, only that they had to meet certain criteria and be approved by the planning director.

With the new meeting upcoming, many business owners around Alexandria weighed in on what could be done to help improve small business development in the city. The proposed changes range from specific policy goals to broader shifts in the mindset of the city.

For business owners like

SEE WHAT CITY, PAGE 5



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**Alexandria** **\$575,000**  
**1804 Rollins Dr.** 4 BR, 2.5 BA Renovated, Brick, Raised Rambler, in close-in Mount Vernon area. H/W floors, walk-out basement; carport.  
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*Julie F. Hall 703-786-3634*

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**Alexandria/Del Ray**  
**31 E Bellefonte Avenue.** Fabulous 3 Bed/2.5 Bath Del Ray townhome with a large fenced-in corner lot. This unique home features granite countertops, recessed lighting, hardwood floors, and gorgeous bathrooms. Convenient to shops, restaurants, weekend farmers' market, on Del Ray's popular Mt. Vernon Ave. <http://www.homesofalexandria.com/>  
*Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213*

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**\$549,000**  
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*Ellen Hunt 703-328-9430*

**COMING SOON**



**Alexandria/Braddock Cove** **\$799,000**  
**2202 Braddock Ct.** Spacious & updated 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial with over 2,700 sq. ft. of living space. Brand new kitchen, family room with fireplace, 4 upper level bedrooms including the Master suite. Lower level with full bath, huge rec room and lots of storage. Located on quiet cul-de-sac across from Ft. Ward Park.  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*

**COMING SOON**



**Alexandria/Ivy Hill**  
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*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*

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*Lib Willey 703-362-7206*



**Alexandria** **\$825,000**  
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*Karen Kearns 703-244-6101*



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*Michelle Zelsman 202-390-8714*



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*Jennifir Birtwhistle 703-835-1256*

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# What City Can Do To Help Businesses Succeed

FROM PAGE 3

Jody Manor, owner of Bittersweet Catering Cafe & Baker, and Danielle Romanetti, owner of Fibre Space, reform should start with ensuring balance in city decisions.

“Commercial activity is what pays our bills,” said Manor. “If we want good safety and public [infrastructure], we need commercial activity. You can’t have a city that’s just geared towards residential. It’s about finding a balance.”

Romanetti noted that most small time business owners don’t have the same time availability to attend City Council and Planning Commission meetings as other members of the public do. While council and commission members say they are not swayed by the amount of speakers in a room in favor or against an item, Romanetti says the perception among the business community is that it does have an impact.

“We need to set up a system where the voice [of businesses] is heard,” said Romanetti, “not a contest of who can get the most people [to city hall].”

## SUP PROCESS

Part of reforming business regulation in the city, Manor says, starts with changing the Special Use Permit (SUP) process. Restaurant owners are not only responsible for working through the paperwork, but also



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

**Mayor Allison Silberberg (left) with Vanessa Daniel, co-owner of the Dolce and Bean candy and gift store in Del Ray.**

for notifying all adjacent properties and affected parties.

“The restaurant approval process is arduous,” said Manor. “It gives the impression that Alexandria is not an easy place to do business.”

Rob Krupicka, co-owner of the Alexandria and Arlington branches of Sugar Shack, said that there’s a lot working against businesses

in Northern Virginia, but the smoother the city can make the application process, the better. Sugar Shack recently opened a new location in Arlington, and the experience gave Krupicka some insight on where the permitting process succeeds and fails between jurisdictions.

“Alexandria has a few more things that are automated, which is helpful,” said Krupicka. “In Arlington, you’re expected to show up in person more. The Arlington process takes a little more time out of the day. Both are very exacting in what they expect and want to see, and the staff in both places try to work with you and help make sure you know what’s going on. The Alexandria process, I’d argue overall, is a bit more business friendly. It’s a bit more flexible and more accommodating.”

Krupicka said he’d like to see the city build on its online resources for businesses.

“Both places could benefit for more automation,” said Krupicka. “The biggest thing for an entrepreneur, especially a small business person, is to give us the ability to do most of this stuff online, to file it all online, and pay for it all online, and to minimize

how frequently we have to step into an office. That lets us do more at night or in the morning.”

For a small business owner, Krupicka streamlining the SUP process is critical.

“The more jurisdictions can make their systems and processes easier to save time, the better,” said Krupicka. “Less complicated and more automated lead to better things for entrepreneurs.”

## PARKING

Other problems that affect the city, like parking issues and a lack of affordable housing, can also often impact businesses. Romanetti says many of her customers avoid coming to the city at certain times because they’re told parking is nearly impossible. But Romanetti served on the Old Town Area Parking Study, which found that many of Old Town’s parking garages sit vacant even when the streets are full. The problem, which Romanetti says the city needs to work to address, is proper signage guiding traffic to the available parking.

“We don’t have a parking problem,” said Romanetti, “we have a parking perception problem.”

## HOUSING

For business owners looking to hire

SEE HOW TO, PAGE 9

**AQUINAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL**  
Presents  
**THE LION KING JR**  
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March 11 & 12, 7-8:00 p.m.  
Bryant Alternative HS, 2709 Popkins Lane  
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## PEOPLE

# Getting Back on Track

BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Something's always happening at FireFlies on Mount Vernon. It might be Pick a Pasta Night on Tuesday, Build Your Own Omelet or Quiche Brunch on Sunday, live comedy on Monday Burger Night, local musicians on the weekend or children dancing on the stage when it's not otherwise occupied. Marylisa Lichens, owner with her husband Dan, says, "We wanted it to be a place where families could bring their children and have dinner a couple of times a week. We wanted it to become an extension of the neighborhood."

### PEOPLE AT WORK

Lichens said they bought this restaurant 13 years ago. She had grown up in this area and her grandparents lived just down the street. At the time the neighborhood was missing pizza so they decided it needed a pizza place. It turned out to be true because the night they opened there was a line out the door and down the block. "It took over three hours to get a pizza, and I ran out of everything."

In the beginning she and her husband were their own cooks but as time went on they had to move more into the ownership role. Five years ago they moved to the Shenandoah Valley with their two children. They hired a general manager and learned to be absentee owners. She says that turned out to be a nearly fatal mistake. "I was coming in once a week but it was hard not being here to make sure things happened the way I wanted." She adds, "I started to see things not matching up." The prices went up; the menu changed, and the customers fell off. "I think the general manager tried but our vision wasn't concurrent. We got lost. Customers were asking, 'Who is Fireflies?' and we were asking ourselves 'who is Fireflies?'"

Once the puzzle started to come together last year, she decided it was best not to have another general manager and that she would have to spend more time at the restaurant to restore it to the original vision. For a while she was driving the 1.5 hours from the Shenandoah Valley on Friday and going back home Monday. Since her parents still live nearby, she has a place to stay. Now she is at the restaurant Sunday-Tuesday.

She said they are starting to get back to where they want to be but they are still fighting last year's perception. "But we are making progress. I see the tides shifting." Lichens says she and her husband met



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Marylisa Lichens says, in addition to managing the restaurant, she does whatever is needed: behind the pizza oven, wrapping silver, and making a mean martini or pouring a PBR for some of the regulars. She is co-owner of Fireflies on Mount Vernon with her husband Dan.**

in culinary school in Hyde Park, N.Y. But they didn't want to get into fine dining; they wanted a casual restaurant where people can kick back and have a good time. "We have never wanted this to be cutting edge; never got into the foaming craze."

Lichens says the most popular choice is the burger "hands down. It is simple, and it is the best burger around anywhere." She points to a picture on the wall. "I wrote to the White House and invited President Obama to come and he did. I told him times were difficult, and it would be nice if he stopped by. One day in June 2014 with 15 minutes notice he surprised me and walked in." She said she couldn't believe it that she wasn't at the restaurant that day. But she talked to President Obama on the phone driving in on 66 as fast as she could to get there. Unfortunately she missed him but she did get a picture. Lichen said the President ordered an Executive burger but changed out the mayo for Dijon mustard, the American cheese for white cheddar and ordered no onion."

Her favorite is also the burger, but "I put our sloppy joe mixture on top and add pico gallo and sour cream. Maybe some day I'll add that to the menu."

Lichen jumps on the bar if needed to shake a mean martini or if they are short staffed she still cooks. "Sometimes I'm rolling silverware or drawing a PBR (Pabst Blue Ribbon) on tap for a customer. We have some dedicated followers and this is the only place in Alexandria with PBR on tap. I'm known as a person who gets things done." She says she now has a new bar manager, Daniel, who is her right hand man. "We make a good team. He has vision. I focus on the efforts day to day."

Currently she has a cool, diverse staff including an actor and a psychologist. "We have fun. We all tinker — things like getting the beer batter just right on the fish and chips. One of the employees wanted to try her donut recipe and it was really good."

Lichens say she gauges her success by talking to the regulars. This has been their watering hole for 13 years. "It's been rough and rocky but people are coming back."



**Marylisa Lichens pulls a pizza from the 630 degree oven at Fireflies. The restaurant began as a pizza place 13 years ago but the favorite "hands down" is currently the burger, enjoyed by President Obama a couple of years ago.**



PHOTOS BY JIM CRACE PHOTOGRAPHY

**From left are Donnie Simpson, former U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, Deborah Warren, Jay Kimmitt, Emily Jones, Bob Jones, and Carol Kimmitt.**

## 'Boots & Bling' Supports Children

The Center for Alexandria's Children hosted "Boots & Bling: A Western Fling" on Feb. 25 at Blackwall Hitch to benefit its programs for child abuse victims and vulnerable families in Alexandria.

The center's board of directors specially recognized both Detective Kevin Thomas of the Alexandria Police Department (2016 Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children) and the law firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP (2016 Champion for Children) for their support and commitment to the center and the children who come through its doors to get help.

The event, co-chaired by Kathryn Martin and Jessica Richardson, included live music, signature cocktails and a raffle highlighted by a signed electric guitar from Alexandria's own Charles Esten, the star of



**Deborah Warren and Deputy City Manager Debra Collins.**

the TV series, "Nashville."

Among the more than 220 attendees at the Western-themed event, which raised more than \$120,000 for the center, were Mayor Allison Silberberg, former U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, and City Councilman Justin Wilson. Many local business leaders supported the effort as well, including Elizabeth Todd of The Shoe Hive, former board member Donnie Simpson of Simpson Development, Alison Teer of The Scout Guide Alexandria, and The Goodhart Group.



**Karie Elizabeth Micklem and William Lloyd Dorrance**

## Micklem, Dorrance Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Micklem of Alexandria announce the marriage of their daughter, Karie Elizabeth, to William Lloyd Dorrance, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Dorrance of Hershey, Pa. Karie and William, both 26, live in New York City.

The bride-to-be is an account executive at VaynerMedia, a digital advertising agency, while the groom-to-be works as a manager of internal audit at the National Football League.

The couple met at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., as members of the Class of 2011 but developed their initial friendship while studying abroad in Madrid, Spain, in the winter of 2010. They will be married by the Rev. Dr. Robert R. Laha, Jr., on April 16, 2016, at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria.





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**COURTNEY GOLUBIN** +1 703 989 1873



**BELLE HAVEN** \$1,395,000 | 2210 Belle Haven Road  
Open Sunday 2-4: Sited on a large corner lot in one of Belle Haven's quietest and most secluded locations, this beautiful home has so much to offer. Gracious formal rooms, totally renovated kitchen and baths, first-floor family room with a wet bar, screened porch, garage, and lovely fenced lot.  
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**WOODLAND PARK** \$997,775 | 3217 Woodland Lane  
Contemporary waterfront home on 3/4-acre lot. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and over 3,300 square feet with large windows throughout. Gorgeous back deck with water views. Separate apartment and 2-car garage.  
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**BELLE HAVEN** \$849,000 | 6212 Tally Ho Lane  
This light-filled home offers comfortable living with its open floor plan and entertaining space. 5 BR, 4 BA. Lower-level game room, bathroom, storage, and laundry. Updated kitchen opens to sunny family room, overlooking expansive patio with built-in grill and food prep station. Minutes to Old Town, the river and DC.  
**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106  
**SHARON WILDBERGER** +1 703 597 0374



**BELLE HAVEN** \$750,000 | 6028 Fort Hunt Road  
Charming home located right across from Belle Haven Country Club. Spacious rooms, hardwood floors, recently renovated kitchen, cozy library, lower level family room, and private brick patio overlooking a lovely fenced lot.  
**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106



**PHILLIPS PARK, DC** \$3,995,000 | 2101 Foxhall Road NW  
Inspired by the estates of Brittany, France, this exceptional 6,900 sq ft residence was designed by Barnes Vanze Architects and newly built by Mauck Zantlinger & Associates. The property showcases luxurious finishes, spa baths, open kitchen and family room, high ceilings, and formal public rooms.  
**MICHAEL RANKIN** +1 202 271 3344



**SOUTHWOOD** \$595,000 | 4310 Southwood Drive  
Lovely brick colonial on a wonderful .32-acre lot in the Southwood community. Spacious kitchen, beautiful living room and dining room, 4 large bedrooms, family room with fireplace, hardwood floors.  
**THE BARKER TEAM** +1 703 928 8384

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# Filling the Street in Celebration of St. Patrick's Day



Alexandria Police lead a column of law enforcement and military services in the parade.



The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET



The Alexandria Fire Department makes its way down the parade route.

PHOTO BY MIKE MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET

Police, pets, politicians and more parade along King Street on Saturday, March 5 in celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.

Parade-goers Colleen and John Bett.



PHOTO BY  
MIKE MCMORROW  
GAZETTE PACKET



Kena Shriners perform routines in miniature cars.



St. Patrick blesses the crowd and the reviewing stand.



# How To Succeed

FROM PAGE 5

Alexandrians in their store, a lack of medium cost housing options is a major hurdle. At a meeting with Mayor Allison Silberberg on Feb. 16, hosted the Del Ray Business Association, several local business leaders said that a lack of affordable or even moderately priced housing was hurting stores' ability to hire from inside the city.

"It makes it harder to hire local," said Christine Ponzi, owner of St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. "No one can afford to live here."

"As an investor, it's killing rents in this area," said Bobi Bomar, a local Realtor. "For the \$3,000 or \$4,000 market, there's nothing to rent. The market is stagnated. We need more affordable condos instead of rental."

## SPECIAL EVENTS

One of the things that brings visitors to Alexandria businesses are special activities, like the annual Scottish or St. Patrick's Day Parades. Manor and Romanetti both noted that the city's limitation on waterfront park events hurts businesses' ability to maintain a vibrant cultural scene.

The current policy dictates that only one event with 500 people can be held in a waterfront park, and another event cannot be held in the park the following week without special approval from the council.

## CHILD CARE

In the upcoming community

meeting, Landrum says she expects staff will also reconsider regulations on private education establishments in the city, particularly for young children, following the success of the Bright Horizons early education program in the Carlyle neighborhood. Landrum says the current number of students allowed in a program is lower than it could be.

"This is an opportunity to see what works and find a way to increase the threshold of students," said Landrum.

What changes are approved in the community meeting, and how and when they're implemented, remain to be seen. In the meantime, Krupicka noted that while there's a lot the city can be doing to help small businesses, the business owners need to meet the city halfway. Krupicka said it's important for potential business owners to meet with City Council members and various commission and board members.

"Make sure you've gone in when you're not at a last minute crunch," said Krupicka. "That's really helpful. The smartest thing we did was communicating with the city well before we needed anything. A lot of the things small business gets mad at government about is preventable if you give the government enough of a notification in advance. Government doesn't move that quickly, and you can be frustrated about that, but it doesn't help your business. It takes what it takes."



PHOTO BY YOHANNIS TIRUNEH/TONY PHOTOGRAPHY

## Grand Opening

From left: Lily Damtew, Mayor Allison Silberberg, and Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile Selassie, who is president of The Crown Council of Ethiopia, at the official opening of the The Abyssinia Mart, located at 720 Jefferson in South Old Town.

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# OPINION

## Bringing Back the Electric Chair

### In a word: Barbaric.

No doubt Virginia and Texas will be the last two states to continue with the death penalty until, inevitably, evolving standards of decency lead the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

But fear of loss has motivated the Virginia General Assembly to amend a law that allows prisoners facing execution to choose between lethal injection and the electric chair so that the electric chair is used if drugs for lethal injection are not available.

It's barbaric, and execution debacles with electrocution and unproven drugs for lethal injection could speed overall rejection of the death penalty.

Most representatives from our area voted against, but in the House of Delegates, which voted 62-33 for the electric chair, Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Vivian Watts voted in favor; Tim Hugo didn't vote but registered that he intended to vote yes. (Voting no were Jennifer Boysko, David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Charniele Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam,

Paul Krizek, Mark Levine, Alfonso Lopez, Bob Marshall, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Marcus Simon and Rip Sullivan. Kathleen Murphy didn't vote but registered that she intended to vote no.)

The Virginia Senate voted for the electric chair 22-17. From our area, only Dick Saslaw voted in favor of the electric chair. Voting no were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Janet Howell, Dave Marden, Chap Petersen, Scott Surovell and Jennifer Wexton.

Residents of the 35th Senate District could rightfully question whether they are getting the representation they expect from Senator Saslaw (D), who without doubt will continue to be reelected until he chooses to retire. Saslaw voted for mandatory use of the electric chair if lethal injection drugs are not available, worked to kill legislation that would protect consumers from predatory lending and interest rates of more than 200 percent, and was chief patron of the notorious proffer bill, which, if signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as passed, will result in localities losing the ability to temper costs of development and likely property tax increases.

EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Ramsey Homes Deserve Better

To the Editor:

I am a neighbor of Ramsey Homes, and am one of the signers of the protest petition. Over 75 properties nearby to Ramsey were represented in the petition; this is not an example of a few individuals protesting a redevelopment proposal. I am writing to articulate the concerns of many of the

neighbors of Ramsey, and to make clear our objections to the current proposal.

1) There is near unanimous support in the neighborhood for affordable housing, and increased density on the site.

2) We are appalled at the current condition of Ramsey and strongly urge ARHA to immediately address the living conditions at the site.

3) ARHA, a government agency, has told one neighbor that to ac-

commodate the proposed project he should cede a portion of his property to the right of way. We believe that a property owner's rights should be protected.

4) Over 100 calendar days passed between Oct. 13, when ARHA stopped evaluating alternative development options, and Jan. 21, when pro formas evaluating each option were released to city staff and the public. The pro formas contained multiple errors and omissions, and were released

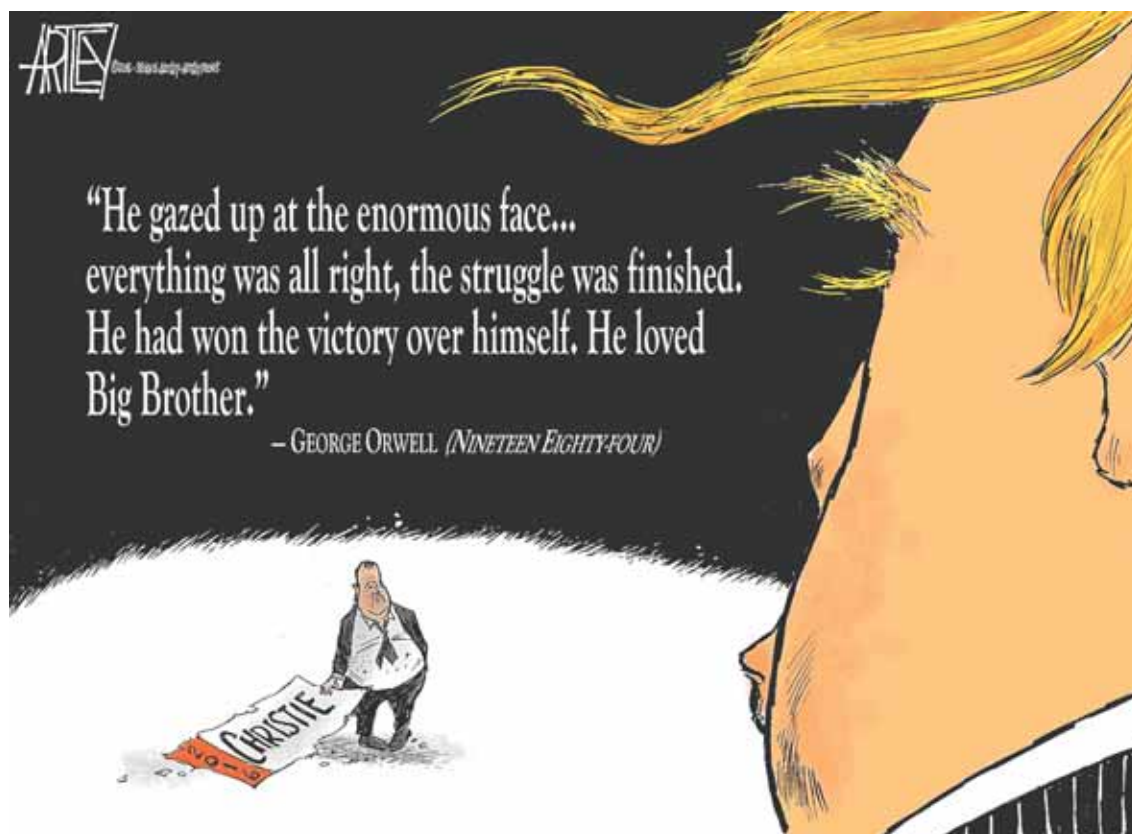
## Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick's Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. For more information, visit [www.soberide.com](http://www.soberide.com).

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

for her efforts, and recognized as a strong supporter of affordable housing.

I urge City Council to again deny the Master Plan Amendment and Rezoning on Saturday, March 12, until a lower-density project is considered and evaluated. ARHA cannot apply for Low Income Housing Tax Credits until March of 2017; there is no reason to rush this process. We have a full year to consider redevelopment on the site, let's use that time to ensure that the concerns of all stakeholders are at least heard and considered.

**Glen Roe**  
Alexandria

## Parking While Black?

To the Editor:

I am a first year student at the University of Virginia. I have lived in Alexandria's West End since I was 2 years old and am a proud graduate of T.C. Williams High School. I've followed the rules, did well in school, I was active in my community and my school. Nothing prepared for what was to happen when I returned from college for Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

Twice, while parked in Alexandria, I was approached and questioned or interrogated by Alexandria Police. I was not breaking any law. I understand there may be valid reasons to be questioned. Nonetheless, I feel like my primary offense was being young and Black and in a parked car. I am not making wild accusations. I was not physically assaulted.

These instances do make me concerned about police interactions with the Black community. At the least we need to track police stops and arrests by race or nationality. Let's see if there is a pattern of disparate treatment by

the police of people of color in Alexandria. While I hope that is not the case, my recent experiences have deeply troubled me.

**Razan Adam**  
Alexandria

## Renaming Streets

To the Editor:

I was dismayed to learn ["War of Passive Aggression" Feb. 11] that of the eight white residents who addressed the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names at the Feb. 8 meeting, every one of them spoke against renaming the streets and moving the memorial. Had I been present, the paper would have reported one white speaker in support of renaming and removal.

I would suggest that where one stands on the issue depends very much on how you answer the question posed by John Hennessy, a historian with the National Park Service: "Is it possible to honor the Confederates without honoring the Confederacy?" My view is that it is not possible; these memorials, and what they represent, I believe are totally antithetical to the cultural and community norms embraced by most Alexandrians today, and therefore should be removed.

The resolution unanimously adopted by City Council establishing the Advisory Group charged the body to develop recommendations on actions with respect to the Appomattox statue, the streets named after Confederate generals and the name of Jefferson Davis Highway. The only guidance given to the group, however, was to "bring community values, knowledge, and ideas into its discussion and considerations." Unfortunately, there are no instructions as to which or whose "community values" should be considered.

Since the resolution sprung from the City Council, I checked the council's Strategic Plan for guidance and landed on the following declaration: "Alexandria is a caring and inclusive community that values its rich diversity, history and culture ..." So, it seems fair to say that "history," "diversity" and "inclusion" are all held in high esteem throughout the Alexandria community.

The question is: Given the very particular charge at hand before the Advisory Group, can these values be accommodated or reconciled?

On the one side, those favoring "history" argue that the symbols (the street names, statue, etc) convey only respect and regard for the Confederate soldiers who fought and died or returned from the war, and therefore they must not be "vilified," nor their history "sanitized."

To others who favor "diversity and inclusion," however, those symbols have a very different meaning; they reflect an ugly period of racism, prejudice and division in our nation's history. They would likely acknowledge that many of the city's ancestors did fight bravely for the Confederacy, but they would be quick to add that they were fighting for a regime committed to white supremacy and racial purity.

No matter how well a few revisionist historians have managed to cover the misdeeds and crimes of the Confederacy, its true *raison d'être* was and remains the clear enemy of communities that wish to foster racial and ethnic diversity and cultural inclusion.

If we agree that diversity and inclusion shall remain among our most cherished values, then we must work even harder to diminish and devalue the symbols and expressions of racism, bigotry and prejudice that undermine those values.

The resolution creating the Ad

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

# Focus on Family

BY KATHARINE DIXON  
PRESIDENT REBUILDING  
TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA



Family is a central focus for Tamir, who lives with his wife and two teenage children in Alexandria. He was laid off in the fall and started working as an Uber driver to make ends meet while he seeks a new job. Making matters worse, his refrigerator broke the week before Thanksgiving. With money tight, he did not know how he was going to replace it.

**REBUILDING  
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Then he learned about Rebuilding Together Alexandria, which works to preserve housing affordability and revitalize the Alexandria community by providing free home repairs. With the help of our donors, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, is able to offer emergency home repair services to homeowner's in-need.

In this case, we replaced Tamir's refrigerator, enabling him and his wife to cook and host Thanksgiving dinner for their children and his wife's family from Connecticut. He was relieved and grateful as Thanksgiving is extremely important for Tamir, "It is my favorite holiday. Everyone celebrates it here, all ethnicities, and all religions."

Originally from Egypt, he has lived in Alexandria for many years. "It is beautiful. I love Alexandria," he said. When he is able to get back on his feet, he would love to help his brother move here and start a new life. First though, he believes that it's important to be happy and thankful at home and that this stability affects the rest of your life beyond the home.

While Tamir continues to search for a new job, his home requires more upgrades to keep his family

safe and secure. That's why Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers will be replacing bathroom faucets, installing closet doors, repairing outside fencing, and installing a CO2 alarm on April 30 during National Rebuilding Day.

On this national day of service, more than 800 Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers will spread out around the city and help neighbors with repairs and upgrades to their homes. The work is fun but also important as more low-income homeowners struggle to maintain their homes. It's also an important way we as neighbors can help each other while revitalizing our community.

With Rebuilding Together as a partner, Tamir can focus on making a better living for his family, starting with getting a better job, ideally in the government. Then he can help his brother. If you know someone like Tamir who could benefit from our services, all 703-836-1021 or visit [www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Rebuilding Together Alexandria provided this new refrigerator.**



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## OPINION

# True Grit Two stories of the value of an AmeriCorps experience.

BY JANE HESS COLLINS  
COMMUNITY LODGINGS COMMUNICATIONS/  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

**C**ristina O'Brien, 25, grew up in Long Island, N.Y., and knew that one day she would work with Spanish-speaking immigrants. She heard about AmeriCorps, a national service program that offers a stipend and college tuition reimbursement, while majoring in Spanish at American University. She searched for a position that would allow her to work with Spanish-speaking and immigrant children, and when she was placed at Community Lodgings in 2013, it was the perfect fit.

Cindy Lopez, 22, grew up in the Arlandria

part of Alexandria and first learned about Community Lodgings in third grade when she started attending their after-school programs. She attended Community Lodgings through high school, eventually helping younger students. When she graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 2012 she wanted to give back to Community Lodgings and find funding for college. When she was offered an AmeriCorps position with them in 2013, it was the perfect fit for her too.

### COMMENTARY

As AmeriCorps service members, Cristina and Cindy were both assigned to Community Lodgings' Youth Education Program and worked with children from Alexandria's low-income, minority families. Bilingual in Spanish and English, Cristina and Cindy found

AmeriCorps service rewarding but hard. They worked second jobs to meet expenses. "It was tough but I learned a lot and I really enjoyed it," Cristina recalled. "I developed a high work ethic and had to learn to depend on myself."

After their AmeriCorps commitment ended, both women joined the Community Lodgings staff and agreed that the experience taught them lessons and life skills to succeed as employees. As the family support worker, Cindy created lesson plans for the adult English Language Learners, using the skills she learned during her AmeriCorps time. The children view Cindy as a friend, she said, and "they know they can count on me." She, in turn, learned through her AmeriCorps experience to "always make sure the children know you are available

for them." Cristina knew she had a positive impact on the youngsters when she noticed that some of her older students began to take school more seriously and work on their study habits. Both she and Cindy know that the parents appreciate them too.

Both women are happy that, despite some struggles, they took the AmeriCorps route. Cindy is using their tuition reimbursement benefit to earn her degree in electrical engineering. And Cristina's advice to a potential AmeriCorps service member? "Stick it out. It's definitely worth it."

To learn more about AmeriCorps visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps>. Don't miss Community Lodgings' Spring Forward event on Sunday, April 10. Visit [www.communitylodgings.org](http://www.communitylodgings.org) for more information.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

visory Group called for more than "community values" to be brought to bear on the discussion; it called for new ideas as well. Here's two I'm proposing for their consideration.

First, let's donate the Appomattox statue on South Washington Street to the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opens its doors in September of this year. It would be a very appropriate "resting place" for our Confederate soldier and it would be only a few Metro stops away for those who care to visit him. And second, in an unmistakable nod to "diversity" and "inclusion" over "history," let's rename every street sign within the city limits of Alexandria that bears the name Jefferson Davis (the president of the Confederacy) to William D. or Bill Euille, the first African American mayor of the City of Alexandria.

**Richard E. Merritt**  
Alexandria

## What Makes ARHA Special?

To the Editor:

At last Wednesday's ARHA-Council work

session on Ramsey Homes, disturbing points emerged that should cause Alexandrians concern.

The first involves the proposed rezoning, set for another vote on March 12. ARHA missed the deadline for this year's low-income housing tax credit cycle, and Planning and Zoning staff proposed a new schedule that envisions a final DSUP being submitted to Planning Commission and council in September, after a series of the usual "community outreach" meetings designed to simulate the appearance of compromise with the surrounding neighborhood without any of the real political effort.

Yet ARHA and Councilmen Justin Wilson and John Taylor Chapman seem determined to push through the rezoning now, though it is not consistent with city policy or practice to do so without the final DSUP. This anomaly was noted by Stewart Dunn of the Planning Commission at its hearing on Ramsay Homes in early February, resulting in his abstention on the rezoning vote. And Mayor Silberberg asked Mr. Wilson three times last Wednesday why it was not reasonable to wait until September and follow normal procedures by submitting the rezoning request along with the DSUP for approval. In essence, Vice Mayor Wilson brushed the mayor off.

Not surprising given the bitter rivalries

among local Democrats — but it does beg the question why the rezoning needs to be split off and approved in such haste.

Second, there was an emphasis there would be no Memorandum of Understanding as there was in 2008 with the James Bland redevelopment. An MOU is the only tool that the city has to ensure accountability and cooperation from the notoriously recalcitrant ARHA, which regularly places its collective hand in Alexandria taxpayers' pockets for loans and bailouts. Is this because Mr. Wilson and Chapman, as the council's work group delegates, do not wish to hold ARHA accountable? They were both members of council last fall when that body voted to override the BAR decision on demolition while calling for the public housing authority to find compromise, yet they and the ARHA board allowed CEO Roy Priest to take a no-hostages, hang-tough attitude toward council by resubmitting the same application again five months later.

Finally, it is clear that ARHA has no consistent long-term plan for sustainability. It was ARHA who let Ramsey Homes deteriorate through neglect.

The emperor has no clothes, and ARHA has no consistent business model. Its building configurations and the split between market-rate and subsidized units changes with every project. Neighbors are told that

off-siting is simply impossible, yet ARHA's strategic plan calls for scattering units from Hopkins-Tancil. Mr. Priest has yet to explain why 53 units at Ramsay Homes is the only magical number that will make the project competitive for tax credits, contrary to the findings of the city's own tax-credit consultant. And when the city retained an expert to investigate construction costs, they found ARHA had overestimated.

The city needs to reconvene the former Economic Sustainability Task Force to analyze ARHA and determine both its long-term viability and the city's potential liability.

On the very night of the controversial Feb. 20 council vote, a robbery occurred on West Street by the Adkins project, followed a week later by gunshots heard by the police who now regularly camp out in the Post Office parking lot and a robbery near Old Town Commons.

With two unsolved murders at Adkins and pointed criticisms made by ARHA residents over safety and upkeep at the packed community meeting that followed, the question is whether ARHA is really serving its tenants or the politicians.

**Leslie Zupan**  
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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# Governor's First Vetoes and Ongoing Supreme Court Battle

BY ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



**T**he 2016 General Assembly will be wrapping up its work this week, and of the more than 3,200 bills and resolutions that were introduced, over 1,350 pieces of legislation have passed both chambers. Those bills are now on their way to Governor McAuliffe's desk, who has 7 or 30 days to act on them depending on how close to the end of session they passed. The Governor has approved many of these measures but he has also issued vetoes for a handful of bills that he believes are unnecessary or unconstitutional.

One notable piece of legislation that the Governor vetoed is SB21, which would require the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to receive approval from the

General Assembly before submitting a Virginia-specific plan to comply with the federal Clean Power Plan (CPP).

The CPP is an historic and important step in combating climate change by establishing standards to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. It will put into place the first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants which account for nearly 40 percent of the carbon pollution produced nationally.

The CPP goes hand in hand with efforts in the development of renewables, stronger fuel economy standards, and increased energy efficiency that seek to address climate change, as well as provide improvements in air and water quality that have

more immediate local effects. In his veto statement, the Governor noted that federal law gives authority to the executive rather than legislative branch in developing plans to comply with CPP, adding that SB21 "constitutes legislative participation in a purely executive process." Senate Democrats were successful in sustaining the veto so SB21 will not become law.

A prolonged fight has been brewing since the summer regarding Governor McAuliffe's nomination of Jane Roush to the Virginia Supreme Court, and last week it came to a head. Justice Roush, who is unquestionably qualified to serve on the Supreme Court, has handled many tough cases including the D.C. sniper trial, and the Republican House Courts of Justice Committee chairman had originally recommended her for this position. However, House and Senate Republicans were offended that the Governor exercised his constitutional authority to ap-

point her without their permission, and they have repeatedly attempted to block her nomination and replace her with their own candidate. Though Senate Republicans have a narrow 21-19 majority, there has been a stalemate so far this session because one of their freshman members bravely refused to go along with his party's plan to unseat Justice Roush. Her interim appointment has now expired and there was a renewed push this week to confirm her for a full term; unfortunately that effort fell short in the House of Delegates.

Leaving one of the seven seats on our state's highest court vacant has major ramifications in terms of its ability to execute its constitutional responsibilities, and I hope we will reconsider and elect Justice Roush to a full 12-year term so our judiciary can be at full strength.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

### Careful About History

To the Editor:

At the Feb. 8 public hearing of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, a speaker said that George Mason IV of Gunston Hall had decapitated four slaves and put their heads on display upon the chimneys of City Hall. The speaker did not indicate why this was done nor did he offer substantiation of this grisly claim which was out of character for the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and Virginia's first Constitution and who was the father of our nation's Bill of Rights. Mason was an Alexandrian whose contributions to human rights were further recognized in the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

With the assistance of a research librarian in the Special Collections section of the Queen Street library who found some relevant facts in a letter of George Washington to his friend John Posey in the Founders section of archives.com, I learned that some of Mason's slaves were involved in a 1767 plot to poison overseers. The court found them guilty so they were sentenced to death on Dec. 31 of that year. This source did not indicate how many slaves were involved. Their heads were displayed on the chimneys of the courthouse. In accordance with a 1745 law, the Virginia legislature awarded Mason a sum in recompense for the loss of

his property.

It is important to clarify the record to clear the slur on Mason's good name and to establish that a mistaken impression circulating in some circles in this city is incorrect.

It is not clear why the speaker's criticism of George Washington's close friend Mason was relevant to the business of the Ad Hoc Group on Confederate memorials and street names. However, I noted at the end of the Feb. 8 meeting, a number of people in the back of the room who had not addressed the Ad Hoc Group complained that the city had done a poor job of presenting Black history and that problem needed correction. All of us need to be careful to present our history correctly, especially regarding little-known facts.

**Ellen Latane Tabb**  
Alexandria

### Stick to Braddock Plans

To the Editor:

How curious! Twenty-two of the existing affordable housing units adjacent to the Alfred Street Baptist Church will be demolished so the church can expand its sanctuary. In another forum Councilman John Taylor Chapman demanded the city violate two of its plans rather than forgo loss.

Where will the displaced residents likely go? "The [Braddock] Gateway project will add 74 new affordable housing units to the city. One of the other projects coming up for ADHC is the possible redevelopment of Alexandria's Carpenter Shelter, a homeless housing shelter in the Braddock neighborhood. The redeveloped Shelter would add 100 units."

From the city and ARHA's 2008 MOU: "Whereas, the city desires ... an affordable strategy that addresses affordable housing throughout the city." In fact the city continues its Jim Crow politics. A disgusted Braddock neighborhood now expects a

higher concentration of such housing, not the area plan's planned reduction. The 2008 MOU was written in conjunction with the city's 2008 Glebe Park bailout.

From the city and ARHA's 2008 MOU: "Whereas, since the 1970s, the policy of the city and ARHA has been ... de-concentration by scattered site replacements ...." The city is reluctant to scatter public housing. In fact affordable housing, when combined with the existing stock of public housing, is an ever-increasing mass of concentrated mayhem. ARHA Redevelopment Group members Chapman and Wilson should hold ARHA to account.

Also from the city and ARHA's 2008 MOU: "The goals, objectives and performance measures and overall agency management plan shall reflect ARHA's current planned and future schedules for housing unit physical inspection and maintenance ...." As someone has already asked, "Why does Chapman, a member of council, tolerate ARHA's substandard maintenance?"

Increase neighborhood density, spot zone and a gutless group runs the show. A church agreeably expands and ARHA pays cash for its \$4 million office building. Dare we discuss opportunity costs, profit margins and or repeated cash shortfalls? ARHA's January 2016 board minutes state: "The major reason the need for reserves was higher than anticipated is because there was a three-month delay in the Central Office Cost Center collecting office rents for 401 Wythe St." ARHA CEO Roy Priest also serves as the board of directors secretary-treasurer. Conflict of interest is defined how?

Finally from the city and ARHA's 2008 MOU: "The city's Planning and Zoning staff shall use its best efforts ...." Staff is engaged in process. They kowtow to ARHA, ignoring the fact that Braddock's newly created voting precinct rejected the former mayor.

Councilman Smedberg may feel regret, but his Feb. 20 votes were spot on. His colleagues are driven by cause, not due diligence. We agree the discussion is about people, not buildings only. That said tax-

payers are being ignored.

Both the Braddock Road Small Area Plan and the Braddock East Plan should be implemented as approved in 2008.

**Charles Conway**  
Alexandria

### Insightful Article

To the Editor:

This article ["Reynes Shares Something Sweet," March 3, Gazette Packet] provides wonderful insight on the beauty of passion, hard work, and interdependence in one's own community. In today's thriving, modern society, especially in a city like Alexandria, there is more isolation between people and there is a lack of appreciation for the contributions made to keep the society running. Our world strives on interdependence and unfortunately, in our highly individualistic society, we have become estranged from the holistic view that we rely on each other to live.

Moreover, with most goods, it is common to see a lack of passion and complete alienation from the process of production because there is a sense of creating products for people you don't know.

I appreciate Julie Reynes' story of her aspiration to build a business involving a creation of her very own. The writer does an excellent job at describing the "behind-the-scenes" look at the creation of her stuffed dates, including all person's involved in the process. This allows the reader (especially those who are familiar with Reynes' product) and future customers to gain an appreciation for the creator (the supplier) and the line of production. Additionally, it's wonderful to read about someone in our community who loves putting passion into their own product.

**B. Victoria Acosta**  
James Madison University  
Alexandria

## WRITE US

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. Email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)



## OPINION

# Countdown to Gadsby's Ball

BY NANCY KEGAN SMITH  
GADSBY'S TAVERN  
MUSEUM SOCIETY BOARD

**T**he top 10 things about Gadsby's Tavern that you may not know and why you should go to its Best Bib & Tucker Ball:

**10.** Gadsby boasts one of the last remaining urban ice wells in the area. It preserved ice harvested from the river in the winter. The ice well could hold up to 68 tons of ice, which is equivalent to the weight of 14 adult African elephants. The recent renovation of the ice well has won three architectural design awards.

**9.** The City Tavern (part of the Gadsby complex we know today) was the 5-star hotel of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Alexandria. The hotels amenities included a "large stock of good old liquors," the services of a washerwoman, and — for only 20 cents in 1801 — clean sheets.

**8.** The buildings have seen visits from six Presidents including founding fathers George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe, and President Truman; three First Ladies including Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford, and Rosalynn Carter; and one Pope — Pope John Paul II.

**7.** George Washington partied like it was 1999 — really 1799 (and 1798) — at his Birthday Ball held at the City Tavern. He said in his diary, "Went up to Alexandria to the celebration of my birth day. Many manoeuvres were performed by the Uniform Corps and an elegant Ball & Supper at Night."

**6.** Thomas Jefferson celebrated his inauguration as president in the historic ballroom in 1801 and was regaled with 16 toasts throughout the night. The newspaper said, "... style and elegance with which it was furnished, at so short a notice, reflect the highest credit on the taste and industry of Mr. Gadsby."

**5.** The variety of entertainments found at the establishment had no bounds. Citizens and guests took in acrobatic displays, danced 'til the wee hours of the morning, learned about the stars through an eidouranion, viewed a manuscript draft of a map of Virginia, and bought tickets to see a live bison.

**4.** The building's most famous ghost story — the Tale of the Female Stranger — inspired Port City Brewery's Long Black Veil beer. The tale of the Female Stranger is about a woman who arrived in Alexandria by ship in October of 1816. Having become ill, she was taken to the finest tavern in town

— Gadsby's Tavern — and was given a room, a doctor and two nurses to care for her. Her identity, however, was kept a mystery. Days passed by and her condition worsened. On the 14th, she died at the age of 23. She is buried at St. Paul's Cemetery and a table-top tomb bears the inscription "In the memory of the Female Stranger ..."

**3.** Revolutionary War hero the Marquis de Lafayette was entertained at the City Tavern during his tour of the United States in 1824. Lafayette was greeted along his parade route by hundreds of spectators and women waving handkerchiefs from the open windows of neighboring buildings.

**2.** The Museum runs a unique Junior Docent program which engages children grades 4-6 in giving tours and sharing the history of the museum with others. Over the course of 7 years, 74 children have come through the program. One of their many fun hands-on activities with the public is to make and serve period-inspired ice cream.

**1.** Mr. Gadsby was known for his lavish events and that tradition continues today. Do not miss your opportunity to attend one of Alexandria's social events of the year — The Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society's Best Bib and Tucker Ball. The Society introduced the annual Best Bib & Tucker Ball to raise money for preservation, restoration and educational and cultural programs for Gadsby's Tavern Museum. The term Best Bib and Tucker means one's best clothes and was first used in 1747.

On March 19 from 7 to 10 p.m., New Orleans comes to Alexandria as this year's theme is Mardi Gras. Dance or listen to Doc Scantlin and their Imperial Palms Orchestra who will play in the historic Ballroom and the restaurant, eat gumbo, enjoy Alligator Juice, and bid on some one-of-a-kind Silent Auction items such as a necklace by New Orleans jeweler Mignon Faget. To add to the fun there will also be a fortune teller/tarot card reader giving free readings of your fortune. Tickets for this wonderful evening are \$150 per person and can be purchased at [www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us](http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us). It is not often that one can partake of a truly historic setting with so much merriment, food and libation, and at the same time support a worthy cause. The Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society cordially invites you and hopes to see you at our Mardi Gras Ball.

*The writer serves as co-chair of Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society's upcoming fundraising Mardi Gras Ball.*



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Meet the Chef: Frantz of Majestic

### Chef Frantz discovers sweet spot in kitchen.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**edges of lemon, squares of unsalted butter, curly green onion slivers, low country gravy and blackened shrimp sit mise en place in the prep kitchen at The Majestic on King Street. Lisa Marie Frantz, executive chef at The Majestic, is preparing shrimp and grits made to order for each customer. “This is one of the customer favorites,” she says, “along with the fried chicken and what goes with it, Martha’s buttermilk biscuits. I brine the chicken 24 hours in a mixture of lemon, garlic, peppercorns and the house home-made stone ground mustard.”

Frantz turns on the burner under a well-worn pan. “I’ll toss in a little olive oil and put in the shrimp for 2-3 minutes to get them a little color.” She adds a splash of white wine and flips the shrimp in the air as the flames shoot up around the pan. Frantz takes a pinch of salt and rubs it through her fingers. “I season a little as I go along, but there’s already a lot of seasoning in the other ingredients in the recipe.”

A tomato compote has been slowly cooking for 30-40 minutes. Frantz adds a couple of spoonfuls to the shrimp. Next comes what she says is “the base of the dish,” the low country gravy that has been made with broth from the shrimp shells, mirepoix (celery, onion and carrots), fresh herbs, bay leaves, a touch of sherry and a little flour to make a roux and thicken it up.

Frantz turns on the burner under a second small skillet to get it hot for the grits. “I use Anson Mills heirloom grits. Grits can be different and people have their preferences. These grits have some texture to them, something to bite on. My father growin’ up in the South, I know a little somethin’ about grits.” The grits have already cooked down for 30-40 minutes in cream, salt and butter and a little chicken stock. Frantz slowly heats up the cooked grits, stirring and dribbles on a little cream as she turns back to the shrimp.

The shrimp come off the heat and the rest is done without more cooking. A little parsley “and a nice little squirt from a juicy lemon wedge.” She tosses in two cubes of unsalted butter. “I’ll finish it off with a little bit of butter to give it a silky sheen.” She

spoons a little taste in her mouth “just to be sure. ‘Now I’ll plate it up.’” Carefully she arranges the grits down the center of an oval plate, places the shrimp side by side on top, stands back and surveys her work. “Finally I’ll spoon the gravy over the top and let it drizzle down the side and that’s it.” She garnishes with green onion, long and thin, “kind of funky.” In 12 minutes she has shrimp and grits for the waiting lunch customer.

She explained that she cooks locally driven American classics with a Southern accent. “It is straightforward, simple like my lamb chops with rosemary popovers. I want to fill you but not over satiate you.” Another dish is her roasted golden beets with whipped goat cheese and horseradish. “We’re moving to some vegetarian dishes without advertising it as vegetarian. I like to showcase one ingredient. When the ingredients are the best, we want them to shine.” She said, they are about to have a menu change that features seared maitake mushroom with toasted farrow and a lobster pot pie with with leeks and roasted pearl onions.

Franz comments that the trend in “farm to market” still seems strong. In addition she sees one thing that pops up a lot is the use of unusual spices, ethnic influences like curries that are very rich and colorful. “The culinary industry is always looking for that next ingredient. Chefs are explorers. My friends travel and bring me back things like rose water from Lebanon.” So she invented a combination with chocolate and house made marshmallows for Valentine’s Day. “It’s my new favorite special ingredient.”

Frantz graduated in graphic design but realized it was a hobby. “I was interested in cooking but I’d never worked in a restaurant. I didn’t have any confidence.” But she said with help of family and friends she went to Le Cordon Bleu in Arizona and, “I found my sweet spot.” In 2007 she went to work in a professional kitchen for the first time. When they asked her what she wanted to do, she said, “work the grill. I thought it would be exciting being on the line.” He told her she would fail miserably. “In 3-4 months I was a sous chef. I found I have a talent.” She has been at Majestic for nine months, coming from Brickside in Bethesda and Founding Fathers previous to that. Frantz said no one in her family ever worked in a restaurant but her father was a butcher. “Maybe somehow in the blood line I got it.”



Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz lines up the lemon wedges, curly onion slivers, squares of butter, parsley and blackened shrimp—ingredients for shrimp and grits, one of the customer favorites at The Majestic on King Street. Below, she adds the shrimp to a hot pan with a little oil and cooks them a couple of minutes to give some color but not long enough to make them tough. She pours on a little wine and flips them over in the pan before adding tomato compote.



Anson heirloom grits are heated on a burner next to the shrimp. Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz says everyone has their own favorite version of grits. These have some texture to them and a little bite. They have been cooked in cream, salt, butter and a little chicken broth.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/  
GAZETTE PACKET

Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz has plated up the final dish with grits arranged down the middle of the dish. Shrimp are lined on top and then low country gravy drizzled on the top. The dish is garnished with curly green slivered onions.



### CALENDAR

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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

**Art Exhibit: “Storytelling/Global**

**Narratives.”** Through March 13, gallery hours at Schlesinger Center’s Fisher Gallery at Northern Virginia Community College’s Alexandria Campus, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Part of the regional project “Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here DC 2016”, a book, arts and cultural festival through March throughout the Washington, D.C. area. “Storytelling/Global Narratives” will commemorate the 2007 bombing of Baghdad’s historic

bookselling street and celebrate the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) for more.

#### “A Salute to Primary Colors.”

Through March 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 9 p.m. on second Thursday of each month. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents primary colors in all forms including as gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces. Free. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

#### “Wings from Chains.”

Through March 13, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists consider the roles and responsibilities in society. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**NOVA Restaurant Week.** Through March 14, The Arlington Chamber of Commerce again partners with the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association to present the 2016 Northern Virginia Restaurant

Week. Visit [www.rosslynva.org](http://www.rosslynva.org) for more.

#### Solo Exhibit: Lynn Boggess.

Through March 15, gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Lynn Boggess paints landscapes from the West Virginian woods to Floridian seascapes with palette knives and cement trowels for texture. Free. Visit [www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com) for more.

**March 150 Exhibition.** Through



# ENTERTAINMENT

March 20, gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The two-week exhibition will feature more than 150 square panels created by more than 100 regional artists, nearly 30 of whom are affiliated with the Torpedo Factory. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**McMurry Artist Showcase.** Through March 23, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The gallery will feature the stylized landscape paintings of local artist, Richard McMurry. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Contradictions."** Through March 26, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Working in the medium of encaustic Julia Dzikiewicz paints, prints and constructs three-dimensional objects with bold colors embedding crystals, pearls or even metals. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "March Melee."** Through March 27, 12-6 p.m. Thursday, 12-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This exhibit features artists' "boldest and wackiest art." Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows).

**Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition & Sale.** Through March 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The show will feature both contemporary and traditional needlework. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Partnerships."** Through May 15, business hours at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. All artwork is available for purchase through Del Ray Artisans. Artists are donating 20



PHOTO COURTESY OF USBANDS

**On Saturday, March 19, The West Potomac Band is hosting a USBands Indoor Drumline and Winterguard Competition. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.wolverineband.com](http://www.wolverineband.com).**

percent of the purchase price of sold pieces in an equal split between Del Ray Artisans and the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital's charity of choice, Veterans Moving Forward. Free. Call 703-751-2022 for more.

**"Ancient Art of Movement."** 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue

lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/)

reviews.html.

**Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery.** Through March, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

**Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.** Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**Civil War Sundays.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

**"Speak, Sister."** 7:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Local actors will read from diaries and letters of women, Harriet Jacobs, Isabel Emerson and Anne Frobel, who lived in Alexandria during the Civil War, and bluegrass band Dead Men's Hollow will play songs of the Civil War. Tickets are \$20. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 11

**Spaghetti Dinner: Rising Hope Food Pantry.** 5-8 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. St. Luke's Episcopal Church is holding a spaghetti dinner to support Rising Hope's Food Pantry and two other food programs in the community. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under, and \$30 for families. Call 703-298-5987 for more.

**Family Fun Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are \$4. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Ladies Night Out: Painting Van Gogh Style.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Tickets are \$45. Contact 703-944-4381 or [info@metamorphosisaec.com](mailto:info@metamorphosisaec.com), or visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes).

## MARCH 11-APRIL 10

**All City High School Visual Art Exhibition.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Convergence presents the "Alexandria City High School Art Exhibit," a joint effort between Bishop Ireton High School, Episcopal High School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, and T.C. Williams High School. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

Le Refuge was rated #1 in Alexandria on TripAdvisor. Thank you for your continued support.

# Le Refuge

## Restaurant

### Winter Specials

- Split Pea Soup
- Beef Wellington
- Rack of Lamb
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# MARCH 150

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### 'Lushness & Lyrical'

BY KIM ALLEN KLUGE.  
MAESTRO, ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present "Lushness & Lyrical" on Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3.

Some music makes me want to sing. Other music makes me want to dance. And there is yet another kind of music that fires my imagination to create pictures and stories. This last category

#### MUSINGS FROM THE MAESTRO

of music is often described as being "romantic." What exactly does that mean? In music, Romanticism refers to the qualities that dominated 19th and early 20th century music: imagination over reason; fantasy over reality; long-breathed melodies over tightly constructed ones; rich harmonies over simple har-

monies; color for color's sake in the realm of harmony; textures and orchestration (choice of instruments); a lushness of sound; etc. Often there is an underlying sense of longing and desire for the unattainable.

James Newton Howard's music is often described as having a "romantic sensibility." His "Peter Pan" is a perfect choice for our concert because the story itself comes out of the same romantic tradition as the music. Howard creates a realm of fantasy where we can imagine a world where we can "never grow up!"



### Hank's Pasta Bar Arrives in Old Town

#### Newcomer has already gained solid following.

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

North Old Town has a new hotspot in the neighborhood. Hank's Pasta Bar, the kid sister to Hank's Oyster Bar on King Street, has taken the area by storm since opening about five weeks ago. From the two fully booked soft openings to a recent Monday night that found the dining room out of space for the evening by 7 p.m., it's clear that residents have a hankering for pasta. And Hank's stands at the ready to accommodate.

Hank's offers 13 varieties of pasta in-house, says Hank's Sabrina Zahid. "There's a pasta machine, but a big majority of them are hand-cut," including the lasagna and the ravioli, Zahid added.

A good deal of the work is done by "our in-house pasta mama," Mirabella Salamanca, Zahid said. "She comes in early, she has a break in the evening, but we're pretty much cranking out fresh pasta all day."

And a quick survey of the menu proves that Salamanca and the rest of the team — helmed by Chef Jamie Leeds — are indeed hard at work. A perusal of the pasta dishes turns into a mini-Italian lesson that is apt to send some diners dashing for their iPhones to look up unfamiliar names while the waiter's back is turned. Paccheri. Malfalde. Bucatini. Mezzalune. There's an option for you, no matter what you're looking for.

If you'd like to get a taste of where it all started, be sure to try Jamie's Favorite Linguine With White Clam Sauce. A top seller, it harkens back to before the pasta bar had come into being and Leeds found



The mezzalune pasta dish.

herself at an Italian restaurant in Dupont Circle with pasta on the brain. Spying linguine with white clam sauce on the menu and reminiscing about enjoying that same meal with her father, Hank, she ordered it only to learn it was sold out for the evening. The restaurant's chef, Nicolas Flores, learned of Leeds' plight and went out to purchase fresh clams to make for her that evening, saving the day — and cementing a partnership.

"They met over a bowl of linguine with white clam sauce," Zahid said, and the rest was history.

Among other must-try dishes: The mezzalune, a thin, airy pillow-like pasta stuffed with winter greens and ricotta and nestled in a creamy sauce. Or enjoy a plate of simple elegance with the spaghetti all'olio, a hearty helping of spaghetti tossed in olive oil, garlic, and shaved bottarga.

Oftentimes, restaurant desserts are better left untouched; the sweet treat is often overshadowed by the meal itself. But Hank's panna cotta is a thing of beauty. Creamy, custardy and rich, it's not so overwhelming that you and a partner couldn't polish one off with aplomb. Pair it with an espresso or an after-dinner libation and you've got the perfect end to a wonderful evening.

While dinner is proving a popular occasion at Hank's, the restaurant isn't prepared to stay dark during the day for much longer. Weekday lunches will begin March 14, Zahid says, and weekend brunch will be soon to follow that.

"We're definitely going to keep a good number of the pastas on the menu for lunch," Zahid said, adding that the kitchen has some "fun stuff" in the works for brunch as well, including some new bloody Mary recipes for the cocktail menu.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

#### Details

##### HANK'S PASTA BAR

Address: 600 Montgomery St., Alexandria

Hours: 4-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 4-10 p.m. Sunday.

Hidden gem: The lamb chops. "Those are really, really delicious. I think people are definitely more apt to order pasta, but I've gotta tell you, those are some of the best lamb chops I've ever had," says Hank's Sabrina Zahid.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

pursuits of visual art students from across the city, art teachers from each of the four schools have collaborated in what they hope will be an annual event. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**Talent Hunt.** 12-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. of Alexandria hosts a talent hunt for high school with a \$400 first place prize. Free. Email [talenthuntpsinu@gmail.com](mailto:talenthuntpsinu@gmail.com).

**Tea with Lady Washington.** 2-3 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Join "Lady Washington" for an intimate fireside tea and conversation. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for children. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**"Her Story: Women in Action for Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies."** 3-4:15 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and their accompanying adults will participate in hands-on activities and add their own future goals to a timeline of Juliette Gordon Low's story. Participants will talk with a panel of current and former Girl Scouts and discover how scouting empowered them. Tickets are \$6. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

**Evening Woodcock Walk.** 5:45 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his courtship dance and flight. \$6 for residents of Fairfax County, \$8 for non-residents. Visit

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.  
**Generation to Generation Gala.** 6-11 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Support Senior Services of Alexandria. Find cocktails, dinner, and dancing. Tickets are \$150. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) for more.

**The Music of Ralph Vaughan Williams.** 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Lane. In collaboration with the Amadeus Orchestra, the Fairfax Choral Society Adult Symphonic Chorus, Youth Concert Choir, and Women of the Master Singers present "Quintessentially British." Tickets \$20-45, \$5 discount if purchased in advance. Student tickets are \$10. Visit [www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org).

**Wounded Warrior Bowl-O-Rama.** Fort Myers Bowling Center, 224 McNair Road, Fort Myers. Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. of Alexandria hosts an event benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project. Tickets are \$20. Visit [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 13

**The Architecture of Carlyle House: Behind the Scenes Tour.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Learn about the architectural history of the only stone mansion in Alexandria. Tickets for the general public are \$10; \$5 for Friends of Carlyle House. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

**Concert: "Nature's Whimsy."** 4-5:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Join Virginia Bronze for a variety of handbell compositions. Tickets are \$5-10. Visit [www.vabronze.org](http://www.vabronze.org) for more.

## MONDAY/MARCH 14

**Pi Day.** 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. at Pizzeria Paradiso, 124 King St. On Pi Day, Veloce will host a fundraising drive for DC Central Kitchen, while all Pizzeria Paradiso locations will charge \$3.14 for a draft beer with the purchase of a pizza. Terrapin Rye Cubed will be available at Old Town. Visit [www.eatyourpizza.com](http://www.eatyourpizza.com).

**Generative Digital Art Program.** 7-8 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Presentation by computer engineer and artist Cameron Turner. Tickets are \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 15

**Creative Exploration Open Studio.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple watercolor techniques and doodle designs with your child. Tickets are \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Contact 703-944-4381 or [info@metamorphosisaec.com](mailto:info@metamorphosisaec.com), or visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes).

**Reenactment: Another Way to Share Your Genealogy.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Charles Belfield's family has lived on the same Virginia farm since 1700. Watch him reenact his genealogical story. Free. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org).

## MARCH 15-APRIL 10

**Art Exhibit: "Art into Fashion/Fashion into Art."** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Fiber artists explore art

inspired by fashion designers and fashionable wearables inspired by artists. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

**Book Discussion.** 10:15-11:45 a.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. A discussion group for parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers, and child advocates. Discuss "Children's Imagination: Creativity Under Our Noses." Free. Visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

**Sanctuary Studio.** 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Using drawing, watercolor, and collage materials, explore line, shape, and color as a meditative process. Free, but donations accepted. Visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

**Swing Dance.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Matt Kelley known for his guitar work with Big Boy Little Band, joins forces with keyboardist Ian Walters for blues-influenced swing. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 17

**Campagna Center Toast to Fashion.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. For almost two decades, The Campagna Center has ushered in spring with its annual Toast to Fashion. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$65 at the door. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) for more.

## THURSDAY-FRIDAY/MARCH 17-18

**Women's Golf Meeting.** 2-4 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive. The

Greendale Women's Golf Association (GWGA), an 18-hole league that plays once a week on Thursday mornings is meeting with current members and potential new members to discuss the upcoming golf season. Free. Visit [www.gwgl.wordpress.com](http://www.gwgl.wordpress.com).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 18

**March 150 Exhibition Art Party.** 7-10 p.m. at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The two-week exhibition will feature more than 150 square panels created by more than 100 regional artists, nearly 30 of whom are affiliated with the Torpedo Factory. During the Art Party, work is priced at \$100. Guests have an opportunity to mingle with other art enthusiasts and meet many of the artists who have contributed to the show. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance to live music provided by the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

**Organ Recital.** 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road. Virginia Theological Seminary invites the community to an organ recital by Marilyn Keiser. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu/chapel](http://www.vts.edu/chapel) for more.

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 Braddock Road. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be prayed in a musical setting for choir and organ by Franz Liszt. The Adult Choir will sing with Ann Carney, organist. Free. 703-998-6100 ext. 103 for more.

**Bottle Rockets.** 8:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. St. Louis based Bottle

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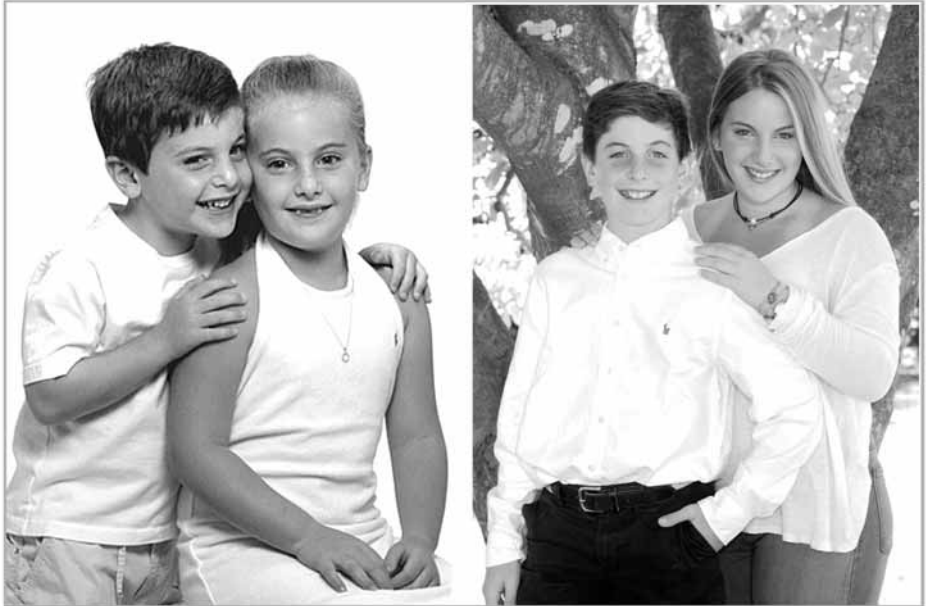
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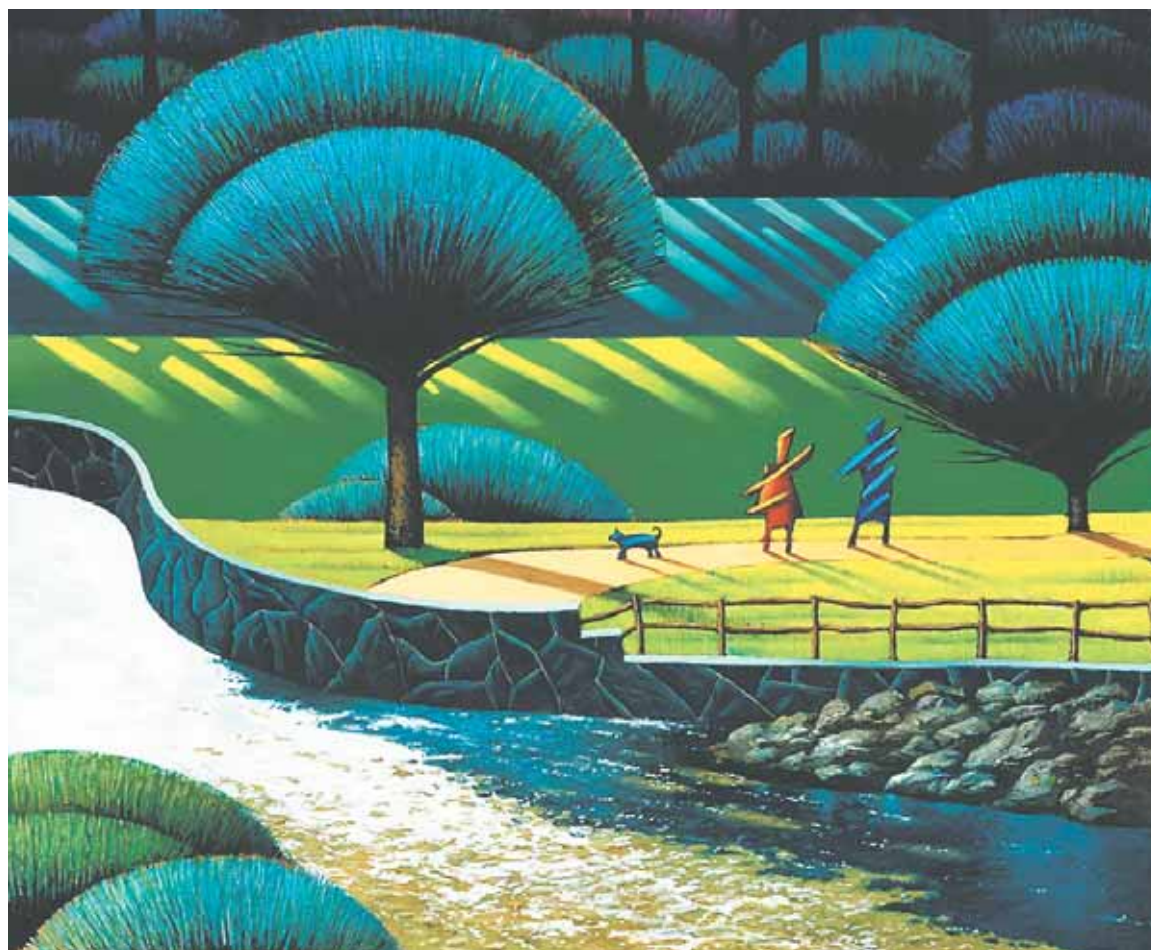
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For the Broadway Gallery March Artist Showcase, the gallery will feature the stylized landscape paintings of local artist, Richard McMurtry. The exhibit will hang at 5641-B General Washington Drive through March 23. Pictured here: Peirce Mill, Oil on Canvas. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net) for more.

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[www.wfbi.com](http://www.wfbi.com)

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Rockets recently released a new album South Broadway Athletic Club. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 17-20

**Spring Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. All books are \$3 or less, unless specifically marked: Hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books and audio-visual items. All genres. \$5 Bag Sale on Sunday. Call 703-746-1702.

### MARCH 17-APRIL 24

**Georgia Nassikas: "Oils and Encaustics."** Thursday, Friday, Sunday 12-4 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. In her wax and oil paintings, artist Georgia Nassikas explores the intersection of the abstract and the representational. She focuses on the elemental lines, shapes, and colors at the core of nature. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**History Symposium: Downton Abbey.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This event is made up of four sessions: "History Lesson at Downton Abbey" presented by Debbie Waugh, "Night of Terror" presented by Kathleen Pablo, "Downton Fashion: Two Dresses, Two Eras" presents by Caroline Hottenstein, and "Memorable Downton Moments." Also find tea, a Titanic -era exhibit, and more. Tickets are \$56 for residents, \$71 for non-residents. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

**Program on Plant Propagation.** 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Burke Branch

Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The program will cover the basics of how to start seeds and transplant seedlings, make stem and leaf cuttings, divide plants and use air layering to propagate difficult-to-root plants. Free. Visit [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org)

**West Potomac Drumline Show.** 2-7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. The West Potomac Band is hosting a USBands Indoor Drumline and Winterguard Competition. There will be more than 19 different units performing. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.wolverineband.com](http://www.wolverineband.com).

**Classical Music Concert.** 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum – Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Pianists Andreas Ioannides, John Urban, Sasha Beresovsky, Mathilde Handelsman, and Elias Dagher perform works by Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Kosenko. Tickets are \$35 in advance; \$20 students & seniors; \$40 at the door. Visit [www.pianistsforsoldiers.eventbrite.com](http://www.pianistsforsoldiers.eventbrite.com)

**Family Woodcock Walk.** 6:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his courtship dance and flight. \$6 for residents of Fairfax County, \$8 for non-residents. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.

**Singalong Concert.** 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Celebrate the release of "Rise Again: A Group Singing Songbook" with musicians Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, Tom Paxton, Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, and Be Steadwell. Tickets are \$20-25. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more.

**Best Bib and Tucker Ball.** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society presents the Best Bib & Tucker Ball with a Mardi Gras theme. Dance to Doc Scantlin's orchestra and songstress Chou Chou. Eat New Orleans-inspired cuisine

featuring oyster bar and drinks. Tickets are \$150. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern](http://www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern) or call 703-746-4242.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 20

**Tom Teasley.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. Teasley's sound is informed by his multiple tours as a cultural envoy for the U.S. Department of State. Performing with more than a dozen instruments from Africa, India, the Middle East, and Asia, he merges digital technology with ancient instruments to create music that spans cultures and time. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/teasley](http://www.torpedofactory.org/teasley).

### MONDAY/MARCH 21

**Silly Hat Making Workshop.** 6-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The workshop fee is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, plus a \$5 supply fee. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

### TUESDAY/MARCH 22

**Managing and Maintaining the Vegetable Garden.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The program, offered by Master Gardeners of Arlington/Alexandria, the second in a series for new gardeners, will emphasize best management practices for a healthy garden. Topics will include the importance of pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to identify them; how crop rotation and intercropping can help control the challenges of garden pests; how to identify diseases and weeds; and how to maximize harvests with space-saving techniques. Free. Visit [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org) for more.



# Her Artwork Captures Vibrancy of Life

**Del Ray Artisans exhibit features artist with special needs.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**L**ike most children, Yasmine Iskander liked to color with crayons. And like most mothers, Silvia Sagari was proud of everything her daughter created. But four years ago, when someone suggested to Sagari that Yasmine genuinely had talent, she took notice. Because Yasmine is not like most children.

"Yasmine has a complex medical history," Sagari said of her 19-year-old only child. "Among other things, she is deaf and has intellectual disabilities. But when she is painting, she comes alive."

A chance meeting with John Bordner, the vice president of the Del Ray Artisans, led to Yasmine entering one of her paintings in DRA's latest exhibit, March Melee. Her work was accepted and Yasmine and her family attended the March 4 opening reception at the Nicolas A. Colasanto Center.

"When Silvia showed me some pictures of Yasmine's work on her phone, I thought 'Wow! What color, what vibrancy, what life,' Bordner said. 'I thought the theme of March Melee exactly described Yasmine's work — just a riot of color and cheer so I encouraged her to submit one of her paintings. This was a very competi-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Yasmine Iskander puts the finishing touches on a painting.**



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

**"The Volcano" by Yasmine Iskander received one of four Curator Awards and is on exhibit at the Del Ray Artisans through March 27.**

tive show but I am not at all surprised that one of her pieces was accepted."

Yasmine's painting, "The Volcano," was not only accepted, it was awarded one of only four Curators Awards.

"I'm very excited to be here tonight," said Yasmine as she mingled among the crowd. "I love art. It makes me happy and when I paint, I feel it in my heart."

Yasmine said that most of her ideas just "pop into my head."

"I make art because it is fun and creative," Yasmine said. "Art is something that is always new .... there is always something I can learn and I like to learn new things."



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

**Exhibit curator Joshua Oliveira, right, talks with Yasmine Iskander about her work as Magdi Iskander and Tristann Brown look on.**

Yasmine, a senior at McLean High School, has undergone 25 surgeries, including five procedures on her heart and three on her brain.

"I am so proud of her," said Yasmine's father Magdi Iskander. "She is always so full of kindness — she wins the Good Samaritan award every year at school. To me, she is the face of God on earth."

Yasmine continues to take classes and hopes to enter more shows with the Del Ray Artisans.

"DRA is not in the business of creating art," Bordner said. "We're here to create opportunity, hope, joy. It humbles me to see the kind of excitement and joy that being here tonight has sparked in Yasmine."

The March Melee exhibit runs through March 27 at the Del Ray Artisans Nicolas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information, call 703-838-4827 or visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

**Artist Yasmine Iskander, center, stands with her parents Silvia Sagari and Magdi Iskander at the opening reception of the March Melee exhibit at Del Ray Artisans.**



**Joe Shumard, organizer of the George Washington Birthday Celebration; Carolyn Dyro, manager of The Hour; Trae Lamond, Chadwick's owner; and Danny Smith, director of the Cherry Challenge, recognize Chadwick's for winning Best Beverage again this year with "Sweet Lips," created by Woods Morrison.**

## 'Cherry Challenge' Winners

**T**he George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee announced the winners of the eighth annual "Cherry Challenge." The Cherry Challenge took place between Jan. 28 and Feb. 11 in 53 Alexandria restaurants. It featured cherry-inspired dishes, appetizers, drinks, and desserts created by the restaurant chefs. Some of the restaurants have competed in the past, but there were many restaurants new to the competition this year.

The winners:

- ❖ Beverage — Chadwick's, [www.chadwicksrestaurants.com/](http://www.chadwicksrestaurants.com/)
- ❖ Appetizer — Sonoma Cellar, [www.mysonomacellar.com/](http://www.mysonomacellar.com/)

- ❖ Entree — Tempo, [www.temprestaurant.com/](http://www.temprestaurant.com/)
- ❖ Dessert — Taverna Cretekou, [www.tavernacretekou.com/](http://www.tavernacretekou.com/)

A new award, Frequent Cherry Diner was won by Fred Zevin who tried the most Cherry Challenge dishes this year.

"I really enjoyed this event; it's been a great two weeks, but maybe not for my waistline," said Danny Smith, who was the director and primary event organizer for the fifth year.

For the first time, this event was sponsored by the professional accounting and management consulting firm of Halt, Buzas, and Powell and the printing of the more



**"Sweet Lips" was named after George Washington beloved hunting dog.**

than 2,000 ballots submitted was sponsored by Dale Digital Printing.

Each person who ordered the dish or menu item was supplied with a ballot so that they could judge the menu item on taste, presentation and creativity. Scoring was done by rating both the number of ballots submitted, and how each dish rated in the palates of the citizens who ordered the items. The winning restaurants will receive a certificate and will be honored at a special reception. For more information about the George Washington Birthday Celebration, visit [www.washingtonbirthday.net](http://www.washingtonbirthday.net).



# SPORTS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Bishop Ireton cheerleading team qualified for nationals and competed in the Christian Cheerleaders of America's national competition last weekend in Winston Salem, N.C. The Cardinals took first place in the medium varsity division. They also had the highest score out of any division at nationals and they received the coveted 2016 national grand champion trophy for beating roughly all 65 teams in the varsity division. Bishop Ireton coach Angela Hope-Eskew was also recognized for being inducted and the CCA's Coaches Hall of Fame.

## TC Boys' Track Finishes State Runner-Up

The T.C. Williams boys' indoor track and field team finished second at the state meet Feb. 26-27 in Hampton.

The Titans finished with a score of 69, three points behind champion Western Branch.

TC's Josephus Lyles (6.21) and Noah Lyles (6.24) finished 1-2 in the 55-meter dash. Noah won the 300 state title (33.89), with Josephus coming in second (34.35).

Josephus Lyles also finished runner-up in the 500 (1:03.36). Noah Lyles took second



PHOTO BY MARK STEPHENS

**Kayla Duperrouzel and the Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse team will host Georgetown Visitation at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15.**

in the high jump (6-8).

The T.C. Williams girls' team finished sixth with a score of 27. Western Branch won the team title (76.5).

## BI Girls' Lax To Host Visitation

The two-time defending VISAA champion Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse team will open the 2016 season with a home game against Georgetown Visitation at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15.

The Cardinals are ranked No. 8 nationally in the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine preseason

poll. Georgetown Visitation is ranked No. 25.

## SSSAS Girls' Lax Ranked No. 4 in National Poll

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team is ranked No. 4 in the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine preseason national poll.

The Saints open the regular season on at 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 15 with a road game against St. Mary's Parish Annapolis. The Saints' first home game is March 30 against Agnes Irwin School.

## SCHOOL NOTES

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

**Samerawit Adagish** of Alexandria has been placed on the president's list in recognition of academic excellence during the fall 2015 semester at New River Community College (Dublin, Va.).

**Agnita Kote** has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Graceland University (Lamoni, Iowa).

**LaToya Russell** was one of three College of Education and Human Development doctoral students accepted into Georgia State University's inaugural class of Final Year Fellows.

**Allison Love** was named to the president's list at The State University of New York at Potsdam (Potsdam, N.Y.). Love is majoring in geology.

**Mallory Gerndt** was named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Newberry College (Newberry, S.C.).

**Francesca Orfila** has received the National Italian American Foundation Lido Civic Club Matching Scholarship. Orfila attends The College of William and Mary and is pursuing a degree in anthropology and classical archaeology.

**Heather Pearson** of Alexandria was named to Susquehanna University's (Selinsgrove, Pa.) dean's list for the fall 2015 semester. Pearson, an earth and environmental sciences major in the class of 2018, is a 2014 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and the daughter of David and Theresa Pearson.

**Joshua Thorne** of Alexandria was named to the 2015 fall dean's list at the University of Mount

Union (Alliance, Ohio).

**Hriday Kamshatti** of Alexandria earned the distinction of faculty honors for fall 2015 at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, Ga.).

University of Rhode Island (Kingston, R.I.) student **Tyrone Jenkins**, of Alexandria, recently completed a fall 2015 internship with Ocean Tides. Jenkins is majoring in sociology.

**Lynn Stevens** of Alexandria was awarded dean's list academic honors for the fall 2015 semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

**Kami Richter** studied abroad at Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand through Fort Lewis College (Durango, Co.) during fall 2015. Richter's current major is anthropology.

**Belen A. Rogers** earned dean's list honors for the fall 2015 semester at Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, Md.). Rogers is the daughter of Robert Rogers and Rocio Mendiazabal.

**Dustin Cassell** and **James Serfass** graduated from Frostburg State University (Frostburg, Md.) in December. Cassell, earned a Master of Business Administration degree in management. Serfass earned a Master of Science degree in recreation and parks management.

**Khalila Karefa-Kargbo** of Alexandria, the daughter of Karefa Kargbo of Freetown, Sierra Leone and Emerica Karefa-Kargbo of Alexandria, has been named to Randolph-Macon Academy's president's list for the second quarter of the 2015-16 school year. The freshman at Randolph-Macon Academy has also been named "Cadet of the Quarter" for the second quarter of the 2015-16 school year.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Titans 12 Take Home Gold

Titans 12, the youngest team in the Alexandria Titans Volleyball Club's travel volleyball program, won the Gold Medal in the Montgomery Village Sports Association's "12s Invitational" tournament held at the Barnesville School in Barnesville, Md. In the daylong competition Titans 12 was undefeated. Members of Titans 12 include (front, from left) Anna Harrington, Milan Rex, Natalie Keough, Maura Munson, Kaitlin Peters, (back) Rachel Wilson, Adeline Fielding, Lila Randall, Harper Lucchesi, Jill Jones. Titans 12 are coached by Ripley Forbes and Stephanie Murphy.



# News

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

## SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**Free Cab Rides.** Thursday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Friday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and receive a free (up to a \$30 fare) safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

## BULLETIN BOARD

## THROUGH MARCH

**Pothole Patrol.** The City began a month-long effort to repair potholes across the City, and is asking residents and businesses to help find and report potholes using <http://1.usa.gov/1p5pTPB>, or by calling 703-746-HELP (4357). Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Potholes](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Potholes).

## THROUGH MID-APRIL

**Parking Lot Renovation.** The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities will renovate the parking lot in Four Mile Run Park at Mount Vernon Avenue. The parking lot will be closed during construction. Park and soccer field users may use the parking lot at the Conservatory Center located at 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. On weekends, additional parking is available on Mount Vernon

Avenue, between the Four Mile Run Bridge and 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1UQsB7W> for more.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

**Meet the City Manager.** 8-10 a.m. at Stratford University, 2900 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. City Manager Mark Jinks will present highlights from the proposed City budget and discuss topics of importance to those who work, live, or invest on the Eisenhower Avenue corridor. Q&A period follows presentation. A continental breakfast will be available for attendees. Free, but registration is required. Visit [eisenhowerpartnership.org/event-2180515](http://eisenhowerpartnership.org/event-2180515) to register.

**Motorcoach Task Force Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, in the Multipurpose Room. The City of Alexandria is reconvening its Motorcoach Task Force, to provide input on motorcoach management strategies, including motorcoach parking and loading/unloading locations. Visit [alexandriava.gov/MotorcoachTaskForce](http://alexandriava.gov/MotorcoachTaskForce), or email [patrick.reed@alexandriava.gov](mailto:patrick.reed@alexandriava.gov) or call 703-746-4147 to join the Motorcoach Task Force email list.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 11

**Nomination Deadline.** The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission and Alexandria Renew Enterprises are seeking nominees for the 2016 Eighth Annual Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award to honor and recognize Alexandrians who demonstrate a commitment to protecting the natural environment and keeping the City

# Alexandria Aces To Begin 9th Season

## Hosts sought to help house players.

In June, the Alexandria Aces will be starting its ninth season in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League giving college players from all over the nation the opportunity to boost their careers and, if they do really well, launch themselves on a path towards the big leagues.

Kyle Zimmer, a top prospect who may be on the Kansas City Royals roster this season, played for the Aces.

Returning to the lead the team is David DeSilva who is in his fifth year with the Alexandria Aces and his fourth as the Head Coach.

In his first season as Head Coach in 2013, DeSilva led the Aces to a team-best 27-17 record in the regular season, earning the number two seed in the CRCBL playoffs. There the team earned its first ever playoff victory. In 2014, the team finished tied for

fourth in the league with a 23-17 record, again making the playoffs but falling just short of a championship title.

Last season, the Aces finished with a 19-21 record and just one game shy of the postseason. After only three seasons, DeSilva holds the all-time wins record as well as highest winning percentage in Aces organizational history.

Tuesday, June 7, is Opening Day. The Aces face the Gaithersburg Giants at 7 p.m. at Frank Mann Field, located behind Cora Kelly School. It will be the first of 20 regular season games.

Tickets are \$5 per person and \$3 for children. As a non-profit, the Aces accept donations. This year, its goal is to get 900 supporters to donate \$9 each in honor of its ninth season. To donate, just come to a game.

The Aces are also looking for hosts to house a player at their home. If interested, contact Don Dinan at [don@alexandriaaces.org](mailto:don@alexandriaaces.org).

green. Visit <http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/EllenPickeringAward> for more.

**"I Object! Taking Ethical Objections to the Bible."** 9-11:30 a.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Does the Bible really say slavery, homophobia and violence are okay? Certainly not. Learn more at "I Object! Taking Ethical Objections to the Bible." \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Register at <https://give.vts.edu/fridays-march-11-2016>.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**City Council Public Hearing.** 9:30 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Jackie Henderson, [jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov), 703-746-4500.

**Public Hearing on Ramsey Homes.** 9:30 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, second floor, 301 King St. The item will be heard as part of City Council's regular public hearing meeting, so time is dependent on previous items. Members of the public may sign up in advance to

speak on this or any other item at [survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/City-Council-Speakers-Form](http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/City-Council-Speakers-Form). Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1TInxU0> for more, including a link to meeting docket.

**How to Prune Practically Anything.** 2:30-4 p.m., outdoors, Alexandria location to be announced. Gain hands-on experience in pruning. Register early; each workshop is limited to 15 participants. Free and open to the public. Advance registration is requested at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com) for more.

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

## MARCH

3/23/2016..Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment  
FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

## APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout  
Easter Sunday is March 27

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

## MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout

5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/4/2016.....Wellbeing

Mother's Day is May 8

5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

5/18/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning

E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) for more information.



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- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
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- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

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For more info, contact 703-824-6730 or [scholarshipfund@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:scholarshipfund@acps.k12.va.us)  
[www.AlexScholarshipFund.org](http://www.AlexScholarshipFund.org)

Drawing will be held at the SFA Gala, Sat. Apr. 23, 2016. Need not be present to win.

Color may vary.

Car or cash prize generously donated by

*Jack Taylor's*

**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA / SCION**



## 21 Announcements

### NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION & NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF PROCEDURE TO FILE CLAIMS PURSUANT TO Code of VA. § 13.1-746.1(b.)

Inge's Properties Inc. (the "Corporation"), a Virginian corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, has dissolved in the Commonwealth of Virginia as of February 10, 2016. Pursuant to the filing of the certificate of dissolution, the Corporation hereby gives notice to all persons having a claim against the Corporation, other than a claim against the Corporation in a pending action, suit or proceeding to which the Corporation is a party, to present their claims against the Corporation in the manner prescribed below:

1. All claims must be presented to the Corporation in writing and must contain sufficient information reasonably to inform the Corporation or successor entity of the identity of the claimant and the substance of the claim.
2. The mailing address to which such a claim must be sent is: Inge's Properties Inc. c/o Robert B. Nealon, Esq., 119 N. Henry Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.
3. The date by which such a claim must be received by the Corporation or its successor entity is May 1, 2016.
4. Any claim that is not received by May 1, 2016 will not be evaluated for payment at this time.
5. The Corporation may make distributions to other claimants or persons interested without further notice to the claimant.
6. Further, any claim will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce such claim is commenced by the earlier of the expiration of the statute of limitations, or three years after the date of publication of this notice.

Robert B. Nealon, Secretary Pro Tempore, Inge's Properties, Inc.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY



**Colonel John F C Kenney, Jr, US Army, Retired**, of Alexandria, VA, passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the age of 90, after a brief illness at the Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was predeceased by his brother William Kenney and his sister Doris Mahaney. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marie E (Koed) Kenney, his daughter Catherine M Hale and her husband Richard A Hale of Alexandria, his daughter Mary E Brenner and her husband Matthew C Brenner of Onancock, and his grandchildren, Colleen M Brenner, M Ethan Brenner, and Zachary J Brenner, and ten nieces and nephews and their families.

John was born in Boston, Massachusetts on January 19, 1926 to John and Doris Kenney. He graduated from Wellesley Senior High School in 1943, and entered Boston College for Pre-Med Studies. He enlisted in the Army later in 1943, where he trained as a Medical Soldier, then Surgical Technician and served at the newly formed Evacuation Hospital in Fort Lewis, WA. At this time he decided that he was meant to be a soldier, and not a physician, and transferred to Officer Candidate School. He completed Airborne Training in July 1945, and served in Europe until 1946. He returned to Boston College and joined the Massachusetts National Guard. He met and fell in love with Marie Koed of Wellesley, MA. Their wedding plans were postponed 4 years by his appointment as Cadet, United States Military Academy at West Point, class of 1952. John graduated from USMA, June 3, 1952, and he and Marie married the next day.

John served 32 years as an Army Airborne Infantry officer. He earned a BS in Engineering from USMA, and an MA in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania. He served in many leadership capacities in the States as well as Japan, Korea, Viet Nam, and Dominican Republic. His last assignment was as Director, Army Tactical Data Systems and Tactical Communications, before retiring June 30, 1975 to his much-loved Alexandria, VA. During his career, John received numerous military awards, chief among them the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Legion of Merit with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

In retirement, John was a consultant to the Department of Defense and small business owner, an active participant in local politics and neighborhood organizations, an usher at St Mary's Catholic Church, and an enthusiastic golfer.

For many years, John was the executive director of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board and president of the Korean War Veterans Foundation. His time, effort, and passion culminated in the building and dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial that we have on the mall today.

John's funeral will be held on Tuesday, June 7, at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel, at 10:45 am. He will be buried immediately after, at Arlington National Cemetery. There will be a viewing on Monday, June 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria, Virginia. Additional information will be available at Demaine's website Memorial.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

**CHRISTINE H. WHITEHOUSE**, age 91, of Alexandria, Virginia, died February 11, 2016 at Goodwin House, Alexandria, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard E. Whitehouse. She is survived by her devoted children and grandchildren, Richard E. Whitehouse, Jr. his wife, Ellen and children, Jack, Stephanie, Jennifer, Christopher, Patrick and Bethany; Robert Whitehouse, his wife, Mary and children Elizabeth and Bobby. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 954, Wilton, NH 03086 or St. James Episcopal Church.

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

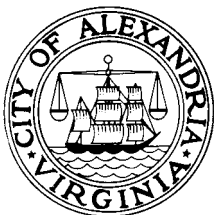
### OBITUARY

**Dorothy Louise Simpson, 88**

On March 1, 2016 peacefully passed away in Bentonville, VA. Formerly of Alexandria, VA. Beloved wife of the late Samuel J. Simpson; she is survived by her children, Laura (Charles) Keller and Richard G. (Barbara) Simpson; grandchildren Johanna P. Carson, Emily L. Simpson, and Charles L. Keller Jr.; and great-granddaughter Amelia M. Carson. The family received friends on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 4-6 p.m. at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Rockland Community Church, 2921 Rockland Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice. Additional information may be found at [www.everlywheatley.com](http://www.everlywheatley.com).

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Tenant of the property located at 728 North Patrick Street to construct and maintain an encroachment for two (2) enclosed stairways along Madison Street to access the rooftop dining at that location

The proposed ordinance permits the restaurant located at 728 North Patrick Street to maintain an encroachment into the right-of-way between the building and the sidewalk along Madison Street at this location in order to construct two stairways to access the rooftop dining.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of the property located at 600 Wolfe Street to construct and maintain an encroachment for handicapped accessible ramp at that location approved by the City Council on January 20, 2016.

The proposed ordinance permits the Little Theatre of Alexandria to encroach into the public right-of-way adjacent to the sidewalk at 600 Wolfe Street in order to construct a handicapped accessible ramp.

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL.  
JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

## 29 Misc. for Sale

## 29 Misc. for Sale

### Dining Set for Sale



Ethan Allen DR set, table and 4 chairs in EXCELLENT condition. Cherry wood, round table with two leaves. Moving. Originally paid \$7500 asking \$3500.  
**Call or text 434-284-2980**

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 16-01-04

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Elementary General Music Texts.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-01-04 Elementary General Music Texts will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, April 1, 2016. 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 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

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

Chris Guy  
Procurement Manager

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Constellation Enterprise, Corp, trading as Mi Pollo, 6464 Landsowne Ctr. Alexandria, VA 22315. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Carmelo Pantano, President  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200

## 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.

### 3 RE for Rent

Room to rent Mt Vernon area separate bathroom garage parking w/ifi 15 min to Yellow Line 35+ professional, contact [remickeric@gmail.com](mailto:remickeric@gmail.com)

## 21 Announcements

ICF/PCC candidate/  
Life coach  
offering 3-40 min coaching sessions for \$150, [athenaspractice@gmail.com](mailto:athenaspractice@gmail.com)

## 26 Antiques

## 26 Antiques

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[theschefers@cox.net](mailto:theschefers@cox.net)

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### In Memoriam

In Memory of my loving partner, Lawrence L. Summers, who passed away on March 9, 1996.

Because you are so dear to me and forever in my heart,

Your memory still lingers on as the day we met,

I count each day as wisely and lovely spent,

In which I do some good for someone far away.

You understood me when I was upset and had the blues,

You showed me that time is worth while when share the

Happiness of one enduring smile.

The happiness that you bestowed to me,

Floods memories of us together,

Today, everyday, forever.

They help me in my sorrow, after the storm was over,

I know that God was there.

Your loving husband, Russ

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### Outer Banks, NC - Vacation Rentals



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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

**I Support Virginia's Families**



**Income Tax Check-Off**

**Donate to the Family and Children's Trust Fund on your Virginia income tax form.**



**Family & Children's Trust Fund**

**[www.fact.virginia.gov/stateincometax](http://www.fact.virginia.gov/stateincometax)**



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• MOUNT VERNON

# EMPLOYMENT

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ZONE 3 Ad DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY 4 P.M.

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(Springfield Campus)

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## F/T P/T Tropical plant, horticultural technicians

Duties include plant care, client relations, process paperwork related to position. Metro DC area, Excl. prof. career oppty for individual w/plant passion, work independently. Grt pay, benefits, Ins, 401k. Experience with Tropical plants a plus, Training provided. Email [sdevine@rollinggreensinc.com](mailto:sdevine@rollinggreensinc.com)

## Part Time Admin Assistant- Front Desk

Dr's office needs front desk assistant for busy friendly office. Skills in answering phones, make appointments, post charges & payments. Must have knowledge of computers, use of Medical Manager system helpful. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 - 5:00 in Alexandria Mt Vernon area. Part time only need apply.

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## News



City Council meets with ARHA leadership at the March 8 work session.



Ramsey Homes along N. Patrick Street.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

# Council Reconsiders Ramsay Rezoning

FROM PAGE 1

City Council asked ARHA to find a way to preserve at least one of the existing buildings for historic preservation. However, the city staff report on the project said that after research began on alternative options, ARHA shut the discussion down.

"Unfortunately, after some productive initial collaboration, ARHA's board directed its staff not to participate further in exploring and creating the various development options and instead elected to proceed with the three-story, 53-unit proposal previously provided for concept review."

When the project returned to the City Council in February, ARHA asked the city to approve the rezoning and the master plan amendment, but asked for a deferral on the project's development special use permit. Due to a protest motion filed by neighbors, the decision required a supermajority approval, which it did not get when Council-

man Paul Smedberg and Mayor Allison Silberberg voted against it. However, at the City Council meeting three days later, Smedberg reversed his decision. The proposal will be brought before the City Council again on March 12, and if the work session discussion is any indication, the council seems more willing to grant ARHA the exception to the usual requirements.

The new project site would provide a net gain of 38 affordable housing units, but much of the discussion at the work session centered around trying to make sure ARHA keeps its word on the project. If a project were approved for rezoning and with a master plan amendment without a definitive plan for the future of the property, some on the council expressed concern that ARHA would not be bound to redevelop the property the way they say they plan to.

Immediately after the meeting, the ARHA board approved resolution 613, a joint City-ARHA work plan. The resolution calls for

ARHA staff to cooperate with city staff on the development of the site and that any results must be completed in accordance with the joint work plan.

Though he reversed his earlier vote against the redevelopment, Smedberg still expressed misgivings about the implications for the development process.

"Now expectation [will be] that development partners are expected to get zoning without having a plan in place," said Smedberg.

"This should not set a precedent to other developers that this is what we're doing," said Silberberg, "but given your mission and our shared commitment to it, and given that we're working so collaboratively on this, that I'm willing to make an exception to that rule... It sends a signal that we want to work together. The relationship with ARHA that goes back decades, [sometimes] not having the best relationship, but I just want us all to move forward."

# Remembering Dorothy Evans Turner

FROM PAGE 1

when she was fighting for equal rights for public housing tenants.

A resident of public housing during the turbulent Civil Rights era, Turner advocated on behalf of the city's low income and minority residents. Together with fellow activist Gwen Menefee-Smith, Turner helped found the Alexandria Tenants Council in 1970 in an effort to establish non-discriminatory housing policies. On March 3, the pioneering champion of tenant rights died at the age of 87.

Born Dorothy Evans on Jan. 4, 1929, Turner was raised in the Del Ray section of the city. She attended St. Joseph's Elementary School and Parker-Gray High School. She married Howard Turner and in 1968, moved into what was then the John Roberts public housing complex in the northwest section of Old Town.

After finding the conditions less than adequate and facing what she and other tenants felt was intimidation and disrespect from the Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Turner worked with the Urban League, the NAACP and other advocacy organizations to establish a platform for residents to bring their concerns to city



Dorothy Turner, left, is shown with fellow Living Legend Ferdinand Day at a 2014 MetroStage reception honoring local Civil Rights icons. Turner died March 3 at the age of 87.

officials.

For her sustained efforts championing tenant rights, Turner, along with Menefee-Smith, was named a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2012. Following her selection, Turner said she had been inspired by her older brother, William "Buddy" Evans, one of five men arrested in 1939 for protesting separate, but unequal public library facilities.

In addition to her fight to improve hous-

ing conditions and policies, Turner sought to preserve and increase the stock of public housing in Alexandria. In later years, she and Menefee-Smith expanded their advocacy to include programs for senior citizens, affordable health care and at-risk special needs students.

Despite her diminishing physical mobility, Turner continued her campaign for disadvantaged families well into her 80s.

"I've lived a full life," Turner told Living Legends of Alexandria. "And am blessed the Lord let me live so long to help people."

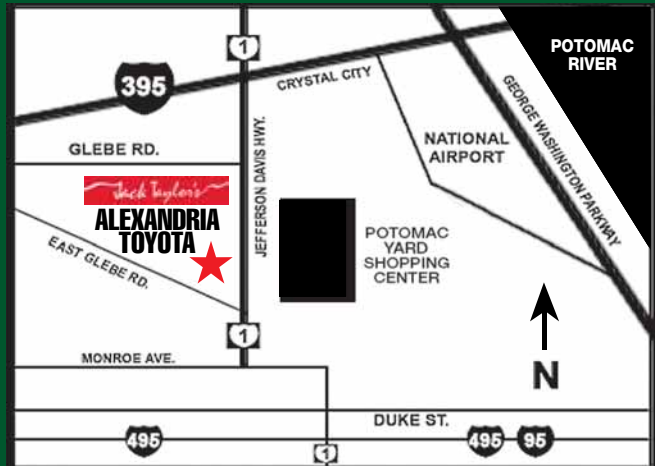
Turner was preceded in death by her husband, Howard Turner, and her daughter, Gayle V. Turner. She is survived by her children, Bernadette Grimes (Douglas), Darryl Turner, Carl Turner and Brian "Jeff" Turner; her siblings, Louise Lewis (Franklin) and Joseph Evans (Marva), and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held Thursday, March 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Greene Funeral Home, 814 Franklin St. The Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. followed by reflections. A viewing will be held Friday, March 11, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 711 N. Columbus St., from 10 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial begins at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Mount Comfort Cemetery.



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BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When Peggy Delinois Hamilton relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and began working full-time after spending eight years as an at-home mother of two children, childcare was one of her top concerns. She decided that a live-in au pair was the best choice for her family.

"I like the live-in because I don't have to worry about issues with transportation on the caretaker's part," said Hamilton. "I don't have to worry about them having competing obligations."

Finding and keeping a live-in nanny in a competitive childcare market can be a high stakes game. To lure and retain experienced, nurturing caregivers, many families shell out as much as \$100,000 to create stylishly appointed living space for their au pairs. From kitchens with marble countertops and stainless steel appliances to bathrooms with luxury showerheads and rich wood cabinetry, local designers create living quarters so enchanting and thoughtfully designed that a nanny wouldn't dream of leaving.

"If you're a live-in nanny, you want your own space. In fact, nannies won't take a job from a family that won't provide it," said Jackie Wood-Gobuluk, owner of Metropolitan Nannies in Herndon, Virginia.

The spaces most often used for nanny suites are the lower level or attic, says Christopher Dietz of Dietz Development. "We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house," he said. "We don't do Formica or IKEA cabinets. We generally use ... granite, marble or Silestone. You don't



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUPLACE

**The space serves as a nanny suite in an Alexandria home. Additional living areas can increase a property's value, say real estate agents.**

want people to say, 'Wow, we can tell you really cut corners on this space.'"

Maintaining a continuity in quality while being budget conscious requires judicious planning. "We may splurge on custom window treatments and a bedskirt and save on things like furniture using retail pieces," said Marika Meyer, principal of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda.

When an Arlington, Va. family enlisted architect J.P. Ward of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. to design an au pair suite for their home, they wanted him to maintain continuity in both color and materials. A cathedral ceiling, granite countertops, and under cabinet lighting were key as he blended the rich aesthetic quality of the original home with the new space. "We used

a higher end tile and materials that blended with the rest of the house," said Ward. "It turned out to be like a high-end studio apartment that you could get high rent for."

The au pair's space has a separate entrance, something that offers privacy to both the nanny and the family. "We made it so that the au pair has an independent way of

coming in and so they're not working 24 hours a day," said Ward.

Contractors say the cost of adding a nanny suite can range from \$5,000 on a property where there is an existing bathroom and space for a bedroom to more than \$100,000 on properties where plumbing must be installed or an small addition is required. "[A] bathroom is the biggest expense because of the plumbing," said Ward.

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— Christopher Dietz,  
Dietz Development

Because such an addition requires a significant investment, Kai Tong of Hopkins and Porter Construction in Potomac, Md. encourages clients to think long term. "One of the most important and useful realizations

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETZ DEVELOPMENT

**The colors of this au pair suite bathroom are similar to those used in the rest of the house.**



PHOTO BY MORGAN HOWARTH

**Families create spa-like living quarters to attract and retain live-in**



# HomeLifeStyle

## Nanny Suites Add Value

FROM PAGE 3

when considering nanny suites is that, unlike your kitchen or bath or bedroom, the nanny suite will only be a nanny suite for a finite amount of time in your lives," he said. "As your children grow, the nanny will move on, and the nanny suite is destined to become

something else."

In the Washington, D.C. area, adding an au pair suite to one's home can make a property more appealing. "Particularly in neighborhoods with lots of young, affluent families, nanny suites are a popular, although not essential, amenity," said David DeSantis, Partner and Managing Broker of

TTR Sotheby's International Realty. "Ideally these suites are somewhat separated from the family sleeping quarters and have their own entrance so the nanny can come and go freely."

A nanny suite can offer a good return on investment. "The fact that it could be used as a nanny suite is a plus, but it's the same



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETZ DEVELOPMENT

**The materials and fixtures used in this nanny suite by Dietz Construction mimic those in the main part of the home.**

sort of thing as an in-law suite. It offers the ability for multigenerational living with some level of privacy," said David Howell, Executive Vice President and CIO of McEneaney Associates in McLean. "Because these suites are pretty uncommon in this area, it's a real draw for those who really need one."

Having a nanny suite, particularly one with high-end amenities, can increase a property's value.

"I would say that they may make a difference in price from 5 to 10

percent as they ... would count as an additional bedroom," said Nancy Itteilag, of Long and Foster Christie's International Real Estate.

Ann Dozier Michael, an Alexandria-based associate broker with McEneaney Associates, has a current listing that includes a nanny suite.

"When you have a property listed that can serve the various needs of buyers, then that will add value because you have a larger buying pool," she said.

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