



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The baby pool provided a lot of romping for the water dogs on Saturday afternoon.

Last Big Swim of the Season



Cece Martin walks the perimeter of the lap pool greeting all whom she meets.



Bizzie Kennedy-Cain emerges from the pool with a tennis ball.

The Cameron Street pool opened on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 15 for the dogs. The annual dog pool day was sponsored by Your Dog's Best Friend on Jefferson Davis Highway allowing all dogs to enter the pool for free.

Amy Young, poet laureate for the

City of Alexandria along with Alexandria residents who submitted poetry during the "2012 Dog Days of August," participated in a special salute to dogs. Young and guest readers read poems about their favorite companion, their dog or poems about dogs as part of the city.



Hobie has competition that won't let go of the Frisbee.

The BRAC Five

Incumbents and former incumbents take heat for site selection.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The ghosts of 2008 are haunting the campaign for mayor and City Council, as candidates clash over events leading up to the relocation of more than 6,000 daily commuters to the city's West End. The site selection of the Washington Headquarters Service as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendation 133 have long been a political football. Last year, Arlington County School Board member Libby Garvey tried to use the issue against Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka during a hotly contested primary for the Virginia state Senate. Now the issue has become a dividing

line among candidates yet again this year, with incumbents and former incumbents trying to defend their record as opponents go on the offensive.

Republican Bob Wood, for example, didn't waste any time ripping into the "the BRAC five," as they have become known, during the first debate of the season last week at Hammond Middle School. In the first sentence of his opening statement, the Republican candidate for City Council went on the offense.

"I welcome all of you here in the shadow of what I call the largest planning failure of the city, BRAC-133," said Wood, prompting the first round of applause. "It's time

SEE THE BRAC FIVE, PAGE 7

City Cracks Down on Old Town Grocery

Two arrested for selling stolen goods, and city officials say investigation is ongoing.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Don't look for a sign announcing the Old Town Grocery. There isn't one. But customers and investigators have been flocking to the business in the 800 block of Pendleton Street. Earlier this month, the Alexandria Police Department arrested two employees of the store and charged them with trying to sell stolen goods. Now Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Randy

Sengel says police are investigating whether items for sale at the store were stolen from automobiles in Rosemont over the summer.

"There's an ongoing investigation as to other activities in the building to see if there's anything else that else that could possibly result in prosecution," said Sengel. "So we are waiting for information from the Police Department and looking at other sources of information that I'm not going to talk

SEE CITY CRACKS, PAGE 6

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Desperately Seeking Councilmember

Do you want to be a member of the Alexandria City Council? If so, write a letter to the court administrator of the Alexandria Circuit Court, which must now fill the position left vacant by former Councilman **Rob Krupicka**.

He won a special election to the House of Delegates seat vacated by former Del. **David Englin** (D-45), who resigned last month in the wake of a sex scandal. Because the vacancy is created so close to the election, it's too late to have another special election. So Circuit Court Chief Judge **Lisa Kemler** gets to make the decision.

Letters from potential applicants must be received no later than close of business on Sept. 25, and court officials say they are looking for candidates who have no interest in seeking a permanent position on the City Council.

"I wrote a letter to the court," acknowledged former Councilman **Lonnie Rich**. "It says the court should appoint (former Councilman) **David Speck**."

Calming the Waters

Urban planners like to talk about traffic flowing like water. If that's the case, Del Ray has become a flood zone.

Construction at Potomac Yard has diverted traffic along two Del Ray streets, East Howell Avenue and East Custis Avenue. That has angered residents who appeared at the public hearing last weekend to voice their concerns. They shared stories of large trucks travelling down neighborhood streets and concerns for children and animals.

"We're seeing a lot of jackrabbit driving," said **Jonathan Pruitt**, who lives on East Howell Avenue. "I've been honked at several times as I've been trying to pull out of my own driveway."

City officials say they have increased the size of stop signs and added reflective sleeves. Meanwhile, police have increased enforcement. But neighbors say more needs to be done, and they are calling on City Council members to use funds set aside in the Complete Streets program to pay for traffic calming measures along Howell and Custis.

"Everybody wants traffic calming," observed Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**, who met with the neighbors to hear their concerns. "But nobody wants it in front of their house."

"I'd actually want it in front of my house," Pruitt responded.

"How about your neighbor across from you?" asked Donley.

"I don't know," Pruitt said. "We'll talk."

Ramping Up Restrictions

Be careful what you ask for because you just might get it.

That's the lesson at City Hall, which has been asking the Department of Defense for a ramp connecting the high-occupancy lanes to the Washington Headquarters Center — the giant new complex where more than 6,000 daily commuters arrive each day thanks to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendation 133. Federal officials are poised to make it happen. But they're doing it in a way that has city officials concerned.

Last weekend, Alexandria City Council members approved a resolution specifying that the \$80 million ramp should limit the access to the rest of the city.

Council members want to restrict people using the ramp from travelling east on Seminary Road during the morning rush hour or west during the afternoon rush hour. Essentially, the idea would be that the ramp would not contribute to increased traffic to other parts of the city.

"If we don't support this today," observed Mayor **Bill Euille**, "we can never go back and say, 'I told you so.'"

City leaders say federal officials appear to be poised to allow traffic to go in all directions from the ramp, despite the on-the-record objection of council members.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The dancing continues on the mulch to flatten and even out the surface.

Playground: Done in a Day

Designed by youths,
built by volunteers.

Activities started early in the courtyard at Hopkins-Tancil in Old Town on Thursday morning, Sept. 13. More than 200 volunteers sporting red Washington Capital's hockey t-shirts swarmed the playground preparing it for the day's work. Volunteers from the Washington Capitals, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, organizers from KaBOOM! and residents joined together to build a new playground for the area children. On Aug. 15, resident children had participated in a Design Day at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. The young participants were asked to design and draw what they would like to see in the new playground. Ideas were culled and a design formed. Thursday, the design became reality as the work was completed by the time the children returned home from school at 3 p.m.

Mayor Bill Euille, members of City Council, Police Chief Earl Cook, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Fire Chief Adam Thiel joined members of the ARHA board of directors and Washington Capital's Mike Green, Nicklas Backstrom and Brooks Laich and radio personality Elliot Segal for a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the volunteers and children. After the ceremony,



Tons of shredded bark mulch is moved into the playground.

SEE PLAYGROUND, PAGE 5



The music gets cranked up and all the volunteers head to the new mulch on the playground to dance it flat on the surface. Leading the volunteers is KaBOOM! senior project manager Kathryn Lusk and Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Snead.

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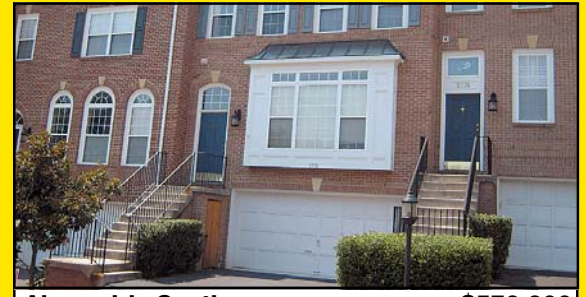
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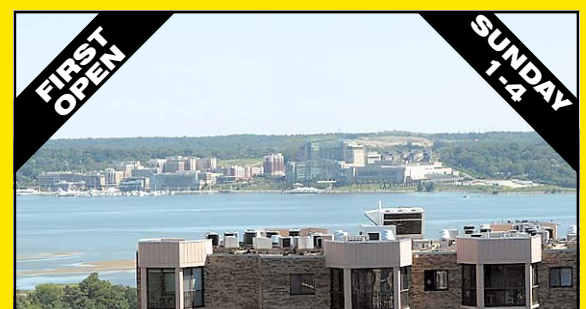
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The children are cheered as they return home after a day at school.

Playground: Done in a Day

FROM PAGE 3

the playground was fenced off so that the concrete footings would cure. Three days later on Sunday, the fences were removed and the playground was officially opened.

Green and Segal founded the "So Kids Can" program in 2008 to benefit youth-focused, nonprofit organizations. This season Caps forwards Backstrom

and Laich also joined the cause. "So Kids Can" partnered with KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to saving play across the country. KaBOOM's signature project is a done-in-a-day playground. The new playground is the second facility built by KaBOOM!, the Washington Capitals and "So Kids Can."

— LOUISE KRAFFT



So Kids Can co-founder and radio personality Elliot Segal applauds the work of the volunteers and offers a few door prizes in a random drawing.



Thomas Shan leads classmates at the Ruby Tucker Learning Center in a celebratory song and dance.



Major sponsor for the project B3 Solutions CEO Bud Almas, Jim Washington and president Brenda Bearden join Mayor Bill Euille for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Tablea Brown, Amanda Davis, Courtney Davis, Janiya, Makayla Alford and Thomas Shan listen as Roy Priest introduces special guests on Monday afternoon at the playground.

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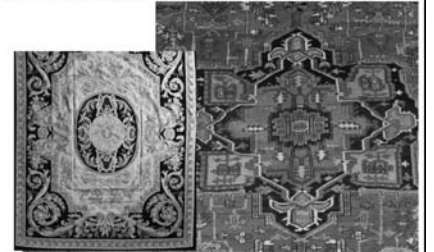
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City Cracks Down on Old Town Grocery

FROM PAGE 1
about.”

Lots of people are talking about the Old Town Grocery, which became the subject of a heated City Council discussion last week. Since then, Mayor Bill Euille says he’s been receiving more calls and emails about this topic than any other business currently before the city government. Neighbors in the Parker Gray neighborhood are pressing city officials for action.

“The city can’t just revoke a business license or shut a business down just because we get a few complaints,” said Euille. “So we’re making sure we’re following all the proper procedures.”

“This is not just a few complaints,” responded Councilman Paul Smedberg. “There’s been a history here.”

OVER THE SUMMER, law-enforcement officials raided the business. City officials say investigators have gathered evidence of food-stamp fraud, and police officers have recorded a number of nuisance activities in the neighborhood.

Although the business has raised alarms at City Hall, planning officials say that the business does not need a special-use permit because it applied as a grocery store, which is exempt from the SUP process. Nevertheless, elected officials are talking tough



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Old Town Grocery is in the 800 block of Pendleton Street.

about Old Town Grocery.

“Its days are numbered,” said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley. “When businesses open here in Alexandria, we expect them to be good neighbors and to be contributing members not only to the body of commerce but also to the neighborhoods where they reside.

That has not been the case, unfortunately, with this store.”

Members of the City Council have received more than 100 letters complaining about the business. Neighbors are calling on the city to use its regulatory powers to respond, but city officials say they have lim-

ited authority.

“We do not have today anything in the state law or the city law that would say that just because a business is being investigated for criminal activity that we have the power to close the business,” said Barbara Ross, deputy director of the Department of Planning and Zoning. “We do not have that today.”

Councilwoman Alicia Hughes says the city should use its police powers to confront what she calls a “nuisance.”

“It’s difficult to tell citizens that their government cannot provide a form of redress,” said Councilwoman Alicia Hughes. “You’ve got citizens who are having altercations and saying threatening things. That’s a matter of public safety.”

TO PREVENT this kind of situation in the future, city officials are talking about adopting an amendment to the zoning code. Instead of allowing grocery stores to be exempt from the special-use permitting process, the amendment would align it with the requirements of convenience stores. The amendment is slated to be on the schedule this fall.

“Let’s face it, you’re either a grocery store or a convenience store,” said Donley. “Let’s put them all on an equal footing, and requires special-use permits for all of them.”

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NEWS BRIEFS

Police Investigate Assault on Jogger

Alexandria Police are investigating an assault that occurred Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 6 a.m. on the bike path near Holmes Run Parkway.

A 38-year-old female city resident was jogging when she was grabbed from behind by a man. The victim screamed, broke free from the suspect and ran away from him. He was last seen walking on the bike path towards Van Dorn Street. The suspect is described as a medium to darker skinned male, approximately 5’6” tall and he was wearing a dark colored jacket. The victim was not injured.

Anyone with information about this incident or who might have been in the area is asked to call the Criminal Investigations Section at

SEE BRIEFS, PAGE 19



Mayor Bill Euille



Councilwoman Del Pepper



Councilman Paul Smedberg



Former Councilman Tim Lovain



Former Councilman Justin Wilson

The BRAC Five

FROM PAGE 1

for a change.”

The Defense Department’s selection of the Mark Center site has long been a source of frustration in Alexandria, especially considering the other two sites under consideration for the Washington Headquarters Service were near Metro stations. Yet Alexandria officials actively encouraged the Department of Defense to consider the Mark Center site, even though it was not near a Metro station and did not have the necessary capacity to handle increased traffic. In an August 2008 letter to BRAC officials, Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks said the road capacity could be achieved by widening Seminary Road and expanding the turning capacity from Seminary into the Mark Center site.

“Since Duke Realty is funding these road improvements, this site does not require any Defense Access Roads funding,” Jinks wrote in the letter, which is dated Aug. 13, 2008. “With these improvements, which are to be made at the developer’s expense, city staff is comfortable that sufficient capacity will be created by the proposed and developer-agreed to improvements and that no additional transportation studies are warranted.”

THAT LETTER is at the heart of a raging debate among City Council candidates, forming a wedge between those who were part of the city government that endorsed the Mark Center site and those who were not. That means that the campaign features current council members attacking previous council members who are seeking to make a comeback. One of those is Republican Frank Fannon, who says the previous all-Democratic City Council had lack of leadership on this issue.

“The problem with the previous City Council is that they were asleep at the switch when this BRAC decision went down,” said Fannon, prompting a round of applause. “Two of the members of City Council were transportation professionals when that decision was made.”

He was referring to former Councilman Tim Lovain and former Councilman Justin Wilson, both of whom work in the transportation sector.

“We got rolled,” acknowledged Lovain. “In retrospect, I have a regret, and that is that we took the staff advice to do everything in executive session and verbally.”

“I didn’t see that letter until after it was sent,” said Wilson in a January interview. “Our discussion up to that point had been about making a zoning determination and figuring out a way to get money in lieu of taxes, so I was surprised to see that transportation was part of the letter.”

ON THE CAMPAIGN trail, the issue of BRAC continues to be a hot button issue — especially on the West End, where many residents say the city gov-

ernment has ignored them for years. Many voters say they don’t feel their voices were heard when a traffic corridor was created along Beauregard Street or when a new small-area plan gave a green light to increased density in the neighborhood. But the issue of BRAC looms over all these debates — literally and figuratively.

“It’s an unmitigated disaster,” said Allison Silberberg. “We need to know how it happened so that it doesn’t happen again.”

The story of how a military installation ended up in a leafy office park is a tale of money and location. Duke Realty purchased the Mark Center complex from the Mark Winkler Company in 2006, making it one of the principal taxpayers in the city because the land was valued at more than \$225 million. Two years later, the Department of Defense released a request for proposals for a “build to suit” facility that could accommodate 6,400 employees and be ready by 2011. City leaders in Alexandria felt confident that the site known as the Victory Center would be selected.

“We had been told all along that it’s in the bag and that we shouldn’t worry — that was the advice we got,” said Councilwoman Del Pepper. “No member of council was doing the negotiating, incidentally.”

DUKE OFFERED its property at a price that was about \$200 million less than the Victory Center, making the decision easy for the Department of Defense. The offer also represented a significant windfall for Duke compared to a private development deal, which would have been subject to density limitations and traffic-management requirements from Alexandria City Hall. Because the Pentagon is exempt from city regulations, Duke was able to sell the land and develop the property without having to deal with limitations imposed by the city. Alexandria city government went along with the idea, endorsing the Mark Center site in addition to the Victory Center.

“This was an abdication of leadership,” said Wood. “And the people responsible for that decision need to be held accountable.”

The consequences of moving 6,000 daily commuters to Mark Center have yet to be fully realized. Alexandria could end up losing the Center for Naval Analyses and the Institutes for Defense Analyses because of the increased traffic gridlock on the West End. If the Department of Defense moves into those locations, Alexandria would lose property tax revenue because the federal government does not have to pay taxes. Several candidates said they would oppose an expansion of Department of Defense in Alexandria.

“One of the things we need to do is explore how much economic development — small businesses and offices and the like — that we can to increase the revenue that we bring to the city. That needs to be

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Streetcar Polarization

Two candidates have identified streetcars as one of their chief campaign issues, but for different reasons.

Former Councilman **Tim Lovain** is a member of the Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition and has spent years promoting the idea of bringing streetcars back to the region. On the other side of the issue is Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes**, who is against converting bus-rapid transit corridors to streetcars. The two clashed about the issue last week, when candidates met for the first debate.

“While it sounds great, we can’t afford to do it,” said Hughes, adding that the cost of upgrading is \$240 million for each mile of rail. “There has not been a substantial amount of public interest in doing this.”

The issue has already created some friction between the Arlington County Board and the Alexandria City Council earlier this year, although the two sides were able to reach an agreement. Arlington is interested in upgrading its transit corridors from bus-rapid transit to streetcars as soon as possible, while Alexandria is still considering the issue. Voters will have a clear choice in November between Hughes, who has been publicly critical of the idea, and Lovain, who has been one of the chief promoters of the idea.

“I’m sorry,” said Lovain after Hughes spoke against streetcars. “But they have a higher ridership. They have environmental benefits, and they educe economic development to pay for them.”

Responsible Leadership?

Libertarian candidate **Robert Kraus** describes himself as “angry” about city spending, a theme he returned to several times during the debate. Kraus said the city is “addicted to spending,” adding that he would like to see a reduction of \$2 in current spending for every \$1 in new spending. As an example of a wasteful program, he mentioned the recently approved Mount Vernon Avenue Trolley — an initiative he said would not be worth the investment for the number of riders who will use it.

“You might as well hand them cab fare and pay for their dinner,” said Kraus, eliciting laughter. “Enough already. Enough of the spending.”

Councilman **Paul Smedberg** shot back, defending the city’s record.

“This community has been very responsible,” said Smedberg. “We have tried to maintain a very low budget rate, given all the challenges that we have.”

Mark Your Calendars

Several candidate forums are scheduled in the coming weeks, although none of the debates will feature incumbent Mayor **Bill Euille** and Vice Mayor **Andrew Macdonald** in their own separate debate.

The first will be on Oct. 2 p.m. from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters and North Old Town Independent Citizens Civic Association. The Old Dominion Boat Club has also announced a debate for the same time at the club, although Democratic Party Chairman **Dak Hardwick** said his party’s candidates have already committed to the League of Women Voters’ debate.

The Old Town Civic Association will also host a candidate forum Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy. But Hardwick says he has yet to confirm because the mayor and Councilman Smedberg are not available that day.

Two more debates have been confirmed, however. Action Alexandria, the Del Ray Patch and the NAACP will host a candidate forum Oct. 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at George Washington Middle School. And the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors will host a forum on Oct. 24 at Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center from 7 to 9 p.m.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

SEE THE BRAC FIVE, PAGE 19

OBITUARIES

Helen Sue Macom Tucker Hunter

Helen Sue Macom Tucker Hunter of Alexandria and Clover, S.C. died July 14, 2012. She was 85 years old. Mrs. Hunter is survived by her two sons, John and Robert as well as her six grandchildren and two great grandsons. She was predeceased by her two husbands, Emmett E. Tucker and Joseph L. Hunter, and her eldest son, E. Randolph Tucker.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 2:30 at Goodwin House in Alexandria and a private burial will take place in Salem, Va.

Ida N. Sanson

Ida N. Sanson, 79, of Fredericksburg, formerly of Alexandria, died on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012 at Woodmont Nursing Home, Fredericksburg.

She is survived by her nephews, James Justice, Bill Justice, William Hatfield, Frank Sanson, Frank Whitt and Larry Justice. She was preceded in death by her parents, Will and Virgie Smith Sanson and a nephew, Jack Justice.

A visitation was held on Monday, Sept. 10, at Johnson Funeral Home, Locust Grove, Va., The Rev. Amos Healy officiated the service. Interment was at Mt. Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria. An online guestbook and obituary are available at www.johnsoncares.com.

ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES NOTICE OF UNSOLICITED PPEA PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL FOR BIOSOLIDS PROCESSING
Issue Date: September 6, 2012



CLOSING DATE: October 21, 2012
CLOSING TIME: 2:00 PM, EDT

Alexandria Renew Enterprises ("ARenew") has accepted an unsolicited proposal for review pursuant to the Virginia Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (the "PPEA") (Va. Code § 56-575.1 et. seq., as amended) and the ARenew PPEA Guidelines. ARenew intends to evaluate the proposal, may negotiate an interim or comprehensive agreement with the proposer based on the proposal, and will accept for simultaneous consideration any competing proposals that comply with the procedures adopted by ARenew and the PPEA.

Summary of Proposal: Intellergy Corporation of Richmond, CA (Intellergy) has submitted an unsolicited PPEA proposal. Intellergy proposes to install and operate a seven dry-ton per day biosolids processing facility at the ARenew treatment plant located at 1500 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, Virginia, using its patented steam reforming technology. Intellergy's proposal offers ARenew the opportunity to diversify its biosolids management options with a more sustainable system that would produce marketable diesel fuel and pelletized fertilizer from both digested and undigested biosolids.

Copies of the Intellergy proposal shall be available upon request, subject to the provisions of FOIA and § 56-575.4 G of the PPEA.

For general inquiries contact Lander Napper, Purchasing Agent at 703-549-3381 Ext. 2203.

**ISSUED BY: ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES, VIRGINIA
LANDER NAPPER PURCHASING AGENT
PURCHASING DIVISION
1500 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314**

**COMPETING PROPOSALS MUST BE MAILED OR HAND DELIVERED
TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE, NO LATER THAN THE
ANNOUNCED DATE AND TIME OF CLOSING.
PROPOSALS SENT BY FACSIMILE
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Author Bob Shea reads from his book, "Dinosaur Santa."

Alexandria City Public Schools curriculum specialist Suzanne Lank recognizes summer readers and reads the names of two winners of \$100 gift certificates.

Celebrating Reading

Colorful mats covered the inside floor of the T.C. Williams cafeteria on Saturday, Sept. 15 for the annual Alexandria Story Festival. Children's authors read books to the children as they took seats on the mats. Drawings were held and prizes awarded to students who read 100 minutes a week over the summer. Volunteers set up activity tables and a selection of books was available for sale.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Old Town

BIKES? YIKES!

In case you missed summer "Townners, you probably missed one of the truly giant stories that dominated the agenda for the old port city. Well, actually, two stories.

In my earlier newspaper days we called these "above the fold" bell ringers — big time news stuff. We're talking here about bringing back vaudeville to Old Town and, secondly, a program to establish a "bike share" business keyed to the city.

More on these bell ringers later. First, a word about the Old Town Civic Association and the folks who will be running it for the next year or so. The new president of OTCA is Yvonne-Weight Callahan. Vice president is Betty Ann Spar. James Doll is treasurer and David Olinger will serve as corresponding secretary. Katy Cannady will serve as recording secretary. These stalwarts will serve one-year terms.

Rounding out the new slate are the grunts (workers), also known as directors who will serve two-year terms. They include Tim Elliott (my backhand is failing), at large; Mike Hobbs, north of King;

Gail McCurry, south of Franklin; Bill Doying, south of King; Bert Ely, central; Christa Lyons, west of Washington. Immediate past president, John Gosling.

These folks have even been vetted by a crack nominating committee and they mean business. They also care a great deal about Old Town. What more can I tell you? Oh yes. I was on the nominating committee. Just don't call me. Call them.

NOW THEN — back to vaudeville in Old Town and plans for a wide-ranging bike share program in the city. I'll let the wizards at City Hall fill you in on the "above the fold" details of this one. Suffice to say that Old Town probably isn't ready for this — and in the heart of town no less. The folks who envision this plan describe it as a rotating series of performances staged during lunch hours, (including lunch), at the Old Town Theater on King Street. Our city archeologist was quoted in this very paper the other day this way: "Bringing back that kind of entertainment to King Street is very fitting for Alexandria history. This is an area with a long history of entertainment, so to see this happening is very exciting."

All I can say is Pam, you need to get out more. Meantime, rev up the lunch carts for Market Square.

The bike share plan somehow doesn't hit me as something that will hit the news as a major need for downtown Old Town. Again, I defer to some of our brilliant planners on this one to explain what this would do to make a dent in traffic congestion on King Street and elsewhere. The city plan is to erect bike share stations holding some 70 bikes throughout Old Town. Civic Association stalwart Townsend "Van" Van Fleet notes that four of the stations would be on King Street, three others outside the Old and Historic District and one other for the waterfront.

My friend Van Fleet wonders why our planners insist on trying to stuff 10 pounds into a five-pound bag. Van also notes that OTCA wasn't even briefed on the program in advance.

I share your frustration, Van. Picture a quiet fall afternoon at Market Square. Food carts zip among us. A vaudeville choir is singing off key. And a bike is about to take both of us out (and not for lunch).

— BOB FELDKAMP

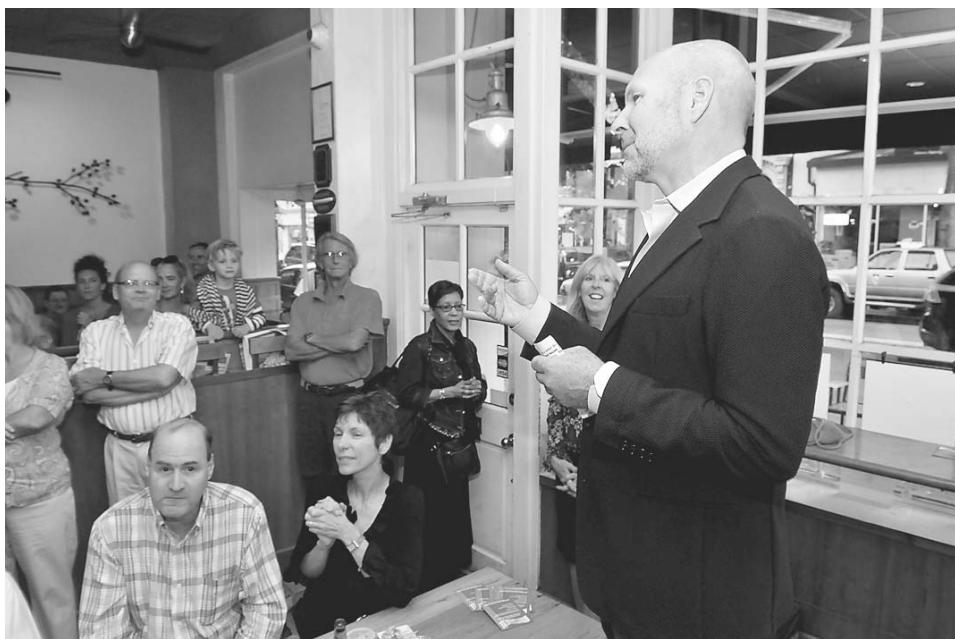


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Bittersweet owner Jody Manor thanks all the friends, neighbors and café regulars for joining in the celebration on Saturday evening. Manor also announced plans to operate Bittersweet as a Mexican restaurant in the evenings with table service.

Bittersweet Hosts Fiestagigante

The Mariachis Band began playing at 5 p.m. at the entrance to Bittersweet on Saturday evening, Sept. 15. Jody and Alice Manor and the Bittersweet staff were busy greeting friends and regulars at the anniversary party and celebration of Mexican Independence.



The Mariachis perform at the corner of King and N. Alfred streets.



Bittersweet owner Jody Manor and his mom, Alice Manor, take a moment with longtime customer Duncan Blair.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.
Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

THROUGH FRIDAY/SEPT. 21

Home Energy Makeover Contest. Sponsored by the Local Energy Alliance Program, the contest is free to enter and open to residents who own and occupy a home, townhome, condo, or duplex in the region. Residents must complete a quick online-report at www.novaenergycontest.com about their home's energy usage. Winners will be announced in October. Call 434-227-4666.

THROUGH SEPT. 30

ZIPS Dry Cleaners Renew Partnership with Will2Work Clothing Drive. The Will2Work Clothing Drive will provide disadvantaged adults trying to re-enter the workforce with access to

donated suits and professional attire that can be worn on the job or to job interviews. Visit www.321zips.com.

Volunteers Needed. AARP Tax-Aide, a free, national volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service for low to moderate income and elderly citizens, needs volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2013 tax season. Volunteers of all ages and background welcome. The program will offer free five-day training using IRS computers and software. Volunteers become IRS Certified Tax Counselors after completing the training and passing the IRS examination. Training sessions will be held in

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 14

Serving Up Leadership

Armstrong to be honored as Business Leader of the Year.

He is a native Dubliner but for decades, chef Cathal Armstrong has made Alexandria his home, opening his signature Restaurant Eve in 2004 and creating The Eat Good Food Group with his wife Meschelle. On Nov. 13, Armstrong will be honored as the 2012 Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year at a reception to be held at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Art Center.

"I'm honored to be part of a great community of business leaders and I'm proud to call Alexandria home," said Armstrong, whose other restaurants include The Majestic, Virtue Feed and Grain, Society Fair, Eamonn's A Dublin Chipper, PX and Bar TNT.

In addition to paying tribute to Armstrong, the Chamber of Commerce will present awards to Alexandria businesses in the following categories: Eco-Friendly Business; Large Business; Small Business; Association/Non-Profit and overall Business of the Year.

Armstrong was selected for the chamber's top business award for his dedication and exemplary leadership in the business community. The Eat Good Food group sources local ingredients while promoting sustainability and Armstrong and his wife give back to the community through charitable works including Chefs As Parents and Fresh Farm Markets.

Armstrong is a Best Mid-Atlantic Chef nominee by the James Beard Foundation in 2011, selected as both Food & Wine magazine's "10 Best New Chefs 2006" and honored in Food & Wine magazine's "50 Hall of Fame Best New Chefs" and Best Chef Award Winner by the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington D.C.

Armstrong's significant contributions to the local food movement have garnered him accolades that include The National Restaurant Association "Neighborhood Community Award," Edible Chesapeake Magazine's "Local Hero Award" and The Washingtonian Magazine's "Green Giant Award" for those who work to protect and preserve the environment and teach the virtues of green living. In addition, the White House has honored him as a "Champion of Change."

"The Alexandria Chamber is proud to honor to Chef Armstrong and have him join an exceptional list of business entrepreneurs as recipients of our Business



COURTESY PHOTO

Chef Cathal Armstrong will be honored Nov. 13 as the 2012 Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year.

Leader of the Year Award," said Chamber president and CEO John T. Long.

Armstrong follows in the footsteps of past Business Leader of the Year recipients that include: Taylor Burke of Burke and Herbert Bank and Trust Company (1994); Gant Redmon of Redmon, Peyton and Braswell (1995); WJD Associates - Donnie Wintermutte, Cindy Jackson and Becki Donatelli (1996); Randy Kell of The Mark Winkler Company (1997); Jim Wilding of Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (1998); Mike Anderson of Mango Mike's Cool Caribbean Café (1999); Lou Scanlan of Outbounder, Inc. (2000); Bill Euille of Wm. D. Euille & Associates (2001); Roger Machanic of MRE Properties (2002); Jack Taylor of Alexandria Toyota, Inc. (2003); Kerry Donley, Virginia Commerce Bank (2004); Shawn McLaughlin, McLaughlin Investments, LLC (2005); John McEneaney - McEneaney Associates (2006); Lynn Hampton - Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (2007); Mayor's Economic Sustainability Workgroup (2008); Charles Collum, Burke & Herbert Bank (2009); Charlotte Hall, Potomac Riverboat Company (2010) and Peter Converse, Virginia Commerce Bank (2011).

For information on sponsorships or tickets to attend the Business Awards Reception, visit www.alexchamber.com.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

OPINION

Bill of Rights Makes Democracy Work

Rare opportunity to see George Washington's copy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

On June 22, 2012, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association emerged from intense bidding at a Christie's auction in New York, securing George Washington's personal copy of the Acts of Congress. The price at the auction was just under \$10 million.

This week, this volume containing George Washington's personal copy of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other legislation passed by the first session of Congress, with his handwritten notes in the margins, went on display at the Mount Vernon Estate, on Constitution Day which was Monday, Sept. 17. The book will be on display at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center at the Mount Vernon Estate through President's Day in February 2013.

It is certainly worth the trip to see.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments, are a model of spare writing, packing every word and phrase with meaning, anticipating much and providing a framework for the future. Here is the text of the Bill of Rights, courtesy of the Library of Congress. I cannot imagine that 500 words anywhere from any era convey so much power. These 500 words are what make democracy work.

A BILL OF RIGHTS as provided in the Ten Original Amendments to The Constitution of the United States in force December 15, 1791.

Article I

Congress shall make no law respecting an

EDITORIAL

establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall

be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Getting 'By Right' Right

To the Editor:

Once again we are hearing the myth, convenient for developers and City Council incumbents. past and present. that Small Area Plans

like Beauregard and the one proposed for the Alexandria Waterfront, are necessary.

Without them, so goes the myth, developers can run amuck doing anything they please under the rubric of "By Right."

"By Right" means residual rights which any property owner possesses at a comparatively low density and with a use as specified in the controlling Small Area Plan — for example: housing where housing is an acceptable use in the plan, or commercial where commercial is acceptable.

Not one inch of land within our city limits is outside a Small Area Plan. These plans are the basis of our zoning law.

At the Sept. 12 forum, candidates invoked the threat of "By Right" at least three times as justification for new and controversial Small Area Plans which open the way for high-density development.

What is never mentioned is that when no "appropriate" Small Area Plan exists, a Special Use Permit is still needed for any significant development, even under "By Right." That means, of course, that City Council has to examine each project on a case-by-case basis — inconvenient but not necessarily a bad idea. Councilors have to stand up and be counted in each case.

Without an "appropriate" Special Use Permit, "By Right" does not authorize the level of development needed to justify a major investment, and larger parcels of land here always

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot 7 p.m., Sept. 13: Hopkins Tancil Courtyard.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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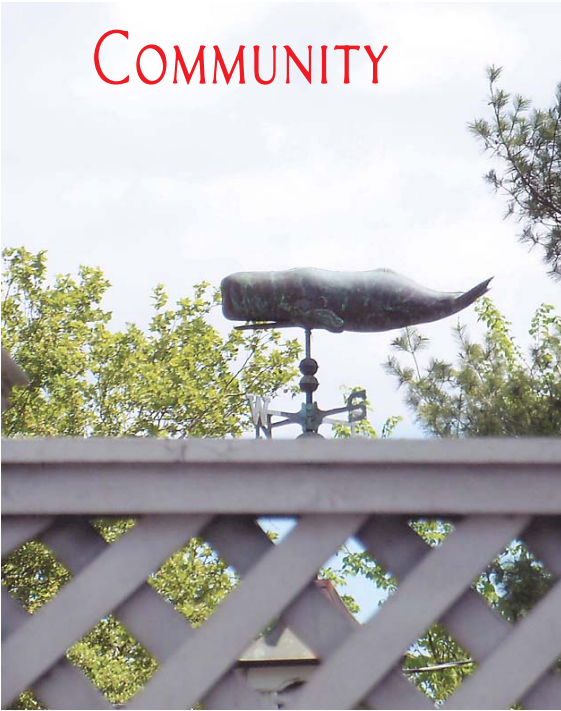
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COMMUNITY

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET



The sighting — and pursuit — of “The Whale.”

Tale of a Whale

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
GAZETTE PACKET

King Street slopes down a shallow hill and ends at the flats of an ancient river plain, close by Alexandria's railroad station. Many drivers pausing in traffic will gaze to the right at the landscaped grounds of the National Masonic Memorial, with its geom-

etry of cultivated shrubs and flowers. Few glance to the left over the high white fence topped with wooden latticework. Those who do blink in surprise at “The Whale.”

The peak of a small shed is capped with a weathervane featuring The Whale. Closer inspection tells it is a Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) — like Moby-

SEE THE WHALE, PAGE 15

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY, FOR AUTHORITY
TO AMEND ITS SAVE PLAN PURSUANT TO § 56-604 B OF
THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUE-2012-00096

On August 6, 2012, in accordance with 5 VAC 5-20-80 of the State Corporation Commission's ("Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, and § 56-604 B of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), a provision of the Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy Plan Act ("SAVE Act"), Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") with the Commission for approval of certain amendments to its SAVE Plan, which was approved by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2010-00087 ("Approved SAVE Plan"). In its Application for an amended SAVE Plan ("Amended SAVE Plan"), the Company proposes to recover approximately \$191.4 million in anticipated expenditures for replacement of facilities over a five-year period beginning January 1, 2013. As proposed by the Company, the recovery of its anticipated expenditures would be through a rider on customers' bills as required by § 56-604 A of the SAVE Act ("Rider").

The Company projects that the Rider for the Amended SAVE Plan will add \$8.90 to a typical residential customer's bill in 2013, and the charge would be reflected on customers' bills in the line item "All Applicable Riders." In subsequent years, the Rider would be revised annually after review by the Commission Staff ("Staff"), and the revised Rider would become effective at the beginning of the January billing cycle. The Amended SAVE Plan and Rider would remain in effect through December 31, 2017.

WGL states that the infrastructure replacement projects included in the Amended SAVE Plan will expand the scope of WGL's Approved Save Plan to enable the Company to continue accelerated replacement of higher risk pipe based on historical leak rates.

The Company states that it will continue to implement the replacement programs in the Approved SAVE Plan, but proposes to revise the cost estimates for three of the approved programs to reflect actual cost experience to date and to include construction overhead. The Approved SAVE Plan consists of three on-going programs: Program 1 - Bare and/or Unprotected Steel Services; Program 2 - Bare and Unprotected Steel Main; and Program 3 - Vintage Mechanically Coupled Pipe. As part of this Application, the Company requests authority to extend the approval period for Programs 2 and 3 for an additional three years beyond December 31, 2014, to coincide with the five-year approval requested for the three proposed new replacement programs, namely, Program 5 - Targeted Copper Service Segments; Program 6 - Targeted Pre-1975 Plastic Service Segments ("Black Plastic"); and Program 7 - Cast Iron Main. Additionally, the estimated expenditures and timeframe for the proposed new pipe replacement programs are \$11.0 million over five years for Program 5 - Targeted Copper Service Segments; \$4.6 million over five years for Program 6 - Black Plastic; and \$26.2 million over ten years for Program 7 - Cast Iron Main. The Company projects total annual expenditures for the Amended SAVE Plan to be \$40 million in 2013; \$40 million in 2014; \$37.1 million in 2015; \$37.1 million in 2016; and \$37.1 million in 2017.

In its Application, the Company also requests that the Commission eliminate the limitation that individual program allocations may be modified by no more than 10%. The Company asserts that this additional flexibility would enable it to prioritize projects based on their riskiness, as demonstrated by the Company's Distribution Integrity Management Program, rather than on a pre-determined timeline. The Company further states that expenditures for SAVE programs will continue to be capped at 105% of the total SAVE Plan approved amount, and annual expenditures will not exceed 125% of the amount approved for each year, as required by the Commission's Order in Case No. PUE-2010-00087.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application and supporting testimony and exhibits for the details of these proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

A copy of the Company's Application may be obtained at no charge by requesting a copy of the same from the Company's counsel, Meera Ahmed, Esquire, Washington Gas Light Company, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20080. The Application and related documents shall also be available for review in the Commission's Document Control Center, Tyler Building, First Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

On or before October 19, 2012, interested persons may file written comments on WGL's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so, on or before October 19, 2012, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2012-00096.

On or before October 19, 2012, interested persons may request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company's Application by filing a request for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Requests for hearing must refer to Case No. PUE-2012-00096 and include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

On or before October 19, 2012, any interested person may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing a notice of participation in accordance with 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2012-00096.

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

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Locations throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

represent a major investment.

In the absence of a new and more friendly Small Area Plan, developers' borrowing costs will be higher, and the value of the land they are investing in will be lower.

That is why all, repeat all, of Alexandria's recently approved or currently proposed Small Area Plans have been driven by developer interests, despite their unpopularity with many residents.

Think about it — why would the development community be so heartily in favor of “appropriate” Small Area Plans — and spend so much time influencing their design — if they could already do anything they want to under “By Right”?

If anyone can point out a case where by “By Right” has been the basis of major development in Alexandria, please let's examine it.

Robert Pringle
Alexandria

Democracy Means Voting

To the Editor:

We are now entering the final weeks of political campaigns for local offices that provide truly historic opportunities for Alexandrians. For the first time, local elections in the city will be held at the same time as the national elections. It is also a time when the city is facing decisions

that can have major impacts on the lives of citizens for decades to come. For this reason, it is essential that the critical local issues not be overshadowed by the larger national political issues.

For at least two decades, city leaders have promoted development as a way to lower residential taxes. This has not happened. Instead of lowering taxes, we have experienced almost uncontrolled development in every section of Alexandria. From the traffic debacle associated with BRAC-133 to the push to develop high-rise apartments in Arlandria to the spectacle of enormous, so-called “boutique” hotels crowding the waterfront to development in the Beauregard corridor, the city has been overrun with development. We need to throw out the leaders who have pushed this failed policy and replace them with leaders who are willing to listen seriously to the concerns of citizens. We also need to reject this failed policy itself and replace it with a truly open dialogue that seeks out and addresses the concerns of residents.

For example, residential areas like the Hamlets, which are slated to be destroyed in developing the Beauregard corridor, are viable as they are right now. We should not be displacing the people who live there now just to line the pockets of developers. The city needs affordable housing for all the people who live and work here, including those who work in Alexandria's multi-faceted service industries.

In addition, by forcing lower-income residents out of Alexandria, we are depriving citizens of the ethnic diversity and cultural richness that help to make our city an interesting place in which to live.

Furthermore, Alexandria is not just another bedroom community for Washington, D.C. It is a city with its own special history and with a truly unique perspective on the development and history of our nation.

Finally, Alexandria belongs to its citizens, not to developers. In the election coming up this November, we have a chance for the citizenry to regain control of the city we know and love. Let us look not at party endorsements but at the qualities of the individuals who are candidates for local offices. Let each of us vote for those office-seekers who we believe are most likely to listen to the citizens and to act in ways that are truly in the best interests of the majority of citizens. Let this election truly demonstrate American democracy in action.

Hugh Van Horn
Alexandria

Appreciate City Staff

To the Editor:

We are writing because so often residents are slamming the good people that work for the City of Alexandria and we have just had such a wonderful experience, we wanted to share it with you.

After 19 years with an empty lot behind us, we learned that the property is to be developed with a single family, two-story home. We're townhouse dwellers so who are we to complain about such low density! However, we wanted to follow the process and hope to be able to continue to use our back gate for deliveries. We met with planning and zoning's zoning manager Peter Leiberg and had numerous telephone calls and email messages with him, keeping us up-to-speed on where the process stands. He was incredibly patient and helpful, even working with his colleague Shanna Austin to help protect two trees on the adjacent property that help provide buffer between King Street and our back yard.

When the 10 owners in our little group contemplated replacing the back fences with taller ones, Mr. Leiberg walked me through the application and approval process. Donna Daily, Sandra Kyer, Tara Currie and Alonzo Hicks in the permitting office were very patient and helpful with that process as well.

Our city staff works long hours and too often there is only criticism of them. This is a perfect example of how caring they are to the people that call Alexandria home.

Ann and Rick Dorman
Alexandria

Intellectual Dishonesty

To the Editor:

Sometime this spring, the City of Alexandria's appeal of the decision of its own council-appointed Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will be heard in Circuit Court. So far the city has spent \$18,000 on outside legal counsel for this appeal. That probably represents only a small portion of the eventual bill for services. During the appeal hearing, the city's outside counsel will say that the city's appointed representatives on the BZA misinterpreted the law, overlooked important facts and did various other bad things. The city has refused to hire any counsel for its own volunteer board members. They will stand accused and have no one to defend them. What a

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25

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DO YOU KNOW?

- Many people believe prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs because a doctor prescribed them—they're not.
- More people die accidentally from prescription drugs each year than all types of illegal drugs combined.
- Combining pain killers and/or anti-anxiety drugs with alcohol multiplies the effect—your heart or breathing can stop.
- Drug-induced deaths now exceed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in more than 17 states.
- Most kids who abuse prescription drugs report they get them from their home medicine cabinets or from friends.

SYMPTOMS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE

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- Nausea and vomiting
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7928 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308
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Exceptionally well maintained 4BR/3BA home in the heart of Collingwood. Lg. Corner lot, garage, HW floors, newly painted, 2 FPs & more. Sched. a showing today. 1121Neal.com
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Located in one of Alexandria's most highly sought-after neighborhoods, this custom built 6BR + 4 1/2 + 1/2 colonial features pine fls, 3fps, 2 huge screened porches + 2 car garage.
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Seminary Valley \$490,000
488 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304
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3BR/2.5BA Brick TH in Torpedo Factory Residences. Garage + views of MD, Potomac & Alexandria from top flr mock balcony. Quiet community steps from King St shops & restaurants.
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Old Town Alexandria

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OBITUARY

Mary M. Stanges

Mary M. Stanges, 92, who worked as an executive secretary at the Pentagon and was a volunteer at Mt. Vernon Hospital, died July 20, 2012 at her home in the Hollin Hills section of Alexandria after a long illness (non-Hodgkins lymphoma). Her husband of 64 years, Julius T. Stanges, died in 2005.

Mrs. Stanges retired from the Defense Department in 1984 after 22 years of exemplary service. She

worked first for the Air Force Chief of Staff and later in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Mrs. Stanges was a third generation Washingtonian of German-Irish descent. She grew up in the Lincoln Park area of D.C. where her father had a home-based dental practice. She graduated from the former St. Cecilia's Academy on East Capitol Street and met her future husband, Julius, while he was attending Catholic University. They were married in Kingston, Jamaica in 1941. She lived in Oak-

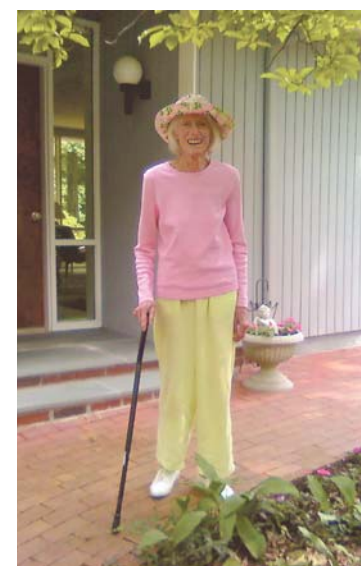
land, Calif. and worked for Bell Telephone during WWII, while her husband served aboard a Coast Guard cargo ship in the Pacific.

Mrs. Stanges was stricken with polio at age 8 and regained her strength and balance by rollerskating. The ordeal of her recovery shaped a fiercely self-reliant and tough-minded personality. When, at age 88, falling oak trees demolished the front section of her house and forced her out, she undertook a yearlong rebuilding project to reoccupy and live

out her remaining years at home. She was grateful for having a close circle of longtime caring friends and neighbors who helped her age in place. The same house was her home for 62 years and there she found the solace and serenity of a country villa within a friendly, vibrant community. She was a creative gardener and a familiar figure in her front yard on busy Stafford Road. The location was a welcoming venue for meeting and greeting passersby while she went about designing and planting new flowerbeds. She imagined the street as her "Rue de la Paix" and enjoyed evenings on her front terrace raising a glass of wine and watching the neighbors walk by with their children and dogs.

Mrs. Stanges is remembered as an original resident of Hollin Hills who loved the natural setting and open environment of the mid-century modern community. She proclaimed the renowned liberal enclave was teeming with colorful characters and she was proud to be counted among the supporting cast. During the 1980s, she was a community activist and leading advocate for saving the local area oak trees from gypsy moth infestation. Fairfax County responded with aerial spraying until the trees were safe from harm. She enjoyed chasing deer from her gardens but left the fox, coyote and raccoons to roam free. She spent much of her time tending to her gardens, caring for her home and serving with the Wednesday group of volunteers at nearby Mount Vernon Hospital. Her other interests included a love of opera, classical music and books, especially by authors Edith Wharton, Louis Auchincloss and Michael Dirda. She and her husband Julius served in the Washington Opera Guild and they performed as supernumeraries in many productions.

Mrs. Stanges and her husband were long-time parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Old Town Alexandria. They had many close friendships with fellow parishioners who shared their interest in sacred music and artwork.



During her working years and after retirement, she and Julius traveled throughout Europe and soon discovered the Adriatic island of Hvar, Croatia, where they spent 25 happy summers. Their last holiday in 1991 ended abruptly when they were evacuated ahead of fighting at the beginning of the Bosnian War. They never returned.

Mrs. Stanges was a child of the Great Depression and lean times yet was fascinated by the lifestyle and stories of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. She appreciated understated fashion and was noted for wearing her signature black beret with a silk scarf for a splash of color whenever she went out. She loved to laugh and tease and inherited a touch of the Irish blarney as well as a strong sense of German propriety. She had great affection for her gardeners and housekeeper, whom she embraced as family and kindly shared sage advice on life. She had a sharp wit and a quirky sense of humor. She enjoyed exchanging good-natured barbs with her boys, followed with a grin and a sharp punch in the stomach. She was barely 100 lbs. yet she could knock the wind out of a grown man.

Survivors include two sons, Michael (Milly) Stanges of McLean, and Thomas (Kristin) Stanges of Columbia, Md.; a sister, Helen Brady of Majorca, Spain, and two brothers, Dr. John McVeigh, of Gig Harbor, Wash., and William McVeigh of Arlington; and many other relatives and friends.

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On **Monday, September 24**, take time out of your busy schedule and observe Family Day by having dinner together with your family.

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S - Spend time with your kids by having dinner together

T - Talk to them about their friends, interests and the dangers of drugs and alcohol

A - Answer their questions and listen to what they say

R - Recognize that you have the power to help keep your kids substance-free!



Department of
Community & Human Services

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

Alexandria in December 2012 and January 2013. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide. Oct. 1-31

Thanksgiving 'Fit for Food' Challenge

is to walk/run/hop/ship/jump 150,000 steps during the month of October and to donate at least one food basket to the shelter. Fitness on the Run's goal is to donate 100 food baskets. Participants can increase their food donation opportunities by asking their friends and family to sponsor them in their fitness journey by donating food items for each fitness milestone they achieve \$15 participation fee. To sign up, e-mail contact@fitnessontherun.net by Sept. 21.

October is ALIVE! at Reunions.

During the month of October, Reunions, a specialty shop of distinctive antiques, home furnishings, gifts and accessories, is donating 5 percent of its proceeds to ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically). In addition to contributing sales proceeds from its October sales, Reunions is also encouraging customers to donate canned goods at the shop for ALIVE!'s food pantry. Reunions is located in the Fairlington Centre Shopping Center between N. Quaker Lane and Kenwood Avenue. Visit them at www.reunionsva.com. To find out more about ALIVE! Visit www.alive-inc.org.

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Special Thanks to **Alexandria Gazette Packet**

COMMUNITY

The Whale

FROM PAGE 11

Dick. In New England, such a feature would draw scant attention since whaling played an important economic, and also romantic literary, role in that corner of the country. But for Alexandria in Virginia, The Whale seems out-of-place.

Mind idling in unison with the halted automobile, wonder sets in. Is the homeowner a relocated New Englander? Has Ancestry.com revealed a great, or great-great, grandfather who was a whaling man? Is the man- or woman-of-the-house an artist one day inspired by a story of the sea?

In contrast to these imaginative wanderings, the facts are simple.

Land records in the courthouse say K. Doherty and P. Scolese are today's owners of 106 West Cedar St. They also are its residents. Inquiry about The Whale caught them in friendly spirits and a quick response ensued. "The [W]hale was there when we purchased the house and [we] didn't bother to ask the previous owners about it."

According to those same records, the previous owners were Peter F. and Nancy R. Nostrand. Sleuthing found them at home in Lorton, Va. Nancy Nostrand spoke on the telephone and promptly dashed all hopes of an exotic story. For herself, and for the family in generations past, every connection with whales and whaling was denied. "We found the weathervane in an antique shop in Essex, Connecticut," she explained. "It caught our eye, so we bought it."

Essex, Connecticut was not a whaling port. However, as happenstance provides, its namesake whaling ship out of Nantucket inspired Moby-Dick. During 1820, Essex sailed into the Pacific Ocean. West of South America by 1000 miles, a sperm whale rammed and sank her. The following year, survivor and First Mate Owen Chase published the story. Familiar with that account, Herman Melville finished his novel in 1851. (See "In the Heart of the Sea," by Nathaniel Philbrick, for the full story of the Essex.)

The whaler Essex. A sperm whale crushing the bow. An antique shop in Essex, Connecticut. The sperm whale weathervane. Threads of connection are hinted at, but no real connection exists. All the pieces merely form the product of idle gazing from an idling automobile at the bottom of the hill in King Street.



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\$1,085,000
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Best of both worlds-new home size and amenities combined with "in-town convenience". Spacious new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hwdw flrs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and 2 oversize 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price! **OPEN SAT & SUN, 9/22 & 9/23, 1-4!** From 395, Seminary Rd E; R-N. Pickett; R-Pegram; R-Polk.

OPEN SUNDAY

9313 Heather Glen
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Gorgeous Home!
Updated with top quality materials and craftsman-ship-\$160K in updates and renovations! Exceptionally bright, open floor plan, spacious family room off kit, gorgeous hwdw flrs, Pella replacement windows, expanded master and large deck overlooks fenced rear yard. Best commute in the DC area! **OPEN SUN 9/23, 1-4!** GW Pky S; past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; L-Heather Glen.

NEW PRICE **OPEN SUNDAY**

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\$515,000
Fabulous Expanded Home-Backs to Parkland!
Five bedrooms, spacious eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, formal dining room and two fireplaces. Stunning glass walled addition and custom screened porch overlook wooded park. Prime location just minutes from Old Town on gorgeous lot bordering acres and acres of county parkland. Nothing like it on the market for close to this price! **OPEN SUN 9/23, 1-4!** GW Pky S; R-Collingwood; R-Candlewood.

NEW LISTING

7107 Colgate Dr
\$645,000
Minutes to Old Town!
Exceptionally spacious 6 level home with huge potential features 4BR, 3.55BA, possible 5thBR or office and 3,700 sq ft! Commercial grade kitchen with granite counters, top of the line stainless appliances & custom cabinets. Swimming pool, fenced yard and deck too!

WATERVIEW

1250 S. Washington St
Porto Vecchio #824
\$610,000
Best Value!
Spacious residence with breathtaking panoramic river views from every major room. Special features include: glass walled great room, luxury MBR, marble foyer, & bright white kit. Elevated views of bridge & National Harbor. Unique opportunity-typically units with similar combination of views & elevation cost thousands more!

NEW LISTING

8614 Camden St
\$525,000
Spacious Contemporary! One Level Living!
One of Stratford's largest contemporary models featuring striking open floor plan with 4-5 bedrooms & exceptionally large room sizes. Numerous updates include roof, thermal windows, water heater & electrical. Features include large deck with hot tub, private rear deck & covered parking.

NEW PRICE

2406 Wittington Blvd
\$599,000
Updated Charming Colonial!
The home you have been waiting for! Classic 3 level Colonial in prime Stratford Landing location. Features include: updated gourmet kitchen, 4 large BRs, "Andersen" thermal windows, updated baths, screened porch and side load 1 car garage. Walk to neighborhood pool! Unique opportunity!

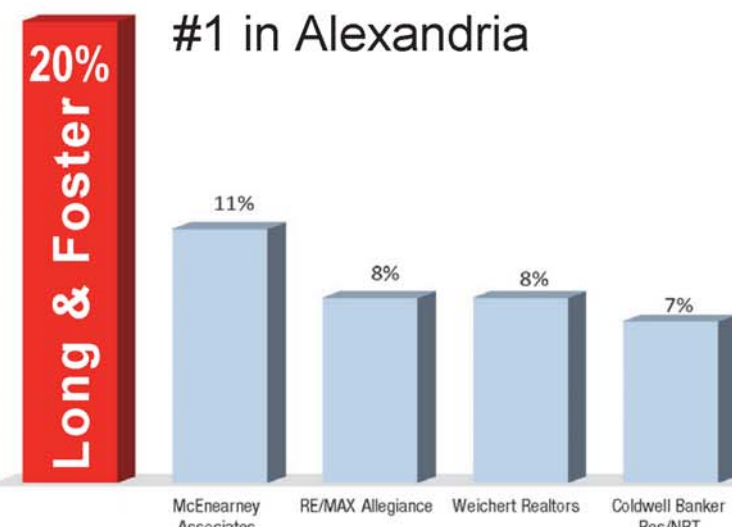
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Peggy Baldwin 703.772.5236

\$ 449,900
Alexandria / Montebello
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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 1,065,000
Alexandria / Old Town
600 LEE ST
Overlooking Lee Street Park and the Potomac River, this stately residence is a must see with its big, elegant open plan kitchen, dining/living area with all new cabinetry, built-ins, sparkling granite, hardwood floors, romantic master suite and stunning top floor loft. Sunshine from all windows morning until evening in this inviting 4BR/3.5BA home in SE Quadrant of Old Town.

Margaret Miller 703.906.7920

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\$ 249,900
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191 SOMERVELLE #102
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Renee Reymond 703.507.5330
or Mike Lekas 703.927.9895

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\$ 470,000
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Renee Reymond 703.507.5330

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www.novapropertyshop.com
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913

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\$ 385,000
Alexandria
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Ginger Webre 703.927.8399

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POLITICS

The BRAC Five

FROM PAGE 7

something we push," said John Taylor Chapman. "It shouldn't be an expansion of another government facility that, frankly, is not really wanted in this city anyway."

Councilwoman Alicia Hughes said that if federal government officials want to move more employees into Alexandria, they should look at the Victory Center. She also suggested that federal

officials work out a deal similar to the one negotiated for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, which is privately owned and leased to the federal government. That way the city can charge the private land owner property taxes.

"We are not against government agencies occupying space in Alexandria," said Hughes. "But I would encourage the lease rather than the purchase."

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 6

703-746-6711.

Witnesses can remain anonymous.

Paramedics Treat Worker Injured in Fall

The Alexandria Fire Department responded Friday, Sept. 14 to a report of a construction worker injured in a fall at a building under construction at Madison Street

and North Henry Street. Arriving firefighters and paramedics found a 29-year-old construction worker who had fallen approximately 30 feet through an opening in a concrete parking deck under construction. The worker landed on the concrete decking several levels below the opening. Firefighters and paramedics treated the worker at the scene and transported him by ambulance to an area hospital with possible life threatening injuries.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation.



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ENTERTAINMENT



A garden relandscaped in 2004 features boxwoods and all white plantings of azaleas, hydrangeas, Lenten roses, lirope, camellias and dogwoods. It will be featured in the 2012 TWIG Historic Homes Tour.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

In the "Early American" room, reclaimed logs from Purcellville line the walls of a guest room featured on the tour.

TWIG Tour Benefits Inova Surgical Center

The annual TWIG Historic Alexandria Homes Tour will feature six homes and gardens built in the 18th and 19th centuries. The tour will be held Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the TWIG Shop at 106 N. Columbus or the Ramsay House on the corner of N. Fairfax and King Sts. The tour will also feature a Marketplace from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with jewelry, home décor and artwork for sale at St. Paul's Church, 228 S. Pitt Street. A raffle will also

be conducted in conjunction with the Homes Tour. Tickets may be purchased at the same locations as tour tickets. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20. Grand prize is a five-course dinner for two at Restaurant Eve's Tasting Room; second prize is a date night dinner for two at Society Fair; and third prize is coffee and a treat from Society Fair.

Proceeds from this event benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital's Twig Surgical Center.



Stepping out from the kitchen features a quiet walled garden.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

THROUGH SEPT. 30

'It Runs in the Family' art exhibit. Artists explore many ways art runs in families; presenting collections of their own and their family's artworks. Details at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.
Target Gallery Celebrates 25 Years. The gallery presents 25, an all-media exhibition featuring work that responds to world events that have occurred over the past 25 years. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target or www.torpedofactory.org/target.

SEPT. 27-NOV. 11

Wax Works. The exhibition will feature six artists whose work begins at the definition of 'encaustic' and explores the application, functionality and versatility of wax as a medium. Opening Reception: Sunday, Sept. 30, 4-6 p.m. Free. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit www.nvfaa.org

OCT. 3-NOV. 4

Pulse4Artists - "4 Ways Of Color" 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Gallery West, 1213 King St. The opening reception will be Saturday, Oct. 13 from 5-7 p.m. Call 703-549-6006 Visit www.Pulse4Artists.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 20

Lecture. 7 p.m. "From Private to Public: New Uses for Wright Houses." Mary Roberts, executive director of the Martin House Complex in Buffalo, N.Y., will address the restoration of the Martin House as well as the 2009 Toshiko Mori-designed Greatbatch Pavilion visitor center. The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. \$15, \$10 National Trust Members. Send checks payable to "Woodlawn" to Woodlawn P.O. Box 15097 Alexandria, VA 22309 or call 703-780-4000 ext. 26327. Advance purchase recommended. Limited tickets at door.
Author Series. 10:45 a.m. Barbara Glickman will talk about her book, *Capital Splendor*, on gardens and parks in the Washington, D.C. area. Free. Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 8532 Fort Hunt Rd. Call 703-549-4245.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 21

Joe Pug (Solo) to open for John Hiatt & The Combo at the Birchmere. Visit www.joepugmusic.com/ or www.Birchmere.com.
Yoga Session. 9 p.m. 532 YOGA, 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100. \$25. Register online at www.532Yoga.com, or email suzanne@532Yoga.com, or call 703-209-0049
Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. Ages 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.
Meet Authors Jenny Han and Siobhan Vivian. 6:30-7:30 p.m. They will present the novel they wrote together, *Burn for Burn!* Reserve a spot and a copy of the book at info@hooray4books.com. Ages 14 and up. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 22

Green Spring Gardens. Fall Garden Day. 4603 Green Spring Rd. No reservations required. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free. More than 25 plant and craft

ASO Season Opens Saturday

Pianist Yuliya Gorenman is back for her fifth appearance with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performing Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 in the Symphony's 2012-2013 Season opening concert. The program also includes Kim Allen Kluge conducting Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man and Sibelius's Symphony No. 2 in D major. Saturday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m., Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets \$5 for children 18 and under; \$15-\$70 for students; \$35-\$70 for seniors; \$40-\$70 for adults. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.



PHOTO BY ALYONA VOGELMANN

vendors for fall gardening needs. Call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Matinee Film. 2 p.m. Beatley Central Library Sunday Matinee Film Series featuring: *The Contender* (R). The Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702. Free and open to the

general public. Refreshments served.
American Horticultural Society's 2012 Gala: "Garden Delights: An Evening by the River," 6 p.m. at the Society's River Farm headquarters. This year's honorary chair is Kurt Bluemel, plantsman, nurseryman and designer. Formal dinner, live music,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

Hell Hath No Fury

Port City Playhouse presents Greek tragedy 'Medea.'

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a tale as old as time: a scorned woman exacts a brutal revenge on her adulterous husband in Euripides' ancient Greek tragedy "Medea," now playing at Port City Playhouse.

Now in its 35th season, Port City stages an adaptation directed by Rachel Hynes and produced by Carol Strachan in a play that transcends time in the tragic tale of Medea, the anti-heroine determined to avenge her husband's unfaithfulness.

The play opens with a distraught Medea, whose husband Jason has married Glauke, daughter of Creon the King of Corinth. Creon has banished Medea and her two sons from Corinth, whereupon she swears revenge and swiftly sets about finding a way to kill them all.

Anissa Parekh returns to Port City as Medea, a powerful and unconventional woman unlike the Stepford-like housewives that surround her. Parekh is mesmerizing

in a role that leaves the audience spellbound with disbelief at the evil that radiates from her character.

Michael Crowley is the power-hungry Jason, who leaves Medea for a king's daughter but still desperately loves his two sons, played by Leonardo Lugli Watkins and Alex Weinstein.

Notable performances are turned in by Rebecca Fischler, Krista Grimmett, Casey Leffue and Jenna Zhu as The Women of Corinth, Mary Ayala-Bush as The Nurse, Cal Whitehurst as Aegeus and Terry Gish as Creon.

Amanda Jagusiak does a commendable job with a smallish production budget, using mid-20th century costumes to draw in a contemporary audience.

"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" has never been more potent than in Port City Playhouse's "Medea," which provides an evening of thought-provoking entertainment that serves as a good first foray into Greek theater classics.

Port City Playhouse presents "Medea" now through Sept. 29 at The Lab Studio Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For tickets or more information, visit www.PortCityPlayhouse.org.



PHOTOS BY J. ANDREW SIMMONS

Anissa Parekh as Medea, Michael Crowley as Jason and Casey Leffue, Krista Grimmett, Jenna Zhu and Rebecca Fischler as Women of Corinth.



Anissa Parekh as Medea, Mary Ayala-Bush (in chair) as the Nurse, and the Women of Corinth.



Shoppers on the Prowl

Shoppers gear up for the thrill of the hunt in the Old Town Boutique District's Scavenger Hunt taking place the weekend of Sept. 21-23, 2012. Shoppers grab a passport map at participating stores or download from www.OLDTOWNBOUTIQUEDISTRICT.COM and begin the hunt to visit all 35 OTBD stores for a chance to win prizes. Once a shopper has collected all 35 stamps, they receive a swag bag filled with goodies from OTBD businesses and will be entered into the prize drawing. Shoppers have a chance to win one of 35 \$100 gift cards or the grand prize of a \$3,500 shopping spree.



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Yuliya Gorenman, piano

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Yuliya Gorenman, piano

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ENTERTAINMENT



The French lace merchant M. LeFarceur de Villeverte explains fine lace making.



Pat Lasus spins flax into linen thread.



Deborah Blind works on a small paper filigree ornament.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Lively Marketplace Opens

Mount Vernon re-creates a lively early-American marketplace with demonstrations, crafts and entertainment at its Colonial Market & Fair on Saturday, Sept. 22, and Sunday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 40 juried artisans from across the nation will demonstrate their trades and sell their wares while two stages of family entertainment delight audiences with 18th-century amusements. Free Potomac River sightseeing cruises are available while supplies last. Costumed interpreters will be demonstrating the 18th-century chocolate-making process using an authentic colonial recipe! Guests are invited to sample fresh chocolate made by hand on site. Chocolate bars, sticks, and spiced drink mix are sold at the 18th-Century Craft Fair and in The Shops at Mount Vernon. The event is included with regular admission: adults, \$15; youth, 6-11 \$7; children 5

and under, free.

Mount Vernon's Colonial Market & Fair is the most authentic and diverse event of its kind, bringing together distinguished artisans working in colonial attire and a dozen entertainers who re-create the amusements loved by early Americans. As visitors shop, artisans demonstrate their crafts and explain the historic trades used to make items similar to those George Washington purchased in the 18th century.

General Washington will preside over a host of amusements including: Mr. Bayly, Conjuring and Entertainments; Signora Bella, Equilibrist; Otto the Sword Swallower; and more. Fair fare, ranging from turkey legs to ice cream, will be available from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant concession stands.

Call 703-780-2000, 703-799-8697 (TDD) or visit www.MountVernon.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

silent auction and online auction. Attire is black-tie optional. Advance reservations only; \$275 per person or \$2,500 per table for 10 people. All proceeds benefit the stewardship of River Farm and the American Horticultural Society's outreach and educational programs. Contact Joanne Sawczuk at 703-768-5700 ext. 132 or email jsawczuk@ahs.org.

Mile-Long Yard Sale. The Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association's premier community event. BSVCA is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the best interests of Alexandrians, those in the West End in particular. The sale will stretch on Taney Ave. from N. Pelham to Patrick Henry Elementary School. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Joe Pug (Solo) to open for John Hiatt & The Combo at the Birchmere. Visit www.joepugmusic.com/ or www.Birchmere.com.

Free Concert. 8 p.m. An evening of music for brass quintet at the Lyceum. 201 S. Washington St. Call the United States Air Force Band's concert line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$4 at the door. Owen Hammett will conduct the live band. Light refreshments provided by Arden Courts Memory Care Community. \$4 at the door. Open to the Community.

Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call 703-765-4573.

St. Luke's Craft & Family Fun Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road. More than 30 crafters with handmade knit items, jewelry and more. Buy fresh produce from a farmer's market, listen to live music, and have lunch. Contact Anne Hargrove at annehargrove@cox.net or call 703-768-3220.

Piano Concert. 8 p.m. Acclaimed pianist Yuliya Gorenman and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will be performing Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 in the Symphony's 2012-2013 Season Opening Concert at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets \$5-\$70. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

Jane Franklin Dance. 6-8 p.m. Fall Preview with live music featuring Mark Sylvester, accompanied by cellist Natalie Spehar. \$20. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit www.janefranklin.com.

Fundraiser Event at 532 YOGA. noon-2 p.m. Celebrate the Fall Equinox with 108 Sun Salutations. All proceeds to LBBC (living beyond breast cancer). 532 YOGA, 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100. \$10. Register online at www.532Yoga.com, or email suzanne@532Yoga.com, or call 703-209-0049.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. Ages 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Little Ruth Book Launch Party. 2-4 p.m. Dee Wright, author of the Little Ruth book series, will present the newest installment, Halloween Drama Queen. Reserve a spot and a copy of the book at info@hooray4books.com. Ages 6 and up. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 23

Outbreak of War. 3-4:30 p.m. Join President James Madison to discuss the nation's recent declaration of war against England and commencing hostilities. Talks will address the relations between the United States and Russia from 1776 to the present. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242 for tickets or information.

Joe Pug (Solo) to open for John Hiatt & The Combo at the Birchmere. Visit www.joepugmusic.com/ or www.Birchmere.com.

Free Concert. 3 p.m. An afternoon of music for soprano and violin at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Call

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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ENTERTAINMENT

ASO Kicks off 2012-13 Season

BY KIM ALLEN KLUGE
MUSIC DIRECTOR, ASO

On Sept. 22, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will open its concert season with a program titled *The Music of Humanity*. I'm very excited about our thrilling series of concerts this year and its line-up of dynamic guest artists.

Copland's rousing *Fanfare for the Common Man* will kick-off this celebratory concert. I am also very excited to be performing Sibelius's *Symphony No. 2*, which shares a heroic quality with Copland's *Fanfare*. This transcendently moving work helped cement Sibelius's standing as a national hero because of the humanity that his fellow Finns heard in this extraordinarily stirring score.

The concert will end with Brahms' brilliant *Piano Concert No. 1* in D minor performed by one of ASO's most popular guest artists, the poetic and fiery Yulia Gorenman. Brahms composed this masterpiece as an ode to fellow pianist and composer Clara Schumann—the only person to whom he could reveal his true humanity.

The 2012-2013 Season is also my 25th anniversary with the ASO and to celebrate our years together, I have created a special silver anniversary program inspired by you, my fellow Alexandrians. As a way of giving back to the City of Alexandria, my wife Kathryn and I have composed a brand new piece honoring Alexandria that will be premiered at the February concert. In our *River Poem*, the Potomac River is the memory-keeper—a magical and sacred place through which flow all memories Alexandrian.

It is you, my Alexandrian audiences, who have not



MAESTRO'S MUSINGS

ting in your seats during the concert is far from passive. Your involvement with the music creates an energy that is palpable to us—the musicians on the stage. You are co-participants in the creation of the transcendent musical experiences that we treasure at the ASO.

Each concert explores different facets of the ways in which we can “be the music.” It will be a season-long celebration of

how music can be our shared humanity, inspiration, inheritance, empowerment, and experience.

Join the ASO this season and immerse yourself in the powerful, uplifting, profound, and explosive experience of music. You have helped to make the music of the ASO alive and charged with emotion. It truly can give us an adrenaline rush—all we have to do is open ourselves up and...Be the Music.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: 2121 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 608. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

only inspired our *River Poem*, but have also inspired the entire theme for the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's 2012-2013 Season, *Be the Music*. I wonder if you truly know how much you contribute to the power of ASO's music-making. Sit-

“You are the music while the music lasts.”

— T.S. Eliot

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

the United States Air Force Band's concert line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Concert. 7 p.m. Focus presents an acoustic co-bill of singer-songwriters Cary Cooper and Brad Yoder, with special guest Natalie York at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$18 general, \$15 in advance at www.focusmusic.org. Call 703-501-6061.

Afternoon Benefit. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Area musicians and Alexandria's Town Crier join forces with the historic Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association to celebrate Alexandria Fire Department firefighters and first responders at The Grove on Virginia Theological Seminary grounds, 3737 Seminary Road. Association President Joe Shumard invites Alexandrians to enjoy food, music, games, and fellowship. Registration: \$30/adult, \$75/group (up to five admissions). Proceeds benefit the Alexandria Fire Department. Visit www.friendshipfire.net.

Book Signing. 2 p.m. Cheryl and Peter Barnes will be hosting a book signing at Hooray for Books! They launch three new books this September, *Woodrow*, *the White House Mouse*; *House Mouse*, *Senate Mouse*; and *Marshall*, *the Courthouse Mouse*. 1555 King St. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Meditation. 6-7:30 p.m. 532 YOGA, 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100. A six-week course. \$90. Please register online at www.532Yoga.com, or email suzanne@532Yoga.com, or call

703-209-0049.

Storytime With Author Cheryl Barnes.

2-3 p.m. Join for an afternoon reading. Ages 5 and up. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Colonial Market & Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. More than 40 juried artisans from across the nation will demonstrate their trades and sell their wares plus two stages of family entertainment with 18th-century amusements. Free Potomac River sightseeing cruises and fresh chocolate sampling. Adults \$15, ages 6-11 \$7, age 5 and under free. At the Mount Vernon Estate. Visit mountvernon.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 24

Library Dinner.

6:30 p.m. “Alexandria's Libraries: Check Them Out! If You're Not Using These Amazing Neighborhood Resources, You're Long Overdue” at the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Reception at 6:30 p.m. Dinner \$33-\$43, program only for \$5 at 7:15 p.m. Reservations required. Contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or visit agendaalexandria@aol.com.

Rock, Paper, Cocktails. 6:30-9:30 p.m. An evening of jewelry, stationary, personalized gifts, art, clothing, and cocktails at the Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. This event benefits the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and Rhonda's Club. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Raffle tickets are \$10. Visit www.facebook.com/

RockPaperCocktails.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 25

Anthony David w/ Antoine Dunn.

7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$29.50. The Music Hall. Visit www.rollingmojo.com or www.antoinedunn.com.

Four Star Combo.

9-11 p.m. The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. \$10 Classic American Rockabilly played in the authentic style.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 26

Author Series. 7-8:30 p.m. Ricardo Lasso will speak about his book *Democracy on Trial: The Case for the Defense*, at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Dance Party with DJ Dabe Murphy. 9-11 p.m. Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. \$6.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 28

Levi Lowrey to open for The BoDeans at the Birchmere. Visit www.levilowrey.com/ or www.birchmere.com.

Green Spring Gardens. Basic Gardening: Grow Lush Ferns. 4603 Green Spring Rd. Code: 290 482 2301. 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$10. Join us at Green Spring Gardens to learn more about growing ferns from a Master Gardener and walk through the garden to see them. Register at www.greenspring.org or call 703-642-5173.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Internet Wines, LLC trading as Internet Wines, 5205 Burke Dr, Alexandria, VA 22309. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Internet Wine Retailer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Joel Kurz, owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 702 Scarburgh Way, Alexandria, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Christopher J. Camera and Kiersten Camera, dated July 31, 2007, and recorded August 1, 2007, as Instrument numbered 070017988 among the Land Records of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Court House for the City of Alexandria, at 520 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 38, OLD TOWN GREENS, as the same is shown on a plat attached to a deed of consolidation and resubdivision recorded in Deed Book 1698 at page 1601, among the Land Records of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Commonly known as 702 Scarburgh Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower(s) did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

thank you for serving on a city board.

The mayor and his council colleagues say they must do this because the BZA upheld a citizen protest petition and this shows the need to “clarify” the language in the city charter with respect to protest petitions. The protest petition language, however, is imminently clear. It allows a percentage of affected land-owners adjacent to any development to trigger a super majority requirement for approving zoning changes affecting them. The protest is an honored method of minority protection expressed in the founding principles and legal system of United States law.

It is likely the true intent of the city attorney and mayor to eliminate the protest petition entirely from the city charter, and do so in a way that appears to make the court responsible. This would ensure what Mayor Euille described as “the ability of the City Council to make decision on future development projects throughout this city.” Blocking the BZA legal defense and paying tens of thousands of dollars for outside legal assistance is certainly worth that to the mayor.

In a larger context, the effort to overturn the BZA appeal ruling and eliminate the petition process altogether fits into a larger pattern of a systemic elimination of formal resident participation and input into the development planning and approval process.

This council and mayor enacted a provision for “rezoning without a small area plan.” In the case of a recent up zoning in Old Town North, the mayor and council used this provision to avoid any formal small area plan update and then argued that because the master plan is dated 1992, that it is too old to be relevant anymore. Instead the planning department produced unofficial “strategy” papers to justify the zoning changes.

On the West End the Beauregard Corridor Plan amalgamates properties in four different small area plans. West End civic leaders objected to this from the outset, but were ignored. Most civic leaders regard the small area plans as vital for protecting the character of the individual neighborhoods. The city’s leaders seem to regard them merely as impediments.

The mayor and his present majority are proceeding on a clearly outlined course — development followed by more development. The city says it wants and values citizen input and goes to great lengths to involve citizens in its decisions. Never mind that the procedural and legal mechanisms for meaningful citizen input is being expunged from the city charter and our zoning law. At the very least, there is intellectual dishonesty here.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

Citizens Deserve Mayoral Debate

To the Editor:

For the first time in the history of Alexandria, the election for Mayor and City Council will be on the November 2012 ballot.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2012 ♦ 25

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION

The plan for the new council member is to be a seat warmer, or fill-in, but with full rights and responsibilities until after the Nov. 6 election day. It was a slick move to have the councilmanic election to coincide with the national presidential race and most Alexandrians, except for the professional political watchers, didn't pay any attention to the move



Now this list of outstanding people could be usurped only if Judge Kemler appointed herself to the seat. That would keep the others on their toes. But probably can't happen because of judicial ethics.

September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. We hear a lot about the problem nationally, but many Alexandrians don't realize childhood obesity is a problem here, in our own backyard. A 2007 study by Inova Health System revealed that 43.5 percent of children ages 2-5 in our city are overweight or obese. That means that nearly half of our youngest residents are at risk of

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Grosser-to-Moss Good for 3 Touchdowns, but Not a Win

Titans lose to Robinson, fall to 1-2 this season.

BY KIERAN HAMPL
FOR THE GAZETTE PACKET

For a second straight game, the T.C. Williams football team got off to a rough start. On Sept. 14, the Titans once again failed to overcome an early deficit, this time falling to the Robinson Rams, 40-21, in Fairfax.

Robinson got off to a quick start with a 2-yard rushing touchdown by running back Joe Wilson and at the end of the quarter he added his second touchdown of the night on a 32-yard catch from quarterback Michael Hugney. The extra point attempt failed.

The Titans, looking for any momentum they could find, went for it on fourth-and-two at the Robinson 29 on their first drive in the second quarter. Like much of the first quarter, they couldn't pick up the necessary yards on the tough Robinson defense and turned the ball over on downs.

In the beginning of the second quarter, the Titans defense started to contain Wilson and forced the Rams to punt.

TC, trailing 13-0, started with the ball on its own 25 with 7:49 left in the half and through numerous big plays by quarterback Alec Grosser and wide receiver Landon Moss, drove the field. The drive stalled at the Robinson 17 and head coach Dennis Randolph decided to leave his offense on the field and go for the touchdown on fourth



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams receiver Landon Moss, seen earlier this season, caught three touchdown passes from Alec Grosser during the Titans' 40-21 loss to Robinson on Sept. 14.

down.

"We felt like we needed the seven points," Grosser said.

Grosser hit Moss on a "go" route in the back of the end zone to make the score 13-7 and provide the Titans with the break for which they had been searching.

The momentum was short lived, however, as Wilson immediately countered TC's score with a 55-yard touchdown run of his own. The Rams went for two and got it, but a penalty forced a retry and Robinson came up empty, leaving the Rams with a 19-7 lead.

The Rams quickly forced a three-and-out and after a TC punt, Wilson went back to

work by scoring a 70-yard rushing touchdown with 2:08 left in the half. A successful two-point conversion made it 27-7.

Again, the Titans were unable to drive the field, but regained possession with 25 seconds left in the half after recovering a punt that bounced off a Robinson player's helmet. Grosser and Moss connected for a 16-yard touchdown, leaving 5 seconds on the clock.

Even though the Titans struggled for a majority of the first half, big plays by Grosser and Moss kept the team within striking distance and with momentum heading into the second half.

The Titans received the ball first in the second half and Phil Tyler gave them good starting field position, returning the ball to the Titans 42. Grosser and running back Dealo Robertson drove them down the field and Grosser and Moss connected for their third touchdown of the night on a 5-yard pass in the back of the end zone. With 5:46 left in the third quarter, the Titans were trailing, 27-21.

Things continued to go well for the Titans when they forced the Rams into a fourth-and-two. A penalty prevented the Rams from going for it and forced them to punt.

After a strong Robinson punt, the Titans started at their 5 and were unable to get anything going. TC went three-and-out and after a punt, the Rams took over at TC's 35 with 21 seconds left in the third.

On the first play of the drive, Wilson scored his fifth touchdown of the night on a 32-yard run, putting the Rams up 33-21 heading into the fourth quarter.

After another stalled drive by the Titans, Robinson and Wilson capitalized once again on a 36-yard touchdown run, putting them up 40-21.

Grosser tried to lead a quick scoring drive, but it stalled at midfield and a penalty on fourth down forced them to punt.

"We need to cut down on the mistakes and score more points to have a better shot at winning the game," Grosser said.

The Rams proved too much for the Titans defense. Wilson finished the game with 413 total yards and six touchdowns.

The Titans (1-2) play South County (0-3) at home at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22. The Robinson Rams (1-2) will play at Westfield (3-0) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 21.

SPORTS BRIEF

SSSAS Football Thumps Bishop Ireton

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes football team defeated Bishop Ireton, 57-27, on Sept. 15. It was the Saints' first win over the Cardinals since 2006.

The victory improved the Saints' record to 3-0. St. Stephen's finished 1-8 in 2010 and 2011.

Saints senior Darius Manora rushed 14 times for 255 yards and four touchdowns against Bishop Ireton. He also intercepted two passes, returning one for a touchdown. Khaamal Whitaker caught five passes for 73 yards and returned a punt 86 yards for a touchdown. Quarterback Ish Seisay completed 9 of 14 passes for 134 yards and a score.

Defensively, Will Dyson had seven tackles and two sacks.

St. Stephen's will host Potomac School at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22. The Saints' homecoming game is the following weekend against Paul VI at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Bishop Ireton, which fell to 0-3, will travel to face Episcopal at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Alexandria Gazette Packet, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged.

SATURDAYS/SEPT. 29 AND NOV. 3

Williams Band Tag Days. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The main fundraisers supporting the T.C. Williams bands. Uniformed band members will visit homes throughout the city to request donations to fund equipment and uniform purchases and maintenance, lesson scholarships, competition fees and other band expenses.

Cara Donley, daughter of Kerry and Eva Donley, graduated from Indiana University in June. While at Indiana, Cara was a member of the Women's Rowing Team and served as captain her Junior and Senior years. She was named Academic All-Big Ten in 2010, 2011 and 2012. She was named Most Dedicated Athlete in 2010, won IU's Big Ten Sportsmanship Award in 2011 and was named 2nd Team All-Big Ten in 2012. She was a 2008 graduate of T. C. Williams.

Michaela Reilly Balderston of Alexandria, a graduate of T.C. Williams High School, earned Dean's Award for academic excellence at Colgate University. Balderston concentrated in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Civilization.

Caroline T. Kelly of Alexandria has been named to second honors on the Clark

University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2012 semester.

Sixty-eight students at Bishop Ireton High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams: **Catherin Addington '12, Helena Barber '12, Noah Brooksher '12, Alexander Caraballo '13, Matthew Dubow '12, Mia Finley '12, James Fonda '12, Brittany Harris '12, Stephanie Heredia '12, Robert LaRose '12, Nicholas Manzek '12, Tamra Nebabu '13, Liam O'Connor '12, Ciana Puglise '12, Jacob Ramey '12, Christine Snyder '12 and Stephen Washington '12.**

Eleven students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Catherine Babiec '13, Jacob Bisnett '13, Melanie Blower '12, Catherine Burgin '12, Madeline Caballero '12, Jessica Mairena '13, Emily Masi '13, Matthew McShea '12, Katie Necocha '13, Jessica Taylor '12 and Kaitlyn Wagner '12.


Forty students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are **Patrizia Adriaola '13, Celina Amados '13, Andrew Baehre '12, Andrew Bladen '12, Clara Bouquet '13, Brendan Bowe '12, Aberdeen Bowman '12, Sara Brisson '12, Daniel Burns '12, Fiona Carroll**

'12, Dylan Connor '12, Carlos Daing '12, Aida-Stephanie Dohou '12, Kateri Donovan '12, Justin Estevez '12, Katherine Fogarty '12, Paige Foley '12, Devon Gaffey '12, Nicholas Galdos '12, Gabrielle Gonzalez '12, Suzanne Johnson '13, Stephanie Kapllani '13, Matthew Krause '12, Michael Ly '12, Allyn Melliza '13, Edmond Moreno '12, Michaela Mulokey '13, Veronique Nguyen '13, Sandie Nunez '13, Bryan Phan '13, Karla Ponciano '12, Elizabeth Schaefermeier '12, Karen Shufflebarger '12, Carl Shumate '12, Courtney Skolnick '13, Elisabeth-Rose Smith '12, Nicholas Warner '12, Ronald Wiltzie '13, Makeda Yohannes '13 and Madelyn Zeigler '12.

ACPS School Nutrition Services (SNS) seeks new members for its advisory group, a collection of Alexandrians who meet at least twice each year. The advisory group provides SNS with feedback about school food services and activities and helps spread the word about SNS missions and objectives. In addition, parents who belong to the advisory group often provide contacts to community resources, such as chefs who can conduct demonstrations at ACPS. The advisory group is also instrumental when it comes to special SNS-related programs, such as Farm2School Week held each November, Strawberries and Salad Greens Day in May and National Nutrition month in March. Are you interested in serving? Email food@acps.k12.va.us.

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OPINION

Senior Law Day: Alexandria for a Lifetime

BY TOM WEST, CLU, ChFC, AIF

Many important discussions will take place at Senior Law Day: Alexandria for a Lifetime on Saturday, October 13 at First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Consider families in transition. There will come a moment in every household

when these words become unavoidable. Strange as it may sound, this is often an appropriate description of what happens when a family finds itself facing financial

decisions involving the long-term care of a loved one. Far from being a rarity, long-term care challenges do not represent a new normal, it's the now normal. The task of dealing with a prolonged dependency can seem overwhelming given all the variables. Taking the right steps can help families simplify the task. These steps include choosing a leader, getting organized, and making every dollar have a job.

During moments of catastrophic crisis, it is important to have a plan; one that has been discussed and understood by all family members. Instead of focus-



ing on the needs of the future, families in transition must put the needs of the present first.

This topic and others as important will be presented and discussed by local experts who together with attendees will explore opportunities for aging well in our community by accessing myriad services available to assist and protect the older adult and their loved ones. This free seminar will target planning documents, housing, insurance, financing, and medical and care resources available to families, both for seniors themselves, and the children, friends and caregivers who are helping them meet the challenges of aging.

To register for Senior Law Day: Alexandria for a Lifetime, call 703-836-4414, ext.10 or at www.seniorservicesalex.org. The seminar is cosponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and the Alexandria Bar Association. Sponsors of the event to date include Synergy Home Care, Morgan-Stanley Smith Barney/ Ellen Cleary, Bernstein Global Wealth Management, TD Bank, Redmon, Peyton and Braswell, Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, The Fountains at Washington House, Goodwin House, The Alexandria Bar Foundation and Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 26

thority, and

♦ two farmers' markets have been approved to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, making it easier for lower-income Alexandrians to purchase fresh, local food.

These are just a few examples of what ACOAN and its partners have accomplished but there is more to be done.

The childhood obesity epidemic has both health and economic consequences that affect everyone in the community. It is in everyone's interest that Alexandria's children grow up healthy. Childhood obesity is preventable and we need more community members to work with us to make the healthy choice the easy choice. There are many ways you can help, either individually or as part of ACOAN. Learn more about our work at www.HealthierAlexandria.org or contact us to get involved at carrie.fesperman@vdh.virginia.gov.

Tricia Rodgers
Chair, ACOAN
Allen Lomax

Chair, Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria

liable, factual sources. But we aren't getting that in two different contests.

On the federal level, it has been standard that recent candidates running for the U.S. presidency have made public their tax returns. All 535 members of Congress have their tax returns on file for review, as do members of the Cabinet and congressional and executive branch level employees with incomes over a certain figure. So a request for this data is neither unusual nor intrusive. With the current candidacy of Republican candidate Mitt Romney, he has a precedent in his own family in that his father as a candidate for the same office filed 12 years of returns, versus only one year for himself. Yet when he was vetted four years ago as a possible GOP VP candidate, he provided several years of returns to the McCain Campaign. If Romney's Democratic opponent Barack Obama had refused to provide his returns, he would be pilloried by the press and public alike.

By refusing to provide this usual data, it simply raises questions of why he would be unwilling to disclose information that has generally been provided. Since Romney has continually stated he would eliminate many loopholes in the tax code regarding deductions, it would be interesting for voters to see if he himself has used some of these. He is criticizing those with incomes too low — or too high — to pay taxes, yet he shrouds his own in mystery.

On a local level in Alexandria, we are also seeing an unusual refusal to provide information by the Democratic candidate for mayor, who has a viable opponent who is seeking substantive public debates on their different viewpoints. Seldom have I seen a politician who does not eagerly seek out such a public forum — to summarize all the outstanding things they have done in past terms and to explain promises and programs for what they hope to achieve in a future term.

Yet Bill Euille, after 18 years on the Council and nine years at the helm, continues to resist all efforts by the citizens to hold at least one in-depth debate solely for mayoral candidates on the many issues facing this city. This is requested by representatives of several civic associations and the citizens themselves.

During his tenure, Euille has done many outstanding things, worthy of note. But there have also been decisions he spearheaded such as BRAC, Arlandria, Beauregard Small Area Plan and the Waterfront that have been touched by ongoing controversies. Let us hear his comments and those of his opponent on these issues.

To have an informed electorate on Nov. 6, we need to have both candidates for mayor tells us how they view their tenure in office (Euille's Independent opponent Andrew Macdonald also served a term on the Council). We want to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 31

Missing Information

To the Editor:

In order to be a fully informed voter, we need to have accurate information, from a variety of re-

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY



Theresia Wansi, Ph.D., who teaches finance at Marymount University in Arlington, believes that those who develop sound financial habits when they are young will become adults who know how to budget, save and use credit judiciously.

Teaching Youngsters About Money

Experts offer advice on raising financially savvy children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

"Money comes from my daddy," said Ian, a 7-year-old boy from Arlington, who is missing his front teeth.

"My parents got it from an ATM," said 6-year-old Claire when asked about the origins of the \$10 bill that she was using to buy a scoop of chocolate ice cream.

Financial experts say that as soon as children are aware of the purchasing power of money, parents should start teaching them how to use it wisely. Children who develop sound financial habits when they are young will become adults who know how to budget, save and use credit judiciously.

"No matter how young a child is, they can always learn good money practices," said Theresia Wansi, an associate professor of finance at Marymount University in Arlington. "What matters in life is not how much money you earn, but how you manage your finances. We hear stories all the time about people who make millions and end up broke."

Potomac, Md., resident Glen Buco, president of West Financial Services, says many financial advisers in his McLean office are also parents who are passing along penny-wise know-how to their children. "When their children receive money, the parents help them develop a budget using a "three

bucket system," said Buco. "One bucket is for saving, one is for spending and one for charity."

Experts like Buco say wise shopping is a key component of money smarts: "When children want items like clothing or electronics, help them develop a budget with the money they've saved and then shop around," he said. "One of the mothers in my office helped her 9-year-old daughter shop for shoes online by comparing prices, looking for discounts and free shipping."

Ilham Nasser, an associate professor of early childhood education at George Mason University in Fairfax, says impulse control is often a stumbling block to financial stability. "Parents can teach self-regulation by using techniques like telling their children to count to 10 or take a deep breath or by playing simple games like 'Simon Says' to teach delayed gratification."

Wansi says children should also be taught to keep track of the money that passes through their hands. "Everyone should have a spending diary," she said. "Use a spreadsheet where the child lists what they spend. They might see that they are spending much more than they thought they were."

Setting financial goals and working toward them is another strategy for managing urges to spend money frivolously. "Everyone can set short-term, intermediate and long-term financial goals," said Wansi. "The goals you set have to be realistic and specific in measurable terms. For example, 'I am going to get a part-time job to save for a \$2,000 car in six months.'"

WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING to save, experts say to start early. "Even an

SEE EXPERTS, PAGE 30

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Experts Offer Advice on Raising Financially Savvy Children

FROM PAGE 29

elementary school student who has \$5 can be taught to save \$2 in a piggy bank,” said Wansi. “When they are old enough to open a savings account, they can save money there.”

Parents can help their children understand expenses and how simple actions can save money by allowing them to see bills, due dates and the amount of money owed.

“If your children leave lights on all over the house and you yell at them, they’re

not going to get it. You have to share your bills with your children,” said Wansi, who lives in Herndon. “When my kids were away at college, my bill was around \$100 ... and when they came back [for a school break] it was \$500. I took the bills for them to see and they were amazed that a bill could be that expensive. Then everybody starting turning off lights without being asked.”

Nassar suggests parents use a show and tell approach: “Part of raising a child is being a role model and showing an ability to

manage expenses,” she said. “When you go to the grocery store, take your children and say, ‘We have \$100 today and we need to get these things. Let’s see which are the most important things.’ Help them think about priorities.”

Understanding credit is critical part of financial management, says Wansi: “In the U.S., it is hard to live without good credit. Teach children the advantages and pitfalls of credit. Beginning at middle school, it is important for children to understand the importance of good credit. I’ve talked to

high school students who didn’t know that when you use credit cards you have to pay the money back.”

Buco says that debit cards might be a good alternative. “I’ve seen parents use these when their kids go off to college,” he said. “They would put money in the account and the kids can use the debit card. Several parents in my office who have 12- and 13-year-olds have set up debit cards with zero balances. When the kids find something they want to buy, [they can] move money out of savings into checking.”

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

As the application period gets underway, local independent school officials offer suggestions.

START SURFING. “I would encourage parents to visit a variety of school websites to get a feel for the wide range of fabulous independent school options available. A comprehensive directory of schools with website information [can be found at <http://www.independenteducation.org>].” Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment management, Norwood School, Bethesda, Md.

WATCH AND RUMINATE. “Observe your child and think about the learning style that’s best for him or her. What are the values of your family? What are your hopes for your child’s education?” Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School, Alexandria.

Applying to Private Schools: Starting the Process

AVOID FOLLOWING THE PACK. “Don’t be swayed by popular opinion or reputation. Instead, visit every school you’re considering, talk to current or alumni parents and students, and then decide whether that school may fit your child’s interests, personality and needs.” Tim Simpson, director of admission, Bullis School, Potomac, Md.

ESTABLISH PRIORITIES AND START SLEUTHING. “Create a list of five or 10 things that are important to you and your child. Check the athletic schedules and the theatrical and fine arts performance schedules, which are posted on the websites of [independent schools]. You should come to those events ... because the more time you spend on a campus, particularly at an event that is not run by an admissions office, you’re going to get a much better sense of what that [school’s] community is like. For example, do you see students there who you could see yourself being friends with? Do you

like the way that the adults are interacting with the students in the community?” asked Ann Miller, director of admission, Madeira School, McLean.

MAKE A LIST AND CHECK IT. “List out the schools you think you may want to apply to and check on their application processes and deadline dates. Many schools have parts of the application that are extremely time sensitive, such as signing up for admission testing as well as filing for financial assistance.” Pat Harden, director of admissions and financial aid, Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, Md.

DEAL WITH STICKER SHOCK. “Don’t eliminate a school from your search because of the cost of tuition without looking into financial aid [or] merit and scholarship awards that may help reduce the cost.” Scott Conklin, director of admissions, Episcopal High School of Virginia, Arlington.

FIND A CLEAR PICTURE. “When considering schools, take a moment to actually visit the campus and ask the tough questions. A school’s website may or may not be the full picture. The question for the parent is, how real is the image they are seeing online? A few conversations with parents and teachers go a lot farther in this regard. Ask admissions officers what their schools’ mission is, how it is different from that of other schools and how they implement the mission.” Rich Moss, director of admissions, The Heights School, Potomac.

GET ORGANIZED. “Finally, once you have decided that you will be applying to a school for your child, get out that calendar again and write down all deadline information – application deadline, financial aid deadlines, supporting documents and testing deadlines.” Mimi Mulligan, Norwood School, Bethesda, Md..

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 28

hear what they view as their strengths and their weaknesses, what they are proposing for the City's future — which will affect us all. What will they do differently in the future versus what they did in the past? We want first-hand comments, not sanitized press releases, from either side. And we want a moderator who asks tough and fair questions.

It is not acceptable for any candidate who is seeking public office to claim 'they are too busy' to debate. We are all very busy — with work, families, finances, children and numerous issues. We cannot function as "informed voters if we lack significant factual input because one of the candidates insists on running "in absentia." That's not how it works in a democracy.

Kathleen M. Burns
Alexandria

'Found Wanting'

To the Editor:

Although I am a strong supporter of President Obama, I had the idea that Mitt Romney was the best of the Republican candidates and capable of being the President

if elected. His statement about the 47 percent of Obama supporters who are "dependent upon government, etc." has changed my mind.

I am semi-retired and dependent on Social Security and Medicare. Mitt would consign me to that group he thinks of as deadbeats. I have been paying taxes every year for the past 60 years and am still paying significant taxes and contributing to Social Security on small earnings. Romney has insulted me and millions of Americans like me who are, in one way or another, dependent on government benefits but striven over a lifetime to contribute to the welfare of a family, a community and a country, including military service.

With one speech attempting to appeal to a room of millionaire fat cats, Romney has made it clear that he is utterly incapable of understanding or leading the United States of America. The voters should send him and others like him a resounding message on election day: "You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting."

Jack Sullivan
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