

The Alexandria/Arlington

It's **read** all over!
August 2012

Zebra

Spreading home town good news



Summer
Sizzles at
Greenstreet
Gardens

PAGE 4



Christine Roland Garner

I sell more because I do more!

OLD TOWN



\$2,300,000

Historic 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath detached Federal home situated on a large corner lot surrounded by private gardens.

SOLD

ROSEMONT



\$849,000

Lovely 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial with 3 beautifully finished levels and an attached garage.

SOLD

JEFFERSON PARK



\$759,000

Classic 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with 3 finished levels and a beautiful fenced yard with patio and off street parking.

SOLD

DEL RAY



\$670,000

Full of charm and character with 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, spacious kitchen and beautiful fenced yard. Blocks to shops & restaurants!

SOLD

ROSEMONT

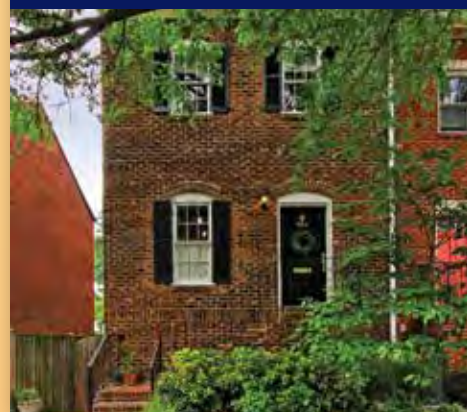


\$895,000

Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3 bath home with a 2 story addition and fabulous open floor plan. Blocks to Metro, shops & restaurants!

UNDER CONTRACT

OLD TOWN



\$849,000

Updated from top to bottom with over 2500 sq ft of living space, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces, large walk-out lower level and fenced yard. Blocks to Metro, shops & restaurants.

BEVERLY HILLS



\$985,000

Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath Arts & Crafts home with a fabulous Great Room and Master Suite addition, 2 fireplaces and 3 finished levels. Fenced yard with deck, patio, mature landscaping and off street parking.

OLD TOWN



\$550,000

Wonderfully updated and surprisingly spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath home with a new kitchen, 3 season sunroom and 3 finished levels. Beautiful yard, (approx. 10,000 sq ft) with patio & off street parking. Close-in neighborhood just minutes to Old Town, Arlington & D.C.

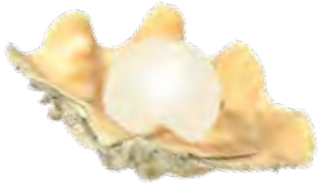
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INBOX

HOW TO GIVE US FEEDBACK
If you would like to send us a comment, send your mail to mary@thezebra.org or Zebra, PO Box 6504, Arlington, VA 22206. Submission of a letter constitutes permission to publish it. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

Dear Zebra,
Where are you guys? Are you still around? I'm missing my Zebra. Do I get money back for my subscriptions? Help.

Sincerely,
John Watkins
Alexandria, VA

Publisher's Reply:
Yes, we are here. For some reason, it worked out that Zebra followed the school year calendar. It worked out pretty well for most of the staff with vacations and pressing family issues, but we are indeed here. Monthly service resumes now. And all subscribers get an automatic extension before having to renew. Thanks for sticking with us!

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

There are a lot of things for which I find myself increasingly grateful as I get older. Air conditioning for one.

That summer storm knocked most of us out of power for days. And it was the hottest summer on record. For a short time, it was fun to play pioneer, reading by candlelight and waiting for the refrigerator and television to suddenly whir back to life. But soon it became downright scary, and it wasn't getting any better anytime soon.

Hats off to all the men and women who trucked into our area from around the country and worked tirelessly to put us back on the grid. When my air conditioner started pumping cold back into my house after three days of excruciating, sweaty misery, I thought I'd never take anything for granted again.

Life got back to normal fairly fast though, and the urban pace has quickly overshadowed our short period stranded. I hope all of you fared as well, and will enjoy our August 2012 edition.

Here's to cool air and cold drinks,
Mary Wadland
Publisher



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Crystal City	Middleburg	Shirlington

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Deadlines

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For Advertising Information, call 703-224-8911

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Summer Sizzles at Greenstreet Gardens

PHOTOS BY HARRY MERRITT

BY CHUCK HAGEE

For more than 40 years it was known as Apple House. The garden center, just off the intersection of King Street, West Braddock Road and North Quaker Lane, in Alexandria's Fairlington neighborhood, was a community fixture.

Then it was gone. The rows of plant tables stood vacant; the indoor plant greenhouses contained only silence and emptiness.

But, to paraphrase a famous quote from Mark Twain, reports of the center's demise were greatly exaggerated. Now, with the commencement of the 2012 gardening season, not only have the lights come back on but also it is glowing with color, new offerings in plants and outdoor decor, and the expertise to enhance the capabilities of both amateur and experienced home gardeners.

This February, just as the 2011/2012 non-winter was inching toward spring, Raymond and Stacy Greenstreet of Lothian, Maryland, found the location they had been searching for to expand their horticultural business into Virginia. Now this 83,000 square foot site at 1721 West Braddock Road has a new name -- Greenstreet Gardens.

"We had been looking for a location in Northern Virginia for the past four or five years. We found it when the owners of this center decided to retire," explained Ray Greenstreet II, president, Greenstreet Growers, Inc., and Greenstreet Gardens.

"We are a full-service garden

center. Our motto is We Want to Make Our Gardeners Successful," he said. "We also plan to be a good neighbor."

Ray is no newcomer to the gardening/horticultural profession. He started in the business when he was 13, working for a wholesale greenhouse enterprise in Howard County, Maryland. He then acquired formal training from the Chicago Horticulture School.

Both Ray and his wife Stacy are native Marylanders.

She is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in psychology, which she puts to good use as the firm's director of marketing and human resources. "I learned about horticulture and gardening by marrying into it," she said.

The Greenstreets have three

children, two boys and a girl. The boys, 17 and 14, respectively, also work in the business. "Our daughter is only seven, so she's not part of the operation yet," Stacy said.

Their main operation is a 65-acre farm in Lothian, Maryland, which they purchased in 2000 as a wholesale horticultural business geared to what is known as a "rooting station."

The prime purpose of a

rooting station is to sow starter plants and ship them to other growers.

Prior to acquiring the farm, Ray worked for Ball Seed Company, parent company of Burpee Seeds, as a sales representative. In 2005, Ray and Stacy decided to expand beyond the rooting station operation and open a full-service, year-round garden center.

That decision enabled them to offer a mega-selection of plants because they root nearly 8,000 varieties from around the globe, which includes many tropical and unique garden plants. They also built a 70,000 square foot state-of-the-art greenhouse to grow and ship their plants.

Stacy focuses on making the business community- and environment-oriented by hosting a variety of fundraising events at the farm that support schools functions and non-profit organization projects. The object is to stimulate an interest in gardening among the next generation, according to Ray and Stacy.

At the new Alexandria site, they have converted one of the former greenhouse areas into a garden-oriented furniture area that features a wide array of outdoor pieces mixed with antiques and summer backyard staples such as the trusty Weber Grill. The other greenhouse on site has been reincarnated to its former self as the display/sales area for a myriad variety of houseplants.

"We made a lot of changes and have upgraded just about everything. And we plan to do a lot more as the season progresses," Ray stated.

Their other challenge is the commute from the farm, just outside Annapolis, Maryland, to Alexandria. Each of them spends approximately one day a week in Alexandria and they bring in a different manager each day. "We're getting to know the Woodrow Wilson Bridge very well," Ray

▼ See GARDENS on page 5



STACY AND RAY GREENSTREET

▲ **GARDENS** from page 4

exclaimed.

It's not all a one-sided travel venture. They hope to entice many of their Alexandria customers to visit Greenstreet Gardens' home site at 391 West Bay Front Road in Lothian. "We do a lot of events in Maryland and we're hoping our Alexandria customers will come over and enjoy them as well," Ray said.

"We also hope to welcome our Virginia customers to the farm in October when we have our Fall Festival and in December when we have a huge Christmas show at the garden center. Last year we had 32 theme trees fully decorated for the holidays and we plan to do it again this year," he noted.

But those events are not limited to the fall and holiday season. Greenstreet Gardens in Maryland has events throughout the year. There are ladies'

nights, men's nights, events for bird lovers, and an Easter Egg hunt, to mention a few.

Greenstreet Gardens offers its customers a loyalty program. For every \$1 spent, whether on flowers, furniture, accessories or supplies, the customer receives one point. After accumulating approximately 300 points they can be redeemed for Greenstreet Gardens merchandise.

However, there's a lot more to Raymond Greenstreet II than flowers and gardening. In 2010 the Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce named him their Gene Hall Community Service Award recipient.

The award was established in memory of Deale Electric Company owner, Gene Hall, known for his commitment to the concept of community. In making the award, the Chamber noted, "Ray Greenstreet has been quietly giving back

to the community for years."

That is what he and Stacy intend to do here in Northern Virginia, as well. "We are trying to reach out to schools and other entities within the community. That's what being a good neighbor is about," Ray said.

Greenstreet Gardens Alexandria has a staff of professionals on duty to help all gardeners, beginners to experienced. Hours of operation are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Greenstreet Gardens was named one of Today's Garden Center's Revolutionary 100 and the Northeast Regional Winner in 2010 making it one of the horticultural industry's top independent garden centers. For additional information visit their website at www.GreenstreetGardens.com. or call 703-998-3030.



Long rows of annuals waiting to be put in the ground.



The greenhouse shelters house plants from the elements.



A bouquet of natural beauty.

Living Legend of Alexandria

AL GRANDE

SARAH BECKER

Al Grande is a self-described optimist, most likely his grandchildren's notion of the *Little Engine That Could*. Retired since 1999, he sits in a wheel-chair. "Life is good," Grande said. "I have had success, I enjoy success." He built a successful printing business and is successfully recovering from a spinal cord injury. Grande recently appeared on television to demonstrate the benefits of at-home rehabilitation therapy.

"A lot of life is mental: can do, will do, and do," Grande grinned. "I enjoyed every minute of my career. My glass is always half full." His is a satisfied smile.

"The customer is the best part of business," Grande continued. "People have printing needs and I enjoyed going up to the counter and engaging them. I liked people thanking me for a job well done."

"If I have only one word to describe Al it is reliable," said former Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Chairman Shawn McLaughlin. "He was a Del Ray Ambassador, one of a handful of quality people who had their own community niche." Grande was actively involved in the Del Ray Business Association.

Al Grande was born in 1936 in Dover, New Jersey. He is of Italian heritage, a self-made man who never felt poor. His father mortgaged the house so he could attend prep school. Grande graduated from Blair Academy and Bucknell University, the latter with a double major: psychology and sociology.

"I was also ROTC so upon graduation the Army made me an officer and a gentleman," Grande chuckled. "I went regular Army and was assigned to the military police."

Al is a Vietnam veteran who remained active for 20 years. Lt. Colonel Grande came to Washington to work at the Pentagon. Soon after, he made Virginia his permanent home. Grande's printing business, ASAP Printing & Mailing, Inc. was his second career.

"The Grandes did for Mount Vernon Avenue what Burke &

Herbert Bank did for King Street," McLaughlin said. "Al opened his printing business before Del Ray was trendy, and his business had staying power. ASAP's presence made it comfortable for new businesses to open when they might otherwise take a pass."

"In the 1970s Del Ray was the armpit of Alexandria," Grande agreed. "The neighborhood was rough, really dangerous. I started my business in the basement of my house in 1972 while still on active duty, and I needed space to expand. The Calvert had a bay available, a storefront subleased from Crestar (now SunTrust) Bank. It was either me or a video porn store, and the Bank chose me. The business was profitable from the first day and within two years I took in two other tenants. The space was affordable, what else can I say?"

What is Al Grande's greatest accomplishment? "Recognizing opportunity," he replied.

"Al's a real business booster, a dedicated supporter whose leadership, research, and vision resulted in the Small Business Development Center—a 501(c)(3) organization—being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce," said SBDC Executive Director Bill Reagan. "The Center was established in cooperation with George Washington University, flourished under the Chamber's leadership (1999-2010), and now is affiliated with Alexandria Economic Development Partnership."

"As a small business owner, a supplier to local small business, Al understood small business needs," Reagan continued, "and, of course, we all looked forward to celebrating Al Grande Day with him. He was a boater, an excellent Chair, and each year he and his wife provided a welcome water respite for Chamber

staff. He's an encourager, for sure."

Prior to moving to Greenspring, the Grandes' home was located along the Mount Vernon Parkway across from the Potomac River. "My son was a boater and introduced me to the sport," Grande said. "We were members of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club for many years." Grande managed the Club's gasoline sales for a time and received the Club's Distinguished Volunteer Award in 2009.

"I'm not used to failing," Grande noted, "I am willing to work hard."

"What I sell is dependability, dependability and accuracy," Grande continued. "With ASAP I sold both at a reasonable price. When I first opened the business I kept a bed in the back. I was often there from 2 a.m. until 6 a.m., printing, so my orders were ready for pick-up. Other printers were my best advertising, especially when their jobs were late."

"Many of my core values I got

from my father," Grande recalled. "I remember when, as an Academy student, Blair Academy awarded me 'Most Dependable.' It was one of the highest honors I have ever had. Today's businesses need more dependability. Now it's too much bottom-line." Al repeatedly shared these values with students in T. C. Williams Printing Program, hiring as many as five at a time from the high school.

What is Al Grande's life lesson? "Do your job, be respectful, and be the best that you can be," he said. "A lot of us have a hidden talent and do a good job keeping it that way. Set a goal, meet the challenge, but be flexible. Don't beat a dead horse. I didn't want the business to get big; I wanted the business to be the best."

"I am proud and pleased Al Grande has been named a Living Legend of Alexandria," Police Chief Earl Cook said. "He is the most straightforward guy I know, and an integral part of the community. More importantly, he is one of the fathers of former Police Chief Charles Samarra's Alexandria Police Foundation, an organization that offers scholarship grants to police officers and medical insurance for retired K-9s. Al was one of our most dependable attendees, has given thousands of

▼ See LEGEND on page 9



Grand Opening
of the *Urban Attic*

Spring saw the grand opening of the Urban Attic in Old Towne. Co-located with the Christmas Attic, the Urban Attic offers unique items that can bring personality and warmth to a home.



Urban Attic merchandise will dominate the first floor, with the Christmas Attic merchandise upstairs.

PHOTO BY HARRY MERRITT



**Alexandria Library's
New Website**

The Alexandria Library introduced a lively, interactive new website that showcases what's on the horizon during the library's 75th year as a public institution. The streamlined site includes rotating images that appear front and center on the homepage, a new catalog and more hyperlinks to make navigation a breeze.

In addition to an overall facelift, the site has an array of resources, including 68 extensive searchable databases, with collections that cover everything from culinary arts to military journals. Finding an article, book or ebook is much easier now. Users can even submit questions online to "Ask a Librarian." Additionally, with social media integrated on the site, users can share events or their favorite reads using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

"The new site is more robust," says Lynda Rudd, the library's Technical Services Manager. "It creates tools that allow the community to be more self-reliant and gives power to users." The site also highlights that the library has been in service since August 20, 1937, with the construction of the Kate Waller Barrett Branch.

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ASK THE CLOCKMAN

BY PHIL WADLAND



I buy and sell clocks all the time on e-Bay. I look for clock ads that state “runs but stops” or “broken mainspring,” the kinds of things that keep the price low. I buy these distressed clocks, overhaul them and put them back up on e-Bay for a profit.

Well, I had such a clock that I was selling. The clock was a completely restored Seth Thomas mantel clock, circa 1900. Unfortunately (for me), the bidding stayed low and the clock sold for only \$40. You can’t win them all.

A deal is a deal, so I had to ship the clock to the winner, who lives in Minnesota. I didn’t have the right-sized box, so I went to the local mailbox store to buy one. That’s all I wanted to do, but standing in front of me was a man wanting to mail an item to Switzerland. He didn’t have the item boxed, so the owner of the store disappeared into the back of the store to package it for him. After a great while he emerged with a large box and started the paperwork needed to ship the item. At one point I said “I think there was less paperwork when I filled out my mortgage.” A laugh came from the crowd that had formed behind me.

I got my box for \$4.50, went home and packaged the clock for shipment. You all know how this goes: clock wrapped in bubble wrap, box filled with Styrofoam and then taped shut with heavy-duty packing tape. I went to the post office and mailed the clock Priority Mail.

Three days later I received an email from e-Bay informing me that the clock had arrived completely destroyed. I sent the buyer my phone number so we could talk about the problem. I never buy insurance from the post office because their insurance just might be the biggest scam this government has ever run. Anyone who has ever put in a claim knows it’s hopeless to try and collect for said damages.

But I digress. After talking to the man from Minnesota, we agreed on a settlement of \$37. He’d keep the damaged clock; I’d pay him half the cost of the purchase and

mailing charges. I lost money on the sale of the clock, had to pay for a box, and had to refund money.

The day after I sold the Seth Thomas clock, a young man came into my shop to sell me a Howard Miller chime clock. He told me it was not working, that he had inherited the clock with no place to put it and did I want to buy the clock? I told him that the repairs on the clock would run \$125 and I could only give him \$50 for the not-working clock. He said he didn’t want to sell it for that amount but the clock did need a key and would I sell him one for \$5?

The next day he called to ask was the \$50 still good and would I refund him the \$5 for the key? I agreed. When he arrived I asked for his driver’s license and wrote down his information.

Now the clock was mine, so I took the clock movement apart and repaired the six worn bearings, all the while taking photos of my work. The photos are needed to show the bidders on e-Bay that the work had been done to this clock.

After a couple of days of testing the clock’s performance, I was satisfied that the clock could be listed on e-Bay. I had taken 11 photos

and was in the process of uploading them when I got a call from the seller telling me he wanted the clock back. I told him that I had completed the repairs and that I would give it to him for \$180, which would be \$50 for the sale, \$125 for the repairs and \$5 for the key. He asked if he could give me a check. I said “If you have money in the bank to cover the check, then go to the bank and bring me cash. I gave you cash, so you give me cash.”

I wrote up a receipt for the transaction along with a printout of the 11 photos to show him the work had been done. A week went by and he never showed up to get the clock. I suspect the check would have bounced. Meanwhile, a clock collector came into my shop and I showed him the chime clock, telling him the story. He agreed to give me the \$180 and I would deliver it to him in two days.

Nineteen days after I bought the clock, the phone rang. A woman I had never heard of was saying that I had her clock and she

wanted it back. She was very upset and mad at me for buying the clock. Turns out her nephew had stolen the clock and sold it to me. I suggested she call the police and let them work out the details, as I had all the information needed to show the transaction was legal. She said that she didn’t want to do that, but still wanted her clock back.

I called my buyer, told him the rest of the story and he agreed to return the clock. After I got the clock back, I phoned the original owners and told them



Seth Thomas mantel clock

that I would be expecting cash when the clock is picked up.

I now know how end up with a small fortune in the clock business: first you start with a large one.

Phil Wadland is a third-generation clockmaker and horologist, residing in Manchester, New Hampshire.

If you have questions for the Clockman, email clockman@thezebra.org

QUOTABLE:

“ The problem with political jokes is they get elected. ”

—Henry Cate



Howard Miller chime clock



▲ LEGEND from page 6

dollars in in-kind services, and all of us love him. He is a true public servant.”

What will Al Grande choose as his third career? ASAP Printing & Mailing has passed to the next generation, and Al now serves on the Greenspring Resident Advisory Council’s Marketing and Publicity Committee. Many consider him a life-coach, perhaps in the building phase once more.

Writer Sarah Becker was nominated as a Living Legend in 2007.

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria’s Living Legends. The project was conceived by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to create an enduring record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Club Managers Association of America, Dominion Foundation, Erkiletian Real Estate Development, John McEneaney in memory of Ginny, Renner & Company, CPA, P.C. and the Rotary Club of Alexandria. This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a Legend for 2013, visit HYPERLINK “http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com” www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Nina Tisara, HYPERLINK “mailto:AlexandriaLegends@ninatisara.com” AlexandriaLegends@ninatisara.com .



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 29 Alejandro Escovedo & The Sensitive Boys w/ The Dunwells 7:30pm \$25.00	Birchmere Box Office is open 5:00 - 9:00pm on SHOWDATES ONLY!! A \$4.50 per ticket service charge will apply.	July 31 Dick Dale & Band featuring son Jimmy Dale 7:30pm \$29.50	1 	2 Joshua Radin 'Underwater Tour 2012' w/ Tristan Prettyman & My Name Is You 7:30pm \$25.00	3 in the Flex/Stage The Mavericks (All Standing, Doors 5pm) 7:30pm \$45.00	4 James McMurtry [Solo] w/ Wil Gravatt 7:30pm \$29.50
5 	6 TBA	7 PAT METHENY UNITY BAND w/ Chris Potter Antonio Sanchez & Ben Williams 7:30pm \$65.00	8	9 Richard Elliot & Rick Braun 7:30pm \$39.50	10 Kasey Chambers w/ Jill Andrews 7:30pm \$29.50	11 Howie Day 7:30pm \$25.00
12 Norman Connors & The Starship Orchestra featuring Howard Hewett 7:30pm \$35.00	13 An Intimate Duo Evening with LUCINDA WILLIAMS featuring Doug Pettibone 7:30pm \$49.50	14	15 	16 Queer Queens of Comedy feat. Poppy Champlin, Zoe Lewis, Michele Balan 7:30pm \$25.00	17 Goapele w/ U.Rich 7:30pm \$29.50	18 Kim Waters 7:30pm \$29.50
19 ticketmaster Ticketmaster.com 800.745.3000 Find a retail outlet near you Ticketmaster.com/outlets	20	21 Steve Earle & The Dukes w/ The Masterons 7:30pm \$59.50	22 TBA	23 Norman Brown & Gerald Albright 'Summer Storm' 7:30pm \$45.00	24 National Community Church presents The God Anthology 7:30pm \$20.00	25 Paul & Storm w/ Mike Phirman 7:30pm \$25.00
26 	27 	28 Bobby Womack Rescheduled from 8/10, 11 & 18 Sched. honored - Refunds thru 8/17 7:30pm \$59.50	29 HUGH LAURIE & The Copper Bottom Band 7:30pm \$45.00	30 KENNY LATTIMORE 7:30pm \$29.50	31 Manhattan Transfer 7:30pm \$55.00	September 1 & 2 MAYSA 7:30pm \$45.00

It's an Elephant Day Benefit at Ten Thousand Villages!



Do you love elephants? Then you can't miss Elephant Day at the Old Town retailer on Thursday, August 23.

"This is the second year we've held the celebration and fundraiser," explained store manager Kate McMahon. "Our customers loved it, and we decided to make it an annual event." "We hold these benefits as a way to give back to Alexandria, and to help our shoppers make the connection between buying fair trade, which helps people and environments far away, and helping right here at

home," explains store manager Kate McMahon. "Shopping at these benefits really is a way to give twice."

All day on August 23, all elephant items will be 20% off, customers can sample elephant themed snacks while they shop and read fun facts about elephants. In addition, 15% of the day's sales will be donated to the International Elephant Foundation, which works to protect elephants and their dwindling habitats in Africa and Asia. More information on their work can be found at www.elephantconservation.org.

Think Graduation and Weddings Preserve the Memories

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Z APP OF THE MONTH

Late at night or in the wee hours of the morning, have you ever driven to Krispy Kreme hoping the "Hot Now" light would be on? Then, when it wasn't, did you sit in the parking lot waiting for it to come on? Or are you one of those pests who just kept calling your local shop asking when the light would be on? If you recognize yourself in either of these scenarios, click on your App Store icon and search "Krispy Kreme Hot Light." The app is free and allows you to select your Krispy Kreme location. Then it will send you alerts whenever your hot light is on. Getting a hot, sugary, gooey dozen glazed Krispy Kreme doughnuts has never been so easy or convenient. While you're there, why not get two dozen! They freeze beautifully.



PHOTOS BY BRITTANY KALAJ MARGULIEUX

Crunchy Crafts

for the Kids

BY SCOTT MEEKS



Hanging: Scott and his niece Josephine hang their homemade birdfeeder.

Beauty: Crunchy Scott's homemade birdfeeder is made from an old sports drink bottle and jar lids.

Filling: Scott and his niece Josephine prepare for an afternoon of bird watching as they fill their CRUNCHY feeder.

Craft projects are a great way to keep young minds and hands busy this summer – especially when there's a green spin. And if your kids are wild about the outdoors, then this Crunchy Birdfeeder is just the ticket to an eco-friendly adventure!

To get started, you'll need a few things from the recycle bin. First, a sports drink or water bottle. Second, some old jar lids. I like the plastic ones because they're on just about everything and

I never know which recycle bin to put them into. Finally, wooden chopsticks. You know, the ones that come with your Chinese take-out...and ya never use! Well grab one and prepare to craft!

This project will inspire your kids to recycle and reimagine things we already have. Plus, it'll get them off the sofa and away from those video games for a few hours. And the final product - a crunchy-creative birdfeeder that will provide endless entertainment for bird lovers of all ages.

Supply List

- 1 clean sports drink bottle (16 or 20 ounce bottle works best)
- 1 small jar lid (about 3 inches in diameter)
- 1 large jar lid (about 4 inches in diameter)
- 1 eye bolt and metal nut
- 1 wooden chop stick
- Twine or ribbon (12 inches)
- Bird seed

Building Your Birdfeeder

Parents, this part is for you:

- Drill a hole through the center of your sports drink bottle top and through the small jar lid
- On exact opposite sides of your bottle, drill two large feeder holes (about 2 inches from the bottom of the bottle.) These holes should be a little smaller than a dime.
- Just below the feeder holes, drill a small hole on each side
- Hot glue the large lid to the bottom of the bottle. This is for seed overflow.

Kiddies, you can pick up the project from here:

- Thread a chopstick through the two small holes at the bottom of the bottle. This will be a perch for the birds to stand on while they eat.

- Place the small jar lid on top of the sports drink bottle top and line up the drill holes
- Thread the eye bolt through both (lid and top) and secure with a metal nut
- Decorate with non-toxic markers and paints.
- Fill your feeder with bird seed
- Twist the top onto the bottle
- Thread twine or ribbon through the eye bolt
- Hang your bird feeder and enjoy!

Scott Meeks is the author of "Crunchy Kids: Crafting, Cooking and Celebrating the Planet". You can learn more about his eco-inspired craft ideas by visiting www.CrunchyScott.com.



Jimmy Kimmel at White House Correspondent's Dinner



Kim Kardashian and Mom (Kris Jenner) in preparation for their next reality TV show – 'The Patriotic Kardashians' at the White House Correspondent's Dinner



Admiral Bill McRaven and Washington Post reporter Karen Tumulty at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

keeping it Real

BY MARCUS FISK



Flipping channels is one of my major frustrations. I can't figure out why when I lived in ParkFairfax I seemed to have more channels to select from; the Military Channel, a dozen or so of documentary channels like Discovery and National Geographic, a veritable Smorgasbord of movie channels and all for about \$100 a month.

But since moving into Old Town I still dutifully pay the \$100 but like the old commercial, "...I'm enjoying it less." It seems I am getting fewer channels and every movie I want to watch comes complete with 90 minutes of commercials.

This malodorous march of commerce is what we in the military are sworn to protect, often at the expense of life and limb of our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen. And as strange as it may seem -- that has always been the case. The founding fathers railed against Britain's abuse of America's natural resources and our people to drive its' economic engine at our expense, and we launched

the American Revolution, the first such revolt against a mother country in the history of the world. Examining the path of our history a vast majority of the nation's wars were a result of protecting American commerce in a chaotic world against the well-established empires of Europe or against those lesser-known countries who were mucking-about with our merchant shipping or trade opportunities around the globe.

But I digress.

Unfortunately, this country has so blurred the lines between celebrity and heroes that it has callously re-written the definition of what a 'hero' really is. After some 30 minutes of channel-flipping recently (a half-hour of my life I will never see again) I passed through TMV, Access Hollywood, Talk-shows, and so-called 'documentaries' like 'E! Hollywood,' and I realized that these media darlings have replaced and surpassed our real heroes. If the media were tasked with measuring the amount of coverage given to Medal of Honor recipient Marine Sergeant Dakota Meyer for his heroism under fire in Afghanistan or the amount of time devoted to Kim Kardashian, Whitney Houston, or Michael Salahi (Real Housewife of Pick-a-City – she gets around...), the allotted time would stagger the imagination. And why? Because Kim Kardashian's name and exploits in Miami or the Big Apple sells advertising and Meyer's doesn't even register as a blip on Madison Avenue's radar.

Case-in-point is the recent White House Correspondents' Dinner. Did the cameras fall on the President and Jimmy Kimmel? How about our national leaders? Some. Kinda. But the plethora of coverage was on the luminescent front-table squatters. The cameras played endlessly on the Goldie Hawns, the George Clooneys, and, my favorite Kim Kardashians of our country. Some Public Relations agent obviously worked overtime to get her a seat at the big people's table even though I would hazard a guess that the majority of jokes fell on her Tiffany-studded deaf ears.

I apologize to those of you out there who may appreciate her, feel sorry for her over her failed, premature conjugation with what-his-face, or that Kim and her Paparazzi-juiced sisters might have had a bad shopping day on Laredo Drive, but I have reached my peak of enthusiasm for America's love affair with celebrity because it 'sells.'

That's what happened at the Correspondent's Dinner broadcast. Sitting quietly at a back table with the 'real reporters' was a Naval Officer, appropriately attired in the military equivalent of black tie in his dinner dress blue uniform. His only recognition hung on his jacket lapel, a miniature fruit salad of colored ribbons, symbolizing sacrifice and service he has given his country for over 35 years. Admiral Bill McRaven, Navy SEAL, combat veteran, and responsible for the plan to get Osama Bin Ladin, he was 'the

man' who made the call to 'go to Plan B' when a helicopter crashed in bin Ladin's compound. The mission could have been chaotic to someone else, but McRaven knew his men had trained well and would respond well to the 'blip' in that mission despite the heavy weight on his shoulders.

At the end of the Correspondent's Dinner McRaven stood up, said 'Good night' to those at his table and graciously and inconspicuously left the ballroom.

Folks like McRaven do not attract advertisers. Many military personnel have little concept of what drives commercialism that makes heroes out of the Kardashians of the world. But the Dakota Meyers and the Bill McRavens, and hundreds of thousands of others like them hump 60-pounds of combat gear, climb into Hum-Vee gun turrets, or strap themselves into cockpits every day so that Wall Street and Main Street can go about doing what they have done for over two centuries and risk their lives doing it.

It's important we keep it in perspective.

So, sit down and please, shut up Kim!

Marcus Fisk is a retired Navy Captain, Naval Academy graduate, sometime actor, sculptor, pick-up soccer player, and playwright. He and his wife Pamela live in Alexandria.

Stop Smoking, Northern Virginia!



just became a father. There's the woman who recently lost 75 pounds and is now in training for a marathon. There's the fireman who almost didn't have the respiratory strength to get out of a burning building. There's the woman who needed to stop before an upcoming surgery.

The best plan for quitting smoking is to do it for your own reasons. Here are just a few:

You will be healthier. We all know that smokers have a greater risk of cancer and heart disease, but the smoke contains carbon monoxide, which replaces healthy oxygen in the body, possibly damaging the bones, muscles, stomach, skin, and more. Nonsmokers typically live 10 years longer than smokers.

You will save money. The average pack of cigarettes is about \$5.50. Do the math: That's over \$2,000 spent on cigarettes a year.

You may sleep better. A recent Johns Hopkins study found that smokers are four times more likely to have issues sleeping through the night. Nicotine is a stimulant, so it's common that new clients also report challenges getting restorative sleep.

You will look better. Smoking speeds up the skin's aging process by damaging the tissues and blood vessels that give the skin elasticity.

You can lose weight. Yes, that's right! Many people believe they have to gain weight when making this change, but a recent study of almost 80,000 people found that smokers were more likely to eat foods high in saturated fat and cholesterol. By returning the senses of taste and smell to normal, you can actually enjoy your food more, making it easier to eat less.

You will be happier. There's a common belief that quitting smoking has to make you miserable, but a new study from Brown University linked quitting smoking to greater levels of happiness and elevated moods.

The strongest motivator I've found is that **you will be in control of your life.** Smokers have struggled for far too long trying to quit the habit, and it will finally just be just something they used to do. Even better, they can get on with their life as if they never smoked in the first place.



Jason Linett is a Board Certified Hypnotist and the Director of Virginia Hypnosis, a solution-oriented hypnosis practice in Old Town Alexandria. For more information, visit www.VirginiaHypnosis.com or call (703) 360-0534 for a free confidential consultation.

It's not about quitting or giving anything up. **It's about taking control of your life.**

Almost half of the clients I see in my office are people whose goal is to become nonsmokers. It's no surprise, as hypnosis for smoking cessation was found to be the most effective way of giving up smoking in a study at the University of Iowa. This study states that "on average, hypnosis was over three times as effective as nicotine replacement methods and 15 times as effective as trying to quit alone." Many other studies support this research.

The Centers for Disease Control states that almost one in five adults in the United States smokes cigarettes, and nearly half of them try to quit every year.

Why make the change? In my experience, each person comes in with unique experiences and goals, which is why customization leads to the greatest success.

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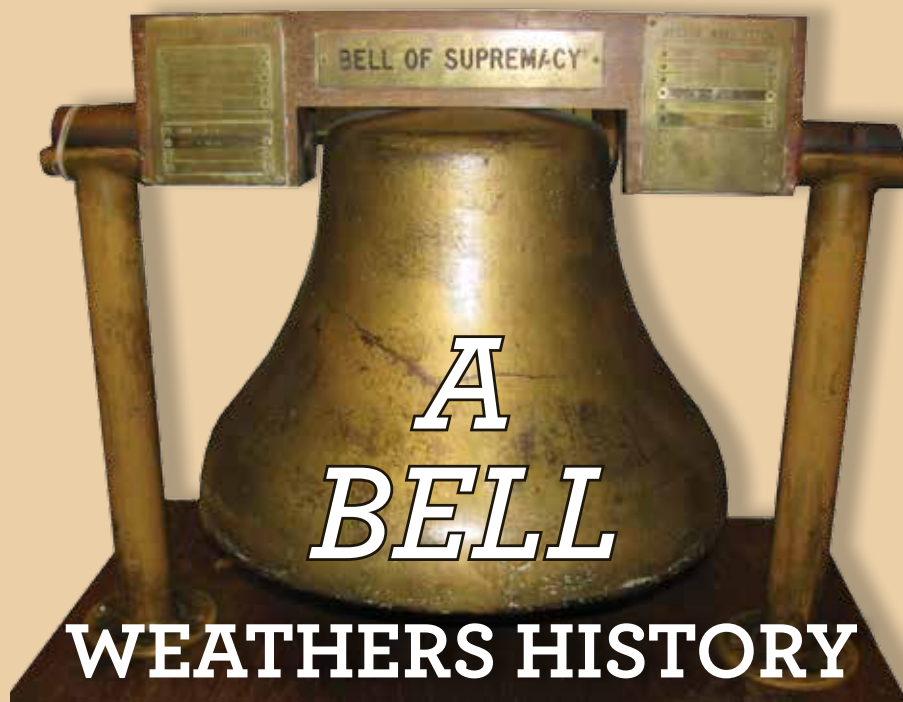
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Tunny Bell now sits on a table in the hallway of the Francis Hammond Middle School on Seminary Road.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK HAGEE

BY CHUCK HAGEE

Alexandria has been a seaport since well before the American Revolution. There are numerous reminders of that fact throughout the city -- the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the Mariner statue in Waterfront Park, historic reminders of the World War I shipyard at Jones Point, the large anchor resting at the Old Dominion Boat Club -- to mention only a few.

But, there is one artifact of maritime history few are aware of that could well be considered the most poignant of all -- The Tunny Bell that occupies a place of honor in a hallway at Francis Hammond Middle School on Seminary Road. It is a link between this historic Virginia city and the 20th century wars of this nation.

It is also fitting that this bell from the U.S. Navy Submarine Tunny, SS-282, should find its final resting spot in a school named for one of Alexandria's only two recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor -- Francis Hammond, a U.S. Navy Corpsman, who was killed on a Korean battlefield in 1953 while giving medical treatment to wounded marines. The other recipient was Rocky Versace, who died as a Vietnam POW.

And, even more ironic is that the Tunny Bell should rest less than a mile from the former naval officer whose first sea assignment after graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy was as a Lieutenant Junior Grade aboard the newly commissioned USS Tunny at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Captain Norman Nash, USN (Ret), now resides at Goodwin House.

Graduating in December 1941, Nash served a short administrative stint at the Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and then reported to Submarine School in California. There were two graduations at Annapolis that year due to the demands of America's entrance into World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The second graduation was in June 1942, the same month the Tunny was launched from the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. It was commissioned in September 1942.



Captain Norman Nash, USN (Ret), sits at his computer in his residence at Goodwin House less than a mile from the bell that was part of the first submarine to which he was assigned, SS-282 Tunny, as a Lt. Junior Grade, a year after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Above his head to the right is a wood carving of the Submariner Insignia.

Nash and his first "boat," as submarines are called, joined up at Pearl in the shadow of the Battleship Arizona which, to this day, shields the remains of its 2,000 plus dead. The Tunny arrived there on December 12, 1942 -- one year and five days after the United States came of age on the international stage of world conflict.

"When I went aboard I had just finished sub school and was the junior officer," Nash explained. "The Tunny just happened to be short one officer when I got to Hawaii. I felt very lucky to get assigned to a brand new boat." That relationship lasted throughout most of World War II and into Vietnam.

Nash left the Tunny in 1945 to go to another newly commissioned submarine. He served on five different boats and eventually as "Catfish" Division Commander, a fleet of guided missile submarines, of which the Tunny, being converted after World War II, was one. He also served as a Division Commander at Pearl Harbor during his career.

Following its launch, the Tunny commenced its three combat mission lives. It morphed from World War II fleet submarine to one of the first missile subs of the Cold War and, finally, performed reconnaissance missions during Vietnam, carrying Underwater Demolition Teams and Special Forces raiders, SEALs and Marines.

During its Vietnam tour of duty, Nash was stationed in Japan as Flotilla Commander. But, the Tunny occasionally tugged at his heartstrings so he would ride along on a mission.

The Tunny's World War II accomplishments included:

- An attack against a Japanese Task Force that included three aircraft carriers.
- Sinking a Japanese Class 1 submarine in a sub vs. sub surface attack.
- Inflicting major damage on the 63,000 ton Japanese Battleship Musashi
- Reconnaissance of a heavily mined area near Okinawa to plot the position of 230 mines.
- Rescuing downed U.S. Navy pilots.

Following its Vietnam service, the Tunny came back to the West Coast, was decommissioned for a final time and then fulfilled one more assignment -- a target for Naval torpedo practice. On June 19, 1970, somewhere off the California coast, nearly 28 years to the day after she was launched, the Tunny sank below the waves for a final time.

Among Nash's memorabilia is a picture showing the boat going to its final resting place stern first



A portrait of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Francis Hammond hangs above the Tunny Bell.

as if in salute to those that served aboard her throughout the years and multiple calls to duty.

"It now rests on the bottom of the Pacific. A fitting place for a valiant member of the Silent Service," Nash said sitting in he and his wife Mary's apartment at Goodwin House.

But, what about that bell? Whoever heard of a submarine having a bell? How did it survive when the Tunny's captain gave the order to "dive?"

There was a bracket on the front of submarines to which the bell was attached when the boat was in port. "When the Tunny left port and went into battle, the bell was put in storage," Nash

▼ See BELL on page 15

▲ **BELL** from page 14

explained.

Hammond, then a high school, was dedicated in 1956. The bell was acquired from the Navy Department by Mary Alice Fizer, a teacher there at the time. She served as the faculty sponsor of the Class of 1963. It was rung for the first time in a civilian atmosphere at that class graduation ceremony.

During Hammond's years as a high school the bell was rung at special occasions and for special honors awarded to students as well as at graduation ceremonies. There is an inscription behind

the bell which states, "The Bell Never Rings of Itself."

It is actually on loan from the Curator for the Navy Department. The school is obliged to take a picture of the bell each year and send it to the Navy Department to prove it is still in their possession and is being cared for properly.

In 1964 that proved to be a problem. The bell was stolen by some students from Alexandria's George Washington High School as a prank and dumped in the Potomac River.

That action added one more instance where the paths of Nash and the bell crossed. Following his retirement from the Navy,

Nash taught mathematics for 17 years at Alexandria's George Washington High School. It too has now been converted to a middle school.

After the bell was located and recovered from the river, it was placed in Hammond's enclosed courtyard to keep it safe. But, eventually the weather proved to be more of a threat than pranksters. So the bell now resides on a pedestal in the hallway beneath the portrait of Francis Hammond in his U.S. Navy uniform.

Nash first learned on the bell's location from the manager of the Fairlington service station

where he had been a long-time customer. That brought about the reunification of Captain Norman Nash and the Tunny Bell. "I just figured it was in some warehouse somewhere," Nash said. "Never realizing it was right here near me."

The Tunny Bell is the local symbol of that famous line from John Donne, "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls...." It tolls for all who served aboard the Tunny and for all who have been honored by its tones as they passed through Hammond and, most of all, for the Tunny itself, as it rests peacefully in Davy Jones' locker.

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Mark Gustina graduated from the University of Hawaii with his masters degree in Audiology. After working with the U.S. Military's finest at Tripler Army Hospital, Mark moved to Pittsburgh. There he opened Cranberry Hearing and Balance Center. He has built a

team most recently recognized as the Best Hearing Aid Center in the region for four consecutive years. Mark's expertise with the smallest, most sophisticated hearing aids and his ability to customize solutions to each individual's lifestyle separates him from his peers. Now he brings his knowledge and commitment to helping people with hearing loss to northern Virginia. In that convenient location, people from the Washington, D.C. area can visit Cosmetic Hearing Solutions, meet Mark, and leave hearing better than they had in years!

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Z P I C K O F T H E M O N T H



Die hard wine connoisseurs may flinch, but our Z-Pick this month is Copa Di Vino wine by the glass. Choose from Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Grigio, Riesling or White Zinfandel. Each comes in an adorable, eco-friendly, single-serving "glass" that is re-sealable and unbreakable, and the wine is delicious. Ideal for picnics, events when your

guests want variety, or those times when you just want a glass of wine, rather than opening an entire bottle. Currently available at local 7-11 stores. For more information or to order online, visit copadivino.com. No corkscrew required!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

KaBOOM! Names City of Alexandria as a "Playful City USA" Community

Alexandria was named one of 213 Playful City USA Communities by KaBOOM! for its efforts to provide children with opportunities for play. The Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network (A-COAN) launched the Project Play initiative this year to raise awareness about the importance of play, improve play environments for more than 6,000 Alexandria children, and ensure that every child has access to a quality playground.

Sponsored by the Humana Foundation, Playful City USA is a national program advocating local policies to improve children's play opportunities.



Heather Scott Joins ACT for Alexandria Leadership



Heather Scott, a proven leader among community foundations nationally, joined ACT for Alexandria as Chief Operating and Development Officer on June 1. Ms. Scott came to ACT from Community Foundation Services at the Arlington-based Council on Foundations.

"We are extremely pleased to have Heather join the ACT staff," said Executive Director John Porter. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and passion for community foundation work and will be extremely valuable as ACT begins its ninth year of service to our community."

Ms. Scott expressed her enthusiasm by stating, "I am really looking forward to working alongside such a talented Board of Directors and staff team. As our local community foundation, ACT will continue its important mission of enhancing and encouraging long-term philanthropic investment in Alexandria."



The Potomac River:

Full of Promise, Full of Problems

by Glenda C. Booth

Ever-expanding impervious surfaces like those at National Harbor on the Maryland side of the Potomac send pollution into the river.

In his 1608 trip up the Potomac River, Captain John Smith marveled at the river's beauty and bounty and wrote "...that abundance of fish lying so thick with their heads above the water as for want of nets...we attempted to catch them with a frying pan... Neither better fish, more plenty, nor more variety for small fish had any of us ever seen in any place so swimming in the water...."

Four hundred years later in its May 2012 assessment, American Rivers declared the Potomac to be America's most endangered river, a report that follows a string of others spotlighting the river's ailments.

Starting as a trickle in the West Virginia mountains, the "nation's river" winds 385 miles through its 15,000-square-mile watershed in three states and Washington, DC, to the Chesapeake Bay. It supplies 90 percent of the Washington region's drinking water to five million people.

A Bumpy History

John Smith ached to find gold or a northwest passage. George Washington envisioned the Potomac as a commercial artery. While those visions did not pan out, the river has been central to the history and hubbub of the

increasing population." Fish kills were common, algal mats emerged every summer and waste treatment plants whooshed raw sewage into the river. Wetlands were filled and dredged.

Udall advocated action, though obscurely: "The arbitrary changes by man and nature have reached the point where careful planning and consideration must be given to the river's future in order to preserve its majestic beauty."

A cleanup effort began with the goal of making the river fishable and swimmable, and Congress passed the 1972 Clean Water Act, a law credited with starting the Potomac's healing by setting water quality standards and pushing sewage plant upgrades.

The Potomac is cleaner today, but its health still wobbly, most experts say.

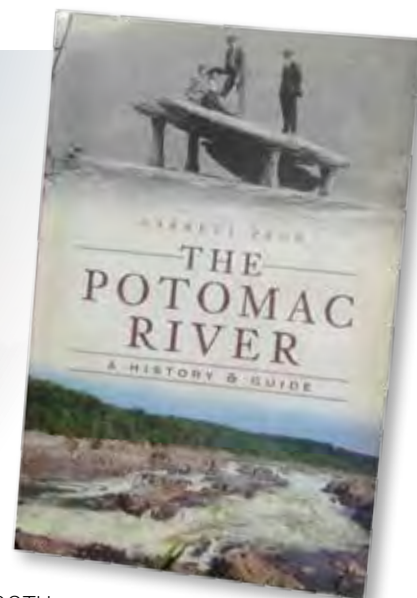
From C to D+ to D

The Potomac's grade fell from a C to a D, according to Ecocheck's 2010 report card. Ecocheck is a partnership of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It scored the river on chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, aquatic grasses, phytoplankton and benthic communities. Four of six indicators declined. Dissolved oxygen and aquatic grass scores have held steady.

In 2011, the Potomac Conservancy awarded the river a D, a downgrade from a D+ in 2007. Their analysis, framed as the Potomac's "two worlds," blamed upstream forestry and farming and downstream sprawl and sewage treatment plants.

Few Forests, Endocrine Disruptors

In December 2011, the Conservancy's *State of the River Report* concluded that too few forests and fragmented forests are harming the river. Development chewed up over three quarters of a million acres of trees in the last 30 years, authors noted.



PHOTOS BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

Arlington resident Garrett Peck's new book on the history of the Potomac River and important sites, published by the History Press, Charleston, South Carolina. The book is available in bookstores around the Washington, DC-area and online.

Forests and natural areas serve as sponges, absorbing rainfall, stemming runoff and filtering pollutants. Less than five percent of rainfall that falls in a forest runs off; forested stream banks can reduce heavy flows after rainstorms.

The report recommends reducing runoff, promoting green infrastructure and protecting existing woodlands, especially those buffering streams. Green infrastructure deserves the same priority as human-made infrastructure such as roads, the authors argued.

The Conservancy has also focused on a toxic stew of compounds called endocrine disruptors which scientists link to intersex fish (fish having the characteristics of both sexes when the organism should be one separate sex). Sources of these compounds are medicines, personal care products (cosmetics and lotions), pesticides, herbicides, laundry detergent additives, dioxins, Bisphenol-A and phthalates. The Conservancy advocates increased testing and limits, water treatment retrofits and drug take-back programs.

States Say It's Impaired

States prepare an annual impaired waters list. This year, segments of the Potomac are impaired because of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish tissue, suspended solids, phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorides and sulfates. Many of the Potomac's Northern Virginia tributaries are tainted by PCB's and mercury in fish tissue, bacteria and fecal coliform. For example, Four Mile Run is impaired by

▼ See RIVER on page 19



Ospreys build nests along the Potomac shoreline. The Woodrow Wilson Bridge spans the river, connecting Virginia and Maryland



During storms, water flows from streams like Paul Spring Branch, carrying pollutants and other substances into the Potomac River.

nation's capital, albeit often a troubled backdrop.

Leap-frogging 340 years from Smith's explorations, *The Washington Post* called the Potomac "an open sewer" in 1951, and in 1957, the U.S. Public Health Service declared it unsafe for swimming. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson lamented that the Potomac is "a national disgrace."

Interior Secretary Stuart Udall's 1968 report, *The Nation's River*, asserted that "most of the Potomac river system's flowing waters are unnaturally polluted to one degree or another," a river "turbid with silt and sometimes emerald green with algae nourished on sewage and other septic riches." He decried pollution, landscape destruction, occasional floods and "impending shortages of water for its basin's

BY GINGER RODRIGUEZ



From Shabby to Oh So Chic

One great part of being an interior designer is the ongoing friendships I develop with some of my clients. We continue to share tips, finds, information and more, with each other.

April, a school teacher and mom ask me to locate Country French style pieces that are so popular now. She recently discovered a new thrift store on the way to her son's school. She found a beat-up, filthy dresser; it was a disgusting mess but she knew it had good bones, beautiful elegant lines, and very attractive legs! At only \$45.00, how much of a mistake could it be?

She emailed a hideous photo of this diamond in the rough, as she saw it, wanting me to give her ideas about how, if at all, it could be made to go with her Country French décor. I had ideas, alright! I sent her links to www.stylishpatina.com to learn more about transforming Flea Market finds into shabby chic using Chalk Paint™. One tried and true system for this comes from a lady named Annie Sloan, in the UK.

April got smart! and got DIY-ing! Armed with the Annie Sloan Chalk Paints™ and waxes,

appropriate brushes, and a few other supplies picked up from Stylish Patina at Stifel & Capra in Falls Church, April went to work. Cleaning and smoothing are almost always needed first. They say that the paint doesn't require any sanding or priming, but if the piece isn't smooth to start with, you can't expect the paint to make it so.

Taking the dresser apart for cleaning, April found a bit more than expected (did I mention it was beat-up, old and filthy?). In the back corner there were two, very dead mice. They were kinda pitiful and, for some reason that I will never understand, April named them Rose and Jack, in memoriam of the lovers from the movie Titanic, I guess. In this version of the story, both die!

Cleaned, vacuumed and disinfected, the dresser was ready for its re-do. A bit of sanding, mostly just on the top, left it smooth. She decided on a two-tone look and striped and stained the top. Annie Sloan Chalk Paint™ instructions insist that no prep is necessary, so she painted Annie Sloan's «Paris Grey» on the body, then gold paint detailing on the drawers. Next she distressed and added clear and dark wax. Just look at the amazing result! From Mouse Tomb to gorgeous, on-trend, expensive-

looking furniture!

I love the whole idea of snatching furniture back from the brink of despair and destruction and giving it a new life. It's good for the wallet; it's even good for the planet. Faux painting is not beyond your capabilities. Trust me on this. If you go for looks like «distressed» and «shabby chic» then this is perfect... just being imperfect! They are supposed to look a hundred years old! How can you go wrong with that kind of an out? More photos of April dresser can be seen at www.coffeewithginger.com.

Ready To Re-Do This Yourself?

Visit www.stylishpatina.com. It's a blog created by the only Annie Sloan Distributor for Northern Virginia and DC, Kelly Millspaugh Thompson. You can buy the paint and supplies directly from her website or from Stylish Patina at Stifel & Capra in Falls Church (260 West Broad Street)

where she has a dealer space and sells refreshed vintage furnishings and home decor items. She teaches classes on how to use Annie Sloan Chalk Paint™ to turn a thrift store find into a beautifully refreshed treasure. Or, you can cut to the chase and purchase the treasures she has created or found at the *Stylish Patina Barn* in Frederick, Maryland, an old dairy barn turned into a 2,000 sq ft retail space. It's open the third weekend of each month (Fri-Sun 10-5pm) and is located at 4051 Stanford Court. Learn more at www.stylishpatina.com/thebarn. You can contact Kelly at Kelly@stylishpatina.com for more details.

Ginger Rodriguez
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Before



After

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▲ RIVER from page 17

chlordanes and Hunting Creek/Cameron Run has elevated levels of E. coli bacteria.

Why Is the Potomac Sick?

What's the cause of all this bad news? The short answer: We are. The inexorable crawl of sprawl, with its impervious surfaces like rooftops, parking lots and roads, blocks rainwater and snowmelt



Jim Cummins, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, extrudes shad sperm and mixes it with eggs, as part of the shad restoration project on the Potomac River.

from naturally filtering into the soil. This disrupts the natural water cycle.

The Center for Watershed Protection says that stream quality is threatened when the development of impervious surfaces in a given watershed exceeds 10 to 15 percent of the area. In the Belle Haven watershed just south of Alexandria, imperviousness is at 32 percent. "Each one percent increase in people is often matched by at least a one percent increase in impervious surface," reports the Conservancy.

Contaminants from hard surfaces and farmlands flow into the river's tributaries and on into the river. Some sewage systems, e.g., Washington and Alexandria, overflow and dump raw sewage into streams during storms.

"The more we build along the river, the more sediment, pesticides and herbicides are flushed into the river. They have to go somewhere," said Garrett Peck, author of *The Potomac River, A History and Guide* in a recent interview. "It is a human-altered landscape, and not in a good way," he stressed.

Shad: Some Good News

It's not all bad.

The Potomac's American shad population has officially recovered,

says Jim Cummins of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. "Shad have met the criteria to be considered a sustainable fishery by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates migratory fishes," he explains.

Cummins, "the shad protector," has worked diligently since 1995 to restore the nation's founding fish, stocking over 22 million shad fry. The number of adult shad returning to the Potomac to spawn has increased tenfold.

brought back underwater vegetation, offering fish refuge from predators. A fishway at Little Falls provides passage to a 10-mile stretch of river where fish can congregate and spawn.

ICPRB officials summarize that "today, the metropolitan Potomac contains a robust bass fishery, contains

some lush beds of aquatic plants and sewage treatment plants are now, or soon will be, using sophisticated processes to remove nutrients. These efforts have been successful, although their impact has been blunted by continuing population growth and land use changes that increase the amount of highways, rooftops and other impervious surfaces, which increase loads of polluted storm water to the area's waterways. Agricultural practices in the basin have improved, but nutrient loads from farmland continue to have an impact on the river's health, as do fertilizers and pesticides used on suburban lawns."

No More Cesspools

"Our political leaders and citizens must take notice and never again let the Potomac become the

cesspool that it was in the 1960s, where there were only scavenger fish and eels, no ospreys or geese and only a few bald eagles," stresses Robert Hartwell, Virginia ICPRB Commissioner.

While the river is no longer a smelly, slimy toilet bowl, its health wavers. Peck notes in his book that unlike some U.S. rivers that the Army Corps of Engineers tried to "tame" with dams and levees, the Potomac is fortunate to be natural and mostly free-flowing. He writes that the Potomac is rich in life, and he challenges all to nurture it and let it be a river.

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Catfish is around 8 years old. He adopted us (used to live with neighbor). Now he's an indoor cat, but used to be indoor/outdoor when we lived in Arlington three years ago. He was known throughout the neighborhood—he loves people and would roll over in the middle of our quiet street to make them stop and pet him. He's a small cat, short & long hair, around 9-10 lbs.

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BY CHRISTOPHER PAUL SCHEWE

companies often indicate that cases will resolve via settlement and are encouraging to folks in this regard. However, when push comes to shove, they ultimately deny the claim altogether or make an extremely low settlement offer that is not reasonable. People find that, without a pending suit and the year deadline not running, they have wasted time.

One thing all my personal injury clients have in common is that they are in financial trouble. Some are facing financial disaster. Wage loss is a constant problem.

How can one survive during this time? The first place to look is to long- or short-term disability benefits through work, if they are offered. Another place to look is the auto insurance policy on your own car. Sometimes people elect no-fault coverage, which is often offered as personal injury protection (P.I.P). This latter coverage may afford some loss-

of-wage coverage. The amount depends on the coverage.

Be advised that in Virginia we have what is known as the “collateral source rule.” The Virginia Code provides that:

In any suit brought for personal injury or death, provable damages for loss of income due to such injury or death shall not be diminished because of reimbursement of income to the plaintiff or decedent from any other source, nor shall the fact of such reimbursement be admitted into evidence.

In addition, if you are actually on the job at the time you are hurt in an auto accident, you may qualify for workers compensation benefits and could be paid 2/3 of your gross wage for the time you are out of work. However, under Virginia law, lost wage benefits paid through workers compensation are to be paid back to the workers comp insurance carrier from your recovery against the

applied and extended the “collateral source rule” to insurance companies that have paid medical bills for the injured victims of an auto accident prior to settlement or verdict.

The payment of medical bills pending the outcome of a personal injury case can come from a number of different sources: personal health insurance, medical payment coverage though the insurance on your car and what is called an assignment. The collateral source rule in Virginia has been extended to cover insurance payments from other sources (collateral sources). Personal health insurance in the majority of cases does not get paid back and the fact that you received payment from them for medical expenses is absolutely not admissible in court to reduce the amount of medical bills a jury may award to you as a plaintiff. This is the same with medical payments coverage on your auto policy discussed above.

negligent driver you have a claim against or have sued. However, a good lawyer can negotiate this amount down quite a bit, or even distinguish the pay back altogether under certain circumstances.

I will briefly discuss the issue of payment of medical bills after injury and before settlement or verdict. Victims of injury cases often face collection activity during this time and are extremely stressed out. A skilled attorney can in most, if not all, cases, stop this activity and save and preserve your credit. In Virginia, the courts have

Lastly, many people do not have any insurance at all to cover their medical bills as the result of an automobile accident. In these instances, with the help of an attorney experienced and skilled in this area of the law, you may be able to execute an assignment with the health care provider. This means you and your attorney sign an agreement with the doctors or medical institutions to pay them back after settlement or a court verdict. Many doctors will accept this. If you have any questions, call me. See you next month.

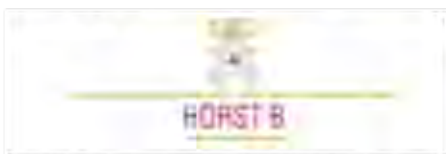
Christopher Paul Schewe is a former City of Alexandria attorney and has been practicing over 32 years specializing in personal injury, workman’s compensation and DUI/DWI cases. If you have a question for Chris, please email him at cpschewe@verizon.net or call his office at 216 South Patrick Street, Alexandria at 703-684-8200.

Since I wrote the article a couple months ago, many people have contacted me with questions regarding personal injury claims. Specifically, they have asked me how they are to maintain, pending the closure of their case, whether by settlement or verdict in court.

As I stated last time, you are entitled to trial within one year of filing a lawsuit. This is why I have constantly been an advocate for instituting a suit early in my representation of a client. Insurance



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REAL ESTATE NEWS



MONTHLY HOME SALES RECAP

Thru July 31, 2012

What's happening with home sales in your neighborhood?

Be in the know: watch for this column every month and stay informed of recent home sales in your community. With interest rates still at historic lows, now is a great time to buy or sell!

Home listings courtesy of Becky Arnold, REALTOR®

Address	ListPrice	ClosePrice	CloseDate	BR	FB	HB	# Gar	Lvs	Bsmt	DOMM	Adv Subdivision	Style
OLD TOWN												
1250 WASHINGTON ST S #205	\$949,000	\$910,000	27-Jul-12	3	4	0	1	1	No	261	PORTO VECCHIO	International
1115 CAMERON ST #404	\$800,000	\$827,500	13-Jul-12	2	2	1	2	1	No	165	THE PRESCOTT	Federal
715 WASHINGTON S #B-20	\$219,000	\$203,000	20-Jul-12	1	1	0		1	No	128	OLD TOWN GARDENS	Colonial
676 COLUMBUS ST S #7	\$699,000	\$680,000	20-Jul-12	3	3	1	2	4	No	118	WASHINGTON SQUARE	Traditional
501 SLATERS LN #215	\$360,000	\$350,000	26-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	104	MARINA TOWERS	Contemporary
319 HEARTHSTONE MEWS	\$707,750	\$698,000	16-Jul-12	3	2	1	1	4	No	107	HEARTHSTONE	Federal
828 SLATERS LN #105	\$499,500	\$491,500	31-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	125	OLD TOWN CRESCENT	Contemporary
520 JOHN CARLYLE ST #232	\$325,000	\$315,000	13-Jul-12	1	1	0	1	1	No	3	CONDOS AT CARLYLE SQUARE	Contemporary
115 LEE N #BH-207	\$575,000	\$550,000	13-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	69	TORPEDO FACTORY	Traditional
2181 JAMIESON AVE #801	\$490,000	\$470,000	16-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	56	CARLYLE TOWERS	Contemporary
309 HOLLAND LN #119	\$435,000	\$430,000	25-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	69	THE ROYALTON	Colonial
311 WILKES ST	\$749,900	\$720,000	31-Jul-12	3	2	0		4	Yes	93	OLD TOWN	Colonial
1204 DARTMOUTH RD	\$645,000	\$624,000	11-Jul-12	3	3	1	1	3	Yes	42	QUAKER HILL	Traditional
115 LEE ST N #PH502	\$599,000	\$600,000	12-Jul-12	1	1	1	1	1	No	32	TORPEDO FACTORY	Contemporary
707 MASSEY LN #121	\$465,500	\$455,000	17-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	2	No	53	OLD TOWN GREENS	Colonial
910 POWHATAN ST #306S	\$531,900	\$531,900	25-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	0	900 N. WASHINGTON ST. CONDOS	Traditional
4021/2 ROYAL ST S	\$564,900	\$546,500	17-Jul-12	2	1	0		2	No	38	OLD TOWN	Colonial
400 LEE ST S	\$1,235,000	\$1,190,000	27-Jul-12	3	3	0		3	Yes	28	OLD TOWN	Colonial
632 PITT ST	\$1,450,000	\$1,415,000	13-Jul-12	4	4	1		3	No	18	OLD TOWN	Contemporary
635 FIRST ST #102	\$755,000	\$749,500	16-Jul-12	2	2	0	2	1	No	18	LIBERTY ROW	Federal
828 SLATERS LN #204	\$515,000	\$505,000	16-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	28	OLD TOWN CRESCENT	Contemporary
433 LEE ST	\$879,000	\$780,000	19-Jul-12	4	2	1		4	Yes	41	OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA	Colonial
709 MASSEY LN #120	\$499,900	\$490,000	23-Jul-12	3	2	1	1	3	No	6	OLD TOWN GREENS	Colonial
501 SLATERS LN #206	\$254,000	\$254,000	17-Jul-12	1	1	0		1	No	7	MARINA TOWERS	Traditional
42 ALEXANDER ST	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	13-Jul-12	3	2	2	2	4	Yes	4	FORDS LANDING	Colonial
1201 PITT ST N #2C	\$355,000	\$340,000	30-Jul-12	2	1	0		1	No	68	CANAL PLACE	Traditional
202 SKYHILL RD #5	\$270,000	\$267,000	27-Jul-12	2	1	0		1	No	25	SEMINARY WALK	Traditional
735 UPLAND PL	\$549,000	\$537,500	30-Jul-12	4	2	0		2	No	31	GLENMORE	Cape Cod
400 SECOND ST	\$579,000	\$581,000	27-Jul-12	3	2	1	2	2	No	10	WATERGATE OF ALEXANDRIA	Other
1647 HUNTING CREEK DR	\$824,900	\$820,000	24-Jul-12	5	4	1	2	4	Yes	33	OLD TOWN GREENS	Colonial
1808 ABINGDON DR W #202	\$224,900	\$220,000	25-Jul-12	1	1	0		1	No	30	POTOWMACK CROSSING	Colonial
801 PITT ST S #124	\$379,000	\$379,000	20-Jul-12	1	1	0	1	1	No	24	ST ASAPH SQUARE	Contemporary
416 PATRICK ST N	\$775,000	\$750,000	30-Jul-12	4	3	1	1	3	Yes	27	OLD TOWN	Colonial
412 PENDLETON ST	\$709,900	\$710,000	12-Jul-12	3	3	1	2	4	No	14	CHATHAM SQUARE	Colonial
614 FAIRFAX ST S	\$1,295,000	\$1,290,000	20-Jul-12	4	2	1		2	No	6	OLD TOWN	Victorian
712 HAWKINS WAY	\$859,900	\$855,000	13-Jul-12	4	3	1	2	4	Yes	0	OLD TOWN GREENS	Colonial
500 BASHFORD LN #3313	\$242,250	\$240,000	16-Jul-12	2	1	0		1	No	0	RIVERTON	Colonial
503 HENRY ST S	\$469,000	\$492,000	12-Jul-12	3	2	1		3	Yes	8	OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA	Colonial
501 COLUMBUS ST	\$540,000	\$540,000	16-Jul-12	1	1	0		1	No	24	OLD TOWN, ALEXANDRIA	Colonial
704 SCARBURGH WAY	\$665,000	\$665,000	31-Jul-12	3	3	1	2	4	No	9	OLD TOWN GREENS	Colonial
1120 POWHATAN ST	\$490,000	\$485,000	27-Jul-12	2	1	0		3	Yes	5	WESTOVER	Colonial
519 PITT ST N	\$729,900	\$730,000	30-Jul-12	3	2	1	2	3	No	15	CHATHAM SQUARE	Colonial
1180 PITT ST	\$799,900	\$770,000	27-Jul-12	3	3	1		5	Yes	7	CANAL WAY	Colonial
1138 COLONIAL AVE	\$449,900	\$445,000	25-Jul-12	2	2	0		3	Yes	6	WESTOVER	Colonial
525 LEE ST S	\$929,000	\$930,000	20-Jul-12	3	2	0		2	No	1	OLD TOWN	Colonial
1213 COLONIAL AVE	\$225,000	\$250,000	31-Jul-12	3	1	0		3	Yes	0	WESTOVER	Traditional
400 PAYNE ST S	\$795,000	\$775,000	25-Jul-12	3	3	1	2	4	No	0	OLD TOWN VILLAGE	Federal
1111 ORONOCO ST #425	\$335,000	\$335,000	25-Jul-12	2	2	1		1	No	0	THE MONARCH	Colonial
826 MONTGOMERY ST	\$870,965	\$845,965	20-Jul-12	3	3	1	2	4	No	0	OLD TOWN COMMONS	Colonial
1111 ORONOCO ST #325	\$340,000	\$340,000	30-Jul-12	1	1	0	1	1	No	0	THE HENRY	Traditional
123 HENRY ST S	\$515,000	\$515,000	12-Jul-12	2	1	1		4	Yes	20	OLD TOWN	Colonial
UPPER BRADDOCK												
1039 WOODS PL	\$349,000	\$340,000	12-Jul-12	3	2	0		2	Yes	210	WOODS	Rambler
3119 KING ST	\$439,900	\$441,000	16-Jul-12	3	2	0		2	Yes	12	MCKENZIE LEWIS PROPERTY	Raised Rambler
3414 GUNSTON RD #733-34	\$219,000	\$210,000	30-Jul-12	1	1	0		1	No	29	PARKFAIRFAX	Colonial
2509 CLAY ST	\$799,000	\$750,000	24-Jul-12	3	3	1		3	Yes	66	JEFFERSON PARK	Colonial
903 QUAKER LN N	\$1,149,000	\$1,124,000	13-Jul-12	4	3	1		3	Yes	24	CHAPEL HILL	Colonial
3311 WYNDHAM CL #3187	\$289,900	\$285,000	31-Jul-12	2	2	0	2	1	No	31	POINTE AT PARK C	Colonial
403 VIRGINIA AVE	\$1,599,000	\$1,472,500	27-Jul-12	5	4	0	2	3	Yes	44	JEFFERSON PARK	Colonial
600 WINDSOR AVE W	\$1,099,000	\$1,030,000	27-Jul-12	5	3	1		3	Yes	51	JEFFERSON PARK	Colonial
3313 WYNDHAM CL #4207	\$234,999	\$234,999	29-Jul-12	1	1	0	1	1	No	93	POINTE AT PARK C	Contemporary
1437 MARTHA CUSTIS DR #404	\$239,000	\$236,500	26-Jul-12	1	1	0		1	No	38	PARKFAIRFAX	Colonial
2607 DAVIS AVE	\$879,000	\$859,000	18-Jul-12	3	2	2		3	Yes	25	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS	Traditional
1310 ROOSEVELT ST	\$579,000	\$530,000	26-Jul-12	4	2	0		3	Yes	47	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS	Cape Cod
615 CRESTWOOD DR	\$869,000	\$865,000	17-Jul-12	5	3	1		3	Yes	8	MONTICELLO PARK	Cape Cod
1413 OAKCREST DR	\$799,000	\$775,000	30-Jul-12	4	3	1		3	Yes	23	DYES OAKCREST	Other
1026 TAYLOR RUN PKWY W	\$579,900	\$570,000	12-Jul-12	3	2	0	1	2	Yes	6	ALBERT V BRYAN	Raised Rambler
3622 GREENWAY PL #536-36	\$292,000	\$289,000	18-Jul-12	2	1	0		2	No	23	PARKFAIRFAX	Colonial
602 WINDSOR AVE W	\$759,000	\$759,000	11-Jul-12	4	3	0		3	Yes	0	JEFFERSON PARK	Colonial
3620 GREENWAY PL #536-36	\$274,999	\$270,000	12-Jul-12	2	1	0		2	No	7	PARKFAIRFAX	Colonial
3101 HAMPTON DR N #1218	\$295,000	\$295,000	27-Jul-12	2	2	0	1	1	No	11	NORTHAMPTON PLACE	Contemporary
2408 PAGE TER	\$599,000	\$587,500	26-Jul-12	3	1	0	1	3	Yes	12	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS	Bungalow
1411 WOODBINE ST	\$379,500	\$379,500	13-Jul-12	3	1	0		2	No	4	KENWOOD TOWERS	Colonial
1610 KENWOOD AVE	\$334,900	\$343,500	18-Jul-12	3	1	0		2	No	5	KENWOOD TOWERS	Traditional
2513 N. DEARING ST #19	\$370,000	\$357,000	30-Jul-12	2	1	1		2	No	7	FAIRLINGTON TOWNE	Traditional
405 WOODLAND TER	\$1,315,000	\$1,315,000	12-Jul-12	4	3	1	2	3	Yes	138	JEFFERSON PARK	Colonial
DEL RAY/ROSEMONT												
516A HOWELL AVE E	\$679,000	\$679,000	16-Jul-12	3	2	1		4	Yes	198	DEL RAY	Craftsman
508 SUMMERS CT	\$1,219,000	\$1,165,000	13-Jul-12	4	3	1		3	No	77	ROSEMONT	Federal
708 MOUNT VERNON AVE	\$569,750	\$569,750	19-Jul-12	3	3	1		3	No	64	NONE	Colonial
103 ALEXANDRIA AVE W	\$799,000	\$780,000	20-Jul-12	4	2	1		3	Yes	51	DEL RAY - ROSEMONT	Colonial
1505 WAYNE ST	\$569,900	\$552,500	25-Jul-12	2	2	0		2	No	7	DEL RAY	Cape Cod
6 CATON AVE W	\$519,900	\$505,000	18-Jul-12	3	2	0		2	No	25	DEL RAY	Colonial
107 MAPLE ST E	\$619,000	\$626,000	11-Jul-12	2	1	0		2	Yes	6	ROSEMONT PARK	Bungalow
1503 HANCOCK AVE W	\$514,470	\$515,000	27-Jul-12	2	2	0		3	Yes	5	JEFFERSON PARK	Traditional
8 UHLER AVE W	\$699,000	\$680,000	13-Jul-12	3	3	0		3	Yes	17	ROSECREST	Bungalow
524 GLENDALE AVE	\$495,000	\$485,000	31-Jul-12	3	2	0		3	Yes	14	BRENTON	Colonial
220 NELSON AVE E	\$530,000	\$530,000	16-Jul-12	2	2	1		3	Yes	2	BIRDIE MAY MASON	Colonial
2301 BURKE AVE	\$615,000	\$550,000	20-Jul-12	3	2	0		3	Yes	22	DEL RAY	Bungalow
6 BELLEFONTE AVE E	\$469,000	\$469,000	30-Jul-12	2	1	0		3	Yes	6	DEL RAY	Colonial
311 ADAMS AVE	\$598,000	\$598,000	26-Jul-12	3	2	0		2	Yes	13	ROSEMONT PARK	Colonial
1712 PRICE ST	\$479,900	\$474,000	13-Jul-12	2	2	0		3	Yes	2	DEL RAY	Colonial
ARLINGTON												
3539 FOUR MILE RUN DR	\$669,900	\$660,000	27-Jul-12	3	3	1	2	4	Yes	172	SHIRLINGTON CREST	Colonial
2720 ARLINGTON MILL DR S #706	\$359,900	\$351,000	27-Jul-12	1	1	0	1	1	No	116	SHIRLINGTON VILLAGE	Contemporary
2612 KENMORE CT S	\$549,990	\$549,990	25-Jul-12	2	2	1	2	3	No	72	SHIRLINGTON CREST	Colonial
2260SOUTH GARFIELD ST S #9	\$474,900	\$460,000	18-Jul-12	3	3	1	2	3	No	86	THE TOWNES OF SHIRLINGTON	Federal
2311 25TH ST S #3-205	\$375,000	\$375,000	13-Jul-12	2	2	0	2	1	No	53	GROVE AT ARLINGTON	Contemporary
2907 WOODSTOCK ST S #D	\$348,000	\$340,000	20-Jul-12	2	2	1		2	No	58	COURTBROGE I&II	Contemporary

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Kiwanis Happenings

August 2012

Margaret Patterson, Child and Family Network Centers Executive Director, accepts a \$1000 check from Nick Greksouk, President of the Alexandria Kiwanis Club. Ms. Patterson accepted the check noting: "For many area children, poverty and limited English proficiency threaten to derail their education before it has ever begun. However, free high-quality preschool programs like the Network Preschool can reverse this trend and put children on the track to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Preschool works, but now budget cuts are threatening to reverse hard-fought gains. With almost two hundred children on the waiting list, the needs for our services are daunting. We are grateful for the support from groups like Kiwanis who understand that high-quality early education has great potential for narrowing the school readiness gap between children from families with incomes below the poverty line and children from high-income families."



Kiwanis is a National and an International Service Organization whose mission is to save one child at a time, one community at a time, all around the world. It crosses religious, political, ethnic and regional barriers; and its purpose is simply to foster good health, clean water, and support the needs of children all around the world,

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PEARLS: Nature's Gems

BY MARY EHLERS



Pearls are nature's gems from the sea. Akoya cultured pearls are formed inside of oysters in salt water, while freshwater cultured pearls are formed inside of mussels in fresh water lakes. There are also natural pearls, found in both salt water and in fresh water, but these are quite rare. They are so rare, and can only be identified by X-raying the pearl to see if there was a starter bead of mother-of-pearl in the center of the pearl. If there is no nucleus and the pearl is all solid nacre material, then the pearl is natural.

In freshwater pearls, the starter is simply a small piece of mantle tissue from the mussel which is inserted into the mussel to serve as the irritant. The irritant causes the mussel to secrete a material called nacre to cover the irritation, and protect the mussel from the foreign body within it. In Akoya cultured pearls, the starter is a round mother-of-pearl bead which has been inserted surgically into the oyster to serve as the irritant. The layers of nacre that cover the irritant is what we refer to as the pearl. In the relatively colder waters of Japan, the nacre layers take longer to form and it may take a year and a half to produce just 0.4mm thickness of nacre over the mother-of-pearl starter bead.

In Tahiti and the South Seas, the water is warmer and nacre layers are deposited more rapidly. For that reason, most Black Tahitian pearls

are 8 mm or larger in diameter, as are most South Sea pearls, which can be as large as 15 to 17 mm in diameter. The Tahitian pearls are also a cultured pearl, grown inside the Black Lipped Oyster in the warm waters of Tahiti. These have a variety of body colors, from a brownish bronze color to a peacock green overtone, as well as to an eggplant magenta overtone. There are about 80 distinctly different colored overtones available in Tahitian pearls.

The South Sea pearls are generally white in body color with rose, cream or golden overtones. Finding enough pearls of a matching color and a similar or a graduated size may

take several years to produce enough pearls to make up a single 18-inch, well-matched strand. For this reason, a well-matched strand of pearls of a similar size is much more valuable than a strand made up of pearls which do not match in color or size.

After the tsunami in Japan, the cultured pearl beds were virtually destroyed. It will take pearl farmers at least 2 years to start the culturing process again. At the recent Tucson Gem Show, a gemologist friend told me that the pearl dealers did not have the 7 1/2-8 mm size strands of pearls at any of the pearl dealers' booths.

In China, pearl farmers are working hard to produce more nearly round shaped freshwater pearls to fill that void in the market. It is amazing how close to round the freshwater pearls are becoming, and how that is being accomplished is proprietary knowledge not being divulged. What this means is that it is possible to acquire a nice, nearly round strand of lustrous freshwater pearls at an affordable price. These pearls are also available in some of the larger sizes, 8 mm and larger, still at reasonable prices.

When shopping for a pair of pearl studs, a strand of pearls or a pearl ring; there are 5 things to keep in mind. These are: lustre, surface smoothness,

prefer pearls with a rose or pink overtone, Middle Easterners like cream and golden colored pearls, as do South Americans. Choose what looks good on you, your skin tone, and your hair color.

Size affects the price dramatically, particularly in pearls over 7 mm in size. Buy the largest size pearl that will look best on you, and you will be able to wear your pearls for the rest of your life.

Remember that pearls are organic, and as such only have a hardness similar to your fingernail, about 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 on the Mohs scale of hardness, with a diamond being a 10. Be careful with your pearls, and do not hit them on a countertop, a wall, or on any hard surface which could scratch or crack them. Do *not* subject pearls to ultrasonic cleaners, steamers, detergents, cleansers or high heat. Pearls are also alkaline, which means that they can be damaged by acids. Keep them away from hair spray, perfume, alcohol, bleach, cosmetics, ammonia, swimming pool water, and acidic perspiration.

If you are mindful of these dangers, and care for your pearls, they can last a lifetime and become a valuable family heirloom. If you have further questions regarding the care and maintenance of your pearls, please visit your family jeweler. Enjoy the month of June, and remember that pearls symbolize wisdom.



shape, color and size. These are the 5 criteria which affect the quality, price and value. Lustre and surface smoothness are equally important factors. High lustre pearls are more desirable than low lustre, flat appearing pearls. Also, everyone wants the surface of the pearl to be as clean and as smooth as possible, and free from blemishes.

Shape is not as much a matter of quality as it is of taste, although the round shape is, by far, the most popular shape for a strand of pearls. Color is also a personal decision. Most Europeans prefer pearls which are white or cream in body color, while most Americans

Mary I. Ehlers, Owner, Designer, Goldsmith, Platinumsmith, Gemologist The Nugget 123 S. Fairfax Street Alexandria, VA 22314 W#: 703-548-3010 Cell# 571-238-1519

Q U O T A B L E :

“ My mother was a good recreational cook, but what she basically believed about cooking was that if you worked hard and prospered, someone else would do it for you. ”

—Nora Ephron

Chamber of Commerce VALOR AWARDS

This year, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce hosted the 26th Annual Public Safety Valor Awards honoring the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department personnel. The chamber held its annual Public Safety Awards luncheon at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Old Town.

The event was emceed by ABC/WJLA-TV meteorologist and former police officer Doug Hill. This year's Valor Awards Ceremony was dedicated to paramedic Joshua Weissman, killed in the line of duty during the year. The ceremony highlights the dedication and professionalism of all those who serve the citizens of Alexandria. Sponsor for the event was INOVA Alexandria Hospital.



Combined Honor Guard



Captain Phillip Perry receives a Gold Medal, Firefighter William Dunleavy receives a Silver Medal, Captain Anthony Caselana receives the Lifesaving Award and Firefighter Christopher Smith receives the Lifesaving Award. Working in teams and at great personal risk, these individuals saved eight motorists stranded in swift, rising water during the September flooding.



Alexandria Chamber of Commerce President and CEO John T. Long III thanked everyone for participating.



The 26th Annual Public Safety Valor Awards was a standing-room-only event.



Sergeant Charles Seckler and Officer Patrick Taylor received Certificates of Valor and Officer Talek Helmy received a Bronze Medal. Reporting to a domestic disturbance, the officers disarmed the estranged husband who had come home to "straighten his family out."



Sheriff Dana Lawhorne receives a Bronze Medal. During severe flooding in the Holmes Run Creek area, Sheriff Lawhorne provided vital assistance in the rescue of several motorists stranded by the rising flood waters.



Captain Robert Robinson, Firefighter John Schaffer and Firefighter Robert Townsend III receive the Bronze Medal. During the September flooding, these men rescued trapped motor vehicle drivers from the rising waters.

PHOTOS BY HARRY MERRITT



Captain Charles Davis, Jr. Firefighter Warner Sherman and Firefighter John Silverwood receive the Lifesaving Award. At great personal risk, these individuals rescued numerous people in the Eisenhower Avenue area during the severe September flooding.



Firefighter Michael Chandler receives Gold Medal, Lieutenant Patrick Lyon receives Silver Medal Firefighter Louis Simpson receives Bronze Medal and Firefighter Joseph Porcelli receives Lifesaving Award. Utilizing Ladder Truck 208 they extended their ladder over motorists trapped in rising waters and were able to evacuate them to safety.



School Crossing Guard Sheila Richardson received the Lifesaving Award. School Crossing Guard Richardson was assisting in a community Thanksgiving Turkey Trot 5-mile race when she recognized that an officer was in medical distress. She insisted the officer get immediate medical attention. It turned out that the officer was suffering a massive heart attack. Richardson's quick action saved the officer's life.



Sergeant Michael Kochis, Officer Ryan Waple, Officer Ray Golden and Officer Gustavo Paulino each receive a Bronze Medal for safely securing a potentially armed suspect. Sergeant Kochis coordinated securing and entering a residence where a potential "active violent incident" existed and where a suspect with access to a loaded weapon was apprehended.



Officer Anton Keith receives the Lifesaving Award for preventing a young man from committing suicide. Officer Keith sprinted after and restrained a young man who was trying to leap off a five-story building.



Officer Joshua Leach, Officer Frank McGrigg and Officer Anthony Gorham received Bronze Medals for preventing a mentally ill young man from seriously hurting his mother and then killing himself. After arriving at the mother's home and protecting her, the officers were able to catch the young man in midair as he jumped off the four-story building. With quick thinking, and the use of bed sheets and telephone cable, the officers got the young man back on the balcony and to a hospital for treatment.



Human Resources Manager George Bernard Baldwin receives the Lifesaving Award. Witnessing a multi-car accident, which led to one of the cars catching fire, Mr. Baldwin coordinated the rescue of the individual trapped in the burning car and got emergency responders to the scene to assist the other individuals.



Deputy Sheriff William T. Morgan, Deputy Sheriff Brian Mauck, and Deputy Sheriff Joseph Runquist receives the Lifesaving Award. While on duty at the Alexandria Detention Center, these deputies identified an individual trying to commit suicide, stabilized that individual and kept her from sustaining further injuries.



Alexandria Chamber of Commerce President and CEO John T. Long III presents special sweatshirt to emcee Doug Hill.

PHOTOS BY HARRY MERRITT

BY DR. KNAPP



How to Save Your Neck from Whiplash



When it comes to car accidents, paramedics are often the first health care professionals to attend to your needs. Their job is to assess whether to deal with life-threatening injuries on scene or rush you to the hospital for treatment. Fractures, concussions, lacerations and potential internal injuries will necessitate your escorted trip to the hospital.

What if the paramedics tell you that you are not injured seriously enough to go to the hospital, or if you get to the hospital and the attending physician says there is

nothing wrong with you—but you don't feel quite right? There is a lengthy list of musculoskeletal disorders that often result from car collisions, even when the collision is considered minor, with very little to no damage to the car.

Some people experience pain and tension immediately following the accident. For many others the symptoms appear and worsen over time. Whether the impact occurs from the front or from the rear, your neck is often the most vulnerable area of your body to suffer injury.

Do you know that wearing a seatbelt increases your chance of surviving a collision by more than

47 percent? Still, while seatbelts are tremendously effective in keeping you in your seat during an accident, they are notorious for creating whiplash. Car collisions involve rapid changes in acceleration and deceleration. While your body is held relatively still by a seatbelt, your head and neck are unrestrained and mobile, allowing your neck to absorb most of the force from the hit of the other car or object.

Collisions cause your neck to move very rapidly though an excessive range of motion, contributing to hyperflexion-hyperextension injuries that affect

need to rest after the injury. Your body will respond to any injury with inflammation. This makes the damaged area swell and be pain sensitive. Attempting to move during this time often causes more pain. Muscles around the injured area tend to spasm, effectively splinting the damaged area and preventing further damage. Muscle spasm can also cause greater compression and/or irritation of the joints, thereby increasing your pain.

This pain-spasm-pain cycle should be prevented as much as possible, especially in your recovery process. Cooling the area of injury with ice for 15-20 minutes at a time may help limit the painful effects of inflammation. In addition, resting or lying on one pillow during the first few days will also help ease the strain felt in your neck and shoulders and additionally promote healing.

Injuries in the neck and upper back are extremely common in those who survive collisions. At any stage of healing or recovery, a chiropractic evaluation can help determine ways to help reduce pain and restore normal function.

joints, discs, muscles and ligaments in the neck. These injuries are commonly referred to as whiplash, and symptoms from the injuries can result in one or more of the following: Neck pain and inflammation, arm pain, arm numbness and or tingling, headaches, nausea, dizziness, ringing in the ears, jaw pain, even vision disturbances.

Depending upon the degree of injury, your symptoms will vary. To determine what to do, first consult with your **chiropractor**. Chiropractors are musculoskeletal specialists. We know how to assess and treat almost any problem related to nerves, muscles, joints and connective tissues in and around your spine.

In some cases, early mobilization can lead to a much speedier recovery. Most of the time, however, you will

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Lelia and Martha welcome you to stop by and perhaps catch them working in their on-site studio. Open Wednesdays through Sundays (or by appointment at 703-706-5791)

WWW.BEALLANDBRUMBAUGH215.COM



Dr. Knapp graduated from Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from New York Chiropractic College. If you have a question, please email him at dr.knapp@aachiropractic.com or call his office at 703-823-2201.

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Performing Artists Wanted

Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market Seeks Performing Artists

The Office of the Arts, in partnership with the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, is inviting performing artists to participate in the "Call for performing artists". Artists selected will have an opportunity to perform at the Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market held on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October.

Musicians and other interested performers should send a letter of interest and resume (or curriculum vitae) to aca@alexandriava.gov. Place in subject line: "Call for Performing Artists". Submissions submitted by mail are to be sent to Office of the Arts, Attn: "Call for Performing Artists, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria VA 22314.

Family-friendly entertainment is appreciated. Artists must be self-contained and provide their own microphones, sound equipment, chairs, tents, etc. Parking is

available.

The Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market is located near the Four Mile Run on Mt. Vernon Ave. in the Arlandria neighborhood of Alexandria near

the border with Arlington. Please visit www.4mrmarket.org for more information.

For more information on other Arts Commission programs or services, visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts, or call the Office of the Arts at 703.746.5588.



QUOTABLE:

“ A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. ”

—Doug Larson



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SEVEN DAYS BATTLES

SIX SITES OF “HELL”

BY CHUCK HAGEE

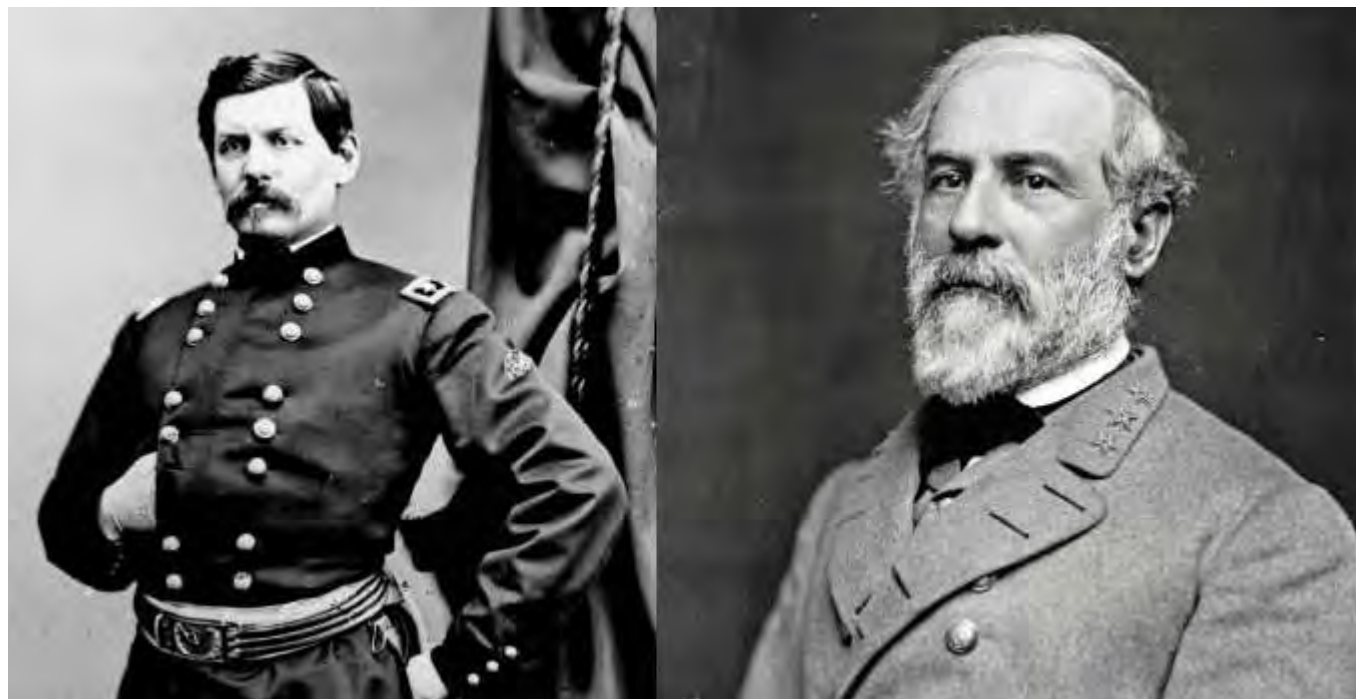
May and June 1862 could be described as the period the American Civil War got brutally serious. In those two months the lists of dead, wounded and captured escalated substantially. President Lincoln made a critical command decision. And General Robert E. Lee took official field command of Confederate forces.

During May 1862 there were nine primary battle engagements throughout Virginia. Of that total, Confederate forces could claim decisive victory in five while Union forces could do so in only one -- that of Hanover Court House on May 27.

It was the month one of the Confederacy's greatest military commanders -- General Stonewall Jackson -- lead his troops to victory in the battles of McDowell May 8 and 9; Front Royal May 23; and Winchester May 25. Other Confederate victories that month occurred at Drewry's Bluff on May 15 and Princeton Court House May 15 to 17.

On May 5, 7, and 31, three battles took place at Williamsburg, Eltham's Landing, and Seven Pines respectively which ended in a draw with neither side being able to claim a victory.

However, all of this action was



Generals George McClellan and Robert E. Lee

but a prelude to the primary Union/Confederate encounter of the war up to that time.

It became known as The Seven Days Battles, although it was actually the culmination of the Peninsula Campaign -- a major effort by the Union to capture Richmond, Virginia, and bring a swift end to the war. The six battles commenced on June 25 with a Union attack at Oak Grove and ended on July 1 at Malvern Hill.

It also hardened the opinions of many in the Union military establishment and the Congress

that President Lincoln was not being decisive enough in removing from command his previous general-in-chief of the Union armies, Maj.Gen. George B. McClellan. Although he had relieved him of that title and given it to Maj.Gen. Henry W. Halleck in March, Lincoln placed McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac and assigned him the task of taking Richmond.

With the opening confrontation on June 25 in a minor battle at Oak Grove, McClellan exhibited his lack of battlefield aggressiveness when he lost the initiative to Confederate forces now under the overall command of one of the highest achieving graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

No longer a desk jockey military adviser to Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Lee was now the Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. He proved to be a hands-on field commander and tactical military strategist.

Lee began a series of attacks at various locations causing McClellan to mistakenly assume he was outmanned and outgunned, the exact opposite of the actual facts. Lee unleashed attacks at Beaver Dam Creek on June 26, at Gaines' Mill on June 27, actions at Garnett's and Golding's farms on June 27 and 28, and then an assault on McClellan's rear guard

at Savage's Station June 29.

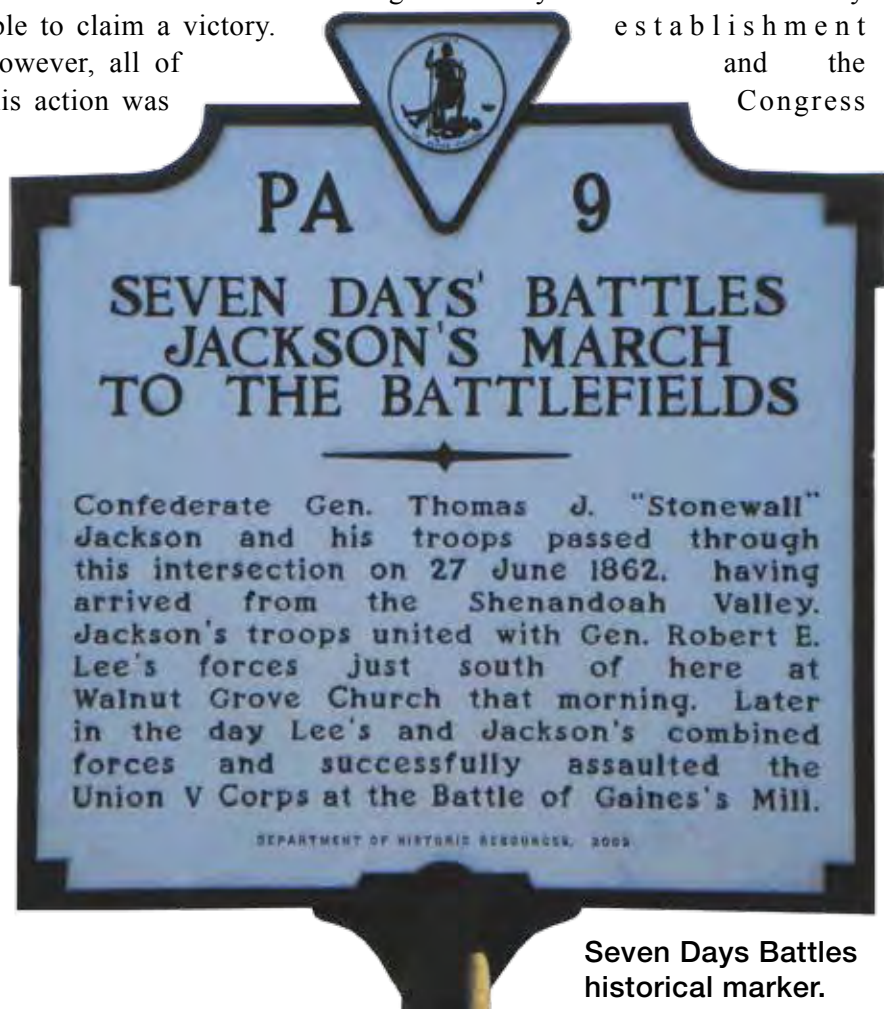
As Confederate pressure mounted McClellan's Army of the Potomac retreated to Harrison's Landing on the James River where they had Union gunboats protecting their back. This also effectively ended the possibility of an early end to the war by capturing Richmond.

However, Lee also was not infallible. He missed a golden opportunity of possibly striking a decisive blow for the Confederacy by intercepting and splitting the Union forces. During the Battle of Glendale on June 30, poorly executed orders initiating a complex battle plan allowed McClellan's forces to escape to a well-fortified position at Malvern Hill.

It was at that location on July 1 that Lee made another tactical error by launching a frontal infantry attack against superior Union infantry and artillery. His losses were great and the Union forces were secure in their sanctuary.

The Seven Days Battles brought onto the scene some of the greatest military leaders on both side of the long, bloody war. For the Union they were Corps Commanders Brig.Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, Brig. Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman, Brig. Gen. Erasmus D. Keyes, Brig.Gen. Fitz John Porter, and Brig.Gen. William B. Franklin.

Lee's Confederate Commanders were Maj.Gen. Stonewall Jackson, Maj.Gen. James Longstreet, Maj.



Seven Days Battles historical marker.

Gen. John B. Magruder, Maj.Gen. A.P. Hill, Maj.Gen. Benjamin Huger, and Maj.Gen. Theophilus H. Holmes.

The battles took place at various locations throughout Hanover and Henrico counties. They pitted a Union force of 104,100 against a Confederate contingent of 92,000. Casualties and losses, the highest for both sides in the war up to that time, totaled 15,855 Union and 20,204 Confederate. They broke down as follows: Union - 1,734 killed; 8,066 wounded; and 6,055 missing or captured. Confederate -3,494 killed; 15,758 wounded; 952 missing or captured.

Probably one of the most insightful lessons to come out of The Seven Days Battles was that of the near polar opposite personalities of Lee and McClellan. The former had come to his command position as a result of Confederate Gen. Johnston being wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines on June 1.

Lee, although a reserved and somewhat pensive personality, was far more aggressive as a military commander than many assumed. McClellan, the epitome of ego, who often posed with his right hand in the opening of his dress uniform, Napoleonic style, was more removed from the battlefield and cautious than his counterpart.

That became quite evident shortly after Lee's ascension to command. Immediately prior to commencement of The Seven Days Battles campaign, Lee spent the time extending his defenses and organizing his newly acquired army in anticipation of McClellan's attack on Richmond.

McClellan on the other hand allowed Lee this luxury of preparatory time by waiting out the weather, well removed from the battle area, to give him dry roads for his advance. Lee's reputation for caution seemed to match McClellan's but that proved to be a serious misinterpretation. His aggressive offense during The Seven Days Battles not only routed McClellan's, and consequently Lincoln's, desire for a swift Union victory in Richmond, but also laid the groundwork for his advance to Gettysburg.

However, that aggressiveness called for complex strategies requiring expert execution on the part of all his commanders to whom it was unveiled on June 23, 1862. In essence, it called for taking the war to McClellan – offense, not defense.

He planned to cross the Chickahominy River with the major portion of his troops and attack the Union troops in a flanking movement. He left behind only two divisions under the commands of Huger and Magruder to hold a defense line on Richmond.

His theory was that his 65,000 troops against McClellan's 30,000 on the opposite side of the river would send an erroneous message to the Union Commander that they were outnumbered and cause the commencement of a retreat. Little did McClellan know that Lee had left only 25,000 troops to ward off a possible attack by another 60,000 Union troops elsewhere in the immediate area.

The plan called for Jackson to attack Porter's right flank on June 26. A.P. Hill was to advance to the Union lines, hopefully triggering a retreat. Longstreet and D.H. Hill would join the battle outside Mechanicsville. Huger and Magruder were to provide simultaneous diversionary tactics to distract McClellan. The ultimate aim was to cut McClellan's

communication and cause chaos.

But, for once, McClellan was not being overly cautious. He, too, had an offense plan. He had received intelligence of Gen. Stonewall Jackson's troops arrival from the Shenandoah Valley.

McClellan decided to go on offense by laying down an artillery barrage from the high ground of Nine Mile Road. To do that he needed to attack Oak Grove. These dual maneuvers by Lee and McClellan initiated The Seven Days Battles that ultimately concluded in a standoff as far as taking and holding ground -- a basic ruling of military ground combat.

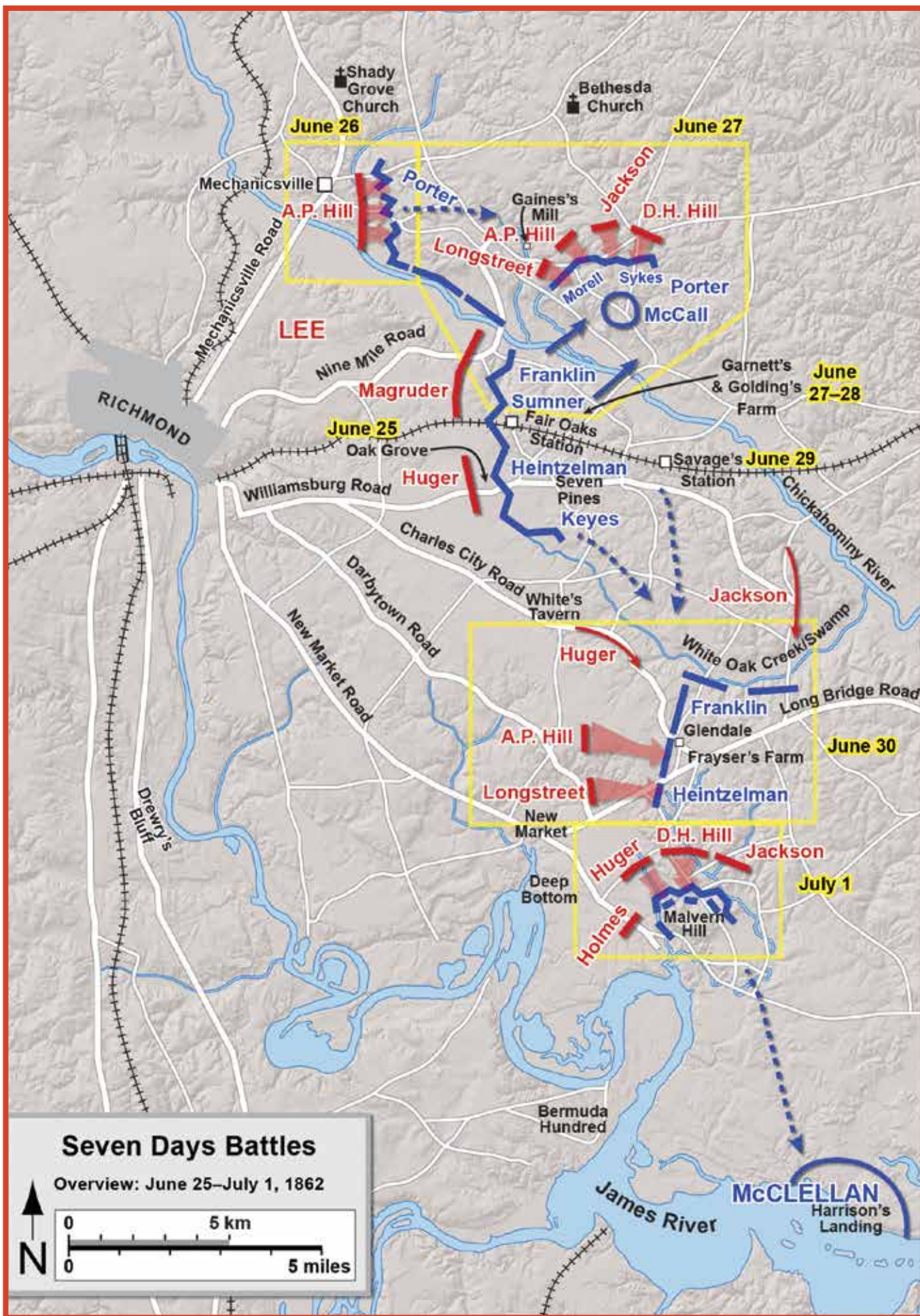
Ironically, The Seven Days Battles, which could be viewed as a victory for the Confederacy in that it thwarted an attack on Richmond,

its Capital, by a superior Union force, concluded just one year before Lee would make the most disastrous tactical decision of his military career -- the attack at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

In the final analysis, the war was probably best summed up by one of Lincoln's leading generals 14 years after Appomattox. William Tecumseh Sherman, giving a graduation speech at Michigan Military Academy on June 19, 1879, stated:

"War is at best barbarism ... Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot or heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell."

An overview of the Seven Days Battles.



What is all that Construction on Route 1 by Potomac Yard?

The City of Alexandria began construction on the first segment of the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway, on Tuesday, July 31. The project will upgrade a 0.8 mile segment of Route 1 between Potomac Avenue and East Glebe Road with dedicated transit-only lanes, signal prioritization for transit, specialized transit stations, and enhanced passenger amenities. This construction, part of a joint project of the City of Alexandria and Arlington County for a five-mile planned transit corridor between the Braddock Road and Pentagon City Metrorail stations, is being delivered as part of a design-build contract, scheduled for completion in December 2013.

Initially, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will operate in the transitway, offering higher frequency and reliable service, as well as additional transit capacity. The project supports the City's Eco-City Alexandria initiative by providing residents, workers and visitors with high-capacity transit.

This five-mile segment, when operational in 2014, will be the first BRT service line in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. BRT service is planned in this region as the next generation of inter-jurisdictional transit networks to enhance mobility and

as part of the federal stimulus program's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Project Overview

The Crystal City/Potomac Yard corridor runs north-south between

Construction requires the widening of Route 1 northbound to the east (recently opened to northbound traffic). The existing northbound lanes from Potomac Avenue to East Glebe Road are rebuilt as bus-only usage (one lane in each direction). The existing southbound lanes will add concrete sidewalks across the southbound lanes as well as installing, updating, and improving pedestrian ramps, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Transit stations will be located in the median areas flanking the transitway at Potomac Avenue, Custis Avenue, Swann Avenue, and East Glebe Road. It is the City's plan to initiate BRT service in early 2014, and in 2014 begin to study the potential conversion of the BRT lanes into streetcar service. Such a conversion would be a multi-year process that would entail required federal environmental studies, as well as application to the federal government's Small Starts/New Starts program for capital funding.







ARTWORK COURTESY OF CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

thereby, address traffic congestion.

The City received \$15.9 million in federal and state grant funding for the project, including an \$8.5 million TIGER grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation,

the Pentagon City Metrorail Station in Arlington County and Braddock Road Metrorail Station in the City of Alexandria. Construction will begin in July 2012 and be completed December 2013.

Guiding Criteria by Shelter Option 										
Shelter Option	Branding for the Corridor	Reflects Alexandria culture and identity	Safety/Security	Pedestrian circulation	Cost/budget	Strong, identifiable roof	Protection from the elements	Lighting	Off-board fare collection and real-time info	Energy efficiency
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

“it’s not the way you say it,
it’s the way you see it”



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BY MELISSA NIX



Bruxelles Part Deux: Jean, Two Lovers, a Sadist and a Little Night Music



Jean had a terrible drinking problem. He was a mean, bleary-eyed drunk and frequented Café LopLop nearly every day. The café sat on a dreary corner not far from the gilded, baroque facades of Bruxelles Grand Place and had a really special clientele.

The LopLop was run by an old English hippie who, in the spirit of an old English hippie, opened the bar's doors to everyone – underage American kids, drunks, the homeless, the Channel jumpers (buskers who moved back and forth across the channel between England and Bruxelles, dogs and backpacks in tow). It wasn't pretty, but as I didn't speak much French at the time, no other bar had an interest in hiring me.

counter and watch the scene unfold with wicked glee.

I was tentative. I spoke French like a two-year-old. I tried to communicate with the nearly unconscious 70-year-old Jean, clad in a tattered sweater and rocking some distinctly Beethoven-like hair. “Jean, I mean, monsieur, s'il vous plait, donnez moi votre francs. C'est...”

Jean would open one runny eye and slap my hand – hard – as I tried to snake the francs he'd left on the table in front of his six empty goblets. Slap, slap, slap. I'd jump away like a scared bunny.

Richard laughed and laughed and would wait another 30 minutes before he'd send me back over for a repeat. I hated Richard.

Sometimes, we knew Jean had arrived even before we saw him. On good days, Jean just arrived drunk. But on bad days, Jean had already dipped into his ill-gotten supply of ether, dropping the plastic bottles around him as he struggled to swing into a booth. It would be, say, 11 in the morning and ether vapors would waft over the bar, enveloping us in a sickly-sweet embrace.

One evening, I approached LopLop for my shift and was hit by the sound of a glorious piano even before I reached the café door. The windows were open and the tinkling of keys, and the melody wrought from them, floated out into the night air and over the wet cobblestones. A tenor sung along, alternating between opera and Belgian popular standards. Jean was there. And he was upright. Upright and at the piano, his rough hands crossing over one another, stroking the keys like an expert, with his fingers properly attuned and arched, as if possessed by the beauty of the music.

Six Westmalles sat atop the piano, all of them empty. A crowd had formed around the duo. I looked to Richard for an explanation.

“Oh yeah, you didn't know?” he asked. “If you buy Jean six Westmalles, he'll play for you. Not fewer than six. Some American kids did tonight and there you have it.”

I was shocked that American teenagers were cultured enough to want Jean to play them some Jacques Brel tunes. But I was even more shocked by Jean's transformation.

Richard told me Jean's story as we cleaned up the bar later that night. Jean, the story goes, had been a child prodigy. Played classical piano to ever-increasing critical acclaim through the '30s, '40s, and '50s. He'd even recorded a few albums. Then, one evening, a twenty-something Jean came home – post concert – to find his young wife in bed with her lover. He killed them both. He was convicted of murder and went to jail for 40 years. And then he was released. He drank every day to oblivion.

I felt differently about Jean from that point forward. I knew very little about him other than his taste for ether and Westmalle, his talent at the piano, and the horrible story, not knowing if it were even true. But somehow, the slaps on my hand smarted a little less, and sometimes, if Richard wasn't watching, I'd slip Jean a Westmalle or two for free.

Melissa Nix grew up a military brat, living most of her childhood overseas. She worked in television and journalism for 15 years before her most recent stint, which requires her to travel. Usually in coach. She lives in Alexandria.



Now, when I say the hippie ran the place, what I really mean is that he owned the place. He would sometimes come down the stairs of his apartment above and say hello, float about the room and disappear somewhere. The bar was really run by a six-foot-four sadist from Scotland, Richard. And Richard loved sending me over to serve Jean.

“Go on, love,” Richard would say. “Jean's had six Westmalles and he owes 8 francs. Go get them.”

Richard would then lean against the bar's

COMMUNITY NEWS

Del Ray Cafe Ribbon Cutting

Formal ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the new Del Ray Café on Saturday, May 26. Local elected officials and family members from France were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Participants included Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, Mayor William Euille, Councilwoman Del Peper, Congressman Jim Moran; Margaret, Rand, Marcel, Jacques, Sandrine, Patsy, and Chef Sylvain; and Virginia and Maria Wasouski (Del Ray Business Association). The Del Ray Café is located at 205 E. Howell and has parking in the back.

PHOTO BY HARRY MERRITT



ASK THE PLUMBER

BY DAN RYAL



Dan,

My neighbors just had to have their sewer line replaced unexpectedly. The project ended up costing them over \$20,000! Are there any preventative measures I can take with my sewer line?

Thanks,

Jackie, Alexandria, VA

Jackie,

What happened at your neighbor's house is extremely unfortunate, yet common. A functioning sewer line is easy to take for granted until disaster strikes. If you are worried about a potential sewer line catastrophe, you may want to look into insurance policies that cover sewer lateral damage. The following paragraphs will hopefully teach you a thing or two about sewer lines and what to look out for.

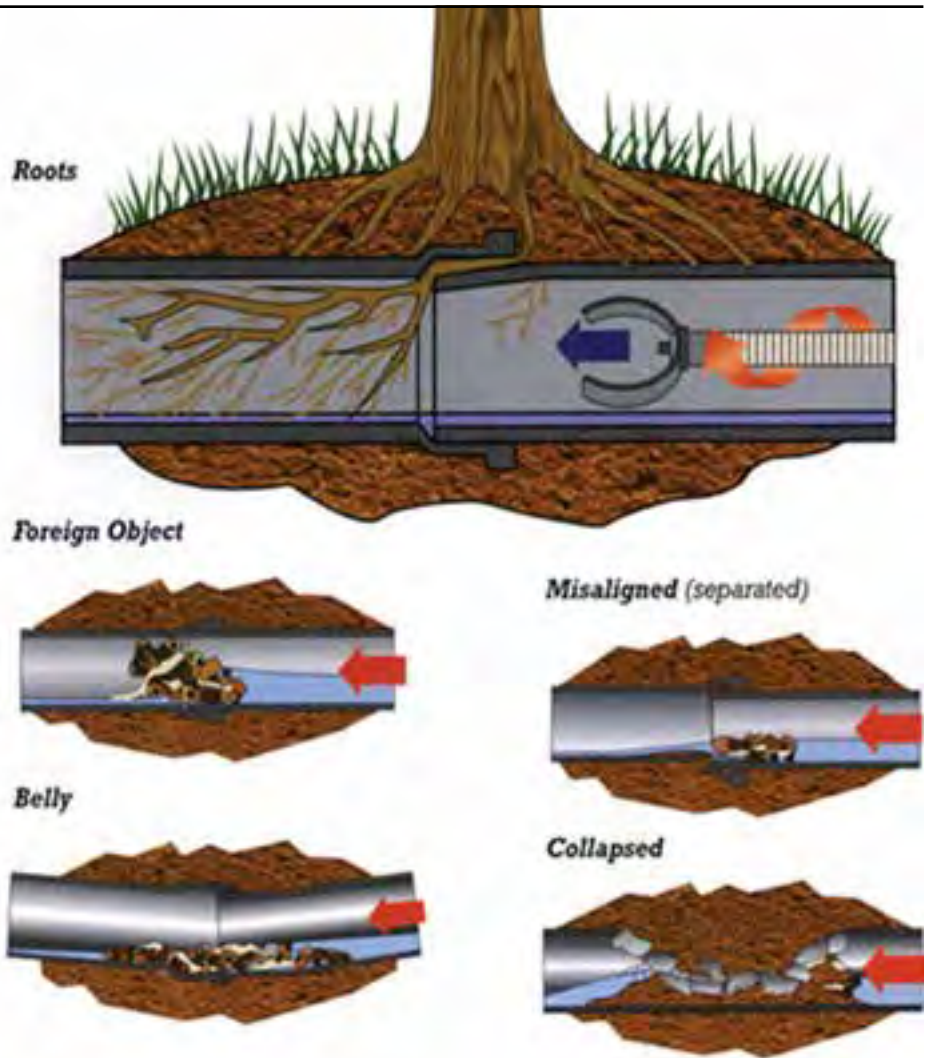
The sewer line you are referring to is called the sewer lateral connection, which is the waste line that runs from the house to the main sewer, located in the street. In most cases, sewer lateral repairs and replacements are the homeowner's responsibility. Damage to sewer lines is commonly caused by tree roots, corrosion and earthquakes.

Newer sewer laterals are made of PVC piping, which is better able to resist the damages that older pipes can incur. Older sewer lines were made with materials like clay or cast iron and are more susceptible to cracks and tree root invasion because they are less durable and flexible. As PVC replaces the older sewer laterals, there will be less need for repair, but for now there are many old sewer laterals still in use.

The graphic shows various reasons for a sewer backup. While a simple obstruction can cause a sewer to back up, many times that obstruction occurs because the sewer line is damaged. If your sewer lateral is backing up time and time again, damage to the line is most likely the cause.

While there isn't much you can do to prevent sewer damage, a sewer line camera inspection can provide useful information regarding the condition of your sewer lateral. If the camera inspection reveals growing problems, at least you will have time to prepare.

In the case where the inspection shows roots growing through the pipe, you can take preventative measures to buy some time. Such measures involve using a sewer snake to cut the roots, then flushing a special root-killing solution to keep the roots at bay for about a year. You can repeat



this procedure year after year, but eventually you will need to repair or replace the line.

When it comes to inspecting the sewer lateral of the house you already own, the most you can do is hope for the best. However, if you are buying a new home, make sure there has been a recent camera inspection. If the sewer lateral is in poor condition, you will want to factor replacement costs into the buying price of the home. To determine the replacement costs, call a plumber for an estimate. The price for sewer lateral replacement or repair can range anywhere from \$2,000 to \$30,000, depending on the length of the pipe and how much work is involved to replace it. Sometimes replacement involves digging up and replacing a walkway, significantly adding to the cost of the job.

I hope this has helped you to understand sewer laterals clearly, and why it is important to keep an eye on them. What you don't know about your sewer lateral can eventually bite you. If you haven't already, have a camera inspection done and you will learn more about the condition of your sewer line.

Dan Ryal is part of the business development team at Caffi Contracting Services. If you have any questions, email dan.ryal@cafficontracting.com.

"By way of nourishment, not by way of knowledge."
— Rabbi Isaac the Blind

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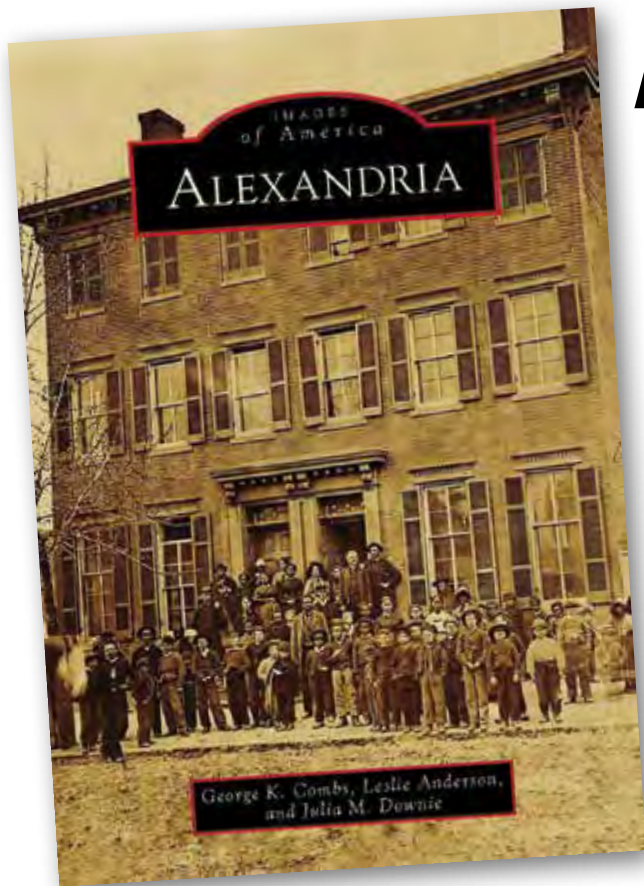
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Alexandria Library Captures Historic City In Photo Book Released by Staff

images that tell half the story about the Southern city that originated in 1749, the book transports us further back in time to the city's indigenous roots and then moves forward, highlighting the burgeoning industries that

photos of horse and carriages, tethered clothing and the faces of hardship and labor are just some of the details that cannot come from a local tour.

"We incorporated themes that tried to stress Alexandria's growth in inclusivity," said Combs, who noted that the book's cover image of blacks and whites together was captured at a parade right after the Civil War. "It was the perfect image," he said. "We were a segregated city, but coming into the 20th century that began to change. Things have improved but there's still a long way to go."

Using thirty years of combined research, Combs, Anderson and Downie offer a backdrop to one of the country's largest historic districts, giving us more insight the

next time we stumble upon antique architecture or on an Old Town brick sidewalk.

Books can be purchased through the Special Collections Branch. All proceeds will go to the branch.



Alexandria Library is pleased to announce the release of *Alexandria*, co-authored by its very own Special Collections staff members, Manager George Combs, and Librarians Leslie Anderson and Julie Downie.

helped an economically-strapped Alexandria thrive. Captions narrate the remaining half, threading together major cultural and societal transitions, from the Civil War to the Reconstruction Era to World War II and pivotal events of the 20th Century. Vintage

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Congressional Art Competition



Cynthia Connolly (Artisphere, Visual Arts Director), Ryan Carroll (winner of contest) and Jose Ortiz (Executive Director of Artisphere) stand next to winning entry.

PHOTO BY HARRY MERRTT

Congressman Jim Moran hosted the Congressional Art Competition at the Artisphere in Rosslyn. The contest was open to high school students in the 8th Congressional District. The winner of this year's contest was Ryan Carroll of Yorktown High School. His art will be on display in the U.S. Capitol for one year. Sixty-three students participated in this year's contest.



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VINO VIXEN

BY MARI STULL



Nancy Pelosi is a Wine-OH*



*Wine-OH [wahn-o] *n* a person who enjoys wine, makes wine, appreciates wine, and even occasionally sips wine. Far from a common wino, a Wine-OH is an elevated oenophile with good taste and sensibility. (fr *The Unabridged Vino Vixen Dictionary, first edition*)

You know Niebaum-Coppola Winery by uber-director Francis Ford Coppola. Coppola is arguably the most well-known and best marketed celebrity-enhanced wine. But did you know Congressman Nancy Pelosi also owns a small vineyard? How about Dave Matthews – right here in Virginia?

Here are a few more celebrity wineries you can chat about next time you're sipping Coppola Director's Cut.

Famous Winery & Vineyard Owners



Fess Parker –

Another wine that's now known less for its namesake actor who played Davy Crockett and more

for the juice in the bottle. Parker died in 2010, but his family continues the winemaking tradition. Look for the iconic Davy Crockett coonskin cap on the label.

Jason Priestley – The 90210 actor is an owner of Black Hills Estate Winery, a very chic and modern winery outside of Vancouver in British Columbia.

Mario Andretti – Italian race car driver Mario Andretti and former Kmart CEO, Joe Antonini founded Andretti Winery in Napa, California. The winery feels like a slice of Tuscany.



Kyle MacLachlin – The actor who starred in *Twin Peaks*, *Desperate Housewives*, and *Blue Velvet* is a principal in Pursued by Bear Wine produced in Walla Walla, Washington. MacLachlin is active in the promotion and marketing of his vino, often hosting wine dinners and pouring his juice himself in wine shops.

Sam Neill – New Zealand actor Neill, who starred in *Jurassic Park*, is owner of NZ winery, Two Paddocks. He makes a fine Pinot Noir.

Sting – Singer Sting bought a palatial 15th century estate in Tuscany, on which he produces three wines. The most popular is Sister Moon, a Super Tuscan retailing for about \$60.

Antonio Banderas – This gorgeous Spaniard launched his Ribera del Duero, Spain wines just a few months ago in South Beach. His winery, Anta Banderas, owns 230 hectares of vineyards and produces a rosé and a few reds available in Florida, California and New York. Look for Mid-Atlantic distribution soon.

Joe Montana – Former 49ers quarterback Montana has been collaborating on Montagia Cabernet Sauvignon (produced by Sbragia Family Vineyards in Napa Valley) since 1997. A magnum of his 2007 vintage goes for \$700 now. Touchdown!

Dan Marino – Not to be outdone by Montana, former Miami Dolphins quarterback also collaborates on Vintage 13 Marino Estates wines (his jersey number was 13) and donates proceeds to his Dan Marino Foundation.

Drew Bledsoe – And not to be outdone by Marino, former Patriots quarterback Bledsoe owns 80 acres of vineyards and a winery in Walla Walla, Washington (close to MacLachlin's estate) called Doubleback Winery. Just one wine is produced each vintage – Cabernet Sauvignon with traces of Petit Verdot and Merlot. Highly allocated, Doubleback's wine is sold almost exclusively through their wine club, restaurants and select high-end wine shops.

Dan Aykroyd – Blues Brother, Dan Aykroyd partners with Canada's Diamond Estates Wines to produce the creatively named Dan Aykroyd Wines. He also makes that vodka bottled in a crystal skull. And that's what we call classy...

Cheers!
VV

The Vino Vixen™ is a syndicated wine writer whose musings appear in publications nationwide. Have a wine question or comment for The Vixen? Email her at VinoVixen@VinoVixen.com.

Carpenter's Shelter Raises \$130,000 Toward Ending Homelessness

On the last weekend in April, Carpenter's Shelter hosted back-to-back fundraisers raising a combine total of \$130,000 toward their mission of ending homelessness in the DC Metro area.

On Saturday, the inaugural Run for Shelter 10K + Fun Run took off from the US Patent & Trademark Office down Eisenhower Avenue for a quick out-and-back race sponsored by **Metropolitan Regional Information Systems.**

Over 400 runners came out to run miles that matter in support of Carpenter's Shelter. Elite runner and Arlington resident Mike Wardian finished second behind Gurmessa Megerssa of Georgetown Running Company. The rain held off long enough for runners and spectators to enjoy live music from The Melonheads and cake pops from Simply Delicious at the finish line.

The 10th Anniversary Carpenter's Cook-Off began Sunday with a radio broadcast hosted by Foodie & The Beast (WTOP/1500AM) live from the Birchmere. Guests sampled wine from Planet Wine while they listened to Cook-Off

chefs dish out the latest news about their restaurants. From Noon to 3:00 PM, 25 of the area's finest restaurants served samples of their best dishes to a sold-out crowd of more than 500 guests.

Throughout the event, The Alpha Dog Blues Band and Chef Johnny Mo, the musical chef, performed on stage. Chef Johnny Mo's cooking demonstration was so hot, he set the fire alarm off! The unplanned fire drill allowed the children to meet and greet Alexandria's finest fire fighters who handed out hats to the crowd as they patiently waited.

K Street Kate, Miss DC 2006 and Molly Ahearn from The List served as this year's Cook-Off Judges. Bigg Rigg's Catering won Best Starter for their peach soup, Overwood was awarded Best Dish for their ribs and BRABO won Best Dessert for their strawberry short cake. For the second year in a row, The Majestic walked away with the People's Choice award for their She Crab Soup.

Publisher's Note: Zebra apologizes for the delay in printing this story.



BRABO won Best Dessert for their strawberry short cake



Bigg Rigg's Catering won Best Starter for their peach soup



Overwood was awarded Best Dish for their ribs



The Majestic walked away with the People's Choice award for their She Crab Soup—again.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CARPENTER'S SHELTER

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Celebrating the 25th Annual Taste of Arlington

PHOTOS BY HARRY MERRITT. Providing live entertainment, the Levine School of Music performed that big band sound for the crowd.

With thousands of hungry residents thronging Wilson Boulevard, the 25th Annual Taste of Arlington took place in Ballston Commons. Local eating establishments were well represented, allowing ticket holders to check out some of the best food in the area. Proceeds from this event are used to support Arlington Community Foundation, Virginia Hospital Center and Phoenix Houses of the Mid-Atlantic. The Taste of Arlington is sponsored by the Ballston Business Improvement District.



Left: Here Sloan Forsythe try's her hand at the very popular jumping ride.

Right: Jaleo's Drew Terp and Elmer Trejos prepare a traditional Spanish dish for the crowd.



Above: With great weather, Wilson Boulevard was packed with residents participating in the events.



AIR SUPERIORITY— *Civil War Style*

As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, Alexandria's Fort Ward Park hosted a reenactment of Thaddeus Lowe's use of balloons for military reconnaissance. Reenactors Kevin Knapp and John DePerro provided audiences with the technical background and history of military ballooning during the civil war. Thaddeus Lowe is considered the "Father of Airborne Reconnaissance."



With a full size balloon in the background, Civil War re-enactors Kevin Knapp and John DePerro (portraying the Lowe brothers) stand next to the portable hydrogen equipment necessary to inflate balloons during the war.

PHOTO BY HARRY MERRITT

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INTELLIGENT OFFICE: *A Smart Business Decision*

BY CHUCK HAGEE

Established firm or start-up company. Legal or medical professional. Non-profit association or government contractor. They all need work space, professional staff services and a place to call home -- for an hour, a day, a week, month, year or longer.

That would be Intelligent Office at 2331 Mill Road, Suite 100, Alexandria. Owned and operated by Matt Whitaker, Intelligent Office is home to 11 in-place full-time clients and the virtual office of 130 clients who rely on the expertise of his very professional team of receptionists.

"Our receptionists not only answer the phone for our virtual clients, but are trained to answer detailed questions for each and every one of them. They have a true depth of knowledge about every client," Whitaker said. "We are in the business of image building for our clients."

Launched in Boulder, Colorado, Intelligent Office is now franchised throughout the nation. The Alexandria office opened in March 2009 and was purchased by Whitaker in December 2009. "We were the first tenants in this building," he said. There are now seven Intelligent Office franchises throughout the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area, according to Whitaker.

What distinguishes Intelligent Office from other part-time office complex service providers is its unique telephone answering service. "Our operators are thoroughly trained in every detail pertaining to our clients. It's not just a standard answering service. They are knowledgeable about each client's enterprise," Whitaker stated.

As for the physical plant offerings at Intelligent Office, there are 13 fully equipped offices of varying sizes, two conference rooms, individual mailboxes, copying and FAX facilities, and the capacity for conference-style meetings and presentations with supporting audio-video capabilities. There is even a physical therapist on site who has his own office and is available to provide his services to Intelligent Office clients.

Other services available, in addition to furnished individual offices and conference rooms, include: Digital phones with six-way conference calling; T1 and wireless Internet access; free parking for up to six guests; a guest waiting area; a staffed front desk; and access to printers, scanners, and other office necessities.

In-coming calls can be routed to clients

anywhere in the world and calls are seamlessly connected. There is 24/7 access to office areas. Administrative support is available when needed. Staff is continuously kept up to speed on client needs and facts.

"My law firm was growing and I needed professional and reliable office space and service. Intelligent Office has been the perfect solution for us because we have space in a Class A building, with the most professional receptionist service," said Omega Cape of Cape Immigration Law Group.

That client satisfaction was echoed by Sidoux Mitchell of the Alexandria Bar Association. "This was lovely space and we really, really thank you for the use of it for our continuing legal education classes. The use of the copier made a difference to me since I could stay on site as all the lawyers came and went," she said.

Client charges vary depending on their needs and level of services. "A Virtual Package starts at approximately \$150 a month. But we prefer to work with each potential client to determine the actual costs in relationship to their needs and budget constraints," Whitaker said.

Some of the a la carte cost offerings include the following: standard office on an hourly basis, \$25; small and large conference rooms, \$30 and \$60 per hour respectively; large mailbox, \$15 per month; copying services ranging from 10 cents to \$1 per page.

There is also an ancillary benefit to any client calling Alexandria's Intelligent Office home. It is located in the heart of the growing and thriving Eisenhower Center.

Clients and staff have easy access to Hoffman Town Center with its wide array of restaurants and the AMC theater. There are also shops and eateries at Carlyle Square and Carlyle Place. For those staying overnight there is the Westin Hotel, Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Marriott Residence Inn, and Holiday Inn to choose from. For legal clients doing business at the Federal Courthouse -- it's right next door.

In today's virtual world, the virtual office of Intelligent Office is the address of choice. For further information on how to "Work

Below: Intelligent Office offers facilities for small and large meetings.



COURTESY PHOTO



Above: Chanel Lewis (forefront) and Kitsha Wedderburn are two of the professional receptionists who serve more than 130 virtual clients of Intelligent Office on a daily basis through a state-of-the-art customized phone service.

PHOTOS BY CHUCK HAGEE

Anywhere ... Professionally" contact Matt Whitaker at 703-224-8800 or visit the website at www.intelligentoffice.com.



Matt Whitaker, owner of Intelligent Office, stands in the reception area of his office complex that serves both on-site and virtual clients in aiding them to build their business image.

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Alexandria K-9 Team Takes Second Place in National Competition

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office K-9 team took second place overall in explosives detection at a national competition last week. Deputy John O'Hara and Sherman, a six-year-old Labrador retriever, competed at the United States Police Canine Association's National Detector Dog Field Trial held in Lakeland, Florida.

Deputy O'Hara and Sherman competed in explosives or narcotics searches against 80 K-9 teams from across the country. The explosives trials consisted of an odor recognition test and then searches of three areas each worth 100 points. Deputy O'Hara and Sherman scored 293.01 out of a possible 300 points, finishing in second place just behind the first place team from the Department of Energy that scored 293.34.



Sherman and his partner, Deputy O'Hara.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office team also partnered with a team from Arlington County Police for a combined second place finish in a team category.

In their regular duties, Deputy O'Hara and Sherman investigate suspicious packages, conduct safety sweeps of the courthouse, detention center and other public buildings, and attend community events where they demonstrate training and detection techniques. They have been working together since 2007.



QUOTABLE:

“ You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. ”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

READ ALL OVER



ZEBRA SPOTTED IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS!

Jerry Riley of Winchester, Virginia reads a March copy of Zebra at Cinnamon Bay Beach in the Virgin Islands National Park.

Many of our readers say they like to take us on a trip with them to catch up and read the whole issue. If you find yourself out of town with a Zebra, snap a picture and we'll publish it as soon as we are able. We'll also send you a \$25 gift certificate to an area restaurant or retailer. Please submit photos to mary@thezebra.org.

Marriott Acquires Gaylord Hotels Brand and Hotel Management for \$210 Million

BY JOHN ARUNDEL

It's official...The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor will soon be managed by Marriott.

Bethesda-based Marriott International has announced that it has entered into an agreement with Gaylord Entertainment Company to acquire the Gaylord brand and hotel management company for \$210 million.

The transaction is conditioned on Gaylord Entertainment's shareholders approving the company's conversion into a real estate investment trust.

If approved, Gaylord will continue to own existing Gaylord hotels such as the one at National Harbor and Marriott will assume management of these properties under long-term agreements. The transaction will add four hotels and approximately 7,800 rooms to Marriott's portfolio, a Marriott spokesperson said.

Gaylord Hotels include Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee; Gaylord Palms in Kissimmee, Florida near Orlando; Gaylord Texan on Lake Grapevine near Dallas, Texas, and Gaylord National on the Potomac at National Harbor.

"We are excited to add Gaylord Hotels to our brand portfolio and are thrilled Gaylord Entertainment selected us to manage their properties," Arne Sorenson, Marriott International president and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "We have long been impressed with the hotels Gaylord has created, as well as their skill in hosting major meetings and events and attracting the family leisure market. This is a tremendous opportunity to advance growth and opportunity for both Marriott International and the Gaylord hotel brand."

Sorenson said that Gaylord Hotels are "uniquely positioned" in the group and family leisure segments with approximately two million square feet of meeting and

event space. "They offer multiple opportunities for recreation, shopping, and dining, as well as entertainment, such as the partnership with DreamWorks," he said.

The Gaylord properties will most likely benefit from Marriott's economies of scale, including lower costs for central reservations, procurement and other services, plus strong sales, revenue management, marketing and distribution systems, while Marriott hopes to capture a greater

and incremental demand."

Robert McCarthy, Marriott's chief operations officer, said that "both Marriott and Gaylord have well-defined cultures that revolve around putting people first." Colin V. Reed, Gaylord's CEO, called Marriott "a recognized leader in the hospitality industry...They have a real focus on providing the highest quality experience for both group and leisure customers,"

Reed said that according to a recent survey conducted on behalf of Gaylord in February of over



COURTESY PHOTO

share of the major event market.

Gaylord's "everything-in-one-place" properties are very attractive to group meeting planners, he added. "As a new REIT owner, Gaylord Entertainment should benefit from improved hotel profitability associated with Marriott's ability to generate substantial cost savings

400 high-quality meeting planners, Gaylord ranked first in all under one-roof offerings and amenities and Marriott ranked as the number one preferred group destination provider overall due to its service standards and wide distribution.

The transaction is expected to close by October.

Nando's Peri Peri to open Old Town Location

BY JOHN ARUNDEL

ALEXANDRIA, VA. - Their chicken is all the rage from Africa to Annapolis, with 850 locations open worldwide. One movie star apparently orders up their grilled chicken delicacies to take on their private jet.

Now, Nando's Peri Peri, the flame-grilled Portuguese chicken restaurant, is expanding to Virginia, CityBizList reports, with new locations this summer in Old Town and Pentagon Row.

A new location at Pentagon Row is expected to open on June 13. Later this summer, Nando's Peri Peri plans to open its second Virginia location in Old Town.

These openings mark the beginning of an East Coast expansion, and the company says it is close to announcing several new leases.

Nando's made its U.S. debut in 2008, when it opened its first US location on 7th Street in Washington, DC's Chinatown. Since then, Nando's has gone on to open six additional locations based in and around the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, including Dupont Circle, Silver Spring, Annapolis, Bethesda, Gaithersburg, and the National Harbor.

The first Nando's Peri Peri opened its doors in 1987 outside of Johannesburg, South Africa. Since then, Nando's Peri Peri has opened restaurants in 34 countries and five continents. Today, it has over 850 restaurants located around the world.



Catch our Mistakes

Last issue's winner was Wick Davis of Lorton, VA who said he went through it with a fine-toothed comb, correctly pointing out 14 typos or misspellings. Thanks Wick, who wins a \$25 gift certificate to Greenstreet Gardens in Alexandria, VA.

We know we make mistakes, and to make a game of it, we welcome your catches. Please send them to info@thezebra.org for a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate from an area retailer, restaurant or cruise line!



Peter McCorty and his one-man band for kids entertains children at the Alexandria Library.

COURTESY PHOTO

Alexandria Library's Summer Reading Programs Continue HELPING ALL CHILDREN IN MOST WELL-READ CITY

Amazon.com recently named Alexandria as the country's most well-read city. The Alexandria Library is helping the community's children achieve such top ranks and an early love for reading through its SummerQuest programming. Conducive to improving children's reading when school is out of session, the program boasts recommended reading lists for ages 0 through 14, and allows children to register online to track the books that they read. Those who read a minimum of 10 books will receive free prizes, and will be included in a drawing of four tickets to see Cirque Du Soleil's show, Totem. Now halfway through the season, SummerQuest's dazzling performers bring books to life

through storytelling, music, magic and more.

"When I tell a story, I make that connection with literature," says storyteller and SummerQuest legend Barbara Efron, whose repertoire includes the African folktale, "Zomo the Rabbit," and the award-winning classic, "Millions of Cats." Weaving music and dance in her stories to get children "kinesthetically involved," she loves the aspect of the library being a free institution with an abundance of books at a parent and child's fingertips. "Kids will love the story; I show them the book and they immediately want it," she says.

Such interactive exercises that reinforce book themes have

been implemented by many of the performers at SummerQuest, including Groovy Mr. Nate, who earlier this month engaged toddlers with call and response music techniques and used rhyming lyrics that referenced Dr. Seuss classics. Following his performance, parents had the option of going to the shelves to checkout "Cat in the Hat," but could also download the ebook or audiobook formats—which are flexible options as families travel this summer.

The leisure season may cause a "summer slide," which refers to a child's learning loss over the three-month period. However, research shows that children who read as little as six books during the summer can prevent the regression.

For this reason, Alexandria City Public Schools has also encouraged children to keep up their reading over the summer, and promotes SummerQuest on their website.

"We don't want kids to slow down their learning pace," says Rene Paschal, Principal of Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School. "We highly value independent reading." Receptive to feedback, Alexandria Library also created a survey to measure how the SummerQuest program has helped a child's reading improve, and is hopeful that the city's passion for reading will reach a broader continuum of young minds.

MORRISON HOUSE IN ALEXANDRIA

NAMED ONE OF "WORLD'S 50 BEST HOTELS"



Kimpton's Morrison House has been named one of the "Top 50 World's Best Hotels" by *Travel + Leisure Magazine* – the only hotel in the Mid-Atlantic Region to be recognized with this honor. The 45-room boutique hotel earned the recognition based on its exemplary service, elegant and comfortable accommodations, and fantastic restaurant, The Grille.

This isn't the first time Morrison House has been recognized for its outstanding personalized service and amenities. The hotel was recently named one of the Top 25 Hotels in the United States by TripAdvisor in 2012, one of TripAdvisor's Top 10 Hotels for Service in the United States for the second year running, and awarded AAA Four Diamond Award for 2012, making it the hotel's 26th consecutive year to win this distinction. It is a favorite

destination for wedding couples and was named a Washingtonian Magazine Best Wedding Venue for 2012, and has earned accolades for its green efforts including the 2011 Virginia Governor's Environmental Excellence Award.

Kimpton's Morrison House is also home to The Grille, an intimate restaurant that serves a menu of French-inspired American cuisine. Recognized locally as a premier dining destination, The Grille has been named to *Northern Virginia Magazine's* list of top 50 restaurants in Virginia for three years running.

Kimpton's Morrison House is located at 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, please call (703) 838-8000 or visit www.morrisonhouse.com

France is just around the Corner

at Chez Andrée

BY HOLLY BURNETT



At 10 East Glebe Road in Alexandria sits a tradition from another time - French time that is. As if walking into a Paris bistro or sipping espresso under the awning of the outdoor cafe, Chez Andrée harkens back to the days when a young Julia Child lived in Paris with her husband, honing her culinary skills. She would have frequented Chez Andrée weekly, if not nightly, dining on such French classics as Oysters Rockefeller, Sweetbreads, Duck a L'Orange and Trout Almondine. These are some of the dishes that defined France for the American palate, solidly prepared here with fresh ingredients, modestly offered and generously portioned.

Chef Syed Sohail Ahmed, known to the staff and regulars as “Zorro,” adds to the tradition, having learned his craft from and following in the footsteps of his father, the original chef of Chez Andrée when it was first opened in 1964 by Stanley and Andrée Lecureux. The building was originally a “railroad bar” that serviced the nearby Potomac Yards. A family-operated business still, today it is run by son Steve and daughter Laurence, and very little has changed in the restaurant – attentive and knowledgeable wait staff; a warm, unassuming atmosphere; and magnificent, classically made and presented dishes as they were originally intended.

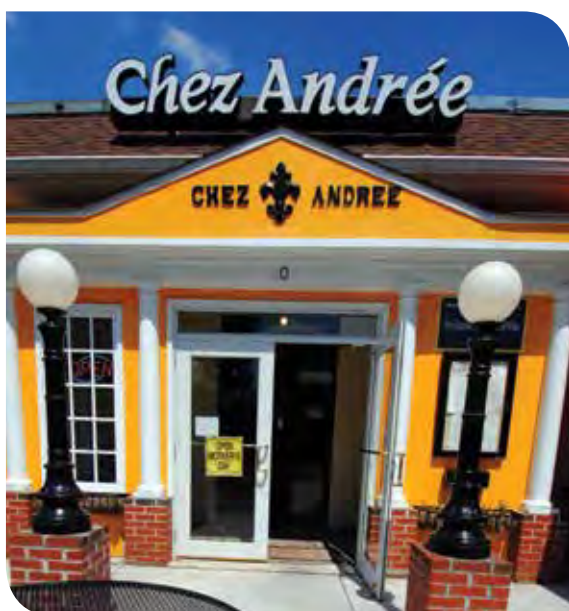
You will not find stark white, odd-shaped plates pretentiously dotted with green foam

here. Chez Andrée proudly stands on its roots and its heritage. This neighborhood favorite is the place your parents have patronized for 20 years and your grandparents for 40. Now it’s your turn.

Do not miss the Seafood Crepes, Clams Casino, Veal Français in lemon butter or London Broil with Béarnaise sauce and Frites (the absolute best French fries I’ve ever eaten – thin, crispy and well-seasoned). Desserts are by far the most authentic French offerings in town – sumptuous Chocolate Mousse, puffy Profiterolles fresh from the oven and oozing with pastry cream, parfaits with your choice of liqueur, and various cake specials of the day. Monday and Tuesday evenings boast the best dinner special in town – two entrees and a bottle of wine for \$29.95, the ideal date night!

Dining inside or out, for lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch, this is your France, just around the corner, from another time – French time that is, a place you and your family will call home.

For further information, visit chezandree.com or telephone 703/836-1404.



Sports After Highschool

23 members of the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Class of 2012 will be continuing on with their sports at college or university this fall (12 boys and 11 girls). They will be playing at NCAA Division I, II, and III schools.



Brent Armstrong

Lacrosse · University of North Carolina

Ferrel Atkins

Swimming · Pomona College

Katie Austin

Lacrosse · University of Southern California

Sal Benitez

Soccer · Hampden-Sydney College

Matt Brinckerhoff

Lacrosse · Dickinson College

Maddie Davidson

Lacrosse · Claremont-McKenna College

Emma Dyson

Lacrosse · Bucknell University

Justin Goldsborough

Basketball · Lehigh University

Phil Guglielmo (not pictured)

Basketball · United States Naval Academy

Taylor Heasley

Softball · Ohio Wesleyan University

Ryon Huddleston

Soccer · Wake Forest University

Elizabeth Lavie

Lacrosse · University of California-Berkeley

Chris Maves

Lacrosse · Colorado College

Tristam Osgood

Baseball · Oberlin College

Paige Patterson

Lacrosse · University of North Carolina

Parker Patterson

Soccer · University of Richmond

Michele Phillips

Lacrosse · University of Notre Dame

Grant Swaney

Lacrosse · Hampden-Sydney College

Joe Warren

Baseball · Swarthmore College

Michelle Whitham

Lacrosse · Iona University

Sarah Wilcox

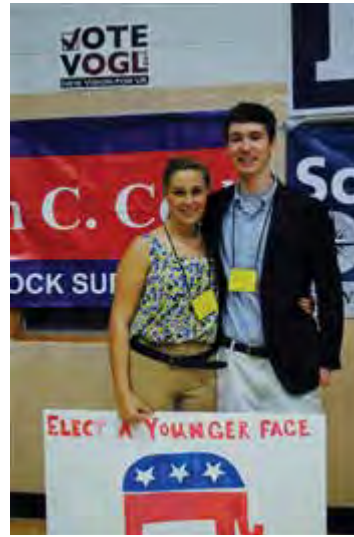
Lacrosse · Vanderbilt University

Kathleen Williams

Lacrosse · Rollins University

Katie Wiseman

Lacrosse · Stanford University



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Junior Evan Draim to Represent Virginia's 8th Congressional District at Republican Convention

SSSAS Junior Evan Draim and a supporter at Virginia's 8th RNC delegate elections.

COURTESY OF SSSAS

Evan Draim '13 was elected as one of three delegates to represent Virginia's 8th Congressional District (which includes parts of Fairfax, Alexandria, Arlington, and Falls Church) at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida

this August. At just 17 years old, he campaigned on a message of bringing younger voters into the conservative movement. Virginia election law allows a candidate to run for delegate and vote in a Presidential primary if he/she is able to vote in the next general election, by which time Draim will be 18.

"My primary goal in running for delegate to the Republican National Convention has always been to represent an underrepresented demographic: America's youth," Draim said. "Knowing that I am able to play a role in protecting the future of my generation is a great honor, and I intend to make sure the Republican Party has the interests of our nation's future citizens in mind when we craft our platform and nominate our candidates for national office this summer.

"I entered the race for RNC delegate with relatively few connections, low name-recognition, and an extremely limited amount of money to spend on my candidacy. However my advice to other young citizens interested in running for political office is to not let those organizational hurdles discourage you," Draim said. "I called almost all 700 registered delegates, sent out numerous emails, designed a professional campaign flyer and website, gave speeches at various Republican gatherings around the district, and registered supporters to vote for me at the convention. If you put time and energy into your campaign, people will realize that you are serious about your candidacy, and those disadvantages will disappear."

Positive Coaching Alliance Scholarship Award

Two Bishop Ireton rising seniors have been named Finalists for the 2012 PCA Triple-Impact Competitor® Scholarship Award. Congratulations to both Tommy Kelly of Alexandria and Camille Weber of Springfield. The PCA awards post-secondary education scholarships to dozens of high school athletes in selected geographic regions: Chicago, Eastern Massachusetts, Houston, New York City Tri-State Area, Northern California, North Texas and Washington, D.C.

Awards are based on essays by students explaining how their actions represent the ideal of the Triple-Impact Competitor®:

- Makes oneself better (Personal Mastery);
- Makes teammates better (Leadership); and
- Makes the sport better (Honoring the Game).

Winners of the \$2,000 scholarships will be announced at an October 11 event at Georgetown University.



ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT FOR THE CLASS OF 2012



SSSAS Administration (From L to R): Clay Perfall, Chair of the SSSAS Board of Governors; Joan Holden, Head of School; The Rev. Sean Cavanaugh, Chaplain; Eileen Sullivan '95, Commencement Speaker; Bob Weiman, Director of Lower School; Bud Garikes, Director of Upper School.

SSSAS Faculty processing into the Commencement ceremony

Class of 2012 Valedictorian Sarah Pariser, giving her address



Class of 2012 graduates



SSSAS Commencement ceremony

Eileen Sullivan, SSSAS Class of 1995, Commencement Speaker and 2012 Pulitzer Prize Winner



SSSAS Graduates (with The Rev. Sean Cavanaugh)



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COMMUNITY NEWS

NOVA, Alexandria Sheriff's Office Partner to Offer Inmates College Courses

This summer, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) launched "Open Roads to Education," a pioneer program giving inmates the opportunity to take college courses inside the detention center with a NOVA professor. Mayor William D. Euille joined Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Dr. Jim McClellan, Dean of the Liberal Arts Division for Alexandria, at the ribbon cutting outside the detention center on Thursday, June 28. Sheriff Lawhorne, Dr. McClellan and other officials then addressed the students at a brief reception in the detention center cafeteria before the first class began.

Dr. McClellan explained that historically very few people had access to formal schooling and higher education, and that the community college system was developed to give more people the opportunity to attend college. He told the students, "It is our goal to make sure everyone has access to higher education."

Sheriff Lawhorne, who received his Associate's degree from NOVA in May, welcomed the students to the course and encouraged them to continue pursuing their education. He drew upon his own personal experience of starting college in the 1970s but stopping before completing his degree. He explained that he always felt as though it "kept him back a little bit" so more than 30 years after he first started, he decided to finish his degree. He then told the students to not let anything keep them from finishing their education.

Fifteen students are enrolled in the one-credit course, Topics in African American History. The six-week class meets every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. NOVA and Sheriff's Office staff are working together to offer inmates additional courses, including ones parallel to those being taught on campus so inmates who are released before their course ends can finish in a campus classroom.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dr. Jim McClellan discusses the origins of slavery in North America with inmates at the Alexandria Detention Center who are now enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College.



Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Mayor William D. Euille and Dr. Jim McClellan cut the ribbon for the new educational partnership program between Northern Virginia Community College and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.



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CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2012

We salute the 96 members of the Class of 2012, who graduated on June 9.
 As they leave us to attend some of the world's finest colleges and universities, we salute them for a job well done.
 We know they will use their talents to become respected citizens of the global community that awaits them.



COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OFFERING ADMISSION TO THE CLASS OF 2012

Agnes Scott College, University of Alabama, American University, Appalachian State University, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Auburn University, Bates College, Boston University, University of Bristol (UK), Brown University, Bryn Mawr College, Bucknell University, University of California - Berkeley, University of California - San Diego, University of California - Santa Barbara, University of California - Santa Cruz, Case Western Reserve University, Catholic University, College of Charleston, Chatham University, Christopher Newport University, Claremont McKenna College, Clemson University, Colby College, Colgate University, Colorado College, University of Colorado - Boulder, Colorado State University, University of Connecticut, Dartmouth College, Davidson College, University of Delaware, Denison University, University of Denver, Dickinson College, Drew University, Duke University, East Carolina University, Eckerd College, Elon University, Emory University, University of Florida, Fordham University, Furman University, George Mason University, George Washington University, University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Gettysburg College, Goucher College, Hampden-Sydney College, Haverford College, High Point University, Hofstra University, Howard University, Indiana University, Iona College, James Madison University, University of Kentucky, Kenyon College, King's College (UK), Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Longwood University, Loyola University - Maryland, Loyola University - New Orleans, Lynchburg College, University of Maryland - Baltimore County, University of Maryland - College Park, University of Mary Washington, McGill University, Miami University - Ohio, University of Miami, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Mississippi, Morehouse College, Mount Holyoke College, New York University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina - Charlotte, University of North Carolina - Greensboro, Northeastern University, Norwich University, Oberlin College, Ohio State University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Ohio University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, Pomona College, Providence College, Wingate University, Randolph College, Randolph-Macon College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rhode Island School of Design, Rhodes College, Rice University, University of Richmond, Rollins College, Saint Louis University, Salisbury University, Sarah Lawrence College, Savannah College of Art & Design, Seton Hall University, Sewanee: University of the South, University of South Carolina, University of Southern California, Southern Methodist University, Spelman College, St. John's College - Manhattan, St. John's University - Queens, St. Mary's University - Texas, Stanford University, Swarthmore College, Syracuse University, Towson University, Tufts University, Tulane University, Vanderbilt University, Villanova University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest University, Washington & Lee University, Washington College, Wellesley College, Wheaton College - Massachusetts, Wilkes University, William & Mary, Wingate University, University of Wisconsin - Madison, College of Wooster

The Alexandria Roller Rink:

Once THE Place to Catch Janis Joplin, Rod Stewart and other Rock Legends

BY JOHN ARUNDEL

Decades before the legendary Birchmere Music Hall opened in Del Ray, Alexandria had a thriving music scene, which revolved around - of all places - its roller skating rink.

And on October 20, 1968, it was **Janis Joplin** headlining, with the **Jeff Beck Group** as opening act, with **Rod Stewart** on vocals and **Ron Wood** (now with the Rolling Stones) on the bill. **Big Brother and the Holding Company** joined Joplin on the stage at the performance.

The **Alexandria Roller Rink** closed its doors for good in 1986, but 42 years after the legendary show avid collector **Andrew Hawley** of Denver is still looking for the concert poster which announced it to area teens.

It's just a poster, but to Hawley, a serious buyer of original 1950s and 60s concert posters, it's worth \$3,000 to whoever in Alexandria can locate it in their attic.

In May, Hawley announced his search for the original Janis Joplin concert poster, offering \$3,000 to anyone who can produce one of the 200 original posters which were hung on telephone poles and in local Alexandria establishments to advertise the show.

"What really makes this poster stand out is that Jeff Beck was the backup act to Janis Joplin," Hawley said. "A year earlier at the Monterey International Pop Festival, Janis Joplin launched her career as a rock and roll star with a phenomenal performance. The crowd at the roller ring was in for a treat with Joplin accompanied by Big Brother and the Holding Company. Jeff Beck Group was the backup band behind Joplin. By all accounts, Joplin put on a great show. Since the arena/roller rink had no seating, dancing was encouraged."

The Alexandria roller rink, also known as the Alexandria Arena, opened on November 23, 1948, at the corner of Madison and North St.

Alexandria Roller Rink

COURTESY PHOTOS



Asaph streets.

Originally an affiliate of the national chain America On Wheels, the Alexandria rink had maple floors and a huge Wurlitzer organ. It was a massive structure that could accommodate 3,000 skaters at one time, and dozens of skating exhibitions and speed skating competitions were held there.

The venue was so large that it soon served other purposes. The arena functioned as a dance hall and also hosted conferences, dog shows, boxing matches and even performing horses. But beyond roller skating, the rink was best known as a concert hall.

In its earliest days Guy Lombardo and his orchestra performed there, and in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it became a very popular stage for rock acts. Top stars including Janis Joplin, Jethro Tull and Alice Cooper and his boa constrictor played the roller rink, which was advertised as a psychedelic ballroom or the Alexandria Rock Arena. Fans paid \$4 or \$5 for general admission and sat on the floor, and most bands played two shows a night.

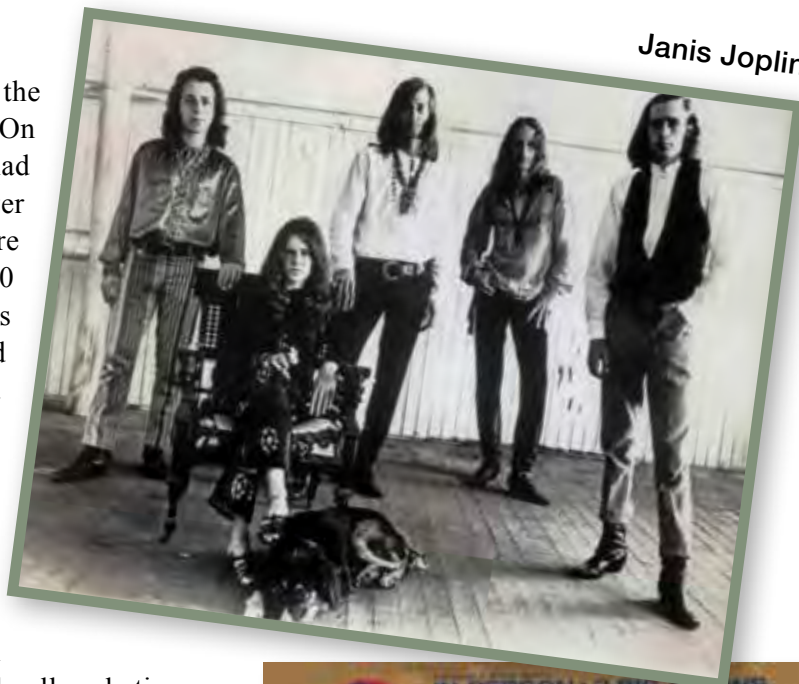
The legendary venue holds a special place in the hearts of long-time residents as it once catered to some of the biggest, most rocking bands of the 1960s and 70s: The Yardbirds, Alice Cooper, Black Sabbath, T. Rex, Jeff Beck, Emerson, Lake and Palmer, King Crimson, the Doors, Blood, Sweat and Tears and Jethro Tull all rocked the main stage.

"When the rock and roll concerts and dances started happening, it seemed like an obvious place for promoters to go in, and bring local bands as well as national acts," local music historian and filmmaker Jeff Krulik wrote.

The roller rink later had financial problems and closed in 1979. It re-opened with different owners in the 1980s, but closed for good in 1986.

The rink, which had occupied half a block, was demolished in 1986, and the demolition crews did such a fine job of tearing down the old venue that not a trace of it remains; not even a plaque. An office and hotel complex was built on the site.

The poster was designed by renowned poster artist Dail W. Beeghly who used Joplin's saucer-like smile to produce what Hawley calls "a



Janis Joplin



Janis Joplin poster by Dail Beeghly

classic boxing style concert poster."

Beeghly designed some of the more vibrant and graphically interesting concert posters in DC/Virginia area. He produced the 1968 Jimi Hendrix Experience Merriweather Post Pavilion concert poster held in Columbia, MD. He also designed the 1967 Doors Washington Hilton Hotel concert poster.

Hawley, from Vintage Rock Posters, began his search for original Janis Joplin Roller Rink concert posters, years ago, but upped the ante this week. Hawley is willing to pay \$3,000 cash for Janis Joplin Roller Rink boxing style concert posters or any other original 1967-1970 Joplin concert posters. He is also willing to pay up to \$25,000 for an original 1956 Elvis Presley poster.

The poster measures 22 x 28 inches and was printed on thick cardboard by Creative Graphics. "It features a stunning photo of Janis bathed in a vibrant mix of blue and magenta colors," Hawley said.

Anyone who finds an original version of the poster is encouraged to call Hawley at 310-346-1965 or email andrew@vintageconcertposterbuyer.com.

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PRINCIPAL TIM HAMER '78 AND THE BISHOP IRETON FACULTY AND STAFF

GOTCHA!

Speeding Tickets Netting Big Bucks for Virginia

BY JOHN ARUNDEL

Facing massive shortfalls for Northern Virginia road projects and a downturn in the economy which has left municipalities on the short end of tax dollars from property tax assessments, Virginia is turning increasingly to speeders to generate income for the state and municipalities, doling out two million tickets a year in the state.

Last year, there was a total of \$238 million in traffic fines for all infractions in the state, AAA reported. About \$65 million, or two-thirds of the speeding tickets, were generated by local governments.

Last year, the **Fairfax County Police Department** issued more than 26,000 traffic tickets, and just across the Potomac River, the District of Columbia collected nearly two-fifths of Virginia's statewide revenue total from speeding citations, which was \$101,488,392.

In contrast, the District netted \$43.1 million in speed camera revenue resulting from 553,753 speeding tickets.

In Alexandria, it is not uncommon to see 2-3 speed traps from the short stretch of the **George Washington Memorial Parkway** starting at Reagan National Airport, through Old Town and on to Mount Vernon. It's called the "Million Dollar Mile" because of its notoriety for issuing millions of dollars in speeding tickets each year, mostly by the U.S. Park Police to out-of-state motorists and primarily on weekdays.

The posted speed limit is 40 mph; however safe/common travel speed is around 60 mph, which is netting huge dollars by the Park Police.

The enforcement officer primarily will use laser and will typically either stay in a parked patrol car on the overpass coming from National Airport to south bound G.W. Parkway, or park directly in front of Maintenance Yard pointing at southbound traffic.

Lambasting it as a "speed trap," outraged motorists are taking to the internet about the trap.

"For those of us who just want to commute home to Old Town at a safe speed, it's more of a death trap than a speed trap because of the aggravation of getting

pulled over at speeds that nearly everyone is driving safely, which is between 50-60 miles per hour," writes **LKJones** in an internet post. "The officer will sit in the vehicle and the laser reading is typically taken immediately after you reach the crest of small rise on South bound travel lanes."

Another blogger, **ghanderson**, adds: "Watch the cabs going to National Airport. They have radio and cell phones and typically let each other know when the trap is set so if you see them poking along at 35, be careful!"

To the south, State Police officers patrolling a one-mile stretch in Hopewell, Virginia have a penchant for issuing an average of 1,000 speeding tickets a month along a 1-2 mile stretch of Interstate 295 -- netting over \$150,000 per month.

The dispute over the city's speed ticket revenue elicited an official ruling from Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and triggered a court clash between

secondary to the issue of fairness.

The intense speed enforcement by 11 sheriff's deputies for 14 hours per day is suspect for an entity whose primary role is not traffic enforcement but rather courtroom security and other functions, AAA warns.

Additionally, there are bigger bucks to be made along the stretch of roadway which has a posted speed limit of 70 miles-per-hour. Drivers who exceed the speed limit by ten miles per hour (to 80 miles-per-hour) are subject to additional fines.

"Clearly speeding is a dangerous driving behavior which needs to be addressed. AAA is not against enforcement, we are simply for fair and equitable enforcement and this program appears to be about more than safety," said **Martha M. Meade**, manager of Public and Government Relations for AAA Mid-Atlantic.

Virginia has 74,934.71 miles of roadway, 279 law enforcement

fines during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. Those citations were issued by both the Virginia State Police and local police departments.

The *Local Ordinances and Funding of Courts* report, prepared by the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, provides a rare glimpse into the monies generated by traffic citations.

The lion's share, or two-thirds, of speeding ticket revenue, tallying \$64.8 million, was collected by 521 local governments - cities, county seats, counties, and incorporated towns - across the state during FY 2010, the report reveals. In contrast, one third of the infractions were written by Virginia State Troopers, with the Commonwealth netting \$36.6 million from speeding ticket fines.

"It is not an understatement to say the Virginia State Police and local police departments across the state take speeding infractions and speed-related crashes seriously, and that's a good thing when it is done in the interest of public safety. Any programs that cross the line and become more about revenue undermine the credibility of traffic enforcement, infuriates motorists, and incenses politicians and even police officials," said Meade. "While many traffic enforcement programs across the state are on 'the up and up,' some of them seem more obsessed with shaking down out-of-town motorists, and in generating revenue, than in effectively managing speed-related safety problems and in reducing speed-related crashes, which claimed 294 lives and left 14,406 persons injured that year."

All-in-all, Virginia's 500-plus localities and the Commonwealth reaped \$238,314,876 from traffic tickets of all sorts during FY 10, the breakdown of "Motor Vehicles" infraction revenue shows.

That's the revenue from two million traffic tickets that year, editorialized *The Washington Times*. Local police officers issued 60 percent of the moving violation tickets that year, carrying fines valued at \$142,712,713, District Court records shows. The offenses ranged from driving on a suspended license to failing to wear safety belts. During the same budgetary cycle, the Virginia State Police wrote 40 percent of



the city prosecutor and the Commonwealth's Attorney. Recently, a local judge upheld Hopewell's controversial traffic ticketing system.

The battle over who gets the \$2 million of annual revenue, however, can be viewed as

agencies, and no speed cameras, by state law. The Commonwealth collected more than \$101 million in revenue from speeding infractions during 2010, according to an analysis by AAA Mid-Atlantic.

All told, Virginia brought in \$238 million in traffic

▼ See GOTCHA! on page 52

Arlington National Cemetery Honors the 150th Anniversary of Taps



At the conclusion of the events in the Old Amphitheater, hundreds of buglers were led in performing taps.

PHOTO BY HARRY MERRITT

Hundreds of buglers from around the country met at the Old Amphitheater, Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Taps. Taps was first arranged in July, 1862 by Union General Daniel Butterfield to honor soldiers fallen in the Civil War, it has been a traditional part of military burial ceremonies since then. Organizations like TAPS 150 and Bugles Across America strive to insure that taps is performed at all military burial services.

After the formal events at the Old Amphitheater, buglers took positions throughout Arlington Cemetery, and at noon they all played taps together.

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- **HOME HEALTH AIDE SERVICES** Assist individuals with personal hygiene tasks such as bathing, dressing, and grooming.
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- **PHYSICAL THERAPY** Assist in alleviating pain, improving balance, mobility and strength, and impeding deformity caused by injury or illness.
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CATCH THE ZEBRA AT

TheZebra.org

BY HARRY COVERT



Jane Watrel: From News Star to Florida Sheriff's Star

For five years, I pestered Jane Watrel. At least three times a week—and sometimes more—I either emailed or telephoned her with news story suggestions. She never ignored me. If she didn't like the idea, she was nice about it. Once, I called as she was preparing to go on the air. She was nice about that, too.

Jane is an experienced first-class reporter. She knows her way around the news business. It was always my thought she should be anchoring the news. For the life of me, I can't figure why she wasn't put in the anchor's seat. It wasn't beyond me to anonymously send notes to various news directors and general managers suggesting a special broadcast spot for her.

I got out of the broadcast news business many years ago. I'd been assigned to interview five Navy nuclear submariners. I was a rookie. They probably knew it. We lugged a load of film equipment down a pier and then down the hatch. Today, of course, it's a lot easier with modern technology. The "old salts" on the sub weren't too thrilled at being interviewed for "teevee". At every one of my questions, they would answer yes, nope or just grin.

The piece was only going to be from 30 to 45 seconds anyway but it was about the coming launch of the fancy new sub. I admit I was excited about my first report and the copy I wrote was okay. The news show in those days was only 15 minutes. Wouldn't you know it, gremlins got on the director's board. For the first 10 seconds there was no sound. My smiling face was silent for another five seconds and then for some reason, only a few seconds of the submariners looking at the camera with frowns. It was then I figured I had a face and the patience for the printed page.

Jane Watrel and her colleagues at WRC-TV, NBC4, Washington, rarely have had those kinds of problems, I'm sure. They are the pros. Jane has been a familiar figure to the Greater Washington news watchers, both at NBC4 and MSNBC cable news shows.

Recently, while walking down the street I saw her doing a stand-up. It was, as always, excellent. She suggested I stick around for a moment. She had something to tell me. I waited.

Once when Jane went to the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, she was introduced to Sherman, the K-9 bomb dog. He never forgot her and on another occasion when she was covering an event, Sherman



Cmdr. Matt Herzberg with a young patient aboard the USNS Comfort.

COURTESY PHOTO

Watrel is her community commitment. She and Matt are Alexandria residents. Several years back, the scheduled master of ceremonies for the Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards luncheon cancelled the day before the event. In a panic, I called Jane. Without hesitation she stepped in and wowed the audience and heroes of the Sheriff's, Police and Fire-EMS departments.

Well, we're going to miss Jane Watrel from Alexandria and the Greater Washington communities. Her message to me was,

"I'm going to be a PIO." This month, she moves from journalism into new work as media specialist/public information officer for the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

I almost cried. What a loss for us television news watchers. As a retired PIO in Alexandria, the Sheriff in Orange County, Florida, gets a top notch pro. She covered the news at WFTV-Channel 9, Orlando from 1991 to 1999.

Jane earned a master's degree in public relations/corporate communications from Georgetown. She is also a Penn State graduate. She jumped at the new work.

"I have a great deal of respect for the sheriff's office and look forward to assisting them as they work with the media and the public," she said.

remembered her and dragged his handler to see her. Smart dog.

On another day, when the earthquake struck Haiti, she knew of my interest in a special school in a Port au Prince area. Jane came to interview me. We talked about it and discovered she knew all about the trials and tribulations in Haiti. As a reporter in Florida, she had become acquainted but didn't explain it to me until after our interview.

A few days later, she called me. Her husband, Matt Herzberg, a Navy commander/dentist, was aboard the USNS Comfort and was headed to Haiti. The good doctor was indeed good and diligently worked on young and old alike for weeks.

Another reason I'm a fan of Jane

▲ GOTCHA! from page 50

the tickets, with the Commonwealth amassing \$95,602,162 in traffic fines stemming from a veritable collectivity of traffic infractions, including child restraint violations, the AAA Mid-Atlantic analysis reveals.

An Auditor of Public Accounts Report from September 2011, shows that speeding tickets comprised 42.4 percent of all moving violations incurred on Virginia's roads in FY10, the auto club observes. Reckless driving emerged as the second most common traffic offense that year. Virginia's court system collected a total of \$29,539,599 in fines stemming from reckless driving tickets, notes the auto club.

In Virginia, the District Court System handles the majority of "Motor Vehicles" infractions, explains Walter J. Kucharski, the

Auditor of Public Accounts, who released his report September 28, 2011. Yet another report, this one from the Virginia State Police, shows

State Troopers cited 197,616 motorists for speeding across the state in 2010. That's in comparison to 72,532 drivers cited for reckless driving and 26,098 drivers nabbed for seat belt violations. State Troopers also apprehended 5,649 drunken drivers and stopped and ticketed 6,955 drivers for child restraint violations.

Still, the ticket-writing finesse of Sheriff's deputies in Hopewell, located 24 miles southeast of Richmond and situated along a two-mile stretch of I-295, continues to raise eyebrows and concerns.

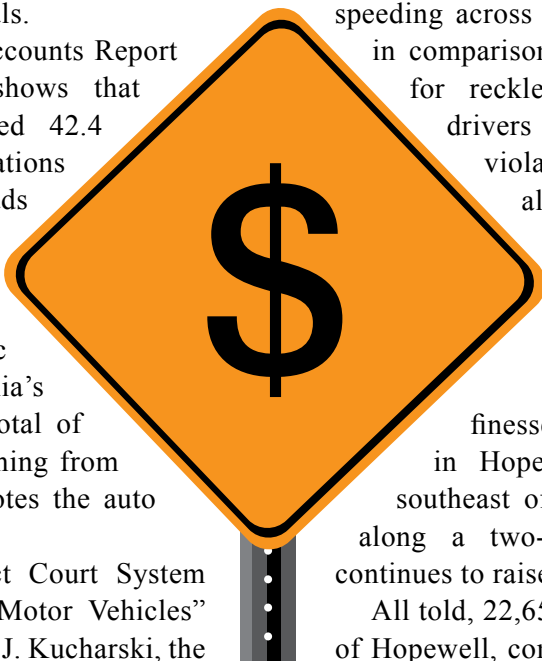
All told, 22,655 citizens live in the city of Hopewell, compared to the 1.1 million

residents of Fairfax County, the U.S. Census Bureau confirms.

Yet, Hopewell generated nearly half the traffic ticket count of the state's most populous county. Hopewell issued 10,122 traffic tickets in 2010, carrying \$1.1 million in assessed fines, with 7,350 tickets (73.6 percent) going to out-of-state drivers. Deputies issued 14,778 traffic tickets in 2011, with 11,046 tickets (74.7 percent) going to residents of other states. The town netted \$2,056,387 in fines, according to reports in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the *Progress-Index* (Petersburg).

The controversy prompted Virginia State Senator **John Watkins** (R-Midlothian) to introduce legislation during the 2012 Virginia General Assembly Session to just to stop such practices along an interstate highway.

Ultimately, that legislation (Senate Bill 500) died in committee. Yet, AAA Mid-Atlantic said it will continue to oppose such heavy-handed traffic enforcement tactics.



THE MASONS' GETAWAY— ANOTHER RESTORED, HISTORIC VIRGINIA GEM

PHOTOS BY
GLENDA C. BOOTH

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

Northern Virginia's sweltering summer is nothing new. Nor is fleeing the area to escape it.

In the early 1800s, Alexandrians of means also got away from the heat, humidity and hubbub of the 10,000 or so people crowded into the burg. Chief among them was Alexandria's five-time mayor, Thomson Francis Mason, who built a hilltop villa in the Virginia countryside three miles south of the city in today's Fairfax County. His rural retreat, restored to represent the 1820s and called Historic Huntley, opened to the public on May 19.

Historic Huntley is an intriguing building overlooking what is now Huntley Meadows Park. At 6918 Harrison Lane, just off U.S. 1 in the Mount Vernon area, Historic Huntley is owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).

The federal-style house has rigid symmetry in an "H" design, with flanking wings of two rooms and a central passageway for cool breezes to waft through. It incorporates some Palladian features, popular then for country villas and thought to embody calm and harmony. Huntley has 10 to 15 rooms, depending on how you count, and is 1,400 square feet in size, large for its day.

It's a mansion full of mystery:

- Why do most rooms open to the outside?
- Is the south side or the north side the front?
- Who designed it?
- Builders constructed the two wings before building the middle. Why?
- The kitchen was an outbuilding, but where?

The current owners are probing historical documents for answers.

Painted the color of its day, a creamy, mellow yellow, the exterior is constructed of oiled bricks held together by lime mortar made on site, partly from oyster shells. The house still has the original floors, pine boards of varying widths, sawed by hand. There are eight fireplaces and hand-hewn woodwork around doors. Curators are using two east-side rooms as architecture learning laboratories to demonstrate how the house was built. In one room, visitors can see how the interior walls were made, from the first crude layer to the smoother, finished outer wall.

Wide chestnut board sheathing in the ceiling is exposed. The

basement features a modern-day lab for classes and a toilet.

Huntley has two outbuildings. The below-grade cellar in one outbuilding, not open to the public, was used to store perishable food. Below it is the ice well in the shape of a curved dome, dug out by hand, most likely by slaves. The Masons tried to store enough ice, packed in sawdust, to last through summer. "You had to be fairly well off to afford an ice well," said J.G. Harrington, board member, Friends of Historic Huntley, on a recent tour.

Like other proper mansions of its day, Huntley had a "necessary," this one a four-holer in a brick outbuilding. "It was enormous by the standards of the time," Harrington snickered. "It has a lot of detail work for a bathroom."



Huntley has a central hall, the mid-bar of the "H" design, for summer breezes



J.G. Harrington, Board member of Friends of Historic Huntley, and visitors inspect the "necessary," large and elaborate for its day.

Thomson Mason was a grandson of George IV of Gunston Hall. He and his wife, Elizabeth Clapham Price, likely entertained many guests at Huntley. "It was a party hotspot," remarked Kevin Munroe, manager of Huntley Meadows Park and Historic Huntley. "Thomson Mason was well off. This was a place to be seen." It occupied a prime spot in its heyday as a part of Hunting Creek Farm, now the site of Huntley Meadows Park. From the front porch, the Masons and their visitors could watch slave and tenant laborers tend oats, wheat, corn, hay, clover and other crops in the fields below.

The symmetry in design suggests that the three-acre site was planned as a whole. Mason likely saw smoke rising from Mount Vernon, George Washington's plantation, from his hilltop perch. Huntley today is juxtaposed with a cluster of monotonous suburban townhouses and apartments, paved roads and suburban clatter.

Twenty Dogged Years

"Historic Huntley represents 20 years of determination," said FCPA's Judy Pederson. "The Friends of Historic Huntley have a passion for the site," she added, crediting this local volunteer group for its research and persistence in supporting the restoration. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. For authenticity, managers removed non-period additions.

The Fairfax County Park Authority acquired the property in 1989, but it sat vacant for many years awaiting funding. With the help of Congressman Jim Moran (D-8), FCPA received a \$100,000 grant from the National Park Service Save America's Treasures program and taxpayers approved two park bonds providing \$3 million.

On an April tour for reporters, Munroe exuded, "I'm very excited. It represents patience and care and completes the Huntley Meadows Park picture connecting the two properties."

"Historic Huntley is remarkable for its collection of buildings and landscape that are valuable both architecturally and as a relatively intact picture of local 19th-century

▼ See MASONS' on page 55

JUST FOR FUN

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

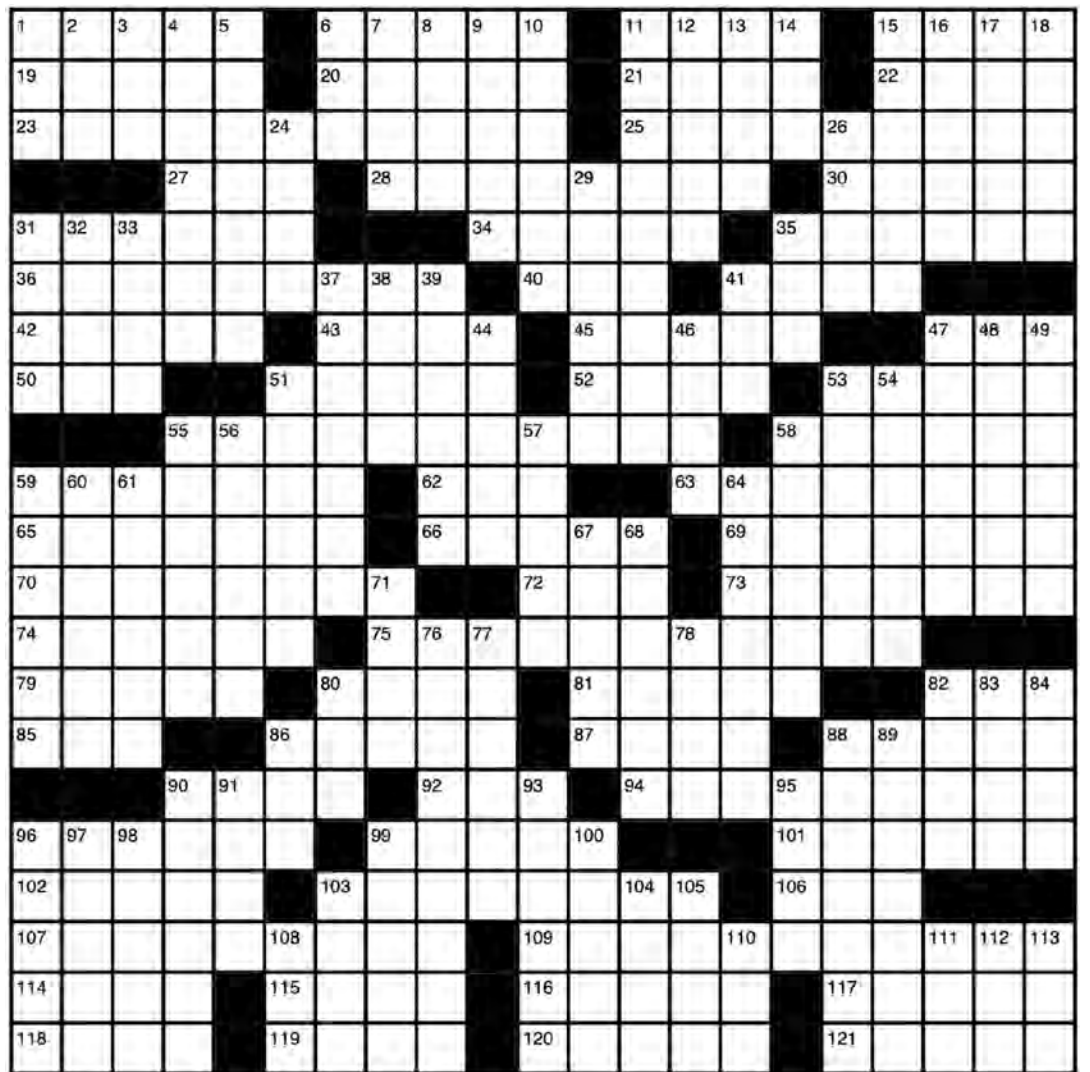
1. Million Man finisher
6. Janus has two, typically
11. Flat-bottom freighter
15. Tousle
19. Medea's market
20. Alpaca
21. Band of Gorgons?
22. Fairy-tale beginning
23. The Bard's ultimate question, letter for letter
25. Gave up
27. Popular Romantic address
28. Footnote, symbolically
30. Shrivel
31. Reforming sinner
34. Upright
35. Laugh riot
36. Abomination
40. Posed
41. Top notch
42. Dragons' dens
43. Sisters
45. Thigh stretch
47. Muesli ingredient
50. North German river
51. Like mothballs
52. Boolean value
53. Students can be graded on it
55. Dreaded road-trip query, letter for letter
58. More emaciated
59. Wind
62. MacGyver it?
63. Comic brothers Tom and Dick
65. Collector
66. "Why didn't you ___?"
69. Like Russel Crowe?
70. Wine taster's receptacle
72. Cervical cancer test
73. Metal extractor
74. Medicine man
75. Calm within chaos, letter for letter
79. Grade One math whiz?
80. Urge
81. Listless
82. Escape
85. Vocal nod
86. Like a Victorian beauty?
87. Gamma antecedent

DOWN

88. Pronto
90. Dutch cheese
92. Little piggy's cry
94. Weak solutions
96. Neutron star
99. Engrave
101. Hair-pulling student propositions
102. Blow up
103. Inflammatory joint condition
106. Pint-sized beverage, often
107. Ignore
109. Nursery-rhyme observation, letter for letter
114. Not pro
115. Shepherd who made the ultimate sacrifice
116. Like Kronos or Oceanus
117. Comb towards the root
118. In case
119. Britain's "Iron ___"
120. Meager
121. Inched

DOWN

1. Spot to kick off your shoes
2. Gone by
3. Director Reiner
4. Bobby Darin or Perry Como
5. Petrifies
6. "Alice" spin-off
7. Western Cdn. province
8. Rum Tum Tugger and Macavity
9. Express
10. Light Star Wars arms
11. Limitation
12. Symbolic helm topper
13. Porcine exclamation
14. "Face/Off" director
15. DiMaggio and Miller's ex
16. Still rough, of a gem
17. Goth or emo
18. Passover service
24. Roman tyrant
26. Follow-up to 22-Across
29. Property
31. Can do
32. "___ America," puppet government fighters
33. Singer Redding
35. Dig
37. Where babies grow



38. High
39. Records
41. Get older
44. Damascus' nation
46. "Shoot"
47. Get one's bearings
48. Reluctant
49. Shorter
51. Shooting star
53. Fastening pin
54. Disable the captain?
55. Steal cattle
56. One-sided paper user?
57. League of Arab States state
58. Wisecrack, à la Oscar Wilde
59. Square dance call
60. Hinder
61. Dragonfly larvae

64. France's northerly wind
67. Indian honorific
68. Launched, as a business
71. Cuts short
76. On the exterior
77. Tasty chickens
78. Alien org.
80. Upstanding American muppet
82. Land of a Million Elephants
83. It surfaces when stressed
84. Military eatery
86. Even Steven
88. Jock
89. Blotto
90. Joie de vivre
91. Can be bad or blind
93. Acts like an unsympathetic

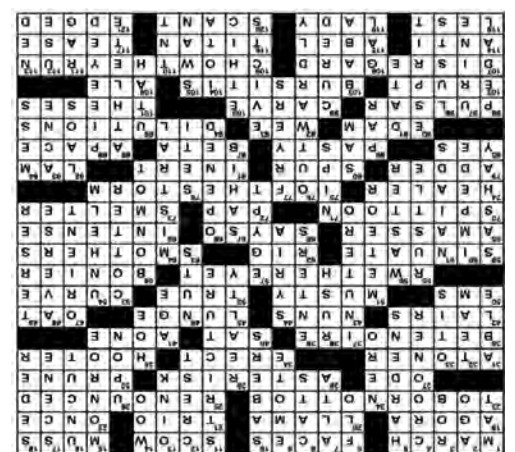
- landlord?
95. Bonneville Salt Flats state
96. Cycle
97. Jellyfish burn soother?
98. Desires
99. Smoked
100. Principles of conduct
103. Stuffed-up tot's first word?
104. Little bit
105. This song is the last 108. Old-school chick
110. AC/DC's "High Voltage" follow-up
111. Respected journal antithesis
112. Function
113. Homer's neighbor

SUDOKU

	2		4				3	5
8		6	3					
5			9	1		4	2	
	1				3	2		7
		8	5		7	9		
3		2	8				6	
	5	1		6	4			8
					9	7		1
7	9				5		4	

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

SOLUTIONS



2	4	6	5	8	1	3	9	7
1	5	7	9	3	2	4	8	6
8	9	3	4	6	7	1	5	2
4	6	5	1	9	8	2	7	3
3	1	9	7	2	5	8	6	4
7	8	2	3	4	6	5	1	9
6	2	4	8	1	9	7	3	5
9	7	1	2	5	3	6	4	8
5	3	8	6	7	4	9	2	1

▲ MASON'S' from page 53

plantation life," commented Barbara B. Ballentine, president of Friends of Historic Huntley. "The restored property is an opportunity to teach visitors and students from elementary to college level about architecture, landscape, preservation philosophy and treatments, social customs, agriculture and dairy farming, and the development of Fairfax County from rural agricultural life to the suburban life we know today."

After the Masons

Mason died in 1838. His heirs sold the property in 1862 to Dr. Benjamin King to settle family debts. When the Civil War commenced, the oldest Mason son, Arthur Pendleton, joined the Confederate Army. Ironically, their tenant farmer at Huntley, George Johnson, assisted Union troops, and Dr. King served the North.

In 1861, troops of the Third Michigan Infantry camped at Huntley. The division quartermaster and his wife lived in the house and

some speculate that their presence stopped the invading Union troops from burning it down. After the war, Albert Harrison farmed Huntley until the 1930s.

Ownership then changed several times and the house suffered considerable vandalism. The Amlongs were the last residents at Huntley; their sons sold the property to the Park Authority and to a townhouse developer.

If You Go

Historic Huntley is open to

the public on Saturdays through November 30 and for scheduled programs on other days. The grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk. FCPA will schedule programs throughout the year. Limited rentals are available for small, site-appropriate gatherings.

Park managers seek volunteers to help run programs, tours and special events, and to help care for the site. Contact the Friends of Historic Huntley, FOHHuntley@aol.com, or Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525.

Strolling by History



Seven Foot House

ORIGINAL WATERCOLOR BY TODD HEALY

The Seven-Foot House of "Spite House"

At a whopping seven feet wide and boasting only 325 square feet, the two-story gem at 523 Queen Street has often been called "The Spite House" because legend has it that it was built in 1830 by adjoining neighbor John Hollensbury just to keep horse-drawn wagons and loiterers out of his alley.

Limited editions of this print are available at Todd Healy's Studio, 320 King Street, Alexandria, 703/549-7883. Todd is also available for private commissions.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



Marine Corps Marathon Opens Deferment Program Registered Runners Unable to Participate at October 28 Marathon can Delay to 2013

On Wednesday, August 1, 2012, the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) opened the Deferment Program for all registered runners unable to participate in the 37th MCM on Sunday, October 28, 2012

The deferment option available at www.marinemarathon.com enables runners to obtain a guaranteed spot to re-register for the following year's MCM which will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2013. MCM participants can choose the deferment option for a

fee of \$46. There is no additional fee to re-register in 2013. An entry and its subsequent re-registration may only be deferred one time.

The MCM Deferment Program is open from August 1 to August 31, and after that time runners will no longer be able to postpone their marathon participation.

"The Deferment Program can be a welcomed option for a registered runner who is facing an unforeseeable injury or personal conflict that will prevent them

from participating in the MCM this year," says MCM Director Rick Nealis. "The MCM makes deferment available so runners may still find motivation in running," "The People's Marathon."

All runners who complete the online deferment form will receive an instructional email in early 2013, explaining the MCM re-registration process. Runners must then register during the open period for all deferments, which will be announced early next year.

The Marine Corps Marathon honors the dedication, sportsmanship and patriotism of its participants. Runners from all walks of life participate in the largest marathon not to offer prize money, earning the name "The People's Marathon." The 37th MCM sponsored by Arlington County, Boeing, Brooks, GE, Geico and Nissan will be held on October 28, 2012 in Arlington, VA. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement is implied.

Bread & Chocolate to open new café in Torpedo Factory Art Center

Old Town Alexandria, VA – The Torpedo Factory Art Center is pleased to announce that Bread & Chocolate will be opening a new café in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The café will be located on the first floor, across from the main entrance, next to the art center gift shop. Bread & Chocolate at the Torpedo Factory Art Center is scheduled to open to the public on Monday, June 18.



Torpedo Factory Art Center.”

The café will operate seven days a week from 9am to 6pm, and Thursdays until 9pm, opening an hour earlier, but otherwise coinciding with art center hours. For the morning customer, the cafe will offer coffee beverages, muffins, breakfast sandwiches, and pastries. The lunch crowd will find a selection of “grab and go” sandwiches and salads, two

«Our goals in establishing a café at the Torpedo Factory Art Center are to enhance the visitor experience and increase the public’s engagement with the artists and the art,» said Harry Mahon, Torpedo Factory Art Center interim Chief Executive Officer.

Bread & Chocolate was selected after an extensive process that solicited proposals from restaurateurs throughout the region. “Our criteria for selecting the café operator included a menu consistent with the Torpedo Factory Art Center hours and operations, an operator that recognized the unique nature of the Torpedo Factory Art Center and a reliable, quality operation,” said Mr. Mahon. “In addition, our preference was to work with a local Alexandria business and we are very fortunate that Bread & Chocolate met all of our criteria and has been very enthusiastic in bringing their service to the

daily soup selections, homemade empanadas, quiches, coffee beverages, and sweets and treats, all made fresh daily at an off-site location, and transported to the art center’s café.

The 16-seat café will have tables and chairs that spill out into the main hall, offering customers the perfect spot to peek into the surrounding artists’ studios while relaxing and enjoying their meal.

According to Andy Cook, Bread & Chocolate Chief Operating Officer, the café has plans to incorporate food-themed artwork into their space. “We view this as a partnership, not only between Bread & Chocolate and the art center, but also between Bread & Chocolate and the artists themselves,” Mr. Cook said. “We want to encourage our customers to get the full art center experience. What better way to spend an afternoon than having a wonderful meal, then

visiting with artists and shopping for artwork?”

About Bread & Chocolate:

Bread & Chocolate at the Torpedo Factory offers tasty sustenance and caffeinated respite from the rigors of creating and enjoying art. Quaff a cappuccino, nosh a spicy lentil empanada and finish with the ultimate fruit tart. Or simply grab a Turkey & Swiss and a Diet Coke. Indulge in Bread & Chocolate, made daily and locally. Our art is temporary and edible, come enjoy some. More information about Bread & Chocolate: www.breadandchocolate.net.

Torpedo Factory Art Center 82 Artist Studios – 6 Galleries
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Archaeology Museum
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105 North Union Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-838-4565
www.torpedofactory.org

Alexandria City Council Approves Del Ray/Arlandria Trolley Service



On June 13, the Alexandria City Council voted 7-0 to approve a pilot program to provide additional trolley service to Rosemont, Del Ray, and Arlandria.

The new Del Ray/Arlandria Trolley will provide free service originating at the King Street Metro station. After the King Street Metro station, the trolley will follow a route along Commonwealth Avenue and East Braddock Road to the Braddock Road Metro station; then will travel north on Mt. Vernon Avenue, turn left onto West Glebe Road, right onto Russell Road and right onto Mt. Vernon Avenue to return.

The route was developed with coordination among several City

agencies and with input from the public through community meetings, trolley tours, and a resident survey. City Council modified the final route staff recommended by moving it from North West Street to Commonwealth Avenue, based upon concerns expressed by the community.

The new free trolley service is expected to begin in the fall of 2012, after a contractor is selected. The trolley will operate on Thursdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The King Street Trolley, launched in April 2008, was

Alexandria’s first trolley service connecting King Street Metrorail station to the Potomac River waterfront, providing free transportation for more than 2.2 million passengers. Because of its high ridership and popularity, City Council designated the expansion of the trolley system as a priority last year. Potential areas for trolley expansion were evaluated and guided by the following goals:

- To catalyze economic development by encouraging visitor spending in new areas of the City;
- Ease congestion and reduce parking needs in business districts; and
- Create a seamless trolley system

by connecting with the King Street Trolley.

Funding for the new trolley service, which has been designated in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget, will come from the Transportation Improvement Program. This program was established as part of the FY 2012 budget, when Council dedicated 2.2 cents of the real estate property tax rate for transportation purposes.

For media inquiries, contact Tony Castrilli, Director of Communications & Public Information, at 703.888.7166 or tony.castrilli@alexandriava.gov

EVENTS

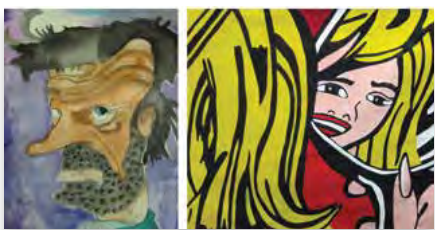


BOARDERLINES

August 3 – September 2

Colasanto Center
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria
DelRayArtisans.org
(703) 407-6992

Del Ray Artisans presents BOARDERLINES, an art exhibit showcasing work by six members of the Board of Directors: Kathryn A. Brown, Drew Cariaso, Michele Reday Cook, Lesley Hall, Dawn Wyse Hurto, and Nora Partlow. The exhibit is a journey across "boarders" and features a silent auction, gallery artwork, and take-away art.



UNTITLED ME: PORTRAIT EXHIBITION OF ARTISTS OF THE ART OPTION PROGRAM

August 4-26

Torpedo Factory
105 North Union Street
Alexandria
Torpedofactory.org/target

Untitled Me is a collection of self-portraits and celebrated icons created by diverse talented artists from the area. The works include pieces capturing the unique qualities of the artists' heroes, as well as pieces expressing how the artists envision themselves and their world.



'SCAPES: THE ANNUAL LANDSCAPE EXHIBIT

August 8 – September 3

The Art League
105 North Union Street
Alexandria
Theartleague.org

Artwork inspired by all environments may be a part of this juried all-media exhibit – urban and rural, industrialized and primitive, coastal and arid, and the beauty and destruction created by Mother Nature. Member artists are encouraged to explore unique perspectives, literally and figuratively, as well as varying moods and color.

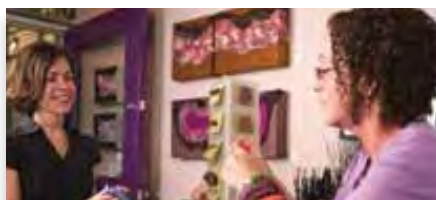


THE SHAPE OF THINGS

August 8 – September 3

The Art League
105 North Union Street
Alexandria
Theartleague.org

Featuring three-dimensional sculptures, forms, structures, and creations by Art League artists, the sculptural work juror Mara Adamitz Scrupe selected spans a variety of media and styles. Traditional and contemporary figurative work, thought provoking narrative work, and structural works are represented.



2ND THURSDAY ART NIGHT SULTRY SUMMER NIGHTS

August 9

6-9pm
Torpedo Factory
105 North Union Street
Alexandria
Torpedofactory.org/target

Browse open studios, interact with artists, and enjoy refreshments and special activities at this free monthly event! Attend exhibition receptions for Sublime Rupture: paintings by Benjamin Duke in Target Gallery, 'Scapes and The Shape of Things in The Art League Gallery, and Untitled Me in Site 2 & 3 Galleries. Then get creative with a special hands-on community sculpture.



BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS

August 14 – October 7

Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Street
Arlington
signature-theatre.org
(703) 820-9771

Miss Mona's Chicken Ranch brothel comes to life in this rollicking new production of the award-winning musical. When crusading television watchdog Melvin P. Thorpe ogles the whorehouse as his next moral target, Miss Mona, her bevy of working girls and Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd must buck the muckraker to keep the ranch open. A gritty satire about moral hypocrisy and media sensationalism, this musical is the perfect election-year event! Ticket prices vary.



2012 ALEXANDRIA IRISH FESTIVAL

August 11

11am-7pm
Old Town Waterfront Park

This year's festival features a great lineup of Irish musical and cultural groups, including the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums, the Washington Scottish Pipes and Drums, the Boyle School of Dance, the Culkin School of Dance, the Celtic Rhythm School of Dance, the O'Neill-James School of Dance, and local musical favorites including Mary Smith, Pat Garvey and Brook Yoder. Festival-goers will also enjoy browsing Irish goods as well as arts and crafts from a wide variety of vendors. Numerous food vendors will be participating in this year's festival, and food and cold refreshments will be served throughout the day. Proceeds from the festival help cover the cost of staging the annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade. "We hope everyone in Alexandria will come down to the festival to enjoy great family friendly entertainment and support the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade" said J.J. Kelly, Festival Co-Chairman. The Irish Festival is sponsored by the Ballyshanners – Gaelic for "Old Towners". A not-for-profit group, the Ballyshanner's goal is to promote and preserve Irish heritage through sponsorship of the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, held each March, and the Alexandria Irish Festival.

Festival organizers suggest using Metro (King Street Station) and the King Street Trolley to access the festival. Lawn chairs are welcome, but coolers are prohibited at the festival.



MARATHON '33

Thru August 25

American Century Theatre
Gunston Theatre II
2700 Lang Street
Arlington
Americancenturytheatre.org
(703) 998-4555

Marathon '33 defies easy categorization. A large cast docudrama with

music, vaudeville comedy and nearly continuous dance, it recreates the forgotten phenomenon of the Depression-era dance marathons, which were brutal pre-cursors of today's TV reality shows. It was written by Hollywood star June Havoc, "Baby June" of the musical "Gypsy" and the younger sister of Gypsy Rose Lee, and is closely based on real events and people described in her autobiography. American Century Theatre is placing the marathon in Arlington, Virginia, converting Gunston's Theater Two into an authentic marathon arena. Thirty actors and dancers join an onstage 6-piece band, which will play dance numbers from the period and accompany songs and comic routines by the contestants who often performed for the crowd in return for thrown coins. Ticket and show times vary.



18TH CENTURY ICE CREAM MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS

Every Saturday

Thru September 1

10am-Noon

Mount Vernon Estate
End of GW Parkway
Alexandria
Mountvernon.org

Visitors to Mount Vernon's ice cream making demonstrations receive an adapted 18th century recipe for ice cream that they can make at home using plastic bags. For those who don't want to wait to indulge, ice cream is available for sale at Mount Vernon's food court. The ice cream demonstrations are included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15.00; children ages 6-11, \$7.00; and children under 5 are admitted free.



IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

September 7- 30

Colasanto Park
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria
DelRayArtisans.org
(703) 407-6992

Art exhibit explores how the need to create runs in families. Do we make art because we grew up in families that encouraged creativity or did we inherit the creativity gene? Interpreting "family" very loosely, Del Ray Artisans asked area artists to show us their artistic heritage by submitting a collection of their family's artworks.



What's Invading Your Landscape?

At the Parkfairfax native plant sale in April, I came upon an information table run by the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and got to talking with Laura Beaty from that group. I quickly discovered how little I knew about the threat invasive plants pose to native species, so I followed up at the Green Spring Gardens plant sale on May 19.

I've lived in this area for decades, so I'm embarrassed to say that I was completely unaware of Green Spring Gardens. It's tucked at the end of a minor road off that stretch of Little River Turnpike that looks more like Rockville Pike than Fairfax County. The house and garden comprise a national historic site, and it's where the Potowmack Chapter propagates native plants.

It was a busy, busy plant sale. Ms. Beaty had a line of people vying for her attention, but I got lucky that day. Another chapter member, Margaret Chatham, overheard my need and proved to be a font of information. I imagine that she tires of answering simple questions like mine every day, but how can you learn if you don't ask?

First and foremost, how long does a plant species have to be here before it's no longer exotic? The answer is that it will always

be exotic because it has not co-evolved with local plants and animals, particularly insects.

We rhapsodize about the gentle beauty of Mother Nature but the truth is that nature is a battleground, a constant struggle for survival among (relatively) evenly matched combatants. Insects eat plants; plants endeavor to fend them off, often by changing their chemistry. The result is a balanced ecology. No one gets the upper hand.

That all changes when the aliens, the exotics, the invasives enter the picture—plants that have either have no natural enemies or are not food for local bugs. For example: *Phragmites australis*, those beautiful river reeds with ethereal fronds that are so much a part of our wetlands scene. *Phragmites* native to North America support 56 different insects, but the natives are not hardy. At some point, phragmites was introduced from Europe and proved to be much hardier. The invaders have almost completely taken over, to the detriment of all those insects, as the introduced phragmites supports only two insects. It has thrown the ecology off balance.

River reeds are out in wetlands, not out my back door. How does ecological balance pertain to your and my landscape?

Consider English Ivy. I prefer not to, because my battle with English Ivy is ongoing, and there's no winner in sight. This aggressive invasive has no natural controls in our eco-system. It can easily take over any open space; it will cover and choke the life out of even mature trees. Yet it is commonly planted as landscape filler throughout Northern Virginia precisely because it is hardy and fast growing.

A few local jurisdictions have passed resolutions condemning English Ivy and, in the recent past, former State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple twice introduced legislation to ban English Ivy as a noxious weed throughout Virginia. Twice the bill died in committee.

English Ivy is not unique. The Nature Conservancy compiled a list of invasive and non-invasive plants in our area. I was astounded to find personal favorites such as euonymous (burning bush), privet, nandina (heavenly bamboo), and spirea japonica (Japanese spirea) on the list of invaders to be avoided.

What role do nurseries and garden centers play in eliminating invasives? Generally not much. Garden centers are in business to sell people what they want. This is understandable: If you love whatever your neighbor planted, you'll expect a garden center to supply same. If you want to help eliminate exotic invaders from our landscape, you'll have to know what they are when you shop.

I asked Ms. Chatham if she is a Master Gardener. No, she replied, we are Master Naturalists. She said the difference is that Master Gardeners are knowledgeable at helping you grow whatever you have or want in your garden (the mechanics of a successful garden), while Master Naturalists focus on returning native plants to the environment and removing invaders (improving the health of the eco-system). Northern Virginia is populated with people who love to get their hands in the dirt. I envision a lot of us pushing both these agendas.

Keep in mind that all invasive plants came from someplace where they were natives. Our beautiful red maples are hated in China. The rhododendrons so beloved in Virginia are invaders in England. And we rip out purple loostripe, while the British plant it. The bottom line is that exotics don't bring their eco-system with them and they upset the balance of ours.

If you want to get educated about your own landscape or get involved in a larger effort, here is a short list of websites to troll through:

Virginia Native Plant Society, Potowmack Chapter: www.vnps-pot.org/

State of Virginia invasive eradication efforts: www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspdflist.shtml

Arlington County's Remove Invasive Plants program: www.co.arlington.va.us/departments/parksrecreation/scripts/parks/RiPVolunteerComments.aspx

City of Alexandria's Natural Resource Management Plan: alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=48838

The Nature Conservancy's wallet-size list of good and bad plants is very hard to find in print. A pdf file can be found at www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/maryland_dc/explore/mdinvasives-final-card.pdf

Margaret Chatham's final advice to me: "When you are drawn to the unusual new plant described as 'trouble free, no insects, bird food, sun or shade,' you can be pretty certain you're looking at the next exotic."

Kris Gilbertson's legacy from her Welsh grandmother is an irresistible yen to get her hands in the dirt. When not writing or editing for Zebra and other publications, she nurtures a container garden, with varying success.



Phragmites australis seed head in winter.

COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA COMMONS



ALEXANDRIA SHELTER WALK FOR HOMELESS ANIMALS

Fall fundraiser benefitting all creatures, great and small.

On Sunday, October 21, 2012, at 9:00 am, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) will host the first-ever Alexandria Shelter Walk for Homeless Animals, at Market Square on Old Town, 301 King Street. The new event will raise awareness about pet overpopulation in Alexandria and surrounding areas, and the thousands of homeless animals the AWLA cares for each year until they find permanent homes. The Walk will also raise critical funds to

support the many AWLA programs that combat animal homelessness, promote responsible pet care, and match a variety of shelter animals with loving adopters. The 1.5 mile walk begins at Market Square in historic Old Town Alexandria and walkers will stroll through neighborhoods once walked by George Washington. The event is open to the public and online registration is open now. Dogs are welcome and participants with cats and other small animals at home

Visit our **new space** for loads and loads of **unique gifts** and clever **must-have** items!

The Christmas Attic / The Urban Attic
125 S. Union St. • Alexandria, VA 22314
703-548-2829
Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

are encouraged to represent their companion animals at the event.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is an independent, local, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Operating the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, an open-admission facility and Alexandria's only animal shelter, the League provides care for more than 3,500 animals every year, including strays, lost pets,

local wildlife, rescue animals, and animals surrendered by their owners. The AWLA is committed to ending animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare, and serving as an educational resource for the community. For more information, contact www.AlexandriaAnimals.org.

Alexandria Prohibits Use of Electronic Collars on Dogs as Form of Physical Restraint



Electronic training devices may be used in dog parks and during obedience training, but all dogs must be physically leashed in public.

The City of Alexandria has adopted an ordinance that excludes electronic collars and similar electronic devices as legal methods to physically restrain dogs in public. Alexandria City Council voted unanimously in favor of the ordinance, which goes into effect on September 1.

The goal of the ordinance is to preserve public (and canine) safety in a densely-populated community where dogs are welcome just about everywhere. Additionally, Alexandria offers residents and visitors 18 fenced and unfenced dog exercise areas where dogs are not required to be leashed. Dog

owners may use electronic collars and other training devices in these dog parks, at sanctioned obedience training classes and field trials, and on private property.

The sale and use of electronic collars as a form of training will not be affected by the ordinance; however, all dogs must be restrained by a physical leash while in public.

Beginning September 1, a dog in public wearing an electronic collar can be considered running at large, and the owner may be cited and fined up to \$100.



QUOTABLE:

“ You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. ”

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

August 17-26, 2012

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OpenTable

VisitAlexandriaVA.com



55 RESTAURANTS WITH \$35 MENUS!

BY MARY WADLAND

Certainly there are those restaurants you have heard about and wondered if you would like, but were maybe afraid to make a large commitment to a hefty dinner check, just on a whim. Well, now is the time to take advantage of the price breaks and indulge your foodie curiosities by hitting as many of Alexandria's participating restaurants as you can this January during Restaurant Week, August 17–26, 2012. 59 restaurants throughout the city will feature a \$35 prix-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two. Savor the flavors of Alexandria's distinctive collection of eateries, from fine dining establishments to casual neighborhood favorites, with special offers available exclusively during this event.

Restaurant Week menus and online reservations are available on VisitAlexandriaVA.com. Food lovers can feast their eyes on the full list of participants, which includes OpenTable Diners' Choice Winners La Bergerie, A la Lucia, Tempo, the Grille at Morrison House, and the Wharf, plus restaurants from Washingtonian 'Best' lists, including Cheesetique, Bastille, Jackson 20, and Grape + Bean.

\$35 Prix-Fixe dinners

A La Lucia | 315 Madison Street | 703.836.5123
Bastille | 208 Queen Street | 703.519.3776
Bilbo Baggins Restaurant | 208 Queen Street | 703.683.0300
The Chart House Restaurant | One Cameron Street | 703.684.5080
Columbia Firehouse | 109 S. St. Asaph Street | 703.683.1776
Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant | 138 N. Royal Street | 703.548.1288
Geranio | 722 King Street | 703.548.0088
GRAPE + BEAN, Old Town | 118 S. Royal Street | 703.664.0214
The Grille at Morrison House | 116 S. Alfred Street | 703.838.8000
Il Porto | 121 King Street | 703.836.8833
Jackson 20 | 480 King Street | 703.842.2790
Joe Theismann's Restaurant | 1800-A Diagonal Road | 703.739.0777
La Bergerie | 218 N. Lee Street | 703.683.1007
La Tasca | 607 King Street | 703.299.9810
Laporta's Restaurant | 1600 Duke Street | 703.683.6313
Layla's Lebanese Restaurant | 907 King Street | 703.684.3288
The Light Horse | 715 King Street | 703.549.0533
The Majestic Cafe | 911 King Street | 703.837.9117
Medieval Madness | 1121 King Street | 703.329.3075
Nina's Dandy (reservations required) | Zero Prince Street | 703.683.6076
Society Fair | 277 S. Washington Street | 703.683.3247
Two Nineteen Restaurant | 219 King Street | 703.549.1141
The Warehouse Bar & Grill | 214 King Street | 703.683.6868
The Wharf | 119 King Street | 703.836.2836
The Carlyle Club | 411 John Carlyle Street | 703.548.8899
Delia's Mediterranean Grill | 209 Swamp Fox Road | 703.329.0006
Dutch's Grill | Holiday Inn Alexandria, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue | 703.960.3400
La Strada | 1905 Mt. Vernon Avenue | 703.548.2592
RT's Restaurant | 3804 Mt. Vernon Avenue | 703.684.6010
Finn & Porter | 5000 Seminary Road | 703.379.2346 | menu
Savios Restaurant | 516 S. Van Dorn Street | 703.212.9651 | menu
Tempo Restaurant | 4231 Duke Street | 703.370.7900
The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant | 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy | 703.780.0011

\$35 Dinner For Two

Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar | 111 King Street | 703.683.0313
Chadwicks | 203 The Strand | 703.836.4442
Chakra Cafe | 600 Franklin Street | 703.299-6600
Faccia Luna | 823 S. Washington Street | 703.838.5998
Fontaine Caffe & Creperie | 119 S. Royal Street | 703.535.8151
Hard Times Cafe of Old Town | 1404 King Street | 703.837.0050
King Street Blues | 112 N. St. Asaph Street | 703.836.8800
Murphy's Grand Irish Pub | 713 King Street | 703.548.1717
Overwood | 220 N. Lee Street | 703.535.3340
Pizzeria Paradiso | 124 King Street | 703.837.1245
RedRocks Pizza Napoletana | 904 King Street | 703.717.9873
Southside 815 | 815 S. Washington Street | 703.836.6222
Thailand on Royal Street | 835 N. Royal Street | 703.535.6622
T.J. Stone's | 608 Montgomery Street | 703.548.1004
Union Street Public House | 121 S. Union Street | 703.548.1785
Villa Di Este | 818 N. St. Asaph Street | 703.549.9477
Virtue Feed & Grain | 106 S. Union Street | 571.970.3669
Cheesetique | 2411 Mt. Vernon Avenue | 703.706.5300
FireFlies | 1501 Mt. Vernon Avenue | 703.548.7200
Monroe's, An American Trattoria | 1603 Commonwealth Avenue | 703.548.5792
Alley Cat Restaurant | #2 S. Whiting Street | 703.461.0450
Ramparts Tavern & Grill | 1700 Fern Street | 703.998.6616
Shooter McGee's | 5239 Duke Street | 703.751.9266
Dishes of India | 1501-A Belle View Boulevard | 703.660.6085





Alexandria
restaurant
week



BROWSE MENUS. MAKE RESERVATIONS. GET DIRECTIONS.



JOIN US AUGUST 13-26 FOR RESTAURANT WEEK

THREE COURSE PRIX-FIXE DINNER MENU FOR \$35.12

EVERY LUNCH AND MONDAY NIGHT
Whole lobster flambé in cognac - \$22

THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIALS - \$20

THURSDAY AUGUST 9TH
Almond crusted cod fillet with baby shrimp and a meyer lemon sauce

THURSDAY AUGUST 30TH
Grilled sword fish loin medallion with a summer vegetable medley and olive tapenade

750ML BOTTLES OF WINES UNDER \$100 ARE DISCOUNTED 40%
Neither Entree Specials nor Wine Special can be combined with any other discount, coupon or discount 'Gift Certificate'

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Delectables & Cure-alls

During Restaurant Week, enjoy dinner for two for only **\$35!**

An incredible menu in a "CHEERS"-like atmosphere

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Darn good.

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Fine dining since 1770.

138 North Royal Street
Old Town Alexandria
703-548-1288
gadsbystavernrestaurant.com

Join us for Restaurant week \$35 3-course prix-fixe dinner!



Alexandria restaurant week



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Featuring a celebration of American cuisine with libations from around the world!

Enjoy our house smoked barbeque and more with over 250 beer and wines to pair with your meal

Join us during Restaurant Week for
Dinner for Two \$35

Visit us at: TJstones.com
608 Montgomery Street
Alexandria VA 22314
703.548.1004
Join us on Facebook!

August 17-26, 2012

Alexandria restaurant week

60+ RESTAURANTS WITH \$35 MENUS!

VisitAlexandriaVA.com

Browse Menus. Make Reservations. Get Directions.

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RAMPARTS TAVERN & GRILL

Enjoy Dinner for Two **\$35**

During Restaurant Week 2012

A local Alexandria restaurant and pub since 1978. Recent renovations make this neighborhood spot comfortably elegant with great lunch and dinner specials every day

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709-998-6616
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Alexandria CELEBRATES

FASHION'S NIGHT OUT

Featuring cocktails, restaurant specials, music, fashion shows, trunk shows and exclusive style events!

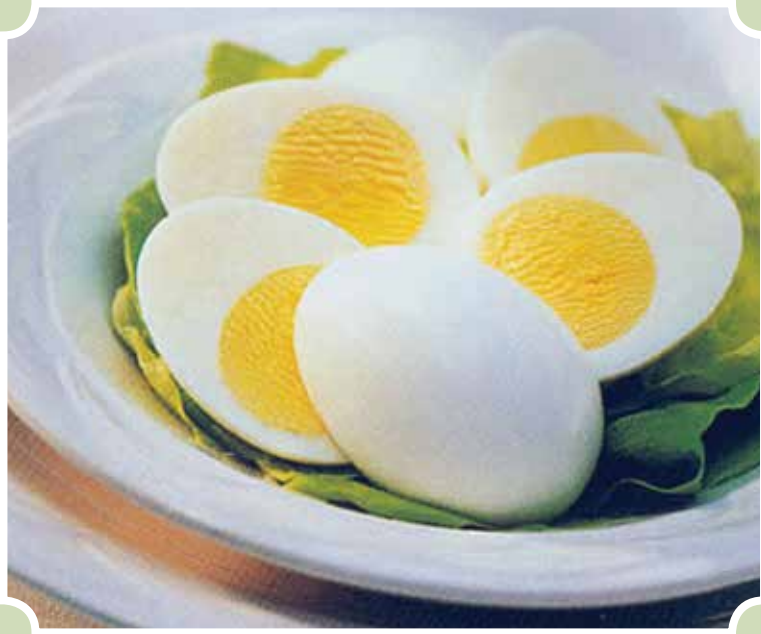
September 6
6-11 p.m. (Shopping until 10 p.m.)
FashionsNightOutAlexandria.com

Tempo restaurant

4231 duke street
alexandria, va
703. 370. 7900
call for hours & reservations
www.temporestaurant.com

"european and california cuisine consistently hits the high notes."
-mid-atlantic magazine

THE VINTAGE RECIPE BOX



PERFECT BOILED EGGS

If you watch a lot of cooking competition shows like the Zebra staff does, you'll notice that preparing eggs several ways is almost always a competitor challenge, and many chefs, even the most seasoned, sometimes screw it up. So here are Zebra-tested instructions for perfect boiled eggs. We don't claim to have mastered poached eggs, but these little devils could win any challenge.

1. Using extra large eggs, place eggs in a large pot and cover with cold water.
2. Place uncovered pot on cold stovetop, then bring to a boil.
3. When boiling begins, set a timer for 3 minutes. After that, move pot to a cold burner, cover with a secure lid, and set timer for 8 minutes.
4. Drain eggs in colander and rinse well with cold water until eggs are no longer warm to the touch.
5. Sit colander on a plate in the refrigerator for at least one hour.
6. Eggs should peel easily, and your yolks should be completely yellow, ready for egg salad, deviled eggs or just as they are, seasoned with salt and pepper.

If you have a tried and trusted recipe that is quick and easy and gets rave reviews, please share it with us by emailing recipes@thezebra.org.



QUOTABLE:

“ I have lived temperately....I double the doctor's recommendation of a glass and a half of wine each day and even treble it with a friend. ”

—*Thomas Jefferson*

Z HOT SAUCE PICK OF THE MONTH

Sear Jalapeno Pepper Sauce is a simple sauce that adds great flavor. The simple ingredients include Jalapeno Peppers, Distilled vinegar, salt and vegetable gum. I'm not sure where the slight lime flavor comes from since it is not listed as an ingredient, but it has a slice of lime on the label.

If you are looking for a versatile sauce that will add a little punch Sear is a great addition to your hot sauce collection. Sear is a great addition straight from the bottle on rice or beans served with any mexican meal. I also found this sauce to be a great addition to marinades for chicken or fish. I used this in the Turkey burgers I made for Memorial Day. Although I have not tried it (but will this Sunday) add it to your Bloody Mary Mix.

This sauce is distributed by Lime Fresh Mexican Grill, out of Florida, is available on their website (along with other sauces). They have two restaurants in Virginia (Clarendon and Pentagon Row). So instead of taking a chance based on this article, head on over there and try some in the restaurant. If you like it - buy some.



Fair Trade Rugs are Coming to Alexandria!

Ten Thousand Villages hosts 2nd Annual Rug Event

.. September 6-9 ..

The always popular Fair Trade Oriental Rug Event returns to the Alexandria Ten Thousand Villages store on September 6-9. For 4 days only, more than 300 luxurious hand-knotted Bunyaad rugs will be on display and available for purchase at this unique annual event.

From intricate florals to hand-spun natural dye wool tribals, every Bunyaad rug has been designed and hand-knotted by highly skilled and fairly paid adults.

“When artisans know they are paid for every knot they tie, they are empowered to focus on the fine details of intricate rugs that will last for generations,” says Yousaf Chaman, Bunyaad Director. Bunyaad works with over 850 families throughout 100 villages in Pakistan.

An Introduction to Oriental Rugs seminar will be held at the Alexandria store on Thursday, September 6 at 7 p.m. The one-hour seminar is



Rug artisan Shaheen works on her loom while her children play in the Pakistani village of Halwan.

ideal for anyone considering an Oriental rug purchase or who would like to learn more about the art of Oriental rug making, rug care and

For four days in early September, Alexandrians can view more than 300 handknotted rugs from Pakistan, in all sizes and types, at Ten Thousand Villages in Old Town.

COURESY PHOTOS

even room design. Refreshments will be served and admission is free. Reservations are strongly encouraged.

“It’s a win-win situation” said Kathleen McMahon, store manager. “Artisans in Pakistan earn a living wage and North American consumers get an excellent quality rug with an excellent mission behind it. Home decorating was never more beautiful!”

To make a reservation or for more information about the Ten Thousand Villages Oriental Rug Event, please contact Kathleen McMahon at 703-684-1435 or visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com/alexandria_rugevent.

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and follow THE NUGGET to its new destination.



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MOST JEWELRY NOW AT 30% OFF!

Saturday, August 4th, and every Saturday from 11 to 6 through August 18th.

Call The Nugget if there has been a special piece you have been wanting to buy, and we can reserve it for you. Most of the jewelry will be sold at a **30% discount**, so come and take advantage of the great savings.

The Nugget is still owned by Mary Ehlers, Designer and Goldsmith, who has decided to relocate her business closer to home in Fredericksburg, VA. Moving forward, The Nugget will specialize in custom designed engagement and wedding rings, vintage jewelry, and special occasion and unique jewelry items, pearls and gemstones.



The Nugget is now Your Private, Personalized Jeweler...

Exclusively yours... at

THE NUGGET

123 S. FAIRFAX STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Call to schedule a shopping appointment with Mary at 703-548-3010, or e-mail her at nuggetjewelers@aol.com.

THANK YOU for Your Loyal Patronage at 123 S. Fairfax Street the Past 35 Years...
And Please Follow Us Online at www.thenuggetjewelers.com as We Are Moving



Student awarded Eagle Scout Rank

BY WILL RODGER

Ryan William Aitken – the 106th Eagle Scout in Troop 996’s 52 year history and chartered by Aldersgate UMC was awarded his Eagle Scout Rank on June 5th, 2012.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project Ryan really wanted to give back to the Alexandria Potomac Little League, which had done so much for him over the years.

Ryan planned and supervised construction of two new dugouts for the fields located at Bucknell Elementary School. Dugouts were small, cramped and had no roof to protect the players from the beating hot sun or inclement weather. The league had discussed replacing the dugouts for several years but had not been able to raise enough money to do so. Ryan hoped the construction of the new dugouts would provide a safe place for the players to learn and play baseball.

Ryan raised \$14,611.86 in cash donations and \$3,350 in-kind donations. Construction of the dugouts took more than 2,350 hours of hard labor, spanning over fifteen days, and a total of 64 volunteers including members of Boy Scout Troop 996, members of APLL, friends and family members of Ryan participated in the effort.

The two new dugouts, measuring approximately 40 feet long and 10 feet high, are each constructed with a concrete floor, roof and superstructure. The project was completed in time for the APLL Opening Day in April of 2012. The completion of the project not only makes a long lasting improvement to the community, but also instills a sense of pride in Ryan in knowing that young boys and girls will enjoy the dugouts for many years to come.

Scouting has been a part of Ryan’s life since the age of 7. Scouting has made him a better



Eagle Scout Ryan Aitken gives back to Alexandria’s community with two new dugout at local field.

young man, an active citizen and a caring person. As a member of the WestPo’s Football and Baseball teams all four years in High School, Ryan also received many student athlete awards.

Ryan will attend Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in Pittsburgh, PA in the fall.

Ryan’s Scoutmaster is Vinnie Accardi, yankeevincent@aim.com



Volunteers and players all pitched in to help at Bucknell Elementary.



Construction took over 2,350 hours of hard labor provided by 64 volunteers.

Look to this column monthly for local Scouting News.

DIVERSITY IS COOL! *US Patent and Trademark Office Hosts Community Day*

Proclaiming “Diversity is Cool!”, the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria held its 15th Annual Community Day. USPTO’s campus hosted a parade, military drill team, classic cars, games, music and plenty of fine food. Reflecting cultural diversity, employees wore traditional costumes and shared ethnic foods, making this a truly international event.

PHOTOS BY HARRY MERRITT



USPTO employees dressed in traditional clothing to portray the international quality of the workforce.



Top Left: An introduction to traditional henna hand decorating.

Above: David Kappos, Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, gave the keynote address.

Bottom Left: US Navy Ceremonial Drill team impressed Pateneers Singers entertained passersby. the audience.

SEPT. 30, 2012



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100 Yard Tot Trot (5 & under) – \$10

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Q U O T A B L E :

“ We are living in a world today where lemonade is made from artificial flavors and furniture polish is made from real lemons. ”

—Alfred E. Newman



DEL RAY BITES: *The Evening Star Cafe Shines Anew*

BY JOHN ARUNDEL

ALEXANDRIA, VA. – The Evening Star Cafe has been a fixture in Alexandria’s Del Ray community for 15 years. Its owner, Neighborhood Restaurant Group, decided it was time for a fixer upper.

After an extensive renovation, Evening Star’s redesigned and refurbished dining room and bar

home on Mount Vernon Avenue, finally reopened its doors for dinner this winter, guests found expanded offerings including a revamped beverage program featuring new cocktails and beers, and a southern-inspired, modern American menu by the recently appointed Executive Chef **Jim Jeffords**.

Jeffords’s background, experience and passion appear to

training and the experience garnered at CityZen, one of DC’s finest kitchens.

The Evening Star’s new menu is approachable and seasonal, showcasing the best product in the area. While each dish nods to the South in either inspiration or in the ingredients used, the technique and presentation are modern.

The opening menu includes small plates such as *Grilled Rappahannock Oysters with garlic butter and sherry-pepper hollandaise; Moultrie sausage with mustard seed spaetzel, peppadews, dijonnaise and frisée; and Hoppin’ John Risotto with housemade tasso ham, mustard greens, black eyed peas and parmesan.*

Hailey Designs, LLC, which also recently designed Rustico and Buzz Bakery in Ballston, is responsible for the design.

Maintaining the funky, soulful spirit of the Star, the décor features iconic Americana motifs and themes that are rethought and reconfigured with a modern sensibility.

The eclectic mash-up combines vintage finds and bold colors and patterns with retro furniture pieces. Black and white tiling, chrome-accented tables, and a double-sided, plush banquet in signature Evening Star blue give the 60-seat dining room a 1950’s diner-vibe. Original artwork and new lighting from local artist **Rick Singleton**,

who also designed the distinctive lights in the original Evening Star, are a design highlight, adorning the walls and ceilings in both the dining room and bar. In the newly outfitted Majestic Lounge, adjacent to the dining room, a brand new beer system flows from vintage General Electric refrigerators painted in blue, orange and silver.

A nearly floor to ceiling case of assorted trophies, many donated by Evening Star staff and members of the Del Ray community, highlights the décor in the Majestic Lounge, which also features a handmade light fixture comprised of approximately 180 vintage Mason jars complete the welcoming, yet funky feel to the bar.

Guests will be excited to know that the No. 9 lounge renovation is underway and that it will open in the coming weeks. This Summer the team plans a 2,000 square-foot rooftop garden, where Chef Jeffords will work with Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture’s Farm Director **Maureen Moodie** to grow herbs and heirloom varieties for his menu.

If You’re Going...

Evening Star Cafe is located at 2000 Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria, VA 22301. For more information call 703-549-5051 or visit www.eveningstarcafe.net.



The Evening Star Cafe has been a fixture in Alexandria’s Del Ray community for 15 years.

COURTESY PHOTO

are getting kudos from a closely-knit community that expects nothing but the best from its own.

The 60-seat restaurant has unveiled a refreshing update on this neighborhood classic. When the restaurant, well-known for embodying the character of its

be a good fit for the next chapter of the Evening Star. Under his direction, the southern accent that was always part of the Evening Star’s menu is more pronounced, as he combines the food experiences of his childhood in Moultrie, Georgia with his classic culinary



The 60-seat restaurant has unveiled a refreshing update on this neighborhood classic.

COURTESY PHOTOS



After an extensive renovation, Evening Star’s redesigned and refurbished dining room and bar are getting kudos from a closely-knit community that expects nothing but the best from its own.

Tickets for Mount Vernon's Popular Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour

GO ON SALE AUGUST 27



overlooking the scenic Potomac River. Visitors can bring a blanket and relax on the lawn as they sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 5, 6, and 7, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 per person.

New this year: On Friday, October 5, Mount Vernon will offer a limited-capacity shuttle bus to and from the King Street Metro for wine festival guests. Tickets for the shuttle bus are \$30. The shuttle bus will leave the King Street metro station at 5:30 p.m. and departs Mount Vernon at 9:15 p.m. Tickets will not be available aboard the bus; advance purchase is required. Tickets are available at MountVernon.org or the ticket window at Mount Vernon's Ford Orientation Center beginning August 27 at 10 a.m.

Historic interpreters will



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MOUNT VERNON ESTATE

Mount Vernon's *Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour* celebrates the history of wine in Virginia with exclusive evening tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington," and live blues on the east lawn

conduct special candlelit tours of the Mansion throughout the evening. The interpreters will discuss Washington's attempts at creating a vineyard and highlight

various wine-related items inside the Mansion, including the basement's brick vaults where Washington stored his wine.

To accompany the wine tasting, Fruit & Cheese Boxes are available by advance purchase for \$26. A variety of hot and cold food and desserts including baguettes, gourmet sandwiches, and specialty sweets will be available on site from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Outside food and beverages are not allowed. Pets are also not allowed. Guests can take home a remembrance of Mount Vernon's *Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour* from the *Shops at Mount Vernon*, open until 9:30 p.m. each evening. Cases of wine purchased at the *Wine Festival* can be transported by wine valets to the *Shops* for easy pick up at the end of the evening.

Mount Vernon's *Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour* takes place rain or shine, tickets are limited and all sales are final. This is a popular event; early ticket purchase is suggested.

Guests must be prepared to show identification for wine service. Designated drivers will receive free Coca-Cola soft drinks.

All proceeds benefit the ongoing preservation and restoration of Mount Vernon and its educational programs.

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Max

Max - (Male)
Breed: Black Labrador Retriever Mix
Age: 20 Months
History: Owner Release

Description: Hi, My name is Max, I am a Black Lab Mix. My owner is giving me up because he does not have the time for me. My foster mom is helping me to build my confidence. I am an affectionate and energetic young boy. I am a quick learner, will not get on the furniture and, of course, I am housebroken. I am good with people that I know, and love other dogs but not cats. Will you be my Forever Home?



Patch

Patch the hound - (Female)
Breed: Hound / Beagle
Age: 6 Years
History: Confiscation case

Description: Patch is a sweet, loving girl that gets along very well with humans and other dogs. She has blended into her new foster family amazingly well! She wags her beautiful tail back and forth to greet you and looks at you with loving and grateful eyes. Patch will be a great addition to any family as she is house and crate trained. Patch will fit in great with any family, especially with a retired couple that likes to go for nice long walks and enjoy the scenery.



Lady Gaga - (Female)
Breed: Beagle Mix
Age: 13 Weeks
History: Shelter

Description: Lady has just arrived, but already is an adorable baby in need of a good home. Call today to see if she is still available.

Lady Gaga



Bailey

Bailey - Bonnie's pup - (Male)
Breed: Boston Terrier Mix
Age: 5 Weeks
History: Shelter

Description: Bonnie and her pup have just arrived. The pup will be available for adoption as soon as he is 8 weeks of age.

Itty Bit - (Male)
Breed: Poodle / Maltese Mix
Age: 7 Years
History: Shelter

Description: I thought I should tell you about myself, other than my obvious good looks. I am a poodle maltese mix and my foster mom says I am just the sweetest! I am looking for someone to keep me company as my favorite thing to do is whatever you are doing. I would do best in a home without small children. Sitting in your lap is a priority for me. I look forward to meeting you!



Itty Bit

Brinley - (Male)
Breed: Mountain Cur Mix
Age: 3 Years
History: Shelter - Parkersburg

Description: Brinley is a great companion. He is well behaved, friendly, and happy. He lets us know when a stranger is around but doesn't get carried away. He enjoys playing with other two dogs and is curious about cats. Brinley has a beautiful short brindle coat and will be a welcome companion for anyone.



Brinley

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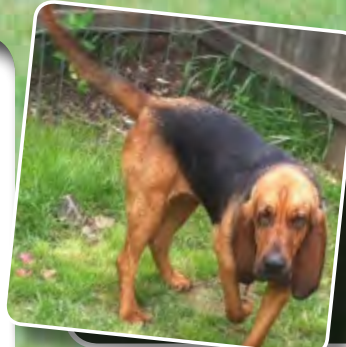
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Charlotte

Charlotte - (Female)
Breed: Bloodhound
Age: 15 Months
History: Shelter/Stray

Durham x5!

Durham and Siblings - (Mixed Gender)
Breed: Rottweiler Mix
Age: 8 Weeks
History: Owner Release

Description: These five adorable Rottie-mix puppies just came into our care. They were born on June 2nd, to a purebred German Rottweiler mom -- and Papa? Well, Papa was a rolling stone! They could have some boxer in them, could have some Shepherd, and if you Google "blackmouth cur," you'll see a good representation of the coloration of two of them. The girls are DAKOTA and DALLAS. DAKOTA is a classic Rottweiler, with a beautiful glossy black coat and traditional tan markings. DALLAS is mostly tan, with a white bib that looks like she dribbled her hot chocolate down the front of it, and some white toes. The boys are DENVER, DURHAM and DURANGO. DENVER and DURHAM are the "twins," both are tan with black muzzles, a black "stripe" down the spine and black tails. DURANGO is a fuzz-ball, with the black and tan fur all mixed together.



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