

Bikeshare blossoms



PHOTO/DERRICK PERKINS

With Alexandria's Capital Bikeshare program gaining momentum, the city hopes to double the number of stations. City officials are looking to expand the program to Carlyle and Del Ray, as well as add more docks in Old Town.

Proposal would double the number of stations

BY MELISSA QUINN

With Capital Bikeshare growing more popular in Alexandria, officials have rolled out plans to add more stations throughout the city.

The regional program, which debuted in the Port City in September, loans bicycles to members for short trips in exchange for a small

fee. Eight stations are active in the city, and officials want to potentially double that number by fall, said Sandra Marks, acting deputy director for the department of transportation and environmental services.

With Bikeshare stations clustered in Old Town and near the Braddock Road Metro station, Marks hopes to expand the program to Carlyle and Del Ray — where officials have seen an over-

whelming demand for the program. Old Town, though, could see new docks as well.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback," Marks said. "People are really excited, and we're constantly getting requests for additional stations."

In the next 10 years, she said, the city hopes to add between 25 and 30 stations expanding to the West End and near Arlandria. Funding for the program's expansion

“ Our ridership and revenue has exceeded Arlington's, so we see that as a positive sign. It makes a lot of sense to start building out the network.”

-Sandra Marks
Acting Deputy Director,
Transportation and
Environmental Services

comes from a mix of grants and federal dollars. Each station costs between \$40,000 and \$60,000 — depending on the size and location.

While the announcement of Bikeshare's expansion comes in the midst of budget season, the city's general fund does not pay for the program. Instead, operating costs are paid for through the city's transportation improvement program fund, dollars designated for expanding transit infrastructure and options.

Marks said the fund will cover Bikeshare's operating costs for the next 10 years, but she hopes the program

SEE BIKESHARE | 7



FILE PHOTO

Police shot and killed Taft Sellers during a confrontation in February. A local group wants the state police to investigate the incident.

Watching the watchmen

Police accountability group prods officials on shooting

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Former Washington police detective Nicholas Beltrante believes local authorities made a mistake rejecting his calls to bring in outsiders to review the shooting death of Taft Sellers.

Beltrante is executive director of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, a group that — in separate letters — recently asked Chief Earl Cook and Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel to turn over their investigations into the Presidents Day shooting. He urged Cook to bring in the Virginia State Police

SEE ACCOUNTABILITY | 10



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THE WEEKLY BRIEFING



PHOTO/DERRICK PERKINS

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS A member of Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy's grandparents club ties a ribbon on a stretch of fence Friday not far from where officer Peter Laboy collapsed after suffering a gunshot wound to the head. The school community raised thousands of dollars for the Laboy family and presented the donations to Police Chief Earl Cook before the ribbon-tying event. Laboy is recovering from his injuries in an area hospital.

City considers park for Lenny Harris

A little more than a year after authorities recovered the body of slain community activist Lenny Harris, city officials are considering renaming an athletic field in his memory.

The city's recreation, parks and cultural activities department is soliciting residents' thoughts on whether to anoint George Washington Middle School's Braddock Field as Lenny Harris Field. The idea

came from the Lenny Harris Legacy Corp.

A lifelong supporter of youth sports and a champion of the city's poor and minority communities, Harris disappeared in September 2011. After months of searching, officials uncovered his remains in a Maryland well. Three men were later charged in connection with his murder.

Harris also founded the One

Love Festival, an annual event he hoped would bring residents together.

Residents interested in sharing their thoughts or suggestions are encouraged to contact Jack Browand at the recreation department before the April 12 deadline for comments.

- Derrick Perkins

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CRIME

Pills swiped at open house

Alexandria police say one or more thieves lifted medicinal drugs from the bathroom of a 4600 block Strathblane Place residence during an open house March 17.

The medicines — over-the-counter and prescription drugs — were taken between 1 and 4 p.m. Police do not know what kinds of

drugs were stolen. Investigators are unsure if the real estate agent or victim were present at the time of the theft, said department spokeswoman Ashley Hildebrandt.

Because there were no witnesses, police do not have a description of the thieves. They have not made any arrests.

Bike stolen from laundry room

One or more individuals made off with an unattended and unsecured bicycle from the laundry room of a 300 block E. Nelson Ave. apartment complex.

The thieves stole the bike between 4:30 p.m. March 18 and 8:30 p.m. March 19, authorities said. Police, though, do not know

why the victim left his bike in the laundry room and are unsure of his whereabouts at the time of the theft, said department spokeswoman Ashley Hildebrandt.

There were no known witnesses, and police do not have a description of the thieves. No arrests have been made.

Burglary puzzles police officers

Authorities have yet to figure out how one or more thieves managed to get inside a car parked on the 500 block of Janneys Lane earlier this month.

Alexandria police believe the burglars descended upon the car between 7 p.m. March 17 and 1 p.m. March 18. The thieves got

away with the victim's tote bag, which contained a recorder and personal papers, said Ashley Hildebrandt, department spokeswoman.

Police do not know if the vehicle — parked in front of the victim's residence — had been locked. The manner of entry remains a mystery, officials said.

The individuals did not take anything else, and no other vehicles were reported broken into. Authorities were unable to locate any witnesses or obtain a description of the thieves. They remain at large.

-Melissa Quinn

Attempted auto theft remains a mystery

A car break-in has city police searching for answers after one or more would-be carjackers attempted to abscond with a woman's automobile, damaging the ignition in the process.

The incident occurred between 10 p.m. March 19 and 8:30 a.m. March 20. The vehicle had been

parked on the 700 block of Upland Place, and when the victim returned to her car, she found the damage, said department spokeswoman Ashley Hildebrandt.

Authorities do not know how burglars got into the vehicle and are unsure of what was used to damage the ignition. The victim told investigators nothing had

been taken from the car, though, and no other automobiles were broken into, officials said.

There were no known witnesses and police do not have a description of the burglars, who remain at large.

-Melissa Quinn

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between March 20 and March 27.



Source: crimereports.com

*Editor's note: Police reports are not considered public information in Virginia. The Alexandria Police Department is not required to supply the public at large with detailed information on criminal cases.

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Agua Viva preps for a steak infusion

Owner Michael Cordero will reopen the King Street eatery next month

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Less than two years after throwing open the doors at Agua Viva, owner Michael Cordero is jettisoning the Latin infusion concept in favor of a 1950s-style steakhouse.

“We came here as a Latin infusion restaurant, and I just feel the demographics are not here to support Latin infusion,” Cordero said. “Agua Viva was maybe a little bit [over the top] for Old Town, a little too much of Miami.”

The 808 King St. eatery began serving patrons in the summer of 2011. While Cordero won't describe Agua Viva as a failing business, he said it has not been as successful as he hoped.

And then there have been noise complaints from neighbors who say the restaurant was the source of too much late-night revelry. Though Cordero took corrective action — including investing in a new sound system — the string of violations landed him before the planning commission for a review in the fall.

Cordero believes his new concept, which he plans to call Flat Iron Tavern, will prove a better fit for the neighborhood. Modeling it after mid-20th century Chicago and New York steakhouses, Cordero hopes Flat Iron's fare — as well as its focus on scotch and oysters — will cater to the tastes of residents and visitors.

“I feel it's going to be a win-win situation,” he said. “What I'm creating is something like comfort food rather than a destination restaurant. I



FILE PHOTO

Agua Viva will undergo a transformation over the coming weeks and reopen next month as Flat Iron Tavern owner Michael Cordero hopes remodeling the restaurant as a 1950s-style steakhouse will make it a better fit for King Street.

think with tourists and locals, we're giving something that's great for them every day.”

After kicking around the

idea of relaunching the restaurant for about six months, Cordero will shutter Agua Viva for a few weeks before reopen-

ing as Flat Iron next month. The renovations will cost him around \$100,000, he said.



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BIKESHARE

FROM | 1

will begin paying for itself long before then. And that prospect has the city's top-elected officials thrilled.

"The most exciting part is [by] our current projections, by 2017 the [membership revenue is] going to be covering the operating expenses," said City Councilor Justin Wilson. "As someone who's been making transportation policy for over a decade, that's unheard of. That's very exciting."

The city also has put aside capital funding for the program in anticipation of new stations, additional bikes and making improvements to docks.

Though usage has dipped through the winter months, Marks said ridership still has exceeded expectations. Officials originally hoped to see 30 percent of the program's operating costs recovered during Bikeshare's inaugural year; projections are surpassing that figure. And with summer around the corner, even more residents and visitors are anticipated to use the ubiqui-

tous red bicycles to get around town.

"Our ridership and revenue has exceeded Arlington's, so we see that as a positive sign," Marks said. "It makes a lot of sense to start building out the network."

In addition to encouraging residents and tourists to eschew their cars, Bikeshare solves what Marks calls the "last-mile problem" — an issue facing people who get off the Metro yet still have a ways to travel before reaching their destination. Wilson agrees.

"That's one of the big drivers here," Wilson said. "It helps that last mile, which is what people need to live a lifestyle not dependent on [motor] vehicles."

The program began in Washington before expanding into Arlington and later Alexandria. Before launching Bikeshare, the city secured enough grants to cover the program's initial costs.

"Capital Bikeshare provides one more alternative to driving," Marks said. "As we expand our transit system, we expand our biking for commuter bikers. It's one more opportunity."



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Renters' remorse



PHOTO/MELISSA QUINN

For Joanne Sapp, owner of Deja Vu Boutique, renting without consulting a broker or attorney proved to be a costly mistake. For commercial renters, the lease serves as the governing document. Laws in the commonwealth lean in favor of landlords and offer little protection for commercial renters.

Opening a new store? Check the lease

BY MELISSA QUINN

For Joanne Sapp, the first-floor space in the building at 1314 King St. was perfect. It had everything she wanted — an Old Town address, a big window space to showcase her shop's clothing and a large floor plan — for the second location of Deja Vu Boutique.

Sapp quickly signed a three-year lease, working without a broker or attorney, and began renovating the space.

But entering into the agreement before performing due diligence is a move she has come to regret. Even after more than \$40,000 in work, Sapp's landlord has piled on additional requests for improvements — expensive improvements. For the boutique owner, hindsight is 20/20.

"I should've worked with a real estate person," Sapp said. "But I didn't, and that was a mistake."

Tenant-landlord relationships can hit rough patches, but while residential renters often have municipal entities on their

side — such as Alexandria's Landlord-Tenant Relations Division — commercial tenants only are protected by the stipulations they negotiate with the property owner.

"More safeguards are in place for the residential arena," said Michael Chamowitz, an estate attorney who owns the Law Offices of Michael Chamowitz. "In a typical landlord-tenant case, there are no real statutory protections. You have a long commercial lease that's oriented toward the landlord."

It's a discovery Sapp has made the hard way. She faces eviction for failing to complete tasks such as re-wiring the King Street building after already investing tens of thousands of dollars into her new location.

And with her busiest time of year — prom season — fast approaching, moving is not an option.

Commercial tenants throughout the city and state have faced this dilemma. Sapp's location has seen a lot of turnover, said Christine Mindrup, vice president of commercial real estate for the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. Previous tenants fled rather than

deal with the landlord's requests.

And while they may hope there are laws in place to protect them from landlord abuse, as Sapp did, their only governing document is the lease they sign.

"What's contained in the lease is the only recourse she has," Mindrup said. "I don't know what other recourse there is."

Often, Mindrup said, small-business owners become overwhelmed with excitement at the prospect of opening a space and enter into leases without taking proper precautions. She encourages tenants to hire a broker to advocate on their behalf. Brokers, she said, serve as conduits to help negotiate the lease — and protect the tenant from signing documents with loopholes that serve the landlord.

However, landlords can refuse to accept a broker's services, which is common practice along King Street, Mindrup said. And this is where tenants can get into trouble.

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Teens 'kick butts'

Anti-smoking campaign targets tobacco advertisements

BY MELISSA QUINN

As T.C. Williams students gathered to raise awareness over the prevalence of tobacco and alcohol advertisements last week, they were greeted by 177 bright flags stuck in the ground.

The display served as a symbol for the estimated 177 Virginia youth who start smoking each week. And for the teens, it was a stark reminder of the power tobacco advertisements have over their peers.

More than 40 students joined together to participate in Kick Butts Day, a national day of activism that empowers young people to take control against tobacco abuse. They later visited more than 70 stores throughout the city, executing what they called Op-

eration Storefront by counting the advertisements they saw promoting alcohol or tobacco products.

"The whole idea of Kick Butts Day is for kids to take charge," said Noraine Buttar, coordinator for the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria.

T.C. students organized the day of activism with support from Y Street, the Alexandria Coalition for Clean and Smoke-Free Air, the city's parks, recreation and cultural activities department, and Buttar's group.

After collecting the surveys, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria examined the results and — in conjunction with participating students — will choose its next course of action in the coming weeks.

Students may send letters to the owners of stores with only a few advertisements,

congratulating and thanking them for not promoting tobacco use. However, shops showcasing too much advertising could get a concerned note from the teens.

"We don't want a lot of youth to get drawn into smoking," Buttar said.

The students also plan to evaluate whether the businesses are in violation of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, legislation that gives the Food and Drug Administration regulatory powers over the industry.

"[Youth] will listen to their peers more than adults and political leaders," said Mayor Bill Euille, who attended Kick Butts Day. "The message we were hoping to [convey] is to encourage them to decrease the number of youth that start smoking here in Alexandria."

Though the organization is still sifting through the sur-

prised to see what they described as an overwhelming amount of tobacco advertisements in 7-Elevens throughout the city.

The students were given a list of all stores in the Port City that sold alcohol and tobacco products and tried to visit as many as possible. The stops included gas stations, supermarkets and pharmacies.

"We want to empower the youth to participate in the prevention effort," Euille said. "It has been successful since it launched last year, and we hope it's successful in years to come."

This year's event marks the city's second time participating in Kick Butts Day. It's part of a larger effort to curb tobacco use in Alexandria.

Last year, city councilors joined coalition supporters in posting signs at parks, playgrounds and bus shelters that asked visitors to refrain from smoking. The initiative followed city council's approval of a resolution requesting city staff place signs discouraging smoking at these locations.



“The message we were hoping to [convey] is to encourage them to decrease the number of youth that start smoking here in Alexandria.”

—Bill Euille
Mayor of Alexandria

vey's results, Buttar said many smaller stores and marts in Alexandria limited pro-tobacco advertisements. By contrast, though, students were sur-

REMORSE

FROM | 8

— and many would prefer not to shell out the cash. Instead, it's easier to put a "for rent" sign in the window to attract potential tenants, thus avoiding a broker.

But, Mindrup said, potential tenants should still hire an attorney to read over the lease. More often, though, retailers just sign the documents, leaving them in a bind similar to Sapp's situation.

It's well known the real estate climate in the commonwealth favors landlords, Chamowitz said, and tenants in surrounding jurisdictions face a similar lack of protection under the law.

"I think the Virginia Legislature is moving away from a buyers' beware philosophy with respect to residential tenants and moving closer to a situation where the state is trying to create a more-level playing field for residential tenants but doesn't feel as though it's neces-

sary to do the same for commercial tenants," Chamowitz said.

But across the Potomac, laws act to the contrary. While Virginia favors the property owner, District laws are much more protective of the tenants.

"It's a very different kind of situation," Chamowitz said. "The District of Columbia is very different than Virginia."

Still, Sapp is holding out despite the requests from her landlord, which includes replacing the building's heating, venting and air-conditioning rooftop unit and relocating the hot water heater. Citing pending litigation, her landlord declined to comment for this story.

Sapp hopes to take her plight before City Hall in an effort to get commercial tenant-friendly laws passed. But, until then, she will remain in her location while juggling the ever-increasing improvement requests.

"There should be laws in place to protect everyone, not just for residents," Sapp said. "There's nothing to protect me from her."

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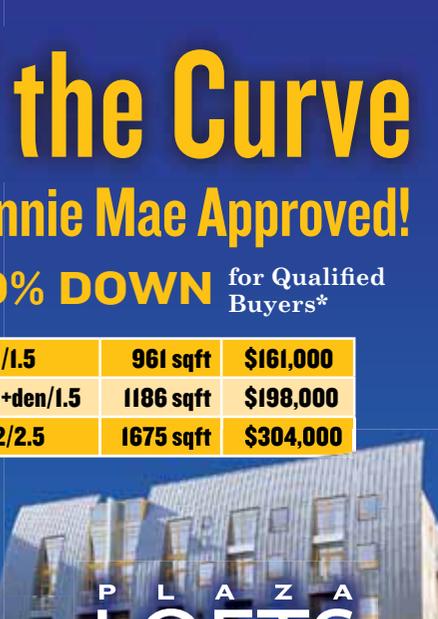
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ACCOUNTABILITY

FROM | 1

while petitioning Sengel to appoint a special prosecutor and convene a special grand jury.

Neither seems likely at this point, though officials did notify the Justice Department in the wake of the shooting, giving federal authorities the chance to review the incident.

"Please be assured that the Alexandria Police Department values human life above all else and that a thorough investigation of the facts surrounding the death of Mr. Sellers is being conducted," Cook wrote back.

"I assure you that this matter will be thoroughly and appropriately investigated," Sengel replied. "It has always been my practice to conduct independent inquiry into any instance of use of deadly force by the Alexandria Police Department and to release the results of such inquiry to the public."

Both responses came as a surprise to Beltrante, who thought the two city agencies would welcome the chance to turn the investigation over to a third party. Doing so would clear the air of any ethical questions, he said.

"It's not uncommon for this to happen, and it gives the people a voice rather than just keeping it within the police department and the commonwealth's attorney in that jurisdiction, because in most cases, nothing ends up being done," Beltrante said.

But Sellers' death isn't Sengel's first investigation into a police-involved shooting. He's confident his office will handle the probe properly.

"Obviously, we work with the police department, but I think we're perfectly capable of taking an objective view of this case," he said.

'THEY COULD HAVE USED OTHER MEANS'

Troubled by the 2009 death of David Masters at the hands of Fairfax County police officers, Beltrante formed the coalition a few months later. Since then the former District cop has lobbied county officials to form an oversight body to review police actions and examined subsequent shooting incidents across the commonwealth.

Though he admits there's little known about Sellers' death, which is part of the reason he's pushing for an independent investigation, the February shooting struck him as problematic.

Sellers, 30, died after allegedly confronting police officers with a firearm on the 3400 block of Duke St. Local law enforcement officials made few other details about the incident public.

Despite the dearth of information, Beltrante is confident the situation could have been handled better. It needn't have ended with Sellers' death, he said.

"They could have used other means: stun gun, Tasers or even just conversed with the guy. I think they were just hasty in their actions," Beltrante said. "No. 1 we're very concerned over the lack of accountability and transparency when it comes to instances of this type — they release so little information and we just don't like it. ... From what I see and what little information was released, it appears [that] this was a matter that could have been handled in a better manner."

Though it's too soon to know whether Beltrante is right, Sengel said his office's investigation would end in one of two ways: a hefty report on the incident or a criminal trial.

"That's the process that's in place," Sengel said. "I

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think that’s proven to be an effective method for dealing with these cases.”

FOLLOWING CULPEPER’S LEAD

Sengel’s review of the incident will begin after police hand over the results of the department’s internal investigation, which is expected to happen as soon as this week.

But don’t expect information immediately, he said. Interviewing the officers involved — all on paid administrative leave pending the outcome — and additional lab work could stretch the investigation out.

As for a special prosecutor, Sengel said it might be warranted if an individual connected to the office, like an employee or personal friend of the commonwealth’s attorney, was charged with a crime. A special grand jury might be necessary if witnesses refused to cooperate with authorities, he said, but that doesn’t seem to be the case with Sellers’ death.

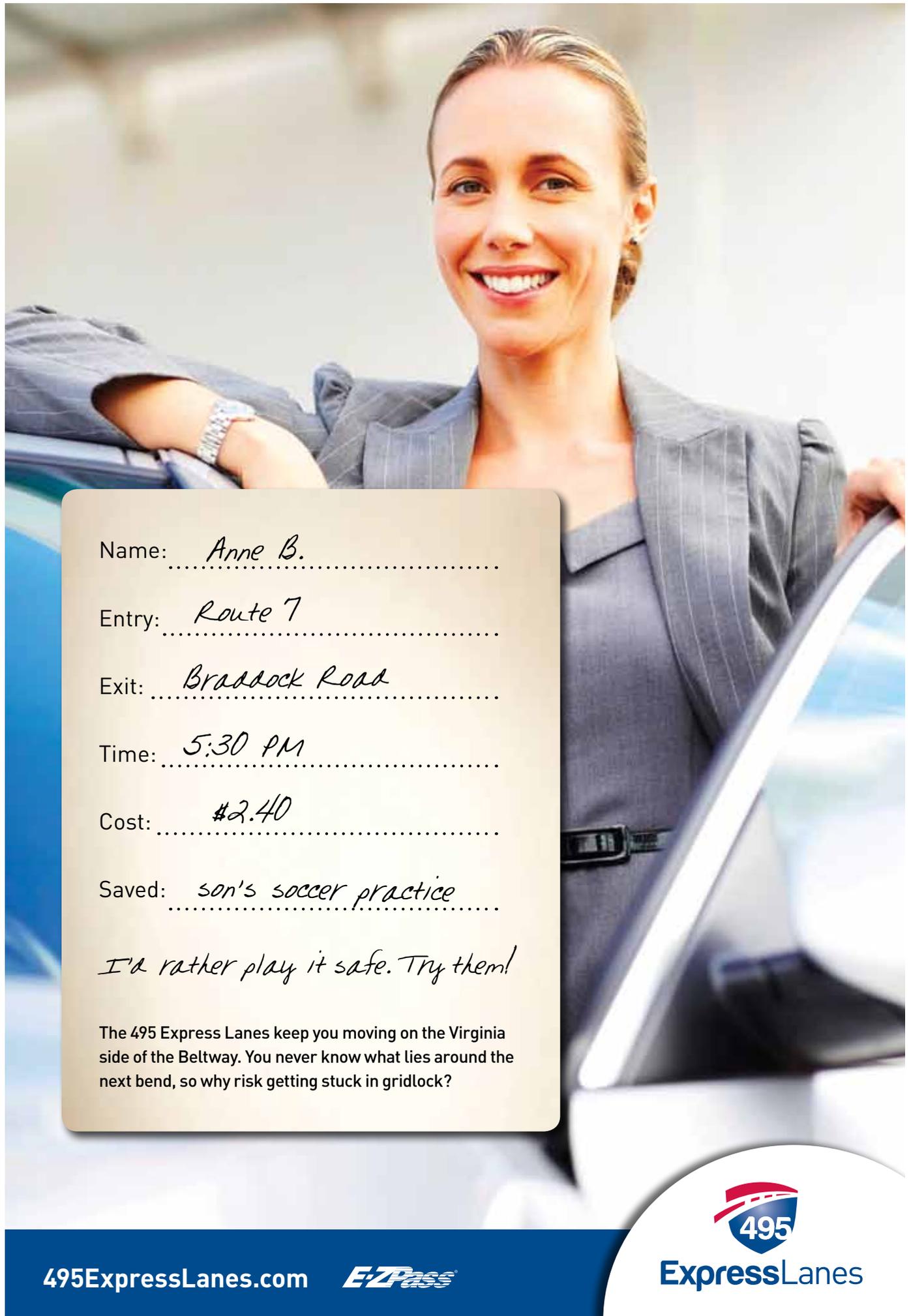
“It’s my intention to proceed with [the investigation] within the office,” Sengel said.

Beltrante believes Port City officials need to learn from Culpeper’s example. When an officer shot and killed Patricia Cook, a homemaker and Sunday school teacher, in February 2012, authorities in the small Virginia town turned to the state police for help.

That officer, Daniel Harmon-Wright, was indicted by a special grand jury and later found guilty of voluntary manslaughter — among other charges stemming from the shooting — in January.

While the two shooting deaths share few details other than police involvement, Beltrante believes Sellers’ death warrants the same level of scrutiny.

“We feel it’s so questionable it would be better if it were sent to a special grand jury,” he said.



Name: *Anne B.*
 Entry: *Route 7*
 Exit: *Braddock Road*
 Time: *5:30 PM*
 Cost: *\$2.40*
 Saved: *son's soccer practice*

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SCENE AROUND TOWN

Letter from Palestine

Photographer forges new bonds in the Levant

BY SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Cloudlike puffs of our breath escape as we giggle, buried under six blankets and illuminated by our smartphone flashlight apps, trying to figure out how we're going to make it through the night.

There is no warmth save what an old kerosene heater that is propped up on an old broom handle gives off. It's powerless against the farmhouse's icy stone walls. Creeping across the marble floor to use the bathroom is unthinkable — the cold penetrates the thickest of wool socks straight into our bones.

Without any discussion, we end up in the middle of the bed hoping to create a warm spot. Excited for our first full day on the farm, we manage to fall asleep quickly.

We're in Palestine to make a documentary on behalf of the Middle East Investment Initiative, a nonprofit formed to stimulate economic development in the region. It has brought us to the tiny, hilly village of Nisf Ijbal in northern Palestine. But except for the Arabic and occasional Yasser Arafat graffiti, one would think we were in southern France — the rocky hills are covered in sweet-smelling herbs.

Our driver, Eshak, left us the day before and will return for us the following evening. He's protective and has become our friend. He already had called to check in on us, making sure we were OK since no one had met the farmer before our arrival. But we felt

right at home, making buddies with the family's three children, all younger than 5.

That first morning the sun is at least an hour or more from rising when Athan, the Muslim call to prayer, begins. I bolt upright and stare directly at the videographer, Caroline, traveling with me. It feels as if we had just fallen asleep, but the prayer, which sounds as if it's coming from under the bed, has

“We've all bonded and don't want the day to end. We sit in silence on the rocks, stretching the time in an attempt to make it last.”

jolted me awake.

I love the prayers that drift across the cities of North Africa and the Middle East, but this one is piped through a loud speaker directly above the farmhouse. It's meant for the entire valley below to hear and even wakes Caroline, who has managed to sleep through everything else these past three weeks.

I mutter something and can't go back to sleep. We laugh at the absurdity of the early hour. The heater has gone out, and it's still dark. The rooster is up and so are we, shivering as we slide into our frosty, dirty clothes.

THE FRUITS OF LABOR

The air is crisp, the sun toasty and a beautiful breakfast

— all from the farm — has been set out on the terrace outside our room: warm pita, zaatar, olive oil, olives, halloumi cheese and tea spiced with maramia, a sweet herb that grows in the hills surrounding the village. I feel my bones defrost with the tea and the sun's heat. The farmer and his wife soon join us for the morning meal.

Imagine Daniel Day-Lewis in a Gilligan hat, and that's Khadir, the farmer. His wife is a very slight and shy Catherine Zeta-Jones lookalike.

They sit with us while their three children play in the sunshine. “Saha,” we all say, the Arabic equivalent of bon appetit. We speak very little Arabic, and Khadir speaks very little English. Somehow we manage to communicate through smiles, gestures and the Arabic book I occasionally pull out. Our company isn't awkward but rather refreshing and real. We're curious about each other.

We found Khadir through a farming cooperative in northern Palestine and were told he is a proud innovator. After years of working illegally in a plastics factory in Israel to support his family, he is finally able to make his living off his land in Palestine.

He worked nights for six years, sleeping on the factory floor and never seeing daylight or his children. Khadir has since joined the farming cooperative, which supports fair trade. Together, the farmers have implemented organic farming techniques, begun selling their products internationally and seen their income double. It's a big step for Palestine and its farmers, and it's been a successful move for Khadir.

A TRIP INTO TOWN

Eager to show us his vil-

SEE PALESTINE | 13



PHOTOS/SUSAN HALE THOMAS

(Above) Mohamed, the son of Khadir, plays in the streets of Nisf Ijbal, a town in Northern Palestine. (Middle) Khadir relaxes with his family after the harvest. (Bottom) The moon rises above Nisf Ijbal.

PALESTINE

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lage and farm, Khadir leads us through the dusty streets after breakfast, greeting the women opening their windows and the men gathering out in the narrow streets for their first cigarette of the day.

At the village school we plant olive saplings as the children and teachers arrive for classes. Because the children and teachers are distracted by the spectacle of us filming, school starts late.

Still, they serve us coffee, chocolates and cookies, as Palestinian hospitality dictates. I detest coffee, and this coffee is particularly strong, like sludge in a cup. Unable to choke it down and fearful I will offend our hosts, I switch my cup with Caroline, unbeknownst to her. I confessed my sin days later on the plane ride home.

We stop by another olive grove to get Khadir's horse, a small animal with a sweet demeanor. A few children and the farmer's son, Mohamed, who is celebrating his fifth birthday,

join us, skipping along the way.

Winding down the road to the bottom of the village we reach another grove where we stop to clear some underbrush. It's winter and Khadir is busy with maintenance work as the harvest has ended. Yet another pot of tea arrives, and we sit in the dirt for our third beverage break of the morning.

Since there's not a lot of work to be done, Khadir has the luxury of entertaining us and leads us up a valley along a stream. Terraced rocky hills spotted with more olive trees rise up on either side of us. These hills belong to Khadir and his family. He is proud to share his farm with us. It is stunningly beautiful here, and he can tell we are pleased and enjoying ourselves.

Khadir thinks it would be fun to put Caroline up on the barebacked horse and lead her. It turns comical — she can't get up without the assistance of two men, who must pick her up and put her on the horse. Khadir stops to take a picture of her for a keepsake. At some point I end up on the back of the horse with Khadir.

With the temperature rising, we're glad to be outside and warm. We sit along the crystal clear stream, enjoying the sun and watering the horse. Khadir squats down and cups the water into his hands, takes a sip and then splashes the rest onto his face. We share some apple juice and feed the horse cookies.

A few local girls make their way down the streambed, laughing despite soaked jeans. I talk soccer with some of the local boys by sketching a field in the dirt with a twig. From this, we manage to teach each other some English and Arabic.

WE ARE FAMILY

Saving the best for last, later in the afternoon Khadir takes us to the top of his mountain with the tractor. Caroline and I ride in the back of a trailer with a couple of the kids — I take pictures while she films. The dirt road is steep and washed out, but the view is breathtaking and worth being jostled about. We're filthy and completely in awe.

We've all bonded and don't want the day to end. We sit in silence on the rocks, stretching

the time in an attempt to make it last. The light is golden, the sky a deep blue and the ground covered in sweet oregano.

A little later Eshak managed to find us at the top of the mountain and is happy to join us for a sit. He translates, but we've understood all along despite the language difference: Khadir wants us to know we are welcome anytime. We are family now.

We ended the evening back

on the terrace with a delicious chicken and rice meal. The kids are washed, the sun has set, the moon is up and it's time for bed. The children's laundry sways in the evening breeze. We hug the kids, toss the littlest in the air and say our goodbyes.

We feel the same, Khadir. We are family now.

The writer is a freelance photographer for the Alexandria Times.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To have your event considered for our calendar listings, please email events@alextimes.com. You can also post your event directly to our online calendar by visiting www.alextimes.com.

Now through September 30

OCCUPIED CITY: LIFE IN CIVIL WAR ALEXANDRIA EXHIBITION

This exhibition examines life in an American town seized and held by its federal government, following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time through their words, as well as period photographs and collections items. Suggested admission is \$2. **Time:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday

Location: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. **Information:** 703-746-4994 or www.alexandriahistory.org

Now through December 31

MARSHALL HOUSE INCIDENT EXHIBITION The deaths of Union Col. Elmer Ellsworth and secessionist James

Jackson at the Marshall House Hotel along King Street during the Federal occupation of Alexandria on May 24, 1861, stirred patriotic fervor in the north and south. This exhibit at Fort Ward features objects from the museum collection — like a star from the flag which had flown over Marshall House and loan items from the Mary Custis Lee chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy — to tell this notable story about the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria.

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday **Location:** Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road **Information:** 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

March 28

BLOCKBUSTER THURSDAYS

Come watch "Alex Cross." **Time:** 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. **Location:** Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. **Information:** 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

MITE NIGHT The Greatness Initiative Social Club wants to bring people together for uplifting social activities that serve and enrich the community. Guest lecturer David Smith, a professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, will discuss his innovative work on the mapping and elimination of malaria in the

developing world. **Time:** 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. **Location:** The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. **Information:** 703-746-4994 or <http://alexandriava.gov/lyceum>

March 29 - 30

LEE-FENDALL EASTER EGG HUNT

Celebrate spring with the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Lee-Fendall House's most popular family event brings fun into its half-acre garden, where children will collect eggs, visit with the Easter Bunny, and enjoy other special crafts and activities. Tickets are \$10 per child and \$5 per adult. **Time:** 1 and 3 p.m. Friday; and 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday

Location: Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. **Information:** 703-548-1789 or www.leefendallhouse.org

March 29

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PLAY-GROUP

Children learn valuable social skills and improve their developmental skills through play. Parents and caregivers will join their child in stimulating activities that reinforce physical, cognitive and social development. The playgroup is free. **Time:** 10:30 a.m. to noon

Location: Cora Kelly Recreation Center,

THE LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA PRESENTS

33 Variations 4/27 - 5/18

Katherine, an eminent musicologist, is determined to discover the reason Beethoven spent so much time writing a series of variations on a second-rate waltz he once described as "a cobbler's patch." This modern-day scholar confronts her own mortality and uses Beethoven's letters to transport the audience into the last days of the musical genius's life.

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Filled with heartfelt laughs. A real gem." Entertainment Tonight Online

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Tina Fey and Paul Rudd sparkle." Elle Magazine

Let someone in

ADMISSION ✓

Michael Sheen Lily Tomlin

FOCUS FEATURES PRESENTS A DEPTH OF FIELD PRODUCTION A PAUL WEITZ FILM TINA FEY PAUL RUDD "ADMISSION" MICHAEL SHEEN WALLACE SHAWN AND LILY TOMLIN STARRING KERRY SHARDEN AND PAUL SCARNE

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Shop and Dine in ALEXANDRIA

THIS
Easter
VisitAlexandriaVA.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Welcomes You

We invite you to join us in celebrating the Resurrection of Christ this Easter at one of our many service offerings:

The Great Vigil of Easter
Saturday, March 30
7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday
March 31

6:52 a.m. Sunrise Service
at St. Paul's Cemetery

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with Music

9:00 a.m. Family Service with Brass

11:00 a.m. Festive Eucharist with Choir and Brass



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
228 S. Pitt St. Alexandria, VA 22314
www.stpaulsalexandria.com



**Sheraton
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Easter Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

11:00AM – 3:00PM

ADULTS \$24.95 CHILDREN \$14.95 (ages 4-12), FREE (ages 3 & under)

- Unlimited Champagne & Mimosas
- All your Breakfast Favorites
- Carving Station/Omelet Station
- Salmon and Shrimp
- Exceptional Entrees & Dessert Bar

Private Parties and Large Groups Welcome, Contact Mallory 703-518-8795
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Reservations Suggested
(703) 823-3168 • www.hanatokyo.com

Trinity United Methodist Church

~
Easter Sunday Worship
10:45 AM

2911 Cameron Mills Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22302



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SOCIETY FAIR

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- Easter Breakfast Bag
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call Alexandria Times
at 703-739-0001.

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**Holiday Inn & Suites of Old Town Alexandria and
Executive Chef Mark Henry presents
Easter Brunch
Sunday, March 31, 2013**

Extensive Buffet to include:

Assortment of freshly baked pastries featuring croissant, muffins, scones and bagels with flavored and traditional cream cheese.

Display of Smoked Salmon, Mussels, and White Fish. Seafood Ceviche
Garnish of Egg whites, Capers, Diced Tomatoes, Red Onion

Assorted International Cheese display with liver Paté, Chutney and preserves

Salad Stations to include:

- Waldorf Salad
- Panzanella Salad
- Quinoa Salad
- Grilled Vegetable Salad
- Fresh Fruit Salad

Live action Omelet Station with your choice of toppings
Waffle station with bourbon cream, macerated berries, flavored syrup

Traditional Breakfast buffet items to include:

- Scrambled Eggs
- Turkey Bacon
- Pork Links

Carved Top Round, Au Jus, horseradish cream, silver dollar roll
Pan seared Chicken with Late Cider Butter Sauce
Oven Roasted Potatoes with Rosemary and Bell Peppers

Dessert Stations Include:

- Bourbon Bread Pudding
- Pecan squares
- Chocolate chip cookies

Adults: \$34.50 plus tax and gratuity

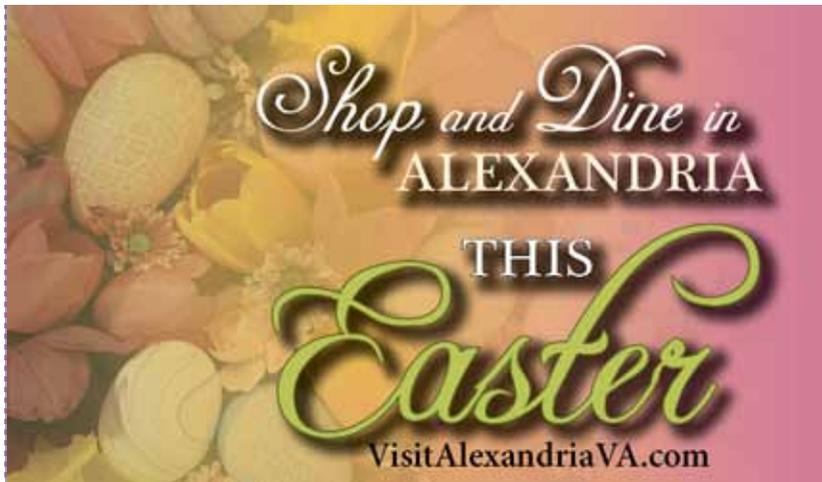
Children: \$14.50 + +

The Holiday Inn & Suites is pleased to offer
two seating times for your convenience at 11:00 am and 1:30 pm.

Please call 703-548-6300 Ext.570 for reservations

625 1st St., Alexandria, VA 22314
www.hioltdtownalexandriahotel.com





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ALEXANDRIA

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Easter

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Catering
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Asian Bistro | 809 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.836.1515

Celebrating Easter With Fun & Style

When: Sunday, March 31st **Where:** The Holiday Inn of Alexandria SW
Seating Times: 10:30AM open until 3:00PM. Every 30 minutes (New seating format this year)

Soups: Roasted Tomato Basil, Chicken & Lemon Orzo
Entrees: Tilapia Stuffed w/Maryland Crab, Shrimp Creole, Mediterranean Easter Lamb, Pan Seared Chicken Breast w/Rosemary Orange Cream Sauce, Farfalle w/Bolognese (beef) Sauce, Broccoli, Red Pepper & Onion Frittata
Carving Station: Honey Baked Ham w/Pineapple Glaze, Top Round Roast Beef w/Au Jus & Horseradish Cream Sauce
Omelet Station: Omelets & Eggs Made To Order
Sides: Pork & Turkey Sausage Links, Crisp Sliced Bacon, Belgian Waffles, Fresh Spring Vegetable Medley, Herb Roasted Potatoes with Shallots, Saffron Rice w/Fresh Herbs
Salads: Seasonal Fruit & Cheese Display w/Gourmet Crackers & Flatbreads, Classic Caesar Salad, Tri Color Tortellini Primavera Salad, Waldorf Salad w/Local Apples & Walnuts, Fresh Baked Breads, Bagels & Hot Cross Buns
Kids' Corner: Popcorn Chicken, Homemade Macaroni & Cheese, Tater Tots
Desserts: Novelty Ice Cream Bars & Cups, Gourmet Cakes, Pies & Pastries
Beverages: Coffee, Tea & Soft Drinks

Call (703) 960-3400 ext. 1120 for reservations
18% gratuity on all parties of 8 or more
Adult (\$28.00), children 12 & under (\$14.00), children under 3 (free)

Easter Egg Hunt led by the Easter Bunny / **Indoor swimming pool open at noon for all guests**





Holiday Inn Alexandria SW
2460 Eisenhower Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.holidayinnalexandria.com

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Buy 1 Entrée Get One FREE
4:30 - 6:30pm
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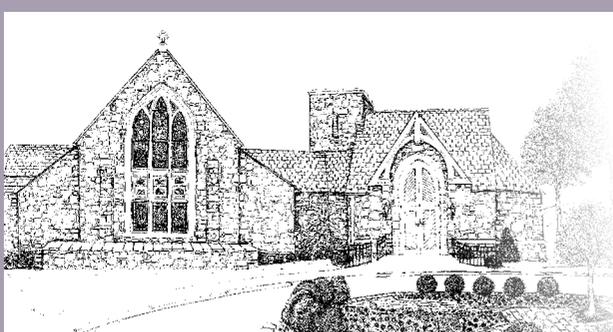
From the founder of
Au Pied de Cochon



Yves' Bistro

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Across from Eisenhower Metro Station
703-329-1010 • Open 7 Days a Week

SIMONE MARCHAND
singing *Edith Piaf*
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JOIN US this Easter!

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA
(703) 549-1980
www.gracealex.org

The Great Vigil - EASTER EVE
March 30 at 8:00 PM

Holy Eucharist - EASTER DAY
March 31, 7:30 AM & 5:00 PM

Festival Eucharist- EASTER DAY
March 31, 9:00 & 11:15 AM

Misa y celebración- EASTER DAY
March 31, 9:00 AM

Let's Eat

A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times

Easter brings about special buffets and brunches

With Easter comes colorful eggs, chocolate and, most importantly, time with friends and family. Make this Sunday special with a local restaurant, as many establishments are offering fantastic options to celebrate the holiday.

The new owners at Trattoria da Franco at 305 S. Washington St. will welcome patrons to their delicious European-style brunch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Italian restaurant has a loyal following, and its brunch receives rave reviews. For more information, call 703-548-9338 or visit www.trattoria-dafranco.com.

Down by the river at 203 The Strand, Chadwicks offers a well-liked brunch menu with super selections. Customers love stopping in on the weekends, and Easter weekend will

be no different. Relax with a mimosa, bloody mary or some champagne. For more details, call 703-836-4442 or check out www.chadwicksrestaurants.com.

Dishes of India at 1510-A Belle View Blvd. serves incredible Indian cuisine with outstanding service, making the eatery perfect for Easter lunch or dinner. The restaurant opens from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch and from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. for dinner. Call 703-660-6085 to learn more.

In the West End, Hana Tokyo entertains customers with its hibachi chefs, who slice, dice and flip eggs, vegetables, meats and shrimp with amazing speed and precision. The 4600 Duke St. eatery also provides a warm and inviting atmosphere, which is open from 4:30 to 10

p.m. Easter Sunday. To find out more, dial 703-823-3168 or go to www.hanatokyo.com.

For something different, Society Fair will offer an Easter breakfast in a bag for \$80, which comes with quiche, scones, sparkling wine and other goodies. In addition, the 277 S. Washington St. establishment provides one-stop shopping for hosting a brunch or dinner. For more information, call 703-683-3247.

A fantastic French option is Yves Bistro off Eisenhower Avenue at 235 Swamp Fox Road. The eatery opens at 9 a.m. Sunday. Ring 703-329-1010 or visit www.yvesbistrova.com for additional details.

Bastille, at 1201 N. Royal St., serves excellent cuisine, and reservations are essential on Easter. Award-winning chefs

Christophe and Michelle Poteaux's bistro and wine bar will wow everyone Sunday. Call 703-519-3776 or go to www.bastillerestaurant.com for more information.

Holiday Inn on Eisenhower Avenue, across from the Hoffman Town Center, will have a special Easter buffet as well as an egg hunt led by the Easter Bunny. The buffet — from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — includes crab, lamb, chicken, ham and roast beef. For vegetarians, Holiday Inn offers pasta and salad, and kids will love the Kids' Corner selections. For more information, call 703-960-3400x1120 or visit www.holidayinnalexandria.com.

Sheraton Suites's Fin and Hoof Bar and Grill, at 801 N. Saint Asaph St., also will have an expansive Easter brunch

buffet. The fare includes roast beef, ham, omelets, vegetable frittata, shrimp, salmon, soup and salads. Adults will enjoy the unlimited champagne and mimosas. To learn more, call 703-549-6622 or go to www.sheratonsuitesalexandria.com.

Not far from Fin and Hoof sits the Holiday Inn Old Town at 625 1st St., where executive chef Mark Henry has a brunch that sounds divine. The options include pastries, bagels, smoked salmon, mussels, white fish, chicken, omelets, salad stations and waffles. Call 703-548-6300x570 for reservations at the two seating times: 11 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. For more information, check out www.hioldtownalexandriahotel.com.

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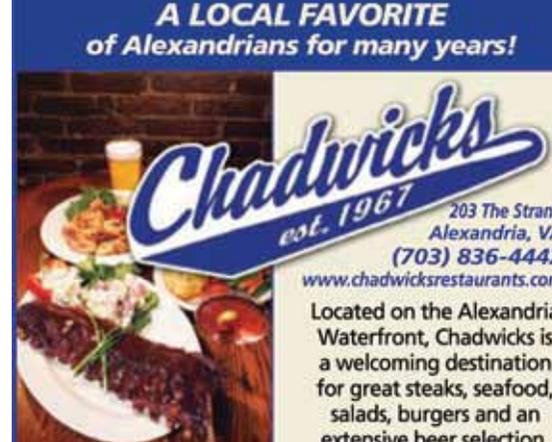


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SPORTS

T.C. cycling club picks up speed



PHOTO/JIM MCELHATTON

(From left) Mohammad Yaziji, Ricky Fonseca, Yahya Yaziji, Wahbi Kabir, Matthew Sinkin, Dean Martin and Alex Wolz rest during a recent ride. The T.C. Williams bike club, started by Wolz, has organized bike-to-school events, encouraged students to commute and helped out with charitable causes. The group, though, mostly is about joining together and riding.

Student-led group tours region on two wheels

BY JIM MCELHATTON

Long before T.C. Williams senior Alex Wolz was born, his father bought a yellow Schwinn 10-speed bike with the money he'd saved from his childhood job as a paperboy in Wisconsin.

But his father quickly outgrew the bike, and so it sat untouched for nearly 40 years until Wolz walked into his grandfather's garage, noticed it and said, "That's a sweet frame."

He took the bike home, stripped off the gears, derailleurs and other parts he didn't like and, after a lot of work, gave the discarded Schwinn a new life as a steel-framed, single-speed bike that can be spotted cruising up and down the area's many bike trails.

Wolz keeps the cycle around

as a spare to lend to friends and fellow riders in a bike club that he helped to start at T.C. a few years ago. While the club has organized bike-to-school events, encouraged students to commute and helped out with charitable causes, mostly it's just about getting together and riding.

"It's a good way to spend time with friends," Wolz said during a recent club ride. "You have the great American road trip, of course, but with a bike you can stop and see cool stuff and you're just more in touch with everything. Especially here — we're so close to D.C. and there's so much culture. There's just no better way to see it than on a bike."

Indeed, the T.C. club has toured the Washington monuments and organizes rides to see the cherry blossoms each spring. Last year, it wasn't uncommon to hear several different lan-

guages spoken as exchange students — from countries such as Moldova, Lebanon, Spain and Chile — joined on rides along the Mount Vernon Trail.

Still, some trips are more popular than others. On a cold and drizzly recent Sunday, the area bike trails were mostly empty. Undeterred, seven T.C. cyclists met by the parking garage at the school for a weekend ride.

Five were seniors: Wolz, Mohammad Yaziji, Wahbi Kabir, Matthew Sinkin, and Dean Martin. They were joined by junior Ricky Fonseca and sophomore Yahya Yaziji. And the group rode off from the parking lot around noon, weaving through the streets of Alexandria and Arlington toward Four Mile Run Trail, which carried them onto the Washington and Old Dominion Trail.

After a few miles, they

stopped at the old Southern Railway caboose off a stretch of the trail in Arlington. They sat around a park table, searched their pockets and backpacks for snacks, and talked about biking.

When he was little, Sinkin said, he broke his arm, and for years, he never wanted to learn how to ride a bike. But when he was in ninth grade, with extra time after school, he decided to learn. Now, he's hooked.

Riding the bike that had once belonged to Wolz's then-paperboy dad in Wisconsin, Fonseca said he first heard Wolz talking about the bike club in the lunchroom. He said he thought about joining but didn't decide until a few months later. He said he was just looking for something to do after school.

"It's been a lot fun," Fonseca said. "Lots of fun."

For Martin, who helped Wolz organize the group, biking

has been a part of his family's routine since as far back as he can remember. He's an experienced cyclist, but one of his favorite outings is on Memorial Day, when his family rides from Alexandria to National Harbor for lunch.

Sitting on the bench, they swapped other biking stories. They also talked about the plans Martin, Sinkin, Wolz and Kabir have for spring break. They'll be riding about 40 to 50 miles a day, camping out along the way as they head toward the Roppahannock River.

Soon, a light rain began to fall. They got on their bikes and pedaled back toward school. But along the way, one of the riders spotted a hawk in a tree overhead. They pulled off the trail for a closer look.

"Did you see that?" one of them asked excitedly.

Only on a bike.

CALENDAR

FROM | 13

25 W. Reed Ave.

Information: Contact Deatrice Williams at 703-746-3430 or deatrice.williams@alexandriava.gov

A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF NATALIE COLE

National recording artist Lakesha "AMEYA" Taylor will dedicate this night to Natalie Cole — as well as other great musicians like Roberta Flack, Angie Bofill and Betty Wright. Tickets are \$25.

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St.

Information: 703-548-8899

March 30

OLD TOWN FARMERS MARKET

The market includes local dairy, fish, fruits and vegetables. There is free parking in the garage during market hours.

Time: 7 a.m.

Location: Market Square, 301 King St.

Information: 703-746-3200

EBOOKS AT ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

Come learn how to use the library's ebook collection on an e-reader, smartphone, mp3 player or computer.

Time: 11 a.m. to noon

Location: Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St.

Information: 703-746-1703 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

OPENING RECEPTION: HELLO SPRING

Ashleigh Carter's illustrations in Hello Spring are personal journal entries of her life experiences. Inspired by random moments and objects from day-to-day life, Carter's drawing style can be described as quirky, distorted and exaggerated. Come meet the artist at this free reception. The exhibition runs through May 26.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: Revel, 1026 King St.

Information: 703-336-3664 or www.revelstyle.com

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF ARLINGTON

This Copland Celebration is an incredible tribute to one of America's greatest composers, Aaron Copland. The concert will feature the Symphony Orchestra of Arlington, a choir, two vocal soloists, two pianists and a narrator. The event also includes a beautiful gala and silent auction. Tickets are \$25 and \$20 for seniors.

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive

Information: 804-322-9328 or symphonyorchestraofarlington.com

March 31

CIVIL WAR SUNDAY Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, a showcase of an original May 26, 1861, edition New York Tribune detailing Col. Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria; a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth's death; a TimeTravelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy; a diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria to warm Civil War hospital tents during the winter of 1861; a cocked-and-loaded Wickham musket discarded in a privy during the 1860s; and an exhibit on the Lee Street site during the Civil War. The event is free.

Time: 1 to 5 p.m.

Location: Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St.

Information: 703-746-4399

April 2

MORRISON PRESENTS: AUTHOR AND ARTIST MAUREEN LAURAN

Maureen Luran will discuss the medieval pilgrimage known as "The Way" — the Camino de Santiago — and share stories and images from her solitary 500-mile trek. She also will present images of her artworks that were inspired by the Camino and which have become illustrations in her recently published book, "Carrying Grace to Santiago." The event is free.

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St.

Information: 703-838-8000 or www.morrisonhouse.com

AUTHOR SERIES: 'SLIPPING THE CABLE' Local author Bill Schweigart will discuss his latest Coast Guard thriller, "Slipping the Cable."

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.

Information: 703-746-1702

April 3

FREE SCREENING: 'THE RED VIOLIN'

In anticipation of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's upcoming concert, The Music of Empowerment — featuring soloist Elizabeth Pitcairn, owner of the Red Violin — the group invites everyone to a free screening of the film "The Red Violin." The movie is rated R.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.

Information: 703-548-0885 or www.alexsym.org

BOMBADIL This North Carolina-based band is heading out on the road for their first full-on tour in three years. Bombadil will play with Carolina Chocolate Drops. Tickets are \$25.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com

April 4

EISENHOWER AVENUE WIDENING AND ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Come see a presentation on this roadway improvement project along Eisenhower Avenue between Mill Road and Holland Lane. The project is in the design phase.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St.

Information: Contact Lisa Jaatinen at 703-746-4053 or lisa.jaatinen@alexandriava.gov

THURSDAY NIGHT DATE SERIES: GREG LAMONT TRIO

The Washington Post said, "Greg Lamont's repertoire of jazz and American standards transforms any evening." As a skilled jazz pianist and electrifying organist, he has performed and recorded with numerous artists. Tickets are \$15.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St.

Information: 703-548-8899

April 5

OPENING RECEPTION: TURN ON YOUR MASTERS Artists will pay homage to their favorite masters, question the hoopla surrounding particular

pieces, and praise, critique or dish the artists who have influenced them. Come mingle with the artists and other art appreciators. There also will be a musical performance art event inspired by the legendary opera diva Maria Callas.

Time: 7 to 10 p.m.

Location: Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: www.thedelrayartisans.org

April 6

CLEANUP AT FOUR MILE RUN PARK

The city will host this cleanup site as part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.

Time: 9 to 11 a.m.

Location: Four Mile Run Park, 3700 Commonwealth Ave.

Information: Contact Jesse Maines at jesse.maines@alexandriava.gov

AWLA BABY SHOWER

Stop by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's open house to learn more about the foster care program. The organization will be accepting gifts for the puppies and kittens whose lives will be saved by our foster parents. Please check its website for a list of items needed for the animals.

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Location: Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave.

Information: awla.convio.net

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Our View

It's time for a pair of fresh eyes

Leaders of a grassroots organization dedicated to holding police accountable for their actions have asked city authorities to let outside law enforcement officials investigate the February shooting death of Taft Sellers — to little avail.

While Chief Earl Cook and Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel respectfully declined the request, arguing that their respective agencies were perfectly capable of handling the investigation, we believe the idea has merit and deserves a second look.

Sellers, a city resident, died after an armed confrontation with police officers in the West End, but not much else about the incident has been made public. The details will be revealed in good time, officials have said. If the officers are cleared of wrongdoing, the basic facts will be released in a hefty report on the incident. If not, they will come out during subsequent criminal proceedings.

We agree the police department and commonwealth's attorney's office can handle the investigation. They are, after all, professional investigators.

And, to be clear, we're not suggesting our local law enforcement officials might be tempted to cover up any wrongdoing. Still, by eschewing calls to bring in an independent set of eyes, they open themselves up to that perception.

Changing course and bringing in a third party would clear the air of any ethical questions and put to rest any accusations of a cover-up. And there already are rumors to that effect circulating in the community. While the presence of conspiracy theories is expected in the aftermath of such an incident — especially given the few facts released thus far — local officials should be extremely concerned by their existence.

Frankly, they ought to be doing everything in their power to nip them in the bud.

And what's the harm in bringing in the state police or a special prosecutor? If the officers involved acted appropriately, that will come out whether an outside agency or local investigators review the details of the incident.

Bringing in outside help is hardly a revolutionary idea, whether for police-involved deaths or other potential internal problems. Presented with evidence of employees flouting policies regulating the school district's capital improvement budget, Superintendent Morton Sherman quickly hired an independent auditor to investigate. It was the right move — a bright spot in an otherwise dark time for the district.

Yes, the police department did notify the Justice Department, giving it the opportunity to review the Sellers case, but that's not the same as asking for an independent investigation.

We tend to agree with the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, the group behind the request, that someone with fresh eyes should review the shooting. It's in the best interests of residents and law enforcement officials.

Opinion

“Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe.”

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

Libraries take a hit while Bikeshare expands

To the editor:

Imagine my consternation when once again Alexandria's libraries are on the hit list, while at the same time, the Capital Bikeshare program expands to the tune of \$600,000 — on top of \$360,000 already spent.

But wait just a minute: This is not an anti-bike proclamation. I love bikes, and probably everyone reading this loves bikes. I get it. Bikes are green, and biking is good exercise. Just think, though, with \$600,000 you could buy everyone in Alexandria a bike.

So let's talk about what this issue is — it's fairness in spending. One of the major responsibilities of local government, after health and safety, is public education.

Alexandria's education record is not a proud one. And what does the city do? It proposes cutting the budget for

the critical public service that introduces children to books and the fun of reading and learning. The very libraries that provide research materials for avid students and that give a reading home to seniors who need to be out and about to stay healthy and mentally alert. Libraries are an essential resource for the low- and middle-income families who lack the money for high-speed Internet or books on Kindle or Amazon.

And yet every year Alexandria looks to the libraries for budget cuts. It's just not right to give scarce money to programs that benefit a few. While our public libraries work, as they are intended, for everyone from 3 to 90, the Bikeshare program, according to a Virginia Tech study, serves a very small, special group. Its demographics are eye opening: white, young

(with a mean age of 34.64) and 43 percent holding advanced degrees. These people can afford bikes and are welcome to use our trolleys, the Metro, DASH and the water taxi to move around our very walkable city.

Additionally, while Alexandria's libraries are city-owned and operated, Bikeshare is a private, for-profit organization selling its program worldwide. Two large bicycle-friendly cities welcomed Bikeshare but without taxpayers' dollars: Portland, Ore., and New York City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg dictated that no federal or city taxes would fund its program there.

Due diligence shows there are other bike-sharing programs that do not require expensive kiosks; viaCycle

Elderly and low-income residents can expect to suffer

To the editor:

The Alexandria Times February 28 editorial, "Post-election tax hike: predictable and lamentable," should be required reading for all city residents — especially the elderly.

This city council, along with the city manager, has proposed an enormous property tax hike this year in addition to raising real estate assessments. In this economy, instead of increasing taxes, they should be decreasing them while making significant cuts to the budget.

Low-income renters,

and the elderly that are on fixed incomes, should not have to pay for unnecessary higher rates — for their housing, their parking, their automobile, etc. — just for the privilege of living in this city. An item that has not been mentioned is the spending of \$7 million to redo the King Street Metro station parking lot. Not only is that a terrible waste of our tax dollars, but it also will deprive the handicapped, elderly and others from parking at the station, thus forcing those people to either drive their car downtown or not go to D.C. at all.

This city council is the same group that brought us the Washington Headquarters Services complex and will commercialize — and bring more traffic to — the waterfront. It is unfortunate that we will have to live with these spendthrifts for several more years. There is no end to their greed and disrespect for the interests of the residents of this city.

When will the people here in Alexandria wake up and see how poorly their tax money is spent?

- Florence Foelak
Alexandria

LIBRARIES

FROM | 20

is one and operates on George Mason's campus. So if Bikeshare wants to expand in Alexandria, let the parent company, Alta Bicycle Share Inc., use some of its profits and reinvest, which is what corporations are expected to do. That way, the city gets an expanded bike program but lets taxpayers off the hook.

Alexandria's goal should be to extend rather than reduce the hours or books at its libraries. An analysis shows that two neighborhood libraries, Duncan and Burke, together service almost 60,000 more patrons per year than the main library. And this is despite Beatley boasting three times the number of employees as well as longer hours. These libraries should have their library hours increased, not cut.

In contrast, Arlington appreciates the needs of working families by keeping libraries open to accommodate work-

ing hours. In fact, two are open Sundays until 9 p.m. Since Beatley is not pedestrian friendly — and near only a few homes — perhaps it could be closed Sundays so that Burke, Duncan and Barrett can stay open instead.

Go visit a number of area libraries as I do frequently; it's so heartwarming to see mothers, fathers and their children there. With arms full of books, those children will discover the wonders of storytelling. This is the beginning of a lifetime of reading for them. Walk around and see all the folks doing research or reading with their laptops. See the number of people at computers searching for jobs on the Internet.

I was told that Barrett serves large numbers of new residents and other adults searching for employment, yet librarians and patrons struggle constantly with IT problems that have been budgeted to be fixed — but have yet to happen.

Alexandria's libraries are special places, and they should not have

to struggle and beg for money every year. They should be fully funded along with fire, police and the school district.

Alexandria's libraries serve many; Bikeshare is for a few. Seems like an easy solution to me: Cut Bikeshare and give the city some budget relief. Just ask Bikeshare to pay its way or find another vendor that will. The city already is giving it valuable public sidewalk space for free as well as on-street parking spaces. That's enough.

Finally, the city should make sure taxpayers know that education and libraries do matter by restoring funding to pre-recession hours and opening at least two neighborhood libraries on Sundays. After all, education is a great leveler. All Alexandrians — rich, poor or middle class — deserve the very best you can give them in this regard.

- Linda Couture
Alexandria

Small businesses can, and should, take advantage of mobile technology

It should come as no surprise that more and more of us are attached at the hip, literally and figuratively, to our smartphones.

Nationally, more than 50 percent of the population carries smartphones around with them daily. That statistic is closer to 90 percent in the Washington metropolitan area. Mobile devices allow us to communicate and conduct extensive research wherever we are, while also reporting our patterns and preferences in real-time. Our smartphones are becoming more and more embedded in our daily lives.

The technologies and capabilities associated with mobile devices are increasing exponentially. Devices in our pockets link with sensors in

places where we shop. We no longer have to pull out a credit card to pay at the store. The shop's sensor knows who we are, what we bought and how much to charge us. Our smartphones send GPS signals that, combined with those from fellow travelers along the same route, accurately depict real-time speed of traffic and enable accurate warnings of delays and arrival predictions.

As we grow to expect instant information at our fingertips, small businesses must take advantage of any opportunities to reach potential customers on their smartphones and make sure that their information is easily accessible.

The Alexandria Small Business Development Center recently hosted a mobile marketing for small business program presented by Ray Sidney-Smith of W3 Consulting. It highlighted how urgent it is for every business to develop a mobile marketing strategy. It's not sufficient to just boast a robust website; we must also streamline our messages into a mobile format. We must anticipate ways to connect with our customers' changing mobile needs in a way that adds value

to our interactions. If you are not sure how to approach this, now is the time to find out.

While there is no single mobile marketing strategy that will work for everyone, here are a few common tactics to help you get started:

- Think mobile first in every aspect of your marketing and communications plan. The development center can point you to recommended websites for help.

- Think about the different devices that people use to access your business information and streamline your message to make sure that important content is prominently displayed in a way that will be visible on a laptop, tablet or mobile device. It may also be worth designing a separate mo-



MyView

Bill Reagan

mobile version of your website.

- Consider offering a special discount or deal to customers who use smartphones to share information about your business through Facebook or Twitter.

- Determine how you might be able to use QR codes to increase traffic to your website.

Getting started with mobile marketing may seem intimidating, but the Alexandria Small Business Development Center is here to help. We offer insights on mobile strategies, as well as social media in general. Visit www.alexandriasbdc.org to learn more about our education programs on marketing and social media. We also schedule monthly one-to-one social media clinic sessions with Sidney-Smith who is digital business strategist. As always, our resources and services are provided to Alexandria businesses without cost. For more information, contact the development center at 703-778-1292 or info@alexandriasbdc.org.

The writer is the director of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center.

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OUT OF THE ATTIC

HoJo's made inroads in Alexandria for a time



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Located at 825 N. Washington St. — within eyesight of the Hot Shoppes, Becks Iced Custard stand and Little Tavern (which were discussed in this column over the past several weeks) — stood the local branch of the venerable restaurant chain Howard Johnson.

Johnson began his career in 1925 as a drugstore operator in Quincy, Mass. Purchasing a small store with borrowed money, he quickly realized that the profit from his ice cream counter could far surpass that of pharmaceutical products and concentrated his business interests on iced confections. He soon introduced a new ice cream recipe with an increased amount of butterfat and developed the famous “28 flavors” concept that included every flavor he could imagine. Within several years his concession stands had spread along Massa-

chusetts’ beaches. They offered ice cream, soft drinks and hot dogs in top-sliced “New England style” buns.

Johnson built his first sit-down restaurant in Quincy in the late 1920s, but the stock market crash of 1929 put an end to any hopes of expanding without help. He then turned to friends to fund construction of additional restaurants through one of America’s earliest franchise agreements. By the late 1930s, Howard Johnson restaurants were going up across the nation, mostly along major highways and tourist areas. Their menus included delicious chicken potpie and fried clam rolls.

All of the restaurants were built in a contemporized style based on early American architecture. The company’s trademark logo featured “Simple Simon and the Pie Man,” a whimsical image based on the

children’s nursery rhyme usually seen on the weathervane and as a bas relief sculpture on a wall near restaurant entrances.

Johnson’s Alexandria restaurant, built in 1941, was a perfect complement to the local preference for Colonial architecture during that period. Even so, Baltimore-based architect A. Murray Myers did make certain concessions to the city, substituting natural slate for the chain’s signature roof of orange enameled tiles. The one-story restaurant featured symmetrical wings, a semi-circular entrance portico and large cupola faced by a clock. The former restaurant still stands as a PNC bank.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Weekly Poll

This Week

Should local law enforcement officials ask the state police to investigate Taft Sellers’ death?

- A.** Yes, fresh eyes are needed.
B. No, they can handle it internally.

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Last Week

Are you concerned about the effects of waterfront redevelopment on parking and traffic in Old Town?

- 54%** Yes, it’s a worry.
46% No, it doesn’t concern me.

63 votes

At Home

Getting creative with homebuilding

BY BILL LAHAY

When you think of the hair and clothing styles and the “tune in, turn on, drop out” cultural zeitgeist of the 1960s, those times can seem an ancient memory. Then you hear a still-vibrant Bob Dylan song from the same decade and it hardly seems possible that a half-century has passed. Some things from that era have stayed fresh, and one of them is the deeply ingrained impulse to shape one’s home into a personalized environment.

Architecture writer and editor Richard Olsen’s recent book, “Handmade Houses,” reveals that the dream of designing and handcrafting an artisan home is very much alive, and he includes vintage and modern examples to inspire another generation of owners/builders.

While he does include some particulars of technique and craftsmanship, Olsen’s book serves more as cultural history than as a building guide. Building a home is actually a core element in the early American experience; it’s how much of the country was settled by European immigrants. But the 1960s and 1970s were a chapter unto themselves, and they represent a sort of golden age of the “build your own pad” tradition.

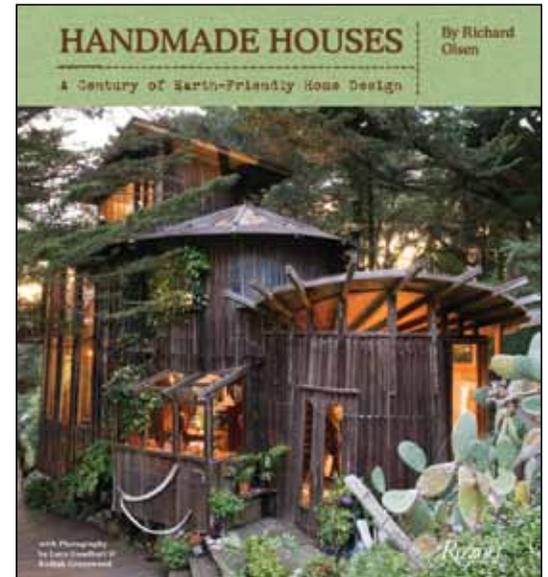
Those decades experienced a confluence of historical events and trends — the war in Vietnam, a burgeoning environmental and counterculture movement, experimentation with international influences and psychedelic substances — that gave the handmade house movement a unique new tone. In addition to the practical issues of providing shelter, these dwellings allowed for

self-expression, a canvas for self-portraiture in wood, glass, steel and stone.

Some of the movement reflected an architecture of protest — a refusal to conform to societal standards, but it was inspired by plenty of positives as well. The pragmatism and economy of do-it-yourself effort, respect for natural ecology and the opportunity for creative expression led many adventurous owners/builders to dive headlong into what were for many unfamiliar waters. They salvaged, scrounged and bartered materials, assembled simple tools, and got to work. The results were as varied as the personalities involved, but some common threads can be found in many of their successes:

- The friends-and-family plan:

SEE **HOMEBUILDING** | 24



Architecture writer Richard Olsen explores unique and inspirational home design concepts in his new book, “Handmade Houses.”

— HOME OF THE WEEK —

Remodeled home becomes a Varsity Park gem

An incredible makeover from bottom to top has transformed this property into a neighborhood showcase. Recent projects on the house include: a new roof, new windows, new air conditioning, new tile in the baths, new paint throughout, a new ceiling with new recessed lighting in the lower-level family room and new carpet in the family room and fourth bedroom.

The main level features gleaming, freshly refinished hardwood floors. The kitchen was just gutted and boasts a new tile floor, beautiful 42-inch cabinets, new granite counters, a new ceramic tile backsplash and new

stainless-steel appliances.

There are two wood-burning fireplaces — one in the living room and one in the family room. An enormous screened-in porch off the dining room is perfect for relaxing with friends or dining eight months a year.

The lower level also has a large storage and laundry room with front-load machines and a new water heater. The large fenced-in yard with deck is a great place for a dog to call home. And keep the car out of the elements in the carport with side access into the house.

The location is incredibly convenient: just off I-395 and

minutes to the Pentagon and Marc Center. In addition, the shops and restaurants of Shirlington, Old Town and Clarendon are a short drive away.

All the improvements — along with the fantastic location — make 4524 LaSalle Ave. a great place to call home.

PHOTOS/MCENEARNEY ASSOCIATES

(Top) The home has a traditional all-brick exterior with carport and screened-in porch. (Bottom) The large living room features refinished hardwood floors, a picture window and wood-burning fireplace.



At a Glance:

Location: 4524 LaSalle Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304

Price: \$674,900

Built: 1961

Neighborhood: Varsity Park

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 3

Fireplaces: 2

Parking: Carport

Contact: Gordon Wood at 703-447-6138 or Chris Hayes at 703-944-7737, both of McEneaney Associates Inc.

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PHOTO/KODIAK GREENWOOD

Creating multiple small structures, like the sections of this coastal California home, allow owners/builders to start with more manageable projects. Lessons learned make subsequent additions easier as skills and budgets grow, and it gives the house a more organic, living character.

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Alexandria Times



HOMEBUILDING

FROM | 23

Modest budgets, repurposed materials and self-taught builders were the norm, which meant skilled crews and heavy equipment weren't an option. A communal ethic encouraged the sharing of knowledge, labor and tools.

- **Materials-driven design:** Salvaged redwood planking from wine tanks, old railroad bridge timbers, discarded windows, driftwood, cheap or free locally available stone, and miscellaneous materials diverted from landfills were harvested and used enthusiastically. Builders sometimes spent years assembling a store of usable materials and designed the house around them, rather than setting a plan to paper and buying goods accordingly.

- **Working in stages, learning as you go:** It's common for these homes to evolve over the years as families, budgets or visions for the project grow. Starting with just a small core structure lets owners develop building and design skills at a manageable pace, and they use those lessons for subse-

quent expansion. Building in incremental stages also suited sloped or rural sites that might have been problematic for large trucks or equipment. Owners liken the process to the organic growth of trees and other living things.

- **Celebrating the bones:** Structural elements, especially massive timbers or heavy stonework, were featured prominently rather than covered with drywall or decoration. This "what you see is what you get" approach echoed a preference for personal authenticity over social niceties.

- **Mixing indoors and outdoors:** Open or fluid transitions between indoor and outdoor spaces not only allowed for more direct contact with the natural world, it meant that small structures would feel more expansive. Popular California locales such as Big Sur and Malibu provided a hospitable climate for these features.

Though handmade house adventures are friendly to small budgets, simple tools and untrained practitioners, Olsen's examples aren't limited to neophytes. Noted architects Bernard Maybeck and Charles Greene are in the lineup, as are

woodcrafters Art Carpenter and Lloyd Kahn, poet Robinson Jeffers, and even Carl Jung, the famous Swiss psychologist. These and other professionals reflect the diversity of this discipline.

Olsen also features recent examples of handmade houses from around the globe, not just the cluster of dwellings that sprung up in coastal California a half-century ago. Granted, those early pioneers enjoyed much more latitude in building permit restrictions than do current builders, and they were allowed at little or no cost to salvage old-growth timbers that nowadays command premium prices when a post-and-beam barn, vintage warehouse or railroad trestle gets dismantled.

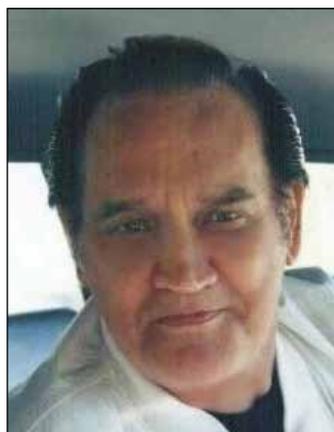
For these and other reasons, following the exact template of those heady days isn't really possible for 21st-century dreamers/builders, but the spirit that inhabits such efforts seems to have remained the same.

"It was a real scene, man," says one of the survivors from the 1960s. Yes, it was, and it still is for those with a sense of adventure.

OBITUARIES

Lawrence Chance

Lawrence Chance, 77, at home with family. Born Norman Carlin Brown in Woodbridge, he was a 22nd generation Virginian who loved history, vintage films, jazz and Elvis Presley's rock n'roll. He was a wonderful dad and extremely loving husband for 50 years. As a pioneer developer of Old Town Alexandria, he restored 113 and 115 King Street and opened the Olde Towne Flower Shoppe in 1972. Predeceased by his parents, Margaret V. (Lunceford) Orrock and Samuel Orrock, he is survived by his wife, five children, one grandchild, two aunts, numerous cousins and his devoted pup, Mugsie.



DONALD P. CHRISTIE (96), of Alexandria, March 19, 2013

DUNCAN PACKER, of Alexandria, March 16, 2013

JESSAMINE C. COLBERT (95), formerly of Alexandria, March 15, 2013

NATHANIEL P. SIMMONS JR. (66), of Alexandria, March 20, 2013

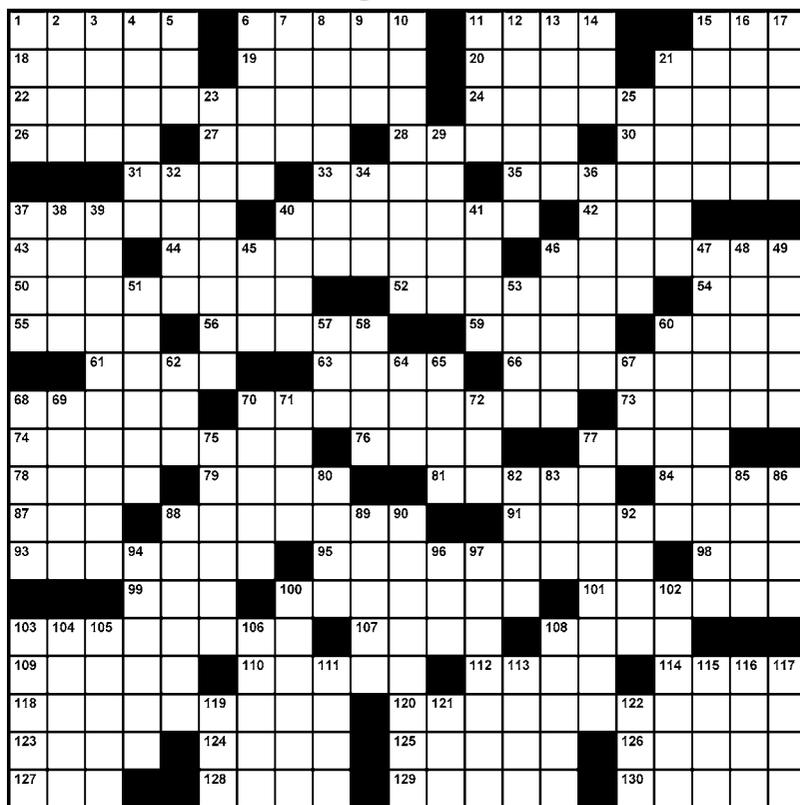
GLADYS T. GORRELL, of Alexandria, March 19, 2013

RICHARD IAN SLIPPEN (66), of Alexandria, March 13, 2013

LEWIS SWARTZ ORNDORFF (95), of Alexandria, March 18, 2013

DAVID G. TUTTEROW (94), of Alexandria, March 21, 2013

Weekly Words



ACROSS

- 1 Bar mitzvah officiator
- 6 Title of respect in colonial India
- 11 Type of dancer in the '70s
- 15 Lingerie item
- 18 Turn swords into plowshares, e.g.
- 19 Having no company
- 20 Bit of creativity
- 21 Archaeological find, perhaps
- 22 Student's burdens
- 24 Impossible to mess up
- 26 First name in Bond portrayals
- 27 Baldwin of "The Departed"
- 28 Polynesian New Zealander

- 30 Motorcycle maker
- 31 Grammy-winning Winans
- 33 Very narrow margin
- 35 Like an epee
- 37 Tumult
- 40 Tire for a heap
- 42 ___-equipped
- 43 Score ending in "all"
- 44 Cuts open, as a living worm
- 46 It moves tape through a machine
- 50 Ivory tower inhabitant
- 52 "Dear me!"
- 54 Canton in Switzerland
- 55 Robust, healthwise
- 56 Battery terminal
- 59 Early inhabitant of Britain

- 60 Sign for the superstitious
- 61 "And a lot of others," in four letters
- 63 "Do ___ others as ..."
- 66 Baron's superior
- 68 Stationed
- 70 Play billiards
- 73 To whom a Muslim prays
- 74 Banished Hindu
- 76 Killed, in Judges
- 77 Army group
- 78 Annoying buzzer
- 79 Mia of soccer fame
- 81 Fresh out of the shower
- 84 London subway
- 87 "Addams Family" cousin
- 88 Seedless mandarin orange

- 91 Glassy
- 93 Graffiti or litter, e.g.
- 95 Hospitals for recuperation
- 98 Baseball arbiter, for short
- 99 Historic introduction?
- 100 Mendes and Leone
- 101 A bit formal
- 103 "The Wind in the Willows" character
- 107 What George Washington couldn't tell
- 108 "Muy ___"
- 109 Act the yes-man
- 110 Raccoon relative
- 112 "Spenser: For ___" (Urich series)
- 114 Fly lightly and rapidly
- 118 Actor's asset
- 120 They're in a grocery store's hot aisle
- 123 Covetousness
- 124 "Star ___" (Shatner show)
- 125 Bars between wheels
- 126 "Be-Bop-___" (Gene Vincent hit)
- 127 Agatha Christie's "A Pocket Full of ___"
- 128 Brings to a close
- 129 Acknowledge tacitly
- 130 This snake counts?

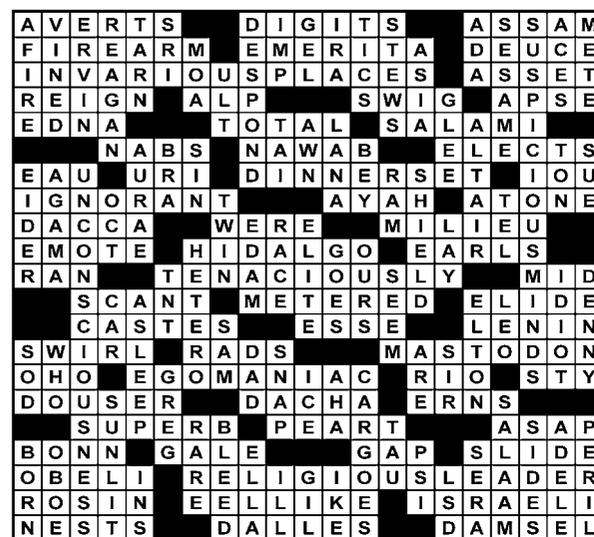
- 32 Gutter locale
- 34 Consumed
- 36 New York football team
- 37 Salt Lake City's home
- 38 Font selection
- 39 Kind of agent
- 40 Puerto ___
- 41 "... and make it fast!"
- 45 Diesel on a set
- 46 Beany's sea-serpent buddy
- 47 Turbulent
- 48 Big fight site
- 49 Final Beethoven symphony
- 51 Imitate Ellery Queen
- 53 In ___ (form of research)
- 57 Trilling twosome
- 58 Slaughter the slugger
- 60 Limestone formation
- 62 Org. that approves toothpastes
- 64 Final amt.
- 65 "Black gold" bloc
- 67 Dog food container
- 68 "Casablanca" star, affectionately
- 69 Cousin's mom (var.)
- 70 Maryland or Delaware
- 71 Does some alterations
- 72 It gives a hoot
- 75 Generous one
- 77 Messy

- 80 Source of an artist's inspiration
- 82 "Housewife" Longoria et al.
- 83 Make public
- 85 Behinds, in London
- 86 Catch sight of
- 88 Brownish horse
- 89 French revolutionary Jean-Paul
- 90 Like Bishop Tutu
- 92 Barely cooked
- 94 Rapid
- 96 "East" on a grandfather clock
- 97 Climber's support
- 100 Amped up
- 102 Encompass or envelop
- 103 Track transaction
- 104 "... the ___ of defeat"
- 105 Hidden treasure
- 106 One struck Chicken Little
- 108 French seaport
- 111 Inquires
- 113 Swedish chain
- 115 Hardly muted
- 116 Run in place
- 117 Pre-Soviet royalty
- 119 Prom ending?
- 121 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 122 Air traffic agcy.

DOWN

- 1 "Broom-Hilda" creator Myers
- 2 "Utter" conclusion?
- 3 "Who Let the Dogs Out?" group: ___ Men
- 4 Peyton Manning is one
- 5 "Methinks," online
- 6 Weasel lookalike
- 7 Balm base
- 8 Bootleg boozes
- 9 It looks good on paper
- 10 Sully
- 11 "Junk begets junk" computer acronym
- 12 Having a scent
- 13 Earth's surface, hypothetically
- 14 Clumsy blockhead
- 15 Trailblazing Daniel
- 16 Crucifixes
- 17 They might precede bravos
- 21 Fairy-tale bridge tenders
- 23 Teary
- 25 "Mission: Impossible" character
- 29 Mountain ridge

Last Week's Solution:



Alexandria Times' Cause of the Month

The Alexandria Times will donate a portion of every paid display ad in March to our Cause of the Month. Please join us in contributing to this worthy cause.

March's cause:



The mission of New Hope Housing is to provide homeless families and individuals shelter and the tools to build a better life. New Hope Housing is committed to finding solutions to end the cycle of homelessness by offering homeless men, women and children the services they need to change their lives and succeed.

To make a donation, contact **Larry Padberg** at lpadberg@newhopehousing.org or **703-799-2293x27**.

Design Public Hearing

Eisenhower Avenue Widening and Roadway Improvement Project City of Alexandria

Thursday, April 4, 2013
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

A brief presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Lee Center, Gold Room
1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Come and see preliminary plans for the construction of an additional westbound left turn lane on Eisenhower Ave. at Mill Road, converting the traffic circle at Holland Lane to a "T" intersection and streetscape improvements in the City of Alexandria. The project length is approximately 0.4 miles

Find out about the project scope and tentative construction schedule.

Review the project information, proposed plans, schedule and the approved environmental document at the public hearing or at City of Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 3200. You can also review the project on the City of Alexandria Web page at <http://alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=11248>. Please call ahead, 703-746-4053, to ensure the availability of personnel to answer your questions.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by April 18, 2013, to Lisa Jaatinen, P.E., 301 King Street, Room 3200, Alexandria, VA 22314. You may also e-mail your comments to lisa.jaatinen@alexandriava.gov. Please reference "Eisenhower PH Comments" in the subject line.

The City of Alexandria ensures nondiscrimination in all programs, services, and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Call 1-703-746-4027 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date for special assistance or information. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Kathleen Leonard at 703-746-4027 or TTY/TDD 703-838-5056.

State Project# U000-100-135 Fed. # STP-5401(743)



Classifieds

LEGAL



LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013 - 7:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia

Information about these items may be obtained from the: Department of Planning and Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666 or on the City's website at www.alexandriava.gov/planning.

BZA Case #2013-0003
202 E Glebe Road
RB, Residential
A request for a special exception to construct an addition in the required

west side yard. If the special exception is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special exception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to the physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure. Applicant: Edward Ray Norman IV by Kim A. Beasley, architect.

BZA Case #2013-0004
511 N Henry St.
CSL, Commercial Service Low
A request for variances to construct a rear two and a half story addition on the north side property line and in the south side yard, setback 3.12 feet from the south property line.
Applicant: Lori Welsh George by Kim A. Beasley, architect.

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MOBILE APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER Mobile Applications Programmer needed to: perform IOS & Android programming, inc. design & create complex mobile apps for youth & education; develop user interface design, gameplay mechanics & storyboarding; retina-optimized graphics & animation; custom programming for app functions & mobile devices; support for external app metrics code & social sharing systems; native app development. Min. req: MS in Computer Eng'g, Digital Media or rel. field req'd. Knowledge of XHTML, CSS, Adobe Dreamweaver, Adobe Photoshop & Adobe Illustrator req'd. Send resume & cover ltr to: HR, Bean Creative, Inc., 2213 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301. No calls or emails. EOE.

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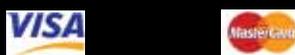


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