

Police license-plate database comes under fire



FILE PHOTO

The Alexandria Police Department's policy of storing driver information gleaned from electronic license-plate readers has come under fire after a recent ACLU report on the practice.

Lieutenant defends keeping tabs on where motorists park

BY ERICH WAGNER

Lt. Mark Bergin knows first-hand how databases compiled by electronic license-plate readers can help find suspects quickly.

"I remember I was working on the street when it happened. We received a lookout from another jurisdiction on a suspect involved in a violent domestic, where he basically beat the crap out of some relative," said Bergin, who

doubles as a spokesman for the Alexandria Police Department. "We had the description and the license plate, so we put that into our system. ... One of our sergeants searched to see where we had seen that car lately, and we located the vehicle and subsequently located the guy."

But a recent report by the American Civil Liberties Union provoked greater scrutiny on the practice in which law enforcement agencies keep vast databases that effectively track where motorists park.

Bergin said the department

added the devices to police vehicles in 2008 and started a database of license plates in 2011. The department keeps the information for four years and then will automatically overwrite the old records with new data.

In the ACLU report, "You Are Being Tracked: How License Plate Readers Are Being Used to Track Americans' Movements," the organization argues that tracking a resident's movements constitutes an invasion of privacy, even if there are a few justifiable uses.

SEE **LICENSE** | 10

Grand jury indicts Patterson on murder and gun charges

Arlington deputy faces possible life sentence

BY ERICH WAGNER

On Monday, a grand jury indicted Craig Patterson, an Arlington County sheriff's deputy, on charges of murder and the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in connection with the death of 22-year-old Julian Dawkins.

The indictment comes after last week's preliminary hearing, in which prosecutors laid out the charges against Patterson, of Alexandria, and played

audio of his phone conversation with a 911 dispatcher.

Prosecutors said at the hearing that the 44-year-old shot and killed Dawkins during the early morning hours of May 22.

Witnesses said that they had seen the two arguing on the 100 block of Lynhaven Drive hours earlier. Patterson left the scene but allegedly came back with his handgun, shot Dawkins and then called 911.

During the emergency call, Patterson said Dawkins had "pulled a knife" on him. But prosecutors and investigators

disputed this claim, saying that while Dawkins did have a 3-inch blade, it was folded and clipped inside his pants pocket.

If found guilty, Patterson could face up to life in prison, while the gun charge carries a minimum penalty of three years in prison, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter. Prosecutors expect to have a trial date scheduled sometime within the next two weeks, he said.

Defense attorney Joseph King was not available for comment Monday.

Evidence strengthens slaughterhouse theory

Remains demolished as Jefferson-Houston construction begins

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Workers dismantled the remnants of a likely 19th-century slaughterhouse to make way for the new Jefferson-Houston School earlier in the summer, but not before local archaeologists gleaned everything they could from the site.

Experts unearthed the remains — a brick foundation and well — while scouring

the site of the future Cameron Street school ahead of construction in the fall and winter. The surprise discovery thrilled local historians, who spent the intervening months combing over the find for clues to its purpose.

Early work by a URS Corp. team indicated that the best bet was a slaughterhouse. Records indicated that the land served as a cattle-run long before becoming home to the school and adjacent Durant Arts Center.

SEE **SLAUGHTERHOUSE** | 9



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THE WEEKLY BRIEFING

Hagel announces fewer furloughs for Defense Department employees

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel recently reduced the number of furlough days down to six for Defense Department employees, which could have a positive impact for federal workers in Alexandria.

The agency had initially planned for 22 days of unpaid furloughs for civilian employees to help close the budget gap caused by federal sequestration, but in May, the department slashed that number to 11.

And last week, Hagel announced that the department had found additional funds — including unexpected savings in areas like transportation of equipment out of Afghanistan — allowing for even fewer fur-

lough days.

“As a result of these management initiatives, reduced costs and reprogramming from Congress, we have determined that we can make some improvements in training and readiness and still meet the sequestration cuts,” Hagel said in a statement. “While we are still depending on furlough savings, we will be able to make up our budgetary shortfall in this fiscal year with fewer furlough days than initially announced.”

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) applauded the decision in a statement, as a large proportion of federal defense workers live in Alexandria and Northern Virginia.

“You can’t understate the

impact these furloughs, originally set to eliminate an entire month’s paycheck, are having on the morale of our federal workforce,” Moran said. “Thankfully, by virtue of this decision, [Department of Defense] employees and their families now face a little less hardship.”

But Hagel warned that more furloughs could return in future years.

“If Congress does not change the Budget Control Act, [the department] will be forced to cut an additional \$52 billion in [fiscal] 2014, starting on October 1,” Hagel said. “This represents 40-percent more than this year’s sequester-mandated cuts of \$37 billion.”

Inova releases cookbook highlighting healthy local food options

Inova Health Systems announced last week the release of a 130-page cookbook aimed at promoting healthy and sustainable eating.

“Sustainable Foods, Healthy Lives” serves not only as a reference guide to wholesome recipes, but also promotes and explains how local ingredients impact the economy as well as the environment.

“A team of sustainable foods experts — including chefs, nutritionists, physicians, green team members and sustainable foods enthusiasts — worked for over a year to

develop a roster of articles and guides that cover everything from the health impacts of the food system to composting to the future of farming,” said Inova spokeswoman Carolyn Billetdeaux in a statement.

The recipes in the cookbook are actually the home-cooking arsenal of employees and affiliates of the Northern Virginia-based hospital and health care company, according to officials.

“Many of them are intrinsically healthy, and for those that aren’t, we have included tips from an Inova dietitian for

making them healthier,” Billetdeaux said. “The recipes are divided by season to highlight the rich variety of local ingredients available in Virginia throughout the course of the year.”

Inova officials also said proceeds from book sales will benefit the SNAP Double Dollars program, which provides a dollar-for-dollar match on food stamp money spent at local farmers markets to promote healthier eating habits.

- Erich Wagner

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In Your Times

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To enter, email letters@alextimes.com with your answer or write to 110 S. Pitt St., Alexandria, VA 22314. One winner will be chosen at random from the winning entries submitted before noon Tuesday. A different photo and hint will be featured each week between now and the end of summer, so keep your eyes open as you meander around Alexandria!

WHERE AM I? #12



Completed in the year 1801, This was the home of an uncle — of a favorite son. The family for generations gave back to the city. The owner was mayor, a church warden and witty. His glebe land was confiscated in the Revolutionary War. He fought back, won and went on to do more. This doorway leads to a garden so green. Where folks could talk politics and not be seen.

Where am I? What am I?

Congratulations to last week's winner, Jacqueline Veney, who correctly identified the clue as Shiloh Baptist Church of Alexandria along Duke Street.

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CRIME

Police revise homicide total again

Just weeks after police revealed that a long-delayed medical examiner's report led to a surprise announcement of a fifth city homicide this year, officials say the department has amended that number again — down to four.

Police spokesperson Lt. Mark Bergin said the stat reduction comes in light of Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel's report, which determined that the fatal shooting of city resident Taft Sellers was a justifiable use of

force by officers.

"It happened because one of our better commanders looked at the definition of a homicide," Bergin said. "Because justifiable homicide is not considered a criminal offense under [the FBI's crime statistic standards], we will be changing our website and statistics to delete that incident from the list of homicides for 2013.

"It's logical because it's not a criminal act, and it's more in line with how people

view homicides."

Ashley Hildebrandt, a spokesperson for the Alexandria Police Department, confirmed the revision but stressed that annual crime statistics are not official until after the end of the year.

"What happens is at the end of the year, we send our stats to the state, and when the state approves them, they are the official stats," she said Monday. "It usually happens around March of the following year."

Florida man charged with murder of Samuel Del Brocco

Florida law enforcement officials arrested a suspect last week in connection with the 2010 slaying of Alexandria businessman Samuel Del Brocco.

Officials with the Broward County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that John Snaveley, of Miami, was arrested for a violation of his parole, but the 26-year-old has since

been charged with second-degree murder.

Del Brocco, who was president and CEO of Alexandria-based PCI Communications Inc., was found dead in his Florida home Sept. 12, 2010. Police came to his residence after a woman called 911 reporting that she had not heard from him.

According to an autopsy

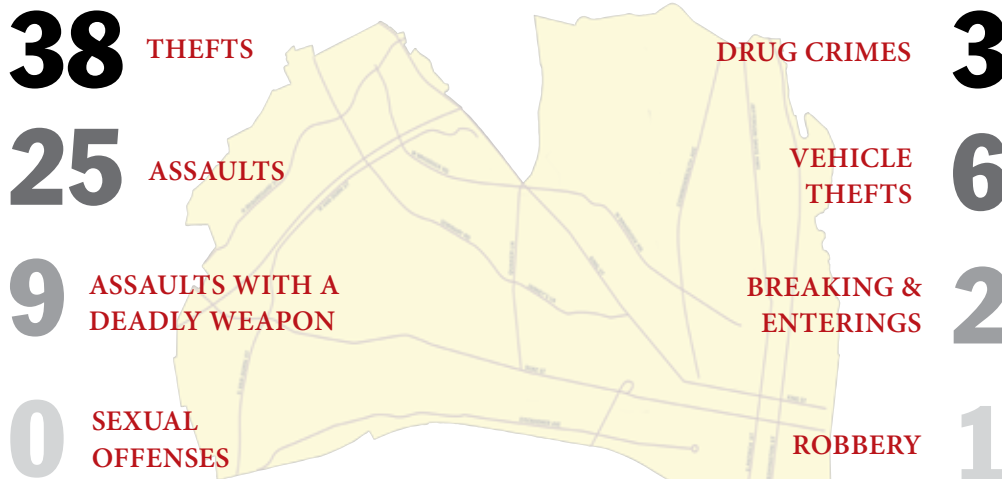
report, he died of multiple stab wounds.

While Del Brocco — who was 60 when he died — lived in Virginia, police said he took frequent trips to a house in Florida. Investigators said during one of those excursions, he met Snaveley and invited him home, where he was killed.

- Erich Wagner

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between August 7 and August 14.



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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How to address foul-smelling neighbors

Dear Hobie & Monk,

In the past week, I have attended two community events and had the unbelievable misfortune of sitting next to men who smelled awful! One event was a public performance in a city building; the other was a school function. Their stench was so powerful that I had to discretely breathe through my mouth so as not to gag.

In both cases, these men were well dressed, groomed and accompanied by their wives. (Why didn't these wives do us all a favor and take a whiff?) What can one possibly do in stinky situations like these?

- *Breathless in Alexandria*

Monk: Twice in one week is unlucky! If you're a canary in

the coal mine like me, just a whiff of funky smell will make you queasy. My advice: Be prepared!

For example, I learned on the Old Town Ghost Walk that 18th-century Alexandrians had all kinds of tricks to support polite respiration in public places. Scented sachets, handkerchiefs and hand-held fans took the stinky edge off socializing with noisome neighbors. Because of bad teeth and unfortunate misconceptions about submerged bathing, body orifices and the pox, our founding mothers and fathers were pretty rank.

As you have discovered, contemporary Alexandrians can be smelly, too. Be prepared next time, and if it's really bad, don't be afraid to excuse yourself and head for the 21st-century exit sign.

Hobie: I'm pretty sure that ev-



Hobie and Monk are two Alexandria women with husbands, children, dogs, jobs, mortgages, unmet New Year's resolutions, obsessions with impractical shoes, English novels ... and Ph.D.s in clinical psychology. Their advice, while fabulous, should not be construed as therapeutic within a doctor-patient context or substituted for the advice of readers' personal advisors.

eryone who already was paranoid about not smelling fresh is now dousing himself or herself in Chanel (one can only hope). But honestly, it's sum-

mer in swampy D.C. Few of us are likely at our flowery best at the end of a sweaty day in this town, but you did the only polite thing possible in each

situation by mouth-breathing until you could evacuate.

And stop holding their

SEE **HOBIE & MONK** | 25



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A fresh start on North Columbus Street

**Developer agrees to
redesign after neighbors
protest earlier plans**

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Local developer William Cromley is headed back to the drawing board after meeting with critics of his plan for a rundown parking lot on the 300 block of N. Columbus St.

Cromley received the blessings of the board of architectural review and planning commission to transform a roughly 8,000-square-foot parking lot, which is adjacent to the Barrett Library branch, into five townhouses. But neighbors flocked to the meetings in opposition of what resident Eli Bronstein testified was a potential "monolith across the street."

The buildings' height — about 33.5 feet, according to documents filed with City Hall — and the lack of differentiation between the individual townhouses and massive windows comprise the bulk of neighbors' concerns, Bronstein said after meeting with Cromley earlier this summer.

"We don't have money in this; [Cromley] has money it. And we're certainly not trying to make anyone lose money," he said. "I feel that [since] we have to look at it, I hope I can have some input. I'm not the



IMAGE/WILLIAM CROMLEY

Local developer William Cromley said he plans to revise the pictured design for five townhouses at the site of a parking lot along North Columbus Street after meeting with concerned residents.

designer; I don't want to design it. ... I just wanted to tell him politely what I didn't care for."

Cromley agreed to sit down with residents after earning the planning commission's approval for a project earlier this month. After talking with his neighbors — he lives near the project site — Cromley agreed to start anew on the design.

"There's no one right design for any site. There are always alternatives to any design problems," he said. "And luckily the issues that were important were ones that I could easily incorporate into a design that I like as well."

But Cromley wants it made clear that he has final say on the look of the buildings.

"I've heard what they said, and now it's a matter of letting

creativity do its job," he said. "You put all the pieces into the stew and start to stir. What comes out is something that hopefully incorporates their concerns but also reflects my design objective."

Without seeing it, Bronstein is cautiously optimistic that Cromley's redesign will alleviate his concerns. The developer hopes to present neighbors with a reworked proposal later this summer.

"He listened. He was not defensive, but the proof is in the pudding," Bronstein said.

Cromley is no stranger to controversy in Alexandria. The developer made local headlines throughout the spring because of his plans for the

SEE COLUMBUS STREET | 9

AUCTION : FORECLOSURE



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SLAUGHTERHOUSE

FROM | 1

Adding to the thesis, researchers discovered the former property owners had ties to the butchery industry.

Though construction work put an end to archaeologists' exploration of the ruin, their dogged examination of the find yielded more evidence supporting the building's use as a slaughterhouse. Perhaps most noticeable, the foundation was thicker by several brick-widths at the top compared to the bottom.

Garrett Fesler, a city archaeologist, thinks the design may have helped keep freshly butchered meat from spoiling while in storage.

"We believe the basement was where the cuts of meat were going to be temporarily stored, and therefore, they really needed to keep that basement environment as cool and cold as possible," he said. "We believe there was a way to put ice, blocks of ice, in one area of the basement in order to

make it as cool as possible."

Then there are the animal bones. The species remain unidentified, but the odds are good that they come from either cattle or pigs. And they show signs of having been expertly butchered.

Fesler expected to find more bones at the site of a full-scale butchering operation but said the land's history might explain the discrepancy. The property changed hands a few years before the building went up in flames in the 1880s. Fesler believes the butchery may have closed down before the fire.

Other evidence includes chunks of machinery. Several iron plates found on the site may have been used to keep animals in place while butchered, and Fesler thinks a recovered axle may have been part of a machine that removed the hide from the carcass.

Even as all signs point toward the foundation once supporting a slaughterhouse, more study is needed before Fesler is willing to say so with certainty.

COLUMBUS STREET

FROM | 8

former Carver Nursery School along North Fayette Street.

After getting approval years ago to demolish the one-time school for Parker-Gray's black children — which later became an American Legion post — Cromley saw residents rise up in protest over what they saw as the impending destruction of a historic landmark. After a legal battle, the two sides partnered with City Hall for a two-year quest to find a buyer who would preserve the building.

When time expired in February, the decaying building remained vacant. Residents, including local civil rights icon Ferdinand Day, were scrambling for another solution when Cromley announced that he had abandoned demolition plans and found a likely buyer to save the building.

"If there is a win-win, I'll take it. Just like I did with the [former Carver Nursery School], I'll take it," Cromley said, referring to his North Columbus Street project. "When you live in a community, that's what you do."

While the developer will begin again on his design, the redo will not disrupt his construction schedule. But it will require another appearance before the board of architectural review, likely in the fall.

What remains unclear is whether the redesign will nullify his neighbors' appeal of the board of architectural review's OK of the previous plans. Residents launched the appeal — which was scheduled to go before city council after the summer recess ends — before meeting with Cromley. Al Cox, the city's preservationist, said his staff is working on determining what will come of that action.

"That's our educated guess; we haven't found a comparable building that we could kind of compare this with at this point," he said. "But it's definitely something that we're going to need to follow up with and talk to architectural historians and look at other resources and put some meat on the bones of our guess."

Fesler was at the site when construction workers disassembled the foundation and buried the well beneath Bluestone, a material that will help preserve the 100-plus-year-old structure. Though they initially hoped to incorporate the foundation into the school, engineers worried the ruin would structurally weaken the new building.

When a new school is



FILE PHOTO

City archaeologist Fran Bromberg oversees the excavation of a possible slaughterhouse on the grounds of Jefferson-Houston School in March. Archaeologists say they have uncovered further, but not definitive, evidence of the structure's use.

needed decades from now, Fesler hopes future archaeologists will have another chance to examine at least the well.

"In an ideal world, it would have been nice to preserve it, of course. That's al-

ways our No. 1 hope, but in this case, we had to listen to the engineers," Fesler said. "I felt really good about the well being preserved in the ground, and that will be a gift we give future archaeologists."

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LICENSE

FROM | 1

“While it is legitimate to use license-plate readers to identify those who are alleged to have committed crimes, the overwhelming majority of people whose movements are

monitored and recorded by these machines are innocent, and there is no reason for the police to be keeping records on their movements,” stated the report, which was released on the heels of unrelated domestic spying operations run by the federal government. “Ordinary people going about

their daily lives have every right to expect that their movements will not be logged into a massive government database.”

Bergin described license-plate readers and databases as simply law enforcement tools. Logging the whereabouts of private vehicles could hypo-

thetically be done — and done legally — without the devices, he said.

“The concern is very different from the NSA data-mining brought to light in the case of Edward Snowden. There’s probably a vast privacy difference between written communications transmitted electronically and the information available visually out on the street at any time,” Bergin said. “Everything [a license-plate reader] gathers could also be gathered by an attentive person with a pen and paper.”

And putting in safeguards to prevent police from actively monitoring “law-abiding citizens” with the readers would prove difficult, Bergin said.

“There probably wouldn’t be a mechanism to limit our searches to a case that’s already opened or a warrant that’s already been obtained, especially if the charges are from outside of Alexandria,” he said.

Nick Beltrante, executive director of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, understands the use of a license-plate database, but the retired Washington investigator called it an invasion of privacy.

“I’m not sure what more I can say: It’s a violation of my civil rights,” Beltrante said. “Being a noncriminal, there’s no need for my tag number to be in that databank.”

“The concern is very different from the NSA data-mining brought to light in the case of Edward Snowden. There’s probably a vast privacy difference between written communications transmitted electronically and the information available visually out on the street at any time.”

- Lt. Mark Bergin
Spokesman, Alexandria
Police Department

Bergin said that since 2008, the department’s license-plate reader program has returned 679 alarms, which refers to any hit by a reader on a stolen vehicle, dead or expired tags or registration, or other infractions. Within the last year, the department has recovered nine stolen vehicles using the devices, and in 2010, an officer single-handedly recovered 29 stolen cars utilizing license-plate readers.



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GET OUT OF TOWN

The lure of a small town



PHOTOS/JORDAN WRIGHT

During your trip to Oxford, Md., be sure to check out the exquisite Eastern Shore views from Masthead at Pier Street Marina (above), the quaint lodging and European bistro cuisine at the Oxford Inn (top right), and the modern twist on classic Maryland crab cakes and Smith Island cake at the Robert Morris Inn (bottom right).

A weekend getaway to the Eastern Shore

BY JORDAN WRIGHT

Oxford may be a scant 87 miles from Old Town, but it's a long and fascinating journey back in time to a postcard-pretty village that has vouchsafed its history as one of the oldest towns in Maryland.

The trip from the Bay Bridge and then on U.S. Route 301 carries travelers south across acres of flat farmland dotted by roadside stands. Wooden crates stacked high with fresh corn, sun-ripened tomatoes and juicy cantaloupes had to wait for our return as we made our way to the county seat of Easton and a pit stop for lunch at The BBQ Joint.

This cute restaurant —

complete with shady sidewalk tables — is renowned for serving some of the region's best barbecue and definitely merits a detour. It's where chef and owner Andrew Evans left the world of fine dining to offer up his award-winning smoked meats and unique sauces.

Easton boasts many antique emporiums, art galleries and upscale gift shops along with the Academy Art Museum, where the exhibits feature local as well as world-renowned artists. Aspiring chefs will find Crabi Gras — which boasts hot sauces, spices and pickles from around the country — along Harrison Street. We rehydrated at Hill's Soda Fountain and Cafe with a glass of JMX, a vitamin-packed elixir of fruits and vegetables, juiced on site, that locals buy by the quart.

Our hunger and pallets satiated, we then headed down the road a few miles to Oxford.

There's no mistaking the Oxford Inn. The yellow clapboard structure with green shutters and a large porch was built about 1880 and sports an antique British taxi parked out front. The seven-bedroom bed and breakfast, owned by Lisa McDougal and husband Dan Zimelman, was bustling with preparations for dinner already in high gear.

McDougal is a world-class chef who thrills diners with her imaginative European bistro cuisine in the inn's Pope's Tavern, a country chic dining room where she showcases seasonal dishes. Have a cocktail in the bar and meet the locals or sit on the front porch for a view of the canal — you cannot go



wrong. We discovered the taxi gives locals a ride home after an evening of over-tipping. Guests need only climb the stairs to a cozy room to call it a day.

The combination of savory aromas wafting upstairs and the morning's sunlight pouring into our bedroom window erased any thoughts of lolling about in bed. Cue the sound of halyards pinging against a ship's mast and pennants flapping in the breeze to get the body moving — that and sizzling bacon.

Weekends are when McDougal goes all out with a lavish breakfast of

omelets, bacon, sausage, pancakes, frittatas, fresh fruits, and homemade breads and scones. Did I mention she also does the baking? All with an engaging energy that makes you feel like you've known her all your life.

With full stomachs, we went out on the town. Exploring the village by foot is the best way to experience the tree-lined streets and historic homes.

For the past five summers, the town has organized a picket-fence project. Twenty-two fence sections are given to local artists to decorate and dis-

SEE EASTERN SHORE | 15

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.

August 15

JUSTIN HAYWARD The lead guitarist and vocalist of legendary rock band The Moody Blues, Justin Hayward recently released his new studio album, "Spirits Of The Western Sky." The artist is known for such beloved songs as "Nights in White Satin," "Tuesday Afternoon," "Question," "The Voice" and "Your Wildest Dreams." Tickets are \$65.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com

August 16

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, 25 W. Reed Ave.
Information: Contact Deatrice Williams at 703-746-3430 or deatrice.williams@alexandriava.gov

U.S. NAVY BAND COMMODORES CONCERT Jazz is America's music, and the U.S. Navy Band Commodores, the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, have been performing the very best of big band jazz for more than 40 years. The event is free.
Time: Noon to 1:15 p.m.
Location: Market Square, 301 King St.
Information: Contact Maureen Sturgill at 703-746-5420 or maureen.sturgill@alexandriava.gov

THIRD FRIDAY WITH THE MOUNT VERNON SWING BAND Owen Hammett will conduct the live band, and there also will be light refreshments provided by Mount Vernon 4-H Awesome Adventurers. Tickets are \$4.
Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road
Information: 703-765-4573

August 17

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

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region will hold blood drives in cities and towns throughout the region this month.
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road
Information: 1-800-REDCROSS or www.redcrossblood.org

APD: FREE CHILD IDENTIFICATION EVENT The Alexandria Police Department — in partnership with the community and human services department, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and the Center for Alexandria's Children Inc. — will host a SafeAssured Child Identification event for city residents. Free SafeAssured child identification kits will be available to families with children 16 and younger.
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Police Headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Ave.
Information: 703-746-1909

INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY Ten Thousand Villages will celebrate India's Independence Day with a henna party. Come visit the store and get a hand-drawn henna tattoo while sampling Indian food and drink. There also will be beautiful handwork by many talented artisans in India.
Time: 1 to 5 p.m.
Location: Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St.
Information: 703-684-1435 or www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com

CINEMA DEL RAY Attendees can enjoy family movies as well as popcorn,

candy and beverage sales. The event is free.

Time: 8 to 10 p.m.
Location: Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave.
Information: 703-683-3560 or email baileyctr@comcast.net

August 18

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

BACK ALLEY BLUES BOYS Local band Back Alley Blues Boys will appear in concert to perform a medley of blues, country, rock, rockabilly and other tunes. There also will be light food and refreshments at this free event.

Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us



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SPORTS

The champions of Parker Gray

Boxing coaches stress school before fighting

BY JIM MCELHATTON

Dennis Porter and Kay Koroma work together during the day as plumbers but meet again each evening at the Alexandria Boxing Club inside the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

And as coaches, they've launched the careers of several nationally known boxers.

Troy Isley, 14, won the 132-pound division at the Ringside World Championship this month in Kansas City. Iesha Kenney, a rising sophomore at T.C. Williams, recently took the gold medal at the USA Boxing Junior Olympics.

Antoine Douglas, 20, won on ESPN's "Friday Night Fights" in June. Undefeated at 8-0, he is slated to fight again later this month in New York. And Dara Shen, who also trains at the club, is one of the top women amateur boxers in the country.

The club has won 15 team championships over the years under Porter, who has been head coach since 1991. He's spent most of his life in and around the ring.

Porter grew up in the River Terrace section of southeast Washington. And the head coach took up the sport at age 12 for a pretty practical reason: He kept getting beat up.

"Then I learned to use my hands," said Porter. "I was never a bully, though. Always the savior."

Forty years later, the 52-year old still is a kind of a savior in the city's Parker Gray neighborhood.

"We take kids off the street," said Porter, who's quick to tell anyone how the sport saved him from the pitfalls of life in a part of D.C. where "you're go-



PHOTOS/SAWYER MCELHATTON

Troy Isley, 14, stretches in preparation for a training session at the Alexandria Boxing Club (top left). Troy poses with his 132-pound division championship belt earned earlier this month at the Ringside World Championship in Kansas City (right). As the gym has seen more success stories, boxers seek out coaches Dennis Porter and Kay Koroma, but they still espouse a "school first" attitude (bottom left).

ing to come out a little rough or you're not coming out."

Porter spends more time in the gym training boxers than he does in his home. He said he even lost a marriage because of all the time he spent inside the recreation center.

"I found out, though, I was OK with that," he said. "It's something I've been doing since I was 12, and I love the sport. You never stop learning. You're learning something about boxing everyday."

Since becoming head coach, Porter said he's had six assistants, but Koroma is the

best. Koroma not only knows the sport as a boxer, but he can teach it, too.

Much of what they teach, though, has nothing to do with winning a fight.

The coaches welcome people into the gym who need a place to go, even if they have no intention of ever stepping foot into a ring. Occasionally, people stop in from the nearby homeless shelter.

"They've got stress," Porter said. "They've got nowhere to go. They don't have a home. So I let them come in, and I say, 'Here, hit the bags. Just hit



the bags.' They take the stress out on those bags, and that takes stress off of everybody else. They see somebody out on the street, and maybe they don't want to start trouble."

Koroma said young boxers must show coaches their report cards and test scores before training at the gym. He added that they're unable to participate if they don't have their homework finished first.

And some kids just want to sit and watch, which is fine too, according to Koroma.

"We've always been here," Koroma said. "The community

doesn't really know what's going on here. We've got kids who are world champions right in their backyards. But it doesn't matter if they come in and box or not. They can come and just hang out. But we push school. We want them to have something else."

But as the gym sees more successes, Douglas said more boxers are showing up.

"They're coming in and trying to replicate the kind of success they're seeing," Douglas said. "We're like a family. It's a place where you can easily come and find a home."

EASTERN SHORE

FROM | 12

play before auctioning them off at the end of September. The proceeds of each section go to the artist's favorite charity. Grab a map from the inn and see how many of these unique fences you can spy. If you see one you like, you can bid online before the big night.

If you came to the Eastern Shore to do some crab picking — and if breakfast didn't fill you up — there's no better spot than the Masthead at Pier Street Marina, which has a breathtaking waterside view of the sunset. Get a bucket of Ipswich steamers and spiced crabs and dig in.

Travelers will find the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, in operation since 1683, by the water's edge. Purported to be the oldest ferry service in the nation, it's owned by Capt. Tom and Judy Bixler. The 10-minute ride is a shortcut to Tilghman Island, a quaint fishing village accentuated with an old drawbridge.

We took a leisurely lunch under a willow tree on the deck of the Tilghman Island Inn. The peaceful spot comes with sweeping views of Knapps Narrows and lets guests with a little bit of time spot redwing blackbirds and great blue herons that soar across the marshes and perch among wildflowers.

We watched sailboats heading out to the bay as watermen returned with their daily catch over rockfish chowder and fried local oyster sandwiches. With a bit of prodding, proprietor and southern gentleman extraordinaire David McCallum will regale you with stories of his notable guests, like musician Robert Plant — of Led Zeppelin fame — who brought his family for a week earlier this summer.

After lunch, hop a ride on the Rebecca T. Ruark, built in 1886. The skipjack leaves

from nearby Dogwood Harbor for a two-hour tour of the water. Or check with the inn to book fishing charters, kayaking or bicycle rentals.

Take the Royal Oak Road back to Oxford, and you'll pass Oak Creek Sales. The store cum barn holds an eclectic smattering of vintage patio furniture, junk from grandma's parlor and terrific finds. I snagged a small cast-bronze dog and a brass, jockey-themed wall hanging for keys and caps.

On warm summer nights, dining alfresco is available at the Robert Morris Inn, a bespoke Colonial inn built in

“ The peaceful spot comes with sweeping views of Knapps Narrows and lets guests with a little bit of time spot redwing blackbirds and great blue herons that soar across the marshes and perch among wildflowers.”

1710 and owned by British master chef Mark Salter and Ian Fleming. Salter's elegant cuisine delivers a modern approach to classically styled dishes, like summer gazpacho with lump crab or the inn's original recipe crab cakes served with corn succotash, grilled watermelon and white corn sauce. Save room for a slice of pecan pie or Salter's version of the iconic multilayered Smith Island cake topped with whipped cream.

After dinner we strolled along the strand gazing at the stars and hearing the osprey's call. Then we returned to Pope's Tavern for a nightcap, discussing plans to snag a few pounds of those glorious peaches for a homemade cobbler.

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Let's Eat

A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times

Virtue Feed and Grain offers unique setting and delectable cuisine

Since opening two years ago, Virtue Feed and Grain has grown more and more popular. The restaurant and bar — situated near the Potomac River in a 19th-century building that was once a feed house — is a delightful dining spot, which offers a unique ambience and experience.

Virtue Feed and Grain recently changed the menu to focus on upscale American food. The new dishes are not only delicious, but also appealing to the eye with a wonderful presentation.

Chef Billy McCormick serves up tasty and mouth-watering American cuisine that's cooked with largely fresh, local ingredients. In the summertime, patrons praise the sockeye salmon, New

England cod, bison burger, quinoa salad and grilled teriyaki wings. For brunch, recent favorites include the spicy arugula and local goat cheese omelet, garden omelet, huevos rancheros, and smoked salmon Benedict.

Virtue Feed and Grain is also the perfect place for a private event, whether it's a cocktail party or sit-down dinner. The warm, old wooden floors, brick walls and leather sofas give off an intimate feel. And windows wrap around the end of the porch — not only providing spectacular water views, but also the opportunity to enjoy the Potomac's gentle winds.

In addition to the fantastic private areas, Virtue Feed and Grain boasts handsome dining table-

tops that were built with old, period wood. These authentic historic woods also adorn the walls and floorboards, creating a striking setting that leaves a lasting impression.

Come stop by this fascinating and inviting restaurant and bar at 106 S. Union St., on the corner of Wales Alley. Virtue Feed and Grain continues to raise the bar in every aspect — from the cuisine to the service and setting.

For more information, check out www.virtuefeedgrain.com or call 571-970-3669. Virtue

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At Home

The well-dressed garden

BY MARTY ROSS

You don't need a referee — or a football — to have a field day in your own backyard. Croquet, bocce, horseshoes and other relaxing outdoor games are classics that anyone can play, and the rules are flexible enough to fit the play around the rosebushes. Gardeners always have the home-field advantage.

“Having a place to play a game in the garden makes it a fun place to be — and it gives you more impetus to make

the rest of the yard look good, too,” says Kristopher Dabner, a garden designer and the owner of The Greensman in Kansas City, Mo. “Pick a flat spot, give it visual interest, and put in a little landscape lighting,” he says.

Wendy Lindquist, a garden designer in Bridgeport, Conn., had so many requests for bocce courts from her clients that she developed a side business, Bella Bocce, to accommodate them all. A standard bocce court is 10 feet wide and 60 feet long. “They have to be lev-

el,” Lindquist says, which may require excavating, but when they're complete, they become instant party-starters. Some of her clients even donate the use of their bocce courts for fundraisers.

“They say it's the only sport you can play with a glass of wine in one hand,” Lindquist says. “It really gets people riled up — but in a nice way.”

Both Lindquist and Dabner try to design bocce courts as more than just a playing

SEE **GARDEN** | 24



PHOTO/WENDY LINDQUIST

“Bocce courts lend themselves to landscaping,” says Wendy Lindquist, a garden designer in Bridgeport, Conn. She likes to design courts with garden benches on the side, “and a little shade isn't a bad thing” either, she says.

— HOME OF THE WEEK —

Spacious Cape Cod is a real charmer

Located on one of Alexandria's most prestigious streets, this charming Mansion Drive home is surrounded by the finest estates in the city. A long brick walkway leads to the expanded Cape Cod.

Upon entering, a gracious center hall foyer with chandelier greets you. Oversized windows and French doors provide excellent light throughout the home, complementing the hardwood floors and moldings throughout.

A double-sided fireplace adds warmth in the spacious living room and the lovely flagstone sunroom overlooking the gardens. The formal living and dining rooms showcase original built-in corner

cabinets for displaying china, silver or other fine pieces. A breakfast area in the renovated kitchen offers an ideal place for homework, a home office or family meals.

There are five spacious bedrooms on the home's upper level — a rarity for a home of this time period.

During warmer months, enjoy the sizable flat, fenced backyard with flagstone patio. There's plenty of green space and lovely gardens for kids or dogs to play.

A long driveway with room for multiple cars leads to a detached garage. And the property features plenty of space for future expansion if desired.

At a Glance:

Location: 312 Mansion Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302

Price: \$1,395,000

Contact: The Goodhart Group at 703-362-3221 or info@thegoodhartgroup.com



PHOTOS/THE GOODHART GROUP

This classic brick Cape Cod (above) features a large yard. The home has a beautifully maintained interior (left).

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Lighting up the night

David Martin's quest to keep King Street illuminated

BY JULIA BROUILLETTE

Local businesses — led by David Martin, owner of Gold Works — are fighting for the right to light up King Street year-round.

The festive tree lights adorning King Street illuminate the busy thoroughfare from November to March annually. But local business owners — and City Councilor Del Pepper — have long asked to keep the street lit up throughout the year.

Earlier this year, Pepper successfully convinced her colleagues to set aside \$13,500 to switch the lights on for an extra three months, on the condition that King Street businesses raise one-third of the overall cost by March.

That was all the prodding Martin needed to roll up his sleeves. The local artist-turned-businessman has campaigned for improvements along the corridor since opening his King Street store in the early 1990s.

Charmed by Alexandria's business-friendly environment and artistic nature, Martin moved from Delaware to Old Town in 1985. His plan was to become a jewelry designer — not a political activist.

"I had no money, no friends and no job ... but I immediately started getting a feel for the politics, bureaucracy and development of the area, then became familiar with the head of each department of the city," he said.

Martin lobbied in 2004 to extend the banners that graced the upper length of King Street down to the waterfront end of the retail strip. When his efforts proved successful, he turned his attention to the tree lights.

"If [King Street] is dark and dismal, it's not very favorable to tourists," Martin explained. "It's not safe, it doesn't feel safe, it doesn't look safe and it

doesn't look like the city is trying to sell itself."

Martin has teamed up with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Old Town Business and Professional Association in his quest. He also has undertaken a letter-writing campaign to spread the word through local media.

"All the businesses on King Street depend on the tree lights," he said, reporting that his efforts had raised \$2,200 so far, with donors pledging an additional \$1,000 in the coming days.

To reach \$6,750 — the amount needed to move ahead with the proposal — Martin will need more businesses to join the cause.

But despite his passion, he has run into opposition from his fellow business owners. The city should foot the whole bill, he recalls more than one local storeowner saying.

And that attitude makes oth-

er businesses leery of uniting together for the campaign.

"Businesses don't want to contribute, because they think the city should pay for it," Martin said. "Those who will pay for it don't want to because businesses that don't pay their share will get a free ride."

A sparkly tree canopy along King Street will significantly increase sales for most businesses along the retail strip, according to Martin.

"You can't see King Street when the lights are off," he said. "Some argue that when summer comes around, the tree leaves hide the lights. But they twinkle. Go to Shirlington and look."

But unless Martin can raise the funds in time, the lights will turn off again March 31.

"I'm facilitating the movement, but it's not about me. It's about the city. And I think this is doable," Martin said.



FILE PHOTO

Gold Works owner David Martin hopes to convince neighbor businesses in Old Town to chip in on a \$6,750 bill to keep King Street's tree lights shining year-round.

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Our View

License-plate database is small potatoes in privacy debate

It is certainly tempting to get up in arms about the revelation that local police have — since 2011 — tracked and stored the location of motor vehicles around the city using license-plate readers.

This is, after all, the summer of Big Brother, when just about every week exposes another hidden effort by government agencies to keep tabs on Americans. But when it comes to license-plate readers, which the American Civil Liberties Union blasted as an invasion of privacy in a recently released report, we have trouble getting our dander up.

First, there are obvious crime-fighting applications to such a database. Knowing a suspect's haunts benefits detectives working a case. And if an individual poses a threat to the public, proper use of the technology could result in a quick arrest.

It also is important to note that driving is a privilege — not a right. Motorists must obtain a license from the state before getting behind the wheel, a process that often involves classes and a test.

Residents also must register their vehicles with authorities and, in many states, have proof of insurance. Reasonable people understand that this information is kept on file somewhere.

And while license-plate readers make the job of tracking vehicles and searching for — as well as finding — alleged criminals all the easier for police, it's a practice authorities could carry out in a low-tech manner. As Alexandria Police Department spokesman Lt. Mark Bergin noted, the agency could send out officers armed with pens and notepads for the same purpose.

Lastly, it behooves us to mention that all claims to privacy go out the window when a person — and their property — enters the public sphere. Earlier, we noted that a police officer equipped with stationary supplies could do the same job as the department's vehicle-mounted cameras. That's also the case for a private detective or a nosy neighbor; unless you have a private garage, you can be tracked by your vehicle's license plate.

Lest we be mistaken, this is not a wholesale embrace of the department's practice. For instance, we wish officials had alerted residents to these devices sooner, along with their justification for using them. Anything that can be taken as an invasion of privacy — rightly or wrongly — should be disclosed in the name of transparency and good public relations.

So we hope the police department, and City Hall by extension, thinks a little harder next time when it takes advantage of a technology that could be misconstrued. How about this for a litmus test: If you're collecting information on law-abiding citizens not connected to a criminal investigation, maybe let them know?

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

Bicyclists are as much a hazard as motorists and pedestrians

To the editor:

I have read many letters and articles recently about how there need to be concessions made to bike riders in Old Town, most of them citing how great bicycles are and how much better they are for children, the environment and universe.

That may be, but it is my observation that the majority of bike riders in this town are a mobile hazard to cars and pedestrians. They run stop signs, red lights, go the wrong way on streets, pop up on sidewalks and then head back onto the street. They have zero consideration for anyone on the road but themselves.

Bikes have struck me a to-

tal of three times, including an incident where the rider went one way and the bicycle went the other. He picked up his bike and pedaled away.

My sister commented — after a bicyclist veered into her path while cursing — that she didn't think that Old Town was a very friendly place at all.

There was a claim by a pro-bike writer that motorists break the laws as often as those on bikes. My observation on one Saturday morning is that out of 17 bikes, none stopped at the stop sign at a nearby corner. But every single car stopped.

This isn't to say that there are not plenty of cars, cabs and

even city buses that run red lights — there are plenty. I am waiting for the day when a car runs a red light and a bike decides to do the same from the opposite direction. Then all we need is the vacant-minded pedestrian crossing King Street against the light. I wonder who will win that race?

Everyone in this town needs to start paying attention to the laws that were designed to keep us from running over one another. This goes for the absent-minded pedestrian, the distracted driver (I'm looking right at you, cab drivers) and the arrogant bicyclist.

- Michael Ford
Alexandria

Keeping public parks safe will keep us healthy

To the editor:

Last month, I tended a small pocket park in the heart of Old Town and — for the first time — found a syringe among the cigarette butts. This park is poorly lit at night, the azaleas are diseased and, were it not for some attention, this place would be covered in weedy vines.

This park has been a collective effort of the neighborhood florist, the city and myself. After three years, it's finally a space that people kindly remark on and relax in.

But the incident of the syringe brought me back to an appeal I heard in the spring from other residents about another park. They described it as being overrun by drug dealers and users — for lack of city attention.

Despite complaints to the city, basic maintenance and attention from the police never materialized. It took a visit to city council — and the public embarrassment of officials — to ensure lighting and more frequent police patrols.

The question is: Why did it have to go this far to ensure a minimum level of public safety in one of Alexandria's public parks? Public parks should not be ignored to the point where they become havens for the drug trade.

Making the case for the health benefits stemming from easy public access to well-maintained, safe and pleasant parks has become a tedious exercise. A quick web search turns up thousands of well-documented supporting studies and cases. Alexandria's planning director, who holds a degree in landscape design, knows this quite well.

It seems maintaining an infrastructure of public parks for all residents is something that's no longer important to city officials. In Germany, public parks are studied to determine what creates a safe, relaxing and healthful place. Their answer, which is backed by several studies, is that park improvements — such as good lighting, cutbacks of low-growing plants to eliminate hid-

ing places, pruned trees for spreading natural light and well-kept pathways — combine to increase health and safety benefits for all.

This style of hands-off city management in Alexandria is growing to the point where developers are beginning to talk aloud about how deficient City Hall is in providing what's best for residents. Outstanding civic leaders do not declare that they act in the best interest of the city; rather it's in the best interest of the people they serve.

Public parks in dense, urban areas are not entertainment venues. For that, we have National Harbor, King's Dominion and the Kennedy Center. How about more good public policy and less laissez-faire city management so that residents benefit from a safe, clean and attractive public park infrastructure, which they already own and annually fund?

*- Kathryn Papp
Alexandria*

Not every Hunting Point resident is opposed to change

To the editor:

A cadre of Hunting Point tenants that have banded together in a self-anointed tenants association has received an inordinate amount of "squeaky wheel" press regarding the property's change of ownership to the Laramar Group. They do not represent the overwhelming majority of tenants who want nothing to

do with this association and its confrontational attitude.

They are a small group with personal gripes and perceived, alleged grievances. Transparency demands I acknowledge that there are essential infrastructure improvements to be made to the buildings. But what the public is not being told is that residents have received detailed,

written notices of all the planned improvements anticipated through next year and weekly notices of progress or delay in the most immediate projects.

Central to the furor is a longstanding hot-button issue in Alexandria — maintaining affordable housing in the community — and an attempt to con-

SEE HUNTING POINT | 22

City and state officials have failed Hunting Point residents

To the editor:

Thank you to the Alexandria Times for its coverage of the ever-deteriorating situation at Hunting Point in Julia Brouillette's July 25 article, "Hunting Point residents see few signs of progress." The facts as reported are dispiriting enough, but they are just the beginning of the story.

A little historical perspective: The rents of longtime residents were not frozen by the Virginia Department of Transportation as an act of charity, but to maintain the highest occupancy rates possible during the construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. This was a challenge given the proximity of the towers to the many disruptive elements of that project, including the demolition of nearby asbestos-laden buildings and years of pile driving so intense that it left cracks in the walls.

And it worked. While ignoring the many recommended repairs detailed by its inspectors, VDOT pocketed perhaps as much as \$30 million in profits while letting the infrastructure of the 60-year-old buildings slide steadily downhill.

And as if those facts — and the outright demolition of more than 300 units of affordable housing — were not enough, VDOT refused all entreaties to find an economically viable way to preserve the remaining 500-plus apartments at the towers and 100-plus units at Hunting Terrace as affordable in a city losing such units at a rapid rate.

Instead, it chose to sell Hunting Point to the highest bidder from the private sector. In the case of the towers, that was the Laramar Group and its majority partner, Lubert Adler real estate, with predictable results.

The belief of Mayor Bill Euille — as quoted in the article — that Laramar is interested in maintaining the property as affordable is beyond bizarre. It is interested in what private-sector companies are interested in: maximizing profits, period. Given the profitability of the towers, there were financially feasible possibilities for a different outcome, but the city and state failed abjectly to act on those possibilities.

For it's not just the frozen rents of longtime residents that will be increasing at yearly double-digit rates,

but everybody's rents are increasing. Indeed, the upper range of the rents for new residents at the complex has increased 20 percent this year, and that's prior to any of the many necessary repairs to the buildings being made.

Where is the outreach to longtime residents to see if the city can assist in some way?

Equally abysmal is the state of communications between Laramar and tenants, which has worsened since the mayor's recent conversation with top company officials. Just a few examples:

- Residents of around 20 units were informed to clear their kitchens, baths and adjoining walls in preparation for plumbing work, which Laramar did not even request a permit for until one working day prior to the scheduled start of renovation. That work, of course, was subsequently postponed. Notice of the change was given to residents the day that work was scheduled to start.

- Coincidentally (or not), with the first wave of lease renewals, bi-weekly renovation updates invited residents to visit apartment models to view the new planned kitchens, baths and amenities. Not stated is the fact that the renovations will only be done on vacated units for new residents — not existing tenants, although the latter will still face rent increases, eventually to the same market rates as new residents.

- The new leases are routinely marked as requiring \$150,000 in insurance, which is an added cost for residents, despite the fact that the insurance is actually just recommended, not required.

Both complexes at Hunting Point are well on the way to joining JBG's Beauregard properties and other city locales as housing sites formerly known as affordable, with relentless hardships for the residents in the process.

And the city's reaction? Yet another commission on affordable housing, its final report destined to gather dust next to the final report completed by a similar commission just a few years ago, as the loss of affordable units just keeps rolling along.

*- Jim Mercury
Alexandria*

T.C. will survive letting high-achieving students go to TJ

To the editor:

I am writing to comment on a recent article in the Alexandria Times by Julia Brouillette that details the issue of allowing the City of Alexandria's students to attend the Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology ("From T.C. to TJ?" June 27).

This is not a new issue. The old Jefferson High School along Brad-dock Road in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County was converted into a magnet school for science and technology back in the mid- to late 1980s.

But over those many years, the Alexandria School Board — in its infinite wisdom — has steadfastly declined to allow Alexandrians the opportunity to attend Jefferson.

A few years ago, a school board subcommittee held a public hearing on this matter. Residents were allowed to express their views, and I spoke in favor of allowing Alexandrians to attend Jefferson.

Some speakers were adamantly opposed. One

“If Alexandria’s students have the necessary qualifications and credentials, they should be allowed to compete for admission to Jefferson.”

woman astutely observed that those opposed seemed more obsessed in preserving T.C. Williams’ institutional image than allowing individuals to do what’s in their best interest. She hit the nail on the head.

We have a lot of elitist, do-gooders here in Alexandria, who make-believe that our troubled public school system is a shining beacon of diversity and social engineering.

That is all well and good in a utopian view of the world. But in reality, individuals should have the opportunity to do what’s in their best interest. The City of Alexandria is part of the Northern Virginia region. Jefferson was set up to serve the entire Northern

Virginia area.

If Alexandria’s students have the necessary qualifications and credentials, they should be allowed to compete for admission to Jefferson. We have to get over this misguided notion that T.C. Williams cannot spare a select few students to Jefferson. What about all the other high schools in Northern Virginia? They survive despite losing students to Jefferson.

I strongly urge the school board to allow Alexandria students to attend Jefferson. This should have been done years ago.

- Gregory Paspatis
Alexandria

Who pulled the wool over the Times’ eyes?

To the editor:

The sole purpose of this letter is to set the record straight on what has been ongoing, biased reporting by the Alexandria Times regarding the purchase of Hunting Point by Chicago-based Laramar Group. This sale was a disappointment for Alexandria’s mayor and a cramp in the city council’s 12-year lust to provide affordable housing for city government workers — the mayor’s constituency of government workers.

The point of origin for this one-sided reporting by the Times was a direct result of the self-serving information furnished to them by a handful of tenant informants — and concerned tenants — whose ox was allegedly being gored from their subjective point of view. The role of journalism is to be objective, report both sides of an issue, and most importantly, be accurate and pursue the truth; that is, if they can stand the truth.

This letter is to go on record in support of Laramar, which after acquiring Hunting Point has at all times attempted to do the right thing, first, and its thing, second. This is a welcome relief for all tenants after 12 years under the thumb of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Laramar’s management team is placing the well-being of tenants above profits by working on vast improvements in living

and health conditions in an environment that not only encourages pride in one’s home, but also pride in a class-A project that will never be out of style and hard to follow. Of course, the company has to make a profit, but the new owners have demonstrated compassion, empathy and reasonableness in dealings with low-income and retiree tenants in an escalating market where there’s no ceiling on rent increases in sight.

I submit that this letter represents the opinion of 99 percent of the tenants living at Hunting Point.

This Democratic mayor and city council can demonstrate evidence of good faith to all residents and developers by abandoning their ongoing subterfuge to take control over private property. The elimination of the 10 lawyers working in the city attorney’s office would be the first step in the right direction. Our next step should be to get rid of the mayor and all of our city councilors at the next election.

Consistent with this letter’s premise, I request that all future articles concerning Hunting Point reflect a more accurate, positive, unbiased, enlightened and objective, professional journalistic approach.

- Ray Parker
Alexandria

HUNTING POINT

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tinue rentals at the rent-freeze level that many have enjoyed since the Virginia Department of Transportation took possession of the property in 2000 for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project.

It is rather illogical to expect the new owners to im-

prove the infrastructure and move ahead to the new — and desirable changes — they have outlined for the tenants without a modest increase in rent and fees. Couple that fact with members of the association grumbling about the inconvenience that will accompany infrastructure changes.

It would seem that we have a “have a cake and eat it, too”

scenario. The improvements are desired, but they are a problem so long as anyone has to pay 1 additional cent in rent.

And the emotionalized use of the word “eviction” is misleading as it implies an arbitrary action as opposed to an eviction with cause, which was handled professionally.

The city missed an op-

portunity to acquire the property and guarantee affordable housing units, and now — as change takes place here — the owners are finding that every permit needed for the work is as slow coming as refrigerated molasses. Change has come to the property and changes will continue; the hands of time cannot simply be pulled back.

Personally, I applaud the

proposed changes and find the new management easy to communicate with. The services I have required recently have been timely, professional and the employees most cordial.

- Ed Dickau
Alexandria

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OUT OF THE ATTIC

Storied stadium wasn't always a ball field

Eugene Simpson Memorial Stadium has a long history associated with sports in the community, but that use occurred only by happenstance.

The property was once part of Alexandria's Almhouse, a poorhouse and workhouse established in 1801 where residents farmed the surrounding land to provide their sustenance. In 1928, two years after a larger regional facility for the indigent was built in Manassas, city officials sold the property to Robert C. Frame for a six-room tourist lodging.

However, Frame defaulted on his mortgage during the Great Depression, and the city reacquired the property for public use.

By 1941, the recreation department was using the property, calling it the Alexandria Municipal Stadium. A large ball field was developed on the western end, opposite the YMCA, and the Almhouse served as a storage facility for recreation equipment. Officially scheduled adult teams utilized the very rustic stadium, along with community youth who created teams — sans uniforms or sponsors — named after different neighborhoods in Alexandria.

In April 1951, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League used the field for spring training. In Alexandria, the Fort Wayne Daisies and Racine Belles drilled daily, before players attended evening Helena Rubinstein charm classes. The teams' official games were played at D.C.'s Griffith Stadium, now the site of Howard University Hospital.

The photograph seen here, taken from a short publicity film from the time, shows the view looking north to the 400 block of



PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

East Duncan Avenue. In the distance along the third-base line is Leslie Avenue, which crosses East Duncan, just to the right of the apartment building on the left. Amazingly, the homes and apartments seen in the background are still standing.

The Almhouse building was torn down in 1952, and a dog park now occupies its location near East Monroe Avenue and Jefferson Davis Highway. In September 1964, the Alexandria City Council renamed the stadium to honor the memory of Eugene Simpson, a former city councilor and vice mayor who had passed in June of that year. Simpson led one of the largest construction companies in the United States and had long been a major supporter of athletic programs in the city.

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

FROM THE WEB

[In response to "If it's going to be a hotel, let's make sure it fits," August 8:](#)

Nolan writes:

Yes. Yes. Can we please just move on? We don't need endless rounds of criticism and debate when decisions have already been made. It just becomes argument for the sake of argument.

As for the three ladies that brought a lawsuit [against the original waterfront vote] ... please. You've got a pretty good gig. It's time to let others enjoy the Old Town waterfront.

[In response to "Officers who fired indiscriminately at Taft Sellers deserve criticism," August 1:](#)

O. Johnson writes:

... To say that officers must always hit their mark 100 percent of the time is an unrealistic statement, one that cannot be taken seriously. I would refer you again to [Commonwealth's Attorney Randy] Senegel's report.

It is a shame a man is dead but that is what he chose, and I wouldn't simply judge one man's choices and give immunity to another. Mr. Sellers had time to flee before arrival of the police or simply give up upon their arrival. If someone is responsible for the actions of that day, it is not the police.

Weekly Poll

Last Week

What is your reaction to Carr Hospitality's latest waterfront hotel proposal?

- **40%** It's a long time coming.
- **34%** It must be stopped.
- **26%** A hotel is fine, but this plan needs work.

This Week

Do you support an Alexandria police database of car whereabouts?

- A.** Yes, it is a valuable tool for catching criminals.
- B.** No, it is a violation of law-abiding citizens' privacy.

GARDEN

FROM | 18

surface. A tree or a gracious pergola at one end of the court keeps the garden itself in the game, Lindquist says, and garden benches on the side turn part of the party into a spectator sport. Fan participation is always a big element in the game, and a few strictly unofficial umpires, often just as adept with a wine glass as the players themselves, can be relied upon to offer their impartial services to the advancement of the art.

Finding the space for games amidst the flower beds may require some adjustments and refinements of the rules. Instead of full-court bocce, for

example, a 30-foot, half-court layout may work just fine, with all players tossing their balls from the same end of the court, instead of from opposite ends. The layout for a game of regulation nine-wicket croquet requires a space 50 feet wide and 100 feet long, but even the United States Croquet Association allows players to “adjust the size and shape of the court to fit the available space,” according to the official Rules of Backyard Croquet on the US-CA’s website.

Hundreds of thousands of croquet sets are sold in the U.S. every year, and millions of people play croquet in backyards, says Dylan Goodwin, publisher and editor of Croquet

News. All you need is a lawn, and it doesn’t have to be kept highly groomed.

Goodwin and his wife started playing croquet with friends at barbecue parties, whacking balls around on a rough lawn. Eventually, the group of friends agreed that boundaries, as in most sports, are an essential part of the game, having discovered that “if you’re not digging balls out of the bushes, you have a lot more fun,” he says. Now Goodwin mows his fescue lawn very short — just 1 to 1 1/4 inches tall — for a fast playing surface. At the moment, he has a six-wicket “American Croquet” configuration on his lawn in Overland Park, Kan. Just looking at the croquet green gives him pleasure, he says, and he’s always ready for a game.

Michael Whitton, president of the American Cornhole Association, grew up playing horseshoes, croquet and other lawn games in Ohio. Then cornhole, in which 6-inch-by-6-inch canvas bags filled with corn are tossed into a hole partway up an inclined board, became his sport. Cornhole has amazingly broad appeal and can be played in gardens of any size, he says. Whitton is now retired and lives in California, where his two-deck cornhole set is in demand at garden parties and family events. The game has caught on: the association has almost 40,000 members.

Cornhole decks are 4 feet



PHOTO/TERRAIN

Croquet is among the most popular backyard games; millions of people play, says Dylan Goodwin, publisher and editor of Croquet News. “Croquet sets come with rules, but most people just use that as a guideline,” Goodwin says. Garden and lifestyle specialists, such as Terrain, sell classic croquet sets, ready for backyard play or for a picnic in the park.

long and should be spaced 27 feet apart. If a garden comes up a little short, it’s not a problem, Whitton says. One deck will do: just be sure to leave a little space so players won’t be stepping in the flower beds.

For everyone who has ever played backyard games, summers have some characteristic sounds: the whack of a mallet on a wooden ball, the ring of a horseshoe against its iron stake, the whistle of a whiffle ball. Like garden-fresh tomatoes, flashing fireflies and the

sizzle of a burger on a grill, the sounds, smells and flavors of the season all contribute to an experience much bigger than your own backyard. But it is the garden that makes the game: the whole point is to get everybody outside in the air among the flowers and under the trees.

“Make your garden a destination,” Dabner says. “Have friends over. Grill brats.” And line up a game: the competition isn’t all that stiff when everyone’s relaxed.

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MATTIE L. BURTON, of Alexandria, August 4, 2013

BARBARA ANNE CALLAHAN, formerly of Alexandria, August 6, 2013

LORRAINE P. JENNINGS (73), of Alexandria, August 2, 2013

ANNE "NANCY" L. LEARY (79), of Alexandria, August 6, 2013

ANTHONY RADSPIELER (87), formerly of Alexandria, August 8, 2013

MICHAEL J. WARGO (61), of Alexandria, August 4, 2013

JAMES L. YOUNG (83), formerly of Alexandria, August 8, 2013

HOBIE & MONK

FROM | 6

wives additionally responsible. Maybe, like those people who don't seem to realize that their houses reek of cat/dog/ferret/teenage boy (the latter two being somewhat indistinguishable), they have become oblivious to their husbands' odors. Where are those pesky department store perfume spritzers when you need them, anyway?

To submit questions to *Hobie & Monk*, email hobieandmonk@alextimes.com.

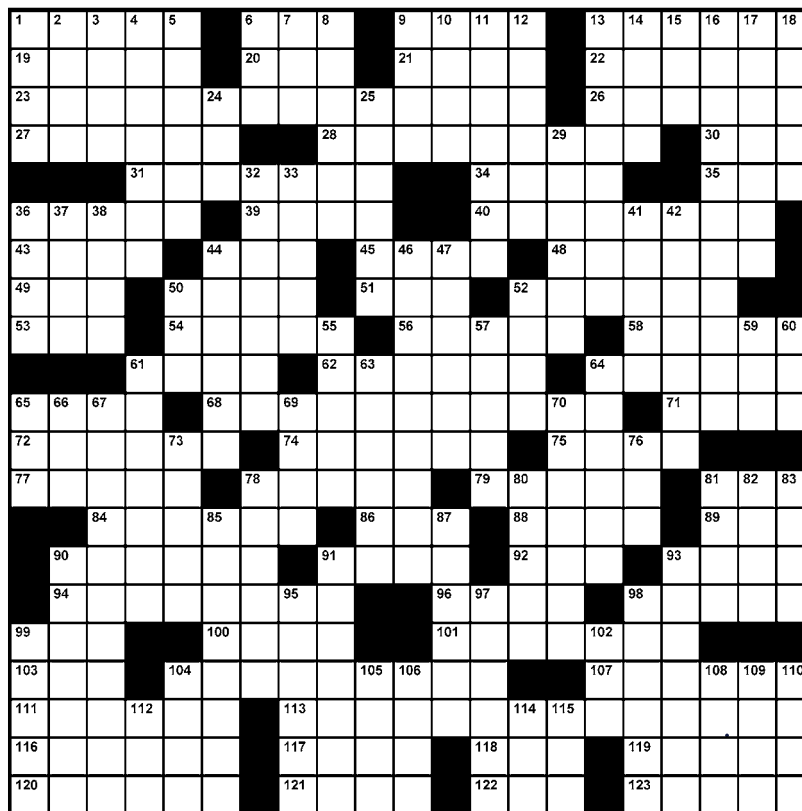
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Weekly Words



ACROSS

- 1 Central city of Islam
- 6 Pesticide banned by the EPA
- 9 Back talk
- 13 Navy's goat, e.g.
- 19 "... ___ of many colors"
- 20 Written acknowledgment of a debt
- 21 Architectural pier
- 22 Prepare to shower (var.)
- 23 Time for rueful reflection
- 26 High-stepping aids
- 27 Ingratiate
- 28 Lobster features
- 30 ___ segno (from the repeat sign, in music)
- 31 African flying pests
- 34 Month after Nisan
- 35 Org. with moles
- 36 Favre of football fame
- 39 "And ___ thou slain the Jabberwock?"
- 40 Baby delivery method
- 43 Carnival attraction
- 44 Cyst
- 45 Flightless flock
- 48 Plays for time
- 49 Aged
- 50 Cavalry's place
- 51 Grave message?
- 52 Oiler or liner
- 53 Shrewdly tricky
- 54 Bakery output
- 56 Natives of Manitoba
- 58 Fat-nosed antelope
- 61 Romney of politics
- 62 Commotion
- 64 Where a boxer may be trained
- 65 New Zealand fruit
- 68 Frosted Lenten pastry
- 71 Arch type
- 72 African antelopes

- 74 Baby's output?
- 75 Ending with "play" or "party"
- 77 Civil War side
- 78 Haile Selassie follower, familiarly
- 79 Slow times
- 81 Common Market inits., once
- 84 Constriction of the pupil
- 86 Egg cells
- 88 Fish organ
- 89 Dumfries denial
- 90 Dropped clues
- 91 Small amount of residue
- 92 Moonves of CBS
- 93 Model T manufacturer
- 94 Go around completely
- 96 Auspices (var.)
- 98 Bridal path
- 99 Lose firmness
- 100 Backup for a prez
- 101 Money in reserve
- 103 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 104 Lots and lots of groceries
- 107 Urgent prompting
- 111 Justification
- 113 Ache treatment
- 116 Margaux Hemingway's grandfather
- 117 Botanical cover
- 118 "Able was I ___ ú"
- 119 Red Square figure
- 120 Blue book writings
- 121 Amount to make do with
- 122 Not a happy camper
- 123 Small amounts

DOWN

- 1 Pepper spray alternative
- 2 Subj. for an MBA
- 3 Fresh from the fridge
- 4 Brownie, a few years later
- 5 "Finally!"
- 6 Sarcastic comment

- 7 "Stupid me!"
- 8 Some learners
- 9 Call at first
- 10 "No ifs, ___ or buts"
- 11 Branch of physics concerned with equilibrium
- 12 Vote for verbally
- 13 Marsh rodents
- 14 Aardvark fare
- 15 ___ Lanka
- 16 Attempting to make sales
- 17 Acquires
- 18 Unit equal to 10,000 gauss
- 24 Anger
- 25 Pearl harborer
- 29 Lads' dates
- 32 Adverb in contracts
- 33 Cupid's boss
- 36 JFK and RFK, e.g.
- 37 Brook
- 38 Christian Science founder
- 41 Chinese civet
- 42 First Lady Roosevelt
- 44 Values
- 46 Handy oven
- 47 Revolted
- 50 "Donnie Brasco" grp.
- 52 Grammar class subject
- 55 Former Italian leaders
- 57 Artist's stand
- 59 Comment from the Beaver
- 60 A pint, maybe
- 61 Making, as money
- 63 Ancient Roman magistrate (var.)
- 64 Rolling features of some golf courses
- 65 Novelist Kesey
- 66 1969 Nobel Peace Prize grp.
- 67 Coal-under-the-bed containers
- 69 "Jabberwocky" opener
- 70 Hardest on the eyes
- 73 Hindu loincloth
- 76 Class for U.S. immigrants (Abbr.)
- 78 Knight's publishing partner
- 80 Jamaican tangelos
- 81 "The Dukes of Hazzard" spinoff
- 82 Countess's husband, in Britain
- 83 Formally surrender
- 85 Mansion staff
- 87 "To do" list
- 90 Some use faith
- 91 Disapprove of
- 93 One in a ring
- 95 Kind of injection or weapon
- 97 Beaux ___ (gracious acts)
- 98 Ancient
- 99 Hindu's wrapping outer garment (var.)
- 102 Emulate a tide
- 104 Brit's teapot covering
- 105 "Miss ___ Regrets"
- 106 Cobblers' tools
- 108 Volcano in Sicily
- 109 Not in need of a diet
- 110 Addition column
- 112 Caribbean, e.g.
- 114 Victorian, for one
- 115 Word with "flag" or "alert"

Last Week's Solution:



Classifieds

ABC NOTICE

ABC Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
2001 Heritage Road / P.O. Box 2100, Richmond, VA 23201
www.abc.virginia.gov

RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)

PUBLISHING NOTICE

Please publish the following notice in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 3.

(Full name(s) of owner(s)) Namaste LLC
If general partnership, enter partners' names or name of partnership. If LP, LLP, LLC or corporation, enter name as recorded with the State Corporation Commission. If association or tax exempt private club, enter name. Do not file a sales agreement, order form, order and last name.

Trading as: Namaste
(Trade name)

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Alexandria
(City/Town)

Fairfax Virginia 22310
(State) (Zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a liquor, beer and mixed beverage license (Number of licenses applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Name and title of newspaper/publisher advertising above business

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC-100000 This is an official state document. All information contained is submitted herein in public information. Please do not disseminate this document without the permission of the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Retail License Application, page 11

HELP WANTED

Garage space needed for 1967 Pontiac LeMans. Please contact Lynn at 703-684-5476 if you have garage space to rent for this classic car.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE APPLICATION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON COMPENSATION INSURANCE, INC., FOR REVISIONS OF ADVISORY LOSS COSTS AND ASSIGNED RISK WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE RATES CASE NO. INS-2013-00158

Notice is hereby given to employers providing workers' compensation insurance under the Workers' Compensation Act and to the public that National Council on Compensation Insurance, Inc. ("Applicant"), on behalf of its member insurers, has applied to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for approval of certain changes applicable to voluntary market advisory loss costs and assigned risk rates and rating values for new and renewal workers' compensation insurance policies becoming effective on and after April 1, 2014.

The Applicant proposes advisory loss costs that the Applicant's members may use along with their own expenses and profit and contingency factors in establishing the members' rates for policies written in the voluntary market. The proposed advisory loss costs would produce an increase in the overall average pure premium level for the voluntary market industrial classifications of 4.1%.

The Applicant proposes changes to the advisory loss costs for "F" (Federal) classifications in the voluntary market that would produce an overall pure premium level decrease of 2.3%.

The Applicant proposes advisory loss costs for coal classifications 1005 and 1016 in the voluntary market that would produce an overall pure premium level increase of 18% and 18%, respectively.

The Applicant proposes a 4.2% decrease in the overall average rate level for industrial classifications in the assigned risk plan. The Applicant proposes a 7.4% decrease in the overall average rate level for "F" (Federal) classifications in the assigned risk plan and a 4.4% increase and a 4.2% increase in the overall average rate level for coal classifications 1005 and 1016, respectively, in the assigned risk plan.

The Applicant has submitted filings and testimony and exhibits in support of the proposed changes in advisory loss costs, assigned risk rates, and rating values to the Commission. That information and other information filed by the Applicant in support of its proposals, including the exact assigned risk rates and advisory loss costs for individual classifications, which will vary by classification and may be higher or lower than the overall decreases stated above, may be seen at the Commission's Bureau of Insurance, Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, and at the Document Control Center of the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, First Floor, Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

The Commission has instituted an investigation into the changes proposed by the Applicant and has set a public hearing thereon in Case No. INS-2013-00158 in its Courtroom, Second Floor, Tyler Building, Richmond, Virginia 23219, at 10 a.m. on October 24, 2013. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Applicant's filings and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals. TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may approve advisory loss costs and assigned risk rates and rating values different than those proposed in the Applicant's filings and supporting documents.

On or before August 16, 2013, any person or entity who expects to participate at the public hearing as a respondent must file a notice of participation, in conformity with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq., and the Commission's Order Scheduling Hearing in this case, with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218 and must serve a copy on the Applicant's counsel, Charles H. Tenser, Esquire, 2120 Galloway Terrace, Midlothian, Virginia 23113.

On or before September 13, 2013, in accordance with the Commission's Order Scheduling Hearing, each respondent shall file the testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case.

All interested persons who desire to comment on the application shall file such comments on or before October 10, 2013, with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so by following the instructions available at the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/> case. All comments shall refer to Case No. INS-2013-00158.

Any interested person who desires to make a statement at the hearing on his/her own behalf, but not otherwise participate in the hearing, need only appear in the Commission's Courtroom at 9:45 a.m. on October 24, 2013, and contact the Commission's Bailiff. In order to accommodate as many public witnesses as possible, the Commission asks that comments be limited to five minutes by each such witness. Individuals with disabilities who require an accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at least seven (7) days before the scheduled hearing at 1-800-552-7945 (voice) or 1-804-371-9206 (TDD).

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure may be viewed at: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure and an official copy of the Commission's Order Scheduling Hearing in this proceeding may be obtained from Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118.



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following request has been received for administrative review and approval.

For information about this application or to comment, visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov/planning or call (703) 746-4666.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2013-0062

2016 Mount Vernon Ave.
– Coffee Shop
Administrative Special Use Permit for approval of a request to operate a coffee shop (restaurant); zoned CL / Commercial Low.
APPLICANT: Daniel Bender, T/A Seva Cafe
PLANNER: nathan.randall@alexandriava.gov

In accordance with section 11-500 of the zoning ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning and Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning and Zoning staff at 703 746-4666 or email the planner listed below the case no later than **September 5, 2013**.

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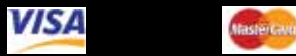
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