

Alexandria Times

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Alexandria's only independent hometown newspaper

JANUARY 2, 2014



2013

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Our View

Ring in the New Year

It seems like we say this each and every January, but wow, what a year.

Even as we compiled this, our annual year-in-review edition, we were surprised at what a rollercoaster the past 12 months have been in Alexandria. We saw contentious zoning changes along the waterfront and in the Beauregard corridor; the resignation of a controversial superintendent; a major tax hike; and the renewed threat of eminent domain to resolve the city's land dispute with the Old Dominion Boat Club.

But you can refresh your memory of a dramatic year in the Port City in the pages ahead. We want this, our first editorial of 2014, to serve as a look ahead to the coming months.

Where else to start but the budget? We have praised city councilors for holding the line on real estate and personal property tax rates this year. But their guidelines for the upcoming budget season leave the door open on other increases through various fees and levies.

After a massive tax hike last year — and given rising real estate assessments will mean more money for city coffers — we believe the city manager and city councilors must give residents a break this year. Keeping real estate and personal property tax rates steady is a good start, but we don't want to see increases elsewhere.

And that leads us to our next point: There will be cuts to valued public services, and a great many people will, undoubtedly, be un-

happy when the budget is approved in May. We have said it before — and likely will say it again — but we need to accept these changes with civility and grace.

Let there be no hyperbole this year, vitriol or histrionics. By all means, advocate for what you believe in, but let's promise to treat this process like a negotiation, not a battlefield.

But the onus for fostering a civil discussion is on City Hall as much as it's on residents. On that front, we have seen progress this past year — like the What's Next Alexandria initiative and work on a civic engagement handbook — and these efforts must continue. How many times have we heard, when a contentious issue arises, that residents were the last to know? That they were left in the dark?

Occasionally, that's the case, and despite progress on City Hall's part, it's a claim that still pops up (think bike lanes on King Street). Clearly, there is more work ahead.

Finally, Alexandria City Public Schools has begun its search for Morton Sherman's successor in earnest. After years of near constant change, the district needs a superintendent who favors stability over high-priced consultants and new initiatives. Judging from what school board members and parents have said, it's clear we're not alone.

Let's hope the district gets the leader it needs: an individual capable of not only sailing through the storm, but also finding calm water in the months and years ahead.

With that, here's to a prosperous new year.

Alexandria Times

FRONT PAGE PHOTOS BY: SUSAN HALE THOMAS, LAURA SIKES, ERICH WAGNER

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JANUARY



FILE PHOTO

RIGHTING A WRONG Sen. Michael Dean Crapo (R-Idaho) publicly atoned on the steps of the city courthouse for driving under the influence of alcohol. Local police stopped Crapo, a Mormon, after he ran a red light in Del Ray on December 23, 2012. He had a blood alcohol content of 0.11. A first-time offender, Crapo saw his license suspended and paid a \$250 fine. But Judge Becky Moore suspended his 180-day jail sentence.

“It was a poor choice to use alcohol to relieve stress and one at odds with my personally held religious beliefs. ... I will carry through on appropriate measures for forgiveness and repentance in my church.”

- Sen. Michael Dean Crapo (R-Idaho)

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

THE WEEKLY BRIEFING

Transit head OKs bike lanes on King Street

Despite protests from neighbors, a stretch of King Street will get bike lanes after all.

Rich Baier, the city's director of transportation and environmental services, made the decision last month after weeks of heated debate. The project would remove 27 parking spaces on King Street, between Russell Road and Janneys Lane, while adding bike lanes and safety improvements for pedestrians.

Opponents, many of them

neighbors, have argued that the parking spaces are needed. They also believe encouraging cyclists to use that stretch of roadway will make it more dangerous.

After it went before the traffic and parking board in November, members encouraged transit officials to conduct more public outreach before forging ahead. But the decision, ultimately, rested with Baier.

“I have taken every com-

ment and concern under consideration,” Baier wrote in a letter to the public. “I walked, drove and rode my own bike up and down King Street to make sure that I experienced the roadway from the perspective of all street users. It was this experience that affirmed my belief that it is imperative to implement a plan that improves the safety concerns highlighted as part of this project.”

Work is expected to begin later this year.

Parking-ticket disputes go back to the courts

Contesting a parking ticket? Get a court date.

City Hall closed the parking adjudication office this week, meaning motorists cited for overstaying their welcome in Alexandria will have to go before a judge to have a ticket dropped. The move, approved last year, is expected to save taxpayers about \$135,000 in the fiscal 2014 budget.

Officials also are giving alleged offenders extra time to fight tickets. Motorists have up to three years to make a court appearance. But there is a \$25 fee if the fine isn't paid or contested within 30 days of it being issued.

Motorists contesting the ticket must schedule a hearing with the court and fill out an affidavit.

The decision to eliminate the office was about more than cost savings, said Laura Triggs, the city's director of finance. Officials believe the move will make contesting tickets fairer for motorists.

“When [we] looked at the rules, the question became: Who is the judge and jury?” Triggs said. “And many of those [disputes] belong in a court.”

Clock's ticking on boat club negotiations

After initially keeping quiet on the status of negotiations for the Old Dominion Boat Club's waterfront parking lot, city officials have lifted — ever so slightly — the veil of silence.

A city spokesman has confirmed that talks for the coveted shoreline parcel are underway. After years of on-again, off-again negotiations, Mayor Bill Euille made it clear in the fall that City Hall would use emi-

nent domain to secure the land if an agreement remained elusive much longer.

Following a lengthy November public hearing on the topic, city councilors opted to extend talks for a further 90 days, with the option of eminent domain still on the table if negotiations break down again. Officials want to turn the parking lot into a waterfront plaza and use nearby club property for flood-

mitigation efforts.

While neither side will discuss the specifics of the talks, the 90-day clock is ticking: It began December 18 and will end March 17. Though the idea of bringing in an independent mediator has been discussed, the two sides have not yet agreed to add one, officials said.

- Derrick Perkins

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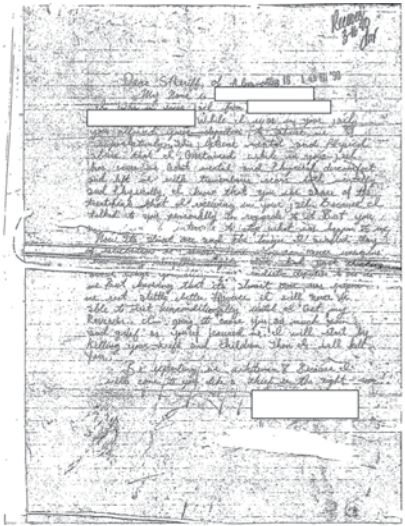
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JANUARY



FILE IMAGE

A THREATENING LETTER Formerly sealed FBI records added a new twist to the mysterious murder of Nancy Dunning. Obtained by the Times through a Freedom of Information Act request, the documents revealed a failed investigation into a death threat mailed to then-Sheriff Jim Dunning. The anonymous author alleged mistreatment at the hands of Dunning's deputies and threatened his life as well as those of his family. Even close friends and family were unaware of the letter, which was mailed more than a decade before Nancy Dunning's murder in 2003, which remains unsolved. Jim Dunning died in his North Carolina home in 2011.

“I had heard early on, when people were speculating about all of the possibilities, among the possibilities was the possibility of an inmate or somebody who had contact with [the Dunnings] was angry. ... This was not something I talked to Jim about; this was just scuttlebutt in the community.”

- Lonnie Rich, friend and political ally of Jim Dunning



FILE PHOTO

CITY HALL GETS CONNECTED City officials made it easier for residents to interact with their local government, rolling out a program known as Call.Click.Connect. The Internet-based system lets Alexandrians contact officials for a variety of reasons, including potholes, graffiti and problems with city employees. Residents also can track their requests as they work their way through City Hall.

FEBRUARY

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FILE PHOTO

OFFICER DOWN Police officer Peter Laboy suffered a grievous head injury after being shot allegedly by Kashif Bashir, an Alexandria Yellow Cab driver. Local lawmen were trying to track Bashir down when Laboy confronted him at the intersection of S. St. Asaph and Wilkes streets. After undergoing immediate surgery at MedStar Washington Hospital, Laboy began down the long road of recovery. Bashir, meanwhile, has been declared unfit for trial because of mental health issues.



FILE PHOTOS

WEST END TRAGEDY After drawing his weapon during a standoff in the West End, 30-year-old Taft Sellers was gunned down by police officers. The killing sent shockwaves through the community, where Sellers — a T.C. Williams graduate and former Marine — was well known and liked. In July, Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel cleared the officers involved.

SAVING THE FORMER CARVER NURSERY SCHOOL A multiyear effort to find a buyer for the former Carver Nursery School ended — seemingly abysmally. Years earlier, local preservationists successfully forced City Hall and owner William Cromley to shelve plans to redevelop the property, so they instead launched a nationwide search for an individual or group willing to save and maintain the Parker-Gray building. But when time ran out, there was no one to be found. Despite the setback, preservationists persevered, and Cromley, who had given up on his original redevelopment plan, decided to find a compromise.

MARCH



FILE PHOTO

FROM SLAUGHTERHOUSE TO SCHOOLYARD Alexandria is well known for its history, so the occasional discovery of a piece of the city's past is expected, especially in Old Town. But that didn't stop local archaeologists from rejoicing when they found what's believed to be the remains of a slaughterhouse on the grounds of the new Jefferson-Houston School. Researchers discovered that the land was once used as a cattle run and the property owners of the time were connected to the butchery business. Unfortunately, much of it was eventually destroyed. Officials worried it would pose a threat to the new school's structure if left in place.



FILE PHOTO

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE Hoping to cut short potentially years of litigation surrounding the waterfront redevelopment plan, city councilors voted 6-1 to reapprove the zoning and density changes within the blueprint. The surprise move gave critics exactly what they wanted when the plan first passed in 2012: a supermajority decision. Though opponents warned that the tactic was meaningless, the state Supreme Court saw it City Hall's way and said a lawsuit challenging the plan was moot later in the year.

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APRIL

A LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT Representatives of the Howard Hughes Corp. pitched ideas to city officials for a revitalized Landmark Mall, long seen as an eyesore on the West End. The Dallas-based company wants to remake the section of property that it owns at the shopping center, replacing it with a mixed-use commercial and residential development. The project also may include a movie theater. But since Macy's and Sears own large chunks of the mall, any future plans hinge on their cooperation.



FILE PHOTO

REDEVELOPING BEAUREGARD City councilors sealed the fate of the Beauregard corridor, voting 6-1 to approve zoning changes in the neighborhood and paving the way for the area's redevelopment. The decision gives developers increased density in return for dedicated affordable housing. But residents of the neighborhood worry future redevelopment will force out as many as 10,000 people.

MS. 1,000 Alexis Sargent, then a softball pitcher for St. Stephen's and St. Agnes High School, threw her 1,000th strikeout during a no-hitter against Connelly School of the Holy Child. Sargent, who now plays for the University of Pennsylvania, was a born pitcher, according to her parents. She even took T-ball seriously, said her father, John Sargent.

MARATHON TRAGEDY STRIKES HOME

Alexandrians joined the rest of the country in shock and mourning after twin blasts marred the Boston Marathon, but perhaps none more so than Chris Farley and Leslie Malm. Farley, owner of Pacers Running Stores, was in the city for a convention and joined the throngs at the finish line to cheer on friends. Though he was preparing to return to Virginia when the bombs went off, the realization that he likely had walked by both explosives left him deeply troubled. Malm, however, was at ground zero when the explosions went off. Steve McNamara, a Boston resident, helped a shocked Malm into a nearby restaurant and later assisted her in finding her family. The two met again later in the year, so Malm could thank McNamara for his help.



FILE PHOTO

MAY



FILE PHOTO

ARGUMENT ENDS IN GUN-FIRE

A confrontation between Julian Dawkins and off-duty Arlington sheriff's deputy Craig Patterson turned deadly in the early morning hours of May 22. Patterson shot and killed the 22-year-old, later claiming he fired out of self-defense. Though police officials quickly identified the veteran lawman as being involved, days dragged on before he was formally charged for the slaying. In the meantime, friends and family of the beloved T.C. Williams graduate protested what they saw as a lack of justice.

A SPECIAL BLESSING Christ Church made history again, holding its first same-sex blessing for Melissa Capers and Bruni Hernandez. About 150 people attended the ceremony, which was overseen by the Rev. Ann Gillespie. The pair, who met in 1996, previously had a commitment ceremony, got a civil union in Vermont and were married in Massachusetts.

“It was really amazing. ... It's a vision of what the church could be: risky and open and celebratory and jubilant and relevant.”

- Melissa Capers

MAY

A TAXING TAX Facing the prospect of another year of mounting costs and falling revenue, city councilors approved a 4-cent real estate tax hike along with the fiscal 2014 budget. The decision added roughly \$314 on an average homeowner's tax bill. Residents, like former City Councilor Frank Fannon, balked at the spike. The previous year, officials dipped into the city's rainy day fund to avoid raising the tax rate.

“Our city still faces financial challenges, and this budget — including the 4-cent tax rate increase — reflects the need to not only maintain our present but build on our future.”

- Mayor Bill Euille

JUNE



FILE PHOTO

REMEMBERING A FALLEN HERO The spirit and name of Joshua Weissman will live on in Alexandria. The city paramedic, who died after tumbling from a highway overpass during an emergency call in 2011, will have his name emblazoned on

the fire department's professional development center. Fire Chief Adam Thiel initially wanted to name a new station in the paramedic's honor, but close friends and family changed his mind. Known for his commitment to self-improvement, naming the center for Weissman seemed more fitting, Thiel said.

HANDS OFF MY BICYCLE Officials quickly reversed course after the Times revealed that the Alexandria Police Department wanted to track bicycle sales, as well as the names and addresses of new owners. The proposed database came to light after city council overhauled the bicycle ordinance, stripping many unused and outdated regulations, like requiring cyclists to register their ride with City Hall. While no database was ever created, police officials had hoped to put one together in the near future. That changed after city councilors grilled the police chief on its necessity.

JUNE



FILE PHOTO

SCIENTIFIC SUCCESS City officials and local economic experts celebrated a major coup: luring the National Science Foundation from nearby Arlington County. The General Services Administration gave Alexandria's bid for the prestigious federal agency the nod after a period of intense competition for the foundation — much to the consternation of officials in Arlington. Expected to pump jobs and money into Alexandria, the foundation will open up near the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To have your event considered for our calendar listings, please email events@alextimes.com.

Now to January 4

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACTIVISTS EXHIBITION Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing project, conceived by Nina Tisara, to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. Over the years, 13 African-Americans have been chronicled as part of the project: Ferdinand Day in 2007-08; Lillie Finklea, Carlton Funn Sr., Eula Miller, Melvin Miller and Bert Ransom in 2008-09; Nelson Greene Sr. in 2010; Lynnwood Campbell in 2011; Lillian Patterson, Gwen Menefee-Smith and Dorothy Turner last year; and Willie Bailey Sr. and Rosa Byrd this year. Admission is \$2.
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday
Location: Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.
Information: www.alexandrialegends.com or www.alexandriava.gov/blackhistory

Now to January 6

CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT VERNON Mount Vernon is again joyfully decking the halls for Christmas at Mount Vernon, a special daytime program offered through January 6. The event features themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees) and historical chocolate-making demonstrations. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$8 for children.
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Information: www.mountvernon.org

January 2 - 3

'DOWNTON ABBEY' MARATHON Before PBS airs season four, come and catch up on season three of "Downton Abbey." There also will be tea and biscuits.
Time: 1 to 5 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

January 3

OPENING RECEPTION: PRIMARY COLORS Oh, what can be done with red, yellow and blue? This all-media show is about how regional artists creatively use the three primary colors without mixing them.
Time: 7 to 10 p.m.
Location: Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: www.thedelrayartisans.org

HAL KETCHUM The country music star is best known for hits like "Small Town Saturday Night," "Hearts Are Gonna Roll" and "Stay Forever." Tickets are \$29.50.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com

January 4

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

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN PHILHARMONIC CONCERT The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform music by Franz Joseph Haydn, Beethoven and Christopher Weiss. Tickets are \$20, while teenagers and children younger than 18 are free.
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive
Information: 703-799-8229 and www.wmpamusic.org

THE ASSOCIATION This pop music band, which was popular in the 1960s, comes to the Birchmere. The Association are known for hits like "Cherish," "Windy" and "Never Love Me." Tickets are \$35.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com

January 5

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

SUPERHERO SUNDAY Come enjoy a film screening of "Man of Steel."
Time: 2 to 4 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

ARMONIA NOVA CONCERT Join Armonia Nova in its 12th anniversary of performing at Historic Christ Church with music from England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St.
Information: www.armonianova.org

January 6

FRIENDS OF BEATLEY LIBRARY MEETING Join the group for its monthly business meeting and learn how to become more active with the Friends of Beatley Central Library.
Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

CHORAL EVENSONG The St. Paul's Episcopal Church adult choir, under the direction of Grant Hellmers, will present a choral evensong service to commemorate the feast of the Epiphany.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St.
Information: Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or grant@stpaulsalexandria.com

January 7

MORRISON HOUSE PRESENTS: CATHERINE B. HOLLAN Catherine B. Hollan researches, writes and lectures on American silver. She will lead this salon-style discussion that ex-

plores Alexandria's heritage and culture.
Time: 6 to 8 p.m.
Location: Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St.
Information: 703-838-8000 or www.morrisonhouse.com

AUTHOR TALK WITH CHRIS DIETZEL Author Chris Dietzel will discuss and sign his book, "The Man Who Watched the World End."
Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

January 8

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB The group will discuss "Murder on the Orient Express," by Agatha Christie.
Time: 2 to 3 p.m.
Location: Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road
Information: Contact Caroline Pak at 703-746-1779

GENEALOGY DISCUSSION GROUP Do you know your roots? Come attend this inaugural meeting of the genealogy discussion group.
Time: 7 to 8 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1702 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

AUTHOR TALK WITH NINAD JOG Memoirist and short-story writer Ninad Jog will read from, discuss and sign his books, "Ninny's Natter" and "The Tiny World of Vinod Saney."
Time: 7 to 8:30 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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JULY



FILE PHOTO

A RETURN TO STABILITY Local officials celebrated as Moody's announced that it was improving the city's AAA bond rating from negative to stable, in line with a similar upgrade to the federal government's borrowing outlook. Laura Triggs, chief financial officer for the city, joked that officials would have preferred the news to come out earlier, since they had just gone to the market to sell more than \$50 million in capital bonds. But she said the negative outlook had no discernable effect on borrowing rates.

BREWERY UNVEILS DERECHO BEER, AGAIN Port City Brewing owner Bill Butcher said that the accidental California common beer caused by the 2012 derecho was so successful, he decided to make a new batch during the summer — this time intentionally. The beer was met with great fanfare, and Butcher said he's weighing whether to make it a seasonal offering.



FILE PHOTO

A COMPLEX PROPOSAL A proposal that would convert a West End park into a massive sports and entertainment complex sparked a debate over public-private partnerships and green space in the city. Though the concept first went public in June, July saw a ferocious back-and-forth debate between proponents and critics. The two area businessmen pulled their plan after discovering that the city had bought the land in part using federal conservation funds.



Winter Open House

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AUGUST



PHOTO/MARK BRISCOE

ACES TRUMPED IN FIRST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE The Alexandria Aces celebrated their first playoff berth following a 27-17 record over the summer. But their joy was short-lived, as they fell to the Bethesda Big Train in the playoffs of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League.

“It's the best team we've ever had here. We were a fundamental ball club. We made plays. We had speed. The starting pitching was great all year, and we had one of the best bullpens in the league. And all around, we didn't make very many mistakes.”

- Colin Milon, Pitcher for the Alexandria Aces



FILE PHOTO

MAKING THE GRADE Alexandria City Public Schools received a mixed grade from the statewide Standards of Learning test results for the 2012-13 school year. Although math scores rose nearly across the board, English results dropped, in part because of a new, more rigorous test. And the embattled Jefferson-Houston School again failed to receive accreditation, meaning the state could take control of the institution.

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The Alexandria Times newspaper provides our print and online readers with the most comprehensive and localized coverage possible in the City of Alexandria, with a political tint that being in the shadow of the nation's capital makes inevitable.

Whether it's a shake-up at City Hall or a new milkshake at Dairy Godmother, our attention is focused on Alexandria, allowing us to bring you a unique mesh of city and community news that our fair and historic city on the Potomac deserves. Don't worry Alexandria — we've got you covered.

FILE PHOTOS

FORMER CARVER NURSERY SCHOOL FINALLY SOLD After months of anticipation, local developer William Cromley sold the former Carver Nursery School property to a company that will preserve the historic building and convert it into a pediatric dentist's office. Cromley originally planned to demolish the schoolhouse, which served black students in the 1940s, but agreed to find a buyer to save the building after pushback from residents. Cromley's original plan for the property is shown on the right.



FILE PHOTO
CITY UNVEILS PROPOSAL FOR BOAT CLUB COMPROMISE City officials revealed their nine-point proposal for ending the standoff with the Old Dominion Boat Club over its parking lot. Officials wanted the boat club to sell a portion of the parking lot for use as a public plaza, but the club countered that it would only lease a smaller tract for use as a walkway.



FILE PHOTO

SHERMAN RESIGNS With less than a week before the first day of school, Morton Sherman handed in his resignation as superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools. Although a few parents were disappointed by his sudden departure, many decried his tenure, which was marred by controversy and seemingly constant change.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



JANUARY 6-17

Residents who receive City refuse collection may place Christmas trees at the curb for recycling on regular trash collection days, beginning Monday, January 6, through Friday, January 17. Please remove any stands, lights, and decorations from trees.

For more information visit: alexandriava.gov/YardWaste



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— SEPTEMBER —



FILE PHOTO

ROBINSON TERMINALS CHANGING HANDS The Graham Holdings Co. — formerly known as The Washington Post Co. — reached a deal to sell the Robinson Terminals to a triumvirate of area developers. The new owners said they will likely gut or demolish both buildings and construct a 150-room hotel, residences and retail space.

FILE PHOTO

JUSTICE FOR LENNY HARRIS

Across the Potomac River in Prince George's County, a jury convicted Tyrone Lewis, 28, of first-degree murder — along with a slew of other charges — for the killing of local activist Lenny Harris. The Alexandria resident went missing in September 2011 and was found dead in a well in Fort Washington in January 2012. Harris' friends described the conviction of his killers — two other men pleaded guilty — as a bittersweet moment.



FILE PHOTO

VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT DISMISSES WATERFRONT PLAN CHALLENGE

After two years of fighting against the city's waterfront redevelopment plan, opponents received a major blow when the Virginia Supreme Court dismissed their legal challenge to the proposal's passage. The state court found the case moot because the Alexandria City Council revisited the plan in March and passed it with a supermajority vote. Critics said they would accept the decision and turn their scrutiny to individual waterfront projects as they surface.



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OCTOBER



FILE PHOTO

OFFICERS CLEARED IN SHOOTING OF TAFT SELLERS The Alexandria Police Department completed its investigation of the officers involved in the shooting of Taft Sellers, concluding that they acted in accordance with police policies governing the use of force. Police Chief Earl Cook said that the situation escalated too quickly for the department to diffuse the standoff peacefully.

SHUT IT DOWN Following a protracted fight in Washington over spending, the U.S. government shut down for more than two weeks beginning October 1. Many federal workers and local agencies felt the pinch, with people furloughed and paychecks delayed. But local businesses lent a helping hand, offering discounts and other specials to residents who were federal employees.



FILE PHOTO

CITY WEIGHS EMINENT DOMAIN ALONG WATERFRONT Mayor Bill Euille announced that City Hall would consider using eminent domain in its pursuit of the Old Dominion Boat Club's waterfront parking lot. For years, officials said the tactic was off the table, but Euille said it was time to put an end date on negotiations.



FILE PHOTO

CITY LOSES WALES ALLEY FIGHT The Virginia Supreme Court handed a major victory to the Old Dominion Boat Club, upholding the organization's centuries-old easement on Wales Alley in the face of the city's claim that it held sole control over the street. The most recent iteration of the conflict started when City Hall approved the construction of a patio in the alley by Virtue Food & Grain. But the restaurant held off on building it because of the lawsuit.

LAURIE OLIN COMES TO TOWN Residents had the opportunity to meet the man who will revamp the city's waterfront, and even critics of the riverside plan walked away impressed. Laurie Olin wowed those who attended the meeting, said critic Bob Wood, who added that City Hall should have brought him in earlier in the planning process.

“ I thought it was inspirational, and it gives me some hope that such a professional is going to get a shot at a design plan. The [waterfront] plan was always missing a design plan. What we built was a framework without a design plan.”

- Bob Wood

Alexandria Times
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Let's Eat

A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times

Chadwicks keeps the good times rolling

Chadwicks just gets better with age, and after more than 30 years, it's easy to see why locals and tourists flock to the Old Town restaurant. The 203 Strand St. establishment has a warm, inviting setting, fantastic menu and friendly services.

The cozy dining rooms feature brick walls, stone and deep brown wood. Upstairs, the intimate, dark wood booths and tables have a slice of a river view. The twinkling lights of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge as well as boats floating down the Potomac contribute to the pleasing atmosphere.

The menu at Chadwicks is diverse, well priced and full of delicious dishes year-round. When the temperature drops outside, the most popular items are the clam

chowder, baby back ribs, fresh seafood, burgers (which are half-off on Mondays), chicken, steak and a number of vegetarian options. Weekend brunch also is a huge hit with patrons.

Recently, the big draw at the restaurant is the late-night bar food specials from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Everything on the special menu at the bar is just \$5.

The other great thing about late-night dining at Chadwicks — which is open until 2 a.m. — is the wonderful staff, which makes people feel comfortable. Stopping by the restaurant after a fun evening out is like visiting an old friend's house, reminiscing about the best of times.

But anytime is a good time to

dine at Chadwicks.

"My wife travels sometimes, and Chadwicks is a great place to go after a long day at work," said a regular. "The food is always delicious, the wine and beer selection is well-priced with a number of good choices, and the people who work there make you feel at home."

Chadwicks is what other restaurants strive to be, and the Alexandria staple makes it look easy. Come see why everyone loves it.

Chadwicks opens from 11:30 to 2 a.m. Monday through Friday and 10 to 2 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 703-836-4442 or visit www.chadwicksrestaurants.com.



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PET MATTERS

Your pet's health is in your hands

I was babysitting a friend's toddler ages ago and learned a lesson I will never forget — and one that everybody should take to heart.

I took the little boy to a botanical garden to see the pretty flowers and check out an enormous koi pond while his parents attended a work event. He was, naturally, fascinated by the varying sizes of the fish. The same could not be said for me.

Completely out of my comfort zone and in the effort to make conversation, I exclaimed, "Wow! Look at the fat one!"

He corrected me saying that "fat" was not a nice word and that we should instead call it "the larger fish."

I was impressed and embarrassed. It isn't every day I get schooled by a 3-year-old, and I won't soon forget the lesson.

This eye-opening babysitting experience has stuck with me. I think of that day often, especially when I'm caring for overweight animals, and even more so when I hear clients and loved ones refer to their pets as "fat cats," "chunky monkeys" and "plump pups," among other things.

In a way, such nicknames are cute. But in many more ways, they're not.

Fat jokes at the expense of our pets are just as tasteless as those aimed at humans. To me, they are almost worse, especially if you consider how debilitating excess weight can be for our beloved animals.

Oh, and it's worth thinking about how we, as their guardians, are entirely responsible

for preventing the many health risks associated with pet obesity.

As I said in a column a couple of years back, our dogs don't go into the fridge and prepare peanut butter and bacon sandwiches in the middle of the night. Our cats only break into their treat bags if they are left out and unattended. And it's only so often that dogs counter-surf or break

into trashcans, and their humans usually are equally to blame for these mishaps.

In other words, our pets aren't overfeeding and indulging themselves.

So, before you feed your pets more than you should, before you take offense to your veterinarian's recommendations on your pet's weight, before you give your pet the

“Fat jokes at the expense of our pets are just as tasteless as those aimed at humans. To me, they are almost worse, especially if you consider how debilitating excess weight can be for our beloved animals.”

extra treat they didn't earn, and before you come up with a new-and-improved fat joke for your pet, remember this: Fat is as ugly a term as diabetes, heart disease and all the other ailments you could be inviting into your pet's life if you don't do them the favor of watching their weight for them.

The writer is the owner of The Wag Pack.



By Isabel Alvarez

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NOVEMBER

TITAN PRIDE The T.C. Williams football team broke a 22-year playoff drought with a win against Patriot District rival West Potomac. The Titans again turned to their defense to secure the victory — and playoff berth. The squad held off a late-game push by the Wolverines to win 24-14. Unfortunately, the Titans fell to South County, 51-27, in the opening round of the postseason.



FILE PHOTOS

TRANSPORTATION GURU SLAIN Ronald Kirby, director of transportation planning for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, was found shot to death at his Rosemont home November 11. Police said there were no signs of forced entry, and the case has so far confounded investigators, who have solicited tips from the public.

DEMOCRATS SWEEP VIRGINIA Left-leaning Alexandrians celebrated on election night, as Democrats swept all three statewide offices and cleaned house in local races. Terry McAuliffe defeated outgoing Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli (R) in the governor's race, and state Sen. Ralph Northam defeated conservative pastor E.W. Jackson for lieutenant governor. And in the attorney general race that stretched into December with a protracted recount battle, Mark Herring (D) defeated fellow state Sen. Mark Obenshain by a mere 800 votes.

CITY COUNCIL DELAYS EMINENT DOMAIN DECISION Following a lengthy public hearing about the city's proposed use of eminent domain to secure the Old Dominion Boat Club's parking lot, the Alexandria City Council decided to give negotiations another shot. Councilors approved a measure that allows for 90 more days of talks with the boat club. But if no agreement is reached, City Hall will be poised to move forward with eminent domain.

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RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Notice posting and publishing **must not** be started until Virginia ABC has received Part 1 of the application and application fee(s).
- Notice posting and publishing can be done at the same time.
- The sworn affidavit (below) **shall not** be signed until these two requirements have been met:
 - (1) Both newspaper publications have been completed.
 - (2) Ten complete and consecutive days have passed since the notice was first posted.
- Airplanes, boats, trains, museums, wine and/or beer shippers, annual banquet, annual mixed beverage banquet, out-of-state beer or wine importers and out-of-state delivery permittees **do not** need to publish or post their intent to apply for a license (VA Code §4.1-230.8).
- **Posting Notice:** The owner shall fill out the notice (pg. 10) stating that he/she has applied for an ABC license and post the notice for 10 complete and consecutive days on the front of the building, room or place where he/she proposes to conduct business.
- **Newspaper Publishing Notice:** The owner shall publish notice (pg. 11) in English at least two times in a newspaper having general circulation in the county, city or town where the owner proposes to conduct business. The two publications must occur in consecutive weeks. The second publishing must occur at least seven days after the first publishing, but not later than Saturday of the second week. *Hint: The easiest way to meet this requirement is to publish on the same day in both weeks (e.g., on two consecutive Mondays).*

POSTING AND PUBLISHING SUMMARY

1. Owner's name: MK Food Trading, 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. Only if a sole proprietor, enter first, middle and last name.
2. Trade name of business: Express Mart Europa
3. Type(s) of license(s) applied for: Wine and Beer Off Premises
4. Location where business will trade (street): 720 Jefferson St
(city/town) Alexandria (county) _____ (state) Virginia
5. Date notice posted at establishment (MM/DD/YYYY): _____
6. Date first notice published (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Name of newspaper: _____
7. Date second notice published (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Name of newspaper: _____

SWORN AFFIDAVIT—NOTARIZATION REQUIRED

This sworn affidavit must be signed in the presence of a notary.

State of: _____ County/City of: _____
To witness in support of the foregoing, the undersigned makes oath that the statements contained therein and all attachments are true.

Signature: _____
Print name: Miroslav Kolev
Title: Owner

Note to notary: You must verify the affiant's identification through documentation and have the affiant swear or affirm that the above information and all attachments are true to the best of their belief and knowledge.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

My notary commission expires _____

Notary public: _____

Registration number: _____

Required of Virginia-appointed notaries public.

Notary Seal Here
(Required of Virginia-appointed notaries public.)

805-4 rev. 09/2012. This is an official state document. All information contained or submitted therein is public information. Please refer to privacy statement (pg. 3) regarding personal information. Reference instructions (provided separately) with questions.

Retail License Application, page 9

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DECEMBER



FILE PHOTO
ACPS BEGINS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH The Alexandria City School Board began its search for a new superintendent with a series of community meetings. Although the gatherings were sparsely attended, residents said they want the next superintendent to have a steady hand, compared with the constant change that marked former Superintendent Morton Sherman's tenure.



FILE PHOTOS
PATTERSON CONVICTED OF VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER After around nine hours of deliberation, an Alexandria jury convicted Craig Patterson, an Arlington County sheriff's deputy, of voluntary manslaughter in the May killing of 22-year-old Julian Dawkins. Patterson argued that he acted in self-defense, claiming Dawkins was intoxicated and threatened him with a knife. He will receive his sentence next month.

Weekly Words

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- ACROSS**
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 - 5 Early Irish alphabet
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 - 15 Ask for divine guidance
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 - 21 Den din
 - 22 "General Hospital" regular Sofer
 - 23 Blue-eyed feline
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 - 28 Tony Shalhoub TV series
 - 29 Neon tetra, for one
 - 32 Reykjavik is its capital
 - 34 Await judgment
 - 35 "___ you kidding?"
 - 36 After taxes
 - 37 Relative of a canary
 - 38 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
 - 40 Appear to be
 - 43 Kindles, as interest
 - 45 Gangster movie lead-spitter
 - 47 Lennon's bride
 - 49 Part of a Three Stooges routine
 - 51 Brought action against
 - 52 Thai monetary units
 - 54 Rosemary or basil
 - 56 Ford model
 - 58 Traditional cold remedy
 - 59 Room at the top of stairs
 - 61 Tailless burrowing creature
 - 64 Their identities are unknown
 - 65 Honorific for McCartney
 - 66 Wish one could take back
 - 68 Enact
 - 70 ___ Cooper (compact car)
 - 71 With arms and legs extended
 - 74 Oscar-winning Thompson
 - 75 Loud speaker
 - 77 The final word in many movies
 - 78 Any ship at sea
 - 79 Robin Hood's friend ___ Tuck
 - 80 Sheep with massive horns
 - 82 Rich dessert
 - 84 Laid eyes on

- 85 "Jane Eyre" writer
- 87 Blast of wind
- 88 Irregularly notched, as a leaf
- 89 Santa ___, Calif.
- 91 Bivouac item
- 93 Power-drill accessory
- 94 "To ___ is human ..."
- 95 Clothing retailer since 1969
- 97 Roman 1102
- 99 ___ and don'ts
- 101 "Love Boat" bartender
- 105 ___ and abet
- 106 Annoy by persistent fault-finding
- 108 Hillside on a Scottish golf course
- 110 "Great Expectations" girl
- 112 Koala, by another name
- 116 "Fifteen Miles on the ___ Canal"
- 117 "Dance" step
- 118 Chemical ending or compound
- 119 "... but I could be wrong"
- 120 Striped sea predator
- 123 "___ Wonderful Life"
- 124 Talk show host Gibbons
- 125 Totally pointless
- 126 Tip-top
- 127 Evened, as a score
- 128 Pele's first name
- 129 Concluded
- 130 Worst place in a race

- 18 Pricey vessels
- 24 Originates
- 30 They work with MDs
- 31 Salmon-fishing spear
- 33 Firefly
- 34 Car air freshener shape
- 39 Sweater material
- 41 North Pole assistant
- 42 Critically injure
- 44 Animal raised to run 1,320 feet
- 46 Airport worker's org.
- 48 Food morsel
- 50 Boys, women, men and girls
- 52 Madonna hit, "La Isla ___"
- 53 One making amends
- 55 Hunting canine
- 57 ___ gin fizz
- 58 Meats for bad actors?
- 60 Prompter's offering
- 62 Groups of troops
- 63 Wrapped Tijuana treat
- 65 100-meter race, e.g.
- 67 Bloomingdale's Manhattan setting
- 69 36 inches
- 71 Alone
- 72 Animated Woody Allen character
- 73 Area in an Elvis tune
- 76 Encino neighbor
- 79 Types of pure iron
- 81 Blossom holder
- 83 Chafe
- 84 Busy bug
- 86 SASE, for one
- 89 Dry, red wine
- 90 Rudolph's bright feature
- 92 Dalai Lama, for one
- 95 "___ to the Limit" (Eagles hit)
- 96 Conditional release from prison
- 98 Your financial advisor advises it
- 100 Composed
- 102 Andes native
- 103 Smoke detectors, e.g.
- 104 Pallbearer's burden
- 107 Injured in the bullring
- 109 "The Sopranos" chef Bucco
- 111 Begat
- 113 Cheerful
- 114 "This ___ on me!"
- 115 Clown of renown
- 116 "Heavens to Betsy!"
- 121 Country lodge
- 122 "2001" computer

Last Week's Solution:

H Y P E A L O O F F O P L L A M A S
A M E N D I N A R I C E A E R O B E
S C A R E D S T R A I G H T H E R N I A
P A L O A L T O C R U E T T E S T
U S E S S T A R R Y F I A T
S A L T E D P L A T E R E D R E S S
T R I E D W A I L E D D A Z E R H O
Y E T S Y N C O A F S T U B
S T A G E F R I G H T P A R
B O W S H O T S E A S E L G A M U T S
E D I T O U T S T I L E M O N O C L E
D E T R O P U K A S E K A N K A K E E
C I T S K E L E T O N K E Y
A G H A H E W L E E R C A W
L E I D U O S D O D D E R E C O L E
L E N T I G O E R R E D F R I G I D
G O S H D O L L A R A L A N
C H O P P R O O F A N I S E T T E
L O O K U P H A U N T I N G M E M O R Y
A C U I T Y I T S E S T E S A L E E
C O R N E A L E E E M E R Y S E E D

- DOWN**
- 1 Black currant flavor in wines
 - 2 Individually
 - 3 Two-___ (Miata, e.g.)
 - 4 Set, as a detonator
 - 5 "Maximus to Gloucester" poet Charles
 - 6 "A Touch of Class" star Jackson
 - 7 Cabbie
 - 8 Physician's org.
 - 9 Certain finish
 - 10 Certain electron tubes
 - 11 Basketball rim
 - 12 Indian noble
 - 13 "All My Children" role
 - 14 Steep slope (var.)
 - 15 High-ranking teacher, for short
 - 16 Personal personnel
 - 17 Aromatic seed

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