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**MARCH 6, 2014** 



PHOTOS/LAURA SIKES

**IRELAND'S OWN** City Councilor Paul Smedberg (top) waves to the crowd lining Old Town's streets for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday. Hundreds of revelers descended upon Alexandria for the traditional celebration of all things Irish. Among the participants were members of The O'Neill-James School of Irish Dancing (bottom), who were all smiles as they flitted through the Port City. **MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8.** 

# Familiar face tapped as ACPS superintendent

Alvin Crawley can drop interim from his title

BY ERICH WAGNER

The Alexandria City School Board revealed last week that interim Superintendent Alvin Crawley will helm the public school district on a permanent basis.

Crawley began overseeing Alexandria City Public Schools in October, just a few months after the abrupt retirement of Morton Sherman, who stepped down only a few days before classes started. The board, which received more than 50 applications for the position, is expected to formally vote on his appointment at its



FILE PHOTO

After serving as interim superintendent for five months, Alvin Crawley is the school board's top choice to succeed Morton Sherman.

meeting Thursday.

ACPS spent \$22,500 on the services of consulting firm BWP & Associates to conduct a search for the district's new top adminstrator.

Crawley previously served as interim superintendent in Prince George's County, where he actively sought to permanently secure the top job. But he bowed out of the running — and resigned — after a shakeup of that school district's structure. He also was deputy chief of the District's special education department and held various administrative roles within Arlington County Public Schools.

ACPS spokeswoman Kelly Alexander said Crawley was ill Tuesday and unavailable for comment before press time. Despite repeated requests for a

SEE **SUPERINTENDENT** | 6

# Rethinking cat licensing

Rarely enforced ordinance comes into question

BY ERICH WAGNER

Once the cat got out of the bag that City Councilor Justin Wilson was combing Alexandria's codes for outdated or unnecessary laws, residents started coming to him with ideas.

And more than one had stumbled across a largely un-

enforced ordinance regulating feline companions.

"We've actually gotten a couple of emails from people interested in cat licensing," Wilson said.

Most local jurisdictions have laws requiring that dog owners get licenses for their canines. But of area local governments, only Montgomery and Prince George's counties join Alexandria in requiring cats to be licensed as well.

According to city code, cat owners in the Port City must buy a one-year license for \$10 or a three-year license for \$25. Joe Seskey, deputy director of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, said the penalty for owning an unlicensed cat is a \$50 fine.

Seskey said the shelter routinely issues cat licenses to pet owners and new adopters.

SEE **CATS** | 6



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#### THE WEEKLY BRIEFING

## United Way gives local groups big cash infusion

Alexandria's stable of nonprofits got a big boost from the United Way of the National Capital Area last week: 22 grants totaling \$246,581.

Rosie Allen-Herring, the chapter's president and CEO, presented Mayor Bill Euille and representatives of the recipient nonprofits with the money last week, saying her organization was happy to help local groups tackle difficult problems.

"United Way NCA's community impact grants will help children have greater access to quality education programs; adults to get the job training and professional support they need to find and maintain lifelong careers; and help children and adults to be healthy and active," she said.

The beneficiaries include a few of Alexandria's best-known organizations, like Carpenter's Shelter and The Campagna Center. Among those quick to thank United Way NCA for the needed dollars were Pam Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing, and Rebecca Hill, chief development officer of St. Coletta of Greater Washington.

"United Way acts as a partner in the nonprofit community in many ways by linking donors with specific nonprofit agencies to provide much needed general operating support, by linking businesses with nonprofits for funding and volunteer opportunities, and by providing grants through the community impact fund for specific projects such as support of New Hope Housing case management services at the Alexandria Community Shelter," Michell said.

In all, United Way NCA's campaign raised about \$1.7 million, which was doled out to nonprofits across the region. The smallest grant was \$10,000 while the largest awarded was \$25,000.

- Derrick Perkins

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## Beyer wins local Democratic committee straw poll

Former Lt. Gov. Don Beyer won the Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee's straw poll for the eighth con-

held by U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D), who is retiring at the end of his term. He won 105 of the more than 400 votes cast.

"This is a wonderful way to kick off the 100 days countdown tomorrow," Beyer said in a statement. "It was great to see so many old friends here tonight and to meet so many new ones."

The straw poll was held at Beyer's Volvo dealership in the Port City over the weekend. In the June 10 primary, Adam Ebbin.

- Erich Wagner

gressional district last week. Beyer is vying for the seat

Beyer will face off against a slew of other congressional hopefuls, from Mayor Bill Euille to Delegate Charniele Herring (D-46) and state Sen.

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#### **POLICE BEAT** –

The following incidents occurred between February 26 and March 5.



\*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.

Source: crimereports.com

## **CRIME**

## Alleged thief faces multiple charges

Police have arrested an alleged pickpocket after a rash of grocery store thefts late last year prompted authorities to urge shoppers to keep a closer eye on their valuables.

Khalid Bennajma, 49, of Arlington, faces grand larceny and credit card fraud charges as well as seven counts of felony credit card theft after allegedly lifting a wallet at a 1700 Duke St. supermarket. Authorities released few other details about the crime, but said the theft remains under investigation.

They also asked anyone with information about Bennajma to contact detective Mike Whelan at 703-746-6228.

Police put shoppers on

heightened alert in late January, reporting at least five thefts at area grocery stores in the span of a few weeks. Most were personal belongings stolen from purses, officials said.

Authorities recommend shoppers take only the cash and credit cards needed for the trip to the store and keep all valuables under close watch.

# Police track down second man sought for approaching children in recent weeks

Officials thanked residents for their help in tracking down two men sought for questioning after allegedly approaching unattended children earlier this year.

The first incident occurred on January 31, the second on February 7. Both involved an otherwise unidentified older man speaking with children.

While no crime was com-

mitted in either case, the reports put parents on edge. But by last week, residents knew at least one of the men was a substitute teacher at a local school.

Officials announced February 27 that they had tracked down the man behind the other incident, thanks in part to tips from residents. Like the substitute teacher, the second man did not do anything

wrong, police said.

But they urged parents to take advantage of the incidents and remind their children not to walk away or get in a car with a stranger. Children also should be encouraged to report anything that makes them feel strange or uncomfortable, police said.

- Derrick Perkins



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#### **CATS**

FROM | 1

Between July 2010 and June 2013, officials issued 2,100 licenses, netting the city \$5,645.

Wilson said he wants to learn the original reasoning for the license requirement, which

was last updated in 2008, before passing judgment on the measure. But he understands residents' concerns about how it works in practice.

"I suspect the explanation is going to be that it eases the recovery when a cat is lost, but I don't know," he said. "The residents raised the concern

that there was very low compliance, and that's probably true."

Seskey said violators are only brought to the attention of the city if their pet becomes a problem.

"There are any number of reasons that we would come into contact with someone's

cat, but primarily it's because it's bitten their owner," he said. "That's the point when we'd discover its licensing and vaccination history.

"[It] doesn't happen that often, and we take it on a caseby-case basis as they happen."

In fact, violators are very rarely found, Seskey said later in an email. In 2013, the city issued zero citations for an unlicensed cat.

"I'm surprised there were that many," joked Wilson upon hearing the statistic.

Wilson still wants to hear more about the rationale for the regulation before casting judgment.

"I just need to make sure there's nothing I'm missing," he said.



FILE PHOTO

Unlike most neighboring jurisdictions, Alexandria requires residents to register their cats with the city, a measure that generates little revenue and is difficult to enforce.



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#### FROM | 1

**SUPERINTENDENT** 

one-on-one interview, Times has been unable to reach Crawley since his appointment to the interim superintendent job last year.

"I am unequivocally honored to have this opportunity," Crawley wrote in a press release. "As superintendent, I plan to continue to be very visible, responsive and accountable to all ACPS stakeholders. We have begun serious, thoughtful efforts to enhance the educational experience for our students, and I will work tirelessly to continue to move this division forward."

Board vice chairman Chris Lewis declined to comment on Crawley's appointment ahead of Thursday's vote.

Chairwoman Karen Graf did not return repeated calls for comment, but said in a statement that Crawley has been professional and solutions-oriented since joining the district.

"Since Dr. Crawley arrived in Alexandria, he impressed us with his calm, collaborative and positive style while working towards solutions that are best for all our children," Graf wrote. "Our board unanimously selected Dr. Crawley

from a pool of top candidates and we are thrilled to have him lead ACPS."

Crawley hit the ground running upon his appointment as interim superintendent, reconsolidating the city's five middle schools back into two - undoing a landmark initiative of his predecessor in the process — and presenting a budget proposal to the board.

But challenges remain. City Manager Rashad Young's proposed operating budget for fiscal 2015 only includes an additional \$5 million in funding for the district, \$2.4 million less than Crawley requested. And the embattled Jefferson-Houston school still faces the possibility of state takeover by Richmond's Opportunity Educational Institution.

Alexandria PTA Council president Melynda Wilcox, though, is upbeat about the board's decision to bring Crawley on permanently.

"I've been very impressed with Dr. Crawley in the few interactions with him that I've had," she said. "I think he will have a good rapport with parents, and I am glad that he was present as interim superintendent at times when the school board was making very important decisions about future of ACPS."



# SOL reform receives passing marks

Bill reducing state test frequency heads to governor

BY ERICH WAGNER

State officials want public school students spending more time learning and less time preparing for standardized tests, a move that has parents and teachers hopeful.

The House of Delegates last week approved a bill by Delegate Rob Krupicka (D-45) reducing the number of times students in the third through eighth grades take the state Standards of Learning tests from 22 to 17. The measure now heads to Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) desk.

Krupicka, a former member of the state Board of Education, said the measure lets teachers spend class time previously devoted to test preparation for more individualized instruction.

"I think the biggest thing that SOL reform does is it frees up classroom time so teachers can do more creative instruction, instead of simply drilling students for high-stakes tests," he said. "That makes school more fun for students, and my personal view is that it leads to better results academically."

Instead of statewide tests that often focus on multiplechoice questions, Krupicka said schools could develop alternative assessments that better judge students' academic abilities.

"The biggest problem of over-testing is that it's taking away from teachers' ability to teach content more deeply," he said. "[The new testing model] gives them time to do individual instruction and use more creative projects to make school more interesting and help students to truly understand the content."

Melynda Wilcox, who spoke as a parent rather than in

her capacity as president of the Alexandria PTA Council, said most are glad to see the state cut back on comprehensive standardized tests.

"My impression is that most parents are grateful that the state is taking another look at the testing schedule, because most parents feel like the pendulum swung too far in direction of over-testing," she said.

The biggest problem of over-testing is that it's taking away from teachers' ability to teach content more deeply. [The new testing model] gives them time to do individual instruction and use more creative projects to make school more interesting and help students to truly understand the content."

- Delegate Rob Krupicka

"Where the equilibrium is, I don't know; I'm not an expert in that field. But I do think parents are grateful for the state taking a look at this."

Alexandria City School Board vice chairman Christopher Lewis said that while the school board supported the reduction in SOL exams, it is important to differentiate standardized, end-of-year assessments from the internal testing the district conducts throughout the year to track student progress.

"Having data on students regularly throughout the school year is extremely helpful when you're trying to meet the individualized needs of each student," Lewis said. "It can also be helpful in differentiating instruction in the classroom, since there are students at different instruction levels within each class. It's finding

that balance that's important."

Lewis believes merely removing a few year-end tests could make a world of difference.

"Certainly, we all hear about how much pressure there is on students and teachers at the end of the year during SOL time, so the work they're doing can help relieve some of that."

Along with reforming the SOLs, the General Assembly agreed to delay implementation of an A through F grading system for all public schools for at least another year, said Krupicka. Critics of the proposal, enacted by former Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) last year,



FILE PHOTO

Reducing the number of state-mandated tests gives teachers more classroom time to work with students and focus on individual achievement, argues Delegate Rob Krupicka.

argued the system oversimplified school assessment data and would more likely grade schools by student wealth than progress on academic benchmarks.





# Irish eyes

# **Hundreds embrace their inner Irish spirit at annual St. Patrick's Day Parade** *Photos by Laura Sikes*





Alexandrian Kati Pirner (top left) gets into the St. Paddy's Day spirit by donning a fake green mustache.

Members of the Boyle School of Irish Dance (top right) parade down King Street as part of this year's edition of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.







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U.S. Marines (bottom left) march in lockstep down King Street.

Alexandria's most prominent Irishman, Pat Troy, waves to the crowd of revelers (middle). Troy has helped organize the event for many years.

Brothers Robert Swain, 5, and Brandon Swain, 3, take in the festivities (bottom right) with their mother, Stephanie Swain, of Alexandria.



# Wedding worries

Dear Hobie & Monk,

I am getting married soon and have included my fiance's sister as a bridesmaid out of courtesy (we are not close friends). Do I have to invite my sister-in-law-to-be to attend the bachelorette party weekend trip? I am already sick thinking that I will not be able to be myself and really have fun that weekend if she wants to come along, but I feel like I have to invite her.

- To ditch or not to ditch

Hobie: By laying out commonly agreed upon norms for social behavior, etiquette is supposed to make it easier for everyone to be gracious, particularly on those occasions when they really, really don't want to be. What it's not supposed to do is create unnecessary opportunities for hurting others' feelings and stir up controversy.

While you felt it was important to include your fiance's sister in your upcoming wedding as a bridesmaid - not out of delight but duty — please, please don't let that decision spiral into unpleasantness.

After all, it was your decision and you are responsible for behaving as a benevolent bride (and more importantly, as a mature and kind future in-law, regardless of whether these behaviors are reciprocated). If you want to spend a weekend celebrating with your close friends, then by all means do so, but treat it as just that a weekend with friends. Plan a bridesmaid event (a brunch

or happy hour) to thank all of the women whom you chose to stand beside you at your wedding - in dresses and dyed-tomatch shoes they'll never wear

Monk: Agreed. Inviting your future sister-in-law to be your bridesmaid was a lovely and wise decision, but including her on the weekend get-away could be awkward and consequential. Problem solved (easily) with a bridesmaids' luncheon that will possibly include additional members of your fiance's family.

And speaking of wedding etiquette, here's another great question:

#### Dear Hobie & Monk,

My (fairly recently) ex and I have been invited to several weddings this year and next — together. Yes, it's that time in our lives when everybody is shacking up. A few are friends of one or the other of us, and several are mutual friends. I am not very experienced in wedding etiquette, but I believe the breakup dissolves us of any obligation to the other's exclusive friends. You can tell me if I'm wrong on that first part, but when it comes to mutual friends, what is the appropriate approach to take?

- Not saving the date

Monk: You should not feel obligated to attend and you should not attend the weddings of your ex's exclusive friends



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 doctorpatient context or substituted for the advice of readers' personal advisors.

— unless you want to be there. I would say the same for the weddings of mutual friends and friends that are primarily yours: Go if you want to go.

I suggest you consider each wedding separately and weigh the following factors: 1) When you and your significant other part ways, you don't have to end the collateral relationships you previously enjoyed together. 2) When both ex's decide to maintain — individually —

relationships that were previously shared, some awkwardness can be expected. 3) There is middle ground here, because you can maintain the relationships you value and not go to the wedding. You may choose to politely decline the nuptials, but find other ways to remain friends. What do you think, Hobie?

Hobie: Exclusive friends now revert to only one of you in terms of wedding attendance. I would suggest quietly touching base with any mutual friends who are getting married to make sure they know that you and your ex are no longer together. Let the bride and groom decide how to handle extending invitations to one or both of you — and possible plus-ones.

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





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## **SPORTS**

# A season of healing

Aces co-founder focuses on baseball as he battles cancer

BY JIM MCELHATTON

Even in the snowy days of early March, Pat Malone can't help but think about watching baseball on muggy summer nights.

As co-founder of the Alexandria Aces — an 8-year-old franchise in the wooden bat Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League — the 58-year-old is busy lining up sponsorships, host families for his players and finding volunteers, just as he does this time every year.

But he's also coming off an offseason like no other.

Changing the light bulb of a lamp sitting atop a bureau in mid-December, Malone felt a pain in his upper right chest. He figured it was just a hematoma, but the pain and inflamI've been given a second chance. I'm like an old ballplayer sent down the minors who is getting called up again to get one more shot."

- Pat Malone Co-founder, Alexandria Aces

mation grew worse.

Two weeks later, the Air Force veteran was meeting with doctors at the hospital in Fort Belvoir, who sent him to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for an ultrasound and biopsy. Eventually, doctors determined Malone had a rare and often misdiagnosed nerve sheath tumor — a malignant cancer.

At first, he didn't tell any-

body except for family. A popular and well-liked figure at the ballpark, Malone is quick to sit and chat and offer advice. But he didn't want to alarm anyone with his troubles. As the date of his surgery approached, Malone tried to delay it for a few weeks to squeeze in a visit with family.

His doctors wouldn't hear of it.

On February 11, in Malone's first surgery since having his tonsils removed at age 6, surgeons took a tumor the size of a hockey puck from his chest. The operation lasted seven hours. With diet, radiation and exercise, Malone said the doctors tell him he ought to live a good, long life.

Springtime, which is on the horizon despite this week's snowstorm, is all about hope, and Malone has more of it than usual after what he's been through lately. He considers



COURTESY PHOTO

Alexandria Aces co-founder Pat Malone underwent surgery last month to remove a cancerous tumor from his chest. The ordeal left him hungry for baseball, and a new goal of preventative health care advocacy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pat Malone catches a game with this son, Brian, on Father's Day last year. Malone, who has always loved the sport, introduced his son to it at a young age.

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himself lucky after running through the endless list of possibilities.

What if the bulb hadn't gone out when it did? What if he didn't yank that big, old bureau just right, causing the tumor to bleed into itself and send off the pain signals that set into motion the chain of

events that led to his surgery?

"I've been given a second chance," said Malone, who always has baseball on the mind. "I'm like an old ball-player sent down the minors who is getting called up again to get one more shot."

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#### **HEALING**

FROM | 10

As private as he was just a few months ago about the cancer diagnosis, Malone is quick to share his story nowadays. He hopes his experience will convince others to get regular checkups with their doctors.

"I look at this season as something much more special," he said. "I look at life itself as more special. Now I just want to go connect with as many people as I can and be an advocate to go out and get a physical and catch something before it gets too big. I want to be an advocate for having fun."

Though the son of golf pro, Malone fell in love with baseball as a boy, going to RFK Park to watch Frank Howard belt homers for the Washington Senators. As a

father, he watched his son play little league. Later, he helped bring baseball back to Alexandria.

"When you get the news I did, you think about family and friends," Malone said. "You think about life itself. You wonder, wow, what's going to happen to me?" Malone also thought about all those summer nights at Frank Mann Field watching the Aces. He remembers walking out of the press box one evening shortly after the franchise launched. He overheard children cheering, "Let's go Aces!"

They yelled it over and over again.

"I got kind of emotional about that," Malone said. "They were having fun and cheering for the Aces, and I thought that's just about perfect. That's poetry in the air."



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**ALEXANDRIA TIMES** 12 | MARCH 6, 2014

## **SCENE AROUND TOWN**

# The complications of falling in love

'Next Fall' examines human relationships with a heavy dose of humor

BY JORDAN WRIGHT

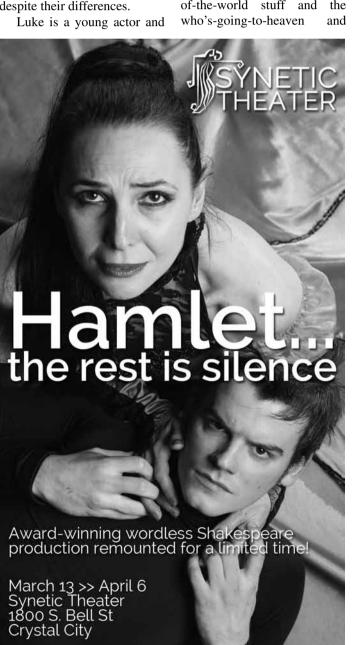
When Luke (Frederick Dechow) and Adam (Richard Isaacs) meet at a rooftop party in New York City they click despite their differences.

synetictheater.org

866.811.41111

cater waiter, and Adam - once an aspiring writer — is wallowing in a midlife crisis at a dead-end job at his friend Holly's candle shop. Though they have opposing views (Luke prays after sex while Adam is a dyed-in-the-wool atheist) they move in together.

Adam feels all the endof-the-world stuff and the





Despite vastly different outlooks on life, Luke (Frederick Dechow) and Adam (Richard Isaacs) fall deeply in love. But their relationship gets complicated after a tragic accident, which forces Adam to deal with Luke's homophobic parents.

who's-going-to-hell routine is "a bit Vegas," until Luke has a life-threatening accident. His condition forces Adam to account for Luke's religious philosophy. And deal with Luke's homophobic parents.

Geoffrey Nauffts' comic drama "Next Fall," which was first brought to Broadway in 2010 by producers Elton John and David Furnish, examines the opposing forces of conflict and sacrifice within a relationship using a script filled with wry wit, a steady stream of funny lines and deadpan sarcasm.

The play opens in a hospital waiting room, where Brandon (Andy De), Holly (Suzanne Martin), Arlene (Gayle Nichols-Grimes), Butch (Cal Whitehurst) and Adam await news of Luke's condition.

Adam has to figure out how to deal with Arlene and Butch, Luke's homophobic parents, who are unaware their son is gay. From there, the action shifts back and forth from the men's Bleeker Street apartment, where the their relationship strengthens despite their differences, to the hospital where Adam must hide their love from Luke's parents.

Employing a clever technique, director Rob Batarla takes us through the 13 scene changes — from hospital to apartment and back — using projections of grainy black and white photographs of the men throughout their five-year relationship.

There are awkward exchanges between Arlene and Adam, as when she surprises him by confessing her fears and not very pristine past. Meanwhile, Adam struggles to comprehend Brandon, Luke's former boyfriend, who practices gay sex, but doesn't believe in a gay relationship. It is a piece that addresses familiar themes of faith, commitment and love.

The actors in this provocative production are in sync with their characters throughout. Dechow plays Luke with subtlety and restraint while Isaacs gives Adam an endearingly derisive quality using a vast repertoire of facial expressions. Martin imbues Holly with charm and verve. Whitehurst and Nichols-Grimes, well known in the local theater community, embody characters that reveal depth as well as empathy.

"Next Fall" runs through March 15 at Port City Playhouse at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For tickets and information, visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

## CALENDAR OF EVIENTS

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

#### Now to March 23

#### **OCCUPIED CITY: LIFE IN CIVIL** WAR ALEXANDRIA EXHIBITION

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

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m.

Location: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

**Information:** 703-746-4994 or www. alexandriahistory.org

#### Now to June 30

#### **BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD**

**EXHIBITION** From 1862 to 1865, the Lee-Fendall House served as a Union hospital under the direction of chief surgeon Edwin Bentley during the occupation of Alexandria. The exhibit will be set up as a hospital room with medicines on display. An intricate diorama of miniature figures will depict how wounded soldiers were transported from the battlefield to house hospitals.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday

Location: The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St.

**Information:** 703-548-1789 or www. leefendallhouse.org

#### Now to August 31

#### SIT DOWN AND TAKE A STAND: THE SAMUEL W. TUCKER

**EXHIBITION** This new exhibition focuses on the life of famed civil rights attorney Samuel Wilbert Tucker and the historic 1939 sit-in at a city library. This exhibition is free.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

Location: Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.

**Information:** 703-746-4356 or www. alexandriava.gov/blackhistory

#### March 6

#### **KNITTING SHORT ROWS WITH CAROL FELLER** This popular class

shows students several different ways of creating short rows until they find the method that perfectly suits them. The workshop costs \$60.

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: fibre space, 1219 King St. **Information:** 703-664-0344 or www.

fibrespace.com

#### SWEATER SURGERY WITH **CAROL FELLER** This class with

knitting designer Carol Feller will give knitters the skills to tweak their garment so that they love the end result. The workshop costs \$60.

Time: 3 to 6 p.m.

**Location:** fibre space, 1219 King St. **Information:** 703-664-0344 or www. fibrespace.com

#### **PAWS TO READ — KIDS READ**

TO DOGS Kids, in first through sixth grades, can sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to a pal. The event is free. Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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

**Information:** 703-746-1702x5

#### **RECEPTION: 15TH BIENNIAL IKEBANA SHOW** Art and nature

come together as The Art League welcomes back the Washington, D.C., branch of The Sogestu School for the 15th Biennial Ikebana Show. Recognized as a sculptural form of art, ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arranging, has more than 300 schools of thought. The reception includes a performance by the Washington Toho Koto Ensemble This popular exhibit runs through March 9. Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St.

**Information:** 703-683-1780 or www. theartleague.org

#### March 7

#### **BEYOND THE RAGLAN WITH**

**CAROL FELLER** This exciting class with knitting designer Carol Feller will explore the basics of seamless knitting and moves beyond. Learn how to take accurate measurements of your body and use them to get a perfectly fitted sweater. The workshop costs \$100.

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Location: fibre space, 1219 King St.

**Information:** 703-664-0344 or www.

#### **FEARLESS CABLE KNITTING** AND CHART READING WITH

**CAROL FELLER** Do knitting charts make you uncomfortable? This class with knitting designer Carol Feller will work you though chart and cable basics until you feel like a pro. The workshop costs \$60.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: fibre space, 1219 King St. **Information:** 703-664-0344 or www. fibrespace.com

#### **ELLOUISE SCHOETTLER: 'SEC-**OND HAND ROSE' Ellouise Schoet-

tler calls herself an "old-time southern storyteller," telling stories just like those she grew up listening to in her native North Carolina. The event costs \$10.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince

Information: 703-548-0035 or nvfaa.

#### **OPENING RECEPTION: POR-**TRAITS OF POP CULTURE

Before Leonardo da Vinci and after Andy Warhol, artists illustrated famous people. Come see artist interpretations of pop culture, featuring compelling cartoons, lampoons and caricatures of celebrities, politicians, pundits and other pop figures. The exhibit runs through

March 30.

**Time:** 7 to 10 p.m.

Location: Del Ray Artisans, 2704

Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: www.thedelrayartisans.

org

#### March 8

#### **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

#### **IMPROVING FAMILY CON-VERSATIONS ABOUT AGING**

**ISSUES** Jeannette Twomey and Cheryl Beversdorf will provide strategies to family members who need to discuss tough aging issues, such as driving, living independently, personal hygiene, financial management and health care. This dynamic presentation by specialists in the field of elder mediation will offer tips and live re-enactments to help take the argument out of sibling and intergenerational conversations.

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St.

**Information:** 703-746-1702 or www. alexandria.lib.va.us

#### SWORDSMEN'S RENDEZVOUS

Come visit Gadsby's Tavern Museum for a unique living history program about swordplay. The programs will include a re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay and a display and discussion of 18thcentury weapons. The popular family event is suitable for all ages and will include some audience participation. Tickets are \$6 for ages 5 and older.

Time: Noon to 4 p.m. Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.

**Information:** 703-746-4242 or www. gadsbystavern.org

#### HER STORY: GIRL SCOUT PRO-

**GRAM** Come celebrate women and learn about issues important to women and girls in the community at this special event. Girl Scout members will participate in hands-on activities and a service project, and they also will learn about programs helping women in the community. This program is geared toward Girl Scout members, ages 6 and older.

**Time:** 3 to 4:10 p.m.

Location: The Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington St.

Information: 703-746-4994 KATE CAMPBELL Focus Music will present country/folk singer Kate Campbell. With her compassionate

tone and sometimes-quirky approach, Campbell has made a musical niche for herself, telling stories that explore the complex topics of race, religion, history and human relationships. Tickets are \$18 general and \$15 in advance.

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road

Information: 703-501-6061 or www. focusmusic.org

#### **ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCI-ETY'S FUNDRAISING GALA**

Come join the Alexandria Choral Society for an elegant evening as it performs Dvorak's "Mass in D Major." followed by a champagne reception and silent auction featuring offerings from local artisans and businesses. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for seniors and members of the military, and \$10 for students.

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Convergence, 1801 N. Ouaker Lane

Information: www.alexandriachoralsociety.org

#### March 9

**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

#### **WINTER WARMER TEAS Come**

sip a special blend of tea from Gadsby's Tavern Museum and eat period-inspired delicacies, sweet and savory, with friends, Tickets are \$35, and reservations are required.

**Time:** 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.

Information: 703-746-4242 or www. gadsbystavern.org

#### **CHORAL EVENSONG** The St.

Paul's Episcopal Church adult choir, under the direction of Grant Hellmers. will present a choral evensong. This will be preceded by mezzo soprano Barbara Hollinshead and lutenist Howard

Bass performing devotional songs by 16th-century English composer John Dowland.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St.

Information: Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or grant@stpaulsalexandria.com

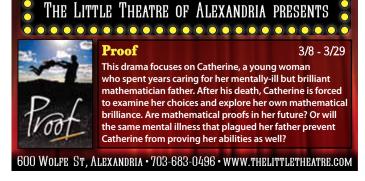
SEE CALENDAR | 15





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# Silly Stewie

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contact@kingstreetcats.org.





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## **PET MATTERS**

# Let's put an end to puppy mills

Puppy mills and similar animal breeding operations are just plain wrong. They are a disgusting way to earn a living and a despicable business to support.

These operations not only are breeding grounds for misery, sickness and abuse, but they also cost pet parents a great deal of money and heartbreak each vear.

Ask me, and I'll By Isabel Alvarez encourage you to make pet adoption your first option. Considering adoption is the most reasonable and responsible thing to do when searching for a new friend.

Whether you're looking for a specific breed, size or just have a particular requirement of the newest addition to your household, a perfect match is probably in the care of a local animal shelter or rescue

organization right now. Many rescued pets are pure breeds and popular designer mixes. Most are healthy and make ideal companions. They range

> from puppies to seniors, and they often are housebroken and well behaved. And too many are euthanized each vear as a result of limited resources and serious overpopulation.

Neverthe-

less, there are those who refuse to consider an adopted pet and insist — for reasons that I cannot comprehend — that they want to buy their pet. But this opens them up to many risks.

By purchasing animals, many consumers inadvertently support puppy mills or similar operations and end up with a pet that is very sick, chronical-

By purchasing animals, many consumers inadvertently support puppy mills or similar operations and end up with a pet that is very sick, chronically ill or destined for a short life because of the poor breeding practices that are common in this loosely regulated industry."

ly ill or destined for a short life because of the poor breeding practices that are common in this loosely regulated industry.

While Virginia boasts some of the strongest laws against such irresponsible breeding practices, pet dealers still find ways to bring puppy mill pups

SEE **PUPPY MILLS** | 15



#### **CALENDAR**

FROM I 13

#### March 10

#### **PARTNERS IN ART GROUP**

Looking for a chance to get together with creative people to discuss art and exchange ideas? Join a meeting of the Del Ray Artisans' cooperatively led Partners in Art group. You may find the group engaged in a creativity exercise, enjoying a short demonstration or in a lively art-related discussion. Free and open to the public.

Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

Location: Del Ray Artisans, 2704

Mount Vernon Ave.

Information: Contact Millie Mateu at globaleducationsolutions@gmail. com or Katherine Rand at katherine@ katherinerand.com

#### **OPENING RECEPTION — WOM-EN LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA:**

2007-2013 Prudential PenFed Realty is pleased to announce that, in honor of Women's History Month, it will host an exhibition of women portraits from the Living Legends of Alexandria project, with selected works from the Del Ray Artisans. The exhibition runs through June 27.

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: Prudential PenFed Realty,

300 N. Washington St. **Information:** 703-836-1464

#### **FACELESS WOMEN: WOMEN** OF THE CLASSICAL WORLD

**LECTURE** Come celebrate Women's History Month by learning about women of the Celts, Celtiberians, Etruscans, Germans, Greeks and Romans. Historian Lauren Hammerson will talk about what women could achieve and what their societal limitations were. The lecture is free.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince

Information: 703-548-0035 or nvfaa.

#### March 12

#### **RECREATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR ALEXAN-**

**DRIA'S SENIORS** At this interactive session, participants will enjoy free exercise and activity demonstrations as well as learn about the many activities, classes and programs available for the

city's mature adults. The event is free.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon Location: Chinquapin Recreation Center, 3210 King St.

**Information:** 703-836-4414x10 or www.seniorservicesalex.org

#### **ROYAL STREET BUS GARAGE AD HOC ADVISORY COMMIT-**

TEE MEETING During the committee's second meeting, it will continue the discussion about framing redevelopment parameters and design standards as well as start visioning public benefits.

**Time:** 6 to 8:30 p.m. Location: City Hall, 301 King St. Information: Contact Jessica McVary at 703-746-3813 or jessica.mcvary@ alexandriava.gov

#### **GENEALOGY DISCUSSION**

**GROUP** Do you know your roots? Come attend this meeting of the genealogy discussion group.

**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

#### **AUTHOR TALK WITH MELA-NIE HOWARD AND ANDREA**

**LEIDOLF** Join local authors Melanie Howard and Andrea Leidolf for a book discussion and signing of their novel, "Queen of the Court."

**Time:** 7 to 8:30 p.m.

alexandria.lib.va.us

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

**Information:** 703-746-1702 or www.

#### **LECTURE: RECIPES AND VES-**

**SELS** Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Great Rum Punch Challenge by learning more about rum. Come attend this special lecture about rum punch recipes and vessels by Dan Searing, author of "The Punch Bowl." The event costs \$12.

Time: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum,

134 N. Royal St.

Information: shop.alexandriava.gov/

events.aspx

**LEO KOTTKE** The acoustic guitarist has released more than 20 studio albums and is known for his finger-picking style. Leo Kottke's last album was a collaboration recording with Mike Gordon called "Sixty Six Steps." Tickets are \$35.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount

Information: 703-549-7500 or www.

birchmere.com

#### March 13

**JOBLINK HIRE EVENT** Come meet with a recruiter from Bright Horizons who will discuss childcare teaching positions available at the company. Applicants must email their resume to stacie.schattenberg@brighthorizons.com prior to the event as well as meet state requirements.

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: JobLink. 1900 N. Beauregard St.

**Information:** 703-746-5940 or www. alexandriava.gov/joblink

#### SENIOR SCAMS AND FRAUD

Fairfax County crime prevention officer Greg Kotteman will present a program on senior scams and frauds. The event is free.

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: Hollin Hall Senior Center. 1500 Shenandoah Road **Information:** 703-765-4573

#### **OPENING RECEPTION: THE COCOON SERIES** Photographer

E.E. McCollum artfully captures and transforms the human figure by using nvlon tubing to encase the body. This series of black-and-white photographs, on display through April 7, is mesmerizing and thought provoking.

Time: 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Location: The Art League, 105 N. Union St

Information: 703-683-1780 or www. theartleague.org

#### **TOAST TO FASHION** The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center will host the 15th annual Toast to Fashion. The event combines a fashion show, marketplace, raffle and cocktail reception. Proceeds from the event will generate much-needed support for many of the programs operated by The

Campagna Center. Time: 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Location: Belle Haven Country Club,

6023 Fort Hunt Road

Information: www.campagnacenter.

#### SECOND THURSDAY MUSIC: **MICHELE MURRAY AND BUCK**

**STONE** The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association and the Songwriters' Association of Washington will present Second Thursday Music with Michelle

#### **PUPPY MILLS**

FROM | 14

and volume-bred animals into the state. Whether you're buying directly from a breeder or from a pet shop, chances are you are purchasing an animal bred in inhumane conditions.

For this reason, state officials are considering a piece of legislation popularly known as Bailey's Law. Put simply,

this legislation is akin to the Lemon Law of the automotive industry. Bailey's Law will crack down on inhumane breeding by keeping the purchasing process transparent. It also safeguards the animal and its family once the purchase is complete. These measures include requiring more detailed breeding details and reimbursements for veterinary and medical care resulting from poor breeding practices.

I'm hopeful that Bailey's Law and similar legislation will continue to be enacted and actively enforced. I genuinely believe that welcoming a new pet into a home should be a joyous occasion, not one that causes distress, disappointment or distrust.

But it's hard for me to imagine acquiring a pet outside of the rescue networks that I so very much support and respect.

Murray and Buck Stone. The duo plays a combination of originals and covers that span genres, including Americana, bluegrass, country and folk. Tickets are \$10.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince

**Information:** 703-548-0035 or www.





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# At Home

# Textiles enter the digital era

BY ELAINE MARKOUTSAS

Like a piece of furniture, fabric can sit quietly in a room, barely noticed. Or it can light up the space, pulling the eye like a magnet to a vibrant color or distinctive pattern.

It's the softer side of interiors — literally one that takes the edge off strong architecture or furniture. Fabric panels frame windows in a flowing or tailored way that quietly complements. For many designers, the colors in a pattern can launch a

room's palette, even a particular paint color to match. Textiles, by their hand or shimmer, can totally dictate mood. A cashmere, silk or velvet suggests lushness and elegance. Chenille and linen present a more casual, sporty vibe, even though these, too, can also be considered dress-up. In combination, they can be most dynamic, as foils to one another: supple to textural, shiny to matte.

We sort of take textiles for granted. We sit on them, sleep on them, dry ourselves off with

them, and, of course, wear them.

And it's that intersection of fashion and furnishings that we're seeing more and more. From runways to living rooms, the influences of graphics, patterns and even styles are translated. A bold geometric suggests sassy, assertive and sometimes retro design. A painterly floral gives a romantic note. A photo realistic graphic provides an urban vibe.

SEE **TEXTILES** | 17



PHOTO/BLACK EDITION, ROMO

British artist Jessica Zoob, who describes herself as a contemporary impressionist, teamed up with Romo's Black Edition division to create a painterly collection of digitally printed fabrics. Her imaginative use of texture and color is emotionally charged and translates easily to fabric. One of her most celebrated works is Passion, a series of six paintings that reflect the seasons of a love affair.

#### - HOME OF THE WEEK -

# Spacious executive home in desirable Vauxcleuse neighborhood

This stately, custom-built brick Colonial home boasts nearly 6,000 square feet of well designed living space. This lovely home is situated on an expansive lot with a fenced yard featuring a slate patio, fireplace, hot tub and large shed.

A slate foyer welcomes you to the formal living room, which includes a fireplace and banquet-size dining room. The main floor and second story both boast graciously-sized rooms adorned with lovely mouldings and wainscoting with wonderful flow as well as hardwood floors. For chefs, the home comes with a fabulous new gourmet kitchen with a granite breakfast bar and a brick surrounded indoor electric grill. Looking for a place to enjoy a meal? The house also includes a sunny breakfast room.

The adjacent family room is outfitted with a fireplace and library with custom built-ins. The upper level has a den as

well as four bedrooms, including a spacious owner's suite with a new luxury bath.

Finally, the lower level, which boasts high ceilings and access to the yard, features a recreation room with a brick hearth fireplace, exercise area, wet bar, wine cellar, full bath and a fifth bedroom.

If that were not enough, this home is within walking distance of Inova Alexandria Hospital and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes upper school campus.



PHOTO/DS CREATIVE GROUP

This stately brick Colonial sits on a beautiful, large lot and features a side loading garage.

#### At a Glance:

Location: 4201 Ormond Avenue,

Alexandria, VA 22304 **Neighborhood:** Vauxcleuse

**Price:** \$1,350,000 **Bedrooms:** 5

**Baths: 4.5** 

Fireplaces: 3 wood burning plus 1 outdoor

Parking: 2 car side entry garage & circular driveway

**Year Built:** 1968 **Lot Sq Ft:** 18,914

**Contact:** Christine Garner, Weichert, Realtors,

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# Shop Around the Corner A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times

# Knitting together a Port City community

Located at 1219 King St., fibre space is one of Alexandria's true shopping gems: a bright place with colorful yarns adding splashes of color throughout.

There is a seating area for dropin knitters or knitting clubs and a knowledgeable, friendly staff on hand to help. Knitters, spinners and those who love crocheting flock to fibre space, joining those interested in learning and mastering these skills.

fibre space opened a few years ago on a side street near its present location. As the reputation of the little yarn shop grew, owner Danielle Romanetti had to find a larger space. The expansion was critical since fibre space is more than just a place to buy yarn. Romanetti offers classes and hosts events.

In the past few years, patrons from across the country and around the world have sought out fibre space for its unique inventory of locally produced yarns from small, independent companies. Romanetti's loyal cadre of knitting fans say it's the depth of the store's inventory that they love. Romanetti offers yarns and fibers that are clearly labeled, ecofriendly, baby-friendly, hand-dyed and animal free. Her store offers a wide selection of hard-to-find

fiber, like silk blends, merino and merino blends, Blue Faced Leicester, Shetland, Columbia and Wensleydale.

The shop also has needles and all sorts of project ideas as well as spinning supplies.

Classes at fibre space can be custom designed or folks can take one of the "Learn to..." sessions, which include knitting, crocheting and spinning. There is a limit of six students, which means lots of teacher attention.

Some enjoy renting fibre space for events such as a knitted birthday party, or bridal or baby shower. A few recent festive events at fibre space included yarn dyeing parties, scarf knitting and coin purse project parties. Each guest learns the basics of knitting and helps create a unique gift for the honored guest.

Given that fibre space has a warm ambiance, others simply rent out the King Street space for book or craft clubs as well as knitting or crocheting groups. The rental fee includes bubbly,

appetizers and a discount on merchandise for those hosting knitting or crocheting gatherings.

The store's approachable, engaging staff mem-

bers always are available to offer assistance, answer questions and give a bit of encouragement.

Romanetti welcomes everyone — men and women of all ages — at fibre space.

"I am so fortunate to have my dream come true with the creation of fibre space right here in my hometown," she said. "I am inspired every day by the creativity of my customers and the stories of why they are picking up needles for the first time — some for stress relief, others to occupy their hands and help them put down food, their smartphone or even cigarettes. The community that has grown here is just amazing. And we are always looking for someone new to join it!"

For more information, and to find out about events and classes, visit www.fibrespace.com or call 703-664-0344. fibre space is open seven days a week.





#### **TEXTILES**

FROM | 16

While color often gets top play in the news (Pantone's color of the year, in case you haven't heard, is radiant orchid), what's happening in textile design usually is celebrated as part of the story of a room's interior, sometimes the footnote to a fashion collection. But it can easily be the star.

What's trending globally actually starts to unfold at two major international shows in January in Europe: Frankfurt, Germany is host to Heimtextil, a trade show hosted by Messe

Frankfurt, where you'll see thousands of fabrics, wallcoverings, bedding and home textiles — and even the artwork that inspires them. At Paris Deco Off, just a week later this past January, high-end showrooms on both the Left Bank and Right Bank of the Seine host retailers and designers to show off their newest lines, concurrent with Maison & Objet, a major homedesign exposition.

If one chord was struck repeatedly at both events, it was the influence of technology, particularly digital, on design. Imagine the photorealism pos-

Imagine the photorealism pos-SEE **TEXTILES** | 21



## **Our View**

# It's time for a systematic code cleanup

City Councilor Justin Wilson's recent campaign to free Alexandria's books of useless and outdated laws is a great public service. Many sections of our city code remain laws in name only, their original purposes no longer relevant today for a variety of reasons.

While Wilson's efforts are commendable, we hope that this book-cleaning effort is done using an objective set of criteria rather than all willy-nilly. Just as legislation by anecdote is a bad way to make laws, removing them using a "well that's stupid" methodology is a less than optimal way to clean the books.

In an effort to spark a discussion about what those objective criteria might be, we offer the following suggestions. We think a law should come off the books if:

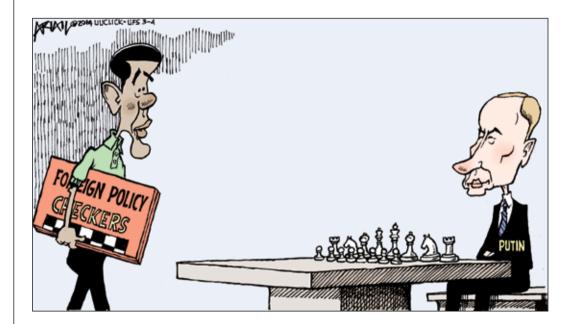
- 1) The reason for the initial ordinance no longer exists. Hypothetical restrictions on, say, a horse and buggy obviously would not be relevant in modern-day Alexandria. Anti-sodomy laws are not relevant anywhere.
- 2) The law seeks to remedy a situation that is already covered by other measures that is, it's redundant. An example of this would be Alexandria's rule that limits households to four cats or six pets total. This ordinance was a reaction to "cat lady" situations, where mentally ill people hoard dozens of pets. This type of situation is covered by sanitation code.
- **3)** The law is realistically unenforceable. This would also apply to the four cat/six pet rule, as well as cat licensing. Unless, that is, the city decides to hire a cat enforcer to peek in windows and slink though the city's alleyways counting kitties.
- 4) The law is an unnecessary or arbitrary burden on city residents. The rule that makes it a towable violation to leave a car parked for three days in front of one's home falls in to this category. Both the limited number of days and the randomness of enforcement make this law a noxious burden.

We have been impressed with Wilson's work as well as the suggestions from several residents who recently pitched in and researched city laws. This seems to be a perfect situation for an ad hoc committee, headed by Wilson and comprised of interested Alexandrians, to comb the city code for laws that need to go.

If laws are eliminated using a set of objective criteria after a systematic review of all city ordinances, there will be little room for complaint. As we approach the start of spring, it appears some cleaning is in order.

# Opinion

"Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe."
- Thomas Jefferson



## **Your Views**

# What the foot of King Street really needs is another boat launch

To the editor:

I had the opportunity to participate in a waterfront plan exercise at a recent Old Town Civic Association meeting.

I am not impressed with the skating rink and water squirt idea at the foot of King Street. There's a whole river filled with water in front of everybody; the last thing that folks need is little jets squirting water. Similarly, a skating rink adds little to a prime focal point.

Instead, I would like to suggest that the location be made into a public boat launch right beside the Old Dominion Boat Club building. Consider the following advantages:

- Club leadership convincingly complained that a boating organization without a boat launch isn't a boat club. So now it would have one beside it, on its land and leased long-term to the city, which also would allow the general public to launch boats.
- The straight shot down King Street (with only a backup turnaround in the unit block) would obviate many tight turns and free up Wales Alley for City Hall's intended use as an outdoor dining space for Virtue Feed & Grain.
- The boat launch surface could have features allowing it to be used as active open space when boats are not being

- launched, creating a captive audience to Alexandria's living maritime heritage, which would have to make way when a boat arrives.
- Arrangements could be made with nearby garages to house motor vehicles while folks are boating, so a temporary tie-up dock would need to be associated with the boat launch.

This is a real compromise, which would create the most winners and the fewest losers in the various matters of contention about the waterfront plan.

- Dino Drudi Alexandria

# ACTion Alexandria is committed to fostering civic engagement

*To the editor:* 

As an online forum for civic engagement, ACTion Alexandria, an initiative of ACT for Alexandria, was excited to be included in the What's Next, Alexandria process. In the past year, ACTion has worked with the city to gather feedback for the civic engagement handbook. With the handbook officially adopted, ACTion is looking forward to working with City Hall and residents to apply the principles outlined in the document.

ACTion offers an easily

accessible platform for sharing ideas and taking civic action. From collecting desks and books for donation to supporting ideas for making Alexandria greener, we are committed to local civic engagement, including gathering feedback for public policy. As we continue to partner with the city to promote community discussion, ACTion will look to the civic engagement handbook as a guide for the public feedback process.

- Kerrin Epstein ACT for Alexandria

# We should welcome change with open arms

*To the editor:* 

Not all of us fear change or the future growth and development of Old Town. Not all of us fear affordable homes, mixed-income neighborhoods or our young households. Not all of us fear vibrancy and youth.

We are comfortable that our city government, our city councilors and our planning department can, and will, manage our infrastructure and quality of life as we absorb young people, expand our economy and enlarge our job base, housing stock and — most especially — our amenities. In fact, thoughtful planning has been proven to reduce car traffic by encouraging walking and bicycling while expanding mass transit infrastructure, like the forthcoming dedicated bus lanes along Route 1.

The unique story of Alexandria — a center of private commerce, competent and creative government, mixedincome housing, diversity, art and great restaurants —

will continue with thoughtful planning that incorporates the latest technology and respects our culture and history. And that requires participation from residents and an affirmative effort by our planning department to engage all of our communities.

While a few may remain dissatisfied, no one can complain honestly that their voices were not heard. We have heard it, now let's embrace our bright and vibrant future through continued partnership with our government, diverse communities, business community, and our cultural and historical heritage.

Frankly, I look forward to walking to the waterfront with my dog and enjoying our new shoreline while greeting our guests from all over the world, people who visit and fall in love with Old Town. I also anticipate welcoming new residents as they join this grand community.

- Bob Kaufman Alexandria



# **Move Along**

with Jonathan Krall

## Decision on bike lanes is in city council's hands

At its February 24 hearing, the city's traffic and parking board voted 5-2 to recommend another delay for the King Street bike lane and pedestrian improvements project. The board reconsidered this project as the first step in an appeals process spelled out by Deputy City Attorney Chris Spera at the beginning of the hearing.

Most attendees spoke in favor of the plan, including several residents who live in the immediate area. The opposition, comprised primarily of nearby homeowners, remains adamant. Though government meetings have a reputation for being dull, Scott Barstown, chairman of the environmental policy commission, added a moment of drama when he testified in favor of the plan. At his prompting, other commissioners in attendance stood up in solidarity.

The project in question, which has been twice modified to address residents' concerns, would improve pedestrian and bicycle safety between the King Street Metro station and neighborhoods to the west. Bicycle lanes would run between Russell Road and Highland Place, replacing onstreet parking along that steep hill. As a result of an October 30 concession to residents, parking spots would be saved in the relatively flat segment between Highland Place and Janneys Lane. At this point dedicated bike lanes would give way to sharrow markings and cyclists would be expected to merge with traffic.

Overall, the plan calls for removing 27 of the 37 spaces on King Street. It also adds three parking spaces on adjacent Park Road and Carlisle Drive. Studies have been conducted to determine how often those parking spots are used. According to Rich Baier, director of the city's transportation and environmental services department, an average of three — and a maximum of six — automobiles were spotted in those 37 spaces (the data is on the project website).

Further, all of the affected residences have off-street parking. In fact, residents have testified that they avoid parking on this street because of aggressive drivers and the risk of automobile accidents. According to Baier, there have been 30 such crashes in the past five years.

After more than 10 public hearings for the project, nearly every question about this effort has been answered.

Can we retain parking spots and still have a single bike lane on the uphill side? The roadway isn't wide enough.

Should bicycles be routed elsewhere? Doing so doesn't solve the other safety problems.

Are the redesigned 10-and-a-half-foot traffic lanes too narrow for buses or fire trucks? A DASH representative testified that such lanes are common in Alexandria.

According to Baier, the project improves safety by adding a buffer — the bike lanes — between cars and pedestrians, and by separating bicycles from other traffic on the hill. The project also will improve safety for motorists, first by narrowing traffic lanes and then by increasing the number of cyclists on the

street, both of which have been shown to reduce traffic speeds and collision rates.

This last point seems to be a bone of contention and is, perhaps, the plan's most important feature. Studies show that pedestrian fatality rates increase rapidly with automobile speed, from 10 percent at 20 mph to 90 percent at 40 mph.

Baier, his staff, and many supporters of the plan described the traffic calming effect of narrow traffic lanes and bike lanes. Transportation planner Carrie Sanders stated that bike lanes increase cycling and drivers respond by slowing down. Baier pointed out that this is a well-established result.

Those opposing the plan argued that traffic could not be expected to slow down. One critic said that inviting more cyclists onto the streets might indeed slow traffic by frightening drivers, but went on to say that frightening drivers is unacceptable. Siding with opponents, traffic and parking board vice chairman Larry Ruggiero offered a motion to shelve the plan because "it is unsafe."

This issue will now go to our city councilors, who are presented with a stark question: Can modern street design slow down traffic? Must we instead resort to a constant (and expensive) police presence, as a few at the hearing suggested? The city council is scheduled to complete the appeal process on March 15, with a public hearing and a final vote.

The writer is an advocate for bicyclists and pedestrians in Alexandria.



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#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Send your comments to: letters@alextimes.com

Letters must be signed by the writer. Include address and phone for verification (not for publication). Letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Personal attacks will not be published.

## **OUT OF THE ATTIC**

## The first lady of Alexandria

n celebration of Women's History Month, Out of the Attic will — in the coming weeks — focus on the significant women who called Alexandria home. And perhaps one of the most remarkable was Elizabeth Ann Bloomer Ford, better known as "Betty," who was first lady from 1974 to 1977.

Ford largely reinvented the role of first lady, routinely getting involved in controversial political and social issues of her time. Often at odds with her husband and his political party, she sparked vigorous debate around American kitchen tables and water coolers during a period of rapidly changing attitudes.

Born in Chicago in 1918, Ford pursued a promising early career as a dancer and model in New York City, later moving to Grand Rapids, Mich., to be near her mother. In 1948 she married Gerald R. Ford, a Grand Rapids lawyer running for congress.

She had been divorced from her first husband, William Warren, only a year earlier and the wedding date was delayed because of Gerald Ford's concern that voters might disapprove of his marriage to a divorcee. After he won the election, the Fords moved to 1521 Mount Eagle Place at Parkfairfax in Alexandria where they began raising a family.

In 1955, they moved into a new, Colonial-style home at 514 Crown View Drive, where the family grew to include four children: Michael, John, Steven and Susan. During this time, Betty Ford was active in the lives of her children. She volunteered with the Boy and Girl Scouts, and lent a hand with public school and sporting activities. She also worked with the Alexandria Cancer Fund.



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Although both the Nixon and the Ford families spent their early years living at Parkfairfax, Betty Ford and Pat Nixon were very different in composure and style as first ladies. Nixon was a seasoned political wife and rarely expressed contentious opinions. Betty Ford, meanwhile, routinely commented on emerging attitudes involving subjects like sex, abortion, drug use and women's rights.

Conservatives in her husband's party were shocked at her liberal stance, but her approval ratings skyrocketed to about 75 percent — far exceeding her husband's popularity. In perhaps her most selfless role, she actively discussed her trials with breast cancer, as well as alcohol and drug abuse, to assist others afflicted with such conditions.

This 1975 photo of Betty Ford at Gadsby's Tavern, where she served as honorary chair of the Friends of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, captures her love for the city she lived in for 23 years. Although the Fords indicated they would return to their Alexandria home after leaving the White House, they retired to Palm Springs instead.

Later, Betty Ford wrote, "For me, leav-

#### FROM THE WEB

In response to

"Knowing when to step away," February 27:

#### **Edmund writes:**

This is one of the many [decisions made by former Superintendent Morton Sherman] that the school board and the new superintendent must undo. A Google search by the previous school board would have turned up this troubling trend in other districts where Sherman was in charge. It is shameful that members of the previous board did not exercise due diligence and [wield] tighter control over the decisions made under Sherman.

These haphazard, wasteful decisions are proving to be costly to our district, students and taxpayers. We hope the new superintendent conducts a thorough review of programs and personnel, and makes significant changes, such as the [reconsolidation of] the middle schools.

The new superintendent can start with one cosmetic change: remove the ridiculous faux Disney phrase "Imagine the Titans" from the entrance of the high school. T.C. Williams is more than a Disney creation and a ... slogan created by Sherman.

ing the White House wasn't nearly so much of a wrench as leaving our house in Alexandria."

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

# Weekly Poll

#### **Last Week**

Do you agree with the reconsolidation of George Washington I and II and Frances C. Hammond I, II and III middle schools?



**55%** Yes.



**45%** No.

This Week

**Should pet cats be licensed?** 

A. Yes.

B. No.

C. I'm a dog lover.

#### **TEXTILES**

FROM | 17

sible with even smartphone shots today — and the possibility of faithfully translating crisp, realistic images to fabric and wallcovering. Or intentionally out-of-focus images that have a painterly look. In fact, scanning original paintings or artwork adds still another dimension, as does the layering of images, like montages in scrapbooks. Add to that a range of colors and blends not even possible before and the capability of not repeating a pattern.

A stunning new collection from Romo's Black Edition features the work of British artist Jessica Zoob digitally reproduced. Emily Mould, Romo's design director, says, "Zoob's imaginative use of texture and color in her emotionally charged, contemporary impressionist paintings translates effortlessly onto fabrics."

In addition to graphics, texture also was an important element. This was expressed in a variety of ways: embroidery and beading, embellishments such as tufts, and even dimensional materials, where pleats or weaves amplified a flat surface to 3-D. An appreciation of handcrafted looks or the perception of handmade is ramping up. So the chunky knits and crochets we've been seeing hints of the last couple of years in home design are making an even bigger showing — and sometimes in surprising materials, including synthetics with the hand of rubber.

At Christian Fischbacher, exploration of texture was showcased in a new fabric (and pillow design). The interlocking pattern appeared in relief, the result of adding a foam to the silk surface, then a layer of foil set with a heat adhesive, which lends an almost iridescent effect. It won an award for innovation.

Unusual weaves also extend to linens and wools, some of which show striking layerings. And sheers are adding a new wrinkle — "netted tulles," for

example, which offer a great option for window treatments that screen without blocking light — in an extensive palette, as well as wider grid fisherman's netting, in a kind of macrame revival. In addition, metallic threads are lending a bit of glam to some fabrics.

What's intriguing about the luxe looks this time is that they often were shown in combination with more casual, rustic fabrics — a trend that is recurring in home design. A room with wide-plank, weathered floors and linen upholstery, for example, might sport lacquered cabinetry and a crystal chande-

If you're shopping for spring and summer textiles, here are a few things you might see:

- Larger scale: Itsy-bitsy patterns seem so passe. Some motifs, such as tropical birds and palms, now are larger than life, especially on bedding and towels. Look for really fun beach towels with artlike photography and drawings.
- Explosive images: Uberhuge blooms, like poppies, are splashed on bed linens. Digital photos are being scanned and printed on everything from Tshirts and bags to pillows, bedding and fabric.
- Incorporating art: Paintings and drawings are adding artistry to textile design. In addition to photography, original artwork is being sourced, lending a whole new dimension beauty as well as grit.
- More open backgrounds: Less crowding really makes the designs pop, especially in pillows with single image objects.
- · Layering: For some companies, such as the Spanish company Desigual or the Netherlands' Melli Mello, exuberant pattern is the signature, and they don't stop at just one.
- Embroidery and patchwork: In addition to the real thing, there's the trompe l'oeil variety, as in bedding from Esprit, which teams both in a convincing way.

Textile manufacturers are paying attention to those Pinterest boards and even Instagram.

One of the keys to the spring line of Robert Allen is filtered color — a kind of washed look. Christy Almond, the company's vice president, says that the more delicate iterations of colors reminded her of what people are doing on Instagram.

"This 'filtered' effect creates hues that are relevant in both fashions and interiors," says Almond

Concurrent is a trend for the threadbare look so popular in rugs, especially effective in velvet because of its natural nap.

For the most part, there's a desire to tweak or modernize familiar, traditional patterns. Toile, for example, is captivating a new audience because of shifts in motifs from less 18th century, allover pale pastoral themes to more vibrant colors with unexpected combinations and bigger, looser scale.

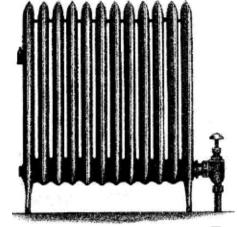
And companies with archives are digging deep to reintroduce or draw inspiration. At Pierre Frey, fashionturned-interior and furniture designer Vincent Darre, peeked into 1940s and 1950s archives. Three designs were reissued and they look every bit as current today. He reimagined three others in response.

Some motifs, in particular, seem to be resonating. Sea creatures will be huge. Coral designs on pillows or plates are almost perennial favorites, especially in coastal areas, but this year's crop follows the big trend as well as expanding under-the-sea life. Feathers and hints of southwest style also are starting to emerge. Eastern influences are making inroads, especially dragon motifs and pagodas.

At the Heimtextil show's Forum, a provocative space putting forth trends for 2014-2015, one look into the future offered this compelling concept: reprogramming bacteria and plants to manufacture materials — a biologically enhanced alternative for future sustainable living.

One picture may be worth a thousand words, but many designers will agree that textiles can truly be transformative.





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# Weekly Words

| 1   | 2        | 3   | 4  | 5        |     | 6   | 7        | 8  | 9   | 10       | 11       |     | 12  | 13       | 14  |     | 15  | 16       | 17     | 18   |
|-----|----------|-----|----|----------|-----|-----|----------|--|-----|----------|----------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|----------|--------|--|
| 19  |          |     |    |          |     | 20  |          |  |     |          |          |     | 21  |          |     |     | 22  |          |        |  |
| 23  |          |     |    |          | 24  |     |          |  |     |          |          |     | 25  |          |     |     | 26  |          |        |  |
| 27  |          |     |    |          | 28  |     |          |  |     |          | 29       | 30  |     |          |     | 31  |     |          |        |  |
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|     | 73       | 74  |    | ╁        |     | 75  |          |  |     |          |          |     | 76  |          |     |     |     | 77       | 78     | 79   |
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|     | 106      |     |    | $\vdash$ |     | 107 |          |  |     |          |          |     | 108 |          |     |     |     | 109      | 110    | 111  |
|     |          | 112 |    | ┢        | 113 |     |          | <del>                                     </del> |     |          | 114      | 115 |     |          |     |     |     | 116      | ļ<br>Ī | ┢  |
| 117 | 118      | _   |    |          | 119 |     | $\vdash$ |  | 120 | 121      |          |     |     |          |     | 122 | 123 |          |        | $\vdash$   |
| 124 |          |     |    |          | 125 |     |          |  | 126 |          |          |     |     |          |     | 127 |     |          |        | ╁  |
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|     |          |     |    |          |     |     |          |  |     |          |          |     |     |          |     |     |     |          |        | <u> </u>   |

#### **ACROSS**

- Trig. function
- Slushy fruit drink
- 12 "CSI" evidence
- 15 A case of pins and needles?
- 19 Earthy paint pigment
- Riverside insurance 20
- 21 Dust cloth, often
- Disagreement 22
- 23 Sincere talk
- 25 Flight deck guess
- 26 Book after Joel
- 27 Paddle kin
- 28
- What a band might go around
- 29 Hard to understand
- More sharp-tongued 32
- 35 Practice piece for one instrument
- 36 Dogs and cats, e.g.
- Tool in an office desk 38
- Working stiff, for short
- 43 Furnish food for a party
- 46 It's fit to be tied
- 47 Actress Campbell
- 49 Hawaii's Mauna \_
- 50 Clamor or to-do
- Authoritative proclamations 52
- Sullies or besmirches
- History-book chapter 57
- 58 Unexpected sports result
- 60 "That's tasty!"
- 62 **Emulate Rodin**
- The state of being under a
- 66 Iron get-up
- In a skillful manner
- 69 Happy serving
- 73 All set for a nightly slumber
- "A Fistful of Dollars" director Sergio
- 76 Dreadfully dull
- Young hen 80
- Where one can make a 82 splash

- Cara on the "Flashdance"
- soundtrack
- Hudson or Chesapeake Several historic theaters
- 88 Declared as fact
- On the beach 90
- 93 Postgraduate field
- TV screen-measuring unit
- 96 "Smoking or \_\_\_?"
- 97 Word on a three-sided sign
- Mountain climber's tool 100 Attending to again, as a
- problem
- 106 America's national flower
- 107 "Sesame Street" regular 108 Strong inclination
- 112 Some write-offs
- 114 Copy of a movie
- 116 "Mamma \_\_\_\_!"
- 117 Victorian sort
- 119 Santa \_\_\_\_, Calif.
- 120 How some dance
- 124 Put into the pot
- 125 Communications abbr.
- 126 Forceful removal
- 127 Small weight
- 128 Backtalk
- 129 Pitches between innings?
- 130 Poorly made
- 131 Some survey responses

#### **DOWN**

- Some Pacific salmon 1
- Indian, for one
- 3 Actress Belafonte
- Always, poetically
- Old-style computer screen
- 6 Bit of broccoli
- Bring back to work
- 8 Old Roman welcomes
- Bog fuel
- 10 The "p" in rpm
- 11 Mansion and grounds
- 12 Zwinger museum site
- Gabbed

- 14 Food thickener
- 15 No. 2 end
- What bored people have 16
- 17 Area 51 craft, supposedly
- 18 "For what \_\_\_\_ worth ..."
- 24
- Buffoon 30 Leia's do
- 31 Capital, as a letter
- Mere commoner, briefly
- 34 Alpaca land
- 35 Film with a cast of thousands
- Unable to keep one's eyes open
- Was a passenger 39
- 40 Passing announcement
- 42 \_\_\_ Orange, N.J.
- Enjoy taffy 43
- Emanating glow

- 45 Ski lift contraption
- Word on either side of "-a-" (face-to-face)
- Inlaid furniture decoration
- 52 Catches sight of
- 53 Newbie
- 54 \_ pump (drainage aid)
- 56 Toothpaste containers
- 59 Asnirin unit
- 61 Shed feathers
- 64 Live (in)
- 65 Not on the football field
- 66 Did dinner
- 67 Horse controller
- Negative votes
- 71 Buzzing annoyance Kind of code used daily
- 73 Domestic from overseas
- Use dynamite on
- 77 Slender woodwind instrument
- Crumbly earth
- Green-\_\_\_ (jealous)
- 80 Insect feeler
- 81 32,000 ounces
- 83 "Believe \_\_\_ not!" "Lethal Weapon 4" actress Russo
- 87 Like a CEO's incoming calls 89 Shorthand for a burglary: B
- Lip-\_ \_\_ (mouth the words) Temperature extreme
- 95 Tealike drinks
- Certain Native Americans 101 Industrious insect
- 102 Dance halls of the '70s 103 Like some footballs or
- punch
- 104 Gate guard
- 105 "... and \_\_\_\_ the fire"
- 109 Words shouted in church
- 110 Female in the family
- 111 Seizes
- 113 Spreadsheet contents
- 114 Cash in Cancun 115 Finally out of the rat race
- (Abbr.)
- 117 Mas' counterparts
- 118 Cell "messenger"
- 121 "Come again?"
- 122 Flirtatiously shy 123 Color property

## Last Week's Solution:

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#### **OBITUARIES**

JOHN H. BOYD (82),

formerly of Alexandria. February 25, 2014

**ROGER HENRY** CHRISTIANSEN (80), of

Alexandria, February 22, 2014

**RICHARD THOMAS CLAUSEN,** of Alexandria. February 21, 2014

2014

**CHARLES E. FIGGINS (70),** of Alexandria, February 4,

**JEANETTE GARNER, of** Alexandria, February 24, 2014

WILLIAM B. HOPKE, JR., of Alexandria, March 1, 2014

AUBREY L. JOHNSON, of Alexandria, February 22, 2014

**DOROTHEA VON SCHWANENFLUEGEL** LAWSON (97), formerly of Alexandria, February 13, 2014

**GRACE H. MAYBERRY, of** Alexandria, February 26, 2014

CHARLES B. RAMSEY, of Alexandria, February 16, 2014

PATRICIA A. ROHRER (87), of Alexandria, February 26, 2014

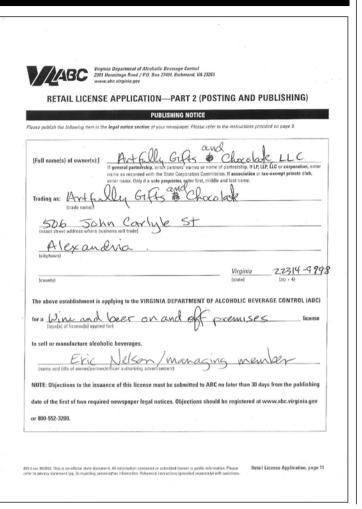
**LEONARD R. TERRELL, of** Alexandria, February 21, 2014

**HERBERT TONEY, of** Alexandria, March 2, 2014

**JANE P. WHITE,** formerly of Alexandria, February 8, 2014

## Classifieds

#### ABC NOTICE



#### LEGAL NOTICE



#### 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 #2014-0022

3606 Seminary Road - Day Care Center

Administrative Special Use Permit request to operate a daycare center in a church; zoned R20/Single-family

Applicant: Valley Drive Preschool,

PLANNER: ann.horowitz@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 no later than March 27, 2014.

Alexandria Board of Architectural Review Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2014 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

#### CASE BAR2014-0016

Request to partially demolish & capsulate at 113 Princess St. APPLICANT: Karl & Lydia Svoboda by Christine A. Kelly

#### CASE BAR2014-0017

Request for an addition & alterations at 113 Princess St. APPLICANT: Karl & Lydia Svoboda by Christine A. Kelly

#### CASE BAR2014-0026

Request to partially demolish & capsulate at 707 Devon Pl. APPLICANT: Mark Harold & Jocelyn Johnson Herrington by Keith

#### CASE BAR2014-0027

Request for an addition & alterations at 707 Devon Pl. APPLICANT: Mark Harold & Jocelyn Johnson Herrington by Keith F. Carroll

#### CASE BAR2014-0046

Request for partial demolition of a shed at 615 S. Pitt St. APPLICANT: Robert Eelkema

#### CASE BAR2014-0047

Request for alteration to rear fence at 615 S. Pitt St.

APPLICANT: Robert Eelkema

#### CASE BAR2014-0049

Request for alterations & signage at 700 King St.

APPLICANT: Lululemon USA, Inc by James Kratochvil

#### Other Business

- · Pedestrian Plaza in the unit block of King Street.
- An informal work session with public testimony regarding the proposed development at 513-515 N Washington St.

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666

#### NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA. WAKE COUNTY

In the Superior Court Thomas William Miller v. Omar Mohammed Lahboub and Alexandria Wholesale Trading, Inc. a/k/a/ Alexandria Wholesale International Trading, Inc.

Wake County File No.: 12 CVS 5730

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: compensation for personal

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than

April 8 ,2014 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This the 27th day of February, 2014.

Kurt L. Dixon Riddle & Brantley, LLP 4600 Marriott Drive, Suite 500 Raleigh, NC 287612-3307

Telephone: (919) 876-3020 Facsimile: (919) 876-3060

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907 Oronoco Street - \$749,900 907oronoco.mcenearney.com



708 N. Columbus Street - \$659,000 708columbus.mcenearney.com



5504 Helmdales Lane - \$499,900 5504helmsdale.mcenearney.com



5901 Mount Eagle Dr #1016 - \$329,900 5901mounteagle1016.mcenearney.com







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