



PHOTO/KATIE CALLAHAN

ONE COOL DUDE With the start of summer and higher temperatures, a young, local boy in shades beats the heat at the Charles Houston Recreation Center Memorial Pool on Tuesday. July kicked off with 95 degree weather, so now's the time many kids will flock to summer camps, chill in pools, head to ice cream shops and take short stints to the waterfront or local parks.

Dominion Virginia touches the third rail

City councilors worry proposed transmission line will hurt quality of life

BY ERICH WAGNER

City councilors lit up Dominion Virginia Power representatives last month over the utility company's plans for running a 230-kilovolt transmission line through Alexandria.

At issue is the fact that the company has not announced where they might put the underground lines. Officials fear the utility will try to run cables from its Glebe Road substation in Arlington County through northern Alexandria neighbor-

hoods to an end substation to be located at the closed GenOn coal-fired power plant.

City Hall would rather Dominion Virginia lay it alongside federal- or state-owned properties like the George Washington Memorial Parkway or Potomac River. But city staffers suspect the utility company is looking for an easy way out.

"The concern I have is that the way it was portrayed to staff was that the easier way to do this is not to face a federal agency or a state agency or a railroad agency, but the easier way to do it is to use city right of

SEE **DOMINION** | 11

Edmond focuses on results, not ideology

Republican touts non-partisan public service in run for congress

BY ERICH WAGNER

Republican congressional nominee Micah Edmond said the combination of his unique upbringing and an emphasis on results rather than rhetoric means he will give Democrat Don Beyer a run for his money in November.

Republicans in the 8th Congressional District nominated Edmond at a convention in

May. At stake is the seat soon to be vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D).

Edmond admits his background is unusual for a Republican candidate, as a black man raised by a single mother in South Carolina. When he was a teenager, a Jewish family adopted him and he later converted to the faith.

There are no black Republicans in Congress — Florida's Allen West lost his bid for reelection in 2012 — and the caucus will lose its only Jewish legislator later this year, after

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor lost his primary battle in Virginia's 7th District earlier last month.

Edmond said his background allows him to reach out to different communities than previous Republican candidates.

"In the African-American community there are a lot of things that were external to the community that made progress difficult, if not impossible," he said. "There's a role that government plays, but within the community there is a role that

we have to own up to, and same as with the Jewish community, we actually have to do these things [to succeed].

"If you think about the 8th District and Virginia writ large, the African-American community finds itself looking for the next generation that knows what it's like to have these struggles. And instead of continually being wedded to one party, they are looking toward investing in a new generation of African-Americans who can be on the ballot and reflect their val-

ues and actually do things that straddle the parties."

Edmond said his resume speaks for itself when it comes to finding compromise between Democrats and Republicans. After a stint on Wall Street — he had to pay off his student loans, he said — he joined the

SEE **EDMOND** | 10



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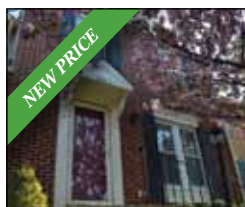


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- Updated Kitchen
- Deck
- Garage

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THE WEEKLY BRIEFING



COURTESY PHOTO

JOINING THE RANKS Thirteen local police officers and five sheriff's deputies celebrated successfully working their way through the Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on June 26. All undertook 24 weeks of training, completing courses on subjects like firearms, emergency vehicle handling, crash investigations and defensive tactics. The police graduates are Jansen Adkins, Kasia Bryant, Amanda Keeton, Patrick Kunz, Dylan Lemley, Frank Merritt, Patrick Monaghan, Bryson Norris, Nimol Phorn, Ashley Tremble, Katelyn Treyline, Michael Vaccaro and Kevin Webb. The deputy graduates are Andrew Brunsting, Jeffrey Halaut, Marko Nikolic, Dorian Shelley and Timothy Wauhup.

Return of the Derecho Common

Port City Brewing Co.'s popular Derecho Common has blown back into town, three years after its tumultuous creation.

The local brewery was left in the dark — as was much of the region — after a massive windstorm, for which the brew is named, swept through the area in June 2012. The five-day outage during a stretch of unbearable hot weather put about 13,000 gallons of beer at risk of going bad.

Thankfully for Bill Butch-

er, who oversees the Wheeler Avenue brewery, all but one tank rode out the loss of electricity. Rather than dump the beer, which had fermented at a higher temperature than the recipe called for, Butcher and his crew decided to see what the storm had created.

What they got was a California common, also known as a steam beer. Fans of the brewery also enjoyed the pleasant surprise: The limited supply of the Derecho Common vanished almost as

quickly as it appeared.

At the time, Butcher was on the fence about turning the accidental brew into a regular seasonal offering. But customer demand dictated otherwise and he rolled out the fan favorite again last year.

This year's rendition is a bit different than years past. Butcher told WTOP the 2014 model was brewed with centennial hops, which gives the beer an orange-like citrusy taste.

- Derrick Perkins

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CRIME

City police step up bike enforcement

Citing complaints from motorists, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg last week said City Hall ought to consider stepping up enforcement of cyclists caught ignoring stop signs.

But city police are one step ahead. The department recently cracked down on scofflaw cyclists, said Crystal Nosal, police spokeswoman.

While department officials did not release the amount of citations issued, Nosal said officers target locations based upon resident complaints.

Union Street, home to a short stretch of the popular Mount Vernon Trail, is one such area, she said.

In other cases, officers are instructed to ticket cyclists caught ignoring the rules of the road if they are safely able to do so, Nosal said.

"I think what it comes down to is that officers will ticket for the offenses that they see," she said, noting that "traffic violations are left to the discretion of the officer."

The vice mayor's remarks

came after city councilors learned a proposal to make Royal Street more bike-friendly had been spiked. Local transit head Rich Baier announced the concept's demise at the June 24 city council meeting.

"Drivers constantly tell me that they almost hit cyclists that run through stop signs," Silberberg said. "I would urge all cyclists to please stop at all stop signs."

- Derrick Perkins

Students arrested for alleged 'upskirt' photographs

Alexandria police released the identity of a T.C. Williams student charged in May and arrested three others after two separate incidents where the students allegedly took non-consensual "upskirt" photos of teachers.

Elias Castellon Diaz, 18, was arrested May 21 and is charged with illegally photographing a non-consenting person, a misdemeanor, police said. And on June 26, police said they charged three stu-

dents in a similar incident that took place in May.

Two boys, 15 and 17, were charged with unlawful photography of another, police said. Another 17-year-old boy is charged with distribution of obscene material. All three teens were released into the custody of their parents.

Search warrant affidavits filed in Alexandria Circuit Court last month revealed investigations into the two incidents of "upskirt" photog-

raphy. Alexandria City Public Schools spokeswoman Kelly Alexander said she couldn't comment on the specifics of the case, but that, generally, school officials follow the district's student code of conduct in its disciplinary procedures.

"We are always looking into keeping the classrooms a safe place for both teachers and students," Alexander said.

- Erich Wagner

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between June 25 and July 2.

9 DRUG
CRIMES

59 THEFTS

0 SEXUAL
OFFENSES

20 ASSAULTS

1 VEHICLE
THEFT

5 ROBBERIES

1 BREAKING
& ENTERING

0 ASSAULTS WITH A
DEADLY WEAPON

*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

Arlandria farmers market has big ambitions

Four Mile Run Park market organizers secure on-site food preparation, music permits

BY ERICH WAGNER

Local farmers markets aren't just centered on fresh fruits and veggies anymore. Just ask Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisans Market organizer Kevin Beekman.

Last month he secured city council's permission for on-site food preparation — like food carts and trailers — as well as amplified live music and beer and wine tastings.

"[When we started the market four years ago], it was an effort to do both a farmers market and an artisans market," he said. "You know, not just produce, but some value-added goods, both on the food

side and on the craft side."

While Beekman doesn't plan to offer beer and wine tastings yet — at least not this year — he's recently seen a growing demand for fresh and ready-to-eat food, both from customers and local entrepreneurs.

"One of the things that came out of [the market] was a lot of folks, especially with the economic downturn, looking to start home-based businesses and other food prep businesses," he said. "There's a real desire out there."

But the new initiatives that the permit enabled aren't simply to increase the organizers' bottom line. All profits from the market go toward improvements to Four Mile Run Park, be they for public amenities or environmental rehabilitation efforts.

"It was just a neighborhood effort to try to do something in the park, just to have any active programming to support the effort to enlarge the park and restore Four Mile Run," he said of the market's founding.

A few of the improvements to the park led to elements of the new permit, like hosting amplified music. Market organizers used an anonymous \$10,000 donation to build a stage in the park, but road and lawnmower noise make acoustic concerts high impossible.

And the more the market can do to attract residents and businesses, the more money can be directed to further improvements to the park.

"We were already engaged with stream mitigation work and stream cleanups, so [initially] the farmers market was

really a little bit of putting the cart before the horse just to get something going," Beekman said. "[The] money we raise from T-shirt sales and vendor fees typically amounts to around \$1,000 a year to the city, but we're leveraging that to attract more grants and donations."

Beekman said he is working on new ideas for the market in the coming weeks, be it food trucks and carts or securing additional donations. But he's just excited to serve all aspects of the community — residents, entrepreneurs and the environment.

"[So often] we're dealing with start-ups, so we're really kind of helping them get engaged and directing them where to go and how to start a business," he said. "Once we saw the community respond to

“One of the things that came out of [the market] was a lot of folks, especially with the economic downturn, looking to start home-based businesses and other food prep businesses. There's a real desire out there.”

- Kevin Beekman
Organizer, Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisan Market

it when we started [the market] on a trial basis], that's when we started trying to find ways to enhance it."

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View of a tragedy

Two local men bear witness to catastrophic Everest avalanche

BY KATIE CALLAHAN

Breathe, step. Breathe, step. Breathe, step.

It sounds natural enough, but for local businessman John Carney, sucking in thin mountain air before every lumbering step upwards took incredible concentration.

"When you climb, you get this incredible focus and there's no room for anything else," said Carney, reflecting on his most recent attempt to conquer Mount Everest in April during a talk at the Waterfront Market last month.

When undertaking one of the most dangerous treks in the world, that focus is at a premium. It can mean the difference between life and death.

And the line between those two extremes is as thin as the air up there, as Carney learned before his attempt to reach the summit even began. An avid mountaineer, Carney was on hand when a massive avalanche claimed the lives of 16 Sherpas, the Nepalese guides who lead climbers up and down the mountain.

Even before the tragedy, Carney's previous neighbor and climbing partner, Mike MacNair, came perilously close to that line. Blind in one eye from a benign tumor and having overcome two knee surgeries, MacNair struggled with his depth perception on the way up.

Though a veteran of Iron Man competitions, he was unaccustomed to the unreliability of the ground he walked on. Fear threatened to paralyze him, but he forged ahead with a quiet single-mindedness, focusing only on finding his footing.

By following his own advice and "leaning forward and climbing the darn thing,"



COURTESY PHOTO

John Carney and Mike MacNair trekked to a Mount Everest base camp in April just days before a tragic avalanche killed 16 Sherpas. Both were at the Waterfront Market last month to share their experiences.

MacNair pushed his limits. His body begged him to stop, but he focused on the rhythm of his steps to forget the pain. Trekking poles in hand, he meditatively got through each day, simply by putting one foot in front of the other.

Ahead of him, MacNair saw the climbing group's headlamps strung out around the mountain, like a pearl necklace. The sight — laying bare the enormity of the journey still ahead — nearly overwhelmed him. Instead, he concentrated on the lamp of the climber in front of him.

"When you're shooting for the stars, you have to have a light in front of you because the big picture will drive you mad," MacNair said. "Pick what you're going to do every day because what you pick is going to get you to the finish line."

Carney wouldn't let Mac-

Nair stop; he was his rope line, tying him to his pledge to complete the trek. Those lines stretched back to their first climbing trip in 2003, facing off against Washington state's monstrous Mount Rainier. This year's trip to an Everest base camp was the pinnacle of many well-endured hikes together.

However, base camp was as far as MacNair would go. He had reached his goal and would soon descend, proud of his accomplishment. It was Carney alone who would bear witness to one of the mountain's worst tragedies.

Waiting for his chance to ascend to Everest's peak, Carney was still in base camp — nearly 18,000 feet up — when a sudden avalanche took the lives of 16 Sherpas.

"It was the closest I'd ever

Something wicked this way comes?

Lee Street residents worry Halloween tradition has gotten out of hand

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Lee Street is the place to be on Halloween, but Old Town residents and city officials fear the annual tradition is spiraling out of control.

The fall community ritual dates back years, though pinpointing its exact start remains nearly impossible. Each Halloween, neighbors try to outdo one another with home decorations before stocking up on candy and waiting for the annual onslaught of trick-or-treaters from across the region.

But after last year's blow-out, which included a live broadcast by a radio station, concerns that the neighborhood tradition is getting car-

ried away are on the rise.

"The past few years, I've spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars on candy," said resident Amy Bayer. "I sit on my stoop and there are kids 10-deep the entire night and they are pushing, the police officers are blowing whistles ... it just became icky. It was nuts."

Bayer has neighbors who still love the tradition, but she's hardly alone. Jack Browand, division chief with the city's recreation, parks and cultural activities department, said his staff began talking with neighbors after hearing how large the gathering has become. It's not a city-sponsored event, though officials routinely dispatch police officers to shut down streets to traffic and keep an eye on the revelry.

"It started out years ago as a community gathering, slowly

building steam until it got quite large," he said. "That's why we just kind of initiated the conversation with the community with regard to where is this event going. It's actually started getting quite large and becoming more of an event."

"So how do we manage this event, when it's not really an event? That's kind of what this whole thing was."

Joined by representatives from the police department, Browand's staff sat down with neighbors last month. Resident Twig Murray called it a productive session. Though more meetings are on the horizon, early ideas include re-opening the street to traffic earlier in the night.

Removing the traffic barriers might deter some of the late-night rowdiness, Murray said.

"Basically, we were just try-

“The past few years, I’ve spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars on candy. I sit on my stoop and there are kids 10-deep the entire night and they are pushing, the police officers are blowing whistles ... it just became icky. It was nuts.”

**- Amy Bayer
Lee Street resident**

ing to figure out how we could make it better for everybody," she said. "I think that if they simply try to clear the streets earlier in the evening, it's not going to stop people from doing traditional trick-or-treating, but we're hoping we're not going to get the big crowds of adults and older teenagers. Just try and tone it down."

And neighbors who no lon-

ger want to participate always have the option of turning the lights off and keeping their doors shut. That's what Bayer may end up doing this year.

"I guess you can [greet trick-or-treaters] at 5 o'clock and then shut off the lights," she said. "I don't want to be a total curmudgeon, but I also think it's lost its fun. It's lost its sense of neighborhood spirit."



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Lingering questions

Residents sour after meeting with Norfolk Southern officials

BY KATIE CALLAHAN

A community meeting with Norfolk Southern's representatives last month to discuss the future of its West End ethanol facility did little to defrost Alexandria's chilly relationship with the shipping giant.

City officials requested a company meet-and-greet after learning last year that Norfolk Southern wanted state permission to expand the transloading facility. That revelation, which left both residents and elected officials outraged, was just the latest in a string of perceived slights on the part of Norfolk Southern.

When the company opened its South Van Dorn Street facility in 2008, city officials were among the last to know. Despite an expensive legal battle, City Hall failed to shut down its ethanol unloading operation, which is just a short distance from a residential neighborhood and a school.

The ethanol facility has been home to several spills of the highly flammable compound in the intervening years. In a few of those cases, the Alexandria Fire Department was not immediately alerted.

Officials hoped efforts to improve lines of communication between City Hall and Norfolk Southern in the wake of those episodes would bear fruit, but when the company sought permission to expand its operation they kept Alexandria's brass in the dark. City Hall found out about the request only after the state notified local officials.

If it gets approval, Norfolk Southern can more than double its operation, unloading up to 30 rail cars full of ethanol a day. Company representatives



FILE PHOTO

Officials with shipping giant Norfolk Southern are seeking state permission to expand its transloading facility on the West End. A community meeting did little to assuage the concerns of city leaders and residents, who already have a chilly relationship with the company.

walked residents and city officials through its day-to-day activities and safety measures during the June 17 gathering at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center on Seminary Road.

But the meeting, arranged as a round robin of experts armed with presentations, failed to assuage wary residents. Mindy Lyle, a board member of nearby Cameron Station Civic Association, called it a "PR ploy" and said the format allowed Norfolk Southern to sidestep resident concerns.

"The general attitude of Norfolk Southern was that they didn't care what the public thought or what the public's concerns were and they don't care to be a corporate citizen," she said. "They're just there to make money and that was loud and clear."

City officials previously asked the company to hold an open-mic session, but Norfolk

Southern felt its style made it easier to disseminate technical information to residents, said Rich Baier, director of the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

At least residents got a few questions answered, he said.

Robin Chapman, Norfolk Southern's director of public relations, said several queries went unanswered because of their sensitive proprietary nature. The company wants to put nearby residents at ease, he said.

Chapman said plans to expand Norfolk Southern's Alexandria operation hinge on future ethanol demand.

"We are certainly conscious of our neighbors' concerns and we have tried to address those concerns," he said. "We understand that we cannot satisfy everyone's desires as far as how we operate there."

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Latest 'Transformers' effort is soul-crushing

BY RICHARD ROEPER

Early in the first hour of the mind-numbing hammer to the senses that is the fourth "Transformers" movie, the old-timey operator of a shuttered movie theater in Texas says nobody wants to come to a specialty movie house any more because it's all about sequels and remakes these days.

That's what passes for an inside joke in a Michael Bay movie. Or maybe it's just salt in the wound. Look at this old fool, lamenting the days when films were about something! Now hold tight, cuz pretty soon robots are going to start breaking things.

We also get references to one of Bay's early hits, a classic Western and a Stanley Kubrick film, but those nuggets are mere drops in the ocean of bombastic action sequences that dominate throughout.

Well past the two-hour mark of a film I thought might never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever end, an alien spaceship is doing something. I don't want to give it away, but suffice to say the alien spaceship is clearly executing a certain maneuver, and we see the effects of this maneuver over and over and over.

And yet Mark Wahlberg's character must verbalize what the spaceship is doing. "It's doing (thing it's doing)!" he says, even though at that point only the blind wouldn't have caught on.

With a running time of 165 minutes — roughly the same as a double feature of "Battle-ship Potemkin" and "Annie Hall" — the fourth entry in the "Transformers" franchise is like a spoiled kid who insists on showing you every single toy he owns.

It is one of the most relentless movies I have ever seen. It just refuses to end.

Believe it or not, I actually enjoyed the first "Transformers"



PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Michael Bay's latest foray into the movies-based-on-TV-shows-based-on-toys genre features a new protagonist (Mark Wahlberg) and is overlong and overwrought.

ers" movie, when the whole cars-to-robots-to-cars thing was new, and it was great fun to see humans reacting to these giant machines and their silly dialogue. But the 2009 and 2011 follow-ups managed to be bloated and hollow at the same time, and "Age of Extinction" is just another warmed-over, cynical, ATM machine of a movie. It's soulless eye candy.

We pick up the story years after "Dark of the Moon." Billboards remind citizens to remember the battle of Chicago and to call the government if they see any aliens, whether they be Autobots or Decepticons. Optimus Prime (voiced by Peter Cullen as if he's doing a Saturday morning cartoon character aimed at an audience with an average age of 8) is missing and presumed by many to be dead, or whatever it is you call it when Transformers have hit the

scrap heap.

Mark Wahlberg is Cade Yeager, a widower who lives on a ranch in sun-dappled Texas with his daughter Tessa (Nicola Peltz, who looks like a young Tara Reid and has approximately the same range as an actor). This being a Michael Bay movie, there are American flags draped in Cade's "lab" — the barn where he works on his inventions — and on his front porch, and it seems like the sun is always setting.

Jack Reynor plays Tessa's Irish, racecar-driver (convenient profession) boyfriend Shane, whom Cade dubs "Lucky Charms," because, you know, the kid's Irish. After Cade stumbles upon Optimus Prime's dormant form and brings him back to, um, life, the three humans and the legendary Autobot form an alliance and hit the road so they can save the Autobots, repel

attacks from Decepticons, battle Kelsey Grammer's evil, alien-hating government operative and do a bunch of other stuff, all of which involves either protracted car chases or CGI battles, or both.

Stanley Tucci plays a megalomaniacal, genius billionaire developing a new strain of man-made Transformers. He starts off as a villain but then becomes the shrieking, relatively stupid comic relief. I liked him better as the ruthless genius.

Nobody comes to a Michael

Bay movie for the dialogue, but still, the speeches by the Transformers (many of which begin with, "You humans ...") and the action-sequence quips by the humans are particularly dopey. With his giant biceps and his comfort level with violence (even before he's met a Transformer), Wahlberg is miscast as an absent-minded professor-type with a barn full of failed inventions and a daughter telling him they're broke. (Wahlberg doesn't even try to

SEE **TRANSFORMERS** | 26



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EDMOND

FROM | 1

U.S. Marine Corps, where he served for eight years. Upon returning to the U.S. he gravitated toward bipartisan efforts to curb the federal deficit as a congressional staffer, and worked on both the Simpson-Bowles com-

mission and later the ill-fated super-committee.

"This time the difference between this and Simpson-Bowles was that there was no ability to not act, and we decided to impose sequestration because everyone thought [Congress] would step up to the plate," he said. "When [Congress could

not avoid the across-the-board cuts], that was for me one of those things that led me to run for office. I felt I couldn't do anymore behind the scenes to get things done."

Edmond's legislative priorities run the ideological gamut. While he supports school vouchers — a standard Repub-

lican position — he would not repeal the Affordable Care Act "wholesale," and would instead opt for tweaks like extending insurance subsidies available to big businesses to all employers. And he supports reforming the nation's penalties for nonviolent drug-related offenders.

"There's a whole generation, particularly males, making mistakes like everybody does in high school, like using marijuana, and they find themselves incarcerated for 10 to 15 years for nonviolent crime," Edmond said. "That makes it next to impossible for them to reintegrate into society. Since this disproportionately is affecting black males, we need to have mandatory minimum reform."

And despite the conventional wisdom that a Democrat can coast to victory in Northern Virginia, he said his beliefs and background will allow him to reach voters Republicans have not been able to reach in decades.

"Jim Moran may have consistently gotten 60-63 percent of the vote, but what you have here is not taking into account that we're doing different things than prior Republican candidates," Edmond said.

“ Instead of continually being wedded to one party, they are looking toward investing in a new generation of African-Americans who can be on the ballot and reflect their values and actually do things that straddle the parties.”

**- Micah Edmond
Republican nominee
for congress**



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—John Mutchler



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DOMINION

FROM | 1

way,” testified Rich Baier, head of the city’s transportation and environmental services department.

But Deborah Tompkins Johnson, regional manager of state and local affairs for Dominion Virginia, said the company has only determined a “point A and point B.” They haven’t yet looked at potential routes for the transmission line. The company plans to submit a proposal to the State Corporation Commission by January 2015.

“To say we’re pushing to use the city right of way, that’s just not the case,” Johnson said. “We have a north end, and a southern end, and in between we need to have a route.”

But City Councilor Tim Lovain asked why the utility would consider a route that doesn’t abut major transit ways, citing the need to disturb as few pieces of private property as possible.

“If you’re looking for the least number of parcels disrupted and disrupted residents, clearly if you followed the CSX land’s right of way, you’re dealing with just one property owner and no residences,” Lovain said. “And if you follow the GW Parkway, you know it’s very similar, and along the Potomac River as well.

“It seems obvious to me that you should vigorously pursue those other, less disruptive, alternatives.”

Several city councilors didn’t buy the company’s claims. City Councilor Paul Smedberg noted that Dominion already has an initial cost estimate — about \$165 million — for the project, which he took as a sign that something must be in the works.

“I find [not having a route] hard to believe, given your timeline and your ultimate submission [to the SCC] in six or seven months; I find it very disturbing,” he said.

Johnson said the cost esti-



FILE PHOTO

City officials fear that a Dominion Virginia Power proposal to build a new substation at the site of the decommissioned GenOn coal-fired power plant and a 230-kilovolt transmission line through Alexandria could lead to countless disruptions for residents and businesses.

mate is bare bones: It’s just an estimate of building a straight line from Glebe Road to the new substation, which they admit would likely be impossible.

“If you’re looking for the least number of parcels disrupted and disrupted residents, clearly if you followed the CSX land’s right of way, you’re dealing with just one property owner and no residences. And if you follow the GW Parkway, you know it’s very similar, and along the Potomac River as well.”

**- Tim Lovain
City Councilor**

Further stoking city councilors’ suspicion was a February report issued by PJM — a regional utility transmission group — concluding that an

influx of computer data centers has sparked an increase in power demand elsewhere in Northern Virginia.

“While we do have growth [in northern Alexandria], compared to areas of Loudoun County and the Dulles corridor, I don’t think people would say they are equal,” Smedberg added. “The areas the report mentioned, I think, would be more classically defined as ‘high-growth’ areas.”

Johnson countered by saying the transmission line and new substation will improve Alexandria’s protection from power shortages. Surrounding jurisdictions might see an improvement, but it would only be a side effect of the project, she said.

“It’s really just the opposite; it is primarily benefiting those in Alexandria with a little bit of Arlington as well, because of the growth we’ve already seen and the growth coming,” she said.

City council called for the creation of a work group comprised of staff as well as business and community leaders to evaluate Dominion’s proposal and its effects on the city.



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SCENE AROUND TOWN

Joined at the hip

Superb cast, excellent directing breathes life into the story of the Hilton Sisters

BY JORDAN WRIGHT

Until the late 19th century, well before the present age of political correctness, viewing human oddities was seen as an acceptable form of entertainment.

Traveling freak shows, pop-up circuses and dime museums were part of our culture. People would be enthralled by such acts as a pinheaded man, a giant, or an individual with extra appendages. Midgets Chang and Eng and Jo-Jo the Dog-Faced Boy were headliners, as were the “Siamese” twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, in an act known as the Hilton Sisters. Director Bill Condon brings that bizarre era of American show business back to life in “Side Show” at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Beautifully directed (Condon is the Oscar-winning screenwriter of “Gods and Monsters”) featuring gorgeous music by Grammy Award-winning composer Henry Krieger of “Dreamgirls” fame and a touching story by veteran Broadway lyricist Bill Russell, this musical drama is a look into an “odditorium” where a tattooed lady with a propensity for dining on live chickens shares stage space with a three-legged man, a cannibal king, a lizard man and a dozen other exotic creatures.

The story opens in Texas during the Great Depression, where our protagonists — the aforementioned Hilton Sisters — lead a dismal life

performing in a San Antonio tent show with other “freaks.” Handsome talent scout Terry Connor (Ryan Silverman) discovers the girls, and offers his credentials along with his partner Buddy Foster (Matthew Hydzik) in the jaunty and pun-laden tune, “Very Well Connected.”

The song is one of 24 smashing tunes created by Krieger.

The entire cast is a marvel. Many of the actors play up to eight separate roles, led by the joined-at-the-hip Hiltons, performed spectacularly by Erin Davie as Violet and Emily Padgett as Daisy. Matching each other stride for stride, they dance, duet and, in one hilarious scene, play a mock tennis match.

The only thing they don’t do together is fall in love.

Robert Joy soars in the role of the archetypal slime ball, Sir, the sideshow’s manager, as does David St. Louis, who plays Sir’s compassionate assistant Jake. St. Louis’ commanding bass-baritone vocals in “You Should be Loved,” moves earth and sky.

The show’s creative team includes three-time Helen Hayes Award-winner Paul Tazewell, whose imaginative costumes span half a century, taking us from the twins’ Dickensian upbringing to Chicago’s Orpheum Theatre and the glitz and glamour of Hollywood where they become the toast of the town.

Paul Kieve, whose stage and film illusions are legendary, dramatizes one of the most memorable scenes of the production when Javier Ignacio, performing a breathtaking illusion as Harry Houdini, sings “All in the Mind” in his

haunting three-octave voice. I wished his was more than a cameo role.

Completing the illusion are famed special effects and prosthetics designers Dave and Lou Elsey, who devised creatures for both “Star Wars” and “Where the Wild Things Are.” It all comes together to whisk us back to a period where “freaks” stole the show.

“Side Show” runs through July 13 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F St. NW, Washington. For tickets and information call 202-467-4600 or visit www.kennedy-center.org.



PHOTO/JOAN MARCUS

Emily Padgett and Erin Davie portray the Hilton Sisters, “Siamese” twins, in “Side Show” now playing at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The twins do everything together — except fall in love.



PHOTO/JOAN MARCUS

Oscar-winning screenwriter Bill Condon assembles an impressive cast for his production of “Side Show.” But it is special effects and prosthetics designers Dave and Lou Elsey who really bring the show to life.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Now to July 31

BOUTIQUES UP LATE Every Thursday, the Old Town Boutique District boutiques will be open until 8 p.m. to take advantage of the longer daylight hours. Block parties will be hosted in zones throughout Old Town to introduce the community to the Boutiques Up Late initiative.

Time: Stores open until 8 p.m., block parties from 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: Old Town

Information: www.oldtownboutique-district.com/ai1ec_event/boutiques-up-late/

Now to August 31

SIT DOWN AND TAKE A STAND: THE SAMUEL W. TUCKER EXHIBITION This exhibition focuses on the life of famed civil rights attorney Samuel Wilbert Tucker and the historic 1939 sit-in at a city library. Admission 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

Now to September 26

BASEBALL BOAT TO NATIONALS PARK Take a Potomac Riverboat Co. ferry across the Potomac River to catch the Washington Nationals at 80 percent of home games. Tickets are \$15 one way or \$25 for a round trip.

Time: Various

Location: Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St.

Information: 703-684-0580 or www.baseballboat.com

July 3

BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross ask blood and platelet donors to help prevent a possible summer shortage by donating. Every donor until July 7 who gives blood will receive a commemorative Red Cross t-shirt.

Time: 12:30 to 6 p.m.

Location: Red Cross Alexandria Chapter House, 123 N. Alfred St.

Information: 800-733-2767 or red-crossblood.org

July 4

AMERICAN CELEBRATION AT MOUNT VERNON The country's first commander in chief is celebrated as George Washington's former home hosts daytime fireworks as well as other events like a naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military re-enactments, a special wreathlaying ceremony, free birthday cake for all (while supplies last), and a visit from

the "first" first couple.

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate and Gardens

Information: www.mountvernon.org or info@mountvernon.org

July 6

FAMILY DAY Junior docents from grades four through seven lead a tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, featuring a look at the tavern's ice well. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children aged 5-12.

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Information: www.alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern

July 7

THE ART OF BALLROOM DANCE Taught by Gary Stephans,

learn the fox trot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-cha and samba with or without a partner. Beginners and more advanced dancers welcome. Admission is \$15.

Time: Beginners class 7 to 7:45 p.m., advanced class 7:45 to 8:30 p.m., free practice to 9 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Information: 703-548-0035 or www.nvfaa.org/events/art-ballroom-dance-2

July 8

BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross ask blood and platelet donors to help prevent a possible summer shortage by donating.

Time: 2:30 to 8 p.m.

Location: Red Cross Alexandria Chapter House, 123 N. Alfred St.

Information: 800-733-2767 or red-crossblood.org

July 9

CANAL PLAZA CONCERT A free urban folk and acoustic jazz concert by Chaquis Malik, with guests encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. Admission is free.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Location: Canal Center Plaza Amphitheater, 44 Canal Center Plaza.

Information: 703-746-5592

July 12-13

FORT WARD CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT EVENT To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens, Fort Ward will host a re-enactment weekend featuring an interpretation of the battle, highlights of Union and Confederate camps, living history activities and a President Lincoln impersonator. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$2 for adults and \$5 for families.

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

Location: Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Rd.

Information: 703-746-4848 or www.alexandriava.gov/fortward

July 12

USA/ALEXANDRIA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION Celebrate the 238th birthday of the United States of America and the 265th birthday of Alexandria at

the Potomac waterfront with live music from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, patriotic birthday cake, food vendors and fireworks.

Time: 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Location: Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St.

Information: 703-746-4343

July 16

BEN BRENNAN PARK CON-

CERT A free Americana, folk and blues concert by Marshall Artz. Guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair or blanket and a picnic.

Time: 7 to 8 p.m.

Location: Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive

Information: 703-746-5592

July 17

MUSIC AT TWILIGHT CONCERT A men's barbershop performance by the Alexandria Harmonizers. Guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair or blanket and a picnic.

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

Location: John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St.

Information: 703-746-5592

July 18

COMCAST FILM FESTIVAL A free outdoor screening of *Despicable Me 2*. Light refreshments are for sale.

Time: 8 to 11 p.m.

Location: Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St.

Information: 703-746-5592

July 19

CINEMA DEL RAY Community family movie night held on the field of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center with food and beverage sales.

Time: 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Location: Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave.

Information: 703-683-3560 or bai-leyctr@comcast.com

COMCAST FILM FESTIVAL A free outdoor screening of *Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. Light refreshments are for sale.

Time: 8 to 11 p.m.

Location: Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St.

Information: 703-746-5592

July 20

ARLANDRIA CHIRILAGUA

FESTIVAL A celebration of Latino culture and the Arlandria neighborhood featuring live entertainment, food and vendor sales.

Time: Noon to 7 p.m.

Location: Mount Vernon Ave. At Four Mile Run

Information: 703-402-8021

July 21-25

ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER

CAMP At a real archaeological site in Alexandria, children aged 12-15 years old can learn about excavating, recording and processing artifacts in this five-day summer camp.

Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Information: 703-746-4399

July 21

THE ART OF BALLROOM

DANCE Taught by Gary Stephans, learn the fox trot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-cha and samba with or without a partner. Beginners and more advanced dancers welcome. Admission is \$15.

Time: Beginners class 7 to 7:45 p.m., advanced class 7:45 to 8:30 p.m., free practice to 9 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Information: 703-548-0035 or www.nvfaa.org/events/art-ballroom-dance-2

July 23

CANAL PLAZA CONCERT A free folk rock concert by West Tucker and Arch Alcantara, with guests encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. Admission is free.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Location: Canal Center Plaza Amphitheater, 44 Canal Center Plaza.

Information: 703-746-5592

July 25

FARWELL MR. GADSBY HAPPY

HOUR In commemoration of Mr. John Gadsby announcing he was selling the Tavern's lease and moving to Baltimore in 1808, come and celebrate while socializing and having 18th-century fun. With a \$10 donation, guests receive two drink tickets.

Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Information: <http://alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern>

MARKET SQUARE CONCERT

A free concert by the Alexandria Citizens Band in front of City Hall.

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

Location: Market Square, 301 King St.

Information: 703-746-5592

July 29-31

CLIO'S KIDS A history mini-camp for children aged 5-7 introducing them to American history and life in historic Alexandria through storytelling, artifacts, visits to historic places and other activities. Advance registration required, cost is \$105 per child including snacks and souvenirs.

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Location: Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

Information: 703-746-4994

July 30

BEN BRENNAN PARK CON-

CERT A free rockabilly and honky tonk concert by the Four Star Combo. Guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair or blanket and a picnic.

Time: 7 to 8 p.m.

Location: Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive

Information: 703-746-5592

July 31

MUSIC AT TWILIGHT CONCERT

A choral pops performance by the Alexandria Singers. Guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair or blanket and a picnic.

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

Location: John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St.

Information: 703-746-5592

August 2

FRIENDSHIP FIREHOUSE

FESTIVAL A community-wide festival celebrating the birthday of the Friendship Firehouse. Includes vendors, food and drink sales and a firetruck display.

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St.

Information: 703-751-6416 or kehoe@aol.com

FAMILY DIG DAY Help city archaeologists and students from the George Washington University field school screen excavate soil from a real dig on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Tickets cost \$5 per person, reservations required.

Time: 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Location: Alexandria Archaeology

SEE CALENDAR | 15



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Upcoming Events

- Saturday July 5th 7pm Military Appreciation Night: Free admission for active and retired military personnel
- Monday July 7th 7pm Crystal City Sports Pub Sponsor Night, Dollar Ticket Monday
- Tuesday July 8th 7pm Andrew Alford Memorial Night

Upcoming Home Games

Saturday July 5th 7pm

Monday July 7th 7pm

Friday July 11th 7pm

Aces home games are played at Frank Mann Field at Four Mile Run Park, located at 3700 Commonwealth Avenue in Alexandria, behind Cora Kelly School

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SPORTS

River Dogs rally to upset Aces



PHOTO/MARK BRISCOE

Alexandria Aces outfielder Ashford Fulmer gazes out after the ball following his home run in the bottom of the third. Despite his prowess at the plate, the Aces fell 10-5 to the Vienna River Dogs.

Aces fall apart, give up nine runs in the ninth

BY JIM MCELHATTON

The Alexandria Aces posted a respectable 3-2 win-loss record from June 25 to July 1, but the second defeat was as hard as any the team experienced all summer and it came in their own ball park.

Aces head coach Dave DeSilva gathered his players in left field after the final pitch to discuss their mental approach to baseball. He talked about how they must come to the field ready to play each night. All night.

It was a game the Aces seemed destined to win. The home team was up 5-1 in the top of the ninth inning against the Vienna River Dogs.

And even after a rally that saw the visitors score three runs, the Aces needed just one more strikeout to win.

Instead Vienna went on an improbable tear and scored nine runs in the final inning — a rally that began with head coach Bruce Hall imploring his squad to “steal this thing.”

The 10-5 comeback wiped out a sterling start by new Aces pitcher Ray Gambone of Wilmington University, who threw 6 2/3 scoreless innings for the Aces in his first appearance after being signed last week.

The Aces had a rally of their own in the bottom of the third, scoring five runs despite having two outs and nobody on base. It all started when shortstop J.D. Long walked and was scored on

a home run by second baseman Jake Kuzbel.

Ashford Fulmer homered on the next at-bat. The Aces scored twice more after a walk and a pair of two-out doubles by Josh Swirchak — who had two hits in the game and ranks among the leading batters in the league — and right fielder Ryan Lukach.

Gambone gave up some early hits, but a nasty pickoff move nailed a few River Dogs and cleared the bases.

In the top of the fourth inning, after escaping a few early jams, he walked the leadoff batter and fell behind 1-0 in the count before catcher Danny Bermudez walked out to the mound.

Whatever Bermudez said

CALENDAR

FROM | 13

Museum, 105 N. Union St.
Information: 703-736-4399 or
 archaeology@alexandriava.gov.

August 6

CANAL PLAZA CONCERT A free soul-influenced rock concert by The Sidleys, with guests encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. Admission is free.
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Location: Canal Center Plaza Amphitheater, 44 Canal Center Plaza.
Information: 703-746-5592

August 7

MUSIC AT TWILIGHT CONCERT

A jazz and R&B performance by the Ambience Band. Guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair or blanket and a picnic.

Time: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St.
Information: 703-746-5592

August 9

IRISH FESTIVAL A festival to promote Irish heritage that includes Irish music, entertainment from Irish dance schools, vendors, crafts, food and drink

sales and pipe bands.

Time: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St.
Information: 703-475-9415 or www.ballyshaners.org

August 10

FAMILY DAY Junior docents from grades four through seven lead a tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, featuring a look at the tavern's ice well. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children aged 5-12.

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.
Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
Information: www.alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern

EVEREST

FROM | 6

been to death," Carney said, recalling the four-day mourning period following the tragedy.

A day before the accident, members of the base camp had joined the Sherpas in a religious ceremony. Reading from sacred scrolls, they beseeched the cold, silent giant.

The mountain had said no.

"The next day we got our answer. And it just stands as a reminder to be mindful of the present," Carney said.

Carney had a front-row seat to the tragedy's aftermath. Fellow climbers listened as the body count went up and up over the radio. Other Sherpas remained missing.

He watched as the grim recovery mission began. Helicopters lifted off with long lines — needed to carry the bodies — shepherding the dead back to a hospital at the camp.

A few will remain forever wedged in the ice.

Amid the recovery operation and the grief, the magnitude of the catastrophe sunk in for Carney. The question became, could they eventually carry on?

"When somebody that's not in the mountaineering community sees that, they think, how can you even climb?" he said. "And there were people at base camp ready to climb after the accident. My feeling is it's because you're around the mountain, you're around that, you

know that these things can happen. So you're already mentally prepared for those things to take place.

"If my expedition [leader] had said, 'We're climbing. John, do you want to climb?' and I knew that the Sherpa were 100 percent in and ready to go, I would've climbed. ... And it's finding that way to respect and honor the lives of those lost while still understanding that all of those things encompass the full total of what mountaineering is."

MacNair, who had descended a few days prior, got a different view of the catastrophe.

"When we got to Lukla [Nepal], they had the bodies laid out on the tarmac and the specific expedition organizations were identifying their employees and determining where those bodies needed to go back to for burial," he remembered.

An eerie calm fell over the town as people did what was needed to assist the injured while also doing their jobs as usual at the foot of the mountain. The avalanche was the deadliest Everest has ever seen, despite the mountain's reputation as a widow maker. Attempts to climb it were cancelled. Sherpas, incensed by the loss of life and the Nepalese government's response, refused to guide people up the mountain.

So instead of going one-on-one with Everest, Carney came back down and the pair went to Katmandu, where they

glimpsed the grief of so many during a memorial service. And they saw the anger at a protest decrying the treatment of the Sherpas.

"I went to pay tribute to the Sherpas who gave their lives for the cause. I really felt like I was in the middle of a union event where they were protesting for better benefits for the Sherpas," MacNair recounted. "I didn't want to be involved in the politics of it; I just wanted to memorialize the Sherpas."

Carney's second attempt to reach the top of Everest had come to an early end. But he remains undeterred. His plan is to go back the next chance he can get. This time, though, it might have to be through China instead of Nepal.

Carney undertook this climb as a part of what's known as an "adventurer grand slam," which involves climbing the highest mountain on each continent and reaching the North and South Poles.

Going into it, he knew that making the summit of Everest — or any of the other mountains, for that matter — can take multiple tries. Already, he's climbed five of the seven mountains and reached the North Pole. Next month, he hopes to be atop Russia's Mount Elbrus.

"There's value each time I do it. It's not a repeat of the same thing. I learn and grow each time. And as long as personal growth happens each time, I'll go back," Carney said.

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Let's Eat

A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times

Yves' Bistro: Come for the cuisine, stay for the wines

Let's assume you are looking for the character of a French cafe and the conviviality of an American saloon, all conveniently located in your own neighborhood. You're after a good meal in a relaxing and restorative environment, with perhaps a hint of Old World romance in the process but also somewhere close by.

You can find all of that at Yves' Bistro, which, at 235 Swamp Fox Road, is not far from Old Town and conveniently located near AMC Hoffman Center. It's open for breakfast through dinner daily.

Yves' is intimate, cheerfully French, yet also local. On top of that, it boasts a menu that will suit any palate. There are daily specials and they really are special.

For example, Asiago ravioli is

a familiar dish, but here it is truly magnificent. The same can be said for the homemade vichyssoise, the cool, French soup of summer evenings. Many other delectable French-inspired specialties prepared to appeal to American tastes — roasted pork tenderloin, filet of salmon and more — are well worth giving a try.

But there's more: Yves' wine list is well-selected and very fairly priced, with everything available by the glass or bottle. On a summer's evening, you might, for example, start with a glass of rosé from southern France. You can then move on and try a glass of Riesling, or reds like Beaujolais or Rhône to highlight your entree.

Your companion prefers white wines? No problem. You will find

several appealing whites on the wine list, like Sauvignon Blanc and Chablis.

Dessert, too, will suggest itself: Yves' offerings are light and appealing. What about a pear poached in red wine with a scoop of ice cream or chestnuts over ice cream with chocolate sauce?

Whether hoping for a cheerful weekday lunch or a relaxing and romantic dinner for two — or just a pleasant pre-movie family supper — you can't miss at Yves' Bistro.

Yves' Bistro is located at 235 Swamp Fox Road, Alexandria. It is open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturdays and 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

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ACES

FROM | 14

worked. Gambone retired the next three batters and would give up just seven hits and strike out six.

However, after Gambone was relieved, the Aces bullpen struggled. The River Dogs scored six off Kyle Ward and three more from Austin Dykes before the rally finally ended with the strikeout of Ray Lopez, who doubled earlier in the same inning for the visitors.

"It looked like they were going to walk away with it," said River Dogs coach Bruce Hall. "To their credit, they had a guy who pitched a great game, but the other guys the brought in, we just squared them up."

"When you're down 5-0 with three innings to play in baseball, it's never over."



PHOTO/MARK BRISCOE

Alexandria Aces starter Ray Gambone pitched 6 2/3 scoreless innings against the Vienna River Dogs on Tuesday, but it wasn't enough. The River Dogs rallied late in the game to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

DeSilva credited Gambone but said the Aces got complacent after taking the early 5-0 lead.

"Five runs is never enough, especially in this league," he said. "We're not talking about pro athletes. There are going

to be mistakes. There are going to be pitching mistakes. There are going to be errors in the field. And there are going to be mental lapses. We suffered from all of that."

At the same time, it's a long season, DeSilva added. A tough loss, while never easy, "is part of baseball, part of the game."

Even with the defeat, the Aces remained solidly in fourth place and ranked among the top teams in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Summer League.

DeSilva said the team tends to play to its competition, beating the best but sometimes struggling against lower ranked teams.

Earlier in the week, the Aces beat the third-best team in the league, the Baltimore Redbirds, by a score of 2-1 but then dropped two straight to teams with records under .500: the River Dogs and DC Grays.

"Some games we're great, and some games we struggle," he said.

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Our View

This Fourth of July, the Port City needs you

We celebrate the Fourth of July this week, that annual observance of the adoption of our Declaration of Independence that also includes baseball, cookouts, pool parties and fireworks. This year we at the Alexandria Times hope you also spend a moment taking part in a bit of civic engagement.

Or, to be more precise, we hope you take a little time to talk about civic engagement with your friends, family and neighbors. Because if you are reading this, you are likely already engaged with the community, whether it is just keeping tabs on the issues swirling around City Hall or regularly offering officials advice — or criticism — at public meetings.

You are plugged in. You are in the know. But in a city of nearly 148,000 people, by last count, we can always do better. Surely, you know one or two — or more — folks who pay little to no attention to what happens at City Hall or at the headquarters of Alexandria City Public Schools?

It's easy to understand, too. Life is hectic, times are still tough and the metropolitan area is famously awash with transplants from elsewhere. And that is why we are turning to you, our readers, to serve as emissaries. Being civically engaged does not necessarily mean spending one Saturday a month in city council chambers or following every meeting of the planning commission or school board (although that's to be applauded).

Civic engagement is many things and can be as easy as checking out one of the many media outlets that serve this great city, talking to a city councilor, scanning a meeting docket or catching a few minutes of one of those epic Saturday public hearings at City Hall that are helpfully recorded and posted online. Technology, in particular, has made engaging with the municipal government and other residents easier than ever before.

Civic engagement also does not mean agreeing with everything our elected leaders are doing or the positions our neighbors have taken. A few of the most engaged residents in town are city council's fiercest critics on issues like the waterfront redevelopment plan, taxes, public debt and the role of food trucks and cyclists in Alexandria. All it requires is getting involved in the debate, somehow, somewhere.

After all, the Founding Fathers we take time to remember this week between hot dogs and sparklers did not unanimously agree on breaking ties with Great Britain and embarking on the road to independence. They debated the issue vigorously and fought passionately on their political and philosophical positions.

They were also all civically engaged.

This year, see if you can spark a conversation with a friend or acquaintance. Maybe it's about that new development you heard was potentially going in down the street. Perhaps it's about the debt City Hall likely will take on if and when it embarks on the Potomac Yard Metro station project.

Who knows what will get someone else motivated and involved? But it's always worth a shot.

In a rapidly changing city, every new voice added to the debate makes the discussion — whatever it is — that much better.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

Why not leave the Middle East to its own devices?

To the editor:

The national boundaries in the Middle East are mostly arbitrary lines drawn by the British and the French a century ago, and it is clear that the shotgun wedding trapped diverse populations that cannot — or will not — get along in sovereign states.

Maybe it's time to let the long-squabbling marital partners get a divorce. They've been clamoring for a separation agreement for years and the domestic violence has only escalated since the Arab Spring. One hundred years is a long time to be in an arranged marriage with some-

one you can't stand.

We in the West can comprehend that on a personal and political level, with separatist and/or independence movements in such places as Catalonia, Scotland and Venice. That melting pot mentality no longer seems to hold any credibility.

So I say treat the Arabs like grown-ups — let them out of those confining, crumbling cribs, give them room for self-determination and to “date and mate” as they please. Perhaps then they'll settle down and give birth to peace and prosperity.

Maybe if the paternalis-

tic West stops acting like a meddling mother-in-law and doesn't re-engage, the chaos will subside and the region will stabilize. Plus, there's the added benefit of not generating any more anti-American sentiment than already exists in the world, thus diminishing the probability of an attack on U.S. soil, which is our only real national interest in these civil wars and why we falsely cling to control and custody.

Breaking up isn't that hard to do, and it's the only thing that hasn't been tried.

- Karen Ann DeLuca
Alexandria

ACPS supports students and student-athletes equally

To the editor:

Alexandria City Public Schools has instituted a great many innovative programs at T.C. Williams that target students struggling academically by giving them the support to earn their diplomas.

T.C. boasts one of the best counselor-to-student ratios nationally, forming the backbone of a system that guides the student-led development of individualized academic and career plans. The district has seen ever-increasing graduation rates and ever more rigorous curriculum offerings at the city's only public high school.

Many members of the class of 2014 are headed to some of the finest colleges and universities in the commonwealth and the world. Others are preparing to join the armed forces or enter the workplace. The district's staff has prepared them well to become productive citizens.

It concerns me when a resident asserts that T.C. "has failed to improve the educational performance of all of its students" ("The spotlight belongs on student achievement, not athletic lights," June 19).

Such a statement indicates that there are residents unaware of the facts about how we serve our student population.

These thoughts were sparked by the recent discussion around the feasibility of having lights at Parker-Gray Memorial Stadium. As we move closer to discussing the feasibility study for the lights, school board members and I have listened to the thoughts and opinions of many residents. As superintendent, I am working with the school board to oversee many areas of operations across the whole division. These include the maintenance and renovation of athletics facilities.

Giving students the tools they need to achieve academically remains our most important charge — a commitment that informs each and every one of our decisions. We have student-athletes at T.C. earning acclaim for their work on and off the playing field. The district supports them, just as it supports all of our students and their goals.

- Alvin L. Crawley
Superintendent, Alexandria
City Public Schools

College students owe Mark Warner a debt of gratitude

To the editor:

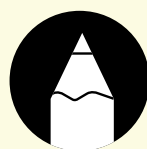
This past month, thousands graduated from colleges and universities all across the country, including me. Having completed school, many of us face the next challenge: paying for it.

With the cost of college education skyrocketing, many students are forced to take out loans just to cover tuition.

That's not even counting food, living arrangements, supplies and so on.

Luckily, there are those in Congress who recognize how expensive college is getting and understand something must be done. It makes me proud that one of the biggest champions in this issue is the

SEE **DEBT** | 20



Filling in the blanks

with Karen Graf

A diverse approach to success

Alexandria City Public Schools is a diverse and complicated entity. Our approach to educating students must match the needs of a varied population.

One effort is to help at-risk students graduate through a mentoring program with the staff of T.C. Williams. This great endeavor is designed to support children who might otherwise slip through the cracks. It also impresses upon them the notion that there are adults who care about them.

I suspect critics might call this coddling or argue that it robs children of the opportunity to learn from their mistakes. But I believe these kids already know what failure looks like and that we need to help them discover the feeling of a few wins. Having interventions to help at-risk students is money well spent.

What about the other students? T.C. offers many resources for different groups and that is why more than 90 percent of the class of 2014 graduated this year. I am pleased that our district's dedicated employees recognize the various needs of students and have put in place action plans to address them.

For example, a group of students shared their experiences in the Excel Academy with the school board at our April 3 meeting. Listening to the students speak about their time in the academy, which identified about 60 sophomores and juniors in need of guidance with class work and organizational skills, confirmed that we are reaching them and that we are addressing a spectrum of needs. The feedback from these students reinforced exactly why we set up early mentor mod-

els and teach skills that are paramount to success once they leave the high school's halls.

Alexandrians are hard critics, but we also are very proud of our city. Examining what we are doing in our schools tells us a lot about who we are as a community. So, who are we, Alexandria? If we look at our 2014 graduates as a predictor of our future, the data can be interesting.

What does it tell us about our students, our city and our future? We are developing resources to serve all students and there are students who are succeeding across all demographics.

Our work is not done. We still have students coming from non-English speaking countries in May before the testing dates. There are students who arrive at school unfed, or who need clothes or emotional support. We still have students who require more services to succeed than our neighbors. We have students from all backgrounds who crave rigor and exposure to challenging experiences.

Our goal is to deliver for all these families and students. The data suggests we are on our way.

Please write the superintendent and school board anytime and share your thoughts. You can reach us at board@acps.k12.va.us.

The writer is the
chairwoman of the
Alexandria School Board.



Karen Graf

T.C. WILLIAMS FAST FACTS

Population: 3,300 students
Countries represented: 80
Languages represented: 60
Free- and reduced-lunch eligibility: 62%
Demographics: black (35%), Hispanic (35%),
white (21%), other (9%)

CLASS OF 2014

Seniors actively enrolled: 728
Seniors graduated: 661
Seniors eligible to graduate in summer school: 60
Actively enrolled students who graduated: 90.5%
Graduating if summer school is completed: 98.7%

STUDENTS' POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Attend a four-year college/university: 62%
Attend a two-year college: 25%
Attend a trade/technical school: 2%
Join the military: 4%
Join the workforce: 7%

Welcome to New Orleans-on-the-Potomac

To the editor:

"Why would the city build a \$5 million floodwall that will be repeatedly overtopped?" my engineering mind keeps asking.

The cynical answer is that City Hall cannot afford to build the 13-foot barrier that will meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's 100-year floodplain protection requirements. So in its effort to eradicate nuisance flooding (up to four feet), officials decide to build a seawall with an elevation of six feet.

Never mind that the records show only six instances in the last six and a half years where floodwaters elevations exceeded 4.25 feet or that the FEMA statistics predict that the six-foot seawall will be overtopped every 10 years. What's another \$5 million in tax dollars when one fifth of that expenditure will eliminate all nuisance flooding?

Well, for one thing, a six-foot seawall gives the city an opportunity to build and man a couple of Colonial-style pump houses, one along The Strand and the other by Thompson's Alley. It seems that the seawall will trap storm water runoff on the land-side and require about 1,800 gallons per second of pumping capacity to keep up with the runoff from the 100-year rain event. So rather than having the rainwater just flow down the streets directly into the Potomac, the city gets to be a New Orleans-on-the-Potomac.

And a New Orleans it will

become when we have our own mini Katrina every 10 years or so.

The planning department's estimated cost for two pump stations to accommodate the undersized seawall: \$2.3 million. Not to worry, says City Hall, once the storm surge subsides those same pumps will discharge the 2.3 million gallons (this is a city estimate) of polluted water pooled behind the seawall back into the Potomac (in violation of the Clean Water Act). It fails to mention that the pump houses will be flooded and inaccessible, except by boat, or that the overtopping event itself can create a wall of water drowning anyone in its path, or the tons of polluted flotsam left trapped in the basin to clog the pumps.

"This is a complicated question," I'm thinking, "so perhaps I'll discuss the issue with the planning commission." The commission's chairman, Eric Wagner, took his rose-colored glasses off just long enough to ask the city engineer for her opinion of my presentation. She replied that I am substantially accurate but city staff do not believe the dire situation I predict will occur.

Let's hope she is correct, because city council could quite possibly be throwing \$4 million down the sewer.

- John A. Kupersmith
Alexandria

DEBT

FROM | 19

commonwealth's own Sen. Mark Warner (D). Not only has Warner fought to keep student loan interest rates down, but he introduced a bill — with two Republicans no less — to make information about college expenses much easier to find and compare.

I was lucky. I got into a good school and came from a family with the resources to support me. Not everyone is so fortunate. So from them and from me, here's a thanks to Mark Warner, for fighting for the next generation.

- Erin Parker
Alexandria

Overseas military adventures inevitably have unforeseen consequences

To the editor:

Gregory Paspatis' response to my critique of a century of U.S. militarism ("U.S. intervention is often a force for good," May 22) insists the "Axis powers ... had to be destroyed." Most Americans believe this, even though the record shows that the Allied victory enabled communist nations to perpetrate far worse atrocities.

We would well be advised to follow the Founding Fathers' sage advice to not go about seeking monsters to destroy. Wars are filled with unforeseen, unintended consequences, which those who believe that monsters like the Axis powers must be destroyed via U.S. military intervention ignore, forget or fail to grasp.

Between 1933 and 1938, for example, the Nazi regime encouraged Jewish emigration to what would become Israel. But by the time Britain and France declared war on Germany for invading Poland, allowing Jewish emigration to continue would have been detrimental to the Nazi war effort because Palestine was under Brit-

ish control, so emigrants might have become Allied soldiers. While the Nazis remain solely morally responsible for their atrocities, intervention created conditions preventing the atrocities from being averted. Late in the war, the U.S. could have bombed the rail tracks leading to Nazi death camps, but did not.

Paspatis insists that the U.S. didn't start World War I or World War II, but was minding its own business. He mentions the 1917 Zimmerman Telegram, which was a diplomatic proposal from the Germans asking Mexico to join their alliance if the U.S. entered the war on Britain's side. The Zimmerman Telegram's support for shrinking U.S. territory — if the U.S. didn't mind its own business as related to the war in Europe — is the functional equivalent of the U.S. shrinking Germany's territory after both world wars.

Similarly, the U.S. embargoed oil shipments to Japan, prompting Japan's first strike at Pearl Harbor. Today's U.S. policy, the 1980 Carter Doc-

“ Wars are filled with unforeseen, unintended consequences, which those who believe that monsters like the Axis powers must be destroyed via U.S. military intervention ignore, forget or fail to grasp.”

trine that declares that any attempt by a foreign power to use oil as a political weapon would be construed as an act of war against the US, however, relies on the same fundamental justification as Japan's.

Paspatis laments that we do not emphasize history enough in our education system. I quite agree, but suspect that we wouldn't work from the same syllabi.

- Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Anti-Semitism is not the reason why organizations choose to divest from Israel

To the editor:

The recent Presbyterian vote to divest from corporations "that do business in Israel," has absolutely nothing to do with anti-Semitism ("It's time to stand against anti-Semitism," June 26).

They voted to divest from those corporations because the businesses have played active parts in Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and because the

Israeli occupation has been ongoing for almost half a century. Alexandria Times Publisher Denise Dunbar asks why the Presbyterians haven't singled out other countries with more egregious sins on their hands.

The difference is that their war machine doesn't get funded by U.S. taxpayers — to the tune of \$3 billion annually — and U.S. corporations haven't been

actively complicit in their human rights abuses for five decades.

I spent four years living in Israel. I saw firsthand the brutalization of which I speak. To reject the funding of the brutalization of innocents is hardly "moral cowardice." It is the opposite.

- Timothy Conway
Alexandria

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Send your comments to:

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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

A long-time home for man's best friend

In the nearly 230 years since its construction, the Lee-Fendall House at 614 Oronoco St. has been home to over a dozen families, many of whom have had a variety of pets, especially dogs.

The first record of a canine at Lee-Fendall House appears in the personal property tax records of Philip Richard Fendall in 1797, as dogs were taxed in the city at that time. His nephew, a young Robert E. Lee, had a dog while growing up in Alexandria, and legend has it that the future leader of the Army of Northern Virginia and his faithful friend were frequent visitors to his uncle's home in the 1820s.

The next dog known to live at Lee-Fendall House appeared in the 1890s. As seen in the above photograph taken during that period, Myra Lee Chevalier and her favorite pet Hal are visible in the rear garden of the house. Myra lived there from 1880 until 1903 with her sister and brother-in-law, Mary Elizabeth Lee and Robert Fleming, as well as other members of the extended Lee family. Myra was well known in Alexandria for her singing and acting prowess, and it is said she appeared on stage to acclaim locally and in other American cities. When her canine companion passed away in 1898, his death made the pages of the local newspaper.

In 1903, the Flemings sold the house at 614 Oronoco St. to Robert Downham and his family. If the frequency of which their dog Frank appears in Downham family photographs is any indication, the American bulldog was dearly loved.



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Labor leader John L. Lewis purchased the house from the Downhams in 1937. Lewis owned an English bulldog named Socrates, but as expenses related to Socrates appear in records from the 1930s through the 1960s, it is likely that more than one dog bore that name over the years. After Lewis' death in 1969, it is believed that a family named Votaw rented the home from 1971 to about 1973. Apparently, in lieu of a kennel, their basset hound Clarence used the cage of an elevator installed by Mr. Lewis.

Today, the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden tells the stories of all its former residents, both two-legged and four-legged, through a variety of tours and programs. The museum recently explored its animal history in a joint program with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

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

FROM THE WEB

In response to

["Strollers are overrunning Old Town," June 26:](#)

Lee writes:

Do you feel the same way about people who need to use motorized scooters, walkers or wheelchairs to get around Old Town? Have you ever tried pushing a stroller around Old Town with a toddler inside? The sidewalks are so uneven, I feel like I need to use all-terrain tires on my stroller.

Would you rather I carry around my child in a papoose on my back and then use my arms to carry my child's snacks, water and change of clothing? Don't you think that would take up more space on the sidewalk?

I think that there are more important things for [the writer] to complain about. I see an uncomfortable encounter [with] a strollercade of outraged infants, toddlers and parents coming your way.

SatiricalAlx writes:

Hold on, there is a valid point about strollers blocking aisles, exits, etc. It's a safety hazard.

A little courtesy goes a long way. Leave strollers outside, as one would a bicycle. Things with dirty wheels do not belong indoors. And don't put diapers on an eating surface. You wouldn't sit on a restaurant table in your underwear. Keep your small children on your lap.

Yes, I am a parent and I love little kids. I've been there.

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Should the food truck pilot program have objective criteria for judging its success or failure?

78% Yes.

22% No.

This Week

How will you celebrate the Fourth?

A. A cookout.

B. Fireworks.

C. A trip out of town.

D. All of the above and more.

32 votes

Take the poll at alextimes.com

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ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK



~ Love you to the Max ~

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A jubilant personality goes with her winning smile; Maxi is one happy little dog!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADOPTABLE PETS OF ALEXANDRIA, PLEASE VISIT US AT THE SHELTER, OR ONLINE AT WWW.ALEXANDRIAANIMALS.ORG.

THANK YOU

The Alexandria Animal Shelter's Pet of the Week is sponsored by Diann Hicks, finding homes for pets and humans, alike.

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PET MATTERS

There's no excuse not to fix your pets

I'm getting married and my life is about to change. I am gaining a partner in life, a huge Italian and Irish family, and two additional dogs, Radar and Caera.

Radar, a four-year-old Korean Jindo, was a battalion mascot in Korea. My fiancé brought Radar back when his deployment ended and has spoiled him ever since. Radar enjoys excellent care, lots of love and somehow even avoided being neutered. That is, until I came into the picture.

You see, as an animal activist and rescue advocate, I cringe when I see an intact or unfixed male because I fear that he inevitably will contribute to the pet overpopulation issue in our country. There are between six and eight million dogs and cats entering shelters annually. Of these, approximately 56 percent of dogs and 71 percent of cats are euthanized because space is limited and funds are scarce.

Spaying and neutering can prevent further overpopulation. Plus, unneutered males are often not accepted at boarding facilities, daycares and off-leash pet events in the

effort to prevent unwanted litters, which limits their opportunity for socialization. For these reasons, I recently urged my fiancé to neuter Radar. Lucky for me, it didn't take long for him to agree.

I unexpectedly felt very apprehensive the night before



By Isabel Alvarez

Radar's scheduled surgery. My dog, Titan, is neutered. The vast majority of the dogs I care for are fixed. I encourage everyone I meet to spay or neuter their pets. But Radar managed

to steal my heart in the way that only a 10-pound fur-ball can. I was terrified that something would go wrong and concerned that he would resent us since we had waited so long to have him fixed.

Despite my fears, I knew it had to be done. My fiancé and I talked to Radar, assured him that everything would be OK, and apologized for any pain or discomfort he would feel. He enjoyed the extra attention and happily went for a ride in the car to the vet. His manhood was the last thing on his mind yet our level of guilt was at an all-time high. There's no doubt that the day was a great

“You see, as an animal activist and rescue advocate, I cringe when I see an intact or unfixed male because I fear that he inevitably will contribute to the pet overpopulation issue in our country.”

deal more difficult for us than it was for him.

After all was said and done, Radar's surgery went seamlessly. He didn't seem to be in much pain and recovered in no time at all. He seemed bothered by having to wear an Elizabethan collar, otherwise known as the cone of shame, but was otherwise very comfortable and in great spirits.

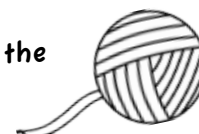
Radar's personality hasn't changed one bit, his love for us hasn't wavered, and I doubt he laments the loss of his testicles one bit. Plus, by having him neutered, we ensured a longer, healthier life for our little buddy, which makes the expense and experience 100 percent worthwhile.

The writer is the owner of The Wag Pack.



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At Home

Smart spending, successful renovations

BY BILL LAHAY

“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.” It’s that kind of pithy wisdom that put Benjamin Franklin on the \$100 bill. Aside from his considerable scientific, literary and diplomatic accomplishments, the guy understood money. More accurately, he understood the virtue of frugality in preserving money. He knew that pennies saved become dollars and that dollars saved become the “C-notes” that now bear his portrait.

The world has not always listened to Franklin’s common sense. When times are good and positive cash flow seems as certain as gravity, we tend to splurge and squander the surplus. But in an economy like the current one, Franklin sounds absolutely prophetic, and no doubt thousands of budget-conscious homeowners have derailed their remodeling plans because their savings well is running low. To make matters worse, their home is now worth less than it was just a few years ago, so most own-

ers are reluctant to invest any more in it.

Still, a shrinking nest egg doesn’t completely squelch the impulse to improve one’s nest. Author Jean Nayer knows this and has assembled an armada of cost-conscious renovation strategies in her book “Money-Wise Makeovers” (Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S.; \$21.99).

Nayer understands that even when spending limits loom large, we still want our homes to be more than mere shelter. We want an environ-

ment that sustains us and one that reflects who we are personally. The results can be impressive, but Nayer insists that good design doesn’t have to be expensive, and she has the pictures to prove it.

For her format, Nayer walks us through different rooms and spaces, offering mini-profiles of successful “value-conscious” makeovers and explaining where and how the homeowners targeted their sweat-equity and spending. Not surprisingly, the locations featured involve a fair amount of

do-it-yourself effort, but that’s not really a central theme. Instead, the core message is to understand what design elements have the most impact and to find cost-effective ways to enhance or include them. Along the way there are occasional guides to materials such as flooring, paint and windows, so when you do have to open your checkbook for a project, you’ll be better prepared to get your money’s worth.

Living spaces get the treat-

SEE **RENOVATE** | 24

— HOME OF THE WEEK —

Stunning Colonial home ready for a new owner today

If you were to blink while wandering through Jefferson Park, you might miss the tiny cul de sac of Columbia Road where this elegant home is located.

That would be unfortunate, as this Colonial is a stunning property and ready for someone to move in right away.

The home is ideal for entertaining, whether a more formal Thanksgiving dinner in the dining room or a casual brunch

with friends sitting at the kitchen island while you flip pancakes. Recently updated with beautiful custom cabinets, this gourmet kitchen can handle any event.

On the second floor you will find the master bedroom, complete with a vaulted ceiling, two walk-in closets and a gorgeous bathroom. There are three other bedrooms on this floor, including one with an attached bath that would be perfect for guests.

The walkout basement is an ideal recreation room or potential home theater. There’s plenty of storage space on this level, too.

Once you’ve stepped onto the deck — surrounded by tall trees and chirping birds — you can’t help but smile, knowing you’re so close to city life but also in your own little nature preserve. It’s an easy commute to D.C., Arlington and Old Town.



PHOTO/DS CREATIVE GROUP

It’s an easy walk to Mount Vernon Avenue from your front door.

At a Glance:

Location: 305 Columbia Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

Price: \$1,799,000

Size: 4,516 square feet

Year Built: 1992

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 4-and-a-half

Contact: Elizabeth Lucchesi, McEneaney Associates, 703-868-5676, www.lizluke.com

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RENOVATE

FROM | 23

ment first, and it turns out that setting limits is the first lesson.

Color palettes should be simple and limited, and the same goes for fabrics and furnishings. This reserved approach not only yields a cleaner, fresher style, it can almost automatically translate into keeping the project costs down.

Once your paint colors, flooring and other major elements have set the stage, let a few well-chosen furnishings occupy it. A piece of architectural salvage, a funky or unusual furniture piece, or a strong fabric pattern (in small quantities) can add flair and drama, while less conspicuous smaller items fill in for the everyday functions.

Avoid the temptation to go for design schemes based on matching or closely coordinated elements; not only do they make for a less interesting look than an eclectic mix, they often cost more. Living spaces need comfort and character, and that comes more from good colors, textures, scale and a few details that suggest care in assembling the room.

Key functional spaces such as kitchens and bathrooms get a slightly more practical approach but still have to win



PHOTO/JOHN GRUEN

A once generic “cube” of a space, this family room now boasts a robust but relaxed personality. Plantation shutters, a simple set of prints, cleaned furniture and the “pop” from bold black-and-white fabric print make it happen.

points for aesthetics. Bathrooms, for example, have unique storage requirements; they are typically smaller rooms with a lot of small and frequently used items that need to be easily accessible.

Potential solutions? Built-in cubbies, wall niches, drawers with dividers, shallow ledge shelves near the sink or tub areas, and compact hardware such as towel hooks instead of bars — all these features target those specific storage needs but none of them are prohibitively pricey.

As private and less functional spaces, bedrooms call for another strategy. First, let the bed itself set the style tone for the room, then work from there. Emphasize tactile comfort, diverse lighting sources, and rich

paint colors (sorry, no whites) that impart a calm or inviting feeling. Add or enhance trim details such as wood shutters, wide crown and base moldings, and expanded window or door openings to help create character. Finally, exploit storage options that are less conspicuous, such as under-bed space or a platform bed, closet organizers and hooks on the backs of doors.

Nayer offers dozens of approaches and hundreds of specific tips for these and other spaces, as well as ideas to cre-

ate curb appeal and outdoor spaces through modestly priced makeovers. If not having a carte blanche budget for updating and improving your home has been holding you back from doing anything, this book just might be the escape hatch you didn't know was there. It doesn't torment you with gilded visions of unobtainable splendor, just great livable spaces that happen to be within reach of a modest budget and an active imagination. Today's lesson? Being smart with money never goes out of style.

The Lamplighter

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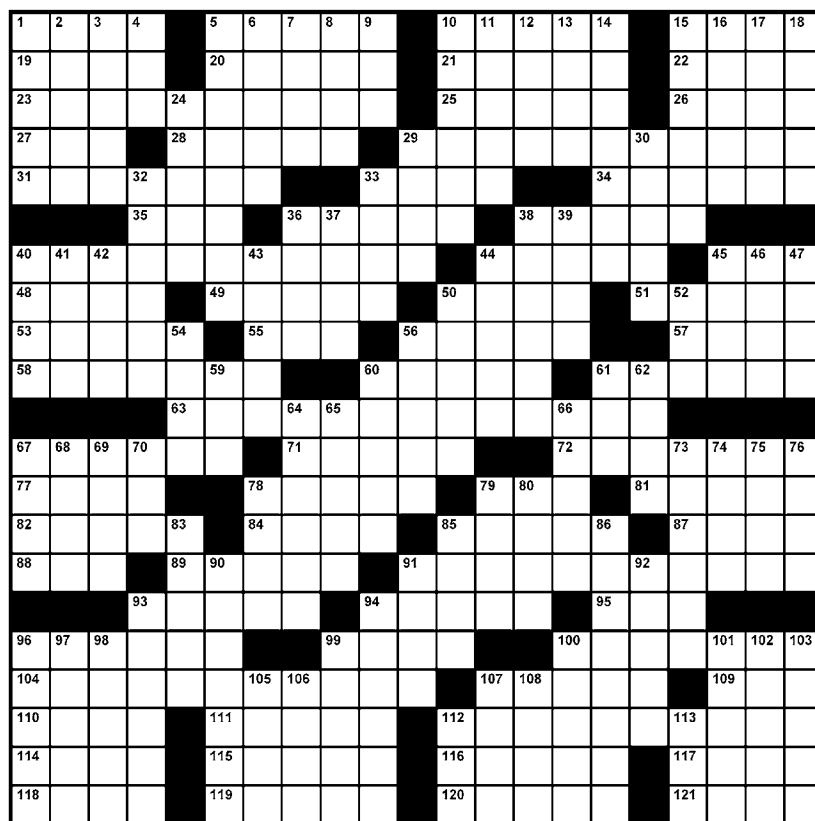
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Weekly Words



ACROSS

- 1 With "contendere," it's a court term
 5 ____ Major (southern constellation)
 10 Royal domain
 15 Cleanliness eschewer
 19 Got an A-plus on
 20 What Santa Claus is
 21 Not docked
 22 Super apparel item
 23 Piano-piece pages
 25 Office worker's necessity
 26 Bakery appliance
 27 Vessel for couples?
 28 Light figures
 29 Boss in a plant, often
 31 Diminishes
 33 Chimps and baboons
 34 "Ain't it the truth!"
 35 Old-time gumshoe
 36 Afghan capital
 38 Ladder steps
 40 Needing more help
 44 Brown-tinted photo
 45 Put in stitches
 48 Bring on new employees
 49 Al Capone foe Ness
 50 Cancun cash
 51 Bind again
 53 Following
 55 Tag antagonists
 56 Antiquated
 57 Distinctive air
 58 Bother
 60 Arctic, for one
 61 Set, as cement
 63 He deals in sails and ropes
 67 South American cowboy
 71 Adds liquor discreetly
 72 Paper pastime
 77 Eugene O'Neill's "____ Christie"
 78 Large-eyed Madagascar native

- 79 Hold up
 81 Mr. Spock's forte
 82 Kind of remark
 84 Annoying smell
 85 Heroic tales
 87 Not even one
 88 Witch's curse
 89 Friendly Islands, formally
 91 Chef's breakfast creation, perhaps
 93 Thrust
 94 Fur wrap
 95 "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" sound
 96 Eightsomes
 99 Miscellany
 100 Having three leaflets
 104 One receiving dividends
 107 Type of broom
 109 Postal creed conjunction
 110 Soft-drink trademark
 111 Nitrous ____ (laughing gas)
 112 Place with crude dwellings
 114 Excessively dry
 115 Furnace button
 116 Door-hanging device
 117 April 13, e.g.
 118 Ashcroft's predecessor
 119 Spreadsheet jotting
 120 Ham-and-____ (average Joe)
 121 Animal hide

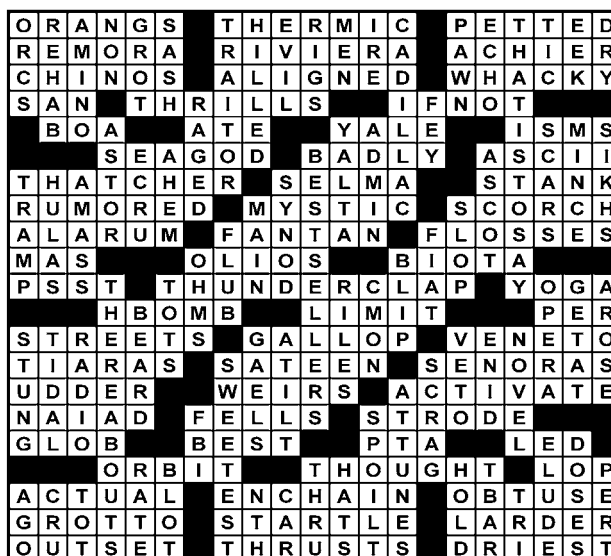
DOWN

- 1 Sounding stuffy
 2 British version of 56-Down
 3 Scallion relatives
 4 Poem of homage
 5 War chief Black Horse's tribe
 6 Lies adjacent to another
 7 Home for hatchlings
 8 Sister and wife of Osiris
 9 "Wait a ____!"
 10 "Friends" female
 11 Community spirit
 12 Sans delay

- 13 Honolulu keepsakes
 14 Bar order
 15 Dirty looks
 16 Volcanic outflows
 17 Lincoln Center production
 18 Highly flexible
 24 Use Twitter
 29 Source of fries
 30 "Enigma Variations" composer Edward
 32 Avenue crosser
 33 Aid partner
 36 Make a cardigan
 37 Public scenes
 38 Dispatch again
 39 "Once ____ a time ..."
 40 Roe source
 41 Sound system
 42 Scraps on the table

- 43 Excuse that holds up
 44 Enclosed car
 45 Poker variety
 46 Dublin's isle
 47 Withdraw by degrees
 50 Courtroom responses
 52 Auditory organ
 54 Run with the football
 56 Earth tone
 59 Density symbol, in mechanics
 60 Come to pass
 61 That PGA player
 62 Nutmeg cover
 64 Public TV request
 65 Margaret Mead study venue
 66 Pertaining to the lungs, e.g.
 67 More than a scrape
 68 Actress Hathaway
 69 Operating system
 70 Ungentlemanly gentleman
 73 Been happening
 74 Overly eager
 75 "Flash Gordon" villain ____ the Merciless
 76 Italian desserts
 78 Extended
 79 Exemplar of thinness
 80 Cruel person
 83 Practice piece for one instrument
 85 "Fly away!"
 86 Academic session
 90 Beached
 91 Mix with a spoon
 92 Nerdish
 93 City on the Rio Grande
 94 Hazardous, travelwise
 96 Trash-talking Muppet?
 97 House work
 98 "____ Care of Business" (1974 hit)
 99 More strange
 100 Bit of color
 101 Jumper-cable target
 102 Throw in the ____ (admit defeat)
 103 Surrealist artist Max
 105 Beasts of burden
 106 Agenda
 107 Tory's opponent
 108 Put on the wall
 112 The woman
 113 Server's reward

Last Week's Solution:



Obituaries

David Juston McKellar

David Juston McKellar was born August 19, 1939 to the late Maxie McKellar and Iona McKellar Thompson in Lumberton, N.C. He departed this life June 21, 2014.

He worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in D.C. for 48 years.

A memorial service will be held at Holy Temple United Holy Church located at 1907 Huffine Mill Rd. Greensboro, N.C. at 11 a.m.

ELLEN COFFIN BANCROFT (86), of Alexandria, June 24, 2014

JOAN ELLYN COOPER, of Alexandria, June 21, 2014

JOHN ANTHONY DIGIULIAN, of Alexandria, June 29, 2014

JOHN EDWARD ELLIOT, formerly of Alexandria, May 28, 2014

VERA BAILEY EVANS (94), formerly of Alexandria, June 22, 2014

LAURA ANNE HAWLEY (90), of Alexandria, June 23, 2014

DONALD JAMES KREAR (82), of Alexandria, June 27, 2014

RONALD CLAY LITTLE (91), of Alexandria, June 28, 2014

JAMES "MOE" MOFFITT, of Alexandria, June 27, 2014

MARY LUCIA BEALL ORSINI, of Alexandria, June 28, 2014

PETER CALDWELL WYLIE (69), of Alexandria, June 26, 2014

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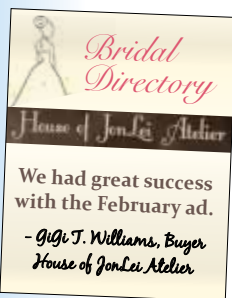
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TRANSFORMERS

FROM | 9

affect a Texas accent.)

The product placement in this movie is shameless. The transition of the action from Chicago (and yes, some of our landmark buildings take a beating yet again) to China is a blatant grab for even more for-

eign box office. The pounding, war-movie score only serves to remind us how ridiculous it is to see giant car-robot creatures duking it out.

From a technical standpoint, "Age of Extinction" impresses. It's easier than ever to distinguish the various Transformers, and most of the time it really looks like humans are interacting with these creatures. Bay

knows how to shatter glass, crash cars, destroy buildings and stage CGI battles as well as anyone in the business.

But the longer it goes on, the less interesting it becomes. This film will wear you down. As we were approaching the 165-minute mark, all that noise and fury was about as exciting as the special effects in an Ed Wood movie.

Classifieds

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Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 8.

(Full name(s) of owner(s)) **DRP Belle Haven LLC**
If general partnership, enter partner's 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.

Trading as: **Del Ray Pizzeria**
(trade name)

1401 Belle Haven Rd
(street street address where business will trade)

Alexandria
(city/town)

Fairfax **Virginia** **22307-1220**
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a **Wine and Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant** license
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to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Erik Dorn Member
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

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Trading as: **Del Ray Pizzeria**
(trade name)

2218 Mount Vernon Ave
(street street address where business will trade)

Alexandria
(city/town)

Virginia **22301-1314**
(state) (zip + 4)

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Trading as: **Ken's Asian Bistro**
(trade name)

2256 Huntington Ave
(street street address where business will trade)

Alexandria
(city/town)

FAIRFAX **Virginia** **22303-1508**
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a **Wine and Beer on/off Premises** license
(specify if licensed/ applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Ken Chen, President
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

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2001 Renaissance Road / P.O. Box 27401, Richmond, VA 23201
www.abc.virginia.gov

RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)

PUBLISHING NOTICE
Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 8.

(Full name(s) of owner(s)) **City Kitchens Inc**
If general partnership, enter partner's 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.

Trading as: **City Kitchens**
(trade name)

330 S Piedmont St
(street street address where business will trade)

Alexandria
(city/town)

Alexandria City **Virginia** **22304-4709**
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a **Wine & Beer on/off Premises Beverage Restaurant on Premises** license
(specify if licensed/ applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
AMY FRITZ, PRESIDENT
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

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

800-552-3200 This is an official state document. All information contained or submitted therein is public information. Please refer to privacy statement (pg. 8) regarding personal information. Reference instructions (printed separately) with questions. Retail License Application, page 11

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION (SMBP) NO. 14-3-00826-8 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR CLARK COUNTY In the re Custody of: VYT-TORIA CAMPOS Child, ZANE C. HUCKINS Petitioner, and PATRICIA HUCKINS, Mother, DANIEL ACEVEDOS, Father, Respondents. To the respondents: 1. The petitioner has started an action in the above court requesting: (X) the establishment or modification of a parenting plan or residential schedule.

(X) the establishment or modification of a child support order.

(X) custody of the children listed in paragraph 1.3 of the Nonparental Custody Petition.

2. The petition also requests that the court grant the following relief:

(X) Approve a parenting plan or residential schedule for the dependent children.

(X) Approve reasonable visitation.

(X) Determine support for the dependent children pursuant to the Washington State Child support statutes.

(X) Order either or both parents to maintain or provide health insurance coverage for the dependent children

(X) Enter a continuing restraining order.

(X) Award the tax exemptions for the dependent children as follows: Every year to Petitioner ZANE HUCKINS.

3. You must respond to this summons by serving a copy of your written response on the person signing this summons and by filing the original with the clerk of the court. If you do not serve your written response within 60 days after the date of the first publication of this summons (60 days after the 29 day of May, 2014), the court may enter an order of default against you, and the court may, without further notice to you, enter a decree and approve or provide for other relief requested in this summons. In the case of a dissolution, the court will not enter the final decree until at least 90 days after service and filing. If you serve a notice of appearance on the undersigned person, you are entitled to notice before an order of default or a decree may be entered.

4. Your written response to the summons and petition must be on form:

(X) WPF CU 01. 0300, Response to Nonparental Custody Proceeding.

Information about how to get this form may be obtained by contacting the clerk of the court, by contacting the Administrative Office of the Courts at (360) 705-5328, or from the internet at the Washington State Courts homepage: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms>

5. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time.

6. One method of serving a copy of your response on the petitioner is to send it by certified mail with return receipt requested.

7. Other: Does not apply.

This summons is issued pursuant to RCW 4.28.100 and Superior Court Civil Rule 4.1 of the state of Washington. Dated: 4/7/14 TESSA COHEN, WSBA #40081 Attorney for Petitioner.

File Original of Your Response with the Clerk of the Court at:

Clark County Superior Court, 1200 Franklin Street Vancouver, WA 98660

Serve a Copy of Your Response on:

Petitioner's Lawyer: Tessa Cohen, Cohen & Cohen, PLLC 601 Main Street, Suite 401 Vancouver, WA 98660

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that Little People LLC, dba Little Arlington Rider, 4980 Leesburg Pike, Apt. A 103, Alexandria, VA 22302, has submitted to DMV an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity, authorizing passenger transportation as a common carrier over irregular routes.

If granted, the certificate will only authorize passenger transportation between points in the City of Alexandria, and the County of Arlington, Virginia.

Any person who wishes to support or oppose the application, but does not wish to be a party to the matter, may submit a written statement to DMV Motor Carrier Services Operating Authority Case Management, P. O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001. The statement must be signed and contain the applicant's name and DMV case number (MC1400116EF).

Any person who wishes to protest the application and be a party to the matter must contact DMV Motor Carrier Services Operating Authority Compliance Management at (804) 367-6504 to receive information on filing a protest.

The deadline for submitting letters of support, opposition, or protest is Friday, July 11, 2014 (must be postmarked on or before).



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, July 16, 2014 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2014-0194

Request for complete demolition at **711 Wilkes St.**

APPLICANT: Wilkes Residences, LLC.

CASE BAR2014-0195

Request for new construction and waiver of vision clearance at **711 Wilkes St.**

APPLICANT: Wilkes Residences, LLC.

CASE BAR2014-0196

Request to partially demolish and capsule at **110 Gibbon St.**

APPLICANT: Greg Wilson & Kathleen Cummings by Robert Bentley Adams & Assoc.

CASE BAR2014-0197

Request for alterations and an addition at **110 Gibbon St.**

APPLICANT: Greg Wilson & Kathleen Cummings by Robert Bentley Adams & Assoc.

CASE BAR2014-0198

Request to partially demolish at **724 S Lee St.**

APPLICANT: Carlos Cecchi

CASE BAR2014-0199

Request for alterations and an addition at **724 S Lee St.**

APPLICANT: Carlos Cecchi

CASE BAR2014-0200

Request for partially demolish and capsule at **605 S Pitt St.**

APPLICANT: Caroline Caine by MW Construction

CASE BAR2014-0201

Request for alterations and addition at **605 S Pitt St.**

APPLICANT: Caroline Caine by MW Construction

CASE BAR2014-0228

Request for complete demolition at **206 S Patrick St.**

APPLICANT: GCP Patrick Land, LLC by Steve Kulinski

CASE BAR2014-0203

Request to partially demolish at **208 S Patrick St.**

APPLICANT: GCP Patrick Land, LLC by Steve Kulinski

CASE BAR2014-0204

Request for new construction, addition & alterations at **206-212 S Patrick St.**

APPLICANT: GCP Patrick Land, LLC by Steve Kulinski

CASE BAR2014-0205

Request for alterations at **805 S Fairfax St.**

APPLICANT: James Grossman by James Finn

CASE BAR2014-0207

Request for signage and exterior alterations at **220 S Union St.**

APPLICANT: Carr City Centers, LLC by Rust Orling Architecture

CASE BAR2014-0208

Request to partially demolish and capsule at **513-515 N Washington St.**

APPLICANT: CAS Riegler Companies by Rory Byrnes

CASE BAR2014-0209

Request for alterations and addition at **513-515 Washington St.**

APPLICANT: CAS Riegler Companies by Rory Byrnes

CASE BAR2014-0226

Request for alterations at **414 N Lee St.**

APPLICANT: David Fluker by Antonio Barrios

Other Business

A work session to discuss the proposed development project at **500 and 501 N Union 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.



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 #2014-0061

2607 Mount Vernon Avenue – Bombay Curry Company
Administrative Special Use Permit request for minor amendment to add outdoor dining at an existing restaurant; zoned CL/Commercial Low and Mount Vernon Avenue Business Area Plan.
Applicant: Balraj Bhasin
PLANNER: nathan.randall@alexandriava.gov

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2014-0062

1925 Ballenger Avenue – Bright Horizons Children Centers
(Parcel Address: 1900 Jamieson Avenue)
Administrative Special Use Permit request to operate a child daycare center; zoned CDD #1/Coordinated Development District.
Applicant: Bright Horizons Children Centers LLC
PLANNER: nathan.randall@alexandriava.gov

In accordance with section 11-500 of the zoning ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning and Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning and Zoning staff at 703 746-4666 or email the planner listed no later than **July 24, 2014**.

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Attractive, historic, commercial building on King Street with 3,200 square feet available. Upper floor space includes high ceilings, fireplaces, classic molding and full bath.

Tom Hulfish

703.683.2700

thulfish@mcenearney.com

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\$595,000



621 Wythe Street

Free-standing boutique office building with great visibility and extremely convenient location. 1,500 SF with high-end finishes.

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703.683.2700

rsada@mcenearney.com

FOR SALE

\$875,000



8369 Richmond Highway

37,462 SF on double lot with rare depth on Richmond Highway. Site approved for C-5 mixed use. Current use retail, improved with 1,625 SF structure.

Chuck Langdon

703.683.2700

clangdon@mcenearney.com

FOR SALE

\$780,000



3125 Mount Vernon Ave

Four level office building totaling 2,800 square feet. High ceilings with clerestory windows. Potential for user or investor. Convenient Del Ray location.

Ed Cave

703.683.2700

ecave@mcenearney.com

FOR SALE

\$595,000



1225 Martha Custis Drive

2,727 SF office is a perfect opportunity for solo practitioner or new doctor. Fitted out for exam rooms, reception, waiting room, lab and business office.

Brison Rohrbach

703.683.2700

brohrbach@mcenearney.com

FOR LEASE

\$28.00/SF



**300 North Washington Street
Ground Floor**

935 SF & 681 SF
High Ceilings - Easy Access
Can be combined to 1,634 SF

John Quinn

703.683.2700

jquinn@mcenearney.com

FOR SALE

\$1,385,000



Live Above the Store

Create your own apartment, in a 4,700 SF commercial building, above your retail/office/service business. Income stream in place with 1/3 of the building occupied.

Rick Sada

703.683.2700

rsada@mcenearney.com

FOR SALE

2 Condos Available



8103 Hinson Farm Lane

#214 - 979 SF for \$264,330
#217 - 1,062 SF for \$304,500
Professional/medical office buildings in condo complex with Ample surface parking.

Robert Swearingen

703.683.2700

rswarengen@mcenearney.com

FOR SALE

\$890,000



106 A South Columbus Street

This masonry style, office/retail building is located in historic Old Town Alexandria's quiet and convenient Barrister Square.

Diane Sappenfield

703.683.2700

dsappenfield@mcenearney.com

FOR LEASE

\$34.00/SF



100 Daingerfield Road

Perfect small office in Class A building near the King Street Metro Station, US Courthouse and US Patent and Trademark Office.

Mike Luckner

703.683.2700

mlucker@mcenearney.com

FOR LEASE

\$22.00/SF



901 King Street

4,015 SF landmark building: Large conference/meeting rooms, open space, windowed offices, kitchenette, storage, zoned HVAC. Close to amenities & public transportation.

Chuck Langdon

703.683.2700

clangdon@mcenearney.com

FOR SALE

\$1,280,000



**6727 Curran Street
McLean**

3,000 square foot condo office/retail space in professional complex. Great open space, two entrances, ample surface parking.

Ed Cave

703.683.2700

ecave@mcenearney.com



www.McEneaneyCommercial.com

510 King Street, Suite 505, Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703.683.2700

