

## A schoolyard brawl

**Schools capital budget hits snag with playground proposal**

BY SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Alexandria City School Board members wrestled their way through the first of several fiscal 2016 budget work sessions last week at George Washington Middle School. In preparation for a vote on the fiscal 2016 capital budget Thursday, and at times divided over the process, they came closer to approving the school system's \$292.8 million ten-year infrastructure plan.

What had been a harmonious atmosphere shifted late in the nearly five-hour meeting when board member Jus-

tin Keating proposed taking \$100,000 from the \$7 million budgeted for a new middle school to supplement the Maury Schoolyard Initiative, a proposal to renovate the elementary school's play field.

During public comments, playground advocate John Buscher thanked the board for \$115,000 allocated for Maury, Mount Vernon and William Ramsay elementary schools each for exterior playgrounds or sports areas. He also was grateful for an additional \$285,000 specifically designated to help fund the schoolyard initiative.

Buscher had asked the board to approve another \$100,000 to

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PHOTO/SUSAN HALE THOMAS

The Alexandria City School Board tentatively voted 5-4 to include \$500,000 toward the Maury Schoolyard Initiative's \$1.4 million playground renovation. The initiative has raised \$200,000 on their own and hopes to raise the remaining funds through public-private partnerships.

## Local author takes Drue Heinz prize

**Award is bittersweet for Leslie Pietrzyk**

BY SUSAN HALE THOMAS

As a young girl, local author Leslie Pietrzyk always walked to school with her face in her book. She loved to hear her teacher read aloud.

In junior high, she wrote what she described as "terrible angst poetry with no capital letters." She wrote for her school's student newspaper.

Now, she writes stories in the solitude of her car along the Potomac River, in the silence of a library or the bustle of a coffee shop. She finds inspiration for



PHOTOS/SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Alexandria author Leslie Pietrzyk was recently awarded the prestigious Drue Heinz Literature Prize for her manuscript of short stories "This Angel on My Chest." Despite her acclaim, she still enjoys the company of other local writers as part of a group that meets at Bittersweet on King Street.

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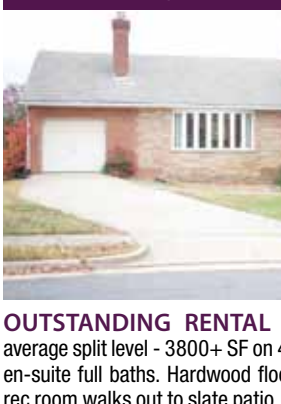


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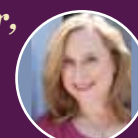
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## THE WEEKLY BRIEFING



COURTESY PHOTO

**TIME TO DO THE DOUGHNUTS** Delegate Rob Krupicka (D-45), city officials and local business leaders celebrated the grand opening of the first Alexandria location of the Richmond-based doughnut shop Sugar Shack over the weekend. Krupicka, who owns the Port City location, was inspired to bring the eatery north from the state capital after witnessing the popularity of its confectionaries in the state house.

## Local scholarship fund receives pro bono support

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria recently was awarded a grant for pro bono work from D.C.-based business consulting firm Compass to the tune of \$130,000.

Compass provides networking and connections between local nonprofits and business leaders to help with strategy and fundraising. Officials with the scholarship fund hope the firm's help will provide a "stra-

tegic leap" for the organization, while keeping its overhead costs — currently under 7 percent of its budget — low.

Compass employees recently toured T.C. Williams, which included a lunch prepared by the school's culinary arts students. And current Alexandria City Public Schools employee Danielle Thorne — a T.C. alumna — told them about how the fund helped her

to pay for college.

"The SFA board is thrilled about the Compass grant," said fund board chairwoman Cindy Anderson in a statement. "The Compass team will expand our brain trust as we chart our vision for the future. We expect their mentoring to guide our ongoing pursuit of excellence in supporting the college and career goals of Alexandria's youth."

- Erich Wagner

## Former CIA officer convicted for leaks in Alexandria

A federal grand jury in Alexandria convicted former CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling this week for leaking classified information to a reporter.

Sterling was accused of disclosing classified information about an attempt to delay Iran's nuclear weapon program to James Risen, a reporter at The New York Times.

He was convicted Monday

on charges related to the Espionage Act. The long-running case — Sterling was arrested in 2011 — gained notoriety thanks to the U.S. Justice Department's determination to force Risen to testify in the case.

Risen refused to name Sterling as a source for his book "State of War," and said he was willing to go to jail before testifying. But

prosecutors eventually decided not to call Risen to the witness stand.

Sterling's defense team had argued that he was not Risen's source of information, but rather it was staffers at Congressional intelligence committees.

Sterling will remain free until his sentencing on April 24.

- Erich Wagner

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Max Powell

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## CRIME

### Severance ordered to undergo further evaluation

#### Defendant accused in local slayings refused competency screening

BY ERICH WAGNER

The man accused in the slayings of three prominent Alexandria residents was ordered last week to undergo a more in-depth mental health evaluation after he refused to speak with a court-appointed psychologist.

Charles Severance, 54, is charged with multiple counts of murder in connection with the deaths of local music teacher Ruthanne Lodato last February, transit guru Ronald Kirby in November 2013 and prominent realtor Nancy Dunning in 2003.

Circuit Court Judge Jane Roush had ordered Severance to undergo a mental competency evaluation last month, after Severance tried to fire his court-appointed defense team.

At a hearing last Thursday to review the results of that evaluation, attorneys announced that Severance refused to participate in the evaluation, declining to be interviewed by court psychologist Anita Boss.

Roush granted the prosecutors' request to send the defendant to a state mental hospital for a more in-depth evaluation

of whether he is competent to stand trial.

But her ruling did not come until Severance twice interrupted the proceedings.

At the start of the hearing, he objected to the discussion of his case.

"I am effectively being denied my right to a speedy trial," he said at the beginning of the hearing.

And as defense attorney Christopher Leibig first addressed the court, Severance again interjected, repeating his attempts to fire his defense team.

"He does not represent me," Severance said.

Roush admonished the defendant, but said she would allow him to speak at the end of the hearing.

As prosecutors pushed for a more extensive evaluation of Severance's mental health, the defense team argued that further review would unduly delay the proceedings.

"He elected not to speak with her," Leibig said. "[But] there's a substantial basis to believe he suffers from substantial impairment."

But Roush said she requires more information to be able to make a determination about a person's mental competency, and noted that an incompetency ruling would actually represent a longer delay — at least six months, rather than 45 days.



Charles Severance

"Not to be glib, but a lot of people have a 'substantial impairment' but are competent to stand trial," she said.

After the judge ordered a new mental health evaluation, she gave Severance an opportunity to speak.

"I would like to recant my waiver of the right to a speedy trial," he said, referring to what is a common procedure in major criminal cases. "I want a defense team that is competent and able to argue that I am being denied my right to a speedy trial."

"Well this is probably the most competent defense team I could possibly imagine," Roush replied, but said she would allow him to file a motion in the case.

A hearing on the results of the latest competency evaluation is slated for March 19.

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## POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between January 21 and January 28.



\*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: [raidsonline.com](http://raidsonline.com)



# The end of the Old Town Theater?

## Historic venue could become retail space

BY SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Einstein apocryphally said the definition of insanity is doing something over and over and expecting a different result. And after multiple attempts to run a theater have failed in the 102-year-old Old Town Theater building at 815 1/2 King St., owner Rob Kaufman is ready to move on.

"When I originally purchased the property, I had intended it to be a retail store," Kaufman said.

But outcry from residents inspired Kaufman to restore the century-old property to its historic glory and keep it as a venue for the arts.

Although residents and Kaufman initially were happy with the transformation, the honeymoon was short lived. The theater struggled to attract a following, so Kaufman

shuttered the venue in October 2013, parting ways with erstwhile comedy club promoter Tom Kennedy.

"We're not getting a great deal of support from Alexandria and the question becomes can we? And the other question [is] have we had the right programming to entice Alexandrians to the theater? It's not one answer, but maybe a little bit of both," he said at the time. "As much as I don't have a history in the theater business, I understand Alexandria very well. I felt the venue was not hitting the target."

Kaufman later reopened the theater, but the business continued to struggle. Last July, he again closed the theater in search of a new direction.

"We're just getting fall and winter organized," Kaufman said. "My feeling was let's just stop and reorganize and then bring it back ... the way I'd like to see it."

But the theater never re-

opened. In October, word got out that Kaufman's company, PMA Properties had put the venue up for sale and was auctioning off sound and kitchen equipment.

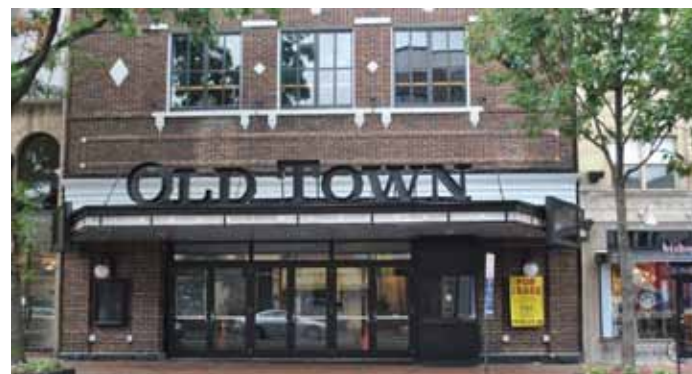
Kaufman said he wants to keep the building as some form of arts or entertainment venue, but he has had little luck in finding a qualified buyer.

"One group misrepresented itself financially and was not able to do it, so I shut them down," Kaufman said of one suitor for the property.

Kaufman acknowledges there are people out there with great ideas, but he says few have the finances to support them.

"I'd like to put a theater-oriented business in the building, and if someone wanted to buy the theater, I would try and preserve it," he said.

Kaufman is in the midst of negotiations with a party interested in purchasing the theater. But since the deal is still in the works, he said he could not pro-



FILE PHOTO

Old Town Theater owner Rob Kaufman surprised many residents last fall when word got out that he had put the century-old arts venue up for sale. He said that although he remains hopeful an arts company will be able to buy the property, he is making preparations to convert it into a retail space.

vide any details.

"But I'm not certain if these people are going to come through," he said. "There's no guarantee. In the event this fails, I'm on the path to make it retail."

In the mean time, Kaufman has applied for a special use permit that, if approved, would allow him to increase the floor area of the building for "retail, restaurant or other service oriented commercial business." The request proposes to remove

the first floor stage and auditorium seating to connect the two existing floors, essentially flattening the existing slope of the theater floor.

On the second floor, the permit requests an expansion of the second floor balcony/mezzanine area to create a full second floor for retail space. There are no plans to alter the exterior of the building. The existing "Old

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<sup>2</sup>The *Washington Post*, Washington Bestsellers Paperback Nonfiction General. April 20, 2014.



## SCHOOLS

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enable his group to the complete the project in one year instead of two. The Maury Schoolyard Initiative raised \$200,000 on their own, sought public/private partnerships, and have lobbied the school

board and city hard to gain support for their \$1.4 million privately commissioned design.

Board member William Campbell said despite his first impressions of the project, funding the Maury renovation is a win-win for the board.

"When I first heard about it, my first thought was a

bunch of middle- and high-income white folks getting together a lot of money and trying to jump the line," he said. "Right? That's where I was. ... But, as I learned more about the project, talked to more and more people, there wasn't a line to jump.

"Maybe we need to estab-



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FILE PHOTO

Months after the completion of Alexandria City Public Schools' latest major infrastructure project, Jefferson-Houston School, school board members tentatively approved a plan for a new middle school in the Eisenhower Valley.

lish one. ... My kids are looking forward to playing on the \$1 million-plus playground at Jefferson-Houston. ... There are no losers."

But board member Marc Williams said the proposal skirts the typical process for approving infrastructure projects.

"I support quality playgrounds and play spaces across the division," he said. "We have not had one board meeting [to discuss this]. The superintendent has not made one presentation about the Maury playground or the Mount Vernon playground. So, we are told as a board we need \$500,000, [but] I don't know for what."

Williams went on to say the board needed to pay attention to equity.

"The quality of your play space shouldn't be determined by your zip code," he said. "If the superintendent has not presented, and we have not discussed, then I think this is nothing more than an earmark. ... And, if you can round up five votes, you can do it. But I don't want to do business this way."

The board tentatively voted 5-4 in favor of the additional money for Maury. Joining Williams in dissent were Chris Lewis, Ronnie Campbell and Patricia Hennig.

"This is a horrible process," Lewis said.

"We need to fully informed before we make financial decisions," Ronnie Campbell said. "The board deserves to have this kind of information and it should be coming from our staff and our superintendent."

Hennig went even further than her colleagues, saying the city needed to take responsibility for neighboring Beach Park, whose storm water runoff is responsible for the problems at Maury.

But board member Kelly Booz defended the decision, saying parents have been working with city staff on the proposal.

"The Maury Schoolyard Initiative has spent a lot of time working with our staff and also with city council and have been doing a lot of the work that our facilities department may do," she said. "And, they're doing that to some degree on our behalf to make this happen. I fully support moving this forward. ... So, if there are five members, I think we should be moving forward with this process with the schoolyard."

Keating lauded the Maury proposal as an innovative way





PHOTO/SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Although a proposal to revamp Maury Elementary's schoolyard was far from the biggest proposal in Alexandria City Public Schools' proposed capital budget, it garnered the most attention. Board members debated the \$500,000 appropriation extensively, with dissenters citing a lack of analysis by staff.

## SCHOOLS

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to secure private funds for public projects.

"[It] sets the standard for a public/private partnership that we'd be shortsighted to turn our back on at this point," he said. "[In] terms of process, there are lots of things we haven't seen [before voting on them]."

But Williams said it's impossible to judge a project's worthiness without a review by city staff.

"How would we know they're ready to go because we have not seen a specific proposal from our staff?" he said. "I'm sorry, I just don't agree with that, Mr. Keating. Your description of the Maury playground or a schematic at a board meeting is a process. ... It could be the worthiest project, and I'm sure that it is, but I don't think that's the way we, as a board, should operate."

And Lewis complained that the board had only received the proposal this week.

"There's money in here from the superintendent," he said. "The proposal right now is to go above and beyond that. Do you guys have an

explanation on how you got to that number? And, maybe board members can talk about why they want to go above that? Is that fair to ask a question of the staff?"

"I don't know," said chairwoman Karen Graf.

"Just for process for tonight ... if we have five members who agree to this add/delete [item], do we move on?" Booz asked quickly.

"[Keating's proposal] was a budget neutral [one] and we need five, and I'm the fifth," Graf said.

Earlier in the evening, in his report to the board, Superintendent Alvin Crawley emphasized the need to increase capacity and modernize the district's aging facilities.

The board unanimously approved \$38 million for fiscal 2016 for the expansion of Patrick Henry Elementary to a pre-K through eighth grade program and 20 additional classrooms. The expansion will provide relief to overcrowding at Francis Hammond Middle School.

The board also was unified in bringing \$3.6 million originally slated for fiscal 2017 into the next budget year for the planned expansion of T.C. Williams' Minnie How-

ard campus to address urgent capacity needs. Those plans include 20 additional classrooms, as well as an enlarged cafeteria and a new administrative area.

Board members agreed to increase the budget from \$50 million to \$74.4 million for a new 48-classroom middle school that could be located in the Eisenhower-west neighborhood. The project was moved forward from fiscal 2019-2021 to the 2016-2019 fiscal years because of projected enrollment increases.

With \$33.6 million set aside for modernization, Douglas MacArthur Elementary School's improvements were moved up from FY 2019 to 2017 due to the building's poor condition. Maury Elementary's modernization plans were pushed back until 2023 while other elementary schools were shelved beyond the 10-year plan. Improvements for George Mason Elementary School were cut by \$5.1 million to a new total of \$15.9 million and moved back from FY 2017 to 2021.

The board was slated to meet Tuesday after press time to continue its work on the budget.

## THEATER

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Town Theater" marquee and the tile floor of the lobby will be preserved.

Old Town property owner Boyd Walker, who led the original push to encourage Kaufman to restore the theater, said he was disappointed by the news, although he understood the tough business climate.

"It's very hard to run a for-profit arts venue in downtown," he said. "It's not as profitable as a multiplex cinema."

Walker fears that if the venue is converted to retail, the building will never return to its original purpose. But a

nonprofit theater group might fare better than a traditional business.

"I have suggested to the city manager that the city purchase the theater," Walker said. "I think only a nonprofit will work. If they could find a nonprofit to operate it, it would be of economic benefit to the city and the theater could really bring the community together."

"If the theater is converted, it is never going to return to being a theater."

The plan will be reviewed by the city planning commission at a public hearing February 3 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

- Erich Wagner  
contributed to this report.

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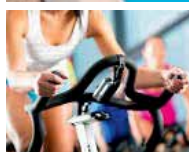
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## AUTHOR

FROM | 1

her stories and characters all around her.

This year, one of the nation's most respected awards for short fiction, the Drue Heinz Literature Prize, was awarded to Pietrzyk for her manuscript "This Angel on My Chest," a collection of short stories from the perspective of young women who suffer the sudden loss of a husband.

Pietrzyk's work is a reflection of her own life. Her husband died of a sudden heart attack in 1997 at the age of 37.

Although Pietrzyk already has two published novels, "Pears on a Willow Tree" and "A Year and a Day," this award is particularly special for her.

"It's knowing how hard it is to get a collection of short stories published in the publishing world," she said. "It's really exciting. Also, it's a very personal book for me ... They're all special, but this one means a little extra to me since it's about my experience of losing my first husband when he died."

Pietrzyk was at a writing colony at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts eating breakfast and found herself in conversation with a poet, when inspiration struck.

The poet was teaching a class on the writing of subcultures. Pietrzyk found the genre interesting, and with a little extra time on her hands, set out to her writing studio to work. She decided to write about the young widow support group that she had gone to.

"I knew I would write about it at some point, but I didn't know when or where, but plenty of time has passed," she said. "All this stuff came out, so that was the first story that I wrote when I started taking this seriously as a project. And I thought, wow, I think there's more here to write."

"The assignment that I gave myself was to write about this experience in an open-ended way in short stories. I knew I wasn't going to write a novel, and at the core of each story is one true, hard, thing about the experience, and often it's a thing that people won't want to talk



PHOTO/SUSAN HALE THOMAS

**“It's a very personal book for me ... They're all special, but this one means a little extra to me since it's about my experience of losing my first husband when he died.”**

**- Leslie Pietrzyk**

**Award-winning local author**

about, like that bitterness ... in the story "I Am the Widow."

Pietrzyk said that although each story in the collection is fiction, they all feature at least some autobiographical material.

"Even though the book is short stories and it's fictionalized, it's not as if these things happened exactly, but there is one tiny little nugget of total difficult truth," she said. "I like to think it's kind of an emotional truth."

Having grown up in Iowa, Pietrzyk always felt like she would end up on the East Coast.

"I like living in a place where everyone is smart," she said. "Washington is a book kind of town and there's a very big literary community here that I have a fabulous time hanging out with, learning from, and being supported by, and supporting."

The urge to surround herself with other writers gave Pietrzyk the idea to start a local writing group. She posted a message on Rosemont's neighborhood listserv more than three years ago looking for other creative writers to meet monthly and write based on one-word prompts.

"The first meeting had five or six [people]," Pietrzyk said. "People come and go, but four have been here all three years, and a very steady core of seven

meet at Bittersweet [Catering Cafe and Bakery]."

"The writer's prompt group is responsible for the spark of something being published," said resident Nina Sichel, who's been with the group for a year.

"A lot of characters or character sketches started [at Bittersweet] often show up in my work," Pietrzyk said.

Pietrzyk's writing group colleagues are supportive of her work.

"We're so very proud of Leslie," said Nancy Carson.

"And excited for Leslie, because it's so hard to get book of short stories published," Sichel added quickly.

Pietrzyk remarried in 2006 and lives with her husband in Alexandria. In addition to her writing, Pietrzyk teaches fiction and novel workshops in the Masters in Writing program at Johns Hopkins University and for the low-residency MFA program at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C. She currently is working on the first draft of a novel about two college girls and the challenges of female friendship.

But despite all of her obligations, Pietrzyk always returns to the group she started at Bittersweet.

"Writing can be lonely but prompt group is not."

## Alexandria Times' Cause of the Month

### The Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship

#### ~ SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY ~

Old Town Alexandria Connections (OTAC), a premiere networking resource for businesses in and around Alexandria, wishes to award at least one college scholarship of at least \$500 to a senior in a public or private high school in Alexandria City or Fairfax County with an Alexandria address. The scholarship is intended to honor the memory of long-standing OTAC member Peter Williams who exemplified the virtues of responsible business practice and service to others.

The application can be found at  
[www.otacnetworking.com](http://www.otacnetworking.com).

Submission deadline is February 28, 2015.



Please direct questions to OTAC Co-Chair  
Debbie Farson, [debbie@homewisereferrals.com](mailto:debbie@homewisereferrals.com),  
703-360-8222.



# Keeping up with the community



PHOTO/SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Community activist Joyce Rawlings asks about the future of Alexandria law enforcement agencies during a forum for city leaders and residents to discuss issues of police interactions with civilians last week.

## Police convene with residents to improve relations

BY SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Alexandria residents and law enforcement officials sparked renewed conversations on how to improve interactions between officers and civilians at a community meeting last week at the Durant Center.

Billed as an “open dialogue” between residents and city leaders, the forum was inspired by the widespread national outrage following the announcements that grand juries would not indict police officers in connection with the deaths of unarmed black suspects in Ferguson, Mo. and New York City.

Mayor Bill Euille said he is committed to working with the entire community to address race relations, interactions between police and civilians, human and civil rights and other issues.

The forum, he said, was just the first of many discussions he would have in collaboration with nonprofits, the business community, neighborhood civic associations and faith-based organizations across the city to encourage involvement and foster dialogue.

Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook said that although the city is a diverse community, his department does not police neigh-

borhood by neighborhood. Using what he called “predictive policing,” the force allocates resources based on data analysis and current events.

“We move with the crime,” he said. “Crime is an ever-moving thing.”

But LaDonna Sanders, president of the Alexandria chapter of the NAACP, felt differently. Sanders said what she heard in the forum was contradictory to actions reported on the streets.

She doubted that anyone attending the forum had been stopped by the police, and the stories she hears from residents were inconsistent with what she was hearing from panelists.

“People who live in low-income housing are policed differently,” Sanders said. “Even if it’s not the officers’ intentions, this is the perception.”

Local resident Keith Calhoun said he supports the police but wants to see improvements with officers’ interactions with the community. Calhoun said he

leaves nothing to chance when he encounters local officers.

“I still get stopped,” he said. “The first thing I do when I get stopped is my hands go out the window so they can see I don’t have anything in my hands.”

City officials said they want to be proactive in dealing with

complaints of misconduct.

“When we hear criticisms, we need to effectively investigate and take action,” said City Attorney Jim Banks.

Cook agreed, saying the police department places a priority on training officers in diversity, ethics, mental illness and deal-

ing with different people they may encounter on the streets.

“We need the community to feel comfortable telling us when someone might have a bias,” Cook said.

Alexandria City School

SEE **POLICE** | 11



PHOTO/SUSAN HALE THOMAS

Local officers and deputies listened to residents’ concerns about police practices, which have become a hot topic in recent months after a rash of incidents across the country where law enforcement officers have shot unarmed black suspects.

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# Let's Eat

A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times

## A fresh taste of India here in Alexandria

Excellent Indian cuisine has been found in the Port City for decades, and now that love of all things from the Asian subcontinent has been extended with the opening of London Curry House a few months ago. It is situated a little off the beaten path at 191 Somerville St., but is well worth seeking out for the authentic and delectable dishes.

Some of the most outstanding menu selections are the appetizers such as the Bombay palak chat and the chicken tikka wrap, while among the main course dishes, the one that seems most special is the biryani. It is prepared with a choice of chicken, lamb, goat, or shrimp and baked in a copper pot with a "lid" of naan. When the waiter

serves the dish, the naan is sliced open and a wonderful aroma fills the air. Also of note are the salmon tikka masala, the goat nehari and the kadai chicken or lamb and the tandoori salmon and chicken.

The fine menu is prepared by the senior corporate chef, Pritam Zarapkar, who has developed his skills over the course of 22 years spent in India and Europe, where he was the chef at a five star hotel in Geneva, Switzerland.

This is the fourth Indian restaurant Asad Sheikh has opened in Northern Virginia. The first he opened was Curry Mantra in Fairfax City, and it has been named one of the top 50 restaurants in by Northern Virginia magazine four

years in a row.

For residents of Alexandria who love Indian food, this restaurant is a must visit, while those who have never tried the country's cuisine before should also pay a visit and experience tastes like they will never have experienced before.

*London Curry House is open for lunch from Tuesdays to Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon until 3 p.m. Dinner hours are 4:30 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays to Sundays. For more information or to order take-out, call 703-419-3160 or visit [www.londoncurryhouse.com](http://www.londoncurryhouse.com).*



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## POLICE

FROM | 9

Board Member Chris Lewis asked the panelists what law enforcement is doing to prevent bias creep, where officers or officials inadvertently let preconceived notions enter into interactions with residents.

"I've had good experiences with Alexandria Police, but when I watch shootings on the news, it frightens me," he said. "I could be that guy in the toy store holding a toy and getting shot."

Cook said he depends on residents to keep him informed on the conduct of his officers.

"[We depend] heavily on the public to tell us what is being done to them," he said. "When you tell us something, we do an objective evaluation and investigation. ... Either it's retraining or it's elimination from our force."

"We don't have a sure fire method to get rid of bias, we just

keep preaching our values, our ethics, and we train every year."

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne told Lewis his department is always on the lookout to prevent poor practices by deputies.

"We need to actively look for bias creep," he said. "I've been told I am a micromanager, but it's my job to be nosy."

Worried about the legacy law enforcement would leave behind, resident Joyce Rawlings said she appreciates the fact that she is on a first-name basis with many city officials, but at the same time, was concerned new hires may not have that same compassion for the community.

Lawhorne agreed and said it was a special experience to live and work in a town that you live and grew up in.

"I look over there and see [John] Porter, who taught me when I was 13 years old at Parker Gray Middle School," Lawhorne said. "Last week I went through the drive-thru at McDonald's with Mr. Porter and he was blurting through



PHOTO/SUSAN HALE THOMAS  
Sheriff Dana Lawhorne (left) and Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook spoke to residents at a community forum last week.

the speaker that he wanted two cups of coffee, and a girl came back and said, 'Good morning Mr. Porter.'

"What do we do about it? I like to hire locals. It doesn't take anything away from anyone who didn't grown up here [but] I'm always looking for that person who grew up here ... it's special to have them work for us."

Only 11 percent of city employees live in Alexandria. Last fall, local police groups lobbied city council for a pay

**"I still get stopped. The first thing I do when I get stopped is my hands go out the window so they can see I don't have anything in my hands."**

**- Keith Calhoun  
Resident**

increase in the upcoming fiscal 2016 budget, noting that Alexandria is just too expensive for many officers to rent or buy homes inside the city limits.

Sanders said she had heard a lot of officials' overtures before.

"The new, 'We have to do it a different way, we have to find innovative ways to reach out to people whose voices aren't being heard,' is stuff that I've heard all the time, and yet we continue to do the same thing over and over and over again," she said. "What I would like to see happen is that these conversations occur in non-traditional places like the courtyards of low-income housing, churches and barbershops."

"That's where we want to see them. We see them a lot of times when its election time, or when something big has happened, or it's a National Night Out. We can't forget about the youth. We've got to be mindful of them. I'd like to see them in the schools. We've got to make this a priority."

# GRAND OPENING

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## SCENE AROUND TOWN

*A most excellent film*

**'A Most Violent Year' provides a new spin on the mob genre**

BY RICHARD ROEPER

Even if you've never seen "The Godfather: Part III" or you've seen it and you wish you hadn't, there's a good chance you know the most famous line in the movie.

"Just when I thought I was out ... they pull me back in!" bellows Al Pacino's anguished Michael Corleone.

In J.C. Chandor's striking and unforgettable "A Most Violent Year," Oscar Isaac's Abel Morales — with his dark eyes and hair, and his camel hair coat, and his coldly deliberate manner of speaking — almost seems to be channeling the "Godfather II" version of Michael Corleone at times.

But Abel's struggle isn't about getting out. Abel's quest is to never get sucked in.

There was a lot of talk about "Inside Llewyn Davis" turning Oscar Isaac into a bona fide movie star, but it's his work here in Chandor's period-piece film noir crime drama that should solidify Isaac as the real deal.

"A Most Violent Year" is set in the New York City of 1981, when there were more than 1,800 murders; hustlers, prostitutes, pickpockets and porn ruled Times Square; brutal crimes dominated the headlines, and the mob still ruled much of Brooklyn and Queens. There was even a garbage collectors' strike, rendering the city grimmer than ever.

Amidst this seedy backdrop, Abel is a successful but still almost insatiably hungry owner of a home heating oil company that is growing so fast he's drawing a lot of unwanted attention from his competitors, who don't adhere to Abel's very particular code of ethics and values.

With his trusted attorney Andrew Walsh (Albert Brooks in one of those smallish dramatic roles where he's so good you can't imagine anyone else playing the role) by his side, Abel cuts a deal for an expansive waterfront shipping terminal that will give him a decided advantage on the very rivals who are already sending out hooligans to beat the holy heck out of his drivers and steal his trucks.

table. She knows her stuff.

Abel hates guns. Anna doesn't. Abel thinks it's possible to navigate those shark-infested waters without things getting bloody. Anna doesn't.

"A Most Violent Year" is filled with choice moments and cinematic rarities, including that relationship between Abel and Anna. There's a moment when she walks down a long corridor, and he just watches



PHOTOS/A24 FILMS

Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac star as a power couple with a Mafia pedigree in J.C. Chandor's remarkable film, "A Most Violent Year." The couple tries to walk the straight-and-narrow of legitimate entrepreneurs, but run afoul of the mob and a local district attorney in David Oyelowo (top).

It's a move equal part ambitious and suicidal, especially since Abel knows he's in the crosshairs of a power-hungry district attorney (a stellar David Oyelowo, who plays Martin Luther King in "Selma").

Abel is swimming with sharks — including his own wife, Anna (Jessica Chastain), who's a femme fatale straight out of a 1940s movie, what with her perfect coif, her fang-like nails, her cleavage-baring outfits and her calculating moves. Anna comes from a Mafia family, and it's clear she wasn't sent to her room when the boys talked business around the dining room

her, and the lust he feels is palpable. It's the type of thing we see in movies all the time — but it's almost always between a man and a woman who have yet to consummate. This is a married couple with children. Whatever other madness is going on in their lives, there's still a burning sexual hunger between them.

Nearly every scene in "A Most Violent Year" is pitch perfect. Chandor the writer comes across as a big fan of David Mamet's, and Chandor the director invokes stylistic touches reminiscent of Sidney Lumet, among others, but Chandor is

no cover artist. Whether he's framing the ideal establishing shot before segueing into tense, shadow-filled, interior confrontations, or staging an elaborate chase scene on the 59th Street Bridge, Chandor is a filmmaker with a deep palette.

This is just his third film. The first was "Margin Call" (2011), perhaps the smartest movie about the financial crisis of the late 2000s. Chandor followed that with "All Is Lost," the one-man survival-at-sea tale starring Robert Redford. To say he's three-for-three so far is an understatement.

Alessandro Nivola is chill-

ingly effective as Peter Forente, a Mafia prince who lives in a mansion with more security measures than most high-end banks. Even when Abel reaches out to him, Forente feels honor-bound, in some twisted way, to warn Abel about doing business with people such as himself.

The invaluable Peter Gerety, who's always so true to the part it feels as if he actually had the job held down by the character he's playing, is spot-on as the union boss urging Abel to allow his drivers to arm and protect themselves.

Elyes Gabel gives a strong performance as Julian, the immigrant truck driver Abel tries to protect, even as Julian's actions could destroy everything Abel has worked for.

Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain were classmates at Juilliard nearly two decades ago. This is the first time they've done a film together, and one can only hope it's just the beginning. They're brilliant.

Every time I think I know my favorite scene in "A Most Violent Year," I think of another scene. It was the birthday party. No, it was the moment when Anna says to Abel, "You're not going to like it when I get involved." No, it was the scene where Abel walks in on a meeting of his top competitors, and makes an impassioned plea for them to change their ways.

No. It's not any one scene. It's the movie.



2015

CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS

To have your event considered for our calendar listings, please email [events@alextimes.com](mailto:events@alextimes.com).

## Each Monday

**TAVERN TODDLERS** Join other families as you and your toddler (walkers through 36 months) have fun in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys, as well as group dancing.  
**Time:** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** American Legion, 400 Cameron St., check in at museum first.  
**Information:** 703-746-4242 or [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org)

## Now to February 14

**BIRTHNIGHT BALL DANCE CLASS** In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on February 14, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors.  
**Time:** Each Thursday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.  
**Information:** [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov)

## January 31

**PREPARING FOR A BALL** Explore the tavern where famous balls like George Washington's Birthnight Ball were held and practice the tasks involved in preparing for a ball. The day includes an 18th century dance lesson and a craft to take home, with new groups starting every 45 minutes. Reservations are required.  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4739 or [gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov)

**MAKING THE LEAP: TRACING YOUR ROOTS BACK TO AFRICA** Join cultural historian Michael W. Twitty for a day's course to learn how to discover your family roots back to Africa using all the tools currently available. Admission costs \$15.  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4356

## February 1

**WONDERS OF SCIENCE** Discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used. During these hour-long tours, Project Enlightenment, McLean High School's historical reenactment society, will conduct 18th century scientific demonstrations to expand visitor knowledge about science in the 1700s.  
**Time:** 1 to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.  
**Information:** [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov)

## February 5

**LARRY CALVERT COOKIE CLASS** Join cookie artisan Larry Calvert as he teaches you how to make and decorate beautiful hand-decorated sugar cookies. Six different cookies per student will be supplied for making and taking home. Only 12 spots are available, reservations required by email.  
**Time:** 6 to 8 p.m.  
**Location:** The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.  
**Information:** 703-548-0035 or [lcalvert@ttrsir.com](mailto:lcalvert@ttrsir.com)

## February 7

**VALENTINE'S HONEY FOR YOUR HONEY** Meet George Wilson, producer of award-winning Backyard Farm honeys in Gainesville, Va. He will tell his story and share his honey, which is unprocessed, unpasteurized and contains naturally occurring pollen and enzymes.  
**Time:** 1 to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Olio Tasting Room, 1223 King St.  
**Information:** 703-909-8196, [info@oliotastingroom.com](mailto:info@oliotastingroom.com) or [www.oliotastingroom.com](http://www.oliotastingroom.com)

**OLD TOWN BOUTIQUE DISTRICT WAREHOUSE SALE** The annual one-day shopping extravaganza featuring high-end boutique merchandise, including clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more up to 70 or 80 percent off retail prices.  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive  
**Information:** [www.oldtownboutique-district.com](http://www.oldtownboutique-district.com)

## February 7 - 28

**DOWNTON ABBEY AT LEE-FENDALL TOUR** The Lee-Fendall House will be offering special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum. The tours will compare similarities between people and places within the world of the television series and those of the Lee-Fendall House.  
**Time:** 11 a.m. Saturdays  
**Location:** Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St.  
**Information:** 703-548-1789, [contact@leefendallhouse.org](mailto:contact@leefendallhouse.org) or [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org)

## February 8 - March 1

**WALKING WITH WASHINGTON** See some of the over 140 places in Alexandria today that are associated with George Washington. Admission is free.  
**Time:** 2 to 3 p.m.

**Location:** Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St.  
**Information:** 703-539-2549, [joeshumard@gmail.com](mailto:joeshumard@gmail.com) or [www.washington-birthday.net/events](http://www.washington-birthday.net/events)

## February 8

**WINTER WARMER LADIES TEA** Choose from a variety of 18th-century desserts while you sip John Gadsby's special blend of tea or take a cup of American Heritage Chocolate. Historic guest Martha Washington will catch you up on the latest Alexandria news during the tea. Admission costs \$35 per person.  
**Time:** 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.  
**Information:** [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org)

## February 9

**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING (1 OF 2)** The first of two sessions in which young people can learn how to give initial help to someone showing signs of a mental illness or mental health crisis. Registration is free, with space limited to 20 per class.  
**Time:** 1 to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** 4480 King St.  
**Information:** 703-746-3523, [donielle\\_marshall@alexandriava.gov](mailto:donielle_marshall@alexandriava.gov) or [www.alexandriava.gov/dchs](http://www.alexandriava.gov/dchs)

## February 11

**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING (2 OF 2)** The second of two sessions in which young people can learn how to give initial help to someone showing signs of a mental illness or mental health crisis. Registration is free, with space limited to 20 per class.  
**Time:** 1 to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** 4480 King St.  
**Information:** 703-746-3523, [donielle\\_marshall@alexandriava.gov](mailto:donielle_marshall@alexandriava.gov) or [www.alexandriava.gov/dchs](http://www.alexandriava.gov/dchs)

## February 14

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHNIGHT BANQUET AND BALL** Help re-create the famous celebration of George Washington's birthday, set in the year 1799, with an 18th-century banquet, English country dancing, dessert collation and character re-enactors. Tickets start at \$125 per person, reservations required.  
**Time:** 5:30 to 11 p.m.  
**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4242 or [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org)

**BLUES BABIES** Musician and educator David B. Cole explores the modernization of the blues and its influence upon jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues, rock 'n' roll, soul and other related music genres. Admission is free.  
**Time:** 12:30 to 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4356



## The Game's Afoot

1/17 - 2/7



Also known as "Holmes for the Holidays," this comedy/thriller by Ken Ludwig is murderously funny, witty and fast-paced! It's 1936 and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his leading role in the play Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests ends up dead, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turns dangerous. Gillette takes it upon himself to assume the persona of his beloved Holmes, to track down the killer before his next victim appears. The danger and hilarity are non-stop in this glittering whodunit.

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## SPORTS

# Cardinals' numbers rise as puck drops

**Bishop Ireton ice hockey team look ahead to resurgence of program**

BY CHRIS TEALE

Generally, high school sports teams are coached by teachers at the school. Not so for the Bishop Ireton ice hockey team.

Instead, their head coach is a tax lawyer, a Smithsonian employee and teacher Anthony DiCarlo, who works in the private sector.

It is a labor of love for DiCarlo and three other volunteer coaches, who have kept the Cardinals on the ice and seen their star rise each year as the sport has grown in popularity and ice rinks have increased in number

and size across the region.

Ireton play in the Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League, and while results have not gone the team's way thus far this season, DiCarlo is encouraged by what he has seen from his team.

"I think that we've made huge improvements over the course of the season," he said. "Despite our record, I think we've played better than our talent level in almost every game, maybe with the exception of a few.

"I think we really have played above our heads in terms of what I think we're capable of, [and] I think the team has played well, they've responded well. It's a good group of kids

who take on adversity and really stick together. I think that a lot of lesser teams would have fallen apart by now, would have struggled with the record, but I think that's a testament who the young men and women on the team are, I think they've stuck together."

The league itself has a total of 21 teams from across Northern Virginia, with those teams split into four divisions during the regular season. In keeping with the growing popularity of the sport — aided locally by the recent revival of the Washington Capitals in the NHL — plenty of players come into the team having taken part in organized hockey before high school.

"There's been years where we've had more teams in the league, and there's definitely been years when we've had less, but it's grown pretty much right along with the sport," DiCarlo said. "It's the popularity of the sport, the more rinks makes it more available. Twelve years ago we didn't have these rinks that we have now, so there's more rinks, there's more kids playing hockey and the Capitals being more popular than they were is definitely a plus. The



COURTESY PHOTO

A Cardinals player tries to get some momentum on the ice during Ireton's game against Paul VI High School last year.

population of the city has grown, and people coming from the north down, it's a confluence of a lot of events.

"I would say about 75 percent have played organized hockey before high school, and about 25 haven't. We give them as much ice time as we can possibly get and afford, and getting [to play] is probably harder than

affording it just because it's so popular now it's tough to get ice time. The kids take it upon themselves to play in additional leagues, additional training programs, spring leagues and stuff like that. We take the approach of any ice time is good ice time, and we try to get as much of it

SEE IRETON | 15

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COURTESY PHOTO

An Ireton player looks on during the Cardinals' game against Paul VI High School last year.



## IRETON

FROM | 14

as we can.”

DiCarlo believes the future is bright for his program, in spite of their defeats this season in league play. With a number of new players coming in to join a strong returning core, they are hopeful that in the next few years they can start vying for a trophy.

“It ebbs and flows,” he said. “This year is a rebuilding year, we’re not overly competitive within league play. We’re not a threat, but in years past we’ve been competitive. I would

think that in the next three years I think that the program will be really ready to compete for a championship.

“We have a good group of incoming kids next year, and then following that there’s a good group of kids that I think if we have some recruiting success or some success with kids getting into the school, we’ll be more than competitive. If we have some younger brothers coming up, we feel confident that we’re ready to take the next step.”

DiCarlo anticipates more than 25 players next year with the Cardinals, which would



COURTESY PHOTO

A Cardinals player is challenged by two Paul VI opponents during their game last year.

mean they could field a varsity and a junior varsity team with ease. They also continue to work with the Northern Virginia Ice Dogs, Junior Capitals and other youth hockey clubs in the region to recruit, and already have seen a number head for junior hockey and the college game, especially at the club level.

Having at one point only a dozen players on their roster a few years ago, Ireton have experienced a great deal of growth in the program, and are optimistic about the continued growth of hockey both in the school and around the region.

## CALENDAR

FROM | 13

## February 15

**PARADE DAY OPEN HOUSE**

Tour Gadsby's Tavern for free on the eve of Presidents' Day. Learn from costumed guides and the museum's junior docents about the place George Washington dined and dined.

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

**Information:** 703-746-4242 or gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov

**MADEIRA TASTING** Enjoy George Washington's favorite drink on his festive weekend. Learn about the history of Madeira and its consumption by our Founding Fathers while enjoying it with food pairings.

**Time:** 3 to 5 p.m.

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

**Information:** 703-746-4242 or gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov

## February 16

**GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY PARADE**

The largest parade celebrating Washington's birthday in the United States marches a one-mile route through Old Town. With nearly 3,500 participants, this community parade honors one of the Port City's favorite sons.

**Time:** 1 to 3 p.m.

**Location:** King Street at Royal Street  
**Information:** 703-539-2549 or www.washingtonbirthday.net

**PARADE DAY OPEN HOUSE**

Enjoy the annual George Washington parade and tour the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum for free.

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.  
**Information:** 703-746-3853 or apothecary.museum@alexandriava.gov

**PARADE DAY OPEN HOUSE**

Enjoy the annual George Washington parade and tour Carlyle House for free.

**Time:** Noon to 4 p.m.

**Location:** Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.  
**Information:** 703-549-2997, carlyle@nvrpa.org or www.carlylehouse.org

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR REENACTMENT**

Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish at 2 p.m. between the Redcoats and the Continental Army. Admission is free.

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

**Location:** Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road  
**Information:** 703-539-2549, joeshumard@gmail.com or www.washington-birthday.net

## February 17

**HOMESCHOOL DAY: CELEBRATING WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY**

In honor of George Washington's birthday on February 22, learn how the citizens of Alexandria celebrated his birthday in the late 1790s in Gadsby's Tavern. Admission is \$8, adults free.

**Time:** 1 to 2:30 p.m.

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

**Information:** www.gadsbystavern.org

**TOMB CEREMONY**

Colonial military and civilians honor the soldiers of the American Revolution.

**Time:** 11 a.m. to noon

**Location:** Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St.

**Information:** 703-539-2549, joeshumard@gmail.com or www.washington-birthday.net/events

## February 21-22

**TEA WITH MARTHA WASHINGTON**

Experience history with Martha Washington as she discusses 18th-century tea customs as well as the fashion of the period. Party attire requested. Admission is \$25.

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

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

**Information:** 703-746-4242 or gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov

## February 21

**IF YOU LIVED IN SLAVERY** Participants will experience the house from the perspective of its enslaved inhabitants, exploring the unique differences between slavery in cities and on plantations. The tour will include the servant's wing and kitchen area with its service bells, which are not regularly open to the public.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St.

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

## February 22

**GEORGE WASHINGTON SYMPOSIUM**

Each year, leading scholars of the life and era of George Washington are invited to the Memorial to share their insights. The theme of this year's George Washington Symposium is "Liberty's Alliance: Washington, Lafayette and Europeans' Support of American Independence," with three speakers scheduled: Stuart Leibiger of La Salle University in Philadelphia; Benjamin Huggins from the University of Virginia; and Julia Osman of Mississippi State University. Admission is free.

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Location:** George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive

**Information:** 703-683-2007 or www.gwmemorial.org

## February 23

**ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING (1 OF 2)**

The first of two sessions in which people can learn how to give initial help to someone showing signs of a mental illness or mental health crisis. Registration is free, with space limited to 20 per class.

**Time:** 1 to 5 p.m.

**Location:** 4480 King St.

**Information:** 703-746-3523, donielle.marshall@alexandriava.gov or www.alexandriava.gov/dchs

## February 24

**MUSIC AT MOUNT VERNON CONCERT SERIES**

Three concerts of chamber music, performed by members of the National Symphony Orchestra. Each performance is prefaced by a brief piece of Mount Vernon history, while afterwards guests enjoy champagne and gourmet chocolates with the musicians.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway

**Information:** 703-780-2000, info@

mountvernon.org or www.mountvernon.org

## February 25

**ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING (2 OF 2)**

The second of two sessions in which people can learn how to give initial help to someone showing signs of a mental illness or mental health crisis. Registration is free, with space limited to 20 per class.

**Time:** 1 to 5 p.m.

**Location:** 4480 King St.

**Information:** 703-746-3523, donielle.marshall@alexandriava.gov or www.alexandriava.gov/dchs



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# At Home

## Foundation plantings:

BY MARTY ROSS

Tired formulas for foundation plantings only make a house look frumpy. Forget about pointy evergreens at the corners of the house and bun-shaped shrubs in the center under the windows, and give your front-yard landscape an upgrade.

"I just like to get away from the term foundation planting and make the entire front yard useable," says Barbara Hilty, a landscape designer in Portland, Ore. Old-fashioned plantings with evergreens across the front of the house

and then lawn all the way to the curb do not really take full advantage of the possibilities, she says. When you re-imagine the space and bring the design out into the garden, away from the facade, a house becomes a nicer place to come home to. Reducing the size of the lawn and adding variety to the plantings out front is also better for the environment, Hilty says.

Foundation plantings traditionally were designed to cover up the stone or brick around the base of a house. A very simple

SEE **PLANTINGS** | 17



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

A curving front walk and layers of plants extend the traditional foundation-planting scheme out to the edge of the property. It's much more interesting than a line of shrubs in front of the house.

## — HOME OF THE WEEK —

## Live large in Beverley Hills with this classic Colonial home

In the classic Alexandria neighborhood of Beverley Hills, you'll find this elegant yet comfortable Colonial. Details such as original wood floors, crown molding and a wood-burning fireplace honor the history of this home and provide it with warmth and coziness.

The home's updated kitchen was professionally designed to maximize every inch of space. There are comfortable cork floors, a slim but spacious refrigerator, a pull-out pantry and granite counters.

The finished lower level with slate floor can easily hold a large sectional couch, perfect for movie night. A pool table would also be a great way to pass the longer nights

now before daylight savings time returns.

To appreciate the charm of the backyard, you must see for yourself all the lush, mature landscaping. It has been terraced with beautiful stonework and is surrounded by a charming picket fence. There is both a deck and patio for entertaining and grilling.

The location makes it easy to partake in all the fun of Northern Virginia and D.C. You can enjoy dinner in Shirlington or Del Ray, just a few minutes away. Or, with its close proximity to I-395, it is easy to catch a performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, which is just a short drive.



PHOTO/TRUPLACE

A convenient Beverley Hills location with an abundance of charm.

### At A Glance

**Location:** 613 Tennessee Ave., Alexandria, VA 22305

**Neighborhood:** Beverley Hills

**Price:** \$699,000

**Year Built:** 1949

**Bedrooms:** 3

**Bathrooms:** 2

**Contact:** Elizabeth Lucchesi, McEneaney Associates,  
703-868-5676, [www.lizluke.com](http://www.lizluke.com)



## PLANTINGS

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old-fashioned planting might rely on just one species, such as yews or junipers, or perhaps azaleas, to help nestle a house into the landscape. Too often, these shrubs are planted too close to the house and then ignored until they become overgrown, obscuring the house and blocking views from inside.

Jane Cantin, a landscape architect in Norfolk, Va., sees overgrown foundation plantings all the time. “It’s those cute little Alberta spruces,” she says. “They look like little baby Christmas trees. But after a few years they eat up the sidewalk. You can’t even get to the front door.” In frustration, homeowners try to prune them, but their efforts frequently backfire. “The shrubs get so whacked and wonky that they don’t come back, and you just have to take them out,” Cantin says.

Taking out inappropriate or overgrown plants can be liberating, designers say. It’s often

a hard decision, but “a lot of times, just the act of pulling them out — homeowners suddenly love their house again,” says Carolyn Mullet, owner of Carex: Garden Design, in Takoma Park, Md., near Washington.

“It was dark and foreboding, and now it’s light and clean and they can see out of their house again,” she said.

Good-looking foundation plantings should really start at the street, and move back toward the home along an attractive front walk, with perhaps a small entrance court or patio with a bench at the front door. If the scale of the steps and stoop do not suit a house, or if they are in bad condition, “this may be the time to take out that old hardscape, put in things more gracious and safer, more fitting with the design of the house,” Mullet says. “It’s an important part of giving your house a facelift.”

Well-chosen plants are part of the overall design, not just an added improvement. “I take the architecture and the set-



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

Short sections of fence in this front yard extend the home’s architecture into the landscape, setting apart a parking area paved with rustic flagstones. The foundation plantings are anything but boring: A big Japanese maple fills a courtyard, with lower plantings all around.



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

Boxwoods are the most prominent plant in this tiny front yard. The combination of upright species and low, trimmed plantings look very crisp, but welcoming. The porch, with plants in pots and hanging baskets, brings the garden all the way up to the front door.

ting and the region into consideration,” Cantin says, “and whether the home is contemporary or traditional.” Her designs favor high-quality materials and rely on plants that do not need pampering and that look attractive through the seasons. Where appropriate, Cantin likes to suggest an informal, naturalistic style, with native plants. In formal settings, she sticks to simple designs with just a few sculptural plants.

Ornamental grasses have earned a place out front, these designers say, especially in combination with evergreens and flowering perennials. Mullet says she might combine an evergreen shrub with a stalwart switchgrass (*Panicum*) or Korean feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis*), with low perennial flowers in front of them for their seasonal color and contrasting textures. Hardy geraniums, coneflowers and hellebores are among her favorites. Mullet also likes to use native shrubs, including

oak leaf hydrangea and Annabelle hydrangea (sometimes called smooth hydrangea), which both hold their flowers for weeks, have an interesting structure through the winter, and can be pruned easily.

Working with a designer is a good way to help you develop a vision for the front of your house, and to avoid common mistakes. Designers have the advantage of years of experience, and they work closely with contractors who can build and repair fences, lay brick or stone walls and walkways, and install lighting to bring out the best in a design. Designers are good at combining plants and know which plants thrive in your local conditions.

“There’s no cookie-cutter solution: It always depends on the site,” Cantin says.

Getting away from the predictable styles — and the usual tired plant combinations — will change the way you and your neighbors and guests see your home, she says.



## Our View

### Schoolyard funding raises concerns

Alexandria City Public Schools had a rough year in 2011. The central office was mired in scandal: the department overseeing capital projects for the district made unauthorized fund transfers between projects and it was found the office lacked internal oversight.

The incident spurred the ouster of high-ranking officials, calls for then-Superintendent Morton Sherman's resignation and, eventually, a complete overhaul of the department.

The scandal continued to reverberate within the district until 2013, when school leaders were called before city council to explain a number of proposed changes to the system's capital budget.

"We're just now fully staffed in the department, following the [capital improvement projects] incident a few years back," said school board chairwoman Karen Graf at the time. "We're now exercising proper oversight ... but it takes time to rebuild a department."

So we were surprised last week when a majority of school board members agreed to include \$500,000 for the renovation of the schoolyard at Matthew Maury Elementary School, a project that several members admitted they had not seen any staff presentation on or analysis of.

Superintendent Alvin Crawley had proposed allocating funds to similar renovations at other schools — \$115,000 each — but included an extra \$285,000 for the Maury project.

Since the school board has not seen an official presentation on the project outside from a study privately commissioned by parents at the school, one would expect members to scrutinize the project. But instead, board member Justin Keating proposed throwing even more money at the estimated \$1.4 million proposal, to the tune of \$100,000.

The Maury schoolyard certainly needs a revamp. As parents said when they lobbied the school board in December, drainage is a constant problem and grass barely stands a chance of growing. And their funding mechanism — using some public funds to leverage donations from the private sector — could prove an innovative way to pay for infrastructure in a time of dwindling tax revenue.

But allocating money without any in-house analysis, and stifling debate as board member Kelly Booz did when she cut off vice chairman Chris Lewis, is shortsighted at best and could serve as a dangerous precedent.

What will happen if the privately commissioned proposal doesn't pass muster with city officials? What if the project ends up costing more than the parents and their experts anticipated?

Will the boosters have to come up with the difference? Or will it be the school board, not committed after this initial investment? And what needed upgrade to another school will bear the brunt of that decision?

With the aforementioned oversight scandal and the handwringing that occurred as plans for the newly finished Jefferson-Houston School came in over budget still fresh in the minds of many residents, now is a time to provide more scrutiny to capital projects, not less.

# Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson



## Your Views

### Potomac Yard Metro is a poor investment

To the editor:

Building a new Metro station in Potomac Yard is a waste of money. But unless an intervention occurs to break our serious spending habit, our mayor and his rubber-stamp council will waste your money and others' too. They are addicted to using Alexandria's credit-worthiness to borrow until the cows come home.

Thanks to insider help from a passel of Democrats in Richmond, including Potomac Yard Metro advocate and former city councilor Delegate Rob Krupicka (D-45), they are now poised to put our city further into debt. And what is this new debt for? It will pay

roughly 20 percent of the cost of a new Metro within Potomac Yard, a new community in Alexandria that is still being built.

To a discerning reader, you will wonder why this new community deserves a Metro station anyway. It already is conveniently located between two stations: National Airport and Braddock Road. For the residents of Potomac Yard, these two Metro stations are a healthy walk for some, a short bike ride for others and a pleasant bus journey for the rest.

So what's the justification to push Alexandria deeper into debt? Short answer: The city believes a Metro will en-

gender more revenue for it to spend. Where from, you ask? From taxing the additional structures, their occupants, businesses and their cars that a new Metro is expected to attract to its vicinity. In other words, it's another bet: more density now for maybe more dollars in the future.

Here's what's guaranteed if a new Metro station is built: Your taxes will go up and up; more structures will be built; more people will occupy them; more schools will be required for their offspring; more cars will be on Alexandria's finite number of roads



# City leaders must support government employees

To the editor:

The employees of the City of Alexandria implore members of city council to get back to basics of government — service. When the city government is committed to its most basic institutions and to the people who serve in these institutions, it becomes the community we all want it to be.

Did you know:

Each year, city council stands by while the city spends countless employee hours reinventing the budget process. The most current philosophy, “aligning processes with guiding principles,” neither generates revenue nor cuts costs. Like its federal neighbors across the Potomac, the city has waded into the bureaucratic quagmire where common sense no longer rules the day. Budgeting to accommodate catchy phrases creates administrative busy work for employees who already are asked to do more with less.

During touted budget shortfalls, city councilors allowed the creation of a new city department

— the Office of Performance and Accountability — whose employees’ salaries start between \$64,000 and \$90,000. Does a city the size of Alexandria need the lo-

force — from community service positions in the departments of recreation and health and human services just prior to being eligible for retirement, while the employ-

**“The most current philosophy, ‘aligning processes with guiding principles,’ neither generates revenue nor cuts costs. Like its federal neighbors across the Potomac, the city has waded into the bureaucratic quagmire where common sense no longer rules the day.”**

cal equivalent to the U.S. Government Accountability Office?

To save \$105,000, city councilors allowed business to be taken away from the local economy. To reduce the costs of a medical prescription plan, city employees are mandated to refill their prescriptions via an out-of-state mail-order company. Does this make sense?

More than 20 part-time employees were “RIFed” — reduction in

ees working in the city manager’s office received hefty bonuses.

In 2007, city council approved a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase for city employees. No other COLA or market rate adjustments have been authorized since then.

As city councilors prepare the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, city employees ask that the council support the people who support the city.

- Octavia Brown  
Alexandria

## METRO

FROM | 18

and, to add insult to injury, Metro travelers will experience a further delay from having to stop at a new station.

What’s the payoff by allowing our elected officials to make this bet that increases our taxes, debt, density and delay? I don’t know. But I do know the ideal intervention: Put into office fis-

cally responsible representatives replacing the borrow, spend and tax addicts now in place, especially the mayor. They are out of control.

- Jimm Roberts  
Alexandria

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[letters@alextimes.com](mailto:letters@alextimes.com).



## The Business Plan

with Bill Reagan

### Community resources for Alexandria businesses are plentiful

When this column began in 2013, we started with a feature that highlighted community resources that business owners need to know about. Over the past year, one of our goals has been to improve collaboration among those organizations and to make sure that businesses know who to go to for different issues and challenges. This is such an important topic that we feel it is worth revisiting this year. Here’s a quick list of the resources of which you should be aware.

Our center provides a broad range of expertise on the daily challenges that plague business owners. We encourage entrepreneurs to contact the center through our website to pose questions or problems. We also have access to a vast network of business consultants who can provide insight on more specific needs. We help businesses at any stage and can make referrals and connections as needed.

Alexandria businesses also should be familiar with city government staff. They provide assistance on many aspects of business, from permits and transit matters to taxes and public health issues. They are approachable and happy to help owners comprehend requirements, even at the earliest stages of planning. If you’re not sure whom to contact at the city, our center will gladly make those connections, but a great place to start is the Multi-Agency Permit Center, located at 301 King St., Suite 4200.

Our economic development partners — the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Visit Alexandria (formerly the Alexandria Convention and Visitor’s Association) — also have extensive expertise and information for businesses. They can help you find a business location or provide information on the latest trends in

tourism. Both organizations have helpful staff and informative websites worth exploring.

We also partner with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, which serves as an advocate for Alexandria businesses and offers owners excellent opportunities to connect and network with other professionals and business owners.

Alexandria’s neighborhood business associations offer tremendous opportunities to meet key players in your part of town, solutions to common problems, opportunities for collaborative marketing, and a means to avoid the isolation that is characteristic of small business ownership. These groups are very active and easy to engage. Most meet regularly and always are excited to have new members.

Small business organizations, service providers and city staff work to stay current with one another so that we can all accurately refer to one another’s resources. Our center facilitates regular discussions among the key small business players in Alexandria to foster understanding of other programs, to harmonize our messages, and to validate that links and referral processes are current.

Wherever businesses make their initial contact, our aim is to ensure their issue is addressed quickly and that they are seamlessly referred to the most effective resource for their needs.

Business owners not already familiar with the Alexandria Small Business Development Center are encouraged to connect to the center via its website, [www.alexandrias-bdc.org](http://www.alexandrias-bdc.org).

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



Bill Reagan

# It's time for Alexandria to adopt council wards

To the editor:

I think we as citizens need to have a serious conversation about the city's governance structure. Does it best serve the needs of the large, diverse city that Alexandria is today? The answer to that question leaves much to be desired.

My philosophy is this: Accountability for all means accountability for none, and we have witnessed this from time to time in Alexandria. Under the current structure, parts of the city lack any direct representation. To improve this, Alexandria should move to a representational governance structure.

Representational governance provides for a more democratic approach to ensuring full and equal representation of all citizens. Under any other system, citizens lack the ability to hold local elected leaders accountable for decisions contrary to those they represent.

**“Having a ward or district structure allows local elected officials the ability to be laser focused on specific items of interest to their constituents and, in turn, they become better representatives for us all.”**

A ward- or district-based governance structure puts accountability back in the hands of citizens. When issues or concerns arise, citizens know exactly to whom they can go for resolution and insight. Departure from the at-large-only structure potentially can benefit both the citizen and the elected official.

For city councilors, it becomes

difficult to adequately address specific and targeted needs when you have to contend with the needs of a wide variety of citizens, whereas if one decides to run for mayor, it is understood that juggling diverse interests come with the territory.

Having a ward or district structure allows local elected officials the ability to be laser focused on specific items of interest to their constituents and, in turn, they become better representatives for us all. Our current structure has forced some of our leaders to make tough decisions. But to whom are they really accountable in the next election for those decisions?

I do not believe the spoils of our at-large-only structure are intentional, but they are symptomatic of the need for some critical and strategic thinking for our city.

- Charles Sumpter  
Alexandria

## FROM THE WEB

[In response to “The missing connection in Oakville Triangle,” December 11:](#)

**Alex writes:**

Del Ray residents act like they are picked on, but the reality is that they live next to U.S. Route 1 [on one side] and Mount Vernon Avenue on the other, 5 miles from D.C., 3 miles from [Washington National Airport], and have businesses all over.

People will own cars no matter what, and if they live in the new development, they should have a right to drive on any public street — and that would include Stewart Street.

I like the response to put all traffic on Custis Avenue, but why is it OK to drive on Custis Avenue but not on [Stewart Street]?

# Alexandria's 'super school' model belies Ferdinand Day's mantra

To the editor:

I am writing to set the historical record straight concerning your editorial on Ferdinand Day (“Ferdinand Day represented the best of Alexandria,” January 8). Reference was made to the successful integration of the three city high schools in the form of the newly opened T.C. Williams in 1971.

But T.C. Williams actually opened in the fall of 1965. It was integrated in 1965, as were George Washington and Francis Hammond. The media continues to get this simple historical chronology wrong. The media needs to do their homework and not get their history lessons from that silly and historically inaccurate farce of a Disney

movie, “Remember the Titans.”

As for Mr. Day's philosophy of “Every student counts,” it sounded nice in theory, but it had no real practical application. As a 54-year-old lifelong Alexandrian, I have observed many different generations pass through Alexandria City Public Schools.

Sadly and regrettably, I have

witnessed far too many students from a variety of backgrounds fall through the cracks. Too many were lost in the shuffle. Too many were marginalized.

The notion of the comprehensive super school that offers something for everybody is a myth. Bigger is not better. The average student was better served when we had three high

schools in this city, not just one big, bloated super school.

Education reform has been a controversial issue in this country for many years. But it is difficult to enact change upon the educational establishment.

The education establishment has its own agendas.

- Gregory Paspatis  
Alexandria

# Development doesn't solve fiscal problems, it causes them

To the editor:

Development critics contend that city council only counts the revenues from specific developments but doesn't factor in projects' hidden costs.

City council approved a master plan amendment, development special use permit and increased density, vacated a public right of way and awarded a \$5 million loan guarantee for a developer to build side-by-side affordable and market-rate apartment buildings.

Although City Councilor Justin Wilson had the presence of mind to at least ask about

the fiscal impact on our schools from several hundred additional apartments, he still voted for the project and financing. Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and City Councilor John Chapman were the only two who did not vote for the project and unsuccessfully tried to delay its consideration.

This project, which city council approved despite stated misgivings, illustrates how development is contributing to the city's fiscal problems. A residence's taxes typically do not cover the costs of educating even one child while in the city's public schools.

These apartments potentially will contribute numerous children whose education will cost more than the taxes the development generates.

But the development also will spur the need to eventually build a new street. The cars that park in the development's garages will put wear and tear on the city's existing streets. The apartments will generate more sewage to be treated and the need for police, fire, ambulance and other services also will increase. None of this is accurately accounted for when the city hands out development

special use permits.

Planning for infrastructure and city services is designed around the underlying zoning. Every exception to those rules adds an incremental strain which shows up as added costs which seem to appear out of nowhere because they are the hidden costs of all this excess development.

Every year, there is a different excuse about why things are so fiscally tight, but the underlying constant — City Hall keeps green lighting dense development counter to the underlying zoning — never is broached. The devel-

oper amenities that City Hall accepts in exchange for tearing up the underlying zoning ordinance do not cover these hidden costs because the city has not made a bona fide effort to hire high-quality, independent consultants capable of quantifying the hidden costs of development.

Until we come to terms with the real costs of dense development, we will not bring our fiscal problems under control and will continue to see pressure to increase taxes to subsidize City Hall's development binge.

- Dino Drudi  
Alexandria



## OUT OF THE ATTIC

## Finding the right location for the Port City

When the colonial Virginia's General Assembly considered the establishment of a new port settlement north of Fredericksburg in the late 1740s, the choice narrowed to two areas about a mile or two apart, both where tobacco inspection stations had already been established. With Virginia's agricultural economy largely focused on tobacco in the 18th century, it was critical that it be weighed and inspected for quality before it was exported overseas, and that early legacy, including visual representations of a set of scales and a ship on the open water, survive on the official seal of the City of Alexandria.

The two areas considered for a permanent settlement in the northern reaches of the colony each had their own band of supporters. One area was an existing cluster of rudimentary structures in an area called Cameron, located along the northern shoreline of Great Hunting Creek, about a mile west of the Potomac River and near to the point where Telegraph Road now crosses the Capital Beltway.

At the time, the creek had a wide mouth and was quite deep, allowing ships to navigate easily inland from the Potomac at high tide. But soon after the Hunting Creek tobacco inspection station was built there, it was considered by many to be inconvenient and subject to challenging condi-



PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

tions for navigation during low tide and even extended periods of dry weather.

Within two years, the inspection station was moved — with its name unchanged — to a new site along the Potomac, near Ralphs Gut, another creek that traversed the lands once owned by Ralph Platt, at the current end of Oronoco Street. It was here that after 1732, Hugh West operated not only the inspection station and tobacco warehouse, but also a tavern and ferry to Maryland as well.

Once the new town of Alexandria was selected and established south of the West ware-

house in 1749, the settlement remained somewhat isolated, except by water and the two turnpikes that rolled westward to the hinterlands beyond King and Duke streets. It was not until 1809 that new roads were built to more easily access the new city of Washington to the north and Richmond to the south, with the highway to Richmond accessed via a long bridge across the Great Hunting Creek.

In this Civil War view taken around 1864, the old Hunting Creek bridge can be seen as a thin line across the waterway in the upper third of the photo. It appears that the photo is taken

from atop Shuter's Hill, then occupied by the camp of the New York 44th Infantry, and looks southeast across Duke Street, the adjacent railroad line, as well as Union Army barracks and hospital buildings.

In the foreground, the close observer will note the many tree stumps that remain in the soil after the scenic hillside was hastily denuded of trees to improve visibility for the soldiers. The old community of Cameron would have been just off to the right.

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

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## Weekly Poll

## Last Week

Do Alexandria officials need to be more scrutinous of Metro?

● 81% Yes.  
● 19% No.

42 votes

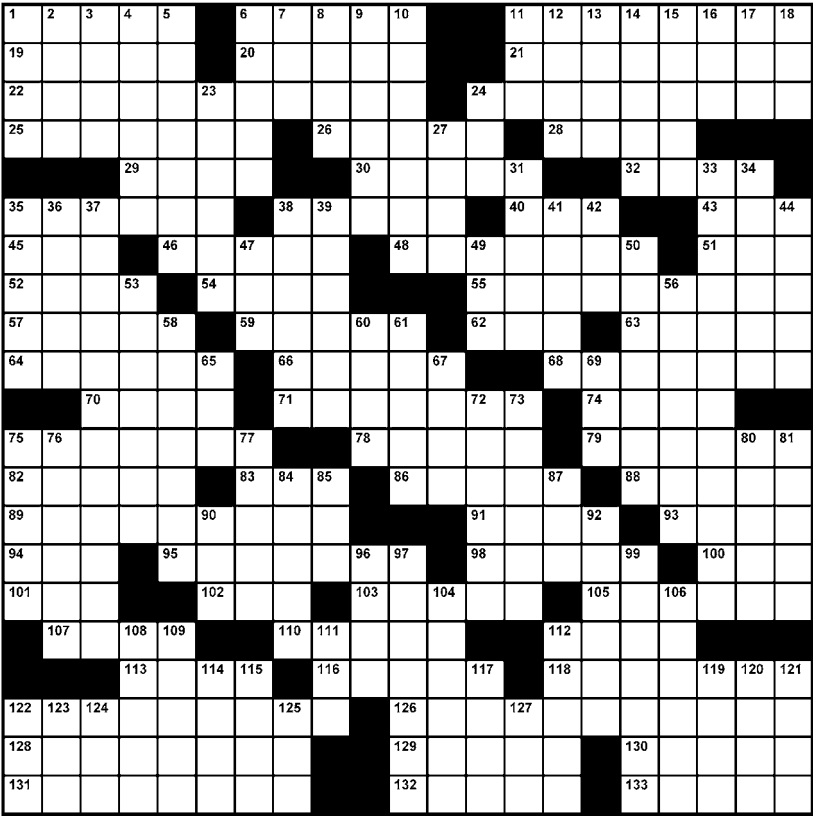
## This Week

Should the Alexandria City School Board approve \$500,000 for the renovation of Maury Elementary's schoolyard?

A. Yes.  
B. No

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Weekly Words



ACROSS

- 1 Capo's group
- 6 Pasta, potatoes and such
- 11 Swimmers' woes
- 19 "Dynasty" actress Linda
- 20 Garlicky garnish
- 21 Swallow routes
- 22 Common tablet PC feature
- 24 Waterproof roof joints
- 25 Architectural band
- 26 \_\_\_ Arabia
- 28 Jack and Jill's carryall
- 29 Island near Java
- 30 Make fun of
- 32 Examine, as evidence
- 35 Story with bite
- 38 Moist, as a roast
- 40 "If \_\_\_ told you once ..."
- 43 Bro or 18-Down, e.g.
- 45 "Long \_\_\_ ..."
- 46 Temporary paper currency
- 48 Earth, air, fire or water, e.g.
- 51 Rock with value
- 52 Bodybuilder's exercise
- 54 \_\_\_ Bell (fast-food chain)
- 55 Respect for others' beliefs
- 57 Come up again
- 59 Opposite of apex
- 62 Grand \_\_\_ (vintage)
- 63 Better suited
- 64 Refuse receptacle
- 66 Assessor
- 68 Like Scrooge McDuck
- 70 \_\_\_ carotene
- 71 Facial flaw
- 74 Drive-\_\_\_ window
- 75 Producing an effect
- 78 "\_\_\_ Man" (Village People hit)
- 79 Fishing nets
- 82 Civil War general
- 83 "Born in the \_\_\_" (Springsteen tune)

- 86 Vacation memento
- 88 Have a funny feeling
- 89 Next life
- 91 Unwritten test
- 93 \_\_\_ good example
- 94 Cause wonder
- 95 Small hairpieces
- 98 Tiniest bits
- 100 Radiation dosage
- 101 Fold, spindle or mutilate
- 102 Air pressure meas.
- 103 Overturn or overthrow
- 105 Gentlemen (Abbr.)
- 107 "Answer, please" (Abbr.)
- 110 Cook's covering
- 112 Catcher's need
- 113 "\_\_\_ as good a time as any"
- 116 Owl noises
- 118 Temporary period
- 122 Not aboveboard
- 126 Part of the brain
- 128 Tire mishap
- 129 Spine-tinglingly weird
- 130 Arrival island for many
- 131 Trouble spot for Indiana Jones
- 132 Forms an opinion
- 133 Corn-chip dip

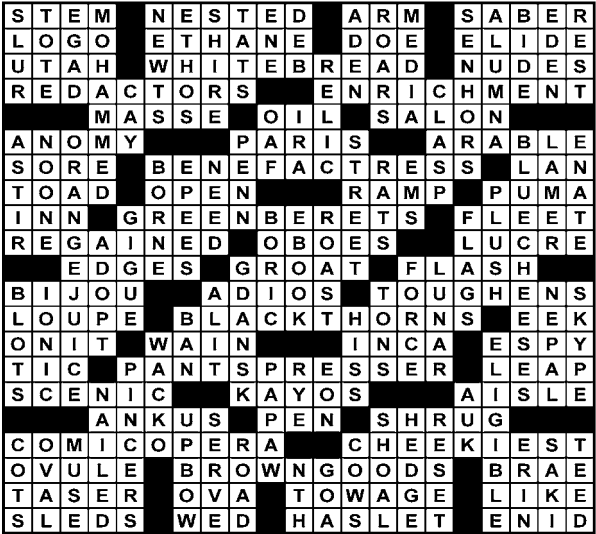
DOWN

- 1 "I never \_\_\_ man I didn't like"
- 2 The Bard's river
- 3 Goat-legged deity
- 4 Demons that prey upon sleepers
- 5 Masonry stones
- 6 Desert growths
- 7 Balloon's filling
- 8 Some reddish deer
- 9 Sounds from a flock
- 10 Curve in and out

- 11 Amazon zapper
- 12 "... and make it fast!"
- 13 Santa \_\_\_, California
- 14 Sap-sucking insect genus
- 15 Hotdog topper, sometimes
- 16 Harrison in "Star Wars"
- 17 Breakfast item
- 18 Sibling, in brief
- 23 Cull
- 24 "Jaws" sighting
- 27 Two-person fight
- 31 Malayan island
- 33 Ones leading the pack
- 34 Toyota model
- 35 Pelvic bones
- 36 Fevers with chills
- 37 Leaders of movements
- 38 Antacid, for short
- 39 Having no feet

- 41 Soft palate
- 42 Hurricane heading, sometimes
- 44 Distrustful
- 47 Bled in the laundry
- 49 "... yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 50 Bad-mouths
- 53 Swiss canton or its capital
- 56 Mimicries
- 58 Knocking noise
- 60 Agendum, e.g.
- 61 Amend, as an atlas section
- 65 Actress Fabray, for short
- 67 With money to burn
- 69 "\_\_\_ your call"
- 72 Guaranteed winner
- 73 Drag race participant
- 75 Old Irish memorial inscription
- 76 Period before a conflict
- 77 Ballerina's skirts
- 80 "Steer" anagram
- 81 Parts of a baseball
- 84 Old photo tone
- 85 "\_\_\_ we having fun yet?"
- 87 Bran type
- 90 Affected dandy
- 92 Thin plate or layer
- 96 Continental currency
- 97 Parodied
- 99 Colonizes
- 104 Main dish
- 106 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
- 108 Sweater style
- 109 \_\_\_-cochere (carriage entrance)
- 111 Impressive degree
- 112 Pesky arachnids
- 114 Defeat a la Ali
- 115 Mumbai dress
- 117 In need of a massage
- 119 Bagel kin
- 120 Large wading bird
- 121 Clifflike, flat-topped elevation
- 122 \_\_\_ and downs
- 123 Her life is in order?
- 124 Modern evidence
- 125 Tennis court divider
- 127 "Bus" or "rod" starter

Last Week's Solution:



OBITUARIES

- ROBERT O. BALL**  
of Alexandria, January 11, 2015
- PAULINE L. BANKS**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 1, 2015
- RICHARD F. COLEMAN**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 18, 2015
- GRACE CUMMINGS**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 23, 2015
- CAROLINE P. CURRIN**  
of Alexandria, January 22, 2015
- DOROTHY E. DARLING**  
of Alexandria, January 16, 2015
- GRACE W. DUFFY**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 16, 2015
- MARIAN W. FISCHER**  
of Alexandria, January 19, 2015
- HARVEY N. FITTON, JR.**  
of Alexandria, January 22, 2015
- HAROLD M. HAMMOND**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 11, 2015
- DOLLY J. HAYNES**  
of Alexandria, January 26, 2015
- STEVAN P. HYNSON**  
of Alexandria, January 14, 2015
- BAYARD W. KENNETT II**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 17, 2015
- WARREN E. KULLBERG**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 19, 2015
- JOY L. MANSFIELD**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 15, 2015
- DEAN F. MAY**  
formerly of Alexandria, December 18, 2014
- GERTRUDE L. MCGEE**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 12, 2015
- WILLIAM M. MCHUGH**  
formerly of Alexandria, January 17, 2015
- VALERIE M. MULLINS**  
of Alexandria, January 21, 2015
- JAMES J. O'BOYLE**  
of Alexandria, January 10, 2015
- MARJORIE C. SWEITZER**  
of Alexandria, January 11, 2015



Classifieds

ABC NOTICE

**ABC NOTICE**  
Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
2001 Westgate Road / P.O. Box 2140, Richmond, VA 23218  
www.abc.virginia.gov

**RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)**

**PUBLISHING NOTICE**  
Please publish the following text in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 1.

(Full name(s) of owner(s)) TIME CAFE AND MARKET LLC  
If general partnership, enter partnership name or name of partnership. If LLP, LPA, LLC or corporation, enter name as recorded with the State Corporation Commission. If association or non-exempt private club, enter name. Only if a sole proprietor, enter first, middle and last name.

Trading as: TIME CAFE AND MARKET LLC  
(Trade name)

4701 N. Chambliss St  
(Address of licensed premises where business will be held)

Alexandria  
(City/County)

Fair Fox  
(County)

Virginia 22312  
(Zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a BEER AND WINE ON PERMISSIE license.  
(Type of license sought for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
TIME CAFE AND MARKET LLC  
(Name and title of authorized/officials authorizing establishment)

**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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3300.

501-11-10000. This is an effect of state law. All information contained in this notice is public information. Please refer to the relevant provisions of the Code of Virginia regarding public information. Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Retail License Application, page 11

LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP  
AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE  
TANK (UST) SITE**

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at: **Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS), 1400 North Royal Street, Alexandria, VA.** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) is requiring NRG Potomac River LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact: **NRG Potomac River LLC, Burt McCullough, 8301 Professional Place, Suite 230, Landover, MD 20785.**

The CAP was submitted to the Northern Virginia Regional Office of the VDEQ on December 23, 2014. Additionally, a copy of this CAP has been provided to the Alexandria Library - Beatley Central Library Branch located at 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304 for public viewing. A public meeting will be held at Alexandria City Hall on February 3, 2015 at 7:00pm to present the CAP. If you would like to review or discuss the CAP with the staff of the VDEQ, please feel free to contact Alex Wardle at (703) 583-3822. The DEQ Northern Virginia Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the CAP until February 13, 2015. Written comments should be sent to the VDEQ at the address listed below. The VDEQ requests that all written comments be sent to **VDEQ - Storage Tank Program, Northern Virginia Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193-1453** reference the tracking number for this case; **PC # 2013-3154**



**LEGAL NOTICE OF A  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015  
- 7:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, City Hall  
301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia**

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

**BZA Case #2014-0028**

29 East Howell Avenue  
Request for special exception to construct a second story addition in the required west side yard. If the request is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting an exception from section 12102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to the physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure; zoned R25/Residential SingleFamily. Applicant: Adam and Andrea Fernandes by Christine Kelly, architect. [This case was deferred at the January 8, 2015 Board of Zoning Appeals hearing.]

**BZA Case #2014-0026**

7 West Maple Street  
Request for special exception to construct a second story addition in the required east side yard. If the request is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting an exception from section 12102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to the physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure; zoned R-5/Residential SingleFamily. Applicant: Pluvia Zuniga and Julien Reynaud by Stephanie Dimond, architect.

HELP WANTED

**Local Janitorial Company In need of the following:**

**Supervisors & Cleaners needed ASAP**

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571-220-8098  
571-436-1479

**Posiciones de trabajo para Supervisores de Limpieza & Limpiadores**

Favor llamar:  
571-220-8098  
571-436-1479

STOLEN YORKIE



**REWARD: 804-720-7135**

K9 SEARCH DOG IN AREA HAS SCENT OF **SUZY** IN ALEXANDRIA VA OFF OF OLD FRANCONIA RD  
SAFE RETURN NO QUESTIONS ASKED

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



**Catherine Grace Hogan of  
Arlington, VA and Willow White  
Noonan of San Francisco, CA**

were recently married in Indiana, PA at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church by the Reverend Donald Conroy. Catherine is the daughter of Donald and Claire Hogan of Indiana. Willow is the son of Adrienne White and David Serbin of Wadsworth, Ohio and James Noonan of Alexandria, VA.

Catherine is employed as a teacher in writing and technology at Making Waves Charter School and will graduate in May 2015 with a Masters in reading from George Mason University.

Willow graduated from Bishop Ireton High School in 2002, the University of Virginia in 2006 with a bachelor degree in computer science and a minor in electrical engineering and the George Washington University Law School in 2010. He is an intellectual property attorney with Arnold & Porter LLP in San Francisco.

They honeymooned in Hawaii and live in San Francisco.

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REALTOR®

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