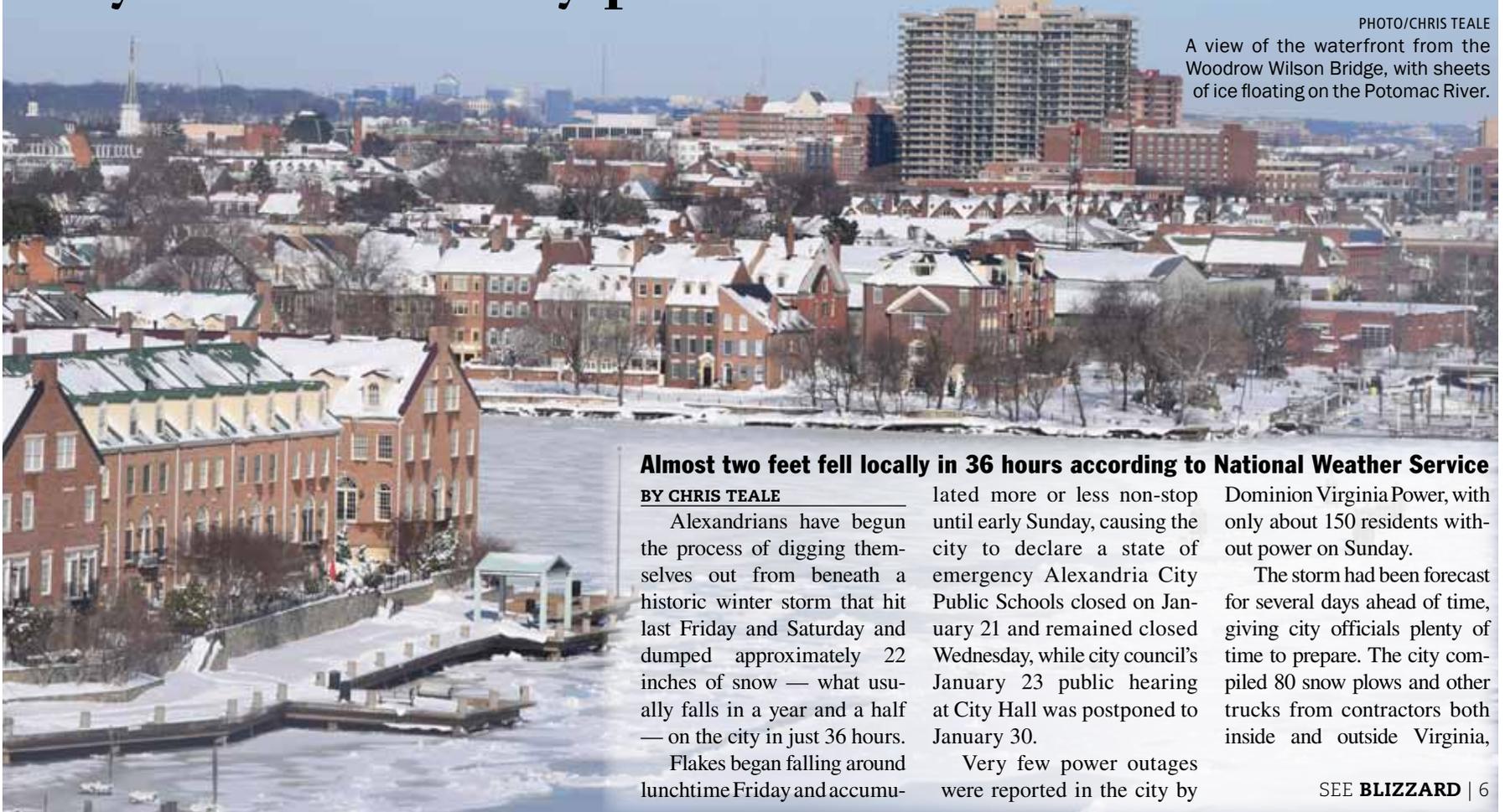


## City starts recovery process after historic blizzard

PHOTO/CHRIS TEALE

A view of the waterfront from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, with sheets of ice floating on the Potomac River.



### Almost two feet fell locally in 36 hours according to National Weather Service

BY CHRIS TEALE

Alexandrians have begun the process of digging themselves out from beneath a historic winter storm that hit last Friday and Saturday and dumped approximately 22 inches of snow — what usually falls in a year and a half — on the city in just 36 hours.

Flakes began falling around lunchtime Friday and accumu-

lated more or less non-stop until early Sunday, causing the city to declare a state of emergency. Alexandria City Public Schools closed on January 21 and remained closed Wednesday, while city council's January 23 public hearing at City Hall was postponed to January 30.

Very few power outages were reported in the city by

Dominion Virginia Power, with only about 150 residents without power on Sunday.

The storm had been forecast for several days ahead of time, giving city officials plenty of time to prepare. The city compiled 80 snow plows and other trucks from contractors both inside and outside Virginia,

SEE **BLIZZARD** | 6

## Ramsey Homes redevelopment to undergo public scrutiny

**Lawsuit could halt progress; planning commission to discuss next month**

BY CHRIS TEALE

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's proposed redevelopment plan for the Ramsey Homes at 699 N. Patrick St. will come before the planning commission on February 4 for a public hearing and discussion, fewer than

five months after city council approved tearing down the current units and reversed an earlier decision by the Parker-Gray Board of Architectural Review to prevent the demolition.

Currently, the property is made up of 15 units, built between 1941 and 1942 by the federal government to house black defense workers. They are close to the original site of

the former Parker-Gray High School and on the same block as the Robinson Library, both of which are significant in the history of blacks in Alexandria. The homes are also close to the Alexandria Black History Museum on Wythe Street.

The plan submitted to the city proposes 53 multi-family

SEE **RAMSEY** | 7



FILE PHOTO

The Ramsey Homes, owned by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, sit at 699 N. Patrick St. and are slated for redevelopment. The 15-unit property was built between 1941 and 1942 by the federal government to house black defense workers.

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# THE WEEKLY BRIEFING



PHOTO/ANDY DUNBAR



PHOTO/BARBARA WARDER



PHOTO/STACEY FLINT

## SCENES FROM A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Last weekend's winter storm became a five-day state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Alexandria, with the city receiving 50 percent more snow in about 36 hours than it usually receives in an entire year. Visibility on Saturday (above) was nearly 0 by 5 p.m. in Lee Street Park in Old Town. Old Town Icicles appeared the next day (top right). Children enjoyed tubing in the Beverly Hills neighborhood on Sunday (bottom right).

## Charles Severance sentenced to life in prison

Charles Severance, the man found guilty of the killings of three Alexandrians and the wounding of a fourth, was sentenced to three life terms in prison plus 48 years by specially appointed Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Randy Bellows on January 21.

Severance, 55, was convicted in November of capital murder in the deaths of Ruthanne Lodato in February 2014 and Ronald Kirby in November 2013, and first-degree murder in the slaying of Nancy Dunning in 2003. He also was convicted of non-fatally shooting Janet Franko, a caretaker at the Lodato residence,

and six other related charges.

The jury previously recommended a sentence of life without parole for each of the three killings.

The Washington Post reported that Bellows spoke at length about the victims' families and the pain they suffered.

"He condemned each of these family members to bear witness to a nightmare," Bellows reportedly said.

The Post reported that Severance continued with his previous pattern of bizarre courtroom behavior, referencing the Book of Common Prayer, King Henry VIII, "Elizabeth" and "the 37th article of religion" but at no stage

mentioning the three murders of which he was convicted.

"It is lawful to wear weapons," he reportedly said at one stage before going silent, having tried once again earlier in proceedings to have his attorneys removed, accusing them of making "statements against my interests."

"Violence does not win," said Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter, who prosecuted the case. "In the end, flying in the face of the senseless violence [and] despair that has been exhibited in this case, it is an incontrovertible fact that love wins."

- Chris Teale

## Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week returns Friday

Several new restaurants are set to participate in Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week, which begins Friday and will last until February 7, spanning two weekends.

Magnolia's on King, Carluccio's and Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap join returning participants, including Restaurant Eve, Sonoma Cellar, Bastille Res-

taurant and Wine Bar, La Bergerie and Virtue Feed & Grain. More than 60 restaurants are participating throughout the city and its various neighborhoods.

Participating restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two, while more than two dozen restaurants are also offering lunch deals at \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person in addi-

tion to the dinner specials.

A flip-book of menus is available at [www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com](http://www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com), along with additional information about the event. Alexandria Restaurant Week was launched in 2009 by Visit Alexandria, the city's tourism agency, and takes place biannually in the winter and the summer.

- Chris Teale



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# CRIME



## THREE NEW SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES SWORN IN

Alexandria Circuit Court Clerk Edward Semonian administered the oath of office to three new sheriff's deputies at the city courthouse on January 22, just hours before city government closed for the winter storm. From left to right, Dwayne Rogers, Emily Morris and Morgan Garner receive their badges. They began training this week.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Man robbed by five suspects on North Beauregard Street

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery it said was committed by five people at North Beauregard and North Morgan streets on Friday evening.

Officers responded to the area at 10 p.m. on January 22

after reports of a man having his backpack stolen. Police spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said that three male and two female suspects took the victim's bag, but left it at the scene once they had taken valuables from inside.

The victim was not seriously injured.

Anyone with further information is asked to call the department's non-emergency number at 703-746-4444.

- Chris Teale

## Pizza delivery man assaulted after confronting thieves

A man delivering pizza was assaulted by two male suspects whom he caught and confronted trying to steal items from his car on Sunday night.

Officers responded to the incident at around 10:47 p.m. at North Beauregard Street

and Sanger Avenue.

Police spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said that the delivery man had left his car briefly, and when he returned, he found two men trying to steal items inside. When he confronted them, they assaulted him and fled the scene. No

weapons were used.

Nosal had no further details as of press time.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Alexandria Police Department's non-emergency number at 703-746-4444.

- Chris Teale

## POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between January 20 and January 27.



\*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

ONLINE all the time:

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# A statewide push of city priorities

## Alexandria's legislative agenda arrives in Richmond

BY CHRIS TEALE

The Virginia General Assembly's 2016 legislative session got underway January 13, and in its agenda for this year, the City of Alexandria emphasized its support for issues that would affect all of Northern Virginia while also encouraging state legislators to ensure the city does not lose out on transportation funding in this year's budget.

The city's legislative agenda, a laundry list of policy initiatives, is divided into several sections: fiscal issues, transportation, human services, public safety, voting, the environment and other issues.

The biggest section of the document is the one devoted to transportation, where it asks Alexandria's delegation in the state legislature to work to address the upcoming shortfall in state funding for capital needs and to ensure that the city's transportation funding is not cut.

Funds for transportation are at a premium at both the federal and state levels, with the planned Potomac Yard Metro station slated to be funded from a number of sources, including a loan from the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank and a grant from the Northern Virginia Transit Authority.

Given the variety of transportation needs across different parts of the state, cooperation



COURTESY PHOTO

State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30, front row, center) is sworn in alongside several of his colleagues at the start of the Virginia General Assembly's 2016 legislative session. Ebbin was first elected to the seat in 2012.

between different jurisdictions is key. City Councilor Paul Smedberg said a number of regional bodies ease that process, as politicians of all stripes agree on many aspects of transportation policy for their area.

"We work together with the [Northern Virginia Transportation Commission], several of our state legislative representatives are Republican and many of them are from the Loudoun area, and they have different priorities at times, but yet we all work together pretty closely to make sure that the region is well represented," he said.

"I'm on the [Virginia Railway Express] board, and there's another case where you have a regional body but it's a very collaborative group,

despite our political or philosophical differences."

In addition, several city transportation issues have been taken up by the local delegation, including the desire to implement a floor on the Northern Virginia regional motor fuels sales tax. Currently, one gas tax goes to the commonwealth, while another goes to local jurisdictions in Northern Virginia on fuel bought there to help pay for transportation needs.

The commonwealth's collection of transportation funds has remained steady due to a floor that ensured that taxes collected could rise but not fall below a certain level. But there is no such provision in the local gas

SEE RICHMOND | 11



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**BLIZZARD** FROM | 1

aware of the task ahead of them.

“To put it in perspective, we have 560 lane miles of road, so if you think about each one of those lanes requiring somewhere between two and six passes to clear it, you wind up with what is actually thou-

sands of miles that has to be covered,” said city spokesman Craig Fifer. “Imagine if you had to drive thousands of miles, and you had to do it through two feet of snow, it would take a very long time. We understand that many residents are frustrated that the snow can’t be moved faster, but we anticipated that

kind of delay.”

When deciding whether to close city government, City Manager Mark Jinks makes the final call based on current conditions, taking into account closures from neighboring jurisdictions. The final decision is generally made in the evening after several local



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PHOTOS/CHRIS TEALE

Cars parked on Green Street wait to be dug out after the blizzard (top). A barge cuts through the ice on the Potomac River (middle). Gravestones at St. Mary’s Catholic Church Cemetery at South Washington and Church streets sit covered in snow (bottom).

and regional conference calls throughout the day.

ACPS officials said that their decision whether to close is made during a conference call between director of transportation David Rose, ACPS chief operating officer Clarence Stukes, Superintendent Alvin Crawley and chief of staff Tammy Ignacio, with the goal to communicate that decision by 5:30 a.m.

But Fifer said that while

the government may be closed, about half of city employees remain on the job, including first responders and essential human services employees like child protective service workers. To cope with the conditions, the Alexandria Police Department set up a central command center to keep track of its officers’ movements and what resources are available.

SEE **BLIZZARD** | 8



IMAGE/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Under ARHA's plan, the Ramsey Homes would be demolished and replaced by two three-story buildings comprising 53 mixed-income residential units and a central courtyard.

**RAMSEY** FROM | 1

residential units in two buildings, with a courtyard in the middle of the property. ARHA also is requesting an increase in floor area ratio to 2.0 and a rezoning of the property from RB townhouse zone, to CRMU-M, a mixed-use zone.

In an application filed with the city's department of planning and zoning, ARHA says the plans are in keeping with both the Braddock East master plan and the Braddock Metro neighborhood plan. Roy Priest, ARHA CEO, did not respond to requests for comment.

"Promoting a diverse residential population is consistent with the Braddock East Master Plan and the Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan as well as highly desirable to the health, social resiliency and vibrancy of the community," the application reads. "The design reflects the scale, rhythm and color palette of its neighbors and in that manner seeks to support the fabric and integrity of the community."

The new buildings would be three stories in height, which ARHA says is compliant with the Braddock East master plan.

"The three-story height is also consistent with the BEMP in that it recognizes the suggestion that new buildings should be generally no more than one story higher than adjacent buildings, while providing flex-

ibility in the unit mix," the application reads.

Current residents would be given the right to return to the new property according to ARHA's application, with the additional 38 units to be priced at income levels up to workforce housing limits. ARHA said in its application that the mix of income levels would help sustain public housing residents and support the community.

But as the proposal makes its way through the city bureaucracy, a lawsuit has been brought contesting city council's decision to allow demolition. Filed in Alexandria Circuit Court on October 9, 2015 as "Sadusky, Ninette v. City of Alexandria et al," the complaint includes a petition signed by property owners on nearby Pendleton Street and asks the four existing homes to be saved and rehabilitated for historic reasons.

"As a property owner within the historic Parker-Gray district, [the plaintiff] has interest in any development, including demolition of the Ramsey Homes, that negatively impacts the historic district," the complaint reads. "The approval of the demolition of the Ramsey Homes by city council negatively impacts her expectation of living in a historic district and impacts her property value negatively."

The complaint also criticizes council's deliberations at its public hearing on the matter on Sep-

tember 12, which it alleges was not solely focused on the six criteria set forth in the city's zoning ordinance to determine whether buildings or structures can be demolished in the district.

The complaint also cites a memo from City Manager Mark Jinks on September 11 outlining proposed future uses after demolition and a September 9 email regarding the option to fully redevelop the Ramsey Homes, and says both communications were improper. It ac-

cuses the city of not following its own guidelines on appeals of BAR decisions, which it says must be held within 75 days of the application of appeal being received by the city clerk. The complaint says that the hearing was scheduled 136 days after the appeal was received.

In a response filed on November 9, the city, represented by city attorney James Banks, says the 75-day guideline is

"merely directory" and questions whether it is appropriate grounds for a city council decision to be reversed.

"Under the petitioner's argument, an appealing party could lose its right to appeal by the mere inadvertence of the city clerk," the response reads. "In addition, an appealing party could also lose its right to ap-

SEE **RAMSEY** | 11

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PHOTO/STACEY FLINT

A city truck plows snow on Argyle Drive at lunchtime on Saturday.

## BLIZZARD FROM | 6

“It’s keeping track of all the players on the chessboard, because as soon as one of our cars gets stuck, that’s one less resource,” police spokeswoman Crystal Nosal said. “It’s also keeping track of what areas of the city have passable roads and what ones don’t, because our officers still had to respond to calls. So there were times on Saturday and Sunday where they had to park and walk to a call, versus just driving up to it.”

Since the weekend, plows have worked to clear streets, beginning with those determined as primary routes — about 40 percent of city streets — then progressing down to streets determined as secondary routes and then to residential streets. Fifer said it might take several more days for all streets to be cleared and urged patience.

“A lot of times, I think peo-

ple are envisioning that a plow is just going to come down their street and the street will be clear,” he said. “What actually has to happen in many cases is a front-end loader has to come in with a dump truck and a smaller plow, and all three have to work together to move the snow around. It can be very tedious and it can be very time-consuming.”

Moving forward, some may question why there are not more resources on hand to deal with a winter storm of this magnitude. But Fifer said there is additional cost associated with acquiring and maintaining more trucks and equipment, and that the return on investment may not be worthwhile if it is used infrequently.

“It is difficult to prepare for a storm of that intensity in a way that can clear the snow as quickly as a typical storm without spending millions of dollars

more than we already do,” Fifer said. “The community can have a conversation about the level of preparedness we would like to have and it’s a valid discussion, especially in the context of the budget. We try to strike a balance between expected outcomes and the cost of those outcomes.”

In an email Sunday, Mayor Allison Silberberg praised the work of crews clearing roads and encouraged residents to be cautious and allow the plows and other machinery to do their jobs.

“Our crews are doing an outstanding job, working around the clock to make our roads safe for us as fast as possible,” Silberberg wrote. “My heartfelt thanks to all those who are driving those snow plows. They have true grit! I am incredibly proud of our dedicated snow plow crews and entire staff to ensure our safety. Each of us needs to do our part and stay safe.”

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# Let's Eat



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The elegant yet casual Fontaine Caffe is not just for special occasions, birthdays or anniversaries, or the restaurant's wine club tastings. The cuisine is reliably scrumptious, reasonably priced and even healthy. All of the savory crepes are gluten-free and made with buckwheat flour, following the crepe-making style of Brittany, France. Upon request, patrons may have their orders of sweet crepes made with buckwheat flour, which renders even the sweet crepes gluten-free as well.

In addition, the chefs cook with extra virgin olive oil and any fried foods are fried in canola oil. Two of the most popular crepes, the Farmer's Market and the Zenist, are among the healthiest. The Farmers Market is a tasty crepe filled with fresh spinach, toma-

toes, sauteed zucchini, feta cheese and mushrooms. And the Zenist is made with lentils, tomatoes simmered in coriander coconut curry sauce and spinach.

As for other great healthy menu options, the local kale and lentil salad is fabulous and fresh, and the Mediterranean salad is as delicious as it is good for the diner.

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**RAMSEY** FROM | 7

peal if, for whatever reason, a public hearing scheduled to be conducted within 75 days was postponed or canceled, for example, due to an error in the advertisement, inclement weather, or failure to have a quorum.”

The city’s response went on to criticize the initial filing for not including ARHA as a party, and that the City of Alexandria is not an appropriate or proper party to file against. It also took issue with the complaint’s allegations of negative impacts on the historic fabric of the neighborhood and said they were not specific enough to demonstrate any harm caused.

A status conference for the suit is scheduled for 9 a.m. on February 8 at the city courthouse, while ARHA’s application with the city for redevelopment is ongoing.

**RICHMOND** FROM | 5

tax, and that is something that the city would like to change.

Delegate Mark Levine (D-45) has taken up that particular challenge in his first term since succeeding the now-retired Rob Krupicka, and said in an interview that a regional gas tax floor “makes sense” for the area.

Elsewhere, human services and employment needs are front and center, with Levine sponsoring a city-suggested bill that would give localities the flexibility to raise their minimum wage up to \$10 an hour and then beyond based on the consumer price index.

“Alexandria is a lot more expensive to live in than other parts of the state, and that’s a good thing because we have a good quality of life in Alexandria and Arlington and Fairfax and Northern Virginia,” he

said. “My hope is that my bill is local control, a conservative value, the idea that localities would be in charge. It allows each locality the ability to raise the minimum wage to what their representatives want. It’s complete local control.”

Not on the city’s initial agenda, but something that was suggested by City Councilor Justin Wilson, is a bill by state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) requiring vacant buildings to be registered with the locality. Ebbin said it was inspired in part by some vacant buildings in Alexandria that have sat unused for some time.

“This used to be the case until a few years ago, when there was a change in the code,” he said. “The city needs to be able to reach out to the owners. If there’s a problem or for whatever reason — if there’s a gas explosion or rodent infestation or whatever reason — they should be able to contact the owners if the owners are not going to be accessible at their residence.”

With Republicans controlling both houses of the General Assembly, Alexandria’s del-



COURTESY PHOTO

egates were reluctant to express too much optimism that the majority of this year’s initiatives would pass. But there is hope for the issues that have broad support across party lines.

“There are some things you know when you put it in that it’s going to be a real uphill battle,” said Bernie Caton, the city’s top lobbyist. “The first issue on our current one is funding for K-12 education, and that looks like we’re going to do well on that. There’s another one, the Virginia Pre-School Initiative, it looks like we’re going to do better on that than we thought

we would. We support the expansion of Medicaid. That is an uphill battle if there’s anything that is, because the Republicans are against it, the Democrats are for it.”

“I daresay my constituents love these bills, and I love them too, but I’m not naive,” Levine said. “Some of them are more likely to pass than others, but I think most of them are things and most of Northern Virginia will support but we probably won’t get a majority and I suspect most of the city’s agenda will not pass this year because we just don’t have the votes.”

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## SPORTS

# Maroon looks to build on winning run

**Episcopal girls basketball try to keep up the pace after six straight wins**

BY CHRIS TEALE

The early part of the season was tough for the Episcopal girls basketball team, which suffered a number of tough losses against strong opponents. But it was intentional scheduling on the part of Maroon head coach Katrina Reed, who said she wanted to prepare her players for a tough slate of conference games in the Independent Schools League.

Despite the 3-5 start to the season, the plan appears to have paid dividends as Episcopal went on a six-game winning streak, most recently securing a convincing 48-27 win over St. Andrew's on January 21, the Maroon's last game before the school's mid-winter break. Episcopal was scheduled to return to the court on January 27 away against local rivals St. Stephen's and St. Agnes, after

the Times' print deadline.

"I think our kids did a great job learning from those experiences, and some of them were very tough losses," Reed said. "It was actually the game [away against Collegiate, a 39-27 win] where we really started to see that chemistry and start to figure some things out and really believe in not only ourselves but one another. I think since that point, we've really hit a turn as a team and played some good basketball."

Those six wins in a row have included several lopsided margins of victory, including a 61-17 demolition of Sandy Spring Friends and a 57-20 beating of Madeira, both away from home. It has propelled the Maroon to the upper echelons of the ISL regular season standings, with the players attributing their great run to several factors.

"I think our chemistry as a team has helped us," said



PHOTO/CHRIS TEALE

Maroon guard Kaylin Shepherd examines her options in Episcopal's 48-27 win over St. Andrew's on January 21. Shepherd had 16 points in the victory, which was the Maroon's sixth in a row.

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freshman guard Kaylin Shepherd, who had 16 points in the win over St. Andrew's. "We're like a family now. As we work as a team, we keep winning and that chemistry grows. We do a lot of things off and on the court."

"We had a lot of tough games at the beginning of the season, and we knew our schedule was pretty stacked," said sophomore forward Lexi Weger, who also had 16 points against St. Andrew's. "After those games, we just came out, said this is the ISL and this is the year we're going to take it, and I think we've done a pretty good job of proving that to people right now."

Reed said that in those tough games against the likes of Bishop Ireton, Potomac and Trinity Episcopal among others, she looked beyond the scoreboard for an indication of how things were coming

together.

"As long as my kids give 100 percent effort, I'm happy," Reed said. "If you guys tell me you went out, followed the game plan, did everything you could to win and we still came up short, I'm happy as a coach. I think that as the season has progressed, we have started to play like that. Maybe in the beginning I had a little bit of butterflies, but I really did trust the girls and I trusted the system and I think they're starting to trust as well, which is why things are coming together."

The mid-winter break comes with several big challenges ahead for the Maroon. The team's schedule becomes a little more condensed between now and the end of the regular season on February 23,



PHOTO/CHRIS TEALE

Episcopal senior guard Bea Huffines is under pressure from several St. Andrew's defenders. The Maroon beat St. Andrew's 48-27 for its sixth straight win before the school took its mid-winter break.

**“As long as my kids give 100 percent effort, I’m happy. If you guys tell me you went out, followed the game plan, did everything you could to win and we still came up short, I’m happy as a coach. ... We’re learning life lessons on this court, and I think the girls have come to learn and appreciate that.”**

**- Katrina Reed,  
Head coach, Episcopal  
girls basketball**

#### EPISCOPAL FROM | 12

with the postseason starting a few days later. Reed said she sent her players home with an expectation of them doing a certain amount of conditioning work and drills on the court. However, she added that the break can be a good way to decompress ahead of the rest of the team’s campaign.

“[The break] can be a little daunting for a coach, but I think at the end of the season it really does pay off because the kids are so much more mentally and physically refreshed,” she said. “They have that time to go home, to heal their bodies, to get away from basketball, to stop listening to my voice and I think that’s healthy for them. I think it can be taxing, but in the long run it does do our team a service.”

With the school’s break now over, the onus is on the Maroon to keep up the momentum, especially with the

Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association’s latest poll placing the team at No. 6. Having achieved a 14-10 overall record last season, ending with defeats in the semifinals of the ISL tournament and the first round of the VISAA competition,

there is plenty more work to be done.

“We’re learning life lessons on this court, and I think the girls have come to learn and appreciate that and figure some things out in terms of their individual selves,” Reed said. “Hopefully they’re

starting to believe.”

“We should keep the energy up,” Weger said. “It’s going to be hard coming off not practicing for a couple of days, but I think if we come back into the gym and get focused, we’ll be unstoppable this year in the ISL.”



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## SCENE AROUND TOWN

# *The seedy underbelly of high society*

**'Grey Gardens' is a witty, tragic production**

BY JORDAN WRIGHT

For those of you who saw the 1976 Maysles brothers' documentary of the two Bouvier family women — mother Edith Bouvier Beale and daughter Little Edie, who lived in squalor in a decaying 25-room mansion in Easthampton, N.Y., the story behind The Little Theatre of Alexandria's latest production, "Grey Gardens," will be familiar.

Aunt and cousin to former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the two society women grew up with Jackie, but took distinctly separate paths. Their shocking story was chronicled in New York Magazine in the early 1970s.

Composer Scott Frankel and lyricist Michael Korie have turned Doug Wright's book into a riveting musical, bringing to life the tragic tale of a mother, who kept her daughter from leaving home, and a debutante daughter, whose guilt-ridden dreams of fame kept her at her eccentric mother's side. It's a tale with a dark side, told by the two reclusive women whose artistic leanings lead them down a rocky road to despair.

There is a certain fascination with the privileged and glamorous who have lost their fortune and are forced to live in reduced circumstances. And this tale does not disappoint. But it is also a fateful story of a mother's jealousy of her daughter's youth, beauty and eligible suitors, and her fear of living — and dying — alone.

Director Christopher Dykton has assembled a talented cast, taking us from 1941 with Little Edie played by Kate Collins Brown and the



PHOTOS/MATT LIPTAK  
The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "Grey Gardens" tells the tragic tale of a mother and daughter and their fall from high society. Nicky McDonnell stars as daughter Little Edie (top and left), desperate to break away from her domineering mother Big Edie (Jennifer Strand, right).

elder Edith portrayed brilliantly by Nicky McDonnell, who segues into the role of the daughter when Act 2 takes us to 1973 and Jennifer Strand becomes the Big Edie. Having seen the documentary, it's clear the three actresses nailed the characters, and their New York upper class

accents, perfectly. Costume designer Grant Kevin Lane completes the portrait by recreating the quirky clothing that Little Edie designed for herself.

In the 1940s, when Big Edie was married to "Major" Bouvier (Dick Reed), Grey Gardens was the setting for

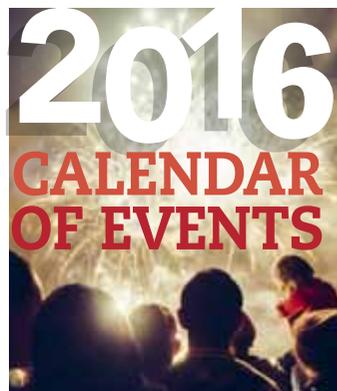
many lavish parties where she entertained her guests with popular songs of the day. Accompanied by her companion, pianist George Gould Strong (Blakeman Brophy), Jackie, Little Edie and Jackie's sister Lee Bouvier (Penelope Gallagher) sang along.

It was what the Major called "a madhouse, that bohemia." Abandoning his family on the night of Edie's announcement of her marriage to Joseph Kennedy Jr. (Marshall Cesena) and destroying Edie's chances at love and an escape from her mother's clutches, he fled to Mexico for a divorce. Meanwhile, her mother had already been undermining her by regaling young Joe with tales of her daughter's wild adventures at the local country club. "I'm not your daughter. I'm just your shadow," Edie realizes.

When the women's dire circumstances are revealed in the second act, "The money tree came down with Dutch Elm disease," Edith quips. Edie is now 56, her beauty fading fast. When she realizes she is forever tethered to her mother and their 52 felines, it is then she turns a gimlet eye to her mother's trap. "Nobody except a cat gets out," she laments.

"Grey Gardens" has sophisticated humor, witty Cole Porter-esque lyrics, fine dramatic performances and all the schadenfreude of a prominent family's personal debacle. It's tough to handle, but so is the truth.

*Through February 6 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. For tickets and information call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).*



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

**Now to February 11**

**BIRNIGHT BALL DANCE CLASS**

In preparation for the Birnnight Ball on February 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets cost \$12 per class or \$30 for the series.

**Time:** Each Thursday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4242 or [gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov)

**8TH ANNUAL GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY CHERRY CHALLENGE**

Celebrating George Washington's birthday, local restaurants offer dishes and beverages featuring cherries in the spirit of the old cherry tree tale. Visit over 50 participating restaurants during the contest and vote for your favorite cherry based items. The customer sampling the greatest number of competing items will receive the Frequent Cherry Diner Award.

**Time:** Daily  
**Location:** Participating restaurants throughout Alexandria  
**Information:** [www.washingtonbirthday.net/cherry-challenge](http://www.washingtonbirthday.net/cherry-challenge)

**January 29**

**CIVIL WAR WINE DINNER** Start your evening in the Museum for the first course and conversation with Gray Ghost Vineyards, whose wines are created on lands "Gray Ghost"

Confederate John S. Mosby and his men operated upon during the Civil War. Then head down to the restaurant's main dining room to experience more wine and great food inspired by the 19th century. Tickets cost \$100 per person.  
**Time:** 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4242 or [gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov)

**January 30**

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR**

Professor Alice Reagan of Northern Virginia Community College presents on the lives of Northern Virginia women during the Civil War, not only those that fled the fighting but those who remained to cope with occupation.

**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road  
**Information:** 703-746-1751 or [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us)

**WALT WHITMAN IN ALEXANDRIA**

Join Garrett Peck, local historian, for a lecture on Walt Whitman in Alexandria. Peck has researched Whitman's time in the hospitals of Washington, D.C. and his visits to Alexandria.

**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave.  
**Information:** 703-746-1751 or [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us)

**January 31**

**WONDERS OF SCIENCE**

Visit the apothecary and discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used and if they worked. During these hour-long tours, Project Enlightenment, McLean High School's historical-reenactment society, will conduct 18th century scientific demonstrations which are certain to expand visitors' knowledge about science in the 1700s. Tickets cost \$6 per person.

**Time:** 1 to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.  
**Information:** 703-746-3852

**February 4**

**HEROINES OF MERCY STREET**

Historian Pamela Toler lectures on her new book, "Heroines of Mercy Street," which tells the true stories of some of the remarkable women who worked as

nurses at the Mansion House Hospital, Alexandria's largest during the Civil War. Admission costs \$10 per person.  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4994

**February 5**

**MARDI GRAS IN ALEXANDRIA**

Wear purple, green and gold while enjoying the "Not So Modern Jazz Band Quartet Minus One" at First Friday's Mardi Gras in Alexandria. Carnival customs will be celebrated without leaving Alexandria.

**Time:** 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St.  
**Information:** 703-746-5565, [cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov) or [www.alexandriava.gov/arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/arts)

**February 6**

**BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE: TRAUMA CARE IN THE CIVIL WAR**

Dr. John Rathgeb, a semi-retired orthopedic surgeon and member of The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, explains and demonstrates medical practices of the Civil War. Learn about Civil War ammunition and the types of wounds it caused, about casualties, how they were evacuated from their locations and where they were treated.

**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St.  
**Information:** 703-746-1751 or [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us)

**THE GREEN FAMILY OF CABINETMAKERS: AN ALEXANDRIA INSTITUTION**

Dr. Oscar Fitzgerald, teacher of classes about antique furniture at the Smithsonian Institution/George Mason University Master's Program in the History of Decorative Arts, examines the Green family, how they made their money and became a prominent city family.

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 717 Queen St.  
**Information:** 703-746-1751 or [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us)

**11TH ANNUAL ALEXANDRIA WAREHOUSE SALE**

The Old Town Boutique District's annual designer warehouse sale, this year joined by other retailers from around the D.C. metropolitan region offering clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square  
**Information:** [www.oldtownboutique-district.com](http://www.oldtownboutique-district.com) or [www.alexandriaware-housesale.com](http://www.alexandriaware-housesale.com)

**CARLYLE HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**

Carlyle House celebrates the birthday of city founder John Carlyle, with festivities including 18th-century dancing, live music, Scottish history and a birthday treat. Admission is free, donations welcome.

**Time:** Noon to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.  
**Information:** [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com)

**February 7**

**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. Tickets cost \$35 per person.

**Time:** 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.  
**Information:** 703-746-4242 or [gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov)

**LYCEUM CONCERT SERIES**

With support from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the city's office of the arts, the Friday Morning Music Club will perform classical works by Beethoven, Brahms and other composers.

**Time:** 3 to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.  
**Information:** [www.fmmc.org/event/lyceum-concert-series-4/](http://www.fmmc.org/event/lyceum-concert-series-4/)

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7 PHOTO/HEATHER AND COLIN CHAPERON



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9 PHOTO/MELANIE PETERSON



10 PHOTO/KATIE BRISCOE



11 PHOTO/STACEY KASOFF

After the snow stopped falling, Alexandria residents took advantage of multiple snow days to have fun. (1) Campbell Reid climbs through a snow tunnel. (2) Cocktail for two. (3) Isabelle Flint, Sara Glade, and Eliza Spivey take the stairs. (4) Daniel Horowitz's license plate gets good laughs on N. Royal Street and provides a gauge for Saturday's snowfall. (5) Smith Spivey nails the sledding jump while his big sister Anne Miller loses her grip. (6) Beth Yancey gets a photo of her daughter Libby's message in the snow. (7) Eliana takes a nap in her sled. (8) A Mafia snowman brings his swagger to Beverley Hills. (9) Jason and Christine Gouka with dog Harlow and Ryan Ware relax on their "Parent Couch" snowbank while watching their children sled. (10) Hundreds bring their aim to Del Ray's organized snowball fight at Nicholas A. Colasanto Park. (11) Swimming snowman.

# At Home



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

Clambering roses put on a show on both sides of a trellis in this small garden. The large spaces between the slats in the trellis let the eye pass freely from one garden room to the next. Even though this is not a climbing rose, the trellis still offers support.

## Trellises: Going up

BY MARTY ROSS

Give your garden a lift with a trellis. They're versatile, vertical plant supports with lots of sculptural appeal. Even in the tiniest garden, you can find a place for a trellis.

When you put up a trellis, you're also adding an eye-catching architectural element to the garden. Besides providing a blank canvas for brilliant displays of bloom, trellises are extremely functional. A trellis will instantly block undesirable views, such as the view of the compost heap from a patio. A simple panel trellis — painted,

stained or weathered to a silvery gray — might serve as a privacy screen between your house and the neighbors'. Trellises mounted on the house or on the side of the garage break up an expanse of wall and give it more definition, echoing the geometry of a window, for example, or creating a sense of depth to make a small garden seem a little larger. Trellises look pretty on either side of a garden gate or by a patio. They're perfect along a porch rail.

Trellises are real space

SEE **TRELLISES** | 21

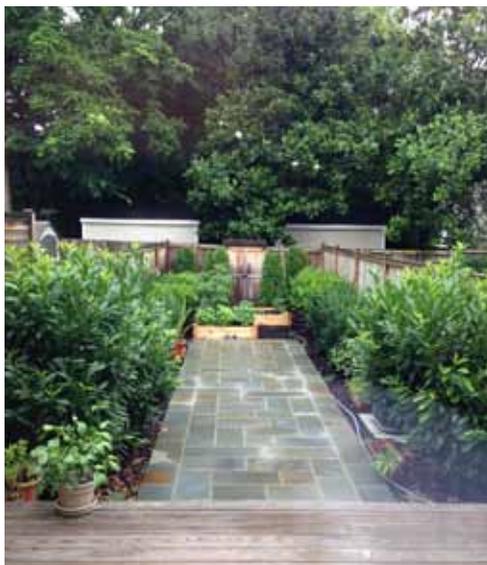
## — HOME OF THE WEEK —

### Experience the best of both worlds with this detached townhome

Enjoy Old Town living in this five year young custom home. Rich in architectural detail, this detached home, built in 2011, features an open floor plan with light-filled rooms, tall ceilings, beautiful moldings and gleaming hardwood floors throughout.

The kitchen is a chef's delight with a granite-topped center island and counters, stainless steel appliances and 42-inch maple cabinetry. Adjoining the kitchen is a family room with a gas fireplace flanked by custom built-ins.

French doors open to a beau-



tifully landscaped yard with a deck, patio and raised gardening beds. Two spacious upper level bedroom suites with double closets include a master bathroom with a double vanity, oversized shower and heated floors.

The house is conveniently located, just a few blocks from two Metro stations, shops and restaurants.

COURTESY PHOTOS

This detached home (right) is just a few blocks from the Metro, shops and restaurants. The beautifully landscaped back yard (left) is an urban retreat.



#### At a Glance:

**Location:** 423 N. West St.,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Neighborhood:** Old Town

**Price:** \$759,900

**Bedrooms:** 2

**Bathrooms:** 2.5

**Levels:** 2

**Year built:** 2011

**Contact:** Christine Garner,  
Weichert, Realtors, 703-587-4855,  
www.christineGarner.com

## Our View

# Observations in the aftermath of 'Snowzilla'

When a heavy snowstorm hits, it can be an isolating experience. In the span of a few hours, the seemingly innocuous flakes can completely cripple a city's infrastructure and leave families stranded in their own homes.

Within a day or two, the novelty of snow days wear off and cabin fever can set in. And with it, residents can become frustrated with what they perceive as a slow response from local government.

But with proper planning by city officials, strong community spirit and a little patience, storm clean-up can go off without a hitch. And that is precisely what happened in Alexandria this week, as a blizzard dumped nearly two feet of snow on the Port City, well over what the city typically sees over the course of an entire year.

In preparation for the storm, city officials had 80 trucks and snowplows from across the country at the ready to respond. Since Sunday, drivers have worked around the clock to clear Alexandria's more than 500 lane miles of roadway.

As of press time, all roads in the city have been deemed passable, meaning emergency vehicles can traverse them. Although it still will take several more days to ensure all streets are completely clear of snow, that is quite a feat and is worthy of praise.

Kudos goes to residents for their resilience in the face of this historic blizzard, and their willingness to band together to help out. Families teamed up to dig out driveways, sidewalks and smaller streets. And neighbors looked out for those who were unable to pitch in on their own, digging out elderly or injured residents.

Most importantly, Alexandrians mostly heeded the warnings of city leaders and remained home during the storm. As a result, there were no reported deaths; few, if any, injuries, and fewer disabled vehicles and other emergencies for first responders to deal with. Aside from the obvious benefits of that bit of good news, it meant officials could keep their focus on the task of snow removal.

That being said, there still is work to be done. Although offices and schools are beginning to reopen throughout the week, the job of clearing streets needs to be finished with the utmost expediency in order for life truly to return to normal.

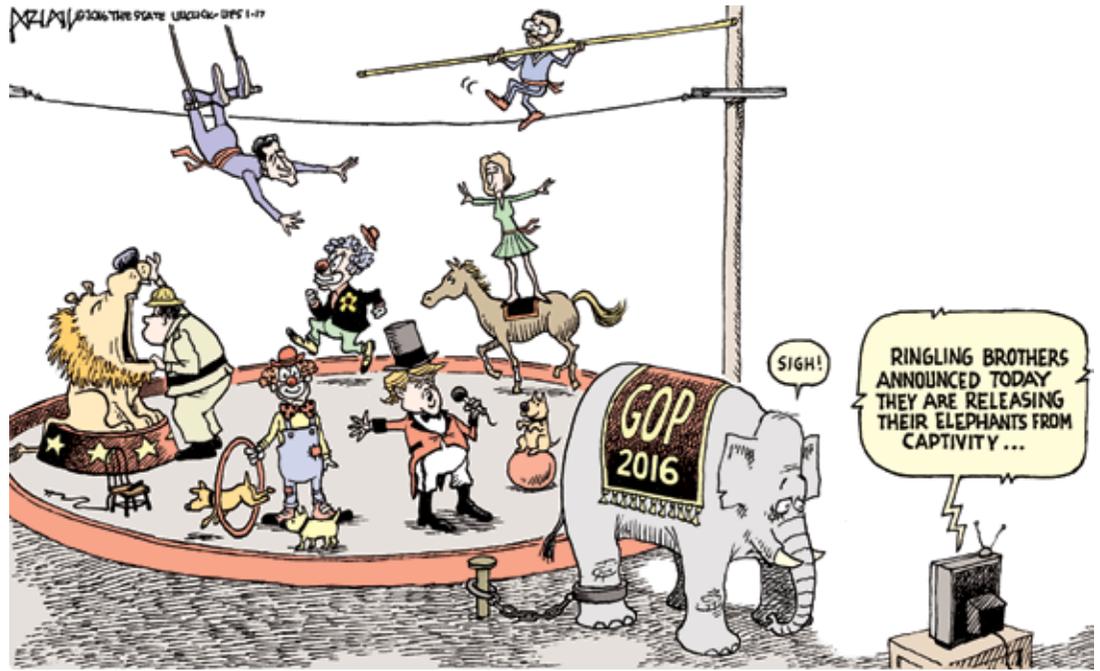
And while residents are anxious to return to their regular schedules, we urge them to remain patient. Clearing this much snow takes time.

Keep up that community spirit a little bit longer. Help your neighbors, especially if they are older residents. Don't fight over who dug out which parking space or whose space belongs to whom. And try to enjoy the white stuff, before it melts away.

# Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson



## Your Views

# We must protect Ramsey Homes history

To the editor:

Last week began with the 44th Martin Luther King Day, a day set aside to remember the man, the mission and the history. Sometimes history is ignored or set aside because it has become inconvenient. That is what is happening right now in the Parker-Gray neighborhood.

Ramsey Homes is slated to be torn down in favor of two apartment buildings, destroying an architectural milestone and erasing more green space. Ramsey Homes was designed by local architect Delos Smith, one of the original members of the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review, who also did work on the U.S. Capitol. Ramsey Homes was built in the fast disappearing Prairie style and housed African-American defense workers and African-American junior

officers during World War II.

The housing of the African-American junior officers marked one milestone on the path to the U.S. Army's desegregation in 1948. Even more interesting is the fact that the names of those defense workers that lived at Ramsey Homes during World War II were concealed from census data for security reasons, which strongly suggests that such workers were involved in sensitive war work.

As records become declassified, who is to say what unknown hero's story will be revealed? But by that time, Ramsey Homes will be gone. Ramsey Homes have been left in a state of neglect by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which now claims it is too expensive to rehabilitate, despite the fact that they spent \$4.8 million on their

own headquarters.

The city Department of Planning and Zoning has decided to let them have carte blanche in tearing it down, in searing contrast to how they regulate the homes of private citizens in the historic district. The sad part is that Ramsey Homes are history, a monument to the role of Alexandria's African-American community in the war effort and the larger story of the Parker-Gray neighborhood. But ARHA claims that they can cram more people into a more disposable building for a greater profit, and they are being allowed to do it.

I'm aware there are those who say that Ramsey Homes are too modest to merit their preservation, but we've seen the destruction that results when one group does not

# Investment in Parker-Gray Stadium would benefit the whole city

To the editor:

A community with good parks and adequate sports fields signals a city's strong values and commitment to the health and welfare of its citizens, both young and old. Never before has this been more important in Alexandria than now, as the city school board prepares to move forward with the Parker-Gray Stadium project at T.C. Williams High School.

As we continue to rapidly transition from a suburb of the nation's capital into a thriving, dense urban city, planning for athletic fields and park development needs to be accomplished right along with meeting the increasing need for more public school capacity. Investing in fields and parks now is imperative for the quality of our high school and our future as a city.

I served on the parks and recreation commission for more than two decades, and during that time, I helped lead a professional effort to document the city's shortfall in meeting the need for athletic fields for both our children and adults. We have made some headway in the last few years with the construction of several new fields, conversion of some grass fields to artificial turf and the installation of lights in a handful of locations. But these efforts have not come close to closing the gap in the demand.

The need continues to grow primarily due to there being more children in the city and a greater percentage of them playing sports. The same little feet rapidly overfilling our classrooms also need places to play formally and informally. This is a challenging but healthy reality for our vibrant, historic city. Alexandria has much to offer and increasingly, young families are looking to locate and stay here to raise their children. That's a good thing. But it means that many more kids are playing soccer, baseball, football, rugby, lacrosse, field hockey as well as track and field, even at very young ages.

Providing facilities for sports and rec-

reation is something we want to encourage and is a health imperative for Alexandria. We want our young people to develop life-long patterns through early participation in active play and team sports. We know it keeps them healthier and happier both now and over the long term as adults. Team sports undeniably teach invaluable lessons that will benefit our children later in life both at home and in the workplace.

Now that our city is virtually built out, with land becoming a very rare and expensive commodity, it is increasingly imperative that we fully develop our existing fields. This is one critical reason I'm in full support of the plan to modernize the Parker-Gray Stadium at T.C. Williams, the stadium of the much-storied Titans.

The proposed field rehabilitation at T.C. will include replacing the press box, expanding the concession stand, building much needed restrooms, replacing the sound system and, yes, installing stadium lights. Lights mean we can make much better use of the high school's only field. Teams will potentially use the field past 5 p.m. in the fall. Practice times can be extended into the early evenings as dusk comes earlier. And for the first time in more than three decades, our Titans can play under lights, something most people in this town would love to see again.

We are the only public high school in Northern Virginia without a lit stadium, without the camaraderie and excitement of night games for the school's track, football and soccer teams. It is time for the citizens of this community to step up and give our kids the same high school experiences as the rest of Northern Virginia.

This field project has been in the planning stage for nearly five years. It has been carefully considered and, if built, will be a tremendous resource for generations to come. The time has come for us to lend our voices in support.

- Judy Guse-Noritake  
Alexandria

important chapter in the history of the American soldier. Its destruction will eradicate history and make Alexandria even more of a cause of global warming by contributing to the heat island effect. If you have an opinion about this, I would share it with city council. Thank you.

- Michael Ford  
Alexandria

## RAMSEY HOMES

FROM | 18

value the story or the culture of others across the Middle East. ISIS, the Taliban and al-Qaeda have destroyed countless buildings and sites because they did not value the history that those structures represented. Ramsey Homes tell an important chapter in the history of Parker-Gray neighborhood and an



## The Business Plan

with Bill Reagan

# Supporting long-term Alexandria business success

You may have read recent articles about store closings at the start of the new year. Several of the notable closings were due to retirements, and we should celebrate their long and successful runs. However, as a city, we have several resources available to support and assist business owners to ensure that they can continue to enjoy long-lived success.

Alexandria is distinct for its collegial relationships among business, economic development, business organizations and government organizations. Trends in Alexandria are for more — not fewer — small businesses, and plans in process will generate even more visitors and shoppers.



Bill Reagan

One of the most beneficial steps an owner can take is to engage with the community. Business owners should join business groups or the city chamber of commerce, interact with other business owners and attend community meetings. All of these actions allow retailers to keep abreast of what's going on, find common solutions and provide feedback to key stakeholders. When owners don't choose to take their seat at the table, it often leads to owner frustration, misconceptions and costly errors.

Some business owners may feel like they need additional support. The Alexandria Small Business Development Center provides a wide variety of guidance to all types of businesses. For our retail and food service merchants in particular, we offer targeted programs and individual assistance, including in-store expert visits.

These one-on-one sessions offer feedback on indoor and outdoor store appearance, merchandizing, customer service and smart operations practices. Experts also advise retail and restaurant owners on establishing hours of operation that are con-

venient for customers and on making the most of festivals and events.

We are fortunate to be a city with several popular annual events that attract thousands of visitors. This gives retailers the opportunity to make a great impression and to build loyal customers that will return again and again. Window displays should dovetail with the celebration and staff should be welcoming.

Shoppers today are discerning and have many options. To compete, every business must have an online presence. At a minimum, their websites must answer questions that shoppers have about products, services, hours of operation, location and provide contact information. Businesses without an online presence may not survive in the future.

Because small business owners have varying degrees of familiarity with websites and social media, we provide workshops and individual consultations in those areas. Business owners can join our mailing list to receive notices of our free high-quality programs.

Lastly, there may come a time when a business owner feels that his or her physical location is no longer the right fit. Our colleagues at the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership can help owners find their ideal space, whether upsizing, downsizing or relocating.

Shoppers are making purchases in stores, and small businesses are more popular than ever. Our thriving community of tuned-in and engaged Alexandria merchants proves that every day. We are glad to be able to support this community and those retailers that make our city so unique.

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

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## OUT OF THE ATTIC

### At GW High School, some California dreamin'

Another of the legendary musical performers that attended George Washington High School in Alexandria's Del Ray neighborhood was Ellen Naomi Cohen, who became known the world over as Mama Cass Elliot. Cohen was born in Baltimore in 1941 to the children of Russian immigrants. The family moved to Alexandria in her childhood and rented an apartment at 1502 Commonwealth Ave.

Cohen did her best to fit in at GW, and adopted the nickname "Cass" possibly after the well-known comedian of the time, Peggy Cass. At the school she became interested in the performing arts and during the summer of her senior year she was cast in a production of the comedic farce, "The Boy Friend" at the Owings Mills Playhouse in Maryland. There she played the minor role of a French nurse, but her vocal talents lifted the production immensely with her solo rendition of "It's nicer, much nicer, in Nice."

Cass left high school before graduation in 1961 and moved to New York where she assumed the stage name Elliot in memory of a recently departed friend. She worked at The Showplace nightclub in Greenwich Village as a singing coat check attendant, and could often be found performing at late-night "open mike" at area bars. In 1962, after losing out to Barbra Streisand for a part in the Broadway production of "I Can Get it for You Wholesale," she returned to the Washington area to attend American University.



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Once back in D.C., she formed a trio with singers Tim Rose and John Brown called "The Triumvirate" and became accomplished in both popular and country musical genres and the emerging trend of folk music. During this time she also produced an off-Broadway play at New York's Café La Mama, which may have influenced her future nickname.

By 1963, John Brown left the group and was replaced by James Hendricks. The trio was renamed "The Big Three" often billed as featuring "Mama Cass Elliot," and later that year Elliot actually married Hendricks to prevent his being drafted into the Vietnam War. A year later, Rose left the group and two new members, Zal Yanovsky and Denny Doherty, joined to form a quartet with the name "The Mugwumps."

But in the quickly shifting world of musical evolution during the mid-1960s, the group split after only eight months, even before their first album was cut. Hendricks moved to Los Angeles, Yanovsky joined with John Sebas-

tian to form "The Lovin' Spoonful" and Doherty joined "The New Journeymen," a West Coast musical group that included Alexandria's own John Phillips, himself a GW graduate from 1951.

Although Phillips had met Elliot in New York several years earlier, they did not overlap at their mutual hometown high school, and it was Doherty who convinced Phillips and his new wife, Michelle, to have Elliot join the group. Known informally in the music world simply as Mama Cass due to her large size and commanding voice, it was Elliot who ultimately suggested the new group be called "The Mamas and the Papas." Within months the new quartet was soon catapulted to superstar status in the "Flower Power" movement, with hit after hit playing worldwide.

Cass Elliot sang with the Phillips group until their final album in 1971, but often played solo venues in the years before. She had a spectacular flame-out in Las Vegas in 1968 after a throat illness and her first case of solo jitters caused her voice to break during two concerts on the same evening, but she apologized to the audience and recovered her singing reputation soon after. By 1974, she was at the height of her solo career and in July she performed to sold-out audiences at London's Palladium. But tragically, on the night of July 28, she died in London of a heart attack in her sleep at the borrowed Mayfair flat of songwriter Harry Nilsson. She was just 32 years old.

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

## FROM THE WEB

[In response to "City grapples with recent business closures," January 21:](#)

### West Ender writes:

Outside of the H&M, there aren't many Old Town stores that cater to people under the age of 35. Speaking as one of those under-35ers, I prefer to take my disposable income to the Pentagon City mall, which recently renovated, or to some of the high-end retailers in D.C. Tysons Corner is too far away.

[In response to "Your View: State ethics rules are not enough," January 21:](#)

### DelRay821 writes:

Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, and so there are very real limitations on local government. Alexandria could probably have an ethics commission, but I doubt that Alexandria could have more stringent laws on conflicts of interest, etc. than are defined in state law.

**WHO CARES?  
WE DO.**

Email comments,  
rants & raves to  
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## Weekly Poll

### Last Week

**Do you view the spate of recent small business closings in Alexandria as a short term blip or a troubling longer term trend?**

● **75% Trend.**

● **25% Blip.**

73 Votes

### This Week

**How do you rate the job the city of Alexandria did handling last week's blizzard?**

**A. They did a good job.**

**B. They seemed unprepared.**

**C. My street is still not plowed.**

Take the poll at alextimes.com



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

A trellis in a container adds instant architecture and gives a garden an important vertical accent. Even in a flowerpot, a trellis will let you grow all kinds of flowering vines or even vegetables (such as cucumbers or peas). A colorful pot and a striking geometric trellis look great even before the vines start to grow.



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

This trellis makes a friendly fence and a good backdrop for handsome garden plants. Panel trellises are easy to install on posts. With its arched top, this trellis reflects the architecture of the home.

## TRELLISES

FROM | 17

savers, too. If you're running out of places for plants, you can grow roses, clematis, peas, beans and many other climbing plants on trellises; they have a very small footprint but make room for flowers or an impressive harvest of fresh vegetables.

In vegetable gardens, trellises can be extended along the length of a bed for peas or cucumbers, and they hardly take up any room at all. Just be sure you position them in such a way that they do not rob the rest of the bed of its sunlight.

For centuries, garden designers have employed trellises to create fanciful and useful accents up against garden walls, and to help define garden rooms. All trellises naturally create gentle boundaries — see-through walls that introduce veils of color and texture. Sometimes they're meant to stand on their own, without any plants on them.

In the 16th century, willow whips and trimmed shoots from fruit and nut trees provided excellent pliable trellis material, and they remain highly serviceable to this day, especially for rustic pieces. Bamboo poles make tremendously sturdy trellises. If you're looking for a great garden project, lots of trellis plans and supplies are available on the bookshelves and in the regular aisles at builders supply stores. And you'll find all kinds of ready-made trellises at garden shops, too, made of wood and metal, and in colors as bright as any garden.

Trellising can mirror the architecture of almost any house style. Bentwood trellises seem perfect for bungalows and cottages. More sharply angular trellises lend themselves naturally to the Craftsman style. Slim trellis panels fit into tight spaces, which makes them suitable for Federal style facades and backyards and patios. Geor-

gian and Palladian styles call for arched trellises.

In a large garden, you can put several panels of trellis together to form a backdrop for larger plants. It's the same effect as a wood fence, but more discreet and friendlier. Unlike a hedge of junipers or hornbeams, a trellis needs no watering or pruning, and will never outgrow its spot.

In tiny gardens, trellises almost have to be part of the garden plan. Even a window box has room for a little trellis and would look wonderful with annual black-eyed Susan vines twining up it. On a

south-facing balcony, a series of trellises in deck-rail planters would offer a lot of protection from the hot summer sun. On a small patio, you can put a trellis in a large flowerpot, plant it with cucumbers or cherry tomatoes, and pick your own salads all summer long. Almost any cascading plant, including petunias, nasturtiums or licorice plant, could be trained up a trellis instead of being allowed to tumble freely.

Trellises are low-cost, high-impact garden solutions, handsome as soon as you put them up. This might be the year to give them a try.

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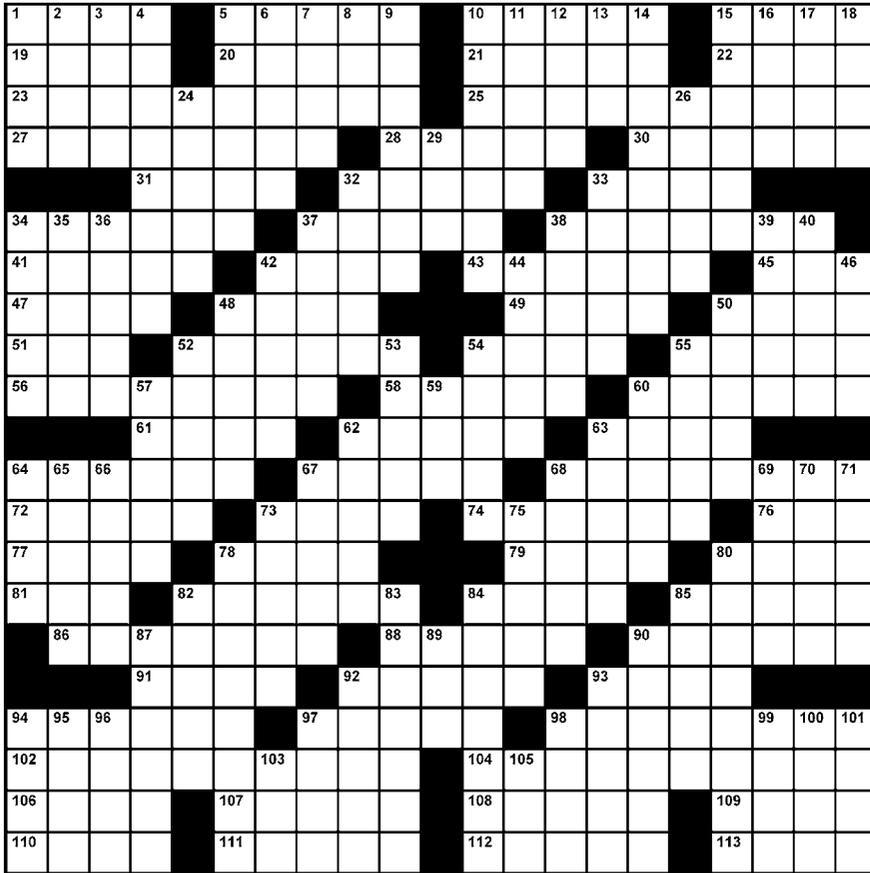
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# Weekly Words



## TO MUCH By Rob Lee

**ACROSS**

- 1 Withdraws (with "out")
- 5 Eva or Zsa Zsa
- 10 Full and then some
- 15 Columbus ship
- 19 Slimy goo
- 20 "\_\_\_ Mio" (Enrico Caruso hit)
- 21 Ancient manuscript dagger signs
- 22 Mideast prince
- 23 How rivals often go?
- 25 One after the other
- 27 Chef's device
- 28 Gum attachments
- 30 Collections of minute bubbles
- 31 Speaker of baseball fame
- 32 Wilkes-\_\_\_, Pa.
- 33 Bygone telephone device
- 34 Drive-in feature
- 37 India's monetary unit
- 38 Place for mascara
- 41 "The Little Engine That \_\_\_"
- 42 Cause for alarm?
- 43 Guilty of neglect
- 45 One of two hardy followers?
- 47 In a skillful manner
- 48 Gets hitched to
- 49 Unload stress
- 50 Ice block
- 51 Fix start?
- 52 Small Jewish village of yore
- 54 North Atlantic floater
- 55 \_\_\_ motion (begin)
- 56 Like some grins

- 58 Illegal lending practice
- 60 Italian frozen dessert
- 61 Vaccine type
- 62 Gooseflesh-inducing
- 63 Lunch or dinner
- 64 Queen Anne's last name
- 67 Ritzy
- 68 One way to see
- 72 Showy and pretentious
- 73 Famous or Tori
- 74 Word puzzle heading
- 76 Cribbage board accessory
- 77 Tallow ingredient
- 78 Affirm confidently
- 79 Run with a long, easy stride
- 80 Where the heart is, proverbially
- 81 Yon maiden fair
- 82 Easily swayed
- 84 Walk through water
- 85 Surrenders, formally
- 86 Not quite identical
- 88 Notched and jagged
- 90 Having a rhythmical fall
- 91 On the level?
- 92 Outpost group
- 93 Attach pictures to the wall
- 94 Having hands, as a clock
- 97 Pondered
- 98 Fragrant flower
- 102 In-person, as an interview
- 104 Type of combat
- 106 Like some bird species
- 107 Skating sites
- 108 Clean off a chalkboard

- 109 \_\_\_ and for all
- 110 Ten equal a sawbuck
- 111 Dough raiser
- 112 Certain salamanders
- 113 Guys' counterparts

**DOWN**

- 1 Daredevils induce them
- 2 Rhyme writer
- 3 Former Russian ruler (var.)
- 4 Without getting excited
- 5 Encouragement to enter
- 6 Burning leftovers
- 7 South African colonist
- 8 Motor or schnozz ender
- 9 Bureaucratic stuff
- 10 Less drunk
- 11 Lessen, as a storm
- 12 Electronics, for short
- 13 Wapiti
- 14 Most scatterbrained
- 15 Interstellar gas cloud
- 16 Islamic religious leader
- 17 Easy's partner
- 18 Boats of refuge
- 24 Exhausted
- 26 Opaque gems
- 29 Bard's "before"
- 32 Popped, as a balloon
- 33 Passing away
- 34 Land extension?
- 35 Charmer's snake
- 36 Pencil-box accessory
- 37 Bill addendum

- 38 Board of manicurists
- 39 \_\_\_ door (closed an entranceway)
- 40 Garb for an abbees
- 42 Kind of monitor or position
- 44 Each partner
- 46 Nevada town
- 48 Major U.S. farm export
- 50 String quartet member
- 52 Apologetic word
- 53 "Star Wars" creator George
- 54 Muslim woman's garment
- 55 Theater capacity
- 57 Wedding reception event
- 59 \_\_\_ Pedro Bay
- 60 V-formation flock
- 62 Like court testimony
- 63 Shortsighted one?
- 64 Part of Miss America's attire
- 65 Puts into alignment
- 66 Gestation locations
- 67 Ugly kind of campaign
- 68 Wear away
- 69 Greek lyric poem
- 70 Arab nation
- 71 Discharge through the pores
- 73 Concerning birds
- 75 Manila envelope fastener
- 78 Symbolic representation
- 80 Spiny-haired mammal
- 82 Swivel
- 83 Minimally worded
- 84 Flightless New Zealand rail
- 85 Positive attitude
- 87 Free-for-alls
- 89 Fish spawn
- 90 Bills of fare
- 92 Tummy operations
- 93 Possessed, to King James
- 94 Round hairdo
- 95 Indian flatbread
- 96 Grassland unit
- 97 "Give that \_\_\_ cigar!"
- 98 Emulate a beaver
- 99 "Peter Pan" dog
- 100 Not omitted (Abbr.)
- 101 Drinks at sidewalk stands
- 103 "Fee, \_\_\_, foe, fum"
- 105 "How \_\_\_ you?"

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**DIVORCE -** Uncontested, \$450 + \$88 court cost. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Telephone inquiries welcome - no obligation. Hilton Oliver, Attorney. 757-490-0126. Se Habla Español.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**DEONTAE, KEMETREE, AND DETRIC HAMILTON**

CARE AND PROTECTION  
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS  
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION  
DOCKET NUMBER: 15CP0032PT

Trial Court of Massachusetts  
Juvenile Court Department  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Berkshire County Juvenile Court  
190 North Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 443-8533

TO: David A. Morrison, father of Deontae Jamaan Hamilton (DOB 06/21/98), Kemetree Messiah Hamilton (DOB 03/16/00), and Detric Demarkus Hamilton (DOB 11/22/02), born to Sherine Motique Hamilton in Pittsfield, MA

A petition has been presented to this court by Department of Children & Families, seeking, as to the following child(ren), Deontae Jamaan Hamilton, Kemetree Messiah Hamilton, Detric Demarkus Hamilton, that said child(ren) be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, or guardianship or any other disposition of the child(ren) named herein, if it finds that the child(ren) is/are in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child(ren) would be served by said disposition.

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: 02/26/2016 09:00 AM Other Hearing

You may bring an attorney with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.

If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter with a trial on the merits of the petition and an adjudication of this matter.

For further information, call the Office of the Clerk- Magistrate at (413) 443-8533.

WITNESS:  
Hon. Joan M. McMenemy  
FIRST JUSTICE  
DATE ISSUED: 1/11/2016  
Laura Rueli  
CLERK-MAGISTRATE

**ABC NOTICE**

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

**PUBLISHING NOTICE**

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

[Full name(s) of owner(s)] Abyssinia Mart LLC  
If general partnership, enter partners' names or name of partnership. If LP, LLP, LLC or corporation, enter name as recorded with the State Corporation Commission. If association or tax-exempt private club, enter name. Only if a sole proprietor, enter first, middle and last name.

Trading as: Abyssinia Mart  
(trade name)

720 Jefferson St  
(exact street address where business will trade)

Alexandria  
(city/town)

Virginia 22314-4215  
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer Off Premises/Keg Permit license  
(type[s] of license[s] applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Bridgette A. FAW  
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

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

**Classifieds**



**ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 2016**

In accordance with Virginia State Code Section 15.2-2006, the following is the second publication of notice of a request for vacation of public right-of-way. A request for a vacation of public right-of-way at 305 Franklin Street has been filed with the City of Alexandria by Margaret Robinson, represented by John Savage, Architect. The request is scheduled to be considered at public hearings before Planning Commission on February 4, 2016 at 7:00pm and City Council on February 20, 2016 at 9:30am. Both meetings will be held in City Hall at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. In the event that the February 4, 2016 meeting is canceled, the request will be heard on February 2, 2016. For further information, contact the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-746-4666 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/planning](http://www.alexandriava.gov/planning).

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**Obituaries**

**MARTIN E. ABEL (81)**, of Alexandria, January 3, 2016

**MILDRED J. ASHWORTH (93)**, formerly of Alexandria, January 16, 2016

**RUTH L. BLANKENSHIP (84)**, of Alexandria, January 11, 2016

**SAMUEL B. BROWN**, of Alexandria, January 5, 2016

**ROBERT L. CHARLTON (89)**, formerly of Alexandria, January 10, 2016

**GAIL J. FARMER (69)**, formerly of Alexandria, January 20, 2016

**MARVIN B. GREENFIELD (90)**, formerly of Alexandria, January 21, 2016

**RUTH M. HEIMBURG**, of Alexandria, December 31, 2015

**CHARLES HOWE (89)**, formerly of Alexandria, January 8, 2016

**BARBARA B.M. HUGHES**, of Alexandria, October 1, 2015

**WILLIAM F. KEENAN**, formerly of Alexandria, January 18, 2016

**HAROLD H. MCKINLEY (79)**, of Alexandria, January 15, 2016

**CAROLYN N. MCDONALD**, of Alexandria, December 22, 2015

**DR. RUTH PERTEL (80)**, of Alexandria, January 5, 2016

**GORDON P. PEYTON JR.**, of Alexandria, January 13, 2016

**DIANA N. PHILLIPS (76)**, of Alexandria, January 19, 2016

**LAWRENCE O. SANDERS**, formerly of Alexandria, January 21, 2016

**PATRICIA A.L. SCHICK**, of Alexandria, January 9, 2016

**ALICE L. SWALM (99)**, of Alexandria, January 10, 2016

**STEVEN R. TROXEL (50)**, of Alexandria, January 8, 2016

**MARY J. TUCKER (81)**, of Alexandria, May 23, 2015

**JOHN W. VIA JR. (83)**, of Alexandria, January 9, 2016

**PEGGY T. WATSON (84)**, of Alexandria, January 17, 2016

**GEORGE C. WILLIAMS JR. (89)**, formerly of Alexandria, January 13, 2016

**CHARLES ZISSIOS (69)**, of Alexandria, January 9, 2016

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**ROBERT BEATSON**  
ATTORNEY/ACCOUNTANT

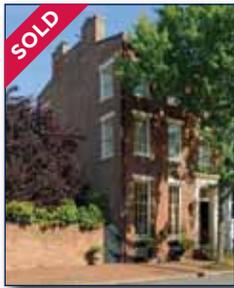
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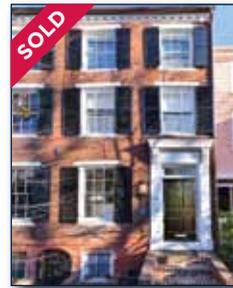
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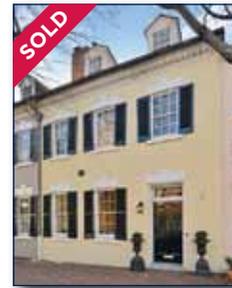
106 Wolfe St



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310 S St Asaph St



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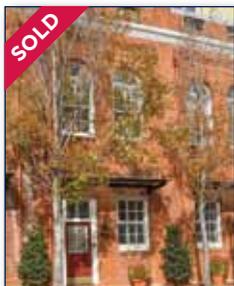
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