Details of NSF agreement fall under scrutiny

BY DERRICK PERKINS

After celebrating the National Science Foundation’s announced relocation as a major coup earlier this year, city leaders questioned the deal’s cost over the weekend — specifically how it affects subsidies for affordable housing.

Luring the foundation to Alexandria required a competitive package: The landmark deal saves the organization about $28 million in real estate taxes over 15 years. City Hall also freed it from contributing to the Eisenhower Avenue improvement and affordable housing funds.

The latter concession has drawn scrutiny as officials formalize the deal and green-light the project. Fearing it signaled a shift in Alexandria’s approach to affordable housing — which has plummeted by more than 1,200 units in recent years — planning commission-ers recommended city council shunt tax dollars into the fund.

City officials partnered with local developers to lure the National Science Foundation to Alexandria. But dropping mandated contributions to the affordable housing fund has sparked controversy.

Too sweet of a deal?

City council renames park in honor of murdered activist

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Jubilation filled the city council chamber Saturday after Alexandria’s top elected officials unanimously agreed to rename Braddock Field for slain activist Lenwood “Lenny” Harris.

The room’s usually formal atmosphere gave way to bittersweet joy as friends and family remembered Harris, who championed youth, the city’s minority population and the impoverished. Harris, 53 when he died, was murdered in 2011.

“I think we’ve all heard the kind of tremendous impact this extraordinary man had,” said City Councilor Del Pepper. “I think that the naming of this field is really going to remind people that his spirit does live on, and the kind of person that he was and the kind of dreams that he had for everyone will live on.”

Harris founded Operation Hope (which has become the Lenny Harris Legacy Corp.), a local organization that supported youth programs and ran the annual One Love Festival. The Del Ray family man also was known for tackling contentious community disagreements head on.

Just months before his death, Harris organized a neighborhood get-together after tensions between Chatham Square residents flared up. Reports of lawlessness in the mixed-income community in north Old Town had left the neighborhood’s public housing and minority populations shamed and outraged.

Harris hoped to bring residents of the traditionally black community together with their new neighbors. But in September 2011, Harris hopped into his car and vanished into the night.

His disappearance stumped
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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</table>
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Boat club responds to mayor’s offer for waterfront property

Group would allow pedestrian walkway but retain ownership

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Old Dominion Boat Club leadership presented their counteroffer for the group’s waterfront parking lot last week, but it falls well short of handing the property over to City Hall.

The club’s proposed solution would see a 25-foot-wide pedestrian walkway run along the parking lot’s western edge. But the decades-old organization would retain ownership of the land, instead granting the city an easement on it.

“This compromise position will nearly achieve the city’s goal of a continuous public walkway along the waterfront,” wrote Eric DeSoto, club chairman, in a letter to Mayor Bill Euille. “We believe 25 feet is wider than nearly any other sidewalk or walkway in the city, and in fact, [it’s] wide enough to give the sense of a mini-plaza at that location if the city desires.”

Club leaders presented a similar solution to another one of the city’s longstanding demands, offering to lease adjacent parking spaces for flood mitigation efforts. Again, though, the organization would hold onto the property.

It’s not clear if local officials will accept the club’s proposal. Euille’s nine-point plan to end the years of negotiations for the property — sent in June — called for the organization to sell the parking lot and nearby spaces to City Hall.

A city spokesperson did not return a request for comment by the Times’ print deadline. Though on-again, off-again negotiations for the shoreline property have dragged on for years, talks heated up with the controversial approval of the waterfront redevelopment plan. The blueprint calls for converting the parking lot into a public plaza, which officials have described as the crown jewel of the proposal’s public improvements.

The club’s counteroffer comes on the heels of news that City Hall is once again seriously considering eminent domain to secure the property. Euille announced the policy shift in a major press conference earlier this month, telling reporters it was time to end the dispute.

Officials will open up the issue to the public at a hearing next month. The city council will decide whether to proceed with eminent domain shortly thereafter.
CRIME

City council removes bike registry ordinance

On Saturday, the city council voted 7-0 in favor of eliminating an arcane piece of Alexandria’s bicycle regulations, which required local shops to log sales of two-wheelers with police.

The measure was a loose end after the city approved a sweeping reform of bike rules, such as allowing riding on sidewalks in parts of Alexandria, earlier this year.

Police originally requested the unenforced registration requirement remain intact. But after public outcry from cyclists and business owners, the department changed its tune, encouraging residents to use a voluntary national database.

The only dissenting voice to the ordinance’s removal was frequent council critic Dino Drudi. Before the vote, he explained that while the local police database was a bad idea, a registry requirement is needed.

“If cyclists want to be treated in a bona fide way, if they want to be treated seriously, they should be in favor of a registry requirement,” Drudi said. “For police to do the registration is probably not the best way, but I would recommend you revise the legislation to require that bikes be registered with the national registry.”

- Erich Wagner

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between October 16 and October 23.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assaults</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assaults with a Deadly Weapon</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Offenses</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Crimes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaking &amp; Enteringings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robberies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Thefts</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
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*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.
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All’s not quiet on District 45 front

**Krupicka, Engle square off for General Assembly seat**

BY ERICH WAGNER

The race between Delegate Rob Krupicka (D-45) and challenger Jeffrey Engle, an independent, for a seat in Richmond has been quieter than last year’s special election. But both candidates are pounding the pavement to secure votes for Election Day.

Krupicka, a Democrat who won last year to fill former Delegate David Englin’s seat, is approaching the race with an incumbent’s perspective — and in terms of fundraising, it shows. According to the Virginia Public Access Project, he has raised nearly $84,000, compared to just $9,750 for Engle.

“[My goal is to] address the existing onerous legislation present within the laws and codes of the commonwealth, in partnership with localities and businesses, to ensure that no other state is better positioned for innovation and economic growth,” Engle wrote.

Meanwhile, Krupicka is banking on his experience. “I’m running on my record,” he said. “I’ve served the area for nearly 20 years in various capacities. I love my community, and I feel we’ve done a lot of great work together. We need to make our schools better, support the environment and improve transportation options, especially mass transit.”

“[I] want to make sure we live in a community that gives everyone a fair shot at equality.”

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Recovering from the shutdown

Federal workers, business leaders learn to prepare for the worst

By Anna Harris

The 16-day partial government shutdown ended last week, but the deal struck to get Washington up and running again has left many with lingering doubts.

The bill signed by President Barack Obama that ended the impasse and raised the debt ceiling was a temporary fix that only lasts through February 7, with current spending levels supported through January 15.

Cheri Hennessy, president of the Christmas Attic and Urban Attic stores, fears a repeat of this past month.

“We were just getting over the economic downturn, and they made us go through this,” she said. “Now we have to deal with it again in February. ... The marketplace doesn’t need that uncertainty.”

Even though the shutdown is history, it has long-term effects on the local business community, Hennessy said.

“This little ripple effect of the past two weeks is going to affect the economy as a whole for the next six months,” she said. “Whenever there’s a negative impact, I’m afraid to buy inventory, which affects the manufacturers. It’ll take a little while to get confidence back and start taking risks again.”

Hotels suffered immediately during the shutdown, weathering a slew of conference and event cancellations. But unlike Hennessy, members of the hospitality industry are less worried, at least according to Alizia McClarin, conference services coordinator with Hotel Monaco.

“It hasn’t affected us for the future in a huge dynamic way,” she said. “[There] are small things we might have to make up ... but hotels can always sell the rooms back. We can fill them. It’s not like retail and food businesses, where once you’ve bought the merchandise or the food, you need to sell it back, and if you don’t, you’re losing money. We already have the rooms.”

She believes it’s important to stay positive and focus on bouncing back.

“You want to be proactive about these kinds of things,” McClarin said. “Don’t panic. Have a backup plan. Fill in the missing rooms. As long as you know your market and who you can get to, you can fill them.”

And, according to McClarin, the shutdown served as a learning experience.

“Luckily, it’s over for now. In a way, it’s good that it happened,” she said. “Knowing that it could happen again soon, we can prepare. We know how to bounce back from it.”

It’s a lesson that Jacqueline Rodriguez, a management specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also has taken to heart. Furloughed during the shutdown, the experience shook her out of complacency.

“I didn’t even know what to expect,” she said. “After the two weeks hit, reality hit too. I better get my act in gear.”

Though Rodriguez has returned to work with the promise of back pay for the temporary hiatus, she is focused on becoming more proactive about her personal finances.

“My dad always used to tell me growing up: ‘Always have enough money and save it just in case,’” Rodriguez said. “I can’t assume anymore. Always work as if you might not have the business anymore. You need something to fall back on. Always have plan A and B and even plan C.”

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Evidenced-based care, close to home

City Councilor John Chapman successfully convinced his colleagues Saturday to follow the commission’s lead by considering redirecting $500,000 in real estate taxes toward the affordable housing fund at a later date. But the suggestion reignited an old debate about using tax dollars to preserve affordable housing.

How and when to set aside money for the cause, not to mention how much and where to spend it, have become contentious issues as redevelopment and gentrification force out increasingly more low-income residents. City officials said the foundation’s contribution for the cause would have been $1,043,725.

“With this project coming and affordable housing being taken off the table, that signals something, and I think that it has signaled something to a lot of citizens,” Chapman said.

Instead of waiting until later, Chapman wants the $500,000 of taxes earmarked for affordable housing during the foundation’s construction, which troubled City Councillors Paul Smedberg and Justin Wilson. Both strongly oppose setting aside tax dollars independent of the negotiations that mark budget season.

While affordable housing is a priority, it’s not the city’s sole focus, they argued. Any allocations must be made in the context of other needs, like school and public safety funding.

“I object to making budgetary decisions outside of the tradeoffs that are inherent in that year’s budget,” Wilson said. “And so if we want to have a discussion about allocating $500,000 of next year’s tax revenue to affordable housing, let’s have that discussion when we’re in the budget process and we’re weighing it against everything else.”

The duo also argued that without the package, which included eliminating the affordable housing contribution, the foundation would have stayed in Arlington or relocated elsewhere. Either way, Alexandria would have lost out, Wilson said.

“Clearly we did something here that we’ve never done before,” Wilson said. “We used ... incentives to try and attract an employer to the city and encourage community development that, quite frankly, had we not put this incentive package on the table, would not have happened.”

The organization’s arrival in Alexandria is expected to spur job growth and redevelopment efforts, particularly in the Eisenhower Avenue corridor. Along with 2,400 jobs, the presence of the National Science Foundation — which draws about 200,000 visitors annually — will lead to at least one new hotel, an apartment building and several office buildings, officials said.

Local business experts believe the federal agency could generate as much as $83 million for the city’s economy through the course of its 15-year lease.
Mayor misspoke on eminent domain

Discrepancy comes to light as land grab considered on waterfront

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Eminent domain is and always has been a contentious term, especially in the run-up to last year’s election, when Mayor Bill Euille touted — erroneously — his record of eschewing land grabs.

“There has been no use of eminent domain on any properties along the waterfront,” Euille shot back at then-mayoral candidate Andrew Macdonald during a heated October 2012 debate. “As a matter of fact, there’s been no use of eminent domain since I’ve been serving on city council the past 18 years.”

Euille made this claim during a pointed exchange about a then-proposed amendment to the state constitution, which made invoking eminent domain costly and more difficult (this alteration became law).

But just a few months earlier, officials turned to eminent domain for the first time in recent memory as part of a major transit project — with city council’s blessing.

The discrepancy, which went unnoticed at the time, came to light earlier this month as reporters scrambled to put a stunning policy shift into context. On October 8, Euille, flanked by City Manager Rashad Young and City Attorney Jim Banks, announced City Hall would, once again, consider eminent domain in its quest to transform the Old Dominion Boat Club’s waterfront parking lot into a public plaza.

Though officials always acknowledged eminent domain as a possibility in the longstanding land-use dispute, they have described it as off the table and a tool of last resort in recent years. Macdonald’s differing assessment last year of the city’s handling of the negotiations with the boat club prompted Euille to trumpet his clean record on eminent domain.

“Well, I don’t support efforts to take land anywhere in Alexandria by eminent domain,” Macdonald said. “I think it’s a very poor way of dealing with not just conflict, but [also] land-use issues. And we’ve seen that along the waterfront, where efforts to take land or consider taking land owned by the Old Dominion Boat Club ... [have] simply created immense conflict in the community.”

Presented with the discrepancy in an email, Euille declined to clarify his remarks and refused to discuss eminent domain prior to a hearing next month regarding the boat club’s property.

“I am not going to deal with past campaign rhetoric at this time. The election is over.”

-Mayor Bill Euille

FILE PHOTO

Mayor Bill Euille, pictured here with City Manager Rashad Young, claimed City Hall had never used eminent domain during his tenure on city council at an election debate in 2012. Just months prior, the city used the tool as part of a West End transit project.

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HARRIS

From | 1

police and worried family and friends. From the beginning, they believed the longtime activist was in danger.

Though authorities quickly located Harris’ discarded phone and circulated images of a tattooed man attempting to use the activist’s credit card, a big break came in the case when investigators until January 2012.

That’s when an anonymous tipster led Prince George’s County police to a vacant lot at the 11900 block of Old Fort Road. Harris was shot and killed after the abduction, and his assailants later dumped his body.

Three men were quickly charged in connection with the slaying: Linwood Johnson, 49; Tyrone Lewis, 26; and Ivan Newman, 20. A Prince George’s County jury found Lewis guilty last month on a slew of charges, including first-degree murder, robbery and kidnapping. He will be sentenced November 1.

According to prosecutors, the trio hoped to steal enough money to bail out another friend.

But those who knew Harris did not dwell on the circumstances of his death Saturday. Instead, they recalled his legacy and good deeds.

Tony Suggs, a motivational speaker and Harris’ friend.

It was a theme others touched upon, including Mayor Bill Euille, who described Lenny Harris as a mentee and mentor in the years they knew each other.

“Lenny certainly had an impact on each and every one of us and will dearly and sorely be missed,” Euille said. “But he left us with something; he left us with an inspiration. He left us with hope. He left us with a desire to continue his legacy — and that’s important.”
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Combine fashion, food and entertainment in this historic hot spot

BY JORDAN WRIGHT

Culpeper is renowned for its history and aeronautic acrobats, but don’t let that fool you: The town has more to offer than meets the eye.

Historians have expounded on Culpeper’s role in the Civil War, recording everything from its battlefields to the town’s illustrious residents and their military legacy. Better known for battle re-enactments, the Flying Circus Air Show and living history encampments, the area is celebrating the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

And that’s just fine by me, though my only previous experience with Culpeper residents was the rough-hewn guys in pickup trucks who arrive each fall with racks of firewood to sell to us city slickers. Locals call them “woodchucks.”

But there’s another Culpeper. This small, southern town has blossomed into a hip destination for foodies, shoppers and even equestrians. That’s the Culpeper that I had heard about and the one I wanted to experience — though I knew there’d be plenty of history along the way.

What I found — to my delight — was a charming town eagerly embracing change.

As is appropriate, I began with a stop at the Culpeper visitors center, which is housed in a train depot dating back to 1904. Dodging the walking tours and travelers disembarking from an Amtrak train, I fell into step with Mary Jo Browning, a sprightly octogenarian whose knowledge of the town’s historic homes and churches is legendary.

Everyone knows Mary, including Pastor Stuart Smith, of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, who has come to the station to await his daughter’s arrival from New York. Mary cordially greets him before we trot off to his church, key in hand.

At the 19th-century church — adorned with Tiffany stained glass windows — Mary regaled me with a story of its old bell and how it survived the “War Between the States.”

We passed the grandiose columns of Clarke’s Hardware, a 100-year-old store still vital to the town, and dozens of meticulously restored buildings en route to the Museum of Culpeper History, a low brick structure surrounded by a modest white picket fence.

Inside, historically bent travelers will find a set of 215-million-year-old dinosaur tracks discovered in a local quarry. The prints share space with Manahoac Indian artifacts from Culpeper’s first residents, an interactive topographical map and relics from the Civil War. The Burgandine House, an early 19th-century log structure once used as a tavern and furnished as though still occupied, is just a few steps away along a garden path.

With our history lesson finished, it was time to break out the wallet and hit the town. Culpeper is home to a host of independently owned specialty shops.

For chic gifts and home decor items, stop by David Eddy’s. Rather peruse antiques? Try Quail at the Wood. And if you have a four-legged traveling companion, Reigning Cats and Dogs is the place to visit.

For those with a taste for unusual oils, balsamic vinegars and organic spices, Jeffery Mitchell’s Culpeper Cheese Co. has it all, including more than 100 local and international cheeses. If that wasn’t enough, Mitchell’s shop boasts a variety of craft beers and a wine lounge where you can sample eight different kinds.

Calhoun’s Ham House is the spot for bacon, ham and sausage. Pick up a country ham — they’re legendary.

Candy-aholics will be in their element at the Frenchman’s Corner, for posh Euro-

Chuck Miller, a master distiller with the Stillhouse Distillery at Belmont Farms, is just one of the colorful characters whom visitors heading to Culpeper will meet. The region also boasts plenty of shopping, delicious eateries and, of course, Civil War history.
HAIR BALL DANCE CLASS In preparation for the Hair Ball on November 16, come learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert instructors. The class costs $12. Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Location: Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Information: 703-746-4242 or alexandriava.gov/gadsbytavern

October 25 - 27

BARK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN CRUISE The Potomac Riverboat Co. invites guests with costumed pup in tow to cruise around the Potomac River on this 40-minute ride to Halloween tunes. The cruise is $15 for adults and $7 for kids, 7 to 17 years old. Time: 6:30 to 9 p.m. (tours run every 15 minutes) Location: Corner of King and Fairfax streets, outside of the Burke & Herbert Bank Information: 703-519-1749 or www.alexandriatourcruises.com

October 25

HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS Once again, it’s time to recognize and honor volunteers, and Volunteer Alexandria invites everyone to attend. Honoring Our Volunteers will recognize volunteers who have served the community consistently over their lifetime or have helped an organization to further its mission. Tickets are $60. Time: 6 to 8:30 p.m. Location: American Legion Post No. 24, 400 Cameron St. Information: www.volunteeralexandria.org

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

LIBRARY SPEED DATING Come share the love of books and find that literary better half at this event. There will be a speed session as well as refreshments. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Information: 703-746-1751

ALEXANDRIA NOVA BAND HALLOWEEN CONCERT Come spend a night listening to frighteningly good music at this free Halloween concert. The Alexandria NOVA Band will play a selection of music from various composers, including Hector Berlioz, Henry Fillmore, Michael Markowski, Giacomo Puccini, Camille Saint-Saëns and Robert W. Smith. Time: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Location: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Information: Contact Lisa C. Ekelstein at 703-845-6252 or leckstein@nvcc.edu

OLD TOWN TOWNSMEN’S MARKET The market includes local dairy, fish, fruits and vegetables. There is free parking in the garage during market hours. Time: 7 a.m. Location: Market Square, 301 King St. Information: 703-746-3200

ALEXANDRIA WALK TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER All proceeds from the event will benefit the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk Fund at Inova Alexandria Hospital, which provides mammograms to uninsured women and men or to those in financial need. Since the walk’s inception in 1994, more than 7,000 women have been helped because of the generous support of sponsors, walkers and their pledges. Time: 8 a.m. Location: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Information: Contact Latoshia Love at 703-746-3132 or latoshia.love@alexandriava.gov

LE TOUR D’ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY The Alexandria Library invites the community to participate in its first bicycle tour of all library locations. Participants can bring their bike and join library staff for a leisurely 12-mile loop. Time: 10:30 a.m. Location: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Information: Contact Kimberly Nathaniel at 703-746-1770

The Little Theatre of Alexandria presents...

The 39 Steps
This entertaining thriller-spoof is a tongue-in-check homage to spy thrillers and all things Hitchcock. Four actors play over one hundred roles, meaning you are in for a break-neck thrill on the LTA stage!

Libby and Nicholas, in town for the Countess of Rivelin’s birthday, become involved in a plot to assassinate the British Prime Minister. It leads them to a series of strange coincidences. As they are pursued by the villains - under the guise of a devoted couple - Libby and Nicholas find themselves in a complicated entanglement of danger and mystery, where the only thing certain is that anything can happen in The 39 Steps.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria
1501 South Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314
703-548-9898
www.alexandriatheatres.org
pean chocolates, and My Secret Stash, an old-time candy store chock-a-block with classic treats. The best sellers are the faux pimento olives (they’re really chocolate almonds), sugar-sanded grapefruit gummies and chocolate sea salt caramels.

Scoop up some pumpkin malt balls while you’re at My Secret Stash. The glass apothecary jars filled with candies share space with a well-culled selection of unusual antiques and funky collectibles, like vintage fans and 1950s barware.

Mary R. Benson, a Reiki master and specialist in nutrition and homeopathy, welcomes questions from curious visitors at Herbal Connection. Her herb-lined shelves, vitamins and Ezekiel bread say all there is to say about her 22 years dispensing kindness and healing.

If you did not get your fill at Culpeper Cheese Co., Kim Kelly’s Vinosity reveals an astonishingly comprehensive, hand-selected collection of wines. Step up to chest-height tables for informal tastings with fellow wine enthusiasts.

World travelers, or those who aspire to be, will find plenty of ethnic souvenirs to bring home with a visit to The Camel. Housed in its two restored historic buildings are international giftware, aboriginal arts and crafts, and clothing from more than 80 countries.

On Saturday mornings, the farmers market fills a parking lot across from the Depot. There you will find locally grown goods, from vegetables and herbs to meats, honey and pretty flowers. Specialty items—like salmon from East Street Fish (smoked by Pranas Rimeikis, Culpeper’s former mayor), home-baked goodies, scented soaps made with goat’s milk and pretty crafts—also entice buyers at the market.

Stop in at Harriet’s General, where made-in-America products shine and you can pick up a pair of Red Wing work boots. Or check out the Green Roost for a life-size paper sculpture of a moose and earth-friendly gear for men, women, babies and your home.

All that window-shopping tends to work up an appetite. Luckily, there are plenty of dining options to choose from. For the gourmand, there’s exceptional dining at Foti’s Restaurant. The chef and owner, Frank Maragos, is an Inn at Little Washington alumnus. Patrons will appreciate the Pimm’s Cup cocktail, properly served with a ribbon of cucumber.

Mediterranean-influenced cuisine tempts from It’s About Thyme, while fresh-caught seafood lures people to The Copper Fish Seafood & Raw Bar, where — from 4 to 7 p.m.— you can slurp oysters at half-price.

For down-home cooking, there’s the Frost Cafe, a 50s throwback diner boasting booth jukeboxes and mega portions of Southern-style comfort food.

At the Raven’s Nest Coffee House, you’ll find fabulous pies, quiches, scones, cakes and muffins, all baked by owner Jessica Hall. Paintings by local artists grace homey brick walls, and the world music vibe is downright groovy.

Breakfast is a pastime in Culpeper, and many purposely ease into their day with coffee and delicious muffins from the Thyme Market, whose umbrella-lined alleyway serves as a

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CULPEPER

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desirable respite for a glass of wine and a piece of cheese or a slice of Orange Dreamsicle cheesecake. When the pace quickens later in the day, locals pick up wood-fired pizzas and herb-crusted roast chickens for supper.

If there’s still time left over after visiting Culpeper’s highlights, you can spend it visiting nearby farms and wineries.

The Stillhouse Distillery at Belmont Farm is a half-dozen miles out of town but well worth the visit. It is the oldest craft distillery in the United States. The corn, wheat and barley used to make the whiskey are grown on the 195-acre farm.

Chuck Miller presides over the distillery and the family’s secret recipe that was developed by his grandfather during Prohibition. Try the Virginia Lightning whiskey, a classic moonshine, or the Kopper Kettle whiskey, which is aged in charred oak barrels and similar to bourbon. Tours are offered throughout the day.

Among the many places to hop on a horse is the equestrian center at the beautiful Inn at Kelly’s Ford, a 500-acre property just off Route 29 where you can trail ride along the Rappahannock River. Afterward, be sure to stop in at Pelham’s Pub for a hand-pulled pint to wet your whistle.

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Let’s Eat

**A special advertising feature of the Alexandria Times**

**Follow the enticing aroma to Foster’s Grille**

No matter the day or season, it’s always a good time for grilled, juicy burgers from the barbecue. The folks at Foster’s Grille have perfected the hot sandwich — especially with their famous charburger — and made a lot of friends and loyal customers in the process.

The aroma around Foster’s Grille is intoxicating. Just walking or driving by the 2004 Eisenhower Ave. restaurant is a treat, as the smell of mouthwatering charburgers fills the air.

But there’s more than meets the nose at Foster’s Grille. The restaurant’s charburgers are delicious, high-quality beef burgers, custom made for each patron. In addition to the signature meal, the eatery offers turkey burgers, garden burgers, chicken sandwiches, Philly cheese-steak sandwiches, wings and oven-roasted turkey sandwiches.

During football and hockey season (not to mention the World Series just starting), the hot dogs and party platters of buffalo wings are must-try menu items, according to Foster’s Grille regulars. Staff members confirm that dogs and wings are always in demand, especially since so many people claim the all-beef hot dogs are the best in Alexandria.

The milkshakes and lemonade also receive top marks at Foster’s Grille. The shakes are thick and flavorful, and the lemonade is freshly squeezed.

Got kids? The smaller set love Foster’s Grille because they like playing video games while the cooks prepare their tasty meals. Moreover, children love the right-sized portions of hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers and grilled cheese.

For sports aficionados, the restaurant has three large TVs that show games nearly all the time. Whether dining in or picking up an order, never worry about missing a play.

So whether tailgating and searching for some amazing party platters or just meeting up with friends and family for a good time, check out Foster’s Grille. The burgers are some of the best in the D.C. area, and there are plenty of other scrumptious choices to satisfy any craving.

Call 703-519-0055 or go to www.fostersgrille.com for more information about the menu, party platters or the Dining for Dollars charitable fundraising program.

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**a special advertising feature of the alexandria times**
Beauregard streets — required eminent domain.

“In recent years, eminent domain has been used by the city for one project: to complete the acquisition of the 19 parts of parcels needed for the King-Beauregard intersection widening project,” he wrote. “Most of the land acquired by the city was small slivers of parcel frontage needed to widen the intersection.”

Though Euille voted in favor of it, seizing the right-of-way for the project was not an easy choice. City councilors debated the measure for nearly an hour in June 2012.

And the circumstances surrounding the land grab last year were anything but cut-and-dry. All but two of the property owners agreed to strike a deal.

The two holdouts, according to testimony from city staff, refused to negotiate — on the advice of their lawyers — until City Hall invoked the eminent domain process.

When faced with the prospect of seizing land, officials have two paths to choose from, each with advantages and disadvantages. In this case, invoking eminent domain gave City Hall immediate control of the property but without the ability to withdraw if the final price tag — a figure settled in circuit court — grew too hefty.

“The benefit is you get [the property] right away,” said Deputy City Attorney Chris Spera, who handled the case. “The downside to the municipality is that if you’re way off on value and the property owner proves it has a much higher value, you’re stuck. You still have to pay it.”

Known as a quick take, this form of eminent domain is designed for situations in which immediate possession of the land is necessary. The alternative gives officials the flexibility to back away from negotiations but leaves the land in the hands of the private owner until a settlement is reached.

“For [something] like a road construction project, you can’t let [negotiations] hold it up, but the downside is you can’t walk,” Spera said.

While city council wasn’t unanimous on whether to use eminent domain — the two Republicans serving then voted against the measure — supporters went to great pains to paint the land grab as a friendly move.

“This is not a hostile process,” Euille said before voting in favor of using eminent domain.
Two-time state championship team reunites 20 years later

BY JIM MCELHATTON

Bishop Ireton was down 30-0 to rival Paul VI near halftime Saturday afternoon when a group of men began gathering behind the Cardinals bench.

Wearing Ireton jerseys — with names like Behan, Knight and Prokop — they hugged, shook hands and laughed. They marveled at the shape of Fannon Field’s synthetic surface, recalling the mud, grass and rocks from when they played.

Instead of footballs, many were stooped over chasing toddlers. And while many hadn’t talked in years, they effortlessly eased back into conversations as if they were at high school football practice two decades earlier.

Now in their mid- to late-30s, the men belonged to one or both of the consecutive Ireton championship teams of 1992 and ’93. The celebrated squads featured the explosive Wing T offense and boasted a head coach who still does his best to deflect any credit.

Still, the former players surrounding Chip Armstrong talked about how their head coach taught them not only to win, but also how to do well in life after football.

“One of Coach Armstrong’s great quotes is: ‘The way you practice is the way you play,’” said Wes Kaupinen, who was a sophomore running back on the ’93 team. “There are no miracles on game day. What’s behind that quote is no matter what you’re doing, you come every day with an intensity and a focus on performing.”

Armstrong’s first year in ’91 saw Ireton go 5-5. And things started slowly the following year. The team’s 1-2 record gave no indication that their season would end with a state title.

But players recalled a mid-year, pregame locker room speech by Ross Dessert, a captain and starting fullback. He talked about “Cardinal Pride” and the importance of making your mark while you can. And the pep talk fueled the team’s decisive win over Paul VI and carried over through the rest of the ‘92 season.

The consensus behind the sidelines Saturday was that the ’92 and ’93 teams were the best in school history. Yet that wasn’t what was most important looking back all these years later.

“I owe everything to this school,” said Lenny Scarola, known among teammates as Ireton’s version of NFL great Dick Butkus. “I met my wife here. We’ve got kids. I’m still...
CARDINALS

FROM | 20

friends with these guys today.
“I can’t believe the time flies so fast. I got an email saying it’s been 20 years, and I just couldn’t believe it.”

While Scarola is now a successful entrepreneur with a home improvement business, former teammates talked about him as an intense linebacker who — at the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship at Byrd Stadium in ’93 — shut down Paul VI star Jamie Stafford.

The teammates came from as far away as Seattle for the reunion. Several enlisted in the military, including Rick Capta, Marty Weeks and Bill Gallagher, a two-way starter at tight end and defensive end who later became a Navy Seal. Others went to top-ranked colleges and did well in the business world.

“Coach took a bunch of kids who had no real physical talent or speed and turned them into a winning team,” said Chris Colbert, the star quarterback on both teams. “Nobody was particularly big or strong or fast, but it all just seemed to work. We just clicked.”

Under Armstrong, the team adopted the Wing T offense, which uses multiple running backs and the quarterback to employ lots of fakes and misdirection. To execute the strategy, you need a solid offensive line.

And like any good quarterback, Colbert is quick to praise his line. Players also credited assistant coach Dick Combs for helping them implement the offense.

Allan Kaupinen, vice president of the nonprofit Alexandria Sportsman’s Club, watched the ’93 season unfold from the sidelines during practices and games because his son, Wes Kaupinen, was on the team.

“I’m really close to my kids, and to this day, Wes talks about the coach,” Allan Kaupinen said. “Coaches, beyond mothers and fathers, are often the biggest influence in a young person’s life.”

Armstrong looks the part. He’s solidly built and tall, exuding authority. But he’s also humble. Talking about his accomplishments as a coach doesn’t come easy.

For as much as he thoroughly enjoyed catching up with his old players, he was hardly eager to take any credit for their accomplishments on or off the field.

“It’s been a very humbling experience,” Armstrong said. “I’ve been a coach for 30 years, and this was a great group of kids with great parents. I don’t remember one time where a kid was talking back to me or to any of the coaches, not once.

“I was younger back then, maybe a little more enthusiastic. It was just such a fun time. And I think that sometimes gets lost. It’s the ability to have fun, that’s what it’s all about.”

Just then, Ireton scored a late touchdown. While the Cardinals lost 44-21, the former players on the sidelines erupted.

“Look at this!” one yelled. “What a run! What a run!”

Indeed, for the Cardinals of the early 1990s, what a run it was.
Nurseries hit a growth spurt

BY MARY G. PEPITONE

The baby nursery has really grown up in the home. Featuring transitional furniture that grows with the baby, today’s nursery can be smartly sophisticated for the smaller set while still appealing to a parental aesthetic.

You don’t have to sacrifice style for small ones, says Danielle Kurtz, creative director for The Land of Nod, a catalog, Internet and retail store company based in Morton Grove, Ill., which specializes in children’s furniture, bedding and accessories.

“The design of a baby’s nursery should be an extension of your home’s overall design,” Kurtz says. “Gone are the days when parents might feel they have to check their style at the nursery door and usher in licensed character merchandise for children’s rooms.”

When it comes to the design of the nursery room, the handwriting’s on the wall for cute “duck-in-bonnet” wallpaper with a matching border or pastel pink- or blue-painted walls. Instead, neutrals are the new nursery color.

“Shades of white in a room make for a clean space and serve as a backdrop for accessories with pops of color,” Kurtz says. “Graphic wallpaper makes a statement and creates a focal point when hung on a single wall.”

To keep walls as fresh as the day they were painted or papered, consider covering the lower part of the wall with durable and decorative wainscoting. But no matter how you break down the design of the nursery walls, make sure to start any project well in advance of the baby’s arrival, so the room is fume-free.

Building a baby’s bedroom starts underfoot. Whether you roll out wall-to-wall carpeting or have an area rug over tile or hardwoods, a soft surface will visually warm the space and absorb sound, especially if you’re checking on a sleeping baby.

A design starting at the ground level with a colorful or graphically dynamic rug can unify a color scheme for the diminutive dwelling. But for safety’s sake, make sure any area rug is secured to the floor to prevent falls, especially

See Nursery | 23

at home

Come see the elegance of Old Town’s William Lambert House

A home like 407 Duke St. is proof that Old Town continued to be an important port long after the colonial period. Considered the grandest home at a privileged location when completed in 1872, the William Lambert House is the city’s foremost example of the Second Empire style.

Softly shaped marble steps lead to a vestibule with heavy wooden doors and thence through beveled doors into the foyer. The high-ceiling entrance, with its grand staircase, opens into an imposing double drawing room.

There are 13-foot ceilings, 8-foot windows and paneled doors measuring 10 feet in height. Crown molding runs along the ceiling, and delicate plasters garland the walls. A pair of fireplaces retains their original marble mantels.

There is a light-filled family room and a splendid dining room. The kitchen is the heart of the home with a 9-foot granite island.

The master bedroom suite leads to a private sleeping porch. There is a handsome library and two bedrooms, which are served by a hall bath. And the third floor contains two bedrooms and a bath.

A Victorian side porch, terraces and gardens fill the double lot. There are two off-street parking spaces.

At a Glance:
- Location: 407 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314
- Neighborhood: Old Town
- Price: $4,150,000
- Bedrooms: 5
- Baths: 4
- Fireplaces: 8 wood-burning, 1 gas
- Year built: 1872
- Contact: Susan Anthony, of McEnearney Associates, at 703-795-9536 or susanbruceanthony@mcenearney.com

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When it comes to furniture, a nursery requires only a few pieces for parents and the baby to bunk-out: a crib; comfortable seating; a place to change diapers; and storage for wee items, including toys, books, clothing and blankets.

“The nursery revolves around the crib,” Kurtz says, “It is often the largest purchase in a nursery but also the most important, since a baby will spend a lot of time in it.”

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s requirements for selling a safer generation of cribs changed June 28, 2011, to help ensure a baby’s sleep is not only sound, but also safe. A crib manufactured before that date may not meet federal safety standards, with unsafe features including drop-side cribs and ones in which the distance between slats measures greater than 2 3/8 inches.

Mini-modern furniture with clean lines is the style many parents are choosing for their nursery. The Land of Nod’s cribs meet safety guidelines, with prices that start at $649. Conversion kits are available for some models, so the crib can grow as the baby’s need for sleep is best met in a toddler or — eventually — full-sized bed.

The nursery revolves around the crib. It is often the largest purchase in a nursery but also the most important, since a baby will spend a lot of time in it.”

- Danielle Kurtz
Creative director for The Land of Nod

The International Association for Child Safety recommends that the placement of the crib not be directly beneath a window with corded blinds or adjacent to other pieces of furniture, such as a dresser, which may encourage toddlers to climb. Also, parents should buy a firm mattress that fits snugly inside the crib.

Parents are investing in nursery pieces in the same style found in furniture throughout the rest of the home. A chair, lamp or streamlined storage unit can easily transition into the family room as the baby becomes more active, without looking out of place. Also, nursery dressers can be modified to easily become a changing station, using The Land of Nod’s “changer” top and pad ($149).

Kurtz advises parents to anchor pieces of furniture — such as dressers — to the wall to prevent tipping when a curious child begins to climb.

“Tip-restraint kits are included with our dressers to anchor them to the wall,” she says, “You can also buy these anchors at your local hardware store, but the important thing is to install them into the wall studs.”

After the furniture is in place, accessorize a neutral-colored nursery with colorful accessories that are gender-neutral. Blankets, pillows and artwork in atomic oranges, sea-glass blues, sunny yellows and sherbet-inspired greens enliven a space. Artwork can be sophisticated and playful to reflect a personal style, but keep the space above and inside the crib clear of hard-framed pictures and soft throws.

Removable and repositionable decals, starting around $25, are a great way to be creative without fully committing to a design. Decals are as simple as 1-2-3 and range from A-B-C to animal motifs.

“You can be bold and adventurous in a nursery, using color and patterns, such as chevrons, stripes and polka dots. People who might be more conservative in the rest of their home can play in a nursery,” Kurtz says, “There’s enough to worry about when you’re expecting and raising children; putting the nursery together isn’t meant to be intimidating, it should be fun.”

The nursery is a place in the home to have fun, using color and patterns, such as bold stripes and polka dots. The Land of Nod Walnut Andersen Crib ($1,099) has clean lines and a traditional style that will work in any nursery setting.
**Our View**

**$500K for affordable housing barely scratches the surface**

City councilors righted a bit of a wrong Saturday, agreeing to discuss shunting $500,000 in real estate taxes from the National Science Foundation’s future home into efforts to preserve affordable housing. But they could — and should — have gone further.

What was the wrong? While drawing up a competitive package of tax breaks and other incentives to lure the federal agency to Alexandria, negotiators dropped a required contribution to the affordable housing fund.

Though enticing the foundation to leave Arlington County represents a major victory — think jobs and redevelopment along Eisenhower Avenue — leaving about $1.04 million on the table was a mistake.

By redirecting tax dollars from the site into the affordable housing fund, the city council will take a step toward atoning for the original sin. But if it’s willing to reallocate $500,000, then we have to ask: Why not more? Why not the whole sum?

City Councilor John Chapman, who proposed the measure, indicated Saturday that he initially had a larger figure in mind. But in talking to his colleagues, he realized a more generous sum lacked support.

And that’s a shame.

We know, as do our city councilors, that Alexandria’s shrinking pool of affordable housing has reached a crisis point. We also know that you, our readers and residents of this city, recognize the need for affordable housing. It keeps the city diverse and provides homes for people, such as firefighters, police officers and teachers — not to mention the folks who bag your groceries or serve you drinks during happy hour.

The National Science Foundation is expected to be a boon for Alexandria. It will bring jobs (from construction workers to scientists), drive development and generate as much as $83 million for our local economy over 15 years. The agency’s likely role as an economic engine is exactly the reason why officials gave the federal government such a sweetheart deal to relocate.

Given the amount of money we’re talking about here, $500,000 seems a pittance in comparison. Chapman did not name individuals while discussing his frustrated efforts to garner more money for the fund, but it’s clear he could not convince at least three of his fellow councilors.

They have time to reconsider — and we hope they do in the weeks and months ahead. Reallocating $500,000 is a start, but we should do better.

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**Opinion**

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

- Thomas Jefferson

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**Your Views**

**The money needed to send students to TJ could be better used elsewhere**

To the editor:

Again, there is talk about Alexandria City Public Schools sending students to the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. This means creating a proposed elite group of 14 students whose tuition — paid with city tax money — would cost thousands of dollars.

That money should only be used for the enrichment of all the students in our schools. There are advanced placement classes at T.C. Williams — about 25 in all — so our brightest have the same options as TJ students.

Alexandria’s schools have always been considered troubled, and I have lived here for 43 years. Through these years, many students have gone on to top universities for undergraduate and higher degrees, including my daughter, who has a Ph.D. in a science field without the benefit of attending TJ.

There are many factors in this “troubled” reputation. The major ones are social and economic. There are 80 languages spoken in the homes of our students, who hail from 128 countries of birth. Thus I urge the school board to continue to decline sending any students to TJ and use all their efforts and funds for all the children of our city.

- Amoret Bell Bunn

Alexandria
The Business Plan
with Bill Reagan

Learning from the shutdown

During the recent weeks of stomach-churning uncertainty, large and small businesses have suffered from the government shutdown.

Many firms dependent on government contracts faced tough decisions, like how long they could go without layoffs. Other small businesses were thrown into chaos as offices that processed federal certifications or loan programs suspended operations.

The tourism and hospitality industry also took a hit as major attractions in the region closed and conferences were canceled. While a few retailers and food service businesses experienced increased activity from furloughed workers looking for things to do, many others saw shoppers postpone purchases until their finances stabilized.

As we move past the shutdown, we have an opportunity to examine some lessons that could help strengthen business operations in the long term. Whether it’s dealing with a government shutdown or a downturn in the economy, building the foundation for a resilient business is critical.

A few businesses realized they had all their eggs in the federal government basket. Hopefully, that experience will serve as a catalyst to begin diversifying and exploring other sectors.

Others, faced with challenging circumstances, went to great expense to avoid furloughing their employees. Thus they strengthened employee loyalty. Many businesses found ways to do more with less and can apply these efficiencies moving forward.

More than a few business owners got creative. For example, the Potomac Riverboat Co. promoted all of the great things to see and do in Alexandria to customers affected by the closed docks.

Many retailers showed empathy and promotional savvy by offering furloughed employees discounts or benefits. Danielle Romanetti of fibre space — a yarn boutique — advertised free introductory knitting instruction to those affected by the shutdown. About 50 new students showed up every day.

By demonstrating this goodwill, fibre space ended up with a new group of knitters with strong customer loyalty. Many other businesses offered similar promotions.

Understanding your cash flow and financial position can also alleviate some of the anxiety of uncertainty. How strong are your reserves? What flexibility do you have in paying your vendors or collecting on receivables?

Feeling comfortable with these kinds of questions will help you make strong business decisions. If you need advice on these issues, please reach out to the Alexandria Small Business Development Center for assistance.

Businesses that adapt to changing situations and adopt innovative ways to attract and retain customers in challenging times will be more successful. Adversity often inspires our best instincts. Kudos to the people and businesses that rose to the occasion.

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

Who knows Virginia better than Ken Cuccinelli?

To the editor:
Halloween is upon us and lots of scary things are in the wind. As a grandmother, I delight in seeing my grandchildren “think spooky.”

But I don’t like to “think spooky” when I think of Virginia’s government. I don’t like to think a man such as Terry McAuliffe would be the commonwealth’s next governor. That is a spooky thought.

McAuliffe makes lots of promises about creating jobs and then burdening us with environmental regulations. He talks about governing wisely but hasn’t shown that he knows how Virginia’s legislative process works. That is spooky.

I have no fears like that with Ken Cuccinelli, however. He knows Virginia and how our government works. He’s a worker for grandmothers like me.

-Linda Greenberg
Alexandria

Developers are behind City Hall’s interest in boat club’s parking lot

To the editor:
To Virginia’s credit, its Legislature and voters limited eminent domain last year. Even in liberal Alexandria, nearly three-fifths voted to restrict eminent domain.

But across the river, in ultra-liberal Washington, the city government is preparing to take land by eminent domain for a public-private project — a soccer stadium — something that Virginia does not allow.

To stay competitive, today’s Democrats can’t afford to be seen as anti-business, so they lavish favored companies with government benefits to compete with the Republicans’ laissez-faire approach to business regulations. As your editorial (“Waterfront lot is boat club’s domain,” October 10) stated, “Taking the boat club lot and building a plaza will directly benefit four companies that ... want to develop land along the waterfront.”

For the Alexandria Times, that is a reason not to use eminent domain, but for City Hall, it is a reason for using eminent domain. The city has been dickering with the Old Dominion Boat Club for a long time, but the four companies’ eagerness to develop most likely is what has tipped City Hall toward eminent domain. The timing is no mere coincidence.

-Dino Drudi
Alexandria

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Email comments, rants & raves to letters@alextimes.com.

OCTOBER 24, 2013 | 25
For the sake of the commonwealth, vote a straight Democratic ticket

To the editor:

After hearing Ken Cuccinelli’s recent response to President Barack Obama’s weekly address, I want to correct the record. Facts matter and a person seeking office as governor of this great commonwealth should recognize the facts.

On Saturday, Cuccinelli announced he believed “Obamacare is unconstitutional.” Here are the facts.

Cuccinelli was the first attorney general to challenge the constitutionality of a law that was later upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

For these reasons, I am supporting Terry McAuliffe for governor. Ralph Northam for lieutenant governor and Mark Herring for attorney general.

Cuccinelli is well known as a Tea Party favorite, a group that advocated shutting down the federal government, disproportionately impacting federal workers and the military in Virginia as well as severely damaging our economy. When Sen. Ted Cruz came to the commonwealth to speak at the Virginia Family Foundation event, Cuccinelli did not denounce his actions. As a retired federal worker, I am disturbed that Cuccinelli would not stand up against Cruz.

Cuccinelli used his position as attorney general to pursue an extreme social agenda that has included reducing women’s access to birth control, reinstating Virginia’s sodomy laws — long declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court — and challenging a state university’s research on climate change and the environment. His running mates — E.W. Jackson and Mark Obenshain — share his extreme social views.

For these reasons, I am supporting Terry McAuliffe for governor, Ralph Northam for lieutenant governor and Mark Herring for attorney general. For the sake of our commonwealth, all of its residents and its future, we can’t afford to be held hostage by the ideologically driven Republican threesome when it comes to social issues or the economy.

We must all vote this year. We must vote a straight Democratic ticket November 5.

- Ronald K. Rigby
Alexandria

Times publisher shows poor understanding of shutdown

To the editor:

With a deal struck to reopen the government and push the debt ceiling fight to next year, I feel compelled to respond to the confused comments by the Alexandria Times publisher in “A senseless shutdown (October 3).” While I agree with Denise Dunbar on the courage of former President Ronald Reagan to demand Mikhail Gorbachev “tear down this wall,” I am reminded that the left-leaning media — which has become far more liberal and monolithic in its views since the Cold War era — tried to defeat Reagan’s election with dishonest personal attacks, claiming that he was a reckless cowboy with a shaky trigger finger who might blow up the world with nuclear weapons.

Similarly, Dunbar’s critique of the highly accomplished, Ivy League-educated Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) “buffoonish” is just as unjustified as those early attacks on a now beloved and respected Reagan.

First, Dunbar doesn’t appear to understand that the United States is facing a worsening fiscal crisis — only added to by the enormously costly Obamacare — with ever-mounting national debt or that the debt ceiling is just a symptom of the bigger problem (overspending). I don’t know of any problem that can be tackled by addressing a symptom rather than root causes.

But Dunbar also shows a poor understanding of how things work in Washington. She implies Obamacare is settled law because of a Supreme Court decision. Any law can be repealed.

Finally, Obamacare is a fiasco. This is self-evident by the failure of its debut. Americans are being forced into exchanges that aren’t ready for primetime and told their current insurance isn’t in conformance with Obamacare. Workers are seeing their wages shrink by being forced into part-time jobs to avoid compliance with Obamacare.

This, along with skyrocketing premiums, is the inevitable and predictable fallout from a federal government takeover, which President Barack Obama lied about when he told voters that his signature legislative achievement would make health care more affordable while reassuring people that they could keep their insurance.

Obamacare was marketed on a foundation of lies. Anyone with an iota of common sense ought to know that hiring thousands of IRS agents and Obamacare “navigators” is not going to improve health care.

Why does Dunbar defend this train wreck? Does she lack compassion for people trying to support families on part-time wages while juggling escalating health insurance premiums?

Sen. Cruz simply highlighted the problem in a dramatic way, as is the custom and tradition of the U.S. Senate. Please don’t shoot the messenger.

- Margaret C. Hemenway
Alexandria

Together, we will create a better tomorrow for Alexandria City Public Schools

To the editor:

I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as interim superintendent for Alexandria City Public Schools. My sincere thanks go to the school board for its confidence in my leadership and to Margaret Walsh and the rest of the district’s staff for their hard work resulting in a smooth opening of schools.

In the coming months, I will work closely with the school board, staff, parents and community stakeholders on behalf of our students. I have been impressed by the enthusiasm of our staff and their commitment to student achievement.

While the system has made steady progress in many areas, there is more work to be done to achieve our goal of ensuring that all schools are high performing and that opportunities to achieve academic excellence are available to every student.

Our priorities include providing students with a rich and rigorous instructional program; maintaining safe and supportive learning environments; engaging staff in ongoing and meaningful professional development; helping students develop resiliency skills to maintain healthy mental and physical lifestyles; implementing efficient business practices; planning for the long-term educational needs of our students; and improving community engagement.

Our work is not that of one person, but the collective responsibility of all of us. Therefore, I will be soliciting your commitment and support.

Over the course of the next few weeks, I will visit schools and meet with staff, students and parents. Your everyday experiences and suggestions are critical to the district’s success. Many parental chats also will be scheduled.

As educator and poet Andrea Ayvazian wrote, “Our words only carry so much weight. Our actions tell the true story.”

Alexandria City Public Schools has a supportive community with talented students. Through our collective actions, we will tell a story of excellence. Through relationships based on trust, transparency and respect, we will be a stronger, united and more determined school community.

- Alvin L. Crawley
Interim superintendent
of schools
OUT OF THE ATTIC

The silent sentinel of North Washington Street

Built in 1847, this huge building — topped by an octagonal cupola — at North Washington and Pendleton streets originally housed the Mount Vernon Cotton Factory, a major industrial operation that provided steady work for nearly 150 women in pre-Civil War Alexandria.

At the height of production in the late 1850s, the factory contained two 30-horsepower steam engines, which operated 64 looms. Each day, the facility churned out about 5,000 yards of cotton sheeting.

When war broke out in May 1861, the Union Army seized the building and alternatively used it as a hospital, warehouse and the city’s largest prison, which housed more than 1,400 captured Confederate soldiers.

With the South’s economy in ruins after the war, an effort to restart the cotton factory failed, and the building sat vacant for many years. But Robert Portner acquired it in 1902 and converted the facility into a bottling plant to supplement his booming brewery one block north.

Although Portner’s business was one of the most successful in the city during the early 20th century, the advent of World War I and then the introduction of Prohibition eventually doomed the brewery. The company used the sides of the building to shamelessly promote its name to advise passers-by to “Be Good to Your Motor.” This photograph, taken during that period, shows factory workers laboring within the cavernous plant.

The spark plug factory became one of the city’s earliest casualties of the Great Depression. For a short period of time, the building was used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but by 1935, it was converted into apartments to address Alexandria’s growing housing shortage. An imposing portico — supported by four Corinthian columns — was added to the front facade.

In 1982, the structure was renovated as office space.

An interesting urban myth surrounds the plaster dummy that has long occupied the windowed cupola. According to local legend, the mannequin dates back to the 1854 murder of the night watchman. In that telling, the police tried to lure the murderer back to the site with the dummy.

Others date it to the Civil War era, placed there as a stand-in for an actual guard when he took breaks and left in the attic when the war ended. Another story holds that the clothed human substitute was left behind by the Department of Agriculture when it vacated the structure.

Whatever the truth, the silent sentinel still watches over busy North Washington Street, greatly loved by the throngs of motorists and pedestrians that look to his vantage point each day.

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

TRICK OR TREAT WITH THE BOO-TIQUES  Start trick-or-treating early and stop by more than 24 shops in the Old Town Boutique District, which will be dishing out treats to goblins and ghouls of all ages.
Time: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Old Town
Information: www.oldtownboutique-district.com

FALL FESTIVAL AT FOUR MILE RUN CENTER  Come enjoy an afternoon of fun at this family festival with food, carnival games, arts and craft, music, and a costume parade. The event is free.
Time: Noon to 4 p.m.
Location: Four Mile Run Park Community Building, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: Contact Irene Bender at 703-927-1704 or irenebender@theatrenchurch.com

OLD TOWN HAUNTED HALLOWEEN SCAVENGER HUNT  Ghosts and goblins and ghouls, oh my! If you thought you knew Alexandria, then think again because it’s haunted. Come check it out as Or Tap Magazine and King Street Cats will host this scavenger hunt, where you will solve mysteries and perform challenges. Tickets are $10.
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Old Town
Information: www.ontaponline.com/event/7534

A TOAST TO THE ANIMALS  This event — benefiting the Humane Society of Fairfax County — will feature award-winning wine and excellent food, live music, a silent auction, vendors, and special guests. Tickets are $40 in advance or $50 at the door.
Time: 7 to 11 p.m.
Location: Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road
Information: www.hsfc.org

RE-ENACTMENT OF CARLYLE’S FUNERAL AND GHOST TOUR  In the fall of 1780, death visited Carlyle House and claimed the life of town founder John Carlyle. Step back in time and be a part of this historic funeral while also learning about mourning practices in early America. Tickets are $15, and admission includes a ghost tour of Old Town.
Time: 6:15 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.
Information: 703-549-2997 or www.nvpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park

ST. LUKE’S RECITAL  Michael Sheridan will perform music by Bach, Albeniz and Reinhardt with the classic guitar. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for seniors, and $10 for teachers and students.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road
Information: 703-765-4342

RAVEN’S NIGHT  In celebration of the spooky season, belly dancers will slink across the stage and re-enact old, familiar tales with a modern twist. Come join in the festivities by wearing a costume and witness expert choreography in a legendary concert setting. Tickets are $25.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

~ For Boxer Lovers ~

Celebrate this Halloween with Xena, our young Boxer/Staffordshire terrier mix. Xena is a calm gal, though up for a walk at any time. She’s ready for trick-or-treating, or relaxing at home with you. An affectionate friend, you will enjoy her companionship, and she’s waiting for yours.

Confident and strong, Xena is a very loyal girl, and may become the best friend you’ve ever had.

THE WAITING PETS AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER WISH YOU A SAFE & HAPPY HALLOWEEN.
www.alexandriaanimals.org or call 703-746-4664

The Alexandria Animal Shelter’s Pet of the Week is sponsored by Diann Hicks.

703-628-2440 www.diannahicks.com

October 27

THE SCRUB PINES PERFORMANCE  Hailing from Hystitsville, Md., the Scrub Pines perform a mix of Americana, roots and acoustic music.
The event is free.
Time: 10 a.m. to noon
Location: Mount Vernon Avenue at Four Mile Run
Information: www.4mrmarket.org

CIVIL WAR SUNDAY  Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, a showcase of an original May 26, 1861, edition New York Tribune detailing Col. Elmer Ellsworth’s death in Alexandria; a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth’s death; a TimeTravelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy; a diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria to warm Civil War hospital tents during the winter of 1861; a cocked-and-loaded Wickham musket discarded in a privy during the 1860s; and an exhibit on the Lee Street site during the Civil War. The event is free.
Time: 1 to 5 p.m.
Location: Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 305 N. Union St.
Information: 703-746-4399

Introducing Alexandria Times Around Town!

“Like” us on Facebook to keep up to date on great specials & events around town.

 Alexandra Times
DEL RAY HALLOWEEN PARADE Don your best Halloween costume and walk in the 17th annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, which historically has attracted thousands of participants. The free event celebrates the Del Ray and Alexandria community as well as provides a safe family-oriented holiday atmosphere.

Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Mount Vernon Avenue
Information: visitdelray.com

NEW DOMINION CHORALE CONCERT
New Dominion Chorale will open its 23rd concert season with a program titled “In Praise of Music.”

Tickets are $20, but anyone 18 and younger is free.

Information:
Location: Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Ave.
Information: 703-799-8229 or www.wmpamusic.org

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN PHILHARMONIC-ASSOCIATION CONCERT
This concert will feature music by Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Rimsky-Korsakov and Eduard Lalo. Tickets are $20, but anyone 18 and younger is free.

Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Ave.
Information: 703-799-8229 or www.wmpamusic.org

SCREENING: ‘ESCAPE FIRE: THE FIGHT TO RESCUE AMERICAN HEALTHCARE’

Tickets are $30 for adults, $25 for seniors and $5 for students and children.

Time: 4 p.m.
Location: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 Beauregard St.
Information: Contact Margaret Volpe at 703-403-4709

OPENING RECEPTION: PORTENT
Artists Sukey Bryan (painting), Freya Grand (painting), Kate Kertz (silverpoint), Amy Marx (painting) and Ryan McCoy (photography) elegantly translate the sheer force of nature into the selected works in the show. The exhibit runs through December 8.

Tickets are $20, but anyone 18 and younger is free.

Information:
Location: Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road
Information: 703-324-4600 or www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org

THE BASICS: MEMORY LOSS, DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE
This program will provide information on detection, causes, stages of the disease and risk factors. The event is free.

Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road
Information: 703-324-4600 or www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org

SUPERSTITION AND MAGIC IN THE CLASSICAL WORLD Come enjoy this lecture by historian Lauren Hammens. Learn about the role of magic and superstition in the everyday lives and homes of ancient peoples. The event is free.

Time: 7 p.m.
Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.
Information: 703-548-0035 or www.nvfaa.org

October 28

The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.
Mel Bergheim remembered for mentoring budding politicians

By Erich Wagner

Former Vice Mayor Mel Bergheim died Sunday at the age of 87.

Bergheim was elected to city council in 1970 and served a stint as vice mayor until he lost a three-way mayoral election in 1976. Despite the setback, Bergheim stayed active in local politics and remained a member of the Alexandria Democratic Committee for many years, mentoring budding politicians and activists.

Kerry Donley, who served as mayor from 1996 until 2003, said that he remembered Bergheim as a voice for good during a pivotal moment in the city’s history.

“He was active in the city and in elected office when the city was going through some very turbulent times, particularly with race relations and issues like school desegregation,” Donley said. “I think Mel certainly had the values of equality and fairness.”

Donley described Bergheim as always thoughtful and respectful in his approach to the controversy of the day.

“He always put a lot of thought on how he would feel on various issues,” Donley said. “[Because] of his prior community service in elected office, he always understood the pressures people were under. He was always respectful — not only of their time, but their own sentiments and feelings as well.”

Donna Fossum, who served on the city planning commission and ran unsuccessfully for city council last year, said that when she first moved to Alexandria in 1982, Bergheim was a strong advocate for the West End.

“He was sort of a voice in the wilderness out here,” she said.

Fossum got involved in local politics partly because of her work on Capitol Hill. But she said Bergheim encouraged her to become more engaged in city issues.

“He always encouraged me to run for city council,” Fossum said. “When I finally decided to run, I asked if he would speak at my kickoff event. He just responded, ‘How long and when do you want me to start?’”

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LEON STANLEY
AUGUST, formerly of Alexandria, October 8, 2013

MELVIN L. BERGHEIM (87), of Alexandria, October 20, 2013

MUAMMER CILEM (88), of Alexandria, October 17, 2013

MILDRED LEE COLANTUONI (86), of Alexandria, October 16, 2013

HAROLD “JACK” J. PEAKE (92), of Alexandria, October 12, 2013

TRACY J. REPPERT (48), of Alexandria, October 16, 2013

JANE BLITCH SCHRAGE, of Alexandria, October 16, 2013

WILLIAM J. SULLIVAN, of Alexandria, October 14, 2013

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HELP WANTED

P/T MERCHANDISER JOB # 11211-STOCKING “GENERAL MERCHANDISE” ITEMS IN SUPERMARKETS IN ALEXANDRIA/HUNTINGTON, 12-16 hrs/wkly, $11.00/hr. WWW.ATARETAIL.COM OR 800-287-1604 x 502

P/T MERCHANDISER JOB # 11026-STOCKING “GENERAL MERCHANDISE” ITEMS IN 4 STORES IN ALEXANDRIA, FRANCONIA, VA 10 hrs/wkly, $11.00/hr. WWW.ATARETAIL.COM OR 800-287-1604 x 220

P/T MERCHANDISER JOB # 11171-STOCKING “GENERAL MERCHANDISE” ITEMS IN 6 STORES IN ALEXANDRIA, GROVETON, VA 10-16 hrs/wkly, $11.00/hr. WWW.ATARETAIL.COM OR 800-287-1604 x 501
ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOVEMBER - 2013

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the following dates. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information call the Department of Planning and Zoning on 703-746-4666 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/planning.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Master Plan Amendment #2013-0003
Rezoning #2013-0004
Development Special Use Permit #2012 0031
800 Slater’s Lane Slater’s Lane Residences
Public hearing and consideration of requests for A) an amendment to the Northeast Small Area Plan chapter of the Master Plan for a height increase; B) rezoning to amend the existing profiles; and C) a development special use permit and site plan with modifications to construct a residential building with a parking reduction to allow tandem parking spaces and an increase to the floor area ratio in exchange for affordable housing pursuant to section 7-700; zoned RC/High Density Apartment
Applicant: CIAM Slaters, LLC represented by Duncan W. Blair, attorney

Special Use Permit #2013-0066
5723 Edsall Road (Parcel Address: 5725 Edsall Road) Leah Bakery
Public hearing and consideration of a request to operate a bakery; zoned CG/Commercial General. Applicant: Mulugeta Alemayehu

Special Use Permit #2013-0069
251 W. Glebe Road (Parcel Address: 221 W. Glebe Road) El Gascante Food Restaurant
Public hearing and consideration of a request for an amendment to an existing special use permit (SUP #2012 0028) to allow live entertainment; zoned CDD #12 / Coordinated Development District.Applicant: Fossal, Inc. represented by Nicholas Gehrig, attorney

Special Use Permit #2013-0063
615 E.S. Peckert Street (Parcel Address: 504 S. Van Dorn Street) Auto Repair Shop
Public hearing and consideration of a request to operate a light automobile repair business, zoned CG/Commercial General. Applicant: Anas Al Hadidi

Text Amendment #2013-0011
Townhome Requirements
A) Initiation of a text amendment; B) Public hearing and consideration of a text amendment to Section 1-400(B)(3)(d) of the Zoning Ordinance to allow small, rear loaded garage townhouse development to include a drive aisle as part of the lot. Staff: Department of Planning and Zoning

Text Amendment #2013-0012
Townhome Requirements
A) Initiation of a text amendment; B) Public hearing and consideration of a text amendment to Section 7-1600 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow more than eight townhouses in a row with a special use permit in all zones that allow townhouses and to remove the restriction on the length of the townhouse structure. Staff: Department of Planning and Zoning

AT&T intends to submit a Section 106 submission for a proposed telecommunication facility (Evening Star) located at 3201 Landover St. in Alexandria, VA. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with federal regulation 37CFR 1.1307, the NEPA and the ACHP 36 CFR 800. Twelve (12) antennas will be installed on the 160.3 foot building. The overall height of the building, including antennas, will remain 185.46 feet. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the existing facility on Historic Properties may do so by contacting Rebecca Grant, (AT&T) at 7150 Standard Dr., Hanover, MD 21076, 410.712.7768 or RG2950@att.com.

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7723 Southdown Road
Offered at $2,999,900
Splendor on the Waterfront
Vacation Year Round! Ten minutes south of Old Town – this incomparable 7,000-square-foot luxury home features six bedrooms, four and a half baths on 3/4-acre; 400-foot dock with slips and lift on 125 ft of waterfront – Available Now!

1700 Mason Hill Drive
Offered at $789,500
Move-in Ready!
Entertaining floor plan – 1/2-acre beauty! Four bedrooms, three full baths and two-car garage! Unique New Orleans-style balcony – main level bedroom suite; updated granite and stainless kitchen! Great work at home convenience.

2108 Foresthill Road
Offered at $1,335,000
Quintessential Belle Haven
This 1940s update features a top-of-the-hill location on a lovely street. With four finished levels of charm this meticulously maintained home is move-in ready! With a one-car garage, 4 bedrooms & 4 full baths you’ll love the Belle Haven lifestyle!

CONTRACT PENDING
2007 Mason Hill Drive – Offered at $819,000

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