

Silver Streak

Vol. 4 No. 3

Senior Services of Alexandria

August, 2003

Employee and Employer of the Year Awards



photo by Tisara Photography

Bill Harris, left, incoming President of Senior Services Board of Directors; Traci Thurston, daughter of Employee of the Year Bobby Thurston; Mayor-Elect Bill Euille, a featured speaker at the Annual Meeting; Mayor Kerry Donley; outgoing President of the Board, Linda Couture and Paul Jablonski, General Manager, American Home Security, Employer of the Year.

Senior Services Honors Given

(Reprinted with permission: Alexandria Gazette Packett)

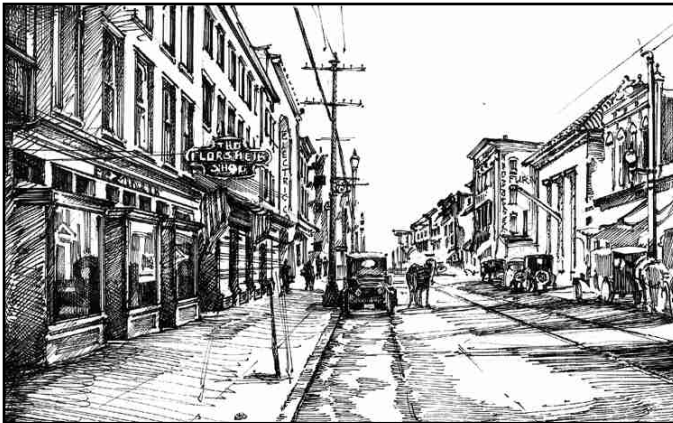
Senior Services named American Home Security as Employer of the Year on June 19th at its 35th Annual Meeting. Mayor Kerry Donley presented the Award to General Manager Paul Jablonski.

American Home Security sells, services, installs and monitors residential and commercial security systems and, since 1979, has hired 20 seniors through Senior Services Employment, many for full-time positions. Mr. Jablonski said his company appreciates and values their senior workers.

Senior Services also recognized Bobby R. Thurston as the 2003 Employee of the Year. Thurston's daughter Traci accepted the Award from Mayor Donley on behalf of her Father who was away assisting his church. Thurston was chosen for this Award because of his dependability and has been praised by the seniors he has helped with various chore services for his commitment to them and to the community.

Traci Thurston also praised her father, for having a kind heart and for his punctuality, a trait which, she said, she shares. Donley added that "an apple does not fall far from the tree."

Drawing by C.S. Pierson



King Street – an historic view

The Alexandria Calendar 2004

We are happy to announce that the production of Senior Services signature Alexandria calendar for 2004, with its pen-and-ink drawings of Old Town, is well underway. While the page sponsorships have all been spoken for, it is not too late to become a Calendar Benefactor, by donating \$300 or more, or a Patron, \$75, to help Senior Services provide its many programs for our older citizens.

The Calendar is distributed to several thousand residents in Alexandria and beyond and will sell for \$10 each, and for considerably less when purchased in volume. For more information about becoming a Benefactor or Patron, or buying the Calendar in volume, please call Judy Drewry, Calendar Coordinator, at (703) 370-1948.

Unforgettable gifts

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Senior Services, 121 North St. Asaph Street,
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

For more information, please call 703-836-4414
or visit www.seniorservicesalex.org

Contributions have been made to Senior Services in the name of the following friends and loved ones.

In Memory of

**Mrs. Stina Bankston, Mrs. Lula V. Howser
and Jonathan Davies**

by Mr. Robert K. Dawson

Karen Parsons Duncker

by Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Parsons

Lois Van Valkenburgh

by Ms. Martha N. Long



Thank you...

Senior Services Board Directors John Davies, left, Sabrina Reilly and Arminta Wood for becoming "Stewards of the Dirt" for a Saturday morning. They cleared nine bags of weeds, bushes and trash from the land extending north of the lovely landscaped garden in front of the Senior Services office.

Annual Senior Services Program Report

Statistics: June 1, 2002 – May 31, 2003

Arlington Money Management: The Arlington Agency on Aging awarded Senior Services a contract in February 2003 to develop a program to help seniors organize and pay their bills. The program is based in a donated office in Culpepper Gardens, a complex of subsidized independent and assisted living senior high rises located in Arlington. **17 clients are receiving ongoing help.**

Continued on page 3

Did You Know?

That the **Alexandria Library** offers new hope to those whose eyesight is beginning to fail?

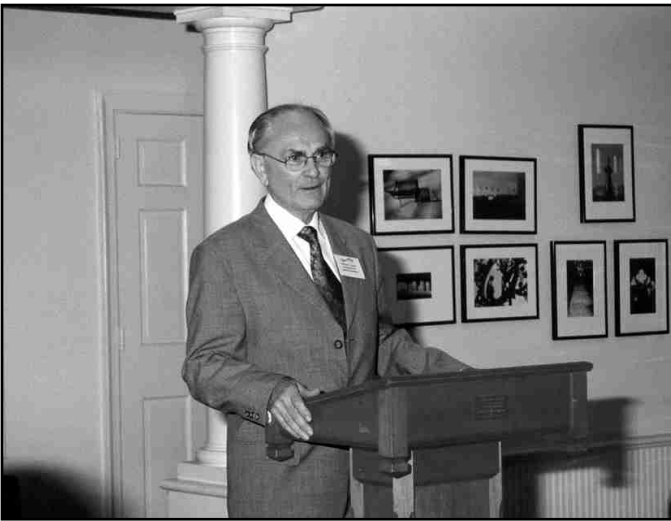
Allow the Alexandria Library to offer you new hope with their free **Talking Book Service**, which provides a special cassette machine on which to play unabridged "books" that are recorded on 4-track cassette tapes.

From the convenience of home, select "books" to borrow from a catalog, and receive and return "books" by free mail. The upkeep of the cassette machine is also a complimentary service of this Library of Congress program.

To find out more about this service, call the Beatley Central Library at 703-519-5911, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Board of Directors Selects New President

photo by Tisara Photography



William P. Harris at the June, 2003 Annual Meeting

William P. (Bill) Harris is the new President of Senior Services Board of Directors for 2003 – 2004. Bill knows the community well. He and his wife, Dinny, have lived in Alexandria since 1985 and in the metro area since 1965. He also knows the issues of seniors, having spent 38 years as a retirement home administrator before retiring himself in July of 2001.

Bill began his retirement home ministry after serving as a Baptist pastor in western Kansas for nearly eight years. He is probably best known

for his 29 years' work at the Culpepper Garden retirement home in Arlington, where he persuaded HUD to permit the use of housing grant money to fund a new assisted living wing at Culpepper Garden for low income frail elderly.

His pioneering work in the aging field earned him several awards, including a "Best Practices" award from HUD in 1995 and 2000, one for innovative work in 2000 from the Virginia Housing Authority and a "Meritorious Service Award" from the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, also in 2000.

City Manager Phil Sunderland recently appointed Bill to serve on the Assisted Living Work Group charged with bringing quality assisted living to Alexandria for low income frail elderly. He is also active in First Baptist Church of Alexandria, serves as a Board Director of the Arlington Kiwanis, Treasurer of the Board of The Institute for Palliative and Hospice Training, Inc., and as a member of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, chairing its Housing Committee.

Bill received an AB degree from Missouri's William Jewell College and B.D. and M.R.E. degrees from Central Baptist Seminary. He also earned an M.A. degree from George Washington University in Long Term Care Administration. He and Dinny have four sons and three grandchildren.

Program report from page 2

Emergency Assistance: Alexandria seniors referred by social workers are eligible to receive one-time assistance of up to \$100 until the amount budgeted is used up. Funds can be used to help pay fuel, utility, prescription drug and emergency medical bills, or rent, if the individual is threatened with eviction. **71 received assistance.**

Employment and Home Care Services Program provides employment counseling and job placement to Alexandrians 55 and over and home care matching services to Alexandria and Arlington Seniors who are 60 and over. **New Applicants 180; Job Matches 190**, of which 125 were placements with seniors needing assistance with home care.

Guardianship of Last Resort Program

As court-appointed guardian, Senior Services is making all decisions on behalf of persons who, through disability, cannot make decisions on their own behalf. **Seven clients have been served, four of which were also conservatorships.** As court-appointed conservator, Senior Services controls and manages the incapacitated person's assets.

As **representative payee**, Senior Services is appointed under agreement with the Social Security

Administration (and Veterans Administration) for the sole purpose of administering and managing that agency's benefit payments on behalf of the beneficial owner. **9 clients were served.**

Services Coordination Program: Our Services Coordinator helps seniors at the Annie B. Rose High Rise in Alexandria to assess their needs and access community resources. **All 90 residents are served.**

Transportation:

Senior Taxi takes seniors 60 and over to medical appointments, grocery stores and certain recreation sites. **11,200 trips were taken; there were 600 unduplicated riders.**

Senior Taxi Extension is a pilot program begun in October 2002 to extend Senior Taxi destinations to include medical offices located within a five mile radius of Alexandria's borders. **1,050 trips were taken; there were 160 unduplicated riders.**

DOT transportation program provides taxi and van transportation for Alexandrians with disabilities to any destination within Alexandria, Fairfax County and Arlington County. **53,000 trips were taken; there were 1,270 unduplicated riders.**



121 North St. Asaph Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

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PERMIT NO. 253

Our Mission:

As Senior Services of Alexandria, our mission is to provide accessible, comprehensive and affordable services to seniors within the City of Alexandria and adjacent areas, and to promote the independence and self-sufficiency which enable seniors to age with dignity in their own community.

Please designate Senior Services in the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign. Agency #8311



Whom to Call for Senior Services

Senior Services of Alexandria.....703-836-4414
(Fax) 703-836-1252
(e-mail) gmullen@seniorservicesalex.org
(web site) www.seniorservicesalex.org

Executive Director: Gwen C. Mullen703-836-4414 Ext. 2
Deputy Director: Grace Lynch, MSW703-836-4414 Ext. 3

Employment and Home Care703-894-0311
Program Manager: Phillipa Wilcox
Employment Counselor: Mary Alice Butler-Johnson

Guardianship/Conservatorship703-836-4414 Ext. 4
Program Director: Jaquelin Simons

Services Coordination
Martha Contreras,703-836-4414 Ext. 0

Transportation
DOT 703-836-5222
Program Manager: Mary Louise Simpson
Reservationists: Dorothy Carter, Carol Collins, Addie Frundt, Verdine Holmes and Tom Smith

Senior Taxi.....703-836-4414 Ext. 1
Program Manager: Charlotte Drummond

Reservationists..... 703-836-4414
Beatrice Taylor, Marie Joiner and Camilo Marquez

Administrative Assistant: Marie Joiner.....703-836-4414 Ext. 0



Board of Directors 2003-2004

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