



ACPS students from Jefferson-Houston, Lyles-Crouch, Mount Vernon, George Mason, James K. Polk, John Adams, Matthew Maury and William Ramsay exhibiting posters in the Vola Lawson Lobby pose for a photo with U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, Mayor Bill Euille, 2015 MLK, Jr. Exhibition Committee members Marc and Tracey Funn, Leroy Baker, McArthur Myers, Matthew Maury ES art teacher Luisa Tio, director of the Alexandria Black History Museum Audrey Davis and ACPS cultural competency coordinator Francis Chase.

'The Journey to be Free'

It was standing room only in City Council Chambers as the 26th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. poster exhibition program began on Monday afternoon. The contest, originating in 1990 by the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black History, Inc. (ASPBH, Inc.), highlights the artwork of Alexandria City Public School students. This year's poster competition was entitled "The Journey to be Free: Alexandria's Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial."

Under the leadership of two society presidents, Harry Burke and Carlton A. Funn, Sr., the contest grew from a small exhibit and program held at the Alexandria Black History Museum, to a larger exhibition held in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall in January and February and a formal program held in Council Chambers.

This year, art work from 63 ACPS students representing eight elementary schools is on display.



TC graduate Kamen Wilks sings "The Impossible Dream."

In 2013, the contest became a memorial exhibition honoring the late ASPBH President Carlton A. Funn, Sr. the 2015 MLK Jr. Exhibition Committee members included Char Bah, Leroy Baker, Marc Funn, Tracie Funn, McArthur Myers, Kathleen Pepper, Randy Stevens and Ethel Underwood.



Artwork by Emmett Burch, grade 3, George Mason ES



Artwork by Caroline Allen, grade 5, Matthew Maury ES.



Artwork by Keith Green, grade 3, Jefferson-Houston ES.



Artwork by Helen Rodriguez Morales, grade 5, James K. Polk ES



Artwork by Julian Ambrose, grade 2, James K. Polk ES.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET

Schools Face Budget Gap

In proposal, superintendent cuts staff and healthcare expenses.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Even after cuts to staffing and programs, the Alexandria superintendent's proposed 2015-2016 budget runs \$9.7 million over the school's funding revenue. In a presentation to the School Board at its Jan. 15 meeting, Superintendent Alvin Crawley proposed his budget of \$260.5 million for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The budget includes \$245.3 million in expenditures

and \$235.6 million in obligatory revenue from city, state, and federal governments, creating a \$9.7 million gap the schools will ask the city to fund. With the city already facing an anticipated \$16 million deficit in 2016, any budget increase to the growing schools is a tough sell.

"The funding increase to the schools is greater than all of the revenue increase in the city," said acting City Manager Mark Jinks.

SEE SCHOOLS FACE, PAGE 5

Friends and Family Mourn Carol Glover

Remembering victim who died in last week's metro accident.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Approximately 800 friends, family, and neighbors gathered Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and one week after her death, at Capitol Hill Baptist Church to pay their respects to Alexandria resident Carol Glover.

Glover, 61, died on Jan. 12 from smoke inhalation when the metro car in which she was riding was stuck in a tunnel near L'Enfant Plaza metro station.

Anthony Glover II, Carol's older son, initiated the gathering's remembrances of his mother by thanking everyone in attendance

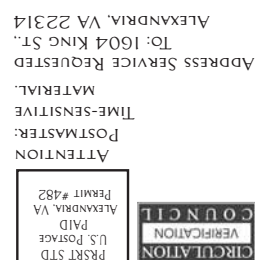
at the service.

"This was my mother's church, she was happy to be here," said Anthony Glover. "I can point out all of the friends and family she knew ... I see all of you, and I thank you. If you feel the need to fall out and cry, go ahead, this is the best place for it."

Anthony Glover pointed out Jonathan Rogers, a man on the metro who attempted to give Carol Glover CPR in her final moments.

"I started grieving, hurting, wondering if there was anybody there to comfort my mom," said Anthony Glover. "[Jonathan] gave all he could ... my family is your family."

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 7



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Display for School Memorabilia Sought

Alumni from George Washington High School, a former Alexandria city high school, approached the School Board at a Jan. 15 meeting to ask that the schools display memorabilia from the former school.

"A significant amount of these treasures are in people's homes," said Claude Mayo, representing the George Washington High School Alumni Association.

Part of the memorabilia project would include identifying, cataloging, and protecting artifacts in the rooms of the current schools. Mayo noted that a former middle school principal had disposed of several items from George Washington High School during one of the school's cleanings. School Board Chair Karen Graf told the group that she recognized their concerns and that she would be in touch.

— VERNON MILES

City Receives Loan for Potomac Yard Metro Station

Alexandria was granted a \$50 million low-interest loan from the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board Jan. 14 for the construction of the Potomac Yard Metro Station. The Potomac Yard Metro station will be the Metro system's second infill station, one built on already existing track, and is expected to open in 2018.

Arrest Follows Malicious Wounding

The Alexandria Police Department has arrested a 52-year-old man from Washington, D.C., in connection to the malicious wounding that occurred in the 400 block of Jackson Place on Jan. 9.

The man is charged with two counts of abduction, two counts of robbery, burglary, malicious wounding, and carjacking.

Around 4 p.m., police responded to a residence for the report of a stabbing. An elderly couple had entered their home and interrupted a burglary.

The victim, an 84-year-old man, was stabbed by the suspect. The victim was transported to the hospital.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to call Detective Sean Casey at 703-746-6853.

Giant To Close Old Town Store

Giant Food will close its store located at 530 First St. at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12.

Alternate neighborhood Giant Food locations within six miles of the closing store include:

- ❖ Giant Food, 425 Eastern Monroe Ave.
- ❖ Alexandria Commons Giant Food, 3131 Duke St.
- ❖ Beacon Mall Giant Food, 6800 Richmond Highway
- ❖ Van Dorn Center Giant Food, 2501 Edsall Road

All store associates will be offered the opportunity to transition into roles at other Giant locations.

Sugar Shack Donuts To Open

Sugar Shack donuts of Alexandria, 804 N. Henry St., will celebrate its grand opening Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8 a.m. in a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted at the shop by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and attended by Alexandria City Mayor William D. Euille and Chamber President & CEO John Long.

Sugar Shack's official opening marks the start of regular business hours, as well as the Freebie o' the Day. Each day Sugar Shack will post a Freebie challenge on Facebook or Twitter to earn a free house donut.

Del. Rob Krupicka is owner of Sugar Shack Alexandria.

Follow Sugar Shack on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sugarshackalexandria or on Twitter at @NOVAdonuts.

Judging Criminal Justice Forum

Residents criticize incomplete view of the city.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The Community Forum on Criminal Justice and Community Partnerships held Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Durant Center drew praise and criticism of Alexandria's law enforcement. The forum featured a panel of Alexandria's top law enforcement officials, from the police to the courts.

Some questions from the audience focused on general concepts of policing in Alexandria. Annabelle Fisher asked Police Chief Earl Cook and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne if changing demographics of Alexandria's population centers has changed how the police patrol neighborhoods. Cook responded that the police do not patrol by neighborhoods but focus on data-driven information on where crimes are most likely to occur.

Alexandria School Board member Chris Lewis voiced concerns that bias can creep into supposedly "color blind" statistics models. Lawhorne said that bias creep in data-driven policing is an issue that affects law enforcement and that police and sheriff's departments need to be constantly on guard against it.

"We have to actively manage for that," said Lawhorne. "And we have to know it when we see it."

Questions of racial and economic bias were leveled at the forum itself. LaDonna Sanders, president of the Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP, pointed out that the audience at the forum did not accurately reflect the City's ethnic or economic diversity.

"The audience is not representative of the people who are stopped and profiled in the city," said Sanders. "We're not having that conversation because those people are not here. The feeling in a lot of the communities is not being conveyed here."

Cook agreed with Sanders' assessment that the forum was not necessarily an accurate reflection of Alexandria's population.

"I expect we'd have a very different conversation if we had a different audience," said Cook, but said that law enforcement intends to host more forums at different locations around the city, "You can't reach all the people in one shot, we have to move around."

Sanders also asked Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter to address the lack of diversity in his office. Porter answered that women compose over half his office staff and that his office has three Latino members who speak fluent Spanish as well as staff that identify as LGBTQ, but acknowledged that his office does not have any African-American employees. An African-American woman worked in the office until December when she left. Porter said his office doesn't have many attorneys, adding that the budget being what it is, if he lost another attorney he's not sure the city would allow him to hire a replacement. Still, Porter said that diversity is important in law enforcement, and asked that the community give him time to address the situation.

Some commentary from citizens in the audience focused around specific neighborhood issues. Jerry Foley complained that his suspicions regarding an ice cream trucking making late night deliveries in his neighborhood was not handled appropriately by Alexandria police.

"That is suspicious behavior," insisted Foley. "I wish I had been taken more seriously."

Some in the audience expressed disappointment,



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Police Chief Earl Cook at the Community Forum on Criminal Justice and Community Partnerships.

not in law enforcement, but in the Alexandria community.

"I would ask you to do one thing," said Patrick Troy, "teach respect for law enforcement What has happened in our city? They want to put television cameras on [police]? I don't need to see what they're doing What is this city coming to?"

But Keith Calhoun said that, while he respects police departments, Alexandria is the exception to the national treatment of young African-American men rather than the rule.

"The talk about how you behave when a police officer stops and questions you, that's a talk that comes in every minority household," said Calhoun. "It's a question of survival."

Joyce Rawlings raised concerns that the next generation of law enforcement leadership would not be native Alexandrians, as many of the officials at the panel were.

"Are we doing enough to set the tone within the next generation of top officials?" asked Rawlings. "We have the luxury of knowing first names of our officials. I really want to look at how we're bringing up the rank and file."

"We are in a transitional period," said Cook. "We have a very young police force, a lot of them still have peach fuzz. A lot of our officers come from all around the United States."

Cook said the concerns about the next generation of police officers is a time-honored but unfounded concern in the community.

"When I first got into the department, I looked at those dinosaurs and I couldn't wait for them to leave, primarily because I wanted their job," said Cook, saying that he knows there are others in the department right now where he was before he became chief of police. "I have absolutely no concerns about our legacy as a police department."

Lawhorne, who attended the same academy class as Cook, said there was something special about police and sheriff's deputies who are "home-grown."

"It is different, you can't deny that. It is different to live and work in a city you grew up in," said Lawhorne. "I make an effort to hire locals. I do think it's a pride issue. That doesn't take away anything from police officers that didn't grow up here, but I am always looking for people that grew up in Alexandria."

As the forum ended, Cook said he had heard the feedback and realized that his department has work to do, particularly when it comes to being involved with communities that were not represented at the forum.

"Complacency is the killer of any organization," said Cook. "We need to continue to reach out and talk to ... those who feel least served. We need to encourage them to be a part of policy issues."

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Alexandria City Public Schools

	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Final Budget	FY 2016 Proposed Budget	% Change FY 2012 to 2016	% Change FY 2015 to 2016
Total Enrollment*	12,395	13,114	13,623	14,224	14,745	19.0%	3.7%
Total FTEs (all funds)	2,210.19	2,194.78	2,332.65	2,339.64	2,406.63	8.9%	2.9%
City Appropriation	\$174,956,420	\$179,486,405	\$185,611,472	\$191,811,472	\$201,018,423	14.9%	4.8%

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

*Enrollment figures represent actuals for FY 2012 through FY 2015 as of September 30; FY 2016 is projected enrollment.

Alexandria Public School's total enrollment, full-time employees, and funding from the city

Schools Face Budget Gap

FROM PAGE 1

"We don't have \$9 million in revenue growth."

Total salary and benefits expenditures comprise approximately 84 percent of the total budget. But while the schools intend to increase salaries to staff, major cuts are planned to staff benefits. Healthcare premiums for staff will see a \$2 million reduction. According to the superintendent's budget, healthcare premiums will be reduced by 15 percent.

Crawley added that the school system will also undergo staff reductions.

At the ACPS central office, the one full time English Language Learners assistant and three instructional specialists from the Professional Learning Office, as well as the change of two personnel in Special Education Office to grant-based funding, will reduce costs by \$842,980.

Cuts to elementary administrative staffing and T.C. Williams administration will reduce costs by \$125,000. Schools will also receive a reduction in supplies and materials, particularly paper, to save \$295,325.

The satellite programs for the public schools will also be forced to reduce the number of students accepted. These programs will eliminate one nurse, social worker, and psychologist position to a total reduction of \$150,000.

One of the factors driving up the budget is the proposed "full step" increase for employees at \$4.6 million. According to Crawley, a full step increase raises support positions below Alexandria living wage set at \$13.13 per hour by City Ordinance. School staff has not had a full step increase since 2012.

The increase specifically is targeted towards the short-term substitute teacher pay rate, which Crawley says is one of the lowest in the region. In his budget, the pay increases from \$96 to \$105 per day. The budget also provides a budget increase to head coach stipends.

For facilities support staff, the budget includes increased staffing to project management to manage maintenance work, order tracking, provide data analysis and improve responsiveness. The cost of contractual services also increases in compliance with the city's living wage requirement.

According to a report by the Washington Area

Boards of Education, behind Arlington and Montgomery counties, Alexandria has one of the highest average teacher salaries at an average of \$73,612. According to the same report the average cost per pupil in Alexandria is \$17,041, lower than Arlington's \$19,040 per student but higher than Fairfax County's \$13,519 per student.

Crawley said that his office is still working through school level cuts, but maintains that his priority is preserving class sizes.

He said the office will have to work with principals in the schools to find areas where more substantial cuts can be made. In Arlington, the School Board is undergoing redistricting for its elementary schools, and Crawley said that Alexandria may face a similar situation with overcrowding in the near future.

"Our first goal is class size," said Crawley. "At some point, the board will have to have a conversation about redistricting."

The superintendent's budget combines the operating budget with the grants and nutrition budget; 83.6 percent of the school's budget comes from the City of Alexandria, and in turn, funding to the public schools is the city's single largest expense. State funds comprise 15 percent of the school's budget, while federal and other funding sources each amount to less than 1 percent.

Jinks commented that the school's budget will be a challenge to fund, but that his office is still in the very early stages of analyzing it.

The superintendent's office is anticipating a 3.7 percent enrollment growth in enrollment for Fiscal Year 2015-16, from 14,224 students to 14,745.

Following the release of the superintendent's budget, a public hearing will be held to discuss the budget on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the George Washington Middle School Media Room.

The public hearing will followed by a series of work sessions throughout January and February. There will be a second public hearing on the Combined Funds Budget and the changes proposed by the School Board before the Fiscal Year 2016 Combined Funds Budget is adopted on Feb. 26. On March 3, the city manager releases the planned city budget before 2016 tax rates are set on May 7.

Fund	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Final Budget ¹	FY 2016 Proposed Budget ¹	Change FY 2015 to FY 2016	Percent Change
All Funds							
Beginning Balance	\$ 20,778,679	\$ 21,305,133	\$ 19,092,829	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	NA
Revenue	230,034,688	234,049,406	239,636,160	246,265,349	257,475,591	11,210,242	4.6%
Expenditures	229,508,234	236,261,710	241,020,728	254,214,661	260,500,868	6,286,207	2.5%
Other Financing Sources / (Uses)	-	-	-	2,324,632	-	(2,324,632)	-100.0%
Ending Fund Balance*	\$ 21,305,133	\$ 19,092,828	\$ 17,708,293	\$ (5,624,680)	\$ (3,025,277)	\$ 2,599,403	-46.2%
Total Addition to / (Use of) Fund Balance	\$26,454	(2,212,304)	(1,384,536)	(5,624,680)	2,245,427	2,599,403	-46.2%

Note: Numbers may vary due to rounding.

*Includes encumbered carryover, prepaids, designated beginning balance for the next fiscal year, and undesignated beginning balance for the following fiscal year.

Alexandria Public School funding from fiscal year 2012-2016

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PEOPLE

On Route, Collecting Trash

BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It was 7 a.m. and 25 degrees in the truck yard. The hose on the trash compactor at T.C. Williams high school had frozen up and city resources for trash collection were reconfigured on the spot.

“Usually we start out downtown because there is less traffic early and it is more convenient,” said Vince Green who is a refuse truck operator for the City of Alexandria facilities route. “We collect from city facilities like schools, city hall, the Torpedo Factory, firehouses and we pick up trash several times a week or every day, unlike the residential routes.” The residential side has 20,000 customers who have pick up for trash, recycling material and some households for yard waste, which is new this year.

“Not too cold today — at least not like last week.” Nevertheless, the first thing the refuse drivers do on the winter mornings is to tap their truck to evacuate the furry creatures who may have lodged in the warm recesses of the truck overnight. Green slowly backs his 18-foot trash truck #4266 around a corner, warning bell beeping, and parks by a church next to T.C. Williams. “We pick up at a few churches,” he said. Next stop is in Old Town where the truck bumps along toward the Torpedo Factory. Green’s partner of five years, Anthony Jones, sports a similar fluorescent yellow jacket and matching stocking hat. Jones rides in the passenger seat or sometimes hangs off the back of the truck for short distances. Green reaches his first stop in Old Town and bolts down the two steps on the driver’s side. Together they wheel the large cans of refuse from the Torpedo Factory where a metal platform grabs the cans and dumps them upside down into the hold of the truck. A large silver blade lowers and scoops up the trash into the hopper and back into the body. “We get basic office trash here but sometimes you can tell the artists have been working on projects. We get wood, fabric or old paintings.” Today several large wooden frames join the pile.

An average schedule for Green’s facilities route is 6:30 am-2:30 pm. But this is a work task job which means he goes home when the job is done. “Sometimes it can be a bit longer. This truck also handles misses and late calls if someone forgets to put out their garbage. In the morning I add these to my route plan for the day.” Usually there are 20-23 stops on a



Vince Green waits for the mechanical platform to empty the trash can upside down and return it to the street where he can wheel it back to be filled again.

daily basis including 3-yard and 6-yard dumpsters. The trucks go out in all weather “except last Tuesday with the big ice storm. We went out but we had to come back in. The storm came on so quickly and no one expected it. It was unsafe.” Generally the 15-ton truck can hold all of the trash on any particular day. “But in May and September when schools are cleaning out or setting up for the new school year, we may need to have two truckloads.”

Green has been working as a refuse truck operator for the City of Alexandria for almost seven years. Previously he worked in refuse collection for the City of Rockville for eight years. In addition to his current job he has a small business as a computer technician and works security. Because the refuse collectors are city employees they often get to know their customers who sometimes wave and call them by name. Green can’t forget the most unusual trash he ever picked up. Once there was a live long, black snake. But Green chuckles remembering, “the firemen over by the Lee Center have a great sense of humor. One of them took a deer’s head, cut off the antlers, put it in the trash can and covered it up. When I got ready to empty the can I found this deer’s head staring back at me. I thought ‘I’m getting ready to run.’ The fireman was standing back around the corner watching and smiling at me. Here,” he said. “I have a picture on my phone.”



Anthony Jones waits for the metal platform to empty the trash can upside down and return it to the street.



“This way,” Vince Green gestures as he points toward Old Town where his facilities route will include the Torpedo Factory, City Hall and about 20 additional city buildings.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Christ Church Hires Interim Rector

The Vestry of Christ Church have called The Rev. John Hood Branson to serve as the interim rector to lead the congregation during the search process for a new permanent rector, usually a one to two-year period. Branson will conduct a forum from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25, in the Auditorium at Christ Church to introduce himself and discuss the role of interim rectors in Episcopal parishes and his role at Christ Church.

Branson is an experienced parish priest who has led large congregations similar to Christ Church for more than 30 years.

Most recently, he served as the interim rector at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, Ill., the largest church in the Diocese of Chicago. Prior to serving there, he was the rector at Christ and Holy Trinity Church in Westport, Conn. for 22 years. Branson, and his wife Judyth, will reside in the Old Town area of Alexandria during their time at Christ Church.



The Rev. John Hood Branson

PEOPLE NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced the 29 legislators and policy stakeholders who will make up the newly formed Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success, including Del. **Rob Krupicka** (D-45). The council is tasked with developing strategies to ensure all children across Virginia have the resources available to them to ensure they are ready to thrive and success in school. Among other issues, it will address funding, access and quality of early childcare programs. Meetings of the Council are open to the public.

Nebal Maysaud is the winner of the 2014 Kluge Young Composers Competition.

MILITARY NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos are welcome.

Army Pvt. **Clement Yeboah** has

graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Yeboah is the son of Charles Tweneboah of Alexandria. He is a 2014 graduate of T.C. Williams High School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Correction

The wrong photograph was published with “Touring Jefferson-Houston,” Gazette Packet, page 6. On the rooftop observatory at Jefferson-Houston are, from left, Mark Eisenhour from ACPs Education Facilities; Priscilla Gomez, Ivan Francois Cruz Navarette and Rocio Torres from the Instituto Thomas Jefferson in Mexico City; and VMDO Architects Sara Teaster and Bob Moje.

Remembering Carol Glover

FROM PAGE 1
ily.”

Carol Glover had a near death experience, an asthma attack, when Anthony Glover was still young. He said after that she was always grateful to be around — to console her children when their father died, to be their for the birth of her grandchildren, and to repair relationships with friends and family that had broken over the years.

Donna Glover, Carol’s sister, remembered her sister as a woman full of laughter.

“I will miss her by what she will miss,” said Donna Glover. “I will miss our birthday celebrations, our spa days, our discussions on difficult situations. I will miss that radiant smile.”

“We didn’t come here to mourn, Carol is in a better place,” said Carol’s mother, Corrine Inman. “We all have a dark tunnel to go through; we just have to stay on the track ... Carol’s death was for a purpose: to make a change.”

Alexandria Mayor William Euille, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), and other local officials attended the memorial, expressing their condolences and their desire to see the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) answer for the incident. U.S. Sen. Mark Warner released a statement Jan. 13 demanding Metro release additional information on



Carol Glover (center) with her sons Marcus (left) and Anthony Glover.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

safety protocols and asked that the organization arrange a meeting with his office to review those procedures.

“I know the Glover family very well,” said Euille at a City Council meeting on Jan. 13. “I had an opportunity today to talk to one of her two sons and express sympathy and condolences on behalf of the City Council and

the citizens of Alexandria and offered whatever support we can provide.”

“This is an unbelievable tragedy, our hearts go out to her family and all of the families affected by this,” said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg after the meeting. “It is incumbent on all of us to demand answers. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is investigating but it’s going to take months.”

While the Glover family waits for answers, Anthony Glover told those in attendance at his mother’s funeral that in the week after her death, he has learned so much about her life that he never knew.

“Don’t feel guilty or upset if you see a funny movie or go to a waffle shop,” said Anthony Glover, “The life she lived was complete and she lived it well.”

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THURSDAY/JAN. 22

Applicant Screening. 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. at 1900 North Beauregard St., Suite 300, Alexandria. The City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center will pre-screen applicants for the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau will be hiring for field representatives, leaders and supervisors. Visit <http://joblink.eventbrite.com> or call 703-746-5850.

Racial Profiling Discussion. 7-9 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St., Alexandria. The NAACP’s groundbreaking report, “Born Suspect,” opens a renewed dialogue about racial profiling by law enforcement in America. Email ladonna.sanders67@gmail.com.

“When the United States Spoke French.” 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave., Alexandria. The Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee presents François Furstenberg, Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University, who will speak about his book. Book Signing with wine and dessert reception to follow. RSVP online at <http://whentheunitedstatespokedfrench.eventbrite.com>. Free admission. Contact Julia Sylla at julia.sylla@georgetown.edu or 202-203-0177.

Advisory Group Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Rec Center,

2701 Commonwealth Ave. Oakville Triangle/Route 1 Corridor Advisory Group will discuss topics, including plan area heights and land use. Advisory Group meetings are open to the public and members of the community are encouraged to attend and participate. Visit www.alexandriava.gov or contact Juliana Villabona at 703-746-3851 or juliana.villabona@alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY/JAN. 25-SUNDAY/FEB. 1

Donation Drive. Christ Church Youth will launch a food drive to tackle hunger and poverty issues in our own community as part of the SOUPer Bowl of Caring. In the week leading up to the big game, Christ Church Youth are taking a collection of full-size toiletry items (shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant) and/or monetary donations. The goal is to collect 1,000 items for the Christ Church Lazarus Ministry Food Pantry. Donated items may be dropped off at the entrance to the Christ Church Memorial Parish House building at 118 North Washington Street in Old Town from 8:45-9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1. Visit www.historicchristchurch.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Application Deadline. 5 p.m. The Alexandria City Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Record Form no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 26. For a complete list of vacancies, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Boards.

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OPINION

Baby Steps, Not Enough

Problem extends to all local police departments, whose leaders choose a culture of secrecy.

Finally, now that the Fairfax County Police Department has taken stone walling into the arena of the absurd, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has at least said it is time for change. It is a step, but a step that continues the appearance of obfuscation if not outright obstruction.

John Geer of Springfield was shot dead inside the doorway of his own home in Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013. Following an argument with his longtime partner, police arrived at Geer's home and spoke with him for more than half an hour while he stood in his doorway, unarmed, with his hands raised and resting on the frame. As he began to lower his hands, by all accounts still at shoulder level, he was shot in the chest and died in his house without receiving medical attention.

It took more than 16 months, a \$12 million civil suit by Geer's family and a court order to get the first tiny bit of information on the shooting, which came earlier this month. Police named the police officer who fired the shot that killed John Geer.

The short written statement by Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. included some very troubling references that appear to blame the shooting on the fact that Geer was a known

gun owner. At least 35 percent of Virginia residents are gun owners; are they all more vulnerable if for some reason police are called to their homes?

Now Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova has asked the County Executive to locate "independent expertise in the field of police department operations and, specifically, in the area of policies and procedures with respect to information disclosures in the case of police-involved shootings."

We agree with Supervisor Pat Herrity, who says: "As elected officials it is our job to make policy, not hire an 'outside expert' to do our job for us. ... We currently have the resources of a professional staff at our disposal." Herrity also notes that the proposal does not contain a provision for public input, and that many county residents have researched this topic and qualify as experts.

A few minutes of research shows, for example, that the National Association of Police Chiefs, for example, has extensive documentation about best practices in a variety of police shooting incidents. (Naming the officer involved after 48 hours is among the recommendations.)

The problem goes beyond Fairfax County,

and beyond police shootings.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records "shall be presumed open." But the legislation includes an exemption that allows police to withhold "complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence."

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a "blanket" approach to using their exemption.

That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a "police-involved shooting" or information requested by a family about a homicide victim, or even about routine police activity in a neighborhood. Not even defense attorneys or victims of crimes can gain access to actual police reports.

This is about lack of accountability and denying the public access to information that must be made public.

Leaders of police departments here are engaged in serious and significant abuse of power. It's time for elected officials to represent the public and impose change on those who would hide behind a culture of secrecy.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Asset to The Community

To the Editor:

The Jan. 15 edition of the Gazette Packet printed a letter object-

ing to a statement quoted from the Dec. 11, 2014 minutes for the

Alexandria Commission on Aging that someone stated "... he had personally met with neighbors immediately adjacent to the project and there was little or no

objection voiced." This was in reference to the assisted living memory care center proposed to be built between Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center and the Ivy Hill Cemetery on King Street.

I was the person who made the statement, which in the minutes was not fully quoted.

In my statement to the Commission on Aging I related that I live within the area of the North Ridge Citizen's Association on Tuckahoe Lane. In support of this much needed project I personally canvassed every home from the cemetery west on the north side of King Street to Scroggins, all on Tuckahoe Lane, and some on Bayless Drive.

Most people knew little or nothing about it. After presenting information about the project, most people expressed support, some didn't want to get involved, but not one person I spoke with opposed it.

While the leadership of the Taylor Run Citizens Association on the south side of King Street has opposed this project there are only two houses directly across the street from the project, along with is the Church of Latter Day Saints and Melrose Street.

The fact is the impact to homes in the Taylor Run Association is minimal.

The need for memory care is great and increasing, as the January-February 2015 issue of the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION

Out of the Mouths of Babes

An interview with a mentee on the value of mentorship.

BY DIANA RODRIGUEZ



Diana Rodriguez with Aidan

The other day, I took my student/mentee, Aidan, to have a special dinner for our one year anniversary of being paired as mentor and mentee with Wright to Read. During that time together, I asked him a few questions about our first year, and what he has gained from our meeting and working together. I told Aidan I was going to ask him questions so other people might understand what it's like to be a mentor and a mentee. He was happy to participate and answered the questions with thought and feeling.

MENTORING

"Aidan, what are the top five things you like best about being tutored?"

Aidan answered:

- ❖ Reading books- especially books about dinosaurs, dogs, wrestlers (more on this later) and science.
 - ❖ Playing learning games. (And hopefully winning!)
 - ❖ Seeing Diana (me) every week, and getting to see Luisa Reyes (of Wright to Read) from time to time.
 - ❖ Getting to take new books home to read.
 - ❖ Doing better in school, and feeling smarter.
- Aidan is a typical seven-year-old boy, who loves to play video games, watch wrestling on television, and play on his tablet. In the past year, he has also learned to love reading.

One of the best things I learned in the past year as his tutor/mentor is the importance and value of letting children read about topics and activities they feel passionate about. You might think kids don't feel passionately about topics, but they certainly do. Aidan loves learning everything he can about reptiles, sea animals, and dogs. We've been so lucky to have access to great books on topics he really enjoys. He's also learned things he might never have exposure to, even in school.

By having a personal relationship with Aidan, he has grown to trust me and know I am an advocate and champion for him. Last summer, I took him to Friendship Firehouse in Old Town, Alexandria, and I've taken him swimming. At first he was nervous, but he wanted to show me that he could do it. He wants to prove himself to me and show me he is capable. I can't begin to describe the feelings of pride and awe I feel when he learns something new and

goes beyond himself in an activity.

Being a mentor has given me a great gift in being able to make a very big, and positive, difference in the life of a child. We talk about things he might not think to talk about with his busy parents. For one hour a week, he has the undivided attention of a caring adult. When we're together, we are focused on each other, when we are doing our lessons, playing an educational game, or just chatting about his life and thoughts.

The first year was a process of getting to know each other and working together to improve Aidan's reading abilities. Little by little, we made progress and he learned my expectations of him. Some days he was fidgety and unable to settle down and focus. I learned to change course and try something else to engage him in learning. The games are a great way of doing that, but also, finding books about things he really enjoys was key to keeping him attentive and engaged, hence the books about wrestling. It may not seem like an educational topic, but the point is to get him reading and develop a desire to read more.

Aidan often tells me he thinks I am "the best tutor in the world." Each time, I catch my breath and feel tears come to my eyes. The truth is, I feel like the lucky one. He brings joy and light to my life. I feel honored to be a part of his childhood and formative education. I wouldn't have believed how rewarding that feeling could be.

Wright to Read provides volunteer-based one-on-one sustained literacy tutoring and mentoring relationships to City of Alexandria elementary school children in need, and collaborates with families, schools and community partners to create a comprehensive support network that guides each child to success. Wright to Read is a member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. There are 11 professionally managed programs in the partnership that need adult mentors. Stop in on Monday, Jan. 26 from 6-8 p.m. at the Lee Center (1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314) for an information session (rsvp to mentoring@alexandriava.gov). To learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>



Wright To Read

BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Budget Priorities. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Center located at 1108 Jefferson St. Join City leaders to learn about the budget development process and provide input on where the City should invest resources to best achieve its FY 2016 priorities.

Agenda: Alexandria. 6:45 p.m. at The Hermitage 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Agenda: Alexandria presents "Alexandria's Transportation: Moving

People on a Congested Grid." Dinner catered by Bittersweet Catering at 6:45 (reserve by Jan. 23, members \$32/nonmembers \$37; after Jan. 23, members \$37/nonmembers \$42). Program only 7:15, free to members/\$5 nonmembers. Reservations required. Call 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 26, WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28
Adult Mental Health First Aid

Training Class. 1-5 p.m. 4480 King St., Room 514, Alexandria. Demonstrates the initial help given to a person showing signs of mental illness or a mental health crisis. The eight-hour course teaches risk factors, warning signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use disorders; and a five-step action plan to help someone. Call 703-746-3523 or danielle.marshall@alexandria.gov. Register at survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/MHFARegistration.

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OPINION

Serving in the People's House

Don Beyer's first week in Congress.

BY DON BEYER
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-8)

January 6th
What a day.

Last year, Jim Moran's retirement launched Megan and me on an incredible adventure — capped off when I opened the doors to my office in the Cannon Building this morning. This is the start of another journey, working for and with 8th District residents, some of the most educated and engaged

CONGRESSIONAL DIARY

constituents in the country. I had my first interview, 20 minutes on CSPAN, at 0730, followed by an open house for 300 Northern Virginia friends who braved the first snow of the season. It was impossible not to share their enthusiasm and excitement at the prospects the future holds.

Then it was off to the Capitol for my first official act as congressman — being sworn in.

It was interesting counting the Republican defections from John Boehner in the election for Speaker, wondering if the revolt might lead to a second ballot.

The House chamber is rich with history and traditions (and a secret snack bar in the back). I had another 100 conversations on the House floor, meeting colleagues and reconnecting with some I have known for years. I thrived on bipartisan cooperation during my years as lieutenant governor in Richmond and hope to achieve the same with these colleagues.

January 7th

Now that the formalities and ceremony are done with, it's time to start working. Today was all about getting our website and



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer at a staff meeting in his congressional office.

social media feeds up and running. Twitter and Facebook add such exciting new dimensions to what I have always believed is one of the most important job of any lawmaker — communicating with my constituents and enabling their communications with me.

I had first votes today — on terrorism risk insurance and amendments to rules affecting capital availability to small business. There was lots of running around on the House floor, whipping, educating, even changing votes.

After a very long day, I could not find my car. Actually, I could not figure out which tunnel led to which deep underground garage, and was rescued by one of my seasoned staffers. Next time, breadcrumbs.

January 8th

Today was exhilarating. After practicing alone in my office, and ensuring with seasoned staff that I understood the protocol, I made my first speech on the House floor. The topic was supporting the Affordable



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's official portrait

Care Act in the face of an attempt to weaken the employer mandate. House Republicans had proposed legislation creating perverse incentives to cut employee hours in order to eliminate healthcare benefits entitled to full time workers. This bill put nearly half of all American workers at risk of losing their health benefits. As a small business owner, I know the importance of investing in our employees to create jobs and grow our company. I ran for Congress in part to help close the incredible income gap that exist in our country, not to perpetuate it.

January 9th

Votes ended early today, giving me an opportunity to sit down with my Capitol Hill staff for the first time and begin sketching our plans for the next two years. My crew is composed of an impressive cast of people from my campaign, staffers who came over from Rep. Jim Moran's team, and some newcomers. We have eight staff (plus a few interns) in the Capitol Hill office and five staff

in the district office (off Edsall Road in the Alexandria portion of Fairfax County). The collective talent and dedication of this baker's dozen is immense, and I know we will accomplish a great deal and serve you well.

Then it was on to Williamsburg for the freshman retreat with many of the other 57 men and women just elected in 2014.

January 10th

Today — and the rest of my first weekend as a congressman — I became a student again. The Congressional Research Service, a nonpartisan source of policy and legal information for members of Congress, hosts a biannual conference to teach the congressional newcomers how the legislative branch operates. Civics class all over again.

Topics ranged from how to address people on the House floor to how to write a piece of legislation to statistics and arcana that only a government wonk could love. Fortunately, I am just such a wonk.

That capped my first week as your representative.

I failed to mention all the reading — perhaps three hours a day, just to try to keep up with all the policy ideas flowing around me. The incoming volume of emails is pretty overwhelming, and it will be an interesting struggle to master this.

Please be in touch and let me know how your issue or your organization's event can be part of future diaries. If there is anything my staff can help you with, I hope you will call my Capitol Hill Office at 202-225-4376 or our District Office at 703-658-5403. I look forward to working with you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

"AARP Bulletin" so strongly states on its front page and in its feature article. Also supporting the need for more memory care are the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and the Virginia AARP.

Those supporting this particular project include the Alexandria Commission on Aging, the Alexandria Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, the North Ridge Citizen's Association (in which the project is located) and many citizens who have written letters of support.

This assisted living memory care center will be an asset to the community and a source of comfort to families whose loved ones will be cared for. A majority of citizens support this project; only a few, but very vocal, naysayers are opposing it. As a 30-year resident of Alexandria I strongly support this project, and I hope our city leaders will do so also.

William P. Harris
Alexandria

Shouldn't City Staff Be Neutral?

To the Editor:

I live in Alexandria in a residential community and had the opportunity to attend a citizens' association meeting on Jan. 12 in nearby North Ridge. One of the agenda topics was the proposal by an out-of-town private developer to build a large, 75,000-square-foot, three-story "memory care" structure in a residential community on King Street. Referred to as "the Woodbine Project," the construction of this structure will require that the town "rezone" this residential property to a new "RB" zone.

In addition to the developer's lawyer, who was presenting, two city planning employees were present. I was under the impression that they were there to provide an unbiased view and answer questions to help the members of the association understand the complexities of this rezoning issue.

Rezoning is an important issue, often

highly charged with tension between the developer, area residents and sometimes with the city and other legal jurisdictions. Allowing this 1.3 acre plot to be "rezoned" will set a precedent to allow additional residential plots in Alexandria to be rezoned for institutional use in the future. For this reason, it is so important that everyone be given a fair and unbiased voice and that the process of review is neutral.

I was shocked to hear the representatives present from the city planning staff take a strong stance at this public meeting to clearly side and support the private lawyer in order to endorse the proposal to this association. At one point, when the association members were deciding to vote on deferring a decision, one of the city employees interrupted the association president to state that he "needed their vote and support" so he could represent his view and move this project forward to the Planning Commission and City Council.

I was struck by his extreme pro-developer bias in a public forum on a matter that will

radically impact a residential community and devalue homes all along King Street and nearby neighborhoods. It was obvious that he does not personally need to worry about his home dropping in value from the traffic and noise pollution as this large structure is built and ultimately occupied.

One has to ask, "Why is Alexandria's City Council allowing our city employees (who are being paid from our tax dollars) to be pushing their agenda for rezoning at any cost?" I would hope that our city employees would have more accountability to the taxpayers of Alexandria by maintaining a fair and neutral position.

Matthew Morris
Alexandria

Memory Care Facility Needed

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of the Alexandria
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

OPINION

FROM PAGE 10

Memory Care Center on King Street. I am a member of the Taylor Run Civic Association.

The memory care facility will allow Alexandria families a place for their loved ones who have a devastating memory loss disease. We are a caring community and this is one addition to services that we need and the need is supported by the Alexandria Strategic Plan on Aging. Now it is necessary to travel a great distance outside of the city to find another location for memory care patients. How cruel it is for those in opposition to force those Alexandria families who are already in pain not to have this option.

I do not understand the opposition to the facility. It makes no sense.

From what I see and read, it appears they are using scare tactics: "Approving the Memory Care facility is a precedent and will result a high density commercial property next to your house." How absurd. The facility is located adjacent to Woodbine's property. It is on King Street. It is located between a cemetery, Woodbine and a church. As far as I know Woodbine is the only long-term rehabilitation and health care facility in Alexandria. We need this facility. So what is the rationale for the opposition? It is not representative of the Alexandria caring community.

Lynn Hampton
Alexandria

City Needs Spending Cap

To the Editor:

While reading the Gazette's article about Alexandria's 2015 budget, I thought surely the mature responsible people who clamored to represent us on City Council will not be cowed either by austerity or by the mayor's penchant to spend.

The Gazette article even started out on a civic-serious note. Various city officials were quoted making sagacious remarks about the hard budget choices confronting them. So many spending needs, so little revenue implying budget cuts are inevitable

For a moment, just a moment, I thought we're on the cusp of discovering if those we elected are able to govern wisely. Nothing like having to say no to those who put you in office to reveal which quality an elected official has foremost: personal integrity or political ambitions.

Actually, the article was mostly a Tale of Two Mayors, Mayor Bill Euile and Deputy Mayor, Allison Silberberg. Of the two, the deputy sounded grounded and sensible. Where the mayor wants to charge forward committing to spend, spend, spend especially for the waterfront project, the Potomac Yard metro, affordable housing, the deputy mayor sounds worried. Too many unknowns to her way of thinking.

She's right; there are too many unknowns,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/GAZETTE PACKET

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The appearance of gas for under \$2 a gallon at the new Liberty gas station at 442 North Henry St. in Alexandria attracted enough attention that regular ran dry while this photographer was trying to fill the tank.



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Much To Address in Richmond

BY ROB KRUPICKA
STATE DELEGATE (D-45)

This past week legislators, staff, lobbyists and advocates from across Virginia returned to Richmond for the start of the 2015 session. Jan. 14 marked the first of the 45 days during which the House and Senate will consider over 1,800 pieces of legislation.



Governor McAuliffe gave his State of the Commonwealth address in the House Chambers. The Governor spoke about the need for Virginia to grow our economy and build for a better future by investing in jobs, public education and infrastructure. He also expressed desire to across the aisle and build on bipartisan support to make real changes in Virginia. I look forward to working with the Governor as well as my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and hope that we can come together in a spirit of bipartisanship to improve our state. We've got a busy six weeks ahead of us to vote on what bills will become law. Below are some of the bills I have introduced and hope to pass this year:

Funding for Education: We can't keep passing the buck for school funding to local property taxes. While student population in Virginia has increased by 30,000 children since 2008, per pupil education funding in Virginia has decreased 12.2 percent in the same amount of time. HB1590 raises our state's cigarette tax rate from \$0.30 to \$2 per pack (the average on the east coast). All additional revenue brought in by the increase will be earmarked for K-12 purposes, an estimated increase of up to an additional \$500 million a year for our schools. Raising taxes is never popular, but Virginia has the second lowest cigarette tax rate in the country. Our low tax rate has made Virginia a key player in illegal cigarette trafficking on the east coast, which is linked to organized crime, gang and terrorist activities. Raising the tax is not only an opportunity to bring additional, much needed funds to our schools, but it is the commonsense solution to fight back against cigarette trafficking. The General Assembly needs to decide if it is more important to fund our schools and curtail cigarette trafficking or to keep cigarettes cheap.

K-12 Reform: As I continue my work with the Standards of Learning (SOL) Innovation Committee, we are looking for ways to reduce the number of high-stakes tests in our schools and to make sure that what tests our students do take accurately reflect their learning. HB1592 would require the Board of Education to establish guidelines for alternative assessments that students could take in lieu of the corresponding Standards of Learning assessment. There are a number of great testing reform bills this year and I'm excited about the bi-partisan work happening on this topic. It will be a good year for progress on testing reform.

We are also working to change the way schools are accredited. HB1873 was one of the recommendations of the SOL committee's interim report and is a legislative priority for Governor McAuliffe. Currently there are four categories of accreditation that do not distinguish between a school with scores that are improving but still below the benchmark and another school with stagnant or declining scores that are below the benchmark. This bill requires the Board of Education to revise its regulations to create additional categories of accreditation to recognize progress and growth being made in our schools.

Tax Relief for Military Members: Currently, active duty service members who are non-Virginia residents are exempt from paying personal property tax on their vehicles. However, if they lease their vehicle they are not exempt. HB 1589 simply expands the exemption to include leased vehicles by requiring each locality receiving personal property tax reimbursement from the Commonwealth to ensure that the reimbursement covers all of the tax attributable to the first \$20,000 of value on each leased vehicle. This is the least we can do for our service members stationed in Virginia.

Consumer Protection for Seniors: HB1868 would prohibit any person or company who is not licensed as a home care organization from advertising or marketing themselves as a home care organization. These companies provide basic help with household chores and activities for seniors and disabled Virginians. With the increasing number of elderly in the United States, home care agencies have been on the rise. This bill would help protect seniors and ensure they are able to confidently hire the quality care they need.

Taxicab Cameras: We need to make sure passengers and drivers of taxis are safe. HB2188 would require every taxicab or vehicle performing a taxicab service to have an operational digital security camera system within the vehicle. The camera would be used anytime the taxicab is in service.

There is a lot to be done this session, but I am hopefully that the General Assembly can find a way to work together to make a difference in Virginia. If you have any questions about a particular bill, or my legislative package in general, please contact my office at 804-698-1045 or email DelRKrupicka@house.virginia.gov.

Furthering Good Governance

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, the Virginia General Assembly's 2015 45-day legislative session began and Gov. Terry McAuliffe presented his second State of the Commonwealth address that focused on building a new Virginia economy and creating a more stronger business climate by funding workforce programs, increasing veterans training programs and making Virginia a welcoming state for all. Before the session even began, over 2,100 bills had already been submitted for consideration, with more to come. We will also be making adjustments to the second year of the biennial budget.



I have submitted 23 pieces of legislation seeking to improve the lives of Northern Virginians. My legislative agenda covers a range of issues, from tightening ethics restrictions to restore trust in government, to expanding voting access for students, and from combating human trafficking to encouraging innovation in our local workforce training programs.

In the interest of good governance, I

have introduced a constitutional amendment to allow a Governor to serve for two consecutive terms. This commonsense solution would empower Virginians to hold our Chief Executive accountable during any reelection effort as well as allow them to retain the Governor should they so choose. Virginia is the only state in the country that prohibits consecutive terms. As a point of comparison, the Commonwealth's government employs more people than Microsoft. Yet we would never expect a Fortune 500 company to fire their CEO every 4 years without regard to his or her performance. This is also an important way that we can ensure stability and continuity for efficiencies in governing and long term budget planning.

Please join my colleagues and me at a legislative town hall meeting this winter on Feb. 14, 2:30 – 4 p.m., at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe Street, with Del. Rob Krupicka.

Please share your thoughts on legislation and other state-related matters with me by taking my online survey at www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey. You can also email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov. I am also active on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign. You can sign up for my weekly email updates at www.AdamEbbin.com.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

not the least is the cost and the benefits, both tangible and intangible, of the mega-projects the mayor and his council acolytes want. If there is a price tag for what it will cost for just one these projects, then it's escaped me. Without one, it means money doesn't matter to them.

Surely you'll agree that it's the height of irresponsibility to commit worried taxpayers to open-ended spending, especially when revenues are declining, for not just one but for several multi-year, many-million dollar projects all of which have offended so many and earned the approval of so few.

Ah ha, you wonder. How do I authoritatively know most disapprove of these mega-projects whose costs are unknown and whose benefits are too? Good question. I don't. But we could easily find out. All that's required is a spending cap that restricts our City Council's proclivity to get into your pocket, a cap beyond which they would need approval by the taxpayers before they could spend a dime.

A cap would require them to stop treating us like mushrooms in a dark cave. For any given mega-project, they would have to persuade us to give them the authority to fund it. Talk about power to the people. Why, it's so democratic that even the Democratic Party will approve a spending cap.

And it will be good too for our elected officials. It will make them genuine representatives rather than untethered spendthrifts.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Spending Spiral's Effect on Elections?

To the Editor:

I have lived in Alexandria for many years, and like any other dense urban community, we have our share of complex disputes over where to grow and how to do it. In all those years, I never observed the number of highly visible, zoning, planning and development controversies dividing the city such as we are now experiencing. We seem to have a city government that has an unlimited appetite for constructing expensive public properties that far exceed our ability to pay. The list is well known — ranging from elementary schools to the expensive investment in lighted tennis courts — and no repetition is needed here.

What is equally, if not more, disturbing is the parallel drive of the city staff and council to green light virtually any new commercial development if it meets the key test of our new planning and zoning leadership — it adds revenue-generating commercial tax

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

Arts Program Grants

The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts will begin accepting applications for Arts Program Grants on Monday, Jan. 5. Grant funds are available to eligible arts organizations and individual artists for operations, programs and special projects that occur in Alexandria. The Office of the Arts will conduct a series of grant workshops and webinars to assist interested applicants in preparing their grant applications. Online application forms, instructions, and frequently asked questions are available at www.alexandriava.gov/arts. Applications are due by Friday, Feb. 28.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

base. No better example of that is the proposed expansion of the Woodbine nursing home facility on King Street.

For years, including reports written as recently as July 2014, the city planning staff objected to a proposal to rezone this three-lot residential property next to Ivy Hill Cemetery to allow for the expansion of Woodbine. The city's staff wrote several detailed critiques about why the proposal was out of keeping with the existing plan for this area of the city, and out of character with the neighborhood — a view shared by most of us who live in the Ivy Hill community. Yet as the pressure for more tax base continued to grow, the planning staff, under new leadership, has recently chosen to retreat and reverse course, and signaled its intent to green light the developer's latest plan, an even larger facility than what the staff had most recently rejected last July.

What had changed? Precious little! As one city official observed in the context of another recent disputed zoning fight — Let's face it, the city is cash starved and needs the revenue. It seems that in Alexandria, bad spending decisions on public projects create added pressure for bad planning and zoning decisions to help raise cash. This is a horrible cycle that has growing numbers of Alexandrians, including many who have not been politically active in the past, to focus on the 2015 elections with a new found intensity.

Woodbine expansion is not as large or as controversial as the waterfront project, but it is one where city planners have chosen to ignore the interests of the residential neighbors to satisfy the profit desires of a non-local developer. If past is prologue, the City Council will likely rubber stamp this zoning change

to cram this 75,000-square-foot multi-story commercial operation into a one-acre parcel in this residential community as well.

At least those of us who live in the area can do our own planning, and perhaps rezoning, by focusing on the increasingly important reality that 2015 is a City Council election year.

Jan Turkevich
Alexandria

Reform City's Governance

To the Editor:

The current governance model, where Alexandria voters elect a mayor and six at-large members to the City Council, leads to underrepresentation and little accountability to tax paying citizens. This structure might work well for a small town or village, but not for a large diverse city. In total area the city encompasses only 15 square miles; however, with a population estimated at 148,000, Alexandria is larger than Kansas City, Kansas; Syracuse, N.Y.; Dayton, Ohio; Savannah, Ga.; and Charleston S.C.

Community civic associations, the federation of civic associations, and other community action organizations provide only symbolic voice to affairs of city governance. In fairness these loosely configured associations rarely coordinate their efforts and often have differing priorities.

The west end of the city is less concerned with the issues of Old Town residences and vice versa. Neither the mayor nor the council pay a price for disregarding the concerns of the citizens they represent. Their at-large status essentially means they are accountable to everyone and no one. This has enabled

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21

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5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)
Sunday
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm
(en Español); 6:30 pm
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President/CEO of Commonwealth One, Charlotte Cash (at right), presents \$7,000 to Marion Brunken (left), Executive Director of Volunteer Alexandria, and Frank Fannon (middle), President of Volunteer Alexandria.

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Randy Bender 703.906.1749
ALEXANDRIA \$699,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

2424 GRETTER PL Largest model in Stonegate. 3 private BR suites; 2 gas fireplaces, spacious open kitchen with SS Kitchenaid; brand new granite counters; deck off kitchen/family room; landscaped rear brick/stone garden patio. Master suite with built-ins, spa-like BA.



Mary Bourke 703.906.5825 & Mary Taylor 703.785.5619
ALEXANDRIA / Hunting Creek \$250,000

Views of the Potomac River/Atlantic Harbor from this updated 2BR/2BA condo. Freshly painted. Parquet floors thru-out, renovated kitchen/baths, and spacious balcony. 24hr desk, outdoor pool, tennis, sauna, and lots of parking. 5 blocks from Metro. FHA/VA approved.



Marcy Bates 703.606.7605 & Laura Dunkel 703.217.8971
ALEXANDRIA / Wellington \$1,475,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

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ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$565,000

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520 John Carlyle St, #112 \$2,900
Condos at Carlyle Square Garden 2BR / 2BA 1 Garage Pkg
Inderjeet Juman 703.472.8804
701 Fitzhugh Way \$3,850
Old Town Greens Townhouse 4BR / 4.5BA 2 Garage Pkg
Peggy Baldwin 703.772.5236

RENTALS

4862 Eisenhower Ave #263 \$1,500
Exchange at Van Dorn Garden 1BR / 1BA 1 Assigned Pkg
Bill Porter 703.409.0555
2451 Midtown Ave, #1609 \$1,525
Midtown Alexandria Station Hi-Rise 1BR / 1BR Garage & Assigned
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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'The Game's Afoot'

A hybrid of an Agatha Christie murder mystery and a Ken Ludwig modern farce.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting the witty and fast-paced "The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays," Jan. 17 through Feb. 7.

Directed by Frank Pasqualino and produced by Rachel Alberts and Bobbie Herbst, this whodunit play takes you back to 1936 and the Connecticut mansion of William Gillette, the actor known for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes. Add in a blizzard and a house full of guests and murder can't be far behind.

Director Pasqualino said the play is a cross between Agatha Christie, the queen of the murder mystery, and Ken Ludwig, the crown prince of modern farce. "Put them together and you have 'The Game's Afoot,'" he said.

"It's always a good sign, when I'm presented with a comedy to direct, that I laugh out loud on the first reading," he said. "'The Game's Afoot' offered me that pleasure. It's a fun piece of whodunit nonsense, peopled by some of our favorite kinds or characters: theater folks behaving badly. There are inflated egos, grand gestures, melodramatic moments of wounded pride, boundless bitchiness and great camaraderie."

Pasqualino said "'The Game's Afoot' manages to be a loving embrace of the Agatha Christie formula of murder mystery — a

group of people isolated by weather, or on a train or ship or plane (in this case, it's a snowstorm) — combined with the farcical escapades for which Ludwig is famous. An inspector calls, and the false confessions, red herrings, and ... well, I'm not going to ruin it for you."

John Henderson plays the role of William Gillette, who was a famous actor and playwright in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The playwright Ken Ludwig created a fictional story using as background some facts about Gillette — that he wrote a Sherlock Holmes play with the blessing of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and starred in it for several decades, and that he became wealthy and designed a castle for himself in Connecticut reflecting many of his eccentricities.

He said Ludwig has altered a few of the details from Gillette's life for his suspenseful, comic and farcical play. He added the short Sherlock Holmes play-within-a-play that we see in Ludwig's play is a broad take-off from Gillette's play, rather than an actual scene from it.

He said the characters are forced to respond quickly to a series of rapid unexpected developments in the plot, sometimes continuing to perform them theatrically, and sometimes behaving very differently from their theatrical personas.

"So one of the major challenges for all of



PHOTO BY MATT LIPTAK

The full cast of The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "The Game's Afoot." Front row (L to R): Aggie Wheeler (Maureen R. Goldman), Daria Chase (Melissa Dunlap), Martha Gillette (Patricia Spencer Smith), and Madge Geisel (Pam Kasenetz). Back row (L to R): Simon Bright (Joe Quinn), William Gillette (John Henderson), Inspector Harriet Goring (Michelle Fletcher), and Felix Geisel (Chuck Leonard).

us in the cast is to take our very theatrical characters through all these onstage and off-stage transitions," he said. "Also, given the fast pace of the story, and the sometimes strenuous physical actions that the characters must perform during the play, this piece challenges all of us in the cast to maintain a very high level of energy and focus throughout the show."

Patricia Spencer Smith plays Martha Gillette, William's mother who is sometimes impatient with her son's behavior and fiercely protective of him. "She delights in the theatrical, and might not always be what she seems to be," she said.

Chuck Leonard plays Felix Geisel, the character he was most drawn to when he saw "The Game's Afoot" at The Kennedy Center a few years ago. "Felix offers a great range to an actor — at different times sin-

cere, shallow, jealous, loving, witty, foolish, and highly stressed," he said. "Throughout, Felix reacts largely, perhaps letting his 'ham' actor qualities overshadow wisdom."

Maureen R. Goldman plays Aggie Wheeler, a woman who is excited about life and has an exuberance that is infectious, but at the same time she really wants to be loved. "Finding the qualities that make her real and flawed are the most fun to play because they make her relatable to the audience and make her story that much more compelling," she said.

The Little Theater of Alexandria presents "The Game's Afoot" through Feb. 7. Tickets \$19-\$22. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. The theater is located at 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Tavern Toddlers. Weekly open playtime continues every Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, North Royal Street, Alexandria. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance and color in the historic ballroom. No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18. On Monday, Feb. 16 Tavern Toddlers will be closed due to President's Day. www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-746-4242.

"The Space Between." Through Feb. 2 at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312. Photographer Janet Matthews presents a portfolio of new work in this solo exhibit at the Multiple

Exposures Gallery, looking beyond the literal representation of objects to explore their edges and the space that surrounds them. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205 for more.

Signature Tour. 2 p.m. or various other availability. Through Thursday, Feb. 12 at Mount Vernon Mansion, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. During a guided exploration tour of the Mansion, visit areas not normally open to guests, including the basement and the third floor where Martha Washington retired after the death of her husband in 1799. \$5/per person in addition to general admission. Hours vary. Visit mountvernon.org for more.

"Beyond the Board" Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans' presents "Beyond the Board." A portion of artists' sales go to the PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/ for more.

New Exhibit. Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington's design for the grounds of his estate, through a new

exhibition, "Gardens & Groves: George Washington's Landscape" at Mount Vernon through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington's landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

George Washington's Mount Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or

purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria—a \$26 added value. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org for more.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk has

been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tavern Toddlers. Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join other families with toddlers (walkers through 36 months) to have fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern or call 703-746-4242.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month,

ENTERTAINMENT

except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

THURSDAY/JAN. 8-FEB. 22

Exhibition "Unearthed | Unleashed." In the Athenaeum Gallery 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An exhibition of the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent. Gessner's mixed media sculptures reference a variety of natural forms. Kent's minimal works with thickly applied paint and wax appear to be a reflection on organic elements and artifacts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS/JAN. 16-30

"Smellin' Up the Den." At Port City Playhouse, 1819 Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The classiest potty humor in the DMV. Audiences will be treated to an hour-long whirlwind of hysterical vignettes. \$18-\$24. Visit www.redknightproductions.com or www.portcityplayhouse.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 22

"When the United States Spoke French." 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave., Alexandria. The Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee presents François Furstenberg, Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University, who will speak about his book. Book Signing with wine and dessert reception to follow. RSVP online at <http://when-the-united-states-spoke-french-event.brite.com>. Free admission. Contact Julia Sylla at julia.sylla@georgetown.edu or 202-203-0177.

The Noctonals Concert. 8 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Contemporary a cappella music performed by recent graduates from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and Wheaton College. \$15 admission. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 22

"Bessie's Blues." Through March 15 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St.,

FOOD & DRINK

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week, Jan. 23-Feb. 1. First-time participants include BRABO Tasting Room, with its casual Belgian fare, alongside Alexandria newcomers City Kitchen and Mackie's Bar & Grill, as well as Old Town favorite Taverna Cretekou. Restaurants in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End offer a \$35 three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20 per person. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com for a menu flip-book or reservations.

Grand Opening. Monday, Jan. 26, 5-10 p.m. at 606 North Fayette St., Alexandria. Chefs Christophe and Michelle Poteaux re-open **Bastille's** doors at its new location with dinner service only, but will add lunch, brunch and all-day café service in the coming weeks. Visit www.bastillerestaurant.com or call 703-519-3776.

Old Town Farmers Market. 7 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Local farmers and artists have been selling products there since 1753. Located at Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-3200 or email oldtownfarmersmarket@alexandriava.gov.

Del Ray Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Features fresh vegetables and fruits in season, meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces, Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods and more. Located at the corner of East Oxford and Mount Vernon avenues. Contact pmiller1806@comcast.net for more.

Alexandria. "Bessie's Blues," features Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, TC Carson and a cast of actors and musicians who will tell the story of Bessie Smith through a musical odyssey of the blues. Performances are Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. \$55-60. Visit metrostage.org or call 800-494-8497.

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

Junior Brown. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$25. Visit birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Beer Dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Learn how beer was brewed and enjoyed in early America at this event co-hosted by Old Ox Brewing Company. Guests will enjoy a reception, beer tasting and a four-course menu paired with specialty beers by the Mount Vernon Inn with commentary by staff. Old Ox Brewing Company is a family owned and operated commercial brewery located in Loudoun County. \$100 per person (includes tax & gratuity). Visit www.mountvernon.org/inn for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

Tea with Martha Washington. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn.

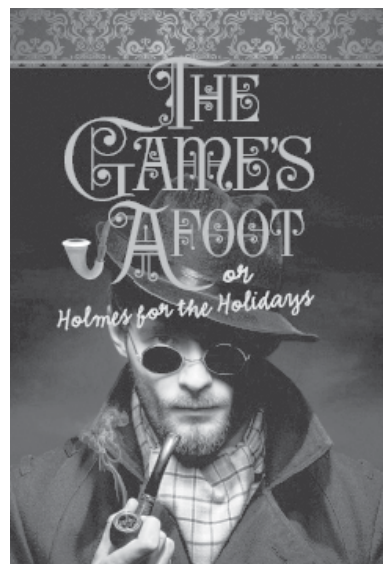
Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Annual Lee Birthday Celebration. 4 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Annual observance of the birthdays of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Robert E. Lee. Ranger Matthew Penrod of Arlington House National Historic Site will speak on continuing restoration efforts at Confederate General Robert E. Lee's family for 20 years. \$5 per person in advance or \$7 at the door. Visit www.lee-fendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 24-25

The Taste & Style of George Washington. 2 p.m. Mount Vernon's first fine arts tour offers guests the chance to appreciate a lesser known quality of George Washington – his keen eye. This tour, which includes the mansion as well as the museum, explores Washington's tastes and his selection of decorative fine arts for his home. This tour is included in admission, visitors must register for a tour ticket online or at the ticket window. Limited capacity. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20



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Announcement to
Child Health Patients of the Alexandria Health Department

This public notice is being made in accordance with Code of Virginia 54.1-2405, with regards to the transfer of children's health records in conjunction with the closure of a practice.

Effective March 1, 2015, the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) is transferring the provision of child healthcare for newborns and children to the Neighborhood Health (NH). NH will provide child healthcare at the following locations:

- 1200 N. Howard Street (Casey Clinic), Alexandria, VA 22304
- 2 E. Glebe Road, Alexandria, VA 22305
- 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria VA 22306

With this change, you have two options:

- Option 1** Visit any of the above locations where NH staff will take care of getting you into their system. You will have to sign a release to allow your children's health records to be sent to them
- Option 2** Transfer your care to another healthcare provider of your choice. AHD will send them a copy of your dental records after you sign a release directing us to do so

There will be no charge to you for copying and sending one copy of your child's health records to the provider of your choice.

Patients may contact NH at 703-535-5568 to make an appointment or if you have any questions.

If you have any questions concerning the transfer of your child's records please contact the Alexandria Health Department Medical Records Unit at 703-746-4991.

Jan. 23 - Feb. 1, 2015

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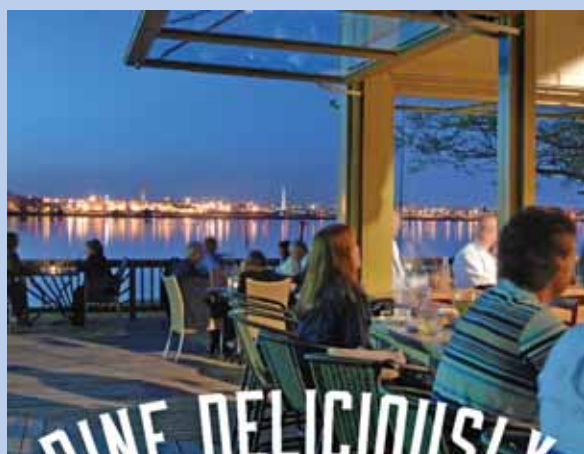
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

“Romantic MasterWorks.” 3 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Lane, Alexandria. Current concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and AYPO alumnus, Alexander Kerr, will perform the Barber Violin Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6. with the American Youth Philharmonic. Adults, \$20; seniors and students, \$10 at the door or online. Call 703-642-8053 or visit www.aypo.org for more.

Presidential Salon. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Join President James Madison, as presented by John Douglas Hall, to discuss the recent Battle of New Orleans and the arrival of the Treaty of Ghent in the context of his own time, and be a witness to the events of the year of 1815. Reservations are recommended. \$15 per person, \$10 for high school/college students. Madeira, Port and other libations will be available for purchase. To purchase tickets, visit shop.alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4242.

Jeffrey Osborne. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$69.50. Visit birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

New Exhibit. 12:35 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Meet the curator of The Lyceum's new exhibit, Explore the Attic, and learn how an exhibit goes from concept to

script to objects on display. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

Swing Dance. 9-11pm, at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria. \$10. Since forming in 2009, the Andy Poxon Band has played at various venues and festivals up and down the east coast. The band plays a variety of originals and covers, mixing elements of blues, soul and country. For more information on swing dance classes, dances, and special events, call 703-359-9882 or visit www.gottaswing.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Tea with Martha Washington. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn. Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 31-SATURDAY/FEB. 1

The Taste & Style of George Washington. 2 p.m. Mount Vernon's first fine arts tour offers guests the chance to appreciate a lesser known quality of George Washington – his keen eye. This tour, which includes the mansion as well as the museum, explores

Washington's tastes and his selection of decorative fine arts for his home. This tour is included in admission, visitors must register for a tour ticket online or at the ticket window. Limited capacity. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 1

Philharmonic Performance. 3 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic welcomes pianist Thomas Pandolfi along with trombonist Brian Bourne as featured musicians for their February performances of Franz Liszt's Les Preludes, Brahms' Piano Concerto and the world premiere of Sparkling Dialogue for trombone and strings. Adults, \$20; 18 and younger, free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.

MONDAY/FEB. 2

History Lecture. 7 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. As Saint Valentine's Day approaches come learn about love, lust, and magic in the ancient world from Egyptian love poems to the origins of our Valentine's Day in the Roman Empire. Adult content: not appropriate for children. Free. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

MONDAY/FEB. 5

Larry Calvert Cookie Class. 6-8 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Join cookie artisan Larry Calvert as he makes hand-decorated sugar cookies. Six different cookies per student will be supplied for creating and taking home. This class



#811 by Tory Cowles

Plan B: Gallery Show

Potomac artist Tory Cowles, who is also an artist in residence at Alexandria's Torpedo Factory, has work on display at Washington, D.C.'s Gallery plan b. Other artists with work appearing with Cowles' include Aster da Fonseca, Gary Fisher, Rod Glover, Anne Manley and Sook Young Lee. The show runs through Sunday, Feb. 8, Wednesday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Gallery plan b is located at 1530 14th St. NW. Call 202-234-2711 for more.

is hands-on training with all supplies included. \$45. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

“Elements” Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Coin Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Springfield American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. The coin show features 50 tables with a variety of coins, currency and numismatic collectables. Prizes to the first 500 visitors. An instruction

period is included for those new to collecting. Additionally, there is a raffle for Gold & Silver coins. Visit www.alexandriacoinclub.com or email boots.barnes1@verizon.net.

Tea with Martha Washington. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

The Beverly Hillbillies. 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

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Celebrating Seniors at Generation-to-Generation Gala

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria's Generation to Generation Gala will take place on Saturday Feb. 28, 2015 from 6-11 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road in Alexandria. This year's gala will honor two families for their commitment to giving back and making Alexandria a better place to live: Christopher Campagna and his mother June Geoffray; and John and Bea Taylor and their daughters Karen Taylor Chandler and Rhonda Taylor. SSA will also honor Ronald M. Bradley as the first recipient of the SSA Philanthropist Award.

"We are proud to honor these individuals for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of Alexandria families including its seniors," said SSA's Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson.

The Taylor family has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service and giving in Alexandria. The four Taylors being honored by Senior Services are life-

long Alexandria residents with long histories in this community. John Taylor's family dates back five generations in Alexandria and Bea Taylor's dates back three. Having met in high school and celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this year, giving back has always been an anchor in both their families and a value that they passed on to their two daughters Karen Taylor Chandler and Rhonda Taylor. For decades now, the family has focused on helping neighbors in their community and inspiring other families to do the same.

Some of the Taylor families' involvement in giving back includes the areas of community, church and school service. John's has worked extensively with the Alexandria Elks Lodge #48 including serving as its Exalted Ruler. Bea, Karen and Rhonda's service includes multiple projects with the Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, Elks Club Israel Temple #138, including coordinating baby items for teenage mothers and overseeing Elk's annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner for seniors. In addition, the family has been active in many school, recreation center and non-profit organizations throughout the City of Alexandria.

The Campagna family also has deep

routes in Alexandria and its name is synonymous with helping children become caring, productive adults. June Geoffray is a fifth generation Alexandrian who started volunteering at the age of 10. Over the past decade she has been involved with several local organizations including the Alexandria Community Y and working with the Head Start Program started by Elizabeth Anne Campagna. Other community service includes serving on the boards of the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry and the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club. Honors include Alexandria Jaycees Community Service Award, Recipient of the Heart of Gold Award and Living Legends Nominee. June worked at Senior Services of Alexandria as its Development Director leaving in 2010 to care for her mother.

Chris Campagna followed in his mother's footsteps volunteering at an early age. He's been involved in the activities of the Campagna Center over the past several years, currently serving on the board of directors as well as a volunteer at many events including the annual Scottish Walk Parade. He's also involved with St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry and served as former board member and chair of St. Anthony's School Scholarship Fund. Chris volunteers with Senior

Services of Alexandria's Meals on Wheels program and encourages his employees to choose a cause to support by volunteering on a regular basis. His corporate charities include Carpenters Shelter, the Men's Home, and Alexandria Seaport Foundation.

Senior Services of Alexandria will honor Ronald M. Bradley with its first Philanthropy award. In 2007, the Ronald M. Bradley Foundation provided the initial funding for Alexandria's first Holiday Meals on Wheels program. Since the program's inception, The foundation has fully funded each year of the program, donating over \$150,000, to ensure Alexandria seniors in need receive a special holiday meal on all Alexandria City holidays. In addition to supporting the Alexandria Holiday on Meals Program, he and his foundation support a wide variety of charitable efforts including: The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Foundation Fighting Blindness, The National Gallery of Art, National Sporting Library & Museum, Great Meadow Foundation, and Blue Ridge Wildlife Center.

If you would like information or to sponsor this year's Gala, call Jane Marcus, SSA's development director at 703-836-4414, ext 14 or go to www.seniorservicesalex.org to purchase tickets.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

the mayor and council to govern with impunity, often against the interests of citizens.

When our elected officials do respond to citizens it tends to be skewed. Superimpose the current council members and mayor on the map of Alexandria's designated voting locations (corresponding to where they reside) reveals vast areas of the city are underrepresented. Said another way, many of the contentious issues raised by citizens do not immediately impact the areas in which our elected officials reside; and given the at-large nature of the election process they pay little or no price for the manner in which they vote — unlike if they had to answer to a smaller "district" based constituency. If you use the City of Alexandria Planning Districts Map, the lack of equitable representation is equally acute. The Small Area Plans Map, which more closely aligns with neighborhood civic associations, further illustrates the issues of under and over representation. If you overlay the council and mayor on this map, Paul Smedberg aligns with Old Town; Mayor Euille and Justin Wilson, Potomac West; Vice Mayor Silberger and Tim Lovain, North Ridge/Rosemont; Del Pepper, Seminary Hill/Strawberry Hill; and John Chapman with Taylor Run. So in essence two areas are over represented — Potomac West and North Ridge/Rosemont; while the interests of 13 Small Area Planning zones have no direct representation on the council. Many of the most contentious decisions passed by the council do not impact the small areas in which they reside — not saying this is intentional but it is curious.

Is there a case for maintaining the at-large governance model? Yes, it works very well

for developers, external stakeholders, incumbency and political homogeny. The only way for the citizens to take back control of the city is to change the governance model and imposing defined constituent areas. With a population approaching 150,000 residence, the at-large election system is the least democratic or effective way of ensuring the divergent interest of the citizenry are represented on the council; and that city governance is representative of the will of the people.

The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia allows for cities to organize their governing bodies by districts. Alexandria's City Council could be elected based upon the current voting/school districts, with mayoral selection remaining a city wide, at-large election. Even Alexandria, La., with a population of just under 48,000 recognizes the value of representational governance, with a mayor, five district and two at large council members.

The next general election will be on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Roy R. Byrd
Alexandria

This Should Worry Residents

To the Editor:

Like a lot of residents, I've been watching the city deal with growth and change since I moved here in 2005. I admit I haven't always paid the best attention to how and why decisions were made and who made them. Not anymore though.

Recent actions by city staff with the approval of the City Council (see Harris Tee-

ter, TC Williams lights, Le Bergerie Restaurant/Inn, and Woodbine) have me very concerned about the transparency of the city process, especially when it comes to zoning matters. There is an overwhelming feeling amongst property owners that the city may not be in the property owners' corner anymore.

The Waterfront matter was one of the biggest issues that the city had to grapple with in a while. The residents took the matter to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) who voted in favor of the residents. Instead of going with the wishes of the residents though, the city sued the BZA (its own appointees) to get what it wanted. If you care about transparency of the administrative process, this should worry you.

In the Harris Teeter matter, the Planning Commission and the city approved the store in north Old Town despite resident opposition. Initially the city agreed to the rezoning with limited hours. The ink was no sooner dry than the developers requested a DSUP/SUP for a 24-hour operation. This passed the City Council despite the fact this was contrary to the terms agreed to with the rezoning application. If you live near a business that the city wants, this should worry you.

The T.C. Williams lights issue is a doozy. Back when the new T.C. Williams high school was approved in 2004, the city went to great lengths to continue its agreement with the residents (from back in the '60s) that no lights would be used in the athletic fields. Well come 2013 the City Council decided unanimously to approve tennis lights at T.C. Williams. To make this agreement even hollow, the city has now put on the table that they want to start looking

at lights for the other park areas. If you live near a park, public or private, this should worry you.

Le Bergerie is a nice French restaurant in Old Town in an area zoned for commercial. It, however, applied to move to a large home on N. Washington Street which is zoned decidedly residential. Despite homeowners' objections and the filing of a protest petition (requiring a supermajority of the City Council), the council unanimously approved the rezoning. If you live in an area where there are proximate commercial activities, this should worry you.

Lastly with the Woodbine matter" At first blush it looks to be a feel-good story about increasing assisted living for Alexandrians. In reality, it is a matter where the city staff, after opposing two previous versions of this monstrosity, has decided to support the developer and approve a for-profit commercial entity to expand its operations (top three in the state) in a residentially zoned area. The Small Area Plan (SAP) that the city made with the residents in 1992 grandfathered Woodbine, which the city considered "institutional use," into this residentially zoned area and two times before now the city staff said that the proposed expansion of operations did not meet the requirements for rezoning. But now the city staff changed its tune and is now saying that the SAP is merely "guidance" and that expansion of institutional uses in a residential zone is appropriate. If you live in a SAP (hint, hint ... all of us do) and you have institutional use in a residential zone (most do), this should worry you.

This pattern by the city is troublesome and with bigger, higher stake projects in the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

Senior Guard Hill, Rebounding Propel Titans in Second Half

**TC beats
West Potomac
to improve to 5-1
in Conference 7.**

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

During the first half of Tuesday's game against West Potomac, a member of the T.C. Williams cheerleading team periodically implored the Titans to crash the boards, shouting "rebound!" from her position near the baseline.

At halftime, T.C. Williams head coach Bryan Hill talked to his team about "effort and doing the right things," including the Titans' need to hit the glass.

Whether members of the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team listened to their coach or a fellow student on the cheer squad, the Titans played the second half as if they heard the message loud and clear.

The Titans out-rebounded the Wolverines in the second half and turned a three-point halftime lead into a 64-52 victory at T.C. Williams High School. The Titans held a 20-17 second-half rebounding advantage, including nine offensive boards.

"In the first half, [Coach Hill] told our guards we have to help the bigs rebound more," T.C. Williams senior guard Andrew Hill said. "Once that happened, once we started to rebound, that's when we started getting more breaks and more opportunities at the basket."

The victory improved T.C. Williams' record to 8-4, including 5-1 in Conference 7. The Titans have won seven in a row after starting the season 1-4.

West Potomac didn't make things easy, however. The Wolverines out-rebounded the Titans 17-12 in the first half and limited Andrew Hill, one of T.C. Williams' top scoring threats, to four points during the first 21 minutes of the contest. Sophomore guard Khalil Williams Diggins' transition bucket gave the Wolverines a 17-16 lead with 6:20 left in the second quarter and West Potomac entered halftime trailing 30-27.

The second half was a different story as T.C. Williams led by as many as 15 points, aided by a nine-point outburst by Hill near the end of the third quarter.

"It was just a matter of us playing with a bit more energy and intelligence," Coach Hill said of the Titans' second-half performance. "We have a stretch ahead of us, with this being the initial game, that is very important to us. We're trying to win as efficiently as possible, with the least amount of effort, and that takes basketball IQ and intelligence to do it. We're a work in progress and we're attempting to improve in every game and myself and my coaching staff are trying to make every aspect of the game a teaching moment to raise their basketball IQs in order to play basketball efficiently."



Senior guard Andrew Hill led T.C. Williams with 19 points during Tuesday's win over West Potomac.

The Titans led 39-33 late in the third quarter when Andrew Hill started to take over. After being held to just four points through 21 minutes, No. 1 knocked down a 3-pointer with 2:42 left in the period, and then converted a pair of three-point plays to extend the Titans' lead to 48-33.

Hill, who sat out of the Titans' Jan. 16 win over Lee for a violation of team rules, finished with a game-high 19 points, including a floater that gave T.C. Williams a 56-44 advantage with five minutes left.

"It was my teammates driving and kicking," Hill said, "and getting me an open shot."

After the game, Coach Hill recognized his guard's offensive outburst late in the third quarter, but also offered the senior a reminder to be humble.

"Last week, Mr. Hill didn't play because he committed an infraction against a team rule and we were able to be successful without him, which is the sign of a good team," Coach Hill said. "We were able to gain a certain level of confidence without [Hill]. He knows our success doesn't hinge on his effectiveness, but obviously he was able to turn it up in that stretch ... and it enabled us to extend the lead and we were able to ice the game away."

Tavaris James and Jordan Jones also reached double figures for T.C. Williams, each finishing with 11 points.

James, Jones, Hill and Tyrese Randall each grabbed six rebounds for the Titans.

West Potomac junior forward Jamie Sara finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds. Senior guard Chris Cheng knocked down



T.C. Williams' Tyrese Randall (15) fights for a rebound against West Potomac on Tuesday.

four 3-pointers, scored 15 points and grabbed six boards.

"I thought the looks [Cheng] got in the first half weren't open, I thought he just made them," West Potomac head coach David Houston III said. "They did a good job playing him. Most teams are sticking on him."

Sara knocked down a pair of free throws to cut the T.C. Williams lead to 56-50 with 2:43 left in the fourth quarter, and scored inside to cut the Wolverines' deficit to 58-52 with a little more than a minute remaining, but the Titans closed the game on a 6-

0 run.

Houston said the Wolverines played a role in their own demise by shooting 13-for-25 at the free-throw line.

"Our stuff works when we run it. I saw that," Houston said. "Our stuff works, our defense, we forced them to take bad shots, we cleaned up the glass in the first half. ... We saw some good things. Some of our guys didn't play as well as we expected them to play — didn't reach their average. Sara, he shot a low percentage tonight. Williams shot a pretty low percentage tonight. They didn't reach their season averages. I think when



Register for MidAtlantic Erg Sprints

On Jan. 31, T.C. Williams High School will host the 2015 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, an event that will attract over 2,000 entries from across the country. Two

Olympic rowers will join the event, which features over 100 different rowing competitions for all ages, from children to seniors. In addition to providing world-class competition, the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints raise funds for the TC's rowing program. Athletes interested in competing can register by visiting www.ergsprints.com. Online registration is open through Jan. 25.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Strategy to Succeed

Students master their own learning styles to overcome challenges.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Students who have learning and financial challenges often also face challenges getting into and attending college. However, educators say these challenges are not insurmountable, and some have developed techniques to help these students compete with their more advantaged counterparts.

Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria meets the needs of students who benefit from individual attention and small class sizes, as well as students who have been diagnosed with learning disabilities. Students are taught to understand their learning styles and develop strategies to succeed in the classroom and on standardized tests.

Children with certain challenges are often misunderstood, said Cathy Feehan, director of marketing. "We take kids with an average-to superior-IQ who have been called stupid in other learning environments.

"Some of our children are not linear thinkers," she said. "For example, students want to write a story, but they want to start in the middle. We have [computer] software that will help them graphically organize their thoughts."

The school mimics the college experience to prepare students, said Feehan. "We build in time to teach executive functioning skills. By the time they leave us, they have the organizational skills to succeed in college."

Students change classes without the sounding of bells. The school halls are carpeted and the atmosphere is quiet and serene.

This atmosphere combines with organizational and other help to give students a learning environment that works for them.

"It's really hard for me to stay organized," said Gabby, a student at Commonwealth. "I could never

find anything. My notes would be all over the place. More than just organization, I could never get my thoughts together."

The school provides a nontraditional way of preparing for college. "Our kids take college-prep classes like physics and chemistry," said Feehan. "We help them write their

"By the time they leave us, they have the organizational skills to succeed in college."

— Cathy Feehan,
Commonwealth Academy

essays. We separate English literature from writing. When they leave, they not only know about different genres, but also different types of writing and how to do research.

"Our kids have to understand character development, plot, and setting. The difference is that many school ask students to read five books in an English class. Do you need to read five books to understand char-

acter development in literature? Not as long as they understand the concept."

The school also focuses on SAT and ACT preparation, something many students can find challenging. There are other options to get ready for these tests as well.

"We had 80 colleges visit our little school last year and 100 percent of our kids have gone to college for three years in a row," said Feehan.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Horacio Artiga, a student at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College has been named a 2014 Coca-Cola Leader of Promise Scholar. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. A total of 207 Phi Theta Kappa members were selected as scholars from more than 900 applications worldwide and awarded a total of \$207,000 in scholarships.

An international group of 34 educators and policy-makers visited **St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Lower School** in October, to observe an American school using the Singapore Math program. The visitors were part of the Marshall Cavendish Education Conference 2014, bringing together educators from 18 countries to

learn about utilizing Singapore Math at schools in their home countries.

SSSAS began using the Math in Focus version of Singapore Math in the fifth grade classes this school year, at the prompting of teachers who were familiar with the program. During the classroom visits, the group observed and worked with students completing math exercises designed by SSSAS teachers using the Math in Focus approach.

After the classroom visits, they participated in a question-and-answer session with the SSSAS fifth grade teachers and math resource specialist, where they learned about methods, program implementation, and student success stories.

Morgan S. Braswell (freshman, biology) has made the scholastic honor roll fall term at Oregon State University with a 3.5 or better average.

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Dr. Mohan Venigalla
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 21

future (Potomac Yard, Waterfront, and Robinson Terminal to name a few), all residents need to pay attention.

Brett Egusa
Alexandria

Citizens: Rise Up

To the Editor:

Kudos to William Goff for his terrific and well informed letter about the need for Alexandria citizens to finally organize a diverse group of citizens in order to get our elected officials and city hall out of their “trance/coma” like thinking (“Citizens Rise Up,” Alexandria Gazette Packet, Jan. 8). I would like to add a few points as the first steps for our agenda as this group begins to formalize and let city hall know that we are watching and that its fair to say “change a comin” as it relates to our election for mayor/council.

1. City Manager position: It was no surprise to most folks involved with the community that Mark Jinks would be appointed as acting city manager. He has worked for the City of Alexandria for at least 20 years, knows where all the skeletons are hidden and will do whatever the mayor/council want him to do. Mr. Jinks is a money/budget person and his first act of re-organization in the city manager’s office was to make sure he protects the office of Alexandria Economic Development placing this department under his command. Why are taxpayers paying a staff of at least five people to bring business into Alexandria? AEDP needs to continue to act as an independent group, obtaining grant funding in order to increase Alexandria’s commercial base and not have taxpayers paying their salaries. Wrong move Mr. Jinks and if this is any indication of what you would do if mayor/council approve you for this permanent position, it will continue to be business as usual. Those of us in the West End cannot forget how you spoke out to encourage BRAC to move their headquarters to the Mark Center. And how many other senior staff positions in the city manager’s office will you eliminate prior to any decision about a permanent city manager? I know I can think of many staff who need to go and save us some money.

2. Appointment of a permanent city manager: As the mayor/council do their search for this position, and yes, it is important that whomever is appointed knows how Alexandria operates, has worked for the city, can show results along with having the ability to tell mayor/council what they don’t want to hear; making sure there is accountability and that the majority of city employees trust this person. Consider Laura B. Triggs, currently deputy city manager. Ms. Triggs has excellent credentials, has worked with OMB in D.C. and of course here in Alexandria with Bruce Johnson, would not be afraid to “rock the boat” and would stand her ground as it relates to eliminating unnecessary senior staff positions along with making the city’s \$16 million deficit and \$64 million debt service as her first priority. Promoting from within for this position is sorely needed now, but it has to be the right person who has the skills to listen, be flexible, yet firm and not continue to reward our

already dysfunctional system that currently exists at city hall with no hidden agenda.

3. Boards/commissions/staffing/advisory groups. It is time to eliminate the many boards/commissions that are not required by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, our mayor/council continue to create more, use these boards as a “transparent” group of citizens to show they are listening and often our elected officials serve on these boards/commissions/advisory groups with no voting authority. This needs to stop as our elected officials clearly are pushing their own agenda and using their talking points to persuade members to ultimately do what elected officials want.

4. Council members who need to recuse themselves from voting on issues. I know that Mayor Euille and other members of council have stated their involvement with a business/money for their campaign prior to a vote and may or may not recuse themselves from voting on an issue. Sometimes it may be OK, but we really need to have clearly defined ethics rules. Currently, Council member Tim Lovain’s wife is chair of the Alexandria Scholarship Fund and as such her salary is paid for from Alexandria City Public Schools. Mr. Lovain should not be allowed to vote on any budget issues related to ACPS as there is clearly a conflict of interest. This should also apply to any other members of council and the mayor.

However, what’s most important in order to change the demographic make-up of our elected officials is that its time for term limits. This will need a charter change done by Richmond elected officials and suspect that with the change in representatives in Richmond, it would be approved. If not, then we need to look at electing our local officials by district and/or majority by districts and one or two council members at-large. We elect School Board members by district along with our representatives to Richmond. Alexandria citizens are clearly ready for a “take over” of city hall due to the recent development issues, promises made to our African-American citizens that are now being ignored, i.e., lights at T.C. Williams; major transportation faux pas; Waterfront plan and totally ignoring Alexandria’s history; Beauregard Small Area Plan that is going no where for us residents in the West End; increasing debt that will surely mean an increase in property taxes and the continued denial on the part of Mayor Euille and all council members that we will get through this budget crisis if we keep on spending more money and raising taxes. Somehow they just won’t get it nor accept the fact that Alexandria is in major financial trouble.

Citizens unite, rise up and keep this movement going. We can no longer accept the way our local elected officials are governing. I always thought it was “government by the people and for the people.”

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Disconnect Continues

To the Editor:

From its inception, the North Robinson Terminal redevelopment has lacked any true connection to the Old and Historic Dis-

trict. Although the proposed redevelopment site is not technically in the Old and Historic District, the City Council stipulated that the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) must attempt to connect this redevelopment to other structures in the Old and Historic District.

However, to date, the developer has presented structures for consideration by the BAR that do not connect to the Old and Historic District, but rather denigrate the aura and charm of Old Town. In the latest fiasco, the developer did not even make his fifth presentation to the BAR available to citizens (or even the BAR) before springing it on all of us at the hearing, so this did not sit well with anyone. Instead, the developer could have requested a deferral so that the presentation could be distributed to all parties several days before the hearing. Additionally, the BAR should have deferred this docket item, since the developer did not follow conventional business courtesies. Perhaps the presentation would not have changed, but everyone would have been better prepared after conducting a thorough analysis of the development. However, the developer may be intentionally hoping to wear us all down through numerous presentations of structures that do not tie it to the Old and Historic District.

On the west side of Union Street, the massive hotel is wedged between condos on both ends. Whether from the riverscape or the air, this building does not relate to the Federalist style town homes across the street in the historic district, nor does it fit into the standard street grid established by our founders. The all-glass, parabolic-shaped pavilion on the east side of Union Street is totally out of sync with the rest of the Robinson Terminal North development, but it clashes also with any other structure in the Old Town area. As of yet no one knows what the pavilion will house, which is worrisome. What we do know is that the current design lacks synergy with the adjacent town homes. /There isn’t a visual transition from the Historic District to the contemporary structures to the north. /Rather, this ultra contemporary east building glass structure, with its modest detail of brick and stone, /is an abrupt visual assault on the Old and Historic District.

However, the staff and members of the BAR love this proposed development, to include the glass pavilion. Unfortunately this body hasn’t made one right decision on any of the four major waterfront developments. The developers seem to hold firm to their proposition, the staff blesses it, and the BAR approves it. Bada-bing!

Perhaps it is time to appoint a new team to the BAR bench? The current staff and members are ignoring the historic preservation standards that have guided us for many years, and what makes Alexandria a unique venue. An example of this is the Parker Gray Historic District, where almost all of the buildings of historic nature have been replaced by structures that do not fit into a historic district. The ruination of Parker Gray is exactly what is now happening to the Old and Historic District. Go back to the drawing board, folks.

Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet
Alexandria

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

JDAVIS Construction is seeking qualified Small Business
(SBA) contractors for their participation in the SP 653 Base
Building project. At this time, we seek bidders in divisions 4
thru 6, 8 (Doors, Frames, Hardware) and 9 thru 13. Please
contact Missy Walker at mwalker@davisconstruction.com for
project details. Documents are now available. Bids for this
project are due by noon on Tuesday, January 27th, 2015.

All interested bidders please contact

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of
section 4-1-16 of the code of
the City of Alexandria, the
Alexandria Police Department
located at 3600 Wheeler Ave-
nue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is
now in possession of un-
claimed bicycles, mopeds,
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements



WALKER, Gladys "Dee" Lyles
86, of Glen Allen, passed away on January 15th,
2015. She was born December 29, 1928 in
Alexandria, Virginia to George and Dorothy Lyles,
who predeceased her. She was also predeceased
by her former husband, Russell L. Walker, and her
sister, Audrey Kelley. She is survived by her
brother, Lawrence Lyles (Joyce), of Lovettsville,
VA; her children, Deb Walker Reed and Jim
Walker (Jane) of Glen Allen; Lisa Walker Black
(Kevin) of Tustin, CA; seven grandchildren; and
three great-grandchildren. Dee loved family first,
followed by music, history, religion, politics, and a
spirited debate. A retired federal employee, she
came to Richmond 26 years ago to be near her
growing family, and was never happier than when
surrounded by them. A Memorial service will be
held at 11:00 am on February 6th, 2015 at
Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Va.
followed by a reception at the church. The family
would like to thank Hospice of Virginia at Retreat
Doctor's Hospital for their compassionate care,
and the ministerial staff at Tuckahoe Presbyterian
Church for their steadfast loyalty and support
over the past 10 years. In lieu of flowers, the
family requests memorial contributions be made
to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church, 7000 Park
Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226.

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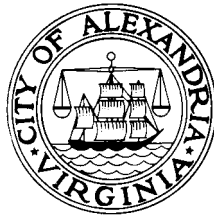
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21 Announcements



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, January 24, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

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OBITUARY



Henry Peyton Noland

Was born April 22, 1924 in Vicksburg, Mississippi to Henry Peyton and Florence Lenora (Martin) Noland. He died on January 10, 2015 in Alexandria, Virginia, where he and his wife had settled in the 1950s. Known by Henry professionally and Peyton to family, he was attending Mississippi State College (now MSU) when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He left school to join the Navy in 1943 and served in the Pacific as an electrician's mate. After the war, he returned to Mississippi State, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography in 1949. He took a job with the Department of Interior and moved to Washington, D.C., where he met another professional from Vicksburg: Miss Sarah Elizabeth "Betty" Brien. They married at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bovina, Mississippi in 1950. In 1951, Peyton was doing Graduate work at the University of Virginia when he was recalled to serve in the Korean War. He was commissioned a Lieutenant (junior grade) in 1952 and continued in the Naval Reserves after returning to work for the Federal Government. He retired from the Reserves in 1967 as a Lieutenant Commander. In 1988, he retired from the Defense Intelligence Agency, but was recalled to backfill an Air Force major deployed to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He said of that recall: "I was the man behind the woman at the front - in contrast to my situation in World War II, when I myself was the man at the front." He retired again upon her return, in June 1991, with 45 years' service. His wife of 62 years died in 2012. He is survived by his children Henry Peyton Noland Jr., of Arlington, and Elizabeth Shifflett of Woodbridge, Virginia; his niece Nanette Crocker of Birmingham and nephews T.V. Noland of Biloxi and Robert Britt of Brookhaven; and a far-flung network of relatives, shipmates, schoolmates, and countless friends old and new. A Memorial Service will be held at Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203 on Jan. 31st at 2 p.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to collocate a wireless telecommunications facility at the height of 162 feet on the roof of an existing apartment building located at 2727 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Geo-Technology Associates, Inc., ATTN: Kirti Rajpurohit, NEPA Specialist, 43760 Trade Center Place, Suite 110, Sterling, Virginia, 20166 or submitted by telephone to Ms. Rajpurohit at (703) 478-0055.

21 Announcements

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Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body and allow the reuse of reclaimed wastewater in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Public comment period: January 16, 2015 to February 16, 2015

Permit name: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT Name, address and permit number:
City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority
d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises
1500 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314
VA0025160

This facility is an Extraordinary Environmental Enterprise participant in Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program. Project description: City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the public Alexandria Renew Enterprises Water Resources Recovery Facility. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewaters from residential areas at a rate of 54 million gallons per day into a water body and reuse reclaimed wastewater for landscape water features and non-bulk irrigation. Biosolids from the treatment process will be land applied and/or blended in the production of a soil amendment. The facility proposes to release the treated sewage in the Hunting Creek in City of Alexandria in the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: pH, carbonate-biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, ammonia, E. coli, nitrate-nitrite, total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total residual chlorine. The facility will be required to monitor for total Kjeldahl nitrogen and whole effluent toxicity. Additionally, the facility maintains a pretreatment program in accordance with Part VII of 9VAC25-31. The Industrial Pretreatment Plan for Continuous Industrial Waste Survey and the significant industrial user permit boilerplate have been updated.

This facility is subject to the requirements of 9VAC25-820 and has registered for coverage under the General VPDES Watershed Permit Regulation for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Discharges and Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Watershed in Virginia.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, email, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ-Northern Regional Office by appointment or may request electronic copies of the draft permit and fact sheet.

Name: Douglas Frasier
Address: DEQ-Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193
Phone: (703) 583-3873 Email: Douglas.Frasier@deq.virginia.gov Fax: (703) 583-3821

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article K (ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS), Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance revises the qualifications for members of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and amends the Commission's functions, powers and duties.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2015.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2015.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 9 (LICENSING AND REGULATION), Chapter 12 (TAXICABS AND OTHER VEHICLES FOR HIRE), of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance: (1) modifies the requirement for two-way dispatch notice radios; (2) prohibits drivers from smoking in cabs; and (3) prohibit drivers from using cell phone devices while transporting passengers.

PUBLIC HEARING on the management plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

10 Storage

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for storage of an
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Classic car.

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speedwilson@cox.net

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Blazin Wings, Inc trading as Buffalo Wild Wings, 7732F Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306-2803. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Restaurants, Beer & Wine on-premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Emily C. Decker, Vice President of Blazin Wings, Inc.

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

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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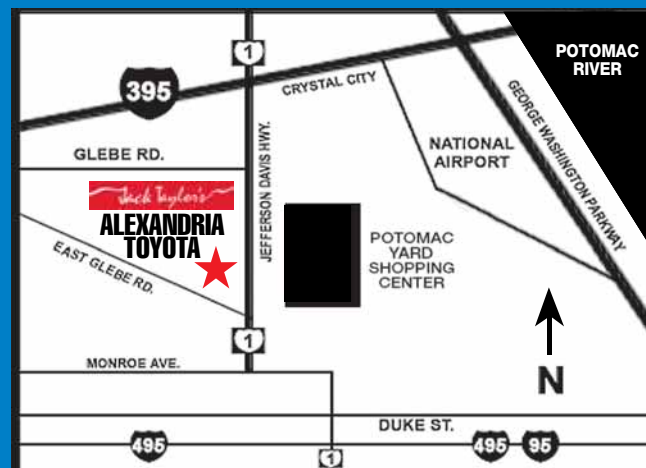
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