

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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APRIL 30, 2015



Mayoral Standoff

First debate in race for mayor focuses on failing infrastructure.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Differences between incumbent Mayor William Euille, current Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, and former Mayor Kerry Donley emerged during a debate as the three took turns directing blame for Alexandria's current problems on each of the other two during the first mayoral debate. The debate, held in Douglas MacArthur Elementary School on April 23, primarily focused around issues of parking and city infrastructure. The shifting blame became most apparent during the candidates' discussions on BRAC-133.

"We must rebuild people's trust," said Silberberg, calling for fewer executive sessions, which she blamed for the BRAC-133 development.

During the debate, Donley and Silberberg highlighted BRAC-133 as an example of a blunder made

by the City of Alexandria. BRAC-133, also known as the Mark Center, is a Defense Department building at the corner of N. Beauregard and Seminary Road.

Silberberg spoke briefly on the topic and criticized the building's off-the-tax-rolls status, a strategy Alexandria has since used to entice other government departments to relocate to Alexandria, such as the National Science Foundation.

Donley criticized the density of the building and the lack of transit infrastructure to support the facility's

6,400 work force. However, Euille noted that Donley was on the City Council at the time and voted in favor of the added density. Donley acknowledged his vote in the favor of the development, but said the project did not proceed the way City Council was told it would.

All three candidates noted that
SEE DEBATE, PAGE 22

"In the future, I would like to see more specificity from the candidates."

— Sarah Pray

Mistrial and Missed Trial

Just down the hall from each other, there were major developments in two Alexandria murder trials on April 23.

Charles Severance, accused of three murders in Alexandria, was granted a change of venue to Fairfax for his October trial by Judge Jane Marum Roush. The defense argued that a "fear factor" in the local community made it im-

possible to find an impartial jury.

Meanwhile, the third day of deliberations on the trial of Dawit Seyoum, charged with the murder of Carolyn Cross, a deputy corrections director for D.C., ended in a mistrial. The jury was unable to decide whether Seyoum was guilty of murder or not guilty by reason of insanity. Retrial for the case has been set for April 30.

— VERNON MILES



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Nearly 100 volunteers from Booz Allen worked on repairs and upgrades to 10 homes on Manning Street on Saturday during National Rebuilding Day.

800 Volunteer To Fix Homes



Jeff Feller trims a dowel for a porch railing the Victor Aldana is repairing at one of the houses on Manning Street.



Shane Stahl and Peter Laws replace a rear door.

Rotten wood was stripped from a porch floor and was replaced on Saturday.

More than 800 Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers spread out across the city providing free repairs and upgrades to 40 low-income homeowners during National Rebuilding Day on Saturday, April 25. National Rebuilding Day is a national day of service with 10,000 volunteers nationwide focused on revitalizing communities. New this year, about 100 of those volunteers focused on revitalizing a whole city block to build unity and pride. A Rebuilding Together team from Booz Allen renovated and beautified many of the houses on Manning Street.



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NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

Looking Ahead

Development is underway in Del Ray, on the horizon for Landmark Mall, North Old Town, and others.

3 King Street and Beauregard Street

4600 King Street, currently an abandoned property, will serve as the future home to a Harris Teeter and other developments as part of the proposed 62,000 square-foot Gateway development. The site, being developed by Abramson Properties, will begin Phase I construction is scheduled to begin in Fall of 2015, with utility relocation in Summer of 2016 and Phase II construction in Fall of 2016. The 14 story building will include 405 apartment units, including 50 affordable units. Jinks says this site is the part of the city's long-term plans to revitalize residential and commercial activity in the Beauregard Corridor.

One of the future development sites along Beauregard Street



1 Landmark Mall

"The mall has seen far better times," said City Manager Mark Jinks, noting that the Hecht's Department Store, now a Macy's, and the Sears used to be two of the most popular stores in their respective franchises on the East Coast. Each of them now own one third of the mall, with the Howard Hughes Corporation controlling the middle third. Any mall redevelopment requires the approval of all three, which Jinks said has been a challenge.

"Sears is the main issue," Jinks said. "There's a big bureaucracy there. Retailers are conservative by nature. Even in decline, it's tough to convince them in investing in redevelopment."

Landmark Mall faces 40 percent vacancy. Aside from small goods vendors huddled around the entrances, large portions of the mall are empty and rows of shops are closed and boarded up.

It's not just Landmark Mall, though. Jinks says indoor malls across the nation are in decline.

The plans for Landmark Mall's redevelopment include restoring the location to an outdoor venue, as it was before the site was enclosed in 1988.

Jinks said the site can't serve primarily as a "hang-out destination" for local teenagers. Unlike Tysons, there's not enough of a youth population in the area to support that market. The redesigned Landmark Mall is intended to appeal to a more adult crowd. The project is scheduled to bring on a Washington area regional broker to fill the mall with more local stores rather than regional chains. A main feature of the new Landmark Mall will be an upscale theater showing primarily niche and indie films as well as a liquor license to help make that sound appealing.

According to Stephanie Landrum, executive vice president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, any future development hinges on an event hosted by the International Council of Shopping Centers called RECon held in May, where executives from Macy's, Sears, and the Howard Hughes Corporation will all be in one room. At that point, Landrum, says the developers will begin unveiling plans for the Landmark renovations, but

Empty hallways and vacant stores inside Landmark Mall



the space will need to be at least 60 percent occupied by potential retailers before any shovels hit the ground, making an estimated completion time impossible to calculate.

In addition to retail, the new Landmark Mall development will feature 380 apartment units above the stores. The project is part of a joint residential/commercial redevelopment plan for the Beauregard corridor. Once development begins at Landmark Mall, the city plans on also installing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lane between Landmark Mall and the Van Dorn Metro, which they also plan to cross with a planned Duke Street BRT route.

Mall redevelopment is funded by the developers, who Jinks says will also make a donation to the transit corridor, which is primarily federally funded. However, Jinks says city funding in any aspect of the redevelopment is still an open question.

2 Del Ray

With cheaper rents than other parts of Alexandria, an eclectic set of stores, and a walkable mini-downtown, Jinks said Del Ray has turned into everything the city hopes for Landmark Mall. Christina Mindrup, vice president of Commercial Real Estate for the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, said this is largely because the businesses in Del Ray are more localized and the community is more insular than Landmark has traditionally been. Mindrup specifically cited Del Ray Pizza and Cheesetique as two local stores that have attained high levels of success with a devout neighborhood following.

Jinks said that the City has begun to see development in Del Ray spill over into the northern Arlandria neighborhood, crossing the traditional Commonwealth Avenue divide between the two neighborhoods, and south into Braddock.

Mindrup attributed much of Del Ray's growth to the redevelopment of DelRay Tower, which was redeveloped into micro-units, all of which are currently occupied, and drew a younger demographic to the neighborhood.

With development in nearby Del Ray and the planned Potomac Yard Metro Station, Jinks says



The corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues, where Del Ray has begun to merge with Arlandria.

the city's next step is to focus on developments in Arlandria. Landrum noted that the area has a very strong hispanic entrepreneur community and that city development in the area needs to focus on assisting that community that rather than shutting them out.



City Manager Mark Jinks says warehouse properties on Fayette Street are next in city's redevelopment sites.



The empty Giant on First Street.

4 Old Town North

Pendleton North, namely the site of the now-closed Giant, is in the beginning stages of a mixed use development plan. Jinks said the city is currently developing a small area plan, which includes looking at developers for the now empty bus barn and former GenOne Power Plant in North Old Town. The National Park Service is also looking into redevelopment of the nearby Daingerfield Island, city funding to which is currently being considered as a compromise for the Potomac Yard Metro Station encroaching on park land. According to Jinks, developments in North Old Town are not as large scale as Landmark Mall, but are more focused around smaller blocks being redeveloped to fit the neighborhood.

5 Braddock / Fayette

Jinks said that the city is currently in talks with the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority to plan for redevelopment of a disused bus lot near the Braddock Metro Station.

"We have pockets of opportunities here and there throughout the area," said Jinks.

In the Braddock/Fayette street area, Jinks said the warehouses near the DC Metro Church would likely be one of the next locations to be redeveloped. The nearby Lost Dog Cafe and Sugar Shack donut shop are examples of the kinds of new developments the city is hoping to see come into the area.

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News



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Postmaster Mario DiPatrizio, third from left, talks about the upcoming Stamp Out Hunger food drive following a City Council proclamation declaring May 9, 2015 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day. At the April 14 ceremony are: John Perlman/ALIVE!, Deborah Patterson/ALIVE!, Mario DiPatrizio/USPS Postmaster, Andre Washington/NALC Branch President, Brian McCormick/NALC Coordinator, Diane Charles/ALIVE!, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and Mayor Bill Euille.

Got Food? Stamp Out Hunger food drive set for May 9.

The 2015 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the U.S. Postal Service, will take place Saturday, May 9 throughout the City of Alexandria.

"Last year we were able to collect over 75,000 pounds of food for local food banks," said Stamp Out Hunger area coordinator Brian McCormick. "If each customer in Alexandria were to leave one bag of non-perishable food items for their letter carrier to pick up, thousands of families in this immediate area would have enough food to survive."

Now in its 23rd year, Stamp Out Hunger is the nation's largest single-day food drive and has collected more than 1.3 billion pounds of food over the drive's history. To participate in this year's drive, place

bags of non-perishable food items by your mail box before your mail is delivered May 9. Donations can also be dropped off at local post office branches throughout the city.

"Over 150,000 residences are being asked to donate food that will be given to local food banks," McCormick said. "Last year the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive collected over 72.5 million pounds of food nationally with 75,000 pounds collected for local food banks such as ALIVE!, Koinonia, Rising Hope UMC and United Community Ministries."

Donations of non-perishable food, including pet food, will be distributed by the letter carriers to local shelters and food banks. For more information, contact Brian McCormick at 571-278-3231.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

The Perfect Smile

We would like to introduce Dr. Narjes Ahmadi who joined our practice in 2015. Dr. Ahmadi received her doctorate of dental surgery degree at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in 2013, where she also had additional training in oral surgery. Prior to that, she was awarded a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. Dr. Ahmadi believes in the offices' motto of "Knowing about caring and caring about Knowing", as she is committed to complete communication and treatment in a gentle caring way. Dr. Ahmadi treats all members of your family, young and old alike, and looks forward to meeting you.

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PEOPLE

Robotic Camera Inspects Sewers

Finding roots, rats and clogs.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The large white van backs up to the upstream manhole in the alley at Jefferson and Payne. It will take Keith Kehter, about 10 minutes to set up the inspection site with bright orange cones, drag out the hose and cable and warm up the program on the computer. It will record the six-wheel camera as it travels 10 feet down the manhole into the sewer by remote control and winds through the 8-inch sewer pipes.

Kehter is a heavy equipment operator for the City of Alexandria's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. He calls himself a "sewer line-ology technician but with a six-inch wide camera." He says the team takes a proactive approach to inspection and maintenance. There are three programs on the truck for him to operate: recording, camera and cost analysis. Kehter says after he has inspected a sewer line, he prepares a cost-per-foot for that particular inspection. "All of the computer programs can be technical and hard to take in."

John Taylor, operator II, has the second jetter truck positioned at the downstream manhole 300 feet down the alley. His truck will flush out the line by putting a jetter nozzle up the pipeline, drawing it back with a cable and taking out the solids. The technique itself has been around at least 25 years, but Kehter said, "They used to pull the camera back with a string."

Kehter and Taylor communicate by two-way radio or hand signals. Kehter said, "We don't want any mistakes; the truck is about 10 years old but we got a new \$90,000 camera last year (sometimes called his waterproof remote control toy) so we are very careful to get things right and protect the camera."

Kehter and Taylor work as a team covering all zones of Alexandria. Ideally they can inspect a city block in about half an hour. They average about 2,000 feet a day; there's 330 feet in a normal city block.

The camera chugs along the pipe, and Kehter



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

John Taylor, operator II, readies the camera that will work through the sewer line inspecting and doing preventive maintenance. Taylor is part of a two-man team and drives the jetter truck that flushes solids out of the pipes and cleans them.

watches its progress on the monitor inside the truck. It jerks to a halt. "See, there is a root and those cause problems." Kehter explains that trees seek a water source and the pipe joints aren't sealed so as the pipe settles, the joints expand. One little stem of a root creeps in and makes room for 10 more, and it compounds. Then there are the disposable, biodegradable wipes that get caught around the roots because they don't biodegrade fast enough and it causes a blockage. As the camera moves along, it is looking for separated joints where material around the pipe sinks in and then can cause a sinkhole. Sometimes Kehter sees a pair of eyes staring back at the camera. "Rats are curious about what's going on." Kehter says that Alexandria has an aging infrastructure; clay settles and pipes are brittle. "But it is our job to keep on top of it. And Alexandria is in pretty good shape for its age."

Kehter works four 10-hour day shifts starting about 7 a.m. Monday-Thursday. But this Friday his 24-hour on-call emergency work begins for a week. He says he can get a call at 2 a.m. from someone with a flooded basement full of chemicals and sewage. In addition, on a regular day, they respond to "call, click, connect" reports from residents using Alexandria's on-line resource. Every manhole and pipe in the system has a number. About once a month they need to go down into a manhole in person. But Derek Claytor, the new superintendent of sewers and hydrants, says it takes 10 hours of training to enter a manhole. Kehter says this is due to OSHA standards where one needs to test the air, hook up to a harness and other requirements before entering. But occasionally someone drops car keys down a storm drain or a broken manhole lid falls down the hole into the sewer.

Kehter has been with the city for five-and-a-half years coming to Alexandria from 40 years in Canada where he operated heavy equipment and did mining, then six months in Minnesota. He said, "There is a lot of talent in this department." Taylor has worked 14 years with the city and recently transferred to this job from trees.

Alley complete, on to Del Ray.



Keith Kehter reviews the monitor inside his camera truck as the inspection camera travels through the sewer pipes looking for damaged pipes and tree roots. They are reported to an inspection team as part of preventive maintenance in Alexandria.



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/GAZETTE PACKET

Tree Steward graduate Carolyn Semedo-Strauss with her family, who came to watch her graduate (from left): Priya, Reed, Jolie, Carolyn and Lucian.

New Tree Stewards

Volunteering to keep communities green.

Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria graduated a class of 20 new Tree Stewards on April 14. Fourteen of the new stewards were Arlingtonians, and six were Alexandrians. There are currently 92 Tree Stewards for the area. The new graduates, who have been in class once a week since Feb. 3, learned the anatomy of trees, how to prune, how to plant, tree identification, and how to assess tree problems, among other sessions. Tree Stewards' mission is to enhance a sustainable urban forest through volunteer activities and public education programs.

Tree Stewards have been active in invasive plant removal in Arlington and Alexandria parks, pulling ivy off trees, helping homeowners select the right trees for their yards, and installing tree identification signs, along with a host of other volunteer activities.

One of the first lessons the

new stewards read in their Tree Steward manual was the importance of trees: trees make homes for birds and other wildlife, they shade houses, reduce air conditioning needs by up to 30 percent and cool the air by 9-13 percent on a hot summer day. Trees can also absorb huge amounts of CO2 emissions. Trees can increase property values by up to 10 percent; they also absorb rain and filter runoff, improving water quality and saving taxpayers millions of dollars. And lastly, trees are diplomats: they act as sound barriers and screens, reducing noise levels, providing privacy and enhancing neighbor relations.

For more information, to become a steward, or to participate in volunteer events coming up, contact info@TreesStewards.org or visit www.TreeStewards.org.

— EDEN BROWN

Engaging

In front of a small audience on the Alexandria Waterfront on April 26, Stan Darke surprised his girlfriend Carrie Craft with the car of her dreams, a classic convertible VW Beetle. Hidden in the glove compartment, however, was a second surprise: an engagement ring. Craft accepted Darke's proposal. "So now I have to learn how to drive a stick shift and plan a wedding," Craft remarked to the crowd of cheering onlookers.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

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JEFFERSON PARK \$1,145,000

505 Woodland Terrace

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home in Alexandria City featuring a renovated kitchen, hardwood floors throughout, landscaped backyard with stone patio, 3 fireplaces, and a huge storage attic.



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

MOUNT VERNON \$1,695,000

5125 Remington Drive

Gorgeous new construction home boasting tranquil river views, custom designed gourmet kitchen, and a luxurious master suite with vaulted ceiling, beautiful white marble bath, and large custom closet.



OLD TOWN \$1,795,000

604 S. Fairfax Street

Stunning historic detached home in the heart of Old Town featuring a formal living room with high ceiling, chef's kitchen, original heart pine floors, 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, and a private flagstone patio.



ALEXANDRIA CITY \$2,750,000

4004 Carson Place

Perfectly sited on almost 3/4 of an acre, adjacent to St. Stephens and St. Agnes Upper School, this gorgeous property offers a luxurious main house, an apartment above the garage & a separate pool house.



COMING SOON

DEL RAY

412 E. Alexandria Avenue

Beautiful Del Ray home featuring 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, updated kitchen, spacious master suite with fireplace and vaulted ceiling, charming front porch, and a large fenced backyard with deck.



COMING SOON

OLD TOWN \$859,000

324 N. Columbus Street

Charming historic townhome featuring 3 levels, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1,400 sq ft, off-street parking, large eat-in kitchen that opens to private brick patio, and formal dining and living rooms.



COMING SOON

COLONIAL HEIGHTS

31 Carriage House Circle

Beautiful end unit townhouse, just minutes from Old Town, featuring 2 spacious en suite bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1-car garage, large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, gas fireplace, and patio fenced for privacy.



FOR RENT

POTOMAC YARDS \$4,350

2411 Conoy Street

This absolutely stunning home features 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, high ceilings, gorgeous hardwood floors, a high-end kitchen, 2-car garage, luxurious master suite, and a large back deck with privacy wall.



UNDER CONTRACT

ROSEMONT \$879,000

16 W. Myrtle Street

Gorgeous sun-filled home in Rosemont offering 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a beautifully updated kitchen, fully finished lower level, family room addition, and landscaped backyard. Under Contract in 3 Days!



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•Traditional Center Hall Colonial on quiet Cul-de-Sac
•Large, Elegant Entry Foyer with Unique Center Vestibule
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•Expansive Custom

Kitchen w/17 feet of Granite Counters, Stainless Appliances, Bright Skylight and Breakfast area. •Unique Hardwood Sectional Staircase w/Palladian Window •Upper Level Family Room w/Fireplace w/access to Custom Deck •Remodeled Baths •Four Bedrooms •Two Masonry Fireplaces •Hardwoods on Both Levels •Main Level Laundry & Storage Room •One-Car Garage •Breezeway Patio and MORE!



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NEW PRICE

**7117
Marlan Drive
\$729,000**

•Tremendous Curb Appeal – Large Level Lot
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•Formal Living Room w/French Doors opening to

Front Elevation •Three Generous Bedrooms & Two beautifully Remodeled Baths on Main Level •Totally Updated Kitchen w/Granite Counters & Stainless Steel Appliances •Refinished Hardwoods – Two Masonry Fireplaces •Lower Level Family Room, Full Bath, Laundry & Storage

**1107
Gatewood Drive
\$850,000**

•Immaculate – open floor plan. Total update in 2000 includes Roof, Plumbing, Wiring, Marvin Custom Windows,

GE/Advantium Kitchen •Full Wet Bar w/Dishwasher & Fridge •2 Masonry Fireplaces •3 Marble Baths •Extensive Granite-Steam Shower •Whirlpool Tub for two •Brick Driveway •Slate Patios, Stairs & Walkway •Security & Sprinkler Systems •Retractable Awning •Custom Doors •Cul-de-sac Location!



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REDUCED

**236 Gretna Green Court
\$499,000**

Shorten your commute! •Move-in ready – rarely available •3 level all-brick End Unit •3 BRs, 2 Full & 2 Half BAs •Eat-in Granite Kitchen •Solid Cherry Cabinets •Updated Stainless

Steel appliances •2 Wood-Burning Fireplaces •Hardwoods •Elfa Storage •20x19' Family Rm w/10' ceiling •Private Fenced Patio. Steps to bus/minutes to Metro! Dir.: 395 to Duke Street East, Right on Pickett, Right on Valley Forge, Left on Gretna Green Court.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

A Roof Over Their Heads

Alexandria Needs Assessment finds affordable housing severely lacking.

By VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The 2010 City Council Strategic Plan laid out seven main goals for the city's long-term development. Goal number one was to "achieve a net increase in the number of dedicated affordable rental and ownership units in the city by 2015." A community needs assessment released by a collection of Alexandria's city departments and non-profit groups has confirmed that, as of 2015, the city has made little progress on that goal.

The second volume of the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations' needs assessment of the Alexandria Human Services System, released on March 25, identified the development of affordable housing as the most significant human services crisis in the city.

"The lack of affordable housing is the ground zero of need in the city, influencing every other issue that service providers work to address," said the report. "The inability of services providers to connect individuals and households to decent, safe, and affordable housing inhibits the progress they can make"

The conclusions were based on the results of nine focus group meetings in 2014 with 82 total participants, as well as 112 responses to a community survey and analysis of six existing reports on Alexandria's human services. In all nine focus group categories, which covered topics like senior services, physical and developmental disabilities, and immigrant services, the topic of housing inaccessibility was recurring. The report did not establish new recommendations, but instead focused on encouraging implementation of the affordable housing strategies established in the city's 2012 Housing Master Plan.

"Even with a master plan in place, little progress has been made over the past several years in developing affordable housing options," said the report, "nor is a strategy apparent to begin aggressively implementing the plan's recommendations."

AFFORDABLE HOUSING in Alexandria is divided into two categories: assisted housing and market rate affordable units. Assisted housing is primarily apartment complexes in Alexandria where certain units

have rent costs supplemented by the city. Market rate affordable units are housing complexes built specifically for those with incomes at less than 60 percent of the area's median income.

According to the 2013 Housing Master Plan, in 2000 there were 18,218 market rate affordable units, which fell to 9,850 by 2010. But Eric Keeler, division chief of Program Administration for the Office of Housing, said that increasing rents has driven that number down to 6,600 units.

According to the Department of Planning and Zoning, median household income in Alexandria in 2014 was \$80,847 per year. Alexandria's Affordable Housing is primarily targeted at households earning less than 60 percent median income, meaning households earning less than \$48,508 annually.

Between 2010 and 2015, the City of Alexandria has gained a total of six additional rental assisted housing units, bringing the total number of rental assisted housing units up to 3,716. Combined with the 6,600 existing market rate affordable units, this means there is a total of 10,316 affordable housing units in Alexandria. However, with a population of 14,353 living below 60 percent of area median income, this means 4,037 Alexandrians continue to live without access to affordable housing.

"Even with a master plan in place, little progress has been made over the past several years in developing affordable housing options."

— Needs Assessment of the Alexandria Human Services System

"More than likely many are doubled up in housing or using the majority of their income to pay for housing and figuring out other ways to receive food and transportation," said Keeler. "The rule of thumb is someone should pay between 30-40 percent of their income for housing. Many residents of Alexandria

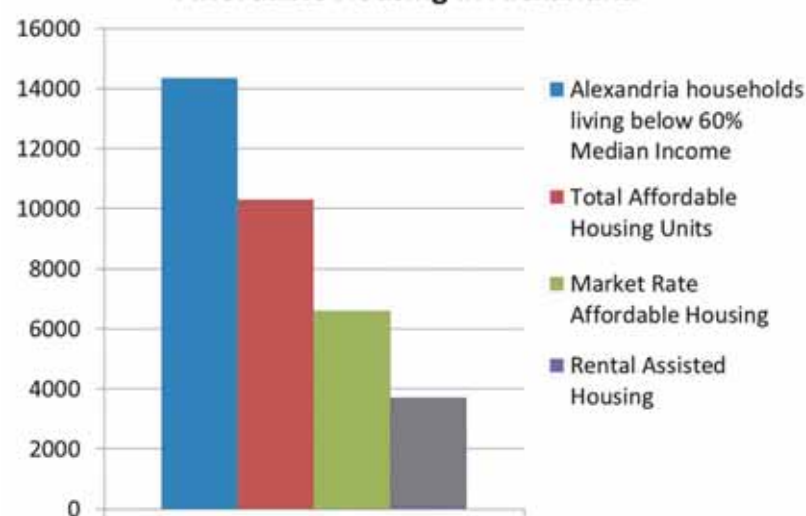
pay well over 50 percent of their income for housing because of the lack of affordable housing."

As of October 2014, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority has a voucher wait list of 7,840 households and there is a 6,952 household waiting list for public housing.

"We need to have lots more housing options for people," said Helen McIlvaine, acting director of Housing for the City of Alexandria. "It's tricky given the constraints and financial resources. The other

SEE A ROOF, PAGE 25

Affordable Housing in Alexandria



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Riverside 8231 Crown Court Rd, Alexandria, VA
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Tracy Vitali CBmove.com/FX8609527



Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm **Waynewood** 1025 Croton Drive, Alexandria, VA Wonderful Waynewood. 4 BR/2.5 Baths, Sunny & lovely, updated and expanded Salem Model. Granite, stainless, gleaming hardwoods, fully fenced backyard, basement, addition, garage! \$599,000 **Lyssa Seward** CBmove.com/FX8593791



Springfield 7419 Bath Street, Springfield, VA
Just Listed – Move-In Ready! Large corner lot w/detached home w/3 brs, 2 renovated baths, renovated kitchen w/granite, SS, tile, newer windows, roof, tankless H₂O, Hdwds, close-in! \$424,900 **Bonnie Rivkin** CBmove.com/FX8613386



Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm **Montebello** 5904 Mount Eagle Drive #1101, Alexandria, VA Rare opportunity to own 2 BR, 2 BA EE unit at Montebello. (only available in building 4) Freshly painted – ready to go. Montebello has its own bus service to and from Huntington Metro plus a walking path to the station. \$325,000 **Peter Rickert** CBmove.com/FX8612013



New Listing **Marina Towers** 501 Slaters Lane Unit 619, Alexandria, VA Rarely available Waterfront 3 BR/2 BA home with panoramic, Potomac River views! Nice finishes, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen overlooks water and balcony. Two garage spaces. \$639,900 **Eloise Brantley** CBmove.com/AX8615427



Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm **Colonial Heights** 14 Carriage House Square, Alexandria, VA END brick TH w/abundant light! 2 MBR suites, new baths, Eat-In Kit w/stainless appls, new glass doors to private patio, Sep DR, LL FR w/fpl, sep Laundry, 600' attic storage, Off-St Pkg \$452,900 **Jolee Rubin** CBmove.com/AX8604784



Quaker Hill 1100 Quaker Hill Drive #425, Alexandria, VA Gleaming hardwoods throughout this totally renovated 2 BR/2 BA in Quaker Hill. W/D in Unit, fireplace, granite, stainless, separate DR, pool \$299,000 **Cathy D'Antuono** CBmove.com/AX8585649

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OPINION

Celebrate Mom, Dad—Without Selling One Short

BY CHRISTIAN PAASCH

In today's marketing environment, it seems as though one gender cannot make progress without disparaging another. However, a few inspiring and refreshingly positive television ads have recently managed to gain popularity while avoiding this pitfall. I applaud Dove, Nissan and Toyota for having the courage to step away from the norm and, in doing so, not only bring men into the mainstream picture of the modern American parent, but also for doing so in a way that is perhaps more innovative than anything else: championing one gender without attacking, alienating or poking fun at the other gender.

Toyota has done a terrific job of bridging the strong bond between fathers and daughters. In the company's latest ad, Toyota depicts the various stages of a daughter's life where her dad is there to console, protect, guide and eventually, set out into the world with tears in

his eyes. The message of the ad is to make bold choices — what better term to describe what any parent would want for his or her child, in particular a daughter?

In a seeming balance to Toyota, Nissan focused on the relationship between a father and his son. Perhaps too stereotypically, the father here is depicted as the absent father, a race car driver in this instance, and the son looking on, wanting to be just like his father. Of course, the soundtrack to this commercial is none other than "Cats In The Hat," but thankfully, the father realizes before it's too late that his son needs to physically see him and know that their relationship is more important than any job.

Dove has arguably the most moving, yet simple ad: clip after clip of young and adult children calling for "Dad" or "Daddy" at various stages of their lives. From the toddler needing help to the adult calling his father with the wonderful news of a pregnancy, the commercial ends with a simple question and answer:

"What makes a man stronger? Showing that he cares."

So why do these ads matter? Why are they so special? Here again, the answer is simple: because they are a rarity. Because they champion the roles dads play in the lives of children, both boys and girls, without denigrating the crucial and complementary role mothers play in those same children's lives. This spirit of gender equality is one to celebrate and emulate.

In fact, the path these three companies have forged serves as a marketing model for others and reminds parents everywhere that they are parents first, united by the love for their children and made stronger by a mutual appreciation of their unique strengths and differences.

Christian Paasch is chair of the National Parents Organization in Virginia and has been appointed by Virginia Gov. McAuliffe to Virginia's Child Support Guidelines Review Panel. He lives in Alexandria. Email christianpaasch@nationalparentsorganization.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Simply Can't Have It All'

To the Editor:

Several neighborhood associations hosted the first Mayoral debate in the MacArthur School cafeteria last Thursday, April 23. As a relatively new Alexandria resident and voter, it was a good opportunity for me to learn about old and new city issues as well as to observe the candidates, and watch them interact.

From the reactions in the audience, it is clear that we share many common concerns in this part of

Alexandria: traffic, a city budget that keeps on growing, city leaders seemingly obsessed with more growth and development as the only answer to our financial stresses, and the lack of respect for residential zoning in this endless quest for the next development dollar.

While we heard the Mayor Euille and the former Mayor Donley spar about which of them was more responsible for the city's rezoning and other decisions at the Winkler property on Beauregard Street that brought the suffocating BRAC traffic to our part of town, neither proposed anything meaningful to

deal with this traffic. In fact, the shared theme of the evening was for more growth. Mayor Euille talked about future growth projections in Alexandria with 50,000 more residents by 2040 — stating confidently that we could manage this growth. Former Mayor Donley oft repeated a mantra that we need smart, commercial growth near mass transit to better balance our commercial and residential tax burden. In response to a question on Old Town parking issues, Mr. Donley even observed that parking was a good problem to have since it demonstrated vibrancy.

Vice Mayor Silberberg also ac-

knowledgeed the need for Alexandria to be open for business and called for growth around transit corridors in a measured and balanced way. But where she differed from the other candidates was in not seeing growth as the answer to all of our problems. In fact, she stressed that the city and its citizens need to do a detailed reassessment of our 10-year capital plan, stating that we, as Alexandrians, must be honest with each other, determine what is mission critical, and what is not.

She said what too many politicians are unwilling to say, but what every Alexandria household knows from daily living — "We must live within our means. We simply can't have it all." Not a radical concept, but a refreshing one nonetheless.

Shelby Olson
Alexandria

Focus on Middle Schools

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter to the mayor, City Council and School Board.

I am writing this letter to you as a concerned father of an elementary school student who is about to graduate and get ready for middle school this year.

This is what I have been observing for the past 4-5 years in Alexandria among parents as this trend continues and now started affecting me, something I wasn't thinking about so seriously until now. What I am referring to is the fact

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SSA volunteers Dan Bernstein and Tom Irvin Deliver pet food and supplies to seniors.

Animeals on Wheels

Assistance for seniors with pets.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

It's well known that pets can play a significant role in the quality of a senior's life by providing personal companionship. However, sometimes it's not easy to properly provide for a pet when living on a limited income.

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) have teamed up to help seniors provide for their pets through a unique program called "Animeals on Wheels." Eligible seniors, aged 60 and over who reside in the City of Alexandria, can

have free pet food delivered to their residence once a month.

SSA volunteers deliver dog and cat food to eligible seniors' residences on the second Thursday of every month. The cat and dog food is provided from donations to the AWLA, and clients can choose between 10 pounds of dry or 10 cans of wet food. Clients may also indicate their animals' preference for variety of food, and every effort is made to meet those requests.

If you are interested in learning more about the program and whether you qualify, or if you know of a senior who might benefit from this program, call Senior Services of Alexandria at 703-836-4414, ext. 113 or go to our website, seniorservicealex.org for an application form.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11
that almost all parents who can afford to keep their children away from the city middle schools try to send their middle school ready children somewhere else whether it is a private school or another public school at different jurisdiction.

They do it at whatever cost they can — by using their family savings for private education, relocating somewhere else by short-selling their houses even though the current location is ideal place to raise family, or renting out their properties at very low rent — as long as their kids will stay away from Hammond or Houston

middle school. It is those students who come from needy and low income families end up attending these schools. No wonder the Houston middle school that was recently re-built with the state of art classrooms and that is considered very spacious is not even half-full. Almost everyone who attend this school (or Hammond) is either African American or Latino. This obviously doesn't reflect our city's ethnic makeup though it is very diverse, something that makes me very proud as a resident.

In addition, the ratings assigned to Alexandria middle schools is

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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- Games for dogs and people
- Animal-friendly exhibits

For more information or to register yourself or your team, go to
AlexandriaAnimals.org/walk



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

usually between 1 and 3 on the scale 1 to 10.

So, what is going on? Aren't you concerned about this situation? May I know where your children went for middle school? As a city taxpayer, why should I consider sending my son to somewhere else even if this will be a huge financial burden for my family while I am paying my fair share of taxes to fund Alexandria middle schools? How are you planning to address this crisis considering that there are only few months left until the new school year begins?

I am really looking forward to your response.

Bedir Memmedli, CPA
 Alexandria

Too Much Spending

To the Editor:

Spending taxpayer money seems to be the manta of this mayor and his compliant council. Aside from the annual budgetary growth, we have the ever-increasing spending on capital projects. Recognizing the need for objective control over such spending, the city established objective guidelines in the 1980s and '90s to provide controls to help safeguard the city's triple A bond rating. These guidelines, which were updated in 2008 (made higher, presumably to accommodate "taj mahals" such as the new police station and the Jefferson Houston School) include ratios for "Target" spending and an "Upper Limit" on spending in any one year. As forecast spending gets close to, and exceeds the upper limit, a new element has been added to the calculation: "ex Potomac Metro" and "ex Sanitary Sewer" adding a new cushion to the "objective control," so the spending can keep growing. The forecast in the "Capital Improvement Program" is for spending of \$118 million in 2016 staying above \$100 million for the next five years (with a big bump in 2017 for the Potomac Metro Station). Much of this spending requires debt which becomes debt service and is part of our tax rate. Debt service was \$114 million in 2014 and is proposed at \$118 million for 2016. All of this suggests that the clear skies envisioned by our leaders could come with some dark clouds.

Finally, a cautionary note is included in the Capital Improvement Overview section of the budget to the effect that the potential cost to mitigate the bacteria TMDL for Hunting Creek could be as high as



PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

Snapshot
Iris in Alexandria

\$200-300 million. Since this cost is not included in the forecast of capital spending, it suggests some caution is needed in plan development.

It is time we introduced the concept of "taxpayer" control as established in the voting booth. We need to vote out the mayor, keep Mr Donley on the sidelines since he wants even more and faster spending, and get rid of the "yes men" on the council who all believe more spending is better.

A J Kearney
 Alexandria

A Different Vision for City

To the Editor:

I'm not going to tell you which mayoral candidate to vote for on June 9, but I am going to tell you which two Democrats you shouldn't vote for and why.

Mayor Bill Euille has been a member of the City Council since 1993. He was elected Alexandria's first African-American mayor in 2003. During his tenure as mayor, Mr. Euille has bent over backwards to help developers. He has favored such special interests over the protection of neighborhoods and the town's history. Real dialogue between the City Council and community has been minimal or absent. He has served 12 years as mayor, and I believe that is long enough.

Then there is Kerry Donley, a former two-term mayor. He has served a total of 18 years on the City Council, most recently from 2009-2012. During his tenure as mayor, the city grew much larger, the city's budget ballooned, and residential property taxes skyrocketed. Mr. Donley, who works for a local bank, says, not surprisingly, that the answer to these growth problems is still more commercial

development.

It's time to move away from such special interests and focus more on the business of protecting the city's history and quality of life. Why, for example, does a city of this size and wealth have too few great parks?

As a former vice mayor and native Alexandrian my advice to all residents of Alexandria is to cast your ballot on June 9 for someone new that will take us in a different direction. If history is any guide, the primary will decide who will be the city's next mayor.

If you vote for Mayor Euille or former mayor Kerry Donley you are handing control of City Hall to developers, to the detriment of Alexandria.

Andrew Macdonald
 Alexandria

Cartoon: Not Funny

To the Editor:

As program chairman of Alexandria's Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War, I have planned programs for the last two years to illuminate truths about various aspects of the War, including its causes. Many authorities, including Carl Sandburg (who hailed from Illinois, Land of Lincoln) have noted that when campaigning, Lincoln said he would not interfere with slavery in the states where it existed. As President, in the spring of 1861 he called for 75,000 troops to restore the seceded states to the union. An immediate cause of the war was states' rights, specifically their right to secede, a legal right Northern states had asserted since the 1814 Hartford Convention (Connecticut) without objection from sister states. It was only when the Union was losing the war that Lincoln, looking for another cause to encourage enlistment in the unpopular conflict, adopted ending slavery in the South as a reason for continuing the war. However, abolition proved not to be a popular recruitment tool among Northern citizens; in fact, draft and race riots ensued in many cities. It is notable that he did not try to end slavery in the four Northern slave states that remained in the Union throughout the war. The 1863 Emancipation Proclamation applied only to the seceded states and excepted those parts that the Union then controlled (listed by county). Contrary to widespread belief, Lincoln did not end slavery.

Slavery was ended by the 13th Amendment, ratified after

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



2015 Contest Winners Announced

**“What can you do to improve
your local watershed?”**



George Washington Middle School
students won top honors for their project
which aims to raise awareness on the
harmful effects of microbead facial exfoliates.

Thank you to all the students, teachers and partners who participated this year! Hundreds of area students in grades 6-8 competed to develop solutions to watershed issues. Classroom teams presented their proposals at the School Environmental Action Showcase on April 9 at George Mason University in Fairfax.

This program empowers students to imagine, develop and create solutions in their local watersheds, as they develop research, problem-solving, budgeting, community- involvement and presentation skills.

Nearly \$20,000 was awarded in cash prizes and school awards. Agrium is also providing \$10,000 to help implement student ideas.

Turning ideas into realistic solutions is the key to improving our local watersheds.

Alexandria/Arlington/Fairfax Finalists, Grades 6-8

Final Place	Award	Proposal Name	School
1	\$1,000	Microbeadless	George Washington Middle School
2	\$900	Ban the Bottles!	Lanier Middle School
3	\$800	Helping Grasses to Form Masses	George Washington Middle School
4	\$700	Every Drip Counts	George Washington Middle School
5	\$600	Saving Four Mile Run from FCB	Kenmore Middle School
6	\$500	Screened Storm Drains Save Streams	Kenmore Middle School
7	\$450	Helping with Rain Barrels	George Washington Middle School
8	\$400	Acorus Americanus Away!	George Washington Middle School
9	\$350	Compost Bin for Dog Waster	Kenmore Middle School
10	\$300	Rain Barrel Proposal	Kenmore Middle School



CaringForOurWatersheds.com

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

Lincoln's death.

A war about slavery would have little relevance to us (no one advocates restoring it), but discussion about the War Between the States still strongly resonates with 21st century Americans. Citizens are still very much concerned about protecting the rights of the states and individuals in our federal republic in which the federal government and Supreme Court dominate more and more of our lives. Our debates between the "Originalist" and "Living Constitution" proponents mirror the debates of the 19th century.

Unfortunately, the cartoon "150 Years After the Civil War Re-enactment 2015" on your April 23 Opinion page perpetuated a misunderstanding about the War. Rather than "It was about slavery", and "states' raaahghs!!!", the characters might better have said "It's about forced unity" and "It's about free choice." Your cartoonist's portraying the Northern soldier as one who can spell and pronounce his words correctly with no regional accent, but Southern soldier as one who cannot spell/pronounce "rights" correctly is an unfortunate slur that reflects poorly on him

rather than his target: the brave soldiers who fought to protect their natural rights, their countries (which each state was at that time), their homes and families from invaders. Even an editorial page cartoonist should not distort facts to promote his opinion. Is the spectacle of two men arguing nose to nose meant to be funny?

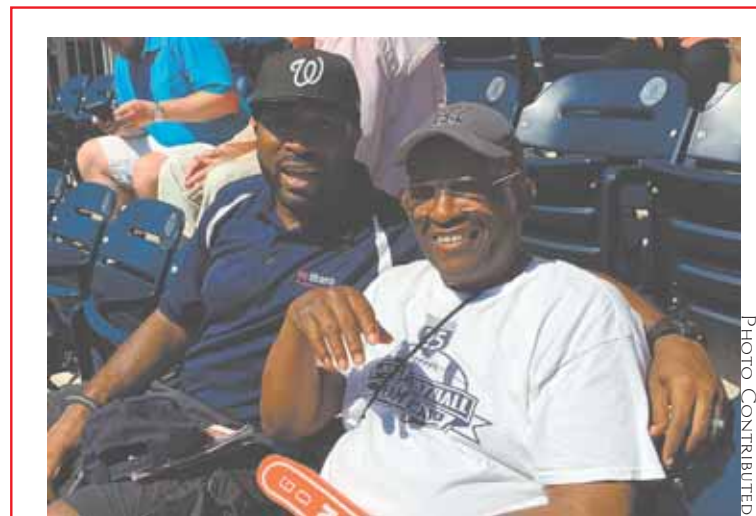
Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Squelching Comments

To the Editor:

The Potomac Yard property is underutilized and I support efforts to locate a metro rail station at Potomac Yard.

However, the city staff's selection of a preferred site for the proposed Potomac Yard Metro Station is an attempt to tamp down further consideration of public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It would have been more appropriate if the selection of a preferred alternative was made after consideration of public comments. Not surprisingly, the staff decision coincides with an earlier agreement



Snapshot

3:10 p.m., April 18: Ratcliff Thomas and his father Ratcliff enjoy a Saturday afternoon ball game at the Washington Nationals ballpark with members of the Alexandria Sportsman Club. The club also provided over three dozen game tickets to children in Alexandria's recreation department programs.

wards improvements to the Mount Vernon Trail and Daingerfield Island.

The DEIS should be amended to include the tentative agreements so citizens can provide reasonable comments on the alternatives included in the DEIS but also on the new proposed deal. During a week we celebrate Earth Day, it is ironic city and federal officials are making announcements and side agreements to basically short-circuit public comments. This has been a controversial project and an important project for the future of Alexandria.

Dave Cavanaugh
Alexandria

Value of Public Servants

To the Editor:

From the beginning, residents of Old Town have only wanted the very best for the Old and Historic District, starting with the group of women who spearheaded the drive that made us the third nationally designated Historic District in the country. They were

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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Above and Beyond

APD officer Nugent to receive Gold Medal at 2015 Valor Awards.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was a cold and icy February morning in 2014 when Alexandria police officer Michael Nugent responded to an emergency call on South Patrick Street. A woman was standing atop a jersey wall and threatening to jump off the bridge of the I-495 overpass.

On the other side of the wall was a 75-foot drop down to Cameron Run.

After attempts by Nugent and a bystander at the scene failed to convince the woman to step to safety, she leaned forward and went over the edge. The bystander, Mamie Doyle, was able to catch the woman's arm, which prevented her from falling to her death. Instead, she landed on an icy ledge no more than a few feet wide.

Despite Nugent grabbing the woman's other arm, she continued to struggle and fought to free herself from their grip. Without hesitation, Nugent jumped over the jersey wall and onto the ledge in an attempt to restrain the woman.

As the struggle continued, the woman was able to grip the edge of the ledge with her legs and pull herself forward, taking Nugent with her. Suddenly, Doyle leapt over the wall and sat on top of the victim, pinning her down and preventing her from moving closer to the edge.

After several minutes, the Fire Department and additional officers arrived on scene. As a group, they were able to bring the victim, Nugent and Doyle to safety.

As a result of Nugent's actions, the woman survived to get the help she needed. For his heroism and courage, Nugent will be presented a Gold Medal at the 2015 Valor Awards April 30 at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria.

Now in its 29th year, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards will pay tribute to Nugent and 15 other public safety professionals for their exceptional performance in the line of duty.

In addition to Nugent, APD officers Steve Escobar and Carlos Ronlon, along with K-9s Gracie and Xig Xag, will receive Silver Medals.

Assistant Fire Marshall Andrea Buchanan and APD officer Erik Nygren will be honored with Bronze Medals for their performance in the line of duty.

Additionally, four Certificates of Valor and seven Life Saving Awards will be presented at the event that honors public safety personnel.

For tickets or more information, call 703-549-1000 or visit www.alexchamber.com.



**Michael Nugent,
Gold Medal**



**Steve Escobar (with
Gracie), Silver Medal**



**Carlos Rolon with Xig
Xag, Silver Medal**



**Andrea Buchanan,
Bronze Medal**



**Erik Nygren,
Bronze Medal**



**Daniel Canniff,
Certificate of Valor**



**Michael Faber,
Certificate of Valor**



**Daryoush Hermatti,
Certificate of Valor**



**Ryan Waple,
Certificate of Valor**



**Michael Ambrose,
Life Saving Award**



**Michael Lyons,
Life Saving Award**



**Chris O'Dell,
Life Saving Award**



**Matthew O'Malley,
Life Saving Award**



**Joseph Porcelli,
Life Saving Award**



**Nick Ruggerio,
Life Saving Award**



**William Rutz,
Life Saving Award**

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

vated by the extraordinary role this “small town” had played in founding our country ... and the critical need to protect it from those stimulated solely by economics. As it turns out their fears were well founded.

When public servants insist that “value” is only measured by money, you can be assured that they are violating a fundamental tenet of their oath of office. When someone whose primary responsibility is to the public, defines “value” as wholly financial, he belongs in the private sector. And unless our current public officials are strict libertarians, their seeming belief that money is the only measure of a city official’s performance is an abdication of progressive leadership and civic responsibility.

The City of Alexandria is now coming up short in continuing to use this “dollars for density” approach to running a city. The mayor, council, and former Vice Mayor Kerry Donley are responsible for pushing projects that tradeoff residents’ long term well-being for a few dollars — none of which have managed to either flat line taxes or repair damaged infrastructure.

In the case of the Old and Historic District, any initiative that lacks the “value” propositions of high esteem and respect for a powerful emblem of the City of Alexandria and our country, and the fundamental shared understanding that it is an anchor for civic pride, and a rallying point for visitors around the globe ... sadly misses the mark.

As for the waterfront, residents have been articulate, responsible, and consistent, with well-documented and solid arguments for appropriate development of what they’ve always known is an unsightly (and toxic) river’s edge. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service expressed serious doubts about the city’s preferred, massive, large-scale buildings.

Residents have used legal tools, including the favorable ruling of the city’s Board of Zoning Appeals, the city’s own Protest Petition, and the courts to shift the character of the wall of building on the historic waterfront. They have probably logged in far in excess of the city’s handy little rubric of “over 100 community meetings” (where’s the hard data).

The city understands and plays the game of development as one where all city points are non-negotiable. However, civic engagement implies negotiation as a process of tradeoffs where both, not one, party gives in order to gain ... and the tradeoff being meaningful in order to be equitable. Today, the city has gained almost everything, and residents have gained very little, and even stand to lose (parking and quality of life).

Let’s help the mayor, council, and Mr. Donley lose their notion that the “value” of our city can only be measured in monetary terms. Vote for Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg for mayor. Her record of listening keenly and standing with citizens to preserve neighborhood integrity and citizens’ well being is a powerful statement of her commitment to reasoned governance.

Kathryn Papp
Alexandria

Massive Debt

To the Editor:

This letter was triggered when I heard the three mayor candidates tell an audience last Thursday, which included me, why they should be mayor. Donley’s and Euille’s Potomac Yard metro views are embedded in concrete. No amount of reason will dissuade them from this very costly project. Euille declared the City Council will approve the Potomac Yard Metro on May 20. My take: It’s a fool’s errand.

The Potomac Yard Metro being presented to the public for comment is emblematic of what’s wrong with our city governance. Here’s what’s afoot: In the next four weeks, you — the gentle public — are being presented with any number of forums and council hearings during which you can express your approval or disapproval of this massive project, the most costly in Alexandria’s long history, and potentially our financial undoing. But here’s what’s phony about this political theater: your views matter not one whit.

Our current mayor publically declared the City Council will approve the new metro on May 20. It’s a done deal. And because you have no say in the matter, their decision is going to burden you, your progeny and theirs too with a massive debt. If that isn’t bad enough, the costly project is likely going to be overseen by one of three individuals seeking to be our next mayor: Candidates Euille, Donley or Silberberg.

On an individual basis, these are nice, civic minded people, but when given the public’s purse strings, they morph into high-dais overlords who believe their visions are incarnate and their right to spend your money is inviolate. As you watch this Potomac Yard Metro train wreck a-happening, keep in mind that candidates Euille and Donley have revealed themselves to be renegade over-spenders. Their habit is so bad that for the last eight years our city has spent more money than it has received in revenue. Good money managers they are not.

Worse: Candidates Euille and Donley, in the respective capacities as current and former mayor, are twin pillars of gold plated, project overruns. Think T. C. Williams and Jefferson-Houston. These two schools’ construction costs exceeded their already pricey budgets.

But here’s what’s really awful about the Potomac Yard Metro: It’s being sold not because it’s good for current residents, but because it’s expected to be a faucet spewing money into city coffers. This is because residents and businesses expected to locate near this new metro station are going to find themselves in special tax districts requiring them to pay more tax than you and I pay.

Look here: all revenue projections are guesstimates, but the ones for the Potomac Yard Metro station are awful; they are nothing but numerical cotton candy. Consider this: Alexandria already has plenty of commercial vacancies near existing metros. Now, the city will have us believe businesses will move to specially created, high-tax dis-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'The Odd Couple' (Female Version)

Neil Simon comedy has been reinvented as ladies take over roles of Unger and Madison.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Odd Couple" (The Female Version) from now through May 16. Unger and Madison are at it again — Florence Unger and Olive Madison, that is — in Neil Simon's comic classic. The comedy has been reinvented from a different perspective as the women take over the roles of the mismatched couple to give this well-known play a whole new life.

Director Joanna Henry said she wanted to direct the show because it presents life experiences in a humorous way, and the last three plays she's directed were dramas with serious plot points. "This version of 'The Odd Couple' is comical, physical, and fast-paced," she said. "The situations may be exaggerated, but they're based on reality."

What she was trying to accomplish with the play was "that we need to take ourselves less seriously and enjoy our friendships, with all their faults," she said. "By the end of the play, Olive and Florence have both changed a bit and grown a bit — two mismatched friends who accept each other for who they are."

She said her biggest challenge in directing was to keep the pacing crisp. "Neil Simon's dialogue was written to be snappy so when it lags, it's very obvious. We've all worked hard to maintain that fast pace without ignoring the calmer, more subtle moments in the play. Balancing that has been tricky," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, she said, "Accept people as they are; love them for who they are." She said the women in the play are forced to agree on one thing — "they may not be the best of roommates, but they still are the best of friends."

Jennifer Pagnard plays the role of Florence Unger, a neurotic neatnik whose 14-year marriage has just ended. "I'm person-



Kat Sanchez (Sylvie), Jennifer Lyons Pagnard (Florence), and Michelle Fletcher (Mickey) star in a reimaged version of "The Odd Couple."

ally not a slob, but I'm certainly not a neatnik," she said. "I actually can relate personally to Olive much more than Florence."

She said the script is one of the funniest she's encountered. "I hope audiences will truly enjoy themselves and be able to relate to the crazy, touching, real life friendship between Olive and Florence," she said.

Michelle Fletcher plays the role of Mickey the cop, a fierce friend who genuinely cares for her gang and is quick to rush to their aid with all of her professional expertise, even when she disagrees with their choices.

Her challenge in playing Mickey was "keeping a straight face while delivering or hearing hilarious lines," she said. "What I hope the audience takes away are aching ribs from laughing and real enjoyment of a great play with a great cast and a great production team."

Philip Krzywicki plays the role of Manolo, the older of the two Spanish brothers from Barcelona. "We've lived in the USA for three years now, but sometimes we struggle with the English language and don't fully under-

stand some of the crazy expressions used like, 'You say tomato, I say tomato, you say potato, I say potato,'" he said.

His challenge was capturing a convincing Spanish accent. "Funny thing is that I can speak Spanish fairly well with a decent accent, but somehow speaking English with a Spanish accent has been difficult," he said. "I hope that audiences will have a blast watching the show and will leave with smiles on their faces, but I hope they also come away with an even deeper love and appreciation for the genius writing of Neil Simon."

Brendan Quinn plays the role of Jesus, a Spanish immigrant living in New York and working for a Spanish airline. "He is not great with the English language, and this often creates a barrier between him and the other characters," he said. "What I enjoy about him though is that this never gets him down for long."

He said the most challenging part of the show was keeping his accent consistent. "That and being sure not to crack up at the other hilarious actors," he said.



PHOTOS BY KEITH WATERS

Kat Sanchez (Sylvie), Elizabeth Replogle (Renee), Gayle Nichols-Grimes (Olive), Natalie Fox (Vera), and Michelle Fletcher (Mickey) star in LTA's "The Odd Couple" (Female Version).

Kat Sanchez plays the role of Sylvie, a chain smoker who's trying to quit and winds up pregnant at the end of the play; she's also sarcastic, dry, funny and thoughtful. "Sylvie has an interesting relationship with her husband, whom the audience never meets. The dialogue suggests that their marriage lacks romance, but at the end, she's pregnant and thrilled to share the news," she said.

She added: "This is a story about friendship, tolerance and acceptance. I hope the audience can appreciate these women, celebrate their friendships and recognize that no matter what the scenario or personality flaw, these are women who rally around their friends."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Odd Couple" (The Female Version) through May 16. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call the box office at 703-683-0496. Website: www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Email community 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

"Attics and Alleys." Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at various locations. Guests are invited to take a walking tour through historic sites like Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Apothecary Museum and the Carlyle House in honor of National Preservation Month. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

Art Show. Through May 3 at Cove, 805 King St., Alexandria. Cove will partner with ArtSee to open the

doors of their Alexandria location for a reception featuring the work of Alexandria artist Pete McCutchen. The work on display shares McCutchen's "Geometrics" series. Visit cove.is for more.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 3 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Two new exhibits will be on display at the Multiple Exposures Gallery by artists Susan Meyers and Colleen Henderson. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"The Latin Beat." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. The Potomac Fiber Art Gallery will display an exhibition of Central and South American jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. Free. See www.torpedofactory.org.

"The Addams Family." Through May 2, various times at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac will present their production of the popular Addams

Family franchise. Tickets are \$10-35. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

"Mosaic" Exhibit. Through May 3, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. The Tag Gallery Presents its first all-member show. Free to attend. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"Tempo & Pause" Exhibit. Through May 11, various times at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Find cityscape paintings by Greg Gandy and Valerio D'Ospina. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

"The Odd Couple." Through May 16, Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sundays. The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The LTA presents a twist on the traditional comedy with female characters. Tickets start at \$19. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

"COMPARTMENTALIZED." Through May 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-

Friday and during performances at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 5000 Dawes Ave. The exhibit, featuring Lang's assemblages of photography, digital photomontage, and found objects will be on display. Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com.

Art Exhibit. Through May 31. Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. "Rara Avis" is an exhibition of bird-centric works of Beverly Ress, Langley Spurlock and Martin Tarrat in the Athenaeum Gallery. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.


Eunsook Lee: "Dispersed Family." Through May 31. Gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 North Union St. Eunsook Lee's exhibit of black light threads sealed and laminated alongside images and other materials

will be on display. Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.com.

"MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media." Through May 31 at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists mix two or more mediums for this exhibition collaboration between Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts. See www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Nine Paintings from John Chapman. Through May 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington's biography are on view. Visit www.mountvernon.org.


"Paws 'N Claws for Art." Runs through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower



The Odd Couple
The Female Version

The Female Version
Neil Simon's comedy classic with a twist!
Watch and laugh as this "odd couple" learn that friendship may have its ups and downs but in the end it overpowers all.

April 25 - May 16, 2015



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6:30 pm Mass (Español)

Saturday Evening
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

Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)

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ENTERTAINMENT



From top left: "Evening Light" by Ellen Delaney, "More Than You Have Ever Known" by Kara Hammond, "Taming the Dragon Within" by Erika Cleveland



"WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WHEN THE MACHINES DON'T WORK ANYMORE?"



'Perceptions' Extends Beyond TAG Gallery Doors

The work of street photographer Val Proudki, painter Ellen Delaney, graphic artist Kara Hammond, and 3-D artist Erika Delaney will be on display at the "Perceptions" exhibit, an exploration of perception through material, and technical perspective. The exhibit will run May 3-31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle's Fur-Vor project community-based student-recycled dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW for more.

"Intricacies" Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 31 at various times at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Artist-Photographer Nina Tisara unveils her "Intricacies" exhibit, a collection of mosaics. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

"Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists." Through June 28, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 12-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find watermedia floral and landscape paintings. Free to visit gallery. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

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.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon-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.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps. Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a favorite story with dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and reception for family and friends. Tiny Dancers is a program designed for ages 2-12, featuring a performance based ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater curriculum. The Alexandria studio is located at 621 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com for more.

Art League Summer Camps. Registration for Summer Art Camp 2015 is now open.

Art Camps run Monday to Friday, June 22-Aug. 21. Camps are available for ages 5 and older, with morning, afternoon, or all day options. Subjects include: drawing, cartooning, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, fiber arts, clay animation, and Basic Art Camp (a new medium each day). \$155-\$345. Visit www.theartleague.org/content/art_camp for more.

Encore Chorale Summer Choral

Institutes. Encore Summer Choral Institute at Washington College in Chestertown MD runs from June 14-18 and Encore Summer Choral Institute at Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua, NY from from Aug.30-Sept. 4. Sponsored by Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral singing program for adults 55 and older, the institutes attract adult students from all over the country, at all levels of vocal experience, for a week of intensive choral music study. For information and pricing, call 301-261-5747, email info@encorecreativity.org or visit www.encorecreativity.org.

Summer of Smiles. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time (residents only) and classic camps. The guide has an index listing camps by week offered and age group. Registration opens Wednesday, March 18 for City of Alexandria residents and Friday, March 20 for nonresidents. Interested participants may register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

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

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Port City Playhouse Presents 'Stick Fly'

Play takes a wry but affectionate look at upper-income African-Americans

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

Port City Playhouse in Alexandria will present "Stick Fly," Lydia R. Diamond's wry but affectionate look at the experiences of upper-income African-Americans, from May 1 through May 16. The story centers around the LeVay family — a father, two adult sons with their girlfriends, and the housekeeper's daughter, who is filling in while her mother is ill — which gathers at their home on Martha's Vineyard for their annual summer holiday. Personality clashes and revealed secrets make this anything but a relaxing family vacation.

Director Kevin Sockwell wanted to direct "Stick Fly" because it was one of the very first plays he had read where the experience of affluent, educated African Americans was presented. "Most plays with primarily black characters focus on drug use, poverty, and so forth," he said. "The family of this story is similar to my background and I was happy to see the unique problems of black affluence presented in a powerful, somewhat humorous way.

"I want the audience to understand some unique aspects of the African American experience while still being able to relate and appreciate the LeVay family as family, not a black family, but a family," he said.

He wants the audience to realize that

one's family is one's family and to embrace it, not resist it. "One can never fully escape what any family experience provides, yet people can be themselves and still thrive in a family," he said. "Equally true, the wishes, desires, aspirations of being in a black family may differ somewhat due to race, but the goals and needs of all families transcend race and are very human to us all."

Chaz Pando plays the role of Harold "Flip" LeVay, the oldest son/brother who is a charming, successful plastic surgeon. "He is well traveled and enjoys the finer things in life," he said. "He is also known to be, as is his father, a womanizer. As they say, 'Like father, like son.'"

He added: "This show is about family and finding yourself, and how some families deal with certain situations, good or bad ... This show will make you laugh, make you cry, and even make you mad, but most importantly, it will make you think. And that is what theater is all about."

Mack Leamon plays the role of Kent (Spoon) LeVay, the younger of the sons. "As the only artist in a family of doctors, he's struggled to find his place, but he's hoping that a recent success will earn him the respect of his father," he said.

He added: "The story at its core is about a family and how families interact with each other The challenge (and the fun) is to find ways to make these moments interesting for an audience.

"I hope they laugh with and feel for the characters. I hope they see some of themselves and their own families on the stage."

Fatima Razi plays the only Caucasian-female character named Kimber Davies, a Peace Corps veteran and African American studies scholar. "She has a social status



PHOTO BY CAL WHITEHURST

In rehearsals for the Port City Playhouse's production of "Stick Fly" are (front row, from left:) Mack Leamon, Kashayna Johnson and Chaz Pando; (back row:) Fatima Razi, Brittany Caldwell and Bill Greene.

equal to the LeVay family yet privy to white privilege, and on some level, apologetic for it," she said.

What she hopes the audience takes away from the production, is this: "People have a desire to maintain this constant positive image of themselves to society. It is human nature that individuals do not 'showcase' their flaws This play teaches us that it is these secrets that can truly harm our familial relationships when honesty and authenticity are cast aside."

Kashayna Johnson plays the role of Cheryl, the daughter of the maid who works for the LeVay family. "She's actually pretty fascinating because she's very bright, self aware, hardworking and unapologetic, yet there's a softer side," she said. "There's a vulnerability — a sense of naivety at the core, and once triggered makes that exterior crumble and fall away."

She said one of the challenges was not

getting trapped in the drama of the play and not judging the characters. "Once I understood and accepted that this was the family's 'normal,' it opened up so many possibilities for me as an actor," she said. "I also had more fun and that's when the true essence of this play, and the humor that's clearly written in this piece came out."

She added: "I hope that audiences see themselves and their own families in this play. And it may not necessarily be the same circumstances, but dysfunction is universal, and I believe the one thing that allows people to function in dysfunction, and go on loving and dealing with each other is family."

Port City Playhouse is presenting "Stick Fly" on May 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m.; and May 9 and 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and \$18. The theater is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For tickets, visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

CALENDAR

www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern or call 703-746-4242.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 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, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

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.

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

Tween Yoga. Thursdays, May 28-July 16. 4-5 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N Washington St. Suite 100. 532Yoga

uses yoga to help tweens develop greater self-confidence. The workshop fee is \$125 or \$20 for drop-in classes. Visit www.532Yoga.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 1

Taste of Cinco de Mayo. 6:30 p.m. at Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Food sponsors include South Austin Grill, Los Toltecos and Dos Amigos. The Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble will perform as well as Latin jazz band Ocho de Bastos. Individual tickets are \$5 and family tickets are \$15 in advance, \$10 and \$20 at the door. Visit www.alexandria.gov/webtrac.

"Fly by Light" World Premiere. 6:30 p.m. at the National Geographic Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. Alexandria's 532Yoga will host One Common Unity's presentation of "Fly by Light," a documentary detailing the experience of four young people who participate in Peace Education Program in West Virginia. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.flybylightworldpremiere.brownpapertickets.com to buy tickets.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. During the "MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media"

reception, curators Karen Schmitz (Del Ray Artisans) and Judy Gula (Artistic Artifacts) will give several awards for MIX masterpieces and award prizes for best dressed guests in "MIX & Do Not Match" attire. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Art on the Rocks. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League, Inc, 105 N. Union St. Local mixologists will create cocktails and appetizers based on a piece of art. Tickets are \$45-55. Visit www.theartleague.org.

"Shakespeare's Sister: Women in the Arts." 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 5000 Dawes Ave. This program will feature female voices through music, poetry, prose and visual art through performances by the NOVA Alexandria Band, Community Chorus and Jazz Ensemble, along with art and design work by NOVA Studio. Free. Visit www.facebook.com/events/549230145217810.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-2

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School presents musical comedy

of six students vying for a spelling championship. Tickets are \$5-10. Visit www.mvhsdtheatrearts.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Java Jolt. 10 a.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N Union St. Blair Meerfeld is a master stoneware potter, as well as the current Ceramics Department Chair at the Art League. He will discuss the Germanic influences on early American stoneware craftsmanship. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Genealogy Walking Tour. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Tour the Alexandria Black History Museum, Charles Houston Recreation Center's Hall of Fame Exhibit, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, and selected sites on Columbus, Alfred and Pendleton Streets. Co-author of "African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century" Char McCargo Bah will lead. Tickets are \$15 for children under 16, \$30 for adults. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of the area's most prominent families, including the Washingtons,

Masons and Fairfaxes. Free. Visit www.pohick.org.

"Secrets of the Paper Garden." 2-5 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. Learn how to make flowers out of Italian papers. \$35 for members, \$45 for nonmembers, plus a \$15 supplies fee. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Joan & Joni Tribute. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Allison Shapira & Kipyn Martin with Adrianna Naomi will perform a tribute to folk singers Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-3

Revolutionary War Encampment. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt Vernon. View reenactments, attend lectures, and learn more about military techniques from the time of the Revolutionary War. Admission is included in the cost of a general admission ticket. Adult tickets are \$17, youth tickets 6-11 are \$9, children younger than 6 are free and senior tickets are \$16. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria's Walk for Animals. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Market Square. Visit exhibits designed for animals and people, and walk to support the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Registration is \$25 in advance, \$40 on-site. Visit www.alexandrianimals.donorpages.com.

Titan Expo. 1-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The Titan Expo is a community event featuring carnival games, inflatables, bake sale, bingo, car bash, large used book sale, and music by local musicians. Free. Call 703-824-6800.

Artists Reception and Award Ceremony. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artists participating in the Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists exhibit will be recognized by artist and educator Dana Cibulski. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Running of the Chihuahuas. 1-4 p.m. at SW Waterfront, DC, between 6th and 7th streets. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with food, drink, and a chihuahua race sponsored by Alexandria's On Tap Magazine. Admission is free. Visit www.ontaponline.com/race.

Gallery Talk. 3 p.m. at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Artist Beverly Ress discusses her work. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. New Dominion Chorale will present a program of Gilbert and Sullivan and Classic Musical Theater to close its 24th season. General admission is \$30, \$25 for seniors; \$5 students and children; \$20 for groups of 10 or more. Visit www.newdominion.org.

MAY 3-31

"Perceptions" 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, Studio 319, 105 N Union St. The "Perceptions" exhibit will feature 3-D artist Erika Cleveland, painter Ellen Delaney, graphic artist Kara Hammond, and street photographer Val Proudki. Free to attend. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

MONDAY/MAY 4

"Gadsby's Tavern" Book Signing and Lecture. 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N Royal St. Gretchen Bulova's new book, "Gadsby's Tavern" is hitting shelves and the Tavern is celebrating with a book signing and lecture. Admission is \$10 for Gadsby's Tavern Museum members and \$12 for nonmembers. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

TUESDAY/MAY 5

Tuesday Morning Stroll. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E Monroe St. Residents are invited to visit the garden, receive free seed packets and have their gardening questions answered by experts. Free. Contact carol_kilroy@comcast.net for more.

Poetry Reading Group. 11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The "Tuesday at 2" poetry reading group will read from their book, "Gathering the Flow and Letting it Go." Free. Call 703-765-4573 for reservations.

MAY 5-JUNE 14

"Living Yesterday Today." Various times at Multiple Exposures Gallery,

105 N Union St. "Living Yesterday Today" is an exhibit featuring photography by Sandy LeBrun-Evans following 150th Civil War Reenactments. Free to attend. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 7

Mini-MIX-Art Make & Take Workshop. 6-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts, a local arts and crafts store, will offer workshops and classes for anyone interested in mixed media. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 7-9

"Anne and Emmett." Various times at MetroStage, 1201 N Royal St. "Anne and Emmett" is an imagined conversation between 14-year-old Emmett Till and 15-year-old Anne Frank, both young victims of racial violence. Tickets are \$35, \$25 for students. Visit www.metrostage.org.

MAY 7-JUNE 1

"Printed Art: The Potomac." Gallery hours at The Art League, 105 North Union St. The Art League presents a series of linocuts by John Gosling depicting the Potomac. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 8-9

Hollin Hall Art Show. 1-3 p.m. on Friday, 12-3 p.m. on Saturday. Senior artists will display and sell their art in connection with the month-long Fairfax County Creative Aging Festival. Also find an intergenerational seed saving

American Indian pinch pot workshop. Free. Call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/MAY 8

Not-So-Silent Auction. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Howard Gardner School, 4913 Franconia Road. Find music and buffet dinner at the school's 10th Anniversary Auction to benefit the financial aid program. Admission is free. Call 703-822-9300 to RSVP.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

Wine Tasting Event. 12-5 p.m. at Balducci's, 600 Franklin St. In honor of Mother's Day, Balducci's will be serving special wine and food pairings. Free. Visit www.balduccis.com.

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This outdoor market will feature the work of more than 25 artists. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.com.

New Hope Housing Spring Gala. 6:30-10:30 p.m. at US Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Councilman John Chapman, Del. Scott Surovell, Ms. Capitol Region 2015 Madhu Umashankar, and Dale Fisher will participate in a dance-off at this fundraiser. Tickets are \$100. Visit www.bidpal.net/nhhgala2015.

The Honey Dewdrops. 7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Folk singers Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish will perform alongside Buzz Peele. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focumusic.org.

Spring Concert. 8 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

Genealogy Lecture. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at

Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Co-author of "African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century" Char McCargo Bah will lead a lecture on "What you need to know about Social Security." Admission is \$10. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY/MAY 10

Mother's Day Tea. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N Fairfax St. Lounge at the Magnolia Terrace with catered food and learn the "Language of the Fan." Tickets are \$30. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

Mother's Day Open House. 1-4 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St. Learn the history of the fire house and have your picture taken by the in-house photographer. Free for mothers and families. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Mother's Day Tours. 1-5 p.m. at Stabler Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 107 S Fairfax St. The Museum is offering free tours to mothers. Admission is \$5 for other adults, \$3 for children aged 5-12. See www.apothecarymuseum.org.

MONDAY/MAY 11

Community Barbeque Bash. 6-8:30 p.m. at The Waterfront Market & Cafe, 7 King St. ACT for Alexandria is hosting a barbeque. Tickets start are \$35 for children, \$50 for adults. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/community-barbeque-bash-tickets-15734049967.

Alexandria Sesquicentennial Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N Washington St. "When Did the War Between the States End (Ever?) and What Did Australia Have to do With It?" will be led by William Connery. Free. Call 703-746-4554.

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written by Lydia R. Diamond

directed by Kevin Sockwell

produced by

Mary Beth Smith-Toomey

A wry but affectionate look at the unique experiences and attitudes of upper-income African-Americans. The LeVay family gathers at their home on Martha's Vineyard for their annual summer holiday. Personality clashes and revealed secrets make this anything but a relaxing family vacation.



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May 9 and 16 • 2pm

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Debate in Race for Mayor Focuses on Infrastructure

FROM PAGE 1

transportation was a major problem in Alexandria. Euille cited the Potomac Yard as an example of his administration bringing additional transit development to the city. His other highlighted transit development, adding bike lanes to King Street, received a negative response from the audience.

"People didn't like that, but we have to think multimodal," said Euille. "We're going to solve our transportation problem, but it's going to take a while."

"The parking problem is a good problem," said Donley. "We need to get long-term parking off the streets and use better technology for parking enforcement."

Euille agreed that wayfinding technology is the key to getting cars to the off-street parking in garages. Euille noted that the recently approved Robinson Terminal South Development, while receiving a special use permit for a reduced on-site parking requirement, also banned residents of the new development from parking on the street. Silberberg was the only vote on the council against the development.

"I voted against Robinson Terminal South because the architecture doesn't respect the historic district," said Silberberg. "I've driven around Old Town looking for parking. I don't think the parking problem is a good thing. It's not just intellectual, it's real. I could not support the [Robinson Terminal South development] last week. Parking in



Former Mayor Kerry Donley

Old Town is serious and real," said Silberberg. "Too much development will mean more traffic."

Euille and Donnelly both claimed that Alexandria's infrastructure is a looming crisis.

"Not everyone wants to talk about [the sewer system], but it's critical," said Euille.

"It is the sewers," agreed Donnelly. "We don't have a group called 'Friends of the Alexandria Sewers.' The two other candidates have kicked the can down the road."

"Every municipality is facing the same problem we are," said Euille, saying that the city is currently in the process of creating a panel to explore the issue, "We haven't kicked the can down the road."

Silberberg also criticized Euille for suggesting a public-private partnership as an option to finance \$53 million in repairs to City Hall. Euille, however, reiterated his



Incumbent Mayor William Euille

statements made during the State of the City address on April 14, which is that no one is considering "selling" City Hall.

"Government is a business, we have to think like a business," said Euille. "We have to look at issues holistically. Yes, I suggested that we be innovative and think outside the box and consolidate. Any business would do this. That doesn't mean City Hall is being sold, we're just looking at opportunities."

"It's utter lunacy to think we would sell City Hall," said Donley. "We have few areas where we come together. That's a part of our history. I can't imagine a time where we would dispose of that. It may take a lot of money to renovate, but that's a choice we make."

After the debate, several members of the audience said their votes weren't decided yet but were certainly swayed by the de-



Vice-Mayor Allison Silberberg

bate.

Sharon Annear said that Euille's comments regarding Donley's role in BRAC-133 were one of the topics that impacted her opinion the most.

"This was a dynamic evening," said Helen Desposses, "I understand differences that I didn't see before. This was more exciting than expected, we were on the edge of our seats."

Sarah Pray estimated that there were more than 160 people in the room and was generally impressed with the level of community interest.

"In the future, I would like to see more specificity from the candidates," said Pray. "I want to see concrete proposals and a platform on education."

The next debate is scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 5 at Francis C. Hammond Middle School.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES

Add/Delete Drama Council members spar over last minute additions.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

A preliminary discussion of the City Council's Add/Deletes from the budget led to a heated exchange between council members during their April 28 meeting.

The preliminary discussion primarily focused around additions to the budget, particularly a \$180,000 rent relief item in the operating budget and \$60,000 one-time capital funding payment to ALIVE!, an Alexandria non-profit that provides food and shelter to those living in poverty.

Councilwoman Del Pepper argued that the one-time funding request for ALIVE! would go towards expanding its food distribution services. Pepper said the need was made apparent last summer in a "Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria" report from the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network that referenced insufficient storage space in Alexandria for food items.

"This is about putting out money where our mouth is," said Pepper, "no pun intended."

Similarly, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg argued that the rent relief would assist 31 Alexandrians who are elderly or disabled find affordable housing.

However, with a list of additions to the

operating budget running \$820,000 over the available funding, Councilmen Justin Wilson, Tim Lovain and Paul Smedberg, raised concerns that funding for these projects would be taken out of the Capital funding, particularly to finance last minute funding requests.

"We should not use cash capital as a piggy bank," said Wilson. "If we're going to raid cash capital to fund operating expenses, I have a long list of needs to address."

"We have talked for months about investing in cash capital," said Smedberg. "I am concerned about these last minute additions. It's not right for these one-offs to put one non-profit above another, we didn't discuss that as part of our budget This is not to say it's a bad project, but the way we got here, I have concerns about that."

Councilman John Chapman countered that this is the first year of a new add-delete budget process, one which requires three sponsors to each addition.

"This is a new process, not just for us, but for the community," said Chapman before addressing the audience. "Raise your hands if you knew the deadline [for addi-

PRELIMINARY ADD/DELETE BUDGET MEMO #32

ADDS WITH 3 OR MORE SPONSORS: \$4.91 M
(\$ IN MILLIONS)

FY 2016				Five Year Estimates			
	Operating	Capital	Total	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
AVAILABLE SOURCES	\$2.28	\$2.10	\$4.38	\$2.28	\$2.28	\$2.28	\$2.28
PROPOSED USES							
UNANIMOUS SPONSORSHIP	ACPS	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
	FIRE STATION 210	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$1.50	\$1.50
	LAW LIBRARY	\$0.06	\$0.06	\$0.06	\$0.06	\$0.07	\$0.07
	PATRICK HENRY REC CENTER	-\$0.06	-\$0.06	-	-	-	-
	MAURY SCHOOL YARD	-	\$0.25	\$0.25	-	-	-
	TIP OPERATION RESTORATION	\$0.60	-	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.60
3 OR MORE SPONSORS	TIP CAPITAL RESTORATION	-	\$0.85	\$0.85	-	-	-
	ALIVE ALEXANDRIA	-	\$0.06	\$0.06	-	-	-
	DASH BUS	-	\$0.66	\$0.66	-	-	-
	RAMSAY SUNDAY HOURS	\$0.02	\$0.02	\$0.02	\$0.02	\$0.02	\$0.02
3 OR MORE SPONSORS	RENT RELIEF	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.18
	TOTAL Proposed Uses	\$3.10	\$1.82	\$4.91	\$3.26	\$3.26	\$3.36
BALANCE				-\$0.82	\$0.29	-\$0.53	-\$0.98

tions]?"

Four or five hands in the packed Council Chambers raised their hands. Chapman turned back to the council and argued that this wasn't a case of a non-profit trying to

hustle them into funding, but a case of miscommunication between the council and the community.

Smedberg countered that while the three

SEE ADD/DELETE, PAGE 30



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Firefighters gather in front of Station 204 April 23 to celebrate the retirement of Capt. Thurston McClain. McClain, second from left in front, has served 34 years with the Alexandria Fire Department.

A Life of Service

Firefighter McClain retires after 34 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

One of Alexandria's longest serving firefighters has stowed his equipment for the last time. As of April 29, Capt. Thurston McClain officially said goodbye to emergency calls and 24-hour shifts when he retired after serving 34 years with the Alexandria Fire Department.

"Being part of the Alexandria Fire Department has been a good fit for me," McClain said as friends gathered April 23 at Station 204 to bid McClain farewell. "I think because we are a smaller department, the bonds of friendship are stronger. At least they have been for me."

McClain, part of the AFD rookie class of 1981, has been a fixture in the community focusing on outreach to underprivileged children. He founded the Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria Holiday Toy Party more than 15 years ago.

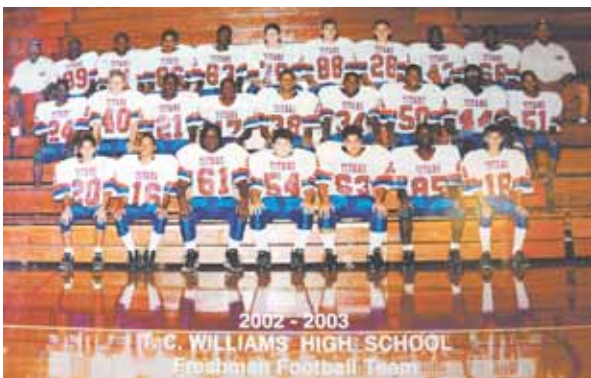


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Thurston McClain, top left in back, served as coach of the T.C. Williams junior varsity football team for several years. He hopes to continue teaching following his retirement.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Thurston McClain, left, is shown in 1981 during his rookie year with the department.

"That's been one of the most rewarding parts of my time here," said McClain, who has stayed in touch with some of the attendees over the years. "The effects of an event like that are everlasting."

A 1974 graduate of Cardoza High School in Washington, D.C. McClain went on to earn a degree in sociology from Langston University, where he received a full football scholarship. Named team captain and Most Valuable Player during his senior year, McClain tried out for a number of professional football teams including the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys before signing with the Toronto Argonauts.

In 2010, McClain was inducted into the All Metropolitan Football Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. He has served as a high school football coach for over 25 years at Cardozo and T.C. Williams high schools.

"Throughout my time with the department, I have been working as a substitute teacher whenever possible," McClain said. "I love working with kids and hope to do more of it in my retirement."

At 59 years old, McClain has mixed feelings about leaving the department he has served for so many years.

"These guys have been my family," McClain said of the many friends who stopped by to wish him well. "But I am looking forward to doing more teaching and having more time to work with kids. After 34 years, it's time to begin the next chapter in my life."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Michelle Kozlak and Melissa Caffrey (from Arts on the Horizon)

\$1,276,909 Raised

Alexandria comes together for its 5th annual giving day.

Alexandria's annual online giving day, Spring2ACTION, generated \$1,276,909 for 129 Alexandria nonprofits in just 24 hours on April 22.

In 2014, Spring2ACTION raised a little over \$1 million from 7,500 individual donors. This year, 9,431 individuals joined forces with local restaurants and boutiques to participate in the crowd-funding event. Hosted by ACT for Alexandria, Spring2ACTION is the only citywide giving day in the region designed to strengthen the impact of local nonprofits.

As part of this citywide giving day, nonprofits had the opportunity to benefit from the proceeds of sales contributed by the Old Town Boutique District and stores in the Del Ray Business Association as well as from local restaurants including Holy Cow, Pork Barrel BBQ and Sweet Fire Donna's.

For the fourth year in a row, Casa Chirilagua won first place for most dollars raised with \$90,965 from 595 unique donors. The Maury

Elementary Parent Teacher Association won first place for most unique donors, with \$75,373 raised by 859 donors. Both organizations won \$5,000 grants for their organizations, with the second place winners in each category winning \$2,500 grants.

Spring2ACTION was sponsored by the Maury Lane Fund, Lauren Stack, The Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation, the Mason Hirst Foundation, Harry and Maria Hopper, Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Neuhaus-Speck Family Foundation Fund, and the Frantz Family Fund. Community partners include Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, the City of Alexandria, Causetown, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, SpottedMP, Six Half Dozen Design Studios, Old Town Boutique District, Del Ray Business Association, Holy Cow, Sweet Fire Donna's, Pork Barrel BBQ, Sugar Shack Donuts, the Alexandria Arts Forum, Whole Foods, Virtue Feed & Grain, Dulce Studios, and Visit Alexandria.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

At Home Alexandria board members Brenda Bloch Young, Linda Langley and Alan Dinsmore at the Del Ray Cafe.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

tricts in the Potomac Yard. Higher taxes are simply not enticements for any venture.

But this reality does not comport with the visions of metro lucre held by mayoral candidates Euille and Donley. They are known poor money managers while the third candidate (Silberberg) is an unknown. But all three are alike in one respect: None have explained Potomac Yard metro station debt repayment options in the more likely event its rosy revenue projections fall short.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Protect Old Town's Historic Nature

To the Editor:

The other day, my good friend Poul Hertel was reading a speech that George Washington gave to a very skeptical House of Representatives. Instead of getting angry (as had been expected), Mr. Washington called on everyone to "Unite our efforts to improve our immense advantage."

Applying that adage to the City Council's direct assault on our Historic District's waterfront, Poul went on to say that "Alexandria (having been endowed with significant natural and historic advantages) should endeavor to build on those advantages, and build them into the entire community, instead of seeking to marginalize them — or worse, destroy them. Instead of building on the walkability, human scale and the sense of place that makes people want to go there, Alexandria has instead tried to emulate areas with no such advantage who have pursued a dense, suburban model totally alien to the advantages that are there." His remarks are indeed a very cogent description of the redevelopment of our historic waterfront.

It's almost as if the council has attempted to transpose a National Harbor-like scenario into our historic backyard, since they have now approved four of the five redevelopment projects on the waterfront. Two of those developments (the Carr hotel and EYA's Robinson Terminal South) reflect buildings that are far too large in mass and scale for the waterfront, and do not in any way connect or fit into the adjoining community's historic fabric.

Those individuals on the city's planning staff, Planning Commission and City Council who have subscribed to this modernization of the waterfront need to find other employment, since they are killing the goose that laid the golden egg. It is now evident that the Old and Historic District and other historical landmarks throughout the city are under siege by individuals who have no sense of place, or an appreciation of history.

This will ultimately result in fewer people wanting to come to a place that could be anywhere. Even National Harbor has a sense of place, a uniqueness about it that is in keeping with its own place on the river.

However, Old Town is losing its own uniqueness incrementally, and before we know it, the Old and Historic District (which

is the economic engine of the entire city) will dry up. This will most likely result in an increase to our current 18 percent commercial vacancy rate, add to our current half billion dollar debt, and eventually place our triple A bond rating in jeopardy. That's the sad commentary facing us today.

Are we going to lose our immense advantage to the inappropriate and/or unworthy nature of impending projects, or will we unite in our efforts to keep the historic nature of our beloved city?

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Different Perspective

To the Editor:

I've been observing and testifying at City Council meetings since James Moran was mayor. The Allison Silberberg I see on the dais does not match the very negative version Ann Haynes [Letters to the Editor, "No Reason To Change," April 16] paints. Most importantly Allison actually listens to (not necessarily agrees with, but listens) to all those who testify at public hearings. She comes to the hearings with an open mind.

What Ms. Haynes chooses to call being inarticulate is Allison asking questions of citizens who testify and formulating some of her opinions in response. Those whom Ms. Haynes may see as more articulate are just making little speeches they were planning before the public hearing even began.

More than anyone else on the dais, Allison makes a major effort to pronounce correctly the names of speakers with uncommon names.

Mayor Euille was away on the day of the public hearing regarding regulation of food trucks. Allison as the sitting vice mayor presided over a long and contentious meeting. The speakers were food truck operators, brick and mortar restaurateurs and a large contingent of residents with differing viewpoints. The hearing lasted for hours.

Like her great predecessor on council and later mayor, Patsy Ticer, Allison made the experience of testifying at a public hearing as pleasant as it could be. I think everyone felt they were welcomed and their opinions valued. Of all the mayors I have observed, only Patsy Ticer did that consistently. Citizens can have that wonderful feeling of

being valued and having their opinions heard when we elect Allison Silberberg as mayor.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

Value of Sweet Briar

To the Editor:

In a world that is poised to degrade distinction as discrimination, well-done single sex education is a gem that must not be tossed away. Men and women think differently, process differently, learn differently and thrive differently, especially in formative years that impact the critical development of the frontal lobes of our brains. Male and female brains are different, neither is more or less valuable. All is necessary. Equality does not mean sameness. Think is for "Women"! I would hear ranted in my intro to 300 level psychology classes by a professor irritated that the newly contracted marketing company encouraged us to settle in "girl-hood" rather than trudge begrudgingly into the adult lives we were starting whether we knew it and wanted to or not.

As a Sweet Briar woman, I am so thankful I attended an institution that taught how to foster and grow my gifts as a scientist, mathematician, artist, friend, student, teacher, spokesperson and listener. I hope and pray men can say the same for their own educational experiences. While the potential loss of Sweet Briar makes me feel as though a most treasured thread is being ripped from the tapestry that is my life, my heart hits bottom when I realize the tragic commentary the loss of such an institution makes on the state of the higher education system in general.

Strangers finding themselves at the Sweet Briar website may say something like this ... "It's like My Little Pony vomited all over Little House on the Prairie" (I've personally heard that one). Think again, it is an experience that is not for everyone. But I charge you that it is irretrievably valuable and life defining for many and can never be replicated elsewhere. We all came to Sweet Briar to learn.

In many cases, we valued our learning enough to come despite the fact that it was all women. Thank God we made the choice. It was OK to be 30 minutes from a

Starbucks. Being that far from commercial points of connection mandated that we connect deeply with those around us. In a world full of miniature pocket computers it is easy to forget, or worse even never bother to learn, how to humanly connect with those around us. I've not met anyone who has relationships of such depth and accountability as those I have experienced and witnessed as a Sweet Briar student. Nor have I found them as a professional alum craving to reconnect with women who I admire and respect (even if I do not like them all). An institution with professors at the tops of their fields, that will demand you expect the maximum of yourself, when the world says, it's OK to be lazy, should be thriving.

I am a T.C. Williams High School, Sweet Briar College and George Mason University graduate. I have a list of credentials behind my name, and if I could keep only one experience I choose to keep the Sweet Briar experience. All the others could be reconstructed. Consider the type of environment you want to learn. The science equipment, ability to connect with nature, centrally located to collaborate with other universities, while retaining unique identity, the list could continue for pages. Understanding who you are as an adult woman, because, yes, that matters. Being able to laugh about nights in Guion, the Library, Grey and boring dorm rooms when we were forced to simultaneously grow our minds and hearts to understand how to balance priorities of resources; time, material and relational. Sweet Briar women thrive because of what we learn on campus. What a disservice to rob future generations of that knowledge and experience.

Life is one series of choice, decision and reaction to circumstances after another. This institution has grown thoughtful, creative and stamina filled women for the last 114 years. We took cumulative finals. We could not get out of college without first learning to write, critically think and make hard decisions. Sweet Briar is a treasure. It is not to be discarded. Do not underestimate us and do not tell us our legacy is dissolving for lack of interest. We do not accept that, for Sweet Briar taught us better.

Paige Elise
Sweet Briar College Alumna
December 2008



Volunteers for the annual Potomac Watershed Clean-up collected more than 50 bags of trash from Four Mile Run near the foot of Commonwealth Avenue on Saturday, April 11.



Volunteers worked the northern side of the Four Mile Run collecting trash and other debris.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

A Roof Over Their Heads

FROM PAGE 8

resources for housing are limited and there's a lot of competition for them, but here in the city we are doing everything we can to add to that number."

"When I was told how long the wait list is, I was stunned," said Lisa Edouard. "I can only imagine what it's like for someone who's a senior citizen or part of a family... people who have concerns about getting into schools. It's a very jar-

ring and eye opening experience. It's easy for people to talk about it and make up their minds about it, but once you're actually in it and you're looking for help, it changes your perception."

Edouard, a 20-year resident, was once a local homeowner. When the recession hit, Edouard said she was laid off from her job and was unable to continue paying her mortgage. She could no longer afford to live in her home.

"It's an interesting situation, because at one point you're able to take care of your basic needs, and the next you're struggling to make ends meet. I wanted to stay in Alexandria. I go to church here, I work here, I volunteer in the Alexandria community and my preference was to stay," she said.

Edouard eventually moved into an affordable dwelling unit developers add to apartment complexes, often in exchange for accommodations on apartment density from the city. Edouard works for the Alexandria Housing Development Center (AHDC), one of the nonprofit developers in the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO) responsible for the Needs Assessment.

"There's a perception that if you if you live in below moderate income housing, you're not working or you have kids and you're trying to take advantage of the situation," said Edouard, "but I have a master's degree. I work for a nonprofit. I'd like to think I'm contributing to society ... Why shouldn't I be able to live in Alexandria? Why should I have to live in Woodbridge or Stafford and head in to Alexandria and D.C. to work a minimum wage job? Housing is a basic human dignity, it's a basic human right. In this country, it should not be a struggle."

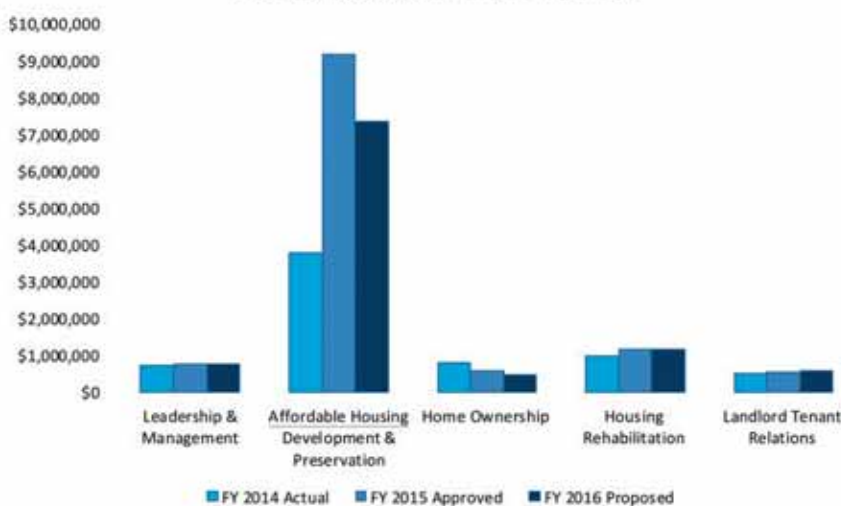
FUNDING from the City of Alexandria to the Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Program in the Office of Housing grew from \$3.8 million in FY 2014 to \$9.2 million in FY 2015.

However, the proposed FY 2016 budget reduces funding to \$7.4 million, a \$1.8 million decrease. While Alexandria has only gained six additional affordable housing units since 2010, Keeler said that there are 78 additional units in development that are scheduled to open by the end of the 2015 calendar year. Keeler also said the city is anticipating 93 additional affordable housing units from The Filmore housing development on Echols Avenue, as well as 20 additional affordable housing units from residential development in Potomac Yard.

"It's not a lot," Keeler said, "we get it in bits and pieces when we can."

"There's two pieces to affordable housing," said

ALL FUNDS SUMMARY BY PROGRAM



Keeler, "one is making sure we don't have a net loss in housing and the other is maintaining existing projects. We have projects from the 1970s, 1980s, and even the early 1990s that are starting to come out of their compliance period."

"What we're trying to preserve are things that have been affordable and keeping them affordable while constantly working on new projects," said McIlvaine.

Meanwhile, 6,952 Alexandrians continue to wait for more affordable housing to become available and 7,840 wait for affordable housing vouchers. Until November of 2014, Terry Garrett was one of them. After seven years of waiting, Garrett was finally able to move into Old Town Commons, an EYA property near the Braddock Metro.

In 2007, Garrett was released from the Alexandria Detention Center and went to stay with Friends of Guest House, a nonprofit organization that helps female ex-offenders transition from prison back to the local community. According to Garrett, almost one year after filing her initial paperwork for an affordable housing voucher she was told that she was ineligible for a voucher because she had to be crime free for three years.

"It was very frustrating," said Garrett. "You're working hard to stay sober, going to work every day, and all while waiting on housing. I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing, but I keep getting kicked around by housing."

Melodie Seau, Landlord/Tenant Relations Division chief for the Office of Housing, said that the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority has varying time limits for admission after conviction or incarceration depending on the nature of the offense.

Even once she did find housing, Garrett said it can still be extremely difficult to get by.

"It's supposed to be affordable housing, but it's not," said Garrett. "Once you get in here, you learn differently."

Garrett's rent is \$1,200 per month, of which her affordable housing voucher pays \$1,100. However, Garrett says still pays \$270 per month for electric and utilities, all of which comes out of the \$350 she receives from Social Security, which leaves her with \$80 each month for food and other essentials. Garrett says she has to ask her children each month to help her with her cell phone bill.

"I've never had to utilize social services to pay the bills," said Garrett. "It bothers me, wondering how I'm going to buy toilet paper, or soap, or dish washer liquid. It's hard, even once you can get in affordable housing. It makes you want to give up, but I'm not giving up."

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**Benefiting Alexandria's Historic
George Washington Birthday Celebration
43rd Annual 10-K Race (and 2-K Fun Run)!**

Sunday, May 3, 2015

**Starting at 8 A.M. at the US Patent & Trademark
Office Atrium of the Madison Building
off Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria**

**More Information and Registration at:
WWW.WASHINGTONBIRTHDAY.NET/RACE
All are Welcome at the Military Family Exposition
at Race Headquarters to include Veteran-owned
Businesses and Non-profits. 7 to 11 A.M.**

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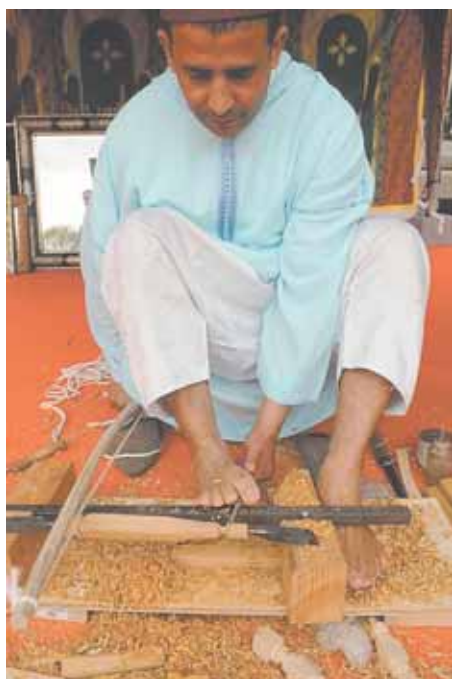


Another Alexandria **Gazette Packet** Community Partnership

NEWS

Moroccan Days in Alexandria

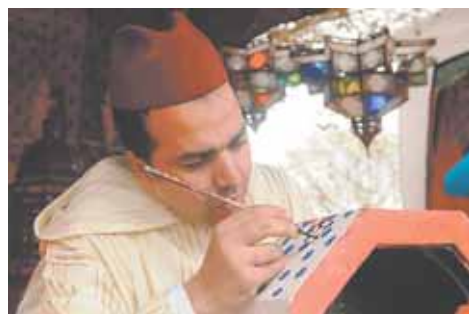
Moroccan artisans have been displaying and demonstrating their arts and crafts this week in Market Square. The Moroccan Artisan Festival opened on Sunday, April 26 and continues through Thursday, April 30, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The festival is sponsored by the Kingdom of Morocco and the City of Alexandria.



Cabinet maker Mostafa Dennouch shapes a table leg on an antique woodturner. The woodturner is powered by his hand and the chisel is held in place with his foot.



Mohamed Karoui pours tea for the guests at Monday's reception on Market Square.



Calligrapher and painter Driss el ogri works on the base of a small garden fountain.



Mayor Bill Euille and City Manager Mark Jenks take refreshments with the Ambassador of Morocco to the USA Rachad Bouhlal and Fatima Marouan, minister of handicraft, solidarity and social economy in the Kingdom of Morocco.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Arabic calligrapher Filali Baba of Fez, Morocco spent the afternoon writing the names of his tent visitors in Arabic letters. Baba has written over five million names in the past 20 years.



Director of The International Arab Magazine Souna Youssef, Quattro Formaggi owner Zach Briouche and Mohamed and Nacer Najdi tour the artisan market on Monday afternoon.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kindergarten Registration. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at all elementary schools across Alexandria City Public Schools. Parents are encouraged to walk into their neighborhood school to collect a registration packet. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30 to register for kindergarten. All children born in the U.S. and who speak English at home must register at their home elementary school, even if they will attend a different school. If a child was not born in the U.S. or does not speak English as a first language, register at the Office of English Language Learner Services at ACPS Central Office at 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us.

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

"Caring Together." 1-9 p.m. at FCPA Virginia Hills Center, 6500 Diana Lane. NEXUS 2015 Conference will focus on strategies for keeping children healthy and happy. Community, government and education leaders will discuss ways to do this. Conference is free. Call 703-660-2327.

Removal of Invasives. 7:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Learn how to remove

common invasive plants in the garden and in the community. Free. Visit www.ext.vt.edu.

THURSDAYSATURDAY/APRIL30-MAY2

Book Sale. Thursday 10 a.m.-6:45 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at The Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Shop used books at the Friends of the Duncan Library Spring Book Sale. Free to attend. Visit www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org.

THROUGH MAY 1

Donations Needed. You can drop off your donations of good, quality used books (no encyclopedias, computer books older than 2012, or telephone books) at Chinquapin Recreation Center, 3210 King Str., or 3820 Fort Worth Avenue. See www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/expo.php.

FRIDAY/MAY 1

Eisenhower Partnership City Candidates Forum. 8 a.m. at SHRM, 1800 Duke St. Mayoral Candidates will address two questions for the Eisenhower Valley on transportation and industrial use. Free. Visit www.eisenhowerpartnership.org.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Face of America

Members of the Alexandria-based Military Officers Association of America pose for a team photo April 26 during the 2015 Face of America bike ride from the Pentagon to Gettysburg. Sponsored by World Team Sports, more than 600 able and non-able bodied riders made the 110-mile, two-day journey to honor American service members, including Col. Greg Gadson (ret.), a bilateral above-the-knee amputee and former Garrison Commander of Fort Belvoir.

T.C. Crew Wins Big at Charlie Butt Regatta

Boys', girls' 1V boats capture first, team wins nine races.

The T.C. Williams crew team brought its power to the Georgetown waterfront on April 25 to compete at the Charlie Butt Regatta. Racing against top boats from the region, the TC team won nine races, including top honors for the girls' and boys' first varsity boats.

The Titan boys' first varsity 4 continued its winning streak, posting decisive victories in both the morning heat (5:04.9) and the afternoon final (4:38.2). In the final, the boys' beat second-place competitor, West Potomac, by almost 10 seconds. Members of the boat include Angelo Leitner-Wise, Carter Weitekamp, Preston Tracy, Tyler Souza and Anthony Ponichtera (coxswain). The boys' first 4 is guided by coach Pete Hearing.

The girls' first varsity 8 powered down the 1,500-meter race course, winning its heat in 5:03.3 and the final in 4:40.2. The first 8 victory was especially sweet as it edged out McLean High School, which had narrowly defeated the Titans last week, by 3.3 seconds. Members of the first 8 include Brooke Teferra (coxswain), Maria Justiano, Claire Embrey, Katie Murphy, Reed Kenney, Amelia Bender, Maura Nakahata, Maeve Bradley and Kyra McClary. It is coached by Jaime Rubini.

The boys' lightweight 8 sprinted down the course to victory with a time of 4:28.5, beating rival McLean by more than 10 seconds. Members include Addison Guynn, Drew Jones, Peter Laboy, Stefanos Psaltis-Ivanis,



The TC girls' first 8 (right) emerges from under the Key Bridge ahead of rival McLean and sprints down the course for a victory. Members include Brooke Teferra (coxswain), Maria Justiano, Claire Embrey, Katie Murphy, Reed Kenney, Amelia Bender, Maura Nakahata, Maeve Bradley and Kyra McClary.

Alexander Psaltis-Ivanis, Asher Elkins, Callum Jaffe, Sarin Suvanasai and cox Brianna Zuckerman. Pete Stramese coaches the lightweight 8.

The girls' junior 8 raced down the 1,500-meter course in 5:18.4, dominating all competitors. Its nearest competitor, West Potomac, crossed the finish line 22.5 seconds later.

Members of the girls' junior 8 include Paige St. John (cox), Jessica Mellon, Ella Benbow, Fatima Chavez, Isabel Montenegro, Charlotte Carey, Kirsten Emblom, Hillary Aguilar and Cecilia Fernandez. It is coached by Gracie Barbara.

The boys' second varsity 4 also claimed victory, posting a time of 5:00.8, beating rival McLean by one second. Members in-

clude Kyle Imbach, Perry Connor, Gareth Markel, Sam Schneider and Priya Vohra. It is coached by Spencer Allin.

In other victories, the girls' freshman 8 boat won its heat in 5:16.4 and advanced to the final round. In an exciting finish, the Titan girls were edged out by .5 seconds by National Cathedral School, with a time of 4:33.0.

The freshman girls will be back in full force for next week's state championship. The girls' lightweight 8, racing in exhibition (outside of its normal category) won the second 8 category with a time of 5:11.8, followed closely by the Titan girls' second 8 boat. The Titans second 8 captured second place in the final, with a time of 5:01.8, 3.4 seconds behind McLean High School.



The Titan boys' first 4 dominated its races, winning both its heat and the final. Members include Angelo Leitner-Wise, Carter Weitekamp, Preston Tracy, Tyler Souza and Anthony Ponichtera (coxswain).

The boys' freshman 8 also performed well, grabbing second place in its category. In addition, the girls' fourth 8 captured second place honors.

The Charlie Butt Regatta honors the contributions of local coach Charles S. Butt, Jr. to rowing in the region. He got his start in 1949 as the first crew coach at Washington-Lee and guided the school for 41 years, including the period in the '50s and '60s when it was the dominant high school crew in the eastern U.S.

The T.C. Williams crew team competes next in the Virginia State Championships, which will be held over the next two weekends on the Occoquan Reservoir and kicks off with the Ted Phoenix Regatta for freshman and novice boats on May 2.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Now 20-0

Sophomore midfielder Caroline Wiseman and the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team defeated Georgetown Visitation 11-10 in Washington on Tuesday, improving the Saints' record to 20-0. SSSAS will travel to face Collegiate School on Friday and St. Anne's-Belfield on Saturday. The Saints' final regular-season home game will be at 5:30 p.m. on May 4 against Flint Hill.

Gold Medal

Titans 12 took home the Gold Medal in the Club 12s Bronze Division of the Chesapeake Region Volleyball Association's Regional Championship in Jessup, Md. on April 18, according to the Alexandria Titans Volleyball Club. This is the first season the players have played travel volleyball and the team's first tournament win. The CHRVA Regional Championship Tournament is the final competitive event of the ATV club volleyball season. Members of Titans 12 include: Sydney Bell, Maeva Dellaria, Katherine Malnak, Michaela Mannel, Megan Munson, Milan Rex, Alexandra Ryder, Zoe Scott, Kumani Shomari and Chloe Wilmot. The head coach of Titans 12 is Derek Baxter.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

ZONE 3: • ALEXANDRIA
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EMPLOYMENT

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ZONE 3 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY 4 P.M.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Church Office help, Parish Support Coordinator, Part-time at Messiah Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA. Go to www.job.messiahelca.org for job description and to apply.

St Christopher's Episcopal of Spfld, VA seeks applicants for

Preschool Director

Preschool enrolls 2 1/2-PreK for 3 hour learning sessions up to 5 days/wk. Preferred qualities: early childhood ed. degree; 2+ years as director/asst dir. or 5+ years as teacher with leadership experience; knowledge of Fairfax Cty school requirements; strong organizational skills; friendly & outgoing personality; relates well to children & adults. Position start date: 1 July 15; Job open until filled Submit resumes to preschool@saintchristophers.net with Subject as Director Position



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101 Computers

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 Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

101 Computers

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
Invitation to Bid No. 00000521, Citywide Sidewalk Connections
Duke Street Pedestrian Improvements
Opening Date and Time: June 4, 2015, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time
Pre-Bid Conference: None
For general inquiries contact Darryl Jackson, Contract Specialist II at 703.746.4298.
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure.
THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-03-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for the provision of Technical Services for Networking and Infrastructure. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-03-05 Technical Services for Networking and Infrastructure will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 28, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financialservices/purchasing/bids.php> ACPs reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-03-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for the provision of a Network Access Control System. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-03-01 Network Access Control System will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 12, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php> ACPs reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
RFP No. 00000524, Architectural Design Services, Engineering Services, and Construction Administration Services for Alexandria Firearms Range and Training Facility Renovation
RFP Closing Date and Time: May 22, 2015, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time
Mandatory Site Visit: May 1, 2015, 10:00 a.m., prevailing local time at 5261 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.
For general inquiries contact Peter Tomaselli, Contract Specialist I at 703.746.3892.
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure.
THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-03-04

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for the provision of a Network Access Control System. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-03-04 Data Storage System will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 11, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financialservices/purchasing/bids.php> ACPs reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-03-06

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Grounds Maintenance Services at the following locations: T.C. Williams High School, T.C. Williams High School (Minnie Howard Campus), Francis C. Hammond Middle School, George Washington Middle School, Cora Kelly Elementary School, James K. Polk Elementary School, John Adams Elementary School, Mt. Vernon Community School, Patrick Henry Elementary School, Charles Barrett Elementary School, George Mason Elementary School, Mathew Maury Elementary School, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, William Ramsey Elementary School, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, and The Transportation Facility. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-03-06 Grounds Maintenance will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, June 4, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services, Current Bids and Request for Proposals, Request for Proposals. A Pre-Bid Conference Site Visit will be held on May 14, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. All questions must be submitted before 1:00 p.m., May 21, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPs web site. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPs reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

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TUESDAY NOON

News

Add/Delete

FROM PAGE 22

sponsors was a new addition, the deadline had not changed. When Silberberg began to respond, Smedberg retorted

"If you knew about this ... you should have brought this up in a work session," said Smedberg. "This is not that hard."

Mayor William Euille stepped in and reminded the council that the additions and deletions weren't being debated, that this was a preliminary discussion before a special meeting on Monday, May 4. Euille said the City Council had unanimously agreed to five operating budget additions and deletions:

- ♦ Funding Alexandria City Public Schools
- ♦ Staffing for Fire Station 210
- ♦ Funding for the Law Library
- ♦ Operation funding to the Transportation Improvement Program
- ♦ Reduction of funding to the Patrick Henry Recreation Center

These additions and deletions still left the additions \$620,000 over budget, and Euille said funding to those programs would continue to be discussed and finalized on Monday.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Saint Mary's Parochial Grade School in Alexandria will be holding a reunion for classes 1955-1957 on the weekend of May 1. There will be a cocktail hour on Friday at Marriott Residence Inn. Saturday, there will be a tour of St. Mary's and a catered buffet dinner at the Lyceum. Contact: Pam Page Pettit, 703-799 8275 for Class of 1955; Charlotte Knight Farley, 703-216-5913 for Class of 1956; Judith Knight Young, 703-620-0948 for Class of 1957.

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School robotics team, Thunder Stone, was part of the winning alliance that succeeded in the Southwest Virginia FIRST Tech Challenge Qualifying Tournament in Cedar Bluff, Va. SSSAS team members who participated in the state qualifying competition were: **Nicki Gray, Katie Henshaw, Khalil Hoque, Dokken Shapero, and Nolan Thompson.**

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Upper Level Latin team won the Flint Hill Certamen. The team consisting of **Ann Bailey, Drew Butler, Will Siegmund and Zach Tilch** was able to defeat Herndon High School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology to win the title. The final score was SSSAS 165, Herndon 85, and Thomas Jefferson 65. In addition, the SSSAS Level 3 team consisting of **Jacob Reinsdorf, Malcolm Reynolds, Kathryn Riggs, and JP Wilusz** placed third.

Douglas Chappell, a resident of Alexandria, was named to the dean's list at Fairfield University (Fairfield, Conn.) for the fall 2014 semester.

Alexandria students selected for the 2015 Virginia All-State Honors Choir and as alternates are: **Hugo Kessler** of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; **Rachel Haines** and **Nathan Tepe**, and alternate **McKenzie Evans** of Hayfield Secondary School; **Talia Carter** and **Emily Wylie** of Edison High School.

Jamahl Labbe of Alexandria has been named to the provost list at Troy University (Troy, Al.) for the third term of the 2014/2015 year.

Douglas Chappell of Alexandria has received dean's list recognition at Fairfield University (Fairfield, Conn.) for the fall 2014 semester.

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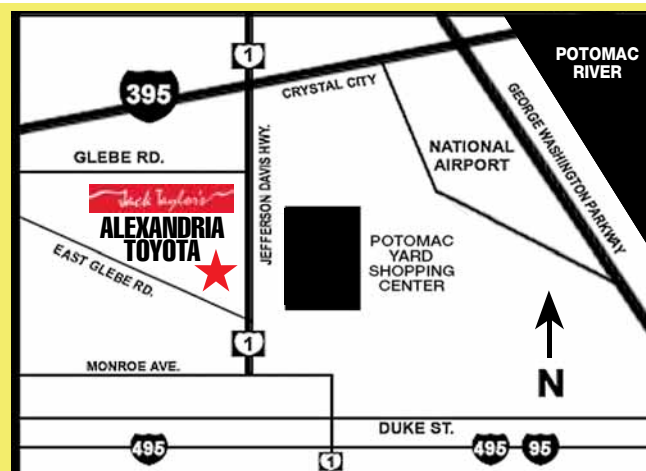
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Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
TheGoodhartGroup.com



Alexandria \$1,649,000

Deluxe Redux - 1940 Stone Charmer! In Belle Haven, this premier luxury residence features 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths with 3 finished levels above grade. The great room with kitchen opens to a tree-top deck. Great in-law suite! 6006 Grove Dr.

Janet Caterson Price
703.960.5858
JanetPriceHomes.com



Mason Hill \$812,000

This grand all brick center hall Colonial offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Large eat-in kitchen with family room leading out to deck for relaxing & entertaining. Beautiful hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces. This gem awaits a lucky new owner to truly call this "HOME".

Pat Smith
703.728.4728
Pat4Pat.com



Alexandria \$435,000

Spacious townhouse in popular community with so many recent updates: kitchen, bath, windows, doors, floors, HVAC, deck, and fencing. Enjoy boating on Little Hunting Creek, swimming in community pool or tennis anyone? Close to shopping and public transit.

Brenda Gail Brown
703.819.8406
BrendaGail.com



Alexandria/Stonegate \$675,000

Fabulous end unit stands apart from the rest! Natural light pours through the many windows on all 3 finished levels! 3BR, 3.5BA. Freshly painted throughout. Over-sized outdoor space has a stone patio shaded by a custom, automatic awning. 2415 Gorgas Pl.

Betty Mallon
703.989.8548
BettyMallon.com



Alexandria \$225,000

Bright, cheery, light-filled condo walking distance to restaurants and easy commute to DC. Original hardwood floors. Washer and dryer in unit. Off-street parking. Jogging and bike trail across the street. Complex features pool, exercise room, and tennis court.

Chris Hayes
703.944.7737
HomesByHayes.com



Alexandria \$949,000

Potomac River Views from the deck! Unique expanded brick rambler with contemporary architectural details. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 fireplaces, deck, extensive landscaping, gazebo and gardens with shed. Gourmet kitchen. New price! 7105 Marlan Dr.

Catherine Davidson
703.201.1998
CMDRealty.net



Old Town \$629,000

2 bedroom, 2 full bath brick row house with fully fenced rear and front yards, hardwood floors, renovated kitchen and baths, beautiful deck and gardens. 1.5 blocks to Braddock metro, 5 blocks to King St, 7 blocks to Mt. Vernon trail. 523 N. West St.

MaryAshley Rhule
860.214.7474
MaryAshleyRealEstate.com



Alexandria \$849,000

With 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, this center hall colonial is updated throughout. Three finished levels on one-half acre and a river view included! For interactive virtual tour visit: www.janetpricehomes.com. 4002 Belle Rive Ter.

Janet Caterson Price
703.960.5858
JanetPriceHomes.com



Mason Neck \$895,000

Beautiful low-maintenance grounds on six and a third acres surround this four bedroom, brick center hall colonial including a self-cleaning, heated, saltwater swimming pool, expansive deck, two-car garage and expansion possibilities.

Waldi Crawford
703.629.5655
Jeffery McGlothlin
703.798.0127



Rosemont \$1,124,900

Beautifully renovated and expanded bungalow in Rosemont! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 levels of great living space, gourmet kitchen, beautiful hardwoods, long driveway, and just a short walk to King Street Metro! Fantastic location! 8 E Walnut St.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
JenWalker.com



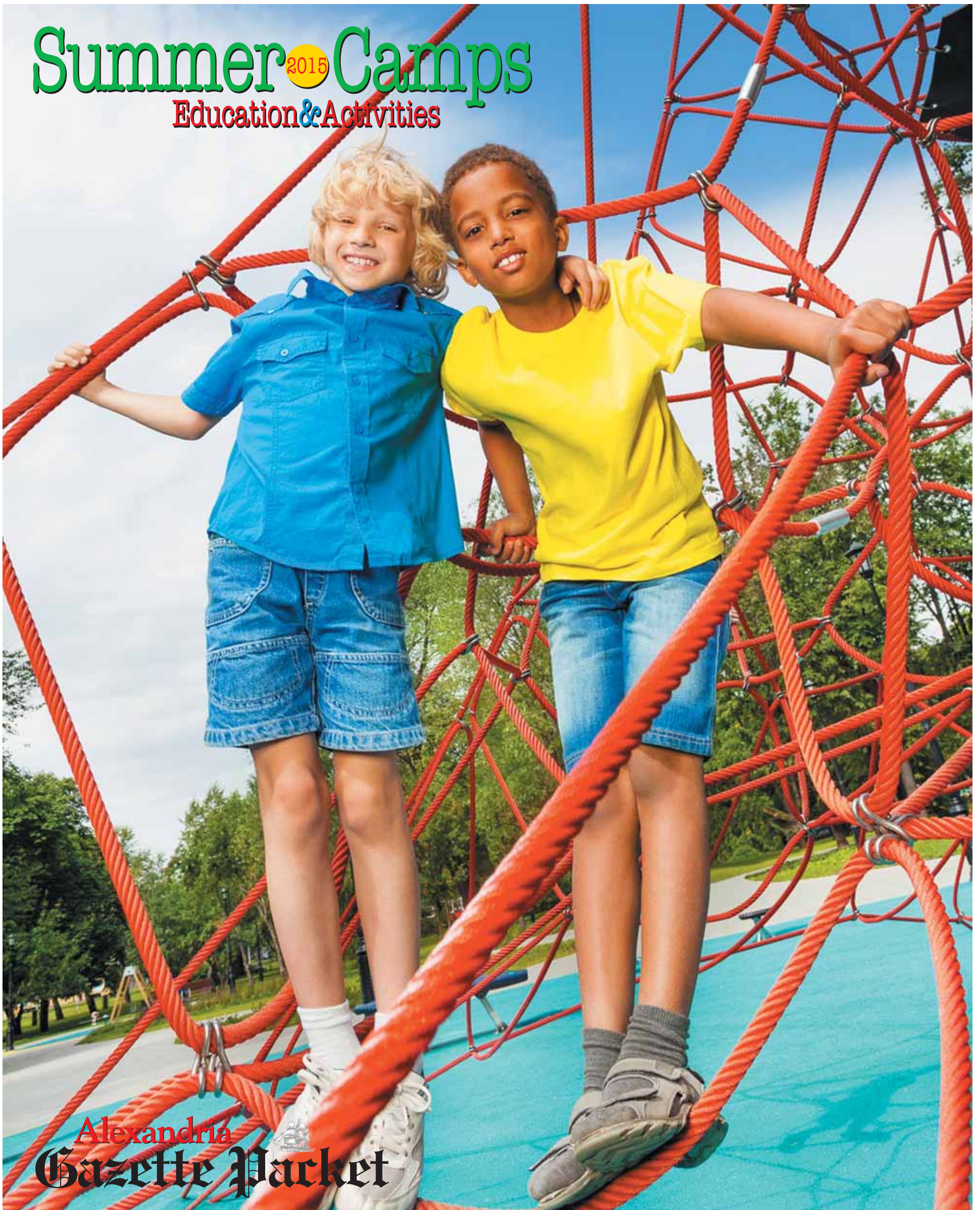
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Summer 2015 Camps

Education & Activities



Alexandria
Gazette Market

Celebrating 75 Years

The Congressional Schools of Virginia in Falls Church marked its 75th anniversary with a weekend-long celebration on April 24 and 25, with events attended by hundreds of students, staff, alumni and friends of the school.

The festivities began on Friday, April 24 with an on-campus celebration featuring a keynote address by Linda Ward Byrd, a Congressional alumna from the Class of 1968 who recounted her memories as a Congressional student, a school where she said “everyone knew my name.”

The School’s founding family was honored in a tribute by Tina Trapnell, a former member of the School’s Board of Trustees, and former Mason District Supervisor who detailed the family’s 75-year history, from the school’s founding by Malcolm and Evelyn Devers in 1939 to today. The event also included student performances, the dedication of items selected by students for a time capsule, and a community photo on the front steps of the school.

The on-campus celebration was followed by a Golf Tournament at Reston National



Golf Course, and the celebrations culminated with a 75th Anniversary Gala on the evening of April 25, attended by more than 250 parents, faculty, alumni, sponsors and friends of the school.

“Our 75th Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for the community to reflect upon our achievements as a school. From our modest beginnings in 1939 as a small preschool, to our current standing as a leading independent early childhood, elementary and middle school in the D.C. area, we are proud to have touched the lives of so many children. We are a community shaped by a strong group of supporters, and look forward to continuing to provide excellence in education for generations to come,” stated Janet Marsh, Congressional’s Executive Director.

The Congressional Schools of Virginia is an independent school on Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church, offering a challenging and comprehensive educational program to students from Infant through 8th Grade. The family spirit that lives on the Congressional campus all year long is continued throughout the summer months in a 10-week summer camp program.

Marymount Technology Institutes for Ages 14-18

Marymount has summer programs for teens ages 14-18 who are interested in technology. Gain technology skills and hands-on experience; create a mobile app or take part in a cyber competition in health care; meet fellow students who share your excitement about technology; network with technology professionals about career possibilities.

Summer Technology Institutes’ 2015 Programs:

GenCyber, July 5-17, 2015. This two-week residential program is designed for students ages 16-18, who will have hands-on experiences in cybersecurity with a focus on defending the nation’s critical assets.

Making Mobile Apps, July 13-17, 2015. This week-long institute is for students in grades 8-12 who want to explore a possible career in the development of mobile applications, one of the most dynamic sectors in the booming technology field.

Cybersecurity in Healthcare, July 20-24, 2015. This week-long program is designed to provide technology-focused students in grades 9-12 with knowledge and hands-on experience in cybersecurity.

Participants in each institute will work closely with Marymount University faculty and students. They will also hear from guest speakers who are IT professionals. Optional housing for high school students is available in residence halls on Main Campus.

DC Institutes for H.S. Students

July 6-18, 2015; Students will arrive at Marymount on Sunday, July 5. Programs will begin on Monday, July 6 and run through Saturday, July 18.

CJ 209 - The Criminal Justice System: Gain real-life perspective on the criminal justice field. Visit various museums, meet with an FBI field agent, and probe various aspects of the criminal justice system.

MGT 185 - The International Business Experience: Learn to succeed in a diverse and global business environment with exposure to international marketing, finance, and economics. Work closely with Marymount faculty who have extensive expertise and professional connections in the field.

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Burgundy Summer Camps
3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria
Day Camp 703.842.0480
BCWS Camp 703.842.0470



Preparing for Summer Camp Away

Many emotions arise when a child leaves for camp.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Julie Kaminski remembers the language from her desperate letters to her parents: “I love you. I want to come home now!” She recalls penning a dramatic plea to be rescued from residential summer camp more than 40 years ago. Today, Kaminski is preparing for her daughter’s first camp experience away from home this summer.

“Looking back, I can see how going away to camp helped me become more self-sufficient, self-confident, self-reliant and taught me how to get along with so many different kinds of people,” said Kaminski, a local mother of two children.

“Of course I didn’t think that at the time. I was extremely homesick even though it was my idea to go to sleep away camp in the first place.”

A child’s first residential summer camp experience can be fraught with emotions that run the gamut from excitement to terror. While glee at the thought of a summer filled with sports, swimming, crafts and new-found friendships can be the dominant feeling, the thought of an extended period of time away from home can cause sadness and anxiety for both parents and their children.

An American Camp Association study showed that 96 percent of children who attend sleep away camps experience homesickness at some point during their stay. While these emotions are normal, parents can help children tame the pre-camp jitters. The life-long lessons gained from such camps make it worth the effort.

“Becoming comfortable with your child being away at summer camp, perhaps the first extended separation you have had, is a matter of trust,” said David Kaplan, Ph.D. of the American Counseling Association in Alexandria, Va.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summer camp experiences can help children become self-confident and self-reliant.

“Trusting your child that they can handle themselves without your supervision. Trusting that they can handle relationships with other children. Trusting that they can get up in the morning, take a shower, wash their clothes, and change their sheets without your prodding.”

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT homesickness is normal and many campers experience it, can help children accept and cope with their emotions.

“Expecting to miss home and feel somewhat anxious helps children feel less surprised and overwhelmed when it occurs,” said Barbara Meehan, Ph.D. executive director, Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

A child’s apprehension can be eased when parents share their own camp experiences,

particularly positive memories.

“Don’t let your child get caught up in your own anxiety about leaving for camp,” said Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. “Kids sometimes worry about the parents they left behind. Be positive, but not sad that your child is leaving.”

Meehan says that developing a few self-soothing activities like playing outdoors or reading is one strategy for helping children deal with feelings of missing home. Identifying people with whom young campers can share their emotions is another means for dealing with homesickness.

“Talking to a camp counselor and even peers can help ease the difficult feelings and often they will learn they are not alone,” said Meehan.

Encouraging a child to make friends and become involved in camp activities will put

the focus on the positive aspects of camp. Packing letters and stamped envelopes and developing a plan for letter exchange can help a child feel connected to their families.

“Isolating and avoiding what feels hard can often worsen anxiety and homesickness,” said Meehan. “Remind your child they are stronger than they feel in the moment and that engaging in camp activities can be helpful.”

There are times however when a child might not be ready for residential camps. The American Camp Association reports that while most cases of homesickness subside, there are cases — if a child is not eating or sleeping, for example — when it could be time to seek help. “Consult with camp professionals about resources if your child’s anxiety worsens or persists,” said Meehan.

Camps&Schools●Notes

Mariner Sailing School at Belle Haven Marina

At the Mariner Sailing School at the Belle Haven Marina, children learn to sail in an atmosphere where fun, safety and responsibility are paramount. Children gain confidence around the water by learning safe sailing skills. Wearing lifejackets in 14-foot Sunfish sailboats, they learn to sail confidently while having an all-around great time. On light air days, campers are taught how to safely paddle canoes or kayaks through the beautiful Dyke Marsh surrounding the marina.

The 2015 season will start June 8, and morning and

afternoon sessions will be offered weekly through July and August. Students can opt to participate in both daily sessions. See www.saildc.com/instruction/course-rates-schedule

Summer at Massanutten

Each year, Massanutten Military Academy offers a five-week intensive summer school program, an opportunity for students to get ahead in their learning, make up for bad or failing grades, or increase their knowledge and participation in their JROTC leadership skills. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp through a combination of classroom time and weekend activities.

The program is offered June 27-Aug. 1, 2015. Credit for academic courses is transferable to the student’s current school. JROTC leadership credit equals one high school course credit.

STEM CAMP Massanutten offers STEM Summer Camp, two two-week camps running from June 29-July 10 and July 20-31, open to students grades 7-12. This summer camp offers students the chance to explore the many facets of STEM education including hands-on experiences. Upon completion of the STEM Summer Camp, students will receive a certification of completion. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp. Visit www.militaryschool.com/summer-school-2015.asp.

Summer Camps Education & Activities

Diverse Camps Offer Summer Fun

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

Scores of local camps in Northern Virginia that offer many opportunities for summer fun and learning. Here is a sampling of diverse camps that range from art to theater to field trips to swimming, tennis and music. There's even a camp for aspiring musicians who want to form a band.

ROAM Rock Camp

ROAM Rock Camp gives children the opportunity to build communication skills and confidence through the language of music. The camps are designed to focus on why each participant wants to be in a band, why they love music and what they want to get out of it. The goal is to create an environment or band that children will thrive in. They will hand select each member to create a group that best fits their age and experience. During the camp, groups will learn three to four of their favorite songs or even write songs if they wish. At the end of the week they will record the group and give them a CD to take home to show off their progress.

"The best thing about these camps is that we are able to show these young musicians from first-hand experience how to be players and performers. I wish I had something like this when I was growing up," said John Patrick, owner/director, who is the former co-founder of the national touring act Virginia Coalition.

Camps are offered from June 1 to Aug. 28. To register, contact ROAM to let them know every week your child would be available to do a camp. Deadline for registration is June 1.

Contact info: Rock of Ages Music, 114 E. Del Ray Ave., Alexandria VA 22301; call 703-838-2130. Email Roam.rockofagesmusic@gmail.com.

Burgundy Farm

Burgundy Farm offers two summer camps: a day camp at the 25-acre Alexandria campus in eight week-long sessions, and a sleep-away camp in three sessions at Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies in Capon Bridge, W.Va. Both camps are great options for children excited about learning in the outdoors with dedicated counselors. Day campers swim every day, and programs include sports, science and performing and visual arts. Sleep-away camp provides a mix of structure and freedom, fostering a respect to the natural world through greater knowledge of nature and self.

"At Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp, our campers enjoy all the benefits of a sleep-away camp with the convenience of a day camp, including swimming, animal encounters, nature exploration, forming strong bonds and friendships with other campers and counselors, and the opportunity to build self-esteem and confidence in a fun and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PETER HAMER

Bishop Ireton Cardinals summer camps in Alexandria are gearing up for their eighth year of sports and theater camps.

friendly environment," said Hugh Squire, director of auxiliary services.

Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp is located on the Alexandria campus of Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Lower and upper divisions, grouped by age and interest, for children ages 3-years-8-months to 12 years old. Camp runs Monday, June 15-Friday, Aug. 7. Register at www.burgundyfarm.org/summer-programs. Contact Hugh Squire at hugh@sburgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0480.

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Camp is located within 500 acres in a secluded valley near Capon Bridge, W.Va. Overnight junior session (age 8-10) for one week in August - currently waitlist only; senior sessions (11-15) for two weeks in June, July or August; adult weekend (21+) in July. Register at www.burgundycenter.org. Contact Michele McCabe at michelem@burgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0470.

Bishop Ireton Camp

Bishop Ireton High School offers campers the opportunity to participate in sports and/or theater while developing individual and group skills and fostering a love of the activity. It offer boys camps (baseball, basketball, lacrosse and football); girls camps (basketball, lacrosse and volleyball); and coed camps (soccer, theater).

Age ranges for the camps are rising 1st graders to rising seniors depending on the camp. The 17 camp sessions are conducted by the school's coaches or teachers and assisted by student counselors. Lunch is provided for full day camps by the cafeteria at no extra cost.

"Last year we had nearly 600 campers attend one of our sports or theater camps. The camps are a great way for youngsters to get to know us and for our coaches and theater teachers to get to know them," said Peter Hamer, summer camp director.

The camp brochure and sign up form can be found under the athletics tab at

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
The Art League's Summer Art Camps in Alexandria includes Fiber Art Camp.

www.bishopireton.org. Contact Peter Hamer at hamerp@bishopireton.org or 703-212-5190.

The Art League's Summer Art Camps

The Art League's Summer Art Camp provides children ages 5-15 a wonderful introduction to visual art. In the regular art camp, each day brings a new project that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, or sculpture. Projects vary from week to week, so campers can always come back for more. The specialty camps, like Drawing Camp or Painting Camp, focus on immersion in one particular medium.

"Inspiring young artists and helping them discover the joy of innovation is a big part of our mission. It's as rewarding for us to see what the campers create as it is for them," said Executive Director Suzanne Bethel.

The Art League's Summer Art Camps are held weekly. Half-day and full-day camps include regular art camp, painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, fiber, drawing, cartoons, and more. Camps run weekly from June 22 through Aug. 21, 2015 at The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street in Alexandria. Register and find details online at www.theartleague.org. Contact The Art League at school@theartleague.org or 703-683-2323.

SummerTimes

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes SummerTimes programs offers campers ages 3-18 an enjoyable and enriching experience with programs designed to stimulate curiosity and creativity, develop talents, and encourage exploration and personal growth. Most of



the camp directors are SSSAS teachers and coaches, supported by alumni and students. Operating on three campuses with state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Alexandria, the camp strives to inspire campers all summer long.

"At SummerTimes, your child will have the opportunity to see new sights in Washington, D.C., to expand artistic horizons in an art or filmmaking camp, learn about computer programming or jewelry making, challenge their abilities in one of our many sports camps, try their hand in TechPlay, or participate in a variety of fun activities in our traditional Day Camp. We pride ourselves on offering camps that will spark an interest in your camper, and will encourage them to create and try new things on their own in a safe and nurturing place," said Jim Supple, Director of Summer Programs.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes summer programs run from June 15-Aug. 14, offering nine weeks with a variety of camps. With more than 145 different camp sessions to choose from, there is something for campers of every age. Visit www.summertime.org to view camp offerings, pricing, registration procedures and more. Email summerprograms@ssas.org or call 703-212-2777.

Burke Racquet and Swim

Burke Racquet and Swim Sport Camp has been a hidden treasure in Burke for more than 27 years. Tucked behind the Kaiser Permanente Building in Burke, the indoor camp is the ideal setting for children who want to do a variety of sports. It offers swimming, tennis, and rock climbing daily. It also offers Zumba, soccer and camp games.

All of the Sports Camp staff has been back-

Northern Virginia has scores of local camps for summer learning and fun.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

Summer Camps Education & Activities

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Many programs around the region offer summer education and fun for adults.

Summer Fun for Adults

The region offers a wide range of programs for adults.

“This summer you can get outside with OLLI trips to the National Gallery of Art, the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, and The Franciscan Monastery.”

Jennifer Disano, OLLI executive director

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Summer fun is no longer reserved for children. Whether one's inter-ests lie in exploring nature and hik-ing in the woods or immersed in history, art and literature on a university campus, the region abounds with warm weather opportunities.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University offers its members a chance to satisfy their intellectual and cultural curiosities. Want to read and discuss the “Iliad” or play Symphony No. 5 on the piano? Classes in Homer’s writings or classical music are available in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling, Va. \$375 gives members access to more than 400 trips, courses and clubs ranging from memoir writing to French cooking.

“This summer you can get outside with OLLI trips to the National Gallery of Art, the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, and The Franciscan Monastery,” said Jennifer Disano, OLLI executive director.

From oil painting to soap mak-

ing, Arlington County is offering a diverse smatter of classes for adults. “We have a smorgasbord of programs and really cool classes where you can learn about nature or go on hikes,” said Susan Kalish, a spokeswoman for the county.

Potomac residents who want to distinguish an amethyst from an iolite are in luck this summer. A gemology class is among the most popular adult classes at the Potomac Community Recreation Center.

“We’ve got a host of different programs from tai chi, yoga and karate,” said Peter Selikowitz, the center’s executive director. “There’s even a laughter fitness class which is a fun way to reduce stress.”

For those wanting to learn how to avoid internet scams, Marymount University has teamed up with City of Falls Church to present “Living Better with the Internet.” The series of five classes is designed for seniors and will be held at the Falls Church Community Center this summer. “The best news of all is that the classes are free,” said Odette Shults, a spokeswoman for the University.

Educators say that an uptick in

interest among adults, particularly seniors, has lead to a diverse offering of learning opportunities. “There is an absolute trend and evidence-based research is driving the trend,” said Andrew Carle of George Mason University. “Adult activities are being reinvented. What used to be arts and crafts and now their being called wellness and enrichment and address the physical, cognitive, social and spiritual needs of adults. We’re seeing people being given more choices on how to improve their lives rather than just giving them activities.”

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Beginning Sunfish classes sail from the dock on a summer morning to practice the day's maneuvers.

Sailing Camp: Empowering

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Amy Zang has just returned from a week sailing the British Virgin Isles with nine members of her extended family ranging from her 78-year-old, legally-blind father to her brother's 4- and 6-year old children.

"I was the captain of the 46-foot catamaran, but I had to get used to it. It is the biggest boat I have sailed. You use the same sailing skills but adapt the technique when the boat is this large."

Zang is the director and owner of the Youth Sailing Day Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina. The Washington Sailing Marina camp offers six different youth sailing classes in the summer with the Sunfish for beginners and the Flying Scot for intermediates. The advanced class uses a Hobie Cat. The racing class sails a Collegiate 420 that is a fast, maneuverable boat allowing campers the chance to work on boat balance and roll tacks.

Adventures on a Big Boat sails a Catalina 25. This group has a picnic lunch under anchor on Thursdays and they, along with the intermediate boats, sail to Old Town for lunch on Fridays. Other groups get smoothies on Friday "so everyone gets a treat."

Sailing students must be certified before moving on to the next level. Some campers come for one week and others move up the skill level over successive weeks at camp. Windsurfing is also offered.

The camp opens June 1 and runs weekly through Aug. 22, and is already over 50 percent full. The classes run from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and are open to rising third graders-15 years of age. She thinks children choose sailing for summer because "it is different, it is outside, it is hands on and they get immediate gratification." They walk away with a life skill that they can carry into adulthood, she says.

Sailing class is empowering, Zang says. Children don't have much in their lives that they can be fully in charge of. "I give them trust, here is a boat, and you can learn to sail it and they give trust back. They learn responsibility and it is a huge confidence builder for both male and female students. Sailing isn't about strength." She adds, "When kids come they love it and keep returning year after year." She said word of mouth is powerful and she has had a number of children for many years.

She calls each day "controlled chaos" where she has to be mentally two steps ahead watching weather, keeping track of the boats at all times and supervising the instructors as well as tending to children who may need special attention. "Every single cog in the wheel has to work." Zang describes herself as a big communicator and sends group email updates to parents during the week. If there are specific things to pass along she emails the parents directly.

At this time of year, Zang is interviewing staff, rescheduling returning staff, reviewing insurance policies and other business, organizing buses, getting boats ready for the season "putting a screwdriver to every screw, washing out boats and getting them in the water."

Zang offers bus service pickup from Bethesda. This year, a mom organized a group of 24 sailing campers from Chantilly so "I am sending a bus there to pick up the kids that week." Sailing students come from all over the metropolitan area and some are visiting relatives and attend sailing camp for a week or two. "We have a lot of diplomat kids, too, a nice diverse population."

The staff includes more than 40 full-time summer counselors; many started in sailing camp themselves a number of years ago. "I have one counselor this year who started camp when he was 9." She has better than a 1-6 ratio of staff to campers.

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**PHOTO
GALLERY!**

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Alexandria Gazette Packet will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Alexandria Gazette Packet,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

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Award-Winning Alexandria Gazette Packet

More Reasons the Connection Newspapers are the Best-Read Community Papers
**Winners of Awards in the 2014 Virginia Press Association
 and Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association Editorial Contests**

First Place Winners

Steven G. Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Cartoon. Judge's comments: Smart and insightful.

Bonnie Hobbs, *Centre View* – Feature Series or Continuing Story. Judge's comments: Clear and concise writing with a good flow. Journalist captured the emotion of the event and engaged the reader well.

Michael Lee Pope, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Business and Financial Writing. Judge's comments: First-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues. Fine work.

Michael Lee Pope, *McLean Connection* – Health, Science and Environmental Writing. Judge's comments: Michael Lee Pope's stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are well-researched, clearly written and engaging. His use of real-live people high up in his stories to illustrate his findings makes for very compelling material. He seems quite capable of turning some of these topics into a book. If he does, I'll read it.

Jon Roetman, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Sports Writing Portfolio. Judge's comments: Strong and clear writing and excellent storytelling helps game stories feel more like features. Excellent work.

Victoria Ross, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Government Writing. Judge's comments: An engaging look at a lobbyist who fights for the little guy; an entertaining story on a political candidate, helping readers put the upcoming election into context; one of the better budgeting stories I've seen lately that helps readers understand how the county's budgeting process is going to cost them more money. The supporting sidebars help bring the message home.

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal Service Writing, Obituaries. Judge's comments: These stories provide a glimpse inside the lives of people who have played significant roles in their communities. The writing is engaging and well-researched. And the stories serve as an example to others of how to live a life of purpose.

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Column Writing, Entertainment. Judge's comments: Ms. Theismann's entertainment columns demonstrate a breadth of knowledge that gives her opinions a ring of authority and authenticity.



Steve Artley



Bonnie Hobbs



Michael Lee Pope



Jon Roetman



Victoria Ross



Jeanne Theismann



Jean Card



Steve Hibbard



Louise Krafft



Joan Brady



Veronica Bruno



Vernon Miles



Marilyn Campbell



Mary Kimm



Steven Mauren



Geovani Flores



Laurence Foong



Renee Ruggles



Ken Moore

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

www.connectionnewspapers.com



Though I live nowhere near her area, I found it easy to be influenced by her writing and to wish that I had the opportunity to attend some of the events she talked about. All three examples are nicely written.

Jean Card, Jeanne Theismann, Steve Hibbard, Louise Krafft and Kara Coleman, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages. Judge's comments: Good balance. Front page article has good detail and info.

Second Place Winners

Joan Brady, *Great Falls Connection* – Column Writing.

Veronica Bruno, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Feature Story Writing.

Jean Card, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Page Design.

Vernon Miles, *Arlington Connection* – Breaking News Writing.

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Headline Writing.

Third Place Winners

Steven G. Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Cartoon.

Marilyn Campbell, *Chantilly Connection* – Health, Science and Environmental Writing.

Bonnie Hobbs, *Fairfax Connection* – Personal Service Writing.

Mary Kimm, *McLean Connection* – Editorial Writing.

Michael Lee Pope, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Public Safety Writing.

Steven Mauren, Mary Kimm, Steve Artley, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Pages.

Jean Card, Renee Ruggles and Laurence Foong, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational Graphics.

The *Potomac Almanac* participates in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and while 2014 award-winners there will not be fully announced until May 1, 2015, we do know that Ken Moore and Marilyn Campbell are winners.

PARKS AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MAJOR PARKS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

National Parks

GF Great Falls National Park

9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean
 www.nps.gov/grfa
 Great Falls Park is open daily from 7 a.m. until dark. The Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, spring through fall seasons. Picnic, hike along the Potomac River. Swimming and wading in the Potomac are prohibited.

GW George Washington Memorial Parkway

www.sps.gov/gwmp
 703.289.2500
 The GW Parkway includes more than 25 sites, ranging from historic homes to

