



Map-reader Oliver Goddin call out names of veterans buried in Section T at the cemetery.



Perry Henderson marks another veterans grave with a flag.



Madeline Burke walks her dog Robot through the graveyard in search of veterans. Dog walking in the cemetery is currently allowed if the dogs are well-behaved.



Volunteers organized by the Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society decorated the headstones and grave markers of 661 veterans with flags last Sunday.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Paying Tribute to Veterans

Dozens of volunteers gathered in Ivy Hill Cemetery on Sunday, May 17, to decorate the 661 identified graves of veterans for Memorial Day. The volunteers broke into small groups after selecting one to be the map-reader and made their way to the different sections of the 22 and a half acre cemetery. The map-reader called out the names and the rest of the team moved from plot to plot in search of the

headstones and grave markers to plant a flag. Burials began at the cemetery in 1811, and Ivy Hill received a charter as a community cemetery in 1856. Rockland's Barbeque donated chicken and pork barbeque lunches to the volunteers at the graveyard on Sunday afternoon. For more information on upcoming activities and events at Ivy Hill visit Ivy Hill Historic Preservation Society on Facebook or email info@ihchps.org

Remembering Those Who Serve

Wreath-laying ceremony to be held at Alexandria National Cemetery.

It was first known simply as "Soldiers' Cemetery." Established in 1862 as one of the original 14 national cemeteries, Alexandria National Cemetery features a historic superintendent's lodge designed by U.S. Quartermaster Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs and is the final resting place of the four civilians who died in pursuit of President Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. On May 25, members of American Legion Post 24 will lead the

cemetery's Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony in honor of those who have served the nation.

Older than its more famous neighbor in Arlington, the Alexandria National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 4,000 individuals including five "Buffalo" soldiers — African American soldiers who served in the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalries and the 24th and 25th U.S. Infantries.

The Memorial Day program will begin at 11 a.m. at the flagpole plaza located within the cemetery. Guest speakers will include Col. Derek Donovan, USMC (ret.), vice president of programs and community relations at the Fisher House Foundation, and his wife Kathryn, an active duty captain currently

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 25

'Faces Never Forgotten'

Search continues for photos of Alexandria Vietnam veterans.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The name Humbert R. Versace is inscribed on Panel 01E, Row 033 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. But in his hometown, "Rocky" Versace's sacrifice and that of 66 other Alexandrians is memorialized in a statue on Commonwealth Avenue in Del Ray.

The Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, was made possible through the efforts of the Friends of Rocky Versace Memorial Association and dedicated just days before Versace was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroics in July of 2002.

The organization, which will be holding its traditional Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony on May 25, is now spearheading efforts to help the Vietnam Veterans

SEE FACES OF, PAGE 25

Help Identify Them

Photos are being sought for the 20 Alexandria Vietnam veterans listed below:

PVT Ross Willard Collins Jr. (Army)
Sgt Robert William Dean (Army)
Sgt James Wheeler Dickey (Army)
PFC Bernard Guy J. Dillenseger (Army)
LCpl Richard Holt Freudenthal (Marine Corps)
CPL Thomas Hart Gaither (Army)
PFC Darrell Lee Gibbons (Marine Corps)
Cpl Wayne Lamont Jordan (Marine Corps)
Sgt James Edward King (Army)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Del Ray honors the 67 men from Alexandria who either died or remain missing in action in Vietnam. A Memorial Day ceremony will be held May 25 at the Rocky Versace Plaza on Commonwealth Ave. beginning at 11 a.m.

SP4 David Atwood Lerner (Army)
PFC Kevin C. McElhannon Jr. (Army)
SSG Clarence M. Overbay Jr. (Army)
PFC Harry Frazier Richardson Jr. (Army)
AO2 Joseph Clarence Shartzler (Navy)
SP4 Johnny Jerome Smith (Army)
1LT Lewis Lynn Stone
Sgt Charles Lee Suthard Jr. (Marine Corps)
SP4 Matthew Winston Thornton (Army)
PVT Jeron Franklin Valentine (Army)
SFC David James Warczak (Army SF)
PFC Raymond Leroy Williams (Army)
MAJ Carl Louis Young (Army)

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Old Town Alexandria \$1,445,000

Circa 1875, this four-bedroom, 3-bath house in prime Old Town location has tall windows with beautiful views, wood floors, 10-foot high ceilings and a wood-burning fireplace. Family room adjoins kitchen plus an additional second floor sunroom with built-in bookshelves and three walls of windows. Walk to fine restaurants and interesting shops.

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www.BabsBeckwith.com



Julie A. Pearson

703.862.4543

www.JuliePearson.com

Alexandria \$455,000

This charming 3-level home offers 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Gorgeous redesigned open kitchen features stainless steel appliances, granite counters and recessed lights. Don't miss the deck, 3-car driveway, workshop, shed, and 2012 double-paned windows. Walk to Huntington Metro and shops.



Alexandria \$509,000

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Council Honors Lowe, Dunning

Parks in Del Ray named in tribute.

As the City Council voted to name two parks in Del Ray after influential citizens from the neighborhood, members of City Council and the community took a moment to reflect on the lives of Judy Lowe and Nancy Dunning.

At the May 16 City Council Public Hearing, the council voted to name the 1 & 7 E. Del Ray Pocket Park the Judy Lowe Neighborhood Park and the park parcel at 2802 Mt. Vernon Avenue the Nancy Dunning Garden.

"Judy Lowe was an extraordinary person who had a way of forming a network of neighbors, she knew everybody's life," said Councilwoman Del Pepper. "She has been dubbed the 'First Lady of Del Ray'... and

really provided a lot of the neighborhood feel."

Lowe, who died Nov. 28, 2011, was remembered for both the small mannerisms, like correcting the grammar and habits of City Council members, and some of her larger initiatives, like fighting against having the new Washington Redskins Stadium built in Potomac Yard.

If Lowe was the "First Lady of Del Ray," friends remembered Nancy Dunning as the Queen. Like Lowe, Dunning was remembered as one of the Del Ray citizens who created a vibrant and engaged atmosphere in the neighborhood. Dunning's murder in 2003 is currently the subject of a trial scheduled for October 2015.

"We want to remember her, not only in our hearts, but to share her with the rest of Del Ray," said Catherine Brown. "Nancy was a mother and a friend to all of us."

— VERNON MILES



From left: Mayoral candidates Allison Silberberg, William Euille and Kerry Donley.

Candidates Debate City Economy

Incumbent Mayor William Euille defended his record of revitalizing Alexandria neighborhoods with new businesses. Vice-Mayor Allison Silberberg emphasized the importance of protecting Alexandria's historic districts, citing her dissenting votes against waterfront development. Former Mayor Kerry Donley said that the city needs "smart growth" and highlighted his role in bringing the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to the Carlyle neighborhood.

The third mayoral debate, hosted by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce on May 18 in George Washington Middle School, was largely a retreading of the familiar battle lines established by the three mayoral candidates.

Much of the debate centered around the economic future of the city. For Donley, this meant focusing on economic development in Potomac Yard and the Carlyle Area. In Carlyle, Donley believes the presence of the PTO and the impending opening of the National Science Foundation should trigger a rebranding and remarketing of the area into a major science-industry hub.

Euille said he didn't differ with Donley in their beliefs on what the right kind of development for Alexandria is. In addition to development at Potomac Yard, Euille also pointed to Landmark Mall as an area primed for redevelopment.

While Silberberg said that commercial growth must be balanced with preserv-

ing historical districts, she also noted that there are opportunities for light industrial development in the Eisenhower West area of Alexandria.

As three Democratic candidates, there were several topics where the candidates universally agreed. All of the candidates spoke in favor of Alternative B at the Potomac Yard Metro Station. Each candidate also cited sewage and stormwater drainage as one of the biggest infrastructure problems facing Alexandria.

In their closing remarks, Donley and Silberberg expressed frustration with recent trends in development and the city's economy.

"Our revenue base is not growing and a structural deficit threatens this city," said Donley, saying the impact of these economic trends is being felt by West End residents near Fire Station 210.

"This is about our future," said Silberberg. "We need to plan carefully and thoughtfully. Developing our way out of this hasn't worked."

Euille acknowledged that the past 8 years have been a period of economic hardship, but emphasized that this was a regional and even national issue.

"Things could have been better," said Euille, "but through my leadership... we have weathered the storm."

The three candidates will face off in the June 9 primary to be the Democratic nominee in the November mayoral election.

— VERNON MILES



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 3/4-mile radius surrounding the Potomac Yard Metro and the Tier II Special Tax District established in 2011. This graphic was used by the Potomac Yard Special Tax District Committee for Tax Fairness' presentation to the City Council on May 15.

Citizens Irate Over Tax District

In the May 15 public hearing prior to the City Council's major Potomac Yard Metro decision, residents of the local special tax district spoke out against what they saw as being unfairly targeted. The Potomac Yard Tier II Special Tax District, adopted in 2011, has a 10 cent real estate tax rate that would be applied after the Potomac Yard Metro station opens in 2019 and would continue for 27 years until the bonds are fully repaid. The tax district is estimated to generate \$20.3 million towards the \$392.1 million total debt service and operating costs of the metro station.

Eleven residents from the within the tax district boundaries spoke out as part of the

Potomac Yard Special Tax District Committee for Tax Fairness. According to the group, other single family neighborhoods in the area are the same 3/4-mile radius from the proposed metro station. The group proposes that either the Tier II Special Tax District be shared equally to residents within the 3/4-mile radius or that single family residents be excluded be from the tax district.

Mayor Bill Euille emphasized that no action was being taken at the public hearing and that city staff would continue to look into adjustments to the financing plan before the City Council votes on the proposed metro plans on May 20.

— VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Mary Ann Ormes Dies

Remembering SSA's founding director.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When Mary Ann Ormes followed her childhood sweetheart to Alexandria in 1954, the young bride didn't waste any time getting involved in her community.

"One of my earliest memories is of her volunteering at Beverley Hills Pre-School, where we went to school," said Ormes' eldest daughter Julia Robinson. "Whether it was taking my sisters and me to art or music lessons, or getting involved with the League of Women Voters, she always kept busy."

The growing family moved to Central

Avenue in Braddock Heights in 1958, where Ormes would remain for more than 50 years. During that time, she served on the board of directors of the League of Women Voters, United Way of Alexandria and the Alexandria Legal Aid Society. But when then-mayor Charles Beatley appointed her to the newly formed Commission on Aging in 1968, she found her passion.

"Mom saw the need right away for an entity to provide services for seniors," Robinson said. "It was important to her to

Mary Ann Ormes

SEE ORMES, PAGE 5

Teaching Technology

Gallery Walk highlights innovations in classroom technology.

By VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

“You have died of dysentery.” Students attending school in the 1970s and ’80s may remember this common outcome from the educational game Oregon Trail, which put students in the shoes of pioneers travelling the eponymous trail and facing the same difficult decisions as the settlers. It left an impact on a generation of students, including Daniel Foreman, who today is the instructional technology coordinator for Alexandria Public Schools.

At the 9th Annual Instructional Technology Gallery Walk in George Washington Middle School on May 7, Foreman and other Alexandria Public School faculty and staff showcased technology in classrooms, with a spotlight on video games.

The Instructional Technology Gallery Walk showcases how teachers across Alexandria Public Schools utilize technology in their classrooms. Elizabeth Hoover, chief technology officer for Alexandria Public Schools, said the focus of the event is on using in classrooms in a way that feels organic and avoiding “using technology for technology’s sake.”

On opposite sides of the library, students played educational video games with a projector showing their progress on the walls. Traci Holland-Shuford, a life science teacher at George Washington Middle School, supervised her students working on farms in a game called Minecraft. The three students, Owen Malone, Joseph Gutierrez, and Emmanuel Teferra, explained that the farm scenario teaches them about how genotypes and phenotypes affect the genetic makeup of animals, and how those attributes carry over through generations.

“The kids are gamers, I’m a gamer,” said Holland-Shuford, but admitted she’s particularly excited for the next unit. “We’re going to build worlds and the kids will have to survive in them as part of understanding how animals survive in ecosystems.”

On the other side of the library, students played DimensionU, a game that for the most part played like a traditional multiplayer first person shooter, but regu-



Emmanuel Teferra (left) discusses his progress in Minecraft with his teacher, Traci Holland-Shuford, while Joseph Gutierrez (center) and Owen Malone (right) play.

larly incorporated algebra trivia questions. When characters are “slimed” by other players or access upgrades, they have to answer algebra questions with points determined by speed of the response. Stephen Ralis, a George Washington Middle School student, helped a few of the touring guests understand the rules and gameplay. When the administrators wandered away, one of the students, on a condition of anonymity, showed that there are glitches in the gameplay that can allow students to circumvent the algebra questions.

Foreman said that administration was aware of some of the glitches in the program.

“It’s problem solving, in its own way,” Foreman said. “If you want to find out the glitches and errors in the game, just ask an of the kids.”

Foreman admitted that teaching with video games comes with its own share of problems.

“[Teachers] need to know when it’s appropriate to take away the screen,” said Foreman. “It’s always about management of screen-time.”

Foreman also said that having the students using the computers also forces teachers to be more aware of how students are using those programs. There are programs

that can help keep students from straying from the computer’s intended purpose, but like the game, the programs aren’t perfect and it doesn’t take long for some students to find ways around these restrictions.

“They’re always going to try to find ways around stuff,” said Foreman. “The trick is to try to make that productive, part of the challenge.”

Foreman says giving students a challenge is what can separate video games from other forms of interactivity with students.

The Instructional Technology Gallery Walk also showcased technology at elementary grade levels.

Emily Fenn, a second grade teacher at William Ramsay Elementary School, had her students set up blogs to write about their experiences in school as a way of connecting them with other students and parents, who could access the writings from home. Fenn said the blogs helped students in the class gradually grow from pecking out a few letters on a keyboard to being able to write full poems and entries.

One of the most eye-catching pieces of technology showcased at the Instructional Technology Gallery Walk was a 3D printer. Melissa Tilashalski, an eighth grade math teacher at George Washington Middle School, displayed various 3D printed fig-



Stephen Ralis is the reigning DimensionU champion at George Washington Middle School.

ures designed by her after-school design club. The 3D printer was donated to her class by the Virginia Council of Teachers and Mathematics.

Finding a safe space for students to learn was a recurring theme of the Instructional Technology Gallery Walk.

Jenell Pezzulich, a science teacher who works with special education classes at T.C. William’s Minnie Howard campus, implemented QR codes into her class worksheets. Pezzulich allows students to take pictures of the QR codes, a two-dimensional barcode, which links students to a video of Pezzulich working through the problem step by step.

Pezzulich says this allows students to work at their own pace and re-watch sections of an explanation.

Foreman said that his experiences with Oregon Trail as a youth, including memories of repeated failure, was part of his first exposure to computers and started his background on using technology as a tool for education.

“If you give a kid a problem, they’ll try to solve it once and they’ll be done,” said Foreman. “But if you make it into a video game, they’ll try a thousand times. We see active engagement because this is a safe space that allows for failure.”

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OBITUARY

Ormes

FROM PAGE 3
help Alexandria's older residents maintain their independence and quality of life."

Ormes served on the board of directors until 1973, when she stepped down to become SSA's first executive director. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2000. On May 6, the advocate for Alexandria seniors died just days after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She was 89. "Mary Ann was an amazing woman," said former SSA executive director Janet Barnett. "She was among the first people I called to ask whether I should accept the position at SSA. We discussed new issues facing seniors that are different from those faced in 1968. It is impossible to measure the impact her work has today more than 40 years later."

Born Mary Ann Otto in Crawfordsville, Ind. on June 10, 1925, Ormes graduated from Miami University of Ohio in 1947 before marrying Robert Ormes in 1950. Together they raised three daughters: Julia, Carolyn and Margaret.

"Mom was very proud of her work with SSA, especially organizing transportation for seniors through the use of taxis rather than more expensive minivans," Robinson said. "Even though it was a lot of work, she loved the challenge of finding economical ways to provide services to seniors."

Ormes also served on the National Symphony Orchestra Women's Committee from 1993 until her death. She was the chair-

man of the NSO Decorator Show House event in 2001, raising more than \$750,000 for the organization. She served as chairman of the Alexandria chapter and volunteered at the symphony as an usher until 2013.

Ormes remained in her Braddock Heights home until 2009 when she moved to a retirement community in Loudoun County.

"But she never slowed down," Robinson said. "Mom was active in the Ashby Ponds community, volunteering in various capacities. She continued her book club and bridge club memberships right up until she died."


Ormes was predeceased by her husband Robert in 1984. She is survived by her twin sister, Nancy Heller of Winnetka, Ill., daughters Julia Robinson (Derrick) of Boulder, Colo., Carolyn Kollar (William) of Leesburg, Va., and Margaret Ormes of Cambridge, Mass. Ormes also leaves behind grandchildren Jeffrey and Lindsay Robinson.

Funeral services were held May 8 in Ashburn. Donations may be made in her memory to NatureServe, c/o Erin Chen, 4600 N. Fairfax Drive, 7th Floor, Arlington, VA 22312, or online at www.natureserve.org. Contributions may also be made to the National Symphony Orchestra.

"Even though she was 89, her death has been a terrible shock to us," Robinson said. "But the days we had with her after diagnosis were a gift. She had a good, long life and said that if she had to go, she was glad it would be fast. Her family, her friends — we were all lucky to have her for almost 90 years."

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ALLISON SILBERBERG

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PEOPLE

Martha Teaches Tea Etiquette

By Shirley Ruhe
Gazette Packet

“Oh my goodness, I can see your elbows,” Martha Washington said to Mary “Peggy” White who attended the Sunday afternoon tea at Gadsby’s Tavern in Old Town. “Come up here. We must get you dressed at once.” Martha picked up the latticed stays and wrapped them around White to make her waist appear smaller. “It’s a man’s world. We will lace this and pull it tighter. If you say you can still breathe, I’ll pull it tighter.”

She turned to inspect White: “When did you take your last bath?” Martha explained a woman wore her tunic (which goes over the petticoats) for eight days and slept in it at night before washing it. An apron goes on top of the coat and a large white kerchief over the shoulders. “And all of these layers are hot,” Martha added, pulling out her fan. It takes her about an hour to get herself dressed including the short white wig nearly matching the large white ruffled cap with a bright blue band.

Martha held up the interchangeable shoes. “I don’t know how they did this — no left or right shoe.” Martha looked down at White’s feet. “I don’t know what you’re wearing dear. I can see your toes.”

Bonnie Fair, who has been appearing as Martha Washington since 1976, has reenacted this role at many local schools, conventions, parties and special events, traveled to Australia, London and attended several White House Ladies teas. She says school children in other countries are fascinated by American



Martha Washington, aka, Bonnie Fair, waits for her surprise entrance at the tea held at Gadsby’s Tavern on May 17.

history, much more than U.S. children. “You could hear a pin drop in the Australian classrooms.” And the White House appearances included the Reagans, Clintons and Bushes, all very gracious but, “Barbara Bush loved it. She wanted to know how she could get a dress like mine.” Fair said Tuesday she will be in Colonial Williamsburg, Thursday in Middleburg and Thursday back in D.C. at the Renaissance Hotel.

The afternoon tea is filled with young girls, ribbons winding through braids and small heels matching flowered dresses. Fair explained Girl Scouts often attend these teas because “they can earn a little history badge.” Others bring their daughters for birthdays or other special occasions. Sometimes a man attends but not very

often.

They are having black tea, the most expensive kind. “Martha was determined to show she wasn’t a country bumpkin so she only served the finest, most expensive,” Fair said. Accompanying the tea were china plates filled with bites of pound cake. “Martha used a pound of butter, a pound of sugar and a pound of flour.” The cake was sprinkled with dried fruit and surrounded with small sweet puffs. “Stand up please.” Girls popped out of their chairs. “Clasp your hands in front of you at your waist, and gracefully bend into a curtsy. And not so much noise please. Children are meant to be seen and not heard.”

Fair has also appeared as Dolly Madison, Eleanor Roosevelt, and “oh I almost forgot. I just love to be Mrs. Claus.” Fair said she never says no and it’s amazing how one job leads to another. But, “I like Martha the best. I want to bring her to life. I want people to

know her.” Fair said she has had to do a lot of reading and it is a constant learning experience because there wasn’t much written back and forth between Martha and George. “Recently someone attended one of my events whose father’s father’s was related to George Washington and could tell me some things I didn’t know.”

As a girl she never thought she would do this, “but I do love history and I have been dancing since I was three. I still tap dance. Put on the music and I go.” She continued, “I’ve always been in show business. I was a New York Rockette years ago but it was a stigma back then.”

“One cube or two? Do you have your diaper?” It turns out this is a napkin or serviette. The tea etiquette continued as young faces follow her around the room. “If you know how to partake of tea, you are a genteel lady.”



Martha Washington declares she can see Mary “Peggy” White’s elbows and must dress her appropriately at once in the garb of the day at the Gadsby’s Tavern Sunday afternoon tea.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE



By Jeanne Theismann/Gazette Packet

Artist Eric Nelson holds an original piece depicting the skyline of Alexandria from across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. After five years in the Carlyle area, the Artfully Chocolate Bistro owner will be closing his doors May 27 and selling dozens of his original works through Alexandria-based online auction house Rasmus Auctions.

Art of the Deal

Artfully Chocolate to close its doors May 27.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

When Eric Nelson turned 50 in the summer of 2006, he “jumped off the cliff,” leaving the security of a lucrative lobbying position to open a chocolate and gift shop in Del Ray. A lifelong artist, Nelson was able to showcase his work at stores that grew to include ACKC in the Dupont Circle area of Washington and Artfully Chocolate Bistro in Alexandria’s Carlyle district. But after nine years, he is ready for his next challenge.

“I have mixed emotions about closing this chapter of my life,” said Nelson, who will close the doors to Artfully Chocolate Bistro on May 27. “I am excited about the future but sad to be saying goodbye to the brand of Artfully Chocolate and all the wonderful customers and friends I have made over the years.”

Nelson’s love for art was evident in his shops, which featured tables, bar tops and walls adorned with his colorful artwork. Those pieces and many more will be offered for sale through the Alexandria-based online auction house Rasmus Auctions.

Rasmus Auctions was founded in 1981 by Ron Rasmus. Following his retirement, Rasmus’ son Chris and daughter-in-law Susan, both graduates of T.C. Williams High School, took the reins of the company, which combines traditional auction-style previews with the online bidding format of eBay.

“It’s like eBay on steroids,” said Susan Rasmus.

No need to sit through in-person auctions — all bidding is done online through a computer, tablet or smartphone.

“This is an exciting process for me,” said Nelson, who opened the Carlyle location in December of 2010. “I wasn’t sure how I was going to handle the moving and storage of inventory. This way, it is handled by professionals and creates a wider audience for some of my original art.”

Rasmus handled the sale of assets of the historic Old Town Theatre when it closed its doors last year, as well as the sale of property from the Hotel Monaco for a recent renovation. In addition to Artfully Chocolate Bistro, they are currently handling the closing of Old Town’s Flying Fish Restaurant.

A vast collection of Nelson’s art — including tables, vases, serving trays and paintings — can be purchased along with retail restaurant fixtures during the online auction on May 27. Inventory can be seen now online with an in-person preview day set for May 26. To view the inventory or for more details about registering as a bidder, visit www.Rasmus.com.

“I’m not quite sure where I will land next,” said Nelson, who holds a master’s degree in economics. “But I do know that I want to stay connected to the Alexandria community. So for me, this is not about saying goodbye, it is about saying that I will see my friends and customers again in a different way.”

A woman with long dark hair is walking towards the camera on a light-colored sidewalk. She is wearing a blue and white checkered blazer over a blue top and blue trousers. She is also wearing a gold chain necklace and a gold watch. The background shows a white wall and a white door.

donna lewis

really nice clothes

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The Fight for the 45th

Democratic primary candidates vying to replace Krupicka lay out priorities.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

As with most candidates in a primary, the Democrats campaigning to replace Robert Krupicka as delegate for Virginia's 45th District which includes parts of Alexandria, Arlington and Mount Vernon, don't vary greatly in their positions on political issues. Where these candidates do vary is their experience and priorities.

Krupicka won the seat in a 2012 special election after Del. David Elgin's resignation. In the 2015 legislative session, Krupicka proposed 21 bills, seven of which passed. In March, Krupicka announced that he would be retiring to focus on operating Sugar Shack, a branch of a Richmond-based doughnut company that Krupicka opened in January.

There are five candidates running for the Democratic nomination: Larry Altenburg, Craig Fifer, Julie Jakopic, Mark Levine, and Clarence Tong. Many of the Democratic candidates cited education, pre-kindergarten education in particular, as one of their primary campaign goals. Each of the candidates also acknowledged that it will impossible to pass legislation, as a minority party, without cooperating with their Republican counterparts. Many candidates had different notions on how to accomplish this.

LARRY ALTENBURG

Altenburg's primary focus is on educational reform. Altenburg with two children, ages 6 and 9, said he's frustrated by how test-driven Alexandria schools are.

"The focus has been testing, testing, testing, measuring performance of students and teachers on testing," said Altenburg. "Curriculum has focused way more attention on how to take tests than learning."

Altenburg said his older daughter is starting to take tests in school and from what he's seen, he's disappointed by how much time in the classroom is spent on teaching for those tests. Altenburg also expressed frustration that partisan differences in Richmond have held back educational reform.

"I appreciate and applaud [Krupicka's] efforts fighting for Democratic values," said Altenburg, "but we need to find areas of common ground to move forward."

Altenburg has served as a member on the Alexandria Board of Zoning Appeals and was previously president of the Del Ray Citizens' Association. Altenburg currently serves as vice president of Rapiscan Systems, a security systems company, and is the CEO and managing general partner at Cyclic Professional Services LLC, a small, Alexandria-based management consulting



Altenburg

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

business. Altenburg cites his experience as a parent and as a local business leader as his greatest strength.

"I've been involved at the grassroots level," said Altenburg. "I've rolled my sleeves up and I've solving problems locally. Krupicka is a good friend of mine, and seeing that he was stepping away, a number of folks told me they need a parent down there [in Richmond] and someone who knows the community."

CRAIG FIFER

Fifer's campaign priority, which he calls "dignity and opportunity," emphasizes giving children a safe start with access to pre-kindergarten education. Fifer said this experience is, in part, informed by his work as a court appointed special advocate (CASA). Fifer said he worked with children facing abuse or neglect, and convinced him of the necessity of school-based pre-k activities and the long-term benefits of pre-k education.

Fifer shares Altenburg and other Democrats' desire for education reform, but said that legislation is about more than passion.

"In a primary, there's not a lot of differences in the issues, it's the experience," said Fifer. "I've been involved for 20 years. I understand the needs and the legislative process, which is going to be important for a delegate in a minority who's going to have to work with people from different [political groups]."

Fifer referenced his experience as chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Board for the University of Virginia-based Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. The organization, founded in 1993, is built on strengthening non-partisan government ties. Fifer started working with the organization in 2003, and said that the over a decade of experience with the organization has given him an extensive network of contacts on both sides of the political aisle in Richmond. According to the Sorensen Institute's website, the organization has over 20 members in the Virginia Legislature.

Fifer currently serves as the communications director for the City of Alexandria, a position he has occupied since 2014. Fifer had previously served as deputy director for communications and public information for Alexandria since 2010 and as an electronics communications coordinator for the City of Roanoke between 1996 and 2003, but Fifer said his experience outside of government is as critical to his priorities as a candidate.

Fifer also serves as the president of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government. Fifer said government transparency is a strong area of experience for Fifer and a key piece of his campaign. Despite recent



Fifer

ethics reforms in the Virginia legislature, Fifer said there's still a long road towards limiting the influence of money in state politics. In particular, Fifer said he's disturbed by the 76 percent of bills killed in the house without the votes recorded.

"You should expect the General Assembly to say how they voted," said Fifer.

While Fifer said he'd push for private and public mental and medical help for uninsured Virginians, he acknowledged that Medicaid expansion remains a pipe-dream for Democrats.

"Republicans reject Medicaid expansion as Democratic," said Fifer. "It's unlikely without a Democratic majority, and anyone who says this is their top priority isn't being realistic."

JULIE JAKOPIC

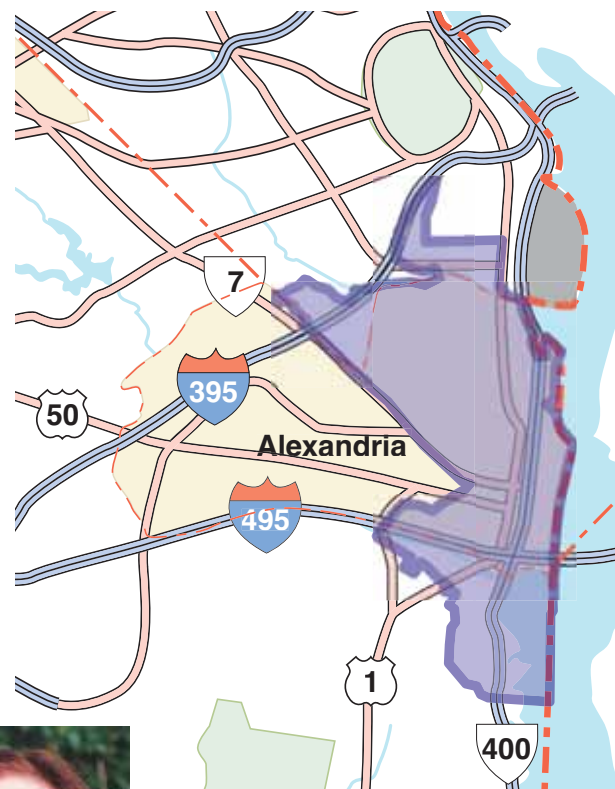
Jakopic's campaign centers around affordable housing, the area where Jakopic believes she shows a clear leadership advantage. Jakopic served as chair of the Alexandria Economic opportunity Commission between 2008 and 2010 and served as chair of the Alexandria Community Services Board between 1997 and 2001. Jakopic also said that her work with the Department of Health and Services, both at a national level and in over 40 states streamlining services, has taught her that decisions on these issues aren't made in Washington D.C. anymore.

Jakopic was endorsed by Krupicka, whose state and city council campaigns she's worked on since 2003. Krupicka was a member of the Community Services Board, an organization Jakopic served as vice chair and later chair.

"You can pull together extremes, the trick is to find common ground where we can all agree," said Jakopic. "You discover that no one has horns and a tail."

Jakopic said the secret to accomplishing affordable housing objectives with hostile neighbors was to turn them into partners in the process.

Like the other Democrats, Jakopic said healthcare reform is important, but says she is primarily focusing on reforming mental health reform. The need for changes to mental healthcare has personal connections for Jakopic, whose father committed suicide when she was 14. Jakopic encouraged conversations to be had about changing regulatory measures, changes Jakopic said can occur without substantial funding changes: specifically regarding availability



Jakopic

of beds in medical facilities.

If elected as a delegate, Jakopic said she would attempt to break the power of Dominion Power as well as predatory lenders over Virginia citizens. Jakopic said that she would campaign to increase transparency regarding Dominion's rate setting process.

"I don't think I can walk in and get this all done on day one," said Jakopic. "I think we're as different a primary as I've ever seen. We each have areas of expertise. I've spent my whole career working on [affordable housing and legislation]. If you asked my about wildlife preservation, I'd have no idea, but these are things I've been working on for years and I have the brick and mortar to show for it."

MARK LEVINE

Levine's campaign focus is on environmental issues. In particular, Levine's chief ambition would be to see legislation that would begin cleaning the Potomac River.

"My dream is to swim in the Potomac one day," said Levine. "In 10 years, it's possible. We can start with little things, like preventing raw sewage from being dumped into the river or state compacts with Pennsylvania, who pollutes the river more than Virginia, Maryland, or D.C. This is a big goal, but big goals are just small goals magnified."

Levine said he would also propose legislation that would allow people with solar panels in their yard to sell the excess energy back to Virginia Dominion Power.

"[Virginia] Dominion Power doesn't allow



Levine

Democrats Battle in Primary for 45th Delegate District

FROM PAGE 8

this, but it saves energy," said Levine. Despite 2015 legislation that deregulated Virginia Dominion Power, like the bill that allows the company to bypass financial review, Levine says the passage of similar solar energy legislation in "red states" like Georgia and Arkansas gives him hope for Virginia.

Regarding Alexandria's overburdened and outdated sewage system, Levine wants to offer tax incentives for homeowners who collect and utilize their own rainwater to avoid runoff into the Potomac.

Levine says he's aware that passing environmental legislation can be difficult in a Republican-controlled legislature, but insisted that it's mostly a matter of making the right compromises and alliances.

"The Tea Party is the bane of the Progressive's existence on issues like Medicaid and minimum wage, but there are certain Green-Tea alliances that can help pass environmental legislation," said Levine. Levine said that coalitions with conservatives are about understanding the different priorities, namely a focus on liberty and financial responsibility, two areas he believes his solar panel legislation would be feasible. "And sometimes the best you can do with that is just stopping bad laws, like [ones that allow] fracking. I know how

to build a coalition to get people riled up. Do I think we're going to pass a law banning fracking? No. But can we stop a fracking proposal? Maybe. It's about knowing how to work it and who to talk to. People are reasonable once you get past the rhetoric and policy."

Levine describes himself as policy geek who genuinely enjoys reading and analyzing legislation.

"I know how to craft, read, and negotiate laws," said Levine. "I know how to make the right kind of compromises, I've done it for 20 years working inside the system, outside the system, and around the system. Other candidates would be fine legislators and they're nice people, but they don't have the experience I have. If you're going to hire a surgeon, there could be five really nice people, but if only one of them has done operation before, I'd rather have that surgeon." Levine is a Constitutional lawyer and journalist. While Levine had worked on domestic abuse and gay-rights bills as an advocate, most of Levine's policy experience comes from his time in 2001 to 2003 as chief legislative counsel to Barney Frank, a congressman from Massachusetts. During his time with Frank, Levine saw the Democratic congressman work with Republican U.S. Rep. Ron Paul to work on a bill legalizing marijuana. Levine said that seeing two politicians so politically opposite working on a

common cause was a large part of his influence to run for office.

CLARENCE TONG

Like Levine, Tong's primary campaign focus is on environmental issues. As delegate, Tong said he hopes to bring more clean energy jobs to benefit the local environment and the economy.

On a local level, Tong has served as a board member of the North Old Town Independent Citizen's Association, and says he's particularly proud of his efforts with the organization to clean the site of the former GenOne power plant in Old Town.

Tong's political experience is primarily tied to environmental legislation. In 2010-2011, Tong worked as a congressional liaison to the U.S. Department of Energy and between April 2012 and October 2014 served as the senior advisor and legislative affairs specialist for the U.S. Department of Energy. Tong said this legislative experience at a national level has given him experience with working on environmental issues while Democrats are a minority.



Tong

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

"Just because we're in the minority doesn't mean we can't move forward," said Tong. "We have to find common ground where we can, but overall, we also have to bring up the environmental impact [of legislation]. I'm under no illusions here. We need more Democratic seats [in Virginia legislature] and I would be fully prepared to work with the Democratic caucus chair to make sure that happens. With 32 Democrats [in the House of Delegates], we won't be able to move bills forward."

Tong cited his experience as former chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee from January of 2014, where the committee donated and helped campaign for Democratic candidates in neighboring districts. Some, like 34th District House of Delegates candidate Kathleen Murphy in Fairfax, were successful. Others, like the campaign to unseat independent John Vihstadt from the Arlington County Board, were not. "You win some, you lose some," said Tong, "but as a Democratic chairman in a Democrat rich area, it's important that we were able to reach out and help. We have the numbers in Alexandria, and the Arlington Democrats reached out and asked for our assistance."

THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE for the 45th District seat will be determined in the June 9 primary.

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Remembering on Memorial Day 2015

On Memorial Day, take at least one minute to reflect on those who have died.

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the line of duty in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,800 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Since Memorial Day 2014, with military operations winding down in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced the deaths of two military service members from Virginia. Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat province, Afghanistan while

conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

EVERY YEAR before Memorial Day, The Connection names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, Va., died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February, 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Va., died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Va., died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Va., died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicky, 24, of Lexington, Va., died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a road-

side bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan, 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

SEE REFLECT ON THOSE. PAGE 14

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren Editor, 703-778-9415 smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Vernon Miles Reporter, 703-615-0960 vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann 703-778-9436 jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

Jon Roetman Sports Editor, 703-752-4013 jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com @jonroetman

Steve Artley Cartoonist artley@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING: For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill Display Advertising, 703-778-9446 jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd Display Advertising, 703-778-9447 tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411 asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher Jerry Vernon jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Editor in Chief Steven Mauren Photography: John Bordner, Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft, Craig Sterbutzel Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly Production Manager: Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus: Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426 Circulation Manager: Ann Oliver circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria.

Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



A Few Ways To Pay Tribute on Memorial Day

- ❖ Monday, May 25, Arlington National Cemetery, National Memorial Day Observance to honor America's fallen military service members. 10:30 a.m., prelude by U.S. Marine Band. 11 a.m., Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, to be followed by an observance program hosted by the Department of Defense in Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater. Free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to be at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or seated in the amphitheater by 9:30 a.m. Free parking and shuttle in the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center's parking lot from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ❖ OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE at 12:01 p.m. This Memorial Day, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) will lay a wreath before the

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 12:01 p.m. and urges people across the country to pause for a national moment of silence to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

- ❖ Alexandria - May 25, 11 a.m. - Memorial Day Ceremony - Versace Plaza/Memorial in Alexandria, Mount Vernon Recreation Center at 2701 Commonwealth Ave.
- ❖ Arlington - May 25 - Air Force Association's Memorial Day Ceremony, 9 a.m. commemorative Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at 9 a.m., at the Air Force Memorial. - 1 Air Force Memorial Dr., Arlington
- ❖ Herndon - May 25 - Herndon Memorial Day Observance - Town of Herndon Memorial Day Observance, Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 10 a.m.

LETTERS

In Memory, In Tribute

To The Editor:

What does Memorial Day really mean to those who wait for their loved ones to return from serving their country in war?

As often as I have written of Memorial Day, I think of those who do not understand the importance of those who have stood in the line of duty for their country.

I give thanks as I read the different stories of our veterans and those we lost. Does one not hear or read what it takes for someone to go to war for our country? Maybe that's the reason I write often about the commemorative plaque on a rock at the Veterans Memorial Walkway along the bike path of the 500 block of South Columbus and Wilkes Street. It sits high and often pedestrians would stop and read the plaque on this rock throughout the year. It has a meaning that can touch the hearts of those who just take a little time to read.

It reads: "Dedicated to the City of Alexandria and Alexandria's Veterans' Organizations On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 1979, in Hon-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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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HISTORY

The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington

Excerpted from "A Son and his Adoptive Father: The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington" 2006 exhibition at Mount Vernon.

So passionate was the Marquis de Lafayette to join the fight for independence in the American colonies that — at his own expense, against the wishes of family and king, and without the knowledge of his wife — he set sail on April 20, 1777 for a place he had never seen. The inexperienced 19-year-old French nobleman spoke no English but studied the language on his journey. In Philadelphia on July 31, 1777, Lafayette met George Washington, then 45 years old, and the two men formed a life-long friendship despite differences in age and nationality. They were united by a common belief in individual liberty and a democratic society that has set them apart as two of the greatest leaders in modern history. Lafayette found in Washington a father figure (his father was killed in battle when Lafayette was only two). To Washington, who had no children of his own, the courageous Lafayette met his expectations of the ideal son.

Like Washington, Lafayette served without pay, supporting himself and his troops. From Lafayette's initiation on the battlefield at Brandywine to his critical role in bringing France into the war as an ally and the decisive victory at Yorktown, the two men's mutual respect and admiration grew. In a 1784 letter to the marquis, George Washington wrote, "It is unnecessary, I persuade myself to repeat to you my Dear Marqs. the sincerity of my regards and friendship, nor



COURTESY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON

"Washington and Lafayette at Mount Vernon, 1784."

have I words which could express my affection for you, were I to attempt it."

In the years following the Revolutionary War, the families exchanged gifts and corresponded frequently. Lafayette's strong abolitionist views no doubt influenced Washington's evolving attitudes toward slavery. Lafayette returned to America in 1784 to visit his "family" at Mount Vernon. During the French Revolution, Lafayette fought for the same freedom and equality he had seen in America. As commander of the National Guard in Paris in 1789, Lafayette obtained one of the keys to the infamous

Bastille prison, which the French revolutionaries had destroyed. With profound emotion, he sent it to Washington as "a tribute Which I owe as A Son to My Adoptive father, as an aid de Camp to My General, as a Missionary of liberty to its patriarch." Through bankruptcy, prison, and exile, Lafayette clung to Washington's example of character and leadership.

At the invitation of President James Monroe on behalf of the American people, Lafayette returned to the United States as "the Nation's Guest" on Aug. 15, 1824. His landing at Castle Garden in New York was

the first of many exuberant celebrations during his 13-month visit. Lafayette received numerous honors and was the first foreign dignitary to address Congress. In Lafayette, Americans saw a living link to George Washington and the glories of the founding era. During the trip, Lafayette reconnected with his American family — the Washingtons. He visited Mount Vernon to mourn at Washington's tomb and to embrace the descendants of George and Martha Washington. Although Lafayette declined a soldier's request to remain in the United States to be buried at his death alongside Washington, Lafayette did return to France with a trunk of American soil for his grave.

Much as France and America had mourned the death of George Washington in 1799, the two countries were brought together again in grief at the loss of Lafayette on May 20, 1834. The chambers of both houses of the U.S. Congress were draped in black. As the years passed, the milestones of Lafayette's life — particularly those he shared with Washington — were memorialized in solemn celebration.

As the Hermione sails past Mount Vernon on June 9, it will pass the "Lafayette bed chamber" on the second floor of the Mansion, which faces the Potomac River. Lafayette stayed in this room during his 1784 visit to Mount Vernon. Today, visitors can pay their respects to the Marquis — the noble "Friend of America" — on a tour of Mount Vernon, where they can see the Key to the Bastille sent by Lafayette and the Lafayette Bedchamber.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11
ored Memory of the Deceased Alexandria Veterans of all the United States wars.

"Their Service in War and Peace Contributed Greatly to the Welfare of Their Fellow Citizens ... Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Mayor ... Robert L. Calhoun, Vice Mayor ...

Donald C. Casey, Councilman ... Margaret B. Inman, Councilwoman ...

Nelson E. Greene, Sr., Councilman ... James P. Moran, Jr., Councilman ...

Carlyle C. Ring, Jr., Councilman..."

In honor of all our men and women in uniform who have served and fought for our country are not forgotten: Thanks.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

Need Money To Fix Streets

To the Editor:

Alexandria's streets have suffered through two harsh winters that have caused a rash of potholes throughout our city. Even with a hasty campaign of spring patching, things remain rocky. Not only do some of the holes remain, but the patching is pretty haphazard and leaves a lot of bumps. Drivers swerving to avoid losing a tire in one of these potholes or rattling their teeth loose on the bumps are endangering other cars

and drivers. It's a vicious circle. How did Alexandria's streets get so bad?

One answer is that Alexandria's budgets for the past few years have suffered from inadequate revenues while expenses continue to rise. I have yet to see a pothole that gets cheaper because it was not filled, and deferred maintenance is actually more expensive in the long run.

Meanwhile, our streets have suffered from normal aging and wear and tear, but also those two hard winters already mentioned. We need to improve our revenue stream so we can maintain all sectors of our transportation network, and poor street conditions are a most obvious problem to citizens.

Our city will benefit from leadership that has a complete understanding of finance, long-range planning, and the consequences of neglecting our priorities. Kerry Donley is running for mayor, and I support him because I believe he has the knowledge, vision, and experience to make sure this city lives up to its obligations and potential in all ways.

Kerry Donley has held leadership positions in Alexandria and regionally for many years. He has served a total of 18 years as a council member, vice mayor, and mayor (mayor from 1996 to 2003), most recently serving as vice mayor from 2009 to 2012. During those years he also represented the

city on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, including time as chair, and on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. He served for years on the board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. He has a thorough understanding of our regional traffic grid and the importance of both roads and transit. A banker by profession, he understands municipal finance. He'll make a difference to our city, its residents, and its roads.

Kevin Grim
Alexandria

Complicating Factors

To the Editor:

The City of Alexandria is leveraging its full faith and credit to issue about \$200 million in debt to pay for construction of the Potomac Metro station. The repayment plan is to segregate funds from property taxes collected from the properties located in or near the site of the Metro station (both residential and commercial) to be captured in a "Station Fund" in amounts sufficient to service this debt as well as other costs associated with the Metro station. Thus, if all works according to plan, Alexandria taxpayers (ie. those not living in the station fund area) would not incur any costs asso-

ciated with the station. It should be noted that "full faith and credit" means that to the extent that anticipated revenues do not cover debt service, Alexandria taxpayers are responsible. Our city leaders assure us that this is unlikely to occur.

But what could cause this to occur? Risks include market risk, economic risk, counterparty performance risk among others. Market risk deals with the financial success of the total venture, particularly in the earlier years. In this respect, probably the shakiest component is the office building sector. Currently neighboring Crystal City has an office vacancy rate of 23 percent second in the area only to Rosslyn's 28 percent. Developers will hesitate to build into this market. Retail seems solid, particularly if a high proportion of existing retailers reestablish in the town center. Residential, both rental and sales, seems close to the saturation point in the area. Given the leveling off of federal government spending, one has to expect the area's economy to act similarly and thus demand for new residences could be somewhat tepid.

In this case, performance risk seems most relevant with respect to the various developers. JBG and MRP are area developers with impressive records while Pulte is one of the major residential developers in the country. The final group, CPYR, has report-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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Old Town Commons 815 Alfred Street N, Alexandria, VA
Stunning brick end unit 4-level TH with charming front porch. Gorgeous hardwoods, heated floors, whole house A/V system, state-of-the-art security, electric car charger in garage. \$998,000
Karen Leonard CBmove.com/AX8634639



Open House, Sunday 1-4 pm
Old Town 708 Snowden Hollowell Way, Alexandria, VA
LEED Cert. Brick End Unit TH w/Rooftop Terrace overlooking Old Town. Walk 4 blks to Metro. Walk score 90+ to shops, rest. No detail overlooked. Private St. Open 1-4 Sun. 5/24
\$975,000 **Fred Marcellus CBmove.com/AX8635655**



Just Listed! 6201 Waterlily Court, Alexandria, VA Elegant 4 BR, 4.5 BA Colonial w/2-Car Garage on a quiet cul-de-sac. Gracious Rooms w/Formal LR & DR, Gourmet Kitchen, hwd floors, screened-in porch, amazing LL Recreation/Media Room. \$929,900
Ann-Marie Grotticelli CBmove.com/FX8630459



Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Dawson Woods 3804 Kings Hill Court, Alexandria, VA Huge Home on quiet cul-de-sac situated in a beautiful area. Walk to MVHS. Rooms are big and bright with plenty of storage! Gourmet kitchen with spacious family room and breakfast room. 2-car garage! Basement is finished with 2nd family room, weight room and 5th bedroom. Media room is a BONUS! Deck off back of home. \$925,000 **Eileen Marousek CBmove.com/FX8624851**



Warwick Village 2912 Hickory Street, Alexandria, VA
Warwick Village beauty END unit townhome! 3 bed/2 baths, finished basement, gardens front, side and back! Gleaming hardwoods, open concept, hardscaping front and back! Gorgeous! \$530,000
Lyssa Seward CBmove.com/AX8365494



Open House, Sunday 1-4 pm Hiddenbrook 7871 Rolling Woods Ct, Springfield, VA Over 55 luxury community. Park model. Main level end unit with 2 bedrooms, den, and garage parking down the hall. 9-ft ceilings, 3 piece crown molding, and plantation shutters \$425,000 **Steve Deleyiannis CBmove.com/FX8546383**

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Huntington 2134 Farrington Ave, Alexandria, VA
Near Metro! Many updates: windows, kitchen, bath, h/w floors. 2 BR, 1 BA, 3 levels, fenced yard. www.RitaRealtor.com \$325,000
Rita McCauley-Redmond CBmove.com/FX8627102



Cameron Station 124 Cameron Station Boulevard, Alexandria, VA Stunning, pristine, end unit TH. Sun-filled open spaces w/gleaming hardwoods on 3 lvls, fresh paint, MBR suite with FP and renovated bath. This home offers privacy and relaxation. \$609,000
Karen Leonard CBmove.com/AX8634639



Wilton Hall 6030 Shaffer Dr, Alexandria, VA
Great close-in location near Metro! Beautiful sunroom overlooking lush backyard. 4 BR, 3 BA. Updates: baths, HVAC, windows. www.RitaRealtor.com \$499,000
Rita McCauley-Redmond CBmove.com/FX8633373



Just Listed River Towers 6631 Wakefield Drive #517, Alexandria, VA 2 BR/1.5 BA corner unit boasting impeccable hardwood floors, fresh paint & great roof-top view. Nestled in 26 acres of park-like setting just south of Old Town, Alexandria. \$225,000
Heidi Burkhardt CBmove.com/FX8634597

Alexandria | 703.518.8300
CBmove.com



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Want to learn more? Visit us at www.alexrenew.com or call 703-549-3383.

OPINION

Reflect on Those who Have Died

FROM PAGE 10

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Va., died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, Va., died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being been seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

MILITARY NOTES

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

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Steven S. Klinger** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Klinger is the son of Steven S. Klinger of Ohatchee, Ala. and Deborah L. Reed of Alexandria. He is a 2008 graduate of Exeter

High School, Exeter, N.H. He earned an associate degree in 2012 from Great Bay Community College, Portsmouth, N.H.

Air Force Airman **Ana J. Espinal** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Espinal is the cousin of Vanessa B. Mendez of Alexandria.



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— Helena Scott



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City of Alexandria Public Meeting

Combined Sewer System Long Term Control Plan Update

Thursday, June 18, 2015
7 - 9 p.m.

City Hall, Chet and Sabra Conference Room 2000
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

The City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is hosting a public meeting and inviting public comments related to the City's Combined Sewer System (CSS) and its impacts on surface waters along with the City's planning efforts to meet new regulations pertaining to combined sewer overflows. The City's CSS Permit requires the inclusion of community input in developing the update to the City's Long Term Control Plan for its CSS.

Give your written or oral comments at the public meeting. For more information or questions regarding the upcoming meeting, please contact Erin Bevis-Carver, P.E., Sanitary Section Lead, Transportation and Environmental Services at 703.746.4154 or Erin.BevisCarver@alexandriava.gov.

This meeting is open to the public. The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended. To request a reasonable accommodation, email Geraldyn.Taylor@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.4084, Virginia Relay 711.



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

edly agreed to help fund the station cost but only if Alternative B (the alternative with the highest permitted development) was chosen. As expected Alternative B has been recommended but CPYR has indicated it now wishes to renegotiate its contribution downward. Now that CPYR has its desired alternative, it wants its contribution to shrink. I guess this is how performance risk works, although some may use a different expression.

A Kearney
Alexandria

Enough of Status Quo

To the Editor:

After receiving the second phone call from the Euille campaign wanting to know if I have any concerns that the mayor needs to know about, I have to wonder what took him so long to ask. After all, he has had 4-plus years to ask me (or anyone else for that matter) what is important to me as a resident and taxpayer in Alexandria. The fact of the matter is that he, along with others on the City Council, have taken advantage of the fact that the council is elected at large, that is, they don't represent any particular segment of Alexandria residents. Therefore, when they are elected they are free to do whatever it is that they want without regard for the wishes of Alexandria residents (except of course, when election time arrives and they need to make some token gesture to appear as if they actually care about what people say).

As the city grows in size this form of governance becomes more and more of an outlier when compared with how most other urban

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parking tickets
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our journey
through breaths
and deaths
myths
and griefs
calculated curves
and words
life's marks
silently echo
off the walls
of the Athenaeum
in the works
of Robert Cwiok

— **Peter Lattu**
March 2015
on exhibit

city governments operate. As far as I am concerned, a vote for Bill Euille or Kerry Donley is a vote for the status quo. Allison Silberberg, however, has a record of not voting with the Democratic pack on the City Council by taking the opinion of individuals into account when making decisions. I support Allison in the upcoming Democratic primary so that Alexandria can move forward with policies that benefit individuals rather than favoring developers.

Micheline Eyraud
Alexandria

Frustrated Taxpayer


To the Editor:

I am frustrated. I have not felt represented by the majority of the actions taken by city hall over the past 25 years. Is anyone else with me?

❖ Are you heartbroken by the erosion of the historic character of Old Town and Parker Grey and want to preserve what is left?

❖ Are you embarrassed "historic" Alexandria banners hang along entire blocks of new construction?

❖ Are you concerned that the
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23



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Today is a great time to enter the real estate market. Why throw money away on rent when you can be your own landlord? Mortgage rates are still low and the market is full of highly-motivated sellers. Are you interested but don't know where to start?

We are hosting free monthly FAQs for potential first-time home buyers around Carlyle and would love to have you join us. We have gathered local experts to share their knowledge and information: Renner CPAs, a lender from MVB Mortgage and SunTrust Bank, and the Stone Wood Team, the #1 Keller Williams agents in Old Town.

Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited. Please R.S.V.P. to join us:

• **Saturday, May 2 or June 6 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** at 309 Holland Lane, The Royalton Condos above Whole Foods, in the lounge

• **Thursday, May 21 or June 18 from 7 to 8 p.m.** at 2331 Mill Road, suite 100 (yellow awning at Intelligent Office) R.S.V.P. at 703-739-4663 or info@StoneWoodTeam.com

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8300 Midwood St
\$569,000
Looks Like New Home!

Absolutely everything has been done on this fabulous property. All you have to do is move in! Features include: updated kitchen, gas cooktop, beautifully updated baths, gorgeous hwd flrs, 2 fireplaces, and four large bedrooms. Exceptionally attractive setting on large landscaped lot. Fenced backyard and large deck. A truly special property. **OPEN SUN 5/24, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Collingwood; L-Fort Hunt Rd; R-Cool Spring; L-Midwood on corner!**



4831 Stillwell Ave
\$565,000
Absolutely Adorable!

Curb appeal abounds in this classic cape in gorgeous setting on landscaped half acre lot in quiet neighborhood surrounded by country club grounds and parkland. Many features include: 4BRs, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, thermal windows. Prime location offering quiet tranquil environment yet convenient to everything!



8720 Plymouth Road
\$1,695,000
Brand New Home!

Spectacular Wakefield home loaded with virtually every custom upgrade & amenity in fabulous Plymouth Haven! Three levels of luxury! Fabulous features include striking open floor plan, high ceilings, designer kitchen, luxury baths, hardwood floors, sumptuous master suite, fabulous screen porch and 3 car garage. Prime location on large lot-walk to Waynewood School!



9315 Ludgate Dr
\$1,249,999
Estate Caliber Property—Near River!

No expense was spared in creating this magnificent custom Colonial designed to be seller's ultimate dream home. Stately, classic exterior combined with bright, open floor plan. App. 5721 sq ft of luxuriously finished space. Includes all the new home bells and whistles & virtually every upgrade and modern amenity. Exquisitely landscaped grounds!



9413 Bramble Lane
\$899,000
Custom Home with Main Level Master Suite!

Custom home built by Wakefield Homes in 2010. Fabulous "new home" amenities including high ceilings, open floor plan and energy conserving package. Upgrades include: 4 luxury baths, 5 BR including two master suites, one on main level, hardwood floors, chef's kitchen and finished walk-out lower level. Many features the builder is utilizing in \$1.5+ homes!



9357 Mount Vernon Cir
\$1,500,000
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Mary Taylor 703.785.5619
ALEXANDRIA \$1,189,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

528 GIBBON ST Gorgeous renovation of an historic Old Town home. 2,485 sf approximately showing spacious rooms, wonderful floor plan, hardwoods thru-out. Brand new kitchen with all Viking appliances and upgraded granite opens to family room and enclosed patio. 3BR/2.5BA plus bonus room.



Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
ALEX. / Porto Vecchio \$415,000 OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4

1250 S WASHINGTON ST, #618 Charming pied-a-terre that is move-in ready! New kitchen with marble counters and floors, SSA, upgraded lights and hardware thru-out. Wood-burning fireplace. Private open balcony with views of the city, bridge and Hunting Creek. Elegant bath, plantation shutters and high ceilings.



Rose Mary Cousins 703.627.0404
ALEXANDRIA / South Meadows \$253,700

Bright and sunny unit that shows like a model with SSSS upgrades. Recently painted; all new flooring; eat-in kitchen has new appliances, tile back splash and ceramic flooring. Large windows, balcony, gas fireplace complete the tour. Close to Huntington Metro, airport, Huntley Meadows, shops, restaurants and more.



Connie Arega 703.608.3106
ALEXANDRIA \$514,900 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

5017 LINCOLN AVE Great home. Excellent location. Recently renovated 5BR/3.5BA, finished basement on 5+ acre. Updated baths, hardwoods thru-out main level, all major systems updated, new HE heat pump, new windows, freshly painted, refinished floors. Close to 395, shops and Metro.

CLERMONT



Jim Crowe 703.856.8244
ALEXANDRIA \$895,000

NEW PRICE! Wonderful brand new home. Stunning front porch overlooking wooded front yard accented with colorful flowers. Builder is ready to sell and move on to his next project. Located within easy access of commuter routes, Old Town, DC, and the beltway, it is a short walk to the elementary, middle and high schools. 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 1 half bath, premium lot, 3-car garage, gas fireplace, beautiful deck, smart-home wired, large and fabulous kitchen/family room combo, granite, stainless steel Whirlpool appliances, 2 ovens, breakfast room, crown molding thru-out, hardwoods thru-out main level, carpet on upper. Huge lower level with 9+ft ceilings, large family room plus bedroom and bath. Lifetime guarantee on landscaping.



Gary Ansley 202.288.7946
ALEXANDRIA / The Palisades \$729,000

5BR/3.5BA home with beautiful and inviting front porch and flagstone walk. Kitchen has breakfast nook opens to family room with fireplace, separate dining room. Gorgeous hardwood floors on most of 2 levels. Sunroom with ac/heat. Whole house gas generator/H2O water filter. High-end cedar shake roof and more!



Mike Manuel 703.615.6317
ALEXANDRIA / Landmark Mews \$589,900

Large and spacious 3BR/3full+2half BA townhome freshly painted and carpeted. 2 fireplaces, built-in bookcases, wet bar, skylight, upper wood deck/lower patio, garage parking and all located in a lovely park-like setting in private section of the community. Quick commutes to Old Town, DC, airport and more.



Val Klotz 703.303.9744
ALEXANDRIA / Taylor Run \$485,000

Under 1 mile to King St Metro and move-in ready! Wood floors thru-out and freshly painted. Deck off kitchen for entertaining, fully fenced yard and backs to woods and park. Fully finished LL family room with separate entrance. Off-street parking. Douglas MacArthur ES. 3BR/1.5BA.



Pia Taylor 301.661.9974
ALEX. / River Towers \$189,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

6641 WAKEFIELD DR #215 Adorable, sun-lit, balcony unit overlooking green space and community pool. Freshly painted thru-out. Smartly renovated kitchen with lots of storage. Original parquet floors in great condition. Bathroom renovated. Unit has gigantic closets. Convenient to 495 and GW Parkway.

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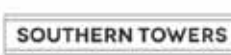
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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS BY CHRIS BANKS

Susan Lynskey and Michael Russotto star in "The Letters" at Alexandria's MetroStage.

MetroStage Presents Lowell's 'The Letters'

Psychological, cat-and-mouse drama takes place in 1930's Soviet Union.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

MetroStage in Alexandria is presenting the psychological drama, "The Letters," directed by John Vreeke, Through June 14. The two-person play written by John W. Lowell, starring Susan Lynskey as Anna and Michael Russotto as The Director, takes place in an office in 1930's Soviet Union. The Director calls Anna, a bureaucratic functionary, into his office, and a psychological cat-and-mouse game ensues. It represents a slice of paranoid life under Stalin and the effort to edit, suppress or censor the writings of prominent artists. Based on the real-life Soviet efforts to edit the sexually frank letters of composer Tchaikovsky to his male lover/interest, this is the Washington, D.C. area premiere in MetroStage's intimate theater setting.

"If after seeing one of my plays a person sees the world a little differently, has heard an idea expressed in a way he hasn't heard it expressed before, or has simply laughed at an unusual turn of phrase or been startled by an unusual twist of plot, I feel I have succeeded," said Lowell. "And the greatest feeling is knowing that someone who has seen the play once, might just want to see it again."

He said what began as an exploration of the costs, the dangers of state intrusion into private, personal matters, evolved into a broader indictment of the way corporate structures — governmental or business — contrive to manipulate the truth as a means of enforcing their agendas.

Russotto plays The Director, a 1930s-era Soviet bureaucrat with a military back-

ground in charge of a large ministry tasked with creating a kind of pure cultural history for the Soviet people. This requires the adjustment of certain documents, he says. "He believes whole-heartedly in the ministry's mission, and will do whatever is necessary to accomplish it," he said.

He adds: "He's a rather street-smart man, with a type-A personality, but he has a bit of an inferiority complex, which makes him a bit of a bully, and, on occasion he can seem rather cruel. But all of his actions are performed in service to the state."

As far as challenges, it's an 80-minute, two-person play with a lot of words to keep in one's head. "It's important that these two characters be an even match for each other," he said. "If The Director is too overwhelming, or Anna is too meek, the play becomes predictable, and not very exciting to watch. Hopefully we've sidestepped that pitfall in our production."

He hopes the audience will see parallels with what is happening in the U.S. today. "As our own government invades our lives a little bit more every day, as privacy and personal liberties continue to disappear, as we're told what to think and how to feel by an ever more homogenous media, the play provides a window into what happens with official over-reach," Russotto said.

MetroStage is presenting "The Letters" Through June 14. Show times are Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7 p.m.; Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. MetroStage is located at 1201 N. Royal St. Tickets are \$50-\$55. Group Rates are available for groups of 10 or more. Call the Box Office at 703-548-9044, email info@metrostage.org or visit www.MetroStage.org.

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 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.

"Perceptions" Through May 31, 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.

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 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.our.convergence.org.

"Living Yesterday Today." Through June 14 at 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.

"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 for more. **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.

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

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

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

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 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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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 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 for a schedule.

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.

Drawing and Painting Lab for Teens. Wednesdays, June 24-July 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Teens ages 13-17 may explore techniques including concepts of shape, line, texture and color blending. The fee is \$77 for four 2-hour lessons. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

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.

MAY 12-JUNE 2

Art Exhibition. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. An exhibit of new work by local artists Teresa Oaxaca and Robert Liberace will be on display. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com/alexandria.

THURSDAY/MAY 21

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Open House. 1:30-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 137. As part of the Creative Aging Festival take a Tai Chi class for arthritis and hear a bell choir group. Free. Visit www.artsfairfax.org.

Guided Tour of The Winged



'Living Yesterday Today'

Photographer Sandy LeBrun-Evans' new exhibit is a collection of photographs from Civil War Reenactments. "Living Yesterday Today" is on display at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St. until June 14. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

Bestiary. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The rear galleries of RARA AVIS are devoted to the collaborative work of artist Langley Spurlock and poet Martin Tarrat and their folio: "The Winged Bestiary, an Abecedarium of Feathered Nonsense." Free to attend. See nvfaa.org.

Witness to War & Reunion. 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. This spring lecture series looks at the end of the Civil War, and its aftermath. "The Art of Memorializing the Civil War," by Susan Cumbey, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. \$5. Seating is limited, make reservations in person, at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4994.

West Potomac Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac High School Band Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble will have a spring concert. Free. Contact Sue Genuario at gensure@aol.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 22

EMS Memorial Bike Ride. 3-5 p.m. in Old Town on King, Royal and Fairfax streets. Honor EMS workers who died serving their communities. The ride ends at Oronoco Bay Park. Free. Contact Ray Whatley at ray.whatley@alexandriava.gov.

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages on Friday evenings. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the 'Aqua Challenge' floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. \$4 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280 for more.

The Retrocessionists. 8 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Audience members are invited to make suggestions to an improv group. Admission is \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

MAY 22-JULY 22

"The Lonely Drone." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. Artist Brian William's

oil paintings on aluminum panel are meant to convey what a drone would see from above. Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 22-23

Eric Roberson Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Eric Roberson's performance will feature jazz, hip-hop, and blues styled music. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com/events/eric-roberson/.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

"The Lonely Drone" Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. Celebrate the new exhibit at the Schlesinger Center. Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com.

Grand Reopening Party. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. The Carlyle Club will celebrate their new location with Big Bad Juju, a nine-piece band, and a new menu. Tickets are \$18. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 24

Running Festival. 7 a.m.-12 p.m. at National Inventors Hall of Fame, 600 Dulany St. Start off the morning running the streets of Alexandria on a children's one-mile, 5K, or half-marathon run. The children's one-mile is \$15, the 5K is \$50, and the half marathon is \$80. Prices will rise on May 23. Visit www.mc-coop.org/alexandria_running_festival.aspx.

MONDAY/MAY 25

Memorial Day Jazz Festival. 1-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St. The Army Blue Jazz Ensemble will kick off the concert, to be followed by Origem, Hally Shoenberg Jazz Quartet and more. Free. Call 703-746-5592.

TUESDAY/MAY 26

Planetarium Show. 7:15-8:30 p.m. at the T.C. Williams Planetarium, 3330 King St. Each month, families are invited to join Bob Nicholson to learn more about astronomy and space science. Free. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/planetarium.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 27

ENTERTAINMENT

“The Rehearsal” and “The Exchange.” 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center 1500 Shenandoah Road. As a part of Fairfax County’s Creative Aging Festival, Hollin Hall Senior Center Theater Group presents two brief play readings: “The Rehearsal,” a comic sketch and “The Exchange,” a farce. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments served. Call 703-765-4573.

West Potomac Percussion Concert. 7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac High School Percussion Ensemble will have a spring concert. Free. Contact Sue Genuario at gensure@aol.com.

“What a Place I Have Found.” 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Paula Tarnapol Whitacre will discuss Julia Wilbur who visited Alexandria as a relief worker for the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society in 1862. Free. Call 703-746-4706.

DJ Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick’s Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. Dance to music of the 1930s, ’40s, ’50s. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 28

Fairfax County Creative Aging Festival Mandala Workshop. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Experience the healing power of creating a personal Mandala using guided meditation. All art materials provided. Free and open to the public. Call 703-765-4573

Jane Franklin Dance Troupe at Creative Aging Festival. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Forty+ Dance engages people over 40 of all physical abilities. The performance includes an audience participation portion. Refreshments served. Free and open to the public. Call 703-765-4573 or 703-324-4600.

Fiery Run Concert. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Listen to traditional and original folk compositions. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org/.

Trivia Night. 7-9 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Test one’s knowledge of the Silver Screen while enjoying food and drinks with friends. Free. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/.

Lafayette Ball Dance Classes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn English country dances from the 18th century. Lessons are \$12 for one session and \$30 for three sessions. Visit <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx>.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

School Lunch Bunch Concerts. 12:15-1 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Watch the Immanuel Lutheran School’s student choirs sing. Free. Call 703-746-5592.

Art Demonstration. 6 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Artist and Art League instructor Robert Liberace will be giving demonstrations of his work. Liberace’s work centers around the study of human anatomy, art history and technique. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com/alexandria.

West Potomac High School Jazz Band. 7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac High School Jazz Band will have a spring concert. Free. Contact Sue Genuario at gensure@aol.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Bake/Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-3081.

ASA Soccer Fest. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate the end of ASA’s spring season by playing and watching soccer. Free. Contact Ann Clark at asasoc1@alexandria-soccer.org.

3rd Annual Croquet Day. 12-4 p.m. at Hensley Park, 4200 Eisenhower Ave. Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) is hosting a croquet tournament to raise funds for their efforts in Northern Virginia. Those who choose not to play will find other lawn games including bocce ball, life-size Angry Birds, bean bag toss, etc. Tickets are \$15 for spectators, team registration for 3-4 people is \$150, and family teams are \$75. Visit www.scanva.org.

Orchestra. 7 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 611 King St. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia presents “Symphonic Tap” with Capitol Tap. Visit www.sonovamusic.org for more.

“Broadway Goes Choral!” 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Lane. The Symphonic Chorus, Master Singers, Concert Choir, and soloists, will perform alongside a symphony orchestra. Find works from shows by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Stephen Sondheim, and more. Tickets are \$10-40. Visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

Collective Delusion. 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow’s Tavern, 710 King St. Local band plays rock songs from ’70s to present. Admission is free. Visit www.CollectiveDelusion.net.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

“Spandex in the Narthex.” 9 a.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. The church is raising funds for pastor Jason Micheli with a Fun Run/Walk, cook-out and live music. An entry for the fun run is \$16 for an individual and \$50 for a family. Plates are \$7 plus a \$5 donation. Visit www.aldersgate.net.

Bright Young Things. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Party like decadent members of the elite in 1920s. Tickets are \$32. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Salon With James Madison. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. “President James Madison” will discuss The Treaty of Ghent and its aftermath. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school and college students. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

Concert. 4-5:15 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Virginia Bronze community handbell ensemble will perform pop favorites. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for students and \$20 for a family. Visit www.vabronze.org.

A Brahms-Schumann Soirée. 5-7 p.m. at the Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Enjoy a chamber music ensemble performing pieces composed by Brahms and Schumann. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=10460.

MONDAY/JUNE 1

“Who Are Those Guys?” 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Kim Holien, a professional U.S. Army historian will discuss Civil War figures whose names are on some West End Alexandria streets. Free. Call 703-746-4554.

Joe Ely. 8:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Newly appointed Texas State Musician for

2016 Joe Ely will perform his “alt-country” music. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 2

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.

“Wicked Northern Virginia.” 6-8 p.m. at Morrison House Hotel, 116 S. Alfred St. Local author Michael Lee Pope will discuss the dark side of Northern Virginia including the brothels in Alexandria and the Aryan Nations of Arlington. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

T.C. Williams Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School Auditorium, 3330 King St. Award-winning high school choirs will perform. Free. Call 703-625-4291.

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Private Gardens of Philadelphia. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Travel to Philadelphia for a day-trip an visit private gardens. Tickets are \$138 for the bus, tours and lunch. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

“Love Note.” 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. “Love Note” is an original play by Louise Schoettler detailing the story of her marriage to her late husband Jim. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.conta.cc/Hm2uoK.

Author Talk. 7-8 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Local poet Neva Herrington, discusses her poetry and shares readings from her new book, “Open Season.” Free. Call 703-746-1768.

“June 6, 1944: The Beginning of the End.” 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave. The Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee will present a lecture by Thomas Christianson, Senior Historian for the Secretary of Defense. \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.ddaylecture2015.eventbrite.com to RSVP.

Artist’s Talk. 7 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Bridging Worlds” artist Lori K. Gordon will discuss the inspiration for her exhibit. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/gordon.

JUNE 4-JULY 19

“Saturate.” Gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Six artists use different mediums to convey moisture. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 5

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Flamenco guitarist Ottmar Liebert will perform with his band. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

JUNE 5-28

“Building Bridges.” gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2701 Mount Vernon Ave. The gallery will unveil an exhibit that is the result of a partnership with Six Degrees Consortium. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

Butterfly Container Gardening Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to create a butterfly container garden to attract and feed butterflies and other pollinators. The



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ENTERTAINMENT



left: “Summer” by Mary Holmgren, and “Sharks Family” by Julia Dzikiewicz

‘Dimensions’ Opens June 1

The “Dimensions” exhibit at the Torpedo Factory’s TAG Gallery, 105 N. Union St., will include the work of four artists who work in varied media. The exhibit is on display June 1-28. Admission to the gallery is free. See www.torpedofactory.org.

fee is \$35. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

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.

Family Fun: Worm Workshop. 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to build a 10-gallon bin with newspaper bedding, food scraps, and live worms that will recycle garbage into rich compost. The program alone is \$6 and

\$15 for the program and worm kit supplies. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Live Jazz Concert. 7-10:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Keyboardist Marcus Johnson takes the stage for the benefit of Virginia Music Adventures, Inc., a non-profit educational organization that promotes jazz music through performances by young musicians. Admission is \$35. Contact abby@vamusicaventures.org or call 703-919-3323.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

“Fashion and Invention.” 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist and collector Caroline Hottenstein will present a timeline of tools, inventions and innovations that have influenced changes in fashion and fibers over the centuries. View pieces from Caroline’s antique clothing collection that showcase the historical connection between fashion and technology. The program is \$38 with afternoon tea and \$15 without tea. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Family Fun: Strawberry Tea Party. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Walk through Green Spring Gardens to see how strawberries and other fruits grow, then have tea and a snack. The program is \$15. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

“Saturate” Opening Reception. 4 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate the opening of the new exhibit in which six artists use diverse media to convey “watery wetness.” Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7, 14, AND 28

Cook For Your Pet. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Pet Sage, 2391 S. Dove St. and Southern Kitchens, 2350 Duke St. Take a three-part course on cooking for your cat or dog. Each session is \$25, or \$60 for all three. Visit www.petsage.com.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/JUNE 10-12

French Tall Ship Hermione Tours. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday at the Alexandria Marina. Explore Hermione, an exact replica of the ship that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington with news of full French aid in 1780, turning the tide of the American Revolution. Tickets are free, but are limited. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

The ASO Garden Party. 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cauley Deringer, 1198 Janneys Lane. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra celebrates their annual garden party with a jazz theme. Individual tickets are \$150. Visit www.alexsym.org.

The Manhattan Transfer. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jazz ensemble will perform. Tickets are \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Witness to War & Reunion. 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. This spring lecture series looks at the end of the Civil War, and

its aftermath. “Remembering the Civil War,” by Caroline Janney, Purdue University. \$5. Seating is limited, make reservations in person, at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4994.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 12-13

Wine and Dine on George Washington’s Lawn. 6-9 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. George Washington’s Mount Vernon invites visitors to sip wine and taste local and historic culinary fare while watching the sunset at the Mount Vernon Estate. Admission is \$20 per person. See mountvernon.org/summerescape.

Teenage Hero: Marquis de Lafayette Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Harlow Giles Unger has been a frequent speaker at Mount Vernon and on radio and television. Tickets are \$10. See www.shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx or call 703-746-4994.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

George Mason Day. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Commemorate the June 1776 ratification of Mason’s Virginia Declaration of Rights by joining the color guard in procession to Mason’s tomb for a wreath laying, and more. Free. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.

Balsamic Vinegar Tasting Party. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the history of balsamic vinegar and how to determine genuine balsamic vinegar from fake vinegars. Admission is \$30. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

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PHOTO GALLERY!

“Me and My Dad”

To honor dad on Father’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Alexandria Gazette Packet will publish them in our Father’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 photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers built 60 desk/bookshelf combos for children.

Volunteering for Volunteers

BY KATHARINE DIXON
PRESIDENT & CEO

REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Last month, we joined Rebuilding Together affiliates across the country for National Rebuilding Day when 10,000 volunteers nationwide provided free home repairs and upgrades to homes and communities. In Alexandria, more than 800 volunteers stepped up on this national day of service to help low-income homeowners with repairs. This giant effort was an important way to show the power of volunteerism in revitalizing a community and changing lives.

REBUILDING
TOGETHER
ALEXANDRIA

But we don't wait for the fourth Saturday of April to harness the skills, time and work ethic of our dedicated volunteer corps. We are out in the community in force throughout the year.

One way we enjoy working in the city is in partnership with other nonprofits that are providing important services to the community. Over the past month, we teamed up with four different nonprofits to extend our work to even more Alexandrians including:

❖ Salvation Army: 100 Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers helped Salvation Army clients on Mount Vernon Avenue by building vegetable green

houses, benches, and tables; planting bushes and trees; constructing raised vegetable gardens; and painting a mural so residents can enjoy their outdoor space.

❖ Wright to Read: 45 of our volunteers built 60 desk/bookshelf combos for children that participate in this exceptional tutoring program who then painted their own whimsical designs on the desks.

❖ Friends of Guest House: A team of 20 volunteers sorted through hundreds of clothing and household items at this shelter for ex-offender women. They also built shelves to store the items and organized the goods.

❖ Carpenter's Shelter: 25 volunteers organized materials and painted many rooms for the residents of this outstanding shelter that serves families and individuals who are homeless. Helping homeowners remain in safe and healthy homes is important to strengthening our community and preserving housing affordability. There's more than one way to do it as our teaming up with other nonprofits that are interacting with at risk Alexandrians demonstrates. Partnering with other local nonprofits is a growing and vital part of our work that's bringing efficiencies and new ideas to the community.

If you know of any struggling homeowners — or a nonprofit who serves them — who could benefit from our expertise fueled by volunteer power, contact us at RebuildingTogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 15

congested traffic and scarce parking in Old Town will only be exacerbated by recent development approvals on the waterfront?

❖ Are you frustrated that it seems like City Council's minds are made up before they go through the motions of "listening" to citizen input?

❖ Do you resent that new businesses are given tax breaks and incentives to move here while residents' real estate taxes have been generally climbing year after year?

The only opportunity to have a say in who leads our city as mayor for the next four years is to vote in the Democratic primary on June 9. You need not be a registered Democrat to participate in the primary. There are no Republican candidates for mayor. Whoever wins the primary election will be your next mayor. Of the three candidates, incumbent William D. Euille has been mayor for the past 11 years, and Kerry Donnelly was mayor 15 years prior to that. I hope there are enough people in Alexandria — Democrats and Republicans — who will demonstrate they are tired of being disappointed by city leadership and cast a vote for Allison Silberberg for

mayor.

Twig Murray
Alexandria

Acclaimed New Field

To the Editor:

On my way home from church early Sunday afternoon, I noticed a soccer game in progress on the newly constructed Jefferson-Houston playing field, so I went across the street to watch Cal-Berkeley play Yale. Figuring the Yale players would first-off want to know where I got my degree and, it being a second-tier university, wouldn't let me sit with them, I made a strategic decision to sit w/ Cal-Berkeley. Luckily, the player sitting next to me has a grandfather who taught at my alma mater while I was a student there.

Yale's goalkeeper is this massive young man whose size reminded me of legendary MLS goalkeeper Zack Thornton. Yale beat Cal-Berkeley 5-2. Members of both teams, when they found out I live nearby, commended the quality of the new artificial turf field, which their league

<http://dcalum.org/>
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

C'MON, BE HONEST.
WHAT WOULD YOU
RATHER BE DOING
THIS SUMMER?



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Mentorship Built on Friendship

BY ADRIANA GOMEZ

Kat started mentoring Angie through Casa Chirilagua in the spring of 2014 during Angie's 1st grade. From the beginning, this mentor match was a match made in heaven. Kat is such an outgoing person and Angie loves to tell stories, make-believe or not. Kat is very consistent in her mentorship with Angie and they both have had quite an exciting first year.

MENTOR OF THE MONTH

At the start of their mentorship, one of the challenges Kat was faced with was Angie preferring to be read-to than reading aloud. Kat decided to make a pact that would require Angie to work on her reading skills and reading aloud. After two months, they were able to finish their first chapter book, "Alice in Wonderland." Kat has also helped Angie form better story-telling skills, understanding the difference between imagination and real-life.

Kat takes advantage of all the outings offered through the Casa Mentoring Program. They both participated in the nature-sketch outing where all participants were given an art kit and taught by a professional "naturalist" how to sit in nature and sketch. Kat also took Angie to her very first major league baseball game with free tickets offered by the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership. During the game, Kat explained to her the rules in baseball and Angie took in every moment. When Kat would question whether or not her mentorship was making an impact in Angie's life, Angie would do something that would completely surprise Kat. In her monthly report for September 2014, Kat wrote: "I told Angie she could select whatever she wanted from the food



Kat Grandstaff-Bradford and Angie.

bars, but she needed at least one veggie. She came back with a pile of cucumbers and told me that she's liked them ever since we had our picnic over the summer. My little heart melted ... over cucumbers. HAHA Kids eating veggies! Victory!"

Kat and Angie continue to build on their friendship not only with each other but with their families as well. Kat and Angie's family spent some time together during the holiday break getting to know each other, which was reported as the highlight of the month in Kat's monthly report. This mentorship continues to flourish and is an example of the impact a mentor and mentee make in each other's lives. It is mentorships like this one which illustrate Casa Chirilagua's core value of relationship-building and the positive impact it has in the community.

Casa Chirilagua is part of the the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP), which was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. There are 11 professionally managed programs in the partnership that need adult mentors. To learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>

Senior Travel: A Variety of Options

BY ROSIE BORDERS
DOT PARATRANSIT SUPERVISOR
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Everyday at Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) the DOT Paratransit Team answers calls from disabled individuals, many of them seniors, who need transportation to get around town. When driving is no longer an option, many seniors struggle to stay independent while "aging in place" without a reliable form of transportation.

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

The DOT Para-Transit Program is easy to use, providing taxi based services for residents of Alexandria City who find it difficult to use public transportation. It is regulated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, providing curb-to-curb service. SSA manages the DOT Paratransit reservation line seven days a week.

While making a reservation, one of our favorite clients recently told me, "The DOT transportation service is just wonderful. What a blessing it is to me and to the older persons in the City of Alexandria. I don't like being a bother or burden to my family, neighbors and friends, and this is why DOT transportation helps so much. It takes a burden off my family and everyone else to take me different places. I get where I need to go, and do anything I want and need to do at a good price. I really, really like this program and I am so thankful for it."

To find out more about the DOT Paratransit program call 703-836-4414, ext. 116, or go to SSA's website: www.seniorservicesalex.org

The city's Division of Aging and Adult Services



operates several other senior transportation programs for those 60 and over, including group grocery shopping trips and the Senior Taxi Yellow Card Program, which is available to income-eligible seniors. The card may be used for discounted taxi service, and clients schedule their rides directly with Yellow Cab.

The "Door Thru Door" program provides trained escorts to accompany seniors who need assistance getting to medical appointments due to medical or cognitive limitations. Trained health care aides will travel with the individual to non-urgent medical appointments, stay with them during the appointment and travel back home with them. There is currently no charge for the escort, but the cost of transportation is the responsibility of the senior. For more information about Senior Taxi, group grocery shopping, and Door Thru Door, call the city's Division of Aging and Adult Services at 703-746-5999.

You can learn more about the reliable, economical and accessible Alexandria DASH Bus System by calling 703-746-3274 or at www.dashbus.com. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) operates Metro Access taxi service for seniors and persons with disabilities as well as the Metro and Metrobus services. Their contact information is 202-637-7000 or www.wmata.com.

If you are a senior, or a know of a senior who needs help finding out what the best transportation options might be for them, call SSA at 703-836-4414. We can talk through these various options in more detail and see what works best.

FROM PAGE 23

Sport.aspx?id=5&m=779 had reserved for Sunday afternoons for their entire season. But, they explained, they had had to find alternative venues 'til a few weeks ago because the field was not yet ready.

As far as I know, the neighborhood had not been formally informed that the field was now open, even though their league had reserved it several months ago before it was even completed. Nevertheless, it is heartening to know that users of this caliber so highly regard this facility. When we citizen-taxpayers bellyache about how much the Jefferson-Houston project cost, one key question is whether we got our money's worth. While the ultimate test is whether our \$44-million unaccredited school makes adequate yearly progress and is accredited, I'm inclined to think that, certainly as regards the recreation field, we did.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Change Strategy

To the Editor:

I am surprised to learn that Kerry Donley, who has been involved in our city for many years both as a banker and as an elected official, still does not understand that elected officials cannot control the pace of development. However much we may enact permissive rules such as overlay districts and approve massive increases in density, the ultimate choice on whether to build or not belongs to investors whose decisions are based as much on the economy as on whether a local government is "business friendly."

During his last term on Council, Mr. Donley attended many public meetings and took an active part in the creation of the Beauregard Corridor Plan, a large increase in density involving the destruction of many garden apartments in the West End. That plan was approved by City Council almost three years ago. To date very little has changed there. There are no development plans likely to be ready for approvals any time soon.

Even earlier, the city approved a re-design of Landmark Mall. Nothing has changed there either although the planning department does have some proposals which may be approved next fall. Despite the near emptiness of the existing mall, Mr. Donley is now touting using an overlay district in the West Eisenhower area for another big box retail center. I see no demand for such a center in that location.

Meanwhile the big box Potomac Yard center brings in around \$14 million in annual revenue for the

city, mostly from sales taxes. My observation of the license plates in the parking lot suggests to me that part of its commercial success is that it attracts shoppers from southeast Washington and nearby Prince Georges County. Both Mr. Donley and Mayor Euille are willing to forgo most of that revenue for a new plan for the Yard with a Metro costing at least \$268 million.

Continuing to approve massive density increases and expensive infrastructure projects in hopes of attracting more business as both the mayor and Mr. Donley urge us to do is not a realistic plan for the city's future. We need a new approach and new ideas. In other words we need a new mayor, Allison Silberberg.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

Need Leadership

To the Editor:

For years Kerry Donnelly has vainly attempted to balance out the city budget by touting commercial growth. While he was mayor between 1996 and 2003, he continually promised a boom in office construction was just around the corner. Except for the PTO complex on Eisenhower Avenue, there were no big office projects. Instead developers building residential got all the permits they needed. There is no reason to assume it would be any different in a new term, especially given today's high number of commercial vacancies from the infamous sequester. Crystal City is a ghost town.

Where is the leadership with the attitude to manage what is an extraordinarily complex set of large-scale construction projects? Having watched the current city dais in action for the past four years, I'm dismayed to answer ... not on the "bench."

As a pragmatic and staunch Independent, and a registered Democrat, I have regularly voted across party lines, depending on what needs to get done and a candidate's ability to deliver. Today, what our very angry citizenry needs is someone who equitably and transparently calls out all involved parties, and offers reasoned solutions. This means voting for the untainted Democratic mayoral candidate, Allison Silberberg.

Ms. Silberberg has a long history of government involvement; as a Senate aide, she learned first hand how federal systems operate ... as vice mayor (by virtue of getting the highest number of votes) she has weighed in on contentious issues and had the courage to stand independently from a sycophantic council.

Kathryn Papp/Alexandria

Exploring Old Town's Military History

Retired military couple lead local tours.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

In 1859, Augustine Washington deposited \$200,000 in an Alexandria bank for safe keeping. The funds were planned to go towards restoration of Mount Vernon, but when the Union Army began seizing bank funds, the manager's wife hid the funds among the clothes in her closet. When Union troops searched the bank manager's home, they politely declined to search through her closet. The funds were later smuggled across the Potomac river to southern Maryland for safe keeping until after the war, when they were used to help pay for the historic preservation of Mount Vernon.

The bank is today the Athenaeum, one of the stops on Thomas Schultz's Old Town Military Walking Tour, and the story is one of several pieces of local military. The tour is one of trips available through Shultz's DC Military Tours.

DC Military Tours began on New Year's Day of 2015 when Schultz retired after a 20-year career as a Supply Corp Naval Officer. Schultz said he has always had a passion for military history. Schultz earned a Master's Degree in Military Studies from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in 2011. Schultz runs the "mom and pop tour business" with his wife, Eileen Shultz, a 10-year veteran of the Marine Corps. His wife manages their marketing and runs the business side of the company; the two have lived in Alexandria for 12 years.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Thomas Schultz outside the Carlyle House, the second stop on his Old Town Military Walking Tour.

DC Military Tours offers several themed tours around Virginia, D.C., and Maryland. Schultz's personal favorite is one that follows the escape and manhunt of John Wilkes Booth. The Old Town Military Walking Tour costs \$99 for a group of five or less.

Schultz said the idea came out of a realization that most other regional tours in large groups are often unable to access historic sites. Schultz says his tour sizes are part of what differentiates his tours from other tours around Alexandria and the D.C. area.

"We're in groups of five or less," said Schultz. "In other [regional] tours, it's you and 75 of your closest friends in a bus. The smaller group is more intimate and allows

flexibility in the length of the tour. We can spend an extra hour at a location, won't rush a conversation with a docent, and you can eat when you're hungry."

While some groups want a full four hour experience, some visitors on a tighter time frame can have the tour slimmed to an hour and a half "speed through."

"With a big group of 75 or even 25 people, you can only do so much," said Thomas Schultz. "A group of five or less is digestible. Museums and historic houses are often uncomfortable with larger groups. Schultz said he's experienced this with two sites on his tour in particular: Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Carlyle House.

"Because we're a historic site, we can only accommodate certain group numbers," said Vanessa Herndon, an educational assistant at the Carlyle House. "We've had groups as large as 50 people, but we have to break that up into smaller groups. Groups under 30 are best."

According to Bitsy Unkle at Visit Alexandria, there are several other tour groups operating in Old Town. Footsteps to the Past hosts historic and ghost tours of the city. Others, like DC Food Tours, visit different restaurants in Old Town. Still, while Unkle said that all of the tours cover different parts of the city's past, Schultz's focus on military history is different.

As a new small business, Schultz said he was surprised to see how many local organizations were quick to assist with manpower or connections. He received support from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce,

Visit Alexandria, the Old Town Civic Association, the Military Officer's Association of America, the Capitol Post, and the Alexandria Small Business Association. Many of those organizations helped Schultz with marketing DC Military Tours, specifically on utilizing social media.

Schultz said another invaluable asset has been the local citizens who go on the tours with him.

"No historian is all knowing," said Schultz. "You learn something new on each tour."

Many of the churches around Alexandria had been converted into hospitals by the Union Army during the Civil War. Schultz said he knew that St. Mary's Catholic Church was spared because of the large amount of Irish troops in the military and Christ Church was not used out of reverence to Washington, but learned from someone one a recent tour that the First Presbyterian Church was not used as a hospital because it had an overwhelmingly unionist congregation.

As Schultz walked past the Carlyle House, he marveled at the historic building wedged in the middle of Alexandria.

"When this house was built in 1752, Alexandria was just an idea," said Schultz. "From paper to completion, it took three years to build and it was one of the first buildings in the area. I don't know what we could do this that quickly in this day and age ... Local people take for granted what's in their own back yard, and they always think they can go and do it another day."



BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Ioannis Yannas, one of the inventors of artificial skin, and newly inducted into the Inventor's Hall of Fame.

Inventors Inducted Into Hall of Fame

The National Inventor's Hall of Fame inducted 14 new members in a series of ceremonies held in the Patent and Trademark Office between May 11 and 13. The inventors, or families of those who couldn't attend the ceremony, placed hexagonal plaques with the inventor's name and inventions into wall of similar plaques.

— VERNON MILES



Col. Kim Ching, USAF (ret.), a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, salutes during last year's Memorial Day ceremony at Alexandria National Cemetery. A former commander of American Legion Post 24, Ching will turn 90 on Memorial Day and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the cemetery May 25 at 11 a.m.

Remembering Those Who Serve

FROM PAGE 1

serving at Naval Facilities Headquarters in Washington.

Prior to the ceremony in Alexandria, members of Post 24 will lay wreaths at the World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Men's Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Women's Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Alexandria World War I Memorial and the Confederate Soldiers Memorial. At the cemetery, post members will honor six past commanders and a Union Unknown Soldier by placing a wreath on their graves.

All are invited to attend the ceremony, which is open to the public. A small reception will follow at American Legion Post 24 on Cameron Street.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Faces of Veterans

FROM PAGE 1

Memorial Fund put a face with each of the 58,300 names on "The Wall" and is seeking help in locating photos of 20 Alexandria veterans.

"We've come a long way in obtaining photos since the dedication of the Versace Plaza in July, 2002," said Mike Faber, founder and chief organizer of the Friends of Rocky Versace. "But we seem to have come to a dead end trying to locate these last 20 pictures."

To date, VVMF has collected more than 38,000 photos but more than 20,000 are still missing. A photo of U.S. Army Warrant Officer Raymond Conway was recently located but 20 Alexandrians are still unaccounted for in the database. That number is nearly one-third of the 67 men whose names are chiseled into stone at the city's own Vietnam Memorial.

The Friends of Rocky Versace are asking people to search through yearbooks, family photo albums and newspapers to help find photos of these men.

The photos of the fallen will appear online at VVMF's Wall of Faces (www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces) as well as on permanent display at the future Education Center at The Wall.

"We're calling upon everyone to help us remember the service and sacrifice of those in their communities," said VVMF founder and president Jan Scruggs. "Sometimes there are no living relatives. We're asking people to do a little detective work. We can't let these service members and their sacrifice be forgotten."

Photos can be uploaded directly to VVMF's website or via mail. For details on how to submit a photo, visit www.vvmf.org/how-to-submit.

The Friends of Rocky Versace Memorial Day ceremony will include the recitation of the names of Alexandria's 67 Vietnam War fallen heroes, the reading of Versace's Medal of Honor citation and a wreath-laying by Versace's West Point 1959 classmates. For more information, email FoRV59@gmail.com.

Bishop Ireton Girls' Lacrosse Achieves Redemption

Cardinals defeat Saints in second consecutive VISAA state final.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse program made history in 2014 while focusing on "six games in May."

The Cardinals worked hard during the offseason and played a challenging regular-season schedule in preparation for the six victories necessary to win the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship and the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association state title.

Ireton's dedication paid off in the form of three conference tournament victories and the program's first WCAC championship. The Cardinals then won three state tournament games, culminated by knocking off national power St. Stephen's & St. Agnes in the state final. It was the first time the Cardinals had ever beaten the Saints.

Bishop Ireton returned most of its talented roster for the 2015 campaign. Led by head coach Rick Sofield, the Cardinals were considered one of the top teams in the country and at one point in the season were ranked No. 2 in the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine national top 25.

Ireton experienced some bumps in the road against a daunting regular-season schedule, losing 14-4 to top-ranked McDonogh (Owings Mills, Md.) and suffering a one-goal loss to WCAC foe Good Counsel, but otherwise the Cardinals continued winning as they focused on taking care of business in the postseason. After finishing the regular season with a 15-2 record, Ireton defeated Bishop O'Connell 19-7 on May 5 in the opening round of the WCAC tournament.

But while everything had gone to plan to that point, the Cardinals' six-games-in-May outlook would require an adjustment.

On May 7, Holy Cross upset Bishop Ireton 10-9 in the WCAC semifinals.

"We stumbled," Sofield said. "The girls were stunned after the game."

With their hopes of repeating as conference champion extinguished, the Cardinals

turned their focus to the state tournament. After victories over Potomac School and St. Anne's-Belfield, Ireton reached the championship stage with a chance at redemption.

Standing in the way: undefeated St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

With temperatures in the upper 80s on a sunny Saturday afternoon in Ashland, the Cardinals took on the Saints in the VISAA state final. Ireton jumped out to an early five-goal lead and St. Stephen's battled back to tie the score in the second half. In the end, the Cardinals salvaged the 2015 postseason by earning some hardware and proving last year's win over the Saints was no fluke.

Kelly Larkin scored the go-ahead goal with 16:55 remaining and Bishop Ireton repeated as state champion with a 12-10 victory over St. Stephen's & St. Agnes on May 16 at Randolph-Macon College.

The Cardinals celebrated after the game, posing for pictures in front of the stands.

"Our word the past two weeks has been redemption," said senior midfielder Charlotte Sofield, who will play college lacrosse at the University of North Carolina. "Redemption is if you fall short or you make a mistake, you make good on it. We fell short of what we were capable of and in this game we redeemed ourselves and we made good on it."

Sofield and Larkin, a junior who is committed to Navy, each scored three goals Ireton. Senior Kelly Mathews (Boston University) and sophomore Kayla Duperrouzel each scored two goals, and sophomore Kayla Marshall and freshman Lexi LeDoyen each scored one.

Ireton consistently won the draw early in the game and jumped out to a 5-0 lead. St. Stephen's went scoreless for more than eight minutes, finally getting on the board when junior Ellie Carson found the back of the net with 16:27 remaining in the open-

ing half.

The Cardinals led 8-5 at halftime and extended their advantage to 9-5 when Mathews scored with 22:28 left in the second half. The Saints wouldn't go away, however, and responded with four consecutive goals to tie the score at 9 with 17:31 left.

"You can't let yourself think that the game is over," St. Stephen's senior Ellie Majure said. "If you start thinking the game is over in the first five minutes just because they scored a few goals, it's going to be a long 50 minutes."

Ireton regained the lead when Larkin scored 36 seconds later and the Cardinals led for the remainder of the contest.

"Winning a championship is one thing, but repeating is another," Larkin said. "As our coach says, [UCLA men's basketball coaching legend] John Wooden said it takes talent to win a championship, it takes character to repeat. We definitely had the character and the poise on the field today and we got it done when we needed to."

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes entered the contest with a 28-0 record, including a 13-12 win over Georgetown Visitation in the ISL championship game, but the Saints fell short against the Cardinals for the second straight season.

"Last year our motto was, 'It's not an accident,' meaning any success we have is the product of hard work, it's not an accident," Rick Sofield said. "This year's motto has been, 'We're not satisfied.' ... The Holy Cross game, maybe we were a little too satisfied

and that's why we lost that game. That got us back where we needed to be mentally for this run in this playoff round. We weren't satisfied. We wanted to show that last year wasn't a flash in the pan.

"We want to play St. Stephen's every year. We'd love to play them in the regular season, we'd love to play them in the playoffs, we'd love to play them five times a year if they would play us. We love playing good teams like that."

Carson led the Saints with four goals. Majure finished with three goals, and sophomores Elena Ricci, Caroline Wiseman and Zoe Belodeau each scored one.

"I thought we did really, really well with this team this year," Saints head coach Kathy Jenkins said. "They exceeded our expectations the whole season. We had close games and we came back and this one we just didn't finish. ... BI is such a great team; we knew it was going to be a tough game. They come out hard, they're fast, they have size on us ... so I thought we did a great job and it could have gone either way, but it just didn't go our way."

Ireton finished the season with a 19-3 record. Despite the graduation of his daughter, Charlotte, Rick Sofield said he will continue coaching at Ireton.

"This is my passion," he said. "I love doing this. These girls have bought completely into what we're doing. We're building something great here that we want to keep going for as long as possible. There's no doubt I'm coming back next year."



Members of the Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse team celebrate the program's second consecutive state championship after defeating St. Stephen's & St. Agnes 12-10 on May 16 at Randolph-Macon College.

PHOTO BY MARK STEPHENS

T.C. Williams Boys' Soccer Falls in Conference Semis

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams boys' soccer team was the aggressor early in Tuesday's Conference 7 tournament semifinal match against Woodson, but had nothing to show for it at halftime.

The defending state champion Titans trailed 1-0 despite spending much of the match's first 20 minutes on the attack. In the 48th minute, however, senior captain Ramsey Benzina took a free kick from the edge of the 18-yard box, blasting the ball over a wall of Woodson defenders and into the net for the

Benzina scores lone goal in 2-1 loss to Woodson.

equalizer. The goal breathed life into the Titans, who to that point had come up empty on the scoreboard against a strong Woodson back line.

But moments after T.C. Williams had seized momentum, Woodson snatched it right back.

JW Clark's header in the 53rd minute proved

SEE BENZINA, PAGE 27



T.C. Williams freshman Kenneth Stoute, left, and Woodson's Wade Erwin compete for the ball during Tuesday's Conference 7 tournament semifinal match at Woodson.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL
GAZETTE PACKET

SPORTS

Benzina Scores Lone Goal

FROM PAGE 26

to be the winning goal as the No. 2 seed Cavaliers secured a trip to the conference championship match with a 2-1 victory over the No. 3 Titans on May 19 at Woodson High School.

"It's a hot day and [Benzina's goal] kind of got our heads down a little bit because it's never good to get scored on when we have the lead," said Clark, a junior forward. "But our team has spirit. We came out firing. We didn't keep our heads down, we just kept on pushing and we managed to get one in."

Senior defender Matt Todd assisted Clark's goal.

Woodson will host No. 4 seed West Potomac in the conference championship match Thursday night.

"We're ready," Clark said. "We're so ready. Coach [Andrew] Peck has done awesome things with this squad. It really feels good to get a win against the defending state champs and that really fires us up for the game."

After Clark's goal put Woodson back on top, the Cavaliers limited the Titans' scoring opportunities. Woodson senior captains Alex Furbank and Connor Werrlein, senior Eric Speer, junior captain and first-team all-conference selection Sean Garin, and Todd contributed along the back line. First-team all-conference goalkeeper Brian Breslin made multiple second-half saves.

Woodson held T.C. Williams scoreless during their regular season meeting, a 1-0 Cavalier victory.

"If your back line is consistent and your goalkeeper is on top of his game, it just makes everything so

much easier because all you've got to do is finish one ball," first-year Woodson head coach Peck said. "[The Titans] got a free-kick goal. They really didn't have any great opportunities in front of the net because our guys were holding the back line."

T.C. Williams head coach Martin Nickley praised Woodson's defenders.

"We played with a lot of heart and came up against a really strong defensive group," Nickley said. "They're really strong in the back, they mark well and they've got really strong goaltending. They're really well organized in the back and that's difficult to beat, difficult to get by."

Sophomore midfielder Ryan Dagley gave Woodson a 1-0 lead with a goal in the 20th minute.

The victory improved Woodson's record to 9-5-1 and sets up a conference championship match against a West Potomac program Peck guided within one win of qualifying for the state tournament last season.

The Cavaliers defeated the Wolverines 3-1 during the regular season at West Potomac High School.

"Last year's season was a huge disappointment for [the Cavaliers]," Peck said. "They lost in the first round [of the conference tournament]. Basically, they went from a first-round loss to the finals. They're peaking at the right time."

The Titans' record dropped 11-3-2. T.C. Williams will travel for the first round of regionals.

"Every day is a new day and people have come from a lower seed to run through the tournament," Nickley said. "We have just as good a chance as anybody else."



2015 Home Schedule

Thurs, June 4 th	Gaithersburg Giants
Fri, June 5 th	D.C. Grays
Sat, June 6 th	Vienna Riverdogs
Wed, June 10 th	Baltimore Redbirds
Sat, June 13 th	Baltimore Dodgers
Thurs, June 18 th	Bethesda Big Train
Fri, June 19 th	Rockville Express
Sun, June 21 st	SS-T Thunderbolts
Mon, June 22	Herndon Braves
Fri, June 26 th	D.C. Grays
Sat, June 27 th	Gaithersburg Giants
Mon, June 29 th	Rockville Express
Wed, July 1 st	Baltimore Redbirds
Fri, July 3 rd	Herndon Braves
Thurs, July 9 th	Bethesda Big Train
Sun, July 12 th	SS-T Thunderbolts
Thurs, July 16 th	Vienna Riverdogs
Sun, July 19 th	Baltimore Dodgers
Wed, July 22 nd	Vienna Riverdogs
Thurs, July 23 rd	D.C. Grays

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Educating about Alcohol and Drugs

Suggestions for talking to teens about staying safe.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Graduation, prom and the summer before heading off to college are some of the highlights of a teen's high school experience. While the season brings landmark events, it can be marred by the consequences of engaging in harmful activities.

Parents can play a pivotal role in keeping teens safe. The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County reports that teens cite their parents as the leading influence for them not to drink, and say that it is not difficult to get alcohol from their family home, older siblings or friends. Initiating a dialogue with teens about the dangers of unsafe behaviors such as drinking and drug use can be daunting for some parents.

"We know that teens who receive consistent messages from their parents about their expectations that their child not use alcohol are much less likely to use," said Diane Eckert, deputy executive director, Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County.

The season brings celebratory activities and less supervision, and therefore more opportunities to take chances, said Eckert. It's critical that parents "sit down with your teens and talk with them about your expectations," she said. "With less structure and more excitement, teens can find themselves taking more risks, so it's important for parents to be involved."

Conversations about safety during activities where teens will have more freedom can be difficult to navigate. "For sure those are hard conversations," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor of Sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax.

"Parents want to be careful not to drown out the fun times that prom and graduation also represent. It's about finding balance. Part of it is about finding ways to talk about the risks without your teen walking away feeling hyper-vulnerable and disempowered."

"... It is about finding ways to talk about the risks without your teen walking away feeling hyper-vulnerable and disempowered."

— Amy L. Best, Ph.D.,
George Mason University

The dialogue should be factual and non-threatening. "Ask open-ended question about what is going on at school and with their friends," said Best. "It's easier to open those conversations when you're not talking about your child, and you're collecting information about what is going on at school and with their friends." Best is author of "Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture" (2000 Routledge), which was selected for the 2002 American Educational Studies Association Critics' Choice Award.

Difficult conversations are made easier if there is a history of open, honest communication between a parent and child. While parents should make their expectations for their child's behavior clear, Best warns against lecturing or talking down to a teen. "The prom should not be the first time that these conversations occur," she said. "It's really important that kids be able to express their feelings and have an active role in the conversation. Trust has to be built into the relationship in order for that to happen."

A concrete plan for ensuring safety should be part of the conversation. "Kids are often in situations where alcohol is being consumed and they may not be the ones consuming it," said Best. "So safe driving arrangements are important."

"The good news is that a lot of kids are opting out of drinking and greater awareness around the potential for sexual assault," said Best. "The message has to be communicated in advance and schools have a role to play in that."

In Arlington, School Resource Officers are collaborating with local high schools to focus on alcohol use prevention and awareness programs now that prom and graduation season is underway. Programs such as "Drive to Stay Alive" and "Prom Promise" are in place to educate students in having a safe and fun prom season. One of the roles of the officers is to provide positive guidance to students "and to act as positive role models both inside and outside the school environment."

Kathy Ely, spokeswoman for Connelly School of the Holy Child, an all-girls school in Potomac, Md., says her school, as well as most schools, have safety plans in place. "We understand the pressures that these girls are under, and work hard to educate them about effects not just now but for their future," she said.

Tips for Keeping Teens Safe

Help make prom and graduation night safe for teens by following these tips:

- ❖ Do not serve or allow alcohol at any party you are hosting; an adult who provides alcohol to a minor is breaking the law and risking that teen's life.
- ❖ Know where your teenager is attending a party; verify there will be parental supervision, and that it will be alcohol-free.
- Make it clear to your teen(s) that you do not approve of their drinking alcohol.
- Report underage drinking parties by calling the Fairfax County Police Department's non-emergency number: 703-691-2131. Your call can be anonymous and may prevent injuries or a fatal car crash.
- Educate your family on the risks associated with underage drinking and its proven harmful effects on the brain. The legal drinking age is 21, and students who wait until their early 20s to drink are 84 percent less likely to develop an addiction than those who start earlier.
- Make sure your teen has a plan for

the night and that you know what it is.

- Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.
- Know who is driving — if it's a limo, check their policy on not allowing any alcohol in the vehicle and driving any teen who clearly has been drinking.
- Encourage your senior to attend their school's All Night Graduation Celebration.

— Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County

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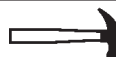
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The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for Grocery & Non-Food Supply Items. Sealed Bids with the notation ITB # 15-04-07, Grocery & Non-Food Supply Items will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, June 23, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals. All questions must be submitted before 1:00 p.m., June 12, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No ITB may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.

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ZONE 3 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

21 Announcements

Public Notice - Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comments on a draft permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a facility to manage hazardous waste as well as two (2) Statement of Basis (SB) regarding proposed remedies for site-wide corrective action, located on the Fort Belvoir facility in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 21, 2015 to July 6, 2015.

PERMIT NAME & NUMBER: Hazardous Waste Management Permit for Storage and Corrective Action; EPA ID No. VA7213720082

PERMIT APPLICANT: U. S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir (Fort Belvoir)

FACILITY NAME & LOCATION: U. S. Route 1, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Fort Belvoir applied for a renewal permit to operate a facility that manages hazardous waste on April 21, 2014. One hazardous waste management unit (HWMU) is permitted, known as HWMU 1490, which is Building 1490 that stores hazardous waste in containers. The permit also includes RCRA site-wide corrective action activities, where Fort Belvoir may be required to submit various plans, studies, and reports in accordance with a Project Management Plan and Schedule Requirements approved by DEQ and EPA Region 3. DEQ has prepared a Statement of Basis (SB) dated October 20, 2014, on its proposed final remedies for 192 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), which include either No Further Action, No Further Action with Administrative Closure, or Land Use Controls and a second SB dated October 31, 2014, on its proposed final remedies for 5 SWMUs designated as A-05, A-08, A-09, A-11, and A-12, that have completed Corrective Measures Studies located on the Fort Belvoir facility. The draft permit will allow the facility to continue to operate Building 1490, the hazardous waste storage facility, and implement RCRA site-wide corrective action activities.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by hand delivery, e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may also write to the contact person at the address below to be added to the facility mailing list. The public also may request a public hearing. To request a public hearing, the request must be in writing; must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing; and must be made within the public comment period. The public may review the draft permit, fact sheet and application at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315 or the DEQ Northern Regional Office at 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193. Copies of the permit documents are also available at DEQ Office of Waste Permitting, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Angela J. Alonso, Environmental Specialist II _ DEQ Office of Waste Permitting & Compliance _ P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218 _ Phone: (804) 698-4328 _ Fax: (804) 698-4234 _ E-mail: Angela.Alonso@deq.virginia.gov

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.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Elsie's Magic Skillet, Inc. trading as Elsie's Magic Skillet, 8166 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises; Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mazen Bakri President.

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

21 Announcements

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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
Zone 6: The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

ZONE 3: • ALEXANDRIA
• MOUNT VERNON

EMPLOYMENT

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ZONE 3 AD DEADLINE:
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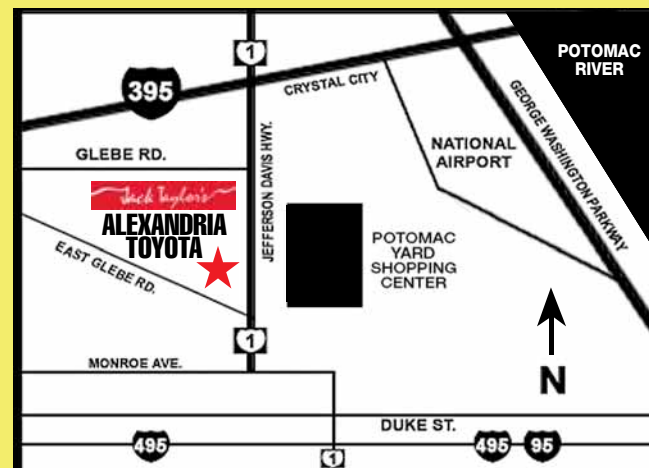
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