

Last Call Final Democratic mayoral debate ends on a civil note.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Attendees to the June 2 Democratic Primary Debate, one week before the primary, hoping to see sparks fly between the mayoral candidates may have left disappointed. While previous debates had commonly featured spats between the three candidates, the final debate saw none of the sharp accusations.

Mayor William Euille and Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg noticeably shifted the focus of the campaign rhetoric. Silberberg, whose major campaign focus has been balancing development in Old Town with preserving the local history, referenced growing Alexandria's commercial tax base as her highest priority.

At one point, Euille was asked not to reference the Potomac Yard Metro Development by moderator Julie Carey, which has been one of the major cornerstones of the mayor's reelection campaign. Instead, Euille said housing affordability in Alexandria was his number one priority. Between 2000 and 2010, Alexandria lost 8,368 units of affordable housing. There is currently a 6,952 person waiting list for public housing and a 7,840 waiting list for housing vouchers. Euille stated that, if reelected, he would make sure there is adequate affordable housing stock available in Alexandria, and

cited over 40 new units of affordable housing at the new Potomac Yard Fire Station.

Like Silberberg, former Mayor Kerry Donley said his top priority as mayor would be diversifying the commercial tax base to improve the city's financial infrastructure. The closest the debate came to targeting other candidates was Donley's reference to the failure to properly staff and equip Fire Station 210 as a sign of the city's mismanagement.

The three candidates held varied stances on transportation and traffic priorities. For Euille, the city's focus needed to be on multimodal transit and interconnectivity across Alexandria. While avoiding reference to the Potomac Yard development, Euille also cited his role on the creation of the King Street Trolley.

Donley said the Carlyle area of Alexandria serves as an example of his transportation policy.

Silberberg said her biggest concern regarding transportation in Alexandria is cut-through traffic on streets like Duke and Russell Road. In particular, Silberberg said she's heard complaints from local residents that cars with Maryland and D.C. license plates tend to speed through these neighborhoods. With regard to mass transit in Alexandria, Silberberg said she supported Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) development, but said the wise course of action would be to hold off on further investment in BRT until

the City Council can receive a comprehensive report on the financial sustainability of the existing Route 1 BRT.

While all of the candidates agreed that Alexandria Public Schools face an overcrowding crisis, candidates differed on the strategies to increase school capacity and the role of the mayor in this. Donley stated that the City Council needs to invest more heavily in the school's operating and capital budgets.

For Silberberg, however, any increase in funding to the School Board needed to be met with greater levels of accountability and transparency. To address capacity, Silberberg proposed looking into converting the Nannie J Lee Memorial Recreation Center back into a school.

Euille said his relationship with the School Board is already a collaborative one and, to address enrollment growth, the schools need to identify potential sites for new building additions.

Asked about mistakes they made in office, both Euille and Silberberg said they had no regrets about any of their votes or policy decisions. Donley admitted that his one regret was not a high-impact mistake, but he said he wished that, when the Con-



Mayoral candidates Allison Silberberg, William Euille, and Kerry Donley.

VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

federate statue on Prince Street and Washington Boulevard was knocked over in a car accident, he'd taken the opportunity as mayor to look into moving it to a less central part of the city, saying that it wasn't representative of contemporary Alexandria values and was also a traffic hazard at its current location.

As the debate finished, the candidates shook hands and exchanged messages of support with one another. The mayoral debate was followed by a brief debate between candidates running for the 45th District delegate seat.

"I'm undecided," said Alexandria resident Uve Hodgins. "I came here not knowing who to vote for, but I like to see competition in candidates." Hodgins said that her biggest issue in the campaign is infrastructure development, but said that she knew that it can be a double edged sword. Hodgins said, with a week left before the election, she's going to reread the local newspapers for articles on the election before making her decision.



Julie Jakopic



Mark Levine



Larry Altenburg



Clarence Tong



Craig Fifer

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES

In 45th: Candidates Struggle To Out-Democrat Each Other

Finding differences on education and environment.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

If residents are having a difficult time differentiating between the platforms of the five Democratic candidates running for the 45th district delegate seat, they are not alone. In the penultimate debate for the Democratic primary, candidates ex-

pressed frustration at echoing the policy stances made by their peers. In the debate on May 31, hosted by the Mount Vernon Democrats, candidates attempted to separate their campaigns from their peers by focusing on their priorities. In this, some differences began to emerge.

Julie Jakopic said her top priority is early childhood education,

specifically ensuring that all families have access to pre-K programs. Craig Fifer likewise cited access to pre-k education was his campaign priority. As with the other candidates, Fifer said it was difficult to narrow his campaign to one issue, but said access to pre-K is one of the easiest positions to push as non-partisan legislation. Larry Altenburg noted that his priority is also on education, but that said that his focus was less on pre-k programs and more on reducing testing for K-12 students.

Candidates Mark Levine and Clarence Tong differentiated themselves by focusing on non-education related issues. For Levine, the most crucial issue in

his platform is an increase in the Virginia minimum wage, and said raising the \$2.13 wage for jobs with tips as a sub-focus. Tong said

SEE SETTING, PAGE 3





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City Remodels King Street Metro Station

BY PETER ECKEL
GAZETTE PACKET

A new sign in front of the King Street Metro Station signals the beginning of major changes.

The City of Alexandria, working closely with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), plans to spend \$11.7 million to reconfigure the site of the King Street-Old Town Metrorail Station.

Planned changes will segregate modes of transportation to enhance safety and increase transit capacity. This includes a one-way Kiss & Ride loop with entry and exit along Diagonal Road and assigned spaces for taxis, private shuttle buses, and car-sharing. On-site parking will be eliminated to favor other forms of transportation, and the Capital Bikeshare bicycle station currently residing across the street on Diagonal Road will be moved on-site. Construction will begin early next spring. "We want an urban-style station," said Sandra Marks, deputy director of transportation for the city's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. "We want it between the Vienna station and Metro Center."

She outlined a vision that the station would be designed with high pedestrian service in mind, including widened sidewalks, but with space for other transit facilities. When funding becomes available, she said, the city may pursue similar im-



The new site plan for the King Street Station features a one-way Kiss & Ride loop and an "island" for three more bus shelters.

provements at other stations within its bounds.

In 2006, the city requested WMATA to conduct a study on the feasibility of rebuilding the access facilities at the lot. City staff collaborated with WMATA and its design consultant to refine designs according to comments from the public and members of the city's Transportation Commission. Final designs date from April 9, 2012.

While the planned reconfiguration adds three bus shelters, none of the entities servicing the station with buses plan any "significant expansion" in bus service for the

coming fiscal year. However, Marks maintained that "additional bus routes are in the pipeline."

Funding for the project comes from three sources: the city, state grants and federal grants; \$3.8 million is from the city's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), \$6.3 million is from federal grants, and \$1.6 million is from state grants.

WMATA currently maintains the site, but beginning fiscal year 2017, the city will take over maintenance of the property. Costs in that year will be \$70,000, reflecting various one-time costs, but \$60,000 will be budgeted for maintenance in future years and adjusted for inflation.

Patricia Washington, president and CEO of Visit Alexandria, said, "The changes will

improve the visitor experience, better orienting arrivals to King Street's historic sites, retail and restaurants."

"The members of the Old Town Business and Professional Association will have the opportunity to participate in informational sessions on the King Street Station Reconfiguration with city staff," said Janet Barnett, president of the Old Town Business and Professional Association, and added that her organization "will want any changes made to result in a pleasurable visit to Old Town for a memorable dining and shopping experience."

Regular users of the station seem to agree with the city's goals. Demarco Grinkley of the Richmond Highway area, who works in maintenance, believes that the station's current layout is good, but would want more bus service.

"Buses should run every 15 minutes," Grinkley said, but agreed that the planned changes would be more organized and safer.

Haydi Torres of the Van Dorn area, student and intern at Tenants & Workers United, thought that the station was currently pretty safe but believes that the new plan looks safer.

Torres also said that more buses would need a bigger station.

The city will be doing public outreach to adjacent civic associations, including those in Rosemont and Carlyle, over the summer. Bidding for the construction contract, managed by WMATA, is slated to begin this fall. Construction will begin next spring, and will be done in a phased approach to minimize impact on customers. No service outages are expected.

Setting Themselves Apart

FROM PAGE 1

that expanding Medicaid in Virginia was his top priority, but acknowledged that it would seem impossible without more Democrats in the Virginia legislature. However, Tong referenced Medicaid expansion in Montana as an example of a Republican majority state managing to find some way of compromising on health care expansion.

All of the candidates agreed on the need to improve and expand Route 1. Each candidate expressed their disapproval of Gov. Terry McAuliffe's authorization of oil drilling off along Virginia's coast and expressed approval of offshore wind farms.

All of the candidates disagreed with the so-called "King's Dominion Law," which prohibits schools from starting before Labor Day, but there were variations as the conversation shifted into the length of the school year.

Jakopic stated that she believed that the determination of school year length should be made by the local school districts, but added that she was personally not in favor of starting the school year before Labor Day. Levine agreed with the local control over school year length, but added that he didn't think there was anything sacred about waiting until Labor Day to begin the school year. Altenburg took the discussion one step further and argued that there were benefits to removing summer vacation entirely, particu-

larly a reduction in "summer learning loss," the loss of academic skills and knowledge from educational inactivity over the summer. Altenburg was also the only candidate who expressed approval of a bill that removes the state's ability to review and adjust Dominion Virginia Power's base electricity rates until 2022, saying that the bill ensured that Dominion Power would provide support for clean air.

Dick Kennedy, a member of the board of directors for the Virginia branch of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, asked whether the candidates would support the legalization of marijuana. Fifer, Tong, and Altenburg expressed support for decriminalization for the drug. Jakopic supported legalization on the condition that taxes from the sale be put into substance abuse treatment. Levine supported full and unconditional legalization, expressing personal disdain for smoking, but saying that marijuana should be treated in a similar fashion to alcohol. Following the debate, Kennedy said he was most supportive of Levine's platform on the issue, but was content that all of the candidates had given thoughtful answers.

"I liked the [debate] format," said Ken Sharma, the vice chair of voter registration for the Fairfax County Democratic Committee. "It was more of a discussion than a debate."

Wood To Run for City Council

Republican cites need for new ideas.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria native and retired Lt. Gen. John R. (Bob) Wood, filed paperwork June 3 to officially declare his candidacy for a seat on City Council.

"Alexandria and our region face significant challenges," said Wood, who will run on the Republican ticket. "Old solutions and old habits built on old assumptions do not suffice."

A graduate of T.C. Williams High School and the United States Military Academy at West Point, Wood currently serves as the executive vice president of defense of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. He is also the founder of Star Strategies Group, an Alexandria-based consulting firm that focuses on strategic planning, technology integration and leader development.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bob Wood, shown with his wife Margaret at the opening of Carluccio's restaurant, formally declared his candidacy for City Council June 3.

Prior to his retirement from military service in 2008, Wood served as the U.S. Army's strategic planner in developing and implementing the Army's response for combating terrorism after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. This will be his second run for a seat on City Council following an unsuccessful bid in 2012.

"It's hard to adapt and change when new voices and new ideas are absent at City Hall," Wood said.

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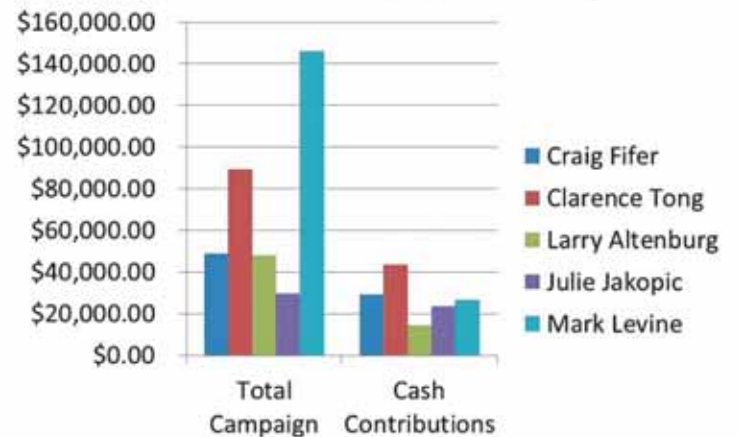
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45th District Campaign Financing



GRAPHIC BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Campaign financing as of June 1. Numbers provided by the Virginia Department of Elections

Financing a Campaign

Cash contributions do not include “in-kind” donations: contributions in the form of goods and services. The total campaign funds raised in the race for the 45th District so far is \$361,781. According to Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State & Local Leadership at George Mason, Virginia House Delegate races average around \$191,000. Shafroth attributed the need for

high campaign fundraising in Northern Virginia to the very expensive media market in the Washington metropolitan region.

Mark Levine’s total campaign financing towers over many of the other candidate campaigns, largely due to a \$70,000 loan Levine withdrew. Levine says the loan was intended to jumpstart his campaign.

— VERNON MILES

Where To Vote

On June 9, Alexandria citizens can vote in the Democratic Primary for 45th District Virginia House of Delegates and Alexandria’s Mayoral Election. The 45th District covers all Alexandrians in Old Town, Carlyle, Del Ray, and residents of the West End north of King Street. To vote, citizens must have a photo identification card, which can include:

- ❖ A valid Virginia Driver’s License or ID card
- ❖ DMV issued Veteran’s ID
- ❖ United States Passport

❖ Other Virginia or Federal Government issued ID card

❖ Valid college or university photo ID from a school in Virginia

❖ An employee identification card

❖ Or a Virginia Voter Photo ID
Absentee voter ballots must be received by the Voter Registration Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day and can be delivered either by mail or in person. Absentee voters can also vote in person until June 6 at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 132 North Royal St., Suite 100.

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The 2015 Alexandria Mayoral Race

Alexandria’s three Democratic candidates for Mayor – Kerry Donley, Bill Euille and Allison Silberberg submitted their answers to New Virginia Majority in response to our candidate questionnaire. We found much agreement around a number of issues that have not generally been discussed in electoral forums. NVM declines to endorse, but would like to highlight the candidates’ positions on issues important to Alexandrians.

Please Vote in the June 9th Primary Election – the winner will more than likely become our next mayor.

Visit us online to see our complete candidate questionnaire and the ways that we are fighting to make democracy real for all people.

Candidate	Donley	Euille	Silberberg
Including displacement analysis in development plans affecting more than 40 tenants.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining Alexandria’s Living Wage ordinance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City support for immigrants applying for legal status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tracking Racial Bias In Policing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Including input from program/service users, in evaluations of social service grants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Funding Restorative Justice In Our Schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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- ★ Address city's debt
- ★ Grow city's commercial tax base in a balanced way
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- ★ Implement the Alexandria Parks Foundation
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- ★ Partner with nonprofits to create affordable housing
- ★ Support libraries, arts, and seniors

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PEOPLE

Three Generations of Haircuts

Helping clients with style decisions.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

David Smith snuggles into his mother's lap with a big grin, clutching his white doggie in one arm and his light blue teddy in the other. Faith Sheehan sprays a fine mist of water on his hair in preparation for his hair cut. Sheehan has tucked David into a child-size plastic apron to keep the itchy hair from creeping inside his sun suit. His mother, Alice Curtin-Smith said, "This is his third official haircut although I tried to do it myself, and it was terrible." David's head turns one direction, then another, following Sheehan as she moves around the chair with her hair-cutting scissors. "He's doing great," she said to Curtin-Smith.

PEOPLE AT WORK

Sheehan says this is a three-generation family for her. Janice Curtin, the grandmother, sits against the wall waiting to entertain David while his mother gets her haircut next. In some families they "have similar hair. But here Janice has naturally curly hair while Alice and David and the other sister, Katie, in Tokyo, have straight. I like to have multi-generational families," she added. Sheehan has been at London Bob Hair Design on Washington Street for 14 years and says she started cutting Curtin-Smith's hair before she went to college and law school.

"Now Alice is back. And I like to come here for childcare advice," Curtin-Smith said. "Like last time I found out from Faith, who is the mother of three, how to give David a bath and wash his hair without getting soap in his eyes by using a little visor."

Sheehan and Curtin-Smith discuss today's cut, another long bob with lots of layers? "I'm open. Do you think I should change the color?" Sheehan tells Curtin-Smith that her hair is a beautiful color and now might not be the time to wrestle with highlights with a small baby and a demanding part-time job.

Sheehan says the hardest thing she ever had to do was to cut a little girl's long hair into a pixie against her will at her mother's urging: "She was very upset."

Sheehan says it was very nerve wracking in the beginning when she was just starting as a hair styl-



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

Alice Curtin-Smith takes her turn at a haircut and decides to try the "new messy curl look." Though skeptical in the beginning, she told Faith Higgins she decided she likes it.

ist. But by now she has cut hair for nearly 20 years after her best friend convinced her to do what she had always really liked instead of continuing in school.

"I am conservative. If you want an inch cut, I will show you what that will mean to the whole haircut when you are finished and make sure you understand what it will be," she said. But she thinks that requests for a new style today are often based on a famous person like a movie star or something like the Bryce Harper look. "If you bring me a picture, so I know what you like, I can try to get a version of it," she said.

And the curly, messy look is popular, too. Her pink cell phone buzzes on the shelf in the corner. "That will be my daughter going to gymnastics," she said. Sheehan pulls up a long strand of Curtin-Smith's warm brown hair and nips into the edges with scissors. "I am texturing the layers to give the hair movement. We are creating a style; we don't want it to look boring," she said.

Over the years Sheehan has seen changes in techniques such as "doing a lot more with the razor" and changes in color such as a new more natural chromatic color with no ammonia.

She looks at Curtin-Smith: "Fluff around the face. Fun."

Sheehan says that most people request the same cut every time but there is also a lot of experimentation. She works Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. She points to her appointment book with red blocks for haircuts, blue for foil and green for color: "I average about 12 appointments a day." Most of her clients now are from referrals. "I think it is as much as connecting with people as the haircut. I love listening," she said.

Sheehan has taken out the curling iron and is framing long wavy, messy curls around Curtin-Smith's face. "I was a little skeptical, but I like it," Curtin-Smith said. "Next time I'll be ready for bangs."



David Smith clutches his white doggie as Faith Higgins cuts around his ears. His mother, Alice Curtin-Smith, says this is his third official haircut Higgins declares David did "a great job."

The Night Shift

Searching Alexandria's nooks and crannies with the police.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Over his 10 years in Alexandria, Officer Mark Blackwell has come to know just about every dark corner of Alexandria. Before he turns his patrol car down an alleyway around midnight on May 28, he flicks off his headlights and the car creeps forward. As he rounds the corner he turns on the spotlight and flashes it around the parking lot. This happens about once every half hour, and 8 out of 10 times there's nothing there. But twice, in one evening, Blackwell finds a couple in the back of a car. After he checks their IDs to make sure neither of them are minors or have any warrants out for their arrest, Blackwell lets them go with a warning. He points to the fogged up windows of the car.

"It's the windows" said Blackwell. "The windows always give it away."

Blackwell said this kind of stop is emblematic of a lot of the average patrol work. Of the various fights Blackwell breaks up or traffic stops, there are no arrests that evening.

"Just because you can lock someone up, doesn't mean you should," said Blackwell, adding that if he arrested "drunk in public" in Old Town on a Thursday or Friday night, there wouldn't be any room left in the jail.

"I always have a choice," said Blackwell. "I can arrest someone for a Class-D misdemeanor and deal with the paperwork, but that means I won't be available and on patrol if something big happens."

Over the course of the evening, Blackwell gets called out to scenes where teenagers are "trespassing" on public city sidewalks and a "loud music" complaint from a city utility truck (with a permit) working North Union Street. According to Blackwell, most of the calls that come in are for non-police issues, including an unusually high amount of conflicts between taxi cab drivers and riders over fare issues. It's usually



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Officer Mark Blackwell checks the computer in his patrol car.

not an issue where one party is committing a crime, but Blackwell says he still does his best to mediate.

This isn't to say it doesn't get more severe. Blackwell recalls several times he's been called out to a home to find someone is the victim of domestic abuse or witnessed it on the street. Because of this, Blackwell enthusiastically appreciates section B of the new Virginia Code 19.2-81.3, which states that "any law enforcement officer with probable cause to believe that a violation of [Virginia's domestic violence law] has occurred shall arrest and take into custody the person he has probable cause to believe ... was the predominant physical aggressor."

Once, Blackwell says, he came across a woman on the street with her boyfriend. She was crying, while initially hesitant to say anything, eventually admitted that her boyfriend had struck her. For the most part, though, Blackwell says crimes like this don't happen out in the open on the city streets.

"No one does anything wrong on the main streets," said Blackwell. "It's all about knowing where to look in the alleyways."

Blackwell patrols sector 1 of Alexandria: Old Town. The other two sectors are Del Ray and the West End. Blackwell has patrolled Old Town since he joined the department in

SEE NIGHT SHIFT, PAGE 28

BUSINESS

That's Amore

Carluccio's makes U.S. debut in Old Town.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was love at first sight as more than 175 people turned out for the grand opening celebration of Carluccio's, an Italian restaurant and market making its U.S. debut in Alexandria.

"It's wonderful to open a Carluccio's in America," said Antonio Carluccio, who was on hand to greet guests at the June 2 opening. "We looked at cities like New York and San Francisco but Alexandria was different and was more after my heart."

Located at 100 King St. in Old Town, the opening marks the first U.S. location for the London-based chain. More than 100 Carluccio's restaurants are currently in operation in Europe and the Middle East.

A longtime wine importer, Carluccio founded his first restaurant in 1991 in Covent Garden.

He is the author of more than 20 books on Italian cuisine and has appeared in several food programs.

He personally trained executive chef Alfio Celia on the recipes to be used in the Alexandria location.

"Everything is wonderful," said Volunteer Alexandria executive director Marion Brunken. "I can't wait to come back for another meal."



Antonio Carluccio, center, is joined by Val Hawkins, former CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, and Burke and Herbert vice president Walter Clarke.

Michela Ansnicar discusses the ingredients that go into the products offered at Carluccio's.

Located at the corner of Union and King streets, the 1871 building had been vacant for several years before Carluccio's began extensive renovations in 2014. The 6,500-square-foot space covers three floors and includes a first floor market selling wines, foods to go and more than 80 imported Italian products.

"We encountered a lot of structural issues during renovations," said Mike Keefe, di-



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

rector of international development for Carluccio's. "But [building owner] Doug Jamal and city officials were great to work with."

We had fantastic support all around."

An open kitchen is located on the second floor along with the main dining room. Outdoor seating is planned for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"This is very exciting," said Walter Clarke,

vice president of Burke and Herbert Bank and board chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. "This is a fantastic location and tonight brought out a diverse crowd and outpouring of support from the community. Carluccio's authentic cuisine is a great fit for our authentic and historic city."

Carluccio's is located at 100 King St. For more information call 703-566-5293 or visit www.carluciosusa.com.



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BUSINESS

Hadeed Marks 60 Years

Alexandria-based
company founded in
Del Ray.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Joe Hadeed inspects rugs at the new Hadeed Carpet and Rug Cleaning headquarters off Edsall Road.

For Joe Hadeed, it's the only job he has ever known. Ever since he can remember, he worked in the rug cleaning business founded by his father Michael and uncle Teddy in 1955 in Del Ray. On June 6, Hadeed Carpet and Rug Cleaning will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a grand opening celebration at its new headquarters facility off Edsall Road in Springfield.

"I'm very proud of how the company has grown," said Hadeed, who has been at the helm of the company since 1990. "Our new headquarters has 70,000 square feet and allows us to consolidate our cleaning and restoration departments into one efficient facility."

Hadeed has expanded the company to include facilities in Springfield, Vienna, Chevy Chase and Richmond in addition to its Duke Street location in Alexandria.

"With our new headquarters, we are able

to clean, repair and restore all of our carpets in one facility," Hadeed said. "Right now we are processing about 2,500 rugs a month but have the capability of handling up to 15,000 per month. We are a 24/7 facility."

Both father and son, along with Hadeed's mother Samira, will be on hand at the 60th anniversary celebration June 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A ribbon cutting will take place at 11 a.m. followed by guided tours by Joe Hadeed. RSVPs are requested at www.joehadeed.com.

"Duke Street has been a good home for us and it will remain open as one of our branches," Hadeed said. "But with five separate buildings it wasn't the most efficient for cleaning and restoration. With our new facility, we can provide even better services for our customers."

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BUSINESS

Chamber CEO Retires

Search to replace John Long begins.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce released a statement June 1 announcing the retirement of President and CEO John Long. Long has been with the Alexandria chamber since March of 2012 and he retires after 25 years as an executive with chambers of commerce around the country.

"I am proud of the accomplishments the chamber has made over the past three years," Long said in the statement. "It has been rewarding to work for the chamber, with the supportive work of the chamber board and our many volunteers and professional and dedicated staff. I wish all of my friends and colleagues continued success."

During his tenure, Long initiated several programs and events, including a Government Contracting Council, a Non-profit and Association Academy and a Women's Leadership Forum with the Alexandria Chamber Professional Women's



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
John Long

Network. Long also forged partnerships with regional organizations, including George Mason University, Quantico/Belvoir Regional Business Alliance, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

"We thank John for his leadership and vision," said Board chair-

man Walter Clarke. "His dedication, team building and strategic planning helped to professionalize the chamber and provide increased educational opportunities for our members and our community."

Chamber Finance and Operations Director Stanley Brinkley will manage the day-to-day operations of the chamber while a search is conducted for Long's replacement.

According to Clarke, "We have a great team in place and the board has every confidence they will continue the outstanding work they have always done."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

MAYOR
Bill Euille

ENDORSED BY:
The Washington Post

"In a city of 150,000 people facing serious challenges ... the mayor has been effective."

The Washington Post, 05/22/15

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OPINION

Overdose Deaths Are Preventable

New “safe reporting” law encourages people to seek help in time.

The death rate due to heroin overdose more than doubled between 2010 through 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), with an average increase of 37 percent per year in the United States.

What the statistics don't say is that most of these deaths are preventable nearly to the last breath. Heroin and other opioids affect the part of the brain which regulates breathing, and opioids in high doses can cause respiratory depression and death.

Naloxone, which is effectively an antidote to opioid overdose, will completely reverse the effects of an opioid overdose if administered in time.

Emylee Lonczak, a McLean teenager who died of an overdose in what was reported to be her first encounter with heroin, might still be alive if the people with her at the time had taken her to a hospital or called 911.

New legislation designed to protect people seeking help for friends experiencing overdose should make it simpler to do the right thing.

State Sen. Chap Petersen sponsored the bill, Safe Reporting of Overdoses, which was signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe last week.

“The next step is to get the word out to young people: If a friend is in distress, you have a

responsibility and now you have legal protections. Do the right thing. Make a call to save a life,” said Petersen said after the Governor signed the bill.

The law also applies to alcohol overdoses. Petersen collaborated with a Fairfax High School classmate, Gerald Lawson, now a professor at Virginia Tech, in pressing for protection for Good Samaritans in these circumstances.

The Food and Drug Administration last year approved a hand-held auto-injector designed for family and caregivers who might be witness to an overdose to administer a single dose of the drug naloxone.

Safe reporting of overdoses SB 892, summary as passed.

Establishes an affirmative defense to prosecution of an individual for (i) simple possession of a controlled

substance, marijuana, or controlled paraphernalia; (ii) intoxication in public; or (iii) the unlawful purchase, possession, or consumption of alcohol if such individual sought or obtained emergency medical attention for himself or for another individual because of a drug-related or alcohol-related overdose and if the evidence for the charge was obtained as a result of the individual seeking or obtaining emergency medical attention.

The bill provides that the affirmative defense may only be invoked by an individual who (a) remains at the scene of the overdose or at any location to which he is transported for emergency medical attention until a law-enforcement officer responds to the report of an overdose or, if no law-enforcement officer is present at either the scene or the other location, cooperates with law enforcement, (b) identifies himself to the responding law-enforcement officer, and (c) cooperates, upon request, with any criminal investigation reasonably related to the drug or alcohol that resulted in the overdose. No individual may assert this affirmative defense if the emergency medical attention sought or obtained was during the execution of a search warrant or during the conduct of a lawful search or a lawful arrest.

Send Photos for Father's Day

Father's Day is Sunday, June 21, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos as soon as possible, with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the

ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 15.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is It Time For Change?

To the Editor:

Alexandria is now going through

some major changes as it relates to planning/development and traffic and transportation issues. Our current and previous local elected officials seem to be in complete denial about the very basic financial issues facing this small town. So I will propose the following

questions to all Alexandria citizens/voters who say they really care about how Alexandria continues to grow and to our elected officials who continue to preach that city hall is transparent/ open government/ listening and accountable to citizen concerns, financially stable, etc.

etc. You've heard all of their talking points.

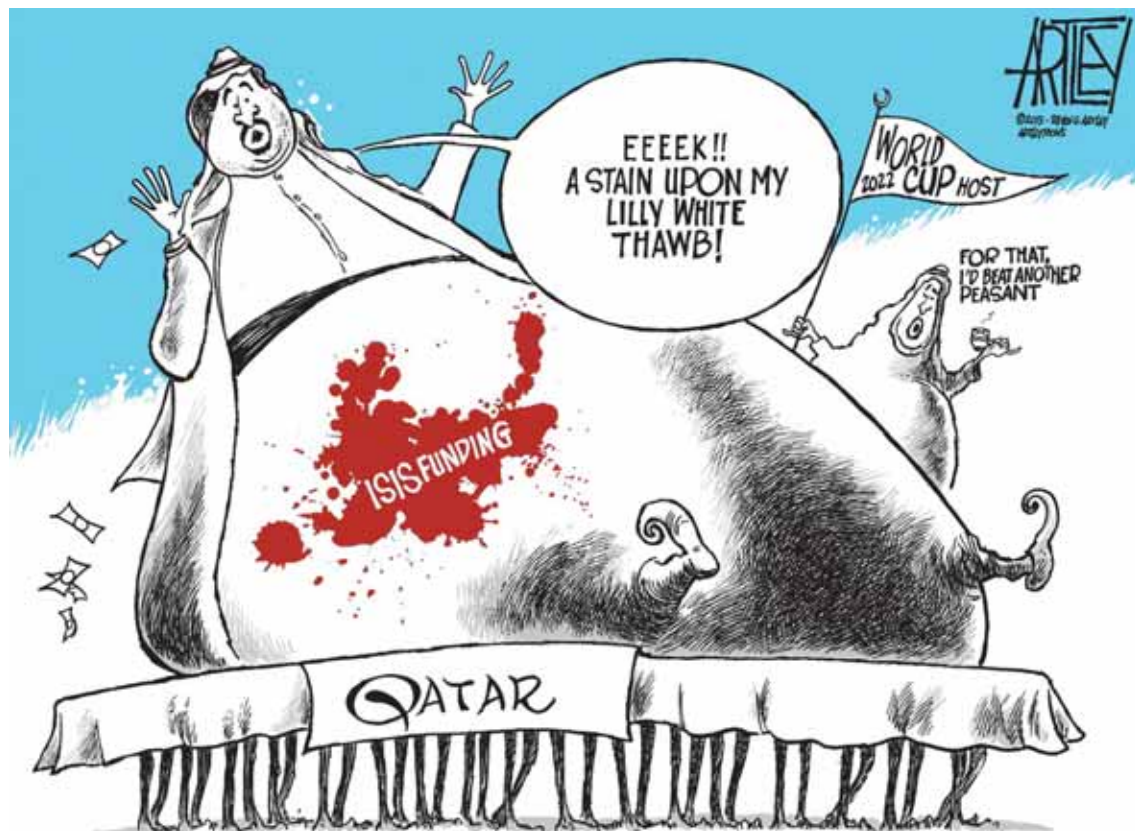
1. Has our current mayor and council consistently voted against the wishes/suggestions of the majority of Alexandria residents/voters as it relates to major planning developments?

2. Has Mayor Euille and previous Mayor and Vice Mayor Donley and majority of council pushed forward projects without knowing the full cost and impact on various neighborhoods? Think the Waterfront Plan, Beauregard Small Area Plan in the West End; BRAC-133; Alzheimers Unit next to Woodbine; bike path on King Street; proposed Metro Station at Potomac Yard. Potomac Yard generates \$14 million-plus every year to Alexandria without a metro stop.

3. Commercial tax base is down. If Alexandria is such a great place to live and work, why have businesses not moved here when the financial picture was good? Why are we losing our small businesses who are so important to Alexandria? Could it be that it's too expensive to live here? Or that Alexandria school system is still in need of major improvement? Or the continual increase in fees which are taxes?

4. Have our elected officials within the past several years who have been off council and now back on council and/or been on council too long continue to push for “knee jerk” proposals relating to transportation without honoring their fiduciary responsibilities?

5. Is Alexandria now a “pay to play” town and/or just a political town wherein elections are based on political affiliation and/or being related to vari-



STEVE ARTELEY/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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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.



SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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OPINION

Risk Factors for Heart Disease

By BASIM KHAN, MD, MPA
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH

Although heart disease is often perceived as a health condition affecting men, it is also the leading cause of death for women in the United States. Approximately one-quarter of all deaths in women are due to heart disease. One in nine women develops heart disease symptoms between the ages of 45 and 64, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. After age 65, the ratio rises to one in three women.

COMMENTARY

While the most common symptom of heart disease is typically chest pain or pressure, other symptoms may indicate the presence of an underlying heart condition. These include shortness of breath, arm pain (right or left), nausea, lightheadedness, excessive fatigue, or pain that is more apparent in the neck, back, shoulders, or jaw.

Almost two thirds of women who die suddenly of heart disease have no previous symptoms. Thus, it is important to be aware of the risk factors for heart disease and work diligently to reduce the risk whenever possible. According to the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program, the primary cardiovascular risk factors in women include: (a) a personal history of cardiovascular disease; (b) age over 55; (c) elevated low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol; (d) low high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol; (e) family history of premature heart disease (first degree male relative under age 55 or female relative under age 65); (f) diabetes, smoking, or a personal history of peripheral artery disease. Other risk factors include high blood pressure, elevated triglycerides, obesity, and chronic kidney disease.

While risk factors such as family history and age cannot be changed, others are modifiable. It is im-

portant to refrain from smoking. This includes exposure to second hand smoke. Smoking has been shown to be associated with one-half of all cardiac events in women. Smoking cessation can significantly decrease this risk. In fact, the risk of cardiovascular events in women who have stopped smoking for three years almost drops to the risk in women who have never smoked.

Exercising regularly, maintain a healthy weight, and consuming a diet low in saturated fat is also important. Higher consumption of fruits, vegetables, legumes, fish, poultry, and whole grains along with lower intake of red and processed meats, sweets, fried foods, and refined grains has been shown to significantly lower the risk of cardiovascular disease in women.

Starting at age 20, every woman should be screened for cholesterol abnormalities with a blood test. At the time of screening, a blood test to screen for diabetes can also be done.

Diabetes is an important risk factor for heart disease, particularly in women. This risk may be independent of sugar control. In other words, diabetic patients whose blood sugars are controlled still need to take additional steps to manage an increased cardiovascular disease risk. This can be done through lifestyle modifications or through cholesterol-lowering statin medications. In women who have a high risk for heart disease, whether from diabetes or other causes, low dose aspirin therapy may be recommended by your physician.

It's important to understand your risk for developing heart disease and the steps that you can take to reduce this risk. Remember to bring this up next time you see your primary care physician.

Basim Khan, MD, MPA is a primary care physician and executive director at Neighborhood Health. Neighborhood Health is a patient-centered medical home providing comprehensive primary health care, dental services, and behavioral health services to children, adults, and seniors in the City of Alexandria for more than 18 years. Reach Neighborhood Health by calling 703-535-5568 or visiting www.neighborhoodhealthva.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

ous developer law firms?

6. Do all of our current and past elected officials pretend to care about citizens and their concerns because it is an election year or do they only care about their own re-election?

7. Do we need a new mayor and new council members? We now have Mayor Euille and former Mayor/Vice Mayor Donley and council members who have been on council way too long. Alexandria needs new leadership starting at the top with people who understand budgets, planning, preserving historical neighborhoods, affordable housing, parking/transportation and all of the very real issues facing Alexandria today in order for this town to continue to thrive for the next 10 to 15 years if not longer.

If you can answer "Yes" to the majority of these questions, then it is time for change in Alexandria with a new leadership who is truly listening and hear citizen concerns.

Annabelle Fisher
 Alexandria

'Ssshhh' on Bridgeyard

To the Editor:

Ssshhh ... what's that sound? It appears to be the verdict on "all the news

that's fit to print" about the formerly affordable/workforce housing complex formerly known as Hunting Towers, now the Bridgeyard - Old Town.

Even the extraordinary April 2014 Administrative Order from the Environmental Protection Agency failed to elicit the interest of the Gazette. Hundreds of residents and workers being exposed to levels of asbestos sufficiently high to take that measure apparently didn't lift it out of the "dog bites man" category.

But perhaps the Gazette is merely taking its lead from the local elected leadership. No public comments there either on the EPA action, much less resident outreach, either from the city leaders or its state delegation.

So really, it is hardly surprising that the demise of the place as a long-time source of 530 affordable and workforce housing under the most miserable, dehumanizing conditions imaginable for the residents — culminating in the eviction of all for the final phase of renovations — has occurred with virtually no public comment from anybody in a position of power and influence either. Such was not always the case with the place — the simplest internet searches will yield no end of reading material over the last 15 years.

Talking of course not being the same as actually doing something.

Former Mayor Kerry Donley failed to capitalize on a golden opportunity to include the Towers and Hunting Terrace in the settlement he negotiated with VDOT over the Wilson Bridge Project.

That project involved the outright demolition of over 300 affordable units there, already a shrinking commodity in the city — surely a viable wedge to include the remainder in the settlement, perhaps eliciting a guarantee from VDOT to work with a large non-profit housing organization to preserve the rest as such.

Then, as vice-mayor, Mr. Donley was quoted in an April 11, 2012 Washington Post article saying "We know what the problem is. The real question is, what are we going to do about it?"

So much for "knowing how to get things done."

Current Mayor Bill Euille has had little to say publicly about the situation either — actually, make that "nothing" since soon after the sale was consummated. That despite the tidal wave of resident complaints about the way Laramar has managed its affairs to various city departments from Housing to Code, including the asbestos concerns — all to no avail before the EPA acted — all brought to his attention as well.

But such is the nature of political discourse in the city these days, hardly limited to the "Bridgeyard," as the city develops and gentrifies its way to an economically segregated population and traffic gridlock that can only be imagined.

Include the waterfront — the hotel design debate, while important, seems secondary to me. All the talk about "his-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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Bats Quietly Doing Good in Residents' Backyards

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE
LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Spring and summer are the busiest of times at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, and that includes citizen calls about encounters with a particular mammal: bats. Starting each April, an average of one or two calls comes in each week to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), which operates the shelter, describing a bat flying around a bedroom or another part of a citizen's house. If an AWLA animal control officer dispatched to a home finds that the bat has not had direct contact with a person, the officer will net the animal and release it outside. But if there is a possibility that a bat could have bitten a person, the officer will capture the bat and, working closely with the city health department, euthanize it to test for rabies.

Brian Rees, AWLA's chief of Animal Services, says he has found that many people are extremely

afraid of bats, in part, he believes, because of cultural misunderstanding. "Bats are portrayed as evil in vampire movies," Rees said, "and there also is a perception that all bats are rabid, which is far from the truth."

In an effort to ensure staff is handling bats safely and humanely, AWLA recently invited, Leslie Sturges, president of the Save Lucy Campaign bat conservation organization, based in Annandale, to give a presentation to staff. AWLA welcomed staff from shelters, rescue groups and health departments from surrounding counties to take part. Participants even had a chance to "meet" two live bats.

Sturges told the group that bats struggle on a daily basis against this perception that they are dangerous pests that need to be eliminated. Myths swirl around the animals, among them:

- ❖ "Bats often carry rabies." In fact, Sturges says, most bats are not rabid.

- ❖ "Bats are rodents." Although many species have tiny, mouse-like bodies, bats are members of a



PHOTOS BY SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY
A big brown bat, one of two types of bat commonly seen in Northern Virginia.

separate mammal family known as *Chiroptera*.

- ❖ "Bats swoop down to attack people." Bats flying toward people mostly do that out of curiosity, Sturges says.

- ❖ "Bat excrement is toxic." Not true.

The world's only flying mammal, bats have been found to have high levels of social intelligence. They are the most important predators of flying insects, gobbling up mosquitoes and other bugs as they fly, saving the U.S. agriculture industry at least \$3.7

billion a year in pest control. Some species around the world also serve as important pollinators.

Nationwide, bats are threatened by loss of habitat, pesticide poisoning, fatal collisions with wind turbines and lethal encounters with humans and cats, Sturges says. But an even darker shadow now looms over the nation's bats: A fungus known as white-nose syndrome has spread through bat caves in 26 states and eastern Canada, wiping out colony after colony. The syndrome has virtually eliminated Virginia's population of little



A wing of a bat is extended, displaying the bones, which correspond to those of a human hand.

brown bats, which once roosted by the thousands in caves across the state. "We are losing bats at a very rapid rate," Sturges said. "Bats are in very serious trouble."

Sturges, who rehabilitates injured bats, says citizens can help protect bats by getting to know more about these neighbors. Despite the fungus deaths, Northern Virginia is home to as many as eight bat species, but area residents are most likely to encounter two of them — the big brown bat and the red bat, both of whom are only about two inches long from nose to the base of the tail.

Although bats are nocturnal, some do fly around during the day, Sturges says. If a bat is found, say, hiding in a deck umbrella or roosting between a window and screen, it is best to leave it alone, she advises. It is unlikely to do any harm to people. If a bat does get into a home, it's best to contain it in one room and contact AWLA's Animal Services for assistance.

The AWLA's Rees says the advanced age of many Alexandria homes makes them easy for bats to penetrate. To prevent them from entering an attic or other part of a house, all access points should be sealed. This should be done in early spring or fall to avoid the bats' maternity season, which extends from mid-May to mid-August. If a bat has had her young in an attic or other part of a house, blocking access points when the mother is away could be a serious mistake because the desperate mother will do anything she can to get to the stranded pups.

It is illegal to spray a bat or a bat colony, Sturges says, and she warns against the cruelty involved in using glue traps for bats. Any pest control company hired should demonstrate use of best management practices for bats, including installing a "humane exclusion" device that will allow bats to exit a building but not re-enter. These should not be used, Sturges emphasizes, during maternity season.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

toric” — what does that amount to? What is being proposed there to evoke the Port City’s role as a leading port in the early years of the country, with all the stories to be told? History tourism also being a source of increased city revenue?

Just make that boutique hotels. And a skating rink?

So perhaps “ssshhh” on the Bridgeyard is understandable. One searches in vain in the current mayoral race for substantial debate on anything, with only Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg even questioning the general direction things are going. From my new home at a distance — having chosen to opt out of Alexandria and the Old Dominion altogether pursuant to my own eviction from Hunting Towers after 18 years — here’s hoping a real vision worthy of the city will emerge from somewhere.

Jim Mercury

Balanced Growth

To the Editor:

Decades of study refute commonly held beliefs about growth and progress. The net economic effect of unfettered growth is negative. The May 2015 volume 25, Number 3 issue of the Chesapeake Bay Journal educates us to better understand Allison’s Silberberg’s courageous moderation. Great articles by Lara Lutz and Tom Horton (about the Growth and the Future of the Chesapeake Bay conference in January) describe the economic impacts of unchecked and controlled growth, and

land conservation.

Allison Silberberg is the best choice for mayor for those of us who want balanced growth. She considers development proposals in the physical and economic context of what is good for residents and the functioning of our community. The other candidates for mayor have demonstrated that they see all increases in development as unmitigated good, while sidelining serious examination of context, and traffic, parking and environmental impacts. Think of BRAC under Bill Euille, an enthusiastic proponent of unchecked development. Aren’t you tired of the uncritical approval of all density increases and the heavier impacts on our community and property taxes that it brings? We know that ever-increasing density is a pyramid scheme destined to collapse on us after others take their profits. Vote for Allison Silberberg. She is a leader who can help us break this vicious cycle.

Kathleen Kust
Alexandria

Eyes Wide Shut or Open?

To the Editor:

I applaud all who have written over the past weeks expressing concern for the governance of this city. There appears to be genuine enthusiasm for the June 9 primary which will select the next mayor. However, will the issues that ignited this surge of interest still matter? The waterfront development project is a done deal. Last month the mayor and council unanimously approved the city’s funding of the Potomac Yard Metro Station. The candidates dif-

fer as to the financing, pace and aesthetics of development. None question the relevancy of the Alexandria Master Plan, the foundational development document, passed by the council in 1992. With no definitive policy disagreements what separates the candidates?

The candidates and their supporters see the election as a referendum on leadership. The assumption is the mayor is imbued with general powers and duties of a chief executive. Below are extracts from the city charter of three Virginia municipalities; see if you can select the one codifying the powers and duties of Alexandria’s mayor.

(a) The mayor shall preside at meetings of the council, and perform such duties as are imposed upon the mayor by this charter and such other duties consistent with the mayor’s office as may be imposed by the council. The mayor shall be entitled to a vote, but shall possess no veto power. The mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the city for all ceremonial purposes, by the courts for the purpose of serving civil process, and by the governor for military purposes. The mayor may execute all requisite contracts or other legal instruments in writing for and on behalf of the city and perform all other functions or requirements arising from federal or state law, procedure, rules or regulations but these authorizations shall not be construed as conferring upon the mayor administrative or judicial functions.

(b) The mayor shall preside over the meetings of the city council and shall have the same right to vote and speak therein as other members. The mayor shall not have the power of veto. He shall be recognized as the head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes, the purposes of military law and the service of civil process.

(c) The mayor shall be the chief executive officer of the city and shall be responsible for the proper administration of city government. The mayor shall be recognized as the head of government for all ceremonial purposes, military law and the service of civil process. The office of mayor shall be a full-time position with salary and expenses set by the council.

The answer is (b); whereas, (a) reflects Roanoke and (c) Richmond. With respect to the powers and duties of the mayor, the Alexandria city charter is at best vague and therefore ripe for interpretation. In truth, the mayor’s ascendancy to chief executive officer status is derived solely from city council acquiescence, not the city charter. Our next mayor should not assume a homogeneous or subservient city council. A new city council could challenge the ascendant authority of the mayor. The next mayor needs to be willing to concede power and embrace compromise. Decisions about governance, growth and development need not descend into a zero sum game of absolute winners and losers. Fostering inclusion, being open to compromise, these are traits of a servant leader. The mayor must never forget he or she is first and foremost the servant of the people. Thwarting the will of the people under the guise of “the greater common good” constitutes tyranny not leadership. Embracing a longer strategic view, by setting realistic priorities that build upon that which differentiates Alexandria from surrounding communities, rather than striving to be like them will require true leadership. Who among the three candidates has the experience, record of relevant achievement; and temperament to lead effectively?

The choices are clear, the decision is yours and mine; the question, will we

vote with eyes wide open?

Roy R. Byrd
Alexandria

Talented Progressive

To the Editor:

I’m delighted to share a somewhat unique vantage point on one of the many qualified candidates for our House of Delegates 45th District seat.

You can learn a lot about someone when you share time and space with them nearly every day. Running for Congress in 2014’s crowded field was just that environment.

Due to the tyranny of the alphabet, I frequently found myself sitting next to, and speaking after, Mark Levine. This is not a particularly advantageous position to find yourself in.

I’ve had the honor of surrounding myself with world class leaders in many fields in my life. You don’t see them all the time: the Marine, SEAL or Ranger who everyone looks to and willingly follows in combat; the Fighter Pilot who sees, and wins, the fight in advance; those top 1 percent Harvard B-School types who are just thinking on another level — getting 90 other competitive-minded classmates shaking their head in amazement.

Mark Levine is that special type of candidate for public service. I’ve seen his unique blend of clear thinking mixed with deep experience at many a debate and public venue. It’s rare; it’s impressive. He speaks his mind with passion and purpose. He is happy to disagree with you; and he will bring relevant facts to the discussion.

From the stage, you can see people sit up and take notice with a more concentrated mind when he speaks. And I’m here to say, Mark’s heart is as big as his head.

As a graduate of Harvard College, Yale Law, and a Fulbright Scholarship in Switzerland, as well as having been a successful lawyer and U.S. Rep. Barney Frank’s legislative counsel for three years, Mark has the skills and the commitment to progressive politics we need. He will be a tireless fighter for our Democratic principles and he is the type of talent that all Virginians should want to represent them in Richmond.

Bruce Shuttleworth
Alexandria

A Different Kind of BRAC

To the Editor:

Every Alexandrian has had to have heard about BRAC, which stands for Base Realignment and Closure and is the Congressionally authorized process DOD uses to reorganize its base structure for efficiencies of budget and operational readiness. And, certainly, I don’t need to tell anyone where BRAC-133 is located. Everyone in and around Alexandria’s West End can see the monstrosity rising above the treetops. What is totally unbelievable is that this BRAC “opportunity” didn’t simply fall into the city’s lap, Alexandria’s City Hall, under the leadership of Bill Euille, actively courted it. Granted, Mark Center was the second choice of City Hall for the location of this DOD facility, but because City Hall didn’t bother with details, Mr. Euille allowed BRAC-133 to be built on very valuable land at Mark Center where there was no transportation network to support it. With the arrival of BRAC-133, Alexandria has forever lost

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OPINION

A New Kind of Senior Experience

BY CLAIRE EMBREY
AND KATE KAIMAN

As current seniors of T.C. Williams High School, we were granted the opportunity to participate in Senior Experience, a three-week unpaid internship at the organization of our choice. This internship aids in the transition between high school and the work place.

For our Senior Experience, we chose to work at Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA). SSA's mission is to assist seniors in Alexandria with everyday tasks that they have difficulty with and help them remain independent through various programs, such as Meals on Wheels, Groceries On-the-Go and Friendly Visitors. By creating this network of assistance, SSA has succeeded in changing the lives of a vast number of seniors who are not able to fully assist themselves.

While we have been here, we have taken part in three of the main programs that SSA has to offer. During our first week, we were introduced to the Meals on Wheels program, which consists of driving a set of meals to housebound seniors in the area. There are a list of routes that are driven daily by various members of the community. The second program that we were introduced to was Friendly Visitors, which pairs a senior with a visitor who shares common interests, necessary to foster a relationship. We were able to meet a few perspective clients, in order to see if they would be a good match for the program.



During our second week with SSA, we took part in the Groceries to Go program. Through this program, seniors who find it difficult to shop for themselves can order their groceries through SSA. The shopping and delivery are done by organizers and volunteers. We also participated in one of the monthly Speaker Series, which was all about Health and Fitness for seniors.

Going into the fourth quarter of this school year, we were unsure of what paths we were interested in taking. Being a part of Senior Services of Alexandria has given us immense guidance. For instance, Claire has become interested in psychology (primarily the biological aspects) and Kate has become interested in a future with health and nutrition. With a week left in our internship, the staff, and their mission have left an irrefutable mark on us. We are able to appreciate seniors in a way that cannot be understood until coming face to face with their challenges, stories, and the graciousness that they bestow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 16

an important part of its tax base. And for the past several years, City Hall has been scrambling to build the transportation network needed to support BRAC-133 by adding lanes to Beauregard Street and Seminary Road. Currently, VDOT is building the ramp needed to connect BRAC-133 — locally known as "Fort Belvoir North" — to the HOV lanes on I-395. This effort has replaced a beautiful, tree-lined Van Dorn Street between Holmes Run and Seminary Road with a Van Dorn Street that resembles a very large prison on one side, courtesy of the huge, concrete sound walls that have been installed alongside the new HOV ramp to I-395. By any measure, BRAC-133 has definitely not improved Alexandria's West End. Thirty years ago, the main thing that people driving along Duke Street between Holmes Run and South Pickett Street would see to their south were the air conditioners on the roof tops of the old military buildings at Cameron Station. Then in 1988, Cameron Station was BRAC'd. That same year, Kerry Donley was elected to City Council and he immediately recognized the extraordinary opportunity that the redevelopment of Cameron Station offered to the city. Kerry quickly became expert in the BRAC process and joined with Councilwoman Del Pepper to lead the City Task Force that worked with DOD to determine what the closing military base would become. Kerry worked hard to ensure that as much of Cameron Station as possible would be transformed into public open space and that a much-needed elementary school was built on site as part of the redevelopment.

In 1996, when Kerry was mayor, 60-plus acres of Cameron Station were formally transferred to the city for

parkland and 100-plus acres of Cameron Station were sold to a private developer. Today, Cameron Station is home to the 61-acre Ben Brenman Park, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, 975 townhouses, 762 condominium units, 32 single-family detached homes, and several retail establishments. Today's Cameron Station has been a magnificent addition to Alexandria's West End, in no small measure thanks to the hard work of Kerry Donley. Bottom line — to make sure that Alexandria's West End gets the attention and services that it needs and deserves, including a fire station that is fully equipped and fully staffed with firefighters, every self-respecting West End should vote for Kerry Donley for mayor on June 9.

Donna Fossum
Alexandria

Setting Precedent For Subdivisions

To the Editor:

The majority of you assume you will not be directly impacted by the water run off or restricted views which are the almost inevitable impact of the proposed subdivision and development on Vassar Road behind President Ford's former house, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, in the beautiful historic neighborhood of Clover.

However, this is not true. Permitting this subdivision to go ahead will adversely affect every person who lives in Alexandria. It will set a catastrophic pre-

cedent for all future subdivisions and development across the whole of the City of Alexandria.

According to Planning Commission records for the last five years, the number of lots used for comparative purposes within a neighborhood is between 15 and 72. The purpose of comparable lots is to ensure that the feel of the neighborhood remains even when a plot is subdivided.

Therefore, with Lloyds Lane, the city chose to draw just 15 comparables, as this was the number of large lots which surrounded the new subdivision. In the development in north Old town, near Pendleton Street, the city drew 72 comparables, which comprised of all the houses on the blocks which touched the new development.

With the development in Clover, however, the city is setting a new precedent. It has chosen to use 159 comparables.

This is an unprecedented number. It more than doubles the number of comparables used in any previous subdivision case in the past five years in Alexandria. This stinks of the worst kind of gerrymandering — changing the size and shape of districts to influence a result.

City staff has done this because the comparables within 15 houses or 20 houses or even 72 houses would have meant they would have had to write a staff report against the Vassar Road subdivision. None of the plots within this number would have been even close to the new reduced size that the developers are trying to push through. The lot frontage of even the smallest two comparable lots is more than 24 feet larger than the frontage of the new proposed subdivided lot.

Instead, by expanding the number of

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Jim Harvey 703.380.4680
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1315 PRINCESS ST Great 3BR townhome in historic Old Town, built in 1919. Hardwoods on first level. 2FBA, 1 on each level. Large eat-in kitchen with SS appliances. Separate laundry room. Parking for 2 cars in rear.



Barbara West 703.969.4405
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Margaret Ruhe 703.599.7527
ALEXANDRIA / Heritage Hill \$439,900

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Connie Arega 703.608.3106
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2601 S 16th ST Beautifully renovated 1BR townhouse with upgraded/renovated kitchen featuring custom cabinetry and granite. Newer appliances. Neutral paint thru-out the home. Elfa shelving systems installed in bedroom closets. Very well-maintained property. Low condo fees. Can walk to shops and restaurants.



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Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400
ALEXANDRIA / Belle View \$255,000

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Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264
ALEXANDRIA / Stratford \$550,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

8710 PARRY LN Tucked back in from the road, this spacious, move-in condition center hall Colonial is just waiting for your updates. Bright and sunny addition across the back opens the whole house to the huge deck overlooking parkland. Priced so you can make it your own in desirable Stratford on the Potomac.

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WELLBEING

Summer Fun, Summer Safety

Tips for averting summer danger.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a familiar call. The sun beams down from mid-summer sky. Temperatures rise above 95 degrees Fahrenheit, but safety conditions start to plummet. "People will have been walking on the mall all day and then go to Arlington National Cemetery to watch the Changing of the Guard and they start to feel light-headed and dizzy," said Lt. Sarah-Maria Marchegiani, spokeswoman for the Arlington County Fire Department. "The times that I've responded, they usually have only one small water bottle with them and they've been in the heat all day. It's often tourists, but people who live here, too."

While summer ushers in vacations, trips to the pool, barbecues and fireworks it also brings the potential for safety hazards. From recreational water illness to heat-related illnesses, summer fun can turn into a nightmare. Public health and safety officials have several tips for lessening summer safety risks.

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE SPIKES, so does the risk of heat-related illnesses. Lengthy exposure to 90-plus degree heat can lead to heat stroke, heat exhaustion cramping and, in extreme cases, death.

"Heatstroke can occur when the ability to sweat fails and the body temperature rises quickly," said Kenya Fluellen, associate professor of nursing at Northern Virginia Community College. "The brain and vital organs are affected as the body temperature rises to a dangerous level."

In addition to wearing loose-fitting clothes that are light in color and taking breaks from the heat and drinking two to four glasses of water for every hour one is exposed to high heat, health officials say applying sunscreen, limiting physical activity and wearing a hat or using an umbrella to block direct sunlight should also be added to the list of summer safety precautions.

"People can underestimate the power of the heat. Safety is always our number one priority," said Marchegiani. "If you have an elderly neighbor or anyone with mobility issues, check on them, espe-

cially when we have a storm and the power goes out."

WHILE STRATEGIES for beating the heat include trips to the pool and water parks, these cool-down activities come with health precautions. Being aware of the potential for spreading germs can prevent recreational water illnesses, which can occur as a result of swallowing or having other contact with contaminated water.

Health officials advise swimmers to shower with soap before entering a pool, take bathroom breaks once per hour and take a rinse shower before returning to the water.

Washing your hands after changing diapers or using the restroom and checking a child's diapers every half-hour to an hour are tips that are also advised.

Water safety is another summer concern. "Enroll children over the age of three in swimming lessons," said Fluellen. "Don't rely on lifeguards to watch over your children."

INSECTS ARE ANOTHER summer sighting that can be a prelude to danger. In fact, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors proclaimed June at Fight the Bite Awareness Month.

One bite from a disease-carrying mosquito or tick can lead to life-changing illnesses such as West Nile virus or Lyme disease.

"Anyone can get infected with these illnesses, but people over the age of 50 are at greater of developing more severe forms," said Joshua Smith, Fairfax County environmental health supervisor. "We can find mosquitoes with West Nile virus anywhere in the county that is why we encourage people to take precautions."

Those safety measures include eliminating standing water, treating standing water and spraying your yard. Using an insect repellent containing DEET, remaining indoors at dawn and early evening, and installing, repairing or replacing screens on both windows and doors to keep insects outdoors are also recommended.

"It is important to use common sense, stay hydrated and respect Mother Nature," said Kurt Larrick, spokesman for the Arlington County Department of Human Services. "And some groups are more at risk [such as] infants, teens, older adults, and those with certain health conditions."

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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JULY

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages 'Dirty Blonde'

Highlights the story of silver screen bombshell Mae West and her climb to fame.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "Dirty Blonde" June 6-27. A winner of the 2010 Tony Award for Best Play, the bawdy show highlights Mae West, one of America's pop culture icons, and her climb to fame. It weaves her life story with the oddball romance of two lonely New Yorkers who are obsessed with the star. The show spans her years in vaudeville to her stature as one of the silver screen's greatest bombshells. "Dirty Blonde" also includes songs from West's most famous movies, including "I'm No Angel," "Dirty Blonde," and "Perfect Love."

Director Jennifer Lyman decided to direct "Dirty Blonde" because not only did she enjoy the story and characters, but she saw the show as a tremendous challenge she knew she could conquer. "There are more than 40 scenes which take us to at least 20 different locations spanning 73 years, which are populated by 18 characters," she said. "Plus there are two well known iconic characters singing, dancing, and men in drag. Who could say no to all that?"

She said "Dirty Blonde" is the type of show that doesn't appear on LTA's stage often. "It is not a musical and it is not a play," she said. "It is a play with music (a play with a limited number of musical numbers), something that LTA has done only two other times in the last 15 years: 'Master Class' in 2001 and '33 Variations' in 2013."

She added: "Like those productions, 'Dirty Blonde' tells the story of an artist — Mae West. It is important to tell the story of artists and their struggle to interpret the world and their experience through their work as it heightens our appreciation of the devotion necessary to bring any artistic endeavor to life."

She said it was a challenge to figure out how she could reimagine this production to be achievable for LTA. "The production

as conceptualized and originally produced featured only three actors — which meant that each of them was changing character and costume constantly," she said. "I decided to use five actors instead of three so that the actors playing the lead characters would only play those characters, and all of the supporting roles could be played by two additional actors."

The next challenge, she said was to move seamlessly between the many locations without slowing down the production or confusing the audience. "Between our flexible set, judicious set dressing, extensive lighting, and crack stage hands, we are able to visit many locations and time periods and still bring the show in under two hours," she said.

Janette Moman plays the lead role of Mae West, a "very strong woman who had so many positive qualities and was a trailblazer for women. I appreciate her drive, ambition and true talent. She was very intelligent and knew what worked for her," she said.

As far as challenges, she said, "It is important to make sure not to make Mae a caricature. She was a real person; so many people have emulated her it is way too easy for Mae to become a cartoon rather than the strong woman that she really was."

She added: "Mae touched people in an incredible way, even after her death, whether they met her or not. She has molded the idea of what 'sexy' is, and you can see Mae's influence in every sex symbol. But her spirit was equally long-lasting. She was a true feminist who embraced her femininity but didn't believe it should ever hold you back from having all the opportunities this world offers."

David J. Calderon plays the role of Charlie, a huge fan of Mae West. "When he was a kid, she helped him define his life and he has grown into adulthood with her as a role model," he said. "For him, it's a struggle to find himself in a world where a



PHOTOS BY MATT LIPTAK

Daniel Doeuk and Alexandria Guyker star in LTA's production of "Dirty Blonde," detailing the life and times of film star Mae West.

man having a woman as a role model just isn't what most people consider normal."

He added: "Because of that, he has had a difficult time with relationships and with his own self worth. He thinks his compulsion to dress up as Mae is strange, but it helps him feel 'right' when everything else isn't."

He said one of the challenges was trying to convey Charlie's struggles with his life and his choices. "It was also kind of tough to go from a 17-year-old character to one in his late 20s within the same scene," he said. "The time jumps in the dialogue are fun because they help bring both the play's past and 'present' together."

He hopes the audience will take away a greater understanding for the power of love. "It's not all things to all people and it doesn't look the same to everyone," he said. "I hope they will learn that accepting someone for who they are (and accepting yourself for who you are) takes strength of character and love that goes beyond the superficial 'romantic' ideal."

Co-producers Russell Wyland and Marian Holmes, who have produced together 10 times at LTA, said their job is to assemble the design team, watch over the budget, and generally keep the "trains running on time." They loved director Lyman's vision for how the play should look and feel and "because of the many different scenes and two distinct stories — one love story and another about Mae West — a production of 'Dirty Blonde' could easily spin out of control," said Wyland. "Jennifer saw simplicity where other directors might have seen chaos."

He added: "It's hard not to love Mae West. She was a self-made woman who decided to do it her way ... no apologies. The quickness of her wit is unmatched and her ability to be sexual without resorting to vulgarity is refreshing."

He said LTA has a long history of doing shows that celebrate historical people. And audiences are attracted to such shows because they not only become engrossed in a good story, but they usually learn something new and surprising about the person being portrayed.

About 15 years ago, LTA staged Terrence

McNally's "Master Class," a show that takes audience members inside both Maria Callas's classroom tutorials and her emotional state while performing. It was a great success and since then the LTA Board has chosen several shows in a similar vein: "Gross Indecency" about Oscar Wilde, "The Will Rogers Follies," and "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," to name a few. So "Dirty Blonde" is a proven type show with audiences, they said.

There were also practical reasons for choosing "Dirty Blonde." Wyland said: "Audience members are subscribing or re-subscribing right now, and the board wanted a show in this particular time slot that would showcase the acting talent in the area and the technical capabilities of the theatre. 'Dirty Blonde' is both ... Audience members have told us over and over that variety is a good thing, and we hope that 'Dirty Blonde' both provides that variety and serves as a harbinger of what's in store next season."

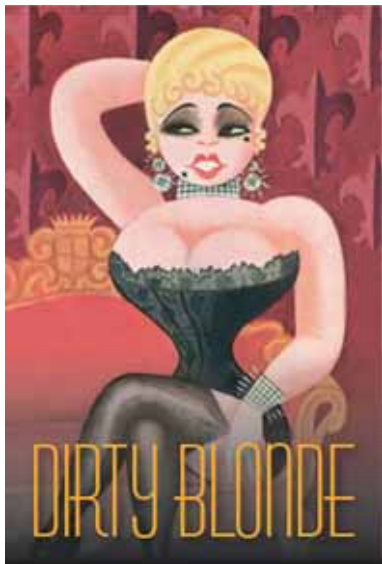
He said the technical aspects of the show are, for the producers, the most challenging part of "Dirty Blonde." "Even though it is a play, it is much more like a small musical, coming with all the technical challenges of a musical. Musicians — we have a pianist and a bass player — require sound and video monitors and sound reinforcement; the set design has to allow for dancing, but must be intimate enough and simple enough to draw the audience into the world of Mae and her fans."

He said Lyman and set designer Andrea D'Amato have come up with a breath-taking set that uses both rear projections and marquee projections through a large-screen television. "Running one kind of video is difficult, but running two kinds of video is new territory for us. Thank God for our projection designer Austin Fodrie, who has taken LTA to new places with his design of 'Dirty Blonde' projections," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "Dirty Blonde" from June 6 to 27. Show times are Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19-\$22. The theater is located at 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Janette Moman and Chris Gillespie star in LTA's "Dirty Blonde."





Enjoy this funny, bawdy affair highlighting Mae West's colorful climb to fame from her beginnings in Vaudeville to her legendary stature as one of the silver screen's greatest bombshells.
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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

“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.

“The Letters.” Through June 14 at various times at MetroStage. “The Letters” is a study of 1930s Soviet Union suppression of the work of prominent artists under Stalin's rule. \$50-55. Visit www.metrostage.org/index.html for showing times, directions, and to buy tickets.

“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.

Cat Adoption Promotion. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. The Animal Welfare League will be holding a “Class of 2015” Cat Adoption promotion. Select cats (typically, cats who have been at the shelter longer than four months, senior cats, etc.), will have fees waived for the month of June. Email clindsey@alexandriainimals.org or call 703-746-4774.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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.

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. Register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

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

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Auditions for “Catch a Dream.” 7-9 p.m. at 1108 Jefferson St. CAD Musicals is casting “Catch a Dream,” a patriotic family musical to honor the WWII generation. It follows one man's journey through love, war, and the fight to catch the American dream. CAD is seeking individuals 18-65. Contact cadmusical@gmail.com for more.

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.

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Summer Concert. 6-8 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N Fairfax St. Relax in Carlyle's gardens and listen to jazz ensembles and performances. Free. Visit www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park.

FRIDAY/JUNE 5

West End Food Truck Rodeo. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the parking lot of Southern Towers Apartments, 4901 Seminary Road. Taste diverse cuisine served by food trucks. Free admission. Visit www.alexandriawebs.com/.

Family Paint Night. 6-8 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artist Teresa Brunson will guide participants through painting their own masterpiece. Admission is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Artist's Talk. 6:30-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Observe GC Myers's exhibition titled “Native Voice” and speak to him about his artwork. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

Fostering the Future Gala. 7-10 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Enjoy food and live entertainment and help raise money for The Fund for Alexandria's Children. Tickets are \$85. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/thefundforalexchild.

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.

Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Orchestra present music from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. General admission is \$35. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

Beatles to Broadway Concert. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Listen to the combined ensemble of The Alexandria Singers and The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

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

6th Annual Youth Arts Festival. 12-4 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. The festival will showcase the talents of youth from around the city. It will include artists, music, entertainment, and food vendors. Free. Call 703-549-7115 ext.126.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

71st Anniversary of D-Day Celebration. 2:30-5 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Commemorate D-Day by viewing band performances and war reenactments. Free. Contact AlexandriaCaenSisterCities@gmail.com.

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@vamusicalventures.org or 703-919-3323.

Benefit Concert. 7 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Local keyboardist Marcus Johnson will perform. Tickets \$35. Visit www.VaMusicAdventures.org for more.

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, JUNE 14, AND JUNE 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.

TUESDAY/JUNE 9

Purple Heart Ceremony. 9-11 a.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. George Washington’s home, Mount Vernon will host a birthday celebration for the Army. The program will feature performances by the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. A wreathlaying ceremony will take place at the tomb of George Washington, and a Purple Heart program will feature the Presentation of Colors. Purple Heart medals will be pinned on three wounded warriors. This ceremony is open to the public. Call 703-799-8607.

T.C. Williams Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. at T. C. Williams High School Auditorium, 3330 King St. The T. C. Williams Jazz Ensemble plays. Free. Contact douglas.rogers@acps.k12.va.us for more.

JUNE 9-JULY 9

“Art Uniting People” Exhibit. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the 2nd floor hallway at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St. This is the fifth year of the exhibition and the first time the exhibition and the reception will be held at Alexandria City Hall. The exhibit is designed to raise awareness about the stigma faced by those with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities. Admission is free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

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/calendar-of-events/hermoine-in-alexandria to learn how to get tickets.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

Armchair Travel with Conne Rubenstein. 10:00 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center 1500 Shenandoah Road. armchair travel to Costa Rica with Conne Rubenstein. Travel by bus, raft, kayak and zipline through this beautiful paradise of Ecotourism. Home and school visits and a coffee plantation round out this fascinating journey. Free and open to the public. Contact 703-765 -4573 for more.

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.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

“Lunch Break Power Hour.” 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. This event features a live DJ, express fitness classes, healthy food cooking demonstrations, chair massages, yoga and more. Email katherine.carraway@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-3855.

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.

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.

FRIDAY/JUNE 12

Opening Reception of “Art Uniting People” 6-7:30 p.m. at Alexandria City Hall. 301 King St. A celebration of recovery, creativity and mental health—the focus of the new exhibit. Free. The public is welcome. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the parking lot of Lincolnia United Methodist Church, 6335 Little River Turnpike. Free to attend. See www.lincolniaumc.org.

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.

Civil War Camp Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & History Site, 4301 W Braddock Road. Watch Civil war re-enactors perform drills and demonstrations. Suggested donation \$2 per adult and families \$5. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard.

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/greenspring.

Canine Cruise. 11 a.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. The family dog is welcome to join in on an hour-long cruise through the Alexandria Seaport. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$10 for children. Dogs ride free. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/canine-cruise.php.

Arts and Crafts Fair. 3-8 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Shop for handmade crafts and view art created by local artists. Free. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/things-to-do/summer-in-alexandria/.

Lafayette Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Dance to revolutionary-era music and taste traditional sweets. Tickets are \$45 and reservations are required. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/



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ENTERTAINMENT

Hidden Gems In Plain Sight

Successful restaurants in unlikely places.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Location, location, location — that's the first tenet of any successful restaurant. A cut throat business on a good day, restaurants need every advantage they can get in order to thrive, and location is crucial. A plum spot on a busy, pedestrian-friendly street gives eateries a chance to show off their wares to hungry customers. A more tucked-away, remote location means restaurants have to work that much harder to even plant themselves on would-be diners' radars.

But forget the common wisdom for a moment. Instead, let's turn our attention to two restaurants hidden in plain sight, well off the main drags of King Street, Mount Vernon Avenue, and Duke Street, that are thriving night after night. If location is everything, these eateries are bucking the trend. And if location isn't the be-all and end-all, then Dos Amigos and Zento are right in style.

DOS AMIGOS, 535 East Braddock Road

At first blush, it would seem that Alexandria needs another Tex-Mex restaurant like it needs a hole in the head. But take a closer look at Dos Amigos before making a final ruling. Situated across from the Braddock Road Metro station, in a space that has seen several restaurants (La Piazza and Grass Roots Station, just to name two) come and go in relatively short order, the restaurant is packed with people nearly every night. On weekends, it's not unusual to encounter a wait for a table after 6 p.m., and on weeknights the place is bustling with happy-hour activity.

And there's certainly a reason for that. The food is fresh, spicy, and teeming with Tex-Mex flavors, and the service is warm and attentive. To say nothing of the margaritas and mojitos, which are crisp and enjoyable without being overly sugary.

Want to get the full Dos Amigos experience? You can't go wrong with their enchiladas. They're coated with flavorful, often-spicy sauces (my favorite is the ranchero) and filled neatly with vegetables, chicken, beef, or shrimp, just to name a few selections. A liberal but thoughtful amount of cheese drapes over the top, and the rice and beans on the side complement the main event beautifully.

Bring an appetite to try their burritos, which are stuffed thick with fillings and served with beans on the side. And their taco salad is one of the best items on the menu (and good luck trying to leave the tortilla bowl uneaten). Served with a choice of proteins, each salad features beans, lettuce, pico de gallo, cheese, sour cream, and guacamole, all of which come together to form a hearty main-course salad nestled in a generous tortilla bowl. It's perfect for those who are feeling virtuous — or who

Right:
Dos
Amigos,
Below:
Zento



at least want to appear so.

For a summertime meal al fresco or air-conditioned, Dos Amigos is certainly a viable contender. Kick back with a frosty beverage and a basket of chips and salsa and prepare to be delighted with whatever comes next.

ZENTO, 639 N. Washington St.

Tucked away on the corner of the Saul Center property, adjacent to FedEx-Kinkos, location doesn't seem to be on this Japanese restaurant's side, either. Sure, its storefront faces Washington Street, but in an area known more for its fast-food and takeout options, can a sit-down establishment really hang in there?

Lucky for Zento, the answer is yes. It's not uncommon to find a seat at the last empty table in the restaurant, no matter the day, and a discerning eye can spot many regulars who return time after time. The restaurant caters to a steady stream of call-ahead orders, as well, making it a destination for folks who just want to pick up a quick dinner on their way home from work.

Not simply a sushi bar, Zento offers plentiful options for the hungry would-be diner. From dinner-sized salads to an assortment of ramen and teriyaki selections, it's got something warm and comforting for even the most sushi-averse.

One of the best selections on the menu is the chirashi, essentially an assortment of sashimi toppings served in a bowl over sushi rice. The chef doesn't skimp on any of the wide array of sashimi or garnishes, which can range from a selection of fish to a variety of vegetables (for the vegetarian version). And that's another interesting note, as well; vegetarians certainly will not leave hungry. There are vegetable adaptations to nearly every component of Zento's extensive menu, and each of them is thoughtfully prepared and executed.

Are you looking to taste your way through the menu? Give Zento's bento box a try. Its components run the gamut from sushi rolls to seaweed salad, from lightly fried tempura to teriyaki, and is served with miso soup and a side salad. It's another menu favorite and never disappoints.

Whether you select a soup or a salad, a rice bowl or noodle dish, sushi or sashimi or a combination of all of the above, Zento will get you where you need to go with quiet fanfare and excellent food — and a hot sake or Sapporo to accompany your culinary journey.

Details

DOS AMIGOS

Address: 535 E. Braddock Road
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Top seller: Fajitas, any style.

Staff pick: The tacos al carbon. "I could eat it every day," owner Ricardo Arias says.

ZENTO

Address: 639 N. Washington St.
Hours: Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and 5-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 12-10 p.m.

Top seller: The "hot and spicy" roll. "The name is crazy, but it's really very good," manager Jaruvan Simuang says.

Staff pick: The grilled yellowtail collar.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE

comparables to 159 lots, it meant they could include Vassar Place, where houses are on a 360 degree circular cul-de-sac. The inclusion of these lots inserted six lots uniquely smaller in width and frontage than the other two lots in the group of comparables. Even with these smaller lots, the subdivided lot on Vassar Road is still smaller in lot width than any of the comparable lots.

This is a dangerous precedent. It means that by more than doubling the number of permissible comparables, any developer in the future can require the city staff to do the same again. This means that the large lot on Lloyds Lane, which the developers wish to divide into two, still relatively large, lots could potentially be divided into four lots in future. If the city was required to follow its own precedent and use 159 comparables in the Lloyds Lane area, for example, they would be pulling in the much smaller lots which surround that street. Permitting those into the mix would allow developers to crowd houses onto much smaller lots all over Alexandria.

The large spacious lots in Rosemont and Russell Road will be next for the developer's knife. Then once those have been subdivided, using the basis of 159 comparables, developers will be able to subdivide them again and again until we have nothing



but small over-crowded neighborhoods.

Once smaller lots are allowed all over Alexandria, it is not scaremongering to say that the nature of our city and its neighborhoods will be threatened forever. Once this precedent is set, it cannot be undone. It cannot be reversed when the City Council realizes its mistake. This is a one-off chance to ensure that the City of Alexandria remains the wonderful place it is to live in. Please, write to the City Council through call, click, connect (Planning and Zoning – development project inquiries) to ask

them to vote against setting this dangerous precedent and protect the city in which we live.

Helen Lloyd
along with 10 other
Crown View Drive neighbors

Firefighters Local Endorses

To the Editor:

The members of Alexandria Fire Fighters Local 2141 are pleased to announce their endorsement of Kerry Donley for mayor.

Mr. Donley is a proven leader who has supported a strong fire and EMS service for our city as we protect the citizens and visitors of Alexandria on a daily basis. He worked side by side with firefighters and paramedics on many issues in his former service as a City Council member and mayor. Mr. Donley further demonstrated his empathy to the welfare and well being of Local 2141 members through his involvement as a founding member and longtime chairman of The Alexandria Fire Fighters Local 2141 Helping Hands Fund. This fund assists our members in times of crisis or major injury/illness.

We believe Mr. Donley is the best candidate to move Alexandria forward because of his commit-

ment to improving Alexandria's viability as a regional center of business and responsive government. Mr. Donley's plans to increase the city's commercial tax base will improve the city's structural deficit. This strengthening of the city's revenue stream would benefit all services provided to the residents of Alexandria, improving the quality of life.

Mr. Donley's commitment to education and seeing through the staffing of Firehouse 210 are also examples of his understanding of what government should do for its citizens. Mr. Donley is a proven leader who knows the needs of the city and develops strategies to meet those needs.

Mr. Donley has repeatedly addressed public safety's immediate job needs and needs for the future.

Alexandria's professional fire fighters, paramedics, fire marshals, fire maintenance technicians and emergency communications personnel believe supporting Mr. Donley in his 2015 campaign for mayor of Alexandria is what will serve the citizens best. We look forward to working with him once again as we strive to make the Alexandria community an even better place to live, work and visit. Mr. Donley is the clear choice for improving education in Alexandria; he is the clear choice for improving public safety in Alexandria and the clear choice on smart growth and development. Mr. Donley is the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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HISTORY

Lafayette in Alexandria: L'Hermione To Be in Port June 10-12

BY GRETCHEN M. BULOVA
DIRECTOR, GADSBY'S TAVERN MUSEUM AND
STABLER-LEADBEATER APOTHECARY MUSEUM

Alexandria will soon welcome the French tall ship L'Hermione to its shore. L'Hermione is an exact replica of the Hermione, originally constructed in 1779, that carried the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington with news of France's full support for America that would ultimately help defeat Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781. From concept to construction, L'Hermione

COMMENTARY

took more than 20 years to complete.

After a series of sea trials in 2014, the ship set sail from France on April 18, 2015 with a crew of 84. L'Hermione will have traveled 3,819 miles across the Atlantic from Aix, France to Yorktown, Va. to commemorate Lafayette's historic 1780 voyage.

After a short stop off the shore of Mount Vernon on June 9, L'Hermione will dock behind the Torpedo Factory Arts Center after midnight on June 10. The ship will be in port June 10, 11, and 12, with public tours each day. Visitors can also take part in a variety of pier-side festivities and exhibits including historic shipbuilding and navigation demonstrations, costumed characters, French 18th-century musical performances from Opera Lafayette, interpretive stations with the 1st Virginia Regiment and Alexandria Seaport Foundation, and a traveling photographic exhibition that tells the story of Hermione, its reconstruction, and Lafayette's role in the American Revolution. This "Heritage Village" will be open daily



L'Hermione

This souvenir ribbon from Lafayette's 1824 American tour is on view at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum.

from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.

A limited number of timed walk-up tickets will be distributed at 8:30 a.m. and noon on the dock until sold out.

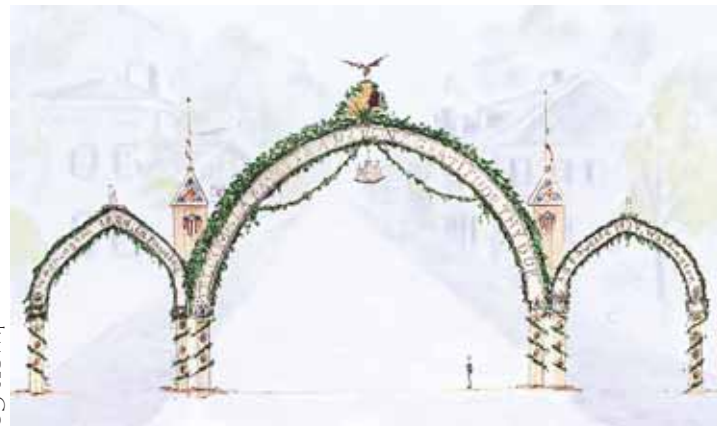
At this time, advance and group tickets are sold out. A dock-side opening ceremony is planned for

10 a.m. on June 10 with all welcome to attend.

In addition to the ship and the Heritage Village, Historic Alexandria is commemorating Lafayette and L'Hermione through a variety of special programs, tours, and exhibits. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about Lafayette's 1824 visit to Alexandria in an exhibit at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Lafayette's lasting friendship with George Washington at The

Lyceum, and the role African American soldiers (both patriot and loyalist) played during the Revolution at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

On Tuesday, June 9, a special 55-minute film screening of the play "Lafayette" will be shown at The Lyceum with a historical forward and talk-back by author and noted historian Marc Leepson. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the free, general admission show that begins at 7:30 p.m. The following evening, June 10, author Harlow Giles Unger will lecture and sign his book "Lafayette." Unger will describe how Lafayette left a life of luxury to fight for America and how Washington embraced the boy-general as his "adopted son." Then, conclude your historical week with a special "Lafayette Ball" on Saturday, June 13 at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. This ball will



A contemporary interpretation of the Grand Arch constructed in Alexandria on Washington Street, between King and Cameron Streets. This illustration by J. Stetson and R. Reeder is based on the Alexandria Gazette article of Oct. 19, 1824. Visit the Alexandria Archaeology Museum on the 3rd floor of the Torpedo Factory Arts Center to learn more about Lafayette's important visit to Alexandria in 1824.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 25

clear choice for mayor of Alexandria.

Tommy Tippet, President
Alexandria Firefighters Local 2141

Facts on Public School Spending

To the Editor:

I was surprised to receive a flyer from Kerry Donley last week alleging that his opponents for mayor have not been strong supporters of our public schools. Mr. Donley's negative advertising of the kind we all abhor is based on half-truths and misrepresentations.

Mr. Donley makes a number of allegations to suggest that he has been a better steward of our public schools than his opponents. While Mr. Donley served on City Council and as mayor, Alexandria's schools struggled to achieve state accreditation based on student performance on the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) or standardized tests. When Mr. Donley left office as mayor in 2003, 84 percent of all public schools in Virginia were fully accredited and 15 percent were accredited with warning. By contrast in Alexandria, only 75 percent were fully accredited; 25 percent were accredited with warning. Alexandria lagged behind other school divisions across Virginia. Mr. Donley alleges that both of his opponents voted to cut the

ACPS budget for pre-school programs for needy students. First, it should be noted while Mr. Donley served on the City Council from 1998 to 1996 and as mayor until 2003, there were no pre-school programs operated by our public schools for needy children. These programs were not developed until Dr. Morton Sherman became superintendent in 2008. One has to wonder why Mr. Donley has raised this issue now as it does not appear to have been a priority of his at any time during his public career.

Moreover, as anyone knowledgeable of the city's budgetary process knows, the city appropriates a lump sum of money to the public schools based on the schools' budget request; there are no line items like proposed pre-school funding for the City Council to approve or cut. For 2016, the City Council authorized a \$198.8 million transfer to our public schools. The school board following its own budgetary process has the final authority as to how these funds will be spent, including funding for pre-school programs.

As to Mr. Donley's assertion that while he was mayor, the school's per pupil per annum expenditure was the highest in the state, Alexandria has led the state in per pupil spending (and teacher salaries) for many years. More recently, the per pupil per annum expenditure has decreased because of the sharp increase in student enrollment — growing from approximately 10,000 students in 2006 to over 14,000 today. Mr. Donley's assertion that the expenditure of money alone results in achievement for students is also quite mistaken. It is the hard work of teachers and principals together with their

parents that results in exemplary student achievement.

Instead of negative advertising, Mr. Donley would serve our community's interests better by committing himself to building new schools and renovating others to serve our growing student population, improving services for children with disabilities, enriching programs for both our talented and needy students, and otherwise supporting the superintendent's efforts to enhance the achievement of all students. If all Mr. Donley can do is to try to make issues with his opponents where none exist, why is he running for mayor?

Arthur E. Peabody, Jr.
Chair, Alexandria City School Board, 2006
Member, 2006-2012

A Determined Leader

To the Editor:

Many Alexandrians have an important choice on Tuesday, June 9: Our choice for delegate of the 45th District. Rob Krupicka has represented us well over the past four years as an essential progressive voice in the Virginia House of Delegates. To continue this strong representation of results, we are joining Rob in supporting Julie Jakopic.

We are Julie's neighbors, friends and colleagues. We are teachers, community leaders, business consultants, and parents. In each of these perspectives,

we've grown to know Julie as a focused and determined leader who fights for all. Our Commonwealth currently faces many issues, spanning from economic equality to women's rights and a quality education or affordable healthcare and expansion of Medicaid.

Julie Jakopic has spent her life working tirelessly for the needs of others. She has fought for decades to expand early childhood education and mental health services, fought to protect women's rights and strengthen economic opportunities for families.

We support Julie because:

❖ She wants all kids in Virginia to have access to full-day kindergarten and pre-K opportunities in environments that parents can rely on and find safe, and to ensure that all children start school ready learn. That's why she helped Hopkins House build two new schools.

❖ Julie believes we need to ensure that teachers and administrators have training and tools to provide alternative methods to engage troubled kids. She respects those professionals who keep students safe and provide students career and workforce readiness skills every day.

❖ Julie sees access to quality affordable housing and affordable health and mental health care as crucial services. That's why she led the Alexandria Community Services Board to acquire \$15 million in affordable housing for people with disabilities. She fought to protect the services they provide and

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 26

she fought for women to be in charge of and have access to quality safe medical care.

❖ She knows how important economic stability and opportunity are and she will continue to work for fair wages, to increase the minimum wage, to strengthen utility regulation and end usurious payday lending practices, as she has professionally and as chair of the Alexandria Economic Opportunity Commission.

Julie is a management consultant who has worked in over 40 states, helping to advocate for and increase the effectiveness of programs that help families. Through this work she has learned strategies to bring people with differing perspectives together to creatively solve problems.

Julie has shown she will work until every member of our Commonwealth has an equal opportunity. We urge you to vote for Julie Jakopic for our Delegate in the Democratic Primary on June 9.

M. Junior Bridge, Beau Brincefield, Diane Crawford-Batt, Melissa Feld, Gina Gargano-Amari, Norma R. Gattsek, Amber Gordon, J. Glenn Hopkins, Betty Livingston, Eileen Cassidy Rivera, Debra Marie Roepke, and Matthew Stensrud

Collaborative and Census-Building

To the Editor:

We are writing to express our support for Mayor Bill Euille in the June 9 Democratic primary for mayor.

It has been a great pleasure and honor for us to serve with Mayor Euille. He is an inclusive leader with a great command of the issues facing our city. He works hard to keep Alexandria moving forward, but always through collaboration and consensus-building. He truly believes that working together works best.

The mayor's opponents call for increased spending and lower taxes, but their numbers don't seem to add up. Mayor Euille tries to find the right balance among competing needs in our city, including the need to restrain the city's tax burden. He is a positive and responsible leader. And nobody cares more about Alexandria and its future than Bill Euille.

We strongly endorse Bill Euille for re-nomination and re-election as mayor of Alexandria.

**Tim Lovain
John Chapman**
Members of City Council

Addressing Transportation

To the Editor:

I am writing to share my personal views in support of Kerry Donley for mayor on June 9.

My main concern is transportation. In strong-property-rights Virginia, developers are adding housing whether we like it or not. As a result, we need to add capacity and that means transit. It also means sidewalks and bike lanes to get people to transit stops. All three mayoral candidates know this, but the two who are presently in office have been sitting by as progress has slowed to a crawl. Kerry Donley has a proven record and is ready to lead.

At present, we seem to be looking backward instead of forward. On the planned West End Transitway, bicycles will be shoved onto sidewalks with pedestrians instead of being allocated space on the street. Sidewalk biking is old-fashioned and dangerous. In the Potomac Yard Metro Station design, pedestrian and bike pathways have not been deconflicted, and bike parking is not yet in the plans. Getting people to transit adds capacity to our transportation work. Without safer streets, citizens will stay in their cars and our roads will be gridlocked.

On the main issue for the election, getting more businesses into Alexandria, all three candidates are in favor. It is Donley, however, who will push hard and has the experience to make progress. He also has a specific idea for interim big-box retail in the Eisenhower West plan. This will create economic

activity sooner rather than later.

We need a mayor with new ideas who will act instead of talk. We need Donley for mayor.

Jonathan Krall
Alexandria

Protect and Reclaim City

To the Editor:

It was reported in local newspapers that the city government is considering a new policy of reducing the parking requirements for developers of new projects. A lady who was identified as a city planner described the proposal as a change of the "paradigm" to accommodate "more efficient use of land," the code words for more dense development. The paradigm in this city government is obsession with, and subservience to, real estate developers which is the very thing that is caused the parking issue in the first place, along with increasing levels of traffic gridlock, huge financial demands for infrastructure to support the increased density, increased taxes on our citizens, and many other problems. We need more parking, not less. Less available parking for residents already has resulted in increased confrontation among residents as well as confrontation between residents and non-residents visiting or working in our city.

The stated objectives of the City Council and city planners, in allowing almost unlimited development was to create growth of our economy and expand the tax base to allow for more revenues to support city obligations. Unfortunately for our citizens, this plan has failed miserably. We are now presented with excuses as to why the plan failed to meet expectations. The commercial sector did not expand as planned and residential values did not increase as expected. In other words, the financial projections were flawed and were incorrect. In all likelihood, the projections were skewed to justify the enormous density that developers were allowed to pursue.

One thing seems for sure, if the mayor, City Council and city staff cannot balance a budget in a non-inflationary economy with a historically low cost of credit for years, we are headed for a train-wreck. Both inflation and interest rates are going to rise in the relatively near future and as the cost of real estate and interest rates rise, the real estate market will be negatively impacted. Under those circumstances, an additional tax increase is likely. The two tax increases in the past two years are already putting a strain on homeowners and renters, especially those with fixed-incomes.

The proposed solution of the City Council, Mayor Euille and candidate Kerry Donley is to continue pursuing the same plan of rapid development, only faster. To keep doing the same thing and expect to get a different result is the classic definition of insanity. This is even more pronounced when there are economic uncertainties on the horizon. The citizens of this city have suffered enough from inept planning and voodoo economics. Albert Einstein was once asked the difference was between stupid and genius. He responded that "genius has its limits".

We need a mayor who is willing to push back against unwise development, require developers to pay a fair and equitable share of infrastructure costs necessary to support their projects and be more sensitive to quality of life issues for our citizens. For that reason, I will vote for Allison Silberberg for Mayor and hope a majority of our citizens will do the same.

Etta Martin
Alexandria

Legislating Experience

To the Editor:

In the Washington Post's recent endorsement of a candidate for delegate in Virginia's 45th district to the 2015 State Legislature (mostly in Alexandria), the editor failed to identify any of his four opponents, list any of the three debates about to occur, or to acknowledge that in objective terms, the only candidate with actual experience writing and crafting state and federal laws is Mark Levine.

Not a single one of the other candidates – all good Democrats and nice people – (in alphabetical order) Larry Altenburg, Craig Fifer, Julie Jakopic, and Clarence Tong, has ever drafted legislation. Yet Mark Levine wrote and secured unanimous passage by both Democrats and Republicans of "Janet's Law" in the Tennessee Legislature, protecting thousands of children from being left in the custody of a parent who'd abused or even murdered a spouse, as had been legal up to that point. Levine fought hard for that law following the murder of his sister by her husband, who had taken the children and fled the country.

Mark Levine served as legislative counsel to former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank on the hill for several years. Levine also drafted the first U.S. law to give lesbian and gay couples equal rights at both the state and federal levels, though it didn't pass in 2001. Levine persisted, and eight years later, he wrote Washington D.C.'s marriage equality law that successfully become law in 2009.

Mark Levine has had true legislating experience: Levine wrote the appeal for the Congressional Black Caucus to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Bush v. Gore. Levine also recently wrote a law for Virginia to protect the children of spousal abusers. Yes, some of the laws he drafted didn't pass, but Mark Levine never gives up, even if it takes years to get justice.

In sum, as a citizen activist, Levine wrote a law that has been saving children of domestic violence victims; as congressional legislative counsel, Levine used bipartisan diplomacy to get same-sex partners of 9/11 victims equal distributions from the victims' compensation fund, and as legal scholar, Levine personally convinced then-Senator Hillary Clinton to withdraw endorsement of the Bush faith-based initiative,

which would have allowed religious discrimination by our federal government.

While the Washington Post is free to endorse a candidate who's been a city administrator, I think Virginians would rather be represented by someone like Mark Levine, who has shown relentless determination in both writing and ensuring the passage of state and federal laws that make a real difference for the better – protecting our civil liberties and saving lives.

If you don't yet know Mark Levine, come to one the debates this week to hear all five candidates speak. It could change the quality of your life.

Mary L. Radnofsky

Respectful And Inclusive

To the Editor:

Last evening I attended a reception for Allison Silberberg. I left more convinced than ever that she is the right person to lead our city as our next mayor.

Allison is schooled in public administration and is a published author. She has served as vice-mayor of Alexandria for three years, has been active on city commissions and volunteer organizations. She served on the staffs of two U.S. Senators. Those are strong credentials, but Allison's real distinction is her integrity, core strength, and her desire for inclusiveness in city government.

Allison is confident in her beliefs and ability. Like Alexandria Mayor Patsy Tiger before her, she speaks softly and carries a very big stick — her integrity. Allison believes that your word is your bond and that commitments to the citizens of Alexandria need to be kept — not broken on a whim.

Allison is visionary. She looks forward to a city government that is open and transparent and that invites its citizens to participate in the process and make their interests and concerns known. As mayor she will encourage all of Alexandria's citizens to speak up. She will listen and she will do what is necessary to keep the citizenry involved.

On the watch of two other candidates for mayor too many decisions have been made behind closed doors. That led to disasters like the BRAC building, unexplained costs for public infrastructure, mounting debt, and broken promises to neighborhoods. Electing either of the other two candidates will bring more of the same.

Allison will limit executive sessions to an absolute minimum and instead allow the people of Alexandria to have a voice in governmental decisions.

We have had enough of top-down government

in Alexandria. It is time for a change and Allison is our opportunity. Please join me and thousands of other Alexandrians in seeking a more respectful and inclusive government. Please vote for Allison Silberberg to be our next mayor.

Jane Adams Foote
Alexandria

Fixing City's Fiscal Health

To the Editor:

The people listed below represent a collective 123 years in local and state elected office. It would be accurate to say that we have seen a wide range of personalities and abilities among those with whom we have served, but this year Alexandria is blessed to have three candidates for mayor who hold in common something very important — a passion for Alexandria. So, when it is time to decide among them on June 9, it may, for some, be a difficult choice. For us, it is not. Kerry Donley is our strong choice to be the Democratic nominee for mayor, and to be elected Alexandria's next mayor on Nov. 3.

Our city is confronting some serious — some very serious — structural financial problems, and fixing them is not going to happen by wishing for it. For the 8th year in a row, Alexandria is spending at a faster rate than its revenue is growing. In other words, we are spending more than we are earning. That is not a sustainable model — for the city, for a business, or in one's personal life, and the consequence of that is an increasingly greater burden on residential taxpayers. In fact the average increase in real estate taxes over the past two years is almost \$500. This is a disturbing trend that leads us closer to a point where taxes can become punitive, and arguably they may already be at that point for some citizens. But if the city cannot create alternative sources of revenue — especially from appropriately located and designed, transit-oriented commercial development — the pressure to deliver the fundamental municipal services of education, health, safety and public works will decline. Unfortunately, that has already begun to happen. We think that Kerry Donley is the candidate best-prepared and most capable of acknowledging these issues and undertaking the process of fixing them.

When we elect someone as mayor, we are not just casting a vote based on a particular position on a few issues of which we are currently aware. Rather we are voting because we trust that person's judgment, maturity, common sense and good will. Our mayor must possess the qualities of leadership, accessibility, and rootedness in the community that inform good decisions and lead others to collaborate and vote together on the wide range of issues that we cannot even imagine coming up over the next three years. And leadership cannot just be telling people what they want to hear or transferring responsibility to study groups and task forces in the hope that universal happiness will occur (it never does). We elect leaders to lead as well as to represent us.

We think that Kerry Donley has demonstrated in countless ways over many years a willingness to engage the broad community on all the critical issues facing our city, to lead the council in reaching consensus and making wise decisions about our future, and to always consider the needs of the entire city when dealing with critical matters, regardless of what neighborhood they are in.

There is an old saying in politics that some people run to be something and some people run to do something. We know why Kerry Donley is running and we strongly urge your vote for him on June 9 to be the Democratic nominee for mayor and to be elected Alexandria's next mayor on Nov. 3.

Bernard S. Cohen, former member of the Virginia House of Delegates; **Karen Darnier**, former member of the Virginia House of Delegates; **Claire Eberwein**, former member of the Alexandria City Council and Alexandria School Board; **Richard R. G. Hobson**, former member of the Virginia House of Delegates; **Michael Jackson**, former member of the Alexandria City Council; **Marian Van Landingham**, former member of the Virginia House of Delegates; **Dana A. Lawhorne**,

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PEOPLE

On Late-Night Patrol with Alexandria's Police Officers

FROM PAGE 6

2006. Before joining the Alexandria Police Department, he worked for four years as a deputy in the Arlington Sheriff's Department and served for 16 years in the Army infantry. Blackwell wanted to join law enforcement since high school, ideally at a federal level, but once he retired at 36 it was too late to apply for the organizations like the FBI. Still, Blackwell says local policing has its advantages, like getting to know and understand a local community. According to Blackwell, getting to know local citizens and businesses can help stop problems before they start.

"Also, there's never a dull moment," said Blackwell. "There's always something going on. Most of the time, there are a lot of things going on at once. We have to find the things that are out of place."

THE FIRST CALL of the night is a man in a red shirt reportedly threatening the staff of an Old Town restaurant. Blackwell, and eventually two other police officers, respond to the scene and separate the intoxicated

man from the restaurant staff. A few hours later, coming back around the street corner to the same block of King Street, the same man is in another verbal argument with someone on the sidewalk. The argument stops as soon as Blackwell approaches, who warns the man to sober up and start walking home.

Blackwell is African-American and says he's very aware of the spotlight the police have been put in concerning race over the past few years, but says that between having an African-American police chief and mayor he's never seen it as an issue in this department. Blackwell says the only time it comes up is when he's arresting a young African-American, and often times they throw slurs towards him and accuse him of racism.

Blackwell says he advises young police officers to take their work seriously, but not personally.

"The minute an officer takes something personally, that's when there's trouble," said Blackwell. "We need to treat people fair. It can be hard, we're all human, but you have to or you won't last long in this job."

"The minute an officer takes something personally, that's when there's trouble,"

— Officer Mark Blackwell

As the evening progresses, the number of calls begins to die down.

"After midnight, Alexandria turns into a ghost town," said Blackwell. "The bars are closing on King Street, but that's basically it ... After midnight, whether it's traffic or domestic [violence], most crimes are going to be alcohol-related."

As the bar scene on King Street begins to quiet, Blackwell shifts into speed-checking on Route 1. He doesn't pull anyone over that night, but when he does pull them over, Blackwell says he always asks them why they were speeding. Sometimes, Blackwell says people tell him they were speeding because they're tired and heading home from a long day at work, hoping to avoid a

ticket, but Blackwell warned this is a red flag for being ticketed.

"Speed and fatigue do not mix," Blackwell said.

While Blackwell doesn't catch anyone speeding, at one point a person walks into the empty street waving a white sheet of paper over his head. Blackwell, suspecting the person to be a hitchhiker, pulls over and asks the young man what he's doing. As it turns out, the paper is a map of Northern Virginia, and the man is attempting a spontaneous midnight hike to Arlington. Puzzled, but with nothing technically illegal, Blackwell points north and sends the hiker on his way.

"It gets weird sometimes," he said.

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Kindergarten Registration. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at all elementary schools across Alexandria City Public Schools. Parents are encouraged to walk into their neighborhood school to collect a registration packet. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30 to register for

kindergarten. All children born in the U.S. and who speak English at home must register at their home elementary school, even if they will attend a different school. If a child was not born in the U.S. or does not speak English as a first language, register at the Office of English Language Learner Services at ACPS Central Office at 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us.

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10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm

(en Español); 6:30 pm
Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 27

Sheriff of Alexandria; **Lonnie C. Rich**, former member of the Alexandria City Council; **S. Randolph Sengel**, former Commonwealth's Attorney; **David G. Speck**, former member of the Alexandria City Council and the Virginia House of Delegates

Committed To Helping People

To the Editor:

Mark Levine is my choice to represent me and everyone who lives in the 45th district now that Rob Krupicka has chosen not to run for re-election.

I have a natural bias to vote for a lawyer to be a legislator. Lawyers are trained in the law, after all, understand how commas change the entire meaning of a law and carefully crafted clauses may be the difference between providing health care for hundreds of thousands of people, or not.

In Mark's case, I am even more enthusiastic because he graduated Harvard College magna cum laude, he graduated Yale Law School, where they train lawyers in public policy and the Constitution, and he's a Fulbright Scholar who studied law in French in Switzerland.

Yet, had he done all that and been anything less than a dynamic progressive willing to fight for his values, it would not have been enough to win my vote. In fact, Mark confronted injustice at a young age and turned it into progressive change when his sister was murdered and he created and passed legislation in Tennessee to protect her children.

He went on to be a leader in the marriage equality movement and to work as legislative counsel to one of the great progressive legislators and leaders in congressional history, Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank.

Mark ran for Congress and lost. It wasn't close. Some people may have been dejected after that kind of loss but Mark has shown even more energy and commitment to becoming a legislator and helping people. He has won the respect of everyone who has seen him debate. He has an amazing grasp of and ability to articulate the issues.

In addition, due to Mark's success as a lawyer and his job as a progressive talk show host and reliable guest to assert progressive views on local and national outlets, he has the capacity to travel the state and help elect other Democrats, which is critical given we have just 32 Democrats out of 100 in the House right now. Moreover, he's his own boss and doesn't have limitations on his time or any potential conflicts of interest if he

needs to take positions that might be awkward for his employer.

While we are fortunate to have a very good group of candidates, there is no question for me who is best prepared, able and dynamic enough to lead the 45th going forward.

Paul A. Friedman
Alexandria

Thoughtful Leader

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, June 9, in one of the most important local primaries of recent years, Alexandrians will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the candidate likely to be elected mayor. Three individuals are running: incumbent Mayor Bill Euille, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, and former Mayor Kerry Donley. I have supported each in past elections. But this time, my vote will go to Vice Mayor Silberberg, a steadfast proponent of thoughtful development, sound budgeting and greater transparency in decision making at City Hall.

I have known Allison since her days on Capitol Hill where she interned for Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts and later worked for Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas. In a highly competitive environment where representatives of special interests use every available means to influence deliberations, Allison distinguished herself as a thoughtful policy analyst, a skilled communicator and a highly effective advocate for those who lacked the capacity to speak for themselves. Here in Alexandria we have all benefitted from her more than 25 years of public service as a volunteer leader and from her tenacity when, as vice mayor, she has insisted on careful review of key issues before the City Council. Vice Mayor Silberberg can always be counted on to ask the tough budget questions and to urge consideration of the impact of proposed projects on neighborhoods where they would be implemented. Most important, however, is her long time commitment to open government where the goal is a well informed citizenry and responsive elected officials who collaborate with their constituents to address major issues facing the city.

Vice Mayor Silberberg envisions a future for Alexandria built on a firm foundation of vibrant neighborhoods where children have access to excellent schools, adults can work and shop nearby and amenities, including libraries, art galleries, musical entertainment and top-notch recreational facilities are available to everyone. Our current and former mayors should be very proud of their many accomplishments while in

office, but to paraphrase President John F. Kennedy, there comes a time when the best decision is to pass the torch to a new generation of leaders. As mayor, Allison Silberberg will listen to city residents, she will focus on "mission critical" budget priorities including infrastructure, parks and open space, she will strongly support our businesses, promote smart development and simultaneously ensure that the architectural treasures unique to this historic city are protected.

Voters have a clear choice on June 9. If you want your voice to be heard, value the quality of life in this special community, and are looking for a visionary leader of proven integrity who understands and respects Alexandria's place in American history, then vote to elect Allison Silberberg our next mayor.

Dr. Marina Lee Weiss
Alexandria

So Much To Be Done

To the Editor:

So Mayor Euille would have everyone believing he's not interested in selling or mortgaging City Hall. This coming from the man who is out to develop every piece of obsolete city property. A man who has constantly pushed through zoning changes to suit developers. Where the newly built building or housing is often triple or quadruple or greater than what was there before. This is the same man who has pushed out public housing for market rate (paying property taxes). Once the new Waterfront development begins and is completed, a parking crunch will commence like never before. The health department parking lot should have been converted to metered parking. You can argue no one would have parked there and it's an easy argument to make since parking enforcement and the police worked diligently to not allow people to park there on weekends and after the health department closed/moved.

Our roads are crumbling and yet all that ever gets paved are the same seven sections of roadway about every three years ... what the result of post civil war reconstruction legislation? That capital budget money would have gone a long way at fixing our road, repainting worn out crosswalks and fixing pedestrian signals that aren't facing the right direction.

The city pats its back on all the open space it has added over the last few years. It's all fenced athletic field which have varying permit use only signs. The tree huggers have over planted tree sap-

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



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 29

lings at Tarelton Park ruining the dog exercise area. The playground when moved was to place it in a more open area for safety purposes, but as those tree grow, so much for that. Snow removal was much more efficient under Mayor Donley, but I believe the city’s beloved Viola Lawson was more precisely responsible.

My vote will be for Allison.

Ruben “Bill” Duran

Voice for Neighborhoods

To the Editor:

As vice mayor of Alexandria, Allison Silberberg has demonstrated thoughtful leadership that represents the citizens rather than the latest development idea. It is time for a mayor who listens, asks questions, and considers all sides of the issue.

During Allison’s considerable community service experience, she served on the Economic Opportunity Commission and focused on affordable housing. She has worked to preserve our historic districts and neighborhoods. And she understands both sides of the education issue with her teaching experience.

It is time for a change and Allison Silberberg as mayor is the choice to represent the interests of Alexandria’s citizens and taxpayers. The emphasis on development at the expense of neighborhoods must stop, and voting for Allison Silberberg is the first step in fixing the problem.

Terese McLeod
Alexandria

Working Collaboratively

To the Editor:

Wouldn’t it be great to be able to cast a ballot for a candidate who is a dedicated, selfless member of the community rather than just another career politician? That is one important reason why I support Larry Altenburg for Virginia delegate for the 45th district.

I have known Larry for several years and he has earned my respect as a parent, businessman, and public-spirited community activist. Larry supports the kind of constructive, common-sense policies that can make a positive impact in Richmond and right here in our town. He has served in important government posts at the national level, and in his local leadership positions, including two terms as president of the Del Ray Citizens Association, he has demonstrated a down to earth approach to problem solving.

Larry has a proven record of working collaboratively with members of Alexandria’s diverse communities. He is a natural leader who brings thoughtful people together to forge consensus, rather than reinforcing government gridlock.

In short, Larry Altenburg is someone who can get things done and make a positive difference, and I will be happy to vote for him June 9.

Jim Robbins
Alexandria

Similar To Sports

To the Editor:

As Alexandria voters ponder their June 9 choice for mayor, they should evaluate the players as though it were a sporting event rather than a political contest. They should assess the wins, losses and errors of the three combatants. They need to factor in how long they’ve been on the field, remembering that even Super Bowl and World Series winners reach a point when it’s time to hang up their cleats and leave the contest to those with fewer years and more new ideas. Sports analogies duly apply to politics, for even an outstanding player like Winston Churchill stayed in the game too long and eventually lost at the polls. As they

note with our mutual fund assessments: “Past performance is no guarantee of future gains or losses.” Keep that in mind for candidates who were mayors in the present and the past but may not be the best choices for challenges in future. Merely counting past years in office is not always an indication of “successful” efforts in office.

As you evaluate the three candidates, whether you score their policies as wins or losses may depend on whether your views are shaped by the positive impact on non-resident developers versus the non-positive impact on tax-paying residents. Take your scorecard and pencil and decide on the outcomes for: the BRAC in the West End; the Waterfront Development plans; the redesigns for Del Ray; the condo blitzes throughout the city which ignore the reality of future school children in those locations; the elimination of the Open Space Fund and reduction of needed staff for our parks; the paralyzing traffic and gridlock on Duke, Van Dorn, Seminary and I-395. And as a “bonus” point, how do you feel about VDOT, which now stands for “Vicious Destruction of the Terrain” for those who live in its path?

We can either vote for the two candidates who can repeat their failed policies of the past, or we can look to the future, with our vice mayor, Allison Silberberg, who favors an inclusionary approach for measured growth and development to develop better revenue sources. We are “bench warmers” who have sat through endless hours of council meetings which ignored the will of the residents, and we favor someone who will use the team approach to run our city.

Kathleen M. Burns
Alexandria

Opposing Subdivision

To the Editor:

I am a concerned citizen of the Clover neighborhood who lives directly behind one of recently subdivided lots. Clover is a beautiful, established neighborhood that is steeped in history. Such noted national figures as President Gerald Ford, Watergate Attorney Plato Cacheris, General Barry McCaffrey, and many others have owned homes in Clover. For over 60 years Clover has been a stable, lovely place to live.

In late April some of the Clover residents received notice that two of the lots in the very nicest section of Clover were about to be turned into three smaller lots. They were advised there was a hearing scheduled for the first week in May but that the Alexandria Planning Office’s Staff Report had already recommended approval of the subdivision. The owners told varying stories about their plans for the lots, including flipping or tearing down and rebuilding an existing home, and “developing” the new lot, which currently serves as yard space with grass and trees.

The thought of subdivision in our previously-peaceful neighborhood alarmed many residents, especially those who live behind the lots in question. There is a large drop-off behind those lots into the neighbors’ backyards, which is propped up by retaining walls. Water runoff has always been a concern and, while the situation is currently stable, if construction were to take place in the “new” lot, underground springs and runoff from the new house could cause large amounts of water to flow toward those lower-situated homes. This could become a serious matter which would require the installation of expensive sump pump systems and the repair of damaged walls and foundations.

We wrote to the Planning Commission in advance of its May 5 hearing on this subdivision matter. We signed up to speak at the hearing. We thought that if the Planning Commission were to hear our concerns they would surely understand and not allow the subdivision — with resulting construction — to proceed. What we didn’t realize was that the “fix was in.” The city’s Planning Office Staff Report recommended approval of the subdivision based on a method that was non-standard (the “close-to” method) and a comparison sample which skewed the results. At the hearing the Planning Commission, which is not allowed to consider future construction in its deliberations, did show concern about the size and potential impact of a new house on the new lot, but was forbidden from acting on its concern. They voted to allow the subdivision.

It is disconcerting to think that a real estate developer can buy property in an established neighborhood and begin to carve it up. It is even more disconcerting to think that the Planning Commission members are almost forced into approving any new subdivision that meets size requirements, no matter how disruptive and harmful the subdivision might be to an existing neighborhood. The fact that a developer can work for months behind the scenes on subdivision plans and only give 10 days’ notice to closely-affected neighbors before the hearing is wrong on many levels and should raise an alarm to other citizens of Alexandria. We ask for your support as we seek to appeal the Planning Commission’s ruling at the June 13 City Council appeal hearing.

Rebecca Rust
Alexandria

Details Are Important

To the Editor:

The headline on Mayor Euille’s recent flier proclaims: Developers wanted to bring dump trucks into Old Town. Bill Euille knew there had to be a better way.

On the reverse side, it says, “Bill Euille’s leadership kept thousands of truckloads of dirt off our streets.” None of those statements is false, but they leave out too much of the story and have raised false hopes among south Old Town residents.

For many months Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) and Friends of the Alexandria Waterfront have advocated for using barges to haul away dirt from three major waterfront construction sites. All three are very close to the river and all would be feasible sites for barging.

I and many others advocated for barging at council meetings and at the meetings of the Ad Hoc Waterfront Construction Monitoring Group; I am OTCA’s representative on that group. City staff was adamant that barging could not occur at the Carr hotel site, probably the first to begin construction. At one point an assistant city attorney came to a Monitoring Group meeting to assert that barging for the Carr site would be illegal. He then left the meeting, refusing to answer questions.

I approached Vice Mayor Silberberg at that point. She took our concerns to the mayor herself accompanied by the chairman of the monitoring group. The president of OTCA approached the mayor, too. That triggered a letter to OTCA from City Attorney James Banks, again asserting that requiring Carr to barge would be illegal, but without providing a rational explanation for that position.

It became increasing apparent that using trucks to haul dirt away from the South Terminal site could tie up traffic badly for many months. So barging for the terminal site is legal while barging for the Carr site is not. At some point in the not-too-distance future, hundreds of Carr trucks loaded with dirt will travel along Union to Gibbon and up to Route 1. To be fair, Carr will be sending fewer trucks than the south terminal site would need, but there will be enough to cause great hardship. To be completely accurate, the mayor’s literature really should have said, “Mayor Euille is keeping some developer dump trucks out of south Old Town. Others are welcome.”

Perhaps coincidentally, Carr’s representative on the Monitoring Group, Austin Flajser, donated \$2,500 to Mayor Euille’s campaign even though Mr. Flajser lives in Bethesda.

Alexandria can have a new mayor, more responsive to Alexandrians, than to developers, by voting for Allison Silberberg on June 9.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

Developmental Disaster

To the Editor:

With the primary election day less than one week away respectively, I think it prudent to evaluate the performance of our governing bodies, the school board, mayor and city council with respect to real estate development. Let us revisit the largest projects undertaken during the past seven years

and grade the result of these projects based upon what was promised and what was produced. With all the talk of the Potomac Yards Metro, what has the city’s success been in real estate development?

The issue of real estate development is a story of the city’s most loyal and reverent constituents: the developers. Let us begin with the the BRACC, that monster of a building on Seminary Road which was built with government funds and was predicted to deliver gobs of money thanks to extensive commercial development around the site — a boom for the West End we were told. Originally intended to occupy the Victory Center in Eisenhower Valley, DOD to save money moved the BRACC to Mark Center eliminating the need for a Metro attachment. DOD started construction immediately, and Mayor Euille and the City Council completely unaware of this action were duped and the rest is history. We will forego millions of dollars in tax revenue forever on this land as the structure is a government building. A grade of F for Mayor Euille and the council composed then of 4 of the 6 current members.

Moving on, the Dominion Boat Club finally caved in to years of turmoil agreeing to be sold and relocated. It did not stop fighting the battle, it lost to the threat of eminent domain, a back door maneuver employed by the city to obtain property under the premise that it will be converted for public use, a park today but what about tomorrow? A grade of D for this project because we did get some green space.

What about Jefferson Houston, budgeted at \$36 million, built with a price tag of \$44 million — now just 56 percent occupied and non accredited. The school stands as a monument to the total ineptness of the City Council and school board in perusing a project for their self interest when the state ruled against it. What has been the return on this gem — zero. Grade F — better used as a middle school later .

Ah yes what about T.C. Williams High school — budgeted at \$89 million quickly raised to \$99 million but the final cost was closer to \$125 million plus after all the finishes . Will we ever stay within the confines of a budget? It is currently over enrolled — a lack of foresight and either an addition or a new school is in the works over the next three years. Grade A for upscale appearance but grade F for foresight

I am aware of the need for a modern police facility but the one we built is the Taj Mahal. Did we really need an \$80 million police station — \$30 million would have covered it and the rest could have gone for a raise in pay for the most underpaid police force in the area. Grade D: much too expensive.

So here we have the major completed projects of the past seven years. What is your opinion of the development issues in our city? Are you comfortable with these projects? Can you visualize that Potomac Yards Metro — branded as a sure thing — may not be the the city’s lottery ticket? How can we pin our hopes on that venture when so many have turned up wrong. There are no winners in this bunch so the cumulative grade is an “F”. In this environment, it is too expensive to fail. Our financial ratios which formerly governed prudent spending are long gone. We are running out of options. The cost for this project will be much greater than current estimates as has been the case in every major project.

We will no longer settle for what has not worked. We will no longer settle for votes already counted and decisions already made, familiar faces bespeak old ideas. We desperately need new faces and new ideas and a commitment to measured growth which will stand the test of time. Vote for economic sanity, vote for growth at a reasonable price, vote Allison Silberberg and take back our city from the developers before it is too late.

William A. Goff
Alexandria

Serial Disrespect

To the Editor:

Recent letters and articles have endorsed Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille for reelection. I find Mayor Euille a true gentleman and wonderful spokesman for the city, but these endorsements are disingenu-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 32



T.C. Williams Junior pitcher Andrew Tovsky was a first-team all-conference selection this season.



T.C. Williams catcher Grayson Beasley tags out a Madison runner at the plate during the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on May 29.

T.C. Williams left fielder Nick Roda slides in to score the Titans' only run of the game during a 9-1 loss to Madison on May 29 in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament.

T.C. Williams Baseball Competes at Regional Tournament

**Junior pitcher
Tovsky helped
Titans hang around
against Madison.**

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

For three innings, the T.C. Williams baseball team played like a youthful group looking to pull off an upset. The Titans, who entered the 6A North region tournament with a 7-14-1 record, scored a run in the top of the first inning against Conference 6 champion Madison and maintained a 1-0 lead thanks to the right arm of junior pitcher Andrew Tovsky.

In the fourth inning, however, it was clear the Titans have yet to reach the level of their powerhouse opponent.

Madison scored four runs in the fourth, one in the fifth and four in the sixth and defeated T.C. Williams 9-1 on May 29 during the opening round of regionals at Madison High School. In arguably the greatest

mismatch in the first round of the tournament, the Titans, led by first-year head coach Chris Metz, battled before falling to a Madison team that entered the tournament having won 11 of its last 13 games.

The T.C. Williams baseball program hasn't won a regional tournament game since 2009. "We battled all year long," Metz said. "We played everybody tight all year long. We're trying to change a culture and this is part of it — playing teams like this and getting as far as we can get. No one expected T.C. Williams to be where we're at today at the beginning of the year. Some other high school is supposed to be playing today, not us."

Tovsky, a first-team All-Conference 7 selection, shut out Madison for three innings before surrendering four runs in the fourth.

"He's our horse. He's our stud," Metz said about Tovsky. "We're going to jump on his back and see how far he can take us, just like he did this year."

Tovsky allowed nine runs — seven earned — on eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. He hit one batter and struck out five.

"He was exactly what the scouting report [said he] was — he's a bulldog," Madison head coach Mark Gjormand said. "He's a

maximum effort guy ..."

T.C. Williams senior left fielder Nick Roda went 1-for-3 and scored the Titans' only run. Senior right fielder Jacob Katz finished 1-for-3 and Tovsky was 1-for-2.

"I thought TC did a great job," Gjormand said. "I can see why they made the tournament. Coach Metz does a great job."

T.C. Williams didn't win a lot of games, but the Titans won some big ones. T.C. Williams knocked off eventual Conference 7 champion Lake Braddock 2-1 on April 21 and beat rival West Potomac 9-7 on May 1.

The Titans finished last in the conference standings and entered the Conference 7

tournament as the No. 7 seed. T.C. Williams secured a berth in the region tournament by upsetting No. 2 Annandale 5-4 in the opening round.

"They're huge," Tovsky said about wins over Lake Braddock and Annandale. "They definitely build confidence for some of the guys who haven't been here."

T.C. Williams will return most of its roster in 2016. The Titans will lose seniors Pat Devine, Madison Muldrow, Brandon Beck, Roda and Katz to graduation.

"Our future is bright," Metz said, "it just depends on how hard they want to work and how hard they want it."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 28

Recreation Center, 4643 Taney Ave. The Park Planning, Design, and Capital Development Division is currently planning for the City's existing neighborhood parks. Provide feedback on Luckett/Skate Park, Taney Avenue Park, Ewald Park, Mulligan Park, Chambliss Park, Stevenson Park. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=65170.

Special Public Hearing. 7 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 301 King St. To consider the following development projects: Robinson Terminal North (500 and 501 North Union St.), East Reed Townhomes (101-105 E. Reed Ave.) and Target Expansion (3601 Jefferson Davis Highway). Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

focus on the pedestrian case study areas and pedestrian strategies. Open to the public. See alexandriava.gov/PedBikePlan for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 9 AND THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Adult Mental Health First Aid Training Class. 4480 King St., Room 514, Alexandria. Demonstrates the initial help given to a person showing signs of mental illness or a mental health crisis. The eight-hour course teaches risk factors, warning signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use disorders; the effects of the illnesses and an overview of treatments; and a five-step action plan for helping someone with symptoms. Call Donielle Marshall at 703-746-3523 or email donielle.marshall@alexandria.gov. Register at survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/MHFARegistration.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman Conversation. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The National Center for Care at the End of Life, 1731 King St. Join in a conversation with the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman Lois Serio. Free. Visit www.novahealthpolicy.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 15

Entry Deadline. The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., is seeking entries for the Athenaeum Invitational. Artists from Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia are invited to enter to win cash prizes and an exhibit in the gallery. The entry fee is \$35. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

TC Boys' Soccer Falls to Langley

The defending state champion T.C. Williams boys' soccer team ended its 2015 season with a 4-0 loss to Langley in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on May 27.

The Titans finished the season with an 11-4-2 record. T.C. Williams entered the regional tournament as the No. 4 seed from Conference 7 after falling to Woodson 2-1 in the conference tournament semifinals on May 19.

Langley was the Conference 6 champion. T.C. Williams head coach Martin Nickley praised the Titans for how they handled the pressure of being the defending state cham-

pion.

"They did an unbelievable job of representing our school with that," Nickley said. "That's tough to come out every single night with that on your back, that people want to play their best against a state champion."

T.C. Williams will lose several key players to graduation, including captains Ramsey Benzina and Patrick Kelly.

"It's been a good four years," Benzina said. "I've been part of a legendary program here, so I'm really proud of it."

T.C. Williams won Conference 7, 6A North region and 6A state championships in 2014.

— JON ROETMAN



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 visit alexandriaces.org

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 30

ous at best, playing free with the facts about Mayor Euille's blame (and Candidate Kerry Donley's) for much of what has gone wrong in Alexandria planning over the last decade. Serial disrespect for neighborhoods is a clue.

To date, I've attended only one of the Alexandria mayoral debates, but one at which the issue of BRAC 133 at Mark Center was raised. Incumbent Euille and candidate and former Mayor Donley both tap-danced on stage, indicating BRAC 133 was not their fault. Correct me if I'm wrong, but did not that happen on their watches?

Somehow, City Hall's hands were tied because it was the federal government which built BRAC 133. Mayor Euille claimed he did not get involved in these kinds of real estate transactions — yet this is the same mayor who did get involved in the real estate “deal” with the Old Dominion Boat Club, threatening eminent domain against the club's King Street property and compelling its move. I reckon the huge BRAC 133 didn't rate the same amount of concern as a small parcel on the waterfront that had been there for decades and occupied by good citizens.

Why didn't the city sue the federal government over the handling of the Mark Center, knowing it was problematic? After all, the city trigger-happily threatened to sue the city's own Board of Zoning Appeals when that board offered to hear a petition by citizens contesting increased zoning density on the waterfront. That petition, properly completed, was wrongfully thrown out by the former city Planning Director when the petitioners attempted to deliver it before the deadline. It's currently a subject before the Virginia Supreme Court.

While recent writings ignore the facts about Mayor Euille, they were just as busy contorting those about his opponent, current Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, describing her as “... inexperienced ...” As a former staffer for a U.S. senator, and a very successful and popular member of the current City Council, she is hardly politically inexperienced. In fact, she has a far better outreach to the residents of Alexandria, holding regular meetings throughout the city and listens far more seriously than Euille or Donley, who seem to brush off the public as inconvenient and ignorant. Silberberg detractors attempt to cast her as sophomoric on the dias, and to marginalize her serious efforts to spark debate. My observations are that she asks the right questions, but perhaps not ones others want to hear. I once witnessed the mayor cut her off when she challenged a questionable practice by a developer.

Her question: Why hadn't the city considered bargaining in lieu of trucking for the Carr and EYA developments on the waterfront? Isn't that ironic?

Vote on June 9; vote Silberberg.

Hal Hardaway
 Alexandria

Distinct Choices

To the Editor:

To say that Bill Euille has been an effective mayor is not a valid statement, since the City of Alexandria is a half billion dollars in debt, with an annual debt service now of \$80 million. In addition, the Alexandria schools are facing massive infrastructure costs totaling close to a billion dollars over the next 10 years, and the city's combined sewer system is in need of an estimated \$350- \$500 mil-

lion to repair it. Moreover, the recently approved “Gold Plated” Metro station for Potomac Yards (which was the most expensive option of four and adds \$14 million to our annual debt service), will cost \$268 million. Also, since Alexandria has an abysmal record of completing developments on cost and schedule, the bill for the new Metro Station alone will undoubtedly be much larger than programmed. Finally, Mayor Euille's threat to use eminent domain to obtain the property of the Old Dominion Boat Club was egregious at best, especially after vowing (on several occasions) that he would never employ it. In fact, during his tenure, Alexandria has used the threat of eminent domain in a total of four instances, which is management by intimidation and definitely not the way to run a city.

Former Mayor Kerry Donley is not a viable alternative. In the mid-'80s, he and Councilman David Speck initiated a “bricks and mortar” campaign to build as much and as dense a community as possible, with the end result being that Alexandria is one of the densest cities in the entire country, and if Mr. Donley is elected, he will double down on density. Also, he, like Mr. Euille and some others on the current City Council cater to the developers. These folks are in the process of ruining our magnificent waterfront, and if left to their own devices, they will create an Alexandria where everyone will be looking to escape to greener pastures.

A few citizens in our community assert that Allison Silberberg is not a credible candidate, claiming that she snipes at controversial development proposals, which is playing to the galleries. They also claim that she does not propose “viable alternatives.” However, Ms. Silberberg was the only City Council member who offered any alternative solution to the dreary monolithic structures proposed for the Alexandria waterfront, repeatedly stating that those buildings were not suitable for the Old and Historic District. She advocated to tear down the former Washington Post warehouse on South Union Street, and to replace it with something at least compatible with the surrounding historic neighborhood, however this fell on deaf ears.

Since the Republicans are not running a candidate in the mayor's race, whoever wins the Democratic primary on June 9 will become the next mayor. If you are content with the direction of Alexandria, vote for the incumbent or his predecessor on June 9. If not, Allison Silberberg would indeed be a welcome voice of reason to counter the current developer sponsored “borrow, build, and hope” dynasty.

Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet
 Alexandria

Mixed Legacy

To the Editor:

Bill Euille is a nice person, and he has often spoken kindly of my mother, former City Councilwoman Lois Walker, especially on issues of transportation. He ran on “One Alexandria,” but it is not fair to say that once issues like the waterfront and Beauregard are decided that we are all in agreement now. These issues have divided Alexandria which is why there is a candidate from the west end, Kerry Donley, and a candidate who has strength throughout the city Allison Silberberg, challenging him.

I remember Mayor Euille saying on the night he won his second term that he did not intend to be mayor for life. Now he is asking for a fifth term. These

have been prosperous years with the city able to build a new high school and a new police station. We have also built a new elementary school in Old Town, Jefferson Houston. We also built new two new fire stations, one with affordable housing on top, the mayor's idea. These monuments to his tenure will serve Alexandrian's for years to come. And now it seems like we are on track to get a new Metro in Potomac Yard, so if Mayor Euille is not re-elected he will have a long list of accomplishments that happened on his watch.

But he also has to take the bad with the good. In the west end we have The Washington Headquarters Service, also known as BRAC, that the city greenlighted with a letter from our current City Manager Mark Jinks, saying they would be welcome to locate there, a decision discussed in an executive session of City Council that was not open to the public and that will cost the city \$60 million in lost tax revenue in the next 20 years. The mayor also helped to approve redevelopment of 2,400 affordable apartments in the west end to a much denser development with only a set aside of 800 new affordable units. It is hard to be for affordable housing while at the same time allowing a large area where many working people in Alexandria live, be redeveloped.

We also let a ethanol trans-loading facility locate right next to Samuel Tucker School ignoring a letter from Norfolk Southern that they were going to build it. I was also at the meeting of very angry Cameron Station families when the mayor had to admit that the city missed this.

The mayor has one item left on his agenda, which is to put lights on the field at TC Williams. The mayor has tried three times unsuccessfully to build a lighted football stadium. Lights at TC breaks a promise to neighbors made first in 1965 and again in 2008 when the school was rebuilt. We need to keep a promise and find a different location, or not light the field.

Lastly, even if the waterfront development turns out great and is the economic engine it is supposed to be, I do not think that the mayor shepherded this through. The proponents were more like wolves fueled by developer money who hoped the sheep would scatter, which sometimes we did, but we are still here. Why? Because there were over 1,000 residents, who signed a petition against the re-zoning of three parcels of property in Old Town and took a legal case against the city to the Supreme Court of Virginia. What went wrong in the process? Was it the planning director refusing our petition during a city council meeting? Was it city staff tearing down our signs at 6 in the morning? Was it the total failure to consider any alternative? It was all of these.

It is also not time to turn back the clock to someone who has already been at the helm and whose policies Euille largely continued. During Kerry Donley's tenure we missed a chance to build a Metro much earlier and at a much lower cost. We also cannot build our way out of fiscal difficulties. Lastly, we should have someone who will put the city's interest first, not their professional interest. Donley also voted to approve increased density at Marc Center in the lead up to BRAC.

If you want someone who cares about our elderly, our kids, those who use our rec-centers and pools, those who are hungry, Allison is the right person. She will also push for more open space and to restore funding to the open space fund. She has respect for our neighborhoods and to preserve what is important about Alexandria.

Boyd Walker
 Alexandria

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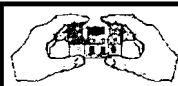
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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of
section 4-1-16 of the code of
the City of Alexandria, the
Alexandria Police Department
located at 3600 Wheeler Ave-
nue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is
now in possession of un-
claimed bicycles, mopeds,
lawn equipment, money,
scooters, and other items. All
persons having valid claim to
the property should file a claim
to the property with reasona-
ble proof of ownership or the
items will be sold, destroyed,
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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-04-03**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public
Schools is seeking proposals for Transportation Fleet Parts
and Related Items.
Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-04-03 Parts and
Related Items, will be received in the Central Procurement Of-
fice, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia
22314, on or before 3:00 pm, June 30, 2015.
The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock
stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately re-
ceived will be opened and the names of the firms responding
will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the
above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by
downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at
www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Pro-
curement and General Services - Current Bids and Request
for Proposals.
There will be a non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference held
Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 10:30 AM, at the Alexandria City
Public Schools Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place,
Suite 620, Alexandria, VA 22314. Any Offeror considering
responding to this RFP is encouraged to attend.
All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., June 22,
2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to
the ACPS web site No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of
ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may
be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this
RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any infor-
malities in any proposal.

Sharon T. Lewis CPM, CPPB, VCO
Director of Procurement & General Services

21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

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21 Announcements

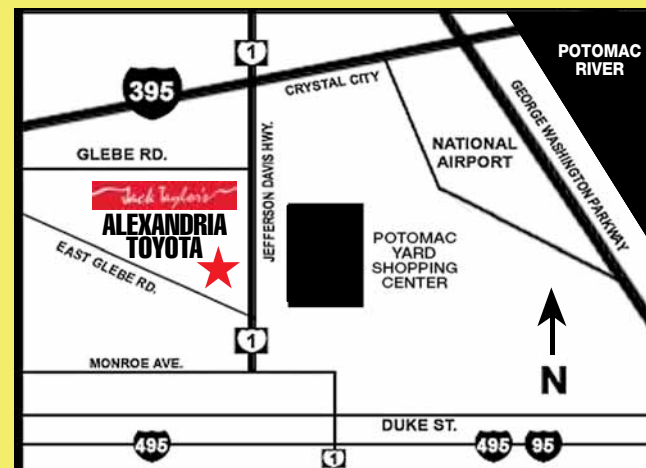
DC TO RICHMOND **Intercity Passenger Rail
Public Information Meetings Planned**

Join the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
(DRPT) **June 1, 2, and 3** for alternatives development process
public meetings to discuss faster, more reliable connections for
intercity passenger rail between Washington, D.C. and Richmond,
VA. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and
services for persons who require special assistance to participate.
Contact the Title VI compliance officer at 804-786-4440 or
TDD 711. Comments received by June 23rd will be considered
in the development of alternatives.
For more information and comment
forms, visit: **www.DC2RVArail.com**



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Alexandria/Braddock Heights \$740,000

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Mason Neck \$895,000

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