



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Hannah Meade, Audrey Knox, Dara Baker and Athena Burkett rehearse a few songs before the beginning of the multifaith gathering for marriage equality on Friday evening at Commonwealth Baptist Church.

Rejoicing on Decision Day

Multifaith gathering celebrates national same-sex equality.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

As Rev. Robin Anderson from Alexandria's Commonwealth Baptist Church discovered this weekend, planning a party around a U.S. Supreme Court decision can be problematic. First, when Anderson began planning the Northern Virginia Multifaith Gathering for Marriage Equality,

there was no set date for the decision. Decision day could have been anything between June 25 to June 29. And second, there was no way to determine the outcome of the decision. Hanging a festive banner could make for an awkward situation if the Supreme Court ruled against marriage equality.

"It was a very difficult service to plan," said Anderson, "we just had to keep it very open ended."

But as it turned out, the decision came down on Friday, June 26, and the decision was to make same-sex marriage legal across the nation. Approximately 60 people attended the Multifaith Gathering for Marriage Equality, some who would be legally allowed to marry partners of their

choice, others arriving to show support for family members or friends.

"It was pretty emotional," said Lonnie Rich, who attended with his wife Marcia Call. Marcia Call's father, Thomas Call, had gotten married in Washington D.C. earlier that day, which coincidentally was also his 80th birthday.

In 1996, Rich served on the City Council and proposed action that would have urged the Virginia legislature to legalize same-sex marriage. City Council instead adopted a substitute motion that would include a request for more hate-crime protection and prohibit dis

SEE REJOICING, PAGE 9



Candles are raised as the congregation joins in the singing of "This Little Light of Mine," at the conclusion of Friday evening's service at Commonwealth Baptist Church.

Confederate Concerns

Alexandria's Appomattox statue under scrutiny.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

With a national dialogue underway on the appropriateness of Confederate flags and imagery, some Alexandrians have begun questioning whether the Appomattox statue to Alexandria's Confederate dead should remain on Prince Street.

The Appomattox statue on Prince Street was proposed in 1885 by Edgar Warfield, a former Confederate private, to honor the Alexandrians who had died fighting for the Confederacy. John Elder, an artist from Fredericksburg, submitted a statue design based on the the soldier in one of his paintings. The dedication ceremony was held on May 24, 1889.

"The laudable idea, conceived a year or two ago, of erecting a suitable monument to perpetuate to the memory of those of the historic Seventeenth Virginia regiment who yielded their lives during the four years' of civil war ... culminated today in the unveiling at the intersection of Prince and Washington streets of a memorial in their honor which would do credit to any city," said the Alexandria Gazette in a the evening edition on May 24. According to the article, the event drew a large crowd of local residents and visitors from across the state. Also in the crowd were the children and grandchil-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

The Appomattox statue at the intersection of Prince and Washington streets.

dren of the soldiers who had died in the Seventeenth Virginia regiment.

"War, to a large percentage of the present generation, is only known through history," said the article. "They were either either unborn or [too] young to have witnessed the terrible fruits of carnage or to have realized the self-abnegation of men who voluntarily shouldered their muskets in defense of what [they] sincerely believed to be sacred."

Today, the Appomattox statue is maintained by funding from the Mary Curtis-Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and receives no city funding. However, the topic of the statue's removal was recently raised during the mayoral race. When asked what his greatest regret was while in office, Kerry Donley answered that he wished he had taken the opportunity to move the statue after it was damaged in a traffic incident

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Tenants and Timeline Unclear for Landmark Mall

As city approves details for the mall redesign, other questions remain unanswered.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

While City Council expressed support for new amenities and retail spaces at Landmark Mall, members of the public remain skeptical until more details emerge.

“Residents want to know when groundbreaking is going to happen,” said Matthew Warner, a nearby resident. “If we don’t get the sense that there is a groundbreaking date, no one is really going to believe that it’s happening.”

For city staff, after years of planning and negotiations, the process is mostly out of their hands. On June 13, City Council approved a final set of special use permits for the site that would increase retail and residential floor space as well as allow a large, outdoor projection to play cartoons and the possibility of a seasonal ice skating rink.

“With this last approval, this is it in terms of what they would need [to get started],” said Karl Moritz, the director of Planning and Zoning. “They may get a retailer or something that requires a tweak to what’s been approved, but they have all the regulatory approvals that they need from the council. We work on what we call the final site plan but that’s very close to being finished.”

Moritz said the final site plan will be completed by the end of summer and brought

back to City Council after the council’s summer recess.

Currently, Landmark Mall faces 40 percent vacancy rates. Current plans involve demolishing the existing mall, built in 1965, and re-establishing the center as an open access, outdoor retail center. Some in the public and city government have expressed concerns about delays in the project.

“We need to get this project moving,” said Mayor William Euille. “It should have been done and built and ready 10 years ago, so let’s keep that in mind.”

However, exactly what retail will be installed in the facility and any timeline for the project remains to be seen. Staff from the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP) recently attended conferences at RECON, the world’s largest trade show held annually in Las Vegas, and a South by Southwest conference focusing on innovative startup companies.

“We cannot divulge the tenants at this time,” said AEDP President and CEO Stephanie Landrum. “The meetings are in a preliminary phase. Typically what happens is announcements are made after leases are signed. As leases are firmed up, they will make announcements.”

According to Landrum, the importance of attending these types of events is in establishing relationships with the businesses and educating them on opportunities in Alexandria. Since the conference, Landrum noted that the AEDP has been in contact



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET
Empty hallways and vacant stores inside Landmark Mall

with more than 750 businesses, though the majority of these are not Landmark Mall specific. However, Landrum did say that the AEDP is currently meeting with potential tenants for Landmark Mall.

According to Landrum, establishing the tenants also must be completed before designs can be made on the layout of the building spaces.

“It’s a puzzle,” said Landrum. “One user could come in and need 10,000 square feet, but that could also be broken into five smaller storefronts. People [in this indus-

try] are using the word curation: it’s about finding the right matches for the project.”

Landmark Mall is currently divided between three owners: Macy’s on one side, Sears on the other, with the Howard Hughes Corporation controlling the middle.

“This project remains an important priority for us,” said Caryn Kboudi, vice president of the Howard Hughes Corporation. “We continue to make great progress on the development front and we continue to look at a lot of different leasing opportunities to make sure we create a wonderful, curated experience.”

Kboudi said the Howard Hughes Corporation is intending to craft the new Landmark Mall more towards a culinary and entertainment experience. However, like Landru, Kboudi was vague with regards to future timeline and potential tenants in the new mall.

“There is no timeline at this point,” said Kboudi. “This is something we hope to be able to share at some point in the future, but we have to hit certain leasing milestones first.”

While expressing support for the AEDP’s work at RECON and South by Southwest, Kboudi also would not speak with regard to specifics and would not comment on the involvement of Macy’s or Sears in the project.

“I don’t know that we have a precise groundbreaking date at this point,” said Jonathan Rock, an attorney for Howard Hughes. “Our goal, if you can call it that, is for the first quarter of 2016, but obviously there are things that need to get done, including approval of the final site plan.”

Splash with DASH DASH to operate free service on pool bus route.

The Alexandria Transit Company (DASH), in partnership with the Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics, and the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, revealed a new initiative to get families and children to the Old Town Pool this summer. More than 20 local

businesses, along with the support of the USA Swimming Foundation – Make a Splash, are sponsoring free rides during July and August on DASH’s AT10 route. This route provides service between Potomac Yard and the King Street Metro, via the neighborhoods of Arlandria, Warwick Village, Del Ray, and Rosemont. With the

Warwick Pool temporarily closed this summer, children and their families would have had a difficult time getting to the Old Town Pool on Cameron Street.

Now through Sept. 7, the AT10 route will become the free Pool Bus on weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., and on weekends between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

“The participating business sponsors signed up almost as soon as they were informed about this effort,” said DASH CEO Sandy Modell. “Alexandria’s business community is very generous. They wanted to help and thought this was a great idea.”

Business sponsors include High Dive Sponsors: Jen Walker Team – McEneaney Associates, Inc. and The JBG Companies. Kiddie Pool Sponsors: Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics; First Transit, Inc.; Bobi Bomar – The Homes of Alexandria; Del Ray Business Community; McLaughlin Ryder Investments; Speck – Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors and the Warwick Village Citizens Association. Wading Pool Sponsors: Pulte Homes; Sports

SEE SPLASH, PAGE 5

Area children take a break from the Old Town pool to check out the “Splash With Dash” bus that starts service on July 1 on AT10 route.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

DASH CEO Sandy Modell thanks the local businesses for coming to the support of the “Splash With Dash” pool bus program and raising \$22,250 in less than one week to pay for it.

Wolfe Street Bares Teeth at Developer

Potential property sale stirs controversy.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The historic 415 Wolfe Street home hasn't been sold yet, but even the possibility of a sale to a developer has some neighbors incensed. The owners of the historic property insist that the home is still on the market, and while a few developers have expressed an interest in the project, nothing is close to being finalized. Yet, some neighbors have already begun expressing concerns that a potential townhouse development could have a serious impact on the neighborhood.

"If there are lots of record, as several appear to be, whoever owns the property is entitled to build on them with approval from the Board of Architectural Review," said Al Cox, Historic Preservation manager for the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Karl Moritz, the director of Planning and Zoning, laid out a review of the property's zoning information in response to a letter from James Mitchell. Mitchell is listed on the State Corporation Commission as a registered agent of Rotis Companies LLC, a limited liability company formed on April 16, 2015. When asked about the development, Mitchell acknowledged that his company had submitted a historical report on the property and that the city had released a determination based on that record, but would make no further comment.

"The property is zoned RM/townhouse ... which allows for the development of single-family, two-family or townhouse dwelling units," said Moritz in his letter to Mitchell. Moritz also stated that four of the lots on



The alley that 415 Wolfe St. shares with 315 Prince St.

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

the property meet the minimum requirements for a dwelling.

"If this project goes forward, the quality of life for all of us goes down," said Kevin Connell, who lives directly across from the home at 416 Wolfe St. According to Connell, the home's potential sale to a developer was something long rumored; the letter from Moritz changed that. "With [the city's letter to Mitchell] we finally have a verifiable indication that something is going on here.

But Doug Turner, who owns the property, insisted that no contract has been signed. Turner also said that he doesn't understand why the property's sale is raising concerns among the neighbors.

"It's my private property," said Turner. "It's my business what we do with it."

But some of the local neighbors say the sale could have a substantial impact.

"This sale could represent the loss of a

quarter-acre of open space," said Connell. "Just as a developer can exploit a home, neighbors can protect their property values and their neighborhood quality of life... The community benefits from the fact that this property exists, and to see that turned into more new construction? That should concern any Alexandrian."

In the letter, Moritz also states each new dwelling unit must have two off-street parking spaces which must be provided from an alley or interior court. Moritz notes that the private alley to the north of the property may be able to provide this access, but that this would be dependent on ownership and usage rights to the alley.

Without support from the neighbors, this could present a problem. Rick Badwey lives at 317 Prince St., immediately adjacent to the 415 Wolfe St. property, and shares the slim alley with Turner. For years, Badwey

says he and Turner have shared the lane without incident. But if the property is converted into townhouses, Badwey says his home and his family would substantially impacted. Badwey says that the potential developer told him that 415 Wolfe Str. could have underground parking which would be accessed by the alley.

"The alleyway isn't meant to be a thoroughfare for parking," said Badwey. However, Badwey acknowledged that the alleyway is a part of the larger community concerns regarding the sale. "Stopping [this development] on the alley makes the home undesirable."

"The private alley would be a civil issue between the two abetting property owners," said Cox. "I assume there would be a lively discussion between the property owners and the adjoining neighbors."

However, beyond raising a fuss over the alley between the properties, Connell and Badwey say they are unsure how they will proceed. The public will have an opportunity if any new developments are presented at the BAR or the Planning Commission.

"The public input would be on the design of the townhouses," said Connell, "not on what is built there."

Connell and Badwey both expressed a fondness for the Turners, who they say have made substantial improvements to the home and are very welcoming to visits from neighbors.

"Ideally, another buyer will materialize with plans to occupy and protect this unique property as is and render moot the risk of development," said Connell in a letter to his neighbors. "If not, and the offer from the developer is finalized, I'm planning to combat this planned development at every stage of the review and potential permitting process to prevent what would be a substantial negative change to the look and feel of a neighborhood that's defined by the presence and openness of this grand estate."

Alexandria's Appomattox Statue under Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 1
at the site.

Recently the conversation about the statue has resurfaced following a racially motivated shooting on June 17, 2015, at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. After a controversy regarding the Confederate flag's prominence on a memorial outside the Statehouse, Confederate iconography throughout the south has been a topic of discussion. In Richmond, the Jefferson Davis monument was spray painted with the message "Black Lives Matter." In Alexandria, many of these discussions revolve around the flying of the Confederate flag on Lee-Jackson Day, the naming of the Jefferson Davis Highway, and the statue on Prince Street.

"I've asked city staff to come back to City Council when we reconvene in September, after taking a break, to look at the rules, regulations, and policies so that City Coun-

cil and the community can have a frank and honest discussion on changes we choose with regards to statues, names of buildings, street names," said Mayor William Euille.

While attending T.C. Williams High School in the mid-1960s, Euille said he was part of a protest at City Hall attempting to have the statue removed.

"We demanded and called for the removal of the statue; to put it in a park," Euille said. "This debate took place after the assassination of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. People looked at it in terms of racism and that changed needed to happen. We lost that battle, but we compromised at the time. All these years later, it still has a sting to it and that resonates at the moment."

The compromise was that the amount of time the Confederate flag was flown at the site would be minimized. Years later, while Euille was on the City Council, the flag was removed entirely. However, as the discussion has shifted towards the statue itself,

Euille is a little more wary of discussing its removal.

"As a resident of the city, it's not something I'd like for the city to have on display, but it's part of the city's history," said Euille. "I don't want us, as a community, to over-react just because there's a call throughout the nation in terms of what should be and shouldn't be in representing the Confederacy."

Removing the statue also presents a substantial legal challenge. The Virginia statute concerning Memorials for War Veterans clearly states that removing a memorial to any major war or conflict would be unlawful.

"If such are erected, it shall be unlawful for the authorities of the locality, or any other person or persons, to disturb or interfere with any monuments or memorials so erected, or to prevent its citizens from taking proper measures and exercising proper means for the protection, preserva-

tion and care of same. For purposes of this section, 'disturb or interfere with' includes removal of, damaging or defacing monuments or memorials, or, in the case of the War Between the States, the placement of Union markings or monuments on previously designated Confederate memorials or the placement of Confederate markings or monuments on previously designated Union memorials."

Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg said that she and members of the City Council would reflect on the mayor's call for Confederate imagery's place in the city to be reexamined. While Silberberg actively supports the city not flying the Confederate flag on Lee-Jackson day and said she would support state Sen. Adam Ebbin in his effort to have Jefferson Davis Highway renamed, Silberberg was more hesitant on outright removing the Appomattox statue.

"I would support moving [the statue] to
SEE STATUE, PAGE 22



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

DreamDog Foundation mascot Jazz poses for a photo with Kids Empowering Kids students at the premier of the “Don’t Judge Me” music video June 11 at William Ramsey Elementary School. The students wrote, produced and starred in the video that aims to educate others about tolerance.

‘Don’t Judge Me’

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Their voices were timid at first, but one by one students at William Ramsey Elementary School spoke up when asked how they have been judged by their friends and classmates.

“I keep being told that my skin is not dark enough, that I am too light to be a real Hispanic,” said one young girl from Guatemala. “It hurts my feelings but there is nothing I can do about the color of my skin.”

Taunts about looks and body image were a common theme as the students took part in a school-wide assembly June 11 to premiere “Don’t Judge Me,” a music video written and produced by participants in the Kids Empowering Kids program of the DreamDog Foundation.

“From start to finish, this project was done by kids and for kids,” said DreamDog Executive Director Lorraine Friedman. “When the kids were asked what are the big issues facing them at school, judgement surfaced as the biggest issue. So that became the theme for this year’s Kids Empowering Kids program — stop judging each other.”

The experiential learning program teamed students with Friedman and Edom Tilahun, a T.C. Williams student doing her Senior Experience internship. Together they worked for three weeks writing and producing the music video, which featured the entire student body of William Ramsey ES, teachers and guest appearances by ACPS Superintendent Alvin Crawley and Mayor

Bill Euille.

“It was an honor to be a part of this video,” Crawley said following the premier showing in the school’s auditorium. “It was a lot of fun working with the kids but it also sends a powerful message. Everyone did a great job.”

Once the students completed the music and lyrics, Friedman worked with musicians to record the soundtrack. When it came time for the final production, the entire school was invited to participate in the video — all 855 students and teachers, who are seen together dancing in the halls, on the auditorium stage and in the library and gymnasium.

“This experience was something totally new,” Tilahun said. “It was great to see a learning process that did not involve repetitive instruction and lack of interest from the students. The fact that it involved various things like music, writing and art made the learning a lot more multidimensional and fun for everyone.”

Friedman is proud of what the students accomplished and the message contained in the video, which contains the refrain: “Don’t judge me. I’m more than you can see. I’m not the color of my skin or the clothes I’m in so don’t judge me.”

“What Dr. Martin Luther King started years ago with his philosophy of non-judgment, our Ramsey students are continuing today with a catchy tune and powerful lyrics,” Friedman said. “I hope everyone shares the video link so we can continue to empower others with their words.”

A link to the video is available on the DreamDog Foundation’s Facebook page and can be seen on YouTube.

CORRECTION

“Mourning Betty Wright” [Gazette Packet, June 25] should have credited Stephanie Mansfield whose feature she wrote for Living Legends of Alexandria was used in the article. Mansfield, a resident of Old Town, formerly a staff writer at The Washington Post and The Washington Times, is now a free-lance writer who travels the world on high-profile assignments.

Splash with DASH

FROM PAGE 3

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PEOPLE

Dancing the Afternoon Away

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Shiny silver heels glide over the polished wooden floor. Today Lioudmila Blinov will review the steps of the Argentine tango with Gregory and Lindsey Bearce from Alexandria who have been dancing there since January. You can do it “slow slow slow” or “slow quick quick slow. It’s what you feel.” They have already been through the foxtrot and other basics. “He bought me a dance lesson as an anniversary present,” Lindsey says. “And now it’s kind of like a date night sort of thing,” Gregory adds.

Blinov pushes the gray button on the tape recorder. Argentinean tango music sets up the beat. Lindsey’s hips sway slightly as she pivots her body and slides her foot up Gregory’s leg. One ocho, second ocho (figure eight). Blinov advises, “Bring your feet and then your shoulders.” Gregory says, “oh, I didn’t transfer my weight,” and Blinov tells him to do it again. “Excellent, yes, you did it.”

Blinov and her husband own Dance Studio Lioudmila that they bought in May of 2002. Blinov’s husband, Serguei, emigrated to America from Russia in 1992 “when things weren’t very good there.” Blinov says she followed in 1995 with their two children. “In Russia dancing was our hobby and we competed a lot. We loved it for fun. We both went to dance school and then private lessons.” She explained in Russia they had both been professional doctors. “He was a neurologist, and I was a pediatrician.”

But when they came to America “we need to survive and to find what we can do in America.” So in the beginning she worked in some studios and found the Studio Dance Factory in Arlington where she taught as a part-time dance instructor. “Remember the sandwich,” Blinov says. Gregory moves his left foot close to Lindsey who swings her foot next to his and he completes the step by placing his right foot parallel. “Every time when you do the sandwich ... Now on to the cha cha.” The music reverberates as a female voice sings “I can’t believe it” Cha cha 1-



Reflections in the floor-to-ceiling mirror assist Lindsey and Gregory Bearce with their posture and dance steps at Dance Studio Lioudmila in Alexandria.



Lioudmila Blinov shows Lindsey Bearce a new step as husband Gregory watches. “Here, now your turn,” she said as she hands Lindsey over to Gregory.

2-3. Cha cha, man turn. Cha cha, lady turn. “Again with the music.”

Blinov says most people who take private lessons come once a week. “But my husband when he is competing with a student in the Pro-Am (pro-amateur) competition may teach two or even four lessons a week because they need more practice.”

Blinov starts with the basics like how to hold your body, the box, the waltz. “I teach them how to lead, special exercise. And the lady should always follow the gentleman. Even if he leads you wrong, just follow or it looks all wrong.” She explains, “You get to one level and you want to get better. You watch others and want to do what they do. You know it’s why we keep this business.” And as you move up, the international samba and foxtrot are complicated, more disciplined than the American which is more comfortable for social dances.

People of all ages take dance lessons but she notices that younger people seem to take the cheaper group lessons. “I wish we had more young people, but they are busy with other things.” If the group who comes has more women than men, the women are patient to wait their turn to practice with a man. But if there are more men, they get very frustrated and not patient at all. “I had an 86-year-old man who stopped coming last year because he was afraid to drive but not to dance. He did it all and sometimes I had to be sure I could catch him. He was great.” On the other side she has a five-year-old girl and six-year-old boy who come 1-2 times a week. The boy is the grandson of the person at the front desk. “They are going to compete.”

Lindsey has tucked up her dark hair and is concentrating. Blinov is lined up facing the floor-to-ceiling mirror with Gregory and Lindsey. “I’m going to teach you a new cha cha step to add to what you know. She holds Lindsey and guides her around the floor in a small circle, then Gregory. Cha cha, pivot into Gregory’s arm. “We do this twice. Now put it all together. Ex-cell-ent.”

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Brunch Benefits Surgical Services

The Board of Lady Managers held its annual brunch on June 21 at the Union Street Public House. The brunch raised funds for the purchase of two state-of-the-art neurology microscopes for Inova Alexandria Hospital Surgical Services. So far over \$5,000 has been raised towards the goal of \$640,000.

Board of Lady Managers Brunch co-chairs Marjorie Harris and Janet Barnett greet guests at the Union Street Public House on Father’s Day.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Board of Lady Managers president Connie Blood thanks Jay Test and Jim Mathews of the Union Street Public House for their donation of space and a buffet brunch for members and their guests.



Jane, Margaret and George Hughes



Gincy Carousi and her granddaughter Mary Dunn

Best for Vets

Alexandria tops list of cities for veterans.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Military Times has named Alexandria as the top mid-size community for veterans in its first Best for Vets: Places to Live feature article.

More than 500 cities were considered for the June 17 article with only 75 named as top communities for veterans in large, medium and small city categories.

"This is a real distinction for our home," said Lt. Gen. Bob Wood (ret.). "Thanks go to all who served, call Alexandria home and support our community."

With a median income for veterans estimated at \$95,000 per year, Alexandria has a low 0.4 percent veteran unemployment rate. Other factors such as military and veteran services and livability were cited in the article.

"The scale [of Alexandria] is very approachable. You know where the main street is," said Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, in the article. "It's not overwhelming like some of the larger jurisdictions."

Coming in second in medium sized cities was nearby Arlington, with a median income for veterans at nearly \$96,000 with a 1.3 percent unemployment rate.

Rounding out the top five medium size cities were Centennial, Colo., Mission Viejo, Calif., and Arvada, Colo. For large cities, the top five were Virginia



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

The city's waterfront is a popular destination in Alexandria, which was recently named the top medium size city for veterans.

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Corey Wallach, MD, completed his spine fellowship at the prestigious UCLA Comprehensive Spine Center which specializes in minimally invasive, motion preserving and traditional treatment for the neck and lumbar spine. He completed his residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where he conducted research on biologic treatment strategies for degenerative spinal disorders, earning both national and international recognition for his efforts. He now serves as a medical director for the Inova Spine Institute.

PEOPLE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Parker-Gray High School graduates of the 1940s: Thomas Harold Lee, Bernice Lee, Arthur Dawkins and Alice Lewis Holland.



Teachers and staff of Parker-Gray High School: Alice Lewis Holland, Edith Burton, Arthur Dawkins and Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell.

Gala Celebrates 50th Reunion of Parker-Gray Class of '65

The Parker-Gray High School Class of 1965 hosted its 50th anniversary on June 12-13 and commemorated the closing of the high school as a segregated institution

of learning in the City of Alexandria. The two-day festivities included a re-acquaintance reception and a gala banquet at the Alexandria Hilton Mark Center.

Parker-Gray High School was the only

high school for Black students in the city until desegregation began in 1963. When desegregation started, a few students left Parker-Gray and attended Hammond and George Washington high schools.

Parker-Gray was closed as a high school in 1965.

On June 11, 1965 the last class graduated from Parker-Gray High School.



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Alexandria Gazette Packet

Helping foster children enjoy experiences others take for granted.

The Fund for Alexandria's Child was established as a vehicle for concerned members of our own community to help provide special services for children who are in foster care or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. When there is no other funding source, The Fund allows children to take part in such enriching experiences as scouting, class field trips, sports, music or art lessons, summer camp and more. There are no overhead costs. The volunteer Advisory Council is the fundraising arm of The Fund for Alexandria's Child, sponsoring benefit events and fostering awareness of the needs of Alexandria's most vulnerable children.

Rejoicing on Decision Day

FROM PAGE 1

crimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation. At the Multifaith Gathering, Rich said he heard from many citizens that they didn't arrive at the church believing it could be true.

"It was very emotional," said Rich. "A lot of people didn't think that this would come in their lifetime, even if they thought it would come eventually. The Defense of Marriage Act and other legislation felt like part of a backlash."

But since his proposal to City Council in 1996, Rich said marriage equality had emerged as a grassroots issue across the country.

"More and more people coming out made more people realize that they had gay [or lesbian] members of their family or neighbors and it turned out not to be a big deal," said Rich. Rich also believes that the fact that younger generations didn't see marriage equality as a problem and that was integral to the changing mindset of the nation. Also, as marriages were recognized sporadically across the United States, Rich said more and more heterosexual couples began to realize that the fabric of their lives wasn't being torn apart.

But for many at the Multifaith Gathering, the Supreme Court's recognition of marriage equality isn't the end of the road.

"One person was getting married next year and didn't know if her parents were going to come," said Anderson. "Some who showed up were seminary students that wanted to show support at the Supreme Court but didn't want to jeopardize their chances at



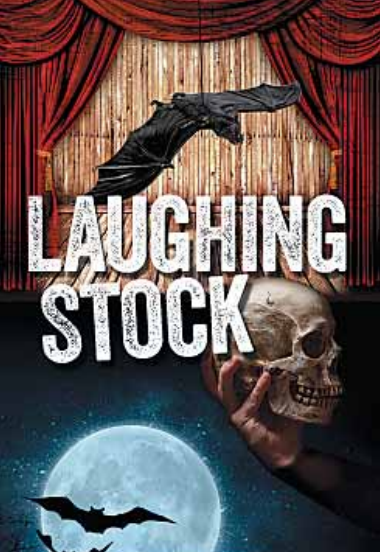
PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

A rainbow of colored lanterns glow beneath the pulpit at Commonwealth Baptist Church.

being ordained."

Anderson said that as she watched the people in the room share their reflections on the decision, she realized more and more the importance of individuals facing discrimination to have a community they feel welcome in.

"I watched people share their feelings who hadn't been emotional all day," said Anderson. "Being in a room with others, something clicked and they had an emotional response ... I want people to know that there are lots of faith communities from different traditions with different denominations that are supportive that think this is a wonderful decision."



AUDITIONS:
Saturday July 11th, 2 pm
Sunday, July 12th, 7 pm

CALLBACKS:
 Tuesday, July 14th, by invitation

LAUGHING STOCK, a backstage farce, with a behind-the-scenes look at the world of Summer Stock Theatre that is nowhere close to Broadway in any and all aspects. All characters are stereotypical theater types that all of us have worked with, loved, and in some cases have been or will be. Details listed under the pull-down "auditions" button on our website.

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This commitment is just one example of the Department's community outreach efforts aimed toward ensuring a safe environment and positive quality of life for all Alexandrians. But they can't do it alone!

Please support the Alexandria Police Foundation's efforts to guarantee that every qualified, deserving child has an opportunity to benefit from this positive experience. \$500 will send one more child to camp per week and is 100% tax deductible.

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OPINION

Going the Distance for City's Children

Parks, play and promising futures.

BY BROOKE SYDNOR CURRAN

Summer vacation season is upon us. Vacations are not just fun, but can also be important for our health. We can return from time away with a renewed sense of vigor, fresh perspectives, and increased mental acuity. A break from the daily grind can relieve stress and increase productivity in all of us.

But in our community, too many people, particularly at-risk children and their families, don't have the opportunity to take vacations. And to make matters worse, many don't even have ready access to safe and engaging neighborhood parks or playgrounds, the next best thing. This park and playground "desert" has serious consequences for the health, learning, and overall well-being of many of Alexandria's children.

Numerous studies show that physical exertion, play, and general running around can

greatly improve a child's mood, mental focus and attention span. Movement activates the brain, "priming the pump" and setting kids up for optimal learning and success in school. Of course, movement is good for kids' physical health and staving off effects of bad eating habits and inactivity, particularly obesity. Did you know that Alexandria follows the shocking national trend where 44.5 percent of two-to-five year-olds are classified as overweight or obese?

Fortunately, many members of our Alexandria community are committed to improving the lives of at-risk kids and their families.

COMMENTARY

RunningBrooke, an organization founded in 2009, has been working to support the development of playgrounds and parks, as well as movement and early education programs for Alexandria children. We are lucky to have the essential support of numerous partners, including city government, numerous other organizations, and residents committed to similar initiatives.

The link between active living and learning are clear.

There are some promising signs of progress.

Last month, RunningBrooke, a local nonprofit that raises funds to support healthier and more active families, announced its investment of \$80,000 to redevelop Arlandria's Hume Springs Park. This park, in a transitional neighborhood with the highest percentage of young children in Alexandria, will soon feature recreational equipment and green space specifically designed for kids under five years of age. We encourage Alexandria residents to join RunningBrooke on September 19 to help build the Hume Springs Park.

This exciting development represents a promising step in the right direction to ensure that all of Alexandria's kids have a safe place to learn and be more active. We hope it will be among many on behalf of healthy families and a stronger community.

Sydnor Curran is the founder and CEO of RunningBrooke, a nonprofit organization that goes the distance for at-risk children in Alexandria. RunningBrooke funds innovative programs that get at-risk children moving to maximize school learning. To raise the level awareness and public engagement, founder Brooke Sydnor Curran has run a marathon a month since 2009 — a total of 86 so far — including one marathon on each continent, in each of the 50 states, and the five world Marathon Majors. To learn more, visit www.runningbrooke.org.

Accountability Supports My Students

BY NICOLE THORPE

I watch Dominic's feet swing under his chair as he concentrates hard on answering the last question of a reading assessment. As I write down his answer, Dominic asks: "Ms. Nicole, did I do okay on the test?" I smile and nod yes. We both know he worked very hard and are both quite happy with his results. I am also very used to this question. Kids, like the rest of us, want to know how they're doing. As their teacher, it is also my job to know how they're doing. What do they know? What do they still need to learn? I hold myself accountable for my students' growth and it is with this data that I am best able to teach them and



make sure of their progress.

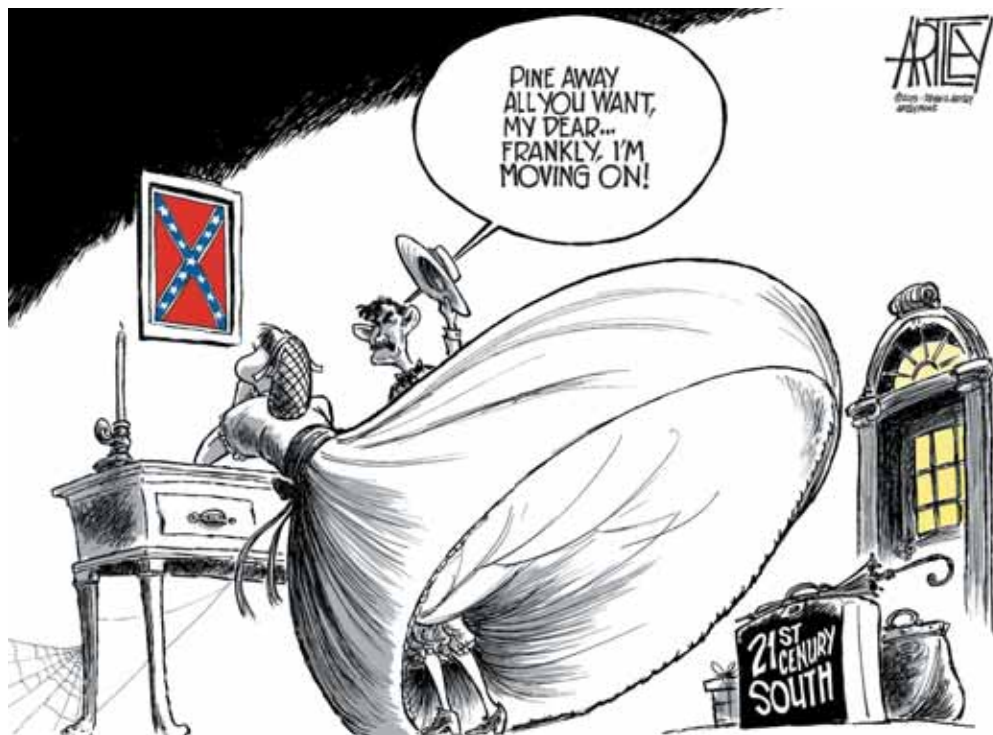
I get important help in this process because No Child Left Behind currently requires my school to report my students' data. That data is then disaggregated, so that the performance of subgroups (students of color, students in poverty, special education students, English Language Learners) is specifically reported. If the data show that a school is failing to support the progress of their students, especially their most disadvantaged students, action must be taken. When my school failed to make ad-

equately yearly progress, we began a partnership with experts at the University of Virginia. This partnership supported the leadership team at my school, helping them dig deep to understand and act on student data. These school leaders then helped teachers like me institute stronger teaching practices to support all of our learners. All of these actions, based on NCLB's accountability requirements, helped students like Dominic grow.

Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA), the current version of the NCLB/ESEA that is now under reauthorization discussion in Congress, gives states the flexibility to create accountability systems but does not require schools with failing data to take any remediation measures. While it is certainly possible for states to create strong systems of accountability and remediation, we know that some meaningful federal guardrails are necessary if we are to prevent states from turning a blind eye to the students who need assistance the most. History has shown that when we allow states to have total control, without any federal oversight, they run off the tracks. Prior to NCLB, 48 states chose not to include any subgroup data in their accountability systems (meaning that students in poverty, students of color, special education students, and English language learners were not counted in their performance metrics). Sensible federal accountability standards provide states and districts with the flexibility they deserve to best address the needs of their students, while still making sure that states put supports in place to help students, teachers, and schools that need extra help.

The truth is that some students have greater challenges than other. Dominic is a good example of this. He is a Hispanic, special education student, who is living in poverty. His test

SEE ACCOUNTABILITY. PAGE 18



STEVE ARTELEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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LETTERS

Winning by Listening

To the Editor:

Winning precincts across the city from the West End to Parkfairfax to Old Town, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg won the primary on June 9 by a convincing plurality to become the Democratic nominee for mayor of the city of Alexandria. She defeated the incumbent mayor, Mr. Bill Euille, who has served since 2003. She also defeated the former mayor, Mr. Kerry Donley, who served as mayor eight years prior to Mayor Euille. Against a combined 20-year incumbency as well as being out-raised by both candidates, Vice Mayor Silberberg pulled off an upset. She won in an old-fashioned way. She actively listened to one voter at a time with the promise to bring new energy to the table.

Since the election, some of my Democratic colleagues are trying to negate Vice Mayor Silberberg's win by invoking sexism ("she can't do the job," "it's bad for business"). They speculate that her margin of victory resulted from Republican and Independent cross-over votes and complain about low voter turn-out.

Let's be clear. Vice Mayor Silberberg won the election fair and square by keenly focusing on the needs and desires of her constituents. While on council, she developed a deeper core base of constituents across the city who want to change the present dynamic of government. She hosted monthly coffees and welcomed all to join

her. Citizens came out in droves. People experienced her commitment to public service and caring leadership. For example, her response to Russell Road families, after a child was struck and nearly killed on a dangerous stretch of road. For years they asked the city to do something. As vice mayor, she got things done to bring them a safer stretch of road.

As vice mayor, her leadership and principled votes often went against the grain of "business as usual." Guess what — she wasn't alone in those 6-1 votes after all. With her victory, we now have an opportunity for thoughtful, appropriate development that is in scale and a more transparent government with open debate.

Let's be clear about something else. If Ms. Silberberg had lost the primary, she would have been expected to, and would have, immediately endorsed the winner. I applaud Mr. Donley's immediate endorsement on election night. I hope that our other Democratic elected officials and candidates will expressly endorse her soon.

Frankly, it's been disheartening to read social media and listen to the elitism among some of my Democratic colleagues who set a double standard for the rules of the game to choose who leads the city. When Ms. Silberberg won the November 2012 City Council election, she received the most votes and became vice mayor. She also out-pollled Mayor Euille in six precincts.

In 2009, the Alexandria City Council

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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Melissa Rosario 919.518.7288
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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317
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ENTERTAINMENT

ACCT Stages 'Cheaper by the Dozen'

Comedy tells of efficiency expert who raises a family with 12 children.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is staging the light-hearted classic comedy "Cheaper by the Dozen" July 3-19 in Alexandria.

The play is based on the biographical novel written by Frank Bunker Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey, published in 1948. It tells the story of time and motion study and efficiency experts Frank Bunker Gilbreth and Lillian Moller Gilbreth, and their 12 children. It was made into a 1950 film starring Clifton Webb and Myrna Loy.

Director Becky Patton wanted to direct "Cheaper by the Dozen" because it was one of her favorite books. "Today, the thought of raising a dozen children makes me want to run screaming in the other direction; however, directing this wonderful group of actors has been an enormous amount of fun," she said.

She said Gilbreth Sr. was a time and motion study expert; his wife Lillian was one of the very first industrial psychologists. And together their work paved the way for the modern study of ergonomics. "The push to become 'the most efficient family in America' has its price, but is not without plenty of humor," she said.

She said the cast has a variety of acting experience (or none, in several cases), and she wanted to help the newcomers enjoy their first experience while not boring the old hands. Part of their enthusiasm has stemmed from the research the actors have done on their individual characters, since this is basically a true story. "We also spent time talking about how families interact and really enjoyed the dynamics," she said. "I had each one create a back story for their character — what they liked, who their ally was in the family, what their favorite subject was," she added.

"I would be remiss if I didn't point out to

you that this show is only possible through the hard work and dedication of many people, in addition to the actors ... Set builders, painters, and decorators, sound, lighting and properties designers, stage managers, costumers, the ticket booth and concessionaires, and of course, my fabulous producers who kept everyone connected and the show moving forward," she said. "I want to give the marvelous technical crew a shout out for making 'Cheaper' the endearing production it is today."

James McDaniel plays the role of the father, a historical figure, had a major influence on scientific management and management in general. "He is a little behind the social fashions and conventions of the day; his value system is still rooted in the previous (Victorian) age, so he is in conflict with the growing independence of his daughters who want to adopt the current fashion and conventions," he said.

He said that a strong theme throughout the show is the father's concern that "time is precious."

He added: "I hope the audience will compare, reflect upon, and cherish relationships with their own family members. It will remind audiences that there will always be conflicts between young and old, but we can still love, respect and support one another."

Brevan Collins plays the role of Larry, a senior in high school who plays fullback for the Montclair High School football team. "He really likes Anne, but is afraid to ask her out at first because her dad is very scary," he said.

It has been a challenge for him to play someone who is five years older, he said. "I don't really know how a 17-year-old acts or thinks because I am 12. I have been using my script and watching how the older teens act," he said.

Alyssa Denton plays the role of Anne, the oldest child in the Gilbreth family who wants to fit in

— whether that be with clothing, the way she carries herself or wanting to impress boys. "She faces troubles when her family prevents her from doing as she wishes and to focus solely on schoolwork and skipping grades," she said.

"While on the surface they can appear very shallow, I wanted to find the deeper meaning to her wanting a boyfriend," she said.

Zack Collison plays the role of Bill, a typical younger brother who enjoys bothering his older siblings but likes to cover it up in front of their dad. "At one point in the show I have to chaperone my oldest sister on a date which makes me more disturbing to her than the others," he said.

He hopes the audience will see how real life was for the Gilbreth family — and discover what life meant for them each as an individual and together as a family.

Suzanne Martin plays the role of the mother, Lillian Gilbreth. "Lillian Gilbreth was a brilliant woman with educational credits that would be impressive even in our times," she said.

She has been reading Lillian's autobiography, and she said the play takes some liberties with many of the life events in the Gilbreth family. "I have found I needed to take a step back and look at the messages the play would like to deliver, and step a bit further from the events and Lillian's true reactions to them," she said.

She added: "I hope audience members go home and call/write/see their loved ones and tell them how special they are to them," she said.

Lyndsey Lawrence plays the role of Lillian, the second-youngest daughter in a 12-child family. At age 11, she hasn't found herself at the center of boy-craziness like the rest of her sisters. "Her disinterest in boys and interest in other childlike things pre-

vents her from bonding with her sisters, but brings her closer to the younger kids in the family," she said.

She said a challenge was having to portray herself much younger than she is, and being very energetic and bubbly every second she was on stage. "This was a change for me since I'm usually cast in roles with the character being much older or having a meaner personality," she said.

Olivia Hays plays the role of Martha, the third oldest child in the Gilbreth family. "She, like her older sisters, has her focus set on attracting boys and wanting to fit in," she said. "Martha always means well, but sometimes her judgment is clouded."

"My challenge in developing her character, was balancing my delivery of lines so that her immaturity doesn't come off as lack of intelligence," she said.

She added: "Every family has its quirks, and the Gilbreth family is no exception. Though the Gilbreth family is a little wacky, especially with the father's emphasis on efficiency in the home, its members value their time together. My hope is that the audience members enjoy the Gilbreths, and are reminded, even if just in a small way, what makes their families special."

Producer Leah Hays said, "Each time the cast rehearses, the father's response to Anne's question in Act III gives me pause, "... It's for where your heart lies — that's what you save time for."

Aldersgate Church Community Theater is staging "Cheaper by the Dozen" July 3-19 in Alexandria. Show times are July 3, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. and July 5, 12, and 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15/general; \$12/students and seniors. Aldersgate United Methodist Church is located at 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. For more information, visit www.acctonline.org.



The cast of ACCT's production of "Cheaper by the Dozen" includes: (Back row): Lillian (Lyndsey Lawrence), Anne (Alyssa Denton), Dad (James McDaniel), Martha (Olivia Hays) and Ernestine (Jenna Martin). (Front row): Frank (Quinten Hoagland), Dan (Johnie Hays), Jackie (Jovan Morales-Shackleford), and Bill (Zack Collison).

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Mother (Suzanne Martin) and Dad (James McDaniel) star in ACCT's production of "Cheaper by the Dozen."

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

"Art Uniting People" Exhibit.

Through July 9, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the 2nd floor hallway at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St. 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.

"Saturate." Through July 19 during gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Six artists use different mediums to convey moisture. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

"Boundaries & Borders." During gallery hours through July at the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Artists were inspired the "outsider's perspective" for this exhibit. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"Magical, Mystical Animals."

Through July 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Studio 18. Artists will display art inspired by childhood stories and mythical creatures. Admission is free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Art Class Exhibit.

Through July 28, Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at Saint Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. View drawings and paintings done by the senior art class. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffee.pub.

Hollin Meadows Summertime Writing Nights.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays through Aug. 17 at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Families and elementary students (grades kindergarten through third) can read, write and talk with teachers. Free. Email Hollinmeadows.KeepInTouch@fcps.edu for more.

Cool Yoga.

Wednesdays through Sept. 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. Participate in group yoga sessions taught by Prasada Yoga's Maureen Clyne and enjoy refreshments provided by St. Elmo's Coffee Pub and other local eateries. Suitable for all levels. Bring mat, towel and water. Free. Call 703-671-2000.

Special Family Museum Tours.

Saturdays through Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Flexible tours and

hands-on activities provide a deeper experience into the social and political life of Alexandria in the 18th and 19th centuries. Tickets are \$5 for adults (\$4 with AAA card), \$3 children ages 5-12, and children ages 4 and under as well as Alexandria Public School and Blue Star families receive free admission. Coupons accepted. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

Through Sept. 26 at various time. Leaves from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Baseball fans can avoid heavy traffic and cruise along the Potomac to Nationals Park. Tickets are \$20 one-way and \$25 round-trip. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/baseball-boat.php.

Doggy Happy Hour. Tuesdays through Oct. at 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Enjoy discounted drinks and treats with one's dog. Free. Visit www.jackson20.com/buzzevents_events.php.

Water Taxi to the National Mall.

Through Nov. 1, at various times at Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Cruise from Old Town to D.C. on the *Miss Sophia*, while stopping view some of the area's most popular attractions. Tickets are \$28 roundtrip and \$14 one-way for adults. For children under 12, tickets are \$16 roundtrip and \$8 one-way. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/.

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

George Washington's Mount Vernon

has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria-a \$26 added value. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org for more.

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

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour

that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

Second Thursday Music.

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

The Monday Morning Birdwalk

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

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

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

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer

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

Art League Summer Camps.

Registration for Summer Art Camp 2015 is now open.

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

2015 Youth Summer Art Camp.

July 20-25 or July 27-31 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Youth ages 8-14 spend one

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Independence Day At Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon's annual Independence Day celebration is an all-day event. Guest will be greeted by "General and Mrs. Washington," may listen to a reading of the Declaration of Independence, watch battle reenactments and more. Free "Happy Birthday, America!" birthday cake will be served while supplies last on the Bowling Green after a made-for-daytime fireworks show over the Potomac. Activities are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit www.mountvernon.org for a full schedule.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

JULY 6-AUG. 24

Yoga for Gardeners. Mondays, 9:45-10:45 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This class is a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. The class is held indoors. The class is \$86 per person. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

TUESDAY/JULY 7

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

Michael Fisherkeller Talk. 7-8 p.m. at Morrison House Hotel, 116 S Alfred St. Michael Fisherkeller, a Torpedo Factory visiting artist, will be talking about his artwork which incorporates images from pre-Raphaelite artwork into his street-art inspired paintings to represent

contemporary issues. Admission is free. Call Tatyana Schremko at 703-548-1750 or email her at tatyana.ss@verizon.net.

TUESDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 7-10

Dance Class: Jane Franklin Dance. 10-11:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Body integration for the individual is the class's primary goal while encouraging flexibility, strength, and coordination. Enroll at www.JaneFranklin.com.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 8

Sonic Saturation. 7 p.m. at Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Instrumentalist Tom Teasley performs live with sound created using water to provide an enhanced experience to the works in Saturate. Tickets are \$15. Visit nvfaa.org for more.

Swing Dance with DJ Dabe Murphy. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S Pickett St. DJ swing dance featuring the music of the 1930s, 1940s, '950s, and some contemporary favorites. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Robert Earl Keen. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Country music artist performs "The Bluegrass Sessions" with guest The Hello Strangers. Tickets start at \$49.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 10

Jason D. Williams and Dale Watson & The Lodestars. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Combining both country and rock, Jason D.

Williams performs along with Dale Watson. Tickets start at \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar/ for tickets.

Tom Principato Band. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Tom Principato performs his trademark guitar riffs live. Tickets start at \$25. There is a \$25 minimum food and beverage purchase required per guest, except for general admission tickets. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

Four Mile Summer Movie Festival. Movies start at dusk and are shown at the Four Mile Conservatory Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. National Community Church's inaugural summer movie festival is co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Film schedule is as follows: Friday, July 10, "The Lego Movie;" Friday, Aug. 7, "McFarland USA;" Friday, Sept. 11, "Cool Runnings." Bring a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.theaterchurch.com for more.

JULY 10-19

Alexandria Live Music Week.

Various times at venues throughout the city. Find music from almost every genre. Admission varies by venue. Visit www.livemusicweek.com for a full schedule.

SATURDAY/JULY 11

Alexandria's Historic Breweries Guided Tour and Tasting. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Old Town. Learn about the history of local breweries on a walking tour. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/things-to-do/summer-in-alexandria/.

Gardening Exposition. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia provide a program on container gardening and composting with focuses ranging from selecting and potting plants to building a compost pile. Free. Enroll at mgnv.org.

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.

Old Fashioned Cookout and Talent Showcase 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Fun family event with lots of food, music, door prizes, games, face painting for children, a photo booth, and a talent show. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$8 for ages 6-12, free for children 6 and under. For tickets, contact smiles0406@hotmail.com or lderamous@hotmail.com.

Alexandria/USA Birthday Celebration. 7-10 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Watch fireworks and live entertainment. Free. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/alexandria-birthday-celebration for more.

Old Time Banjo Festival. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 9th Annual Mike Seeger commemorative festival, featuring Cathy Fink, Marcy Marxer, Jayme Stone, David Reed, and Adam Hurt. Tickets start at \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar.

MONDAY/JULY 13

Gardening Program. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia present "Rebooting Your Summer Herb Garden," a session focused on maintenance and helpful tips. Free. Register at mgnv.org.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

week creating art and learning creative techniques, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies, lunch, and snacks are provided. \$300 per child. Scholarships are available. See www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtCamp.

Grown-Ups Art Camp. June 29-July 17 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Adult art instruction including 37 workshops and events. Classes range from working with resin to polymer clay; from creating a monotype or paper masterpiece to learning how to tango. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Summer of Smiles. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time (residents only) and classic camps. The guide has an index listing camps by week offered and age group. 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.

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.

FRIDAY/JULY 3

Free Noontime Concert. 12-12:30 p.m. at Historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. The Choir of Men & Boys from Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, will present a free informal concert. Admission is free. Visit www.HistoricChristChurch.org or call 703-778-4931.

Friday Evening Garden Tour. 7-8

p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master Gardener docents will highlight the summer sights, fragrances and sounds at the end of the day, when changing light accentuates different plants and landscape features. Refreshments also available. Admission is \$12 person for each tour. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 302 6901.

Bilal. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. R&B artist and wide-range vocalist Bilal performs. Tickets start at \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 4

An American Celebration at Mount Vernon. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Mount Vernon will pay tribute to the first president of the United States with a display of made-for-daytime fireworks. The event also includes military reenactments, a wreath-laying ceremony, and free "Happy Birthday, America!" birthday cake while supplies last. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of the area's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. Free. Visit www.pohick.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 5

Author Talk: Mikey "J." 2-3 p.m. at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Mikey "J." discusses his work and shares readings from his book, "Color of Word." Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us for more.

Changing Face of Family-Friendly Dining

Upscale restaurants accomodate children.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Quick: Think of a traditionally “kid-friendly” restaurant. It’s likely that one particular genre comes to mind: A loud establishment teeming with chaos, impatient servers, and a small children’s menu offering the usual fare for your little ones. But the face of **APPETITE** “family-friendly” dining is changing, and some of the restaurants leading the way in Alexandria may surprise you.

Jackson 20, 480 King St.

Wait, wait. Jackson 20, as in the upscale restaurant adjacent to the Hotel Monaco on King Street?

OK, it’s true: At first blush, Jackson 20 may not seem like the ideal fit for a night out with the whole clan. But manager Andrew Carlson says that perception couldn’t be further from reality.

Families “want to go out and have a good dining experience with their kids,” he said. And he’s adamant in ensuring that his restaurant provides a relaxing, friendly environment for diners of all ages.

“(Children) are here to eat, too,” he added.

Pop in to Jackson 20 on any normal weekend and you’ll find the brunch offerings and ambience to be a welcome respite from some of the more stuffy suits in town. Offering a special children’s menu aimed at “the Future Presidents of America,” the kitchen boasts favorites such as pancakes and PBJs, as well as an egg sandwich and scrambled eggs with bacon. Coming for lunch instead? Your future president can select several different versions of sliders, as well as a child-friendly version of one of the restaurant’s specialties.

“Kids love our mac and cheese,”

Carlson said, adding that since little ones’ palates often haven’t adjusted to the intricacies of sharper, spicier cheeses, the children’s version is prepared with American and cheddar.

This time of year, Carlson says, the restaurant sees a spike in families coming through at all times of the day and night. Tourist season is in full swing, and diners of

all ages are hungry. And Carlson says he and the staff are ready: He knows it takes just a few extra seconds to pull out a high chair or provide crayons for young guests, and that extra time goes an awfully long way for mealtime peace.

If You Go

Jackson 20

Address: 480 King St., Alexandria

Open: Weekday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; weekends brunch and dinner.

Top child-friendly seller: Mac and cheese.

Something new: The restaurant recently launched a new Lunch Line campaign; check out their Twitter hashtag at #WhenPigsFly to vie for a free meal on your lunch hour.



PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON

Jackson 20 caters to the “Future Presidents of America”—and adults too.

For children and adults alike, the sweetest reward comes at the end of the meal. Pie has made its way to Jackson 20, and kids of all ages should rejoice.

“I have been preaching pies for three years,” Carlson said, and his persistence has paid off. Seasonal pies are making their way to the menu, and the rotating offerings are seemingly limitless, ebbing and flowing between Mississippi mud pie, banana-cream pie, and strawberry pie, just to name a few.

Noteworthy:

♦ **Caphe Banh Mi**, 407 Cameron St.

This popular Vietnamese eatery in the shadow of City Hall may appear to have a menu that’s intimidating to many kids, but they have an off-menu pho option aimed

for younger diners’ palates. On the menu, their rice and vermicelli-noodle options are also good ones for children to cut their teeth on, so to speak.

♦ **Momo Sushi**, 212 Queen St.

Sushi may not seem like the most welcoming choice for families of all ages, but Momo does it right. More adventurous young eaters can try some of the restaurant’s specialty rolls, such as the Philly roll (rice rolled with salmon, cream cheese, and cucumber) or the spider roll (rice rolled with fried crab, cucumber, and avocado). In terms of more toned-down but still tasty options, try the avocado or oshinko rolls.

Hope Nelson owns and operates *The Kitchen Recessionista* blog, which can be found at www.kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

SUNDAY/JULY 12

Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Closely associated with Bruce Springsteen, Southside Johnny and his band performs live. Tickets start at \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JULY 14

Toad the Wet Sprocket. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. American alternative rock band perform with guest Derik Hultquist. Tickets start at \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

Toad the Wet Sprocket. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. American alternative rock band perform with guest Derik Hultquist. Tickets start at \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 16-18

The Bacon Brothers. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall 3701, Mount Vernon Ave. The Bacon Brothers is the American musical duo of Michael Bacon and Kevin Bacon.

Although they have played music together since they were boys, the brothers have only been a working band since 1995. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 17

Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Tony Sands celebrates 100 years of Sinatra’s music. Tickets start at \$28. There is a \$25 minimum food and beverage purchase required per guest, except for general admission tickets. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 18

Tom Teasley: Sonic Saturation Performance and Sound Installation. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This one-time installation, inspired and created with water, will include pre-recorded ambient sound combined with live performance on unusual instruments. \$15 admission. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Marine Chamber Orchestra Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. at The Schlesinger Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. The United States Marine Chamber Orchestra continues its summer concert series. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 17-18

Comcast Outdoor Film Festival. 5:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park. Watch films on a 40-foot inflatable movie screen. Films are as follows: Friday, July 17 – “How to Train Your Dragon 2” (PG); Saturday, July 18 – “X-Men: Days of Future Past” (PG-13). Bring blankets and chairs. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaFilmFest.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 18

“Solo Baroque.” 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Listen to Baroque violinist Michael de Sapio. Free. Donations accepted. Call 703-409-5859.

JULY 18-24

“Jon Meadows – A Soldier’s Voice.” Opening reception is on July 18, at 6 p.m. Gallery hours Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m.–9 p.m., and Sunday, 12-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St, Studio 12. Veteran Army Staff Sgt. Jon Meadows tells his story through visual art. Admission is free. Visit www.theartleague.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 19

Ambrosia. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

An American rock band from California performs live. Tickets start at \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

MONDAY/JULY 20

Jonny Lang. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jonny Lang brings modern blues to the Birchmere. Tickets start at \$69.50. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar.

TUESDAY/JULY 21

Genealogical Clues in Records. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn how to find clues about your ancestors in legal documents in Chuck Mason’s talk: “Understanding the Hidden Clues in Records.” Free. Visit www.mvgenalogy.org.

Steeleye Span Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. British folk rock group Steeleye Span performs. Tickets start at \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

JULY 23-SEPT. 6

“Fields.” Gallery hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Artists David Carlson and Pat Goslee make art based on their interests in spiritual exploration and energy fields. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Peter White and Richard Elliot. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jazz musicians perform live at the Birchmere. Tickets start at \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 24

Golf Classic. All day at Old Hickory Golf Club, 11921 Chanceford Drive, Woodbridge. Alexandria Chamber of Commerce hosts their Annual Golf Classic. Tickets start at \$250. Visit www.alexchamber.com.

A Tribute to Earth Wind & Fire, The Emotions. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. The Brencore Allstars Band performs hits from Earth Wind and Fire and The Emotions. Tickets start at \$30. There is a \$25 minimum food and beverage purchase required per guest, except for general admission tickets. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 25

Red, White & Beagle. 6-10 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. The Beagle Freedom Project will present their first fundraiser. Find dinner, music and the “DC7” Beagles. General admission is \$150, VIP tickets are \$200. Visit www.redwhiteandbeagle.com.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

changed the elections schedule to increase voter participation. Knowing the historical trend of Democratic voter performance in Alexandria, it's no secret that whoever won the Democratic nomination will most likely be elected mayor in the general election. Thus, Alexandrians knew that their best chance to elect their mayor, needed to participate in the Democratic primary. Although the voter history data won't be available for several months, people hypothesize that Vice Mayor Silberberg won by attracting Republican voters and Independent voters to the Democratic primary. I disagree. Vice Mayor Silberberg ran a masterful campaign that attracted different kinds of voters to vote Democrat across the city by talking to non-voters, swing voters and new voters. She won 11 out of the 26 precincts citywide, from Chinquapin to Agudas Achim, from MacArthur to George Mason, from the Hermitage to the Durant Center, from Lyles Crouch to City Hall. Voter turnout exceeded the 2013, 2012 and 2009 June Democratic primaries. That's her formula for success in November and her mandate to govern our city.

Don't make it harder for her. My fellow Democrats, support a popular nominee who brings a new vision of thoughtful leadership for all Alexandrians. Stop the whining and shenanigans. Get to work. We must do better.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera

Campaign Co-Chair, Silberberg
for Mayor of the City of Alexandria
Former School Board Member,
Alexandria City Public Schools

Bike Lanes Revisited

To the Editor:

Alexandria residents on King Street (Rosemont Avenue to Janney's Lane) look out on empty bike lanes that occupy 30 percent of the roadway. A year ago parking, available to residents when they bought their homes, was removed and the roadway was narrowed two feet to accommodate these bike lanes.

On May 15, "Bike to Work Day," I counted only 15 bike riders using this section of King Street between 7 - 9 a.m.. Weather was beautiful — sunny, with a few clouds and temperatures in the upper 50's. During the same time period there were 1,978 motor-

ized vehicles (includes 76 buses). There was plenty of room on the sidewalk to accommodate the 15 bike riders or they could have used the Masonic Memorial Bike Trail. These options especially make sense when you view pictures taken by residents documenting the dangerous overlap of vehicles into the bike lanes.

The city has committed to review the decision on King Street bike lanes by October 2015. Considering (a year after implementation) that only 15 bike riders traveled this section of King Street during morning rush hour on a day designated "Bike to Work" makes the case to reverse the decision for these dedicated bike lanes. At the time of implementation city plans advised that King Street had a low potential for bike lane usage, suggested alternative bike lane routes, and did not suggest the removal of on-street parking which served as a buffer. Basically empty bike lanes have proven the wisdom of these original plans.

Restore King Street for its primary users — drivers of motorized vehicles and those who live every day on this major roadway to/from Old Town. Bring reality back to this Complete Street plan.

Louise Welch

Alexandria

Disheartened Residents

To the Editor:

It's really disheartening to live in this wonderful city I call home and watch it slowly lose its historic charm, ambience and cache. With each and every planning decision, we are slowly becoming just like every other city. And it's all because current decision makers apparently have little concern about anything but getting things built.

This is also disheartening since the mayor of storied Charleston told us at a conference here several years ago how to get the kind of development that protects the historic character of our city. Mayor Riley, again in the news with the recent horrific shooting and a 10-term mayor, told conferees that he tells developers what he and Charleston want and furthermore, demands it ... and consequently gets it. What Alexandria decision makers depend on instead is the property owners and developers telling us what we can have.

What is even more disheartening is that it continues in spades. A visiting professor from Cornell just told us that what we're getting is not worth having — in so many words. Nothing will make me forget what a mother told a group of us in a local coffee shop as we were condemning this lack of good architecture. She said she and her 10-year-old son were driving by Potomac Yard when her son asked why we were building all those "jails." Imagine. Out of the mouth of babes. Someone who recognizes lousy design even at a young age.

Furthermore, it is disheartening when certain Alexandria residents keep asserting in the press that those of us who live in Old Town don't want development, that in fact we like the run-down waterfront. Nothing is further from the truth. We do want development and redevelopment, but we want architecture that defines us, not takes away what little historic fabric we have left.

Linda Couture

Alexandria

How Not to Run A Meeting

To the Editor:

The other night, I attended the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS) group meeting at City Hall. The meeting started off with the chairperson asking for comments from

the public. I was aghast, since not one item on the agenda had even been discussed. What were the citizens in attendance going to base their comments upon? As a result, only a few citizens commented at this meeting.

The city should be specific as to how their boards, commissions and committees run their meetings. In my opinion, those that cover their entire agenda and then request public comments also do a disservice to the process.

The most effectively run meetings should use an agenda, and after each item on the agenda is discussed, public comments are then solicited prior to voting on the issue. In this manner, comments by the citizens attending the meeting are germane and timely to the issue being discussed, which makes for a truly democratic process.

In addition, it would behoove all chairpersons to become familiar with Roberts Rules of Order, so they can efficiently run their meetings. Recently I witnessed a chairperson who was totally unaware of how to conduct a vote, and had to have another committee member do it instead. In some cases, city staff appoints the committee chairperson, so staff needs to ensure that the individuals whom they select are provided a set of guidelines (as a minimum) on how to run a meeting.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet

Alexandria

Accountability

FROM PAGE 10

scores are present in the currently required subgroup data and the extra supports that my school put in place helped him. Dominic has ADHD and auditory processing disorder, which means he has difficulty with focus and attention as well as difficulty comprehending information presented orally. As part of the extra supports my school put in place, Dominic was in a co-teaching model classroom with both a general education teacher and a special education teacher. Having two teachers gave us flexibility to create small groups and to extend and remediate student learning better. With Dominic, we also used strategies such as

visual prompts with directions and prewritten notes or visuals for him to refer to during lessons. As a result, when Dominic asks about his progress, he and I are both are both happy with the outcome.

ECAA should require states to account for and support Dominic and students like him. Accountability and remediation measures are the minimum that states should be doing to track and promote their students' progress. States and districts will still have the necessary discretion to craft supports best suited for their students, but ECAA must make sure that this protection is in place for all students.

A long-time Alexandria City resident, Nicole Thorpe is a special education resource teacher at Ingenuity Prep Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. She is a Teach Plus Teaching Policy Fellow.

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Saturday Evening
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6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)
Sunday
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word);
10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm

(en Español); 6:30 pm
Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on **First Friday**, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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PHOTO BY BERND KITTENDORF

A trolley car in Kassel, Germany



PHOTO BY ELLEN HAMILTON

The Dash AT2X bus sits in traffic on King street every day at rush hour.

Rail Is Better than Bus

BY ELLEN HAMILTON

I sit on the AT2X bus taking me home from work. It pulls out of Mark Center and onto the Seminary Road bridge over 395. I can see below four lanes of cars, packed and barely moving. It's like this every day. North-bound lanes are busy too.

Alexandria is at the crossroads of being a small car-dependent city to being a well-connected, modern city with transit options including bus, train, metro and light rail. But we're not there yet. At the moment the roadblock to light rail is often cited as financial. The alternative to rail is always bus. Alexandria has a great bus system, which is used by lots of people. White collar workers, blue collar workers, natives, locals, blacks, whites, short, tall, Episcopalians ...

The reasons that bus will never be as good as light rail are these:

1. Complicated bus names and routes confuse people and discourage tourists
2. Buses get stuck in traffic
3. Rubber tires and fuel burning are wasteful and polluting
4. Rail predictability draws business

1. Complexity: Being near the nation's capital gives Alexandria the dubious benefit of having two bus systems. We have Metrobus, which connects northern Virginia to the D.C. metro area, and Alexandria's own non-profit bus system, established in the early '80s. This has resulted in a dual naming system, both using combinations of letters and numbers: Dash's AT2, AT7 etc, and Metrobus's 1A, 3B, 28A etc. A new rider is required to visit two websites for two sets of bus lines.

Being unhindered by rails, the bus system feels the need to give us multiple route options. On the number two, every third bus stops at all stops. The others don't stop at all. One goes left around the lot. The other avoids the lot. People need predictability in their commute. Nothing is more predictable than a vehicle on steel rails.

I spent my teen years in Germany where I rode light rail, or the "trolley" to school. The town, Kassel, is about the same size as Alexandria. The trolley came every seven minutes. There was the four, the two, the eight, the one. Let us take inspiration from Europe and keep it simple.

What about tourists? In 2014 Alexandria was visited by over one million people, according to Alexandria Convention and Visitor's Association. We get students coming to our schools, researchers coming to work in Washington, tourists, conference attendees and more. My uncle was coming to visit and asked

about taking the bus to the Mark Center Hilton. Would a visitor take the time to research the AT2 versus the 28A? You know your transit system has arrived when tourists will use it.

2. Traffic: The trolley cars in Kassel sometimes shared lanes with cars. Most of the time they had their own lane. The number two bus takes King Street from King Street Station. Every evening on the way home we sit in rush hour traffic. I don't know if there is any solution for that stretch of road, but lanes that are dedicated to rail will avoid this issue.

3. Wastefulness and pollution: Once while driving out west at the foot of an idyllic mountain, I saw an enormous pile of tires. The website rubberecycle.com says that every year Americans throw out 290 million rubber tires. Although this waste crisis has created innovative recycled rubber products, we could reduce rubber waste in the first place. Let us use fewer tires and switch to rail.

Noise pollution: Once while visiting Switzerland, I was riding the trolley through a typical pedestrian-only town center. Two elderly ladies were happily chatting away as we passed by. I remember it being quiet with only the sound of the rails and people. I thought about how freedom of movement for the old and young seemed to make people happy. Overhead wires were not really noticeable. What was noticeable was how quiet a car-free street is.

Air pollution: Buses can run on gasoline, diesel fuel, compressed natural gas and even hydrogen fuel cells, with varying costs and emissions for each technology. Rail runs on centrally produced electricity and produces no local pollution.

4. Rail draws business: Development along the DC Metro system shows what a powerful magnet rail is to businesses. I'm not hearing developers advertising new buildings with, "Buy here, we're on the 28A bus line!"

COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE

This country is young. Scotland built its network of railroads in the mid 1800s, using competition among companies and government support of the expansion to quickly build tracks serving the southwestern counties. However, the U.S. has grown so quickly over the last 250 years that our main infrastructure is asphalt. That was just a holding plan. The real infrastructure, railroads, is yet to come. When we needed sidewalks, did everyone complain and say we can't afford to put in sidewalks? No. Sidewalks were built and have been used ever since.

I was devastated when I read that Arlington abandoned its light rail plans for Columbia Pike. What a blow to the business community, the old ladies, the

SEE RAIL, PAGE 22



JOIN US AT OUR 2015 REMAINING HOME GAMES!

Fri, July 3rd.....FCA Herndon Braves

Thurs, July 9th.....Bethesda Big Train

Dennis Feeney Memorial

Sun, July 12th....Silver Spring-Takoma T-Bolts

Thurs, July 16th.....Vienna Riverdogs

Sun, July 19th.....Baltimore Dodgers

Tues, July 21st.....Gaithersburg Giants

Add: Doubleheader 5PM/7PM

Wed, July 22nd.....Vienna Riverdogs

Thurs, July 23rd.....DC Grays



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WELLBEING

Ensuring a Safe Fourth of July

From swimming to fireworks, safety precautions
for a festive Independence Day.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

It was a near accident at camp last summer that sparked action by one parent. Elementary school-aged campers splashed in the pool. Everyone was having fun. Then tragedy almost struck.

Jackie Wheeler says one second her 7-year-old son was frolicking on top of the water and the next he was bobbing just below the surface, gasping for air.

"One of the counselors took his eyes off of Noah for one second, and he started to struggle," said Lee. "Ultimately, the lifeguard had to jump in and save him."

Wheeler didn't witness the incident, but its recounting was difficult for her to hear. That brush with danger became a defining moment for her family. She enrolled her son, who is now 8, and her daughter Ava, who is 4, in private swimming lessons at the YMCA in Bethesda, Md.

"I want them to be safe around the water, and I want them to be able to save themselves or someone else if necessary," said Wheeler.

She's not the only one thinking about safety. As Independence Day approaches and time spent at the pool, outside in sweltering temperatures and at fireworks shows increases, public health and safety officials are working to raise awareness about potential hazards.

WATER SAFETY

Ensuring that children learn to swim and keeping a close watch on them at the pool or beach are two ways that officials encourage water safety.

Parents and caregivers should also be mindful of recreational water illnesses, which are caused by swallowing or coming in contact with contaminated water in swimming pools and other bodies of water. Help reduce the risk of recreational water illnesses by showering with soap and water before entering a pool, taking frequent bathroom breaks and conducting regular diaper checks followed by washing hands with soap and water, say local health officials.

HEAT SAFETY

Sunburn is another health concern when swimming outdoors.

"Protect your skin and eyes from the sun's damag-

Details

Local Fireworks Laws and Safety Information

- ❖ Arlington: <http://fire.arlingtonva.us/fire-code-information/fireworks/>
- ❖ Alexandria: http://alexandriava.gov/fire/info/news_firedisplay.aspx?id=62314
- ❖ Fairfax County: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention/fmfireworks.htm

Heat and Car Safety

- ❖ www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm

Water Health and Safety

- ❖ www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/water-safety
- ❖ Arlington: <http://health.arlingtonva.us/environmental-health/recreational-water-illness-rwi/>
- ❖ Alexandria: <http://alexandriava.gov/AquaticHealth>
- ❖ Fairfax County: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/eh/pools/pool-safety.htm

ing rays [by] wearing protective clothing and sunglasses," said Kenya Fluellen, associate professor of nursing at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Always use sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 30."

Heatstroke is the number two killer of children after car crashes, and Fairfax County has joined with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to remind parents and caregivers about the dangers of leaving children unattended in a car, particularly during the summer, which can lead to heatstroke and even death.

"You should never leave a child alone in the car, and that is certainly true in the summer when the temperatures are on the rise and cars get hot very quickly," said John Silcox, public safety information officer, Fairfax County Health Department.

Fairfax County officials say there were 30 heatstroke deaths of children left in vehicles in 2014. Most parents simply forgot their children were with them. "Put something in the back of your car, such as a bag or a cell phone, so you'd be certain to check before leaving the car," said Silcox.

FIREWORKS SAFETY

While fireworks are synonymous with July 4th celebrations, creating a fireworks display at home is illegal in some local jurisdictions. In both Alexandria and Montgomery County, Md., for example, all fireworks are illegal to possess or discharge, including gold label sparklers. In Fairfax County, any firework that explodes, emits a flame, sparks higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile is prohibited.

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4 RE for Sale

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: RFP No. 00000538, Design and Engineering Services and Construction Administration Services for Fuel Station Renovation

RFP Closing Date and Time: July 30, 2015, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit: July 9, 2015 at the City of Alexandria Fuel Station, 3500 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314. For general inquiries contact Darryl K. Jackson, CPPB, Contract Specialist II at 703.746.4298. The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Yates Restaurant Group, LLC trading as Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap, 401 E. Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises/Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jason A. Yates, Sole Member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC License

GT Fort Belvoir, LLC trading as The Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grille a/k/a The Greene Turtle, 7879 Heneska Loop, Alexandria, VA 22315. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off; Mixed Beverage (seating capacity 151 seats or more) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Larry L. LeDoyen, Jr., Member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Bailey Roberts Center

Bailey Roberts Center, age 77, of Alexandria, VA passed away on June 29, 2015. He was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Active in the performing arts community, he was also a member of SAG. Bailey served as a board member of Washington Area Theater Community Honors (WATCH), and had many acting roles. Additionally, he directed and produced many local productions and his work could be seen on television, stage and movies.

Bailey was preceded in death by his parents Hiram Center and Anna Roberts Center. He is survived by his 5 children and their spouses: Bailey Roberts Center II and Dawn, Brian Marc Center and Kathy, Michelle Ruth Center Ortiz and Alistair, Keith Jerome Center and Caitlin O'Dwyer, and Christopher Ryan Center. Bailey is survived by his 6 grandchildren: Bailey III, Zackery, Dawson, Alistair II, Belle, and Andrew. He is also survived by his beloved cat Baloo.

There will be a celebration of his life on Sunday, July 5th after the 9:45 service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Aldersgate Community Theater.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: RFP No. 00000527, Alexandria Waterfront Flood Mitigation Implementation

RFP Closing Date and Time: April 18, 2015, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference: July 13, 2015 at City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

For general inquiries contact Darryl K. Jackson, CPPB, Contract Specialist II at 703.746.4298. The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

21 Announcements

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OBITUARY



Kenneth Allen Maddox of Catlett, Virginia passed suddenly on Wednesday, June 24th. He was 58 years old and the beloved husband of Theresa "Terry" Maddox, father of Michelle Maddox Meyer and Jennifer Maddox, and grandfather of Gavin Meyer. He is survived by his mother Mary B. Maddox, brother William L. Maddox and sisters Janet Irving and Kathy Gervase. Ken was owner and President of Trimcraft Inc. Service and Interment is private. Memorial donations may be made to Fauquier Habitat for Humanity. Online condolences may be made at www.moserfuneralhome.com.

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News

Statue

FROM PAGE 4

the Lee-Fendall property if they would accept it," said Silberberg. "The move would make sense."

The Lee-Fendall house, once owned by the family of Robert E. Lee, is currently a historic museum.

However, the 1889 Gazette article states that the location at Washington and Prince was chosen exactly because of its conspicuous nature in the city. The 1888 City Council approved the statue's placement at the intersection of Washington and Prince streets, the point at which many of the Alexandrians had met and left the Union-occupied city to fight for the Confederacy.

The dedication at the May 24 ceremony was delivered by Virginia Gov. Fitzhugh Lee, formerly a major general of cavalry in the Army of Northern Virginia and a nephew of General Robert E. Lee. Fitzhugh Lee spoke at the event in defense of his uncle's legacy and that of the dead Confederate soldiers. Fitzhugh Lee recalled that George Washington and his troops, like Lee, had once been described as rebels and outlaws, and said that Alexandria cannot cling to the legacy of one while rejecting the other.

J. Lance Mallamo, director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, said that it's important to remember that the statue is dedicated to 100 Alexandrians who died in the war. At a time when the city had a much smaller population than it does today, Mallamo said that left a major impact on many of the local residents. Furthermore, Mallamo said the message of the statue has a deeper meaning than just commemorating the Confederate dead.

"It expresses the uselessness of war, that's what I always see when I look up at it," said Mallamo. "We're living in difficult times, but I think there's a lot to be learned by looking up at the expression on that soldier's face."

At the unveiling ceremony, a prayer was offered by Rev. G. H. Norton, a chaplain who served the local confederate camp.

"May the memory of our departed heroes inspire us with patriotic devotion," said Norton. "May all hatred and strife be buried in their graves."

Rail

FROM PAGE 19

youngsters and everyone who was going to benefit from that brilliant plan. Hopefully common sense will prevail soon. I believe that if we find the funds and build light rail, we will come to love it and wonder why it took us so long.

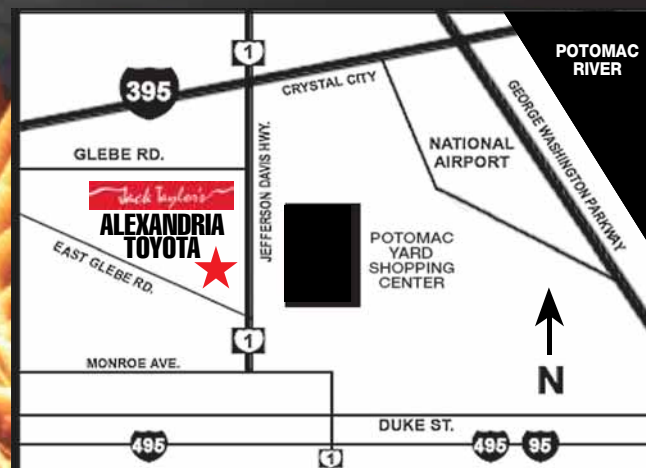
The writer, Ellen Hamilton, is a graphic designer living in Alexandria, whose studio is called Yellow Dot Designs. She serves on the Alexandria Archaeology Commission.

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