



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Washington Scottish Pipe Band perform Aug. 8 at the Ballyshaners Irish Festival in Waterfront Park. Proceeds from the festival support the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade in March.

Luck O' the Irish

Thousands attend Waterfront Park festival.

Thousands of attendees descended on Waterfront Park Aug. 8 for the annual Ballyshaners Irish Festival in Alexandria. The City of Alexandria Pipes and

Drums kicked off the entertainment for the event, which featured a variety of traditional Irish step dancers, pipe bands and fiddlers.

"We love performing here," said Old Town resident Jessica Likas, who performed with her sister Kaitlyn as part of the fiddling and step dancing duo The Wild Irish Roses. "The Ballyshaners put on the best festival yet."

The Ballyshaners, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, sponsor the event to celebrate Irish culture and to raise funds for the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in March. For more information, visit www.ballyshaners.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Sisters Kaitlyn and Jessica Likas, also known as The Wild Irish Roses, pose for a photo prior to their performance at the Irish Festival. The Old Town residents perform dueling fiddles, Irish step dancing and Scottish Highland dancing.



Christine and Carolyn Zaccaro take a selfie while enjoying the festivities.

SOL Scores Improving

Gains at Jefferson-Houston; mixed results at TC.

BY AMINA LUQMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The forecast calls for sunshine, but make no mistake it's raining test scores these days, and improved numbers for schools are sprouting over town. The Virginia Department of Education has just released preliminary SOL test results for the 2014-2015 school year, and Alexandria City Public Schools show pass rates up across English, math, history and science. In English and math, the focus for Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alvin Crawley this past year, scores have increased or remained stable for almost all of the schools.

"We are very pleased with the accomplishments of our students," said Crawley. The increases may also serve as validation of Crawley's efforts during his tenure since beginning as interim superintendent in October 2013 and his subsequent hire in March 2014. This is the first full academic year of test scores under Crawley reign, and the results show broad improvement. Crawley attributes the rise to "strengthened instructional practices, increased teacher training focused on specific student needs

and frequently monitored student performance."

Fourteen out of 16 schools saw increases in English and math. Nine schools saw increases in history. Twelve schools have increases in science.

"I've seen nothing like this in the time I've served on the board," said Karen Graf, chairman of the School Board, when describing the latest improvements in test scores. She hopes it can be a key element in efforts to "make sure that we are changing the dialogue about the schools," said Graf.

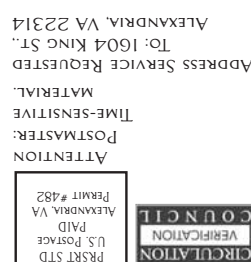
Some of the notable gains were made in schools where it was most needed and among students with typically lower SOL pass rates. William Ramsay Elementary, designated Accredited with Warning, saw gains in English, with SOL pass rates up 19 percent for Black, 16 percent for Latino, 17 percent for Low Income, 16 percent

for ELL and 29 percent for Students with Disabilities. The school also had standout gains in history, with increases of 21 percent for Black, 22 percent for Latino, 19 percent for Low Income, and 21 percent for ELL students. In math,

SEE GAINS, PAGE 10

"Although there are areas that still need improvement, we are working to build on our momentum for the coming school year."

— Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alvin Crawley



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NEWS BRIEFS

Police Investigate Robbery By Knife-Wielding Suspect

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating the robbery of sweetFrog, a frozen yogurt shop located in the 500 block of S. Van Dorn Street.

Around 4:20 p.m., on Wednesday, July 29, an unknown man entered the store, sat at a table, and waited for customers to leave. The suspect then approached the cashier and brandished a knife. He took cash from the register and fled. There were no injuries.

The suspect is described as a white male in his mid to late 20's, average height, brown hair, a mustache with a goatee, and a slim build. He was last seen wearing a white t-shirt with a graphic on the back, dark shorts, flip flops, a baseball cap, and glasses.

The suspect fled the scene in a newer model silver Honda accord. The vehicle had front end damage, a missing front grill, and the passenger side mirror was hanging from the car. A white female with blond hair was driving the vehicle.

The store had numerous surveillance cameras. The footage of the crime was edited into one video and can be viewed on the Alexandria Police Department's YouTube Channel: youtube.com/AlexandriaVAPD.

Anyone with information about this incident or who recognizes the suspect is asked to call Det. Michael Whelan at 703-746-6228.

Other police activity included:

- ❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at the intersection of King and Washington Streets.

- ❖ The Alexandria Police Department responded to a report of a person injured in the 3100 block of Duke Street. The crime occurred on Saturday, Aug. 8, in the 100 block of Ellsworth Street. The victim was transported to the hospital with a non-life-threatening gunshot wound to upper body. Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact Det. Ryan Clinch at 703-746-6673.

30-Year Prison Sentence For Armed Robbery

Brien Keith Hughes, 32, formerly of Alexandria, was sentenced Aug. 7 to 30 years in prison, followed by five years of supervised release for convictions related to his role in two violent robberies where firearms were used.

Hughes pleaded guilty on March 4, 2015. According to court documents and statements made in court, Hughes, who previously served as a leader of the Nine Trey Gangster Bloods clique of the United Blood Nation transnational street gang, was involved in two violent robberies on May 13, 2013. In both instances, Hughes, along with other co-conspirators, targeted a low-level marijuana dealer and engaged in what is referred to as a "drug rip," where after setting up a drug transaction, the purchaser robs the drug dealer of their narcotics and any other valuables. In this case, Hughes and other Bloods members executed an armed robbery of the victim and stole his narcotics, identification, vehicle, and keys.

Afterwards, Hughes and his co-conspirators, using the information found on the victim's stolen identification, traveled to the home where the victim was residing.

In addition to the victim, two other individuals, innocent bystanders who rented a room to the victim, were also present when the defendant and his fellow gang members made entry into the home.

The defendant and his co-conspirators, armed with handguns and zip-ties, forced entry into the home and assaulted the three sleeping occupants and restrained the victims using zip-ties.

Once the victims were tied up and partially blindfolded, some gang members ransacked the house looking for drugs, valuables, and weapons, while the other gang members, including the defendant, interrogated the three victims regarding the location of additional marijuana. This interrogation involved physical and sexual assault.

NEWS



Amanda Stafford, director of My Brother's Keeper at Alfred Street Baptist Church, has been a member of Alfred Street for 33 years.



From left: Jerry Blake, Jay'den Cathey and Jolonda Davis attended My Brother's Keeper on July 25 and stood in line for Jay'den's free medical screening. She will be a third grader in the fall.

Backpacks, School Supplies and More

'My Brother's Keeper' ministry hosts annual event.

BY MARISSA BEALE
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

The Alfred Street Baptist Church frequently steps in to meet community needs that can go unnoticed, and the thousands of youth returning to school without the supplies they need is no exception. In two weeks' time, volunteers at the church filled more than a thousand backpacks for elementary, middle and high school students attending Alexandria City Public Schools. These backpacks, along with coats, health and dental screenings, workshops about finance, college preparation and more were made possible through My Brother's Keeper, a ministry at Alfred Street that began more than a decade ago to connect the church with the wider community.

When the ministry first began in 2003, everything was donated. Now, it thrives off the aid of donated supplies as well as church-funded support. The Center for Exploited and Missing Children donated water bottles that were given to each family in attendance.

This year's event took place on July 25.

"One thousand four hundred and twenty-eight bookbags were given out this year alone," said Amanda Stafford, the director of My Brother's Keeper.

According to Stafford, each of the preselected families walked away with at least \$150 worth of products to equip their

child or children for a successful school year. Some of the schools attended by the students included Matthew Maury Elementary School, Jefferson Houston School, Lyles Crouch Traditional Academy, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, George Washington Middle School, Walt Whitman Middle School, T.C. Williams High School and Mount Vernon High School.

"Families are referred by local agencies such as ALIVE, low income housing coordinators such as Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), historical data, and word of mouth of past recipients," said Stafford.

Upon their arrival to the church for the annual My Brother's Keeper event, each family was given personalized attention. Members of Alfred Street volunteered to be "buddies" for the families, sitting with them during the worship services, workshops, and playing with the children in two large inflatable moon bounces that filled the church parking lot, or helping them make arts and crafts.

The children also received a visit from a special guest.

"Miss Pennsylvania addressed the groups, and gave a message of encouragement," said Evie Tobias, one of the buddies. An onsite translator was also available for several of the Spanish-speaking families.

"It's so that they have people to talk to without the language barrier," said Capitol Heights Elementary School (Prince George's County) Principal Nina Lattimore, who translated for the families.

The goal of the My Brother's Keeper was not just to aid the students and families one time, but to give them tools and resources to use later on. Free medical and dental screenings were provided

SEE MINISTRY, PAGE 5



Dr. Al Cheek (left) and Dr. Siobhian Sprott provided dental screenings for the children at the event.

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Rhonda's Club members (from left): Rosemary Reed Miller, JoAnn Symons, Leigh Chapman, Mary Kinler, Clare Donelan, Paige Whitaker, Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, Susan Yaffe-Oziel, Kathy Daniels, Patricia Teck Seggerman and Susan Lee Kim.

A Hopeful Afternoon

Spreading awareness of ovarian cancer.

By MCKENYA DILWORTH

The survival rate of ovarian cancer is a grim 44 percent, and symptoms are described as obscure at best. But, early detection of the disease yields a survival rate of over 90 percent. That's hopeful. Rhonda's Club — Ovarian and Gynecologic Cancer Coalition — wants to spread the message of awareness.

The organization hosted a book signing event Sunday, Aug. 2 at Busboys & Poets in D.C. featuring Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, educator, professor, activist, advocate and sister of President Barack Obama. The speaker shared that after their mother — the late Stanley Ann Dunham — was diagnosed with ovarian cancer she died 11 months later. "This event is about raising awareness because D.C. has the highest mortality rate of ovarian cancer," said Leigh Chapman, the Rhonda's Club responsible for bringing Soetoro Ng.

Although the subject matter was somber and serious — ovarian cancer — the message was positive. "My mother was my best friend, and she was like the moon," said Soetoro-Ng. "The moon is a connecting force. No matter, where you are in the world, on a rooftop in Indonesia, Pakistan, New York City, the moon, is the same; it's what we share." She chose the moon to tell a story about her mother's loving spirit and willingness to help all in need. Her inspiration to write the book, "Ladder to the Moon," came from an innocent inquiry from her daughter (Suhaila, now 11 years old) about her grandmother.

Since storytelling was a major part of her mother's life, Soetoro-Ng decided a children's book would be a loving tribute and lasting introduction of her mother to her children. "Ladder to the Moon" explains the interconnectedness to one another, nature, and the moon.

Soetoro-Ng told stories of her mother making holidays special for her with everything from a sad looking pregnant goat for Easter to red and green chili peppers on a pile branches as a Christmas tree or waking her up in the middle of the night to go witness the majesty of the moon on rooftops. She ad-



Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng with Northern Virginia Community College student Laura Olliverrie.

mitted that back then she had not welcomed these exploratory visits but is now happy to cherish the memory of those moon moments with her mother.

Soetoro-Ng spoke about how her mother was told she had appendicitis when, in fact, the correct diagnosis was ovarian cancer. That is the problem with ovarian cancer. "We would like to get more information out there about ovarian cancer and its symptoms to people who aren't aware of the disease," said Chapman.

"Its symptoms are obscure, but we are hopeful for the development of a screening for the disease like that of breast cancer with the mammogram," said Rosemary Reed Miller of Alexandria, a member of Rhonda's Club. After Soetoro-Ng spoke, she took questions from the audience who seemed to be interested in everything from the best advice given her by her mother to the influence of her grandmother. "You are extremely powerful — go and claim your womanhood," Soetoro-Ng said as she retold some of the advice her late mother and grandmother gave her in her formative years.

"Response to celebrity is something that serves to boost the interest in any given cause. We were fortunate to have someone like Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, to champion our shared cause of raising awareness and advocacy around ovarian cancer," said Reed Miller.

Soetoro-Ng ended with one of her mother's favorite sayings: "My mother told me to embrace my ability to build bridges of understanding and lasting relationships."

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Ministry

FROM PAGE 3

by licensed professionals within the church and the community, and Lion's Club International provided free medical screenings for children ages three and up.

"I am honored to be a part of this," said Dr. Siobhian Sprott, one of two dentists providing dental screenings for the children. "You never know what seed you might plant. Some of the parents hear things they didn't know."

Under the Blessing Tent, tables of stuffed backpacks were set up for the children to take home.

Each one was packed according to grade level, and across from the backpacks, North Face, Ralph Lauren and Polo coats, just to name a few of the brands, were available for small children needing them for the winter.

"The mother was in awe. She was really thankful," said Tobias about the mother of the family she hosted. During the day she took them around the church grounds to enjoy the recreational activities, listen to the workshops, and have lunch before picking out their backpacks and closing out of registration. "The children were really well-mannered," she said.

Between 70 and 80 different ministries within the church were involved in making this year's My Brother's Keeper event possible.



PHOTO BY TRACY BARBER/GAZETTE PACKET

One Love Festival

Harold and Sherman Harris, brothers of community activist Lenny Harris, attended the One Love Festival, an annual multi-cultural family event in honor of their deceased brother. The free festival was held Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Lenny Harris Memorial Field at Braddock Park.

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PEOPLE

Arnall's Retirement Party

But, of course, she will never retire.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It was the retirement party for Gail Arnall, executive director for 10 years of Offender's Aid and Restoration (OAR). "But," as her friend from 1973, Belle O'Brien, said as she is putting flowers on each table, "if you believe she is retiring, you don't know Gail."

Arnall looks to the door of California Tortilla on Wilson Boulevard in Arlington. "I can't believe my brother and sister from Arizona are here." Arnall's twin sister has just arrived with her brother. "Did you recognize her; she has white hair because she was born 10 minutes earlier." Arnall's brother, Bill Crotts, is a former offender who spent 6-and-a-half years in prison. But she says it didn't influence her accepting this job; she had actually started it before he was incarcerated. She speculated it is ironic that this happened after she had already accepted this position.

OAR was established in 1974 by a group of women from Arlington who volunteered in the jails and saw a need for ongoing support of prisoners and ex-offenders. OAR's slogan is Strengthening Community Through Second Chances. Today it serves the county of Arlington and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church by working with individuals who have been incarcerated in Arlington or Alexandria detention facilities or anywhere in the country and are returning to one of these locations as well as individuals who are mandated by the Arlington or Falls Church courts to complete community service hours.

Arnall came to OAR from her own company, Phoebus Communications, where she did long-distance interactive learning projects for rural schools for 17 years. "The last one I did was called Safety Net and went to juvenile correctional facilities." That's what got her interested in this area. Since Arnall had been doing national projects she decided she needed to do something local. Arnall answered an ad in the Washington Post and ended up as OAR's executive director.

When she came to OAR, the budget was \$700,000 with \$150,000 in kind. Now it is \$1.2 million. The staff has grown and stabilized. "It is very important for our clients to have continuity." And she says one of the important things that has made her proudest is that her staff's salaries are now commensurate with those in other social services agencies. The number of clients serving community service has grown and, "Another thing that is so great about this jurisdiction is they can also pay their court fees through community service."

Dave Wiley, chair of the OAR Board, stops by to congratulate Arnall. "We can't make what we say positive enough," he said.

Arnall has faced obstacles. She says when she first took this job, no one wanted to talk about prisoner reentry or fund it. There was a sense that if people had messed up, they got what they deserved. She added that there is a lot of fear so she takes clients with her so people can see the former offenders as they really are, "Otherwise people just get their impressions from TV."

She has spent most of the past year doing outreach and some advocacy so that people understand what is going on in the criminal justice system. She adds that churches and civic groups are among the quick-



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Retiring Executive Director of OAR Gail Arnall gets dressed for her retirement party at California Tortilla July 14 by her friend of 42 years Belle O'Brien. O'Brien said, "If you think Gail is really retiring, you don't know her."

est to accept the need for helping prisoners with re-entry.

She said it feels strange for people coming out of prison. "They think, 'People are being nice to me; what do they want?' They have to learn a different reality. OAR welcomes them back and lets them know they want the person to be part of the community." Arnall said she is excited about a new intensive evidenced-based re-entry program starting this month based on the idea that before you can help a prisoner come home you have to know their risk factors. They come back with no family support or job to the same people they knew before they went in. There is a new 12-week class twice a week with a curriculum to help the prisoners change what they are thinking before they come out and to tailor their reentry plans directly to their risk factors.

Arnall said she had told the board when she was 70 she would retire. "But at 69, so many things I wanted to do were done. It was time, and I had a couple of things I wanted to do." So she asked if she could stay involved with OAR but not run it. Now her title is development and outreach consultant.

One of these projects is in Prince George's County which has 14,000 people return from incarceration each year but no reentry program. They have put in a proposal to the state of Maryland for funding a planning process. If funded, the organization that will likely lead this effort has asked Arnall to serve as an adviser.

OAR serves Arlington and Falls Church and also works with Alexandria, where they will be expanding their opportunities including providing services inside the Alexandria Detention Center, providing one-on-one employment assistance to clients released in Alexandria and working with families. For the last two years OAR received just over \$24,000 each year from the Alexandria Fund for Human Services to support its reentry program in Alexandria. They set up office hours on Fridays at Downtown Baptist Church on South Washington where they provided one-on-one case management and group classes. Arnall points to the success of the OAR program. In Virginia 26 percent return to prison after a year but in OAR among people who stay in the program, it is 8 percent.

Gardening Saved a Life

Mary Ulrich has a dream. She wants to set up a transitional Dream House for the two former prison inmates who currently work for her in Path to Freedom, her landscaping business, and for other workers to come. She wants to "grab hold of these guys," teach them, and to have a greenhouse in the back. Ulrich keeps her workers busy and they don't have time to get into trouble. But she added, "I don't just hire anybody; they have to be driven to change and want to take care of themselves."

Ulrich understands where they come from because she spent 8-and-a-half years in prison herself. While she was there, she took gardening classes and got technical certifications in seven different areas. She taught other inmates the last five years and was in charge of the annual prison plant sale, open to the public, that on a budget of \$4,000 made \$14,000 in three hours. She picked out all of the seeds, told each of her prison students what to grow, and knew how to grow all of the perennials. "It saved my life in prison where everyone is lying around with nothing to do. It was my peace. This might sound strange. But my grandfather was into plants a lot and he died while I was in prison. Working with plants was spiritual and reminded me of my grandfather. It helped me heal when he died," she said.

Two and a half years ago, when Ulrich got out of prison, she went to every nursery in Northern Virginia. "When they found out where I got my training, prison would be a deal breaker. It was the worst feeling in the world to get all ready for your interview and then get turned away." In the next couple of years Ulrich got involved in the "ban the box" initiative that required prospective workers to check a box on their job application indicating if they had ever been incarcerated. Then Ulrich went on a trip with Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) to the Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington and, "I spoke out about how nobody would hire me." She said Geoffrey Gradler, a church member, hired her on the spot to do his lawn. "He offered to get me eyeglasses and a doctor's exam but I didn't want anybody to give me anything. So I worked for my glasses." And OAR helped her with business



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mary Ulrich, former prisoner, now turned garden landscaper, readies her wheelbarrow to begin her first job.

cards. "They do give you an alternative way to live."

"Geoff gave me a yard to work in. I would go there every day. It was my office in his backyard." Then a neighbor hired her and that was the beginning. Now most of her clients are in Alexandria but some in Arlington, two in D.C. and a couple in Maryland. She says she likes networking. "It's using your hustling skills, but it's legal."

Ulrich said, "Community members are a lot better to give you a break than a businessman. For them it is all black and white. And a community person has more to lose by taking a chance. They are letting me in to their home, the most precious part of their life."

She said OAR encouraged her, and she saw one of their therapists every week. They didn't tell her "I can't. Everyone else told me what I needed to do and that I couldn't start my own business." In the beginning OAR gave her metro tickets so she could get around but that limited where she could go for jobs. She was able to save money and buy herself a scooter. That freed her up to go wherever she needed to go. She rode it to jobs carrying her duffel bag with a little shovel and some pruning shears "and sometimes a few plants between my feet."

Before, she couldn't get a job, and now she gets a contractor discount.

She said, "This day is teasing me," and tries to get in a little more work before the rain comes back again.

— SHIRLEY RUHE



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OPINION

Opportunities for 'Creative Placemaking'

Looking at the future of the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

BY ERIC WALLNER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

Ask any local Alexandrian and they would agree, the Waterfront is one of the most vibrant and active neighborhoods in the city. This wasn't always the case. In the 1970s, after the torpedo factory was no longer in active use, the area was described as rundown and abandoned. In her book, "On Target: Stories of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's First 25 Years," founder Marian Van Landingham described it as: "Full of old government furniture and Smithsonian Institution storage, the buildings were considered a blight. Only a half-dozen businesses survived on neighboring King Street. The city needed something to bring life and visitors to this area." The creation of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in 1974 has become a textbook

example of urban revitalization, often cited as one of the first experiments in adaptive re-use of an industrial space.

As an economic engine for our tourism industry, the Torpedo Factory Art Center is responsible for generating \$16.2 million in direct visitor spending. Our community impact, however, goes much deeper. Nationally recognized researchers Ann Markusen and Anne Gadwa Nicodemus describe creative placemaking as an effort to shape and coordinate the cultural life of a community. "In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, nonprofit, and community

COMMENTARY

sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, tribe, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local businesses viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired."



With a mission to foster connections among artists and the public that ignite the creative spirit, the Torpedo Factory Art Center is an internationally recognized model of creative placemaking. Last year, with our partner organizations, the Art League, the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association and the Alexandria Archeology Museum, the Art Center completed a Strategic Road Map which outlines three main objectives: To become an indispensable community and regional asset; to support resident artists; and to enhance the reputation of the Torpedo Factory among the arts community and the public.

The city's ongoing Waterfront planning process provides an opportunity to preserve this unique cultural and historic asset while integrating the arts directly into the visitor experience. This fall, the Torpedo Factory Art Center is developing a detailed, action-oriented business plan with a focus on financial sustainability and growth. Since the building was last renovated in 1983, preparations are being made to launch a major renovation for an even more vibrant user experience. The art center welcomes the input, involvement and support of the Alexandria community as we continue to grow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Price of Borrowing

To the Editor:

Whether these letter writers realize it or not, when they proudly point to Alexandria's municipal bond rating, they haven't read the fine print or connected the dots. The city's website reports, "Moody's cited Alexandria's 'dynamic tax base with above average wealth levels' ... reflecting the expectation that 'the City's satisfactory financial position will be maintained due to ... continued tax base growth'"

In plain-speak, this means that, especially since Alexandria's debt is only 1.31 percent of our real estate's assessed value, there's plenty of property value to tax if the city's rosy as-

sumptions about development generating tax revenue prove wrong or if the new metro station has the kinds of overruns the only other "infill" station in the WMATA system experienced. For all intents and purposes, city hall has given notice to expect a whopping tax increase next year or cumulatively thereafter.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Fiscal Amnesia

To the Editor:

The topic of city fiscal mismanagement has been a familiar theme of citizen rhetoric for the past year. With the city elections less than

three months away Councilman Wilson has finally attempted to personally address this issue, refuting the idea that the city is in harm's way and inferring that the fiscal story will end happily ever after because of our AAA bond rating and our 1.31 local debt limit as per the recent Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

I wish this was true but its just not that simple.

A bond rating is a forward assertion of a municipality's ability to retire debt based upon the past history of debt payment in an effort to predict timely future payment. Think of it as a credit score for a city or municipality a type of credit worthiness. There is no mystery here — we have paid our debts on a timely basis and we have the flexibility and ability to raise taxes to pay off debt based upon the affluence of our populace. So we earned this rating but it is based on past history, our current problem is the future.

Since 1987 the city has operated under specific established debt-related financial policies. These financial policies were derived from the analysis of other successful jurisdictions and in 1998 these policies were adopted as part of the budget process and were reaffirmed by the City Council in 1999 and in 2008. These debt policies (ratios) have been utilized by the City Council to ensure long term affordability and sustainability of the CIP. It is without question that adherence to these city ratios has contributed to the city's financial success, growth and AAA Bond rating up to now. However, things have changed.

There are three ratios to which the city has adhered to: Debt as a percentage of personal income which measures citizens' ability to finance tax-supported debt; debt as a percentage of fair market real property value — an

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION

All Lives Matter

(Of course)

BY MCKENYA DILWORTH

All lives matter is the righteous reactionary retort to the now often shouted mantra of Black Lives Matter. This tit-for-tat, back-and-forth battle is the reason we cannot have meaningful discussions about race in America. Instead of valuing others' experience and yes, even their pain; we wait for the opportunity to respond to that which

ABOUT RACE

The constant defense posture gets us about as far as we have, reduced to oversimplified remarks suitable for trite tweets. Here's something to consider. The reason the battle cry of Black Lives Matter irritate those who find the need to respond is because of what that statement embodies. The mantra is heavy with the history of disenfranchisement that started

with the denial of freedom (slavery), progressed with domestic terrorism (KKK) accompanied by Jim Crow Laws (discrimination). The response to Black Lives Matter is a way to undermine the history of disregard. It does not acknowledge the meaning of the moment, recent history and occurrence of the frequency of justified violence against Black Lives. The response of All Lives Matter is equivalent to the "I don't see color" response of well-meaning but uninformed persons who attempt to sweep injustice under the rug by denying that the ugliness exists and lives and thrives in the year 2015. Leave "Black Lives Matter" alone and take a moment to listen to what the voices are saying behind the mantra. Hear the anger, the hurt, the disappointment of not living in a post-racial society. Then, seek, not to dismiss, but to understand that the cry about Black Lives mattering has less to do with the devaluation of your life, but more with seeking to acknowledge the value of ours.

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY/AUG. 14

Registration Deadline. The Alexandria City Academy is accepting applications for the fall 2015 session. Residents and business owners ages 18 and up can learn about the City government, its departments, and the respective functions. Classes run from 6:45-9 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 10-Nov. 5 at City Hall, 301

King St., Room 1900. Classes are free. Register at alexandriava.gov/CityAcademy by Aug. 14.

MONDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 17-23

Kate Wall Barrett Branch Library Closed. 717 Queen St. Alexandria Library's Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library and Special Collections Branch Library will be closed for renovations.



PHOTO BY GERI BALDWIN

A Life = Future and One's Future = Vision

Law enforcement and the judicial system is based on the belief that all people are to be treated equally. We need law enforcement to uphold the law as much as citizens need to respect the law. That unbiased system of justice is brought more into question by such tragedies of Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner and others who lost their lives. Black lives matter.

— Geri Baldwin/Alexandria

Final Markdowns !

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Gains at Jefferson-Houston; Mixed Results at TC

FROM PAGE 1

Ramsay's gains were more modest, from 1 percent to 7 percent across categories.

Patrick Henry Elementary School, which was also Accredited with Warning, saw gains in English, math and history. Scores were up in almost every demographic category. In English, Patrick Henry showed increases in SOL pass rates of 3 percent for Black, 29 percent for Latino, 14 percent for Low Income, 27 percent for ELL and 10 percent for Students with Disabilities. In math the gains were 1 percent for Black, 14 percent for Latino, 10 percent for Low Income, 12 percent for ELL and 13 percent for Students with Disabilities.

T.C. Williams High School showed spotty gains. Scores dipped in reading, writing and history yet improved in mathematics. There were drops in English: Writing pass rates for Latino and ELL students fell 10 percent and 16 percent respectively. There was a 15 percent rise in mathematics among students with disabilities.

The district's sole unaccredited school, Jefferson-Houston, saw a 12 percent increase in reading pass rates overall, up 18 percent and 11 percent among Black and Low Income students respectively. In math, scores increased 18 percent overall, up 20 percent for Black and 12 percent for Latino and 17 percent for ELL students. In sci-

ence the numbers were up 26 percent for all students, with increases of 37 percent for Black, 30 percent for Latino and 41 percent for ELL students. These were much needed gains after a significant dip in science scores in the prior year. The increases were so strong they surpassed the year one projections for the schools 3-year plan for full accreditation: The school made two years of progress in one year's time.

Although Crawley's focus on improving math and English outcomes has shown success, the results also show daunting challenges remain. Although there have been significant percentage increases some test scores remain low. Particularly for students with disabilities, whose pass percentages were low (50 percent or below) in the majority of ACPs schools. Also, the gap between white student achievement and that of Black and Latino students persists.

Still, as September approaches, Crawley begins the new school year with the wind at his back. "ACPS has made some significant gains.

Although there are areas that still need improvement, we are working to build on our momentum for the coming school year. We continue to focus on equitable pass rates across all our schools, our subject areas and our gap areas," Crawley said.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Alexandria residents **Brendan Michael A. Bowe, Charonda Brown, Heather A. Forrest, Brady J. Jernigan, Laura M. Kellermann, Matthew J. Rosales, Ysabel M. Trujillo** and **Ruth M. Walston** received scholarships from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation at the Truman Crawford Hall at the Marine Barracks Washington in Washington, D.C.

The foundation awarded more than \$7 million in scholarship funding to a 2,300 Marine children for the 2015-16 academic year.

Diane Lingenfelter was initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at University of Maryland University College.

Tanner Beck has received dean's list recognition for the spring semester at Hampden-Sydney College (Farmville, Va.).

Laura Magnan qualified for the spring 2015 dean's list at Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.)

Ted Davis has been selected to participate as a drummer/percussionist in Grammy Camp 2015 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

this summer.

Christopher Piercy graduated from Creighton University's School of Law (Omaha, Neb.) with a Master of Science in negotiation and dispute resolution.

Margaret Nealon and **Sarah Sapirstein** were named to the dean's List at the University of Vermont (Burlington, Vt.).

Freshman **Caroline Caplen** and senior **Jacqueline McCabe** were named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, Va.).

Vasili Ikonmidis graduated from York College of Pennsylvania (York, Pa.) with a Bachelor of Science in computer information systems.

Mohammad Khalil was named to the president's list at Davenport University (Grand Rapids, Mich.) for the winter 2015 semester.

Christopher Hughes graduated from Washington College (Chestertown, Md.) with a Bachelor of Arts in business management.

Baley Nolting graduated from Washington College (Chestertown, Md.) with a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2-Year Comparison of SOL Federal Annual Measurable Objectives Pass Percentages, by School and Subject

8/11/2015

School	English		Math		History		Science	
	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15
John Adams	63	68	65	69	81	76	47	52
Charles Barrett	76	87	81	90	87	95	83	88
Patrick Henry	62	74	61	68	70	84	62	68
Jefferson-Houston	45	57	40	58	51	51	34	60
Cora Kelly	65	78	72	83	77	86	63	67
Lyles-Crouch	86	89	85	86	94	98	89	93
Douglas MacArthur	73	77	73	80	89	82	80	82
George Mason	77	75	73	75	93	90	89	83
Matthew Maury	78	80	85	83	81	79	82	82
Mount Vernon	61	64	67	69	65	85	67	51
James K. Polk	60	69	73	75	80	84	71	67
William Ramsay	48	64	46	52	57	76	33	61
Samuel Tucker	72	78	70	78	86	88	68	78
Francis Hammond	58	60	61	60	83	80	54	66
George Washington	69	76	75	77	75	77	67	73
T.C. Williams	82	79	60	66	77	75	68	68
Division	66	71	64	69	76	77	66	68

Variations between the federal-reported (SOL pass percentages) and state-reported (accreditation) results are due to the differences in adjustments made to SOL results by the federal government and state accountability program.

Data as of 7/27/2015.

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2-Year Comparison of SOL Accreditation Results, by School and Subject

8/11/2015

School	English Benchmark=75		Math Benchmark=70		History Benchmark=70		Science Benchmark=70	
	2014	2015*	2014	2015*	2014	2015*	2014	2015*
John Adams	73	80	76	85	87	89	50	62
Charles Barrett	81	90	86	94	91	95	86	89
Patrick Henry	72	79	74	78	74	86	67	78
Jefferson-Houston	47	61	46	64	51	55	36	60
Cora Kelly	74	85	83	91	79	91	64	73
Lyles-Crouch	89	92	87	90	94	98	89	93
Douglas MacArthur	75	82	77	83	89	85	80	84
George Mason	86	84	81	82	97	97	89	83
Matthew Maury	80	81	85	84	80	79	83	82
Mount Vernon	75	80	86	84	85	85	72	58
James K. Polk	72	81	81	85	87	89	77	68
William Ramsay	57	76	65	76	79	86	47	67
Samuel Tucker	81	87	78	87	88	90	70	83
Francis Hammond	63	67	61	66	83	86	59	74
George Washington	71	77	75	78	75	80	71	78
T.C. Williams	85	86	66	72	81	79	74	76

* 2015 accreditation results are preliminary. Final results will be released by the Virginia Department of Education in mid-September 2015.

Variations between the federal-reported (SOL pass percentages) and state-reported (accreditation) results are due to the differences in adjustments made to SOL results by the federal government and state accountability program.

Data as of 7/29/2015.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

important indicator in the city's ability to repay debt since property tax revenue is the main source of funds; and finally debt service as a percentage of general government expenditures which measures the city's ability to repay debt without hampering other city services. All three of these ratios are currently above city target levels. With future expenditures on school infrastructure and Metro financing added, these ratios would be completely broken.

In 2004 it cost \$20 million to finance the city debt, in the 2016 budget it will cost \$63 million to finance the debt — an increase of 215 percent or 16.5 percent per

year. The debt service as a percentage of the general fund has increased from 7.1 percent in 2011 to 9.8 percent in 2016 — an 8 percent annual increase. The general debt has increased 175 percent from 2004 to 2016 an increase of 13.4 percent per year. The conclusion in 2013 was that the city has a debt issue. The Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee issued a warning stating "the trend is evident regardless of whether Potomac Metro-rail is included in the calculation, meaning that the debt ratios are worsening."

The conclusion of this facility budget process of 2015 was "within the limitations of the City Council existing debt policy guidelines (ratios), there currently is not suffi-

cient funding available for the 20-year ACPS program and changes." Translation: Based upon what has previously worked, the current state of our borrowing needs is out of balance and we may have to change the ratios because they are no longer relevant — spending is out of control.

Those are the numbers, all authentic and well documented. Let's be clear there is no question that we do have a debt problem in Alexandria — the only remaining question is why some are unwilling to admit it or address it. It's too late for excuses; the Republican candidates are already addressing the budget issue.

William A. Goff
Alexandria

Problem Solver

To the Editor:

Now in my mid-70s, I have never voted for a Republican but I intend to vote for Bob Wood, a smart and personable candidate for City Council who can team up with Allison Silberberg, a progressive Democrat, to provide badly-needed good government for Alexandria. Having heard him address some critical issues recently, I believe Wood, a retired U.S. Army general and now a businessman, has the ability to listen to ideas and problem solve. He has my vote.

Peter Bernstein
Alexandria



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Alexandria REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY HAL VERNON/THE GAZETTE

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\$2,675,000-\$104,000.



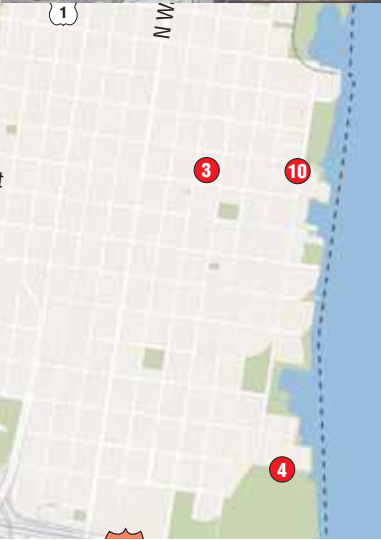
7 4202 Maple Tree Court — \$1,300,000



6 1910 Russell Road — \$1,480,000



2 1418
Janneys Lane
— \$2,175,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 4004 CARSON PL	5	..	4	..	2	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$2,675,000	Detached	0.65	22304	CHELSEA	06/05/15
2 1418 JANNEYS LN	6	..	6	..	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$2,175,000	Detached	0.58	22302	OAK GROVE	06/12/15
3 208 ROYAL ST N	4	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,900,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN	06/25/15
4 26 ALEXANDER ST	4	..	2	..	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,650,000	Townhouse	0.04	22314	FORDS LANDING	06/12/15
5 309 WEST ALEXANDRIA AVE	5	..	4	..	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,600,000	Detached	0.31	22302	ROSEMONT	06/26/15
6 1910 RUSSELL RD	6	..	5	..	2	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,480,000	Detached	0.42	22301	LLOYD ESTATE	06/26/15
7 4202 MAPLE TREE CT	6	..	4	..	2	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,300,000	Detached	0.48	22304	MAPLE HEIGHTS	06/05/15
8 412 ALEXANDRIA AVE E	5	..	4	..	0	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,275,000	Detached	0.15	22301	DEL RAY	06/25/15
9 406 VIRGINIA AVE	3	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,212,000	Detached	0.28	22302	JEFFERSON PARK	06/19/15
10 112 QUEEN ST	3	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA ..	\$1,200,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	QUEENS ROW	06/30/15

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1 4004 Carson Place — \$2,675,000



3 208 Royal Street North —
\$1,900,000



10 112 Queen Street —
\$1,200,000



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

BEFORE: The previous lower level was little more than a partially finished basement that hadn't been used for recreational purposes in years.



Featuring billiards and pinball, the remodeled play room is also the site of a weekly card game. Once exposed vertical support beams and HVAC vents are now encased in dry wall. The room also features new wood-grained vinyl flooring, recessed lights and tawny/golden wall paint.

Makeover Enhances Family Life

Sun Design converts large, dated house into a residence that satisfies all.

BY JOHN BYRD

Meet Roger Lataille, senior design consultant at Sun Design Remodeling and — more importantly — a remodeling resource homeowners turn to, and return to, whenever they need expert advice, hands-on support and commitment.

Case in point: in 2012, a north Arlington couple engaged Lataille to execute a top-to-bottom makeover to their 2,300-square-foot home. The goal was to implement functional improvements within a “transitional” interior design style that would work well for a growing family. Delivered on time and within budget, the owners dubbed the results “exceptional” in every detail.

Now, two years later, and with two daughters growing rapidly, the couple asked Lataille for ideas for an addition. As it turned out, the terrain around the property was too steep. While space enlargement discussions were still underway, however, the couple learned that elderly neighbors a few doors up the street were planning to sell their nearly 5,000-square-foot colonial.

This was a promising development for Lataille's space-cramped client, but far from a slam-dunk.

Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

The neighbor's house had been built in the late 1960s and hadn't been upgraded in decades. Still, more living space was a tantalizing proposition, and the couple soon asked Lataille for an assessment on remodeling the house to the standard he had achieved in their current residence.

In short order, Lataille and the clients walked through the house and — before any decision had been reached regarding a possible purchase — the designer developed preliminary sketches depicting several remodeling scenarios.

What was obvious to everyone from the start was that the existing house was seriously dated, even degraded in places — and that the desired upgrade would require considerable vision, budget-mindedness and team performance.

Adding to the drama: if the deal went through, the new owners wanted to put their current house on the market immediately, remodel the purchased property at once and move into their new residence as soon as possible.

There would be no interim period of rental properties or furniture in storage.

“Looking back, the qualitative difference between the interiors of the two houses was profound,” Lataille said. “The house being considered for purchase was like something from a 1970s movie set.

There was large-pattern floral wall paper, wainscot paneling in many rooms; the family room adjacent to the kitchen was covered by a sled ceiling with faux exposed timbers.”

SEE MAKEOVER, PAGE 14



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HomeLifeStyle

Home's Makeover Enhances Family Life

FROM PAGE 13

Moreover, the interior design style, Lataille elaborates, may have once been loosely described as rustic.

"But the look was plainly anachronistic in 2015," he added, "A far cry from the contemporary transitional style my clients wanted."

IN THE PLUS COLUMN: the house featured generously-sized rooms and segues, large windows accessing abundant natural light and an appreciably "open" first floor plan with sight lines in three directions.

"The kitchen-centric first level plan had considerable potential," Lataille said, "but it needed a more cohesive interior — one that would support a more intimate scale."

The first feature Lataille slated for deletion: the sled roof.

By uniformly dropping the ceiling to the standard 8 feet, the visual experience of anyone in the room now shifts to horizontal sight lines dominated by large windows and outside landscaping. The more sharply articulated indoor-outdoor continuum, in turn, adds focal points and intimacy — yet is more expansive.

Lataille proposed a stacked stone hearth for a sitting area adjacent to the open kitchen — evoking a cozy cabin-like ambiance and creating an iconic invitation to sit and interact that had previously been missing from a nondescript corner.

With a panoramic view on one side and the open

kitchen on the other, the redesigned niche is transformed into a cozy spot for sitting by the window with a book, or chatting with the cook.

The 3.6-foot-by-8-foot cook top island and three stool dining counter now features a dark walnut-colored base topped with a dappled granite surface. The dark-stained oak flooring, by extension, perfectly contrasts with the ivory-hued paneling that wraps a two-door refrigerator, a roll-out pantry and drawers custom-designed to satisfy the cook's requirements.

French doors with sidelights now connect the family room to a 17-foot-by-31-foot deck complete with hot tub and outdoor kitchen. The front stairs in the foyer have been re-finished; existing decorative capitals refurbished.

Downstairs, the once darkly cavernous lower-level has been elevated into an all-purpose family play area. Exposed vertical support beams are encased in dry wall, which, likewise, wraps HVAC vents. New wood-grained vinyl flooring, recessed lights and tawny/golden wall paint lend the space a light, cheerful ambiance.

The new play room features billiards, pinball and a card table where Dad hosts a weekly card game. The stacked stone tile fireplace situated in front of an L-shaped configuration of couches offers a perfect spot to watch a plasma screen TV mounted above the hearth.

The old kitchenette, transformed into the family's downstairs refreshment center, provides step-saving convenience that makes entertaining easier.

Family life — at its most fulfilling.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

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ENTERTAINMENT

In Between Patrick and Henry, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Await Killer ESP stays true to its roots while growing into its own.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Walk down the block on the southern side of King Street, between the “Routes 1” – that is, the block between Patrick and Henry streets – and before long you’ll come upon a sandwich board offering up a plethora of interesting options. “Stumptown Coffee,” it might say. Or “Dangerously Delicious pies.” Or “Vegan options!” Maybe it’ll tout a gelato flavor or an empanada.

Whatever the sign outside Killer ESP, 1012 King St., is offering, you’d do well to pop in, sit a spell, and have a taste. From rich, dark coffee to sweet and savory pies, this coffeehouse-café has an answer to your cravings.

The front door belies the embarrassment of caffeinated and edible riches that await you when you step into the shop. A gelato bar just inside the front door offers up a multitude of ice creams and sorbets. Make your way back to the counter and you’ll find all the coffee and tea concoctions you’ve dreamed of: Stumptown coffee, an array of espresso options, and more than 60 loose-leaf teas to choose from. (The shop actually hosts a “tea happy hour,” offering \$1 teas after 5 p.m. every day.) And the pies – the “P” in Killer ESP – are varied and delicious. They’re also selling like hotcakes



The staff at Killer ESP touts the day’s specials on a sandwich board.



Killer ESP’s storefront on King St.

offering pops and other sweet frozen snacks alongside the customary creamy treats.

Another addition to the menu: A variety of smoothies. “Real fruit smoothies,” Shelton clarified. “We’re not going to have any concentrated juices.”

But the mainstays within Killer ESP – namely, the Espresso, Sorbet, and Pie – aren’t going anywhere any time soon. And as exciting as the new additions sound, the coffeehouse’s neighbors should be thrilled about what’s staying the same, too.

If You Go

Killer ESP

Address: 1012 King St., Alexandria
Hours: 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Top seller: “The top seller over the summer is a single scoop of gelato,” Shelton says.

Up next: Shelton is pursuing a second storefront on Capitol Hill. “We’ve put some offers in ... it’s just a matter of time to make that work out.”

– the shop sells 90 pies a week.

Certainly, Killer ESP offers plenty for the grab-and-go set. But the seating areas – both near the back of the coffeehouse as well as in a little space outside – offer a comfortable place to read a book, get some work done, or simply people-watch for a while. A motley mix of sofas, tables, and chairs allow customers to relax without

feeling rushed.

Killer ESP, which just celebrated its fourth birthday, boasts a large percentage of regulars – two-thirds, owner Rob Shelton says.

And so does the menu, Shelton says. Up first: Kombucha on tap. Within the next few weeks, Shelton aims to offer regular cold-brew, nitro cold-brew, and regular versions of the fermented tea on taps at the counter to cater to customers’ desires. And he’s not planning on stopping there.

“We’re really focusing on making lots of really good changes, upgrading a lot of the products,” Shelton said. “We’re going to bring some different coffees in, some more single-origin espresso.” He’s also preparing to launch a redesign of the gelato counter,

NOTEWORTHY

Sam Phao Thai Cuisine, 1019 King St., Alexandria

Directly across the street from Killer ESP sits Sam Phao, a Thai restaurant that has called Old Town home for several years now. Don’t be deceived by the small dining room you see when walking in the front door; the restaurant has a larger upstairs space that can handle bigger groups (or the usual dinner rush). Try the pineapple fried rice for a meal that makes a statement — it’s served in a hollowed-out pineapple — or the panang tofu for a curry dish with a kick.

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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 kindergarten-third grade can read, write and talk with teachers. Free. Email Hollinmeadows.KeepInTouch@fcps.edu.

Paintings by Stanley Agbontaen. Through Aug. 28 at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The Maryland-based international artist’s depictions of scenes are painted on oil canvas. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

Leigh Merrill: “Cloud Seeding.” Through Aug. 30, during gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Texas-based artist Leigh Merrill shows photography and

video in her solo exhibition Cloud Seeding. Merrill’s work examines the construction of desire, fiction and beauty in urban landscapes by digitally compositing thousands of images and videos into imaginary spaces. Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried Show.

Through Aug. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Studio 18. View parade-themed artwork. Admission is free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 717-359-7724.

Cool Yoga.

Wednesdays through Sept. 2, 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.

“Fields.” Through Sept. 6, during gallery hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Abstract Artists David Carlson and Pat Goslee make art based on their interests in spiritual exploration and energy

fields. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

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.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

Through Sept. 26 at various times. 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. Monday-Thursday, \$28 roundtrip Friday-Sunday. Visit <http://www.potomacriverboatco.com>.

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.

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 Sophie*, 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/.

Mount Vernon in 3-D: Then & Now.

Through Nov. 20 during regular operating hours at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visitors will have the chance to travel back in time, and in 3-D, to see how the estate appeared more than 100 years ago through a special photography exhibition. The exhibition is included in the regular admission fee of \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth and free for children younger than 5. To view the historic stereoview images as well as the modern 3-D anaglyphs, visit www.mountvernon.org/3D.

“Not-So-Modern” Jazz Quartet Performance. Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of

traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit www.stelmoscffeeepub.com for more.

Flamenco Show.

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffé & Creperie, 119 S Royal St. View a French film in the company of friends or a date. Free to attend. No RSVP necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen’s Cemetery. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen’s Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of

ENTERTAINMENT

1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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 value. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org for more.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W 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. 12 p.m. 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 at 621 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com.

Art League Summer Camps. Art Camps run Monday to Friday through 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.

THURSDAY/AUG. 13

Art Exhibition Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Texas-based artist Leigh Merrill will be hosting a reception and Q&A at her photography and video solo exhibition Cloud Seeding. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.com for more.

Dog Days of Summer. 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Adoptable dogs and pet care information will be available at this Second Thursday Art Night, also featuring dog-based art, gallery exhibits and one-man band Alex W. Young. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Opening Reception: "Scapes" and "Taking Shape." 6:30- 8 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. Meet the artists. Refreshments will be served. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Second Thursday Live: "Love Notes." 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This show explores the highs and lows of marriage with Ellouise Schoettler. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to traditional New Orleans-style jazz by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 14

Austin Ellis Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Artist Austin Ellis will perform. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

Titan Takeover Teen Night. 7-10 p.m. at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W Reed Ave. Featuring foods, events and giveaways. Free; food and raffle tickets are available for purchase. Recommended for teens. Text "Titan" to 30644 or email kim.hurley@alexandriava.gov by Aug. 12 to attend.

Dry Branch Fire Squad and Lou Reid & Carolina. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Music by Dry Branch Fire Squad and Lou Reid Carolina. Tickets are \$25. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

Dixie Boys Melody Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Calvary Community Church, 6731 Beulah St. See the Dixie Boys Melody perform. Free. Visit www.mountcalvary.cc or call 703-971-0165.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 14-16

The Complete Works of Shakespeare. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the

Lee District Amphitheater 6601 Telegraph Road. Matinee times on Saturday and Sunday are at 2:30 p.m. Watch all 37 Shakespeare plays performed by three actors with a comedy twist. Admission is \$10. Mature audiences only are requested due to language. Visit www.100minutesofshakespeare.eventbrite.com for tickets.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 15-16

Trunk Show: Candace Edgerley. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. An artist hosts a meet-and-greet, and displays scarves inspired by a recent trip to India. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/event/trunk-show-candace-edgerley/ or call 703-836-5807.

SATURDAY/AUG. 15

Behind the Scenes: Curator's Tour at Carlyle House. 10-11 a.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Experience a private tour of the museum and learn about the history of John Carlyle from curator Helen Wirka. Tickets are \$20. To reserve a spot, visit www.nvrpa.org or call 703-549-2997.

Kitten Shower. 1:30-4:30 p.m. at King Street Cats, 25 Dove St. Meet, pet and play with cats and kittens up for adoption to help kick off the King Street Cats' Purrlooz adoption events, refreshments will be served. Free to attend. Visit www.kingstreetcats.org/info/events.

Sly45 Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria 5 Cameron St. Sly45 is a Baltimore-based band that plays songs from the '50s and '60s. Free. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.
Laughing With Art: Blind Contour

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ENTERTAINMENT

'If You Believe'

Broadway concert to benefit cancer research.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Move over Julius Erving. There's another "Dr. J" in town: international recording artist Negleatha Johnson, who hopes to slam dunk a benefit concert Aug. 16 following her sister's diagnosis of a rare and aggressive cancer.

"One of my older sisters was diagnosed just this past February with leiomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer that has changed us all," said Johnson, a soloist with the Alfred Street Baptist Church choir. "After her fourth or fifth chemotherapy treatment, it was determined that the chemo had been of no effect and the cancer had spread. I knew then that I wanted to allow this concert to shed light on and to help raise support for sarcoma cancers."

Known as "DrJ" for using music as medicine, Johnson uses her voice to spread the message of hope, healing and restoration — the three areas of focus for her work with Life Waters Ministries, the ministry she and her husband co-founded 20 years ago.

"My life in full-time ministry has allowed me to see the heart of many people," Johnson said. "Week after week, I hear about the difficult challenges that so many are going through. The music that I sing is meant to bring hope to the listener and the songs that I've chosen for the Aug. 16 concert are from Broadway musicals that will shed hope on life's challenges. Songs like 'The Impossible Dream' from Man of La Mancha — no one listens to that song and leaves with feelings of defeat."

With a theme of "If You Believe," the concert will be held at The Waterford in Springfield and

Alfred Street Baptist Church choir soloist Negleatha Johnson will present a benefit concert on Aug. 16.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

will feature a buffet dinner in addition to the concert. All proceeds will benefit the Sarcoma Alliance.

Joining Johnson on stage will be jazz vocalist Janine Gilbert-Carter, who was a featured performer at the 2014 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival.

"I love the calming, yet assured nature of Janine's voice and thought that it would be so very nice to have her join me in sharing some inspirational songs from Broadway musicals," Johnson said. "We're doing fresh arrangements of many of the songs which will convey just how gospel and jazz meet on Broadway."

Marshall Keys, who has played with such notables as Stevie Wonder, will join the duo on saxophone, with Gerry Gillespie on keys, Ross Smith on bass, Greg Carter on Drums, Kenny Kohlhas on guitar and Romera Wyatt on percussion.

The concert will feature songs from "The Wiz," "West Side Story," "Porgy and Bess," "Fiddler on the Roof" and others. Doors open at 5 p.m. at The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Tickets are \$60 per person and include the buffet dinner and concert. Visit www.negleatha-johnson.com.

Drawing. 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 Quaker Lane. Attend a ladies-only blind contour drawing session. Supplies are provided with the \$45 fee. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

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.

Tank. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Come enjoy some R&B and soul from the singer, songwriter and producer Tank. Tickets are \$25. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

\$30. Purchase at www.thecarlyleclub.com.

Edwin McCain (Trio) with Jenn Grinels. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The rock and indie rock artist, Edwin McCain performs. Tickets are \$29.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 17

Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. practice and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Come with or without a partner to learn several classic dance styles from Gary Stephans. Admission is \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998 for details.

SUNDAY/AUG. 16

Medical Musical Group. 3 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. The Medical Musical Group, an ensemble of doctors, nurses, and medical students, will be performing. There will be a pre-concert beginning at 3 p.m., concert at 4 p.m. Tickets required. Call 800-965-9324 or visit www.medicalmusical.org.

B.B. King Tribute. 6 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Blue's artists perform B.B. King's music in a tribute concert. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Tickets start at

AUG. 18-SEPT. 18

International Guild of Realism 10th Annual International Juried Exhibition. During gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. The International Guild of Realism is dedicated to the advancement of realism in fine art. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 18

"Mayors, Merchants, and Maladies" Event. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500

Shenandoah Road. Callie Stapp, the Curator of Collections for the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Gadsby's Tavern Museum, will discuss 18th century pharmacy records. Sponsored by The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Free. Visit www.mvgenalogy.org/.

Southern Tier Beer Dinner. 7-10 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Attend a dinner accompanied by beers from Southern Tier Brewing Company. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/AUG. 19-20

Colonial Market & Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Engage in arts and crafts and participate in the festivities. Free- \$17, depending on age. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 19

Nick Tierra Performance. 5 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Rock artist, Nick Tierra, will be performing. Free. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Scott Fallon Performance. 5 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Acoustic artist, Scott

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Fallon, will be performing. Free. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.

Visiting Artist Program: Marcel Deolazo and Sol Hill. 5 p.m. at studio 333 and 316 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Hear from artists who are participating in the Visiting Artist Program at the Torpedo Factory. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Chris Stapleton-In The Flex Stage. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$20. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 21-30

Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week. Neighborhood restaurants offer specials and deals for customers. Prices and times vary. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Whiskey Tasting and Dinner. 6:30-9:45 p.m. at the Distillery & Gristmill, 5513 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn how whiskey was made in colonial times and taste whiskey paired with a dinner. Tickets are \$125 per person. Visit www.mountvernon.org/calendar.

Bruce Givens Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Acoustic artist Bruce Givens will be performing. Free. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.

Anthony David. 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. R&B singer-songwriter Anthony David performs live, joined by special guest Zo! and Carmen Rodgers. Tickets start at \$35. There is a \$25 minimum food and beverage purchase required per guest, except for general admission tickets. For tickets, visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

Libby Wiebel Performance. 8-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Libby Wiebel is a folk singer and songwriter who uses the guitar and piano to tell the stories of her travels. Free to attend. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Elephant Appreciation Day. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Learn about the dwindling elephant population and how to protect it. Also find a demonstration of elephant dung paper-making, an EQ (Elephant Quotient) test for adults, an elephant quiz for children, an elephant tattoo parlor, elephant themed refreshments and more. Visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com

3rd Annual Artist Materials Market. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Sell, buy, and swap gently used art supplies, tools, materials, and more. There are approximately 20 tables available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve your table for \$25 at eventbrite.com before Aug. 19.

Tom Walker Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Musician Tom Walker will be performing. Free. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.

Dan Berry Band Performance. 8-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Singer-songwriter Dan Berry will perform with his band. Free to attend. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 26

Tony Martinano Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Artist Tony Martinano will be performing. Free. Visit

www.theblackwallhitch.com.

AUG. 26-NOV. 20

Young at Art Juried Art Show.

Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older can contribute their artwork for the exhibition. On Thursday, Aug. 20, artists can bring their work to the Durant Center from 10 a.m.-noon to be registered and displayed. Artists must fill out a Entry and Artist/Lender Agreement and pay an entry fee of \$20 for up to three works of art, \$5 for any additional pieces. Entry forms can be found at www.seniorservicesalex.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 26

Port City Beer Dinner at Wildfire.

6:30-9 p.m. at Wildfire, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Four courses will be paired with Alexandria's Port City Beers. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 27

FACE It You Can Paint: Paint Your Own Flower Garden.

10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane. Learn simple brush techniques to create garden paintings. \$45 for 1 adult/1 child and \$15 for additional children. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

Tim Cretella Performance. 5 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Singer-songwriter, Tim Cretella, will be performing. Free. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 28

FACE It You Can Paint: Paint Your Own Flower Garden.

3:30-5 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane. Learn simple brush techniques to create garden paintings. \$45 for 1 adult/1 child and \$15 for additional children. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com to register.

Red Wine Diaries Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Acoustic band, Red Wine Diaries, will be performing. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

AUG. 31-OCT. 18

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried Show: "What I Did On My Summer Vacation."

10-5 p.m., 10-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 18. View summer vacation-themed artwork. Admission is free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartgallery.com.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 1

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.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT 10-OCT 25

Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition.

During gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Works inspired by the song "Don't Fence Me In," by Cole Porter, will be on display. Free. Visit nvfaa.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Second Thursday Live: Rhythm and Roots Experience.

7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This performance will feature West African music. Admission is \$15. Visit nvfaa.org.

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Former Centreville Assistant Matthie Takes Over at TC

Titans will run hybrid wing-T offense.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Marc Matthie spent the last five seasons as defensive coordinator of the Centreville football team, building his coaching credentials by helping the Wildcats win the 2013 6A state championship, and return to the state final the following year.

After reaching the pinnacle of VHSL football as an assistant, the 36-year-old is now the head coach at T.C. Williams, where he faces a new challenge: bringing consistent success back to the once-proud Alexandria program.

Matthie, a 1997 Chantilly graduate and former William & Mary linebacker, is aware of the conundrum that is T.C. Williams football. The Titans have talented players most seasons, but can't put it together. The program won state titles in 1971, 1984 and 1987, but also experienced a 22-year postseason drought. The Titans made the playoffs in 2013 for the first time in more than two decades, but followed the historic season with a 2-8 record the following year.

How does Matthie plan to turn the Titans into an annual winner?

"TC has always had talent," Matthie said. "They've always been a talented football team. Same thing when we were at Centreville; we had talent. But the major thing is: will your kids buy into what you're doing? If they buy into it at a high percentage, you have a chance to maximize the talent."

So far, so good for Matthie, who appears to have the backing of two of his top ath-



First-year T.C. Williams head football coach Marc Matthie spent the last five seasons as defensive coordinator at Centreville.

letes.

Matthie made a good impression with one of his best defensive players when the new head coach brought up something other than football during one of their first conversations.

"He's a really helpful coach," rising senior defensive end Chadi Abdalla said. "He cares about you first and what you're going to do after high school. When he came to me, he didn't ask about football. He asked how I was doing. How are your grades? Do you have any plans? Then he said football is a key to go all the way. I really like that about him."

Rising senior running back Mahlique

Booth, one of the Titans' top playmakers in recent seasons, welcomes Matthie's drastic changes to the program's offense. T.C. Wil-

"But the major thing is: will your kids buy into what you're doing? If they buy into it at a high percentage, you have a chance to maximize the talent."

— First-year T.C. Williams football coach Marc Matthie

liams ran the spread for years under former head coach Dennis Randolph, but Matthie feels the best way to utilize TC's athleticism is to get the ball to his playmakers in a hybrid version of the wing-T, a run-first offense used by Centreville.

"If it's a better way to get one up on the opponent, I'll buy into the system," Booth said, "and just make sure I can acclimate [well] enough so I can do what I need to do on the field."

Matthie's success at Centreville has helped gain the Titans' attention.

"If you want rings, he has a [state championship] ring," Abdalla said. "He makes me feel like, 'This guy knows what he's talking about,' and I can win one too."

On offense, Matthie hopes to get multiple players involved with the wing-T attack. He mentions that former Centreville running backs AJ Turner (South Carolina), Taylor Boose (Cincinnati) and Xavier Nickens-Yzer, and receiver Charles Tutt (JMU) received scholarship offers while playing in the system.

Booth, who will likely be the Titans' primary offensive threat, set a goal of 2,500 rushing yards this season. Rising seniors Tavaris James, Colson Jenkins and Thomas Huston, and rising sophomore Akiti Taylor will also see touches.

Rising sophomore Ethan Hall and rising



Rising senior running back Mahlique Booth will play a significant role in the Titans' hybrid wing-T offense.

junior Charles Farmer will compete for the starting quarterback position.

On the other side of the ball, the Titans will run a multiple defense. Abdalla, rising senior lineman Ravon Bridges and rising senior cornerback Chris Waddell are standouts.

T.C. Williams will host its Red/Blue scrimmage on Saturday, Aug. 15, and will open the regular season on the road against Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4. The Ti-

tans' first home game is against Westfield at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Matthie said he would like members of the Alexandria community to help the Titans improve on and off the field.

"[T.C. Williams is] the only school in Northern Virginia that's a one-town, one-school community," Matthie said.

"That's how it used to be and what you had with that was you had a village that came around that school and said how can I help pour into these kids to make them great? That's what we want to be able to do at TC."

With the season opener approaching, Matthie is working to turn the T.C. Williams football program into a consistent winner.

"No. 1 is we keep asking [the players], 'Why are you out here?'" Matthie said. "One of the major things is your motivation for why you're out here. If your motivation is to be the best, then it requires an insane amount of work to get that done. Your effort has to be tied into what your goals want to be."

If your goals are ... just be a 5-5 team, then your effort will translate that. If you want to be an undefeated team, a state championship potential team or even a play-off team, you have to understand the amount of work that's necessary for that, and are you willing to put in that work?"



After years of running the spread offense, the T.C. Williams football program will run a version of the wing-T under first-year head coach Marc Matthie.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
**Vivian Virginia Hewett
(Bumgardner)**
Beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend, Vivian
Virginia Hewett (Bumgardner), passed away August 10,
2015.
Vivian was born on January 27, 1931, in Gastonia, NC.
She was the Administrator at Woodbine Nursing Home for
over 30 years and was a member of Aldersgate Methodist
Church. Vivian served her country as an Army nurse in
Germany and at the Walter Reed Medical Cntr.
She is survived by her two sons: Gary J. and his wife Patty,
and William E. Hewett Jr, her grandson, Ryan L. Frederick
and his wife Tara, her sister Shirley Moore and her family.
Charitable donations in her name can be made to Alders-
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ed (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) and the Council on En-
vironmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural
Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Gen-
eral Services Administration (GSA) has prepared an
Environmental Assessment (EA) for the U.S. Transportation
Security Administration (TSA) lease consolidation in Northern
Virginia. GSA has determined that the proposed action as de-
scribed in the EA is not a major Federal action significantly af-
fecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

The Final EA and FONSI are being made available to the pub-
lic and Federal, and local government agencies for review.
Comments are due no later than August 28, 2015. Please
send all written comments and inquiries to Mr. Paul Gyamfi,
Regional Environmental Planner, Office of Planning and De-
sign Quality, Public Buildings Service -NCR, U.S. General
Services Administration, 301 7th Street, SW, Room 4004,
Washington, DC 20407 or by email at paul.gyamfi@gsa.gov.

A copy of both the Final EA and FONSI is available for public
review at the following locations: Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central
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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of
section 4-1-16 of the code of
the City of Alexandria, the
Alexandria Police Department
located at 3600 Wheeler Ave-
nue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is
now in possession of un-
claimed bicycles, mopeds,
lawn equipment, money,
scooters, and other items. All
persons having valid claim to
the property should file a claim
to the property with reason-
able 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 Prop-
erty Section at (703) 746-6709.

I believe the
future is only
the past again,
entered through
another gate.
-Arthur Wing
Pinero

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
**Ruther Lee
Coleman**
died unexpectedly in
Alex, VA on 8/5/2015,
at the age of 74. A
funeral is scheduled
for 10:00 am on
8/15/2015 at Harvest Assembly Baptist
Church, 8008 Fordson Rd, Alex, VA 22306.
With a reception to follow.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
GEOFF BALD
Passed away July 22, 2015 He was 44. Geoff was a gradu-
ate of WSH, VA Tech and UVA Law School. A memorial
service will be held Aug. 15 in N.J. He is survived by his pa-
rents, Jim and Nancy, his brothers, Michael and Kevin, and
daughters Madeline, Caroline and Jackie. Donations in his
memory can be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Outer Banks, North Carolina - Vacation Rentals
- Over 600 vacation homes in all price ranges!
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Southern Shores to Corolla
- July and August weeks still available!
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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BUSINESS



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

The Time of Their Lives

Chadwick's owner Trae Lamond and his wife Carolyn channel Dirty Dancing stars Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey as they get into the spirit of '80s night Aug. 8. A long-time employee of the Alexandria restaurant, Lamond recently be- came the new owner following last year's sudden death of founder Tom Russo. "It's great to see so many people come out to support us," said Lamond, who began the neighborhood happy hours. "I'm always here, so I hope people will stop by and say hi."

BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Pho-
tos encouraged.

With a branch in Alexandria, **John Marshall Bank** was named to the 2015 edition of the Top 200 Healthiest Banks in America by DepositAccounts. The rankings are based on growth, capitalization and loan securities.

James M. Duncan Branch Library wins City's 2015 Beautification Award. The Alexandria Beautification Commission has selected the James M. Duncan Branch Library for its 2015 Beautifica-
tion Award for a public building. The award will be presented on Monday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Temple located at 101 Callahan Drive.

The Chiropractic Associates has named **Dr. Miranda Wall** to the practice as an associate chiropractor and nutritionist.

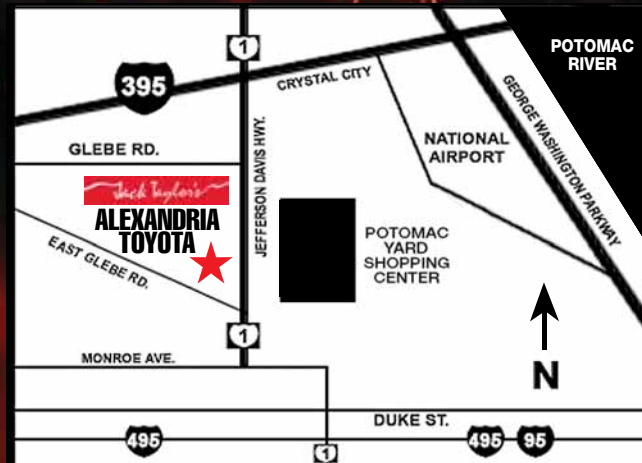
Virginia Railway Express has introduced VRE Mobile, a new mobile ticketing app. VRE is thus the first transit system in the greater Washing-
ton D. C. area to offer riders a way to pay fares with a mobile app. The app, powered by GlobeSherpa, lets riders buy and use tickets and passes on their smartphones and is available for free from the iTunes App Store and Google Play. Paper tickets will still be available as an option. To learn more about VRE Mobile, visit www.vre.org/mobile. VRE serves northern Virginia and Washington D.C. and its offices are based in Alexandria.

Mike Buzas, partner and practice director for management advisory services, retired from Halt, Buzas and Powell, Ltd. in January after 22 years.

Buzas joined the firm in July 1993 and became a partner in 1994. He has served a diverse range of clients in the areas of business reengineering, design and management of financial systems, process innovation, system security, and business development. Buzas began his financial systems career as a senior consultant at Arthur, Andersen & Company. Prior to joining HB&P, Buzas held op-
erational management executive positions with companies such as MCI Communications, Thomas Havey and Company, and Total Business Solutions. He is a retired naval aviator and captain in the U.S. Navy.

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**LUBE, OIL & FILTER
SERVICE SPECIAL**

\$34.95 \$44.95

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Includes: Change oil (up to 5 qts.),
install Genuine Toyota oil filter,
inspect & adjust all fluid levels and
complimentary multi-point inspection
with print out.

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ball joints, struts & shocks, tire
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**BRAKE SPECIAL
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inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition
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TheGoodhartGroup.com



Beverley Hills \$849,000

New Price! Tastefully updated throughout, this 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath Beverley Hills home is picture perfect and move-in ready. The kitchen has been remodeled with high-end features and appliances. Attached 2-car garage and generous storage.

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

LizLuke.com



Founders Walk \$342,000

Penthouse views from this gorgeous 3-bedroom 3-bath condo. Nestled against the woods, this light-filled unit offers high ceilings, updated kitchen & systems complete the package. Minutes to Van Dorn Metro, Beltway, & shopping. 5948 Founders Hill Dr #303

Pam Cornelio 571.236.4398

Betty Mallon 703.989.8548

PamCornelio.com



Jefferson Park \$1,199,000

The quality of the original craftsmanship blends well with the character of the renovations and expansion of this 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath brick home sited on a huge, beautifully landscaped flat lot (over 1/4 acre) in one of the city's most sought-after neighborhoods.

Betty Mallon

703.989.8548

BettyMallon.com



Alexandria \$495,000

4 large bedrooms, 2 updated baths, beautiful and HUGE, fenced yard backing to Mount Vernon Trail. Open Main level with cathedral ceilings. NEW: Stainless appliances, water heater, brick sidewalk, and driveway.

Ann McClure

301.367.5098

AnnMcClure.com



Jefferson Park \$875,000

Charming Cape Cod! Great curb appeal & unique renovations were featured in the magazine "This Old House!" Enjoy the convenience of a main level bedroom & full bath, updated kitchen, finished basement, & off-street parking. 412virginia.mceneaney.com

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Del Ray \$759,000

Fabulous 3-bedroom, 2-full-bath home features a spacious open floor plan, high ceilings, hardwood floors, crown molding & mud room. Partially finished lower level walks out to spacious yard and driveway. Walk to shops & restaurants. 115 Hume Avenue

Chris Hayes

703.944.7737

HomesByHayes.com



Arlington \$357,000

Close to the Pentagon, this 2-bedroom, 1-bath condo has updated features and a private balcony. Organized closets throughout and first floor location for easy street access. Amenities include storage space, parking spot, pool, gym and more.

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

LizLuke.com



Hidden Glen \$525,000

Spacious garage townhouse on a quiet street. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Large lovely kitchen and family room with fireplace. Separate dining room.

Master bedroom bath has glass enclosed shower, Jacuzzi, and walk-in closet. Hardwood floors. Deck and patio.

Anne Martone

571.213.3991

McEneaney.com



The Royalton \$375,000

Located in a quiet courtyard, this rare 720-SF luxury condo has loads of light, a private balcony, hardwood floors, granite counters, walk-in closet, 12-ft

ceilings, parking & more. Whole Foods on 1st floor; Steps to Metro, Patent & Trademark, shopping & waterfront. Move-in Ready! 309 Holland Ln #130

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Del Ray \$569,000

Fantastic, totally renovated 2-bedroom, two-bath rowhouse offering an open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, warm hardwood flooring and

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Old Town Village \$884,900

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