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AUGUST 20, 2015

City Entices TSA To Move Here



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

The TSA's new headquarters at the Victory Center in Alexandria.

Arlington's loss of the Transportation Security Administration headquarters is Alexandria's gain.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

While Alexandria celebrates the recent Transportation Security Administration's decision to move to West Eisenhower, Arlington struggles to recover from another blow to the county's office vacancies. The 3,800-person headquarters will leave its Arlington location in 2018 to settle into the Victory Center.

Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, celebrated the move as jump starting the city's plans to revitalize West Eisenhower. Less than a week after the announcement, Landrum said she'd already gotten phone calls from contractors possibly interested in moving into the area.

"The Federal Government is a very stable office tenant," Landrum said. "The lease is for 15 years, but the average stay for a federal entity is 40 years."

But the TSA was not as stable an office tenant for Arlington, who now faces the task of filling the half a million square feet of office space at the TSA's current 12th Street headquarters in Pentagon City.

"Obviously it's disappointing," said Marc McCauley,

director of the Real Estate Development Group within Arlington Economic Development. "We aggressively went after the deal, but it all came down to cost."

McCauley said the county will continue to focus trying to fill the vacant office spaces with cyber security, tech groups, and nonprofits in growing industries. Arlington faces a 20 percent office vacancy rate. Pentagon City faces 17 percent office vacancy.

But Landrum dismissed concerns over the Alexandria facing similar instability.

"The TSA is a teenager," Landrum said. "It was founded after 9/11. It's in its formative years, and this will be the first real headquarters they've ever had. The Arlington location was put together during the emergency, but this headquarters allows them to design a facility based on their operations. It's like they were subletting an apartment. They've pieced things together, and now they're ready to move into their new home."

Landrum also said that Alexandria has specifically made a point of drawing in diversified federal agencies.

"The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) is an enterprise agency," said Landrum. "They charge fees for the work they do and so they build up a budget."

SEE ARLINGTON'S LOSS, PAGE 8

Friends Remember John K. Severson

Owner of Al's Steakhouse dies at 73.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET



and hated cooking on the grill. But my dad taught him and our families became the closest of friends. I will always have such good memories of John."

Diagnosed less than a year ago with lung cancer, Severson made regular visits to Al's until as recently as last month.

On Aug. 15, he died peacefully at his home at the age of 73.

"John was a graduate of George Washington High School and really had a passion for the community," said David Slaustos, an employee of Severson's for the last 10 years. "He especially cared about the homeless and was committed to making sure everyone had something to eat."

Despite decades of rapid growth and change in the Del Ray community, Severson refused to change anything at Al's. He prided himself on providing customers with a local institution that offered the same massive cheese steaks and familiar surroundings year after year. A quiet but col

SEE JOHN SEVERSON, PAGE 3

His name wasn't Al. But he would answer to it and even sign autographs with the name so many assumed it was his. He was Johnny Severson, and for more than 50 years he was the man behind the legendary cheesesteak sandwiches at Al's Steakhouse in Del Ray.

"If the way to someone's heart is through their stomach, then Johnny touched a lot of hearts," said Ray Smith, a longtime customer and close friend of Severson. "He was 'Uncle Al' to generations of Alexandrians."

Severson was only 12-years-old when he began cutting onions after school for the original Al. After a brief stint as a mail carrier, he bought the restaurant in 1966 and turned Al's Steakhouse into a popular destination long before "The Avenue" in Del Ray became chic.

"I don't think John even knew how to cook the food back then," said Debbie Stewart, whose father was a friend of Severson. "He was left-handed

Big Plans, But Small Budget

Budget concerns jeopardize Commission for the Arts' plans.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Massive budget cuts to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts has put a damper on some of the group's hopes for 2016. According to Allison Nance, a member of the Commission for the Arts, last year Alexandria's Arts Commission re-

ceived \$200,000 from the city for public arts projects and other art projects around the city. However, in 2016, Nance says that funding dropped to zero.

Michael Detomo, a member of the Commission for the Arts, said the organization is stressed even further with efforts to implement the 2012 Public Art Implementa

SEE COMMISSION, PAGE 5

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Testing the Waters

Alexandria and Arlington begin discussions on potential shared pool.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Despite Alexandria swiping the Transportation Security Administration's headquarters away from Arlington, the relationship re-mains cordial enough that the two have begun discussions around a shared Aquatic Center. While both sides emphasize that nothing has been agreed upon yet, this fall, Alexandria and Arlington will seek public input on the possibility of partnering to develop a 50-meter pool at Long Bridge Park.

Alexandria and Arlington both recognize the need for an aquatics center. Mark Jinks, Alexandria city manager, said that previous surveys of recreation needs have continually indicated that existing athletic and competitive swimming facilities do not meet the demand. Susan Kalish, director of public Relations for Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation, said that a 2004 Citizen Survey found that indoor aquatics facilities were the area of the Parks and Recreation Department citizens were least satisfied with. An updated survey five years ago found similar dissatisfaction with indoor aquatics. In 2013, plans were put for-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Long Bridge Park in Arlington could be the site of a 50-meter pool, if Alexandria partners with the county.

ward for the second phase of the Long Bridge Park renovations, but in 2014 those plans were cancelled after the construction bids came in higher than the budget.

Kalish said that the Aquatic Center project has a \$79.2 million budget in the Arlington

CIP with \$59.3 million reserved for hard construction costs. The new total project budget is \$64 million with \$46 million for hard construction costs; Kalish said \$15 million had already been spent on design, environmental programs, project manage-

ment, and permits. This early in the project, it's unknown how that cost could be shared with Alexandria. "We don't know how that cost is broken up right now," said Kalish. "We don't even know if we're going to partner with them. If the community is interested in partnering, then we'll look at that."

Jinks emphasized that nothing has been decided beyond agreeing to have a discussion on the topic. Jinks noted, however, that there was precedent for collaborations.

"We have projects we jointly share over 30 years where working together in a common facility makes sense," said Jinks. "In some cases, we decide to forgo [partnerships]."

Jinks specifically pointed to Alexandria and Arlington's separate bus systems and fire departments as areas where Alexandria chose not to collaborate with Arlington. However, Alexandria and Arlington do share patients in their drug treatment programs. They've also shared a waste management plant since the 1980s.

"Some things work and have economies on a regional basis," said Jinks. "But others, like DASH and Art Bus, work better as individual jurisdictional services. With each service, one of the tools in the toolbox is 'should we be looking at this regionally?'"

John Severson, Owner of Al's Steakhouse, Dies at 73

FROM PAGE 1

orful character, Severson never let anyone leave Al's hungry regardless of whether or not they could pay.

"Johnny quietly helped a lot of people over the years," Smith said.

John K. Severson was born in Hawaii on Oct. 28, 1941 to the late Elizabeth and Arthur Severson. He is survived by his son, John (Bo) Severson and his daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and David Swales and their three children of Crozet, Va. He is also survived

"If the way to someone's heart is through their stomach, then Johnny touched a lot of hearts."

— Longtime customer and friend Ray Smith

by his sister, Mary Anna Severson, and his brother, Arthur (Sonny) Severson of Falls Church and their families.

The family will receive friends at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, on Thursday, Aug. 20 from 6-9 p.m. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, Aug. 21 at 10:30 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. A private family burial will take place at Mount Comfort Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, due to allergies, the family requests

Beginning biology



SHOP 9—Front Row: David Agner, Harold Madison, Ronald Rubin, Carl Hegge, Tom Newell. Second Row: Marty Gensmer, Early Donald, Roy Fewell, John Severson, Bill Mittendorf, Ronald Shiplett. Third Row: George Arnold, Martin Brula, Charles Shelton, Jack Phelps, Bruce Jones, Allan Reed.

Johnny Severson, middle row, third from right, is shown with his biology class at George Washington High School.

that donations may be made to Alive! So that "Big Al" can continue to feed the hungry in Alexandria.

"For a man who ran a simple sub shop and lived a simple life, no one was better loved or had a better run than Johnny," Smith said. "He was a true pillar of this community."

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Al's Steakhouse owner Johnny Severson died Aug. 15 after a battle with lung cancer. He was 73.



Al's Steakhouse owner Johnny Severson was known to many as "Uncle Al."

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Commission for the Arts Copes with Budget Squeeze

FROM PAGE 1

tion Plan. The plan offers the Commission for the Arts a broad direction for the type of public art the city should commission and where. It also outlines tools and processes for identifying, planning, and implementing the public art projects. The document states the public art priorities as “enriching the experience of Alexandria’s

“We’re just going to have to do more with less.”

— Allison Nance, member, Commission for the Arts

past, celebrating the spirit of Alexandria’s present, and shaping the identity of Alexandria’s future.”

But in Alexandria’s present, the lack of grant funding could make shaping the identity of

Alexandria’s future a more substantial challenge.

“We’re just going to have to do more with less,” said Nance.

During the meeting, Detomo said that Arlington had heard its local artists complaining about the cost of practice space, and had begun using



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts discuss funding issues at their Aug. 18.

free practice space instead of money in some of its grants. However, others on the commission noted that the fees from practice spaces are one of the only sources of funding the Commission for the Arts has towards grants. Commission member Amber Gordon

suggested increasing their representation on other commissions with more local business representation to help look for avenues for public-private partnerships.

This isn’t to say the Commission for the Arts isn’t without resources. The FY 2016

budget’s only reference to the Commission for the Arts is under estimated revenue funds, where it states that the Virginia Commission for the Arts provides matching funds, up to \$5,000, to be allocated to arts organizations and artists who submitted funding requests to the Alexandria Commission to the Arts.

Nance also said that there was some funding left over from other projects that has not been used yet.

But other sources of funding, Nance said, were taken from projects that had been approved but now had to be stricken from the city plans.

For FY 2016, the organization has awarded \$170,000 in grant funding to 25 organizations.

The largest recipients was Art League, Inc. which received \$13,794.

At its Aug. 18 meeting at the Durant Arts Center, the commission approved its 2014-2015 annual report, which outlined some of the challenges and successes of the past year.

The report highlighted the Duke Street Traffic Box Wraps, which had artists from Alexandria and surrounding areas design colorful vinyl wraps for 12 traffic control boxes. It’s the kind of arts project members of the commission worry budget cuts could jeopardize in the future.

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Making Bread Is an Art

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The oven is warming to 450 degrees. Lisa Parkinson has lined up the unbleached flour, yeast and milk beside the freshly chopped rosemary, basil and thyme. She is about to begin today's Focaccia Making with Oil and Vinegar Tasting Technique class at Williams-Sonoma on S. Washington Street. The theme of the month is Italian, and a couple of weeks ago she taught the class on Cooking with Tomatoes. She said she bought a variety of heirloom tomatoes and "we tasted them. Some are really tart and others are super sweet."

PEOPLE AT WORK These culinary events are free with adult classes on Sundays and junior chef classes on Saturdays. "I teach a lot of the junior chef classes, too. We get a good group," she said. The Culinary Events program is a team effort with other instructors and is coordinated by an assistant manager with a professional chef background who oversees the culinary program.

Parkinson has been teaching cooking technique classes at Williams-Sonoma for about a year and a half. "I'm actually moonlighting since I have a regular job with a local defense company. But I love cooking. I don't have any formal training, just 20 years of cooking," she said.

HER INSPIRATION was her mother who was a "fabulous cook, a stay-at-home mom. Every night we would come home from school to a home-cooked meal." Parkinson remembers those hush puppies and the shredded beef over noodles. "Home cooking has become a lost art I guess you could say."

Parkinson's specialty is the Vitamix and the juicer. She teaches a Vitamix class about once a quarter where she produces hot soups, sorbets, smoothies with fruit, yogurt, baby spinach and flax seed and "an amazing tofu chocolate mousse. Everyone wanted that recipe."

Parkinson also taught a burger class "which was really fun because I'm a vegetarian; we made mini-sliders with a good recipe." Often at home on Sunday she will cook a couple of recipes for the week ahead. Her current favorite is a "fun veggie mix" with roasted sweet potatoes, sweet corn, black beans, cilantro, scallions and spices. "I can heat up tortillas, throw in this mix and some cheese or cook up some rice to mix with it or throw in some curry sauce to give it an Indian taste."



"If the dough pulls back, it doesn't want to be touched so set it aside for a while," said Lisa Parkinson, who is teaching a technique class at Williams-Sonoma on making focaccia.



Lisa Parkinson puts slices of roma tomatoes on her focaccia dough. She explains that one difference with pizza is that you generally add only one topping or maybe sprinkled herbs on focaccia.

The front door opens. "Welcome you guys — good to see you again." She explains, "We have a lot of regulars."

A couple comes in and takes a seat in front of the wooden counter followed by two friends who have also been there before.

Soon 12 are crowded around the demonstration area reading today's recipe.

"Today we're going to make focaccia and then taste it with different olive oils. I've always been a little intimidated by bread," Parkinson said. "But I'm going to show you how to make the dough, and not to be scared about it."

She says that making bread is an art: "You want a crusty outside and a light and airy crumb inside. The more you practice, the more you get used to it." She points to a pan of dough that she started earlier in the day and is slowly rising. "I have to confess I'm a little bit addicted to this thing that is growing." She pulls the dough to the edge of the pan and will dimple it with her fingers to hold pools of olive oil. "If the dough pulls back, it just doesn't want to be touched so set it aside for a while."

As Parkinson begins a new batch of dough from scratch she cautions, "You have to be careful you don't kill the yeast." Tiny bubbles rise in the bowl as she adds warm water to the granules. She slips a thermometer into the bowl to test the temperature of the water. "90 degrees, not quite hot enough. I'm using unbleached flour today but you can use bleached flour if you want whiter focaccia or cake flour. And if you want to venture out, the Italians add potatoes and it makes the focaccia more yellow."

Generally a focaccia is different than a pizza because there is more yeast in the dough and you only add one topping. "But if you're feeding a crowd, you could just add whatever toppings you want." She says you can add herbs to the dough or sprinkle them on top and, "I've even heard of dessert focaccias — you could put peaches on top." She says you can experiment, "That's what it is all about."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Take a Hike

Marra reelected chairman of Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria resident Sandra Marra will be serving her second term as chair of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's board of directors.

She is among the eight incumbents, six new members, and one new officer elected to the 2015-17 board of directors in late July during the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Biennial Conference in Winchester.

According to Marra, one of the greatest challenges facing the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is attracting younger generations to the organization and the trail.

"When I joined in my 20s, I routinely went out on work trips and then I got involved in the leadership of that club. Then I moved on to the conservancy and got involved in the leadership of that club. I eventually worked my way up to chair. But a lot of Millennials ... are not joiners and don't like to commit for the long term," she said.

To resolve this, the conservancy has collaborated with a number of local educational programs that help educate younger generations about the Appalachian Trail. Programs like the "Trail to Every Classroom" program, a professional development program for K-12 teachers, provides educators with place-based education and service learning on the Appalachian Trail.

Thirty-one years ago, Marra participated in a work trip on the Appalachian Trail, sponsored by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Chapter, with her friend shortly after moving to Washington, D.C.

"I didn't know anything about the Appalachian Trail or anything about how it was managed and I just found it fascinating that this national park and this 2,190 trail was actually built, managed, and maintained by volunteers," she said.

While the National Park Service has given the Appalachian Trail Conservancy authority to manage and protect the Appalachian Trail, the conservancy

has formed agreements with 31 chapters along the Appalachian Trail to help with the

daily ground building and maintaining the actual treadway, shelters, signatures and corridor monitoring along the 2,190 trail stretching from Georgia to Maine.

Shortly after participating in work trip, she joined the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in 1984. "One of my first activities was joining a group of volunteers who were building a shelter on the trail north of Rt. 50 in Northern Virginia. The shelter is called Rod Hollow," she said.

Since then, she has been active within the various levels of the organization, serving on the Stewardship Council and the Development Committee and served two terms as president of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

In addition to her involvement with the conservancy, she has more than 34 years of professional experience in both corporate and nonprofit organizations, specifically in the areas of organizational development, strategic planning and human resource development.

Prior to this appointment, she was the chief operating officer for St. Coletta of Greater Washington, Inc., a nonprofit organization that operates programs for children and adults with developmentally disabilities.

In addition to her new role with the conservancy, Marra and her husband, Chris, are the current caretakers of the Blackburn Trail Center in Round Hill, Va. The center is located at two-tenths of a mile off the Appalachian Trail, which is 12 miles south of Harpers Ferry.

Besides maintaining the physical trail, they also greet the through hikers (those walking the entire Appalachian Trail), section hikers, and day users on the trail. During the



PEOPLE

Encouraging Use of Appalachian Trail

FROM PAGE 6

peak period in July, up to 20 hikers have used the trail, mostly through hikers who have started the Appalachian Trail in March or April and reach the Blackburn Trail in early July.

"We have had quite a few international hikers come by including from France, Germany, England, Ireland, Australia, Mexico, Singapore and Canada. We always offer a cold soda and a brownie or a piece of cake and often will make a spaghetti dinner for them," she said. The Blackburn Trail Center is also

special to Marra and her husband because it where the pair first met during a work trip. In September of 2004, they were married at the Center.

"Chris and I have had our grandsons and my nephew out on the trail and at the Blackburn Trail Center since they were little," she said.

Marra has Bachelor's Degree in English literature from Rowan University (formally Glassboro State College) in N.J. and a Master's Degree in personnel and human resource management from the Kogod School of Business, The American University.

Carucci Joins National Breast Center Foundation

Martha Carucci of Alexandria has been named program manager of National Breast Center Foundation. With a background in lobbying, administration and event planning, Carucci was chief lobbyist to the U.S. House of Representatives for the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association and the manager of administration and events for the National Association of Broadcasters. She has exten-



sive volunteer and fundraising experience essential for the foundation.

Carucci will develop and implement strategies to maximize program efforts and services, supporting the foundation's mission to improve the lives of women by removing barriers that prevent them from getting proper screening, diagnosis, and education about breast cancer. Visit www.nationalbreastcenter.com.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Carucci also studied at Georgetown and Harvard Universities. She is married with three children. She can be reached at martha.carucci@nationalbreastcenter.org.

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Marga Fripp’s Mission: To Empower Women

BY HOWARD FEINSTEIN

If necessity is indeed the mother of invention, few can match the birth and subsequent success of Empowered Women International, EWI, founded 13 years ago in the heart of Alexandria by Marga Fripp. Having immigrated to America from Romania to access life-saving medical treatment for her son — knowing not a word of English — Fripp has since dedicated her life to “paying it forward,” so that other women in challenging dire circumstances can gain the opportunity to achieve the American dream. It is for the creation of EWI that Fripp has been named a Living Legend of Alexandria.

Fripp comes by her credo of “high expectations; no excuses” naturally. Raised in a family of modest means in Galati, Romania, she attended that country’s Open University. (Shortly after immigrating to America, Marga obtained degrees from Montgomery College and the University of Maryland.) At a young age, she became a leader in Romania’s freedom movement, speaking truth to power in her role as a fearless broadcast and print journalist, at no small risk to her own freedom.

Since its founding in 2001, EWI has made a wide range of services and support available to immigrants, low-income women, and women of color. More than 3,500 women have benefited from EWI’s focus on personal empowerment. While the curriculum emphasizes entrepreneurship and business education, no aspect of a student’s life goes unattended to.

Fripp, EWI’s founding president and

“chief visionary,” has worked tirelessly to assemble a network of attorneys, social workers, lenders, and others to address the personal and family issues facing EWI’s students. Thirteen years of experience has demonstrated that to become a successful businesswoman, one needs to have one’s personal life in order to develop the confidence that is crucial to business and personal empowerment. EWI’s programs are continually evaluated, adjusted, and expanded, to ensure that students receive the most up-to-date preparation for entrepreneurship in a technologically changing economy. EWI’s intensive three-month Entrepreneurship Training for Success has been supplemented with the individualized, six-month “Grow My Business” course. Most recently, the Alumni Entrepreneurship Service provides more long-term mentoring and advanced training.

The Alexandria connection remains dear to the hearts of Fripp and her staff. Many of EWI’s most successful businesses are located in Alexandria, and the headquarters on Henry Street remains the hub of the organization. The city’s vibrant arts scene was an excellent match from EWI’s earliest days with its students’ creative spirit. Many of the businesses launched through EWI’s programs are in the performing and graphic arts.

Fripp has been the recipient of awards from the Alexandria Commission for Women; Alexandria Commission for the Arts; and many other organizations throughout the region. She has served on the board of directors of Gender Action and other nonprofits, and travels worldwide to



“Chief visionary” Marga Fripp

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTO

spread the gospel of women’s empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Fripp and her EWI team have successfully solicited the support — both financial and in-kind — of businesses; schools and colleges; churches and government agencies throughout Northern Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area, matching those resources with students and alumnae to provide group and one-on-one mentoring. This has enabled EWI to provide scholarship assistance, so that no student is denied access for financial reasons. And to ensure long-term commitment, EWI asks its students to pay it forward by teaching and mentoring new generations of students, thus forming a lifelong sorority of support and collaboration.

EWI has also established partnerships with socially conscious lenders, including Kiva and Life Asset, to provide critical micro financing for its start-ups. This aspect

Living Legends: The 2015 Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year. For information, to volunteer, donate or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.org.

of Fripp’s vision is an excellent match with that of her husband, Jesse Fripp, a prominent figure in the world of international development and a strong supporter of women’s empowerment. Marga and Jesse have two children: Geanina, a college student in Tennessee, and Arthur, who attends high school locally.

This ever-growing network has enabled EWI to open new offices throughout the region while maintaining its headquarters in Alexandria. Fripp’s credo of “onward and upward” accepts no excuses for a student’s difficulties. Instead, EWI does whatever it takes to provide that person with the support and tools necessary to succeed.

Fripp has spread the word on behalf of this “can do” spirit in nationwide and international speaking appearances; through TED talks and other on-line avenues; and on Northern Virginia-based radio and television. Walk through Alexandria’s Old Town and Del Ray neighborhoods and one is hard-pressed to encounter a merchant or veteran resident who does not know her. Indeed, she was instrumental in encouraging Nina Tisara, founder of Living Legends of Alexandria, to apply for its nonprofit status in an early EWI class.



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA/LIVING LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA

Future Legends

Families of students in the ACPS 3-5 Grade Summer Enrichment Program joined their children recently at an end-of-class celebration. Among the activities was sharing the stories they wrote as part of the Family Legends book-making activity. For the event children donned special tee-shirts with the message “Future Legends.” The teachers’ shirts said “I’m Teaching a Future Legend.” Family Legends is a program of Living Legends of Alexandria led by local artist-educator Sushmita Mazumdar. Above, Jesus Sans smiles while reading his story aloud.

Living Legends Elects New Board Members

Several new members have been elected to the Living Legends of Alexandria’s board of directors. The new members add experience in nonprofit management, event management, nonprofit legal consulting, grant writing, fundraising and marketing.

❖ Jennifer Ayers is an independent consultant to nonprofit organizations. She is the secretary of the board of directors of PRS, Inc., an organization serving Northern Virginia and D.C., providing a myriad of services to those with mental illness or facing a crisis.

❖ Jason Fuchs is a leader in the Alexandria community, investing time and experience to lead others in social good. He is dedicated to improving the lives of children through his non-profit work with Kiwanis and through his weekly trips to local preschools where he has the opportunity to read to children. In addition to spending time with his fiancée, Leslie, Jason enjoys a variety of outdoor sports.

❖ Jennifer Gniady has a law

practice specializing in nonprofit organizations. She is on the board of the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center, co-chairing the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend to serve Alexandria’s children and families. Gniady is a graduate of Syracuse University and earned her J.D. at Fordham. She and her husband, Russell Stoll, have three children.

❖ Sally E. Richards, J.D., came to the Alexandria area from northeastern Ohio where she managed her own law firm. While she has been exploring a new career in the nonprofit sector, she has volunteered for many Alexandria area organizations including Volunteer Alexandria and Del Ray Business Association.

❖ Brian Story, an Alexandria native, serves as the vice president for the Del Ray Business Association. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 2009 and worked as a chemistry teacher in Fauquier County. His family continues to work after 60 years of service in Alexandria as police officers and

in city administration. He advises families and businesses, helping develop and manage their financial goals.

❖ Paul Williams spends most of his time working at Idea Sandbox, the brand and marketing agency that helps companies stand out from their competition. For fun, he and his wife Shannon write, publish, and market a series of children’s picture books called “KeeKee’s Big Adventures.”

❖ Kathleen Baker will chair LLA’s new Family Legends/Education committee. Baker, an artist, educator and advocate, was herself recognized in 2015 as a Living Legend of Alexandria for her founding leadership of Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities, Opera Americana, Alexandria Arts Forum, and her innovative approaches to child music education. Her board service includes KSMET (now the Old Town Business and Professional Association), the Alexandria Symphony, and the International Visitors Information Service of Washington, D.C.

Arlington's Loss Becomes City's Gain

FROM PAGE 1

That's how they fund their operations. The PTO was not impacted by sequester, they generate their own revenue. The National Science Foundation, from a federal agency standpoint, is something that's incredibly attractive because of the spin-off activities. It's unlike any other federal entity."

Landrum said the TSA is also considered a very stable federal agency, but said the city had additional motivations for court- ing the shift.

"As we look at the TSA, the reason we were aggressive in trying to land this is because of the location," said Landrum. "[The Victory Center] been sitting empty for 10 years in an industrial area. We need some- one to go in and be the catalyst. For the city, that's an amazing investment. This should accelerate development by 15 years."

According to Landrum, the only poten- tial use for that building was as a federal agency.

"There's no other business that was go- ing into that building," said Landrum. "Our options were: land a federal agency, let it sit empty, or tear it down."

Landrum said that a site in the Hoffman area of Eisenhower, near the Patent and Trademark Office and almost directly adja- cent to the National Science Foundation, was also considered. However, more incen-

tives were offered for the West Eisenhower site in hopes of bringing additional devel- opment to that part of the city.

The TSA headquarters will receive a \$23 million tax abatement, or \$1.5 million an- nually for the duration of the 15-year lease. However, according to City Manager Mark Jinks, the city still anticipates bringing in \$1.6 million every year from the site, or \$25 million over the course of the 15-year lease.

"The City Council proposed a tax incen- tive, a partial real estate tax abatement," said Jinks. "[It's] a different structure but similar to National Science Foundation. It helped the project become feasible at a low rental rate. Over 15 years, many of those people will move [to Alexandria], and they will have dollars to spend. As we work on redevelopment of Landmark Mall, the mall will be on the road as they drive there. While these are not new jobs to the region, there is an economic benefit to the city to bringing new jobs to the city."

But the impact may not be as heavy as Alexandrians and Arlingtonians alterna- tively hope and fear, at least not immedi- ately. "From a regional standpoint, it doesn't really matter," said Dr. Terry Clower from George Mason University's Center for Re- gional Analysis. "They're moving about eight miles down the road. The new loca- tion is closer to the Van Dorn Metro, but it's going to be the same employees."

Clower acknowledged that new people would move in over time, but said it wasn't enough to constitute a shift in labor force. Clower also noted that, with Alexandria's lack of affordable housing, it's questionable whether the majority of TSA employees at the building would consider living in Alex- andria. However, Clower recognized that there were other benefits to Alexandria be- sides additional employment

"It is a signature government agency oc- cupying a vacant building," said Clower. "From Alexandria's perspective, that is a good thing... Sometimes in development, the best way to draw a crowd is to already have a lot of people."

The Victory Center has been empty since 2005, when Army Material Command com- mand moved from the Victory Center to Fort Belvoir. The property owners, Eisenhower Real Estate Holdings, LLC, will provide \$50 million in property improvements before the TSA officially moves into the building in 2018. Clower noted that the move is still a major loss to Arlington, even though the county will still maintain those jobs over the next few years.

"Certainly Arlington didn't want to lose that," said Clower. "If you had a private sec- tor backfill for that building, that would be a good thing, but Arlington overall is strug- gling with vacancy rates and this certainly isn't going to help that."

CRIME REPORTS

The following incidents were reported by the Alex- andria Police Department:

Tuesday, Aug. 18

The Alexandria Police Department is investigat- ing a felonious assault in the 4100 block of Duke Street. The victim has a non-life-threatening injury.

Saturday, Aug. 15

The Alexandria Police Department is investigat- ing a robbery from a person in the 4600 block of Duke Street on the bike path. No weapons were seen, no injuries to victim, and a cell phone stolen.

Thursday, Aug. 13

The Alexandria Police Department is investigat- ing an armed robbery of a Dunkin Donuts store in the 4600 block of Duke Street. No one was injured.

MILITARY NOTES

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

Army Pfc. **Ernest Oti** has graduated from ba- sic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Ian Turner will continue service in New York Army National Guard (Latham, N.Y.).

ONGOING

Recreation Survey. Alexandria citizens that received a Park and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey are encouraged to participate in order to affect recreation decisions in the community. Results will be posted online at alexandriava.gov/recreation in fall 2015. Contact Dana Wedeles at 703-746-5491 or dana.wedeles@alexandriava.gov with questions.

Construction Begins at Hume Springs Park. The park at 100 Dale St. will be closed for approximately seven weeks while the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities makes changes to playground and fitness equipment, fencing, seating, water fountains and gardens. For details, contact landscape architect Judy Lo at 703-746-5490 or judy.lo@alexandriava.gov, or visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

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OPINION

Gumball Memories

BY KATHARINE DIXON
PRESIDENT
REBUILDING TOGETHER
ALEXANDRIA



Alexandria holds a life time of memories for Bernadette*. She is the last of three generations to call the city home.

She fondly remembers the colorful gumballs in the gumball machine and the elevator in the furniture store that her family owned on King Street — the only one in the city at the time. They sold the store in the early '60s, but it shaped her perspective on how the city has grown and changed.

Bernadette has seen the city expand and grow in affluence. When she was young, she recalled many boarded-up buildings and not being able to walk far alone. She also relishes the renaissance of Del Ray, where she lived for some time. Although the city is a stronger and more vibrant community, the growth has also meant higher

costs of living. Her family has mostly passed now, but she still has many friends and her beloved dog, which keep her rooted here. She really wants to be around when her friend's children have children.

Her home is her haven where her friends visit often, hanging out on her patio and enjoying the neighborhood. Bernadette's favorite room though is her photo-filled living room. But on her waitress salary, it is difficult to afford the upkeep on her home.

That's why when her best friend's son referred her to Rebuilding Together Alexandria, she immediately reached out. Every day, Rebuilding Together Alexandria works to preserve housing affordability and revitalize the Alexandria community by providing free, safe, and healthy home repairs to people like Bernadette. Throughout the year, we work with low-income, elderly and/or disabled homeowners to identify



Volunteers from Dominion help repair and maintain a home for Rebuilding Together Alexandria.

issues in their homes. Then our teams of volunteers — many from local businesses like Dominion and Wells Fargo — provide the fixes and upgrades.

At Bernadette's, our volunteer team caulked the bathroom, fixed a broken window pane, hung blinds, patched a hole in the wall and showed her how to replace her air conditioner filter. In addition, we arranged for a plumber to fix her leaky sink. Bernadette feels good about the changes to her house, commenting that "Rebuilding Together is awesome ... and everyone is so nice."

These type of upgrades are important since most of our clients are homeowners who live near the poverty level. By improving their housing conditions, we can help them remain active members of their neighborhood and in turn help our city remain economically, socially and culturally diverse.

If you know someone like Bernadette who could benefit from our services, we encourage you to introduce them to us. To learn more, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org or call 703-836-1021.

* It is Rebuilding Together Alexandria's policy to not disclose full names.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Not Run?

To the Editor:

I have been amazed at the number of conversations suggesting that Mayor Euille should simply "fall in line" and "endorse the primary winner." I am not advocating for Mayor Euille or for Vice

Mayor Allison Silberberg. On one hand, Mayor Euille could do what the vice mayor's supporters suggest. However, it is not un-democratic for Mayor Euille to consider a write-in campaign. It does not harm the city for him to do so. The rules of our democratic government allow for it. Just as those

same rules allow for Vice Mayor Silberberg and any other citizen of the city to run. If Mayor Euille believes he has a better vision and plan for the city's future, why not let him run. No one will be forced to vote for him.

What is it about Mayor Euille's candidacy that concerns Vice

Mayor Silberberg's supporters?

Mark Sloan
Alexandria

It's Five

To the Editor:

I would like to thank a recent letter to editor entitled "Overlooked" for correctly pointing out that I omitted Monique Miles when I endorsed Allison Silberberg, Townsend Van Fleet, Bob Wood and Fernando Torrez to reinstate Alexandria's beauty. In my opinion the city is not currently well-run by its mayor and council. I endorse all five named above for mayor and City Council. A new direction is needed to re-store Alexandria to its pinnacle as a destination city in the southeast United States.

Herve Aitken

Neighbors And Parking

To the Editor:

Current council member Justin Wilson's quest for obscure regulations found another one to redress. Like the hapless Confederate soldier statue that inspired a spirited

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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Sharing Lives through Friendly Visitor Program

BY BRETT AND AIXA DENGATE
FRIENDLY VISITOR VOLUNTEERS
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Our wonderful journey with the Friendly Visitor Program at Senior Services Alexandria began around two years ago. My wife, Aixa, and I had discussed wanting to make a contribution to our community related to senior citizens and so we decided it was time. As a bit of background, I am Australian, and Aixa (born in Los Angeles) and I had returned to the USA in 2006 after 11 years living DownUnder.

With the assistance of Sarah Drexler, the Friendly Visitor Program director, we were paired up with two people from an assisted living facility in Alexandria. Aixa met Ruth, a former nurse, and I was introduced to David, a former lawyer. I practiced law as an attorney in Australia for several years, so the match with David made perfect sense. We set up our Sunday morning visitation schedule and thoroughly enjoyed our time relaxing and chatting as well as taking Ruth and David for a roll around the neighborhood for fresh air as often as possible. I also had the privilege of reading David the weekly letters his mother sent to him from upstate New York.

Sadly David passed away early this year. I will fondly remember his quirky sense of humor and his penchant for having his hair dyed green for St Patrick's Day and then as often as possible thereafter.

On Ruth's suggestion, Sarah reassigned me to a former rock n' roller (pony-tailed and all) named Lee. As I was also a professional drummer in my past who continues to play locally, it was another good match and Lee (a former drummer and multi-instrumentalist) and I connected immediately over our Sunday morning coffees, delving into the history and personnel of the rock bands of the '60s, '70s and beyond, a subject of which he has an extraordinary knowledge. I do my best to complete my weekly homework based on the notes he writes up on blue index cards, and listen to the songs and albums on the Internet he directs me to.

Several months ago, due to an unfortunate set of circumstances, all of Lee's musical and other possessions that were housed in an external storage facility were lost. I put word out on social media and was able to find a lovely green Washburn acoustic guitar for Lee. It was indeed a magic moment to see Lee's eyes light up when I pulled the instrument out and handed it over to him. Priceless!

I have also recently started visiting another senior in Old Town Alexandria. He is a kind-hearted and fascinating man with extraordinary career achievements to his credit, and our chats each week are a delight. Furthermore, we have had several lovely outings with him and his wonderful wife, and our friendship continues to grow.

It is truly a privilege to spend time with these seniors each week and we are greatly indebted to Senior Services Alexandria for the opportunity to give a little, but receive so much in return. The experience truly enriches our lives.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Brett and Aixa Dengate visit with Lee and Ruth.

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Checking the Back-to-School Healthcare Blocks

Local governments, clinics offer free immunizations for all and physical exams for the uninsured.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

As the lazy days of summer wind down, beach trips, lemonade stands and lax bedtimes give way to alarm clocks, textbooks and backpacks. Public health officials say that a back-to-school list should include more than pencils and paper. For many, the first order of business is a well-child physical, a dental exam and required immunizations.

During a physical exam, parents should double check that immunizations are up to date, ask if their child's growth is on target and what normal developmental changes they should expect during the next year. Parents should also be prepared to answer questions about their child's sleep patterns and eating habits.

"Vision checks are an important part of a routine school entry physical so make sure to ask for one," said Caroline Sutter, a family nurse practitioner, DNP-BC, co-director of Mason and Partners (MAP) clinics and



FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPT

Back-to-school physical exams — medical, dental, as well as required immunizations — are important parts of back-to-school preparations.

an assistant professor of nursing at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Dental exams are important to maintain health. Ask for a referral for a dental visit."

George Mason University's College of Health and Human Services runs MAP clinics, which offers school entry physicals at no cost.

The Fairfax County Health Department

provides free school-required immunizations at five locations in the county. "We are offering some special extended hours in August and September to accommodate the back-to-school rush, but we recommend that parents make the appointment now," said John Silcox, public safety information officer, Fairfax County Health Department.

In conjunction with Inova Health System's Partnership for Healthier Kids, the Fairfax County health department also offers free physicals for school entry to uninsured children. The health department also operates three dental clinics that provide services to children based on eligibility.

"We operate three health centers in Falls Church, Alexandria and Reston that provide primary health services for low income, uninsured residents who cannot afford primary medical care services for themselves and their families," said Silcox.

In Alexandria, the Child Health Clinic provides preventative health services for infants and children through age 5, and physicals for daycare and school entrance through age 11. The Alexandria Health Department offers routine immunizations for infants, teens and adults.

Sutter says proper sleep and physical activity are also part of the pediatric health care picture and should not be overlooked. Transitioning from a summer of sleeping

City of Alexandria

Child Health Clinic

4480 King Street, 2nd Floor
Alexandria
703-746-4940

The Child Health Clinic provides preventative health services for infants and children through age 5, and physicals for daycare and school entrance through age 11.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: Newborns/Sick Infants and Children are seen if they arrive between the hours of 8-9 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: Well baby exams are in the afternoons (by appointment only) 12:45-4:30 p.m.

The first and third Monday of each month, the Child Health Clinic starts at 1 p.m.

Immunization Clinic

4480 King Street, 2nd Floor
Alexandria
703-746-4980

late to a school year of early wake-up calls can be challenging if children are not prepared. "Establish a sleep schedule now," said Sutter. "With summer coming to an end, it is important to get kids on a regular sleep schedule before school starts.

"Stress the importance of routine physical activity with your child," she continued. "Talk about sports they might be interested in during the school year or other ways to stay physically fit but most important set a good example. Exercise regularly yourself or with your children."



OUR NEW PRESCHOOL IS OPENING IN OLD TOWN!

The Child and Family Network Centers' high-level preschool learning center is opening in Old Town in September 2015.

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THRIVE

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

dialogue to re-write history, this find — a regulation restricting to three days the time a car can remain on a street in the same spot — also hit a nerve.

To pinch it, he observes the three-day restriction becomes a violation primarily when a neighbor complains — implying there's something unsavory about the neighbor or the complaint, or both. I don't know when this regulation was enacted or why, but its purposefulness has arrived. It is among the first consequences of a parallel, but far more impactful quest: the one for evermore tax dollars.

Our City Council, controlled by Democratic Party members for a generation, has deliberately opted for more density and debt to produce never-enough revenue. And it has succeeded. But with more residents, there come more cars

Lots of households have lots of cars, often one per adult. Add to this the homes that have no driveway or garage, then the problem becomes apparent. But now what? Where to put all these vehicles when driveways are inadequate and garages are unavailable? The street.

And why not? It's public property maintained by taxes paid by the very residents whose cars are congesting them. But just as the number of people who can occupy a public building is restricted, it's time to manage vehicular density. It wouldn't be hard either.

For example, restricting the number of residential parking stickers to one per household is the most reasonable and understandable limit. It will be acceptable too, but only if the stickers are transferrable. This will allow those that have them because they are taxpaying, home-owning residents, but don't own cars, to sell them to those residents who need extra parking stickers.

The result? The city garners respect for capping the number of cars that can be permanently crammed into Alexandria while simultaneously giving an incentive to use anything but a car for transportation. Plus, it allows taxpayers who pay for roads, but who don't own a car, an opportunity to recoup some of their taxes from those needing an extra residential parking pass.

But what about those households who amass several residential parking passes? If they park their cars on the street in the same place for more than three days, then they run the risk of generating a complaint their car has been abandoned. And who will know if abandonment has really happened? Why the neighbors, of course.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Parking Issue Not Insurmountable

To the Editor:

If one looks at Old Town streets, late at night on a weeknight, one will see plenty of street parking spaces available, thus there is plenty of spaces for resident street parking. But if one looks at the streets on a Friday night at about 7:30 p.m. on a nice night, one will see no available street parking and

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many cars cruising for parking.

In addition, at the same time, if one looks in the public parking areas one will see there is plenty of available parking spaces there.

Why is this the case? The short answer is because of the city's poor, bordering on negligent, mismanagement of street parking. The city manages street parking against the industry standard. It is well known from parking research that free street parking attracts more cars over transit riders/pedestrians which in a pedestrian-oriented place like Old Town is, at a minimum, a nuisance and could be dangerous as those cars cruise for street parking inviting collisions with pedestrians. In addition, it invites more air, water and noise pollution. Further, it is unfair to residents who pay for street parking

but many times can't find it and are in effect paying for visitor street parking. Also, using cars is costly to society: accidents, deaths, injuries, property damage, mitigation of pollution, illnesses, road building and maintenance. Hence, it is not ethical to unnecessarily encourage car use, but it is particularly egregious and ironic for a pedestrian-oriented place like Old Town to do so.

What is the industry standard for street parking? Like in Arlington, little or no free visitor street parking and the price is set to be equal or above public off-street parking — residents can still park there with their sticker. The research shows this attracts more visiting transit riders/pedestrians and less cars and the cars that do come in go right to the off-street public parking rather than cruise the streets for parking. One doesn't see less visitors.

Why does the city engage in possibly negligent practices? A possible clue came in a recent rezoning for La Bergerie owners with their new site on Princess and N. Washington streets — their off-street parking requirement was waived thus dumping all their future customers cars on the streets to the peril of the neighboring residents street parking availability. This site is not convenient to transit where the problem could be mitigated — it is .8 mile to metro and in Arlington for example they require under .2 mile to metro to waive the off-street parking requirement. So the city seems to be favoring commercial establishment whims over the tax paying and voting residents.

It is past time — particularly considering increased parking demands are coming in the future from the waterfront development and casino visitors from National Harbor — the residents of Old Town get the attention of the City Council and mayor through their votes on this issue.

What should happen like other progressive cities/towns is that most of the free on-street parking be converted to resident-only parking and the rest be converted to paid parking for office workers and visitors — residents can still park there with their sticker. This will increase city revenue, pedestrian friendliness, transit use, safety and quality of life while decreasing pollution, vehicle use and traffic congestion.

Chris Hubbard AIA, LEED-AP, CNU-A
A principal in WHA Architecture and Planning,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Broadway Musical Dance

Workshop. Through Aug. 24, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Mondays at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance class involving jazz and Broadway music. All skills levels welcome. Free; donations accepted. Register by calling 703-765-4573.

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.

“Au Naturel” Exhibit.

Through Aug. 30, first Thursdays, 12-9 p.m., Thursdays, 12-6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 12-9 p.m., Sundays, 12-6 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. View artwork made in the “Au Naturel” or minimalist style. Admission is free. Visit www.TheDelrayArtisans.org.

Leigh Merrill: “Cloud Seeding.”

Through Sept. 7, 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.

Art Exhibit: Sultry Colors. Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Enamelists at The Torpedo Factory collaborate for an exhibit filled with sultry colors and patterns. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/event/sultry-colors/ or call 703-838-4565.

Exhibit: “Scapes.” Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League

Gallery, 105 N Union St. View the annual August landscape exhibit juried by Elizabeth Peak. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Exhibit:

“Taking Shape.”

Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. This exhibit features three-dimensional works by Art League member artists. Free. Visit www.theartleague.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 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 to 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 childre 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.

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.stelmoscoffeepub.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 Caffe & 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 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



Clockwise from top left: “OBX” by Eileen Doughty, “One Red Window” by Joanne Bast, “Summer on the Sirannon” by Eileen Doughty, and “Close Encounter” by Dianne Thomas

Art Imitates Vacation at Fiber Arts Gallery

For the “What I Did On My Summer Vacation” exhibit at the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, artists used textiles to depict their summer vacations. The exhibit will run Aug. 31-Oct. 18 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Admission to the Gallery is free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

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.leefendallhouse.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.

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 will the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

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

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps. Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a story with dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Summer of Smiles. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time (residents only) and classic camps. The guide lists camps by week offered and age group. Register online or at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures are available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

THROUGH 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/alexandria for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

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

Records & Rarities Grand

Opening. 5 p.m. at Landmark Mall, 2nd floor E224. Record retailer Records & Rarities will celebrate the grand opening of a new location with a skateboard signing by the C1rca Skateboard Team, and a skate demo event. Free. Call 703-490-9028 for more.

Business After Hours. 5:30-7 p.m. at Global Health College, 6101 Stevenson Ave. Tour the campus, enjoy refreshments and network with business professionals. \$10 for members and \$25 for non-members. Visit www.alexchamber.com.

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.

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.

Community Dance with the Mt. Vernon Swing Band. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd. Participate in the Community Dance, featuring a swing band. Live music conducted by Owen Hammet. Admission is \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

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 for more.

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.

Kitty Donohoe Concert. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Songwriter Kitty Donohoe, famous for the 9/11-inspired song "There Are No Words," will be performing as a part of the Focus Music series. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

Movie Night. 7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Enjoy music, snacks and children's crafts before watching "Hook" at sundown. Sponsored by @home Realtor Cookie Balcha. Free. Call 703-928-0591 for details.

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 Martirano Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Artist Tony Martirano 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 an 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 or by calling Mary Lee Anderson at 703-836-4414, extension 111.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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 to register.

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.

Movie Screening. 6 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Watch "Selma" and engage in a discussion about women's roles in the Civil Rights Movement. Free. Visit www.nwhm.ticketleap.com/movie-night-selma/.

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.

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.

SATURDAY/AUG. 29

The Washington School of Ballet Open Auditions. 9:30 a.m. registration and 10-11 a.m. auditions for 4-5 year olds; 10:30 a.m. registration and 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. auditions for 6-7-year olds; 12 p.m. registration and 12:30-2 p.m. auditions for 8-10 years at The Washington School of Ballet, 3515 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington D.C. This fall, the Washington School of Ballet will be offering Pre-ballet through Level 1A classes at the Athenaeum. There is no audition fee. Visit www.washingtonballet.org for more.

The General's Tour. 1 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Take a guided walking tour of Lee family homes in Alexandria's Historic Old Town. Locations and stories associated with the Confederate general's life in Alexandria, his hometown from the age of five and residence of his "earliest and oldest friends" will be highlighted on the tour. Admission is free for museum member, \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door.. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

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.Potomacfiberartsgallery.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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

Big Chalk Draw 2015. 8-10 a.m. at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. School supply donations are welcome at this chalk art community event. Free. Call 703-360-4220 or visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 5-6

"Labor at Lee-Fendall" Tours. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Learn more about the life and times of the free and enslaved laborers who inhabited the grounds. Admission is free for museum members and \$7 in advance. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 8-OCT. 18

Photography Exhibit. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursdays at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. View the work of photographer Karen Keating, who combines both words and images in her art. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 10-OCT. 18

"Angel Soldier Dance Sublime." 10

a.m.-6 p.m. at the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. View work exploring femininity and masculinity by female artists from Maine's Blue Hill Peninsula. Free. Visit torpedofactory.org.

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

Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce September Business Breakfast will discuss upcoming economic development in Alexandria City. Tickets are \$25 per person. Visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org.

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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

SPARK Health and Fitness

Festival. 4-8 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Hosted by SPARK Physiotherapy, LLC., fun and safe games, competitions, entertainment, raffles and giveaways. Free. Visit www.sparkphysio.com/home/make-your-health-happen-health-and-fitness-festival/ or email njbabka@sparkphysio.com.

Four Mile Summer Movie Festival.

Movies start at dusk and are shown at the Four Mile Conservatory Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. National Community Church's Inaugural summer movie festival is co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Film is "Cool Runnings." Bring a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.theaterchurch.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Civil War Walking Tour. 10 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. Discover locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including Robert E. Lee's departure from his hometown, the occupation of Alexandria, and emancipation. Admission is free for museum members, \$12 in advance, and \$15 on the day of the event. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

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

Music Festival. 12-4 p.m. Four Mile Run Park Community Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. There will be live entertainment, local performers, children's interactive games and crafts, food, face painting and various vendors. Free. Email cisco.fabian@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-5465.

Collective Delusion. 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St. Local band will perform rock songs from the 1970s to the present. Free. Visit www.collectivedelusion.net.

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ENTERTAINMENT

MONDAY/SEPT. 14

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. Call 703-505-5998 for details.

History Lecture: Medical Heroism in Alexandria.

7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn

about the Athenaeum's role in the Civil War and medical efforts in Alexandria from historian Tom Shultz. Free. Visit nvfaa.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

What is a Healthy Forest? 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park-Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen to geology and forest ecology instructor Joe Marx discuss issues facing Mid-Atlantic

forests. Free. Visit www.vnps.org/potowmack.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 19-20

King Street Art Festival. Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 480 King St. In its 13th year, the festival features art displays, art giveaways and sales and live music. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest.



Clockwise from top left: "B-4-Now" by Linda Elliff, "Shorty's Long Note" by Theresa Kulstad, and "The Watch" By Guy Jones

Local Artists Featured in Katrina Anniversary Exhibit

In honor of the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, artists from all over the country, including Alexandria's Del Ray Artisans members Linda Elliff, Theresa Kulstad, and Guy Jones, will participate in the "Thanks Y'all" exhibit. The exhibit will open in Waveland, Miss. on Aug. 29 following a special "Remembrance of Lost Lives" program at the Ground Zero Hurricane Museum. To learn more about the exhibit contact Vicki Niolet at 228-671-9790 or violet@earthlink.net.



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6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

Sunday
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13
PC, Arlington, VA., a firm specializing in pedestrian/
transit oriented architecture and planning.

Importance Of History

To the Editor:

Can we blame all of America's racism problems on any street appearance of the Confederate flag and other symbols? And purge them by removing any reminders? Cheer respect for diversity (except That One Thing)! Folks won't have to see the Confederate flag they've mistakenly been told symbolizes only white supremacy and support for slavery, so the world will be a better place.

Win-win? Only if we ignore reality and fail to learn the truth about our past. Members of Southern heritage societies do not practice racism as accused. They include Black descendants of Black Confederates who fought both armed and in vital support roles.

Does denying display of Confederate flags and other symbols improve African Americans' educational achievements, housing, health, etc.? Denigration of the war as fought only to preserve slavery is a widely proclaimed facile fabrication, including at T.C. Williams High School in the 1960s-'80s while I taught there. I also discovered those American history teachers did not know/teach important facts about our Colonial, Revolutionary, Federal, and Antebellum periods, the War and Reconstruction, the late 19th century and early 20th century. They said they and their students (Black, White, Vietnamese, Afghan, Hispanic, etc.) were interested only in slavery and Civil Rights. The civics teacher said she did not teach the Constitution and Bill of Rights — boring.

Should we blame Southern heritage societies for the Confederate flag's hijacking by white supremacists and deranged killers? Should we equally blame Christians whose cross was appropriated by the KKK and therefore refuse to allow it on public property?

Insulting our Virginia/Alexandria Confed-

erate heritage by calling it entirely racist does not build a strong community, de-means the people doing the attacking and sets an example directly contrary to desirable civic behavior.

Ironically, at T.C. Williams High School I had to defend the U.S. flag. For many years some teachers and many students treated it with disrespect. Doing so failed to raise those students' achievements. Now, sadly, I again see adults mistakenly attacking a flag.

I recommend keeping our tradition of flying Confederate flags beside "Appomattox" and elsewhere so we are reminded to learn about our history and accept our responsibility to address continuing problems, reminded of the harsh consequences of division. That is the way to create a better future — not scapegoating which pits people against each other, which was the Charleston shooter's goal. Those nine victims' families set an admirable example, so it is all the more regrettable to see people instead recommending the abominable shooter's way to divide us. Let's apply the best lessons of recent history even if we don't know those of past centuries.

Another thought: If we forbid outdoor flying of the Confederate flag and remove other symbols of the Confederacy because their association with slavery is too painful, shouldn't we also eliminate all outdoor reminders of slavery, including the Edmonson sisters statue and the sculpture at the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery? (I do not advocate that course either!)

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Examine School Spending

To the Editor:

I am the owner and operator of Potomac River, Realtors, located near the King Street Metro Station. As such, I work hard to promote Alexandria every single day. I am also the only Independent candidate running a winning campaign for a seat on the Alexandria City Council this upcoming Nov. 3.

During the course of my work as a Realtor, I am repeatedly confronted with residents who are planning to leave Alexandria and must sell their homes (unhappily, I must add).

A vast majority of these Alexandrians are leaving despite the fact that they love:

- ❖ Our city's great walk-ability;
- ❖ All of our fantastic restaurants and shops;
- ❖ Our beautiful parks and open space (yes, we do have a large amount of parkland: 566 acres of city-owned parkland and 900 acres of protected open space); and
- ❖ Our friendly and welcoming neighbors.

You might ask: If Alexandria has all this to offer, why are residents fleeing our city?

Despite all of the above (and more), many of my clients with young children ask me to help them sell their homes and leave Alexandria because of the poor ratings of our public schools in comparison to other nearby jurisdictions. Whether their perceptions of how poor the quality of our school public system has become is real, or not, what is "real" is that I'm not the only Realtor who has been confronted with this issue. I've been told by many of my fellow associates that this "family flight" has been going on for decades.

There is no reason whatsoever for the poor performance ratings of our schools relative to our neighbors in Fairfax, Arlington, and Loudoun counties, and Falls Church City, all which are ranked as having some of the best school systems in the Commonwealth. Those who can afford to send their children to private school often stay in Alexandria, but there is a clear race and income divide between those who stay and who goes, and the statistics prove it.

If we really want to be Progressives, some of our solutions to this issue involve a revolution in the way Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) money is spent.

- ❖ It involves eliminating the overlapping administrative hierarchy and fiefdoms created by former school superintendent Morton Sherman. Reducing administrative overhead enables those monies to be appropriated to future increases in teacher salaries and headcount.
- ❖ It means eliminating the concept that

beautiful, well-equipped buildings equate to well-educated students. I spoke to a city employee who used the term, "lipstick on a pig," regarding the one-year-old Jefferson Houston Elementary School building.

❖ It means using the dollars saved from a reduction in the scope of construction and applying those funds to programs and teachers focused specifically on education and social development, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. As a Realtor, I know that it is more cost-effective to gut and rehab a building, rather than completely tear it down and start from scratch.

One of the basic tenets of economics is opportunity cost. If I apply a resource, I no longer have it to apply in a different manner. The opportunity cost of building grandiose schools is the cost of the debt service over the following 20-to-30 years, which is money that cannot be applied to transformative operational programs (including Parks, Recreation, and Cultural activities and programs) or much-needed increased salaries to the teachers and coaches who work hard to help deliver a great foundation of educational learning and recreational enjoyment for our children. Our children's teachers certainly deserve better.

It is incumbent upon the City Council to provide leadership and direction to the entire city. The City Council's job regarding schools is not simply to provide and allocate funds for the School Board to spend. City Council must provide firm leadership, guidance, set expectations, and demand positive results from all departments, including our schools.

We are a very proud of our city, yet, we have been blindly dismissive of our public schools for far too long. Together, we must work toward a resolute dedication of not accepting anything but the absolute best education for our children.

I am running to win a seat on City Council to work with my fellow council members to begin the much-needed change that will enable us to reinvigorate, recharge, and rehabilitate Alexandria City Public Schools.

Phil Cefaratti
Independent Candidate
for Alexandria City Council

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH AUG. 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. The Barrett Branch and Special Collections will reopen to the public on Monday, Aug. 24, at 1 p.m. Materials may still be returned through the outdoor book drop at the Barrett Branch, or to any other Alexandria Library locations. Items borrowed from the Barrett Branch will not be due during this time period. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us for updates.

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Nomination Deadline. Nominations

for the Alexandria City Council Ad Hoc Combined Sewer System Plan Stakeholder Group are being accepted. Five "at large" nominations are available. Send nominations to Erin Bevis-Carver at Erin.BevisCarver@alexandriava.gov by Aug. 21.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 21-23

Beth El Hebrew Congregation Open House. 5:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21-Sunday, Aug. 23 at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. The congregation hosts a "Get to Know Us" weekend for new location. Free. Visit www.bethelhebrew.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Free Redfin Home Buying Trolley Tour. 9:30 a.m. at the King Street Metro Station. Join Redfin agents and travel through Alexandria neighborhoods and discuss the home buying process. Free. Contact Abbey Gensch at abbey.gensch@redfin.com

or call 206-576-7993.

MONDAY/AUG. 24

City Council Applicant Deadline. 5 p.m. Citizens interested in filling vacancies on The Alexandria City Council must submit a Personal Data Record Form. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/boards for vacancy details.

Alexandria Housing Development Corporation (AHDC). 6-7 p.m. at Alexandria Housing Development Corp., 101 N Pitt St. This is a regular meeting on the status of affordable housing in the area. The meeting is open to the public. For details contact Mildrilyn Davis at 703-746-4990 or visit apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar.

MONDAY/AUG. 31

'For Love of Country' Essay and Poetry Contest Deadline. 5 p.m. Students who will be in grades 7-9 in fall 2015 are eligible to submit entries to any Alexandria library or

online. The theme is "Surviving (Safety, Privacy, and Security) and Thriving in Today's World." For questions, email dprice@alexandria.lib.va.us, call 703-746-1753 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

WEDNESDAYS/SEPT. 4-30

Senior Academy. 10 a.m.-noon at various locations in Alexandria. Classes inform seniors about government functions, organizations, programs and the happenings of the city. For ages 60 and older. Free. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414.

THROUGH MONDAY/SEPT. 7

Splash with DASH. Weekdays 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., weekends 11 a.m.-7 p.m. The AT10 route will provide transport to the Old Town Pool between Potomac Yard and the King Street Metro, serving the Arlandria, Warwick Village, Del Ray and Rosemont neighborhoods. Free. Visit www.dashbus.org for details.



PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

Summer Repose
Sherlock is found sunning himself in his garden.

OBITUARY

Frances Dowdle Abbott "Smokie" Lyon

Frances Dowdle Abbott "Smokie" Lyon, 91, of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., died on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2015. Frances was born in Rome, Ga., on March 21, 1924, a daughter of John Westley and Lucille Field Dowdle. She grew up in Columbia and Florence, S.C., and graduated Columbia High School and Draughton's Business College with honors. She was a member of the Columbia Choral Society, the Trianon Club and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. A member of the National Honor Society, Frances later worked for Military Personnel at Fort Jackson and the Army Air Base in Columbia during World War II.

Frances later transferred to Washington, D.C., and in 1948, married Army Captain Jackson Miles Abbott, of Boston, Mass. Residing in Alexandria, they raised four children in Waynewood, property along the Potomac River once a part of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. Active in her community, Frances was involved in Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the PTA and volunteered with countless other organizations. The Abbotts were members of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) and listed in the Social Register of Washington, D.C. A lifelong student of history, Frances is a descendant of Richard Stockton of New Jersey, signer of The Declaration of Independence. She served many years as chairman of the "George Washington Birth Night Supper & Ball" as a member of the Virginia State Commission to celebrate Washington's 250th Birthday (1982), and five years on the steering committee establishing the Neighborhood Friends of Historic Mount Vernon. During her tenure as chairman of the Birth Night Ball, it became an "invitation only" affair and was attended by the Governor of Virginia and Mrs. John Dalton (1978), the Lt. Governor and Mrs. Charles Robb (1979), and the Attorney General and Mrs. Marshall Coleman (1980), various ambassadors and their wives and other distinguished guests. Frances received many special awards for her volunteer activities on behalf of Mount Vernon in furthering the remembrance of George Washington.

Frances later pursued a 20-year career as librarian and research associate at Gadsby's Tavern Museum in Old Town Alexandria. She especially enjoyed its connections to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and was instrumental in beginning a series of books holding all the Alexandria Gazette's clippings relating to Gadsby's Tavern from 1749 to its present day as a city museum. Frances was a 50-plus year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), during which time she chaired many committees. At the time of her death, she was a member of the Fort Sullivan Chapter of Charleston.



Other activities included: feature writer and Mount Vernon correspondent for the Alexandria Gazette newspaper; District Chairman of the Mount Vernon March of Dimes; Secretary-Treasurer of the Mount Vernon Citizen's Association; and volunteering once a week at the White House during the Reagan years.

She also enjoyed modeling for various military and civilian organizations in the Washington, D.C., area. For years, she was listed in Who's Who of American Women.

After her first husband died in 1988, Frances married Archibald (Archie) W. Lyon, BG U.S. Army (Ret.) in 1993. They travelled widely and enjoyed sharing their love of history until Archie died in 1998. Frances later moved to Charleston. In addition to membership at Christ Church where she was an active member of the "Seekers" Life Group and Daughters of the King, she belonged to the West Point Society of Charleston, South Carolina Historical Society, The Nature Conservancy, Charleston Chapter of National Sojourners, Charleston Chapter of Military Officers Association of America and the Hat Ladies of Charleston. She is survived by her four children, Elizabeth Youngs (Steven), of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Medora Frances Abbott, North Charleston, S.C., David Field Abbott (Patty), of Columbus, Ohio, Robert Jackson Abbott (Sandra), of Woodbine, Md.; stepson, David Allen Lyon, of Washington D.C.; her beloved sister, Medora Dowdle Jackson, of Columbia, S.C.; two grandsons, Jackson Byron Youngs and Jacob Miles Abbott; and a large and loving extended family. A funeral service will be held at Christ Church, 2304 N Hwy. 17, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466 on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015 at 5 p.m., followed by a reception at the church. She will be buried at Arlington Memorial Cemetery, Arlington, beside her first husband, the late Jackson Miles Abbott, LTC USAR (Ret.) at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made in honor to Christ Church Building Fund, 2304 Highway 17 N, Mt. Pleasant, S.C. or to Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted online at www.McAlister-Smith.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to McAlister-Smith Funeral Home, Mt. Pleasant Chapel, 1520 Rifle Range Road, Mt. Pleasant, S.C., 843-884-3833. Visit the guestbook at www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston.

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State Final Appearance Gives Ireton 'Sense of Purpose'

Cardinals return eight defensive starters, six offensive.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

As members of the Bishop Ireton football team labored through end-of-practice conditioning drills on a Friday evening, Corey Johnson encouraged his Cardinal teammates by putting their pain in perspective.

"Running a sprint," the rising senior recalled saying, "doesn't hurt as bad as the pain of losing a championship."

Bishop Ireton reached the VISAA Division 1 state championship game last season, but fell short against Benedictine, 23-7. The Cardinals return eight starters on defense and six on offense from the 2014 team that finished 8-4, including a playoff victory over Saint John Paul the Great. The team is focused on getting back to the title game and winning its first VISAA state championship since 1992, when Bishop Ireton and St. Anne's-Belfield were co-champions of Division 2.

"There's a greater sense of purpose because now we know we can play at that level," Ireton head coach Tony Verducci said, "so now there's a greater sense of purpose to return and to finish it."

Rising senior tight end Ryan Verducci said losing in the state final has had a significant impact on the Cardinals.

"I think that's the focal point of everything that we do," Ryan Verducci said. "[Assistant] coach [Stevie] Jones took a page out of [Seattle Seahawks quarterback] Russell Wilson's book, saying 1-0 each week. You've got to win each week. We've taken it a step further saying you've got to win at practice, you've got to win stretching beforehand — everybody's got to be healthy. Just knowing that we were one game short, it's affected everything that we do offensively and defensively."

Johnson, a 5-foot-11, 160-pound cornerback, is one of the top players in Ireton's 3-5 defense and one of eight returning starters on that side of the ball. He moves around the field, defending the opposition's top receiver.

"[Johnson is a] confident player [with a] great football IQ who's going to show up in the big moments all the time," Coach Verducci said. "Corey allows everyone



The Bishop Ireton football program returns eight defensive starters and six on offense from last season's VISAA state runner-up team.



Rising senior cornerback Corey Johnson is one of Bishop Ireton's top returning defensive players.

around him to play with a greater sense of confidence because he's a guy who can cover up other people's mistakes.

"... We want to make life uncomfortable for other people and that means that when there is somebody who really has an offense that is geared toward one player, [Johnson is] going to be on that side of the field."

Rising senior Bernie Hayes (5-9, 170) returns as inside linebacker.

"Bernie is a consummate team player and the football version of a gym rat," Tony



Rising senior Bernie Hayes is a returning starter in inside linebacker for Bishop Ireton.

Verducci said. "He eats, breathes and prepares for football when he's not playing it."

Hayes said having eight returning defensive starters brings confidence.

"It really helps me to trust the person right next to me," Hayes said, "knowing I know what he can do and he knows what I can do."

Verducci called rising junior strong safety Michael Everett (6-0, 180) "about as talented a defensive player as we've ever had around here."

Rising senior end Trey Lovisone (6-1, 220) is also a leader on defense.

On offense, Bishop Ireton will continue working out of the spread, though Verducci said he would like to run more plays from under center.

Rising juniors Chandler Wilder (6-0, 195) and Walker Venable (5-11, 180) are competing for the starting quarterback position following the graduation of standout signal caller Joe Dickinson, who completed 60 percent of his passes for 2,629 yards and 27 touchdowns, with nine interceptions in 2014. His top target, Drew Smith, who caught 56 passes for 1,022 yards and 16 touchdowns, also graduated.

"Joe made great decisions with the football and threw it all around the yard," Verducci said. "We'd like to be a little bit more effective and efficient running the ball to put ourselves in better positions, and not have to rely on a kid with a big arm to convert to Drew when you're in third and long."

Rising junior Perris Jones (5-9, 170) returns at running back. He rushed for 746 yards and seven touchdowns as a sophomore, averaging 4.7 yards per carry.

"He's as hard a worker as anybody we've ever had around here," said Tony Verducci, who enters his ninth season as Ireton head coach. "The big thing with Perris is keep him healthy because he's truly one of those young men if he gets in space ... who can turn three [yards] into 30."

Ryan Verducci (6-2, 200) will be one of Ireton's top pass-catching threats.

"You have that confidence [in him] because he's a tough kid with great hands," Coach Verducci said, "and when you're in that [third-and-five situation], the quarterbacks all know if they get the ball near him he's going to make the catch and convert and turn it over for us."

Rising junior Sam Smith (5-11, 160) and Jones are also receiving threats.

Rising seniors Patrick Gallagher (6-5, 193), Matthew Perham (6-1, 240) and Jack Retcher (6-1, 180) return along the offensive line.

Key special teams players include rising senior kicker David Cooper (6-0, 160) and rising senior long snapper Bryce Simpson (6-0, 150).

Bishop Ireton will host scrimmages against Landon (4:30 p.m., Aug. 25) and St. Christopher's (4:30 p.m., Aug. 27). The Cardinals will open the regular season on the road against Nansemond Suffolk Academy at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4. Ireton's first home game is at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12 against Bishop O'Connell.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
The Ugly Mug, LLC trading as Katherines Catering, 4116 Wheeler Ave. Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer Limited license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Gaynor Jablonski, member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Peenong, LLC trading as Peenong, 8501 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Yomkwan Kuntri, owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE
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Saturday, August 29, between 8:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. (3 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org.

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OBITUARY



John Kenneth Severson, Sr. John "Big Al" or "Uncle Al the Nation's Pal" Severson,

longtime owner and proprietor of Al's Steak House on Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria died peacefully in his home on Saturday, August 15, 2015. He was born in Hawaii on October 28, 1941 to the late Elizabeth and Arthur Severson.

He is survived by his son, John (Bo) Severson and his daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and David Swales and their three children of Crozet, Virginia. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Anna Severson of Savannah, GA, and his brother, Arthur (Sonny) Severson of Falls Church and their families.

John began what would be his lifetime career at Al's Steak House at the age of twelve when he began cutting onions after school for the original Al. After a very brief career as a mail carrier, John and his wife, Patricia, bought Al's Steak House in 1966 and he began his reign over Del Ray as "Steak King." During decades of rapid growth and change, John refused to change anything. He prided himself on providing customers who returned far and wide with a local institution that offered the same massive cheese steaks and familiar surroundings year after year. Definitely a colorful character, John never let anyone leave Al's hungry whether they could pay or not and he wanted to be remembered as someone always ready to help others.

The family offers their thanks to the many doctors, nurses, and hospice workers for their loving care and support during his year-long battle with lung cancer.

The family will receive friends at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA on Thursday, August 20, 2015 from 6-9 PM. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, August 21, 2015 at 10:30 AM at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA. A private family burial will take place at Mount Comfort Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, due to allergies, the family requests that donations may be made to Alive! So that "Big Al" can continue to feed the hungry in Alexandria. In addition to the services, a celebration of John's life will take place at later date.

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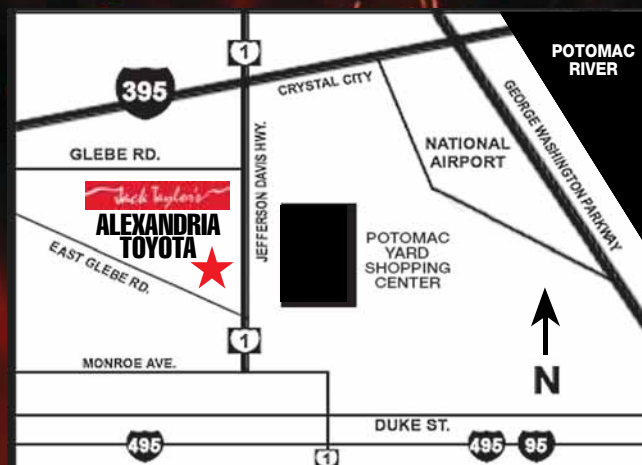
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